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1 7/14/1833 *From:* Eliza Howard

*To:* Mr Roland B. Howard,  
[Sr.]

OOH-0001

Leeds, Maine

Waterford  
State of Newyork on the  
Hudson river

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 14, 1833

My Dear Husband

I am greatly rejoiced to hear from you, and to hear such good news too that you are safely arrived at the place of destiny without material injury to your health. But now commences the laborious undertaking. Now the greatest exposures to ill health. What a gratification it would be to me to be with you and share with you the cares and anxieties of every day but that is impossible at present. But I hope and trust (notwithstanding the uncertainty of everything of an earthly nature) we shall again be together united and educating our only son.

My anxiety is thrice doubled since I have the sole care of him. The thought of seeing life closed upon him almost distracts me. He seems quite promising now, his restless temper requires attention, but I think it forebodes no evil - he is affectionate. Warren gets along tolerably well, appears as though he needed a guide sometimes. He complains of being lonesome.

Nothing special has happened to any of us yet. What of this month that has past has been more favorable to vegetation. Our crops begin to show themselves a little. We complain of the wet. It is rather difficult getting on to our cornfields to weed to them, on wet land. Mr. Hoodman has not begun the hay yet, but will probably this week. I believe the hay has not suffered any for want of cutting yet. The oxen remain quietly in the pasture. Warren weaned the calves a few days since. The colt is quite handsome, grows very well. In short everything remains about the same as when you left home.

Otis ran to meet grandpa to enquire for his papa's letter when he came from the office, and brought it to his mother. He was unwilling to part with it to have it read and then kept it in his hat until he went to sleep. It was such a treasure that papa had sent him, he comforts himself with the idea of going to Newyork when his colt is large enough to see papa. It seems but a day or two to him. He says pa will be gone a great while.

Our friends are all as well as usual in the vicinity. Mr. Nathan Howard of Winthrop spent the afternoon of the fourth of July here with us & I found him a pleasant jokous old gentleman. He offered to carry your father to Bridgewater the latter part of summer. He is going alone in a carriage. Pa asked me if I should be willing to have him go when you are gone. I shall leave it altogether with you to decide but I should be glad if he would feel himself needed here in your absence. He is a great deal of company for me. He appeared quite overcome in his feelings when you left us. He is perfectly calm and contented in his appearance. He was rather gratified than otherwise with the contents of your letter.

When reading your letter the thought occurred to me that my husband's pride was some wounded when contrasting his brother's family with his. But we must submit to such allotments and think if we cannot fill as high a station in life as we could desire, we may perhaps do as much good in some less opulent situation. Our children tho humbly educated may fill important stations in life. Let us hope for the best, and bear with patience whatever crosses our path in life.

Mr. Foss together with his other family troubles has had his best barn blown to pieces in a whirlwind. It was moved on the ground ten feet. We felt it some, but our damage was small in comparison with others. Mr F. has since sold his farm to Daniel Hinkley. In this circumstance is discovered a great change in the situation of a number of persons. It is quite curious that he should buy the same farm that a few years since he was brought onto a porper.

You say in your letter, write all your troubles and complaints. I don't feel as though I had any real troubles. I have anxieties and cares. The mind is full of them. I recollect you said I have nothing to do but take comfort this summer. You forgot how soon you would be gone from us, but we resolved to part from each other for a while, hoping it might be for our future good. Why then should I not rest content with that hope. As for comforts

I have a great many and I am sensible that a humble acknowledgement of them is due to my maker and preserve for the daily mercies I receive from his hand. Our improvements in our buildings I find very convenient and am greatly obliged to you for them. I sincerely hope we shall enjoy them together again.

Oh my dear husband. You have all my heart with you every day of your absence. Your  
Eliza Howard

You will know too how to excuse the many mistakes in my humble scratch. Write as often as is considered.

I hardly know how to direct this letter. You did not think to tell me what county you were in, but I will do the best I can.

Eliza Howard

[Envelope]

North Leeds July 20

Mr. Roland B. Howard

Waterford

State of Newyork on the Hudson river

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2 9/21/1843 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0001

Hallowell, Maine

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs. John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

Hallowell Sept 21st 1843

Dear Mother

It has been about three weeks since last we met. I should be glad to come here and make a visit, are you well. I did not know but you had made yourself sick by taking care of the babe [Rodelphus Howard Gilmore]. How does he do. Is his sickness abated. Is Charles and Rowland well. You must let Rowland come and make my school a visit. William commenced going to Mr. Burnham's School the day that I did. We have a very good school. I like it very much and the teacher. He told me to give his best respects to you and tell you that I was a very good boy. But whether it is so or not you must come and see. The day that I cam down, I rode from the fork of the road here. I got to grandfathers about 11 o'clock, and in the afternoon I went to Caravan. The same that was at Winthrop, that Charles and Rowland went to. If you would like to know how much money I have spent and in what way I will tell you. For going to Caravan 25 cts, slate 12 1/2 ct, ink 6 1/4 cts, pen and case 6 1/4 cts 4 quills 4 cts, 6 sheats of paper 6 cts, arithmetic 83 cts, Latin grammer 62 cts, all added together makes 2,05. I asked Mr. Burnham what new study I had better take. He told me that I had better take Latin. Week ago Wednesday I went to muster. And yesterday George Pollard and Rowland's friend Charles Pollard he said he should like to see Rowland very much. Yesterday we went down to the wharf to see a Brig of War, where they take apprentices. Excuse mistakes.

Your affectionate son.  
Oliver O. Howard

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3 10/26/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0003

Hallowell, Maine

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Envelope:

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds, Me

From: O.O. Howard  
Oct 26 1843

Hallowell Oct 26th 1843

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines as Uncle Ensign is now here and is going to Leeds soon. He said that you were all well there, that is when he came from home. My shoes are most gone. They have two or three holes in them, I cannot wait a fortnight for my shoes or boots for by that time I shall have nothing to wear. I should like to have you get my boots made as soon as you can, and send them. Uncle Ensign brought the news of Olive Cushman's death and said that she died the day before you got home. Give my love to my brothers. Tell them I am much obligate to them for the apples, and also give my love to all the rest as Roland, Howe and Arza, Anne.

Yours affectionately,  
O.O. Howard [Age 13]

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4 10/26/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

OOH-0003

Hallowell, Maine

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Assume 10/26/1843]

To Rowland B [Howard]

Dear Rowland

I write a few lines to you. I am thankful to you for the apples as I suppose you sent them. I should like very much to have you come and see me, and your cousins. Give my love to little Charles. I went to Mr Pollards one afternoon. Charles said he should like very much to play with you. He said he should like to go out to Leeds and make you a visit. I should like to have you come here and make my school a visit.

Your affectionate brother.

O.O. Howard

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5 11/5/1843 *From:* Elisa Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0005

Leeds, Me

Hallowell, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, November 5, 1843

My dear boy

I need not tell you how much I think about you, and how much I desire that your time may be spent to advantage. You already know that nothing else could have induced me to let you go away from me, but for your own benefit. I want to have you think of this after you go to bed at night and look over the past day, in your mind, and ask yourself the question whether you have spent the day properly or not and think whether mother would be satisfied. I do not think I am hard to be satisfied.

I do not consider it any excuse for me when others do wrong, if you see others that do not get their lessons well or any other misconduct. I beg of you my son never let it have any influence on your conduct. You said to me they do not have to write composition but once a fort night at the other school. Now Otis I thought much of what you said because that seemed to say to my mind I want to get along easy. I don't think so much of my future advancement as of my present ease. I will hope for the best and so must you don't think lightly of your Mothers views. She is ever mindful of you and it is your happiness that is nearest my heart, it is a great comfort to me that you have always been a good boy and I hope always to have that satisfaction all of our family seem to cherish good feelings toward you and speak often of you.

R.B.H. [Rowland Bailey Howard] wants to come to see you and would be glad to come with his papa tomorrow, but I do not think it best, for him to come now the weather is so cold. Charles wishes he could come to Hallowell and wants me to tell you he can let down bars and put up bars. Rowland has been quite a help this fall. He was all the help I have had when we got home but Rowland A G [Gilmore] has begun to work on the farm again now.

You will perceive that your boots are not made. Your father has been very much engaged since he came home so that he could not attend to getting them, as he was out of leather and Oscar too. I am sorry but you must have patience they will come soon. The babe [Rodelphus Gilmore] is quite healthy now & expect he will forget you.

I should have been glad to have you come home in the vacation, but on the whole I thought you had better keep on with your work as it would change things to come away and go back. I cut and made your pants I hope they will fit well. I shall get the rest of your clothes as soon as possible. I have had a great deal to do since I came home. Mr. Gilmore will come to H again before long. You have a little yarn with you that I want to finish a pair of gloves I have begun for you. It is paper coullor. I am afraid if I coullor more it will not match it and that is some of the same I can send you some more for your stocking, be sure and keep it up and have Mr. G. put it in his pocket. I cannot finish them until I have it. Tell granma the small bunch of yarn I send her and the rest Ann Lee sends. I shall get your clothes as fast as I can.

Give my love to William, Maria and Vaughn. I should be glad if they would write me a letter. Remember me to your Uncle and Aunt and Mrs Vaughn all the kindnesses you receive from them are remembered with gratitude from me.

I am ever your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore.

[To] O.Otis Howard

P.S. you may show this to Granma, but don't show it much for it is not written so well as I can write when I am not fatigued. E.G.

[Envelope]

[From] Leeds to Hallowell, Nov 5th 1843

[To] Master Oliver O. Howard

Hallowell, Me



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6 11/6/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0006

Hallowell, Me

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Nov 6th 1843

Dear Mother

I thought I would write a few lines to you as I expect Father [1] down today. I write you that I am well and all our folk, but it is very sickly in this place, there has four or five persons died since I have been here. The private term of Mr Burnhams closed last Saturday and the vacation is about four weeks. I am going to study at home and recite to Mr Burnham.

[The above was written by Oliver Otis Howard. On the same page of paper, Oliver's grandmother, Betsy (Stinchfield) Otis added the following note]

Otis had just begun this wen his father came and he went home and has not returned.

Dear Elisa

Your husband says Anna is going to spend part of the winter with you. I think it will be as well for her and that she will enjoy it as well and or better then she would hear. Your father [2] is very unwell and it is difficult to git along. He can't bair any noise and think one more in the family will be too much. It is much better for Sarah to stay here and go to school, and her Mother to stay with you as is concluded. I want to have her come and make a visit if it is convenient. I think your Father is no better. Upon the hole has bin some better but is not so well now. I want to say agoodeal but have not time. Give my love to all. Write to me soon. Otis is a good boy. Yours ever after.  
Mother B. Otis

[Notes:

1. Oliver is living with his uncle John Otis in Hallowell. This reference to Father is Oliver Otis Howard's step-father, John Gilmore, the wife of Eliza Otis, who is living in Leeds.
2. This reference to father is Oliver Otis Howard's grand-father, Oliver Otis, who was 75 and who died the next year on 28 Sept 1844.

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7 11/6/1843 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0007

Hallowell, Me

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Nov 6th 1843

Dear Mother

I write you a few lines because father is here and I can send the letter by him; our vacation has now commenced. Uncle thinks I had better get my lessons as usual here at home for Mr Burnham says he will hear all the lessons I will get and bring to him. I think he is very kind. As for my duties I do not think it is hard to perform them, as for my composition, I like to write it, and I have written once a week, I only spoak of their writing them, to the Academy. I am very much oblige to you for your advice (and will try to obey you). I get along very well, I have got the wood in. And my chores are not so hard as they were. I could not go to Meeting for the want of shoes, and I am very sorry that I could not have my boots but however I shall try to make the best of it. I should like very much to come home in the vacation but as you think best for me not to I shall not come. Give my love to them all, do not harbour a thought that I do not mean to do right dear mother. Excuse mistakes for I am in a hurry. Give my affectionate love to my brothers, your affectionate son O.O.H.

[In very large letters] OO

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8 1/13/1844 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0008

South Leeds, Me

Hallowell

Care of John Otis, Esq.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Leeds, January 13, 1844

My dear Boy.

I have received your letter by your uncle Ensign [Otis] and am glad to hear you are getting along so well, and so happy. My mind has lately been called to very tender reflections by the death of your aged Grandfather [Seth] Howard, whose remains were committed to the earth last sabbath. [Seth Howard died 5 January, age 81] I did not hear of his death until eleven o'clock of the day he was buried. I prepared myself and the two little boys as soon as possible and went to the meeting house the place of the funeral but the appointment being at ten o'clock the funeral was over and his remains were moving toward the place of interment. All I saw was the coffin that contained the remains of one who I have much reason to remember with respect for his parental came over me my dear little boys. I learn that he has been in a very stupid state this winter, did not know even his own children. Therefore it would not have been much satisfaction to have seen him. We have heard nothing from my father for some time and therefore conclude he is more comfortable.

I called at your uncle Ensign's on the sabbath, found the family well as usual. Sister Ann remains with me. He health is about as it has been. I keep no girl this winter. Your Aunt assists me about my work. Arza has been confined from business nearly two weeks with a bad thumb and mending it. [torn edge].

<[torn bottom edge]> better. Rowland A, and Rowland B and C.H. are at school, and like their school this winter. I have kept Charles out some days. The weather is so cold I am anxious for fear he will suffer on the way with no one but R.B.H. to take care of him. He has frozen one of his ears twice this winter. Your brother Rodelphus is healthy, and busy as anybody. He can talk some. I expect to come to H... this winter to stay one day. If I do I shall have Charles come with us.

I have prepared your clothes and wish you had them especially your drawers. I am afraid you need your drawers. When you get them you had better sleep in them as you get up to build the fires they will make you quite comfortable.

The remains of Thomas Jenning were carried past here last Saturday evening brought from Lowell by Thadeas More. He had a short sickness and soon as he died Thadeas brought his remains to his parents wholly unexpected, they not knowing even that he was sick. A melancholy errand it was too. He came into the neighbourhood and got a neighbor to go before him was all they knew of the fate of their son. He was buried on Monday. Mr. Peter Lane is now laying in a dying state if not dead. So death seems to be our constant visitor in some shape or other. Some times I think it matters but <little> <when> if we are <only> prepared [torn bottom edge]

Saturday morn, [Jan 15, 1844]

Dear Otis, I snatch a few minutes this morning to prepare better for the office.

Give my love to William, Maria, Vaughan and the little babe. You must kiss him for me. Remember me to grandma and grandpa, uncle John and Frances. Your mother feels grateful to them all for their kindness to my dear Otis. Give my love Addison. Tell him he must come and see us in the vacation, give my love Sarah Lee. Her mother thinks a great deal about her. Remember me to Laury Ann. Tell her I hope she got home well from here.

We have heard of the death of brother Dean Lane. His funeral is tomorrow at ten o'clock. The traveling is very bad here and has been some weeks. Take good care of your cloths. You will always find real advantage from such care. Never dispute about small trifles. If you are right you can enjoy your own opinion and let it go. I have no particular reason for saying this. Only that boys sometimes do it without thinking of the confusion it makes and the annoyance it is to others. I think you must have a much better opportunity for school than you could have here and I want you to improve it to the best advantage. "Time is money" to a boy of your enterprise. Your mother is always thinking danger and hoping for the <> [bottom of page is torn].

Yours with affection.  
Eliza [Gilmore]

[Envelope]  
[From ] South Leeds Me  
Jan 13

[No postmark]

[To] Master Oliver O. Howard  
Hallowell

(Care of John Otis, Esq)

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9 1/14/1844 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0009a

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Jan 14th 1844

Dear Mother

I take this opportunity, Sabbath noon, to write you a few lines. I heard the sad news of Grandfather Howard's death last Wednesday, which was told me by Mr. Samuel Bothby and I inquired of him, from the rest of the family. He said they were all well when he left home and I hope you are still the same. I have thought many times of grandpa since I left Leeds and thought it a wonder if his life should be spared much longer as he was very old, but I could not help hoping that God would spare his life a little longer, that I might once more see him. As it is so we have to submit.

I am much obliged to your for my gloves, for I needed them much, and colars [collars] also.

There has been a great deal of sickness here this winter and many deaths, but I have been very well. Laury Ann said that Rowland B had a bad cold. Is he well now, and how does little Charle do and Rodelphus, are they well. I hope that you are all well. I should like to see you all, and I think I shall come to Leeds in the vacation if Uncle and Aunt are willing and William too. If I do not I hope you will come here and bring Charles or the babe with you.

I get along very well. Uncle and Aunt are very kind to me, and we have a good school. It keeps three weeks before the vacation, and at the close of the term we have an examination. I have writen 8 compositions this term and commenced one for the close of the term.

New years evening Miss Caroline, Vaughan, Sarah, William, Maria and I rode to Gardner in one sleigh and I drove, and we went to the Episcopalian Church, where the minister reads his prayers. Grandpa and Grandma are well as usual.

Give my love to Roland and Arza, Louisa and Warren. And if Aunt Anne is there give my love to her and tell her to give my love to Silas and Perry. I suppose Rowland and Charles go to school. Tell them I should like to visit there school. Does it not tire Charles to walk up that hill every day and can he read yet. How far has Rowland Bailey got in Arithmatic. Do they have a good school. Give my love to them both, Excuse bad writing and mistakes.

Your most affectionate son.  
Oliver O. Howard

[See the next entry for a continuation of the letter]

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10 1/15/1844 *From:* Frances Otis

*To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0009b

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This is a continuation of the previous letter by OO Howard ]

January 15th [1844]

Dear Sister

Otis wishes me to add a few lines to his letter and if I had time I could find enough to fill what he has left. But as it is washing day I have not much lesure. Otis seems very happy and gets along as well as any one of his age could be expected to. Mr. Burnham speaks very highly of him as a scholar.

Mr Thurston had a donation party Christmas evening and the children all went the next afternoon and carried some little present. There were 76 children there - they enjoyed themselves very much. There was a table set and plenty of cake and apples for them all. Our children all went. Mr Thurston made them a short address. John and I were both of us unwell and not able to go. John has been and is still quite unwell. He has lost a great deal of flesh and strength.

The influenza has prevailed here very much and is nearly as bad as a fever. I suppose you have seen in the papers and account of Mr. Alden's niece. It was a most melancholy thing and spread a power over all. Mr Belden's death was very peaceful. He was a good man (though rather peculiar) and we feel that we have one the less to pray fervently for the prosperity of <hvon>. Your Mother went to the funeral and remained to tea with a few of the neighbors. Give my love to Ann and tell her that we all want to see her very much.

Yours truly

F. Otis [Frances Otis]

[Envelope]

[No Postmark]

[To] Mrs. John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me.

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11 2/5/1844

*From:* C. Polard

*To:* Master R. B. Howard

OOH-0010

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Master R. B. Howard  
South Leeds Me

Hallowell, February 5th 1844

Dear Rowland:

I wish you was here this evening so that we might have a good time as Otis is here and I should like to have you go to school again with me. I have got a little dog I think you would like to see. His name is fido, which is by interpretation I trust. Otis and George is studying latin. I hope some day or other you and I will study latin together. The boys say there is a wolf out in Dr Nurse's pasture. There is some first rate slides out in our garden. If you were only to your grandfathers we should have a good time. Our school Mistress is married. The one that you and I went to school to. But we have another one Mrs. Park that we like full as much as the other. Mother sends her love to you, Mrs Lee and Silas. I can not find anything more to write so I think I must close by requesting you to write me a letter in return. Give my love to Mrs Lee and Silas. Tell him I should like very much to see him.

Your affectionate friend.  
C. Polard

To: Rowland B. Howard

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12 2/11/1844 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0011

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell February 11th 1844

Dear Mother

I take an opportunity Sunday after Meeting to write you a few lines. We got here about half past one o'clock and had a very good ride. When we got to Winthrop we went into the tavern and warmed ourselves. Our block and brick we also warmed, and the rest of the way we came very comfortably and met very few sleighs. Once between here and Winthrop we met a couple of on teams with stones. The first one we got by very well, but the next we had to go out into very deep snow, and it was as much as the horse could do to get through and he jumped against another sleigh that was ahead and broke the back of it.

I hope you are all well as usual. Grandfather is about the same. He can't eat any thing hardly. All the rest are very well. Give my love to them all, kiss Rodelphus for me. It is so soon since I saw you. I cannot find much news, so I leave room for grandmother, and the rest will be unfilled. Give my best respects to Mrs Turner and all the neighbors. Give my love to Aunt Anne, father, my brothers, Roland and Arza, tell them I should like to have another as good a time as we had. Write to me as quick as you can.

Your affectionate Son.  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Hallowell Me Feb 12

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds, Maine

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13 2/11/1844 *From:* Betsy Otis

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0012

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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My dear children

Your Father is no better altho he is more comfortable this few days. just apatite is no better and his flesh and strength fails dayly. I hope you don't forgit to ofer up your praers at the throne of grace that his Faith may be strengthed and his love to God increast and that he may have patence to bair his sevear sufferings and be prepared for that solem chang wich must shortly come. Oh how little can we realize the great change that awaits my Anna. I am afraid you will put off coming too long. It is dark and Otis is waiting. Love to all

Your afect Mother

B. Otis

[Betsey Otis]

[Note: This letter was probably included in the previous one from Otis dated 2/11/1844]

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14 3/15/1844 *From:* Oliver O. Howard *To:* Mrs John Gilmore  
OOH-0013                      Hallowell, Me                      South Leeds  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      Me.

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Hallowell, March 15th 1844

Dear Mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to send home by father. I am very well although I hurt me a little this morning. Father will tell you how. Mr Burnham excused me from reciting that I might write to you. There is a writing school here now and I should have gone but could not get the money. Uncle is going to Boston and grandpa would not let me have any. I should not wanted to have gone but I am a poor writer and have considerable writing to do. And you said if I would not attend at Day. I might go to one here so I think you will be willing. I shall ask fathers opinion.

My cloths want repairing and I have no pieces I don't but father brought some. I had holes in my nees and Uncle told me to wear my best ones, and when I sliped this morning from the hay the fork forced its way through the ful cloth. I am sorry to ask for more this year, but hope when I am older, that I may be able to repay you and father.

I trust that you are all well. I shall not say any thing about grandfather for grandmother is going to write. I shall ask father for a little money, for if I should meet with any accident I could not get any. But I trust to Providence that I shall not meet with another.

I like my school very much this term for the school is not so large as it was last term. Give my love to my brothers and the rest of the family. Kiss the babe for me. Ask Rowland how far he went in Arithmatic this winter. To tell me, let them come here as soon as you can conveniently. Excuse mistakes

Your affectionate Son,  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[No Postmark]  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me.

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15 3/16/1844 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0014

South Leeds, Me

Hallowell  
care of John Otis Esq

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 16th 1844

My Dear boy,

I wish I could be with you then I could direct you what to do in all cases. I could save you some in your clothes by keeping them in repair, and have them in good order. I was aware of this before you left home, but you was so desirous of attending school, you thought you could put up with that. But your inconveniences are small in comparison with thousands of other in this world.

I am sorry you lost this opportunity of attending writing school as I wish you to be a good writer. I never was a good writer myself but I improved very much in attending writing school. If there should be another term try to attend. I will send you the money the first opportunity. I will make inquiries and see if I can get some one to fetch it down to you. Your Pa has just been fixing Arza away and has paid away all the money he had by him and has been disappointed of some he thought he could call in any time. I don't want you to ask your grandpa for money because he is very sensitive about his money and everything troubles him now because he is so sick. But if your Aunt Ann had a dollar by her that she can spare a short time you may ask her to let you have it if you attend writing school, and I don't send it soon enough.

You may ask your Aunt Ann to fix up your pants for you when she gets rested from her journey. You must be kind to your dear Aunt Ann. She has many troubles and poor health to bear them.

Be kind to all with whom you have any concern, and be discreet in your observations if you see that in others which is not right pass it over and say nothing about it. Be a good boy and always try to do as near right as possible yourself.

I hope you still love your teacher and he will love you. I often think of what a tedious time you had last year attending school through the snow and water and how very much fatigued you were when you reached home every night and how anxious I was about you in the storms when I knew you must walk two or three miles through the deep and new fallen snow. Now you have a pleasant walk just enough for exercise.

Now my dear boy how would your mother have felt had your fall been fatal. I hope it will not essentially injure you but I have known many a person from a small accident as that labour under poor health through a long life, good health is very much to be desired. We cannot live very happily without it. I read in the newspaper of last evening just such an accident with the exception of a broom handle. It went into the child's bowels and it died immediately. If you my child had been plunged into eternity at that moment was you prepared for happiness or more as the word of God teaches, it certainly is very essential we should look to our future prospects in the world to come. This life is short at most only a morning to prepare for a long eternity and we see others dying around us which should remind us that the same will be required of us. Seek first the kingdom of heaven and all the rest shall be added unto you. I think every enjoyment has a double relish when accompanied with religion.

We received a letter from Arza last evening dated Boston March 11th No 318 Washington Street. He has gone into a Carpet store. He got business very quick. I hope he will do well. He is so slender the labour will suit him better than farming.

Rowland B is sitting beside me using a pen. I fear but poorly but I hope he will improve. He went as far as simple proportion in <Smith's> arithmetic. I think he does not love arithmetic as well as other studies but I hope he will like it better when he gets older. Charles H. reads some better than he did when you heard him read. He reads every day but he does not take that interest in reading that I want he should.

Now Otis take good care of your health. Be careful and keep your feet dry, especially now while you are lame with your bruise and take good care of your clothes and cultivate that habit while young. You will be the one to receive the benefit from it.

R. A. G. is chopping wood at the door. R.B. chops off the small wood. We have no hired man now and Mrs. <Mewan> is with me now, so I don't feel quite so full of as common. You did not say how long your Uncle would be gone. I hope you will leave nothing undone while he is gone that is necessary to be done or that he would like to have done if he were there. Take good care of his things and do as your aunt would like to have you.

Give my love to William. Aunt Eliza hopes he had a good visit at Leeds and he must come again. Give my love to Maria. Her Aunt feels a great interest in her and wants her to be a fine young lady which will soon be the case. I wish she would write me a letter. I should like to have one very much. I have no daughter of my own but I feel an interest in all my Nieces and all of their improvements. Tell Vaughan I remember his little smiling face. I hope he is still the same little happy fellow.

I am very much obliged to your Grandma for writing the particulars about your Grandfather as I am very anxious about him and when I do not hear from him only by people who call on him I frequently get wrong accounts. Give my love to your grandfather and grandmother, Laura Ann, Addison, Sarah Lee and Aunt Frances.

Always bear in mind when you see your aged grandparents that they are as dear to your mother as your mother is to you, and as your fond father was to you.

From your affectionate Mother,  
Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]  
[no postmark]

Master Oliver O. Howard  
Hallowell

care of John Otis Esq

---

16 3/18/1844 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0015

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Hallowell, March 18th 1844

Dear Mother

I sit down a few minutes this evening to copy a few lines of thoughts and reflections to you. How do you do this eve and how is the health of the rest of family. I have been to school today. I have made as much progress in my studdies as I expected. In regard to my coming home, I have thought much about it. I should like to stay here in Hallowel all summer if all would permit, but Uncle thinks it would be foolish for me to leave off work. I have many reasons that prompts my desire of remaining here, but I shall not relate them now. I have attended sabbath scool constantly for a few weeks past. I have attended dancing school twice a week,. We have a very pleasant time indeed. How did Rowland say he enjoyed himself while here. I do not think he did very well for Aunt is rather selfish, which would be apt to make him think she did not like to have him here that I feared would make him unhappy. Is his school done. You may think it queer why I did not send his Shoes and Grammar by Uncle Ensign. The reason was becaus he went away much sooner than I expected and when I did not know it.

Liddia has heard from home once or twice within a week past. She heard that her mother had had two fits, and she remained in the last one two hours. And to day she had a letter from her father. There was something in it which affected her very much, but she did not inform me what it was. But that was not very surprising, for she permits things to trouble her that any one else would hardly notice. One of Lydia's acquaintances married a young widower and he treated her very unhandsomely indeed. The reason was he loved another better than she, but he thought he could not have her, so he married the one he did and in eleven days after the marriage he threatened her life because the former told him if he had waited a little while she would have married him. And worse than all he what he did was without any provocation.

They are all very well here, as I hope you are. Give my love to my three little brothers, and tell them I should be very happy to see them. And give my love to the rest of the family. Tell Rowland he must write to me and I will try to answer it. I will send his things the first opportunity. I should like to reside in town during the summer, with your permission. But you may decide as you think it is for the best.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Hallowell Me Mar 21

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

---

17 3/31/1844 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0016

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Hallowell Mar 31st 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines this afternoon and to inform you that we are all well excepting grandpa [Oliver Otis]. The Dr. was in to see him this morning and said he was a great deal weaker than last Sunday and he said he did not think he would continue more than a month if as long as that.

Warren Woodman [a son of Sarah Otis (who died in 1822) and a grandson of Oliver Otis.] went home from here this morning and Grandpa told him he had better tell Martha Jane [another daughter of Oliver Otis] to come down right away for he was told what the Doctor said of him. I suppose you would like to see your Father once more. Grandfather's folks had a letter from Uncle Amos [a son of Oliver Otis and an M.D.] the other day. He wrote that he was not any better than he was when here. He does not go out any only when it is very pleasant.

Aunt Ann sent her love to you and said she would write but did not feel much like it to day. We are all well here at Uncle's. Maria and William as unpleasant as ever, but I try to bear it as well as I can. Talking to me while writing &c. I attend writing school now but I suppose you won't think I improve much but I have a very poor pen, and always do when I write to you for my pen is at school. I like my writing school very much for the writing master is very pleasant.

I went to the frewill baptist this forenoon. The text was the 2d chapter of Isaiah and 5th ver - O house of Jacob, come ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord. And the Minister told two stories. The first was that in the island of Madagascar the gospel was sent a little while since. And great many embraced it but after the king died there was a Queen who rejected or opposed christianity, and commanded that all who embraced it should be executed. There were 16 persons found praying by the executors of the law, and they took them to the queen. She command that they should be put to death in the most hideous manner if they did not renounce their religion, which they would not do. But they escaped and were just going to set sail when they were detected and brought back to the queen and then they were boiled alive. Then the Minister made a few remarks. He said how much easier it is to obtain religion in a free country like this where we have no such obstacles as this. And then related another anecdote. In an Island, he told the name but I have forgotten. Most of the individuals had embraced religion and there were some princes who had been fighting among each other. They joined and were laying plans to massacre the christians in the night. But they hearing of it before the time appointed, took chance to escape from the island. And the princes finding their disappointment fought among themselves and killed each other. And the christians returning to their island found them all dead.

Give my love to Rowland and tell him I should like very much to see him. Ask him how he liked the papers. Give my love to Charles and tell him I like him as my affectionate little brother. And kiss the babe for me and try to make him remember me. Give my love to Mrs Murry, father and Roland Alger. I should like to have my boots as soon as you can <send> them down.

Your dear son with affectionate regard for his Mother.

Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Hallowell Me, Apr 1

[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

---

18 4/16/1844 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0017

Hallowell, Me

Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Apr 16 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines and to inform you that I am very well, and to ask how you do this morning. Grandfather is as comfortable as usual, and they are all as well as usual here to Grandfathers. Aunt Frances was mistaken about my shirts. I have four new shirts now that have not been worn scarcely any & two besides that I have not worn any since I have been here. These two that I shall send out you need not send back without you wish too. I suppose they may be of some use this summer when I am at work. What do you think about my going to school in hot weather. Don't you think it will be better for me to work out to the farm than to go to school. For I am afraid it will make me sick to go to school in the summer because I broke of from work and went right to school and have been some time. Therefore I think it best to work this summer and go to school again in the fall, but I will do as you say.

Give my love to my brothers, remember me to Mrs Murry, and Roland Alger.

Yours with affection Dear Mother

Oliver O. Howard

Write me a letter as soon you can and I will answer it, and will take time to write it and show you my improvement. I am in a great hurry for father is going soon.

[Envelope]

[No Postmark]

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Leeds

Me

---

19 4/30/1844 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0018

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Apr 30th, 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to send by Mrs. <Mans>. Are you well. Are my brothers well. Are all the family well. Grandfather is considerably better. He is able to set up most all day and walk out some. As I am coming out to Leeds soon I shall see what you think concerning my cloths, &c. Therefore I shall not write any thing about them only tell you that I have to wear my best jacket to school for my old jacket is rent badly. Maria, William and I have been to walk this morning before breakfast. They are all well he at Uncles. Give my love to all. I don't know when I can come out, but our Vacation is next week and week after next.

Yours affectionately, Dear Mother  
Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]  
[no postmark]  
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

---

20 7/1/1844

*From:* Betsy Otis

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0019a

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear Eliza

I was very sorry to hear Roland was so sick. Your father is very feeble but comfortable as we could expect the most of the time. Henry T has continued to come to Hallowell has gone to Boston. Martha Jane is coming down to morrow. Lydia Martin will go to Leeds to day. Frances wishes to have her come to stay with her if you don't want her to stop with you. She will make a visit and then come to her uncle's till her Father comes. Nathan and Harrot <Woodbury> was hear last Sattarday. Say Laury has failed fast. Her apatite is very poor and the fever and canker is very trouble some. Her simtome are very discouraging. They are gone Monro will return the last of this weak. You need not send me any cheese. Martha sent one large one.

My love to all. In haste your <old> affectionate Mother. [Betsy Ots]

Otis is very well. Goes to school all the time. Have not heard from Otis Woodman. Warren is hear on the farm as wen you was here. Your Brothers family is well.

[Envelope]

[From] B Otis & O O Howard

July 1844

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

So. Leeds

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21 7/1/1844

*From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0019b

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines at grandma's request. I never have heard that Roland was sick before to day, and I am very sorry to hear so, for I was expecting him down when Arza came. Tell Charles that I am much obliged to him for the apples, and give my love to him.

Your affectionate  
O. O. H.

[Envelope]

[From] B Otis & O O Howard  
July 1844

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
So. Leeds

---

22 7/7/1844

*From:* Oliver Otis Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0020

Hallowell Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Hallowell July 7th 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines informing you that I am well and desirous of the good health of you all. How is brother Rowland? Is he any better that he was when you were here? I have thought considerable of you since you were here, because you appeared so melancholy or unhappy and low spirited. If I am the cause of it do let me know, I do not wish to give you any trouble. If you wish me to come home please write to me or Uncle requesting that and I will come. I do not wish to make you unhappy in the least. Give yourself no trouble on account of your second Marriage [see note 1] concerning me, for I have no doubt that it was all for the best. I have no doubt but that it was right for you to be married, for it would have been very difficult for you to have taken the care of the place then as young as I was then. I think it was all for the best was as it was or is as it is, and we may some future day find it to be so. Therefore let us not mourn over the past what cannot be helped but try to do what is best for the present. Do not say I have lost my mother, for you are as dear to me as ever you was, and as much for me. Let us trust in providence for good, and strive to do that which is right and I have no doubt good will be obtained.

I attended meeting all day to day and Sabbath School this morning.

Give my love to Rowland. Tell him I was very much disappointed in not seeing him and hope he is better. Addison said that you said I might go to Circus and I went with Maria and Vaughan. William went to Boston last Monday and has not returned. He spent the fourth of July there. Uncle went to Bangor last Tuesday and returned on Friday last. The fourth of July I worked in the forenoon and in the after noon I went to the farm and got some strawberries and cherries with Harriet. Give my love to little Charles and Rodelphus. Give my love to Roland and William. Tell them I hope they are getting along well in haying if they have begun. And give my love to Susan and father. Please write often. Excuse Mistakes.

Yours with respect & affection  
Oliver Otis Howard

Grandpa is some better than he was. He has rode about two miles and a half, twice. Grandma is well as usual. Maria is unwell to day. The rest are well here at Uncle's. Uncle Amos and Uncle Ensign have gone to Boston.

[Envelope]  
[From] O.O. Howard  
July 7th 1844

[Postmark] Hallowell Me Jul 8

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds Me

[Note 1: Eliza and John Gilmore were married 1 June 1841.]

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23 7/7/1844

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master O.O. Howard

OOH-0021

Leeds, Me

Hallowell, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 7th 1844

My dear boy

I have thought of you much since I parted with you on the side walk. You and I both of us so much fatigued with the excitements of the day that our natures required rest. I have enquired of myself again and again why we are separated, why we are not enjoying the comforts of the same table, why at evening we do not sit by the same fire side, why before retiring to rest I am deprived of passing into your room to see you in quiet slumber or know your wants and try to satisfy them with my own hands and why in the morning I am not one of the first to greet you with my welcome and my inquiries after your health, why is you Mother deprived of this and many other nameless privileges which no one can appreciate but herself. I can tell you at once how I answer myself. It is his best good. It is his improvement his own advantage I am looking at. It is because I cannot give you those advantages which I do know you can enjoy where you are, and how should I feel to have your time pass along with little or no improvement. Do improve your time to your own best advantage, ask yourself every night what have I learned this day that will make me more useful and how is my integrity. Have I been perfectly upright in all things, towards my companions, and towards my employer, and above all towards myself. That is have I done all that I designed to do and in the best way for my future usefulness. I know your sabbath school privilege must be far superior to ours and I want you should treasure up what you learn at sabbath school for if you live to old age it will do you good and make you happier to look back upon your youthful improvements. I know that our town school is not to be compared with Mr. Burnham's school, but I am always full of anxiety for you. I hope you will imitate the good you see and hear, and shun the bad.

On the fourth of July I went to the meeting house where we had prayer and singing and two sabbath school lectures. One from Mr. Mariam of Winthrop and one from Mr. True, from Monmouth. They were good and I thought much of you while listening to them and seeing the little boys and girls who have been reared in the same town and neighbourhood with you. They looked happy.

R.B.H. is well now and goes to school. Charles goes to school and improves some this summer. He can read a story so that he understands it tollerable well. Give my love to your Aunt, and William and Maria, Vaughan, and the babe. I shall send your stockings as soon as possible. Try to have care about everything. Do be a good boy.

From your dear Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

P.S. I thought I should write a great deal more when I began but being fatigued and all the family have retired for the night, I shall not. E.G.

[Envelope]  
From  
Leeds to  
Hallowell

Master O.O. Howard  
Hallowell

---

24 8/4/1844 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0022

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Hallowell Aug 3d 1844 [this should be Aug 4th, see notes below]

Dear mother

I take this opportunity sabbath eve to write you a few lines. Uncle arrived from Bangor about half an hour since bringing the affecting news of Uncle Amos's [Otis] death last night (Saturday) an ulcer broke, which immediately suffocated him. He rode out a little while before. I was up to grandpa's when Uncle came. I was reading to grandma, and Aunt Frances came in to the room and took grandma by the hand and led her into the room where grandpa was without saying a word. But in a few minutes Uncle John came out and told us, that is Addison, Warren, and I, that Uncle Amos was gone, and Aunt requested me to write to you. Please let Uncle Ensign know. Uncle and perhaps grandma will go to Monroe tomorrow. I did think of coming home on the morrow but do not think I can because they are going away. I have worked out to the farm enough to earn to \$12.25 cts, spent 4.00. Give my love to all. I think I shall see you soon. Dear mother this is bad news which I write you. The death of a dear brother for what good purpose this affliction is laid upon us. We only know great affliction is just, and we must try to bear it as well as possible. We must all die some day or other, either former or latter. Lauren [Laura D Woodbury, Amos's wife died Oct 12, 1844] is also sick, she may not live long. I suppose that Aunt Anne was at Monroe at the time he died. I suppose that you would like to be to the funeral, but I think you will not be able. I don't know when it is, but think it is pretty soon by Uncle's going tomorrow. He does not say much about it.

Give my love to all.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Aug 3d 1844

Informing mother of Uncle Amos' death the night before [This must have been added later]

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

Single  
Pleas forward it

[Note: the date of the letter should be August 4th. Otis refers to this being sabbath eve which would have been Aug 4 1844. Also Amos Otis died on Aug 3 from consumption.]

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25 9/19/1844 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0023

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Sept 18th 1844

Dear mother

I sat down this evening to write you a few lines concerning my brother. How does he do. I saw William Turner this afternoon and I inquired of him from Rowland, who said that his wife was in there the night before and thought him to be very sick although she did not know as you thought him dangerously sick, but she thought he was and I did not know that he had the Typhus fever until night before last; Grandma said that Thomas Bridgham said so. I thought he had only a slow Fever like Rowland Algers. If he is so very sick I should like to come home. How does Charles and Rodelphus do? And how do you stand it having Rowland to take care of, and having been broke from your sleep, as I suppose you have.

I went up to Grandfathers last evening. He was very low indeed. He had to be helped up and down when he kneeled to pray. He has not got hardly any flesh at all. I do not think he can live a great while longer, but I hope he may. All the rest are well as usual at grandpas.

Oliver Woodman [the son of Oliver Otis' daughter Sarah Otis Woodman] is here now. And Mrs. Woodman came here and stayed two nights in succession and settled with grandfather which pleased him very much. Mrs. Levett and Mrs <Norcross> were at grandpas last evening. Mrs. Levett was from Leeds.

I am very well indeed and get along well in my studies, but I feel very anxious about Rowland. Give my love to him. Tell him I should like to come and see him, and read to him. Tell him he must try to have patience and try to bear his pain. I know it is hard but we must endure it. Give my love to all.

Yours affectionately,  
Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Sept 19 1844

[no postmark]

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

---

26 9/21/1844 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0024

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Hallowell Sept 21st 1844

Dear Mother

I take an opportunity to write you a few lines, to send by Uncle Ensign. How do you do? And how does Rowland do? Is he as sick as he was or not? How does little Charles and Rodelphus do? I am intending to send Rowland and Charles each a book which are presents from cousin Oliver O. Woodman to them. He gave me a very nice bible, and I shall send your bible home. I have written you a letter by the mail, perhaps you have got it.

Is it not best for me to buy a pair of pantaloons and waist-coat as Rowland is sick and you cannot make any very well. If it is best please write. Write often dear mother. If Rowland is worse let me know it that I may come home.

Give my love to all at home.

Yours with great affection.  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Sept 21st 1844

[no postmark]

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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27 10/23/1844 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* My dear boy [Oliver O.  
Howard]

OOH-0025

Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Leeds October 23 1844

My dear boy,

How do you do how are you getting along with your school. It is now vacation I believe. When the next term commences don't let any cares take you from your studies. Think every day these are precious moments never to be recalled. Take good care of your health. You will be disappointed about your clothes but your father has had so much to do of late he could not go to Lewistown after the cloth but will go soon. And when I get them I shall come to Hallowell and bring them. Rowland B. H. rides out and pains past is very cheerful.

Yours in haste.  
E. Gilmore.

---

28 11/24/1844 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0026

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Nov 24th 1844 [Eliza's father, Oliver Otis, died on Sept 28 1844]

Dear Mother

I set down this noon to write a few lines to you. How do you do? And how does Rowland, Charles and Rodolphus do? I hope you are all well. I suppose father and Uncle Ensign are gone to New Hampshire. Uncle John requests me to inquire of you whether you desire Grandma to have more than she has been allowed or not. He says that all the heirs excepting you desire it very much, but whether you do, or not he does not know. And he wishes you to write as soon as you can for he says Judge Emmons is scrupulous & uncertain how to act until he knows that you also desire it, and it is something that they wish to know as quick as they possibly can.

I am very much obliged to you for my clothes, they set very well indeed, especially my sack, which I am very much pleased with indeed.

Sarah, Lidia and I expect to come to Leeds the day before Thanksgiving and if nothing happens to prevent we shall come. And if you are willing I should like to have Rowland invite some company Thanksgiving day evening if he is able but if he is not I can after I get there.

A converted Jew lectured here three days this week, one of which I attended. I have been to meeting this forenoon and heard Mr. Thurston preach and it was very interesting. Part of which was on the fulfillment of the Prophecies spoken of in the Bible.

You spoke of Charle in your last letter, saying that he thought of me, and you wished I would think of him. I do think about him. I should like to lead him to school this winter, or be with him. I know I am very negligent to my brothers. I ought to do more for them than I do, and I ought to be kinder to them, but notwithstanding all I love them and would like to give all in my power for their good. And I do not wish you to give me better cloths than you do to them.

The dress does not make the man, but the disposition to do what is right in the sight of God and man, or as near right as it is possible for us in our state of existence to do. Scorners and slanderers may scorn and slander, but what will it amount to in the end. It will all be treasured up to their shame, ignominy and disgrace. Was not the best man that ever lived scorned, disgraces or put to shame? And was it in the end recorded to his disgrace? It was not, but to the shame of those who put him to shame. And so it will be with all others who follow his example. They may be laughed at at the time of their action, but sooner or later they will have their reward.

You tell my three brothers I will try to bring them some thing when I come home if I can. Grandma is very well. She came down to meeting this forenoon, and stopped here to dinner. All the rest of the family are well except Aunt Ann. She is unwell. I have been to school a fortnight and get along very well in my studdies. Liddia is here. Give my love to all.

Yours affectionately  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] Hallowell Nov 25

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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29 1/19/1845 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0027

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Jan 19th 1845

Dear Mother

I sit down this evening to write you a few lines. Our term of school is past. I wish you had been here at our examination. We had a very good one indeed. We were examined in our english studies and classics during the day time and in the evening each of us read a piece of composition and all the boys declaimed. I finished my Latin Reader and began Virgil last term and got two Bucolisks in it. I commenced Goodriches Greek lessons, and went through the second declension. I like it very much. It went most through Greenlif's Arithmetic last term.

I have considerable to say to you when you come down. Which I shal not write about. I have almost concluded to continue at school instead of going out to the farm, becaus I hate to leave off my Virgil and Greek just begun. It seems as though I had just commenced my education. The more I study the more ignorant I seem to my self. The more studies I attend to so much the more are opened unto my view. Algebra, Geometry and History and many other elementary studies I have not commenced. Therefore I think it will be for my advantage to continue at school where I am another year for the tuition will be only four dollars for the whole year. Having thought it all over I have made up my mind that it was the best chance I could have for attending school, notwithstanding a few troubles I may have to experience. And if I went to school and did not work I might not have so good health as I do. And nothing is so desirable as health, but I will not say much more upon this to night.

I expect you down a week from tomorrow, and I hope you will come for I want to see you very much. How do you all do. I hope you are all well, and I suppose you are, becaus I have heard nothing to the contrary. I have not written to Lauren yet. I have attended meeting all day. Grandma is very well and went to Meeting today. All the rest of the family are well I believe. Although Addison has been unwell. Our examination was last Friday, and now our vacation has commenced and will continue a fortnight.

When you come you must bring Rodelfus and Rowland or Charles. I suppose it is Rowland's turn to come, becaus he has been disappointed so much, but they have not either of them been here for some time, but you will do best about it. If Rowland does not come with you tell him he must come as soon as he can, but he must write to me when you come. If he wants me to write first that he may answer, I will for it is rather hard for one to compose a letter without some head or something to help a little. For I find it easier to answer a letter than to compose one for another to answer. I have my writing to night for it is nine o'clock and my bed time.

Give my love to all.

Yours with Affection,

Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From]  
O O Howard  
Jan 19th 1845

[no postmark]

[To]  
Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me



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30 3/5/1845

*From:* O. Otis Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0028

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N. Y. March the 5 1845

Dear Mother

Having got a little settled I have now seated myself to the pleasant task that you conferred upon me. There is not a single person that I know otherwise than by name. There is a little more expense than I thought there would be, wood is not included in commons, therefore I was oblig to purchase it & there were a great many little articles that were necessary to make my room comfortable that I did not think of before I came here. not withstanding these I have a very pleasant room, well furnished, including bed, table, stands, wash stand, chairs, pail & wash bowl & a good looking glass, stove &c.

The seminary is a very large building, consisting of 4 stories with about 30 rooms including lecturing, dining & wash rooms. The building stands in the Eastern extremity of the vilage. You can by looking to the south see the salt water about a half mile distant. & the other scenery around in every direction is beautiful & it seems to me that it must be charming in the summer season.

Warren & I got here about half past two, and being shown where Mr Weld resided I found him at his house. He greeted me very pleasantly. He is a very pleasant & agreeable man in his appearance. About middling height & he has a bright & expressive countenance. He showed me my room &c. I felt a little awkward at first but began to be a little more at home. I wish you could be here and see what a pleasant room I have got & what a pleasant place it is. They are not classified yet therefore I can not tell where I shall be put. What I have seen of the students I like very much.

Give my love to my brothers.

The commons commenced to day noon, but there was a woman here who got my supper & breakfast for I ate two meals before the commons commenced. They have coffee for breakfast, & cold water for dinner & supper. They have two girls to do the cooking & washing. The Seminary is a very hand some Brick building & the Academy, a little to the east, is smaller & made of wood

Excuse shortness. I will try to write more next time.

Your affectionate son  
O. Otis Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Mar 5

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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31 3/8/1845 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0029

Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth, Wed. March 8th 1845

Dear mother

I again have seated my self to call your attention to a few lines after returning from meeting. I attended the Congregationalist. They had a very good sermon this after noon (text in Psalms).

The students met in the recitation room Thursday; and to my great surprise (having joined the first class) he gave 150 lines in Virgil & the next lesson 200. & I have not been accustomed to take more than 50 but I made out to accomplish the task & Monday Morning next I have got to get two pages in greek to & in the afternoon I shall be obliged to get 150 lines in Virgil. I find Mr Weld very strict & thorough.

On Thursday John Pettingill came here & I was very glad to see him for I had not seen anyone that I knew before since I came. Mr Harvey has not arrived yet. I shall expect him tomorrow. George Carr from Winthrop came here yesterday. I have not been acquainted with him before but have heard of him. He appears to be one of the finest young men that I ever saw. He is sick, & by his voice you might know his longues were affected. He has been sick all winter, but is rather better now. Pettingill is going to room with me until Harrison comes. I shall have to study very hard. But I think I can get along with it.

The students were oblige to pay 5 or 6 dollars in advance, but I not being prepared was excused a fortnight. I will give you a list of my expenses, Lamps, 4, oil, 2, lamp filled 10, ball of wikin 10, 2 brooms, one large & the other the small brush you told me to buy, blacking & brushes, 25, ink & pens, 30, maches & match box, 07, 6 feet of wood 2.35, & this my roommate will have to pay for half of & a knife for 20 cts, half of which I might have brought from home, if I had known what I would, but I did not so there it is. Lawyer Wells son is here, who used to live in Hallowell. I should like to have you send 5 or 6 dollars or I will try to get along without it but just as you please.

Give my love to my brothers. How does Charles get along with the hooping cough & Rodolphus. The board will probably be about 10 dollars. Mr Weld says we have coffee in the morning, cold water at noon & tea at night. They live very well as well as I wish to. There is not at present but about 20 scholars in the institution or rather the commmons.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Yarmouth, Me Mar 9

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

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32 3/22/1845 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0030

*Source:* Bowdoin

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March 22th 1845

My dear boy,

I have written to you once by mail and once by Brother. You have not let me know whether you have received either of them or not. You can send Rowland's grammar by his father if you have not sent it and if you don't want it and his shoes he left to his Aunt Lee's. Put them in the shay. He would like to have them.

Write how you like your pants. I am making your shirts. Write me whether you need them at present and send me your old clothes that you cannot wear. Be sure and send your old shirts.

Do write a few lines.

My love to all. Be a good boy. I shall come down when the term is out. Write exactly when that will be. In haste.

Eliza Gilmore

P.S. Your Aunt Philena [Gould, the wife of Benjamin Franklin Howard died Apr 12 1845, age 36] will not continue but a short time.

E.G.

[To:] O. O. Howard

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33 3/22/1845 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs E. Gilmore

OOH-0031

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, March 22d, 1845

Dear Mother

I sent a letter to you by the mail day before yesterday. I went up to Augusta on Monday the day Col. Lothrop came down and got my pants becaus father said he should have a pair ready and send them by him, but I did not receive your letter until Tuesday or Wednesday. I intended to have sent Rowland's things by Uncle Ensign, but he went away before I thought he was going. My clothes set very well indeed & I need some new shirts to.

Give my love to all

Yours in haste,  
O.O. H.

[Envelope]  
[From]  
O O Howard  
Mar 22 1845

[no postmark]

[To]  
Mrs E. Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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34 12/28/1845 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

*To:* Mr. Otis O. Howard

OOH-0032

Hallowell Roads  
Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Dec 28th 1845

Dear Friend Otis,

This being the only leisure day I can get, I thought I would improve it. I rec'd your paper and letter a few days ago, and was much obliged to you, but I want you to send them oftener, and to write every opportunity. I am glad you have obtained so good a boarding place. How do you like Algebra. I go to school and study Algebra, Arithmetic, Parse, Sc. Sc, but as you say it don't seem much like Monmouth. I have not been at Monmouth since I left there, but I am a going the first chance I can get and see the folks. I may call and see the Parson, I don't know certain. I had a paper from Frank Swift the other day, and also from S. T. H. both are well, and flourishing. Charles Thomas went up to Monmouth a week ago. I suppose there was great doings then. I have not seen him since he has got home. I want to give him a curtain lecture and to do your errand. Give my love to Harvey. Tell him I should like to see him, also to send me a paper. I am almost angry with you for not calling at the house when you went to Hallowell. You might just come up to the School House and you would have found me. If ever I come up there I will pass bye the same way that you did. Do you ever see John Otis? If so give my best respects to him. You have not altered your mind about going to Monmouth in the spring have you. I don't know whether I shall go or not. Write often and send me lots of papers.

From your most affectionate friend.

C.H. Mulliken

think of me. I do of you a great deal. Parrings bees Sc Sc.

[Envelope]

From C. Mulliken

To South Leeds

December 29th, 1845

Hallowell Roads

Dec 29

Mr. Otis O. Howard

South Leeds

Me

Single

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35 1/18/1846 *From:* I. F. Brown

*To:* Friend Howard

OOH-0033

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Jan 18/46

Friend Howard

I hope you will excuse me for neglecting to write you for it is nothing but negligence and you know that I am extremely fond of leisure and idleness. Your short but friendly epistle was received a few days since by the kindness of my Brother also two from Harvey one directed to Bangor. I am happy to hear that you and Harvey are enjoying your school so well this Winter for it always gives me pleasure to hear of the good success of my friends for it is seldom that we find a friend that will think of me when absent. But contrary to my expectations I find two old Monmouth friends that yet remember there is such a person as Brown in existence. I was happy to hear from you just at that time for I had had some trouble in my school about that time which made me feel rather bad but it is all over with. There was a fellow that came into school and used some Profane language which injured my feelings. I am a perfect Methodist and have renounced Infidelity in good earnest without joking. As my intimate friend Bill Shakespeare would say "alls well that ends well".

I have not quite so pleasant a place either to board or teach as I wish I had although it is not so bad as it might be. My school is about 5 weeks longer. Probably I shall be at Monmouth in about six weeks from today (ie) if nothing happens.

How does dear little Francis get along. I would like to see her. Harvey writes you write her twice a week. That's right stick to your text and allways do so. She is a little Ducky Darling sugar Lasses Dear. Do you see any of the rest of those women that belong down that way. Tell Harvey that I cannot think as he does about some things. He will know what I also tell him if a person injures me once I allways remember them especially if they do it without a cause. I hope to God that I may live to seek sweet revenge on those that tried to do it last fall. If I live to have a family I will teach them to do the same. You may say this is not right but I cannot help it. Thomas comes to see Sarah according to your lett. He has got just about as much spunk as I expected.

Friend Howard you are aware as Othello says that I am a poor plain spoken man and have not words to grace my cause. I allmost hate every thing that is earthly. There is nothing but deceit and vanity in this world. If a person happens to turn aside from popular opinion he is branded as a miscreant and a worthless fellow.

But I hope such sentiments are fast being erased from a civilized world.

Already have I written longer than will be interesting to you. But you are aware that it is not my disposition to be affectionate. Neither do I cultivate such a feeling any other way than by outward appearance. Deception is the watch word and plans the intention of all in this section. Neither do I cultivate my mind to writing such matter as will interesting to you I am afraid. But believe me Howard I am as capable of appreciating the affection of others as ever. Yes when read those short but friendly letters from you and Harvey I was satisfied that there was an exception to the rule that I had made. I shall ever esteem you as one of my best friends. Do not take from this that I am low spirited for I have had these feelings for more that a year. And with this I will close by wishing you prosperity and success untill I hear from you or see you and requesting you to commit this to the flames as soon as you read it.

Yours with respect  
I. F. Brown

P.S. Say to Harvey that I will write him soon and shall be happy to receive communications from either of you any time you can make it convenient. IFB.

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36 3/9/1846 *From:* H Harvey

*To:* Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0034

Dixfield, Me

North Yarmouth  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dixfield March 9th 1846

Dear Howard

Unwillingly do I like my deal to inform you, that however unpleasant it is to me to forego the pleasure of Attending School at North Yarmouth as I intended, yet I am obliged to By Bad health. My health which as you know has not been good the past winter is rather worse of the two, owing to too much exercise of the lungs and the phisecian tells me if I do not omit study for a while Consumption will ensue. I need not tell you it is a great disappointment to me. You know such is the case. But however much I am turned from my purpose, I most sincerely hope it will be no detriment to you, though an unepected disappointment. Fondly had I hoped to be able to tread with you dear Howard, "side by side" and "hand in hand" up the "hill of science". Many were the happy hours I had anticipated spending with you coning the pages of "ancient lore". In the "animated debate" or walking over the pleasant fields of Yarmouth and viewing its "Beautiful Island Scenery". But alas; the pleasure for the present I must omit and I do sincerely hope that you will find a roommate who will be more agreeable or as so as much I can possibly flatter myself I could have been.

You have my best wishes for your success, which I have no reason to doubt both in the Academy, in College or in Life. May your path brighten as you advance. May the blessings of providence be yours on every hand. Life be happy and all things prosperous. Perhaps you may want to know something of my future course. I will say that to create the rugged though pleasant paths of service is still my aim and wish. That when my health is improved sufficiently I shall renew my studies. With you if possible. Till my health is better I shall be at home in Dixfield, mourning that I am not with you.

So Dear Howard write to me frequently won't you? But if you do not, if you forget poor Harvey, he will never forget thee. Yet though you forget me, your remembrance shall not fade from my heart, but shall be cherished there while it continues its pulsations. I shall retire to Leeds and may a few days after which I shall be in Dixfield. You will direct your communications to "Canton" "Point" as I am nearer that P.O. than to Dixfield P.O.

If you write immediately as I hope you will, direct it to Leeds.

With the most sincere wishes for your success and happiness and sorrow for my "ill luck" in being unable to join you, I am dear friend, your humble friend and servant.

H. Harvey

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Canton Me Mar 19

[To] Oliver O. Howard

North Yarmouth

Maine

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37 3/14/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0035

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth, March 14th 1846

Dear Mother,

I have not yet rec'd a letter from you but I suppose you cannot get time to write. I am very swell & get along to my satisfaction in every thing but lately I have one with a disappointment. Mr Harvey is not evening here this term. His health will not permit of it. He says that the physician told him if he did not leave his studies that he would have a seated consumption. I think it is for him best good to leave off studying, but I can hardly feel reconciled to his not coming at all.

How is your health? I suppose the boys have got most over there cough. Write me everything new, when you can get. Give my best respect to Jane, Roland &c. Give my love to Rowland, to Charle & Rodelphus. I think now that if my health permits, I shall enter college in the fall. Tell Rowland Bailey, if he will study English hard, in a year or two he can come here & have an excellent to study latin, greek &c. Mr Pettingill is here now with me & he will be here all the term.

Did you have much of a rain shower in Leeds yesterday. We had quite a heavy rain here.

Have you seen Mr More since he got home from Yarmouth. If you have, tell me what he said about the place, Mr Weld &c.

I see that come to be here & have my Rooms done up that they do not look as they do when my mother takes care of them, but anyone cannot expect a home & a kind mother to be found in every place. Those things done poorly makes us enjoy what is done well. Is John Otis at home this spring? How does Aunt Martha do? Mr Harvey said he was coming to Leeds. If he came did he come to your house. If so did he pay for the hat and cup. I hope he hadn't for it is uncertain when I shall see him. If he comes there after you get this letter pleas give him 2 dollars. You had better if you have not send me five dollars that I may pay what is required in advance, but not without you think best. The board will probably amount to about 10 dollars.

I had a paper from Orvill Jennings the other day. He is very well & says that Mr True from Monmouth is attending medical lectures there & says that he is quite sociable to what he used to be. I must stop now & get my greek lessons. Everafter do I think of you & the more I am away from home, the more I consider & think of my mother & contrast the cold kindnesses & formal friendship of other to the kindness & affection of a mother by whom every virtuous son is governed.

Your affectionate & loving son  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me Mar 16

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

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38 3/22/1846 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0036

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth Seminary,  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. March 22th, 1846

My Dear son,

After receiving three communications from you I have at last attempted to write you. I never parted with you when parting seemed so hard as when you left home the last time for Yarmouth. I knew you would feel what it is to be among strangers but I have long learned to trust my all in the hands of One who seest as not man see's. You little think how many conflicting feelings your Mother has to combat with. I wish you to always bear in mind that a virtuous life is what your Mother desires for you. I know that youth is the time one is more subject to the vanities and indiscretions of this life than after tis past. I wish you could feel the presence from time to time of the kind and protecting care that is ever over you. I hope you will be happy and your happiness will consist in preparing yourself in every respect for good and virtuous actions.

I expected your spring term of lessons would be hard but am in hopes your health will be equal to the task. Perhaps the summer term will be less arduous. I very much desire you to value your health, and pursue such a course as will promote your health. Do be very careful how you venture about vessels too much as you have never been vaccinated.

I heard before you wrote that Mr Harvey was not going to North Yarmouth. I understand he has been in Leeds, but did not see him. He had a lecture appointed for him on Saturday evening and I intended to have heard it but we had a very heavy rain on the day and spoiled the traveling. I understand he lectured the next Tuesday evening. I hope he will yet be a useful man, and not be confined to an early grave.

I went to Hallowell last Wednesday and returned on Thursday, went out by Monmouth center and called at S Blakes to warm as Mr Gilmore had some business with S.B. I found all our friends well at H. Heard Laura A Leadbetter was engaged to be married to Henry Wingate. The wedding is to be next fall. I did not see L. A. L. She was gone to Montville. You can't tease her any more for being an old maid. She will be Mrs Wingate.

Today is the sabbath but the traveling will not admit of attending meeting at the center. We have Methodist preaching at the schoolhouse on the ridge to where Arza, Rowland A and RBH are gone. The rest of us are at home. Mr. Gilmore has a bad cough - is coughing now. Charles gets along with his hooping cough tolerable well and Rodelphus minds but a little about it. We have begun to make some preparation for moving into the other house. I suppose we certainly shall move, as Mr Gilmore has let a part of the farm and the dairy to a Mr Washington Jones who is expected here the first part of Apr. and I have cleaned the setting room and my bedroom for Betsey to move in tomorrow to give us a chance to paint the inside of that house before we move into it. It is very quiet here today but tis the last quiet day I expect to have here as Betsey's children are such rowdies. We shall reserve the parlor chamber and keep it furnished. We have a lock on the door so as to have it completely ours, and a hasp on the parlor door near the top so that it need not be common. All this I write to let you know a little how home is getting along. The funeral of Olive Berry was attended last Tuesday, the young girl who has been confined through the winter near where you boarded.

I shall enclose a five dollar bill in this to you as you desired. I have been to Green and seen Warren since he came home and heard all about your days journey &c. Charles and Rodelphus have just been into the room, both delighted with the prospect of finding eggs. Charles has got thirteen and Rodelphus has brought in one. I want you to be punctual to write to me if I don't write always to you and write how you get along. I wish I was acquainted with your room mate. But he has my good wishes for his welfare. Rowland Bailey has just drove down the hill from <[torn hole]>. Yesterday he undertook to prepare a paper to send to you but did not get it to look to satisfy him and gave it over next time. I will assist him. Tis a charming day. I should like to live in a village in the spring so that I could attend public worship on the sabbath. Warren said when he stopped in Yarmouth the people spoke highly of the Institution where you are. I understand the young Mr. Pearley is no better and his friends are discouraged about him more than ever. I want to see you very much in May. It will be just such a journey as I should like to take but altogether uncertain how it will be.

Your affectionate Mother

E. Gilmore

O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds Me

March 24

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

North Yarmouth Seminary, Me

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39 3/25/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0037

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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March 25th 1846, North Yarmouth, Me

Dear Mother

I have been waiting with much expectation to receive a letter from & I cannot conjecture any appology for my not receiving one excepting that it must have been miscarried for I have been here now three weeks & have not once heard from you for you promised if you could any way to answer my letters if I would write every week & this is my fourth . I am getting along very well studying <satlust> & Cicero together with my greek reader, reciting 3 lessons a day.

I had a letter from Harvey when he came to Monmouth after his things. He said he was not so well as he has been through the winter. He wished me to let you know the particulars which I believe I related to you in my last letter. I was sorry that he did not come but I must reconcile my self to things contrary to my wishes some times.

I hope you are well. Write me if anything takes place that I do not know of.

My health admits of harder study than I should have thought it would. The more I study the more appetite I have for my victuals, which are nothing but wholesome. Brown bread for inst. We have pies once a day, & considerable many <rarihes>, but as a general our nourishment is rustic & coarse but as I think well appropriated to those who study to give them health & strength, activity of both body & mind.

I think that I can, if my health permits, enter college without the least trouble. John Pettingill rooms with me. He is a very accommodating & pleasant young man. I said that I never sat still five minutes <> study but now I am obliged set an hour yes even three hours without getting up. As soon as I return from the recitation I am obliged then to prepare for the next before I have my recreation what ever. All the recreation I have had is to walk about 20 rods to the post office twice a day. And I have been to the corner twice about half a mile.

Give my love to Rowland, Charles & Rodolphus to Roland Alger, father & all the rest. Tell Rowland he must write to me & I will answer him. I suppose their coughs must be well by this time, are they not.

I received a letter from Seth today. He talks of coming here in the summer. He is attending school at Monmouth. I hope I shall receive a letter from home before long for I have not heard from you since I came here & I am very anxious to here. I suppose Warren told you how I am situated & all about the place &c. How does aunt Martha do? Write me in haste. I like Mr E Weld very much. The more I get acquainted with him the more I like him. I have been learning to sit still. When I come home perhaps I shall have the task so well practiced that I may set still five minutes.

Your most affectionate son  
O O Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Mar 25 1846

[Postmark] North Yarmouth [date too faint]

[To]  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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40 3/25/1846 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Rowland [B. Howard]

OOH-0038

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College, March 25th 1846

Dear Brother Rowland,

I am very happy to receive your short epistle, although so long after you wrote. And am glad (as mother says in that following yours) that you are attending school at Wayne to Mr. Harvey. He is a fine young man & excellent teacher which I can testify from the short, but pleasant association & acquaintance with him.

Strive to learn (dear Brother) & you may acquire many laurels by his instruction. Excuse a brother's advice. But if you would make a scholar, a thorough scholar, you must have fixed & good habits; & prepare well but not long each lesson. For I regret to think that I have so poorly traversed so much ground. If I budget well one half of what I have passed over I should be a much better scholar, or at least be conscious to myself of knowing something & that for certain. One principle fixed firmly in the mind & memory is worth hundreds of superficially scaled ones, with an obscure idea of each.

Also shun the bad company & companions, which & whom Wayne always affords. I do not wish you to follow my example, for I have been much in the wrong. But it is easier for me to point out errors, after I have experienced the sad effect of them, & to warn my younger brothers not to tread the same thorny & erroneous path. Then it was for me to select the right place yourself in whatever situation you may. For they serve to discipline the mind, tho barely having patience to study out the dry, hard & uninteresting "stuff" as some of it is, fits & prepares you to "stick" to what ever you may undertake for you cannot always expect pleasure or pleasant & agreeable in life. By perseverance we may overcome every obstacle, and the study of language is the best thing to fix & establish the habit of perseverance, so say the best of authors, besides it gives us a knowledge of our own language, a clear idea of the meaning of the words that compose it, & the knowledge of their derivation.

As to mathematics you hear some say that they are of no use in practical life (that is the higher branches). But do not believe them, for so much the more you study the higher branches of mathematics so much the better you understand the lower. It is true you may learn the rules of trugths arithmetics, & do its sums, but can you tell the why's & wherefores of those rules; you may be conscious to yourself of having done the sum right or according to the rule, but you have no principle by which you may do similar sums, should you perchance forget the rule. You must go to the foundation if we would understand mathematics, the same as with the languages.

Give my best respects to Harvey. Tell him he must write me, when he has an opportunity. & also my respects to Allen & Arza. I have not that Dollar paper you spoke of, but have the next but one.

I think I shall not be ought without an adviser. You may say my mother should have had an influence on my conduct. She did & continues to. But there are many things to which we & every youth are exposed of which a mother without the experience necessary can form no idea. She may advise us to shun bad companions, we commence our associations with the intention & firm resolve to do so; firstly we are apparently welcomed with a cordial greeting, & wish for our prosperity & welfare by the pleasantest fellow that we ever saw. When on the other hand there is one who scarcely speaks to us, & when he does it is formally & seemingly coldly. Therefore we should naturally be drawn into the society of the former & even intimacy and are too deeply ensnared before we perceive our error & regret our want of consideration wishing our steps retraced, that we might become a friend of the latter, who is not so enticing, & prepossessing in his appearance at first, but will make a true, lasting & beneficial friend. It is invariably the case that he who is the most bland & cordial at the first meeting is the least stable, if not a dissolute character. Therefore be not too hasty in your choice of companions, for as is the maxim and a true one "we are judged according to the company we keep".

Mother says you will not take up any thing new this spring. When you do, should you resolve to study the languages, I can furnish you with books. If you think of going into a <school> when you are old enough, something else may be of more advantage to you than latin & greek, but they would not be without advantage place yourself in whatever situation you may, for they serve to discipline the mind. The barely having patience to study out the dry, hard & uninteresting "stuff" as some of it is, fits & prepares you to "stick" to what ever you

may undertake, but you cannot always expect pleasure or pleasant and agreeable in life.

By perseverance we may overcome every obstacle, and the study of language is the best thing to fix and establish the habit of perseverance so say the best of authors, besides it gives us a knowledge of our own language, a clear idea of the meaning of the words that compose it, & the knowledge of their derivation. As to mathematics you hear some say that they are of no use in practical life (that is the higher branches). But do not believe them, for so much the more you study the higher branches of mathematics, so much the better you understand the lower. It is true you may learn the rules of <truths of> arithmetics, and do its sums, but can you tell the why's & wherefore's of those rules? You may be conscious to yourself of having done the sum right or according to the rule, but you have no principle by which you may do similar sums, should you perchance forget the rule. You must go to the foundation, if we would understand mathematics, the same as with the languages.

Give my best respects to Harvey, tell him he must write me, when he has an opportunity, and also my respects to Allen and Arza. I have not that Dollar paper you spoke of, but have the next but one. I think I shall not be apt to send many since that new law (making me pay three cents for every paper I send & that in advance). Write as often as you can, & tell me all the news. I have joined the Ath' Soc' and went to the supper of the same after their yearly anniversary, which was held a week ago to night. & I have joined another soc' called the Theological. As you know, I am very pious.

From your affectionate brother,  
Oliver O. Howard

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41 3/26/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0039

S. Leeds, Me

Brunswick  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 26th 1846

My dear son,

This is indeed a very pleasant morning, and I hope it finds you in health and cheerfulness. It is now five weeks since you left us. Minerva went home soon after, and our family have had the measles. R.B.H. and Charles H. after taking them from Betsey's children, and R.A.G. and Rodolphus, took them from R and C. They have had a hard time especially R.A.G. He could not have been any sicker. It is now a week since he gave up to them and this morning he put on his pants himself and I think he is in a good way. I thought of you much while standing over him (for three days his father and or I kept by him all the time). How much gratitude I ought to have for your narrow escape situated as you are. R now keeps his room dark, and yet suffers much with his eyes.

Meynerva has matured and is now a doing my work. I have had no help while she was gone. I find my nervous sistem much shattered. I can hardly collect thoughts to express myself to you. This morn being broke of my rest so much o nights I recollected after you left I did not stop the little hole in the <pocket> of your pant which might cause you many little losses which in process of time would amount to something more than a little.

Your letters gave me much comfort. Write as often as you can. I felt truely thankful that you found your studies not as hard as you imagined. Write to me in your next whether you have got through with your back studies or not, after R.B.H. C.H.H recovered from the measles. I took a walk up to Mr <Baily's> and Mr James Wings & enquired of Mr <Band> wife about your friend Bunker. They never heard of him, but they said Temple did not belong to their Monthly Meeting but they have delegates from one monthly meeting to another and they would find out whether there is such a man. I have not seen them since they returned. I have even had my doubts whether there is such a man or not. The letter was to particular, and the hand writing did not look like a man of business. It is of no consequence whether there is or is not.

We have not much news in Leeds. Mr Augustus Foss & Miss Caroline Lathrop were married since you left. I had a hand-some slice of wedding cake together with a <candy>. Mary Wing has been to James Moulton's. Went Thursday morn and staid untill Saturday night. Harriet Bates is published so much for Leeds. I forgot to tell you she went with Orrin Bates and he staid there with her through the visit when I was at Mr Wings. He talked about you and your school. He said you kept the best school we ever had in the district and Mrs Baily said the same. That sounded well to me as I thought you merited it and I think the majority of the district take pleasure in giving you your just dues. Your father is the agent this year. I expect Louisa Additon will teach next summer which promises well.

I hope your days are bright and happy. I desire very much they should. I have not written any thing that I anticipated. I write with considerable bodily suffering to day. I was looking over your fathers papers (to find a deed transferring the farm where you uncle Frank lived from doctor Bridgham to your father, in consequence of your Aunt Aurelia's demanding her thirds of that farm). I took up a letter from his Brother Rathburn (written to your father) just arrived in Lexington, describing his journey and his arrival and his prospects. Then it reminded me very forceibly of my youth, and my <preduches> [prejudices] at that time and how hard it is for young persons to struggle with poverty. How much I desire you to proffit by the experience those who have gone before you. I wish I could talk with you more when with me and you took pleasure in talking with me. But I must stop for tis mail hour. [See note]

Give my love William and Mr Perley. I understand Miss Elmira Parcher is riding about with <Jon'l> Moulton. Tell Mr Perley he must not get too much in love there.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] S. Leeds Me  
Mar 26

[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard  
Brunswick  
Maine

[Note. The people referred to in this paragraph are relatives of Eliza's first husband, Rowland Bailey Howard. Frank is Benjamin Franklin Howard, Rowland's brother. Doctor Thomas W Bridgham was married to Aurelia Howard, Rowland's sister. He died in 1842. Rathburn was Dr. Valentine Rathburn Howard. He died at age 25 in 1828 in Alabama.]

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42 3/29/1846 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0040

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds,  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth March 29, 1846

Dear Mother

Excuse me for writing so soon, but why I do it is because I wrote the other a day before I received yours. & I did not know but you would think that it had stopped by the way & I should not receive it or the money but I received both. I began to think you had forgotten me, but it gave me great pleasure to hear from you & likewise to learn that you are well. I was quite surprised to hear that Laura <> was so soon to change her situation but I am glad that she is about to rid herself of that detestable man, detestable especially to the possessor. Is Jane with you now? If so tell her I hope she will meet with as good Luck. What did the folks say at Hallowell about my coming here &c. Uncle especially. & does William intend to enter College this fall. How did grandmother do? Did she receive any injury from being thrown into the snow that day I carried up to Uncle Ensign's. I am glad to hear that Charles & Rodolphus get along so well with the hooping cough.

Tell Rowland Bailey he must not get discouraged the first time but he must try again to send me a paper. I wish I could have the paper every week. If father is willing, I wish you would send it a week after it is recd and I will keep them all being filed. I should like to hear the news. Then if you could not get him to write a letter every week you might write a little on the paper letting me know how you did. When I can get a paper I will send Rowland one. But he must write, not only to write to his brother, but to practice writing & he had better begin by writing to me than to any one else, for I know how I used to make mistakes, when by a little practice I soon overcame them.

Give my love to Rowland Alger. I must leave my writing now & go to meeting & after meeting I will write more. I hope Peleg Perley will get better. Did not Dr. Man do him any good? Mr Pettingill sends his best respects & thanks for your good wishes. Seth Howard talks of attending school here this summer. I had a letter from him the other day. His health was very good excepting his eyes are weak. Frances Turner attends school there this spring. What is John Otis doing this spring & how does Aunt Martha do? The snow is all gone here and the stream that runs past here into the bay is all broken up. Is Rowland Alger going to attend school this spring.

I have attended meeting this forenoon. We had a very good sermon. Delivered by a man not accustomed to preach here. I begin to like to study & it comes easier to me to get my lessons than it did. The place appears much more pleasant than it was when I first came here. The ground is bare and begins to dry some & makes a very pleasant place before the Acad, where thirty students play ball between sunset & dark. To day is a very fine day. The sun shines bright from a cloudless sky, making every thing sparkle with its penetrating rays and to the north a few steps is the stream flowing over the dams. & the sun shining directly upon it makes its white foam appear very beautiful.

The Congregationalist Church is situated but about 20 rods to the east of the seminary, which the path being dry, makes it but a very pleasant walk together with 20 or 30 students. The law of the school obliges every one to attend meeting twice on the sabbath and the preacher inquires Monday of each one whether that one has been to church or not & therefore all the students attend meeting if they are well. Such is the meeting. They or their parents choose. I have been to the Congregationalist every Sunday since I have been here. If you attended meetings today tell me when you see & all about my acquaintances at the center. Does Elder <Lastho> Preach now or has he settled in Leeds.

I am afraid it will not seem much like home to me when I come to find you & all the family all up there. But then it will seem like, or it will be home wherever mother is. Is Arza at home now, if so what is he doing? Is he going into trade this spring at Wayne?

Your affectionate & obedient Son  
Oliver Otis Howard

[The first two names were written in circles for the O and the rest of the letters inside the O]

Mrs E Gilmore

P.S. Having recd the money I paid 3 dolars to the commons but the remainder I shall reserve in case I should want. O. O. H.

[Envelope]

[Postmark] [very faint]

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds,

Me

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43 4/11/1846 *From:* Oliver O. [Howard]

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0041

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth, Apr 11th, 1846

My Dear Mother,

I wish you could be here one sabbath & attend the Congregationalist Church. You would say that there was a wide difference between Mr Leighton's preaching & Mr Shepley's. Between the singing & yours size of the congregation, but still there are many endearments to a church that any one has been accustomed to attend from infancy, and every sabbath meeting those with whom he has always associated that cannot be felt or enjoyed in attending publick worship among strangers, where every face is unknown except a few of short acquaintance. It is more to be loved and desired, to prepare for meeting at home, ride three miles, and sit beside one's parents, brothers and friends, to hear what is said beautify nature & <happify> the soul.

It begins to seem pleasant here. There is no ice or snow, but the river is open & the frogs begin to croak which makes it seem like summer. I know that in one sense I should enjoy myself at Monmouth better than at Yarmouth for I should be more amongst my equals, for nearly all here are Lawyers sons and thorough scholars and aristocratic a little with all, although I am treated with respect. Yet there are some who being educated in the country and having rusticated habits & manners for a while are made fun of as it is termed, although I say nothing about it here yet I think it is because they do not wear, so costly a suit of broad cloth. Connected with this Institution (including the Acad) there are three Frenchmen & as many Spaniards, all of which are very pleasant young men, one of which boards in commons.

You had better get some thing (what you think best) for my summer suit, so that when I come home it may be cut & made & I suppose then I can choose what I shall have, for I shall see what the students in general have. I have worn my grey pants that I have worn all winter every day & the others to meeting, but my coat and pants have not come to mending, except a few buttons have come off from my coat & my chum (who understands it quite well) has replaced them again.

Give my love to my brothers & the rest of the family. Mr Harvey informed me that you were about to move. I suppose you have moved by this time.

Perhaps my expenses will be a little more than they were at Monmouth but I can learn more in one term than I have at Monmouth in two. My board will be cheaper, but there are the first term many small expenditures. I have bought 1 book only as yet, but I ought to buy a large greek lexicon, but I believe I shall try to do with out until I enter college. I have tried to be as prudent as I could, & shall try to be prudent during my college course. If I can get along for 20 dollars I shall. If there is any thing you see that I have bought that was unnecessary I wish you would tell me & I will not repeat it. I have not bought any cigars but one, & then was when I had the cholick.

How long did Harvey stay at Leeds & how was his health. I hope he will soon get better so as to come here next term. Did he look sick.

The overseer of this Institution came in to the recitation room & said that it was a law of the Institution for the students to settle in advance for Tuition & room rent, which is 6 dollars. My room mate paid for both himself & me. I paid 3\$ to the commons for board & kept the rest of the five which is two. You can do as you pleas about sending the money before I come home or not. But if you do you better send enough to settle for the whole. The commons about 7.00\$ more, tuition & room rent 6.00 & to Mr Weld for furnishing 1.00. The amount is 14.00.

I have recd 8 letters since I have been here. <40 its>. I hope you are well. How does little Rodolphus & Charles do? Will you pleas write to me whether you will come after me, or I shall come in the stage in about five weeks. Mr Harvey said he & Arza had been catching <sup>. Did they take many trees? Has Betsy moved down into your house yet? Will Rowland Bailey go to school this spring. I wish he could attend school with me but Monmouth, I think, is ful as good an english school as this. But when he studies the language if he does this would be far preferable. Write all the news. I wish you would send me a paper once in a while.

Your most affectionate Son  
Oliver O.

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] [Too faint]  
Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

---

44 4/12/1846 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Master Oliver Otis  
Howard

OOH-0042a

Leeds

North Yarmouth Seminary  
[North Yarmouth, Me]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 12th 1846 [Sunday]

Dear Brother

Mr Harvey was here last week. He says his health is improved some since he finished his school. We have moved into the home that Francis occupied & there has a family gone into ours by the name of Jones. They have eight children. We had quite a freshet here when the ice left the river. The grass looks quite green. We intend to go to <Jlonghiny> tomorrow. We had considerable of a thunder shower last night. How is your health. Do you like as well as you did when you first went there. When are you coming home. We are not going to have any hired help on the farm this summer. Frank Lothrop came home last Friday. Arza is going into trade at Wayne in company with Mr Charles Alen a young man he lived with when at Boston. The measles are pretty thick around here but we are all well. Charles & Rodolphus have got over with the whooping cough & are very well. We are all well. I send you a paper by this mail. You must send me one when you can. I went to meeting today on horse back. You must write me a letter as soon as you can. Mother says she will fill this out. I do not know as you can read my letter but you must do your best.

Yours in haste  
R B Howard

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45 4/12/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver Otis  
Howard

OOH-0042b

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth Seminary  
[North Yarmouth, Me]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[continuation of previous letter from Rowland on a new page]

My dear Son,

One Saturday has passed and no arrival of letter from North Yarmouth. I was in hopes you would be punctual in your letters. I prepared a box for them, and have put them in as fast as I had read them. I hope sickness is not the cause of your delaying writing the last week. You desired me to write all the news about town. We have nothing new that is worthy of note. Our house is in rather an unsettled state. We staid here for the first night last Tuesday night and have been moving ever since. Jane Jennings and Julia Gilbert are with me. I have good help. John Otis is in the midsts of the measles. Not very sick his father said. A number of others in that neighbourhood have been and are now sick with the same. I have attended meeting to day. I find Mr Lawton an interesting man. The traveling is very bad at present. Arza will leave here for Boston in a few days to purchase goods for trade in Wayne. Mr Allen has been here and stoppped from Saturday to Wednesday, assisted us very much in moving. We keep one chamber furnished in our old house. I hope you are getting along well with your studies and happy with the teachers and students. I have had some idea of coming for you at the end of the term but more of that in future. I want very much to see you in the vacation. Be sure and come home if anything should happen that you should not hear from me. Take particular notice to know what summer clothes you will want. Give my love to your Chum. I hope you are happy in him.

Yours affectionately  
E. Gilmore

[new page]

Tuesday 11 o'clock [April 14]

Dear boy,

We are all in good health to day. It is bitter cold, the wind sounds as it used to where we once lived. R.B.H. has gone as far as Winthrop with Arza to carry him to the boat. He will [have] a bad night I think. I intended your father should have written some to day to you but he is not here and mail hour is fast arriving. Don't neglect writing to your mother. That is your duty.

Your affectionate Mother,  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds Me

April 14

[To] Master Oliver Otis Howard  
North Yarmouth Seminary

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46 4/16/1846 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Mr. O. O. Howard

OOH-0043

Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 16 '46

Dear Cousin

I do not know but you may think me neglectful in not answering your letter of the 25 ult. sooner but I think you will not blame me when I tell you the whole story. On the morning that I read your letter, I returned home from Monmouth on the account of ill health and weak eyes, and have been unwell ever since. But I am better now, so well that I have undertaken to answer your letter, but how I shall make out, I cannot yet tell. I presume it will be bad enough how ever, as my hand trembles very bad.

I have nearly concluded not to go to school again until fall, to stay at home and work part of the time and study the rest until my health becomes good again. You need not engage a room for me at present. I think it a fine thing, that you have no females at N. Yarmouth for I think if you did you would not study much however I am glad to hear of your good progress in you studies. My folks are as well as usual, and I presume yours are. I have not seen them however since I came home, but if they had been unwell I should have heard of it.

In you last letter you wished to know if the Tilton Girls, Mary Robinson &c attend School this spring. I perfectly understand what the "&c" means and will answer it. Frances does not attend school this spring. I suppose this is all you wished to know by this question. Charles Muliken does not attend school at the Acad. John Otis is sick with the measles, and I intend to call on him this after-noon if I am able.

Write me soon and tell me how you do. Hope you are blessed with good health &c. Excuse this (as I told you before) written with an uncontrollable hand.

Your ever affectionate Cousin,  
Seth [Howard, 1828-1923, son of Stillman and Lydia (Lothrop) Howard]

O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] Leeds Me  
April 18th

[no Postmark]

[To] Mr. O. O. Howard  
North Yarmouth  
Me

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47 4/18/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0044a

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth Apr 18th 1846

Dear Mother,

A week having lapsed, I have again seated myself to write you a few lines. I can hardly tell where the time has fled. It seems but yesterday since I came here with Warren, but it is 7 weeks & in four weeks more the term will be ended. Week after week passes without my knowledge almost. Soon three months will be past and then with pleasure shall I return home to meet my mother and my brothers and enjoy a sweet recreation in leaving my studies for a while and in traversing the fields enjoying the beauties of nature so elegantly displayed in the spring of the year when the grass with its green hue and trees first putting forth their buds, together with the singing of the birds served to make everything so delightful. When I was at home having all these beauties before me then I did not know how to appreciate them but to be shut up to ones studdies then can he look back upon them and nearly behold the delight they afford. It will seem rather odd to me at first to find you on the hill. Today is very pleasant indeed. Pleasanter than we have had before this spring. Last night we had a very heavy shower with considerable thunder, more than we are accustomed at the time of year.

I hope you are well. How do you like living where you are now?

I received yours & Rowland's letter with much pleasure and I must direct the latter part of this to him. I have attended meeting all day to day. This afternoon a converted Jew preached, born & brought up in Poland.

My expenses will be a little more than I expected. They will be about 15.90 more including a book I was obliged to get before I entered college & my post office bill and paper of which I have been obliged to get a great deal, having to write Greek & Latin every day. My expenses next term will not be so much for I shall not have to get wood, & I have got all the other things necessary to furnish my room. As for my summer clothes I shall want a waist coat, coat & pants. You had better, if it is convenient, get the cloth (such as you think best) and when I come home I can have them made, the vacation being a fortnight.

Please write & you had better send the money so I can pay as go along rather than to wait untill I come home, for they require the most to be paid in advance, they may think I am negligent if I put them of untill another term.

Give my love to father. Tell him he must write part of the letter with you. How does his cough get along.

Your affectionate & obedient Son,  
O. O. Howard

Mrs. E. Gilmore

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me APR 20

[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds Me

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48 4/19/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Rowland Bailey Howard

OOH-0044b

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the letter to Mother]

Sabath Eve April 19th 1846

Dear Brother Rowland

I was very much gratified to receive a letter from you and with much pleasure will I recapitulate. How do you enjoy yourself this spring. I wish you were here to attend school with me, so I could see you every day, go to meeting with you. Have you begun to work any on the farm yet? You must not work too hard this summer. Perhaps you can attend school next fall. Write me everything new.

How does John Otis get along with the measles. I suppose you will be obliged to have them, but I hope not, because do not want to catch them when I come home, for it might hinder me a year in my studies by keeping me sick for weeks & perhaps longer. If any of the family have them please write then.

This is a very pleasant place, much pleasanter than when I first came here. What is Roland doing this spring. Give him my best respects. I should not think it would appear like home up there.

Give my best wishes to all that you see of my acquaintances & my love to Charles & Rodelphus. Be kind & good to them for me. Excuse bad spelling if there is any.

Your Most affectionate Brother

[very fanciful drawings, that might include an O, O & H]

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me APR 20

[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds Me

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49 5/3/1846

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0045

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth May 3d 1846

Dear Mother

You must excuse me for not writing last week. I did not feel much like writing on Sunday & I could not get time to write during the remainder of the week. Tell Rowland Bailey that I received a paper from him & have guessed all the riddles except a few, 5 or 6. Give him my love. Tell him I shall be at home a fortnight from next Friday. I should like to have you come after me here but if you cannot, you must come or send to Monmouth for me Friday or Saturday. If you do not send money to pay my expenses you must send me to come home with, but you had better send a part, for Pettingill paid our fraction & room rent & he will want it to pay his.

Give my love to Roland A., Charles, Rodolphus. I hope they are well. I should feel bad if I should come home and have the measles, & by that be hindered from entering College this fall. Please write me if the boys have got the measles or if there is any danger of their having them.

How do you like your new situation? I suppose you have got settled by this time. What is Rowland Rowland doing now days. Of late I have been obliged to study very hard. Mr Weld gives us such long lessons. A next term I must study just as hard as I have this.

You must come after if you can. I look forward with pleasure when I can return home & spend the vacation. Having been to meeting since I wrote this morning I have again resumed my seat to finish my letter. I attended the baptist church this forenoon. We had a very good sermon. The Baptist House is about a half mile from here and it is quite a pleasant walk. There has been quite a refreshing rain this forenoon but now it has ceased & I think it will be pleasant this afternoon.

There has been considerable excitement about the railroad now it is decided that it will go through. I suppose from what I can learn that is going through Dixville. I do not know but it would be better for me to leave my studies & learn to farm it, so as to go up there.

I am very well & have been expecting a letter from you for some time past. Give my love to father. How is his cough. Excuse bad writing for I have written in haste & my pen appears to be unusually bad.

Your most obedient Son,  
O O Howard

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[Post mark]North Yarmouth May 4

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

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50 5/9/1846 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

*To:* Mr Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0046

Monmouth, Me

North Yarmouth  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Monmouth, May 9th, 1846

Dear Old Shipmate,

As I have a few leisure moments now, I thought I would improve them, by scribbling a few words to you. I fulfilled your requests as far as possible, about giving your love to the women. They are very glad that you are coming down to see us once more. I saw the Tilton girls the other day. They were well and flourishing. They wanted to see you very much indeed. Cathalena is in town. I tell you she is a pretty girl ain't she.

We get along first-rate with our School, only rather few of us. Brown & Turner stick by yet. There are only 15 schollars now. O! How I wish you were here to go. Frank has got a Beau so I understood so you are lost for this world. You might as well give up the ghost. We are all in town I tell you!

We adjourned the Clionian to the first Monday in next term. One of the Tilton girls is going to keep this School here by Mrs Fogg's this summer I believe. I don't know whether I shall be here, when you come here or not. If I ain't here I want you to come down and see me. If you don't, I will whip you the first chance I get. You know don't you. Brown & Turner send their love to you, and want to know why you don't write them. But I must draw to a close.

You must excuse this miserable writing & composition. Not any more till deth

Your friend

C. H. Mulliken

[Envelope]

[From] Monmouth Me

May 12

[no postmark]

[To] Mr Oliver O. Howard

North Yarmouth

Me

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51 5/10/1846 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0047

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth May 10th 1846

Dear Mother

I have again seated myself to write you a few lines after another week has past which in fact seems but a day and now we have the pleasure to enjoy a beautiful rain. Beautiful because it makes every thing delightful around, the trees bud, & the grass springs up green and surpassing in verdure.

I hope you are well and are equally happy in beholding the beauties of nature so delightfully displayed in May. With myself, I have studied hard this week. Our class has been on a review. I expect our examination will be in about a week from now. I received the money you sent, and shall come home directly after the examination. Pettingill intends to walk home, but I think he will have rather a hard time but I do not know. It would nearly wear my feet out.

How does Rowland Bailey do? Give my love to him, to Charley, & Rodelphus. Tell Rodely I shall come home soon. Ask him if he will not be glad to see me.

There is some excitement in the commons to know whom they shall elect President. For we have a President among ourselves to keep order & to procure food, wood & various other things necessary for convenience and use.

Give my love to Roland Alger and father. Has Arza got settled at Wayne Village yet? Have you heard from Mr Harvey of late, if so how does he do. I hope he will come next term, but I suppose it is uncertain. I hope I shall see you before I write again. May you ever be <happy>, & enjoy all the pleasure it is possible with your many cares.

Your most affectionate son  
O.O.H

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

[Postmark] North Yarmouth May 11  
[From] O O Howard  
May 10, 1846

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52 5/29/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0048

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 29th 1846

My Dear Son,

How are you this morning. I hope in good spirits and pursuing your studies and in good health. The date of my letter brings to mind one of the pleasantest months in the year - full of life and animation. I am sensible. I do not enter into the beauties which this season of the year brings to view with that gratitude and delight which such real loveliness deserves. I feel bound down under a weight of cares and gloomy feelings, which I am always telling myself are unprofitable for me at the present and equally so for the future good and well being of every object which I desire to promote. I have thought I should come to North Yarmouth for you myself at the end of the term, but I have concluded not to think anything more about it. Our conveniences for riding are so out of tune that I could not think of taking so much of a town or even to show them out of town.

The measles have not been in our neighbourhood yet. I am in hopes we shall escape this time for there are 21 individuals in three houses to take them, and we do not know how to afford time to attend to them this spring. If any accident should bring them among us I will let you know in due time.

John H[arrison] Otis was here yesterday. He has mostly recovered from the measles. His eyes are very weak yet. Mr. Harrison Gould's building were all burned down last Monday morning. His wife sick in bed, I saw the fire and thought about its being our old buildings, concluded there never would be any rebuilt on that ground again.

In one of your letters you spoke of the superiority of the advantages of North Yarmouth has over Leeds. I am well satisfied of that, nor am I so much attached to this town that I could not enjoy society any where else. But I wish to live as happy as possible in whatever place or circumstances I am placed. I know that riding over hills three or four miles to attend meeting is more labor than to walk a few rods into a well regulated meeting. But I hope I shall not covet that which is not for me.

R.B.H. is in the room and desires me to say to you if you have the yankee blade that comes next to that you sent, you will send it to him. We have all had good health this spring. Warren and Louisa were here last sabbath. L's health is poor. She is taking medicine which relieves her and I hope will finally benefit her. Warren has a fine flock of lambs to tend which is pleasant you know. Mr Gilmore will enclose eighteen dollars to you to pay all the bills of this term and bring you home. You must secure all your things in the seminary before you leave with care and write when and where R.B.H. will meet you. At Green I suppose. I shall not purchase any cloth untill I see you. I shall not know what to buy and I think we had better talk about it. We shall have a plenty of time in the vacation I think.

Your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
May 29  
[no postmark]  
[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard  
North Yarmouth  
Me

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53 6/2/1846

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0049

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth June 2 1846

Dear Mother

After having got a little settled I have seated myself to comply with your request. I arrived here about 3 o'clock yesterday. I had a very pleasant ride in the stage. There were six passengers of us. We arrived at Buxtons about 4 o'clock and I waited about an hour and there was a boy who was coming down this way so he brought me and my trunk. I paid him 20 cts. The stage driver took his pay out of the note.

Pettingill has not got here yet, but I expect him every minute. There were a few students here when I got here but since then has quite a number more come, some that have not been here before from Washington Cnty & three from other places. I got Miss Mason, the cook of the Commons to wash my floor, <partitions>, windows & furniture of the new room that I occupy. I have two tables in this room. Upon the one I put the table cloth that you let me have & on the other that large red shawl makes a beautiful tablecloth. I set the later in one corner of the room, oposite the bed and upon the back side of it I put my book case. The room is papered, & I don't think you have a handsomer room. It is the west side of the building & in the afternoons I can put down my curtains which make it cool & comfortable. I have paid Mr. York & Mr. Farrington, but I have only just seen Mr. Weld yet.

Give my love to Charley & Rodelphus. Tell Charles he must try and lern all he can this summer. How does Roland feel since he washed sheep. Tell him I saved myself a bit of sickness with out any liquour.

Excuse bad writing for I have a poor pen. Give my best respects to father & Roland. My health is good & I feel in good spirits.

Your affectionate Son,

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me Jun 3

[To:] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds

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54 6/14/1846 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0051

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth June 14, 1846

Dear Mother

I hope you are still as well as you was when I came from home. Has Rowland returned from Wayne yet. If he has tell him he must write me a letter or send me a paper. Give my love to all at home. How do you like Cynthia. Is she well. How does Charles & Rodolphus get along at school. Do they learn well? Tell Charles he must be a good boy & not play to hard & study.

It has now been over a week since I have written. I attended meeting last sabath, but I think shall not today. My eye looks & feels so bad. I have got two styes on one of my eyes and I expect I have got cold in them for it has swollen up all round the eye so that it makes it difficult to open. But it is getting better now.

It is some pleasanter here now than it was last spring since the trees have leaved out and the grass has grown up. My room being on the west side of the building makes it very cool in the forenoon but towards night it is considerable warm, but I have got green paper curtains & my room mate has got some very dark cloth ones which when they are put down makes it very comfortable when the sun is on this side.

I have studied quite hard since I have been here this term & must continue to do so if I expect to get into college this fall which I expect to do if I can any way possible. But I expect to have some to make up, but if I do not get in at the end of this term there will be six weeks in which I can make up what I am deficient in.

Pettingill is not coming this term, so a young man said that came from Winthrop, because his father is very sick. Therefore, I have got a room mate belonging to the first class, perhaps you have heard me speak of him A. McArthur of Limington Me.

If I enter College, I shall before I come home. Our class talks of writing down to Brunswick & have a private examination before the customary time. I am considerable anxious about going but I think I shall get in well enough. I shall try.

I do not like to have styes come along to plague me but they will in spite of me. These are the first I have ever had.

Give my love to all. Write soon & all the news. I paid all the expenses of last term as soon as I arrived, which were about six dollars. Then I paid 3 dollars to the commons and shall pay two more soon. I have not spent a cent this term I believe not but that I was obliged to. I have not rec'd a communication from any one this term, except a paper from Augusta from Charles Turner. Give my love to father, write often.

Your affectionate son,  
O O Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] NORTH YARMOUTH ME 15  
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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55 6/15/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0050

South Leeds Me

North Yarmouth, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 15th 1846

My dear Son

Two weeks have past, since you left home out of the eleven that you were to be gone. Scarce an hour I think has passed away without my thinking much of you, how it was going with you, whether you were happy or not, and in what you could be most happy. My thoughts pass round and round and view you over and over, and why is it that your mother finds herself so often engaged in thought about her son. Perhaps you too think mother need not trouble herself so much about me, but I do. How much I regret your love of frolick and fun. Oh! how much pleasure it would give me, if I thought you felt a contempt for that light mindedness which I perceive you have a great share, and how much consequence you attach to what you call pleasure. I recollect you said while at home the students were thought nothing of at Yarmouth (what matters it) whether they are thought of much or little consequence there. If you conduct yourself properly and have a clear conscience as your object in attending that institution is wholly to press your studies forward as fast as possible and not to resent other people's feelings. Every body has there aim and object in what they do, yours in being where you are, is study. And if you persevere in them and obey the laws of the institution I have no doubt you will be thought as much of as you deserve.

Now I will leave this subject, but one thing more when you study have your mind free from cares of every kind. Give yourself wholly up to your lesson. Oh! how much I desire to be capable of directing you and I think I am in many respects. However lightly you may think of your Mother's advice. When you have lived as many years and had as much experience as I have, you will think how much anxiety my mother has had about the welfare of her children and now I know, and feel it myself.

The Sabbath after you left home I was thinking how you would spend the day. It was a beautiful day. I thought Otis has hired a seat in the Baptist meeting house and gone into the sabbath school and will be happy to day and I was happy in the thought. I attended meeting that day myself and enjoyed the day well.

I found a letter in the office for me from Lydia Martin, and the day you left home a paper came into the office for you from Limmington. I shall mail it tomorrow for Yarmouth. I saw John Otis at meeting. He was astonished that he did not have a visit from you.

Last sabbath I heard your friend Harvey was to lecture on the subject temperance at the town house and I went out there to hear him. He delivered quite a learned lecture on perseverance in the cause and brought a great many evidences to prove what great achievements had been attained by perseverance. I spoke with him after the lecture was over. He told me he was going out to New York and was on his way now. He regretted very much not seeing you when at home. He looks very pale and thin and became so hoarse before he got through, he was hardly intelligent. There was quite a full house to hear him.

Rowland B H came home when the time expired that he was to come and is helping Roland A hoe his corn. Mr Gilmore has been to Lewiston and brought your great coat home. I like my girl well. Charles and Rodelphus attend school every day. I sincerely hope you will get along well this summer.

I cannot conceive it necessary to join in all the folly there is going on among the students. Oh! Otis these are precious moments to you and I presume you will consider it so. The Bible tell us to seek first the kingdom of heaven and all the rest shall be added unto you. If you could feel to give yourself unreservedly to God every day your unhappy feelings would be done away in part.

The little boys are playing horse their favorite play and the two Rowlands are milking the cows and singing and Rowland has touched upon as much as ten tunes in ten minutes and Rowland B H breaks out now and then to try his tune. Tis getting quite dark. I must stop. Good night.

[Envelope]

[written later] June 18th 1846. From Leeds to Yarmouth

[From] South Leeds Me  
June 16

[To] Master Oliver O Howard  
North Yarmouth

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56 6/18/1846 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0052

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth June 18th 1846

Dear Mother

It grieves me to think what anxious feelings you give way to for me, and your expressing your fears in regard to my delight in frivolous conduct. But believe me dear Mother but few spare moments are there for frivolity, nor have I since I came here engaged in any sport, nor do I desire to. What recreation & exercise I take is in walking. You must not give yourself necessary trouble in regard to me, although I never can be under too much obligation to my mother for her constant & watchful care, and for her deep & constant interest in the welfare of her son, yet it gives me unhappiness to think that I am such a source of grief and trouble to her. I do not regard sport & <past> time pleasure. When I spoke of pleasure, I intended happy feelings, an inward consciousness, that would give me delight while I was passing my time at school, a consciousness that I was not a burden to my <my> mother, and my unhappy feelings that I gave way to when I was at home were from my not having been more economical as regards my pecuniary affairs and for my being obliged to be under so much extra expense for clothes while attending school, than when at home, <in fine>, for constantly spending and not gaining, although I am gaining in one respect, yet I may never be able, if I live, to repay you.

As regards your advice, I think mother you do me injustice, to say or rather to harbor a thought that I am disrespectful & regardless of a mothers advice. Whatever opinion you must have formed of your son, can any one but he who is plunged into the deepest degradation & debauchery, regardless of both moral and intellectual reverencing. Neither God nor the opinion of man, from recreant to a mothers counsel and admonition. Although I am frivolous, boyish, heedless and indeliberate in every thing else, but save me from depreciating my mother's opinion and counsel. Do not, dear mother, be too anxious for I get along well and am as happy as any can be away from his parents & home, young & unaccustomed to cares and responsibilities of any kind.

You said you saw Harvey & he looked very pale. Is he any worse than he was. For what is he going to New York. For his health.

Pleas send me a newspaper once in a while or ask Rowland Bailey for me. Give my best respects to every member of the family.

Did Harvey say any thing about my books. My eye has got as well as it was before, and I am in perfect health. Our first class gets along very well indeed. Mr Weld has given us our <stant> between now & the fourth of July and we have taken only lessons so that we may get done about a week before the fourth which time we have to use selfless and I intend to spend mine in reviewing. I have resolved to remain here the fourth of July, most all are going to Portland, but I tell them that if I went I should be so tired the next day that I could hardly stand and that I shall feel better in the end to stay at home and study.

Tell Charles & Rodolphus that I send my love to them & desire them to be good boys & learn as much as they can and likewise to Rowland Bailey. Tell him not to forget to send me a paper & the first interesting one I get I will send it to him. I supposed you excused my not going to see John. I wished to go but had not time as it rained when it was convenient for me to. Give my best respects to all my acquaintances if any you see. Ask Rowland Bailey how the so well paid office of Clerk suited him. It is a very pleasant day & it is nearly school time. I must bid you good bye this time. I hope you will be well and not have so much anxiety that it will make you unhappy. I do not think I am uncommonly frivolous & foolish & hope I may, if I have not, treat all your wishes with respect & regard and comply with. For I know you do not wish or require of me any thing unreasonable. You must excuse bad spelling, for I have written this in less than half an hour.

From your affectionate Son,  
Oliver O Howard [The first O is large enough for him to write the rest of his first name, "liver", inside the O.]

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[written later] O O Howard, June 18 1846  
[Postmark] NORTH YARMOUTH ME JUN 17  
[To}  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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57 6/21/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0053

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 21 1846

My Dear boy,

We are very well now and have no ill health worthy of remark since you left home. The three last mails I could not help looking for a letter from you, and was relieved from anxious looking when I saw R.B.H. receive a letter from the mail carrier thinking it was from you and I was not disappointed. I regret exceedingly your eye should become inflamed. If it should continue to gather matter be sure and have your ears board and silk drawn into them. That will turn the course of the humor. If your eyes continue bad don't strain them to study. Come home and cure them. I had my fears when you were at home how it would be. I noticed your eyes were swollen more than is natural. You had better take salts. Buy two ounces and take one tea spoonful three mornings in succession and then go three and not take them and follow that course untill you have taken them nine mornings. You cannot be too careful of your health.

I am glad your room is so satisfactory to you. Do not be so anxious about entering college this fall. You are young enough yet. If you do not go there until another fall consider well what is best. I am not able to say what is best, and I know there is no one in this world that feels that heart felt interest that I do and I desire to feel it candidly. I know you must have perseverance and patience and a great many words might be added to express what are needed to carry forward our undertakings in every situation. But to climb the hill of science is slow and often impeded in its course in various discouragements, but if that is your determination keep a steady and cheerful course. Don't let small matters disturb you. Never estrange yourself from your mother. No body can sympathize with you as she can.

Yesterday afternoon Mrs Capt Turner and Joshua's wife took tea here. I spent the afternoon very agreeably and at night received a communication from my only absent son. Those are temporal blessings in which I delight much.

The little boys are all well. Charles and Rodelphus begin to show some improvement in their studies. Rodelphus is as uneasy as even he is sturming the room all about now. He just now was on one foot and fell against my table and spoiled one of my ell's and now is fretting with being hurt. Charles has read three little Books through of late and certainly improves in reading. He is very much pleased when you notice him in letters. RB and RA are hoing the corn. RBH reading every minute he can get, watching congress and the state legislature in all exciting questions. I believe he likes very well to get home again and enjoy his old customs. (Cyntha says in a very softly manner dinner is ready). I return again to my pen determined to set an example of filling up my sheet, it being so disagreeable to me to find a blank spot in a letter from those I love, or to say the least of it, I feel regret when a letter finishes.

Arza came home last Sabbath day or after meeting. He feels the anxiety of business very much, going into Wayne and underselling the other traders has created a feeling of competition all around him which was what I expected. Perhaps it will do him good, by arousing his energies not to be outdone. Mr Allen's health is better than it was. I sincerely hope he will have good health. I have not seen him since his return from Boston.

Give my respects to your roommate. I must feel interested in one who studies, sleeps and eats and indeed receives all his daily comfort with my dear son. However do as you please about saying Mother wishes to be remembered to you. This is indeed a rainy Sabbath. The rain has fallen incessantly through the day until this hour, which is 4 o'clock. It is a week since I have heard from your soar eye. <[hole in paper]> know it would indeed be a privalege to be near you and know how you are getting along. Write me how you spend your sabbaths.

I hope you will be particular in observing the laws of the institution. There is nothing like being particular in small matters as well as great ones to get a good name. I do not wish you to be sycophantic to obtain favor, a person can maintain an independent spirit and still keep in the path of rectitude.

I have not seen or heard anything from any of our Hallowell friends since you left home. One subject that I

intended to mention that is your keeping school next winter. You need not think any more about keeping school. I do not want you to keep school next winter. It will be attended with some perplexity and I had rather you would spend the vacation with me. Then if you are behind in any of your studies you can devote your time to study at home. I think our house will be quite convenient when it is finished. I shall be obliged to draw to a close by subscribing myself your

Affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Be sure and fill your letters full. You cannot write anything that is not interesting to me. E.G.

[Envelope]  
From Leeds to N.Y.  
June 24 1846  
[Handwritten postmark] Greene Me 1 day June 24  
[To] Master Oliver O Howard  
South Yarmouth

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58 6/25/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0054

North Yarmouth, Maine

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth June 25th 1846

Dear Mother

It gives me a great pleasure to receive a letter from home, as it does you to receive one from me, for I am always anxious about your health & how my brothers are getting along. My health is perfect at present. My eye is entirely well and every thing goes to suit me. And there is nothing wanting to make my happiness complete, but the absence of my best friends. Which absence must happen for we cannot always be with those whom we would but this term is fast passing and soon again shall I return to my friends.

I have just now finished my dinner, and the other students are exercising themselves by playing ball. It is truly a glorious day but it was rather cold this morning. Our class will finish Sallust this week & all but the poetry in the Greek Reader. I expect to have a hard time to get into college this fall, but I think at present that I shall make out. We are now about to have a vacation of about a week from Latin & Greek to review Algebra. And some of the class have never been over half of it.

I am glad Rowland takes so much interest in reading the newspapers and other things for by which he will gain great information & knowledge and he will treasure up the language & learn manner of expression, & the style of others which will enable him to appear better both in writing & speaking and to gain the respect & esteem of others, which, I must confess, an empty head & an uninformed mind can with difficulty gain. Give my love to him, and my old request that he will send me the paper after it is read. Tell Charles to tell me by way of your letter all about his school & school fellows. Tell him to be a good boy & read Otis' book if he has not and give my love to him too, and a kiss to Rodelphus, and tell him I shall expect him to read short sentences in reading when I come home again.

I thank you for your prescriptions but it was nothing but a sty that I had. The eye itself was not at all affected, but only the flesh around it and now it is entirely well. I expect my blood is in rather poor order for I have not had my accustomed <shol> of the cholic this year and therefore I have taken nothing to cleanse the blood.

I have had a letter from Harvey mailed at Rowel. He was well and said he should start for Springfield the next day. It was Sunday when he directed the letter therefore I suppose he was going Tuesday & after remaining there a short space of time, he should either come home or go to N. York, he was undecided which.

You said you was sorry when the letter was filled but perhaps you could take another sheet and continue it. I think you could put 2 or 3 of those thin sheets of paper together and then not weigh more than the sheet I am writing on.

Tell Rowland Bailey he must write me all about how he spends the fourth of July, where he goes and how he enjoys himself. I do not intend to go into Portland myself but I will write all I hear from others. As I probably shall, for my chum is going & nearly all the students that belong to the institution.

Give my best respects to Cyntha and Roland. Remember me to father. How does he do. Is he at home, at work, collecting debts? Or at court extracting himself from the grasp of John Kean. How does that come on and how did he accomplish in favor or against himself. When I came here after the vacation I left my cane at Smal's store, where father left me. Did he get it and cary it home or not. It is most time for me to get my greek lesson, for it is nearly the middle of the afternoon. You must write me often and all the news. Are Uncle Ensign's folks well & the rest up that way of my acquaintances. Give my best respects to them if you see them, and likewise to Frances Turner.

It is now evening. Since supper I have been to take a pleasant walk of about a mile and now I have returned to finish my letter. Since I came from home the last time I have enjoyed myself well neither in playing nor sport of any kind but in studying the most of the time & likewise in reflection.

What can be the motives of my mother in giving me an education. Is it that it may advance her resources. Far

from that for she gives it freely to an uncertain son, liable to be taken away at any moment, or by imprudence bring ill health upon himself. Or even if succeeds in getting his education, his success is uncertain in whatever business he undertakes. Therefore (thinks I to myself) what can be the motives of my mother. At last I struck upon the right thing, it is pure, maternal affection, which only a Mother can feel for her child.

I shall expect to see you in about 3 weeks, either having entered college or not. I cannot now tell which.

May you be well. I spoke for a seat at the baptist Meeting house, with a Mr Lufkin.

Your affectionate and faithful son  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth ME, Jun 26

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds, Maine

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59 7/5/1846

*From:* Oliver Otis Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0055

North Yarmouth, Maine

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth July 5th 1846

Dear Mother

It is now over a week since I have taken my pen to call your attention to my scribbling. I have acted very different from what I thought I should when last I wrote as the person that was going with my chum to Portland could not go. I consented to take his place. Perhaps I did wrong.

I saw Col Lothrop & Uncle Stillman Howard. Col. said Uncle Ensign & Aunt stopped at the Elma house but they had left for Boston before I could see them. The people that were collected were estimated to be about 15,000 in number. Some say there were more. They had a very long procession, extending nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile in length & four persons walked together. It was composed of the Governor, the Legislature, rail road Proprietors from Canada, as well as from Maine, Rehabites, stock holders, the different Loges of Oddfellows, and a few citizens & strangers. They paraded in the streets, then they marched all through the city. (I forgot to mention that they had 4 or five bands of music.) After that went, up on the hill where stands the observatory, where the Collation was prepared, sufficient for 6,000 people, they had tongue, beef & crackers, and good cold water, after the collation they proceeded to the place where they went through the ceremony of breaking ground. Judge [William Pitt] Preble made a few remarks, then a prayer was made, after which the Governor, Judge P. & some of the Legislature went to shoveling. They shoveled for a while then they made speeches, as I understood, one man from Canada, but I did not stop to hear them. There was so many there that it was not very comfortable standing. After which they all had an excursion in the steam boats to the Islands. (I did not go there either).

I had a fine time, but now it is over & I have returned to Yarmouth again on the morrow, to resume my studies. Such times if not so frequent can do one no injury, excepting those who are intemperate & given to so appetite & passion. But the remainder of this term I have resolved to keep close to my book and have that my best companion.

I was very sorry that I could not have seen Aunt & Uncle Ensign before they left for Boston for last fourth of July I promised Olive that I would come up to B the next. But as I could not I should like to send some word by them. I hope you are all well. How did you spend the fourth. Write me as soon as you can. Uncle Stillman said that he had been to our house, that he saw you & that you were all well. Col Lothrop said that Aunt Frances had been very sick, and for some time was not expected to live. But now she was getting better. If you have heard from Grandmother lately, how does she do.

Nearly all the people in North Yarmouth went into Portland yesterday. Mr. Weld & his family.

Tell Charley he must tell me in your letter what he did on the fourth of July and what the day is celebrated in memory of. Give my love to him, Rodelly & Rowland B. I have received a paper from Rowland not long since & as soon as I can get any, I shall send him one.

When I heard that Col Lothrop & Uncle Ensign were at P I thought that I might with father some where but did not. Have they got done hoing yet. Give my best respects to Roland A & Cyntha. Remember me to father. Write me all the news. I shall expect a letter from you in next Tuesday's mail.

Do you know whether William is intending to go to college this fall or not. Give my respects to all my friends at Leeds if any you see.

From your most affectionate Son  
Oliver Otis Howard  
Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]  
[written later] O O Howard  
July 5th 1846

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me, July 6  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds Maine

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60 7/5/1846 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0056a

Leeds, Maine

North Yarmouth Seminary,  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 5th 1846

Dear Brother

In compliance of your request I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you. I went to Wayne yesterday with Rowland Alger. & staid til almost sunset. We had a fine time. In the morning there was a procession formed at the new methodist meeting house & marched to the grove this side of the town house, where there was a table set one hundred & fifty feet long. But it would not accommodate more than half of the cold water army. There was seven hundred in this procession, then another was formed called the mecanicks consisting of about 100 mecanicks, who wore all kinds labells. They dined in front of the hotell, the first procession reached from Mr Smithes house to the grove about 20 rods this side of the town house. I should think there were about 2000 in all who were there. The Hon L.P. Benson of Winthrop delivered a lecture on the evils of interference & the best way preventing them. There was a band of music who played very well. There was excelant singing accompanied by the pianaforte.

Are you well. Write me all about the fourth of July in your parts. Send me a paper as soon as you can. You must forgive bad writing & spelling. We have got through hoeing the second time. We are all well, but I must leave room for Mother. Write as soon as you can.

Your affectionate Brother  
R B Howard

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61 7/6/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0056b

Leeds, Maine

North Yarmouth Seminary,  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter is a continuation of the letter by Rowland, written on July 4, 1846]

July 6th [1846]

My dear Son,

Your letter came to hand last Saturday. I was very glad to receive it and much pleased with the contents, but had it been a little fresher, you would have probably had a letter from me ere this. Your letter was nine days old before it reached me. You said in your letter you expected to see me in 3 weeks. That is sooner than I expected. This is the twelfth day out of the time you mentioned which will only have 9 more. Will you be so kind as to write more particularly to me about it.

If you should not succeed in your examination do not be discouraged nor ashamed. It is all nothing I could not advise you what was best because I was not capable. But if you should not bear the proper examination I should most certainly think strang of Mr Weld's management in encouraging you to come, and then giving you a place in the first class (I do not know under what circumstances all these things happened) I suppose you have been regular in your lessons as the rest of the class. I am not over anxious whether you enter college this year or next. Only there would be a regular course of proceeding in finishing your preparation at Yarmouth and then entering college at Brunswick and so on. If you should not enter there this time there would be future considerations to attend.

Your Father said if the travel to Portland had not been more than twenty miles he should have liked well to have gone with you on the fourth. I suppose it was a great day there for this state, but your Mother does not consider it much loss to you if you did not go (probably if you live you will see many rare sights). At this season of the year tis so fatiguing to be where there are so many people.

If there is anything about your dress that you need before you go to Brunswick a nice shirt, or any other article get it at Yarmouth. Perhaps you can send to Portland by some one. O how much your Mother desires you to have everything right.

Now about coming home write very particular what help you need from home. Laura A Leadbetter and Mr Wingate rode out here from Hallowell on the fourth of July and returned last evening. All the ones who have been here from that place this summer. Your Aunt Frances is in a very low state of health. She has been reduced to such a state that her death was expected hourly but her disorder has taken a favorable turn and she is quite comfortable so that she sits in a chair to have her bed made up. Her complaint is on the lungs. I hope her life will be spared for the sake of her family. Your Uncle E. Otis and wife have gone to Boston I understand. I suppose for her health.

Of late I have heard bad news from the Woodmans at Wilton. Mr Woodman has absconded to keep out of the way of officers of Justice. His long head has not answered his purpose this time. Warren is married.

Write soon and write everything about yourself you can think of. I hope this will find you well and happy.

Your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope] [No Postmark]  
[To] Master Oliver O Howard  
North Yarmouth Seminary

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62 7/19/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0057

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth July 19th 1846

Dear Mother

You must excuse me for not writing last week. I was not very well & was obliged to study very hard. For of late we have got about 800 lines in Virgil a day. But we are now reading Cicero in review.

I have just been reconing up my expenses. They will be \$20.00 more than I have paid, which will make the terms expenses 25.00 exceeding what I expected. In this 25.00 I recon my expenses on the fourth. I shall not be obliged to buy any thing before I go to Brunswick, but I shall be oblige to hire my passage down & back and the class are going to give Mr Weld the rest from subscribed 5.00 apiece, but I did not subscribe & shall not untill I consult you. I don't wish you to consider my expenses of this term but 25.00, five of which I have paid out of the 12.00 you let me have, some of which I have left, but the rest, Mr Weld's present & my going to Brunswick are not reconed. I think you had better send me the money soon or in your next letter & I will settle up. I shall get along just as cheap as I can. I suppose you will blame me for going to Portland, but I think you will excuse me.

Now it is noon having attended meeting a half day I again resume my seat for the purpose of completing my letter. We had quite an interesting discourse this forenoon, continued from last sabbath's discussion concerning the making the Ark of the Lord by David & the death of <Ugar> together with the feelings of David and his actions on that occasion. He delivered a very eloquent sermon, I think pleasing & acceptable to all. The Minister is a man of about the middle stature, neither too short or too tall, & well formed. He is quite intellectual in his appearance. His head a little bald, not from years, for I should think he was about thirty or thirty two, of rather dark hair, & very light complexion. He is very effeminate as to his delivery, but his sermons are of a deep & comprehensive character, presenting an elegance & beauty in their very style. It is a rainy sabbath.

I suppose you are all at home enjoying youselves in reading some pleasant & interesting book or paper or father, siting with his spectacles on, his paper having droped down, sleeping. Now & then being aroused by a nod, and Rowland Bailey pouring over his newspaper with intense interest, heeding not what is on arround him & Charley sits in his chair, smiling his winning & affectionate smile while listening to Rodelphus standing by his mothers knee & talking with her about his school mates or his brother Otis. And Rowland Alger is siting by the window reading or looking out humming his favorite tunes. Thus do I picture in my imagination the scenes of home, with the endearing & delightful appearance, that naught else can present, and while enjoying the pleasures, the delights & privalege of home.

Know them not nor can we estimate their value or know how highly, they should be prized. Untill we are separated from them, then on reflection we behold them in their vivid color. Then can we realize the privalege of having parents to watch & guard our very footsteps, to preserve us from wrong acktions & wrong motives, to bear our responsibilities, to advise, restrain & protect us on every occasion. And in all circumstances on whom we can rely to whom we can relate our troubles, and gain solace from their kind admonitions & friendly advice. Our nature is such that without these comforts, & without the trust & confidence of friends, not knowing whom to believe, & whom to rely upon, we are unable to be happy, & we are unable to enjoy ourselves in any <[hole in paper]> but with these things (if we know how to estimate them) we must consequently be happy & enjoy this short life given us.

I have again seated myself to close my letter, after the after noon sermon, I hope this letter will find you well. Give my love to all. Have they commenced haying. It is uncertain about my coming home, whether I shall come in four or six weeks, if we have a private examination (which I do not much expect) I shall be at home in 4, but if we wait untill commencement in 6 weeks. But then I will let you know in season for you to send to meet me in any place.

From you affectionate Son  
O O Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me Jul 19

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds, Me

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63 7/26/1846 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0058a

South Leeds, Me

South Yarmouth, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 26th 1846

Dear Brother

Mother has just started for Hallowell. Aunt Frances is dead. She died yesterday Morning at nine o'clock. The funeral is tomorrow at ten. Mother went down today to get rested before Addison came last evening to let us know & to get Vaughn who has been at Uncle Ensigns. We received your letter last night. In your last letter before that you said you were coming home in three weeks & in your last you thought you should be at home in four or six weeks. & we do not know what to believe. We are all well at home. Uncle Ensign and his wife have had the varioloid [a form of chicken pox] but have got better. Aunt Martha says she has never been so well since she was sick, but thought that no one caught it. We has got about half through haying. John Turner is helping us and is a good workman. You must send me a paper as soon as you can. It is Monday Morning & I must go to work. Mother said that she would fill this out. I think I shall go to school this fall but do not know where to go. Mr Jones gets along very well, but it is rather hard for him to do his haying with only his boys to help him, but he has put yet considerable on the meadow so that it washes it a great deal easier for him. I must leave of writing more and go to work.

Your in haste  
R B Howard

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds, Me

Aug 1

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

South Yarmouth

64 8/1/1846

*From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0058b

South Leeds, Me

South Yarmouth, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter]

Leeds Aug 1st 1846

My dear boy

This is indeed a fine morning and I and mine and all our dependants are in possession of sufficient blessings to draw our hearts in gratitude to the author of every good and perfect gift. I received your letter by Saturday's mail after anxiously looking for one and for several mails. I thought I should hasten an answer to you by the next mail, but you see by the date I have not fulfilled my expectation. I reached home at eleven o'clock on Monday evening fully intending to write before the mail left but did not and the week has passed a way until Saturday.

I thought when I read what you said about a present to Mr Weld, I should lay your situation before you on paper, and leave the subject to your judgment but time nor paper will not admit, but your income cannot exceed more than 150 dollars yearly and your bills far exceed that, your bills the spring term were more than thirty dollars then clothing bills were about twenty more and I feel as though your wardrobe is scantily filled now. Your expenses this term must be 90. more at the least. That is the sum and substance of your case.

I always feel an inclination to gratify you and do even in this instance but duty forbids. I could enumerate causes sufficient to satisfy you. I know how you feel about it. I have been in the same situation. Do as you like but I should rather you would not. I shall enclose twenty dollars to you. You did not say how much you required to get you along until you reach home. Ots you would think you were doing well to earn ten dollars in a month. Now ask yourself the question am I willing to labor one half of a month for Mr Weld.

I lately have seen the mother of a dear Brothers children conveyed away to the grave and I cannot look on without a feeling of grief and sympathy for the future as well as the present. William looked very sad. His infantile moments have been looked after by a tender mother and now we see his younger brothers and sisters deprived of that care, by a wise Providence which cannot err, all the rest of our friends in Hallowell are tolerably well.

I saw a letter from Mrs [Olive B] Hazard mostly on the subject of her father's [Ephraim Woodman, Eliza's brother-in-law] situation. She expressed a great deal of feeling on the subject and charity towards him. I afterward conversed with your Uncle John. He said there was no chance for him only to flee from justice. Only pause a moment my son and think of the situation of a man the age of 59 fleeing from place to place away from his wife and children and in disguise. Make the comparison between home, kind friends, and fond children. An honest man, the noblest work of God. I look back upon Mr Woodman as he once stood in the view of the world, and at the present how he stands and I think had he only kept in the path of rectitude. Let this teach us a lesson. Let us ask our common Father every morning and evening to strengthen us in the path of rectitude.

I was sorry to hear you say you felt unwell but hope you are better. Write every particular how you get along. I do not wish to say to you that you are poor and indeed I consider you in very good circumstances.

E. Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds, Me

Aug 1

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

South Yarmouth

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65 8/4/1846

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eiza Gilmore

OOH-0059

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth August 4th 1846

Dear Mother

I catch a few moments just before recitation to write a few lines in reply to your last. It was very sad news that was born to me & very unexpected. I did not know that she was dangerously sick. Is William going to college this fall; how did Maria appear when you were at Hallowell. I hope you are still as well as when you wrote. I think I have kept rather too close to my studies of late. I do not feel so well as I did, have not so good an appetite. I think the cause of it is because I set so much without exercise. I have arose in the morning at four o'clock every morn except Sunday for about 3 weeks, but then I shall have a vacation of 5 or 6 weeks if I get into college.

As to my expenses, I know that they are much more than I could desire. They would have been as cheap as I said if I had not gone to Portland, but now it is to late to regret my foolishness, but must beware for the future. But as every student has contributed for a present heretofore, and all my class such as depend holly on the <> as well as others. Therefore I could not go to his party & supper, knowing that I was the only one that did not give. But I think I shall give 3 dollars, & if my income will not allow it, I will work when the vacation comes willingly, rather than to seem parsimonious. I will avoid all unnecessary expenses. Neither am I or shall I be intemperate or gamble, to spend money, but mother, I think, as good as Mr Weld has been to me, & to my class, that we ought to give him a present or something that may serve as a memorial of our kindness.

You do not know how I feel about it, I know well that I am not rich, and that I must economize every way possible to lessen my expenses, but prohibite me from appearing small, I had rather more ragged clothes. Perhaps you may say that brother Rowland does not spend so much as I, but place him in the same situation, and it would be very different with him, except that he has more economy or is of a very different disposition. But forgive me if I am wrong, for I wish to follow a mothers advice in all things. But still mother if my expenses have been more than they ought to have been, I most certainly have not wasted my time. This term is something for my consolation.

Give my love to Rowland. Tell him I should be glad to answer his part of the letter directly to him but I have not time at present. Next term I shall not be obliged to study half so hard, & then I can correspond with him regularly. Give my love to Charles, Rodelphus & the rest of the family. My coming home is still uncertain, for we are not certain about the private examination yet. But if there is one I think I shall try to get in. Then I shall come home in about a fortnight, but perhaps I shall stay untill commencement about 4 weeks from tomorrow (Wednesday). I shall if Mr Weld thinks it will be better for me.

I suppose you will be about half through haying before I return home. Excuse this broken letter. I will try to write a better one next, when I can get a little more time. I hope you will think of what I have said about the present to Mr Weld, & write me in your next. I do not wish to give more than \$3.00 for it. They will bring it out from Portland to day, a bible costing 25.00. Therefore you must know how beautiful it must be. The Class last year gave him a watch worth about \$40.00 but they had quite a large class.

We are reviewing Virgil now, viz, the Bucholics, & reading in advance the Greek Poetry. We have got but very little time & a great deal to do.

I hope William will go to college this fall. I should like to have him room with me. On some accounts I do not wish to room with the one I do now

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore.

[Envelope]

[Postmark] NORTH YARMOUTH ME. AUG 4

[To] Mrs Eiiiza Gilmore

South Leeds

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66 8/13/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0060

South Leeds Me

North Yarmouth, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, August 13th, 1846

My dear boy

How are you this morning. I hope you are happy. I am sorry to hear you say you feel unwell but hope you are better. It will not be long before (I trust) we shall see each other. In you anxiety to convince your mother of the necessity of subscribing for the present you did not say whether you had money sufficient to pay up your bills or not, or whether you had received the last twenty dollars. I shall inclose three dollars more in this. Your father is gone to Augusta to attend court. I hope he will be freed from John Keen soon.

You enquired about William, and Maria. Your Uncle said William had attended school but very little this summer. I presume he has not forwarded his studies much. Maria appeared very pleasant and tender towards her infant sister, a fine little babe. Vaughn is at his Uncle Ensign's for the present. You have never mentioned whether Pettengill ever came back to North Yarmouth or not.

Our haying is nearly finished and grain harvest too. It is indeed a plentiful season. Our corn fields are indeed beautiful. I have a charming flower garden this summer which makes it more pleasant here than it was when you left home. I went up to our old home last week. Everything there looked charming excepting the inside of the house. It is as dirty as every. Mrs Rose is confined to her bed. The dairy is mostly lost.

Warren Lothrop entered as an engineer at West Point the first of the summer expecting to stay there a year or more and his family thought he would in that time have the privilege of a cadet, but they are dreadfully disappointed for he is now one of those who are called to go into the Texas war. He is to have his present destination for the seat of war in one month.

I am sorry you should mention the extreme sins as though you thought your Mother should be grateful that yours was no worse. I hope the adjective bad will not apply to you my son. I think you a good son but not a perfect one. Your mother is a close observer of her sons. She sees they have fine qualities and she desires to build on those qualities and have them useful men in this great world. Useful to themselves and to others.

You say tis a custom to make Mr Weld a present and a privalege it seem. You say he has been extremely good to you. That is his duty. It is his duty to be all the benefit to you in his power and he is paid for it on that account. You are under no obligation to him. I am glad you have a grateful heart. It is one of the finest qualities in the world and I see no way for you to get along without subscribing for the present. You never wrote what your bill on the Fourth of July was. Now my boy you are altogether mistaken to suppose I desire you to be penurious. Tis not so. I am glad you are generous but there is a difference between ostentation and benevolence. I desire you think of difference. Your mother always feels a desire to gratify you in every request, but I know it is not always best. I am not offended with you for going to Portland, but I think self denial is a great virtue in practicing which we often have great reward we experience pleasure and I think you will find it even so. I feel as though you were preparing for the future and I hope you take pleasure in your manner of life.

I have of late seen my Brothers family deprived of the council of a dear mother which admonishes me that I may be the next to be called. For to give up my accounts in such a case who but you can watch over the education of your younger Brothers. But I will hope that I shall still be spared to keep <[hole in paper]> together untill time has done more <[hole in paper]> at rest. Son in such a case you would have to think for yourself and for your brothers too. I wish in your next you would be particular to write all about your health and everything else. Write as soon as you receive this. You never have thought how anxiously I watch for the to bring a few lines from my dear boy.

Charley says Betsey says Mr Gilmore has lost the case. I did not think such news would excite me so much as it has. I have found myself in constant perspiration and my stomach flutters badly. I believe I have written all I calculated to.

Your Affectionate Mother

Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

I had no three dollar bill & I have put in five. You must not spend any more than necessary.

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds Me Aug 15

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

North Yarmouth, Me

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67 9/29/1846 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0061

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Sept 29th 1846

Dear Mother

On fathers return, I thought I would write a few lines to you & let you know that I have got settled as far as room & the most of the furniture. I went in with a young man from Bangor. I member of my class at N. Yarmouth. He had the room nearly all furnished when I came. It is No. 15 North Coll, south end. It is a pleasant room & quite retired from noise. I have got one lesson & recited it & in about a half an hour I must recite again. I get along with my lesson much better than I expected. This morning, being the first time Proff. Upham heard us recite. There are about 36 in our freshman class at present & they expect more soon. Excuse any more for the bell is now ringing.

Give my love to granma & all the rest. I will write more next time. I hope I shall get along well.

Your affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Bowd College  
Sept 29 1846  
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds

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68 10/3/1846 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0062

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Oct 3d, 1846

Dear Mother

After one weeks study & residence at College I have seated myself to write you a few lines. I hope this letter will find you as well as when I left. My health is yet very good. I have now delayed this letter till Tuesday morning.

I like college very much. In the morning at 5 o'clock or ½ past we are waked up by the ringing bell, requesting us to arise & make ready for prayers, which have to be attended in about ½ an hour after. At the tolling of the bell, and as soon as prayers are over we attend recitation, which generally last about an hour & then we have our breakfast. I board at what they call the Grouse club. (Mrs Grouse being employed to do the work & so have the use of her house). It is a good club & they have excellent living (as father told you I suppose). After our morning meal, we have the time until eleven to get our greek (having recited our latin in morning). Proff. Upham hears us in Latin, & Proff Packard in Greek, Proff Smyth in the afternoon in Algebra. It is much easier to get the lessons here than those I was obliged to get at North Yarmouth. I think with all I shall like very well all but being called freshman quite so freely. But that can be put up with for one year.

Our room is (as father must have said) is in the south end of North College. No. 15, 4th story. It tires me very much to climb so many pair of stairs, but I think it is pleasanter after we once get there. The room is finely papered with what is called satin paper. It comprises the study bed room & wood closet. I procured a looking glass new at 1.75 and a desk, book & rocking chair almost new & a very handsome one at 3.00 & I have got me a <cup> at 1.25, I got my bed filled .41 cts.

Is grandmother at Leeds now? If so give her my love & tell her not to trouble herself too much on account of my being boyish for I am more so at home than any where else. How does Rowland Bailey get along at school now with his studdies. Give my love to him, Charles & the rest. Warren was down the other day & called to see me. Perhaps you have seen him since. How does Roland Alger get along now. I suppose he has got all the potatoes dug ere this. Has there been any more paring bees since I left Leeds? Write me all the news. Give my best respects to Uncle Ensign & folks, if at any time you see them. I must leave off writing now to prepare fro recitation, for Professor Packard is rather strict with those who do not recite well. We have short lessons, but they must be well prepared & we are obliged to be punctual to prayers as well as to recitation. I have a very good Chum. Excuse me for not writing more. This is a very beautiful place as Level as can be for two or 3 miles each way. There is not so much noise & disturbance as I expected there would be although once in a while they throw clubs & billets of wood down stairs which makes considerable noise. But for the most part it is as still as if there was nobody in the building but my roommate & myself. Give my respects to Mr Jones's family.

Your affectionate son,  
O O Howard

Mrs E Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] O O Howard Oct 3d 1846

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME OCT 6

Paid 5

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds Maine

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69 10/21/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0063

Brunswick Coll

South Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Coll Oct 24st 1846

Dear Mother

I have been delaying some time to write with the hopes of receiving an answer to my preceding but as my expectation has not been fulfilled I have again aranged myself at my table to write a letter home again to await an answer. I have got along very well indeed, not having been annoyed so much (as freshman) as I expected. We as a class have fared much better (as they say) than the Class last year, for we have not had any windows broken & we were not held into the Chapel but Once. It may be on account of the faculty for they called up two or three for doing it, suspending them from prayers. But night before last we were rather sadly joke, by the entrails of some chickens. I was waked up in the night by the bursting of my door & when I was wholly awake I got up & found those remnants all over the floor. Some of the students had a roast (having stole the poultry as usual) & after cleaning them, roasting & eating, they thought they would be generous enough to give the freshman the entrails, distributing them at each room. Although there are many wild & dissipated persons in college I think that the majority are steady, if not professors of religion which a great many are.

I commenced this letter on the 21st & now it is the 25th. Having my lesson to get that night I have again taken my pen on sabbath eve after having been to Church all day to hear Mr Sapan, Congregational preacher of Augusta. I have frequently heard him preach whilst at Hallowell. How do you all do at home. I am quite anxious to hear, for I have not been so long a way without hearing from home before. Tell Rowland B he must send me a paper, or a letter for it is full as good a way for any one to learn to write and especially to compose or spell well. I hope he is well & gets along well with his studdies.

There are in College about a dozen Societies of which two are called general societies. Nearly all of the rest are Secret Soc. For the later of which they try very hard to make us pledge ourselves to join and besides these there has been a society got up (as I think) to draw the freshmen in "to hoax them as it is termed". The only answer I have returned to these solicitations & fishing is that I shall not annex myself to any society until I know the principles and motives of that society, and until I am more thoroughly acquainted with its members. Therefore I am safe from any impositions. But there are some I think will or have been rather badly imposed upon.

I will say a few words of William Gardiner. He does not room in the same college as myself, but in south College with Butler. He is beloved by his class & is considered as an excellent young man by all that are acquainted with him here. I am rather inclined to think Grandma's suspicions are ill founded for (if he did once) I do not think he would be guilty of such an act now, but she may be right, yet I cannot look upon him as a thief by any means.

I have not heard from that school agent yet. I suppose if I could have had the school he would have wrtten me long ago, but I asked him to write me as soon as possible so that I might look for another. But I do not know but that it is for the best that I should not teach until a year older.

Nearly 5 weeks have passed since I came from home which seems scarcely more than a day to recall. & I suppose week after week, & year after year, will go in the same manner until my course here is finished.

Give my love to Charles, Rodelphus & Rowland Bailey. Tell Roland Alger he must send me a paper & I will send him the first interesting one I get. Please write soon. I wish very much to hear from home. Jennings has not got a school for this winter & talks of spending it out west. My best respects to all.

Your Most affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] O O Howard Oct 26 1846  
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME OCT 26  
[To] Mrs. John Gilmore  
South Leeds Maine

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70 10/31/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0064

Leeds, Me

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Oct. 31th 1846

My Dear boy,

How do you do this morn. Happy, I hope, and doing well in every respect. Our family are in health. Your father is trying to hurry the house along before cold weather comes on. Indeed the work in it, the chambers are ready for plastering. Charles & Rodelphus are pictures of health. Rowland B H's health is good. He is so fleshy, he is quite a chunk. C. Millets school finishes to day. I am quite disappointed on R.B.'s account. Your grandmother returned to Hallowell one week ago. Your uncle John came for her, stopped here two hours perhaps, says William is all engaged in hens. He went to the fair at Vassalboro. Maria is at Saco. Your uncle brought her letter. She wrote him for us to read. Everybody is prospering well at H...I. Mssrs Gilmore and Allen are driving business at Wayne largely. Mr. <J> Molton died about the time you left home. He died insolvent. His friends and acquaintances lament him very much. Arza has not commenced housekeeping yet. I attended Howe's wedding. There were forty persons there. This week I went with Mrs Colier to visit Mrs Ansel Turner. Her son was not at home. I hope you will not fall into the bad habits of college life but try hard to sustain good habits, and always bear in mind the object of life is to be useful, and that youth is the time to prepare for usefulness.

Stealing is a sin, let it come in what situation it will. However much it may have been practiced purloining around Colleges. Still the practice is no less <insane> to say the least of it and then the hainousness of the sin in the sight of a good God that delivered the commandments to Moses, that we Sinners might have some rules to abide by and not be like the common beast take from each other whatever gratifies our present wishes. Who knows when they are filching away some indigent person's poultry, what privation they are bringing on that family. Oh! my son there is a confidence within me which says my son will not be guilty of robbing the poor and industrious of their <battle> to help support a night's carousal. What a folly! Who can even in after life look back with any other feeling than regret on such folly.

I am glad you are so happy in your chum. I hope you will be a mutual benefit to each other. I am not particularly anxious on account of your keeping school. What you would earn would help you, if you were lucky in your undertaking. I think you would like the employment, to a benevolent mind there is something agreeable in imparting that to others which we know will be a benefit to them and in imparting knowledge to others we benefit ourselves.

Granma heard you were courting a girl about twenty years old at Mr Brewsters. She heard of it at Joseph Turners and Aunt Martha thinks Hellen will be a grand daughter to grandmother Otis. This is all nonsense but then on this subject caution is necessary not to be pointed in your attentions at the present day, while yet you are a boy. Years change the views very much.

I spent a very pleasant afternoon at Mr Alvin Lanes last Monday. Every thing so neat and Mrs Lane and Lucy appear so amiable. I thought them quite an example. Mary J Lothrop is attending school at Farmington. Your father is packing cheese, dried apples and butter to day for Massachusetts to carry to Hallowel next Monday. Cynthia is with me yet, every thing remains about the same at the old house. The Jones are real industrious I think. Betsey remains the same, with her little ones kicking and smacking, screaming and fighting alternately as they happen to <feel>. Warren Mone was here last evening. He has been sending apples to Mass. which has made quite a business for him for some time. You must write often whether I write or not. I am not very independent in my time with Cynthia for help. Charles can ride a horse to Mr Bate's shop to be shod and to the spring to water, which pleases him much. Charles has done a great deal to help about the work this fall. Our folks have got all their vegetables secured for winter. The fields are white with snow but not enough for sleighing. We have had good traveling untill now. The roads are getting muddy.

Yours with intense interest.  
Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] Greeneville  
Oct 31  
[Postal mark] Way 6  
[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard  
Brunswick

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71 11/1/1846 *From:* Oliver O. Howard *To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore  
OOH-0065 Bowdoin College South Leeds Maine  
*Source:* Bowdoin Brunswick Me

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Bowdoin College, November 1st, 1846

Dear Mother

I hope your thus delaying is not occasioned by ill health. For I do not recollect of having been absent so long before with out receiving a letter from home. I have been absent nearly 5 weeks & a half.

Cold weather seems gradually coming upon us & to our great disadvantage some one of the students was foolish enough to set on fire the wood shed containing 150 cords of wood or more on thursday night last. We were woke up about 12.00 by the ringing of the bell. When on looking out we saw the shed in a blaze nearly the whole length. The faculty have been calling up the students ever since & it is thought that they will call up all & have them sworn to try & if possible to discover the one who did it. When (if discovered) he will probably be expelled & be obliged to pay the damages amounting to about \$600.

It is now Monday morning. Having been to the P.O. I am very <since> gratified to find a letter from you and to hear that you with all the rest are so well. I am very well & every thing suits me as far as my own comfort is concerned.

Howethen is married. I hope he will prosper. He has ever been a friend to me. You may be assured the bad habits & practices of college are disgusting & disagreeable to me. So smoothly & calmly does all things pass along that to a casual observer or a stranger visiting college all things take a pleasant aspect & it appears as though all were steady & gentlemanly, instead boisterous, engaged in revelry, drunkenness & the evil practices called jokes, namely, the fire of Thursday's night (spoken of on the preceding page) and the roasts of stolen poultry. This very morning some one was kind enough to give us some delightful perfume by putting assifoeditue [probably Assafoetida, a gum resin obtained from plants in the parsley family and used in medicine] on the recitation room stove. Other like foolishness is daily carried on to the amusement of some and the discomfit of others.

As to that school I should have thought the man might have been kind enough to have informed me whether I could have the school or not. But I never have heard a word from him, perhaps he did not get the Letter. I ought to be doing some thing this winter for my expenses are high, higher on account of so many damages occasioned by fire, the breaking of glass &c.

I am very sorry they assign so many girls to me at Leeds. I do not covet more than one, especially of those at 20. But as Leeds is a fruitful source of stories of such a kind with a few exaggerations, we will not particularly notice them. But I hope granma or Aunt Martha will not be too much troubled, for not very soon shall I make them grandmothers or aunts in or by law.

Who will teach the school in our district this winter? I hope they will have a good school. Jennings talks of teaching a school in North Yarmouth, at about 25 dollars per month. As our catalogues came higher than I expected, I had not quite money enough. I should like to have you send me a couple of dollars in your next.

We have had a little snow here enough to cover the ground but it soon went away not leaving it so muddy as in most places, for the soil is so sandy that it absorbs all the water that carries the rain as soon as it falls & the snow as soon as it melts. We have had a very pleasant day to day seeming allmost like summer & it would pass for a summer's day but for the trees deprived of leaves & the fields here & there with a patch of snow.

Our studies are so easy that now I think some of getting ahead so as to come home thanksgiving day and remain. But I do not know yet when it will be. Therefore I cannot tell yet but will soon enough to send for me. Nearly every one will leave before the end of the term.

Give my love to all. How did Rowland get along with his studdies this fall. Write all the news & as often as you can. Give my respects to Uncle Ensigns family & Hellen if you wish. Has [cousin] Everet Bridgham got well yet.

I believe I have nothing more to write now. Therefore as it is almost recitation time I will close. Hoping that you are & will be well & that I shall study well & get a junior part, which I can easily do if I study & behave well.

Your affectionate son  
Oliver O. Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard Nov 1st 1846  
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK Me. Nov 3  
[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds Maine

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72 11/16/1846 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0066a

So. Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 16th 1846

Dear Brother

We have been busied the past week in doing <a> <manuscript> & I have had not time to write or I should. We are all well. Mr <Bashin> finished the carpenter work satterdy night. To day is town metting day. & Mr Gilmore has gone to Wayne. I saw Orville a week ago yesterday. When do you think that you shal be home. I should like it if you could be here Thanksgiving. I liked my school very well. It did not continue as long as I expected. It kept 8 weeks. The scholars beginning to drop of. Mr Willet thought it expedient to close the school. Helen was doing well the last time I saw her. Uncle Ensigns folks are doing well I belive. <Ensgen Warthuy> has not gone away. Jane Jennengs has been to work here . She went away last night.

[Rowland Bailey]

[Envelope]

[From] So. Leeds Me

Nov 17

[To] Mr Oliver O Howard

Brunswick

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73 11/16/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0066b

So. Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 17, 1846.

My dear boy,

This is indeed a very fine morning and I have sat down amidst my many cares, to write a few lines to you. We have had our house plastered and our many improvements almost every room is daubed. And our mason is a confounded slouvin and Cynthia is a poor hand to follow him. But I am in hopes we shall get settled in the course of time.

I went to a funeral on the sabbath. It was in the Frost house at the city. Van der Frost a boy about ten years old was kicked by a colt. The blow fractured his skull which caused his death.

I regret very much your loss of dry wood in burning your wood shed. Strange that any person endowed with common understanding would be guilty of such folly and madness. Something within me tells me Otis will not sink into that degraded way. I have heard parents say that they could not think of sending their sons to college because there was such dreadful conduct within those walls. Bad habits formed which followed them through life and was the final course of their ruin. Only think of our best institutions being a scourge of ruin to our most promising youth. What a thought. Is there no remedy? About your keeping school there are reasons why I should like to have you keep school and then objections arise. Just so in every pursuit in life. If you have an opportunity of keeping school you may as well try it if not give yourself no uneasiness.

As for Hellen she has a smile for every boy in town. A vain toy. Davis Francis keeps our school this winter, boards at Oscar Turners. You mentioned coming home at Thanksgiving but have made no arrangements about coming. I looked for a letter by the last mail but none came. I shall expect one to night. I shall enclose two dollars to you in this.

Give my respects to your chum if you are a mind to. I did not notice Orville at meeting myself, but your father did and spoke with him. The whigs have failed in their election. Doctor Bridgham is elected representative from this class. Wayne went strong for him. Rum has prevailed. The rum whigs went for him. Sin abounds but it is no less heinous in pure eyes. Shun evil and study to be useful and do it in the fear of God. It will give you a happy conscience.

Your father has been to Hallowel. All are doing well there. Your uncle Henry [Charles Henry Strickland, the husband of Eliza's sister Martha Jane Otis] has made well this year in business. I have never written to Lydia Martin. I expect she feels grieved about it and so do I. Time seems to carry me along in daily cares without hardly thinking there is any one else in the world but the subject of my <care>. I intend to write her soon.

I hope you are happy and in good health. My health is tolerably good. My nervous sistem is greatly distracted so much so that the common noise of the family sometimes distresses me so much I have to use all the reason I can muster to stay in the room where they are. But I still hope I shall be no worse. Mr Bates has just taken the horse and waggon to go to the funeral of old Mr William Pettengill in the east part of the town. A pensioner. His sister was buried last sabbath aged 95. She was a pauper in this town.

Your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

OO Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] So. Leeds Me  
Nov 17  
[To] Mr Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick



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74 11/20/1846 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0067

Bowdoin College

South Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College November 20th 1846

Dear Mother

I have again seated myself to address you a few lines. I have not much that is interesting, but I will try to fill out my epistle as well as I can. I received your & Rowlands letter yesterday & the money contained & am glad to hear that you are well.

I have concluded to come home at the end of the term, not before. I should like to have one of the Rowlands come to get me & Perly 3 weeks from next Wednesday. Let him start early so as to be here before noon & we can go back as far as W. <> the same day. My Chum went away the first of this week & will work in Portland the rest of this term & vacation. Since he went away Perley came in with me & he & I shall room together next term. He is an excellent scholar & pleasant good dispositioned fellow. His health is better than it was awhile ago but he is not entirely well yet.

This is a very windy day & rather unpleasant. It is not quite so agreeable to live here now & in the middle of the term when all were here, but we are more apt to study when there are but few of us & all around is still & silent. Besides it is the most expedient way to drive away lonesomeness or perhaps as some say the blues.

There was last Tuesday an exhibition of the Juniors & Seniors. There were 4 or five hundred collected to hear the speakers. 10 of the best scholars are chosen from the Junior Class every year to have part in the Senior exhibition which are held every spring & fall term. 5 of them speak in the fall and 5 in the spring. (I did not mean to say that 10 were chosen every year, but according to the good scholars. If 8 are fit there are 8, if 10 there are 10). Those of the juniors who had parts this fall generally were not very tallented fellows but dilligent students. They earned there reward by labor & hard study, when on the other hand there were very tallented, but rather careless fellows who did not get parts at all. How these persons could sit with such solemnness & resignation & let those (less capable) surpass & excell them in scholarship & receive the approbation of the Professors, by getting parts & prizes, while they themselves are neglected & passed over in silence (is too ambiguous a <> problem for me to unravel).

I should rather leave college now than to study here two years with an equal chance & equal ability, and have my class mates then easy of the <palm>. But should there be any parts given in our class when we become juniors (if that time should arrive) I hope (& shall) if it can be accomplished by study & good behavior, claim the privalege of having one. The faculty have decided upon a certain one of the sophomore class. I suppose it is not best to tell his name yet, but he is a smart scholar & always considered a fine young man before. They said that he crossed him self a number of times in his examinations.

Jennings has just started to go to his school. He teaches this winter in New Gloucester.

I am sory your so plagued with nervousness. But I hope you will get rid of it. I suppose the house will all be handsomely finished off by the time I come home. One reason why I do not come before is becaus the faculty will not let a student go without the excuse of teaching or another as good & I have no excuse. & another is becaus I want the examination off from my mind & any one can learn more towards the end of a term than at any other time is will study.

I hope you are all well. Give my best respects to all my acquaintances, my love to my Brothers, & all the family. Three weeks will soon pass when I shall be with you again. I should like to pass thanksgiving at home, but on consideration I thought it not best. Don't forget to let Rowland come after me, for there is no stage but that either goes through Portland or Augusta.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver O Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME NOV 21

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds Maine

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75 11/29/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0068

Bowdoin College

South Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College November 29th 1846

Dear Mother

It is sabbath eve, whilst all is still arround. My chum & I have taken our pens to address a few lines to our parents. It has been truly a pleasant day, but rather too wet under boot for the feet. I have attended church all day & will transcribe from my tablet a few ideas & the text of the preacher Mr Addams. The text was in twelfth chapter of Matthew 35th verse "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth good things, but an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth evil things". He says firstly "that the heart controls the man. If his heart is good his life also will be good, but if his heart be evil his life will be evil. That adversity causes rebellion in one where in another submission". "That knowledge does not controll a mans conduct". However much a person may resolve & reason on the side of right, if his heart is not changed, his resolutions will have no effect & his conduct will remain the same." So from this he brought forth for example Judas Iscariot. "Next," says "if we consider this subject we can see why so many who profess christianity do not live better lives & set better examples to the world. That it is becaus they are deceived, Believing they have been regenerated when only their fears have been arroused & their passions touched. But their heart has not been changed.

If every young man would peruse his bible in his closset &c he would discover the beauty of the subject upon which he was treading. "Every unregenerated man should or ought to think & consider his way. But it will do no good no good to take resolutions unless first his heart be changed. Then he goes on to show by what means this change will be brought about" says "If the evil propensities were in some subordinate part the good might over rule, but as the heart is evil the thoughts & actions all must consequently be evil.

I purchased me a little tablet yesterday (a small book containing six leaves on which I can write with a led pencil. & then erase the marks if I wish) thinking, as I do not generally have interesting matter enough to fill out my letters home that I might copy anything interesting that I saw or heard in my walks, or as I have done take down the generall tenor & idea of the sermon & then copy it in my letter. It will not only aid in filling out my letter but it will be good exercise for the mind, giving the power to describe & compose besides gaining a use of words, which is a necessary aquirement to prepare one for an accomplished writer. & the esteem in college & out beside the prosperity of the life of a man who follows as a proffession hangs greatly upon his being a good writer. To be sure there are many accomplishments & acquirements necessary to be combined with this to make a man prosperous but a great writer must have a great mind & with a knowledge of human nature, it seems to me, that such a man cannot fail of obtaining esteem, honor or applaus ammong men if that he desires.

I hope you are better of your nervousness & well and wish you all might be well & suppose you are or I should have a letter. I have been wavering between the opinion of coming home at Thanksgiving & staying for a few days past & hardly know what to think. For I am most out of wood and do not know how to get any more. But I think I shall stay & as the saying is "try to stick it out". It is but a fortnight longer. We commence our review of Latin tomorrow & Greek Wednesday next. Algebra I know not when.

I had a letter from Harvey a few days ago from North Leeds. It was the most sober, advising letter I ever rec'd from him. I guess he has got a hard school. He says he is about to open a singing school at the Chappel.

My health has been good all this term, but I have not taken exercise enough of late. I am waiting for the time to come when our term examination will be over & I shall go home. They say that this has been the worst term or to use their own language "the rawdiest" that has been known for a great many years. Since the fire the students or many of them are out of wood. Therefore they will get it from the recitation room & chapel to the chagrin & displeasure of the faculty.

I was glad to hear in your last that all were well at Hallowell and I hope they are now the same. Give my love to all the family, respectively, best respects to all my acquaintances.

From Your affectionate Son.

O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Brunswick ME Dec 1

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds Maine

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76 1/1/1847 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

*To:* Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0070

Hallowell

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell <Roads> Jan 1st 47

Dear Friend,

I have not seen or heard from you, for some time. It seems as though it was a year since I had even a paper. I should like to see you once more, just to see how you look. I don't know whether you are at Brunswick or Leeds. However I shall send this to Leeds, and if you don't get it your folks will and they can send it to you, wherever you be. And as soon as you get this write me or I shall not like it.

I go to school at home this winter. Have you been to Monmouth, lately. If so how are all of the folks. I have not been there since the 4th of July, but would like to go out and see the Widow once more. How is Sarah Wilcox now? Charles Y I guess has quit her. He don't go out there very often. I see him considerably often and plague him a little now and then, but he don't seem to care much about it.

What are you doing of this winter? Why don't you come, and see a fellow, once in six years at least? You have entered College, who would thought! I hope you will prosper with all the success in the world. A person that has got a good College education can do any thing he pleases. He can be a good Lawyer's clerk, or a Senator to Congress, one just as well as the other. Learning is far preferable to wealth, if we could not have but one. I never expect to have any thing but a common school education. Every one ought to be content with their lot. Those that can't do as they would, must do as they can, but I for one do not want to go to College, nor never did.

Howard I am enjoying myself finely this winter. I go to Dancing School twice a week. (did ever you go if so you know what it is). Ride round with the girls when I am a mind to (and they are willing.) So you see I am roused. As my pen is poor, and I don't know what else to say I will stop.

From your affec Friend  
C. H. Mulliken

[Envelope]

[Postmark] AUGUSTA Me. Jan 11

[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard

South Leeds, Maine

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77 1/11/1847 *From:* Unknown

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0071

N. Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This is rambling and difficult to read. I don't know who wrote it.]

N. Yarmouth Jan 11, 1847 [maybe June]

Dear Otis,

I received your letter & accept your apology. I have left the roof of my beloved instructor & have taken lodgings in the ancient commons where I have a joly old time & no mistake. The community in genral have taken to smashing bottles, blowing <frah> horns, drinking brandy, playing nine pins & cards, boiling eggs &c, which our venerable govenor fancys but little & was let resitation powers in jabering about it. He thretens to make the school too hot for me. A very beautiful little parade took place night or two ago. The old man was poking round as normal & had just gone down stares when whack came a bottle at is head. He tumbled upstairs smashed into every room on that story. Went into B A Straws room poked the bottle in the face of that individual. Did you throw that bottle. No sir. What do you dare to say you hadent throw that bottle. Will got up lighted his pipe & took his seat again & said what busines have you to come into my room & ask me such questions held more of your parse or I'll prostrate you on the floor. At that he <arsonked> with his eyes sticking half an inch out of his head. Comeing down he tumbled into a lot of roten eggs. Next morning he mixed Straw before the whole school. <Then> <he asked> him when he came from school asked him what he ment about <> <> [large section unknown]

Mr Weld began to come to reason & made an apology next morning. This the third time I have taken up this letter to write. Matters grow worse & worse. Nearly all the students have heard that the devil knows what will be to pay next. The old man layed the mischif to me though he was not honest enough to say so directly. He said at the beginning of the term that he should leave in about six weeks, and give us a few days recitation but now he warns me behave so that he shall stay the whole term. If he gives us a vacation I mean to come down & see you. Our venerable tutor says he has not had such a rocky class this ten years. I have given you a long acount of the dreadful prosedings here that you may know what a set of reprobates are comeing to demonize this term. But god knows I shall never get there unles I can study better than I have so far. That story of going to Cambridge I had forgotten all about. I shall think myself lucky if I can enter <Apunshis>. I wish I could study as hard as you did for the old man & so mad with me that I'm afraid he wont give me a certificate. However I shall be devlish thankful if I do get in. I look forward to that as a haven of rest. Give my love to Inca Barker & Bea Gardner. By the way I saw your friend Mr Jenings when I was there. I liked his apearunse very much. I hope to hear from you again before the end of the term. I supose you have heard that old Pa <> intends saying us a mort.

Excuse mistakes of wish there are abundanse and beleeve that I am your humble servant.

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78 2/14/1847 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0073

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College, February 14th 1847

Dear Mother,

We arrived here about quarter past six in the evening and lodged that night one with Chamberlain & the other with Wilson whose Chum had not come. We were some time coming but it was not very cold. The next day (yesterday) we opened our room and shoved in the most of our furniture, besides procuring a half cord of wood and getting sawed which we brought in ourselves. We have a very pleasant room (Nr. 4, N.C.) and what I like the best is we have a clean floor, not having been used since it was painted.

The prayers commenced last night in the Chapel. Today we attended Church at the usual place, Rev. Mr [George Eliashib] Adams preached. The same minister we had last term.

It is now Monday noon. We had our first recitation this morning (in Greek). Only about half of the class have arrived yet. I have paid all my expenses & had sufficient money.

It is now Tuesday morning. It has been a very cold night and the air this morning bites very sharply. We have not got a stove, but the treasurer promised to purchase one for us as soon as possible. We have recited this morning for the first time in Latin to Proff Upham. Greek and Latin come a great deal easier to me than I expected after leaving off studying them for so long a time. The time as not yet come for joining the societies, but will arrive in about a fortnight from the commencement of the Term.

Chamberlain who came before I did, moved none of my things but they were all safe as when I left. I found my pocket Book, which I was looking for at home, in my desk & all my bills that I supposed were in it. I have resolved to board at the same place I boarded last term. My Board Bill was 8 shillings & 6 pence per week but they say that it must be higher this term as flour and other provisions have risen so much.

Has Uncle Henry got a girl yet? I have not had time as yet to go to the Factory to see Susan Day which he requested me to do. How do you all do at Leeds? I should have sent my old Sack Coat by Mr Kyle, had he intended to have gone through Leeds. Give my respects to Elizabeth and the rest of Mr Jones's family. I suppose Rowland Bailey is at Wayne yet. When he returns tell him to write to me no matter if he does not write so well at first. I can read it and it is the only way to improve, to practice. Besides he will not be so apt to hurry in writing letters as in copying from his writing book. I find it much more convenient to room, where I am not obliged to climb three pair of stairs a dozen or more times a day.

I shall now leave to get my Greek Lesson. Give my love to my brothers & Rowland Alger. I shall endeavour to get my lessons well & read all my leisure this term that I may be at least a little "better informed" when again I return home. Write as often as you have an opportunity and your letters will be gratefully received and carefully read. Excuse & overlook mistakes.

From your affectionate Son:  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O. O Howard  
Feby 14 1847

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79 2/20/1847 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. E. Gilmore

OOH-0074

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College, Feb 20th 1847

Dear Mother,

Another week is finished, and again have seated myself to the pleasant task of addressing a short epistle home. Since the last time I wrote you, we have secured a air tight stove which makes our room very comfortable. It is Saturday & I have just finished my latin exercises, which I consider the most difficult task we are obliged to tax our minds with & when performed I consider myself quite relieved. I get along admirably well with my studies. But the Latin that we read now is much more obscure than what we read Last term.

The class are all here now but three or four. Tell father I have had an election to both societies but have not yet joined. I told him that they would take any fool ("sentential cause") for the sake of his vote. Jennings has not come yet and will not be here for three weeks, when his school finishes. I went to see Susan Day the other day for Uncle Henry to see if she would go to Hallowell. She said that she could not at present & the future was uncertain and I wrote him her answer. She looked as though she was about wried out working by night in the factory.

Has Roland Alger as he talked very strong of leaving home "departed" yet? To go on The Railroad or elsewhere. And how is Charles' health now? I'm fine. How do you all do. I think we shall have a steadier term, than last term, this spring for the students appear more studious & sober! We soon shall commence another lesson, called "Russel's & Merdock's Elocution. Then I shall not have so much time to spare in writing as I now have, although it does not take me usually more than half an hour to write my three pages if you will accept of it thus written. I suppose you have beautiful sleighing now at Leeds.

Oh! I almost forgot. Did grandma come to Leeds with father when he was down. If so give my love to her. William Otis talked of going to Yarmouth. If you hear whether he did <he did> or not, pleas inform me in your letter for I suppose he would never think to send me any thing to let me know. If he would I would write him an introductory letter to Mr Weld.

We have about 13 or 14 in our Club, and one or two belonging to it have not yet come. My health never was better than it has been since I have been here this term. But how long it will continue so if I do not exercise more. I can not. I should presume not very long for I have not even been "down street" more than once in two or three days. Besides I do not have the abundant exercise of running up and down stairs. Stinchfield has called to see me often. I like my Chum better and better the more we are together. He has the most generous & kind disposition of any person I ever have been acquainted with. Besides being an excellent scholar, his health is now very good. He has but little if any cough and appears as well as my own.

Give my love to all, my brothers, father, Roland & the rest of the "house family".

From Your affectionate & obedient Son  
O O Howard

[Envelope]

[From] Brunswick, Feb 20, 1847

[To] Mrs. E. Gilmore

South Leeds

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80 2/21/1847 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0072

South Leeds, Me

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds, February the 21, 1847

Dear Son,

Received your kind letter last evening which gave me pleasure as you are getting along without any particular trouble and say nothing about poor health. I hope you will take care of your health. Any excesses are detrimental to health. I hope you will have your lessons in such a style as to satisfy your self as I think you could not be contented without a thorough understanding of what you were about as it has been your own ambition which has carried you so far (with the acquiescence of your friends). I can not think you will fall back now. I could be very anxious about you. My mind is awake to all the <sares> which beset youth but I think there is a right way and I desire it to be for my son, I hope for it, self denial, and self respect are requisites, to even our comfort and they often leave a <a> very pleasant recollection in the hearts of those who practice them. Who shall say this boy of mine shall not among good men shine.

I have made a visit to Mr P. Saw Mr Perley's father. I expected to have met with his mother but was disappointed she did not come as was expected by Mrs Re. Esq Perley had seen Mr Keyle. Said he got home safely. Give my love to Perley. I have a very high opinion of his love of justice and truth. I hope he will be sincerely a friend to you. The rebuke of a friend is proffitable sometimes.

Your father has gone to church alone. I have such a tremendous cold I could not venture to meet the chilling air. Cynthia went home last Tuesday. Her brother came after her. I think tis uncertain when she comes back. I am doing my work alone. We are only five in our family. I hear from R.B.H. often. He is contented and happy I believe. The little boys are making a noise constantly which is a great anoyance to me while writing. Rowland Alger is reading a Newspaper a few feet from me. Nothing worthy of remark has transpired (since you left home) in the neighborhood.

Give my respects to Gancelo Stinchfield [Anson Gancello Stinchfield, a second cousin to Eliza Otis Gilmore]. I think he is a pleasant acquaintance. Elizabeth did not succeed in her girl for [Uncle] Henry and I fear you will not. Mother did not come up with your father. Aunt Martha wanted her to stay with her because she is alone.

I hope you and Perley will not go to bed with cold feet. I think that very unhealthy. Do try to secure to yourselves warm and comfortable nights rest always, as that is so refreshing. Don't forget (your propper exercise) in your anxiety to read. I hope your judgement will be well directed in your choice of reading. Perhaps you think your mother penurious because she so often cautions in your expenses but not so much. I have lived longer in the world than you have, my son and seen that a small independence is a comfortable thing, and I desire it for my son. I have not a hoarding mind as some have, but I desire not to be dependant on others.

Tuesday Morn.

This is a truly pleasant day after the threatening of a gloomy storm. Cynthia has returned and I find it quite convenient to have her to wash my dishes this morning so that I can sit down and write my letter for the mail. While I was washing yesterday morning the boys continued to soil my paper and I would throw it aside but as my cold gives me a headache I don't feel so much like writing as common, and you must make the best of it. I hope you will enjoy yourself through the term make a pleasure of your daily labor. I know tis toil, toil, but still to the young mind there is pleasure in pursuing that course of study which will lead them to respectability and give them high hopes of the future. I like to see young men take a high stand in society not by looking down upon others with ostentatious pride but by a suitable dignity. Avoid mean actions of every description, and even the appearance frivolity. I know you are only sixteen years old, but still you are so situated you must act for yourself and bear everything for yourself in a great measure.

Charles Turner was at his fathers last week and called here. Bought two cheeses of your father, and wanted farmers produce of all kinds at a good price. Business seems to be quick everywhere. Rowland A.G. is dressing for a ride he has got as far advanced in that way as pants and boots put on. I ask him if I should tell

you where he would spend the day, but he don't know where he shall spend it himself, but he will take my letter to the Post office, when he sallies forth.

Write often, and when you have the time. Fill up your sheets. If you don't send so soon after tis written.

Yours &c  
Eliza Gilmore to O O Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
Feb 23  
[To] Master Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick, Me

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81 2/27/1847 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0069

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College February 27th 1847

Dear Mother

I received your letter Thursday morning. It gave me much pleasure to hear from home (although I have been absent but a short time). & to hear that you were all well. Yes! I am always gratified when in the morning I can return with your sealed but well known letter & much more pleased to sit and peruse it awhile before commencing my morning task to cherish & fix in my memory the advice & council of a mother which should be properly regarded by every youth without which we are more often led away from the path of uprightness through a careless indifference & want of reflection than from will or a desire of evil & what is wrong. Yes! A mother's affection through which comes her kind soliciations & entreaties has preserved from temptation & likewise from evil many a young man. When another with as good prospects in view when he commenced life's voyage has from want of that safeguard & security against evil has been finally plunged into the deepest disgrace & degradation. Think not dear Mother that I prize of little value your kindness & admonitions for I know you intend all for my sole good without any selfish motives except that which prompts every mother to desire her son to do well & by which honor rather than disgrace her his parent.

I wrote a letter to cousin Lydia night before last. I bought me a piece of a carpet to put down before the stove, 3 yds at 5 cts per yd. I have not been initiated into the Society yet, but expect to be next Friday when the whole class will join one or the other of the Societies. The freshman class met to day & formed a debating club & I received the most honorable office of Treasurer. The object of this Society is to learn to speak freely & with out embarrassment & to improve in our manner of delivery, of which I hope to gain much advantage if we ever have a civil & manly Soc, without the annoyance caused by a few rogues & the disention caused by faction & party spirit. But all these things add extra to my labors.

We have recited four times in elocution this week. & I expect we shall continue the same all the term. It would be laughable for you I think to hear us. First we commence by inhaling all the breath we can & letting it out moderately, & then inhale again letting of more forcibly. Then we give the sounds of the letters after him (Mr Boody) in different tones of voice, after which exercise we read after him. First the solemn & serious, the middling, then the lively and the gay, which causes music enough I can tell you.

I have taken from the Athenaeon Library to day the American Review, such book as I think father would admire to read, about as large as his Revised Statutes of which kind there are nearly a hundred volumes in the Library. I intend to join the Athenaeon Soc and hope I may be much benefitted there by, which Society the majority of our class will join (Perley included) who I feared before I returned, would not, Jennings persuading him to join the other, and the most tallented also of the class have prefered the same Society.

I hope you, my brothers & all at home are in the same state of health as when you wrote. I have subscribed & shall take the Dollar newspaper at one dollar per annum for a year. It is a good paper, containing the news, well writen & well selected tales. Edited & printed in Philadelphia. You may censure my conduct for doing thus without consulting you, but I thought it would be a good thing to take a paper & quite a relief from study & other laborious duties, to spend a few hours weekly in reading such although some of it might be light reading.

How fast time flies. Can it be possible that it is almost three weeks since I left Leeds. "Time on it flying <previous> waiteth for no man". Soon another term will have past, when again. I shall return and be welcomed home with a hearty welcome! It seemeth but a very short time since I first talked of going to Uncle's at Hallowell to live and much shorter since the time I talked of studying Latin first when my Aunt discouraged it. I am not sorry yet that I commenced, but I know not how long it will be before I may regret it. I hope not at all. But should I having perfected my studies & finished my course, <> to be of medium tallent & ability, not above, the <>an herd in a proffesion, rising not in the esteem of others, without resources (having spent all in a useless course of lessons) I might regret it and wish I had become a farmer as was my grandfather desired but my ambition is of a higher & more extensive. Education is my first aim. The rest let it come. I seek not pure money but a cultivated and enlightened mind, becoming & corresponding with the age in which we live. I do not wish to speak derogatory of honest labor & try to avoid "by going to College", as the saying is but I think the

mind should be cultivated previous to everything else. If I desire to be noted or distinguished it would not be to trample upon those below me in rank, property, intellect or power but to show a true noble disposition, instruct & enlighten rather than scorn ignorance, & treat all as though I were not above them. In fact I should not be above them, for I should be made after the same image as all the rest & if I had a better education, it would be the advantage taken of circumstances for the result of chance, rather than a natural superiority.

But let me not indulge in such fancies & imaginings, for in all probability I shall never realize this fanciful dreams of future eminence. But there is a consolation, if education can procure me no advantage in society & the world, if my health is good there are other alternatives enough. & if my health is not good, even that can not benefit me much. But seldom do men of true & virtuous principles fail to succeed well in the end, if they have a hard & hazardous beginning, realizing every perplexity & trouble.

How does Rowland Bailey do? is he at home now. I wish he could attend school this spring, but I suppose it is not best before another year. & how are Charles & Rodelphus? Does the latter read to you often since his school finished? Give my love to them all, Rowland A & father. Perley sends his respects to you and Roland.

It is now Saturday evening and I am about to finish my epistle. It is the longest I have written to you. & have been about an hour & a half or little more. My health is yet quite good. I have now full enough to do to get all my lessons & prepare them well. I have been a visiting scarcely any to other rooms. I made a remark to day that when I had a good chum I did not wish to be visiting others. That is the advantage of having a steady person to room with, who is not always running from one room to another as if he considered every other place preferable to his own room. Two persons who like each others society prefer their own room to write, study & converse together. I hope Perley's health will permit him to remain here, for I want him for a Chum all through my College course.

I wish you to write as often as you can. & encourage Rowland Bailey also to write. If father laughs at him & his writing, he need not let him see it. Give my respects to all my friends & relations. I shall send home my papers after I read them. Pleas let Rowland preserve & file them.

From Your affectionate & obedient Son  
Oliver O. Howard

To Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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82 3/1/1847

*From:* J. Harrison Otis

*To:* Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0075

Leeds, Me

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 1st 47

Dear Cousin Otis

Receiving a paper or rather a novel from you last night knowing that I had nothing of the kind to send you in return which would be new or interesting I concluded to scribble a few lines and send instead and hope you will accept it as a poor apology for a letter and if you can find time to answer it. I should be glad to peruse something of the kind from you when you can make it convenient to write me.

I have closed my very interesting and highly honoured school and have the pleasure of liberty "sweet and glorious liberty" (as the abolitionist tell about) once more and am glad to say that today is my own and that fine woods has no claim on me. You must be aware the fine woods is an aristocratic place, and to be obliged to have so highly dignified a station as teacher in school district No 3, is so far above my usual sphere that I could hardly accommodate myself to it but it is over with and moreover I came out of the school as I went in, master, and if you calculate to teach school winters I hope you may like it better than I do.

It has been so short a time since you left that I can hardly tell you any news for there has no one died nor got married since you left and I don't know as there is like to be a wedding in Leeds until I make one and the Lord knows when that will be say eight years and four months, that was the time the learned pig set. By the way there has been a remarkable hog at Wayne who told among other things fortunes and really he is the ninth wonder of the world (being that I am the eighth) he told the correct time by my watch something that I never could do since I owned it.

Laura Howard [cousin of Oliver Otis Howard and the daughter of Seth Howard and Laura Brewster] has left for Lowell and Everett [perhaps Everett Bridgham, the son of Dr Thomas Bridgham and Aurelia Howard] has gone to Pawtucket to settle his affairs and I expect that money will be aplenty when he returns.

I was very sorry that could not have come over to have seen you the night before you started for B and have attended that party but I felt very little like walking so far that night as I was about sick with a cold, but heard that you had pleasant little party which I think is or was the last we shall have in Leeds this season for there is a series of meetings holden at the Meeting house which will probably continue some time and parties are becoming rather unpopular although they have a ball at Jerre Fosses at Wayne on the 4th of March but I never will go there to a party if I never go to one in my life for fear there may be some dead child in the house again.

Cousin Amanda [perhaps Amanda Additon] is here yet but thinks of leaving this week. The young lady who came from Thomaston with her and stoped at Wayne is a smart pretty young girl as I have fell in with of late and if I don't get smooched (as Sarah Lee used to say). I shall do better than I expect to but eight years and four months is some time to wait. By the way James Sturtevant and his sister on visit here at Leeds now but that chance is past.

Helen says that I must write to you that you must keep your shoes clean and your nose tied up or vice versa and also she and Amanda sends their respects as also Father and Mother.

I saw your Mother at meeting yesterday and presume she is well. Col Gilmore has been out exploring a rail road route three days and returned last night and I wish if you should hear any thing said about the Androscogin rail road by the Brunswick folks that you would say to them that it must go and so clear the track for the old Androscogin.

I must draw my beautiful letter to a close for I fear you will not have patience to read all this if you can find it out even. From Olde Solomon

Excuse me for calling that pamphlet which you sent me a novel for Hellen says it is not but merely a romance and now if you will tell me why this letter is like a down east Steamboat, I will not write any more.

From your affectionate cousin

J. [John] Harrison Otis [a son of Uncle Ensign and Aunt Martha Otis]

Please excuse this scribbling as I always write just as I talk all of a jerk without any <suac> or anything else but I hope it will draw out from you some of your old fashioned letters without any of your College dignity about it or anything that will make a fellow look sober. I hope this will find you enjoying good health and spirits then life will be pleasant but if one feels dull they cannot enjoy life if it is ever so pleasant. In hast, John

[Envelope]

[From] Leeds Mar 2

[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard

Bowdoin College

Brunswick

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83 3/7/1847      *From:* Rowland B Howard      *To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard  
OOH-0076a                      S. Leeds Me                      Brunswick, Me  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me March 7th 1847

Dear Brother

I came home yesterday. I found the folks all well, but Mother who has a bad cold. I have a cold too, otherwise I am well. I like staying at Wayne very much. Mr Harvey thought of opening a school there but for want of scholars has given it up. Mrs Harvey died about a week ago. Mrs H Gould also is dead. She died last Thursday morning. Dr. Bridgham is very unwell. They don't think he will stand it long. Some think that he is in a consumption. I staid about 4 weeks at Wayne. Mr <Ciden> has been to bangor four times. He made very well. Arza has gone to greene today. While I was at wayne I went to hear a lecture on Arithmetic Mathamaticks by Prof Porter of New York. Arza gave me one of his books said that would require 6 statements & 500 figures can be done by one statement and in 15 to 20 figures thus being an improvement on common mathematick. My writing looks so badly I am ashamed of it and there are so many words spelled wrong. But you must excuse it. Perhaps I may write better by and by. You must send me all the papers that you can and pamphlets and write how you get along. I have said all I can think of and I might as well stop.

From you affectionate Brother [Rowland B Howard]

To O O Howard  
Bowdoin Co

ps. Will you please send me the rest of that story if you have it. RBH.

[Envelope]  
[From] S. Leeds Me  
Mar 23  
[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick, Me

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84 3/7/1847 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0076b

S. Leeds Me

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Rowland]

[This starts on a new page and seems to be missing a page]

a very high opinion of you and thinks you an example for all your cousins. I think you stand in a very responsible situation to take the lead in example for so many wild cousin. He thinks if William and Silas would take as decided a course as you have it would be all he could ask. Rowland spoke of the doctors ill health. He is much better. Thomas is at home now, and enquired very affectionately after you.

From your affectionate mother

E. Gilmore

To O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] S. Leeds Me

Mar 23

[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard

Brunswick, Me

OOH-0077

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bowdoin College March 19th 1847

Dear Mother

I have been expecting letter from you for some days past but have not received any excepting one at the beginning of the term. I hope that ill health is not the cause of your not writing. My health is very good.

I received a letter from John [Harrison] Otis not long since with much pleasure for I began to think that my cousins did care enough about me to write or had deserted me since I have entered college. We have commenced the Menorabilia (Greek) which requires of me more & harder study than we have had before. But I have divided my time so that I have more leisure than I could have thought previous to doing so. I have worked out for the present term so many hours for study & so many for reading, writing & recreation. For I hold to doing everything systematically that I may know when to study & how long. When to read & write. I devote to study & recitations eleven hours per day. One in the morning to latin. Three after Breakfast to Greek, one at noon to Elocution, three after dinner to Algebra & three in the evening to the preparation of the morning's lesson. I will copy a few lines from my Journal to show you also my recitations in regard to reading:

March 9th. "I went this morning into the library and looked it through & through, not knowing what book to take, wishing to read what was beneficial and having resolved not to spend my time uselessly in the perusal of novels & light reading. But I might have remained there a week & still have been undecided, if I had not resolved to read something, which would enlighten me & point out some regular course to pursue. With this determination I took Todd's Students Manual, have read one chapter this evening beside my lesson & intend to peruse it carefully and abide by its precepts & dictations. I have felt for a few days past as if I knew nothing and was in the right way to continue the same, as if I had no general information & was destitute of genius the, substitute. If there were but few books placed before me I should immediately read them. But at once give me access to three libraries with every kind & quantity of reading I am at a loss which to choose. Therefore read nothing, & benefit myself nothing. But I hope the course I am now about to pursue will assist me not only in the selection of Books, but in other things pertaining to the student"

Such at that time were my thoughts & resolutions according to which I intend to act the present term.

It is a cold raw day and very uncomfortable to be out. I look forward with pleasant anticipation to the summer and when it will be delightful to walk morning & evening (although it may be warm) I think Brunswick will be a pleasant place in the summer. There is now scarcely inducement enough to walk for exercise being very rough & icy underfoot.

I have not received a letter from Rowland Bailey this term yet. Tell him he must write me one & send it certainly by next week and I will immediately answer it.

Our debating Club met last Monday evening. I wrote a piece to its paper of about three pages, not so good as I should like to write. But beauty of style & elegance & superiority of thought, are to be acquired by practice & continued exertions. Although a person may have great ability yet he becomes not a writer or an orator worthy of merit in a day or with out labor & untiring diligence. I also endeavored to speak on the question. But made out very poorly. Still I shall not be discouraged and when an opportunity offers I shall try again to see if such like me are susceptible of improvement. I shall be obliged to read a criticism of my own composition at the commencement of the next meeting on the preceeding.

Give my love to Charley. Tell him he must read to mother every day if he wishes to become a reader. I think he would make a good collegian from his ambition and love of praise (for each one of us are rewarded according to our merit). If he will try to learn it will be but a few years before he can be prepared to take his brother's seat in the recitation room, before he also can vie with his fellows in merit due to diligence & perseverance.

To look back, to trace the time as it has sped on swifter than Eagle's wings, from my eighth year till now, seems but a day. We know, yet we realize not the fleet of time which first finds us a child, innocent and faultless in its

ignorance. Then a youth inexperienced & filled with all the bright hopes & expectation & imaginings of a blissful future of pleasing & delightful reality in short of much happiness in store. But how soon disappointment comes, how often the Bright hopes & lofty expectations of youth are blasted, how often the castles then built prove made of nothing but air & how soon they are demolished, when they sally forth on the world experiencing none of their dreams of happiness, but finding opposition, trial & affliction besetting their path, as they struggle along, & cold reality facing them at every step.

Give my love to to the 2 Rowlands, father & Rodelphus. Write soon & as often as you can. I now wish you good night, & close with a long but uninteresting epistle.

From your Affectionate Son  
O O Howard

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86 3/28/1847 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0078 Wayne Me Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wayne March 28th 1847

Dear Brother

Today is very rainy & school does not keep and I have a chance to write. We have a very good school. There is about 25 attend. Mr Cimbal is dead. He died last Sunday at Waterville of the measles. He was brought to Monmouth to be buried. Is your health as good as it was when you were at home. My health good all but had cold which I have had about six weeks and it is considerable trouble to me. Mother was here on Wednesday last. She was very well.

I have not been since I have been here home and do not know much of what has been going on over in Leeds but I believe that they are all smart there. Mother said that there had been 2 deaths there lately Mr Turner Stedson. & Mrs Milet has welcomed Mother. Mother said that she thought of going to Uncle Ensigns to get a miniature copied. Mr Davis a Daguerriotype painter.

Perhaps you would like to know, if so I will tell you I study Chemistry, Philosophy, History, and parse in the night thoughts I find them much easier than I expected. Mr Allens brother was here yesterday. I study Porters Arithmetick. I like it very much sums may be performed by that rule which I would take a number of rules the way & examples that required 4 or 5 statements may be done by one statement. Mr Harvey lectured on temperance last Wednesday evening. He delivered a very good lecture. I think of staying the whole term.

They made out some warrants against Mr Smith the other day but he avoided them by running off and no one knows where he has gone. They think of sending an officer after him to see if they cannot catch him. I wish you would send me a letter and direct it here. I am sorry that you can not send any more papers. But you must write the oftner that's all.

Mother went to Hallowell last week. She said that Grandmother was in good health. William has gone to N Yarmouth & Mother she thought from the appearance of things that he intended to finish up his studies and enter college. I suppose you have been there long enough to be initiated into the black art & have become quite a rowdy. If so I warn you to turn from it or you will get into the hands of the Profs. Have they called you up and given you any salutary lessons as yet I have no doubt but you have deserved them for you were always rather wild and I am afraid that if you get in father's hands again that you won't get off so easy as you did before when you broke into that building and afterwards pretended to be so innocent that they believed you.

Sunday

Today is very pleasant and I have been to meeting this forenoon. Mr Snel spoke. He is an old man aged eighty seven years old. Arza says he is going to Leeds tonight. I said all that I could say and if you want me to write you a longer letter you must write to me and ask me as many questions as you can. For if you don't I shall have nothing to write about. Remember about directing to Wayne.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland B Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] Wayne Me  
Mar 29  
[To] Mr Oliver O. Howard  
Brunswick, Me

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87 4/1/1847

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0081

Bowdoin College

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College April 1st 1847

Dear Mother

With much pleasure I received your last letter. I am glad to hear that Rowland has gone to Wayne to attend school. I have recd a letter from him since he has been there informing me of his good health and pleasure with the news of the death of Mr. Kimbal. I suppose my former preceptor, from his saying that he was from Monmouth but whether it was the same or not, he did not say. Rowland says he likes his school and thinks of staying the whole term. Mr Harvey is a good teacher & I hope Rowland will learn well. But I do not think Wayne is a very good place for young or old.

He also says that Smith has secreted himself to escape the law & avoid justice. I hope the Old Fellow may yet be found & made to pay just retribution and the penalty due to his many crimes both from his selling poison and from his exerting an infidel & immoral influence over those whose minds & intelects he has subjected & made subordinate to himself by cordially & affectionately handing them the glass.

A few days since in answer to his I wrote a long letter to Rowland. Then William has gone to N. Yarmouth. I think it is the best place to which he could go, for he can not get Books to read & will be obliged to be regular in the preparation of each lesson if not study hard. I think Uncle flatters me by placing me as an example to my cousins. Silas <> especially, for he has a good place in a store & is preparing himself for usefulness, as much as I & he can reap the benefits much sooner than I. For while he is earning, advancing both in knowledge & in possessions at the same time, I am spending & will be compelled to do the same for seven years before I can turn the scale. And thousands of misfortunes may happen before that time to prevent my advancement then. Therefore as he pursues the sure & certain, I take the hard & uncertain yet I do not regret. Give me the money or the education, I choose the latter.

April 4th.

I have attended church to day & now after meeting I have seated my self to finish my epistle to send it by Mr. J. Stinchfield who talks of going to Leeds tomorrow morning. My health is very good. I had my Daguerreotype miniature taken yesterday, which is the same O.O.H over again. How do you all do at Leeds now? Give my best respects to all. Perley's health is as good as usual. I should like to have you send me \$5.00 cts in your next. I have had more cost this term than I was in hopes they would be when I came.

From Your affectionate Son  
OOH

P.S. Pleas write so as to send in the next mail after you receive this if you can.

[Envelope]  
[From] OO Howard  
Apr 1st 1847  
Bwd College  
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds

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88 4/8/1847

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0079

South Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 8, 1847

My dear boy,

It seems a great while since you have written. I have been disappointed a number of mails. R.B.H. sent me his letter, perhaps you have written him again. I hope you are in good health, and enjoying your way of life to your satisfaction. How is Mr. Perley this spring. Does his health remain good. We have a long winter. Your father has rode a few miles in a sleigh this morning. The country is covered with snow. Last Saturday your father crossed the pond (with safety) to Wayne. Saw R.B.H. I was in great hopes I should see him before the pond became unsafe but I hope he will not try it now.

I have visited quite a number of my acquaintances of late. Found them in good health. A society bearing the name of "the sons of temperance" is already formed in Leeds which is all the talk now. They meet almost every day or evening, perhaps making arrangements for their future benefit. Orain Bates is still in the neighbourhood diddling away his time waiting for settled roads to team for the traders. I long for the time to come when he will have employment.

I saw Mrs Rackly the other day. She enquired about Mr Pearly but you have not mentioned him in your two last letters. His Mother and sister have had the Measles this spring I understand. Give my love to him. He has my good wishes with him. I am much obliged to you for your kind and faithful lines to Rowland. I hope you will always be a faithful brother, and a faithful examiner of your own heart. When I view in my mind the fleetness of time, and at the longest how soon it will [be] when we shall be called upon to give up our accounts to the great supreme judge of all earthly beings. I wonder I am not more conversant with the will of my heavenly master but I think I feel to trust all that most interests me to my heavenly Father.

Charles is very happy. He has just come to give an account of his hens. Your father is drawing cider for vinegar, and Cynthia is getting dinner on the table. Rodelphus has strolled away with Betsey's children. Roland has been playing ball with the boys in neighborhood and is just now returned.

You see by the papers how our United States troops are doing their work in Mexico.

Sabbath day.

I laid down my pen for a moment on fast day intending to close my letter that after noon. But as I was waiting in the room where we usually stay and some persons came in. I let the time slip, thinking I could easily do it before mail day. But you see by this, how it went in that respect we had company all the time and I gave it up for the next mail. I was disappointed last night again as the mail brought me no letter from you.

Mr Hanke the railroad engineer stopt here Friday and Friday night. I found him a very fine man. His conversation well paid his way. Your father carried him to Readfield yesterday. On his return he saw R.B.H. He came on to the pond, had a great mind to come over but his father could not tell him how he could get back so left him there. He said half crying. I'm afraid he is homesick. I want to see him and encourage him. I wish he had come. I could have managed to send him back.

I am almost homesick myself. You at B. and your Brother at W. and I cannot see you, but for your good no doubt, and I have long tried to school my mind to meet these separations. I have tried to rise above my own weaknesses and hoped thereby to be able to encourage my sons in sacrificing their weak desires to a life of usefulness. I see by R.B.'s letter you had joined the Theological Soc. You did not give any reason for it. How do you get along for expense money this spring. I obtained the first volume of the life Petrark as I had read the second. It was a gratification to me to read it. I do not hear from Susan Day this spring. She said last fall she would live with me next summer but I do not put much dependance on her. I would keep Cynthia if she was not such a careless slutish girl almost. I expect your room is kept in first rate order.

This <[blot]> Mr Clarke told me he had a son graduated at Bowdoin College is now a lawyer at the new city of

Lawrence. Had five sons all in business for themselves and himself now a strong well man at the age of sixty in one of the most <undigous> undertakings but he said he had seen so much of the works of men. He should not be astonished at anything.

Write me how you get along every respect. Take good care of your health. You can form no adequate idea of a state of poor health lingering out one day after another only by experience, a hard lesson. I always desire your happiness. Life is a toil, make that toil pleasant if possible.

Your Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
April 13  
[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick Me

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89 4/24/1847 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0080

South Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 24, 1847 [Date taken from envelope.]

My dear boy,

How are you this morn, better I hope than when you wrote. It grieved me, that you should have a cough and at this season of the year. You must take care of it immediately. Thoroughwort has always suited your constitution or at least has removed you bodily suffering. Try that first. You can find it at the apothecarys. Buy the herb, and steep it strong and have a cup of molasses and mix it when you take it, about equal quantities, not more than one table spoonful of each, at one time. If you take too much it may vomit you. Be sure and do this till your cough is gone. I shall be particularly anxious about you, till I know how you are.

I did not get the package sent by J.S..... till last sabbath eve at nine o'clock. I should have answered your letter by yesterdays mail but June Bates came in to help me about some work and prevented me from so doing. I don't know as I can get it in to the mail before Saturday.

About your coming home you had better have one of the boys come directly after you and fetch you home, as it would be about as much of an outfit to meet you at Hallowell as at Brunswick. Besides there would be so many little bills to pay in getting there. I want you to bring home all the clothing you have, that is out of repair. If you can get you a coat as cheap and as well made in Brunswick as Wayne I see no reason why you should not have it there if you need one. I want you to take the matter fairly into consideration and judge well of the cloth. If your fine coat cannot go till September you may as well set yourself about getting it now. Think well of it for your own sake. I wish you to appear respectable. You will want something cool to study in through summer term. I wish you would conclude what it must be. What of your old clothes I turn to account for the other children you must have the benefit of.

I feel more energetic and more like myself this spring than when you were at home. My health is good.

Col. Lothrop's have had a letter from Warren since the taking of <Kenelrute> which was very reviving to his mother. The sixty-five who were killed have left many aching hearts for them no doubt. I have no taste for war nor for the honors of war.

Today is raining and will probably change the face of the country. The rivers are frozen and the snow is laying on the ground. Not much prospect of commencing farming at present. R.B.H. has returned from school. The school finished last Saturday. The school was so small it was not proffitable. I did not expect him to stay only a short time longer. His father would want him about his farming. I hope I shall see people on the farms at work before long.

I am sorry to hear of the fickleness of the students. Sometimes I think it is a general feeling of the day, but we are highly favored as a nation in comparison with others. There is no one of common industrious habits but can obtain a respectable lively hood.

I shall inclose a five dollar bill to you in this, but if you should conclude to buy your coat at brunswick you must pay cash down. You must know how much it will be and have the money in hand to pay. You have the same right to take the advantage of your money as other people, and I want you should think so.

I have just been looking over your bills for your last year suit of clothes, and find your whole suit cost sixteen dollars and sixteen cents. The coat did not exceed ten dollars. I want you should think well of it before you purchase and write me before you have it and have the money sent to buy with. Don't buy an every day coat because you will be obliged to have a fine coat before long and I think your fine coat will have some wear in it for every day. The cloth that was left of your pants, that you had when you had your coat has been found. While R.B.H was with Arza in the store the last of the winter, he found it under the counter. Arza had taken it to send to me, and it got mislaid. <There is> enough to repair your pants handsomely. Be <sure> and bring them home. Don't hire any mending done. Just <> you come home. I can do it for you <whatever> will <you> want done about shirts and bosoms. I would not get for your coat very fine cloth this year. How much finer should

you like to have than your other. Use your best judgment my son in all things.

Do be careful of your health and write to me exactly how you are and be sure not neglect your cough. Give my love to the Leeds boys, and Mr Perley. Write soon as you receive and write your thoughts just as they flow from the heart. That is the way mother wants to hear from you. We are all in good health.

Your ever affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

I think you had better enquire about a coat but not buy till you come home.

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
April 24  
[To] Mr Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick Me

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90 4/28/1847 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0082

Bowdoin College

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College April 28 1847

Dear Mother

I now hasten to reply to your gratefully received letter of the 24th being able to say that my cold is convalescent having anticipated your prescription in procuring medicine, not Thoroughwort however, but something full as bitter & disagreeable, the herb hoarhound which I steep & take before retiring at night.

I am rejoiced to hear that you are all well and prospering I shall soon be with you, three weeks from today (Wednesday) finished the present long, but seemingly short term. I wrote to William Otis that I would go up to Hallowell in the Boat with him & he expects me to wait for him, but I will let him know that you intend sending for me & be ready to go with whomever may come Wednesday after noon (three weeks from to day).

As to my clothes I have resolved not to purchase until I have seen you. Jennings thinks I can get them made here much better than at Wayne. But even if I do get them here I can at the beginning of next term.

I am sorry Rowland's school was so short yet I suppose to have him return home. There is quite a reformation in Brunswick now. Some of the wildest fellows have been converted. It is now very cold weather and the wind blows very hard, seeming more like fall than spring. I should think that farmers would soon begin to grow discouraged. But I suppose we shall soon have it plenty warm to make up for this. Perley's health is quite good, excepting a cold, which hardly any one is exempt from here. Our studdies are not now very hard, yet they require constant application. We have just so much to do each day, to look ahead it is discouraging, but to view a lesson past it appears simple.

William when he wrote me appeared in good spirits and said he liked North Yarmouth very much. Jennings went up there the other day & I sent a letter to him. If you will send a carpet bag, I shall not be obliged to carry a trunk making it less cumbersome to ride three in a wagon.

I have not yet been matriculated (which is to receive a written billet of admission) but expect to be to day having handed in my bond to the Treasurer yesterday & received a certificate for it. I received the money you sent in full. Every student has a kind of a gown to study in made of calico or some light material. But if the cold holds on like this, I think we had better be looking for Great coats, instead of <thin>. We need nearly as much fire as in the winter time and have burned this term a cord & a half of wood.

Give my love to my brothers & the family. I know of nothing very interesting transacting here now. I can think of nothing to write except to wish the wings of time to flap a little faster & speed my <secured> return to my friends and give me a little pleasant recreation & rest from my studdies. My respects to my friends & acquaintances at Leeds.

Your affectionate Son  
O O Howard

Mrs E. Gilmore

[Envelope]  
[From] OO Howard  
Apr 28 1847  
[Postmark] TOPSHAM Me. APR 29  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

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91 6/15/1847 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0083

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick Me JUN 17

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College June 15 1847

Dear Mother

According to your request I now commence a short epistle home to inform you of my good health neither affected by the canker, rash or any other morbid disease. By the way how do Mr Bates' children do? No! I am not only in good health as yet but feel in quite good spirits. I have not made up all yet except my latin & nearly all of algebra. I believe it is colder in Brunswick than in Leeds for today any one is scarcely comfortable without a fire.

We had a rather tedious ride "On the Whole" last Friday, for it was very windy & rather chilly. Besides the travelling was not extraordinarily good, there being many pitches & gullies. We arrived about dusk and I was struck with some surprise to find the College Yard look so pleasant. I could not have believed that the leaving of the trees & bushes & springing up of the grass & plants would have made so much & so pleasant an alteration.

The President requests an excuse of my absence from one of my parents. Ask father if he will write me one in your next letter which I wish before long to save me from a fine of 25 cts per day of which I did not know before.

This is sufficient

"Pres' Woods

Pleas excuse my son's absence of the commencement of this term "being necessarily detained."

Signed"

You know that I could not come before Perley did therefore it was necessary. But tell father "if he thinks that excuse would be equivocating". To write that I was retained through his permission, or rather through his "not-objection".

I hope you are as well as when I left. How did Rowland like his excursion to Jay or Canton? I have returned to my old Club to Board. The price being so high in other places. I find it rather hard to apply myself since my return, but as the saying is "Shall soon get broke in".

Ask father to speak with John Lane respecting that school for me, for if I do not get that I shall speak for one in Freeport which I can have at \$14.00 per month but I should like to come home if possible.

Give my respects to the neighbors & friends & bid good bye for me those whom in my haste I did not. Give my love to my brothers.

It is now Thursday morning. I have now seated myself to finish my letter. Our class had a "adjourn" in Latin this morning little expected but very favorable for me to make up my greek.

It is some warmer this morning than it has been, but does not yet appear much like summer. There is now only about nine weeks of this term. My room is quite pleasant but I intend to have it more so by having it washed to day. I took that large striped Blanket & made a very good screen for my clothes with it.

Have you heard from Elias Lane of late? If so how does he do? I promised to call & see him when I returned to Brunswick but we did not go that way.

That little boy who came with us looked quite bright when he came in sight of home. I rather think he was more homesick than anything else at our house & sorrowed at the prospect of having to walk & find his way home.

I was examined yesterday on the week of algebra which I had to make up & came off very easily indeed having only one lesson to do. Yet I had to make up all the preceeding before I could go on with the class because it requires a knowledge of that to do the sums where the class were being the hardest mathematics we have ever had.

From Your affectionate Son  
O O Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK Me JUN 17

[From] OO Howard June 15 1847

[To]

Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine

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92 6/20/1847 *From:* Rowland B. Howard *To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0084a

South Leeds, Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 20th 1847

Dear Brother

To day is so stormy that we could not atend meting so I have time write you a few lines. The day I went to canton was very storming in the afternoon and very pleasant in the forenoon. When I returned I stoped at Aunt Lucretias [Lucretia Howard Leadbetter] all night and came home in morning. The next Tuesday after you left I went to <Texas> or Mexico it is all the same. I did not find it a very hot country on Tuesday & Wednesday on the contrary it was very cold riding in the rain on Tuesday. I came as far as Mrs Rose's on Wednesday and came home on Thursday Morning. When we went to Mexico we went through the east part of Jay to a Mrs Wests. It being about forty five miles. When we went up we went through the towns of Wayne Livermore Jay Canton & Dixfield to Mexico. When we returned we came down on the other side of the river through Dixfield Dern Canton Hartford livermore Turner to Leeds. It is a very Mountainous Country.

I believe your friends & acquaintances are all well. Mr Bates's family are all geting well. We expect to have the rail road across Mr Coffin Bog through to Wayne Vilige. There is quite an excitement about it. Now you write that your ride to Brunswick was rather unpleasant. What a good thing it was that you did not have our old white horse.

I want you to write as soon as you can get time, and see if there is no fine for it.

Your Brother  
Rowland

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93 6/20/1847 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0084b

South Leeds, Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Rowland]

South Leeds, Me June 20

My dear boy,

Nothing gives me more pleasure than taking my pen to answer your kind letter. I am glad you have no greater annoyances in the present than you spoke of. The path of life is beset with perpetual checks on our desires and there is a pleasure in cultivating our minds to bear them with patience. I feel as though I had scarcely seen you while at home being situated as I was perhaps it is quite as well.

I know from observation that young people often feel it a great bore to have parents and friends say anything that sounds not so smooth. But who that has stemed the current of life for thirty or forty years and seen the errors of life, fell into some, shuned some, &c, do not feel a fear that some weakness of character may wreck those who are many years in the rear of them in experience and the greater love we have for those younger than ourselves the greater yearning we have for them to take the right course in life. Oh! what a responsibility there is in the choice we make in life of our principles and the principles we through out to those whose minds are untaught.

About that school at your uncles district, I have seen Ensign. He called here the other day. He said there was no prospect he thought of that school and Esq Perley said Mr Lane had sent word to him to be sure and take no other school as he should depend on him the day he was here. I should be sorry to have you go to Freeport, if you could get a school here. Your father says he will try Nelson Gilbert for that one. I wish you would ascertain what sort of a place in Freeport that is where you have thought of keeping school. What do you think trying some of the schools in Monmouth?

This is a very rainy Sabbath. I can hear the voices of the Children in the back part of the house at play, laughing and singing. Otherwise everything is still and gloomy. Doc Bridgham I understand is no better. E Lane is not better. I heard he had watchers now.

I now return to writing after reading through your College laws. I see nothing in them unreasonable or that any person that had any care might not obey. I think it showed a great want of attention to them your not knowing the consequence of absent time. Do I beg of you read them with care and don't let another admonition come for want of knowing the plain laws laid down for the benefit of students. Do cultivate more care in every step you take.

My wish you should not go to Boston this summer. About your bosom pin you may mention it in your next letter what you think I can send you the money if tis necessary. You should have it.

Mon. P.M. [June 21]

Warren Mower was here to day and I talked with him a hour. The schools in his vicinity he said he would exert himself to get the school in the next district to him, which is a very good one. I have confidence that he will do it. I hope you will pursue your studies with that steady purpose which will make it a pleasure. We had a young Physition call on us of late who took his degree at Brunswick in May looking for a location. I have not heard what success or encouragement from the people of Leeds. His name Scord of Lemington.

Give my love to our friend Perley. From your loveing Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds, Me June 22

[To] Mr Oliver O Howard

Brunswick Me



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94 6/22/1847 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0085

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College June 22 1847

Dear Mother

I was very much in hopes of receiving an answer to my preceding letter before I again wrote, yet having a few spare moments after preparing my algebra lesson from the present to recitation I thought that they could not be better employed than in communicating a few lines to you composed if possible of ideas if perchance what is extracted from my "brain" can assume the name of ideas. Hoping that you are all as well as when I left I can with truth say the same of myself for I think I never enjoyed better health than I have thus far this term. But to say that such weather as we have had inspired one with anything but glowing thoughts or enlivened the spirits I think would be absurd. For if there is anything which will make a person lonesome & look on the "dark side" of life it is a dark rainy day for logically one object causes the thoughts of others. Similar in like manner a pleasant day awakens pleasant thoughts & reflections.

Of late we have dropped Latin & commenced logic rather an easy & interesting study treating as it does for the most part on the mind, its reasoning powers & faculties, which especially ought to interest any one or every one who wishes to have clear conceptions & notions of objects continually surrounding him or to investigate intricate truths & principles. Yes it is our duty to study so as to understand as fully as possible the mind its powers & abilities, in order to direct it in the <in the> right chanel for moral & intellectual advancement to assist in reasoning & investigating so as to have clear ideas on any subject. That we may judge for ourselves not dependent on the skill or seeming superiority of others. Also to help us to understand our language better. That we may not have superfluous terms or too oft repeated words but making it (language) more concise yet not less comprehensive. Besides logic shows how we may select appropriate language to express ideas, with various other things.

It is now Wednesday afternoon. [June 23]

It has cleared off very beautiful & warm making quite a contrast before now & the morning when we were under the necessity of having a fire to keep us comfortable the relics of which are still extant. The Pencinean Soc' have an election of officers to day causing amongst them much excitement. They did not elect a President last year on account the most of the members belonging to secret societies the interest of one conflicting with that of the other. But I understand they have succeeded better this year. Our election is not till a week from to day. I have been reading of late more modern work on the life of Petrarch than DeSades. The one I read at home. He makes out Petrarch a great man yet his writings are not so flattering as De'Sades. I am almost angry often times when he says any thing derogatory to him having become so prepossessed in his favour by reading the other first. Such is my disposition. I am easily prejudiced for or against a man or object by first impressions so that it is very difficult for me to change or retract. For inst. if a man appears to me like a fool the first time I see him it is hard for me to be convinced that he has common sense. Or if the <man> shows himself my enemy it is long before I can forgive or call & believe him a friend.

I have received a paper from Silas Lee a few days since besides which I have received nothing from any body but am in hopes to get something from home daily. For I want some framework before I write any more letters as you will perceive before perusing half of this. It is most impossible for me to fill out a letter, for there is nothing transacting here that will interest you, and much less passing in my mind worthy of attention or note.

It is Friday morning

I received yours & Rowland's letter yesterday and am very grateful for it, as any thing from home (always being interesting to me) serves to banish an occasional lonesomeness & the often experienced tedium of College life.

As to the Freeport school it consists of about 40 scholars, had a fine fellow of our class teach it last winter. But there is an objection of which I did not know when I wrote you before. I shall be obliged to board round making it rather inconvenient for me to keep my studies along. Carrying my books & clothes from place to place.

Give father my thanks for the excuse, which I have not yet handed in, but shall before next Monday. I know it was against the College laws to stay out with out an excuse, but I thought my own would answer. I was not admonished as you intimated, but Perley asked the President one day if his own excuse would answer and he said it would not if he was under age. And he said there was no hurry about getting it. Anytime this term would do.

Give my love to all. Tell Rowland I will write him as soon as I can get time. As to Monmouth schools I do not know of any good one. But I should like to have the one Seth Howard taught last winter.

From your affectionate Son  
O O Howard

P.S. As to the Pin I Bought one & paid \$4.00 for it what Perly paid for his (Stinchfield asked more) & with other little articles which I was obliged to buy took what I expected to retain as <> change. But you can do can do as you think best about sending me more as I told father when I left. I would not call on him again this term. O O Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
June 22 1847  
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK Me JUN 26  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds Me.

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95 7/6/1847

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B. Howard

OOH-0086

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College July 6 1847

Dear Brother

Since my last epistle home I have had quite a tour. I set out last Friday after noon, with the intention of going to Hallowell to spend the "fourth of July", went to Bath in the stage and when I arrived I heard that the Huntress bearing the president [James K. Polk] would not be there till 1/2 past 9 o'clock. So I took a stroll to see the city of Bath. After walking until I was weary. I went to the reading room from whence I was summoned by the firing of cannons announcing that the President had arrived or was near. I ran to the wharf and worked with all my might to get on board through the dense crowd and when I got there a man pushed me back. But at last just as the boat was starting I succeeded in getting on Board. The President spoke a few words to the men on the wharf. But I was so occupied in forcing the crowd that I did not hear him. After stopping about five minutes at Bath we started for Hallowell. At the little town of Richmond there was a Bonfire on each side of the river and they fired a cannon five or six times as we were passing. Just as we were opposite the village, the President's men brought him out to be exhibited holding a candle near each side of his face. Then again as we came to Gardiner, there were guns, fires and again the President was called from his berth to be looked at as he passed. When we arrived at Hallowell it was about half past one at night. They fired a few guns in Hallowell but otherwise they were very quiet. He went directly from the boat to Augusta where the State House was illuminated and all other publick buildings. I walked up to the village and there I saw a boy who told me that Perry Lee was down on the wharf. So I went up to his house or near it to wait for him in a place where I could see the fire Works at Augusta. In about 15 minutes Pery came and I staid with him the remainder of Friday night.

Saturday morning I arose about 1/2 past eight ate my breakfast & started for Augusta. The president passed the night at Ruel Williams. So they formed the procession at the Bridge and marched to the State House. The Procession was composed of sons of Temperance and Cadets of the same & Odd Fellows with perhaps a hundred horsemen. The President led the <men> with a splendid equipage composed of six fine large white horses as white as milk among which was Rufus K Page's of Hallowell worth between 6 & 8 hundred dollars with a carriage that was brought from Boston. Next followed the Vice Pres. After him his suit or retinue. Then the horsemen & last of all the before mentioned footmen. They proceeded to the State House where he was expected to deliver an address to the people. But he was so wearied out that after addressing the senate & house of representatives he only expressed his thanks to the people for their courtesy & honouring him by their presence for which speech Reddington was obliged to swing his hat three or four times & tell the people to cheer, it was so hard to get an applause.

After this I was so tired having been in a jam so long that I returned to Hallowell being about two o'clock & went to Grandmother's & took dinner where I staid till after tea. Then I went home with Pery & staid all night. Pery is as wild as ever. His mother worrying about him continually which I am affraid ere long will break her down. She look poor & sick, sad & dejected now. I pittied her! But she has got an irremediable trouble in that boy.

Monday morning I went on an excursion to the mouth of the river & returned as far as Bath & started to walk for Brunswick. But on the way I was overtaken by a young man & a boy who carried me very much to my convenience & pleasure for I was so tired I could but just walk.

Grandmother was very well. Jennings said he saw Thomas Bridgham & Hellen. Everet [Bridgham] & his lady [Sally] & Pernelia Jennings at Augusta.

Give my love to Roland, Charles & Delly. Tell Mother I am expecting a letter from her. Give my love to her & father. It is very warm and sultry making it quite uncomfortable to study. Our term ends in seven weeks from tomorrow or next day. After which time we shall assume the Dignity of Sophomores. I saw Charles Pollard in H. He inquired for you & said he would like to have a visit from you.

From your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] OO Howard

July 6 1847

[Postmark] Brunswick Me Jul 9

[To] Mr Rowland B. Howard

South Leeds Maine

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96 7/11/1847 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0087

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College July 11, 1847

Dear Mother

I am very much thankful & grateful for your last kind letter. I wish you would write oftener. It serves to calm & cheer my spirits. I am naturally of a warm temperament & changing mind. I have hours when I feel cheerful & think mine a pleasant lot - considering that I have parents & friends to assist & aid me. Then again I am despondent knowing that I deserve not their approbation, affection & esteem shown me that I do not grasp at every opportunity of improvement & cultivate my mind to fill the station expected of me. As I have said your letters have a good effect to dispell gloom persuading me to yield & follow the advice of one having experienced all the changes & vicissitudes of life. Knowing what are the causes equally of trouble & affliction, peace & pleasure.

When I was at Hallowell my uncle [John Otis] talked considerable with me. He said I ought not incur the least expense or purchase the least thing without first considering its essential necessity. I told him I was naturally rather frank & generous especially in pecuniary matters that if a person was a tried friend & treated me well. It was my intention to return the same. The same principle I carried to money matters. If as I visited his room he had refreshments & invited me to partake, or asked me to smoke with him, when he came to mine I would do the same. Uncle thought it wrong that I should look for self & purchase what must be & no other. I grant mother his argument is plausible & of course will suit your views for you wish me to be as comfortably well situated as possible when I graduate. But to adopt such a course of conduct would be almost a second nature to me, to be prudent & saving is my aim. But to be pennurious or mean is my aversion. You know my disposition, you have always have taught me to be generous to my friends & so may receive their approbation & esteem, and in college we form as firm & true friends as in any other situation in life. We live alike, pursue the same studies & it is natural for us to seek out kindred spirits & disposition like our own to associate with.

I will not extenuate my expenses of the last term. I saw that you & father thought me unreasonable in letting them be so high. I felt hurt that I had justly incurred your censure (whether expressed in words or look it does not matter), therefore I came here with the firm resolution to curtail my expenditures in every way possible & bring home a smaller bill. And really thought I should be successful.

But when I arrived here they told me that the library must soon be established in the New Chapel & that many new volumes were necessary to fill it there & that this term's end would bring with it No Bonfire & freshman celebration, with other unthought of expenses. I began to be almost discouraged wishing I had not tried to accomplish the collegiate course, but had remained at home & pursued the road of the honest & respected farmer. Again I thought that many a young man with less brilliant prospects than myself had paid all these bills, only dependant on self.

My ambition told me that to relinquish all my future hopes & anticipations with out a trial would cause uneasiness & unhappiness and my firmness & adhesiveness to what ever I undertake urged me to prove my course foolish & vain before I deserted it. To be poor when I am thrown upon the world will indeed be hard, but what others have done with out education may I not do with yet a comfortable maintenance!

How need we riches when we have enough to eat, drink & wear. "We need only in our youth provide for old age". To have distinction and honor is indeed pleasant & desirable. If I have talents sufficient, poverty will not hinder the attainment of these objects, but rather incite me to action, urge me on to strive where sufficiency would cause less perseverance & trial.

But no more of this. How is your's & the family's health? Give my love to all. This letter I have written whilst meditating on my prospects. I know not what you will think of it. I suppose you will think me foolish & short sighted not to look rather to future good than present affluence. Pardon all amiss & write soon to correct errors. One reason why I went to H. was in search of a school, but was unsuccessful in obtaining one. Tell me how Warren & father have succeeded in obtaining one for me so that I can decide before long whether to take this at Freeport or not.

From you affectionate Son  
Oliver O Howard

[Envelope]  
[From]OO Howard  
July 11th 1847  
[Postmark]BRUNSWICK Me JUL 11  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds Me

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97 8/1/1847

*From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0088

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Aug 1st 1847

Dear Mother

Although it is but a short time since I left Leeds yet I will write you thus soon according to my promise. I trust you are all in good health & spirits.

I am now nearly settled in my new room. My carpet was not large enough therefore I have resolved not to have it & think I shall not purchase one this term. When we arrived here my old room was occupied & my furniture moved into another adjacent unoccupied room. Bedstead taken apart, and other things in some disorder. We did not get here till dusk & it caused us much labor for two weary bodies at least to bring up our bed & other articles sufficient to make us comfortable for the night. Yet at last we accomplished it & had a good sleep.

I commenced reciting Wednesday afternoon to Prof Goodwin in french with whom I was much more pleased than I had anticipated being rather affable & agreeable than snappish & morose as before I had judged him. Therefore I perceive by observation that it is not well to judge too hastily.

We recite to Prof Packard in Horrace (Latin) immediately after prayers in the morning of which the scanning comes quite hard to me never having learned to scan & being obliged to give a great number of rules. But when anything difficult occurs to be solved or investigated I went as usual to my old maxim, "all things can be accomplished by perseverance" or as the Irishman said "Push."

I suppose it would be of no interest to you to hear how the freshmen have been treated. Suffice it to say that our class in spite of all lectures & admonitions have been no better or more sparing than the preceeding leaving instances & circumstances to be recited verbally.

I have nearly made up my studies for my few days absence but I have come to the conclusion that nothing is better than being here in season. Our class has increased in number very much since last term. It now numbers about thirty five, the largest class at present in college. I do not think half so much about my school since I returned having something else to do except to loaf about, hear stories & ponder upon what is heard. Yet my interest to get & prosper in my school is not diminished.

Give my respects to Roland A. Ask him if he is lonesome without a "fool" to cheer & vex him.

Sunday afternoon.

I have attended Church all day today & now after meeting have commenced finishing my letter.

Give my love to grandmother. Tell her that William rooms in the same end of College with me on the next floor above. I gave him the stockings & presents. He appears to enjoy himself & is in very good health. Rooms with Geo. Pollard. Give my love to my brothers & the rest of your family. Of whom It is composed I do not know, you change so often. Write me as soon as you hear respecting the school. I suppose father has not returned yet. He has writ me how he succeeded & how he liked Dixville upon a closer examination.

Give my respects to Uncle Ensign's family. If you see John tell him I wish him & his lovely bride joy, peace & happiness in their conjugal relations. [John Harrison Otis & Hellen Worthing were married 1847]

With this letter filled with nothing, I close hoping to write a better next time.

From your affectionate Son  
Oliver O Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Leeds

[Envelope]  
[From] OO Howard  
Bwd College  
Aug 1st 1847  
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK Me Oct 3  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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98 8/8/1847

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0090

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College August 8th 1847

Dear Mother

After a seemingly long time of "non correspondence" I have taken up my pen to renew it by a short epistle hoping that you are all the same in health & happiness as when I left. I heard of the death of my uncle the Dr. [Dr Thomas W Bridgham, the wife of Aurelia Howard, died July 23] a few days since by a letter from Mr. Perley. It was not so unexpected as it would have been had I not seen him in so low a state when at Leeds. I pity the bereaved state of his family. My Aunt nearly broken by toil & care & so many helpless or worse than helpless children dependant on their brothers & her with out resources or assistance but by their own hands. Yet many are in a worse situation still. Many have not brothers & a mother to care for them, thrown destitute on the cold & selfish charity of this world & many not even blessed with a free & republican government where the wages of the lowest laborer are sufficient for a livelyhood. Subject to tyranny & oppression they wear away a miserable existence. Their courage blasted, energy gone, & the intellect if it ere would have been clear & bright, reduced to a level with the intelligence of the brute from its situation.

Jennings & I arrived here about one o'clock, took dinner & prepared our afternoon recitations. Had quite a pleasant ride, yet it was rather warm & dusty. Before we arrived I did not have time to look for a school at Lewiston, for Jennings was in much haste to return to Bowdoin having a hard french Lesson to prepare for ½ past four recitation in the afternoon. I rely some upon father to get our own school for me, not being wholly deficient of physical strength, I think I can manage it or as in the surest assertion "I will try".

We have been on a review of the studies of the year a little over a week. The examination will be a fortnight from next Thursday. Therefore I can go home Friday. We did think of stopping till commencement. But a week's expense & so long time of <enui> & unemployment soon convinced us to the contrary. You will (if you please) let Rowland come Thursday. As the horse gets so jaded before she arrives at Leeds (not costing much to keep her one night) & perhaps he will have some curiosity to see our Freshmen Bon Fire, which is anticipated to be splendid if the rain does not continue till then.

Jennings sent some notices of his school about a fortnight ago which Mr Lane wrote. We did not get them here. He sent some more a few days ago. I hope he will have a good & sufficiently large school for I know there is no greater inducement to perseverance or encouragement to action especially for a young man than success in first attempts & undertakings. It seems to awaken his energy & renew his exertions. But to fail discourages & weakens. It matters not as much for a man of experience to fail of obtaining for he can easier detect his mistake or the secret of his failure & better retract & place himself arright.

I attended Church this morn & again the Bell is summoning me to appear before the tribunal of Mr Adams [Rev George E Adams]. Finnish after church

I have declaimed 3 times this term, twice before the Prof & my class & once in my soc. I like to declaim & therefore shall take some pains to appear well on the stage.

Give my love to all. I shall soon be with you. I require some more money. But I shall not write for any, thinking I shall have an opportunity of selling my freshman books. I your ever affectionate & well wishing son close my poorly writen epistle to A Kind Mother.

O O Howard

[Envelope]

[From] OO Howard Aug 8 1847

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME AUG 8

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds Me



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99 8/9/1847

*From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0089

South Leeds Me

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 9th 1847

My Dear boy,

How is your health, and how are you getting along since your very exceptable visit at Leeds. I have looked in vain for a letter every mail and thought every mail the next would carry one from me to you but I am getting old and I do not find myself quite as ready to take up my pen to write even to the dearest objects of my affections as I did when young to nothing but a common acquaintance, but I do not expect you (who are associated in almost every thought of your mother) and one young and engaged in literary pursuits to have any reasonable excuse for not gratifying me with a few lines very often.

If you could but in a small part imagine with what speediness I read every word that falls from your pen it would greatly enhance the pleasure of writing to me but you cannot know. I have lived long enough to know that there are affections of the heart that cannot be returned. There is no feelings nor views that you possess can in any way make you less dear to me however painful they may be to bear. To be sure if you could fall into my views and practice often then it would suit me and I think my plan of life would have few regrets in your heart, but I know by long experience that youth cannot take the experience of those who have gone before them, for their advantage if they would profit thereby this would soon be a wise world.

I do not think you have any criminal faults but I think you have some false notions and I think youth are subject to them. I do not wish you to be penurious nor ungenerous. No! No! Far from it. There are self denying principles that can be practiced to a great extent. I have always known from your childhood what were the faults of your nature but I was in hopes when <ripening> for manhood you would fight manfully against them and come off conquering now what you consider generosity. My son, you watch in your heart very closely and see if it not self gratification. Look over all the past year and examine your motives in every act and say to yourself was it generosity or was it following my own natural inclination. Or a desire to please others or some other similar motive, perhaps want of moral courage, that gained the ascendancy over me. Now I think allowing oneself at every flash of feeling, or at every request, to give way to the suggestion puts it out of their power to be generous, when the generosity is required.

So my son I felt no unkind feelings toward you, nor even censurable ones but I felt disappointed in my expectations. I felt as though I had done something to forward your wishes but I felt no resentment towards you because you had not carried forward my wishes. It was your own good I was looking at. Every year that you live beyond your income makes your income less next year. You see that one inroad makes way for another. You have a certain portion allotted you and there is no way to change it. I feel like one with their hands tied. If you had a father in the world engaged in business to profit and you did go a little beyond our calculation it would not make me feel as I do.

I desire to live in full confidence in you, and it is very pleasing to me that you so freely express your views to me. I hope always to live as we now live. What is pleasanter than confidence between parents and children. I hope I have not said anything in this letter that will discourage you in your pursuit of knowledge, or seeking to enlarge your understanding.

There has been nothing done here about a school. I have thought of seeing Warren Mower and trying to get him to engage one for you but I have not seen him and every thing remains just as when you were here. Our haying has engaged all attention. Your father has been to Watterville attending a meeting of railroad directors the past week. There has been a number of deaths in Leeds since you were here. Elias Lane was one of the number. The Brewsters carried out their neglect to the last. Not one of them went to the grave to see him laid away. Whatever their motive was it lessens them in my opinion. About a school <you> can take one to advantage anywhere. I wish you would as much as I desire you near me. I should think you had better keep school this winter. It is not unpleasant teaching in a pleasant neighbourhood and I expect it is not very pleasant in College in December. You can do what you think best about going to Freeport. Mrs. Bailey says she has taught in Freeport and tis a good place and fine people. She told me which school she taught but I do not recollect not being acquainted there.

Write to me soon as you receive this. Give my love to Perley. I hope you will room with him next year. I am satisfied you cannot do better. How much I desire to be useful to you in every respect. We are all as well as usual at home. Write what day we must send for you.

Yours truly  
E. Gilmore

OO Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
Aug 10  
[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick

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100 10/11/1847 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0092

Leeds

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 11th 1847

My dear son

I have received your kind letter in due time. I am glad that nothing more has befallen you than you mentioned. I thought the tenure of your letter was rather happy than otherwise. I hope you will make your daily labour rather a pleasure than a burden. I think of you a great deal. There you are placed at the best Institution of your native state, directed by some of the best men in the state. The Officers throu'out are good and pious men and men of good judgement. All their management no doubt arises from a desire for your best good. Oh! How much I desire you would take pleasure in obeying their laws. I take no pleasure in hearing of your college tricks. I am sorry you have adopted a rule of doing as you have been done by rather than "as you would like to be done by". I hope when you return to Leeds you will leave all your college tricks there and never mention them in Leeds. To ignorant minds it gives them an idea that you are more depraved than you really are, and to envious minds it gives them an advantage to create a prejudice against you which it is not in your power to eradicate.

Your father arrived on Saturday evening after you left in good health. I told him what we had heard respecting the school. He thinks it will amount to nothing at all and I have heard nothing since. Your grandmother is at your Uncles yet waiting for the wedding [See Note 1] which is to take place Tuesday evening [Oct 12]. Whether I am to be invited or not I don't know. I learned what I have written at meeting yesterday but received no invite.

Your aunt Fanny [Fanny Otis Bartlett, sister of Eliza] is on a visit here, has staid three days with me and is now staying for the wedding. Novella was married yesterday. Mary Wing was Brides Maid and after the wedding took a ride with Orren. They passed R.A. Gilmore on the way home from prayer meeting which almost upset him. He has paid great attention to Mary since you went away. I don't know but the dish is upset now, between him and Mary.

So much for nonsense. The recent Murder at Waterville is very shocking to me and all other persons with whom I speak on the subject. I am satisfied there is an avenging God. Let us pray daily to be kept by his all Powerful arm from sin. I hope you will form good and just sentiments, and have your actions correspond with them.

Give my love to Perley. He has my best wishes in every respect. R.B.H. spent the sabbath at home. He has never ventured to carry in any of his composition for correction. He said he should write on the sabbath but I did not find that he did. I am sorry he has no more perseverance against his own inclination.

I wish Mr Stinchfield would persevere with him. R.B.H. looked rather pale and had a poor appetite. Orren Bates attends Mr. Stinchfield's school. Elizabeth has not come home yet. I believe she went to Turner before you left home. Francis Birchman is with me yet. Our family enjoy good health. Mr Turner has gone to Augusta to stop some days. The box that contains your letters sets here before me. It is precious to me. I brought it down to read some of them to your aunt Fanny who is always interested in you. I have about made up my mind to make her a visit next May and have you for my beau if convenient.

Seven O'clock, evening.

I am entirely alone except Rodelphus in the trundle bed. Rowland A. Gilmore, Francis Richman are gone to Mr James Wing's to a husking and your father and Charles are in the barn husking corn. Last Wednesday I went to see Mrs Bridgham [Aurelia Howard Bridgham, a sister of Eliza's first husband]. Mother went with me and in the afternoon Mrs Bridgham went with us to your uncles [probably Ensign Otis] and Mrs Rackly too. So together with aunt Fanny we had quite a company. It seems Mr Jennings' school is finished. I called at Elder Laughten's and Mrs Daivies in the morning of the same day. I made the best of my visits.

Give my love to William. Tell him I hope he will enjoy college life. I saw Virgil on the <> in north room. Perhaps you do not wish it <> term. How did you succeed in selling your Books. Do try to have as few bills as possible

this term.

Charles went to Wayne this morning to drive the horse home after carrying Orrin and Rowland to their school. I think Orren is convinced you did not meddle with his horse. I have had a talk with him myself and so has R.B.H. It seems almost impossible for the horse to have come into our door yard and turn'd himself so regular without help.

I have written all I can think of little and great. So good night from your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] Greene Me  
Octr 13  
[To] Mr Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick, Me

[Note 1. This is probably the wedding of John Harrison Otis, who was the son of Otis' Uncle Ensign and Aunt Martha Otis. He married Hellen Worthing. Although he was not named in this letter, it was certainly a grandchild of Grandmother Otis and a later letter by Otis (4 Nov) makes a reference to John Harrison. Public records indicate they were married but at a slightly earlier date (27 Sep 1847), so 12 Oct 1847 is probably the correct date.]

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101 10/19/1847 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0091

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick Me

So. Leeds,  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin Oct 1847 [19 from the postmark]

Dear mother

I was happy to receive your kind and mindful epistle on yesterday, and with alike pleasure take my pen to reply to it and continue a correspondence with my only mother and only parent. For by an interchange of sentiments and feelings through the magic influence of a pen and paper, we may mutually share each others pleasure, lighten each others burdens, happify our minds, and make life pleasant and desirable. And last of all, but not least, the mother can guide the steps of an absent son, and instill principles & precepts of which he seemingly careless & regardless can not always be unmindful for they are deeply rooted in the mind and will one day spring up & glow with a brighter luster.

I am glad to hear of so prosperous & thriving a condition at Leeds, "young men courting & geting married" & the middle aged visiting and assisting the young to build their "Barks for life" and to obtain their "first" & perhaps their only mates to aid them in making the rough & turbulent voyage of life, having confidence, love & virtue for a pilot to steer them clear from (the quick sand) slander, from rocks (the passions) on which they are sure to be shipwrecked and the "violent gulf stream" jealousy from which it would be impossible to extricate themselves once drawn in. I am also glad to hear that there are no more seeds of discord sown in the school district. And yet hope I may have a quiet & interesting school.

William Otis is the same he always has been, seldom speaks, very well liked by his classmates, not from his important or eminent stand, but from his doing no injury.

You said you wished me to make my labor a pleasure rather than a burden with which request I can & have ever complied for in the first place I voluntarily took the yoke upon me and if it perchance is attended with some difficulties the end and aim of my course will ever cheer & encourage me to press on. Yet it is not very hard or difficult to any one to pursue a course of study after he has once laid a good and thorough foundation. Being careful in the preparation of every part and doing it regularly & in order. And if he does this he will soon find himself capable of accomplishing what at first would have seemed unattainable. Also it is a pleasure for one to feel himself capable, or know that he has accomplished something which requires an expanded intellect & a cultivated mind. It is invariably the case that the more intricate & perplexing the work to be performed, the more satisfaction & pleasure is afforded to the performer.

I have engaged in no tricks played upon the freshmen, & in fact all of such initiating measures have long since passed & the freshmen are treated as well as any other members of College and even better from perhaps selfish motives. They usually, being induced by those who treat them best, join their society.

Give my love to my brothers, tell them I frequently think of them and am willing to do all I can for their welfare & happiness.

It is now Sabbath afternoon. I have attended church & heard the Harpswell minister, who exchanged with Mr Adams. He is a very interesting speaker, and a young man.

I now enjoy very good health & have ever since I returned. Write me all the news from Leeds and as soon as you can spare the time. Give my respects to Roland, father and all my friends. Tell Rowland Bailey to write me a letter if he can spend the time. With my best wishes for all and an expectation of soon returning (say five or six weeks will soon pass) I close, hoping that nature has gifted you with a good share of patience, sufficient to trace three pages of my scribbling.

From Your affectionate Son,  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] OO Howard Oct 1847

[Postmark] TOPSHAM Me OCT 19  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
So. Leeds,  
Maine

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102 11/4/1847 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0093

Bowdoin College,  
Brunswick Me

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College November 4th 1847

Dear Mother

I have been waiting a long time to receive a letter from you to answer, but finding myself procrastinating in vain, I have at last concluded to write.

I hope you are in health and are hindered from writing by no troubles, other than those always attendant upon labour. I know of nothing new in Brunswick except that there has been a little excitement arising from kicking the football - a rivalry between Colleges & Boarding places testing the skill of one against another comprising exercise & sport in one.

The time is fast drawing to a close when I shall again return to Leeds, whether for pleasure or contention I know not. I hope the minds of the people comprising the school district have not been prejudiced more since I left. Please write me concerning that in order that I may be prepared to meet any difficulties if there should be any.

I think I shall return home the day before thanksgiving so as to have about a week to put in order my clothes, and have a little leisure before commencing my school. Please let Rowland come so as to carry me up Wednesday. Perley will go with me.

Our studies are comparatively easy this term. We have now the addition of a theme or composition containing three or six pages once a fortnight to our last years work, but it can be accomplished like every thing else if done in <in> season, and in its order.

Has Rowland Bailey left Wayne yet? If he has, and is at home please ask him what he wishes to study this winter in order that I may accommodate him with books if I have them. How are Charley & Rodelphus pleased with the idea of my teaching them this winter. Perhaps I may have some trouble from them, thinking that I have no right to govern them.

It is very beautiful weather for so late in the fall, almost as warm as in the summer. An excellent time for farmers to do their ploughing. I suppose John Harrison [Otis] has got settled by this time and Thomas cured & has recovered his former felicity.

William appears as healthy as ever I knew him, seems to enjoy the sport of kicking football very much so he takes considerable exercise. I think he is not a very smart scholar, for he does not study much and his classmates say he does not recite remarkably well. You may send me some kind of an excuse for my weeks or nearly a week's absence at the beginning of the term in your next letter, or by the one who comes after me. Give my respects to all

From your affectionate & obd. Son  
OO Howard

[Envelope]

OO Howard Nov 4th 1847

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK Me. NOV 5

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

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103 11/5/1847 *From:* Thos Wilson

*To:* Friend [O.O.] Howard

OOH-0096

Houlton

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Houlton Nov 5th 1847

Friend Howard

I address you with these few lines at this opportunity, hoping you are now realizing the full fruition of Sophomore dignity and intellectual enjoyment. I have been engaged teaching since vacation, and will probably continue until the spring term. I had a good time at vacation in visiting my friends and in fishing and hunting excursions. I am teaching a very large school now in the village amounting in number to about 80 scholars or more. It is rather hard work, but I manage them with considerable dexterity, and they pay me good wages.

I suppose you will teach this winter therefore, I shall lecture you a little, as you have not taught before I believe. Be careful the first day when you commence, to show the scholars an intention to the familiar, and an unceasing regard for order and arrangement. Prepare before hand a Program of the number of classes you intend to have in your school, and the time marked to be devoted to each class. Attend to but one thing at a time. Have a box on your desk for questions, where the scholars are at liberty to put in any thing they wish to have explained. Devote 5 minutes every morning to the reading of these questions which are contributed, and ask others which may be suggested to your mind. By this means a great deal of interest [can] be excited in your pupils.

Don't punish any if you can help it, but make it the dernier resort; suppress whispering as much as consistently it can be. Keep the boys and girls apart, and attend to both sexes with impartiality. Finally as Socrates was enjoined upon, in respect to the Athenian young men, I enjoin upon you in respect to the girls, refrain from conversing with them entirely. (Consider this last ironical, and you obtain my true meaning.)

Excuse my freedom of thus writing.

Give my best respects to your roommate Mr Perley, and A. Glitner, and others. Write to me on receiving this and inform me if you please how far you have advanced in your studies this term in latin and Greek and when you commenced in each study.

Your friend and Classmate  
Thos Wilson

This is a fair specimen of my hand writing [This was repeated four more times]

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104 11/11/1847 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0094

Bowdoin College

So. Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Nov 11 1847

Dear Mother

I am sorry to give you an opportunity for a reproof as regards my frequency and the length of my letters yet I acknowledge it as just. And will endeavour to mend the past by more constancy in future. When I wrote my last letter I was much in haste, and ended when the bell called me to recitation, and I seldom can retake a letter after once left and finish it. It seems something the same as to leave my composition or theme half written and afterwards finish it, which I never do for I lose the connexion of thought and expression which I before had. So if I then finish it it seems to be dry and uninteresting. Such were my thoughts when I folded and packed my last letter to you. Thinking that such an one would be more acceptable than none and intending to follow it quickly with another. And I do not always feel in a mode required for writing a good or a long letter because I usually take up my pen to write after having accomplished my other duties (this being the time I have leisure), so I either feel tired or cross and you can judge how hard it is for a person out of humour to write a pleasant or entertaining epistle. Yet because my letters vary as my feelings differ, think not my intentions less good, or my pleasure in interesting my mother and my friends less great.

You spoke respecting my returning home thanksgiving day. I have resolved since I wrote not to come so early, but as Perley wishes to return home before his school commences I shall request you to send for me the Wednesday before my school commences that is three weeks from yesterday.

In regard to those cigars. William borrowed some money of me to pay his stage fare not having enough left after paying his expenses at Yarmouth to get home, so he did not wish to let his father know of the bill, his expenses having been higher at Yarmouth than they should have been. And when I let him have it I thought he would immediately get the money of his father and send it to me in a letter, but instead of that I did not see much prospect of getting it at all. So to "make a virtue of necessity" I told him as Silas was oweing him something he might bring me a box of cigars in payment of his account. But he says he paid Silas the money for the Box and when I got here there was but two bunches in the box, so I told him I would allow him 50 cts for what there were. And instead of putting it down on his accounts as he should for his stage fare, he put it against me for a part of a box of cigars. I do not wish you to say any thing about it farther to any other than me. For William has lately settled it & also paid me for the books he bought of me.

Uncle Stilman's [Stillman Howard] forebodings may be fulfilled, yet my courage is not abated, nor am I disheartened. For, though Oscar Appreciates my judgement in comparison with Seth's I may from necessity if not from natural ability, yet accomplish something and have my labors crowned with success. But if it is not to be so the blame will rest only on myself and you my mother will be free from implication for you have striven and counseled only for my welfare & lasting good. If Property fades me while I have health I shall not suffer. But if Uncle Stilman had had his way I should have been penniless 'ere this. Before I was capable of taking care of myself, when all exertions would have been fruitless. Yet I still recollect his sayings & carefully appreciate his good will & good intentions.

I am glad you have so good an opinion of me as relates to my teaching and hope you will not be deceived. Though I am hasty and passionate, yet I have some reason and sincerely desire that I may by self restraint as well as listening to good & wholesome advice & admonition so nurture & cultivate it that if when it becomes mature I shall not be so easily affected by opposition and vexations crossings. But may survey all things with more considerations and coolness. Still think not I do not appreciate your motives in so kindly admonishing me when you who are wiser & older see defects & failings. As good as I usually am for vindicating self, I never have yet convinced my own heart of my perfection, nor do I even hold to an approximation to that, which has never been possessed by mortals since the fall of man.

Give my love to my brothers and may they so notice and criticize my conduct as not to fall in to my errors. And if my uncle's predictions are fulfilled in me, may they never fall upon them. Frequently I think if I had been penniless I should have learned prudence and my prospects would have been brighter. Or I happy in ignorance accept the kindest wishes of an ungrateful, though affectionate son.

OO Howard

[Envelope]

[From] OO Howard Nov 11th 1847

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK Me. NOV 12

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

So. Leeds, Maine

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105 12/23/1847 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0095

Palmyra Me

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Palmyra Dec 23d 1847

Friend Howard

Although I have delayed somewhat to address you, it has not resulted either from disinclination to do so or forgetfulness of you, but rather from motives of self-interest. It is exceedingly pleasant to receive a communication from a friend at any & all times. When I left Brunswick I had made promises to a number of my fellow students that they should hear from me sometime during the winter. A part of those promises I have fulfilled, others yet remain to be performed. I have been trying to divide them along in such a manner that I might be gratified by the reception of their letters for the whole of the term I stop up here. You will of course call that good policy and that is what has brought your letter to about a middle position.

Moreover I suppose you might hear through Friend Perley of my situation. I thot a little delay between his & yours would be quite as pleasing to you & perhaps to him so, otherwise I should have sent them together. This you understand is my excuse & doubtless in your mind it is a very good one. No one delights in the perusal of an Epistle from a friend more than I do. No one perhaps feels a deeper & livelier interest in their progress; no one rejoices more in the prosperity or sympathises more heartily with them in adversity than myself. If I by freak of fortune, or efforts of my own attain to any considerable degree of comfort or enjoyment it is doubly valuable if shared in by them. & if by any misfortune I happen to fail in my endeavors I miss of obtaining the object for which I eagerly strove, my misery is in no part assuaged by beholding those I have <learned> to prize plunged into like circumstances.

So far as my feeble exertions can benefit them, they are at their disposal. Let them call upon me if I can aid them by my council, efforts or effects they shall be released. I do not say this boasting of my philanthropy, but rather to demonstrate to you geometrically the proposition that letters from you as well as from others of my College Acquaintances are full of interest & pleasure. For if my disposition gives exercise to such feelings in respect to them as a matter of course I cannot wish to be in ignorance of their actual conditions. Yes! Let me hear from them as often as possible. I labor under no apprehensions of wearisomeness to be produced by the too frequent arrival of their communications. A single letter affords me a fountain of enjoyments from which I can drink long & refreshing draughts until the reception of another. Particularly as I feel anxious to hear from absent friends when my own circumstances, like those with which I am now blessed are productive of any thing but pleasurable emotions.

But dropping this subject I will proceed to give an account of myself. I arrived in St. Albans on Saturday night after I left you on Friday morn making a stay of one Day & Night in Waterville. The next Monday I came down here & on Tuesday I commenced my school. The reports I heard of it were none the most favorable, & I anticipated a severe time. Have between 50 & 60 scholars. Although the school was represented to me as the worst in about "these diggins" I have succeeded in getting through with almost 6 weeks. I have not had the slightest difficulty. I have 2 weeks more to keep here & then I go to another district <in [missing torn]> the same Town where I shall probably be detained about 6 or 7 weeks. This will carry me about 2 weeks into the Spring Term. I shall be exceedingly glad when the time comes which will deliver me from the troubles & perplexities of a School Teachers life in the Country & restore me to the pleasures & profit of my College studies & acquaintances.

But how do you "come on". How do those large boys train, whose <shouts> preceded you? If they don't mind "give it to them". What do you think of Pedagogueing? Is it as pleasurable as you anticipated? I certainly wish you much prosperity & happiness, but if you have it it will be more than I get here. But don't meddle with the girls! They are dangerous creatures I believe.

Direct your letter to Palmyra and respectfully soliciting a speedy answer. I subscribe myself Yours Truly  
J. N. Jewett.

Tell Perley that all the advice I send him of this time is to keep clear of the girls especially Sarah.

An appology is due you for such paper as this. It is the best and all I have & all I can get at present. J.A.J.

[Envelope]

[From] Palmyra Me Dec 27 [Paid] 5

[To] Mr Oliver O Howard

Leeds

Maine

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106 1/1/1848

*From:* Jas. W. Bunker

*To:* Friend [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0097

Temple Mills  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Jan 1st 1848

Friend Howard

Greeting -

Seeing thy name on a Catalogue of Bow Coll for the year ending 1847, I thought as I had not obtained one for the year 1848, I would write to thee requesting thee to send one with all possible speed in as much as thy humble servant intends to send an only son to be educated at that institution the next fall, and he wishes to know the state of the Institution at the present time and also to know what classics they read so that I can procure them for my son without difficulty. What suggested to my mind the idea of writing to thee in particular is because thy humble servants nearest neighbors are of the name of Howard whether relation to thee I know not.

Thy humble Serv't &C  
Jas. W. Bunker

N.B. Please direct the Catalogue should you send one to Temple Mills. (State of Maine - on the Sandy River). All my endeavors to obtain a Catalogue have been fruitless as yet, though I have tried hard enough. Jas W. Bunker

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107 3/5/1848

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

OOH-0098

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 5, 1848

Dear Mother

I have been waiting some time to ascertain whether I should have the measles or not, before I wrote. But as it will be a fortnight tomorrow since I left home, and as yet I have had no symptoms of them, I have decided that I have escaped the disease this time. And I think it better that I have avoided them, for I should be obliged to study as quick as possible after my recovery and it might injure my eyes. Besides it is not a very comfortable place here to be sick. I suppose some of the family are sick with them 'ere this. If so you must write me how they are getting along, if you have spare time. If not perhaps father will write.

I have made up the hardest part of my studies and been examined on them viz - Greek, Geometry and Rhetoric - and have remaining Latin & French. Our everyday lessons have been long and rather difficult. But I found it much easier than I anticipated to get them and then find time to make up my back lessons.

My health is very good except that I have a large bile under my chin, caused I presume by taking the medicine you gave me driving the impurities within to the outside. It is of a different kind from any I ever have had, being very hard and quite painful, yet not worth mentioning.

Tell Father that it was a long time before I recovered fairly from that peculiar ride, which he and I together accomplished. Frequently I found myself driving and whipping horses, and prying the sled, running for oxen and shoveling snow. "But Alas! I woke and found it all a dream".

Tell Rowland Bailey I have spoken with Burbank, his writing master, who spoke very well of him indeed. He said he admired his dialogue the last day or at the exhibition of Stinchfield's school, and was particularly pleased with the manner he spoke it. Have you ever asked Mr Bailey respecting that M. Bunker of Temple Mills. Since I have returned I have written him a long letter and sent an Atheneum Catalogue.

William Otis is quite unwell. He came into my room yesterday looking so cast down & sick that I was quite frightened. But I fixed him as comfortably as possible into my chair, and brought him some warm drink and crackers. And in a little while he looked much better and this morning he went to his breakfast as usual looking quite smart, yet he says his head aches now. You must not say anything about it for if his father should hear of it, he might be unnecessarily alarmed, thinking his cholice the result of some particular cause of which I think he is suspicious. Pollard, his (William's) chum has not returned yet.

After I went away last fall there was an occurrence here of which I did not hear. Four or five Freshmen and two Sophomores went on a ride to Lisbon, for the purpose of having a "bat" as they term it. They went into a Ball Room, and behaving very uncivilly, were quite unceremoniously kicked down stairs & out doors, which was serving them as they deserved. But that was not the end of it. The fame of the expedition came to the ears of the faculty who compelled them all to send (\$10,00) ten dollars each to settle the damage done. But I believe it was sent back. And the two Sophomores & one Freshman were suspended from college, as these three were considered the leading members.

You will recollect that William did not say any thing respecting this occurrence of which I think even he was a little ashamed. This also you must not speak of out of the family for it would not take long for some to make innumerable additions, and the truth is bad enough. The Faculty wrote to the fathers of all engaged in it.

Have you been fortunate enough to find my pen? I have found a gold pen since very similar to mine and if I do not find an owner I shall have one in place of the lost.

(March 6)

I have seated myself to finish my letter this morning after breakfast. I hope you are now well. You may now tell Betsey with certainty that she need not fear longer of her being so unkind as to give me the measles. I wish

you to write me as quickly as convenient. Give my love to my Brothers. Tell them no longer to think of me as their measles, but their affectionate Brother.

Your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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108 3/5/1848      *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear son  
[O O Howard]

OOH-0099

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 5th 1848

My dear Son,

Now is the sabbath two weeks since we were at the centre at church, where you were exposed to the measles from Sturges Jennings who went home at the end of the forenoon service sick with the measles. If you took them from him probably you will be sick with them before this reaches you. I went to see Mrs Davie, soon after you left home and found her sick with the throat distemper. She was alarmed about you on account of your taking her breath, and felt herself quite unwell at the time. She said she was exposed to some one who had the throat distemper just two weeks before that day. Her throat broke soon after I saw her. I hope you will escape both disorders, but if you don't, do take care of yourself. After persons have had such sicknesses their pores are open, and they take cold easy.

Your father reached home at the beginning of evening the day he left Brunswick very lame and tired. His red horse troubled him very much, both tired and contrary, but he has nearly recovered his limbs. He said you had a jarring time getting to Brunswick but still I hope you did not suffer immediately from the effects of your journey and still hope you will escape the above mentioned troubles.

I was some disappointed last evening in not receiving a few lines from you, hope sickness did not deter you from writing. Let me know how you are getting along, making up your studies and whether you board the same as previous. Your Mother is a close observer of her children. There is scarcely an expression of the eye of one of them escapes her. I don't know but I am touching a tender spot (as the saying is) but allow a tender mother who is interested in every thought of your heart to suggest a few ideas. I have noticed something about you my son while with me this winter which I could wish could have been otherwise. An abstractedness which I never saw in you before and disinclination for study, which you had chosen as your manner of life and seemed to shun the society of your mother as a general thing and her general observations seemed painful to you and insinuated many things which I could not understand though from their manner of being thrown out I suppose them intended for me but could form no definite idea what you intended. The subject is too painful for me to pursue, nor indeed do I keep any confidence in so doing. If you have any thing rapt up in your heart for safe keeping which makes you unhappy, and you even said you never took any comfort in your life. Pray where is the fault. I desire you should enjoy every day, but I will leave the subject and tell you more of what is going on.

Elizabeth and her two little sisters have had the measles and Betsey's children. Mr Jones boys and none of ours have had them yet. We have had a very close time for one week. A snow storm began last Monday night and snowed all day Tuesday and Wednesday. Blew so hard all day that it filled all the roads. Thursday was pleasant and the roads were opened. Another storm on Friday and Saturday blowing again in the afternoon. The men were out again and opened the roads and this morning when I waked behold a snow storm, but it seemed rather mild so Rowland B.H. has gone to carry Minerva home. She has never been exposed to the measles and Elizabeth had such a hard time I did not wish M. to have them.

I hope you are not very unhappy. I hope your daily studies will not impair your health.

Betsey Collier is in the neighbourhood, caught here in the storm. I have seen her some. She told me of William's expensive scrape he got into. I suppose you knew it. She said your Uncle told her. I suppose it is heavy on his mind and he mentioned it to her. Perhaps no one else knows of it. I feel a confidence my son will not be misled in such a way. No wonder a temperance pledge is held out as necessary.

I don't know when Betsey will get back to her station again. Rodelphus reads every day. His winters improvement shows itself much.

Caroline Lothrop was married Wednesday evening after you left home. Something like sixty or seventy persons were present. Mr Laughton solemnized the marriage.

Give my love to Mr Perley. I regret not seeing him when here. I hope you and him will be happy in each other. If you are sick let him write to me.

Yours truly  
Eliza Gilmore

Charles wish to send love to you.

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109 3/12/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0100

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Written later] OO Howard, Mar 14, 1848

Bowd College March 12 1848

Dear Mother

I certainly have been very fortunate to escape so many infections and think it wonderful that it should be so, having been so many times exposed. But I have escaped and am now in the enjoyment of good health.

I board at the same place I have previously. I did not like to change very well, and as the price of board was not so high as anticipated I resolved to remain one term more. Besides I thought my expences amounted to enough without increasing them by paying a greater price for board. It does not make much difference what we eat if it but be wholesome.

Our Club behave too with as much propriety as any in town. Hence if I changed my place it would be only to gratify a foolish pride. There is a certain class here, as elsewhere, who think more of greet with a blander smile and meet with perhaps a more flattering welcome, those who dress costly and eat the most luxuriously.

Yet what care me for them. It is well; it is pleasant to be popular, to have the friendship of all. But what is the value of friendship founded on the external appearance, the mere outward show. This is its worth - "I delight in your society and am happy to see you at all times." So long as wealth remains. If this precious boon flees - "Then how mistaken I was in you, I thought you a noble fellow". "But now you are nothing but a vulgar poverty stricken wretch." "I will have no longer such a companion." On the other hand respect, love or friendship founded on real internal worth, having its root in the heart remains when property is gone and riches are no more.

My abstraction of which you spoke arose not from any unrevealed secret, but when my school did not pass to suit me during the day, at night being somewhat exhausted and therefore fretful. I brooded more over small things than I ought. It pained me to have my brothers complain of me. They do not know me, and I fear they will not, for any whole conduct towards them appears different from what I could wish. To whip my own Brothers, as it were in the eyes of the District, I can tell you was no pleasing task. As I said little things, petty grievances, though they be, wore upon me, and therefore made me appear different from what I have when I have returned home to enjoy recreation & rest. Frequently I saw things and actions which perhaps no one noticed but me. And often I worked hard to avoid trouble in school, when I might have appeared to others to have been indifferent. Yet it is past & I will not <> to it.

I anticipated a hard time this winter both from my inexperience and from an envious prejudice always existing in small minds, which I shuned or rather hushed by frankness mingled with flattery. After all I succeeded well; at least, with a few exceptions, was satisfied with myself; which is seldom the case, although I am possessed of much self esteem.

You spoke also of my disinclination to study. This arose from the same cause. From 18 students of my class who taught school, I know of but one who studied so much as I did, and that you know was very little. They say they cannot study & keep school. For a person wants to have a clear head at least to learn Greek or Latin. But you are mistaken if you think I do not love study, if you think I regret the course I have taken. The only real pleasure I take is in the perusal of books and the only regret I feel is that I do not improve more and faster. It seems to me, when I view what is before me, that as yet I have done nothing. I see others, other young men, who have had the privileges I enjoy, benefited thereby, they carry respect & esteem with them wherever they go. They seem to be possessed of talents the improving of which adds to them a superiority, which makes them influencial and beloved by society. My aspirations are high and perhaps my ambition extends beyond my abilities. To use the common phrase "I have wished to be somebody".

Money has never been my aim. That of course to some extent is necessary to everyone. But the distinction

which riches alone confer is disgusting. To be courted & flattered on account of paltry wealth. To ride in a fine carriage, to wear nice clothes may be desired, yes! even longed for by some, but to me these would give but little pleasure, unconnected with the true respect which internal worth ever exacts & receives. I admire a man who by intellectual exertions has made himself celebrated, whether it be in oratory, or with the pen. Hence my ambition is to become a good speaker or writer - either of which requires extensive knowledge and good abilities both natural & acquired, besides a thorough acquaintance with human nature.

These being my end & object. How in reason could I blame the only friend who is willing to assist me. You misunderstand me. I am not what I may have seemed to you. I am sometimes petulant perhaps and say many things for which I am sorry. I notice many times you interpreted me wrong & when I attempted an explanation, you thought I threw blame upon you in vindication of myself. So I said nothing. You said I treated you disrespectfully, all I could say I did not intend to. I would have said more but Mother I know your disposition and my own too well to venture an explanation while excited or in anger. But now, if I ever in any word or deed I have injured your feelings, now I am willing, humbly to ask your forgiveness.

Give my love to my brothers and the rest of the family. Write how you are getting along with the measles.

From your affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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110 3/14/1848 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Brother  
[O. O. Howard]

OOH-0101

Kents Hill  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill March 14th 1848

Dear Brother

I came to the "Hill" a week ago today. I find the school as pleasant as usual. There is at present about 100 students but the school is not near full. Mr T is still principal with his wife for assistant. I am studying The First Book in Lattin which we shall finish in about three weeks and then take Caesar which I want to finish this term. I had to buy me one after I came here. I am also studying Clarks Algebra which is I think rather harder than Smiths and is considered here better than the same. The class is somewhat in advance of me but by studying I am in hopes to keep up with them.

When you wrote to me you said that you were unwell. Write me soon in regards to your health. I like my chum middling well. He is better than he looks. I don't know but you know him. His name is T F Turner. I think some of studying Greek the last of the term but have not made up my mind. You wrote that you succeeded in your examination. Well I am glad to hear it. I hope you will not have to study harder than your health will allow. You aluded in your letter to some foolish remarks of mine, made in fun about your lecturing me. I am sorry that you remembered therefore I shall always like to have advice from you by letter or otherwise.

My health is very good except my eyes which will not allow me to study much evenings but I partly make it up in getting up in the morning as soon as I can see well. I find do not lose much by it as day light comes cheaper than candle light. I like my boarding place very much better than I did the capt'ns for here afraid of "eating to much". But i do not think he would complain on that score if he had me this term.

Our family at Leeds were well when I left. I have not heard from them since. Mother was very anxious on account of your health, which you wrote was very poor. I went to carry Roland A down to the Falls to take the cars. He was rather flustrated when about to start but doubtless he has got over that by this time. I suppose he is now on the ocean as we have heard nothing from him. Elias L\_\_ went the same day and with him I think he will prove a true friend to him in all matters.

You wrote that Mr Tom was at Brunswick. If he is there now give my respects to him. You said that he accused you of misrepresenting the school. Perhaps you remember the prophicy that I made in a former letter that he would leave and so it proved. I thought by what he said when here that thought leaving Bodoin and entering at Harvard.

Frences is studying (or reading as I should say) Sallust. He has just been ripping tearing and swearing over his lesson. He studies pretty hard. He has never read Sallust before and it comes rather hard to him. He wants me to say to you that if you will write to him he will be sure to answer the letter.

I shall not go home till the last of April or the first of May. It is such a hard work to get back again. I suppose the term will last till the first of June. I do not intend to read any this term although I may since I think I shall take a share in the Library. RAs and Sarah's miniatures were not very good ones. R- forgetting to shut his mouth. I hardly know what to write about as the people with whom I asociate are stranger to you of course news from them would be uninteresting. I hope you will write me soon and I am some anxious about your health.

Your afectionate Brother  
R. B. Howard

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111 3/30/1848 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0102

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 30, 1848.

Dear Mother

I received your letter on Monday last, was sorry to perceive you in so low spirits, and so ill. I suppose the care and anxiety of watching beside the sick bed has worn upon you somewhat and I hope you, as well as the rest may now recover your accustomed health. Tell Roland A perhaps his "boding" wishes with regard to my having the measles, may have quickened in some degree the severity of his disease. But perhaps I am joking too soon, as a student, who returned about a week ago, has been confined with them (the measles) here. He was taken down with them about two days after his return, and it is probable he spread them well. Yet it is not well to predict evil. I hope I may be as happily disappointed with regard to them now as I have been heretofore.

We now have harder or at least longer lessons than we have ever had. They require my almost undivided and certainly my strictest attention in order to prepare them well. We have now finished Rhetoric, which was comparatively easy, as it is plain English, and requires no study to be understood, though it may be difficult to be fixed in the memory. I like it because I have a great desire to be a good writer, to possess an easy & perspicuous style of writing. I consider it a great accomplishment, to be able to convey our thought in an interesting manner, and there is no better indication of the character of a man than is displayed by his taste in the selection of language to communicate his thoughts. To be eminent as a writer certainly requires ideas and ideas of the most elevated kind, it needs a deeply cultivated mind and very extended knowledge. But of what avail are all these materials, if they cannot be moulded and formed so as to give evidence of the superior attainments of the writer? How can one impress others with the importance of his subject, unless he knows how to express its importance?

I forget I am not writing a Theme or scribbling in my Journal.

You asked me respecting my studies, which I had to make up. I have passed examination on all except my Latin, which is not quite all reviewed yet. I think I can say I have not been negligent or slothful this term. When I have not been studying I have been writing. We have a theme (or composition) of four pages to write once a fortnight and this is something which requires particular care and attention. Any thing, upon any subject, scribbled down at leisure, does not answer the purpose. Our last theme was on the "Death of John Quincey Adams". Our next is on Mary Queen of Scots. We shall be obliged to read different authors on the period in which she lived and compare them, and then rely upon our own judgement with regard to their representations for truth, for writers on this subject differ very much. Some praising the Queen of England, and thus necessarily deprecating the merits of the Queen of Scots. And others on the contrary favoring the later, and as I think justly censuring the former on account of her intriguing, malicious conduct. Therefore it will require a great quantity of reading and research, in order rightly to investigate this subject, and much care to give the result of the investigation in comprehensive and perspicuous language.

I think Perley will surpass me in writing, as he has so much greater powers of imagination and an excellent memory. Yet our Rhetoric says "Defects of nature must be overcome by strenuous effort and by the discipline of the mind". I do not think nature has been "niggard" in the bestowal of her gifts even upon me (and I suppose you would say I ought to be thankful for what I do possess). But I do think she has been rather more liberal in blessing many others. I have not arrived at this conclusion from any want of respect for self, but from observation. You may think because I think myself inferior in some respects to some others, that I am discouraged, far from it. As I have hinted, so much greater is the inducement to exertion.

It is now half past eleven o'clock and I must end my epistle. I have sat up this late in order to write this, as my lesson occupied the time till after 9 o'clock.

Give my love to my brothers. Ask Rowland to write me. Tell him I will try to get time to answer him. Give my love to Father & Roland Alger. My health never has been better than at present. I am glad that Leeds folks like the rest of the world are entering upon that universally celebrated institution, marriage, and hope if they conduct

themselves aright therein, much good, and at least much "fruit" may result therefrom. Write me an answer to this as soon as you feel able.

From your affectionate Son,  
Oliver O. Howard

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112 4/1/1848      *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Brother  
[Oliver O Howard]

OOH-0103

*Source:* Bowdoin

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April fool day 1848

Dear Brother

You may think that I have been needlessly negligent about answering your letter but my time has been all occupied. I was glad to hear that your health had improved and that you was able to be "round". You mention that your studies are uncommonly hard. I hope that your health will hold out for you to prosecute them. I am sorry that you worried prof C so badly, but hope that you got through it without getting any of your necks broke for by your description of him I should think that would be the natural consequence but doubtless he counted ten before he spoke as is customary with well balanced minds.

Have you found your "<Gindine>" which some one had the kindness to "look". Mud muddy muddiest is most all that we hear between here and the Seminary. The mud is ankle deep but half of the way we have an excellent sidewalk. The rest of the way we fare as we can which is some of the muddiest there are about.

One hundred and sixty in the school and it is daily increasing. I am reading Caesar which I find very easy. There are five at this house that are reading it so we help each other. I think I understand it as well as any of them. They have formed what they call a congress which consists of the students and the convention to draw up a constitution. Met last Saturday and I believe succeeded in their efforts. If I join that and go into the class for composition about being formed I shall have as many exercises in composition and speaking as I shall wish for. I have also joined the Calliopean Society which I have no doubt will help me very much in those branches. I declaimed last Saturday. Failed the first time of going on to the stage but did better the second. Hope I shall do well the next.

I have not heard from home since I have been here although I wrote nearly a fortnight ago. If you have heard from there lately please write as I can get a letter much quicker from Brunswick than from Leeds. I think I had better have my news come that way. I have not seen any of your acquaintances since I have been here except my chum who is well and enjoying himself. I still like my boarding place. There are 12 boarding here besides myself.

I go into the singing class here which I find to be very pleasant. We have an excellent teacher, one who understands the science perfectly. I have written one composition to Mr. Walsh. Expect to have to write two a week to Mr Torsey after his class is formed.

Mr Torsey preached today at the meeting house. The first time I ever heard him I expected to hear a great sermon and was not disappointed. It was not a simple exhortation such as we generally hear here but it was a sound theological sermon. Some such as Elder Lawton used to preach. He that is Mr Torsey will never preach on the Hill when he can get rid of it for he has a sort of diffidence about speaking before the students.

It is now nearly twelve and I must go to bed or I shall have sore eyes for tomorrow.

Write soon. Your Brother  
R.B. Howard

PS I guess you'll think the date is like the letter.

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113 4/8/1848

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0104

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 8th, 1848

My Dear Son,

We received your kind letter in Tuesday's mail with as kind a welcome as ever. I am quite well now, and your letter seemed to cheer me much. I feel as though you are "pursuing with care the nice design" of your own heart and you speak with so much confidence of your good health, I hope you are still well. Our family have recovered entirely from the measles. Oscar Turner had them last, had a thorough time of it, is out of doors now, and his wife and daughter are having the symptoms. I really hope you will escape them this spring, but if you do not do be careful of yourself. I have heard of an instance this spring of a man who went into the air to soon and left him crazy for a long time.

Rowland B. Charles H. had a bad cough three days before they had any other appearance of them. I fixed a tumbler nearly full of rum and molasses, of equal quantity. Of this they took a teaspoonful or two at a time to ease their cough. In that situation they went out, eat any thing and their habits were as usual. When they grew very sick at the stomach and a bad headache they soaked their feet and drank pererial tea and kept in the house. They were confined to their beds. Two days after that they staid in doors a week and selected a fine day for going out, and after that, whenever the weather was damp they staid in doors. They drank flax seed freely for their cough after their measles turned and cold water as much as they wanted all the time. There is great danger of hoarseness in the voice. Some of Mr Jones family have not recovered their voice yet. Be sure and take salts after they turn. Take them three times in the course of a week. You will probably have a dyareah on the turn. Don't take the salts untill that stops. Perhaps you will not, some don't. In that case take your salts soon as they turn.

I write thus particular because the measles is very bad with wrong treatment. Keep clear of them if possible. Get Perley or cousin William to write me if you are unable.

I have seen Mrs Bailey since I wrote and enquired after your friend Bunker in Temple. She made particular enquiry of a friend and his wife at the meeting. There is not any such person in Temple. It is of no importance at all, say nothing. Mrs B said she would not mention it.

With regard to your natural talents my son don't trouble your mind on that subject. Your mother has just ideas on that subject, and you will feel very different about it five years from now. I hope Mr. P will do well. I have not an envious feeling towards him, if he surpasses my son. Why should I! I do not think that your life in college is all. I hope if others surpass you in attainments you will not <flat> out and think nothing is left for you to do. According to my observations the most brilliant tallents are not always most successful. Be careful and not overstrain your nervous sistem if you fall far behind your classmates.

Communicate your thoughts freely to your mother. It is like thinking aloud, and sacred to her. Although I have heard you say <oldmeanes> told things to each other and sympathized with each other but I have no<cronies> and desire none.

Warren Lothrop is at home. I have seen him. He stays eight weeks. He appears very much improved in his manners whether his heart is better or not I cannot say. The time for mailing this is nearby arrived and my sheet is filled. Give my love to P and William

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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114 4/24/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0105

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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April 24th 1848 Bowd Coll

Dear Mother

I have been for some time expecting a censure from you because I have deferred writing so long, but not receiving such an epistle, I began to feel you would think I was sick and not able to write. So to undeceive you of this you should conjecture I take my pen. I now feel quite relieved, for this morning I passed an examination on last term's latin, which I have made up after ten o'clock on nights when I felt able to study. One reason why it has taken me so long to accomplish it is that I had a "sty" in my eye and while it lasted I had sufficient difficulty to prepare my usual recitations. There are two or more students of College sick with the measles, one from the Club where I board. I have not taken them yet, though I have taken no precaution or care to avoid them. This term ends in three weeks from next Wednesday, after which time I shall be at liberty to return home. I have forgotten to write you heretofore that a classmate, Wilson, talked of spending the vacation with me as it is so far that he cannot return to his own home. You need not take the trouble to send for us, but if you will send me a little money enough to buy my passage, we will come by ourselves. I can return for two dollars or less, and it would cost as much or more to send for me.

I have been particularly engaged of late in writing a theme (or composition) on Mary Queen of Scots. The subject requires great attention and much reading to be able to judge correctly what was the character of Mary. Different writers have different opinions with regard to her. Some have written on this subject a theme of 12 to 15 pages and I fear mine will be as long if I ever finish it. The times of this extraordinary woman afford greater interest as they are especially marked by the struggles of the protestant adherents to free themselves from the popish yoke.

The fanaticism and bigotry of the Calvinists of that period coupled with the atrocities of the Catholics threw the world into consternation and utterly destroyed government except that exercised through intrigues and deceit. I say such an epoch affords deep interest and requires much attention and study to be rightly investigated.

Our next theme is the Revolution of France just transpired. I think the writings on this subject will be as scarce as those on Mary of Scotland are profuse. But it is not best to anticipate difficulty. As Horace says "Quod adest memento componere acqui." (Be mindful to manage well what is present)

I had a letter from John Pettingill a short time since. He is teaching school in Virginia, and receives high wages. His words were not spelt better than usual. It seems to me if so dreadful poor a scholar can do so well, that at least I ought not be discouraged.

Perhaps you would like to know a little about the young gentleman who is coming with me. In the first place as to his exterior, he is about the middle height, weighs about a hundred & sixty, with pretty good form and an intelligent countenance. But you may judge of him in other respects when you see him. Make no preparations.

Give my love to my Brothers, to father, Roland A and the rest of the family. Write as soon as possible or I shall not receive it before the close of the term.

From your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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115 6/15/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0106

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College June 15th 1848

Dear Mother

It is almost a fortnight since I left you as I find by reconing up the time, and as it is almost time for you to be expecting a letter from me, rather than to disappoint you I have seated myself to write, though it be but a recapitulation of my former epistles that I am well &c. I think we can say truly that so far we have not been materially afflicted with hot weather. Winter clothes have as yet been the most comfortable apparel. But I think that so fine and warm a morning as this is indicative of a desirable change, desirable especially to farmers, whose prosperity rests in abundant crops.

Rowland Bailey had rather an uncomfortable day to return home, but it would not have been much better till Saturday. Pleas tell him (Rowland) who laughed at our dirty room, that, to avoid a like mortification of my vanity I made me a mop, and going perseveringly to work washed it up myself. Minerva never would complain of being tired again, should she wash such a floor and I doubt whether she or any other lady could survive such a lay up on the physical powers. Perhaps my excessive labor resulted from want of experience in such matters.

I bought me a vest at 2.25 cts. I bought the cloth an got it made. It is of so firm a material that I think it will last me at least a year. I had some other things to buy, paper, oil &c, so I did not dare to buy me a Straw hat for fear I should not have money enough to prevent my "going on tick". If you would send me the cost of the vest I would be very glad. We have just commenced a new mathematical study, that is new to us, the Application of Algebra to Geometry. They say that it is very difficult, but we have not got along far enough to judge concerning it.

I wrote to Thomas Bridgham [his cousin] a few days ago, to inquire of him whether he would assist me to get a school. I have not received an answer yet. Has Laura Howard [his cousin] been to visit you yet? If not when she comes tell her I will write her, if she will promise to answer me, for I do not wish to labor without being certain of the fruits.

Tell Rowland Bailey that instead of reading so much he must write me a little occasionally, in order that he may not only acquire knowledge, but be enabled to communicate through "the magic pen". If he does not like common place subjects, let him take any pollitical, theological question, or whatever interests him most and we will discuss it in our boyish ways between us. Thus writing may be made not only pleasant and interesting, but through the interest thus excited much good, much real benefit, may accrue. Writing the thoughts and opinions one forms on what he reads serves to fix in the memory the most important facts, and habituates him to think more and deeper, and consequently after a while to form better opinions. If he will only signify to me what does interest him, or what he would like to write about, I will write the first letter challenging his reply, and needing a refutation.

I board at the same place as before. I thought I would get another place this term, but considering my present expenses sufficient, I gave it up, for analyzing my feelings, I found if I changed my place it would be done only from vanity - as I live now well enough for my health and certainly pay enough for it.

Give my love to my brothers and the family. My respects to the school mistress, with the hope that she will like teaching better than I. Write soon and tell me all the news.

From your affectionate Son  
O O Howard

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116 6/18/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0107

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 18th 1848

My dear Son,

the mail brought to hand your communication which was more than welcome. You have scarcely been out of my mind since you left home. I have had long communications with you in thought, my desires for your welfare and my fears. Fears so strong that in the heat of youth in some unguarded moment, you may by some imprudence you may injure yourself that I yearn for Ideas to express my views to you. I think you have integrity and I hope you are careful in your choice of companions.

I wish I had talked more with you when at home and heard your ideas from your own mouth. Do cultivate good feelings towards all, and always carry a cheerful countenance if possible. There is no situation but has its cares there can nothing be attained without ambition but to find a necessary medium of conduct, to vary and apply it to contingencies is desirable and no doubt is the right way to success. But if you fail in your desires for attainments in your class don't lose your self respect. Your mother thinks but a little of the honors of the class; although she would like to have you gratified and I think it would help to give you a new spring in your College course but if you cannot attain them don't hold resentments to hand toward any. You did not look happy when at home. Do put on a happy expression of feature and cultivate them daily. You will laugh at mother's notions, but a great deal depends on outward appearance especially before the professors and tutors.

Tuesday morning [June 20]

How are you this morning. I hope well and happy. I have been looking over what I wrote sabbath evening. Perhaps you will think mother thinks too much of outward appearance. Not so. A true heart is worth everything else. But I am thinking of your general good, in every respect. There are always those who take advantage in every way to aggrandise themselves, and if you are not able to compete with them, let them go. Do not hold bitterness toward them. Nor because one person who professes piety is a hypocrite. Do not suppose all are such. You are young and this four years of College life I desire should give you a good knowledge of a College course. Don't over do your nervous system have proper rest as well as proper exercise. My son you can not think how near my heart your welfare lays. Not wholly on your own account but your younger brothers. Whatever your course of life is will have more or less influence on them. I know you are a thinking being and have probably thought of all these things before. But let mother think with you.

I shall inclose a three dollar bill to you. Do take care of small bills, small bills make large ones. Sometimes young persons think if they are respected by their companions it is no consequence what others think of them. That is a mistaken notion. Let us act worthy of the respect of all.

I attended meeting last sabbath. Saw L. Howard [Laura Howard]. Told her what you said about writing her. She promised certain she would answer your letter as soon as received. She has gone to live with your uncle E. Otis [Ensign Otis]. They have removed to their new house. I saw your aunt Arelia [Aurelia Howard Bridgham]. She looked sober and disappointed. It makes me feel bad to see her look so sad. Minerva left me the day you left home, and I am not sorry. I have a young girl of Henry Jenning for the present. Notwithstanding my many cares. I have read the life of John Ludyard, and was very much interested in it. He was an adventurer and died at the age of thirty-eight and never married, was noble minded and capable of moving in the higher circles of society. Yet I could not desire a son to live such a life as he did. He had a greatful heart and seemed to think the great God was good to him.

Tell Mr Willson I am greatly obliged to him for my little book he sent me and hope I shall proffit by it. You must write me often and how you get along. If I am ever so anxious about you, your letters relieve my mind. Rowland B is very busily employed all the time. He and Rowland A. are now plowing on the hay farm for winter wry. He got a soaking coming from Brunswick, but was not so much fatigued as John Perley. He was all tired out. He stopt all night. I have not heard from him since he left here the next day. Write to R.B.H. and I think he will answer you.

I understand your Uncle John Otis is about to be married to a Miss Catherine Grant. I hope she will be happy. He has not been out to Leeds yet. Sometimes I question within my mind whether Otis will not think Mother's precepts ought not to be accompanied by example, but I do not wish my children to fall into my errors of thinking or acting, but shun the errors and cherish the virtues of their mother. The country is beautiful as I cast my eyes towards the window. I say to myself Oh how beautiful are the works of nature. But I now must draw to a close as the time is near when the mail will take this away once more.

Your's  
EG Eliza Gilmore

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117 6/27/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0108

Bowdoin College, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College June 27 [1848]

Dear Mother

It may be natural for you, a mother, to have fears and anxieties respecting a son and his conduct. But me thinks you have sufficient confidence in me to relieve you from fear as to my choice of companions or impropriety of conduct. Jewett and Perley are a specimen of my associates. I choose those with whom I agree best in opinion, in feelings and in station. My standard is not always among the rich, the aristocratic, but among those possessing integrity, good feelings & intellectual worth.

As to my outward appearance, if I feel sober, I am usually so. If I feel cheerful it is not long before it is known. But my prejudices and likes I am not always so ready to make evident. If I were I should be obliged to change appearance every moment, for I cannot move without meeting those whom I dislike and some that I dispise.

I never would degrade my self so much as to resent an honorably attained superiority in intelectual or any other pursuits, and certainly college honors obtained by meanness are not worthy the strife. Towards one thus getting them I would have no feelings of resentment but disgust. I would not consider him superior to myself. I feel as though I was preparing for something beyond College. Something of more importance. I may not succeed in after life any better than in College, yet there is enough that I can undertake, and if I fail in one thing I can try another. But I have no need to disparage my situation in College. I am not a poor scholar, nor am I considered so, and with the same preparation and half their labor (since they have been here) I might have been better than most, for I can learn anything in my sphere and any thing which has been yet required, which many of those called the best scholars could not without assistance. I rather think I go to extremes first - think and say I am nobody. Then comst rake about the medium and you will find my station.

I have written three letters lately, one to Thomas Bridgham, one to Laura Howard and another to Olive Hazard. I wished her husband to take a list of Junior Books which I sent to the booksellers in order that he might find out the prices and then inform me. I wanted to know before purchasing here if I could not get a cheaper and better set in Boston. I told her you talked of going to Boston.

Uncle John was here Sabbath eve. He said you were all well. He came here on that Lisbon scrape of William's, which we thought was done with, when William was arrested in the street by an officer. It was on our Ath. Soc. Election day. Mr McKeen immediately found himself for William and he was let loose to appear on Saturday at Bowdoinham. The Warrant was a rioters assault on the house and person of a citizen and they (witnesses) were ready (but falsely I think) to swear that one of them fired a pistol in to the window of a room filled with people. William was the only one taken. I went with him to Bowdoinham and his Lawyer got the trial or examination deferred till next Tuesday. But Uncle came and settled it yesterday by paying a required sum and cost. I think William has learned a lesson.

Give my love to all. From your Son  
OO Howard

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118 6/29/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B  
Howard]

OOH-0109

Bowdoin College, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College June 29 1848

Dear Brother

I should have written you before but as the common saying is "I found no time". But after seeking a long time for a time to write, I began to think there was no particular period set apart for me & I resolved to take some what of that time set apart for other purposes or in short I decided to "take time".

I know not whether you have decided where to attend school this fall or even whether you have resolved to go any where or not. But I hope you will go. It matters not much where you go if you only study. Never the less since study is required, especially for improvement it is best to go to that place where you will have the least hindrances to your object and where you will have the greatest inducements and incitements to exertion. Good teachers are also of much benefit.

Lewiston, I think, furnishes all the necessary qualifications of a good school. It is a pleasant place, has teachers who are the best of scholars themselves and are highly recommended as instructors and possess a higher and better class of people than Wayne. I think the character of the people with whom one boards has much influence on him for either good or bad. But do not go to Lewiston on my recommendation, but inquire for yourself.

You have said some thing about studying latin. If you commence it do not be discouraged because your first, second or third lesson is hard and requires study, but persevere and you will soon accomplish the language so as to be able to read with rapidity and interest. You have acquired your English with so little labor, that I often think if you were obliged to sit for hours together over one lesson, that you would be discouraged and perhaps give it up. But remember that in acquiring an education that which costs the greatest labor is of the greatest value.

Think not the worth of a latin fable is its mere story, but by getting it you acquire both a discipline of mind and a small store of latin knowledge which will assist you to read more substantial matter. For our greatest specimens of intellectual greatness are found in the latin language, Virgil, Cicero, Sallust, Horace, and many others, than whom the world produces none more celebrated or more courted. You may say you can read these works in English. If you read them thus half of their real value is lost. Their conciseness, their loftiness of tone and expression and their exactness of meaning cannot be met with in any translation. The version and the original may be compared to the portrait and the original of a beautiful girl. The portrait may show the features and outlines, but the original can only give the glowing expression of countenance and show the workings of the mind and the feelings of the heart.

Moreover the discipline of mind is not to be disregarded. The study of language accustoms one to close and persevering investigation of subjects. It teaches him how to think, not as commonly with the mind running from one thing to another as every trivial thing introduces itself, but in a steady and methodical manner, so that, place a man in what ever circumstances you please, let him be surrounded with difficulties and dangers. If he only has acquired this discipline of mind, he will never lose his balance, but will survey his situation and calculate results with precision. Again you may say that a man without natural firmness and stability of character will labor in vain for that discipline which will render him so independent. But if you will labor against nature and study language and abstract science for one year steadily, I would not fear with respect to your firmness or energy. Strive to be a man and imitate your brother as far as you see him right and no further, and where he is wrong set him an example.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O.

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119 7/3/1848

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0110

Bowdoin College, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin Coll July 3d 1848

Dear Mother

I have now written five letters to different persons, not one of all has answered me, but I think you the most excusable of all, as you have other duties & other cares to attend than merely to gratify one son, and I also know that you would write if you could.

It is now almost the fourth of July, and nearly all the students have obtained leave of absence and left College in search of recreation and amusement, but I thought, as I had heretofore spent much money and time on fourth of July days, and found myself no happier or better prepared, in the end, to resume my studies, that I would try the experiment of remaining in College, and spend the time in reading. I took from the Coll Library the other day a large volume of Shakespeare, and a new work Hudsons lectures on Shakespeare. I read first a play and then study the comments made on the same, which I find renders the drama more intelligible and doubly interesting. By the way, I have now quite a passion for reading Shakespeare. Those plays which I read at home, rather prejudiced me against him, but I thought it would not well become a literary personage like myself to be in total ignorance of the works of so popular a writer, and consequently I resolved to read those plays most frequently met with and so often quoted. I first read Othello and there I found the nobler and baser qualities of human nature so well developed, that the drama immediately struck the fancy and gained the admiration of even so prosy an individual as myself.

After this I read Richard III, Hamlet, Mackbeth, King John, and some others, and the more I read the more interested I become. Some passages I do not understand very well at first, but those Lectures throw light on the obscure, and if they did not, considered by themselves alone, they are worth reading, being composed in so elegant language, and the writer enters in to the subject with so much earnestness and feeling. He seems to consider the respective characters as real heros and defends their merits and discovers their demerits with as much care, as if he were defending the Character of a Noble patriot or denouncing an imposter. I also have read the real history of the Richard III, for I always have a desire to separate fact from fiction that I may know what to rely on for truth. I found all the historical allusions in this play to agree precisely with History, but the feelings and motives of the respective characters or course were portrayed in the play and not in History in order to give sweep to the author's imagination without which the play would be no more interesting than "matter of fact" history.

But I suppose this is not interesting to you, but as what I read is my field of thought, I am apt to touch upon it more perhaps than what will be interesting to my correspondent. Many are want to speak the feelings of their hearts and the secret workings of the mind but I have not as yet become sufficiently well skilled in human nature so as portray either myself or others. Yet human nature & human character are my study. I once was easily deceived by others, but by experience I have learned to regard the motives of others as well as those of myself, and I have discovered that "all is not gold that glistens", and many are better than they seem.

Give my love to my brothers, and tell R.B.H. to write me an answer to my letter (if he has been able to read it). Give my respects to my friends at Leeds, and write me yourself as soon as you can.

From your affectionate son.  
O.O. Howard

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120 7/9/1848      *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0111

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 9th 1848

My dear Son

The mail brought us a letter from you last evening not less welcome than any before. I shall not attempt any apology for not writing sooner as my time is always occupied and of late more than usual. I went to Hallowell the next day after you saw your Uncle John with your father and R.B.H. and visited all of our relations, went to the Insane Hospital with Miss Colier and returned Friday evening, after calling at Wayne and seeing Arza, wife and little son. I saw at Mother's a cousin I never saw before, Uncle Zekiel S... Daughter a very pretty lady about twenty two years old, a married lady.

I met with Miss Grant several times. The lady with whom your Uncle John is engaged to be married soon, a pleasant unassuming lady. Maria is preparing to go to Philadelphia in September to stay a year. Mrs Rose who lived on our old farm died and was interred whilst I was gone to Hallowell. Her death was not unexpected as she had a long and severe sickness.

July 16th.

I did not think one week ago when I left my writing it would lay here until now. Your grandmother has spent the week with me. I have attended Mr. Lawton's meeting today where was a very full attendance. I saw Laura Howard. Thomas Bridgham attended meeting, but I did not speak with him. His mother said he had come home to help Everet in haying. Laura <H> seems has written to you and left the letter with her Aunt Aurelia who forgot to mail it. Mother said William was at home on the fourth of July.

I have just been viewing from my window the beauties of nature. We have just had a thunder shower, and it is now over and all nature seems gay and cheerful. I feel a delight in viewing the hills and vallies covered with verdure, which seems to say there is something in life beside struggling with care and strife; who can behold the wonderful works of nature, and not feel to rise far above the low groveling feelings, which one is so prone to whisper discontent in our mind. There is a little bird now tuning her notes in the garden which teaches me not to dwell on the past, but to go forward in praise for the present enjoyment. Every thing at home is about as usual. I fear sometimes I am wanting in sympathy for the sufferings of others, but we are poor comforters at best. You have yet to learn my son, the deeper the feelings are towards an object of our affection the more watchful we are towards that object I hope I shall not be wanting in thankfulness for your perseverance in well doing, not only to you but to be grateful to the God whose love surpasses all other love.

You spoke of writing to Mr and Mrs Hazard at East Cambridge. Mrs Hazard [Olive Woodman Hazard] has had a very severe sickness and is nearly reduced to the grave. Your Aunt Ann [Otis] Lee is with her. Mother says Ann wrote she was quite comfortable with the exception of a slight cough which in her low state I fear will prove fatal. I desire very much to hear from her. Oliver O Woodman and wife are in Boston, and are expected in Maine. Your father still thinks we shall visit Massachusetts the last of August but think it a great uncertainty.

I have said nothing of R.B.H.'s visit at H.... I thought he might make it a ground work for a letter himself, but he has never undertaken to write. It is easier to take up a book or newspaper when one is fatigued with labor. I hope he will yet take pleasure in writing to his friends.

I saw Sarah Lee when at H. She received the favor of barrel of fine apples from Mrs Sargent while I was there. Of course I was a partaker of the luxury. Charly wished me to let him write some in my letter to Otis. He loves you exceedingly. He pryes into your letters and trys to read them. I saw Mrs Bridgham. She looks care worn. She said Valentine had come home unable to work any longer. Everet's health is poor

July 21th

Again I seat myself to fill up my letter & have obtained a new pen you will discover. Sabbath evening mother returned here and stoped here untill Wednesday morning. Warren Woodman came here Tuesday eve'g and

stoped over night and took her to Wilton to stay untill next week. He said Mrs Hazard [his sister, Olive Woodman Hazard] was doing well. Yesterday I went to Green and spent the day with Louisa who has a young daughter two days old and this day has passed as usual at home. The children prepared for school in the morning and then dinner, and supper and writing to prepare for the mail tomorrow. Mr Peas called here last Wednesday wide awake electioneering for your uncle John to be the Whig candidate for the next Congress. I think your uncle John is very anxious for the office. I had a letter from Mrs Ames this week, as full of life as ever. I intend to answer it, to go out tomorrow.

Ever yours,  
Eliza Gilmore

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121 7/14/1848 *From:* Laura Howard

*To:* Cousin [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0112

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, July 14, 1848

Dear Cousin

I received yours of the 27th and was much pleased to hear from you but beg to be forgiven for not answering it before. My time has been taken up in preparing your Uncle and Aunt [Ensign and Martha Otis] for a journey. They started last Tuesday for New Hampshire, and I have gone down to stay with my Aunt Aurelia [Aurelia Howard Bridgham]. I expect them back a week from Saturday. I like living with them very much. They are both very kind to me and I have enjoyed myself much better than I expected. I feel rather lonesome sometimes but soon get over it. I have got my Piano now, and that is company for me & have had quite a number to hear me play. It arrived safe without any injury, and they all appear to be very much pleased with it. Your Grand Mother has been here on a visit and is down to your Mother's now. She expects to go to Wilton next week. I saw your mother last Sunday. The family were all well. I told her I should write to you this week and she was anxious I should. You need not be afraid to write to me on Joshua account for he has got another girl up on the hill and I have got the mitten. That is the way with all my beaus. I cannot keep any of them but a short time.

But enough of my nonsense. Everet [Bridgham] received a letter from Thomas [Bridgham] last week. He is coming down to help him through haying and if he has not answered your letter I will remind him of it for I presume it is more through neglect than anything else.

I feel glad to hear of your rapid progress in your studies. You will see the need of it when you come to be a man. I think an education is far preferable to riches and I would say go on. You can never study too much but be careful and not get too much excited for that will injure your health and above all do not forget to pray and read your bible for that will make you wise both in this world and, that which is to come - life everlasting. Yes dear Cousin I have a desire you should seek the Saviour now in your youthful days and when you grow old you will not repent of it but when troubles and trials come tis then you will have a friend to go to. One that will lead you safe through life's rough sea and bring you to the harbor of eternal peace.

Mrs Rose is dead [Betsey Rose, d. June 27, 1848]. She had a very large funeral. Arvilla is very low. They think she can't live but a short time and so it is one after another of our friends are dying and it ought to admonish us to be also ready for we know not how soon we shall have to give and account. The rest of our friends and relatives are well. Write soon. Your true friend and Cousin.

Laura Howard

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122 7/21/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0115

Bowdoin College Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College July 21st 1848

Dear Mother

I have been waiting some time to receive a letter from home, but not receiving one I have concluded that you are all so busy that you cannot spare the time to write. So I have seated myself to address you a few words. I suppose you are in the very heat of "haying" now. Frequently I think I would like to be with you, but I suppose that labor constantly followed would soon become as monotonous as study, and contribute no more to pleasure in the end. Yet towards the latter part of the term, especially in warm weather, my lessons appear to drag rather heavily, requiring more than ordinary perseverance & application to get them.

I received a letter from Laura Howard this morning. She writes that you are all well and that Grandmother is with you. If so give her my love, and tell her to remember me to my friends in Hallowell on her return. I learn also from Laura's letter that a Mrs Rose is dead, and I judged from the connection, that it was the Mrs Rose on our place. If this be the fact, please inform me in your next letter. I wrote to Cousin Olive Hazard a short time since, requesting her (or her husband) to send me a list of the prices of my junior books, but I have received no answer from her. But Perley sent by a man from Livermore by whom we ascertained that we might purchase new books in Boston Cheaper than "second hand books" here. I did think as you know of going to Boston myself next vacation, but as I have the opportunity of sending, by the same man we sent by to learn the prices, from whom we think we can get them cheaper than if I went myself. I am doubtful about going at all. Yet if you and father go to Massachusetts I would like to go with you. But I do not care about going alone.

I have not got me a school yet. I have had some talk about one, 16 miles from here in Bowdoinham. They have paid twenty-dollars a month heretofore & if I can get the same I think I shall take it. The only hindrance is another young man has spoken for it and is uncertain whether he shall take it; if he does not I shall have it. I have had a touch of the colic of late. But I cured it by going without eating one or two meals, and taking some "Wild Cherry" bitters.

I heard that you had a severe hail storm at Leeds. Did it do you much damage at the south part of the town? I suppose I shall be obliged to stop here till commencement, as I am Treasurer of my Society and shall have some business with those members who have graduated. Still if you will write me when you intend to go to the "West" if you go at all, I will try to get some one else to take charge of my duties.

Rowland Bailey has not answered my letter yet. You must tell him to write some rainy day when he has nothing to do. I think father can spare him long enough to write to his brother. Excuse such a heterogeneous mass of words with out interest, which I have heaped together this morning. Give my love to my brothers & friends. I wrote to Thomas some time ago and have not received an answer. I wrote to him once before & did not receive an answer, so I think I shall not write to him again till he condescends to write to me. I hear that Maria Otis is going to Philadelphia next vacation and William is to accompany her. I hope it will be for her advantage, but it seems rather an imprudent step to send a young girl like her so far from home, to a large city. Yet it is not my business and therefore I should not meddle with it.

Our studies require nearly all the time to be gotten and so I have not read much of late. I have found no difficulty in mathematics as yet, though quite a number have stumbled & fallen and it is feared will not rise again. Our mathematics are now about as difficult as any we shall have in College. So I must leave my letter. Wishing you and all my <dear> friends the greatest blessings of Earth

From your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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123 7/23/1848 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0113

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 23d 1848

Dear Brother

You perhaps may think hard of me for not writing you before but the only excuse I have to offer is that we are haying & that experience has taught you to understand I have no time but Sundays to write and mother thinks as she has got a good pen I had better write you today. We received your letter last night & mother wishes that I should write you about my visit to Hallowell and therefore I will try to give you an account of it.

We went down on Monday in the afternoon & returned on Friday. I had a very pleasant visit. It is so seldom that I go to Hallowell that there was something like novelty in it to me. On Tuesday it rained in the before noon but cleared away soon after and Miss Colier, mother and myself went up to the insane Hospital. When we had arived there we had a splendid view. From there we saw the villages of Hallowell & Augusta, the Kenebec river with its shiping & the state house standing in bold relief, also the Arsinall grounds with there stone bildings were seen. It was a melancholy sight to see the patients deprived as they were of that which places man above the brutes. We returned to Uncle's in time for tea. I saw his lady a number of times. I think she is a very fine, dignified looking person.

The next day I spent in rambling about town and in the evening went a meeting for the ratification of the nomination of "Taylor & Fillamore". The meeting was a large & enthusiastic one. The speaker were Dumont (who was also president of the meeting) Lawrance Barnes and (as Dumont denominated him the future govener of maine) Elijah L Hamlin and many others. The speakers were interrupted by much aplause & when at the close of the meeting three cheers rang out for old <Yash>. It shook the hall to its foundations. The following day I went up to the state house and went into both branches of the Legisture in the house of representatives & heard Mr Cary speak on education. The resolve under consideration being a grant of money for an Acadimy at the town of Munser. I ascended to the cupula where I had the same view that I had at the hospital. I also went into the cabinet where there was a great many minerals of all descriptions. The library I found to be a very large one. I returned to Uncles in time for dinner & spent the rest of the day in his library.

In the morning of the next day we went up to Laura Ann's and in the afternoon returned home by the way of Wayne at which place I saw Arza's baby. Speaking of babies (as Sam Shick would say) makes me think that Louisa has got one about a week old.

We have had very good weather for haying today being the first rainy day for a fortnight.

I saw Thomas Bridgham last sabath but did not speak to him. I also saw Stinchfield. He has a summer term at Wayne. While at Hallowell Uncle spoke to me about my coming there this fall and having Vaughan come here. We think some of accepting his offer as it will save the expense of board. The high school of that place is of high repute. For some reasons I had rather go to Kents Hill or Lewiston than those but I think the expense balances them and therefore I pretty much made up my mind to to to Hallowell.

The health of your friends here is very good except myself who have a very bad cold. Mother sent you a letter by yesterdays mail that I suppose will reach you before this. In a former letter you spoke of my corresponding with you on some particular subject. For my neglect of this I have to urge the same excuse that I did in the first place, that is we are haying. As I supose that mother wrote you all the news it will be of no use for me to write it over again. I find your letters very interesting and am always glad when I hear Charles or Rodelphus crying out "A letter from Otis". Excuse this poor writing and poor spelling and these poor ideas that I have jumbled together so as to cover nearly three pages. Write soon.

Your Brother  
R. B. Howard

P.S. Didn't I put my name on in good shape. RBH



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124 7/26/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B Howard]

OOH-0114

Bowdoin College Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College July 26th 1848

Dear Brother

You can hardly tell with what pleasure I found under my breakfast plate two letters directed OOHoward, one in the well known though seldom seen hand writing of my brother, and the other from cousin T. Bridgham. Perhaps you would like to know the secret of the Breakfast plate - being so fruitful. It is easily explained. My Chum or some other went to the Post Office and got my letters & bringing them up placed them under my plate to surprise me.

I think your excuse weighty though by no means sufficient; for mother tells me you find time to read much, why not write. But I will excuse you if you will only retrieve the past this fall while you are engaged as I in the laborious though pleasing study of "Letters". When you can write home you succeed in any study: the why & wherefore of your liking or disliking it, the particulars of your school &c. All of which will be interesting to your Brother especially if you attend Hallowell High School, which place I must say is fraught with many things interesting & agreeable. Though often "recollection brings to view" pains as well as pleasure. You will not be obliged to encounter the same inconveniences which I did, for you have not exactly the same personages to deal with.

Again you will find many firm friends in my old acquaintances. But be careful of your associations in Hallowell. I do not wish you to be suspicious, but I fear that Silas Lee is not "what he should" be: so you had better not go with him nights to much. I know nothing against Silas excepting his apparent endeavors to appear like & be a Gary fellow or "Rowdy".

The High School is taught by a fine fellow & an excellent instructor, being a graduate of this College. William Marshall who fitted partly under him (a member of the Freshman Class) speaks well of him and says he is as good a teacher as he ever attended.

I have not engaged a school as yet. But Thos B says he will do all in his power to assist me to get a good one & a high priced one.

I have been reading, of late, the fall & Decline of the Roman empire by Gibbons. I like to read it very much. First because the writer is so elegant and perspicuous in expression, that it requires no effort to follow him & understand him. Next it is interesting from the matter itself. Yet I sometimes become disgusted with the inconsistency of the Roman people, for they murdered every king they had, the good for his virtues & the Bad for his vices. None seems to have been secure against their barbarous cruelty. Marshal glory was their first & greatest object. The gratification of appetite & sensual passion their second. If a King restrained their freedom & folly he must die to gratify their revenge. If a King rivaled them in debauchery, he evidently lost all superiority and became a victim of their contempt.

I think I shall be obliged to stop here till commencement, the first Wednesday in September. For I am the "renowned & far famed treasurer of the Ath Soc" & shall have some business to do with those members, who have graduated who will be here on that day.

I am glad you had so pleasant a journey to H and can appreciate all your pleasure in observing the various scenes & places. But the love of babies "has gone, has departed has left" me, it is so long since I have seen any thing of the kind. Nevertheless as I was walking on the plains the other day I was awakened from a sound & pleasant reverie, by the squalling of an "Irish brat" which you might call a baby. This circumstance called to mind forcibly the time when I loved babies, but not the degenerated class of crying babies.

Give my love to Charles, and tell him he must learn all he can. Be kind to Charley & I will try to be kind to you all. Give my love to Rodolphus and Mother and Roland Alger and Father, with my best wishes for their comfort & happiness.

Receive this as the well meaning appology, though not adequate, for a letter.

Yours affectionately  
O O Howard

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125 7/30/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0116

Bowdoin College Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College July 30th 1848

Dear Mother

I have delayed the reply to your last epistle, for the purpose of answering Rowland's. I was surprised to hear that Cousin Olive Hazard was so ill. I wrote her a letter not long since containing more requests than I should have made, had I known that she was sick. The death of Mrs Rose also took me by surprise for I never had heard that she was sick. I hope you are all well and prospering. It will not be long before I shall be with you, 5 weeks at most. This week the Seniors are examined and leave College to prepare for Commencement. (It is sabbath noon). This after noon the President delivers a parting address to the class. His address was admired so much last year, that I think there will be a very full attendance. I was very much pleased with Rowland's letter. It was the best and longest epistle he has ever written to me. I hope he will write again. At least you must encourage him to do so.

There is not much of any thing transpiring in College worthy of note. After the election of officers of the general societies the excitement gradually subsided and all those, who had become incensed at each other in the heat of debate and passion, adjusted their differences, and with a shake of the hand became friends again. So all goes on now peacefully and happily excepting a few outbreaks of the youthful politicians, and a few disputes as to the qualification and Characters of Generals Taylor & Pass. Sometimes the Wilmot proviso and the Mexican War are themes of discussion.

I succeeded at last, to make a declamation satisfactory to the Learned and critical mind of Prof. Boudy - considering as considerable gained I thought I would mention it. But I have not succeeded so well in my "themes" or (compositions). I never have had one returned to me, bearing the mark signifying "good". Although I thought I wrote pretty well. And as I cannot get the praise of others in writing, I think I have the right "to think well of and praise myself".

I attended Church this fore noon, and heard Mr Adams preach. The day is very fine, and the plains are not covered with mist and fog as usual. It seems as though we have the sun hidden from our view by fog nearly half of every day or at least every other day. In the afternoon we have a strong sea breeze from the south, which drives in the mists upon the shores toward evening and they last till the heat of the noonday sun has burned them away.

I have been reading, the past week, Gibbons History of the Decline and fall of the Roman Empire in which it appears to be the inevitable fate of prince and King to be a martyr to his virtues or a victim of his vices. I read easier and with more pleasure in the History of times past. The <novel> and exciting is still alluring and it is natural it should be to a mind like mine delighting in excitement. But considering "light-reading" uncongenial with the sound knowledge and, though it contributes to the refining and giving rise to the better feelings of the heart, that it extends the intellectual powers in no degree, and gives a false impression concerning human things. I have resolved not to read much of the like while in College.

Thomas Bridgham writes that he will assist me as much as he can to get a good school. Give my love to my Brothers & the rest of the family. McArthur has been taken away from College by his father. The Resident said he could not get into the Junior class. There is quite a number in College not so steady as they ought to be. I think it is a bad place for William, although I would not like, to have his father hear it from me.

Give my respects to all my friends at Leeds and also at Hallowell if you see any of them. Write soon and tell me your determination respecting your Journey to Massachusetts. There is but little sickness in College. One young man in the Freshman Class fell at the Gymnasium and hurt him severely. But he is now recovering. Remember me to my friends at the center of the town.

From you affectionate Son  
O O Howard



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126 8/16/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0117

Bowdoin College Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Aug 16 1848

Dear Mother

I heard from Jennings today that there were many sick with the fever at Leeds, and that some had died. I hope that our family are all well. If they had not been I suppose you would have written. I was appointed, some time since, to be a speaker for the prize, and shall declaim a week from Monday next. I have been busily engaged in committing my piece of late, besides having to write an examination "Theme". Hence, if you have been anxious, because I have not written for so long a time, this has been the cause. Our reviews of the studies of the year also consume much time from their length.

I have partly agreed to take a school in Bowdoinham next winter at \$18.00 per month and my board. It is said to be a very pleasant school, of about 50 scholars. It is also situated in a good district.

I have changed my boarding place lately, so as to secure a place for next term, as I had tired of boarding at my old club.

Nearly all the graduates of Yarmouth Academy, went to North Yarmouth to the society anniversary today. The people of that town were going to give a large "pic nic accompanied by a band of music". William Otis has gone. They all started in high spirits, expecting a good time, and I am afraid some of them will have too good a time. I thought I would not go, as I was not acquainted with any of the Yarmouth people, had not the money to spare, nor the time to spend, and did not like the company that went very much. I think I will give up going to the "West" with you, if you go, that I may have the money which I should necessarily spend, to pay towards furnishing my room or other expenses. But we will talk that over when we meet.

I think I have accomplished quite a reformation in myself. I have not only left off using tobacco, but overcome the desire for it. I tell you this, that you may not conclude that college is wholly deteriorating in its influences, since, when I came here I had a "bad habit", and within these walls I have left it. Now perhaps you will ask whether the good was accomplished from College influence, or from my own resolution. It was College influence, in some degree, which was the cause of it, for seeing so much smoking and chewing tobacco and perceiving no good resulting therefrom, but much evil both to the system, and to external neatness, taking example therefrom by contraries, I resolved to abjure the use of the "noxious weed" altogether.

A class from N. Yarmouth entered College today or rather were examined. When I saw them going in the same "old Hall" which received me two years ago, it made me recur to the past and think what were my feelings, when I followed Prof Upham to the same place. My mind wavering betwixt hope and fear - <now> my heart beating high with expectation as I looked upon the mild features of Professor Upham presaging a good <choking> now losing all my courage in the uncertain look of Prof <Length> and the severe stern countenance of Prof Packard, I scarcely contain myself, or rather restrain myself, till the ticket of admission relieves my troubled spirit. I have passed through many examination since then, but now with so much interest and so much solicitude, I believe I should not have been more excited, if my life had been at stake on the issue.

Excuse nonsense sometimes, write me soon. I found I had not a pair of pants suitable to make my "debut" on the stage, and secure the sympathies of the ladies in behalf of my declamation, so I purchased a pair, thinking you would concur in my opinion. I have not yet paid for them, and am not obliged to till next term, without you choose that I should. The price is \$4.80. I do not know what the expenses of the exhibition will be, but presume not more than \$2.00 as we have voted not to have music. I suppose I shall have to ask for that this term. Give my love to my brothers and all the family. From your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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127 8/20/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O.O. Howard]

OOH-0119

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 20th 1848

My dear Son,

I have been thinking sometime from day to day of writing to you but one circumstance after another has prevented. I should have been very happy to have had your company in our tour to Massachusetts but I think you are right. Your father has concluded to go next Tuesday or Thursday. Tuesday if we can get ready, and I am anxious to go as soon as possible and then I shall reach home before you do. Your Uncle John has changed his mind about having Vaughan come out to Leeds and R.B.H. will not go to Hallowell. I think he had better go to Readfield. He ought to go tomorrow as the term commenced two weeks since whether he will get away is uncertain. I wish you were here to go with him. I wish he was well settled at school for the fall term. If you can secure a pleasant school at \$18 per month so near Brunswick as Bowdoinham I think you had better do it.

We are all well and our Neighbours are all well. There has been a number of children died in the west part of the town, but I think they are all getting well that have been sick. I wish you would write so that a letter would reach here the second day of Sept and let us know in what manner you would like to come home. I do not anticipate any pleasure in visiting Massachusetts, but I hope I shall be happily disappointed. My housekeeper has come and everything is going forward to show that we shall soon depart on our journey. I hope you will get along to your mind on exhibition day.

Monday Evening [Aug 21] Your father has concluded to go tomorrow. Rowland B.H. did not go away to school as I wished and when he will go is uncertain. You did not say anything definite about money, except the two dollars. I shall enclose three dollars to you in this letter. The pants may as well not be paid for until the time you agreed to pay. If in the course of events I should never meet you more I hope you will remember your dear Brothers. Let your precept be fortified by example. Mrs Frybon came here from Hallowell last week and will return there tomorrow with us. I heard today that doct Lord was sick and could not attend his calls. He has had quite a large practice this season, and been successful. If anything should happen that I should not reach home before the end of the college term, you had better come to Hallowell and come up with us, but you can do as you see fit.

Give my love to Perley and others if you please. Good Night.  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

We expect to come on the Rail Road & in the Huntress to Hallowell either Thursday or Saturday next week.

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128 8/26/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Roland [A Gilmore]

OOH-0118

Bowdoin College Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College August 26 1848

Dear Roland

You may think it odd, my directing a letter to you, but I suppose father and mother are gone, and know not whether Rowland Bailey is at home or not, so that I might be sure that somebody would take my letter and read it and perform my request, I write to the one, whom I am very sure to find at home. I expect to start from this place for Leeds next Thursday morning and shall go by way of Lewiston, where, if it is convenient, I would like to have you meet me. I shall certainly be at Lewiston at noon or a little before. Of late they have begun to run a stage from this place to Lewiston. I might go in the stage as far as South Turner Bridge, but I cannot tell what time I should get there, whether I should be obliged to stay overnight or not in Lewiston or lastly whether I can raise cash enough to carry me "thus far". Again I suppose you will be glad to have a little ride, if you have not had your fill of such pleasure in riding with Miss "—" you know who, not I.

i shall be obliged to speak for the prize on Tuesday next, which I dread very much because I have <a> poor piece. If Rowland Bailey is gone I should think you would be rather lonesome.

I anticipate a good time with you this vacation "going to Meeting" &c, 'perhaps to Green'.

Wilson is going to teach a high School at North Leeds this fall. I do not know whether he will go up with me or not. I did think of stopping till commencement, but I thought it would shorten my vacation too much, the only one I shall have for six months as I shall keep school all winter and return immediately to College If I have my health.

Give my respects to all. Harness your horse next thursday morning and come to Lewiston and I will meet you there and we will have a pleasant ride and a pleasant talk from that place to Leeds. A conversation will serve "to kill" time and moderate the tedium of a wearisome journey.

May you be happy and remember me as your  
Friend and brother  
O O Howard

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129 8/28/1848 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0120

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Aug 28th 1848

Dear Brother

We received yours on Saturday last and are glad to hear that you have finished your mathematics. No doubt they have cost you much toil and trouble but the knowledge that you have conquered will I suppose afford pleasure enough to compensate for all. My health is not very good today. I had a slight touch of the Cholera (morbus) yesterday and have not got over it yet, but am in hopes that I shall without being very sick.

Father was down to the River Friday & Saturday of last week. Arza being summoned to disclose at the Jail door he had to attend to it. I believe they got through it very well. The folks at Hallowell were well. Uncle Henry [Charles Henry Strickland, husband of Martha Jane Otis] has had the house enlarged and repaired and has returned to it. Fred went home last Friday. Grandmother is here but is going to Hallowell soon. I was over at Wayne last Thursday. Heard nothing about your school except that they were trying to get a place for the school cheaper than Mr Frost offers his hall which is a dollar a week.

The Sons of Temperance had a celebration here last Wednesday consisting of a Procession oration and dinner. There was a large number out and every thing went off well. Every body appearing to enjoy themselves

You wished us to inform you at what Depot to meet you. I suppose the Greene depot is the most convenient. I suppose that you will come out in the train that starts at two o'clock at Portland as the first one is so early (at seven I believe). We will meet you then at the Greene depot on a week from next Thursday. I have a little errand I should like to have you do if it would be convenient. I should like to have you get me a Florenc Hat made in the form of the palmleaf ones. I suppose the size will be such as you wear. It will cost about a dollar perhaps more. If you cannot find one of that form get one of the latest fashion. As you will be at home so soon I suppose it will be of no use to write any more news so farewell till I see you.

Your brother Rowland

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130 10/8/1848 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0121

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Oct 8th 1848

Dear Brother

I received your letter yesterday. It is well that my Pantaloons waistbands were made strong for if they had not been the consequences were to be feared. I have been to church today. After service there were two baptised rather a cooler I should say. I wrote home Friday, have not received my answer yet. I also sent you a catalogue at the same time. You have not been mistaken in my chum. He is a first rate fellow and as you conjecture some like Perley for he reads poetry and lisps. So I think they must be kindred minds. The catalogue I sent you was a last years one or rather a last June one they coming out in June. I like Mr Torsey more every day I see him, is a jolly soal laughing himself fat they say. I should not have written till I had received a letter from mother but I supposed you would be impatient knowing as I do your temperament and letter mania.

How are those with whom I am acquainted at Brunswick. Who are you going to send up to teach our school. By the way I hope you will send him. I am glad that you have taken a school so near home and that you will have to visit that place this winter. Chum is continually writing letters. I talk some of hiring him to write mine for he will do it for two cents a piece (Excuse bad spelling).

I like Mr Jewet very much but he hints that at the rate we are going on it will cost him a dollar's a week for our board. Wakefield says that if cannot think of anything else to write I may write that the Devil's dead but I think that is impossible although he was fomaly renounced by two of the human family today.

Prof Taft has been here. He is from Cincinatia. He tells us that he can teach us to read greek (Testament) in 20 lesons of an hour each. Mr Torsy thinks of forming a class here another term. If so I shall join it. Mr Taft was fomaly assistant here but has since been a Professor in Indiana college. He says that his only object is to confound Romanism by having everyone read the greek testement.

How is William Otis geting along this term. How many are there in the present freshman class and how are they used. Thomas Turner sends his best respects to you and says you must write him. I have no joly adventures to relate like your own for that which I write in my journal every day expresses thereby all that is. Atended recitation as usual. But yesterday being a holiday we had more of a variety. I went down to the corner with Thomas F Turner and there saw a man take a glas of liquor as if it had been a common thing with him. They appear to be very bold in seling of it for there are taverns and I stared at the corner that keep it. I know that in your next letter I shall receive a warning but do not be afraid. Your Temperate self is not more temperate than your Brother.

I have just returned from my bible class. There is about a hundred in it, all students. The more I atend it the more I think that I shall become a minister for I begin to like the subject of "Theology" as well as "politicks". By the way the last is in very low ebb here. We had a caliopean meeting Friday evening. The question was "Will the present free soil movement prove beneficial." I could not see how they could be so dead on a subject which if I had been a member of the society I could have talked all night upon. I hear nothing of Politicks and of course say nothing. But I hear the bell ringing for Prayer Meeting and of course I shall atend. That is a natural consequence.

More after I get back. I have just returned from prayer meeting. They are geting up a terrible excitement here in religion. A boy came forward to be prayed for who was 8 years old. The poor fellow was frightened most to death.

Do not write me will you. After reading my letter over, I find nothing but a bunch of nonsense but I suppose it will prove acceptable coming as it does from

Your affectionate Brother  
RB Howard



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131 10/13/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0122

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Oct 13th 1848

Dear Mother

I have delayed writing thus long from the hope before I wrote of receiving a letter from Wilson to whom I gave the refusal of the school. He is teaching a High School at Freeport. But not having received an answer to my letter, I have engaged another young man, a member of my class from New Hampshire. He has just entered the class. He appears to be a fine fellow & is a good scholar. He would like to have engaged a larger school and received more wages, but he did not come here early enough to find one to his choice. Hence he says he will take up with my offer at \$18.00 per month. He is a cheerful but very steady young man and I think will suit father. I have taken him as a young man well calculated to do the duty of a school master. I have not engaged him without any acquaintance for he rooms near me and I frequently see him & converse with. He also boards with my chum. I consider myself fortunate in making for you so good a choice. He is more of a man at the bottom than Wilson and cannot but give satisfaction. Should you wish to know any thing further concerning him make inquires in your next letter.

In about ten minutes after I left Charley I was crowded into a crowded Coach, with three seats for eleven and had quite an uncomfortable ride. In the stage there were two squalling babies & their mothers. One tall man, one little man, one fat man & a lean man, who bore the mark of a Gilbert & who in making himself acquainted with me told that he was Randy's father. There were also a little boy on his little father's knee and a little girl, who was stage sick. The above with myself comprized the my travelling companions as far as Lewiston. In our opinion we were waged as closely as possible, but, on getting about half way to L the stage driver unmercifully presented a young lady of immense magnitude & towering height and demanded if there was yet room. The fat man (by the way a mild, clever polite individual) extricated himself from the vise of bones by which he had been grappled betwixt Mr. Gilbert and the tall man and assisted the lady in. I took his place & found myself for once too large for comfort. The lady took my old seat right in my front. The seats were not more than two feet apart. How we could set thus in close proximity with out adhering is now a mistery to me! I think father's anecdote with regard to the jumbling of legs so as to confound them would well apply in this case. Conversation varied from earth to farms, from farms to potatoes - under which trend men discussed the various causes and inevitable results of the potatoe rot. From potatoes to College & every life. Preaching, religion and politics were treated of and school teaching last of all but not least was considered to some extent.

We arrived at Lewiston in hopes to find a more convenient and comfortable conveyance for the rest of our journey but for my part, I was disappointed. The stage was full & the driver had procured a private carriage for me. So I was compelled to ride in an open wagon in the rain, with two others, and wet we were when we got here. To complete my discomfiture my furniture had been removed from my old room but with renewed courage I went to work with the assistance of a boy and had soon brought my furniture into a safe harbor, into my new room. Every thing was in disorder, but scarcely anything lost. Now I have a very pretty room, neatly but no expensively furnished. I would not have believed that a carpet would have added so much to comfort. My clothes are in better order, having a closet to be kept in, and if are left in the room are not covered with dust and dirt.

I have written two letters to Rowland, one immediately on my return and an other in answer to one he wrote me. He is well & appears contented & happy. He has mad great and rapid improvement in letter-writing, and promises fair to surpass his older brother as a composer. My studies are not very hard. Mathematics not very easy, however. But I think they can be got. Give my love to my brothers and friends. Write soon. Ask father when our schools will commence.

Your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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132 10/15/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0123

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 15th 1848

My dear Son,

Really , how is it with you to day. Are you in good health and enjoying a pleasant autumnal Sabbath, or on the contrary are you an invalid. I have thought considerably about your lame stomach, and in addition to my fears. I heard you took an open waggon in the storm from Lewiston the rest of the way to Brunswick. I looked very strong for a letter last evening and was very much disappointed. I felt gloomy and lonesome. I was more sure than ever that all was not right. I expected you would have a great deal to do at the beginning of this term, but thought you would get time ere this to tell us how it is with you.

I saw Mrs Jennings at church to day and spoke with her. She said Orville wrote when he first got there but did not mention you. Doct Lord was polite enough to come into the pew, where I was, to day and said he was at Readfield Thursday and saw and conversed with R.B.H. and found him in perfectly good health and spirits for which politeness I was greatly obliged to the Doct. Mr. Mane and lady attended church to day. They were united in marriage Thursday eve. They will leave Leeds soon I understand. I thought her a quite a handsome bride. Mrs Rozilla Turner has a young daughter, a few days old. I have called at your Uncle's and John H Otis's, spent perhaps one half hour at both places. I met Hellen on the way to Mr Whites to borrow flower.

Your father is absent on his tour to New Hampshire. Has been gone four days. I think three or four more will bring him home safe, I hope. Roland A and Charles are husking corn. They have dug all of the potatoes, which was not great after all.

The young people are now returning from Prayer meeting. I hear them chatting near by. Mary remains with me. I expect Sarah Turner to live with me this winter. The Sun has hid himself behind the hill and left a beautiful twilight. We have had ten days nearly all sunshine and not rain enough to wet the ground, and I still wish for a few more good days for your father to arrive home in.

Monday P.M. I am once more seated at the table to write to my son after the first part of the day spent in my usual cares of Monday. The question occurred to me in what manner shall I fill up the remaining part of my letter. He already knows that all his mothers inmost feelings are for his best good, and he already knows what her ideas are in that respect, hours full of interest are the three years of your future life, it is not in my power to express the much, but I can fully comprehend all. I do desire very much you should do your best to take care of your health.

You can not have any idea how heavily time would pass with you if you were out of health and unable to do any thing. I have such fears about you and for a moment they were almost insupportable, but I can commit my all to Infinite wisdom. He has favored my son with a healthy body and mind and has kept him from haneous sins, and I hope from many youthful follies for which I owe a great debt of grattitude, and I will still hope on for your best good. There are a great many comforts in this world. I have found many, although I have sustained many a bitter part in life, bitter indeed, but in them all I have seemed to rise higher and higher in view of the rock of ages. I wonder I don't recommend that great support, which I feel, so sensibly, to those within my scope, but there seems to be a complicated nature with us that is always at work. I wish I knew this evening that you are well and happy and all the rest of my absent friends, but I am but one out of thousands who are full of the same desires and under far mor distressing circumstances and why should I expect to be so much more favored than those perhaps much more deserving.

R.B.H. said in his letter he had declaimed again and with better success. I think he likes the school well, and do hope it will be proffitable to him. Perhaps he has written to you or you to him ere this. Betsey has come to Capt Turners and seems more than usually out of health. I have not seen her except at church. Silas Lee has been here and made us a visit. Had Mr Sheldon's horse and waggon and brought Charles Turner home with him. Silas expressed his view on some subjects. He says it is so fashionable for young men to drink ardent spirit that they can not get along without it in fashionable society, or among fashionable young men. He talked as though all the clerks in Boston got drunk when they went out on a spree as he called it. I felt bad to hear such

talk from one that might be so promising and who is almost the only hope of an almost Broken hearted Mother.  
I did not reprove him but my heart ached for him.

From your affectionate Mother, Eliza Gilmore  
O O Howard

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133 10/18/1848 *From:* T Wilson

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0124

Freeport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Freeport, Oct 18th 1848

Friend Howard

As I have been situated somewhat distant from the post office, I did not receive your letter until some time after you wrote. I was glad to hear from you, and friend Perley. I am teaching at present down on Casco Bay about three miles from the village. I have rather a lonesome time, but occasionally we have <a> one of those delightful <kissing> parties where you may be sure I am very much interested. Sometimes I go and sometimes not.

I suppose you had a pleasant vacation. I had one of the greatest times out at Gray at the Institute <mind soul picture>. I waited upon the ladies of the Institute, second to no one I assure you. You know when I get a going I don't go slow. I have become so tired of the sex I can hardly be sociable. All such things end in satiety if not in disgust.

I suppose you are having a very pleasant term which I am condemned to lose. I am some like Sysaphus in my college course - you know the rest.

You spoke of a school at your father's. Nothing would please me better than to go up there and teach, but without he would put off the school until January I could not teach it as I am engaged ahead until that time. If he would put it off until some time in January I would go up and teach it on the proposed conditions.

Write to me soon and let me know if your father would put off the school, and all the news about college. I may not go down for a number of weeks.

We could have a fine time pedagogy up in Leeds if it would happen so that we could be together occasionally.

Give my best respects to Peleg Esq, and tell him I am on hand to "pound".

Your friend and Classmate,  
T Wilson

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134 10/25/1848 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0125

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Oct 25th 1848

Dear Mother

I was surprized to find that you had not received a letter from me for I wrote one and sent it as much as a fortnight since. My health is perfectly good & has been ever since I returned. My wrench in the stomach "got well" before I left home. I knew it was but a slight hurt. I am now very rugged and strong. I wrote in my letter that I had hired a young man to teach our school at \$18.00 per month. His name is Townsend, from New Hampshire. He joined our class at the beginning of this term. And being a very steady smart fellow and having taught three or four schools, I thought he was well calculated to teach a good school and would suit the District. But perhaps you have got my letter ere this and there is no need of repetition.

I would like to hear when my school commences so as to make arangements about going home. I have written two letters to Roland Bailey and received one from him. I also have written one to Laura Howard and sent you a book in pamphlet form. I wonder at your not having received any thing.

Our junior studies are not so hard as I anticipated. But they are sufficient to employ all my time or nearly all. Still I have read considerable this term - some of Shakespeare's tragedies, two of Irvings Sketch Books and his History of the Conquest of Granada and two large volumes of Scott's writings on the Crusades, and Longfellow's Spanish Student, &c. So you see I have been busy this term, have done more than a "sick man" possibly could do.

I am glad Rowland Bailey is doing so well at Readfield. I think he will make great improvement. If we could only bend his passion for reading into the channel of study, he would certainly make a great student. I wrote to Francis Turner not long since at his request, but have not yet received an answer. Probably it will take him some weeks to read my letter for I wrote it hastily and with a quill. I was not aware before that Silas would communicate his views so freely on the subject of drinking. I thought the last time I saw him, that he could not drink much, and retain his robust frame and healthy look.

I seldom see William Otis this term. He rooms in the south end of south College, hence we seldom meet. He does not come to my room, and I have not had time to go to his. I could not comprehend who you meant by Mr. Mane (I believe you called him) and lady who were lately married. I shall be under the necessity of asking an explanation of the personages, though it could not be a familiar name. But it may be and I have read it wrong. I compared all the persons I knew at Leeds with this name but I could perceive no analogy. I presume it is some one who is familiar to you and you forgot that I had not been informed on the subject.

Write soon when your school will commence and mine also, if you can ascertain. Write what father did at New Hampshire. Ask him if he found any places so high & isolated as Canton Mountain, where Mr. Niles's pasture lies. Tell him that I think I have found him a teacher who will suit him, but I shall not "make any enconinons" on him, or extoll his merits, for they will soon be exhibited, "ipso facto". Give my love to Charles & Rodelphus and Roland. After how long a time is Roland to leave home? Ask him for me. I would like to have you or father write me a "request", directed to the president to attend the Baptist. It may be worded in this manner.. Pres. Woods. Will you please give my son or ward (as you please) permission to attend the Baptist Church during the remainder of his College course" Signed \_\_\_\_

I attended there last Sabbath and like the preacher better than Mr Adams. He has more life and animation. Besides Jewett goes there all the time and would like to have me accompany him.

Write soon for I wish to know how well father likes my "Bargain" for a teacher.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver O Howard



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135 10/26/1848 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0126

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Oct 26th 1848

Dear Brother

You may think that I have delayed writing a great while but I have a thousand and one excuses to ofer. In the first place I delayed till I had a letter from home but instead of that Charles came after me last Saturday and of course I went home with him. I found our folks all well, the crops in and also a <pump>. Went to meeting Sunday but there was no preaching although it was expected that there would be some. After meeting I went up to Unkles, found your relation all well not excepting your little (I don't know what to call him without tis) baby (excuse). Laura had a letter from you Saturday and mother and I helped her find it out. Father returned from Waterford last Saturday where he had been negotiating for Arza's bee house. The secret of which I suppose Mother has wrote you. He has also been to Dixfield this fall and was gone five days.

T.F. Turner is not very well and I am afraid will not enjoy very good health for some time if he does not leave of studying. He has had to study rather hard and is unwell which he desires me to say are the reasons he has not writen you before.

Our examination was a fortnight ago. We had a very good time especially in the evening. I think we have some here that can rival some of those in the great junior class. All I wish is that you could hear them speak their original pieces. Mr Torsey says that the comite says that our class is the smartest class in the school and that we must not let the comite tell a lie. He told the school last night that tomorrow evening they might do anything they chose that night if they would not tar and feather him. The first he would submit to but the last he would have a hand in. Mr Tarsy leaves here to atend the institute at Augusta a fortnight from Monday. The other teachers will continue their classes as usual but as I recite to him I do not think I shall stay any longer than that.

When does your school comence and how is your health. Mother is greatly worried about you. She says that you strained your stomach by lifting. Has it got well. I have read the first poetry I ever read in my life this term and like some of it very much. I have read Mores & Scots poems of which I like the first best especially the one denominated Lalla Rookh although I know that you do not like poetry very well. But I think if you never read this you would like it. You recommended Shakespere to me but I don't like it. I myself canot tell why except it is I have a dislike to all dialogue. Let it be as well written as it may, I know you take no interest in politicks but you cannot help seeing the success that awaits the honest man. I should think there was about 20 here who are vaters and they all are free soilers but they are misled by false prophets and know not what they do.

I hope the Student you have engaged to teach our school understands the new method of teaching, that is by analysis. If he does there will be such a hubbub in our school for a week that he will not know which end he stands on but after that calms down the scholars will learn more than all they ever knew before. You ought to warn him of the place he is going into. If you do not he will leave it, disgusted, in a week. I never knew how much the schools of Leeds were behind hand till this fall. But I find that they have stood stone-still while others have improved and if we believe those who atended 20 years ago have actualy gone back. If our school has improved I should like to know what it used to be, hard telling a guess.

When I went to Leeds I met Mr Stinchfield on the way who informed me that there never was a student entered direct from Kents Hill and that if I did not go to North Yarmouth I could not enter Bodoin Coledge. I did not like to tell him he lies but ill tell you now beging that you'll not say anything about <it>. He, that is, Gancels Stinchfield is a great teacher. Nobody can prepare for coledge unless they go to school to him and then to North Yarmouth provided always that they go most of the time to him and pay <> regular (original ain't it). He went to Mr Ansel Turners and told him that Kents Hill was not a good place to send <Thomas> The school was for more advanced scholars than he and that one that was not more so than Francis could not learn anything there hardly. I never knew how to apreciate his friendship untill now.

Write to me soon at least before I go away from here. I see that you did <not mention my> catelogue. I suppose that was because I directed it <wrong>. I do not know but, I think through mistake I directed it to Otis O Howard. If your catelogues come write me soon and direct Kents Hill.

Your Afecionate Brother  
R B Howard

Oliver O Howard

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136 10/29/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0127

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Oct 29th 1848

Dear Mother

I received a letter from Brother Rowland, who said that he had been home and found you all in comparatively good health. He also said you were somewhat solicitous concerning me. You must not let things of so small importance trouble you. If I am so foolish as to injure myself by play, the injury must teach me care. I know you expect much from me. You wish me to be a man in action and thought and I even think myself often too boyish and sometimes act in a manner which gives me regret and mortification.

But you must pardon my errors, for I think I shall soon gain more maturity. I shall soon be less light and trifling as I perceive there is considerable responsibility resting on me. I must get a living for myself, even if I do not satisfy the cravings of ambition. My brothers in some degree look to me as an example. Upon my success or failure depends their respect, if not their love. I am older than they, and ought to lead them right. But they have a good director as long as they are under my mother's care. There they will learn good principles and good morals. But this is not all they will need. Though a good firm moral character is the best foundation on which they can rely, the best effectual resistance against temptation and vice, still without a good education, without a thorough knowledge of men, they will have many difficulties to meet, many barriers to surmount. It frequently appears to me more chance that I am what I am, that I am not worse than I am. I see others with as good hearts, with as good mothers, and as good incentives, led away from principle and virtue, subservient entirely to possession.

I never considered drinking liquor in a worse light than I do now. I see it destroys health, & comfort, it ruins the happy effect of mutual intercourse by destroying the confidence we place in others. I think, were it customary to drink as in old times, that the injury would not be so great. Now those who drink separate themselves from others, giving no bounds to these excesses. When if it was customary to drink in society, the virtuous would certainly possess some influence over those prone to yield to appetite & passion. Now those who drink are "as far asunder" from those who do not, as Heaven & earth almost. They have nothing in common. Their tastes are different. Their pleasures are different, and their whole being, as it were, becomes changed.

Rowland writes well, in good spirits and full of politics as usual. I am glad to see him enjoy himself thus and hope to have a brother one of these days a smart & intellectual man. Rowland has better abilities than I, and if they are but turned in the right channel, he will not fail to make an enterprising man. You can place more confidence in him than in me as regards pecuniary interests, for he is more frugal & economical, whilst I am governed too much by impulse. Hence his is the most certain of the two of making a man in a good circumstances as the saying is.

But I think I shall not starve while I have health & vigor, while I have as much mind as I now have, for even the doubly skilled Irishman gains a living and often something more. The world is wide. There is enough that can be done. The writer, the speaker, the novelist, the poet, the trader & the manufacturer, all have a <wide> & fruitful field which may be successfully cultivated. I often look forward to a gloomy & foreboding future, to a time, when oppressed by poverty & care I shall drag along a weary existence. Still I will not be so utterly devoid of common sense as to be frightened at my own thoughts and fear a tiger where there is but a timid lamb. Try shall be my motto and never turn back till driven. I have courage enough for any thing, but my decision is not sufficient.

I was reading the Conquest of Granada by the Christians (written by Irving)) and there I was frequently struck with the difference between Isabella & her husband & associate <> Ferdinand. He was shrewd & politic but was frequently troubled with indecision. And in this state of perplexity he would write to the queen. She would give an immediate and decided answer. And upon her opinion Ferdinand immediately relied. It gives me a poor opinion of a man's intellectual qualities, to see him turning from one side to the other like a cornered bull or rather not knowing which way to turn. On the other hand, if a man does not possess a great intellect, but acts decidedly, I have much respect for him.

I am in good health and waiting with some impatience to hear again from home. Be not anxious about me or my health for, if I am sick, you will soon hear of it. I wish to know soon when my school is to commence. I am intending to study my English somewhat before I commence my school.

From your Affectionate Son  
O O Howard

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137 11/8/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0128

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Nov 8th 1848

Dear Mother

I have just received your letter and am happy to find you well and in good spirits, as I should judge from the general tenor of your epistle. You are right. The natural dictates of your heart prompt you to utter the sentiment of the greatest Poet "take care of the present. But let the future take care of itself." I believe the motto, and will strive follow it. But you must admit, that I have not a mind so constituted that it will preserve equal tranquility at all times, and under all circumstances. Young as I am, I am ever ready to grasp at any opportunity or any circumstance which will give me a start in life. I know that my future prosperity depends on my exertions. Hence it is natural that I should have hopes & fears as the prospect seems bright or dark. Still it is foolish to give expression to such feelings.

You are mistaken respecting the effect of a want of digestion on my mind & feelings. I may be petulant or peevish oftentimes though I think I have overcome such childish feelings. But when I reason the clearest I usually have the greatest fears, but no more of this. If you perceive any thing gloomy or ill-boding in any of my letters for the future, do not mention it and I shall be most likely not to fall into another gloomy train of thought. For if you let me know that my thoughts & feelings give you pain, it will make me still more downcast and cause us both to be unhappy unnecessarily.

We have now commenced the most difficult part of our College course in Mathematics. It is hard indeed. The classes preceding us have not belied it when they said that "differential Calculus" was almost incomprehensible. Infinity is its basis and methinks it requires an infinite mind to thoroughly understand its hypothesis. Yet on the hypothesis which is taken I can thus far understand the reasoning and think I shall find no difficulty in accomplishing all that is necessary. Many of our best mathematicians are dropping off and giving up the abstract reasoning as useless. But I never say I can't and I am slow to be convinced that I can't.

Perley did not get a Junior part this fall but I hope & believe he will get one in the spring. For he is oftener than I in low spirits, and perhaps imparts some of his gloom to me. He does not believe that he ever shall do anything. While on the other hand I know I shall & will if I have my health. He has wanted a Part & I think he has studied for one (though I would not like to have him know I said this). So he will be greatly disappointed if he does not have one.

With regard to my return home. I think that you had better send for me. I wish to carry home my old clothes and many other things which cannot conveniently be carried in a stage. But if you think otherwise you must write soon and send me, if you can, money enough to pay my fare. I would like to go as soon as the Wednesday beforehand, so as to have three days to make necessary preparations before I commence my school. I believe three weeks from to day (Wednesday) will be the time. You need not send if it is not convenient.

I would like very much to have seen my cousin Emily and wish her visit had been a little later. I shall probably never teach school at Levant for I intend to take means which will enable me to get higher wages next winter than this.

Politics rage high here in College. The students are divided respectively among the three parties. We had an election yesterday in due form. The Taylor men carried the majority. A great many of the students are of age and think it hard that they cannot vote where it will be of some effect. The students are an excitable set of beings, which I think you would infer if you should hear some of the animated discussions and see with what eagerness they grasp at every report, reciprocally elated and depressed as the news favors or injures their cause.

Dumont harangued the people a few nights since and it would have amused you to have heard the variety of opinion with regard to him. The "Free Soilers" thought themselves injured and treated unfairly. After the meeting we had dissension. Three Free Soilers opposed me alone. We discussed the subject of slavery. Van

Buren's claim the Texas question. Taylor's principles and in <> everything that would claim the attention of politicians occupying a higher & more effective position than ourselves. I began to fear that my lessons would be neglected if I entered too much into politics. So when I heard that a democrat (so called) would make a speech on Monday last, I staid at home to study and prepare myself so as to engage in the cause of my country with better resources of mind and a more effective hand. I presume father with other whigs is certain (almost) that "Old Zack" will be elected. I suppose you will hear the news before this will reach you, so I will not write the reports we have heard by Telegraph. I can imagine with what impatience Rowland Bailey is awaiting the news from different sections of the country.

Give my love to my Brothers. I am glad you have got so good company as Sarah Turner to cheer you up, for I believe she is always in good spirits and on good terms with the world. Give my respects to her and tell her she must convince Roland Alger on the subject we discussed so thoroughly but not decisively one evening with regard to female character.

[See note 1] Perley sends his respects to all our folks. His health is now quite good.

I have been reading lately the history of England, and am really supprized at the advance of civilization since the establishment of Protestantism, but I think there is still room for advancement in civilization. Vice, error, and superstion are not confined alone to the dark ages. I began the history as the English were emerging from the Germans, the Duch and the Welch and have read an abridged account of them down to the reign of Henry the Eighth. I take considerable interest in the reading as I have become acquainted with the characters of the Kings from reading Romances & Shakespeare. The Heroic character of Richard (Coer de Lion) is splendidly portrayed by Walter Scott in his Romance on the Crusades. He was just the man for the times - severe and dreaded by his enemies, but generous to his friends. He savaged his subjects by his iron will alone, but he was chivalrous and the admiration of his times.

I have written two themes this term. One has been returned to me with but one mistake marked and the writing covered four full pages. I thought it was doing quite well for me, blunderhead as I am.

One of our Class - Perry - has been obliged to leave the class on account of sore eyes, and will probably not return. He was decidedly as good if not the best scholar in the class. And I can say he ever is a person of the fewest faults of any one. Yes he is a fine fellow, and had more of <> respect than any other one and I shall be <> sorry to lose him. He felt bad to leave and could hardly refrain from tears when he bid us farewell and shook hands. I heard that Charles Cothren, teaching a high school in Livermore, had broken his leg in three places. I pity him. He has been teaching <all> the fall, but it will consume all his wages to cure him up. He is a stout fellow, weighs about a hundred and eighty.

Give my love to Roland & father and my respects to all my friends. This is somewhat long for me to write, and if you have as much difficulty reading my writing as I heard that cousin Laura had in reading a letter I wrote to her, I hardly know how you will accomplish it. But I should soon be there & will assist you if needs be. Write immediatly on the reception of this, so I shall get your letter. I shall study my English some this term, so as to be well prepared to ratify father's recommendation with regard to me. Perhaps I shall get a certificate from Prof. Packard.

From your affectionate son  
Oliver O. Howard

[Note 1

There was a missing page(s) at this point in the letter, and the remainder given here was found attached to the letter dated Dec 20, 1850. However I believe it has been incorrectly placed for several reasons. It is discussing topics related to Bowdoin rather than West Point. The reference to Perry having to leave Bowdoin because of his eyesight puts the date before Jan 14, 1849. Also the reference to Laura not being able to read his letter places it sometime before the letter from Eliza Gilmore on Nov 12, 1848.]

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138 11/12/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0129

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Novem, 12th 1848

My Dear Son

I had the pleasure of welcoming another epistle from you last evening, the mail mark, and date of the letter reminded me of the accomplishment of another year of time being added to your number. I am now at home alone with the exception of Rodelphus whose hands are as busy as ever. He is back towards me. He is doing some thing with a pin, mischief I suppose, the rest are gone to meeting. Mr Laughton has return'd from a second tour and as I understand, is to leave Leeds in a few days for Calais to take the boat at Portland. He has not been in Leeds but a very little this fall.

Your father brought R.B.H. home from Readfield last evening. He is in good health and appears perfectly satisfied with himself. I have talked with your father about sending for you. He thinks it impracticable and thinks you had better try the stage again. I do not wonder you are tired of the new stage route. He will send to Lewiston to meet you if necessary. You had better ascertain what days the stage on the North part of the Route meet the Lewiston line and write <home>. Some of our folk will meet you at one of those places. Our Teacher will come with you either at Lewistown or at South Turner bridge, of course as our school commences the same day yours does.

Yesterd- was the funeral of Lloyd Gould's wife at the Chapel, the ground is frozen very hard and the traveling bad, but in fact it will be fifteen or twenty day's from this is uncertain.

It is all nonsense about Laura's not finding out your letter. There was a few words that plagued her. Your father and Roland and I were at brother Ensigns the next day after your letter came to hand, Laura not being very much used to your hand writing had not found out every word. She would feel hurt if she knew R mention'd it to you. Don't say anything to her about it. Everything goes on here as usual preparing for winter is the business of the day. I think my nervous sistem has not been so good for a great while as at present probably my Journey to Mass. had a healthy affect on my nerves.

Your father is in high life in regard to the presidential election. I hope if Tailor is elected he will answer to their expectations. Laura said Seth Howard had written home that he has found a bad place. He had heard of a hell upon earth and he thought he had found it. He will get through with it I think as I have heard nothing of late.

Sabbath evening. Since our folks return'd from church a new train of thought has occupied my mind. They brought the probable news of Mary P Hale's death since Sarah's return this evening. She says her (Mary's) father has gone to Lowell and they thought her in a dying state when they sent for him and the stage driver told Orville on his way from Brunswick of the fact. Rowland B. H. spoke with Jennings at meeting who told him he saw you yesterday morning in health. I cannot bear to think we shall never see Mary again. She wanted to do something for herself and her first start was to go to Lowell to earn money to help herself. Not long ago some of her cousins had a letter from her in good spirits and doing well.

Soon as you read this you will make all necessary arrangements what day and where our folks will meet you, whether at Lewiston or South Turner Bridge. Write as soon as you can. Take care of what you leave. Try to leave everything so that any one could get them. Warren Mower goes to Brunswick often. I could get him to take home some baggage for you. Perhaps, at the beginning of next term. Dress yourself warm, the weather is cold and piercing.

Give my love to Perley. He has my best of wishes and I think he will yet do well. I shall probably never see Mr. Lawton and wife again as they leave town tomorrow or next day. The prospect for supporting respectable preaching in town looks rather dark. I understand your Aunt Lee and Sarah are resolved to spend the winter in Cambridge. I don't know as I have anything more to say to you to night. So good night.

From your affectionate Mother, Eliza Gilmore

Oliver Otis Howard

I have enclosed two dollars. Hurrah for Old Fork.

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139 11/18/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0130

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds November the [18] 48

Dear Son

How are you this afternoon, enjoying your way of life, I hope, a mind free from care, and ready to receive all the benefit of this days labour, in addition to all the past. No evil forebodings for the future, or other evidences of dispeptic <hurled>. You Mother can see nothing that should call forth such gloomy forebodings you carry the reasons with you why you should not indulge in them. You have always succeeded in all your undertakings. You have the good will of a great many good people (your mother has the satisfaction to so think). You are hardly eighteen in years, therefore be content to be instructed and receive instruction as that has been your highest desire. Perhaps you have set your mark too high and if you do not reach it, do not be disheartened and, dispondingly, murmur against Providence because you are not all an ambitious mind could desire at this time of life. I know you failed to take the prize, but I hope that does not discourage you. You were considered equal to the undertaking or you would not have been selected for one of the number. But no more of this.

Do not say that R.B.H. has greater talents than yourself. It is not so. You and your brother are not alike. Your views and feelings are not alike, but I hope enough alike to be affectionate to each other.

Your school commences the first Monday in Dec. and so does ours so that you and our teacher can come out together. You had better come Thursday if you can. You can find out about the manner of coming, and write as soon as you get this. Your father has gone to Hallowel today to put some butter and cheese on board the boat to go to Boston. He has been gone from home the most of the time since you left home. He had a very good time while in his tour to New Hampshire. As soon as he returned home he went into Oxford county with Arza, and went as far as Waterford where the cold water cure is established there. He saw your old friend George Carr holding on to the hope that he has found the right way at last to recover his health. Arza is in high hopes about his bee hive patent, and has a great deal to encourage him in his expectation as he has had handsome offers for his chance. I hope he will yet retrieve his circumstances.

Emily, Martin Addison's sister, is here on a visit for a few days. She regrets she could not have seen you, as her stay is so short. She wishes you would come to Levant and teach so she can become acquainted with you. Levant is her abiding place with her sister Lydia or Mrs Parker the wife David S Parker. He has taken a tavern for three years in that place. Lydia has a young daughter. Emily is more agreeable and intelligent minded than her sister L but no better hearted I presume. We expect Addison here for his sister on Saturday and return on Monday to H... and soon after she will return to Levant.

Miss Pernilia Jennings was the bride of whom I spoke in my letter. We have received all three of your letters and the book you sent. I mailed my letter in the morning, or at least I gave it to your Father to mail and he carried it all over Oxford county before he mailed it in Paris.

I read Laura's letter. It <savoured> of the same feelings of mine. Do shake them off my son. I see no kind of profit in them. The present time is your time. I see no kind benefit in dreading the future.

How I do run on. I was about to say that I received your letter the evening after I expected mine was mailed. Sarah Turner is living with me, and I see a vast difference between her help and some that I have had in times past. "She says my respects to Otis". You have not mentioned Perley this term. How is his health. Your Mother sends love to him. We shall attend to your wishes about the meeting. Give my love to your friend Jewet. Your Father puts entire confidence in your judgment in teacher. We have not had a school meeting to get a boarding house yet. Your Father asked me if I would like to board but uncertainty of help in the house makes me fear to undertake.

Now my son write me a good cheerful letter. It is the state of your stomach that makes you have such gloomy dread in your mind. Your Mother knows about it by experience. Be careful and not read to <[torn page]> when your studies are pressing. Everything goes on about as usual in Leeds, some births and marriages. We have good health here in Leeds this fall. Charly was disappointed in not going H... with his Father today. He is

driving the team for Rowland A at the day place. Elder Lawton is on tour to the Eastward to go as far as Calais before he returns. Give my love to William Otis when you see him. I hope he will come and see us in the winter vacation. Everything looks bright to me. The weather is bright and we are all in good health. Rodelphus throat is better. He has lived on bread and molasses nearly all the time since you left home. His voice is not quite right yet but I think it will be. It is nearly right and my sheet nearly full.

From Affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore.

O O Howard

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140 11/20/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0131

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Nov 20th 1848

Dear Mother

I received your letter in due season and felt very sad at the news it contained. It seems that always the best & purest spirits are cut off first as the fairest flowers fade soonest. So short is the stay of the good permitted. Methinks in this a wise providence is exemplified. Although earth holds out to the fascinated gaze of the young many a scene of splendor and many a glowing anticipation. Yet if they will but for a moment listen to the voice of experience how different a picture is presented of this lovely life! How quickly will the mind penetrate the fair exterior and read there a destiny not filled with that delight, which the deceptive predictions of the joyous heart foretell. The young seldom look forward but with a heart buoyed up with the strongest expectations. Life to them is a fancy, a vision, a dream of bliss. But how feared the instances, which prove the truth of such anticipation! How far short of the mark to be reached, comes cold reality.

Mary was a good girl, and, if she had lived, would have been a blessing and a comfort to her only parent. Society has lost in her one who would have adorned it by a mind as fresh as the morning. Unlike many others, she ever substituted good sense, for coquetry simplicity & integrity for dissimulation and flattery. All her friends will lament the loss of one so much beloved; but how soon will so good a girl as she be forgotten. A few tears will be shed a few sorrowful words spoken and soon the bare existence of the departed will seem like the dim recollection of some transient dream. Not so the father. The ties of love are not so easily broken. Friends may forget and society may find other objects of attention. He alone will feel the loss. A vacancy is left in his bosom, which no other objects of affection can fill. The poignancy of grief - the first piercing stroke of sorrow will leave its effect, though the wound may be partially healed.

The stage between here and Lewiston has stopped running. <And> of the boat also stops. I hardly know how I shall get home. Perley, unknown to me, wrote to his father to come and get us all. I would not go so. It would be imposing to much of a burden on Mr. Perley. If you could only get word to Mr Perley and let him take his horse & one of father's and the double wagon, we could go up so very well. But make your own arrangements. If you do not come for me (that is if some one is not here) by Tuesday night, I shall start for home Wednesday or Wednesday night some way.

Peleg says he will write to his father, to call when he starts for Brunswick at your house, so that you may do what you please. If he comes alone I shall let Townsend go with Mr Perley and go round by Hallowell or Portland by stage.

John Jewett commences his school tomorrow in Topsham. The government gave the students the remainder of the week from last Thursday to enjoy thanksgiving. Those who were near enough and wished it went home. A great many went home "for good", some to teach school and others from inclination.

My appetite is not very good. It is owing I think to our having our meals so near together... and my not having sufficient exercise.

N.B. Peleg has altered his mind about writing to his father. So you need not trouble yourselves at all about my coming home. Mr Perley will come & take two of us and the other will find some way to go.

Give my love to all the family. Fare well till I see you.

From your affectionate Son  
O.O.Howard

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141 11/24/1848 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0132a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds (24th of November) [1848]

Dear Brother

Mother wishes that I should write you tonight although you may not receive my letter before you come home. Your relations and friends are well and I hope you are the same.

Charles has gone to Hallowell. He did not go till last night although he has had the promise of going for a month. We received your last letter on Tuesday. You spoke of Mary Hale. Her funeral was on Thanksgiving day. There were a large number present. They seemed much affected.

I think I shall study Lattin this winter and if I do I should like to have some kind of a reader and if you have any, I wish you would bring them home with you. It may be I shall come after you. If I do I can tell you about what books I want. Father has concluded to send for you all things considered. Thinking that it was as easy to go to Brunswick as to Livamore and that perhaps after Mr Perly came here his horse would not work with ours.

Stinchfield has gone or is going on to Mr Paines office to study Law. I do not know as it is of any use to write more as you will soon be here and I can tell you everything I know. I shall probably be at Brunswick on Tuesday night with a bad looking horse and still worse looking waggon. I must stop for I can't write or spell right with a bad pen and a trembling hand.

Your affectionate brother  
R B Howard

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142 11/25/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0132b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Written on the back of the preceding letter from Rowland]

Saturday Morning Nov 25 1848

My dear boy

Your father has concluded to send the horse and waggon for you Tuesday, if there should be a bad storm he will come the next day or as soon as the wether is suitable. Your best way is to be contented at your room until some one arrives for you. He will, of course, get there at the same time as Peleg's folks do, and you can make your arrangements just as you like.

Yours affectionately Eliza Gilmore

O O Howar

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143 12/13/1848 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-0133

Bowd Coll

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Dec 13th 1848

Friend Howard

Your favor of the 9th inst was this morning received & be assured that I perused it with no little pleasure. I am always gratified with such tokens of remembrance & regard & after making 2 or 3 exceptions of my own nearest relatives, I am more gratified with them from no one than from you.

But the subject into which you seem purposely to have led me adds a new interest to your letter & to my reply. It is one on which you seem to feel deeply & one which no one ought to treat with indifference. It embraces the happiness & misery of Mankind the honor & consideration of an interesting part of the human family includes the origin, instruction & character of every individual & extends even to the remotest influences by which we are activated. A subject of such vastness of such unlimited comprehension, so broad in its beginnings and so limitless in its details, cannot, of course, receive a proper treatment within the few pages of a letter. It is almost foolhardiness to undertake it knowing that no part can be more than cursorily glowered at.

But if you wish for my candid opinion in relation to the <Ladies> I presume that I can give it here, though the reasons for them & the support of my assertions must be left unstated.

And first I would make this general statement that the female sex hold a responsible position & are capable of highly promoting or entirely destroying the happiness of man. This it seems to me was the original connection between the two sexes which no change in nature or times has ever or can ever break off. Their destinies are linked together by inseparable bonds originating in the very formation of living beings & they cannot be separated without the utter extinction of the human race. You may call this a necessary evil, but that does not alter the fact & indeed I should seriously question the proper application of the term "evil" in such a connection for if we now look to the advantages which result to us from the relations which have been established between the sexes, an immeasurable host of real conveniences are suggested at once. I also believe that women exercise a stronger influence for good on society than men. They are the founders I say & the assertion can be proved. They are the authors of all those little comforts without which our existence would be a burden. Without them Life would be <robbed> of the jewells which so compose its "crown of rejoicing". Woman is not from a <> womb of creation which can be omitted without perceptible injury to the calculation of human happiness. Individual exceptions how so bright in opposition to this theory however numerous or important they may be in themselves considered. I do not believe in a surrender of the many attributes of our nature to the control of women's will. Man was made to guide & direct to support & preserve in short to take the lead in all the more important affairs of life, but then on put the things that exert the greatest controlling power over the course of human action. It is the soft, still, persuasive influence which forms around childhood's opening prospects & moulds the character of humanity.

If you now understand my position I have done all I expected to do when I began & will therefore drop the subject for the present, for my <Mechanics> is waiting to receive a little attention

i am getting along finely as yet. Perhaps I shall keep another singing school in Topsham though it is not certain yet. The Topsham women I think nothing about except my scholars. Miss Wilson though is keeping school in the village I believe. I was glad to hear of your prosperity and hope it will continue. The No of students is almost zero. They may number 30 in all. Dull times I fear. Give my respects to your family & Townsend &c. I would visit you if I had time. Let me hear from you again soon

Yours truly  
J.N. Jewett

I shall direct this to South Leeds, for I am uncertain of your proximity to a Post office & you will get it then some time or other sure.

P.S.

I have in my school Algebra, Philosophy, Astronomy. <Watts> on the mind, Book Keeping, Latin & French  
<> common studies. It keeps me busy I assure you.

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144 12/22/1848 *From:* P. H. Townsend

*To:* Friend [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0231

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Friday PM. 22 Dec [1848. The year 1850 was written in pencil.] [see note 1]

Friend Howard

You find me among the missing, and are perhaps surprised. The cause of my leaving you will know is not from any thing in particular which has "turned up," but because I am thinking that I should not enjoy myself with such a school. I might perhaps keep the school out perhaps satisfactorily to most all parties, yet it would require more anxiety and care on my part than would be profitable. I thought as much at the close of the first week.

I start to morrow for Brunswick, and if I can find a school that I can like I shall engage it. If I do not find any school, I think I shall go to Exeter and take up with the first opportunity to engage a private school or high school.

I may not see you again yet I hope I shall see you before many years at any rate. I'm thinking strongly of going to Cambridge, but my mind is not fully made up. I would say more but time presses.

Excuse this hasty epistle and accept my best wishes for your success in teaching and for your future prosperity.

Your Friend  
P. H. Townsend

[Note 1. The year 1850 was written by someone other than the letter writer. Because it is referring to Townsend's departure from teaching a school, I believe that it is referring to the school that O.O. Howard arranged for him to teach in Leeds, and which he left before the end of the school period. This was the winter of 1848/49. Thus the date should be 1848.]

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145 1/14/1849 *From:* P S Perley

*To:* Friend & Chum [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0134

Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Livermore Sun Jan 14th 1849

Dear Friend & Chum:

I have not heard a word from you nor seen you this winter and as I have begun to conclude that I shall not without writing to you I have concluded to write you a few lines. I really think Howard! You ought to have come here before this time. But then I won't scold you for I don't know as it has been so you could.

I should have been over to see you before this time if my mother had not been sick. She has been very sick with fever for three weeks past but she has now got quite smart. I have not heard a word from any collegian but Jackson I received a letter from him last night.

I hear that Townsend has left his school. I should like to know what was the cause of his leaving. How do you get along! Well I expect. I am getting along very pleasantly. I tell you what, it don't seem much like what it did last winter. I have about 60 scholars and average of about 50. A great proportion of them are small which makes it rather laborious, but then one don't mind that if he feels that his labors are appreciated you know. I was pretty sure you would be up here yesterday though I don't know what Saturdays you keep.

Perry is here and has been with me about four weeks. He is keeping writing school here. His eyesight was so poor that he was obliged to quit his school after keeping only a fortnight. He says he should be very glad to see you. Write me or come over the first chance you have. I do not keep next Saturday. If you could send a few lines to me down to Father's school I should get it sooner than by any other way. However I want you to come over. Miss Waite is here, looking better than ever. She will remain here for 2 or 3 weeks longer. I met her at a party Thursday night - that "gold pencil" suspended by a gold chain dangled at her waist and at the mention of the giver's name a rosy blush mantled her fair cheek. But more of this anon.

Do you know where the review is or rather how far they went in German and Latin. I want to know just what they read in Ger and Jurenal. Calculus I shant do anything to till I get back. As yet I have not studied but two evenings. I do not feel able to study any now and I am afraid I shant be able to make up till I get back. How much longer do you expect to keep? I shall keep 3 or 5 more I don't know which.

This is the third letter I have written to night and I having pretty well exhausted all my stock of interest and information on the two others I am afraid this will be rather dry however a dry one is better than none and I will at any time be thankful for even one as poor as this.

It is getting to be late and I must wind up and with a few words about the girls I will close. You must be sure to come. If you don't want to see Liz come and see me. I don't have any kind of a time with the girls this winter at all. Time was when I have had some quite "seasons" but that time is now past and it seems as though all was past. I guess you can send me a few lines by way of Father and let me know whether you can come. He will come home Saturday. I may possibly go to Wayne next Sat. to get me a coat cut but it will not take me a great while to do that.

Your friend & chum  
P.S. Perley

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146 3/3/1849

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B  
Howard]

OOH-0135

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 3 '49

Dear Brother,

I hardly know what kind of a letter to write you, wishing, as I do, to write one that will be agreeable. You said that you did not like my "lecturing" which by the way I thought would be differently received. I had had a little more experience than you and consequently thought that a few suggestions to a brother just forming associations would not be amiss. But as I am considered "official" in so doing I will forbear for the future.

I found that little Latin book which we were searching for here among my books. I brought it down at the time mother thought.

I had a conversation with Mr. Townsend last evening respecting his school. He thinks I deceived him with regard to the school and house, giving him the impression that the school was a good one, and the house comfortable & convenient. If I gave him that impression, it was unintentional. I was earnest for him to take the school and therefore might have given the bright side of the picture. In fact, I thought that all the difficulty which I had, arose from my having once been a member of the school.

I am sorry for Townsend for he depends mostly on his own resources for his education, and his winters earnings were comparatively small. He found a young man who had become tired of his school and wishing to go home he gave Mr Townsend his place & wages, which were only \$13.00 per month with the understanding that he was to board round. Townsend feels bad to think that he has earned so little. But he ought to have had a little more "pluck". If I had begun I would have kept on till at least, I had been put out doors.

This the most difficult term we have, while in college and I now feel, as though a load would be recovered from my breast if I were "made up." The cold, which I had when I left home, settled in my lungs, and I have had a bad time with it. Yesterday I bought some Azr's pectorant and it has helped me so much, that I slept all last night without coughing. For three nights I made me a bed before my stove, and slept with my clothes on so that I could get up without taking cold, and that I might not keep Peleg awake by coughing. Last night I went to bed again and had a good nights rest. It makes it rather bad when I have to study so much to be half sick.

The "faculty" have appointed tomorrow (this day is Friday) to examine those who were absent at the last examination. I have read my Jurenal since my return but have not been able to read any more.

I left my letter unfinished the other evening and now resume it (on Saturday evening) to finish it. My health is still precarious; my head stuffed as tight as it conveniently can be. I am in hopes my cold will soon take a turn and go off. I have been examined in Latin to day and succeeded admirably. Tell mother to write in her next letter what she would prescribe as most effective to loosen my cough. I have sufficient advisers but they do not agree enough in their prescriptions to be relied upon with any degree of certainty. Give my love to all and some one of you write as soon as you can.

From your affectionate brother,  
O O Howard

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147 3/7/1849

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0136

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 7, 1849

My dear boy,

How are you this evening. How is your cough. I wish I could know. Sad indeed are my feelings since I received and read RB's letter. I am writing to you, as tho you were no worse, but still I fear you are. But if you are not sick with a lung fever and still continue as you have been I should advise you by all means to procure some thoroughwort about as much as you boiled when at home. After taking out the herb, simmer it and reduce the quantity one half, and then put an equal measure of good molasses and a few spoonfuls of gin. That cyrup you prepared before you left home, I have been taking, and found great relief from it. If you can not obtain the thoroughwort, get horehound. I think thoroughwort is much the best and has always benefitted you. I wish that you prepared here could be at Brunswick. Don't put off taking care of yourself. And if you can get that cyrup and follow taking it as long as a vestige of your cough remains, I think it will be a great benefit to you in other respects. I have had a severe cold for about a week and nearly all of our family but none of us, so as to be kept awake a nights much often <docing> in our own way. I am distressedly anxious about your health. Let me know about it as soon as possible.

Warren Howard has been talking of going to Bath if the sleighing will do, and to day we have had snow falling all of the day. If he comes tell him just how you are, and let him take home everything you don't want. If you have any such things. You mentioned in you letter to me of being much worse but had received much benefit from Mrs Thomson's medicine, and the tenure of your letter was so cheerful that I thought you would soon be better or well. I have a great dread of your having the head ache so much.

Rowland A.G. started for New Bedford the fifth day of March and is probably there now, waiting for the vessel to be in readiness for California. He appeared to think more seriously of what he was leaving before he went he appeared very much interested in your letter and wanted to take it away with him, and I gave it to him, in taking out the pins you put in your father's wrapper. Mr Jewetts letter fell out of that part you turned up and that has gone to California too. Sarah while puting up R.A.G. little articles, knowing that he was to have your letter, took by accident Jewett's letter and packed it, and after the chest was sent away we discovered the mistake and gave Rowland yours. I don't think he will even read J's letter but you know he has never been in the way of even directing a letter. Your letter will be great help to him on that score. I feel bad for him. I know he will have so many unhappy hours and wearisome days aboard that ship.

I had not got over the excitement of his going when your letter to R.B.H. almost overcame me. RBH was astonished soon as he began to read your letter. I presume he never thought in earnest that anything was wrong. In your good letters few of your age can write such letters as you do, and Rowland knows it. Few have such a brother as RBH has got in my opinion. If I could know you were well again I would be happy enough I think.

RBH goes tomorrow to Kents Hill. He has just now left packing his trunk and bound up his soar throat and gone to bed and all of our family are in bed, but your father and myself. I care but a little about my bed. I have slept so little for a week past. Last night my mind was wholly engrossed with you, full of fears for the future. I had made up my mind to make you a present of ten dollars to buy you a great coat before I had your letter. Now I think I shall send it but if you are sick you had better not have the coat at present. RB has had him one made since you left home. It cost him about seven and a half dollars and a real pretty one it is. He brought it home this evening.

I do not care one snap about Townsend's troubles. He might have staid and finished his school, and I did all I could to make him happy, and he took his own way, and he must abide the consequence. Mr Millet had a noisy uncomfortable school but he did not leave it until he had accomplished his time, and I think T would have lived through it if he had exerted himself a little more.

Perley must let me know how you are as soon as you get this, if you are not able yourself. RBH dreamt you were sick with the typhus fever after reading your letter, but I hope it is not so bad, but some how I am terribly

alarmed about you and I dont hardly know why you have had so many colds this winter. I am particularly anxious about you.

Your Mother E Gilmore

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148 3/12/1849 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0137

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 12, 1849

Dear Mother

I take my pen, immediately on the reception of your letter in order to allay your unnecessary anxiety as soon as may be. I ought not to have excited your fears so much concerning me, for with the exception of a cough my health has been comparatively good. It is true I was a little "out of tune" the evening on which I wrote to Rowland Bailey. My cough also is almost well. I only cough a little in the morning perhaps ten or fifteen minutes after getting up during which time I raise the phlegm accumulated upon my lungs during the night.

My medicine though a little weakening to the system cannot fail of relieving my cough. I think, that I now have a better appetite, than I have had any time before during the winter.

I shall, however, as you say, be under the necessity of taking care of myself, and continuing my medicine or substituting what you recommend. More than one third of the students have as bad "colds" & coughs as I have had. I was a little afraid that I was inclined to be sick, when I wrote to Rowland, but my head-ache left me in the morning after. I think, that I have said sufficient to convince you of my convalescence. I respect much the interest you ever take in me. But for your sake & mine do not seek a fore-task of trouble. Then when it comes, we shall be the better enabled to bear it. Uncertain as everything is, it behooves us for our own happiness sake not to be over solicitous of the future. I do not think it right to be improvident. Provide what we deem essential, and let matters take their course. The weak mind is apt to fear the thunder from its sound however distant it may be, and recoil in terror into some dark corner. It is true, there are dangers at any and all times, but a man is not a man who fears every shadow, a <scare>.

I thank you for the money you sent me. I have paid out about a dollar for medicine, and was consequently reduced in cash to about half a dime. I have resolved to make my old coats suffice for this spring as I hope the wintry season is fast receding. You may think it is dangerous for me to have so much money on hand but methinks I can now keep it without spending more than necessary. It makes money valuable to keep school for it. Nevertheless I know that I am not so close, prudent & economical as I ought to be. Uncle Ensign says that these "virtues" will increase upon me with years. That is generosity and prodigality will decline.

I have been obliged to improve the minutes this term. "Making up" consumes considerable time. Our lessons themselves are sufficient to keep one employed all the time. Hence I have all that I can do and a little more. Yet I have made up and been examined on all but mathematics, for which I shall take my own time whether they rank me or not. I have promised myself to study these last two years. I shall not get & do not wish a "junior -part" but when I graduate I shall be obliged to have some "part" and I will not perform a "low one". At the bottom, however, I do not care "a snap" for college honor. It is not always the mark of a man and it certainly is a low object for a sensible mind, that is to have that in view of the expense of everything else. I "want" a well disciplined mind, one stored with knowledge, in order that I may be capable of filling the station, which I may see fit to occupy.

How do you all do? I wish you had told Roland Alger to write me before he left N. Bedford. I would write to him if I thought my letter would reach him before he left, but probably he has gone before this. Give my love to all at home. I frequently let my fancy picture to myself you all engaged in your varied employments and I feel happy that I have friends on whom I can rely for every comfort in any extremity.

From your affectionate son.  
O.O. Howard

An' adjourn' from Prof. Goodwin favored my letter much.

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149 3/25/1849 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0138

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 25th 49

Dear Mother

I have been waiting some time for a letter from home, but not receiving one I have resolved at last to write.

I have looked in the papers to find Roland's name or the company to which he belonged, yet I could not even find the name of the vessel in which he shipped. Write me if you heard from him before he left N. Bedford, as I presume you told him to write home on taking leave of that place. I have had a letter from Rowland Bailey since I have received one from home and wrote him an answer. He was then well, and said that he found <T. G.> Turner better than he looked, that is as a "room-mate". I wish to know what has become of Laura Howard. I wrote her a letter, when I first returned to College but have not yet received an answer. Perhaps she has left Leeds, for it is not like her to delay answering me so long.

My health is now as good as it ever was. I cured my cough very soon after I wrote. There are many who have very bad coughs. Four or five were so bad that they have gone home to recruit.

I suppose that you are always glad to hear news and therefore I will inform you of a certain "metamorphosis" which may be little expected by you. I locked up my pipes three weeks ago and have not used tobacco since that time and what is better shall not, probably, for the remainder of the term, to say nothing of after time. I happened to be thinking one day that smoking was doing me no good and also thought that I would put my self denial to the test. I sometimes, when I have nothing particularly to do (which is not often) wish to smoke. Yet I have mostly overcome the desire of it. If at any time I feel any inclination "thereto" I immediately resort to reading or studying. It is very easy to keep from forming a bad habit, but exceedingly difficult breaking it up.

I have another study (one that is voluntary) this term, Spanish. It is a pretty & easy language. With this addition to our usual labors, we have quite enough to do and a little more. I find that mathematics which I have got with comparative ease heretofore, require a little more attention and that a little closer. There are but very few in the class, that get our mathematics, some cannot, others will not try.

I am now obliged to go to Prof Cleaveland's chemical lecture, as the "Bell" is ringing.

I have been to Lecture, which begins at 2 o'clock, continuing till 3. Returned and prepared my Latin Lesson, and as I have a half hour remaining before recitation, I seat myself to finish my letter. We had some very interesting chemical experiments on electricity this afternoon. In fact Cleaveland makes every lecture interesting. He is furnished with every kind & the best of apparatus. He is a very clear and precise speaker. His lectures are delivered in the fewest words possible, but those words have a definite and strong meaning. Professor Boody wrote on my last theme (or composition) that it was written in a better style than any preceding themes of mine. He also added (by way of encouragement, probably) "Labor vincit omnia" that is "Labor conquers all things". Not thinking that the sentiment would prove true in my case. I quoted, at the close of my next theme, the above sentiment and added this "Labor non ingenit generat" - "Labor does not create talent." I do not know how our Latin controversy will end, but it is evident that both sentiments cannot be strictly true.

Give my love to Charles & Rodelphus. I suppose they are all the assistance father has at present. Tell me a little about home affairs, for I am always curious to hear. Give my love to father, my respects to Sarah. Townsend sends his respects to you all.

Your Son, O.O. Howard

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150 3/25/1849 *From:* Laura Howard

*To:* Cousin [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0139

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Mar 25, 1849

Dear Cousin,

I received yours of the 3 inst and was sorry to hear of your poor health but hope that ere this you are enjoying your usual health. You must be more careful how you expose yourself for health is every thing and without it we cannot enjoy life, and that is what we all seek here happiness but alas how few find it because they do not seek it from the true source. My dear Cousin I am glad to see you seeking knowledge and may you <gain> to all you aspire but do not forget to seek that true knowledge which comes alone from the Saviour which can make you wise and good here and hereafter. Seek first the kingdom of God and all other things shall be added unto you is the Saviours words. And I would say seek the Saviour with thy whole heart and then you will enjoy that happiness which this world can neither give nor take away. I know this by experience, and would not give up my religion for all the pleasure this world can offer.

You ask how I enjoy myself. I would say very well. I know I have not the society of but few of my friends. I am one that love my friends and to have them near me is a source of great pleasure but we cannot always enjoy the society of those we love.

I should have been glad to have seen you before you left Leeds. I was almost sick the last Sunday that Mr Sergent preached and that was the reason I was not there. We have had no meeting since but they have engaged Mr <Thatcherson> for the next season and he is to be here next Sunday. I feel very glad to think we are going to enjoy preaching again and hope he will be the means of doing much good here.

Your Father and Mother were up here last week. She has been sick but was better and felt very anxious about you, having heard that you was quite sick. They have been to Hallowell since and your friends there are well and they heard that your Aunt Lee was going to live with her husband again at Philadelphia. Thomas B is at home now and I enjoy his society very much. He is going out west as soon as the traveling will admit. Sends his respects to you. Judson got thrown from his horse last Friday and hurt his nose quite bad but did not get any of his limbs broken. John Hellen and the baby are well and send their love to you.

I had no trouble in reading your letter but I expect you will find some in reading mine. But you must excuse this as the room I am writing in is quite cold and I shall have to stop on that account. Your Uncle and Aunt send their love. Write soon if you think it is worth an answer.

Your true Friend.  
Laura Howard

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151 4/7/1849

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0140

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr 7th 1849

My dear son

The time of day that you are preparing for meeting for morning service, a privilege which few of our family enjoy this morning. My privilege for attending public worship is small. I do not speak of it, to complain. I merely mention it as a fact, but have a great many comforts notwithstanding that deficiency, I received a letter from R.B.H by last Tuesday's mail. All the one he has written home I should think from the general tenor of his letter, that he is rather pleasantly situated. He mentions Francis's being more agreeable than he expected. He thinks he shall find enough to do this term. I thought he did not exert himself a great deal through the winter.

You enquired for Laura Howard. I called at your Uncle's the 19th of March and saw Laura. She said she had received a letter from Otis the Saturday previous. I urged her to visit me while the sleighing lasted, but it became dangerous at once - the drifts being so deep and soft. I went to Hallowel the next day, took a back route across the ponds. Found all in tolerable good health. Addison about leaving for California, which is (I think) a grief to Mother. Addison has been to visit his father and sisters, and your Aunt Strickland went with him. I found her in fine spirits. She enjoyed her journey finely. They all expressed their regret that you could not come to Hallowell the past winter. Your Uncle John was expected to reach home the day I left for home. He had been gone to Washington four weeks. I called at his house. His Wife appeared very social and happy. William Grant's wife was very sick at the time, and very little hope was expressed for her. She died a few days after.

Tomorrow will be four weeks since Roland A left us. He has not written one word. Col Lothrop's folks have had several letters from Elias. He gives the situation of the <room> in general, makes no mention R.A.G. in particular. I presume he is not aware that R. does not write home. The last time he wrote 24th of March was talked of for sailing, but said it was a great deal more work for a vessel to make ready for a voyage than he had ever thought. The company are doing their own labor, and that is what takes up R's time. We think the ship has not left Port yet. Your father spoke with Mr. Leonard last night. He had no letter from New Bedford for Col Lothrop but he did not wait at Green for the Western mail. If R knew how very glad we should be to know how he is getting along I am not sure he would let us know, but Mrs Lothrop has written to Elias to make a rule of mentioning him in his letters home. I rather suspect that is all we shall hear from him.

We have a pleasant quiet little family. This spring George Jones works here and Sarah is still with me. You would be astonished to see what a singer Charles is. He sings correctly more than forty tunes, and can read the notes of any tune. His voice and taste in singing has greatly improved. He takes his part alone and sings better than any of us. He and George and Sarah are singing in the other room and Rodelphus is in there with them. Your father examining his Newspaper in the room with me. The sun shines to day, this being the first pleasant day for nine days. The snow has nearly all left us. I look forward with bright feelings to the time when I can work in the garden and regulate my plants once more.

It cannot be more than six and a half weeks before we shall see finally Otis with us again. I am not half grateful enough, that your health is no more impaired by your cough for I think College is one of the worst places for a cough in the world. I am glad you can live with out pipe and tobacco, but I cannot say that it gave me so great a sensation of pleasure as last summer or spring when you had entirely overcome the habit.

Your speaking of your studying the Spanish language reminds me of Roland's mixing with the Spaniards if he ever arrives in California without knowing one word of their language. He is beginning by this time to reap the reward of his obstinacy to me about going to school, when he could. I never think of the circumstance without giving me a disagreeable feeling for I know my motive was for his good and nothing else. I nearly gave up all hopes that I should have any influence with him for good. But I hope time will show him, who his heartfelt friends are and what false ideas he has fostered which has been a great hindrance to his personal improvement.

While thinking of College discipline and your mental exertions, I still feel a confidence that you enjoy literary pursuits, and notwithstanding the petty annoyances that accompany every way of life my son has his share of

enjoyments as they are apportioned to us mortals. An enlightened mind should be more joyous than one where there is so many subjects which are entirely dark to them, but yet I know there is not that difference there ought to be.

Sarah says give my respects to Otis. My love to all enquiring friends in College. Don't wait for me to write to you but write every opportunity. If you knew the amount of pleasure every letter gives me you would not let any time slip when you can write.

Yours ever  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O.H

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152 4/8/1849

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0141

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College April 8th '49 [Easter Sunday]

Dear Mother

I now hasten to answer your letter. I went to Portland the day before "fast" [perhaps Good Friday] and did not return til last evening. For this reason I did not receive and consequently did not answer your letter before. I had a pleasant visit. Other things respecting which I will tell you when we meet. There was a fire there, Thursday night, which looked splendid. It caught in a place full of buildings and the firemen with difficulty put it out after turning four or five of them. I believe there was but one dwelling house burned. It seemed hard to turn a family out of house & home on so chilly a night.

There was also a specimen of female heroism the next day after the fire. A certain woman, having frequently found her husband at a rum shop and the same sadly intoxicated, had become exasperated with rage. So on finding him at the same place & in the same strait, that day she seized a club and went to the shop, and to the terror of the seller, broke all his canisters & glasses, his windows & bottles, and escaping the hands of those endeavoring to retain her, in triumph led away her tipsy-silly husband.

I have received two letters from Rowland Bailey this term. He appears well contented with his situation and I think he is doing well. I am sorry for William Grant. Such a privation must come hard to one so young and as it is probable more sensitive in the infancy of his love, as it were. Time may efface the outward appearance of grief, but such a loss seems a blow to the young & hoping heart, which is hard, hard! indeed.

I should think George Jones would make father a fine "hand", being as I think he is steady, persevering and faithful.

I thought Charles would make a very good singer, if he could only throw off all diffidence and let his voice come out. I have not tried to sing any except to do my own singing, since my return to college and think I shall postpone any trial till my return home.

It is not at all strange that Roland Alger does not write. Perhaps he refuses somewhat on account of his going away and does not wish to let us know it yet. He never wrote a letter. It is hard for a young man, twenty one years of age to begin. He knew he ought to have gone to school when the opportunity was afforded him, but his pride foolish as it seems to us, forbade him. He like many others, do not love to be behind his companions.

In regards to my cough - I have none - never was in better health or spirits in my life. Every thing looks bright & pleasant. You seem to distrust my breaking off the habit of smoking, but I have done it. I have done it this time from principle. And, in all probability, shall not use tobacco again. I shall not, without I can satisfy myself with some good reason. I have put myself to the test and now do not desire it more than one who never used tobacco. There are many things which I do not name, that influenced me in the effort which I made, to rid myself of a filthy habit. But depend upon it, you will not see me smoke again, whatever was the cause of my breaking off.

You are right, I enjoy literary pursuits, and now could be contented with scarcely any other. Whether I am best fitted for this course, remains yet to be decided. Time will show, whether I am sowing seed, which will spring up and bear abundant fruit. My hopes are always high, and my disappointments, but very few, and never very sad. Ever one meets and must expect in life petty grievances. I am better situated than thousands, and feel grateful. I have good parents & friends who are ready at all times to assist me. I have every privilege, which the intelligent mind could wish and am contented. Often I may write more despondingly than this, but at the bottom, these are my sentiments. Though young, I chose my present employment as the most congenial to my taste and wishes.

Give my love to all the family and believe me  
your well meaning son  
O O Howard



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153 4/15/1849 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0142

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Apr 15th 1849

Dear Brother

It is a cold stormy day not much like the weather we have been having which as been warm and pleasant. I have had a letter from home since I wrote you in which I was informed of Col L—s sickness and I have hear since that he was no better. He has not been used to sickness and I fear he will not live, if he does not his affairs will be in a most deplorable condition. His children gone away from home. He seems to be left alone. Perhaps I informed you that I went to the singing class which is some diferent from Mr Sawyers. I had to declaim last Friday for the first time in my life in public. I did pretty well. I have joined the Calliopean Society and shall have to declaim before a public meeting of the Society next Fryday evening. We have a private debating club that meets once a week to discuss questions which is very interesting.

I am glad to hear that you had a pleasent visit to P— on fast day. We get along rather slow in Caesar although it is easy but Mr Walsh says we must drill and drill before we can understand the Lingaram Lattinam. I have got about through my first Book. I think that Clark's Algebra is harder than Smiths any how. It needs considerable study to understand it. I do not intend to go home before the midle of May as it is pretty hard work to get between here and our house.

I hope that you will get home time enough to come to our exhibition. I do not know whether I shall take a part in it or not but I hope not as I should not stand any chance of getting either of the prizes. It is held at the close of the term which is the last week of June. I have about given up going to College for I think I can obtain a good education upon the Hill as I shall need. My greatest dread at present is the mumps. Two or three of the students have got them and I expect my time will come before long. I hardly know whether it is best to go home or not. My chum is about what you think him to be. He has an inordinate vanity and love of praise. Nothing seems to please him so much as to be flatered. But there I have been talking about my chum which is wicked. But I think he has never had a true friend at Monmouth or any other place where he has been at school. I do not think that the students generally as smart and good scholars as they were last term although there many old ones here.

Give my respects to Perley & Townsend and ask the latter if he remembers chasing the stage. Write soon.

Your affectionate Brother  
R B Howard

Mr. Oliver O Howard

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154 4/18/1849 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0143

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Apr 18 '49

Dear Mother

I have looked strongly for the week past for a letter from you, but as it seems that I am not to get one I have taken my pen, our "Dignity afternoon", to address you and await again an answer. The present term is fast drawing to a close, and I look forward with some degree of pleasure, when I may find some relaxation from study, for I began to be a little tired of close & constant application.

I received a letter from Rowland Bailey, a few days since, stating that he was well. He told me some rather painful news respecting Col. Lothrop. If he must be taken away, it will be a sad bereavement to a family in circumstances like his - his sons away and the remaining portion of his family dependent on him almost for their very support.

William Otis was at home fast day and the following week and said that his father had been very sick and was but a very little better when he left home. He was not dangerously sick, however, and has begun to recover ere this, probably. This beautiful day reminds me of what you said respecting your garden. I should think such weather as this would certainly be genial to the growth of plants, and congenial to the feelings of the one cultivating them.

Our term examinations will be four weeks from to-day (Wednesday). So you may write if you have made any particular arrangements with regard to my returning home. I think you can come yourself as well as not if you only will say so. Let Charles come with you and drive. Mrs Harmon would be very happy to have you come and stop the night with her. You might come Wednesday and we could return Thursday. Don't let any little objection arise to prevent you, for I think it would be a good thing for you to take the ride.

Is father as smart and cheerful as usual without any boys bad or good to regulate? Give him my respects and tell him that I am coming home to assist him, one fortnight, ie if you will let me work. Perhaps, at least, I can take some rides for him.

I find the Spanish Language quite easy, and the German grows easier the more I study. The Latin also, being history, which we read this term, is quite interesting. In fact all my studies as I grow older, and increase, as I flatter myself, in judgment, become much more agreeable and contribute much more to intellectual enjoyment.

I would like to have you come and get me on considerable many accounts. There are a great many things which I wish to carry home and a great many things which always remain here. These, I cannot tell you about near so well as you could yourself see.

I have not resolved whether to take a school or not, next fall. I have thought, if I could get a profitable one, that I would do it. But on the other hand, I seem to be subtracting so much from my college discipline and education the more I stay out and after I graduate I can earn money by teaching much faster. I would, however, if possible do something besides teach school. But I may be under the necessity of teaching an Academy for a year or more.

I wish to learn all I can. The college course will be but a beginning. If I had money nothing would hinder me from studying three or four years after I leave this place before I commenced a profession or the study of it. I hope one of these days, I shall be enabled to go to other countries and perfect myself in the knowledge of some other languages. It would well pay the trouble & expence, and perhaps before I am thirty, I shall have earned money sufficient for my purpose, or changed my design.

Give my love to all & write soon. From your affectionate son  
OOH.



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155 4/20/1849 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0144

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 20th 1849

My dear Son,

We have a beautiful morning, the sun is shining brightly over the snowy fields, after yesterday's snow storm, which has entirely covered the whole face of nature as far as the eye can reach. Yesterday was a thick snow storm the whole day, a melancholy day, and a melancholy duty we had to perform. Yesterday we looked for the last time on the long familiar countenance of Col. [Leavitt] Lothrop. He was seized with a violent sickness and finally sunk under it in eighteen days [he died April 17, 1849]. I cannot tell you what an anxiety his sickness has been fraught with, but he could not be saved from the hand of the great destroyer. He had his senses through his extreme suffering and was perfectly aware of his situation. None of his sons were near him. Warren was written to but has not come. I always looked upon Col. L as a friend, and a companionable friend. The only man I ever recollect hearing your departed father ask to be a friend to his family was Col. Lothrop. That request made quite an impression on me. It was in his last sickness after his case was hopeless. The sons of temperance were dressed in order and attended the funeral, and walked in procession to the grave yard. They had an address for the occasion, but the storm was so bad that few went to the grave to hear it. I know of no one, who could be taken, whose loss would be more sensibly felt than Col. L. but the world can do without him, as we have perfect evidence that divine wisdom has so fixed his purpose. Mrs Lothrop [Betsey Lane] never seemed to me in the light she did yesterday. She looked like one standing alone, without a supporting prop.

You have probably heard of your Uncle John's sickness. We heard from him yesterday. He is recovering.

I hope this pleasant morning finds you in health and in a conscious satisfaction that your time is used as though it were precious metal, that you in future will be responsible in the whole amount. I was some surprised to be sure to hear you had, had four days to spare from your studies, whatever might be the cause. It is useless to say anything about it, but I am anxious that you should with pleasure look back on the four years of time spent in College, and think you have not let any sudden impulse take you away from your permanent privileges. I thought your time this spring would necessarily be filled and crowded, making up what was lost by being out and this year being a close year for study. I desire every thing for your best good. I know that the outside of books, cannot make a man wise nor learned, nor the undertaking of a great deal never amount to much unless carried forward with a steady perseverance. You need not mention your Portland visit in your letter to me, as it will change nothing.

There is one subject that I have never mentioned to you, and one I always feel a great delicacy and it is a point where I have been afraid you might shipwreck, not from any evidence of such propencity in you, but as a well known evil in the world, and if even allow an abiding place even in the fancy will often throw a cloud over the best part of one's life if not, flat them out for life. I suppose you wonder what mother is thinking of now. I do sincerely desire you will pay but little <shanked> attention to the Ladies and that little with the greatest caution for every thing has its deception. I hope when you are situated <> to be introduced to the ladies it will be to those of refined minds and good common sense. I feel desirous that the remaining time you are in College should be devoted to study and that for your best possible good.

Your father has returned from the former residence of Col. Lothrop and says Warren arrived last eve----g. He was a few moments to late. When he arrived in Boston, to take the eastern train for Portland in that way he lost just time enough to prevent reaching home in time for the funeral.

I had a letter from R. B. H. By the last mail. He writes well, appears to have enough to do. I hope he will do well. His bills are higher than even yours were when at the academy.

Mother wrote me me a letter on her birth day the day she was Seventy five years old and expressed her ideas very well. She said in her letter that she could hardly realize that Brother John would again be restored to take his place in society again. As for you Aunt Ann's ever living with her husband again, I have no idea she ever will.

I understand Mr Davey is out of health, and will not be about very soon. Your father called there the other day. He said he was confined to his bed. I will go there as soon as the traveling is suitable.

I learned yesterday for the first time that John Stinchfield is here in Leeds out of health. He returned from Philadelphia in the winter and thinks there is no help for him. What a disappointment he must feel. One year ago he was seeking a place, where to make himself useful and thereby obtain a competency for himself, and when he obtained one, how soon he must leave it for want of health to sustain himself in it. His sister told me (with tears in her eye) his disease was the kidney complaint brought on him by lifting heavy patients when in a Stooping posture.

Our family are all in good health at present.

From your ever affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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156 4/22/1849 *From:* Emma [Martin]

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0145

Guilford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Guilford, Apr 22, 1849

Cousin Otis

I received your kind letter last Nov, and after so long a delay, will try and answer it. I hardly know what apology to offer for my neglect, excepting it is such an exertion, for me to write a letter. Addison is always complaining of me, because I am no more prompt. I received a letter from a young lady nearly two years ago, and have not answered it as yet; and you see you are not the only one that is neglected <>. If I was a natural writer, I should esteem it a privilege to have correspondents, and I am going to try and cultivate a taste for it; for I am always so happy to receive a letter from anyone.

I enjoyed my visit very much indeed, at your mothers, and would have been happy to have met you there; but think I may visit there again in the Fall, if nothing prevents, for I enjoy traveling so highly. I spent the Winter at Levant with Sister Lydia [Parker] & enjoyed it much and would like to stay with her all the time, but it is not convenient. Lydia seems very happy in her new situation. Her domestic affairs and baby take up all her time. She calls it Elsa <>, after her husband's mother. She is a very pretty and interesting child we think. Lydia's husband is quite an agreeable man, is not a great talker. For farther information of him, you can inquire of Aunt Martha Jane, for she has visited them this Winter. Addison [her brother Addison Martin] has gone to Calafornia, as you have heard I presume. We felt very bad to have him go but he was so decided, it was no use to persuade of from the notion of going. We received a letter from him while in New York.

I attended school at Corinth 6 weeks this Spring. I am always very happy while attending school. I design to teach the ensuing summer somewhere in the vicinity of Levant. I don't know how I shall like the employment, but am in hopes I shall, well, for teachers are not so plenty as they were a few years ago about here.

Are you any acquainted with Mr Care of Levant or Porter of Newburg? They, I believe, are attending the medical lectures. I am somewhat acquainted with them.

Remember me to Cousin William, but, perhaps he does not know who I am. I don't know as I can think of any more to write that will interest you, but if I write again, I will try, and do better, for I have been disturbed considerably, since I have been writing. If you write me again within a month, you may direct my letter here. If not, until after that time, please direct them to Levant. I don't know as you will take the trouble to write again I have been so neglectful. Please excuse all errors, which are many I presume. Give my love to your Mother. I should be very happy to receive a letter from her, if convenient. Fathers and Mothers healths are about the same as they have been. Father thinks some of going to Portland this Spring, and Mother to Montville. Martha is quite a large girl. We should be very happy to see you here, and at Levant. I think you had better teach this way next winter.

From your Cousin  
Emma [Martin, a daughter of Lydia Otis Martin]

Guilford Apr 22/49

Oliver Otis Howard

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157 4/25/1849 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0146

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick, Apr 25th 1849

Dear Mother

I now address you under peculiar feelings of embarrassment. The following epistle I wish to be confidential. Although I always have cherished a strong affection for you, my only living parent, yet many things have I locked up in my own breast. Many a time have I longed to open my bosom fully to you, who, I knew, would ever sympathize with & advise me truly. But I foolishly thought it was weak and unmanly. I have been thrown as it were on my own decision & judgment in most every step I have taken. True, you have watched and ever anxiously endeavored to guide me aright. But after all, however much I may have been led heretofore by impulse, now I mean to let reason, honor and the good feelings within me prevent me from taking a foolish or premature step.

You spoke of female society and perhaps wished me not to mention it again, but I must. There are some things which you must know sooner or later. For should I do any thing without your approval, I should never cease to regret it. You are mistaken if you think I would trifle with my own heart, on which depends the magnanimity or degradation of man. Nor would I trifle with the affections of woman. However frivolous and trifling I may have been two years ago, two years have produced an important change in my character. You may say I have not the judgment of a man - I have not experience. Be it so. Yet I hope I have common sense and integrity. I have not mingled in society, except the society of your letters and others, except in the society of those I love.

What is the cause? What is it that has produced the change in my character, which causes me to enjoy the society of my own thoughts? To tell you the truth, mother, there is one, who possesses a strong influence over me. I am not passionate and head-strong and have not preferred the gay & frivolous. No, far from it. She is good, sincere and intelligent. You may think this language strange from me, but for her, for future hopes, toil seems sweet.

My studies are not neglected but my classmates often remark my improvement. I study, I shall study. It would indeed show a foolish and headstrong boy, rather than one persevering and ambitious as I am to neglect my literary pursuits for any foreign cause. Yes, my mother. Sincerity and intelligence gain my homage sooner than external beauty. In fact these inherent qualities make external beauty. Without them beauty would be mere show, an empty nothingness which could possess no charm to draw the heart. Although you wish your son to rise, you would not have him sacrifice every good feeling of his nature and every drop of happiness for wealth & station. No, your own heart would revolt against it. Perhaps you have unknown to me cherished hopes and I in my ignorance disappointed your expectations. But I think I have done right. I have done nothing for which my own heart condemns me. If I am disappointed though it may blast my tenderest hopes, though it may rend my very soul, yet I must bear it.

What did you mean, by my being wrecked? Can it be you think me without principle? Although it may be foolish to give my affections while so young, yet I could not help it and have done nothing but what is perfectly honorable. I would make an impression. I would convince you that she is as worthy and more so than I, but it will do no good. You may not believe me, that is, you may think me incapable of judging. Write me what you think. There is no engagement excepting the mutual pledges of devotion, sympathy & <love>. Your opinion shall be respected. Think of it and consider before you write your decision. For some things would be very painful to me. In this nothing shall hinder my ambition or my advancement. But should your own heart decide against me the blow would be heavy. The struggle will be hard. But it would be worse for another than for me.

I feel that in Col Lothrop I have lost a friend - a friend indeed. I have thought of him much since I heard of his sickness. I knew he was my father's friend. I have respected him and feel deeply his loss. Give my love to all. Repeat to no one what I have said, for others might trifle with feelings they do not understand.

From your affectionate son, O.O.H.



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158 5/10/1849 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0147

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick May 10, 1849

Dear Mother

I was very glad to receive your letter and having waited with much expectation it made it doubly welcome when I did receive it. I am pleased to find that you think of coming for me. I now board in Topsham at a Mr. Green's. His wife is a very pretty & fine woman. The House is situated in Topsham just before you go on to the bridge to Brunswick.

If Charles comes with you, you can stop at the Tavern in Brunswick and send him to find me, which will not be difficult if he will call me Howard instead of Otis. The no. of my room is 26 Main Hall. You come and I will find a place where you will be well cared for. If Wednesday next is not a suitable day, come the next & I will wait. The students will be gone (the most of them) Thursday, so I can better show you the beauties of College - the libraries &c.

Mr. Harmon asked me to bring you to see his family and I told him we would call. But I did not know, as you would like to stop there over night. I had much rather you would stop at my boarding place one night. <Not> but they are pleasant people. I am always afraid that I shall be of some trouble. So we will make them a visit, and perhaps stay the night with them.

I feared that my last letter might seem silly to you, and uncalled for. But I thought that you might hear reports & stories from others and often exaggerated accounts. So I resolved to write how it was, that you might not think my motives bad from my secrecy. The young lady of whom I spoke is an only child. Her parents watch over her with as much care & anxiety as mine do me, and perhaps more as a young lady is more exposed.

They know her feelings and her wishes, and love her with parents fondness. I will tell you a short incident. One time when Orville Jennings came to Brunswick with Peleg, Orville got pretty sadly intoxicated just before they reached Lewiston and drove his horse through mud & water as if he would tear every thing in pieces. At this place they passed some one who knew Peleg, and unfortunately thought the one driving was I. This man was this young lady's Uncle. Hence the news was immediately carried that I was intoxicated. Whether she believed it or not, her friends thought that they had every proof, that it was I. For I had talked some of coming with Peleg. Her parents knew that she was much interested in me, and not then knowing me, thought they had discovered my character, or rather my habits in good season. I was neglected, I knew not the cause and was too proud to ask. Perley, however, corrected the mistake, and her parents knowing I had been wronged, wished me very much to come & see them. I went.

I know my situation and am very far from being crazy headed & passionate. I know it will be very long, and perhaps the time will never be, when I shall be settled in prosperous & prospering circumstances, yet not till then will I call a young lady from a good home to share my fate.

I am very far from thinking that the influence of a good & noble girl, will render weak & effeminate <a> young man of any strength of mind, or any ambition. If I am mistaken or should find myself deceived which seems to me not probable, then I must bear it, bear it as a man should. I think I have some strength of character, and know I have strength of purpose. My sentiments & feelings on these points and my petty disappointments, and also my attachments might have passed unheeded, and you have thought your son too young to have such, but I thought it would be better, in the end, if I did not practice the habit of concealing such things from you.

OOH

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159 6/6/1849

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0149

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick June 6, 1849

Dear Mother

I have now got a little settled and as it is Wednesday, when we have dignity (no recitation), I have taken my pen to fulfil my promise & write to you.

We had rather a wet time (as usual) for the first part of our journey. I got wet through and was obliged, at Hallowell, to change my underclothes. We had in compensation a good time to go down the river and even from Bath to this place.

I did not take any cold, having availed myself of Dr Prescott's advice. I found that I had not mentioned a few of my little College bills at home. So when I got here, I procured a copy of Cleavland's lectures and have copied a little more than a third of them. There are about 160 pages in all, and a man would have to work pretty hard to copy 20 pages a day. I have returned to my old place to board in Topsham. It is uncertain how long I shall stay, at least till warm weather. There are more students that board there, than there were last term, about a dozen. Perley returned Monday. He says he did not have a very good time last vacation and was glad to get back.

I wrote my notices and sent them be printed to day. The printer says he shall charge 1.50 for them. I never knew the students so tardy in returning as they are this term. There were only nine here till Monday. They however have most all got here now.

My Treasury business with other things has kept me "moving" as father says. But I have now squared up nearly everything.

I shall send home some of my notices, as soon as I get them printed, which father may throw out by "the way side" in his wanderings. Nothing was touched in my room. Everything in place and the same as I left them, excepting a few repairs were made.

Give my love to grandmother and tell her I have not seen that Mrs Green. She is in Hallowell. I made rather a short stay in Hallowell and did not even call on Henry's [Strickland] family. Give my love to all the family. Tell Sarah probably we shall have that ride, so long talked about.

I would write more but must commence copying Lectures.

I suppose father has got home before this. What kind of a time did he have to go up, after he left me? My respects to all friends.

From your affectionate son  
Oliver O. Howard

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160 6/8/1849

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0148

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, June 8th 1849

My dear son

I have just closed a letter to Rowland B. an answer to one directed to you, in this place. He has accepted an invitation to take a part in the exhibition and desirous to have you send those pieces up as soon as possible that he may have more of a choice. He says his health is about the same as when he was at home, but he writes in very good spirits.

I hope you are safely arrived in Brunswick and all things arranged for the term. I think a great deal about you, my son, and should have been glad to have talked with you in confidence, had an opportunity offered and could have talked as I could have desired. But as I cannot read another's heart and especially the heart of those I never saw, but one thing is certain if I knew your heart was free, and you were pursuing your studies independently of every other object but true well founded knowledge (a basis that does not often fail to make one honored and happy) I should have less anxiety. I feel very desirous for you to be prudent in every respect. Do not undertake more than you can accomplish well. I think to excel in a few things is better than to undertake a great deal and do it badly.

I will tell you my feelings while at Mr Greens, and more particularly after laying my head on my pillow. I retraced every moment after my arrival in Brunswick and it seemed to me that at Mr Green's there is more temptation to spend time and money than there would be in a boarding house in Brunswick or near the College. Do not feel over anxious about being introduced into too much company. You will have time enough yet, and every situation has its responsibilities. Do be extremely careful about your expenses my son. Always be as much guarded in your temper as possible. Every one has the advantage of a man in a passion. I have sometimes been affraid from what I gathered from your general observations, that you did not regard the rules of College and officers of College with that respect which is necessary for the well being of the Institution, for every station requires a certain degree of respect. When we take it into consideration that there are a hundred or more students collected from different parts of the country with all kinds of dispositions and habits, you cannot wonder at the necessity of strict discipline in the laws of College. Neither can you wonder that the inhabitation of the town holding them as a general thing at a distance. It is not likely that any particular student of regular habits, introduced by a friend to a particular friend's family would be treated with disrespect by that family because he was a College student. Every thing is opposite their pursuits, and there are always some students who delight in petty insults put on somebody and they must all bear it on an equal, and much more could be said, but I hope you do not hold any bitterness towards the people of Brunswick for what would be a thing of course. I think you do not when you take a candid view of the subject.

But I have wandered a great way off from my subject that I commenced on the other page. But if it is as you said in a letter that the one absorbing thought or object gives a brighter hope in future and makes labour lighter and makes exertion a pleasure, and insites to greater ambition could a mother wish to have such an object removed. No, certainly not. Give my love to your best friends. Cultivate good feelings toward all, a calm and candid habit of thinking you will enjoy such a state of feeling as you go on through life.

Evening. I was called away from my letter by hearing your Father's voice. He has returned safely from Boston and brought Frederic with him. He told me you got very wet for which I was very sorry for I am afraid you will suffer inconvenience in some way or other in consequence of your ride in the rain. I hope you had a pleasant time down the river and from Bath up to Brunswick. Write to me how your health is, soon as you get this. Aunt M.J [Martha Jane Strickland] wrote a letter by your father, said you did not call on her. I suspect you had not time.

Yours.  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

P.S. I see you left your slippers but see no remedy. Yours. EG. Tuesday morn

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161 7/1/1849

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0150a

Leeds

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 1th 1849

My dear Son,

it is so long since I first thought of writing that I do not know where to begin, but I will tell you one thing. I was looking last evening for a letter from my Son and was disappointed. I did not think you would wait for me to write. As you know I always write if I can, I did not get your letter until the night before exhibition (at Readfield it was a weak old when I got it).

I went the first day and stopped through the night at Mr Parkers and attended the second day. On the whole it was rather interesting to me. The address from Mr <P?> was good. We had extremely hot weather, but I love it well. We arrived at ten o'clock in eve— at the door of our home. Mother is with me and Frederick S. has been here ever since your father returned from Boston, and little Emma Mower boards with me to attend school and I have no help since Sarah left. So you see my time is employed. Henry Wingate and wife and little daughter came here yesterday and went from here to meeting with a part of our family to stop at Ensigns until tomorrow, you may judge whether your Mother has much time to write to her son not a day has passed but I have hoped I should begin a letter if no more.

I found R.B.H. rather slim, having had the mumps and just recovering. He had them hard, when he first came home he was feeble but gains fast now. I thought of you that extreme hot weather. How you would get along with the daily demands on your exertions but hope you will write and let me know how you are and what you are doing these days.

Charley has just now come hurring in to tell me about the bees. They are swarming and R.B.H. is fitting up to hive them. George is helping them. I am extremely dull to day, but must introduce myself to you anyhow to prompt you to write me. It is so long since I wrote you I have forgotten what I wrote but my letter was dictated by the most sincere affection, that I am most sure of.

The blank book and lectures were at John Coffins before you left the neighborhood. But I concluded you would need them next year and I could not send them to you. Four weeks of the term has expired out of this term, and as I have an impression this term is a close one for students in your class. I watch the time very closely and hope for the best. The papers are filled with records of death by epedemick but no mention is made of any in Brunswick. After the cars commenced running between Portland and Bath, Brunswick will be more exposed but we hope they will be a favored exception.

We had a sudden death here. Mrs Rose, the wife of Nelson Rose. I heard two weeks ago this morning, that she was sick and went immediately to church on arriving there heard she died at five in the morning. It was very sudden to me. Her death was caused by profuse bleeding from the lungs.

Tuesday morn,

Your affectionate Mother  
E. Gilmore

[Continued on next letter by R B Howard]

[Envelope]  
South Leeds, Me  
July 3

Mr. Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick Me



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162 7/2/1849

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0150b

Leeds

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of letter by Eliza Gilmore]

Leeds Monday July 2d 1849

Dear Brother

Mother wishes that I should write some in her letter as she can hardly get time to finish it. I should have written before but mumps must be my excuse. I rec your last with the handbills at Kents Hill, one of the latter I put up at North Wayne, the other at Fayette. I think we ought to have more here if you have any.

You wrote that you would like to have me go to Wayne this fall. I shall not get so long a term and things perhaps will not be so regular as at the Hill and I shall have to study "more considerably. But for the sake of being with you and for some other reasons that you urged, I have concluded to go to Wayne this fall.

Our exhibition came off well. Full as well as I expected. The prize for declaiming was awarded to Mr Winter, and that for composition to Miss Mitchel both of Carthage. I suppose they will be married this fall and go West, he as a lawyer and she as teacher. Both are exclent scholars. My declamation came out rather 'small' as I had had the mumps and was so weak I could hardly stand. The second day of Exhibition we had the Governer and some of his counsel and members of the Legislature there. They apeared to be pleased with the exercises.

When I first got home I was as mother says rather slim but have been gaining since. Hoed one day and worked on the hay for two and have hived bees some. The last is rather smarting work I tell you, full equal to hoeing for blistering the hand. The past week has been rather cool and crops of all kinds have not grown much. We are also troubled for the want of rain.

You see how my writing looks. One reason for it is that I cant write very well ever, but much less when I first go to work after going to school. I supose I must leave room for mother. Write me soon.

Your afectionate Brother  
R B Howard

[Envelope]  
South Leeds, Me  
July 3

Mr. Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick Me

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163 7/21/1849 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0151

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick July 21st 1849

Dear Mother

I was a little in hopes of receiving a letter from you before I wrote again, but as I have not, I will write you a few lines to night, although it is late. I finished my Chemical lectures last week. I found it hard work to do so much writing in addition to what I was obliged to do. I did not, however, neglect my lessons, and now take a "good stand" in my class. By perseverance I have nearly overcome the deficiency arising from a poor preparation. Yes, Mother, though I feel that I have just begun my education, still my college course has not been in vain. It costs a great deal & I feel it, for I am not reckless or prodigal, and when I see that you do not approve of what I do it makes me feel it more. I am still buoyed up with the hope of compensating every friend who may have assisted me.

You cannot blame me for wishing to dress pretty well, when you take into consideration my circumstances. The offices I have been in bring me in contact with all the students and appearances go further than we are willing to allow in fixing the character of a gentleman. I know that at the bottom respect founded on appearances is shallow, but people may say what they will, to be unpopular in College blunts all the better feelings of the young man, and he becomes morose, and misanthropic. I know this reasoning is unnecessary for it becomes me to keep within my means of support. I have tried this present term to buy only what was necessary. I bought gingham pants at 15 cts per yd. And a linnen-coat and a few other things, which I shall send you in the bills.

I shall not be here next term as you know. Shall I then pay my bills before I leave, or send the money by Perley or let them remain till next spring? I will send all my bills, that is the amount, & father may do as he pleases. I turned a part of the writing of Lectures towards the purchase of senior books, as you know I shall be obliged to get them this term. And having scarcely any money, I have managed in every way possible to get them cheap.

I am rather weary, yet my health is very good. Sometimes I feel as if I could not study so hard as we shall be obliged to from now till examination, but I remember that I shall not be obliged to "tick but once in a second", and thus taking courage, get my lessons from day to day. It will not do for a student, because he feels tired or a little unwell to give up. For the close student is not likely to be perfectly healthy & strong at all times.

I wrote a letter last week of seven pages to Roland Alger, which is now on the way to California. it will probably arrive in San Francisco before him. I would have waited before I got home before writing, but I thought something might prevent, and I knew if Roland received a letter from me, that he would answer it. I wrote him with considerable earnestness & good humor, and touched frequently upon those subjects which would be most pleasing to him, trying to avoid entirely any rhetorical display, or as John Trask used to say, "high flower language". I think he will answer me immediately on his reception of my letter, that is if he does receive it at all.

Give my love to Rowland Bailey, & thank him for me, for being willing to deny himself a good school for my sake. But tell him Prof. Goodwin had been sick & that I on that account, have studied Latin all summer. I can now translate the hardest Latin with very little study. So if he is willing to exert himself, he will not lose very much by my instruction. Give my love to Charlie, Rodelhi & father. I will make out a bill of the money necessary to pay my bills & also what I shall need from this to the close of the term. He must do as he thinks best about sending the former. Give my love to Grandma, if she is with you.

Affectionately yrs  
O.O. Howard

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164 7/21/1849 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0152

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July the 21 1849

My dear Son,

It is now a week since I received your letter. I thought when I received yours, I should write to send by the next mail but some how the time shift a way and my letter was not accomplished. This is a charming day. We had a fine rain yesterday which has laid the dust and left us with a beautiful and clear air. We were almost suffering for want of rain. I thought of you those three extreme hot days the week before last. How do you do? Are you not fatigued all the time in such warm days. You said you should write soon, but no letter has come as yet.

I think the prospect for scholars at Wayne is good as far as I can judge. Mr Sampson I think has taken a great interest in your school. Your insinuations about being popular in College I do not understand, of course, but perhaps you are more popular with your own conscience, than those, or any one who should say thus. Your notices have been widely circulated I think. I have spoken with a number about your teaching at Wayne, all of which think well of it. I shall do all in my power to make it profitable to you. I intend going to Wayne soon to visit Mrs Hight.

I have a good girl and a prospect of her some time. I saw Mrs Jennings at church last Sabbath. She said Orville thought of leaving for <Genesee>, a bad season of the year for him to become climated and then the cholera prevailing as it does hangs heavily on Mrs Jennings. Henry Strickland and wife came here Friday eve— on their way to Wilton but the prospect of rain prevented Martha from going any further. She remained here untill he returns this evening and returns tomorrow to Hallowel. Your Grandmother says Laura Howard is courted, you cannot guess by whom. R.B.H.s health is not very good. I think he will remain at home untill you come.

Tuesday, ten a.m. morn

Dear son, what shall I say that will interest you most from home. We are all tolerable well at least none of us under the Dr's care. We all complain some. The weather is fine this week. S and wife and child went home yesterday, left compliments for you to visit them at H this fall. You did not say how you spent the Fourth of July, happily some where I hope.

I don't know as any Leeds news would interest you, and indeed I know but little that is going on about Town. We have a Mr Tillton who preaches for us at present. A very pleasant, agreeable minister. I believe it is nearly determined for him to remain with us for some length of time. George Lothrop has been very sick for ten days, but will probably recover. John D Millet is very sick, and has been for some time but hopes are entertained of his recovery. Your Uncle John has not been out here this summer. I have looked for him.

Martha says Maria Otis is much improved. She often calls at the H... house and sometimes takes tea with her and seems very happy with her, but never invites her to her fathers and when she (Martha) calls she seems delighted to see her, but don't ask her to lay aside her bonnet, neither does her Mother. But she thinks Maria feels awkward on account of it. I don't understand why it is so. Martha says she enjoys herself well at the H... house. The ladies who board there are fine intelligent ladies and she has their society when she pleases.

Your father is getting on with his haying this week better than last week. The crops are not promising to the farmers. I suppose ere this you have got through with your atheneum election and supper and animosities are beginning to cool off. How is Mr Perley this summer, in good health and prospering I hope. Mr Townsend, is he happy. Mr Jewett is going on in his way I suppose. William went home on the Fourth I understand.

I sometimes thought there some falling off in your feelings towards your Mother, but I hope not. Perhaps you thought I did not enquire so much concerning the miniature you shew me as you expected, but that which is most deeply interests me I've not brung fourth the most words, at that time Sarah was coming in, and I thought I would not excite any curiosity in her, and I had no opportunity of saying anything to you about it, but I thought the miniature fine looking and never have indulged an unhappy thought on the subject. My greatest ambition

for you is to see you happy in being respectable, and I could not wish you too many years alone striving with the vicissitudes of life.

But there you know very nearly what your Mothers views are in all respects. I hope you will be prudent in all things, of your health especially. R.B. is no better to day than he has been but I think will be healthier in a few years. Except the love of a mother who desires well to her son.

Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

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165 7/27/1849 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0153

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick July [27?] 1849

Dear Mother,

I was very happy to receive your last letter, blended as it was with the deep feeling that you ever betray for my interest - the affection that springs from the heart, which unintentionally perhaps pervades every line of your letters. But I could detect in the very tone of your writing a slight reproach, which never fails to touch a chord in my own bosom, and awaken my thoughts to an examination of myself. It is, perhaps, too strong a habit of my self-excusing spirit, to strive to vindicate all I say & all I do, for it becomes the truly noble mind to confess freely a fault, and it behooves me especially, who so often err, sometimes to acknowledge that I am wrong. If there has been, however, any show of neglect on my part, it has surely been unintentional. You know me well enough to perceive the flexibility (if I may say it) of my feelings. However strong my reason, my impulsive feelings give a peculiar shade to my actions & my letters.

This would please some, but a mother looks beneath the mere external surface & examines the motives & actuating principles of the heart. At least, I know my mother does. You often see with the discrimination peculiar to real affection, something felt, which is not expressed, something half concealed which betrays passions & longings but ill-subdued. Were I otherwise, I should not be what I am. I should not be the same son. Your own character would not find in me so strong a likeness. To say that, I am like you, may not be very just, or appear very flattering to you. When you perceive my many foibles, and the apparent imprudence of my conduct, but you must recollect, that circumstances mould the mind to a great extent, and are powerfully effective in determining the character.

Remember also, that another's experience is not an equivalent to ones own, nor does good council, however disinterestedly & affectionately administered, serve as an efficient preventive to youthful folly & error. Experience must be purchased with age, and can never be transmitted. I have learned to listen to the advise of experience, but with all my firm resolves & good intentions, I still act out myself. If, then, I willfully take a step in the wrong road, let the punishment be on my own head.

I am ambitious, strongly ambitious, and probably injurious to my own internal peace. This spirit of ambition, I will not gratify by any dishonorable acts. It would be beneath me, and I would spurn the desire from my heart, to marry a rich lady, for the evident object of giving me influence & prominence in society. This is strong language, but I would rather grope my way quietly & unknown, than to gratify my loftiest aspirations by such sordid means, by so mean a part. This purpose be assured, will not make me rush into the opposite extreme. Nay, a true man will seek a congenial heart, and a character assimilated to his own in tastes & intelligence. These are my views, and if incorrect, my own judgement is unfit to lead me through this chequered existence, and my whole code of moral reasoning is demolished.

I did not interpret your silence, on the subject of which you spoke, as indicative of a want of interest, nor have I felt any differently towards you since. I would not say any differently for with my years, I can better understand the sacrifice that you are making for my sake, and the trouble & expense my want of prudence has caused you. The expence, if I live, I can repay, but your watchful care, and kind direction, can never find any other recompense than in gratitude. There have been many concurring influences, which have guarded me against the seemingly inevitable contamination of College life. For which I am thankful.

Remember me to all the family, separately & together. I, the same odd being, will be with you soon. If in my power, they shall have a good school this fall at Wayne. If otherwise, age & experience will soon come to my aid & guide me better. I sat up with a sick classmate (Atherton) last night, that perhaps may account for the peculiarity of this letter. It makes one perhaps, a little more sensitive.

Write soon in reply to the money letter and this. Believe me - your affectionate Son

O.O. Howard  
(My health is fine)



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166 7/29/1849 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O Otis Howard

OOH-0154

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 29th, 1849

My dear Son,

I received your kind letter last evening and was glad your health is as good as it is. I had fears that your health would fail this term, and am truly grateful that you are as well as you are.

I am sorry you dwelt so much on your mothers cautions, you know she has your best interest at heart in all things. Your mother thinks she has little or no reason to complain of the general course of her son. My greatest fear is he will do too much, and bring on himself poor health, and destruction to his energies and be discouraged. I hope you will look at the cheerful side of everything and manage as best you can.

As for any compensation for anything your mother can do for you, she is already compensated. As long as I feel satisfied I have a good son, I am well paid. I have never been sorry for what I have done for you. My desire has been to do more, and have felt as though my hands were tied because I was not situated to do more, but always hoping for the best. I never expected you would earn much money while in College. My sincere desire is and ever has been that you should have every advantage for knowledge that the four years of College life afforded. I have objections to your teaching this fall (but you think it best) on account of the sacrifice of College privileges, and a fear of its being hard for you to hold your standing in your class and teach, but as others have done it and my son thinks he can, and his Mother hopes on from year to year, thinking all is well and trying to be grateful for such great favors.

I am far from blaming you for wishing to be well dressed. There is no one that admires to see care in dress better than I do. All outward show [and] nothing else is disgusting but a good degree of personal care is commendable in all persons.

You said something in your last letter before this about being unpopular in College. Your mother does not understand it. She has no such idea. She is afraid you expect more than you deserve. I am much obliged to you for writing to Rowland A. I should be glad to hear from him. Grandmother is here. She often speaks of Addison. I do not think your father will send more money than you want to use this term, as he was not expecting to get it so soon. He can send it by Perley at the beginning of the term. I wrote so short a time since I don't think of any news at present. Your Uncle John has not visited Leeds this Summer, but I intend seeing him before he leaves for Washington.

The Cholera it seems continues. Mr Alpheus Lane has received the news of the death of his oldest son by Cholera in Norfolk, Virginia. How many have gone to give their last accounts this year but Mother said Nelson Leadbetter attended Meeting in town to day and Rowland said Oakes Jennings was Published to Miss Studson of Nobleborough. I believe I said all that was necessary about the school at Wayne in my last letter. I have not been at Wayne the past week as I designed. R.B.H. I think is in better health than when I wrote. Gancels Stinchfield was here last Friday. He thinks favorably of your going to Wayne. He had a sick turn at Hollowel and came out to <recuperate>. His brother John is in better health, is with Doct Millet at Lewiston. Charlie is sitting by me and says give my love to Otis.

Tuesday ½ past 11 O'clock.

I thought when I left writing Sabbath evening your father would send what money you required this term, in this letter but he is gone to the Meadow, and I must prepare my letter for the mail. Rowland says he must write you what books he would like to have you bring home with you but he could not leave his work to write by this mail. Johnathan Molton is laying very sick with a fever at his father. Your Grandmother is with now. She has been here about one half of the time since she came to Leeds.

Write as soon as you receive my letter. We are all in good health.

From Your affectionate Mother. Eliza Gilmore

O Otis Howard

P.S. Your father has returned, says, as you did not say as a week or so would make any difference he would send the money in R.B.H.s letter as he is in a hurry, the prospect is a shower.

Eliza Gilmore

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167 8/5/1849      *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

OOH-0155

Bowd. Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll Aug 5 '49

Dear Brother

I received mother's letter in good time and am now in expectation of receiving one from you. You spoke of books or rather Mother did. There is an agent in Topsham (a young man who graduated a year ago) Mr Hawkins. He is authorized to sell books at half price, in order to introduce the general and substantial system recommended by the board of Education. He says, that he will furnish me with \$20.00 worth of Books at \$8.00. This, if I had the money, would enable me to make an excellent profit, besides furnishing my school at a much cheaper rate than the scholars would be able to procure books elsewhere. Consider this & consult with father. I do not intend to go heedlessly at work so as childishly to be thwarted. But I shall secure myself by the proviso of returning to the agent all books, which cannot be disposed of otherwise. Write me every book that you wish to procure for your own use. And if father is willing, instead of the \$10.00 which I need to send me the \$25.00 and charge the same to me. I can double the money, make my school systematic easier & more profitable, or if I fail in this there will be no loss.

My love to all.

I am in haste. My health is good, though I have considerable to do. Stinchfield furnished his school with books procured at the common wholesale price. If father cannot furnish me the money I wish to know & act accordingly.

Answer as quick as possible.

Yr' .. Brot

O O Howard

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168 8/12/1849 *From:* [Rowland B Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0156a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 12th 1849

Dear Brother

It is a rainy sabbath and mother says that I had better write to you. The rain which has been so long delayed has descended smartly for two days and the earth which has been so long parched with the dry weather has received a thorough wetting. I told father yesterday if the rain did not stop we should glut the market with Buckwheat this fall.

I received yours on Tuesday. You wrote to father concerning books for your school. He has not instructed me how to answer you. Stinchfield you said furnished his school with books. He only furnished parsing books when I was there.

I shall want you to bring up some books for me. Most of which I suppose you will use yourself this fall. I want you to bring your Virgil, and Latin Lexicon. We have got to be great singers here and having sang everything through that we have got, I want you to bring home your two singing books.

Shall you try to teach a writing school this fall. If so, perhaps you can get your stationary better at Brunswick than at Wayne. Joseph Carey was over here night before last. He said that there was a prospect of a large school as he had heard a large number say that they were going .

The term commenced at Kents Hill last Wednesday. I did have some idea of going a month before your school commenced, but have given it up. Fred is here at present but will return home soon. Grandmother is at Uncle Ensigns.

Father has concluded to send the money for the books and I suppose it will be enclosed in this letter. He was down to Hallowell the first of last week found our friends there all well. We hear they have the Cholera at Portland. Has there any cases at Brunswick or in the neighborhood. When does your prize declamation come off. I wish you would send me an order of exercises in your next, if they have come out. You know that "Dead Christ" we have had so much talk about. You would oblige me much if you would obtain it and bring it up when you come as I shall have a good chance to practice declamation this fall. Send me Commencement exercises also if you have any such thing. It is now six o'clock and it rains as hard as though it never rained before, at least as though it had not for two days rained continually.

[Rowland]

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169 8/17/1849 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0156b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of preceeding letter from RBH]

August 14th 1849

My dear Son

I hope this will find you in as fine health as when you wrote. Your Father left home Tuesday morning quite early, and I had not taken the money for you and therefore it was detained until next mail. Rowland B letter is so black, I am ashamed to write in it, but see no other way. I went to Wayne last week with an Idea of getting Mr Sampson to talk with some of the people about your bringing those Books but did not mention it to any one. Mr and Mrs Sampson were gone to commencement at Waterville and I called to Doct Cary's, and the Doct and wife were gone and finaly, I concluded there could be no risk in taking the books, on condition of returning them if you could effect no sale for them. The money will be enclosed in this. Your father has received the news of the death of his youngest Brother, Joshua Gilmore by the last mail. [He died 5 August 1849 in West Bridgewater, Mass.]

You had better answer this and let us know how you are getting along. I have no girl and how long I am to do without one I know not.

From Your affectionate  
Mother Eliza Gilmore

I enclose twenty Dollars. Thing you had better not lay out two <much for> books for it is very doubtful whether you can sell many.

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170 8/22/1849 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0157

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Aug 22d '49

Dear Mother

I will tell you now, while I am commencing to write, that I am exceedingly tired, for I began yesterday afternoon at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past three o'clock to do the last sum in the Mathematical paper. I worked steadily upon it, till 11 o'clock at night, without getting it, and my bones ached, somewhat, I can tell you. When I retired, my mind was weary & I was much vexed to think that I should be obliged, after getting all the rest, to leave that unsolved. This morning, together with a brighter head, and a determined will brought it out. Yes I have now conquered the notoriously hard College Mathematics, and I feel free. I will not sneer or laugh at those, who have not done as much, for no one could do it without a great deal of effort. I feel somewhat proud, however, to have been the only one in the Class to have solved a problem and one which all the rest had given up.

I received Rowland's letter and the money.

Write me at what Depot you will meet me on Thursday following commencement. John Harrison & Davis Frances were here day before yesterday & stopped all night.

I shall speak for the prize on Monday evening, next. My piece is the defence of Paul Clifford. Give my love to all. I shall be with you in One Fortnight. Tell Rowland Bailey I will get all the Books & pieces he asked for. Excuse me for not writing more

I remain your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

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171 9/27/1849 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0158

Brunswick

Wayne

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Sept 27, 1849

Friend Howard

I have been waiting a week or two for a letter from you, but my box is not fortunate enough to catch it until I have at last been led to doubt which of us was to open the correspondence. I am never very <sempilously> exact in such matters, since it makes very little difference with me, whether I write first or last provided I gratify my friends or am gratified myself in time. This seems to be the main point. So I thought lest there might be some unnecessary delay that I would facilitate the matter as much as possible & let the Post Master of Wayne chalk down 3 cts against you.

Well I have returned safe & sound from the Cholera District, and in spite of the ravages of the pestilence & the scarcity of money (2 principal evils in these times) have had a very pleasant visit. Short to be sure it was <quite> long enough after all for I became so lazy in consequence of two weeks rest that I have not yet been able to crawl out of bed until 7 o'clock in the morning. But this season of long nights & short before - breakfasts must soon come to an end. However I intend to take what comfort I can between this & next Monday, regardless of consequences. It is so sweet to sleep on occasionally that I can hardly persuade myself that all those delightful dreams which are <onward> thick, & fast into the 15 minutes before breakfast time are again to be interrupted. It is tedious to think of, but the reality is abominable. However necessity must be yielded to though eyes & ears, & head heart rebel against it.

But about my journey. You know I said that I was going to Bangor to see the women. But the fact is, I was most cruelly disappointed. Since none did I see, except married ladies & a few old maides. Precious little consolation in that, I assure you. I then went up to Hartland, but was not much better since there. I have come back with the settled determination of cultivating the acquaintance of the ladies in Brunswick. And if a fellow ere had a good opportunity for a <> so it is I most assuredly. And if I do not "have my fun", as Weston says, for the next 5 months then it will be because I will not have it. This is the sage conclusion to which I have arrived.

I am now waiting for the arrival of my new desks to enter, at once, the lists, when I of course <collect> to ride out victorious bearing with me the trophies of a successful contest.

Disappointments however beset every man's path & there may be some of those uncouth monsters in ambush for me, but if so no matter, it will all be right a hundred years from now.

But to be sober, for I must spend a little you know, I am going to have all the young ladies in town in my school & the accomplished Miss Knight for my assistant. What do you think of that? It will be one of the chances you read of but seldom enjoy for learning the good qualities of the fair damsels. But it will be a hard <> at first. I shall feel more like laughing than looking sober for the first week or 2. I presume however I shall be able to put on a respectable position of Senior Dignity & <guten national>, which will at least reduce disorder <> and preserve any reputation for reserved society. I intend though to make the business as pleasant as possible to myself & as profitable as is convenient to them. I presume I have your sincerest sympathies in my benevolent work.

But how are you getting along? I understand that you were quite tired out with Wait-ing at Commencement. Well I do not wonder at it, for of all the places to Waite in, without any other employment, which I ere said, Bruns- is the most uncomfortable. I learn also that you <wirtend> to the Commencement, <wirtend> to the Concert & did not do anything else, but Waite at the Ball. How is this? "Rather expensive was it not & if not, why not?" Some one told me that Perley appeared out with a girl on his arm or under his protection about those times. Who was she? I must lecture him for that. I did not think of such a thing in my vacation. Did Jackson supply him? Old Jack - too must have his share of joking; for, by the way it will not do to let any of these things pass unnoticed. I hope however you enjoyed yourself finely at Commencement as I doubt not you did. I was out fishing all day & was tired enough at night whilst you were probably refreshing yourself with sweet refrain & swuth glances.

Very few of the students have yet returned. The Freshman are flocking in pretty thick for Bowd. I understand some 30 entered. Perley has not yet come. I will look out for damages if he is not here tomorrow. My respects to your ladies of course & write soon.

Your Friend & Classmate  
J.N. Jewett

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172 11/8/1849 *From:* P. S. Perley

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0159

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Nov. 8th 1849

Dear Chum,

I received your letter in due process of time and was very glad to hear that you were getting along so well and enjoying yourself so well as you described yourself to be. I have no doubt that you have a fine time up there but you ought to be here about these times to see music and get mathy and other things of like sort.

We have had great times here for a few days I can assure you. Last Saturday morning the Sophs. not having had an adjourn from Prof. Boody in Rhetoric that damnable study took a notion to cut and accordingly did so. They were ordered in at twelve o'clock to recite said lesson and all of them took a dead. At this Boody felt his dignity insulted and took occasion to tell them that they could not learn any too much if they studied and did the best they could that they had but one or two decent scholars in the class at which the Sophs. became enraged in turn and on being ordered in again at half past one to try the same lesson over again none of them looked at it but went in and answered every question just as absurdly as possible. Some of the answers were rich - decidedly so. On Monday they had an inquisition and to appease the fury of the enraged Boody five Sophs were immediately sent off Allen, Butterfield, Putnam, Pierce, Theobald, leaving the astonishingly large number of eight here. They not only sent away more than they ought to but such individuals as were least insulting to the Prof. and had least to do with getting up the adjourn. Allen & Butterfield you well know were steady men. It is confidently reported about College that Allen never had a sinful thought in his life.

Well what I was coming at I shall come at soon. There was a Pandowdy at Prof. Boody's house the other night and the next morning a list of the names of all who were there was handed to the Faculty and they were also informed that Jewett, Perley and Butler had gone in for said Pandowdy and in fact were the Ringleaders in it. As you may imagine there is an almighty row here about it. The Faculty are on hand to stop any farther demonstrations against Prof. Boody and the Students are about as much on hand to find out who informed. There was in addition to the Pandowdy a plan on foot for the next day to break up the Public Declamation but the same individual or individuals who informed relative to the one gave information relative to the intended trouble at Declamation. As for Perley, Jewett & Butler, you well know we were not engaged in the Pandowdy but we probably spoke somewhat in favor of the movement and whatever was said was reported word for word to the faculty.

Suspicious rest hard on a certain member of our class whom you were acquainted with before you came here. It is the general opinion that he was the man all round College. A damned villain it was whoever it might be - to go round with them and pretend to be favorable to it and then go and tell the faculty. This is about on a par with his general conduct.

But here I have been running on with this story and have not room enough to say what else I wish to. I forget whether I informed you when I wrote before relative to the exhibition or not. Perley has the Salutatory - Adams, Bell, Buck, Bullfinch, Everett, Hodgman, Ingraham, Jackson, Poindexter, Snell, Thompson, Townsend, English Orations. Ex. comes off Thursday night preceding Thanksgiving. I have engaged a school at Westbrook this winter to commence on the 26th of this month. Three months long, at twenty-five dollars per month and boarded. It is about two & a half miles from Portland. I have had the offer of another one in the same town - twenty dollars per month and boarded - if you had not engaged you might be near. When I went out to engage my school I stopped at Portland. Elizabeth - how many times I have written that name was not at home - probably you know where she was. If you see her give her my best respects and also if you are a mind to, one short friendly kiss for me. Tell her that I sympathize with her on the loss of her Aunt. She was such a woman as you do not meet with every day and one of the best friends I had in Livermore. She is in Heaven - she was a Methodist.

I tell you what Chum I am blue enough this term. Since you are gone there is no one with whom I feel like talking intimately and when you were here you always used to laugh them out of me. As for S. she may go to - for all of me. Cuss the women one and all the whole of them. I do not occupy a place in the affections of any of them so big as a little four pence - half-penny and I am inclined to think they don't in mine. They will use a

fellow well enough so long as he will do just as they wish him to do, but the very moment he wont do so the game is all up. But this is contrary to your experience so I will forbear. I would not instil wrong notions into your head for the world. Butler is smashed with a new woman essentially. Keep it close though.

We have finished Astronomy and have just commenced Spher. Trig. We shall finish first Vol of Upham in a fortnight. Is Gould at your school? Is Sarah at Wayne? Write soon and tell us all you know. The Lord bless you and preserve you and keep you in the right way. My respects to your Brother. My school at Westbrook is a very large one and I suppose will be a hard one. My Post Office direction this winter if I should remain there will be Portland.

Your friend and Chum  
P.S. Perley

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173 11/13/1849 *From:* J N Jewett

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0160

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Nov 13th 1849

Friend Howard

I received your letter some time since, but have been unable to answer it until now owing of course to a press of business. The fact is when a young man is completely occupied in every day employments and has a lesson to get every evening, there is very little time left for his correspondence. Since my last we have all be progressing after the usual manner. Prof. Olen we find very pleasant and not a little interesting. We have completed Astronomy, except the part of it connected with Spherical Trigonometry to which we are now devoting our mighty Energies. This we find by no means difficult with the Prof's explanations.

In Payly & Upham I have not exercised my intellectual powers, but the class are progressing properly I believe. Recently we have had quite enough of excitement the particulars of which I will relate to you.

The Sophs. undertook to play a little game on Prof. Boody. That is they thought he ought to give them an adjourn & so they cut him. He with his usual indignation at such proceedings arraigned them for trial ordered them into recitation at 12 o'clock at which they all took deads. He then appointed another time for them to recite & they all took most abominable <screws> & perhaps purposely. This was Saturday - on Monday there was a general reckoning, for Prof. B. told them either they or he must leave College. Tuesday morning found 5 of them suspended - Allen, Butterfield, Pierce, Putnam & Theobold. This produced some general indignation & Tuesday night it is said that Prof. Boody was some what disturbed in his repose. I neither knew nor heard anything of it. But on Wednesday Prof. Smyth came in great haste to my school house and accused me of being ring leader of the whole scrape. I asserted my innocence with customary firmness & he left. At dinner Prof. Boody made the same charge upon me, which I stoutly denied & since then I have heard nothing from those sources. The probability is that some of my good friends in College handed in a list of actors, limited to their own notions. The suspicion attaches rather strongly to a particular person whose name I shall not mention of course. This is a summary of the proceeding - Perley, Butler & myself are the Seniors especially implicated in the affair so you can imagine something of the informer. If it ever becomes certain I pity his loss of popularity.

As to myself, I am getting along finely according to all appearances. My school numbers about 80 - 50 of whom are young ladies. It is emphatically the high school. Quite a proportion of the young ladies in town attend and recite to me at least once. This is of course no detriment to its interest. Miss Knight so famous in the history of Brunswick is now my assistant, and I assure you that her reputation is well deserved. She is one of the finest young ladies I ever became acquainted with. No disrespect intended to your Miss W--- of P---. The present term will close in 2 weeks from tomorrow. One week of vacation & I begin on another 11 weeks. Nothing very interesting in anticipation, but some thing must be done you know or the needful "Sin" will fail & then I am in a bad fix.

Perley has engaged a school commencing 2 weeks from next Monday in Westbrook near Portland. He has the salutatory this fall. Exhibition comes off one week from next Thursday evening. All appointed perform except Buck so I imagine it may be rather borous - only 16 parts. But it will be reserved for us to do the business up properly next Spring.

Well affairs generally are about in ordinary shape. 22 freshman are present & many of them are fine looking fellows. Much less of rowdism this fall than last summer.

But how are you progressing? Please give us some particulars. How do the women get along & what of the woman? Just enlighten us a little. Townsend says, give Howard my respects, which you will consider as communicated. My time, sheet & patience are now quite exhausted & I will stop. Excuse haste & its attendant evils & don't forget to write soon.

I remain as ever Your Friend

J. N. Jewett



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174 12/4/1849 *From:* P. S. Perley

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0161

Westbrook

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Westbrook Dec 4th Tuesday Eve 1849

Dear Friend,

I walked into Portland tonight to get some books for my school &c and calling at the Office received your letter which came from Brunswick here. I opened it at the Office just to glance at it and see what the news were and I got enough out of one line to last me for some time,. At least I got enough to make me feel like the devil till I got home and finished it and I do not feel any better now. If it were anybody else but you I should be inclined to think they were joking and though I much doubt whether the rumor is well founded I cannot but believe that you have as you say heard that Miss Green has "got a beau". Now I want to know how you heard this and in fact I wish you to tell me all about anything of the kind that you have heard or know for I will own to you that the mention of such a thing has affected me more that I have lately believed anything relative to her could. Sub Rosa though Howard and if you know anything of the kind tell me and if you were merely trying me say so and I will own the corn. As I have said I am owing to you what I would not to anybody else and don't you let anybody not even your nearest friend, know it. The fact is I don't believe she has got a beau. I almost know she hasn't but still I don't know why she shouldn't have one.

And now I want to know why you don't let Miss Waite come home or is it not you that is keeping her? I called to see her to night & spent Thanksgiving day at her fathers and have been there several times within the last fortnight but I don't find her. Her mother told me she would certainly be at home by yesterday but I begin to have my doubts of her coming at all this winter.

I believe I told you I expected to find my school a hard one and I have found it so decidedly. I was perfectly astonished at first for the way they acted was enough to astonish an up country chap who was not used to the way things have been accustomed to do it up here. They behaved tolerably well for ten or fifteen minutes the first day just long enough to get a good look at the master and then my stars what a school, talking out loud and cuffing each other was the order of the day. I looked on and let them work to see what they would do now and then talking to them a little without its doing a particle of good. I let the boys have a recess and then just they made for the door was a rush and nothing else - a College hold-in is nothing to it. I got them in again after a while and let the girls have a recess and the way the smaller ones run was a caution. But this was nothing but what they had been accustomed to for the last year both summer and winter as I found on inquiry. The next day I broke me a good large stick and by a liberal use of it made out to stop the fisting and talking propensities of quite a number of them. I have kept now six days and a half and have got them reduced to a tolerable state of subjection though I expect I shall have to use the ferule pretty freely for a while yet.

I have Astronomy, Philosophy, Algebra in my school. I have not had but a few over 60 yet though I expect more.

And now Chum here's to you health happiness and prosperity. All the blessing which you have invoked on my head may they descend on yours. I wish you could have been at old Bowdoin this fall for I tell you what, we had some tip-top tinus and no mistake Old Buck, Bulfinch, Jewett, Townsend Sewall and myself had some of the times every night or two. We usually had a regular set to fight ending up with a grand smash breaking table chairs lounges or something of the kind. Give my respects to you brother and tell him to follow the motto of "Go it while you're young but go it right".

As to the studies in Upham we got as far as the 407 page. They began to review before I left. In Paley begin with Preliminary considerations on 5 page and get to near the bottom of the 71 page to Sect 1, then skip over to Chap 10 114 page and get in order to Chap IV 267 page, then skip over to Part III 225 page and get in order to Chap III 230 page. They had not finished the <advorn> in Paley when I left though if you get what I have laid down you will have nearly all of it. As to the "modus operandi" of reciting old Upham as you ought to know makes it all as easy as possible though this is not exactly the case with the Pres. You will find though I presume at Bowdoin an abridgement of Paley, which will save you much time and patience, for if Christianity is not a failure those Evidences are I think one thing they are almighty borous and I had much rather take Christianity for granted than to be bored three months with Paley.

As to Christianity's being a failure Pres. Woods never got it off and I see it has been put on to Pres Lord of Dartmouth. Whether he will consent to father it I do not know.

As for swearing I have not done it since I have been here and I am in hopes I shall be able to break it off for the future entirely.

Give my respects to Charles Lane and tell him I should be glad to see him also to any of the Leeds folks who know me and may take the trouble to inquire for me and if you are not going to let Liz come home to her too I am in hopes I shall have a chance though soon to pay them in person.

You may think that I am quite anxious to see your woman but do not be troubled. The main thing I wish to see her for is to hear a little something about Miss Green for I suppose she has seen her this fall as her Mother told me the other day that Miss G was over to Mrs Timberlake's funeral.

I am only a little over two miles from Portland so that I can get in there pretty easy. I wish you would burn this after you read it and last but not least answer it immediately wont you?

God bless you and good night.  
Perley

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175 12/18/1849 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0162

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Dec. 18th 1849

Friend Howard

Your last communication was received in due season, but owing to other pressing engagements, I have been unable to answer it until now. Your animated description of country life has almost destroyed the usual equanimity with which I have viewed our seclusion in Brunswick. In fact, I have a strong predilection for more activity than we have enjoy & look forward with no small pleasure to the time when we shall roam free without the necessity of obtaining a "leave of absence". It is a cramp upon a man's genius. A seniors clog upon the buoyancy of his spirit to be shut up within the walls of any institution however much he may be adding to his store of knowledge. I am not disappointed in college life by no means - but whilst I admit its superior advantages, I cannot shut my eyes to the restrictions it necessarily places upon the free expansion of one's creative powers by cramping the boldness of originality & substituting in its stead, a servile obedience to established rules. And an <?ting> <> for certain standards which must be complied with or the <palm> is lost. The aspirations even of genius must be bent into an established path before its productions are treated with common respect. Natural tastes & inclinations must give way to conventional focus and the freedom of universality must submit to the restraints of individual feeling.

But still we become so accustomed to the scenes that here surround us that it is with some difficulty that we bring ourselves to contemplate the hour of our departure & doubtless we shall here after look back upon the Days spent within the walls of old Bowd with pleasure. I reckon them amongst the happiest of our lives. But be this as it may, I am anxious for the time to come when the last faint toll from the old chapel tower shall summon us from the enjoyment of the Service in God. As you said, however, we must enjoy the 2 remaining terms to the best advantage - remembering that on our proper improvement of them depends in a great measure, the satisfaction they will afford us. They will be hard perhaps but still supportable.

I began this letter more than a week ago but having been busy in moving &c &c, I have not had time to finish it until now. We are now finely settled, that is Adams & I for Adams is rooming with me at Mrs Noll's, she having moved to Brunswick. The term is over & we enjoy ourselves as best we can.

My school numbers between 80 & 90, most of them young ladies as I have probably told you before. All of them write composition which gives me a very pleasant letter job as you may well suppose. However it must be endured for 8 weeks longer after this & then good-bye to school keeping until I get out of College. I am weary of the business, but I have a pleasant school, all things considered especially my Assistant. She is a young lady of the choicest kind, not often met with I assure you - very intelligent & social - but, by no means "blue". I heard from Perley a few days since. He is well & get on finely with 70 or 80 scholars. He informed me of an accident of which you have undoubtedly heard. Now is the time for your consolation & sympathy, which probably flows out without restraint. But we shall soon be together again & then we will talk more at large. I am in haste or I would write more. May prosperity attend you this winter. Let me hear from you again. Yours &c  
J. N. Jewett

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176 12/22/1849 *From:* Peleg S Perley

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0163

Westbrook

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Westbrook Dec. 22nd Sunday Eve 1849

Dear Howard,

I received your last kind letter and in compliance with your request that when I felt lonesome or I should like that I should write, I am now writing you these lines. I have been in to Portland to day and attended church to day with Lizzie. She and her mother bear up under their affliction bravely. They make but little outward manifestation of grief but you can see that their hearts are heavy. I have spent the last two Sabbaths with them. They always appear glad to see me though you well know I am but poor company and never can speak words of consolation or hope to anyone. I don't know what I should do here if I could not go and see them occasionally - it almost seems like home to me at least it is an excellent substitute for home. Elizabeth is a noble girl but you know it I suppose. God bless her and her mother too and yourself if you will.

As for myself I guess I am up with the women. It don't seem hardly possible but yet I guess it is the case that she has got a beau. So fleets and fades my bright Elysium - so much for woman's love, and constancy yet still I would fain dream with

"That two or one are almost what they seem.

That goodness is no name and happiness no dream."

I will admit that "I did hope for better things" of her. I thought she was not such nor can nor shall I fully believe it until I know. I know Howard what you think about it. You think that I was supremely selfish in my love for her and deserved no remembrance but such was not wholly the case. I will not bore you however any longer lest you should think that it wholly engages my mind.

They think everything of you there at Mrs Waites and I presume you feel quite responsible in having such an one to love and care for. I shall expect to find you already become a man having put aside all your insignia of boyhood. How does it look to you ahead. Do your hopes for the future grow brighter or more dim. I mean your hopes of success in professional life.

As for my own I can not say at any rate I shall know something more for having gone through College and that will satisfy me in a good degree but I must say I do not know what to think of studying a profession I declare. I expect to see some sober times before I get decided upon any career to pursue. I expect to see many blue times before I graduate but one thing they can not be much bluer than I see out here for I hope to be with more congenial spirits.

I have not studied one particle nor do I expect to. I expect you will be down here before it is time to go back to Bowdoin. How are all the Leeds folks? I had a letter from Jewett the other day. He is getting along right. Have you heard from Jennings? Deane and Jackson are both studying Law in Portland.

But to recur to the subject of the woman for I have exhausted my whole fund of everything else and you will pardon the weakness; I wrote to Miss G before I heard or mistrusted such a thing as her having a beau, a very friendly letter telling her that she was by no means forgotten and requesting an immediate answer but have not heard a word from her - nearly a month since I wrote to her. I know not what to think of it. Sometimes I am to think she did not receive my letter but I guess it must be she did. Is there any etiquette about such things. I mean if she had a beau would that probably be any great objection to her writing to me.

Howard I did show Elizabeth a little of that letter though you requested me not to. I was there when I opened and read it and I almost promised to let her mother read it before I looked to see what you said about it. I cannot resist the temptation of letting her see a part of it and I can assure you there was no harm done. It was not exactly right but I hope you will find it in your heart to pardon me especially as I have owned it when I "no need to".

Ever yours  
Peleg S. Perley



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177 1/11/1850 *From:* Peleg S Perley

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0165

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Jan. Sat. Eve 11th 1850

Dear Chum,

Your letter came to hand to night and was not due me I am almost ashamed to own. I told your brother to tell you that I was going to answer your letter which he probably mistook. This letter has been lying on my mind harassing me night and day for two months and now I am going to have it off. Not that I deem it a bore or a burden to write to you but the fact is I have not been well for some time and when I get home from school I am so perfectly wearied out that it seems just as though I couldn't write. I have neglected Perry, Jackson, Townsend, Jennings and others and have them lying over still on the docket so you must give me the credit of giving you the preference after all. I have had over forty letters to answer within the last three months and I can tell you it took no small part of my time at first as I wrote pretty long ones and having as I thought at first rather overtasked myself I concluded I would have a short respite which from indolence and indisposition (not such as we used to have at College) resulted in a long one. I will close my introduction by thanking you for yours and proceed.

And as you inquired about Miss Knight and her "sister" and especially about her sister I will give you a slight College reminiscence which occurred after your leave and which I believe I promised to narrate to you with which the "sister" was connected though not one of the principal actors.

Nune aures ami regite  
Dum ego resinam  
Quod accidit in volle  
Brunsvici dum eram

for I am going to give you a real Temperance Tale not "founded on fact" but the real essence of fact - the very truth pure and undiluted as the Muse that gave rise to it. The facts are these. I made an agreement with Jewett before I left to return a fortnight before Com. so as to make some calls, attend the Exhibition, concert &c with the ladies. I got back Thursday and was to call there Sat. Eve. (that was a favorite night with Jewett you will remember). Meanwhile old Wilson arrived having come for the laudable purpose of seeing his old classmates graduate and being pretty flush invited me to take a ride with him out to Freeport. Imagine us with a fast team speeding over the road and I keeping old Wilson leaning over and laughing in his old way, all the time by my method of driving, talking and swearing and you will see at once that we did not care much for anything nor anybody. In process of time we reached Freeport and as Wilson kept school there we called at his old boarding place which by the way was the tavern and knowing where <no O> was he invited me to take some wine. We went in and took a little Port. It so chanced that Miss Springer's brother was there. He knew me without my knowing him. After I went out he goes to the barkeeper and asks if I took any. Receiving an affirmative answer he out and into his wagon and put for <Bruno> Village hell-bent as though the destiny of the "Sister" and the whole family hung on the decision of the hour. This took place about ten o'clock in the forenoon and that evening Jewett and myself called. Amanda appeared and ushered us into the parlor - the "Sister" was not visible and as we seated ourselves Amanda turning to me said that Eliza would have to be excused from seeing me for reasons which she would explain hereafter. Amanda appeared strangely and I thought Eliza must be sick. We sat about a quarter of an hour when Amanda telling Mr Jewett she should like to talk with me alone for a few minutes he took his hat leaving awaiting something I knew not what. She then commenced by asking me what my principles were in regard to Temperance. I saw at once that she had got me where "the hair was brief" and I told her at once just how the case was. I told her that I did not call myself a drunkard - that I was not in the habit of drinking but that I had taken some at Class Supper and several other times not more than half a dozen during the summer. She asked my why? I told her for the devil of it, softening the words somewhat. I made a clean breast of it, told her just as it was and awaited the issue. She after reading me a damned long homily on temperance which I cut short by telling her I had heard the same arguments used before, told me she must request me in her mother's name not to call there again.

Not that they wished to cut my acquaintance altogether. No. If in after years I should show that I had reformed her sister would be happy to renew my acquaintance. I told her to tell her sister that I was very sorry that I had been the means of terminating our acquaintance so abruptly. (She had expressed to me not long before on a

certain walk "by the light of the moon" her sorrow that I must leave just when she had become acquainted with me) took my hat and departed for College swearing all the way up the mall and so almighty mad, that I couldn't help laughing and not exactly mad either. I posted up to Jewett's room and he wanted to know what in thunder she stopped me for. I told him and he was slightly considerable mad. You must remember I called to invite Eliza to go to exhibition Mon. night. Jewett thought they ought to have consulted him before kicking me out of doors. He thought it rather reflected on him inasmuch as he introduced me. However they made it all right with him when they saw him. So Jewett waited on them both to Ex. and concert and I was there alone. So matters went on for about a week till one day about a week before Com. Jewett came up and slapped me on the shoulder and said Amanda wished me to call up there that evening as she wished to talk with me. I insisted upon knowing what she wanted. Jewett would not tell, but one thing was he said they were expecting Mrs Waite and Lizzie and they would think strange if I did not come there. I told him at once that I should not go - that they might tell Mrs Waite & "Liz" and be damned - that I was not very much ashamed - at any rate if I could not call there to see them I should not call there to see anybody else. "Night came with her pomp of light and shade" and Jewett came rushing up about calling time and wanted to know if I went going. I told him no and that he wouldn't if he were in like circumstances. He admitted it but declared if I knew what they wanted, why they did so and what they thought of me I should go. At last just as I always do I gave in and went. I found Amanda writing me a letter. She wrote l'amende honorable - that they were <> that her mother was the cause of it - that they were all sorry that it had been so. In short I was satisfied as well as I could be (<> well satisfied at least that they meant to hook me on) called again <> waited on her to Com. She praised my performance told me I did beautifully" - called down there the night before Jewett and I <> introduced to Mr Geo Springer the informer (whom I heard declared he would never tell of anyone again under any circumstances amid the smiles of the whole company - held my countenance till I got seated and looked to Jewett who had on a look showing that he enjoyed it when I could not help roaring which brought down the house. Amanda wrote me a very polite invitation to come down there to thanksgiving with Mr Jewett but I couldn't or didn't. This story if you could read it as it was, would be interesting for it was rich in its ramifications and incidents. As it is it can only interest you as you know the persons. I am well aware of your notions on temperance, as you probably are of mine but still I say damn such a creed as led to the above. Of course this story must rest with you.

Here I am 5 minutes past ten. Have been at lecture, could not hear the lecture and came home. Lizzie is at the fair (a fair given by her church) where she tends a table. She has this moment returned and who do you suppose came with her. She goes to Packard's school this winter. She has generally attended Lyceum Wednesday evening with me.

GPR James (the English author) Horace Greely of the Tribune. Ware (author of Zenobia) <> Mr Squier Loomis of Waterville and others have lectured before the Lyceum and none of them have given a first rate Lecture. There has not been but one that would begin to compare with Prex. Wood's Ancient Republics and I believe I actually learned more in hearing Chas Dibdin Pitt act Richard III than in all the lectures put together.

Thursday Eve

Last I heard from Old Jennings was that he was going to get married if he could - of course marry rich. Tom Smith has got a situation somewhere in Tennessee at 1000 per year in an Academy. I have not heard that But. has got a place yet. Old Adams is hammering Blackstone and Gravestones at B. and Townsend is luxuriating at the metropolis on 1400 a year lucky he is anyhow. Old Jewett swears he leaves this state next fall. Perley is in Portland with an income of 500 - don't know whether he is satisfied or not - sometimes thinks he is doing pretty well and then again is pretty damned sure he isn't - has a boarding place that is just like home to him <> has a pretty aye very pretty girl to wait upon and get mad. <> with him occasionally - likes his landlady half as well as his mother and her daughter almost as well as his sister - keeps his hair cut short and well oiled and also his whiskers - keeps most of the time pretty "mum" what you always used to call mad - generally sports a clean dickey - part of the time thinks he is a damned fool and it is no use for him to try to work his way to <> and then again that he is about as big as anybody after all - who looks forward to a damned unhappy life and does not expect to meet with any great success - who will deem himself fortunate if he meet with moderate.

As for Miss G. I can write about her without my hands trembling. I have been looking to see her marriage every week and as each week I read the list <&> thank God the worst has not yet come. Do not mistake me here Howard I have no expectation - no hope she will ever be mine. I do hope for her own sake she may never have <>. Your proposition in regard to a journal I will comply with cheerfully as far as I can. I must stop here and go to the fair and come home with Lizzie so that <> Hicks who went after her last night won't have to.

Friday Eve. Went to "fair" last eve, stayed till eleven o'clock, saw an array of beauty, vanity and pride. Saw a girl that looked very much like Miss Green - the same eyes, cheeks and whole contour of the head only taller and somewhat prettier, which waked again old feelings that had hardly slumbered - came home and never slept

a damned wink. Liz is kneeling on a stool by my side now fixing her neck-ribbon to go to night and I know Chum it would do your soul good to see her. She is pretty and no mistake and if ever I feel proud tis when I am rushing round with her on my arm.

Know Howard the rustle of her silk dress would sound pleasantly in your ears and I wish you <could> be here an hour or two this evening so that your ears might be thus greeted. As for myself Howard it is no use for me to try to do anything with the women. There are young ladies here I would give anything to be acquainted with but it is impossible for me to be. And why in the devil it is so with me I don't see. It is not because I am boorish and I don't know how to appear for I believe I appear as well as the general run nor because I am inferior in talents or education for I see others whom I know are not my equals in this respect go where they please and acquainted far and wide. It is not because I don't want to be for I swear I do - tis not from bashfulness and I'll be cussed if I know why it is - but so it is anyhow.

My Grandfather died a little more than a week since - was not sick - so as to be about - dropped away calmly (as the letter informing me of it said) without a struggle or a groan.

I must close so here's to your success and remember that I am now as ever your more than friend.

Peleg S. Perley

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178 2/18/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Father [John Gilmore]

OOH-0167

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Feb 18th 1850.

Dear Father

I arrived in Brunswick on Saturday last - am well - vaccination did not & probably will not take.

I went to see Mr. Henry this forenoon and found him living six miles instead of two from this place. He did not take up the note, because, he says, he was deceived. The statement is as follows – Giddins Lane told him, in the presence of Arza, that they had sold the town of Bowdoinham for \$50.00 and should sell him the town of Topsham \$10.00 cheaper whereupon he gave his note for \$40.00. It appears, however, that the town of Bowdoinham was sold for \$30.00, \$10.00 paid down & a note for \$20.00, which note was afterwards sold to a neighbor. You see the deception if the above is true.

The man appears to be a fair, honest man. He says he will give \$30.00 for the note. This I dared not accept before consulting you. He says also that he can prove that they deceived him, & thinks if he could see you that you would allow a discount of \$10.00. I am very certain that I can get as much as \$35.00 for the note. Write me if you think I had better give up the note for that amount. You need not send me any money if you are willing to do this. The man surely will not give more unless it is extracted by law. Considering the circumstances & the difficulty attending any other course, I think you will do this. The man has not made any thing on his bees yet. He will be here to see me soon & if you think best I shall make him that offer, but shall not favor him more.

My love to all - write immediately, if possible.

Yours truly  
O. O. Howard

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179 2/21/1850 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0168

South Leeds

Wayne

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Feb 21st 1850

Dear Brother

You will see by the date of my letter that I am at home. What, you will say, he has not got turned out, has he? No! Certainly not - but simply one of my principal constituents ( I don't know as that is the right term) is dead and I have adjourned my school from today (Thursday) until Monday. Mr Ridley was father to most of my scholars and unkle to the rest and if I had kept I should not have had more than five or six scholars. If you were here you would ask how have you got along? Very well. Since they stayed at home, my school had been as regular as circumstances would admit Mr R. having been very sick for some time, although things have gone on rather slowly in the school. Still they have gone for which of course I take some credit to myself.

I cuffed one of my boys ears the other day (sprained my wrist by the way which accounts for the "mistic art" not being very nice) and an older brother told me that he did not like to have me strike a boy side of the head in that way, accompanying the above declaration by pugilistic ((lord what a word) gesture of a fist as big as a small infants head. You may well suppose that the "little boy" was somewhat agitated. I waited till his anger got cooled down and my wrist left off tinging then I talked to the little dear a little. I think eloquence was never exerted with greater effect, for soon the tears trickled down his cheeks and he came up to my desk and asked my forgiveness. I shall keep two or three weeks longer, I don't know which. I don't know, but I think I am not very popular on Beach hill.

I have thought all along that I was losing flesh tremendously so I weighed myself the other day at Wayne - and found I weighed 149 lbs pretty well was it not? I was at Dr Careys last Monday evening and found a very large party there including all the young people of Wayne, at least to the number of 75. The house was crowded. Well there! If these Collage fellows are not the greenest chaps about the girls I ever saw, all of them. Coolage imagines that Louisa (Green)wod is an angel and as such goes home with her from parties at 8 oclock and stays till twelve drives her out to Winthrop to church, &c. Shes a beauty, an't she! Your Wayne acquaintances are all well and enjoying themselves. They have a great ball on the 22d the Monday after which we have a discussion on the merits of Dancing.

Fryday 22d

I went upp to Liceum last night. The question was in regard to foreign emigration. A certain Inexpertus got a severe trimming from the hands of one of the ladies supposed to be a Miss Ramsdel. If he did not get it well I am mistaken

I've bloted this side of the paper but never mind. I have heard that you made a call at P\_ where you went down but they say the fatherest way round is the shortest across for a dog. Did you study Mental Philosophy any while there.

Father has gone to Waterville today by the way of the cars. Railroad business is in a very prosperous condition here. There have been mass meetings at Wilton and Farmington (<playne> take it all how lame my wrist is) an ten thousand dollars pledged but alas the treasury is empty. I think I shall go to Readfield this spring, as soon probably as my school is done. I shall go up tomorrow to see about a boarding place. The Doctor invited me to go down to Brunswick with him this spring and should not wonder if I accepted it. If I come it will be in two or three weeks. Send up to me those pieces. The "Dead Christ", I want to commit it this spring. Write to me soon and direct to Wayne.

Your affectionate Brother  
R B Howard

O O Howard



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180 2/23/1850    *From:* Charles H Howard    *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0169                      Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Feb 23d 1850

Dear Brother

I am at home with the mumps. I came last Tuesday from my school. This morning I have been feeding my colt with potatoes, and the cows with salt. I think that I shall get so that I can go back to my school Monday. Mother and Louisa are baking. Rowland came home last Thursday. He ajourned his school until next month on account of Mr Ridley's death. He went to Readfield this morning to make arrangements for board. Father went to Waterville yesterday morning (by the cars) and has not got home yet. Uncle ES. is here a writing, Dely is off a sliding. George is in the woods. We have received no news from California since you went away. Rowland went up to lycium last Thursday night. He said they had a prety good time. I have just been up to <Orman, M> to get some crackers. Mother is washing the floor. This is the first time that I ever undertook to write a letter and I do not know as you can read it for I cant hardly. We have got our load of wood at the door. Our white calf is dead, he died last night. Our horses do not look so well since you went away, all but my little colty he is smart.

Mother would like to know how you get along with being vaccinated. Mr Jones is a going to move away next week. Father has ingaged George Jones for another season. Dely sends his love to you. I am geting along well, with my school. Betsy has just come in. Send my love to Mr Jewett, Mr Townsend and Mr Perley. I hope that you can read this for it has took me a good while to write it. We have had a leter from Aunt Everlin.

Affectionately Yours  
Charles H H

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181 2/24/1850 *From:* John H Otis

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0171

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Feb 24th 1850

Dear Otis

I though perhaps you would like to know how we are getting along up here in Old Leeds and now pen in hand I sit down to say to you that we jog along about after the same old fasion. The Fraternity has lost none of its interest since you left except that we were disappointed in our male Editorial by Mr Emery two easing but the other department made up all that was lost in that in fact I am astonished to see so much talent in the females of Leeds.

Last Thursday your cousin Almira read to us one of the best papers I ever have heard of the kind (I mean these got up promiscuously by all classes) and she is a good reader. Miss Lucia wrote a piece of poetry ("sleigh ride") which was decidedly good. Miss Orinthia over the signature of "Zilla" give impetus some hand rubs which I should like to hear answered. I obtained the manuscript and will send you a copy. She did not like for me to send the original as it might be criticized but if not wishing to copy so long an article. I will enclose the copy I got of her and want you to return it so that she will not know I sent it to you.

The Doctor has recovered his health but has not got over his whims about gossip. This is the only thing I have seen in the Dr. that I did not like. He is likely to have some considerable oposition from the little Esqs and his friends about Clerkship but I think we shall cut the pack so as defeat the false shuffle. The Davacites had a caucus at the north end Wednesday night and there is quite a stir about town officers. Anything for excitement. I cares not what we have only stir up the beasts occasionaly.

R.B. was over last Thursday getting along well. His school didn't keep that day on acount of the funeral of D. Ridley. He says that one half of his school was his children and the rest were nephews nieces cousins &c so he had a holiday proving that there is no great loss without some small gain.

We have not much new since you left. There was indeed a troting match at Wayne yesterday. It was said that the fastest horse went a mile in five minutes but some think that fraud was used in the time as they could not get a watch that could go beside such horses.

How did you find the Portland? Fancy had a pleasant walk to visit if I recollect right. Mind that all the affairs of your societies are adjusted as I understood that was why you left so long before the commencement of the term. But remember the cars have large mirrors. Uncle Ben has got eyes where his specks are on. My little family are well and also mother and father.

In good will.  
J H Otis

P.S. I enclose Zillas communications and should like to hear more from Inexpertus.

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182 2/25/1850 *From:* John Gilmore

*To:* Dear Boy [O O Howard]

OOH-0172

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Feby 25 1850

My Dear Boy

Yours of the 18th Inst was recd by the mail Saturday. The story that Mr Henry tells you is quite likely to be true. You may give him the note for 35\$ and nothing less, but if he will not pay more than 30\$ & you are so much in want of the money to pay your College bills that you think it is best to throw in five Dollars you can do it. You know that a bird in the hand is better than one on the wing. Not much news. Arza came home this morning has made some pretty good sales in New York & Massachusetts. Widow Charlotte was published yesterday. Charles has written a few lines & wants me to enclose it. Your Mother has been washing & says she is too tired to write in haste.

Yours truly  
J Gilmore

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183 2/27/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0173

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Feb 27th 1850

Dear Mother

I was happily surprised to receive two letters from father & my brothers this morning and was especially pleased to have a letter from Charlie. He really did well for a first attempt at composition. He must write again and every letter he writes will make the next easier. Tell him not to be discouraged because he cannot at first write anything but incidents, for that is the way with all beginners. "By & By" reflections will grow out of incidents. The greatest advantage of letter writing is facility & correctness in the use of language, which are to be gained only by frequent exercise. I will, as soon as time will allow, write him a letter which will give him more frame-work to build his epistle upon, and will make it an easier & happier task.

I have delayed writing to you purposely till I received a letter from father. Mr Henry came here in the afternoon of the day I visited him, just after I had finished my letter to father. He wanted me to give up the note for \$30.00. I told him I would for \$35.00 & added that father told me not to discount a cent & hence I was already exceeding my instructions. He, then, offered to "split the difference". I convinced him that my offer was generous & at last prevailed upon him to pay me \$35.00, which he did by borrowing somewhat of a student, of my class, of his acquaintance. For this I gave up the note, and paid my bills with the money. I sent the letter as written to see how father would like such a move supposing it could or had been made.

My vaccination took admirably or sorely! as you please. I did not stop studying but I surely should have believed myself almost irrecoverably sick, had I not know the particular cause of my malady. My arm was swollen to double its natural size - no matter about a description of the different stages. Suffice it to say that the disease has very "kindly" done its work and left me.

I have made up nearly all my fall term's studies - the themes or compositions making no small part of my labor, as I have already written about 18 pages. We have a new study this term, called "Butlers Analogy". No sentence of which is perspicuous enough to be understood at the first reading and often much study elucidates it but precious little. This we are obliged unassisted to recite off page after page.

I have found nothing in Mathematics half so bad. This comprises our "senior ease & dignity", which is anticipated through the preceding College life as something attended with so much pleasure. I like it though for it gives to the mind a useful exercise, and what is once mastered in this way is not soon forgotten. I am now copying Professor Cleavland's lectures on Chemistry as I hear them delivered, and under his instruction I find chemistry more interesting than I could have anticipated. I find him & the President the best in instructors that I ever have been under.

I must now leave this to get my lesson, merely saying that I never was in better health in my life. Perley finished his school and returned with me when I came from Portland. His health is very good. William is here says he had a fine school & no difficulty. He says the folks at Hallowell are exceedingly anxious about me, not precisely understanding why I don't return to College that way.

Give my love to Charlie, Rodelphys & all. I shall write to Rowland, directing to Wayne. I have not found time to send anything to the Lyceum as yet, but Rowland says they are doing very well without me. I am sorry I cannot be there so as to enjoy the severe attacks upon me. But, no matter, if they do.

I anticipate a great deal of improvement from these two coming terms and flatter myself that I shall be as well prepared for the active business of life as many who rank higher as scholars. A man is never so happy as when, blind to his own defects, he thinks himself as good as any body. I possess this oblivious virtue to some degree, which consists in looking for the most part "on the bright side of the picture." One cannot blame himself if he is conscious of having done his best. I have not, however, done as much as I was capable of, but probably have been as industrious as the most are at my age.

Write me as soon as you can how you do & all the family. I wish to be looking out for some lucrative

employment, which I may engage in as soon as I graduate, whether it will be far, or near to home, I cannot tell, but shall be on the watch for the best chance that opens.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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184 3/15/1850 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0175

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds March 15th 1850

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter while at Mr Ridleys in Wayne. I finished my school in that place on Saturday last, having kept in all 7 ½ weeks. I had no trouble except a little fuss they made about a boy whom I shook rather soberly. Mr Graves and Capt Ridley told me they should have done something about it had the boy been hurt as bad as they were led to expect. But I supposed that they were only trying to frighten me into paying something to settle it as it is termed.

I called at aunt Lucretias on Sunday when coming down. Found them all well. Clark has returned to Lowel.

In your letter you spoke about my finding not all sunshine. I never did find it nor do I expect it. When I was at Wayne you thought that because I was flattered that it was sunshine. I viewed those flateries then and do now as deep Shadows (to cary out your figure). I knew the reason why I was taken so much notice of. For a time was because a debating Club was a new thing and I was one of the best speakers, not because as you say I possessed talents of a higher order, but because I have read more perhaps than any other person of my age in Wayne.

Histories Natural & Political gave me facts on which to build. Tales & Romances supplied the gloss without which I should not have been heard with patience and a middling memory, a slight imagination, and fluency of words decended to me from my father finishes the picture. Perhaps you might have been a little deceived by these apearences and thus formed an erroneous idea of my talents. Then anything said to me in high commendation was flattery and looked upon by me as such.

And I tell you their was precious little "Sunshine" in Funnel City, and to convince you that my "prospering" in my school was only an efort of mine, to make it appear so. I will name a few vexations slight to be sure, but you know what yours were the first time you kept school. When I went into the school far from being strongly biased in my favor they were as far the other way. There were but two scholars in my school who had a hand in turning out Williams and the rest were strongly in favor of him. The second day after I began the school the large girls took every way to insult Me possible. The second week the district was well enough united against me to keep all their children to home but two families. Two weeks after one of my scholars rose in his seat threatened me with his fist and the last week of my school Capt R... & Mr G... threatened to take me up for shaking a little brat of a nephew of theirs. Just because, forsooth, I black and blued his seat of honor and caused it to belch forth certain unmentionable particles of matter. Efeminating Sunshine, wasn't it?

March 16th

It is almost mail time and I must close my letter if I wish to send it out by this mail. Our folks, that is Father Mother & Rodelphus have gone to Hallawell. They went yesterday. I could not come down to B with the Doc on acount of the traveling which I suppose is very poor. A great time now about Unkle Ezekel. I shall go to Readfield probably on Monday. I will answer your letter in regard to Colege education at another time. Direct your next to Kents Hill. Please make some sugestions in regard to the Speaking of the Dead Christ. I wish I had those Greek Book of yours (Arnolds). Could you send them by express. Is your health good. Write to mother soon.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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185 3/21/1850 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0176

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 21, 1850

Dear Mother,

I have now a small portion of time at my command & I shall devote it to the penning a few lines to you. I received Rowland's letter Wednesday morning & was glad to hear that his school was done. Taken as a whole I know that he has not had a very pleasant time. And what school master has? But perhaps it has been of much advantage to him. I suppose Charles is at home by this time. He must excuse me for not having written to him. I am in hopes soon to be able to do so.

I have been remarkably healthy this term, but I have felt it my duty to study very hard, at least, all the time. So far my labor of course has been double of what it ever has been in College before, yet I shall soon be relieved, after a few lessons more in Astronomy. Those who were absent last term as well as myself have recited the Astronomy, evenings lesson by lesson. I have just finished my examination Theme, the one for the end of my College course, and probably for my commencement part. The most of my class think I shall get a second or third part at the coming commencement, notwithstanding my absence. I shall do this at least, get as good a one as I can. I shall also be obliged to perform a part in public at the close, or near to it of this present term. Seniors are required to have these parts of their own composition. My subject is Columbus the discoverer of America, one which has interested me very much & in the composing of it I have succeeded far above my expectations.

Uncle J. Otis has sent me quite a number of papers & documents from Washington & also a late map of North America, containing all the new names in California & the United States under its new boundary.

Have you heard from Roland of late either directly or through Elias? Tell Charles that he must write again even if I don't write, and tell me how he succeeded in the Parsing book, how he liked Mr Maxims school &c.

Give my love to him & also to "Dellie". Tell him that he must read some every day, that he may make as good a scholar as Charlie. Give my love to Father. How is he getting on with his Rail road business? I saw Dr Hilbunne here at Prof Cleavelands lectures, but did not speak to him. He looked as large healthy & smart as usual, but I saw no indications of internal fire except in his eye.

It does not seem much like the 21st of March. I don't know how it is with you, but it is tremendous cold here, & the wind blows so hard that it literally "takes people off from their feet."

The prayer bell is ringing & as I wish to mail this to night, so that it may reach you by Saturday I will write no more now. As soon as possible I shall write you a longer & a better letter than this. I remain your

Affectionate son  
Oliver O Howard

I suppose Rowland is at Readfield if not give my love to him & tell him I will write him as soon as convenient.

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186 3/23/1850 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0178

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill March 23d 1850

Dear Brother

I arived here on last Tuesday after a very cold ride. I found the room for which I spoke ocupied, very opportunatly for me. For I have obtained a better one in the same house. My chum is a fine fellow. He is preparing for the ministry. His name is Hood. He belongs to Nova Scotia has been here a number of terms and probaly is the smartest fellow there is here.

I have begun the first book of the Aenead and read about 25 lines a day but hope to increase to more by degrees. My chum is reading with me. I have begun Greek. I use Kunes Greek grammar. I said something in my last about Arnold but they do not use, and therefore I shall not want them. I shall get me a grammar here. I have just begun and am now conjugating the verb Boulenos rather awkward I tell you at first. I am also studying Algebra some.

I have about concluded to take a preparitory course if my health will allow. In order to do it I think I shall go somewhere else although this is an acelent school, yet it is more intended to be an English school than a clasical one. I like Mr Robinson very much but our class is small and our lessons not so regular and interesting as they would be in such a school as that of North Yarmouth. I think shall either go there or to Exeter next year. I wish you would make some inquiries in regard to the latter school so that I may know in regard to it. I don't like Gorham but why I can hardly tell. I think this is as good teacher school as there is in the State and therefore I think I shall atend next fall to that more particularly as I wish to teach next Winter and if go to colage I shall not want to study english studies afterwards.

When I left home the folks at Leeds and Hallowell were well. I believe they are going to support unkle Ezekel by voluntary contributions.

March 29th 1850

I had not time to finish my letter for the other mail so I put it of till to day. My health and spirits are still good. We have increased to 30 lines in Virgil. Our Society is prosperous. I write for the paper. Write me in regard to your health and how you get along in your studies. The school numbers I should think about 150 students perhaps more. If there is a class formed, I think I shall study Rhetoric this term as it will methodize my style of writing and render it more logical. I have not committed the 'Dead Christ' yet and I don't know as I ever can. It is about as hard as anything I ever saw to understand. I would like to have you make some sugestions in regard to speaking it. Do write soon. I would write more but I have not time. I study harder than ever before.

Your Brother Rowland

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187 3/25/1850 *From:* Laura B Howard

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0179

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 25, 1850

Dear Cousin

It is just one month since I received your letter & meant to have answered it before but you know procrastination is the thief of time. I was very glad to hear from you and Lizze and that you passed examination so well. I got along being Editress very well, trembled a little at first but soon got over it.

The meetings are now closed. For three Thursday's running it has been very unpleasant weather so that the people could not attend and as the nights are growing short and the traveling bad they have concluded not to meet again till next fall. Your piece has not been read as there has been no meeting since it came. We had very full meetings while they did last and were very interesting.

Thomas has been at home lately but has gone to Farmington now to attend court. He and Uncle Ensign have settled that Dower business. Your Uncle Ensign is to pay three Dollars a year and the cost up to the time he was notified. I expect your Mother will write you the particulars for she understands it better than I do.

I saw your Mother and Charles to meeting to day. They are well. We have had Mr Barrows with us for two Sundays and he is liked very much and they talk of having him settle with us. I feel it quite a priviledge to go to meeting once more. The Dr got smart in a few days after you left. He wished me to give his respects to you. He thought of coming down to Brunswick but has given it up. We have good sleighing, quite unusual for this time of year. I have got almost sick of seeing snow on the ground and long to see the green fields again. Little Oli [Oliver Otis, son of John Harrison Otis] is well and as smart as ever. He calls your name in his way every time I go up there. He can point out O in the newspaper or book as well as you can. He is a great deal of company for me. I don't know as I could get along without him to play with for I have nothing else to do. Everet and his wife have moved to China, are going to carry on the old man farm, and Valentine is going to take his mothers farm. Orville Jennings has left Tennessee and gone to Little Rock about three thousand miles from home. He is studying law.

I have been to a wedding and party this last week. The widow Charlotte Lane is married to a Mr Olden of Auburn. We had a grand time and I wish you was here to help me eat the wedding cake. I have got a large slice now. I miss your company very much and do feel quite lonesome sometimes but we cannot always have things as we want and therefore we must be content with our lot and condition in life and I think I feel thankful in some measure for the many blessings I enjoy.

John and Hellen [Otis] send their love to you. Your writing was very plain and I did not have to get any help. But I think you will to read mine. It is written so bad.

May success and prosperity attend all you undertake is the sincere wish of your Cousin.

Laura B Howard

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188 3/30/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0180

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick March 30. 1850

Dear Mother:

This term is nearly half through and I have received but one letter from you. I have been expecting one all this week but have not been so fortunate as to receive one. I think more of it because it has never been so long before that you have delayed writing. Probably it is owing to some natural cause, but I hope it is not sickness. You must write whenever you can find time & remember that whatever you write is more than welcome.

The time since I left home has passed quickly indeed with me & from this it is natural to suppose, pleasantly: - yet occasionally I have checked its rapid course by reflection & have often taken a retrospective view of my life & oftener have pushed my fanciful imagination into the future & pictured to myself many happy images of coming good. But sometimes both the certainty & uncertainty of the future bring other feelings than those of joy. The time is near at hand when I must to a great degree throw off dependency and figure in the drama of life for myself - when I must leave home & friends to seek uncertain fortune & grapple often with unpropitious circumstance. Under these reflections I never feel weak & repining, but to him, with whom responsibility is new & experience wanting, misgivings must sometimes occur. But why anticipate? Should I never succeed in attaining to my highest wishes, my happiness might not be less. I hardly know what or how to write: not at loss for words or ideas, but am seriously inclined to talk about myself.

I received a letter from Laura the other day & one from Rowland this morning. She says that Thomas & Uncle Ensign have come to an agreement. I care not how. I am glad of it. Rowland is very well & in pretty good spirits.

There is now in College some considerable curiosity & interest manifested respecting the issue of Prof Websters case. It is generally thought that they cannot convict him under the present testimony. We shall soon see. We receive the daily papers on the same day they are published. Last night I read the plea of the defense.

Yesterday afternoon I called on Mrs Harmon for the first time this term. Her husband has gone to California, leaving her & her little boy rather lonely. You may tell her friends if you see them that she is well & also Judith, who is with her.

Ask father to send me \$10.00 and I am in hopes that amount will be sufficient to defray the expenses of the coming exhibitions as well as other necessary expenditures for the present term. My clothes are now in pretty good order. I have purchased me a vest & paid for it. I shall get no more clothes this spring.

Professor Cleaveland keeps our Astronomy lessons for last term along yet. I shall feel much relieved when they are done. The class recited one long lesson a day in Astronomy while I was gone none of which did I look at before my return. We (5 of us) recite about four or five lessons at a time & that usually twice a week. It is considerably hard to learn the motions & phases of all the heavenly bodies, but it is interesting. The President & Prof Cleaveland are the best instructors there are here, whether practical or theoretical. The President delivered a splendid Lecture on Ancient Republics the other evening in this place, especially aimed against those infidels who pretend to prove that Christianity has been a drawback to Civilization & that the world is no better or more moral than under the Ancient Republics of Greece & Rome. His address displayed none of those Puseyish doctrines & dogmas which have so zealously been imputed to his charge.

I have finished my exhibition part for this spring & also my examination theme for the end of my College course. I have copied & revised my theme already four times & shall be obliged to copy it again. It is long & hence it requires much labor to copy it. It is not so good as I could wish, but as good as I could expect.

How is father's health & his superabundant business? Write me if you have heard from Roland A. & give my love to all the family. It is sabbath morning & a lovely day it is. In this place it will be settled travelling in a very short time, for the snow is already gone from the road. Laura said that Elder Barrows was with you & I hope he will suit the much expecting people of Leeds. Farewell now till I write again.

Yr affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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189 4/5/1850

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0181

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April, 5th 1850

My Dear Son,

I do not think I have exercised the privilege (I so much esteem) of writing to those I love this spring as usual but I can hardly tell how my time goes, but think now the traveling is breaking up I shall have more time to myself than I have had through the winter. I went to Hallowel the Middle of March, took Rodelphus with me, was gone two nights from home. Found our friends there all well and in good spirits.

Had just received a letter from Addison Martin date Sacramento City Jan. 29. He said his health was good and ever had been since he left Hallowel. Had run lucky in business, had their goods well stored before the great rise of water in that city. Said he saw Roland Gilmore the day before and that his (Roland's) health was good & had never received any letter from home. Thought he should come home next fall.

Charles Turner is now at home making a final preparation for going to California. Has bought his ticket. Will leave Leeds next Monday. Betsey Colier came here from Boston ten days since and is assisting Mrs Turner for Charles. She brought a letter from your aunt [Ann] Lee which was very full of loving words for all of us, and expressed a great desire to visit us, and Sarah would visit us if you would write her when your vacation would be and you be at home. She says if you or any of your family should be coming to Boston you could find us by enquiring for No 785 Washington St, their Boarding house, or Silas place of business 116 State Street.

Warren Woodman was here on business not long since and stopt a short time, or a few hours. He told me where Mrs Lee's house was and that she pays eight dollars per week for herself and Sarah's and Silas. Silas's salary is two hundred and fifty dollars a year, and supports himself out of it.

I spoke with Eliza Ann Jennings at church on the Sabbath and enquired after Orville. She said they had just received letters from him and his health was good and ever had been since he left home. Our family have all had good health this spring. Henry Gilbert has taken Mrs Jones place on the farm and is delighted with it. He has brought an invalid daughter a pining away apparently in the consumption.

Doc Lord called here this week with a subscription paper for obtaining money for supporting preaching. He had one hundred and thirty dollars subscribed when here. I have little hope of ever having much preaching at the center. I should be glad to live where I could attend meeting with my family and I think it would give a new spring to my feelings and enjoyments.

Charles has little or nothing to do. I wish he had gone to Kents Hill with R.B.H. He is gathering sap and making sugar for his own eating. Rodelphus is assisting him in bringing it, and managing to get all the sugar he can to eat and drinks more of the sap than Charles would have him. Charles is expecting a letter from you every mail. I hope you will write him. It would do him good. He has written a long letter to Roland A Gilmore and will send it by C. Turner.

Your father will enclose in this a ten dollar bill to you. He is assisting Mrs Lothrop to day.

I should think from the general tenor of your letter you were enjoying yourself well. Your time must be all occupied and if it is filled up to advantage is a happy way of spending time. I have not any definite idea of what your calculations are after graduating. I am in hopes some prospect will open for you that will be for your advancement in every respect. I know that I have much reason for a cheerful grateful sense of present favors but I scarcely look upon the favors. I am constantly looking at what is wrong and wishing it could be different. I do not make myself miserable, but I am determined not to be satisfied with the way I live, and I think it is inconsistent with a common understanding to be satisfied to live and spend their time as I do.

You spoke of Maria. Have you seen her and how is she. Tell William he has my good wishes. Hope his health is good. I have called at Ensign's once since you went from home. I called at Mrs Davies once yes twice. Both times on Uncle's [Ezra Stinchfield] account to see if anything could be done for him but have gained nothing in

his behalf. I wish I could for I think if we could support him a few years, out of his ten children some of them would take care of him. Mrs Davy has talked with him on the subject of being a public charge. He says he will go off into the woods and die alone. The idea is revolting to any of us to be a public charge, although it is to be expected after such a life as he has led, but I can not view him any other than a pleasant man as I never saw him otherwise. I suppose Otis will say why need Mother trouble me with her feelings about her uncle. There is no reason why I should, but <> know out of the abundance of the heart then <> speaketh.

Saturday morning

Yours affectionately Eliza Gilmore

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190 4/5/1850

*From:* Unknown

*To:* Friend Howard

OOH-0182

Chesterfield County  
Petersburg [Va]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chesterfield County Petersburg April 5th [1850]

Dear friend Howard

it has been a long time since we last met. And perhaps it will be unexpected to you to receive this epistle from me in this southern clime. But yet feeling a desire to learn some what of your welfare as you climb the rugged hill of science I venture to set my pen to work hoping better success in the way of an answer than with my last. Last winter a year ago while teaching in the town of Gardner I wrote you but have heard nothing from it since whether you never recd it or whether you had forgotten your old chum I have never seemed able to decipher. Nevertheless the General would once more inform you that he is yet alive and kicking out of hell and out preying ground, & if you are the same he would like to hear and if not please send him your card as a token of remembrance. Well by the date of this you will perceive that I am in old Virginia and no where else. The land of pistols bewey kives boldogs hogs & niggers offisseating in the old capacity of a pedagogue have been teaching three weeks have for each chollar 12,00 for the turm of ten months. I have fool school. I have ben travelling all winter. Visited the cities of NY stoped 4 days Philade stoped five weeks Willmington, Del. Soped 4 weeks Baltimore, stoped one day Washington stoped two weeks visited our old friend Whitney. & all the interesting scans of this grate focus of our mighty republic. Shook the hand of the Pres & his lady in the big east room. But the best of all was I had the plesure of listning to a four hours speach from the Henry Clay. Also a different times to tha elequence of Msr's Webster, Calhoon & Benton. I from there I came to Richmond va then down to Petersburg and commenced scholl. I am pleasantly situated in evry rspect, have a good rom & evry thing to my hand from a bootjack up to nigger watr. But now in regard to what has been when you and I were bohrys together & Frank Sarah Aley Mary Hause &c were pals together. Does fond recollection revirt you back to the good old days of C Freys writeing School old Kuals lectures &c? If so consider on your past life and be wise you old sinner. Morne & lement for the many opportunities you have let slip of. Receive in your share of the temporal blessing of this world. AH the spirit was willing but the flesh was weak (or rather limber). But the business was Frank was already primed and all she wanted was for you to perform your duty, but finding that you would not she, but stop. I will not prolong a recital that mite wound the feelings of a friend. Pardon me for this tuching upon so delecate a point. I saw Frank but a short time before I started from Me. She looked as fresh as a new blone rose. Give my best love to all of my acquaintance at Bowden especial remembrance to Spencer Stone Ashton Mac Eaton Orville &c

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191 4/14/1850 *From:* Uncle John Otis

*To:* Mr Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0183

Washington [DC]

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington April 14, '50

My dear Otis

I have just received your letter. It will be difficult to give you more than general advice. I am glad to learn that you are making good improvement of your present opportunity, for the time past cannot be recalled; and though deficiencies may be supplied, the great object of having a fair standing as a scholar when you graduate is lost. You will be young perhaps too young to commence a profession when you graduate. Your own views and tastes must be the guide to direct your determination to a great extent.

I had supposed you would be inclined to study law. I am not particularly partial to that profession though I am aware it has often laid the foundation for success in life - as often perhaps as any other profession. The medical profession is much crowded & very laborious. If you can get a good school or academy for the first year after you graduate, it will give you an opportunity of improving your education more than study without instruction & in that year you can make up your mind what to do. This too will give you a chance of getting back some of the money you have expended in your education, and which you must yet expend in getting a profession.

I suppose you have had no idea of going into trade & I have no doubt you could succeed as a merchant, and perhaps make more money than in a crowded profession. The great west after all holds out inducements both of a pecuniary and political character beyond any thing in New England. I know not what a year may bring forth in California; but I should not advise you to think of going there in its present state. I think Addison stands a good chance of making a fortune if no accident befalls him.

I am glad to have a letter from you & you can take the opportunity of giving me more directly your own views & then I can be better prepared to advise you.

I shall always feel a strong interest in your welfare. Remember always to have the approval of your mother & Col. Gilmore in whatever you do. I have a high opinion of their judgment.

We are all very well.

Your Affectionate Uncle  
John Otis

Mr. Oliver Otis Howard  
Brunswick

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192 4/14/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0184

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Apr 14th 1850

Dear Mother,

I am sorry to find that you are not happy for when one is discontented it is almost impossible to have in store a great amount of happiness. But experience must have taught you, that there is not anything in outward circumstances which can make the contented hurt. Wealth will not do it; idleness cannot; I know that it is an unpleasant thing for one who wishes it, to be deprived of the privilege of attending church: but there would be a thousand unthought of evils that would follow a remove to a village or a city. The child is exposed to ten times the temptations.

I am now thankful that my first years were spent on a farm. There I seeded & strengthened my constitution - there I formed habits of industry; and by maturing thus early my physical strength. I have laid a foundation upon which I may erect a more respectable mental structure. And I find it to be a matter of general remark, that farmers sons make the most industrious & persevering men. The country is the best place in the world.

There is really no need of great anxiety, no need of working too hard. I certainly think mother you ought to be contented. A person's life is never slavish, unless that person thinks it so. If we are contented, thankful, & cheerful how easy & light is work, as the little boy said, "it is only play"! Then cheer up, mother, and let the cheerful spirit free from care, shine into your heart and dissipate all the fancied bitterness of your lot. For closely connected with the mother's happiness is the happiness of the children. Perchance success may crown my future efforts: and then your cherished wishes may be fulfilled; for certainly it is the duty of gratitude, as well as affection for a son to repay the thousand favors which have been extended unasked and to recompense the unremitting care & love, which have been his only nurture and support from infancy to youth & manhood.

I wrote to Uncle John Otis, the other day, requesting him to recommend me to some situation, where I could find lucrative employment as well as a chance for intellectual improvement. I wish to study a year or two before I commence studying my profession; for a superior education will be the secret of my success, if I do succeed. I probably am as well calculated for a lawyer as for any thing. I can study what is dry & "borous" to the most, without a great tax upon my patience, & I find that the cheerless pages of metaphysical treatises are far from being irksome. What is learned by the intelligent by labor, is usually of some value.

I have planned out two courses to myself: one is apparently expedient; the other is desirable. The one that seems to me to be expedient, is to continue my literary, metaphysical & scientific studies for two or three yrs, and then commence the study of law and throw my whole energy & acquired knowledge into a professional course. The other & the one that would suit my taste better than my ability is to be a literary man. If I had been older when I entered College, & pursued a different course, my chance to become a College instructor would have been proportionally increased. So unless such a chance unexpectedly opens itself to me I shall steadily press on in the first course, which I have laid out for myself.

If Uncle does not find a better occupation for me, I probably shall teach an Academy the first year not only that I may make money, but that I may review Virgil & my Greek. I already have an end in view, but the particular mode of attaining it matters not. I do not plan to waver & vacillate in an undecided manner, for I should then most assuredly turn out be nobody, but with determination (fixedness of purpose) and untiring perseverance difficulties if not impossibilities may be easily overcome. I am glad you are trying to do something for Uncle E. Stinchfield [Ezra], for, even if a man has always taken a censurable course, it is not a Christian spirit to let him suffer the pain of shame & <> after he is <really> unable to assist himself. There is a self-reproach which will follow the vicious man to his grave & that is punishment enough without our endeavoring to increase his sufferings either by doing or omitting to do, what our hearts tell us we ought.

Remember me to all the family. Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard



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193 4/30/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0185

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Apr 30, 1850.

Dear Mother

The term is now almost through. We commenced our reviews to day in every thing, and heartily glad am I of it, for I begin to grow a little tired. We did not finish our Astronomy (what I was obliged to make up) till last Saturday evening. Those who were out of College last fall with myself, have been to Prof Cleavelands house to recite during the whole of this term. I think that I passed as good an examination on every thing, as I could have done, if I had been here the whole term.

I have called on Mrs Harmon, twice or three times. The last time I found Miss Joana Gilbert from Leeds there. She does not appear in a remarkably good state of health.

Uncle John answered the letter, which I wrote him, and says that it would be better for me to teach school a year after I graduate before attempting any thing else. And as much as I dislike teaching I believe I shall be obliged to follow his advice without some equally lucrative employment opens itself to me. So, I shall be on the watch, to see if I can get a school or Academy, somewhere between Maine & Louisiana. I had an offer to day to commence the Litchfield High School, next June & keep it at least a year. But it commenced too early, and I do not like the place very much. It is the same, where so many young men went from Leeds (this) last fall. I had another proposal the other day, but it suited me full as little. I may, like the dainty Crane, have, from necessity, to take up with the "miserable worms", at last, but I will not stay out of College any more for the highest wages.

I have written & committed my part for this spring's exhibition. It is not very good, but like the short soldier, "it will pass muster". The exhibition will be on Tuesday evening, one fortnight from this evening. There are usually four or five Junior parts, but this year the College government have sent away three of the performers and the other will not perform alone. The cause of their being sent away was this. From fast day through the week, in the Junior year, classes have been in the habit of "cutting", that is, of staying out of recitation. This year the government undertook to put a stop to it. So the night after Fast Prof Smyth, hearing a noise in one of the Junior rooms broke through the door, without ceremony, and found 10 Juniors, sat down & took their names and commanded them all to go into recitation the next morning. This he did in anticipation of offence, before they had done anything. The next morning he did not find a Junior there, and none were seen till the next Monday, except William Otis. On Friday he had seated himself in the cars to go to Bath. Just before they started, Prof Goodwin tapped him on the shoulder, & told him he would accompany him to the President's room. He went & was sentenced to go to Bath, but was again recalled the next week. Nine were sent away for six months, the best scholars & "best fellows" in the class. Thus much for following precedents.

Give my love to all the family. I think now of going home by the way of Hallowell, to make them my long promised visit but even now it will be a short one. My money is more reduced than I thought it would be but if the exhibition does not exceed its common cost, I shall try to manage my passage home with what I have. The Juniors being gone I do not know whether we can ask them to pay their proportional part of the expenses or not. I have not heard from Rowland of late, and in fact I have not from any one else. If you write again, you must send it soon enough for me to get it next week.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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194 6/9/1850

*From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0186

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll June 9th 1850

Dear Mother,

I have taken my pen on this beautiful sabbath morning, to write you a few words, and relieve you of any anxiety which you might have on account of the rather dubious state of health with which I left home. I am perfectly recovered. The plaster & salts acting in concert have been very effective and I believe I feel as well now as I ever did in my life. After I left Charlie I crossed the river and was obliged to spend two hours wandering up & down amusing myself in different ways until the stage came along. Peleg was in the stage, and Mrs Waite & her daughter came with us as far as Lewiston. We took dinner at the house of Mrs Hicks, a sister of Mrs Waite. Peleg & I started from Lewiston in the afternoon train but were obliged to stop in N. Yarmouth all night as the advertisements were incorrect. If we had stoped in Lewiston all night we might have gone to N. Yarmouth early in the morning, stoped nearly all day & arrived here late in the afternoon. As we came we were fortunate enough to get into Prof. Cleavelands lecture at ½ past 8 o'clock, saving ourselves a schooling thereby.

I called on Mrs Harmon last evening, & learned that she was going to Leeds to spend the summer or, at least, a portion of it. By accident I carried away from home Charlie's handkerchief, and thinking he would want it I shall send it up by Mrs H\_\_ next Wednesday. Their recent child (5 weeks of age) is a little girl. Joan Gilbert, being here, is going to Leeds with her. The past week has been warm & pleasant enough, and I suppose father has improved it in the way of planting. The greatest real trouble we have here is from musketoes. They are determined we shall not sleep after daylight. They must be more abundant than usual, or else loftier in their notions for they never have molested us in the third story before. I find it pretty hard to decide whether it is best for me to seek a school at the South, where I may have high wages, or take up with such wages as I can get from some Academy in Maine. I did not wish to teach but one year and I wished to get high wages.

Mr Tuck, in the House of Representatives from N.H., wrote to Mr Townsend of our class, that he could get a place for him in Washington for four months at \$80.00 per month, commencing right off. He also said that he would be nominally employed from 9 o'clock till three, the rest of the time he could have to himself to keep up his studies so as to graduate in September.

If I could have such a place after I had graduated I should like it much, but I would not go just now even for \$80.00 per month. Mr Tuck wrote that Townsend would be in a good place to secure a school and perhaps Uncle might secure one for me if he chose. I believe I shall write to him and let him do as he will.

How is Mr Gilberts daughter? Give my love to all our family. I cannot decide on a subject for a Commencement part & if I do not soon, and write it I shall be kept here after the end of 8 weeks until it is written & prepared. It is now nearly meeting time, so good bye.

Yr Affectionate son,  
Oliver O Howard

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195 6/15/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B  
Howard]

OOH-0187

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College June 15th 1850.

Dear Brother,

Having now been in Brunswick a fortnight, I begin to think it time to write you and learn, if possible, how you are "making it" at Readfield. I received your Catalogue & order of exercises. I hope you will do Henry Play justice, and yourself honor at the coming exhibition. I should like to be there, but it is not, in the nature of things, possible. I have not been able to decide upon a subject for a Commencement part as yet, and I fear, if I do not pretty soon, that I shall be obliged to stop here after the end of this term until I shall have selected my subject & written my part. After I left you at North Wayne, I returned to Mr <Samson's> in time to get my dinner and while I was waiting to get my wagon fixed, Mr Coolidge and his lady returned. He looked very smart & happy & perhaps he was (?).

I went to Livermore the next day (or Wednesday rather), & staid till Thursday afternoon, then going home. The rain kept me close till the next Monday night. Perley came down to Leeds, on Monday in the midst of the rain to get a new wagon at Mr White's and wishing to "break it in" rode down to my father's. The rain stopped pouring just about long enough for Peleg & me to go to Livermore that night. This time I found Mrs Waite & her daughter at N. Turner Bridge. The next day, Elizabeth & I had a wagon ride in the forenoon and in the afternoon, four of us (Peleg & his cousin with us) had a splendid horseback ride. Elizabeth rode your colt & managed him first rate. One time he kicked at the horse, on which I rode, four times starting into a run at the same time, but did no damage. We rode about seven miles.

The next day I carried Elizabeth home, down through the center of Leeds, exciting great curiosity & much wonderment. Staid at home till Thursday afternoon & then returned to Livermore, went home again alone Friday morning, and helped plant corn Friday & Saturday, making me lame and sore enough. This is a short sketch of my wanderings, the only vexation being the toll-keeper. He troubled me considerably.

Two of our class have been suspended for drinking, this term. If any individual in the class is known to drink, even a glass of Liquor, he will be suspended or expelled immediately. The Government are decisive.

Mr Shepley, the teacher at N. Yarmouth, is said to be one of the finest teachers in the State. Some one who was there at the last examination, said, that he never knew a class, who had not entered college to pass so perfect an examination. That is the place for you to finish your preparatory course. You can come here & get as many of my things as you wish - looking glass, clock, bed, desk & thousand of little things, and carry them up by the Freight Cars for almost nothing. I have not decided when to go, nor what I shall do as soon as I graduate but I must find a place as soon as possible.

Write me how you "get-off" at exhibition and whether mother is there or not. My respects to your chum & those with whom I am acquainted and take to yourself the best wishes of your brother.

Yrs Affectionately  
O.O.Howard

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196 6/20/1850 *From:* John Otis

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0188

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington June 20 1850

My dear Nephew,

From what William writes me today, I am of opinion that he will not be accepted at West Point on account of the narrowness of his chest, and want of general physical strength. The matter was not fully settled & of course I wish you to say nothing of it until it is fully settled.

What I wish to know is whether in case he is not accepted, you would like to have me recommend you or Rowland Bailey. The advantages you would have are a good constitution & strength for endurance, & you have a good acquaintance with the languages & are fond of mathematics. You would probably be able to obtain your degree, if you went to West Point now. The wages are \$24 per month. That is, a four year residence & expenses of all kind paid &c. The applicant must be full sixteen years of age. Is that Rowland's? He must not be over 21.

Please write me your own thoughts before you apply at home or know the decision here.

This is to be truly confidential.

Yours sincerely  
John Otis

Oliver Otis Howard

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197 6/24/1850 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0189

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. June 24th 1850

Dear Mother,

I believe I have not received a letter from home this term, but I will not complain for perhaps it is not possible for you to write with your many duties. My health has been very good since my return, and I hope the same good fortune has attended you. I suppose Rowland is at home by this time. I wrote him a letter, but he may not have received it before he got home. He talked somewhat of going to Harpswell after the end of his term on the Hill. If he would come down & be here on the fourth of July I could go about with him considerably. He could see N. Yarmouth as he came through and also tell me, what of my furniture & housekeeping materials he might want. I shall be obliged to know before Commencement so as to sell what he does not want. You had better let him come, for it will be for his health & he can select any of my books which he may want.

I wrote to Uncle John again yesterday, and am in hopes he will be able to point me to some good situation. Townsend has secured a place in the General P.O. department where he is to have \$80.00 per month for four months & perhaps longer, with the privilege of returning to graduate next September. Townsend is very fortunate for a lazy man, but will fulfill as high duties now as he ever will. I do not envy his good position, for he is a clever fellow without energy, & poor, and must have a living in some way.

I believe I have not had a letter from a single person this term, but perhaps it is as well for I do not have to write as many. I presume Mrs Harmon has called upon you before this time, at any rate I told her so to do. How does Mr Gilbert's daughter endure this hot weather? William is at West Point. A young man who is there, wrote to a member of the Freshman Class here, and mentioned in no favorable language, a representative of this College, "Otis" by name. William always appears awkward to Strangers, yet I think they will like him better as soon as they become acquainted with him, if that should take place.

Independent day will be celebrated in this place so that I shall not be obliged to leave this place as father says "to see the Elephant".

Peleg & I wish to get a chance in a large Academy together if we can. Give my love to all. I wrote a letter to Laura Howard yesterday, and she may be obliged to get you & Rowland to unravel a part of it, for I wrote in much haste. If she does you may tell her, it is not worth the trouble to decipher. It is now recitation time & I must stop awhile (but while I think of it) tell Rowland to get that hat of mine and use it, for I have got another, "a palm leaf". Tell him also if he cannot answer my letter in person to write me as soon as he can. And Charlie he must write me again. You must make up your mind to come to Commencement. I have a quiet little boarding place, where I have boarded so long that they would be very glad to have you stop & perhaps you & Mrs Harmon can agree, for Public Houses would be too much crowded for comfort.

Remember me to all my friends if I have any out of the family circle, and write as soon as you can.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver O Howard

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198 6/28/1850 *From:* John Otis

*To:* Mr Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0190

Washington

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington, June 28, 1850

My dear Nephew,

I received your letter yesterday, & your letter in answer to mine this morning. I made the suggestion to you for your good, but if you do not feel a decided inclination for the situation I would not accept it. Your college education is the inducement for you to accept it. The studies at West Point are fairly mathematical, physical & philosophical. The education in languages should be had either before or after. You would have the advantage of having it before. Depend upon it you would be put to your full exertions for the four years to take such a rank as I would have you take.

I do not agree with you in believing the military profession stands low, & your notions do not compare with mine, but this is a practical question. It is whether under the circumstances, you could forego the chance of professional prospects, spend four years at West Point & then on to the army, take your chance for a professorship or other appointment. There are over twenty members of Congress, who graduated at West Point.

The chances of success for life for one who takes a high stand, there is in my opinion as good or better than any other course of life. I have said this not to influence your determination. That you must think upon naturally & then decide. You will not be obliged to go on till the last of August & will not be in the way of your having your degree. But I must decide in a short time, say in ten days. Will Rowland Bailey be <> request?

Your affectionate  
Uncle John Otis

Mr Oliver Otis Howard  
Brunswick

Write in a few days, say in a week from this time. William will return in a few days.

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199 7/28/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0191

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College July 28 1850

Dear Mother,

I intended to have written a long letter to you in relation to my decision & prospects in regard to West Point, but I have deferred it so long & shall so soon be in Leeds myself that I will not undertake it now. I shall stop here till after the "parts" come out, which will be on Wednesday next (at what time I know not). At any rate I will fix upon Thursday as the day on which I shall go home. I should like to have one of the boys meet me & my baggage at Green on the arrival of the afternoon train. I shall put every thing here in as good shape as I can, ascertaining the exact amount of all my bills. I shall soon be at home. Remember me to all the listeners.

Yr affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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200 8/24/1850 *From:* Otis Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0192

New York City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York City Aug 24th, 1850

Dear Mother,

As you will notice by the above, I am in the city of New York. I stopped in Portland till Monday night, as I intended. At 7 on Monday evening Lizzie & myself set out in the Steamer John Marshall for Boston. It was a glorious night, but we remained on Deck together only about an hour & a half, for Lizzie began to be quite sick. I helped her below as soon as possible, but the poor girl had rather an uncomfortable time of it, getting only about 2 hours sleep. I had a state room with a young man of my acquaintance & a boy, slept soundly after I could persuade myself to retire, till day-break, when I arose "bright & early" and found that we were just coming into Boston Harbor. The air was <clear > and the water perfectly smooth. I enjoyed the scenery much, but should have enjoyed it more, had there been some one by me sufficiently acquainted to point out to me the different islands, forts, &c giving their names.

We were soon in the busy, bustling, narrow, crooked streets of Boston. A carriage drove us & baggage to "Le Grange Place." Here we stopped at a very quiet boarding house kept by a young widow lady (Mrs Hyder). The beauty of the whole was that we stopped two days & two nights, and all she charged was \$1.60 cts. Tuesday we wandered about over the City in the forenoon, conducted by Lizzie's cousin. I left them however at 11 o'clock, and went to East Cambridge in search of my relatives & quondam friends, Olive's family (Mrs Mount & all) "had gone down East", excepting her (Olive's) husband.

I found Aunt Ann, quietly boarding in East Cambridge, made her a short "call" and returned to Boston, promising to return with Lizzie at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, which I did. Aunt Ann was as agreeable as <>. But I fear me much "the first impressions" which Lizzie made upon her rather too exacting nature, might not have been as favorable as we could wish, for the poor child had scarcely recovered from sea sickness & want of sleep. We returned to Boston at half past 5, and after making a visit to a friend of Lizzie's, we returned to "Le Grange Place", somewhat weary, and not very well pleased with Boston.

After a good nights rest we were in a little better spirits, and much more disposed to be pleased with the strange things of the busy city. Wednesday, we went to Mount Auburn, taking in Aunt Ann at East Cambridge on our way. We passed the Colleges, going through Old Cambridge. I think Mount Auburn surpasses any place I ever visited in the beauty of its grounds. I will not attempt a description for probably you have been there yourself. If you have, no description is necessary. The splendid monuments, mounds, chapel, walks, trees & flowers cannot fail to impress the stranger with emotions of pleasure & admiration mingled with awe. We saw the tomb soon to be the receptacle of Webster. We returned & in the afternoon visited the Commons, public gardens & state house. From the cupola of the State house we had a view of Boston entirely & its harbor, & also of all the surrounding cities.

On Thursday morning I left Lizzie with rather a heavy heart. She started in the cars for Portland at 7 o'clock. I for New York by express train at ½ past 7. We came through without stopping more than ten minutes at a place. I found John Ally on Board the cars, who preceded me from Our District at West Point. With a friend & an acquaintance the time passed very pleasantly till we arrived in New York at half past four o'clock. He advises me to keep away from West Point till the 28th as he thinks it will be better for me, that to be there for two or three days to be knocked about before the studies commence.

I found Mr Sargent & Silas. The former is a perfect gentleman, moral, steady and intelligent. He is engaged in large & profitable business. "He thinks every thing of Sarah, but knows just what Silas is, over whom he has much influence. He seems to regard him as a brother, and as such takes care of his interest which I fear Silas if left to himself would sadly neglect. I think Silas will be able with \$400.00 to clear himself, i.e. keep out of debt. Silas is good hearted without principle or stability, but could not be in a better situation than he now is with the two Messrs Sargent's for companions. He attends to his business regularly & cheerfully. His danger lies in his love of forming friends, meeting & taking strangers for <> companions. Mr Sargent (Frank) carried me to the Theater last evening, the first I ever attended. I was disappointed for I had expected more, more thrilling & effective acting. The Hall & saloons were rich & splendid. I shall not go again while here.

I have been "prudent of my money." I bought a watch, however, of Mr Chas Henry Waite, which he had and carried long - a good one for twelve dollars. Hence my deposit will not be more than \$45.00. Alley says that my money is better in my pocket. He made no deposit & brought away \$150.00 at the end of the course. He cleared over a hundred. He told me many things. He says that he went through without drinking, but had to be careful in the selection of his companions. He gave me a list of cadets to whom he would recommend me. He has been ordered to Santa Fe & is on his way. Says I can take the first stand if I choose, but shall have some who will "dispute the ground with me." I left a Rowland's shirt at Mrs Waites at Portland, which he must go & get when he goes to Yarmouth. Lizzie wishes to see him & make his acquaintance.

Give my love to all the family. New York city cannot be described. It is so large that I don't try to see it, but sit still & write letters. I shall start for W.P. Monday morning at 7 o'clock. Good bye till I get there. Yr affectionate son.

Otis

Alleys class was 120 to commence, 44 to graduate. Aunt Ann wants to go to live with grandmother after Henry Leaves for Portland

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201 8/28/1850 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0193

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Aug 28th '50

Dear Mother

I am here - came on Monday last after having staid in N. York over the sabbath. I had a most beautiful sail up the river - arrived here about 10, found Warren Lothrop immediately. He is well & in pretty good spirits. Nobody can form any idea of military discipline, only those who are or have been subjected to it. But I will not tell you how I like, till my greenness has worn off, so that I may speak unbiased by the severity of my last "Drill".

The companies are all in their encampments but will move to the "Barracks" i.e. the place where they room. It is a glorious place here. Ladies & gentlemen here from all parts of the United States. My class about one hundred. Have not passed my examination yet. It is a change indeed from the Senior Class at College to the 4th Class here. I shall soon, however, be able to make myself at home. As a scholar I have not much doubt of "carrying the palm". But as a soldier! The extreme neatness! Not a speck of rust on the gun or on your clothes.

I shall soon be able to give you a minute description of every thing but cannot while in the Camp, for my time is not at my own disposal. Not a drop of Liquor is sold or allowed on the Point, but a few & perhaps many get men to send it secretly to them from N. York, which they pay for during their vacation, so it is said. It cannot be drunk here as in College. Should an officer know of a young man's drinking, he is punished peremptorily & severely according to the military fashion.

If I had been here two months I should now begin to enjoy myself, but I expect to be a little homesick until I get into the Barracks, where I can have my trunk & some Books for here we are allowed neither while in the Camp. I sleep upon the tent floor, upon the ground wrapped in my Blanket. My health is good, my face long.

My love to all my friends. Write to Lizzie and tell her that I tent with 3 strangers & she must not think that I have forgotten her if she does not hear from me, till we get into the Barracks. Write to me soon.

Yr affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

Direct  
Cadet O.O. Howard  
West Point

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202 9/3/1850

*From:* Warren Lothrop

*To:* Cadet Otis Howard

OOH-0194

Camp Snife N.Y.

Room No 14 North Barracks  
U.S. Mil. Academy  
West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Camp Snife N.Y.  
Sept 3rd 50

My dear Otis,

Being absent from camp Saturday afternoon I did not receive your note until Sunday morning. Therefore could not call to see you. Was pleased to hear you were a little settled & that the cadets are friendly. You must keep a stiff upper lip & not allow a homesick feeling to disturb your peace of mind, remember you are now engaged in a military life, consequently have a glorious object in view, which a strict adherence your Motto, "(never back out)" will certainly cause you to reach. Your motto was also Genl Taylors by which means the battle of Buenavista was won. May it also achieve for you a like victory.

I wrote home the next day after I saw you, told the folks of your arrival, our social interview &c. Will be careful what I say in my letters about you & not give an unfavorable impression. Shall call & see you the first opportunity, & you must do likewise.

Truly yours,  
Warren [Lothrop]

[Envelope]  
Room No 14 North Barracks  
Cadet Otis Howard  
U.S. Mil. Academy  
West Point, N.Y.

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203 9/7/1850

*From:* P. S. Perley

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0195

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland, Sept. 7th Sat Eve, 1850

Dear Howard,

Here I am this rainy evening in Mrs Waite's kitchen with Lizzie in the corner and her mother beside the table, writing to you an answer to your last. I know how you would enjoy being where I am and I would willingly resign it to you for a short time to gratify you but many a hill and valley lies between us and many a thing we both may wish can never be.

Lizzie and her mother were down to Commencement and I did my best to entertain them though you know I am never very successful in entertaining the ladies. I accompanied Lizzie to Com. Ball and remained in attendance till 12 o'clock when it being her wish I left her in charge of Wm Otis and retired. She told me she liked much, and that the Ball was much better than it was last year. We had a first rate Commencement at least such is the opinion I hear everywhere expressed. Poindexter had a grand poem of course. The oration before the Pen & Ath Socs. By Rutten of Vt. Was the richest thing I ever heard. The Poem by Upton (an old graduate) was poor. Snell did not get an election to the "Phi Beta Kappa". The two first parts were all elected. My Father and Mother were both down and were quite surprised to see me do decently.

Old Butler has made it all right with his woman and is going out South with Pain & Bell. By the way I will tell you one of these days of a scrape into which I got with the women since I saw you. Jewett goes to Yarmouth together with Robinson of the last class. Harding goes to Limerick where I talked of going. I have had another offer of Limerick since you left but preferred the chance I have got here - that of Assistant in the Public High School at \$500 per year. I commence tomorrow. Townsend has got an office in Washington of some kind at \$1400 a year. Success to him he needs it as much as any one.

It rains here to day drearily, drizzly and my feelings are about in unison with the weather. Would you were here chum with your cheerful face to drive away some of the gloom that rests on all things. But then I must dispel it myself and not wait for you or any body else and I fancy me you have about enough of the blues to chase away without attending to those of your friends, however much you might like to. I doubt not you have got a hard unpleasant place but I feel sure you will do honor to yourself there. I paid for you on your Bill at McKenna's 4.20 or father did for me. Your last term Bill was 30.08. Peterson did not pay that note. Your Diploma cannot be obtained till next Commencement. All of our Class who were there received their Diplomas with the exception of Townsend. Bell and Poin. leave Brunswick in about a fortnight. Old Wilson was there at Com. And also Perry. 29 have already entered the Freshman class at Bowd. And about 40 in all are expected. I hope Bowdoin is coming up really.

Mrs Waite and Lizzie seem quite cheerful as much so at least as usual but I suppose I shall not have the pleasure of boarding with them a great while for they talk some I think of going to Lewiston. I hope they will not. I tell you what Howard I begin to feel as though I had indeed turned my back on College - as though the world was all before me and I with hardly a friend in it - no chum I will not say that for I have many an old college friend true ones too I believe but this will not atone for the loss of one and I declare I feel sometimes almost tempted to become a villain merely to justify the opinion of some concerning me. But as you would say this would not be hardly politic. We have all of us to be talked about some time or other and unfortunate must be the man who has no enemies. I guess about the best way for me to do after all is to change my habits a little and so live that their predictions may not be verified.

Mrs Waite and I have been talking about you and Lizzie &c nearly all day (Sunday) would you not like to know what we had to say? Eh? Well I reckon perhaps you would. Nothing bad though.

I do not wonder that you feel "Home Sick" for I come very near to it here but a short distance from home among friends while you are far away subjected to severe discipline but Chum an honorable course lies sure though distant before you and you have one behind you whom you may think of and dream of as your own fair girl and thus be happy despite discipline, duty, drill while I love one who ... But I have said enough about this heretofore and am forever boring you with the details of my ill storied passion.

One of these days I will bore you with an account of the way the Br. Girls used me &c. I am bound to have to take it. Of course you will not mention any such hints if you should write to Jewett in the meantime. I got introduce to Jackson's girl. She appears first rate.

Chum it is getting late and I must bid you good bye. Write again. If Lizzie were here I should make her send her love but she is out and you will have to take up with mine.

P.S. Perley

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204 9/8/1850      *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0196

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 8th 1850

Dear Mother,

When I last wrote we were in the Camp, and therefore I wrote a very short & poor letter. To comply with father's request & give a fair & true account of this place, I fear is rather difficult, for I have been very much confined by my duties, & have not been able to gain more than a partial view of things. First, I will try to give you a concise account of the Academy & its discipline.

There are here as instructors in this institution, about 20 I should think. Some of them are old professors & some recent graduates. All the Cadets are under military discipline & military regulations, as you know, hence all are here rewarded according to their merits. Those that behave the most soldierlike and get the fewest reports, usually get promoted to a "corporalcy" the second year, a sergeant's or orderly sergeant's rank the third year & a Captain's position &c the fourth year. The whole No. of Cadets "called Corps of Cadets" is divided into 4 Companies, called Co. A, B, C, & D. These Companies are formed without regard to Classes. Excepting the Officers, who wear Badges ("Chevrons"). I cannot tell to which Class an individual belongs, excepting however, also those who appear "green" in tactics & those with whom I am acquainted. Well then, our whole government is carried on by Cadet officers, the government of Cadet officers, by Army Officers. But it does not moderate the severity of our discipline, because we are governed, as it were, by ourselves but rather increases it. For this reason, the young men who are officers are ambitious of high promotion hereafter and hence are very precise in the performance of every duty.

Our Class consists of 95. For recitations it is divided into 7 Sections, 14 individuals in a section. We were first divided alphabetically, but at the end of three weeks the 1st division will contain the best scholars, the second division or "section", the next in rank & so on down. The manner of the recitation is such that the best scholar is obliged to study. Some who have graduated from Colleges have been found deficient here, because they depended too much at first on former knowledge.

The instructor calls upon a young man to deduce the rule. He cannot give the rule & work from it, but must make up an example & give a reason for every step until he finds the rule. Much judgment & a great deal of study is required, even for a scholar, to make a perfect recitation. Thus you may easily see how it happens that so many are found deficient, for 1/3 at least of our Class came here with hardly more than a common school education. As many as therby at the smallest calculation must leave at the next January examination.

West Point is a plame 200 or 300 feet above the river. Around this plane Hills of as much as a thousand feet in height on every side skirt us in. The plane is perhaps as much as 3 or 4 miles square. There is nothing in the world to attract us beyond the limits supposing we could have our liberty. Warren's Corps was situated when I came here about a mile north of this place. Now they have struck their tents & gone into "Barracks" (the building in which they winter) about 1/2 mile or less from this place. Warren is orderly sergeant of the highest company in the U.S. Army, but as he enlisted he cannot rise higher, expect by having an especial commission given him by Congress. His pay is 30 dollars per month clear of all expense for clothing or board. He has the respect of his company, not "over much to do" & pretty good pay.

I got reported before the Battalion the other day for stopping after my Section was dismissed and talking with him. I did not know that I was obliged immediately to return to my room. The plea of ignorance will excuse me for perhaps three weeks when my demerit will commence. The hours of recreation are, week days, 1/2 hour after every meal, & on Saturday from 1/2 past 1 o'clock P.M. till 6 o'clock. During recreation hours we can go where we please on the public lands, not being allowed to go, then or at any other time except by especial permission into the Hotel or Store. No money can be expended here by Cadets very well, excepting by those who send to New York city, secretly. Not very often done, for detection is dangerous

I went to Church this fore-noon with my Company (which is B Co.). My Uniform is not yet done, so I have been obliged to wear the suit, which I brought all the time to drill, parade, recitation & every thing. I have managed to keep very neat as yet, but wish I had taken some thin pants for a change. There is no danger of any thing

being stolen in this place for a guard is kept the whole time, and the guard itself is at every moment liable to inspection. At five o'clock in the morning after the gun is fired the beating of drums & the sound of fifes wake us & all immediately run out and fall into ranks, and each individual of each company answers to his name as it is called by the orderly sergeant. Then we return to our rooms, fold up our bed clothes in a manner specified, put our shoes, hats & caps & clothes in just such a place, and then study till breakfast. At 10 minutes before 7 o'clock the roll is called again & we are marched into the "Mess Hall" for Breakfast, stand around the table near our place & when the command, "take seats", is given, we sit and eat. One half hour is allowed to each meal after we are seated. In the same manner we form for recitation as for breakfast - only the Battalion is divided into sections & to every section, a "squad-marcher". Each squad marcher marches his section to its respective reciting room. The roll is again called at 1 o'clock for dinner, those who do not want any <being> allowed to fall out after the roll is called. Recitations in the afternoon as in the fore-noon. At 4 o'clock is drill. The whole Battalion drills at that time on the open plane. But the "Septs" or the "10 of us" who came here in September drill by ourselves, having over us a Corporal. He puts us in a soldier like position, chests on a line & thrown out, toes out, chins drawn in & heads drawn back. The eyes must look straight ahead & never change, unless by command &c &c.

I enjoy myself pretty well now that I can read & write & study. There are three or four graduates of other institutions here in my class. Perhaps I shall not be first as a scholar but shall pretty near it, by & by, when we get where it is hard.

If you get this before Rowland leaves, tell him to go early enough if you please, to go to Portland & get acquainted with Lizzie, for it will be pleasanter for him & her both to be acquainted. While he is there, write me as soon as you can for at best I do not like here well enough to do without letters from you & my brothers. In fact I have not yet formed any very congenial spirits. Very few with whom I am free to associate have the taste, the feelings or the education which I have. I get neither real friendships nor sympathy. The few with whom I am acquainted most intimately wonder why with my education & my dislike for the coarse & profane, why I should come here. But I do not regret it yet. Here is a field open for a man who has ability a chance for the severest mental discipline. To get into the engineer Corps is what but very few do. Only once in two or three years do they graduate scholars sufficiently good to enter this Corps. These same are very often made instructors in this institution, which position (I do not wish this repeated) I hope to gain. I may not realize my wish but there is nothing like trying.

Yesterday I was called upon to deduce a rule in Algebra, which it required considerable fore thought & study to prepare. After I got through I was closely questioned & answered readily & correctly after which Prof Church asked me if I had not studied Algebra considerably before. He complimented me somewhat &c. I rather think, as a scholar, I can maintain a good position. But to hope to stand first among a hundred young men brought together here from every part of the Union, & the most of them great men's sons is looking rather high - here's try.

You wished to know something in relation to Cadets who are taken sick. There is a large Hospital to which those who are sick are taken & provided with every thing to render them comfortable, & put them in condition to recover. I have three roommates in a very large room, viz Brown of Oxford Maine, Treadwell of N. Hampshire, & Lazelle of Mass. They study all the time, nearly, & so give me plenty of time to read & study. Our tables are iron & Bedsteads also of iron, as you know. The latter are quite narrow and have iron bars instead of bed-cords. A mattress is fitted to it. It makes a hard bed, but after our drill there is no danger of lying awake even on the floor.

I have not yet written to Uncle Ward. I do not care much about seeing any friend here till I have got a little better acquainted with my duties & have got to be a little more military. I feel rather odd "round in broad cloth" while others are dressed in uniform, especially while in the Battalion, I am taken too much notice of "for me".

Give my love to Charles, Rowland & Rodolphus & to Uncle's little boys & remember me to father & Phebe, George & Silas. I have seen some times when I should have rejoiced to have been in your midst. But every body must have "the bitter with the sweet." I hope you are all well. I think of you all more than ever before. The influences here are not of the healthiest kind as far as concerns moral character. The instruction is not quite so good in its tendency as in a College where all the influence which is exerted by the education itself is on the side of morality & religion.

Write soon to me, your affectionate Son.  
O.O. Howard



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205 9/10/1850    *From:* Francis T Sargent    *To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0197                      New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Sept 10 1850

Dear Otis

I was very glad to receive your letter on Wednesday last and ought to have answered it ere this but have been prevented in one way and another. The morning I received your letter I was fortunate enough to realize a wish that I made as I was crossing the ferry, that I might receive three letters, and they were all from the ones I wished them from, of course one was from Sarah.

I felt quite happy, and saw them all with a great deal of pleasure, was happy to learn that you had passed through with your examination, not that I had any fears, but that it is so disagreeable an ordeal I wanted to hear that you was through with it. I have no doubt that you felt lonely, and perhaps homesick. No! Not homesick. 'Tis too tame; but rather heart sick or love sick. Yes now I have it. I've smashed the right chord now, - listen to its vibrations to the smart notes of pleasurable emotion that spring from a heart, which at the mention or thought of a dear one thrills with unspeakable happiness - would that it were lasting; but alas! - these thoughts cannot always make us happy, there are times when our fancy paints a picture of another colour, when instead of the bright sunshine of happiness the dark gloom of uncertainty, and restless anxiety haunts our mind, and makes us for a while miserable. But 'tis wrong, 'tis wicked to entertain such thoughts, 'tis distrusting the wisdom of Providence.

I suppose you have had some blue times, or rather thoughts since you have been in West Point, but you will feel at home by & by, and I hope you will find e'er long some congenial spirit with whom you may feel that you can associate as a companion. I suppose the majority of the young men there are a wild unfeeling, and careless set of fellows, under no moral restraints, and susceptible of none of the softer and more tender feelings which are so requisite in a companion and associate for one so used to good society as you are. I hope you will find one soon such as you may wish for.

I anticipate a great deal of pleasure in my trip "down east". I think of leaving the last of this or first of next week. Shall go direct to Hallowell, (stopping perhaps one day in Boston). Shall remain there from two to three weeks, and then if Sarah will go with me I shall go to Machias and visit my brothers for a week or so, and expect to have a grand time, for I mean to go into the woods for a few days if I can get anybody to go with me. I can hardly content myself until the time of departure arrives. Mr & Mrs Benson have been at home about a week. Mr <Buck> & Mr Adams, so I think they will remain at home for a while at least.

I rec'd a letter from Sarah last week, and she is impatient for me to come. She has been enjoying herself nicely. The Party at the Hallowell House was a grand affair. I wish I could have been there. Don't you wish you were going down?

One word Otis before I close. The very flattering terms in which you were pleased to address me, I feel are altogether undeserved, although I do not doubt your sincerity. If I made a favorable impression upon you I will in all candor say that I am gratified, but that I treated you differently on account of your relation to Sarah I am sure I did not. You saw me as I was, and if you never have occasion to change your opinion of me, I shall be still more gratified. One of my greatest faults I sometimes think is that I am often too frank and candid, but I strive to keep to the truth whatever it may be. I shall be very glad to correspond with you, and will try with punctuality but if I am not always you must make allowances for business matters.

To speak of my wedding and that you fear you will not be able to attend it. I hardly allow myself to think of that yet, but I dare say you will hear of it as soon as it takes place. I will try and not forget you.

Write me when you have leisure and my letters will be forwarded. I have written this by piece meals, and dare I say you will find it quite disconcerting but such as it is. So give it yours and am very truly your friend

F. T. Sargent  
39 South Street



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206 9/15/1850      *From:* Charles H Howard      *To:* Brother [ O O Howard]

OOH-0198                      So. Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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So Leeds Sept 15th 1850

Dear Brother,

I came home last night & found a letter from the Monday after you went away. I went up to my school,. Father caried Vaughan and I up. We did not get there in time to go in to the school in the forenoon. Thomas prays in the morning after the scholars read in the testament, then the classes read, & then comes the recitations <> Geography & after that I cipher the rest of the forenoon. I have got about half way through fractions, at noon I go down to Mrs Alden's to <dinner>. It is a very good boaring place indeed. Mr Alden is a very fine man. In the afternoon, first we read and then we recite grammar. (Weld's Grammar) & parse in the same, then comes our <> Phonetic & spelling & we sing in the Common School Song Book. Composition is read on Wednesday afternoon and we declaim. My last subject was Education, and my declamation the African Chieftain.

Uncle Henry came up last Tuesday & aunt Martha J, Fredrick and his other two little children and Sarah Lee. He is going to move Portland in a few weeks. Laura Betsey's little girl is dead. She died this morning about four o'clock after being sick about 11 days. The funeral will be Tuesday next. Aunt Betsey went away last Wednesday, week ago last fryday went up to camp meting. Week ago yesterday I went to Weston with Thomas. He was going alone, & he told me <> should like to have me go with him. They met at <?rk> very smart. We counted 50 hoses and carts at <> in any place & about 900 Irishmen night before <>. Up to Aunt Lucretias and stayd all night. Warren and Arza have just been here. They came from the meting down <>. Nancy Manwill, Phebe's sister, is she came here last Monday. She is sewing for mother. Mother's garden is covered with Flowers of every kind some blue, yellow, purple white red and all colors. Father has returned from meeting. The boys are at play in the yard. The scholars are in hopes that Mr Barrows open a school after Thomas finishes his. Arza has returned from Albany, where he went to attend the annual fair. They are doing quite a business on Mr C Wings ledge. I have heard that they have offered a thousand dollars to have the R Road be built up as far as Leeds corner this fall so that they can have their stone carried down on the cars this winter.

Our potato crop is a complete failure. We began to dig our potatoes, more than a week ago. I wish I could write a good letter. I am in hopes that I shall do better if I practice writing. I cannot write like other folks. I wish that I could. All that I can write is to describe the objects in sight. I have that same cough, that I had when you went away. The folks are all well but Rodelphus. He is very hoarse caused by going in to the watter. We want you to write often so that we can tell how you get along.

Affectionately yours.  
C. H. Howard

Charley did not do as well writing his letter as I expected, but I will send it. He almost object because he could not do any better. I think he is better in health. He is fleshier than when you left home. Your father has come in to finish up my

Your Affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

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207 9/16/1850     *From:* Rowland B Howard     *To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0199

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Sep 16th 1850

Dear Brother

Do you remember when you began a letter dated at the above place. How did you feel? Was it not something like this. The class is ahead of me, but I must enter college next fall or never, and I must go, consequently I will bend every energy to the task and not only be equal to but excell any of my competitors. If those were your feelings, that is the point in our lives, that we were similar. And why should we not be, we had the same object in view with nearly the same means of accomplishing it. It was accomplished in your case, and in mine, time only can tell. I have got No. 8 on the north side of the building for a room and am at present and expect to continue alone. I have been here three days and just got fairly settled.

I suppose you are acquainted with both of our teachers Mssrs Jewett & Robinson - John N Jewett and Geo A Robinson. Mr Jewett says he shall write you in a few days. He is principal of the English and Mr Robinson of Classical department. Mr Jewett rooms just opposite me and boards in commons. I like Mr Robinson very well what little I have seen of him. He appears to be a thorough practical scholar and excelent teacher.

Our school is very small numbering some 35 scholars, but I hope for Mr Jewett's sake that may increase. The principle reason for its being so small is that Mr Woods the former principal of the English department here has started an opposition school, in a hall just adjoining the seminary buildings, which numbers about 70 scholars. The reason for his doing so was because the trustees expelled him from his office here.

I suppose it seems to you as though you had been gone an age from home on account of the distance. When I left our folks were well and had Vaughan & John with them. I hear now that William was going to Leeds after Commencement. I saw Unkle Henry wife & all his children and Sarah Lee the morning I came here. They were out visiting at Leeds Wilton &c and I came down with Unkle Ensign so you see you hear from all your relatives through me. Betsey Gilmore's youngest child, little Laura, I expect is dead as it was not expected to live a day when I left. Her disease is dropsy on the brain.

I suppose you have heard all about Commencement through your College friends and corespondents. I have an order of exercises before me and see the name of OOH marked excused. I suppose that Perley has written you that he has a school in Portland. It is reported to be a fine situation. I want you should write me all about the examination and your exercises and disapline. Do you room in the old Barracks? Do you like any better than you did at first. I find almost every body I see, seem almost to envy you your situation.

I was over to Wayne just before I left and took tea with Mrs Sampson. Mr Sampson said he was swearing mad because they ordered him off from the camp meeting ground the night before and hadn't got over it. Mrs S was as kind and talkative as ever and all very much interested in your welfare. I have not been into Portland yet and think I shall not till the last of the term, at which time I suppose Unkle Henry and his family will be there. So I have not seen Miss W but shall as soon as I can. I shall be very happy to form her acquaintance and have no doubt it will yield me a great deal of pleasure. As soon as you have an opportunity I wish you to write me a good long letter. I am reading the Bucolics of Virgil which I find rather hard at first, but hope it grow easier by and by.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

Mr Oliver O Howard

P.S. I saw Mr Hawkins here on Thursday. He sends his respects to you. RBH

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208 9/17/1850 *From:* J N Jewett

*To:* Friend Howard [Oliver  
Otis]

OOH-0200

Yarmouth Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Me. Tue Sept 17th 1850

Friend Howard

It is now some 6 weeks since I left you at the "United States" in the city of Portland. Within this short space of time our positions have undergone some changes. You are at West Point the far famed seat of Military proficiency & war like preparations, whilst I <fain> a quiet <inoffensive> unpretending College Student have been advanced (or I should rather say degraded) to the humble office of Principal of the Eng. Department in "old North Yarmouth Academy". However, as our positions were neither for our own selection, I presume, it is far from manly for us to complain of them, though I sincerely wish that there was to become pedagogy for me to do or rather that I was not obliged to Engage in the business longer. It is hard, it is vexing for a young man who is desirous of doing some in the open field to be cooped up in the Block house, with no opportunity to display his prowess or signalize himself by acts of heroic self devotion. I am not hinting by this that I wish to become a martyr to any cause, or that I apprehend any danger of such an event, if I was free to pursue the course most agreeable to my inclinations, but still I would like to seek a little star in the world beyond the brick walls of an academy, where I can meet the enemy face to face & on even grounds. This skulking mind behind old buildings to fire a random shot now & then is not what I have been looking forward to with any very great interest & if it must be done (& I acknowledge it must) I am perfectly willing to leave it to other horses to do & other herds to manage. My respects however to those who are placed to enter upon this desultory warfare & surely I wish them much success in their efforts to regenerate the world, though I must admit they have a hard task before them.

But how goes the "West Point System" in its own "habitat" (as Prof Cleve used to say)? I hope it is better in the hour of its birth than when transplanted & like an exotic plant left to wither & fade away in the ungenial soil of old Bowdoin! I imagine that the straight jacket & the strict orders of your young military despots will sit badly on your shoulders, though necessity is the mother of accommodation as well as of inventions. Doubtless you cast many a wishful look towards the pleasant scenes & friends of this North Eastern home of yours. How would you enjoy one of our familiar chats in No 26 N.H. with Perley, Jacks myself &c &c such as we used to h... I presume it would not be altogether unacceptable even though we should occasionally refer to your connection with the "beautiful" Portland "Ladies". Those were, indeed, "great times" worthy of remembrance & will probably long dwell in your mind as they will in mine.

But again I am reminded that they are past never to return & perhaps we shall never enjoy similar ones again. You are still a Student, climbing "sciences rugged hill", & fitting yourself for the business of life, but I feel as though I was plodding in a circular path with no opportunity for progress. In fact regarding teaching in one light I can but consider it as a belittling occupation, cramping the mental power & compelling it to keep pace with the snail-like progress of a creeping multitude. However it must be submitted to at least for a time & I shall content myself as much as possible relieving myself by a ride to Brunswick when I get homesick & weary. After all I I am not so badly situated, am I? Don't you wish you were as near P...?

Robinson & I get along first rate so far & as I am not ambitious of distinction in the department of Instruction I presume we shall have no difficulty whatever. It is far very far from my intention to signalize myself at his expense I assure you & he seems to be & is really conciliatory & accommodating always ready to consult & to be consulted. In short he is a "good fellow", to one whom he has any respect for & very pleasant with all. He has now been here one week & so far have found our situation rather agreeable than otherwise. Our School numbers only 40 at present. You are probably aware of the opposition got up by Mr Woods the former Teacher. This now reduces our School considerably smaller & will doubtless continue to keep it smaller than usual though I think we shall gain upon him rather than he upon us. 60 scholars will give us good pay & is all we want which I think we shall obtain if nothing unfavorable occurs.

Our class is now scattered abroad or will soon be, through out the length & breadth of our country. Adams is still in B. I believe. Butler says his is going south. Bell & Poin. will go soon. Perley is in Portland. I in Yarmouth (not North Yarmouth) & you in West Point. The others are scattered to different points of the State & of New

England. I got our Commencement Dinner out of the many I have paid for, & been to <> another next year if nothing prevents. By the way it was said that our commencement was the best for many years & really it did go off well. No hesitation in any of the performances except Harding. He made a bad piece of work I understood (I was out at the time). But I am almost to the End of my Sheet & you have probably heard of all this before. Mrs. W & Daughter came there & stopped at Mrs K's so that I saw them a number of times.

Your Bro. Is here with us & is doing well. I room in the old Academy & he has just stopped in to the room opposite mine. Now as I have opened communication just follow on & give me an account of yourself as soon as may be.

Direct to Yarmouth & remember me as Yr. Friend truly  
J. N. Jewett

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209 9/20/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0201

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept. 20th, 1850

My dear son,

It is now Five weeks since you left home and we have received three letters from you for which I am greatly obliged. I don't know what I should do if you were negligent about writing. I have always felt that you were a good son,. There were many subjects about which I should have liked to have conversed with you, but you know the state of my family at that time. I calculated on our way to Portland we should have had an opportunity for converse but I was so delighted with the idea of being with you that the many things I intended to say never occurred to me, until I had recovered from my exciting feeling after parting with you. Perhaps it is better as it is, but my heart is ever with you, and my constant prayer is that you may be kept from the heinous sins which so easily beset us sinful creatures. I was glad to hear such good news from New York City for you must know my interest is very great in Sarah and Silas. The time that you passed in New York City must have gone much happier for having acquaintances there. I seem to realize all your feelings since your arrival in West Point and enter into them fully, but I believe I have wholly made up my mind not to look on the dark side of your situation, but always try to cultivate a bright view of the subject.

You said in your first letter from West Point "Write to Lizzie &c". I thought I should for a number of days, but Laura was sick and every day required some of my immediate attention to her. After eighteen days of intense suffering she died. Her disease was water on the brain, so you see the family circle has been broken only in the short space of one month.

You have probably written and received news from Portland ere this. Your father has received a letter from Perley. He is boarding at Mrs Waites, teaching school in Portland and an order of exercise of the commencement. William has been here. I saw him but very little. He was here the day of the funeral. He said Maria enjoyed commencement very much. You have probably had all the news about commencement from Lizzie as I understand she was there. I am glad they had a good time but there is something painful to me in thinking of the vacant place you left there. I have just perused P... letter. He says you cannot have your diploma until next year. He gives no reason, and I know none. I have had so much company since you left, I could hardly attend to our immediate family duties.

Rowland left home Wednesday the 11 at noon, for North Yarmouth with the same old trunks you carried there four years ago last March. He has not written home yet. I hope he will not give way to the love of ease so much as not to write me at all. I am anxious to hear how he is situated. I hope he has written to you ere this.

Your aunt Lucretia wrote a few lines for you to take with you to your Uncle Ward, but did not have an opportunity to give it to you. After you was gone she put it in the mail and he answered it, enquiring why you was there and the like and said he had a son at West Point in a store, and his oldest son has fits of a very malignant kind and wrote as though he was in great trouble about him. This I received from Mother, while visiting in that Neighborhood, and that he (your Uncle) goes past West Point often to a quarry he owns at Hoboken. I have not seen anyone from that way for a long while. If Lucius Howard is at your place you will know it in time.

Friday evening.

Henry Wingate was here to day. Said Mr Sargent was expected in Hallowell last evening. He had not heard whether he had arrived yet. Sarah Lee was here with H. Strickland's family last week. She then said she should come to Leeds with Mr. Sargent. I shall have an opportunity of expressing my thanks in person for his politeness to my son. I have just returned to my writing after waiting on our workmen four wall layers. Beside my husband, George and Silas, Rodelphus and John made my table full seated. I have just heard that Maj Herrick's youngest daughter, Harriet died this morning at two o'clock. Sick only a few days. Marilah Howard, still remains in a very low state [Marilla Howard died 21 Sept 1850]. Doct Lord attended Betseys little girl. I met with him several times. He said give my respects to Otis when you write.

I received a letter from your Uncle John date Sept 2 in which he mentioned you and said he should expect a

letter from you when you get settled. You have probably written to him before now. I think your Uncle would be heartily glad to return to his home once more and see his family together. Your Uncle Ensign is just as much engaged as ever in his railroad. He has obtained his loan from Portland that he was trying to bring about when you left. Your father was there until ten o'clock on Tuesday evening assisting in making out the papers. We shall have a railroad through Leeds I think. Mrs Lothrop came down and watched with Laura one night and came and took care of her another day. She laid in a dying state nearly a week there being no help to be had. It was a kindness to have any one come and offer a days help. Warren wrote his mother in very high terms of you. It made him almost enthusiastic to see one of his old townsman at West Point. We have no news from California whatever from our folks since.

The first letter you wrote from West Point was mailed and reached here Saturday evening and the second to last was mailed on Monday and arrived on Saturday evening, so you see we have our mail brought here Tuesdays and sat no days, and if our letters arrive at Green after Tuesday, they must lay there untill Saturday before we get them. But if you prefer writing them on the sabbath they read just as well when they get here. Do write as <often> as possible. Martha Jane is going to Portland in October. I think R.B.H. will go there and get acquainted.

I miss R.B.H. very much. The house is very lonesome <without> him. George is now playing some of the tunes in <> chamber that he and R. played and sung when he was at home. R.B. attended Camp meeting two days the first week in Sept. I really am in hopes his health hold out for him to accomplish his studies, according to his wishes.

We have had a very pleasant Sept, which is very favorable to the corn crop. I think corn you planted at the expense of so much pain will yield us a favorable crop. We have not had a frost yet here. It is nearly nine o'clock and your father has come into the room prepared for bed and I must stop for the night hoping to finish in the morning. Phebe says give my love to <Otis>. Phebe shed a good many tears when you left. She said she should never see you again. I think good hearted. Your father says he don't know he has anything in particular to write this time although he seems to take a great deal of interest in your letters. Your father is not well has a cold. Give my respects to Warren Lothrop. All of his <>. <> well within a few days. I never think of you at <> without associating ideas of your own father. He went to New York when he was nineteen the age you are <now> and lived several years in the same vicinity.

Good night, your Mother E. Gilmore

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210 9/22/1850 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0202

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y. Sept 22, 1850

Dear Mother,

I thought last evening that you might be expecting a letter from me; and when Mr Leonard came without one I feared you might feel disappointed. But the reason that I have not written sooner is not because I have not the inclination. It is not here as it was in College. For when there I could sit up an hour later to write home, but here if I do not write during the day, I don't write at all. I have found time, however, during the past week to write three letters of four pages each, one to Rowland, one to Mr Jewett & one to Peleg.

I have now got my uniform on & begin to feel quite important. The Coat is grey; the binding round the neck is stiff & <houcks> up close round the throat, over which the linnen collar turns; it is large round the chest & tapers toward the waist. There are three rows of buttons in front, 7 or 8 in a row (the buttons are quite large, perfectly round, and gilded). There are also 12 of the same kind of buttons upon the skirts & three about halfway between the two seams upon the upper part of the arm. The buttons across the chest are connected by black cord (or braid (?)) and there are two sprigs of the same branching out from each button upon the arm. Such is the coat. This must be buttoned at all times, while the wearer is out of his room. The winter pants (a pair of which I am now wearing) are grey, like the coat, and have a stripe of black broadcloth an inch or more in width, extending from top to bottom upon the outside of the leg. Such is the uniform in which I am now dressed. It does not look so finely as the same coat with white pants, which all the cadets, except those who came when I did in September, now wear. We who came in September, I believe I told you, are called "Septs".

We are drilled by a couple of Corporals, each Corporal taking five of us in a squad. The C...I has got us straightened & drilled into the different movements. He is now drilling us with muskets. The musket weighs about fifteen lbs, and it gives some pretty stout men a lame back & chest to be drilled an hour & a half at a stretch. This is easier for me however, than marching, for I am stout and the musket feels light, whilst in marching, I am obliged to break up a life long habit for I have been accustomed to touch my heels first, whereas I am now obliged to point my toes & touch the ball of the foot first. The may not seem to you very hard, but imagine that a thousand other unnatural & new things must be observed at the same time and you can easily see how quite a smart boy may appear awkward; and worst of all the Corporal makes no allowance for the backache or the neckache. I have got so now that I feel as well after drill as before & even better. Nothing can be purchased by any Cadet except by first getting an order from the Superintendent. This makes it inconvenient, but it prevents the foolish expenditures. It would have been much better for me, had I known it, to have got before coming some two or three pairs of drilling pants. There is nothing about them in any way different from citizen's drilling pants, and I could have got them much cheaper.

Warren is liked very much by his company, & is really the highest noncommissioned officer in the service. He has many privileges, but, if I were he, I never would enlist again. The position of a man who enlists, is not, at best, a very enviable one. His prospects for advancement are very slight. Warren is a noble looking soldier, and it is a pity that he could not have had the advantage of an education at this place and taken his rank among the commissioned officers. I can do as I please, when I have sufficient reasons for it. I can resign now & after I graduate, any time I please. Such is not the position of an enlisted man.

The training here, both physical & mental, is just what I need. The only disadvantage to be feared is in a moral point of view. Every thing around me is military. I have to be military in my walk, my talk, my manners &c. My tastes will be likely to change. What is right & what is wrong, however, will remain unchanged. I have some principles from which it will take more than the influence of military men & military discipline to make me swerve. There is a kind of licentious spirit that seems to pervade the most of young men here, and the voice of ridicule is often raised against those who are not thus and profanity too is very common. These vices I regret the existence of, for they tend to deaden the better feelings of the heart, and render one insensible to moral excellence.

I joined the Bible class last sabbath. It is composed of about twenty of the most independent spirits. The Chaplain is Professor in Ethics, & hence all those who join the Bible Class are said to do it, in order to get the

Chaplain's favor & thus get high ranks in the branch which he teaches. Any one who knows me will never attribute such motives to me, except in sport. The Chaplain appears to be a man of a good solid education, but I think fruitless efforts have rendered him rather cold-hearted. Preaching to the majority of soldiers is not very encouraging business.

Uncle Ward came to see me, but I was out of my room & he could not find me. From some cause he could not stop more than ten minutes & therefore went away, leaving word that he would come again in a few days. I was disappointed, when I found him gone.

I write so many letters, that I forget, whether I have told you about some things, which you charged me to tell. If I have omitted anything you must write me. Give my love to Charlie, & when he comes home set him to writing me & also to "Dellie", Vaughn, & John, & William, if he is with you. Give my love to father, and ask him if curiosity will not prompt him to write something in your letters. Remember me to Phebe. I heard from Rowland that little Laura was very sick. I hope Betsey will not lose her little girl. My respects to all the friends who inquire for me and forget not to write me everything.

Your affectionate Son  
Otis.

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211 9/23/1850 *From:* W.B. Howard

*To:* Nephew [O O Howard

OOH-0203

Peekskill NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 23 Sept 1850

My Dear Nephew

Your letter to me dated at West Point was duly recd, for which you will please accept my warmest thanks.

So much was I pleased to hear from you and so anxious to see you, that I took the first train after the receipt of your letter (<Wd'y>) 3 <> freight trains Crossed over from Garrisons. Both arrived at the Point the moment a funeral procession was forming to bury Majr Bainbridge. I saw several of the Cadets that I knew, they directed me to the Barracks. There I inquired for you. One young Gentleman from Washington, as he informed me, went to your room but could not find you.

My time being limited I was compelled to take a Carriage & go to <Cagen> where I was to meet two Gentleman & return in the ½ past 4 train. Thus failed the first attempt to meet you.

I am arriving the third <> of the <[is there a missing line at the bottom]>station and cannot expect you to visit myself and family immediately. But the moment you can obtain a furlow we shall expect you. I will not therefore at this time enter into details in relation to them. Permit me to assure you that I was very happy to hear from you & through you our friends at the Eastward.

I recd a letter from sister Lucretia a few days since intended to have been sent by you. On the receipt of her letter, I was still in hopes you would stop on your way to the Point. You must however avail yourself of the Earliest opportunity of visiting your uncle & cousins.

I will call on you myself in a few days. Until then Believe me your affectionate Uncle.

W.B. Howard [Ward Bailey Howard]

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212 10/2/1850 *From:* Silas J Lee

*To:* Cozen Otis [Howard

OOH-0204

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Oct 2nd 1850

Cozen Otis

I received your letter a week ago and should have answered it before had I not got hurt from which I was laid up until this morning. I now enclose <> the stamps as you requested and hope will reach you safe.

Uncle John arrived here last evening with wife <Ch?> <ani> <sirit>. I have not seen them yet but shall this evening altho I am almost sick with a bad cold beside the lame arm. Jenny Lind is still in Boston singing to crowded houses. She will be here in the course of a week or two again.

This morning I received a letter from Montreal from a person who I never saw with a note enclosed <for> Miss Jenny Lind which I shall deliver as soon as she returns then I'll be in town sure.

Frank will go down sometime this week. He is well and sends love to you. Epes has got very well underway and has every prospect of doing well and I hope he will.

I received a letter from <> Brown the other day. He wishes to be remembered to you and sends his best wishes. Mother will go down east to stop this winter with Sarah. They will stay at Hallowell. They are both quite well or were when I last heard which was a week since. Wass is well and also sends his love. He is at <[faint line]>. Epes and myself are still at the Pearl St. House but shall move as soon as we can get a good place at a reasonable price. We think of going to the United States Hotel. Direct your letters to the care of Mr David T Lanman in future for I may move any day.

Please excuse haste and believe me your  
Friend and aff. Coz  
Silas J. Lee

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213 10/5/1850    *From:* Rowland B Howard    *To:* Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0205

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Oct 5th [1850]

Dear Brother

Sunday you know is always the day to write letters for the student and the laboring man. So after attending the morning service I seat myself to answer your kind letter. Mr Jewett received a letter from you the same day that I did. I should think that your duties were tiresome and perhaps quite difficult, but I don't know as they are much more than to be shut up in school houses as Mssrs Jewett and Perley are. Mother seems to reflect considerably upon your being at West Pt and thinks you do not enjoy yourself there. These are the words she uses in a letter to me. "I think his daily routine of duties comes hard on him. Today after funeral I rode over to Ensign's and read Laura's letter, putting hers and ours together makes me think he is working against nature. He is entering on a course he never can like." The funeral she speaks of is that of Miss Margaret Herrick. I hope Otis that you will labor to remove such impressions as the above and that without letting her know that I wrote you this. For even if they are correct (which I do not believe) it is of no possible benefit for her to cherish such thoughts. You know how it is with her if she thinks you are happy - she will be happy - and if you are miserable she will be miserable.

She wrote me (Wednesday) of the death of my acquaintances in Leeds Marilla Howard [21 Sep 1850, age 17], Margaret Herrick, L. W. Gilmore [Laura Gilmore, 15 Sep 1850, age 5], old Mrs Bates and a child of Mr Careys, an unusual no of deaths in Leeds for so short a time. I suppose when you return in 2 years you will many of your old friends departed.

I like Mr Robinson more and more as a teacher, and I am very sorry for his and Mr Jewetts sake, that they do not have more scholars, 40 for two of them is something like 20 for you last fall.

We have had two excellent sermons today from Rev Mr Alden. I wish you had been here to hear them. I found your name last Sabbath marked on the seat I sat in but looked in vain for it on the Cupola. Mr Jewett got the news of Mr Thompsons death the day before yesterday. Is he not the first of your class that has died? Mr Hawkins passed through here on his way to Brunswick the other day. He wished me to give you his respects. Mr Kendall pass through here also a few days ago and stopped all night. Mr Jewett was in Portland 2 weeks ago and found Mrs and Miss Waite well. Perley was boarding with them which I should think would be very pleasant to them and himself. I am getting along pretty well in my studies. I have finished the Bucolics and most of the first Georgias. I find the Georgias rather hard to understand but Mr Robinson enlarges so much upon their beauties that we are compelled to believe them beautiful. We have a chapter in the Greek Testament every Monday morning to recite, besides our regular lessons in the Greek Reader. I don't know as I have any news except that Doc Carey is coming here to live in a few days. When Mother wrote all the folks were well at Leeds. I enclose a little slip from the Portland Transcript - making some remarks on the last Commencement. I have not been after the 'Shirt' yet, but received word the other day that I could have one - from a source that would doubtless be more pleasant to me than you. I shall go into Portland in a week or two. I remain, as ever, your affectionate brother.

Rowland B Howard

Cadet Oliver O Howard

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214 10/5/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0206

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Octr 5th 1850

My dear Son,

We were very happy in the reception of your letter. I think I am some thankful, that your health is good and you feel capable of performing your daily routine of duties. There is always something to be regreted in all situations in life. I am glad you still continue one of the Bible Class, for I think the language of the Bible well calculated to keep before our eyes the vanities of life, and if you could say to your Mother that you were "a meek and <loving> follower of Jesus" and felt an assurance that your heart had been made new by the grace of God, I think I should be rejoiced for death is every where present, "and to die in the Lord is <of aim>" but even in long life to be in the service of the Lord is a great service indeed.

Doct Lord left Leeds yesterday for his new destiny. Tell him (when he comes to see you) that Mother felt when passing his boarding house as she would where the remains of a friend had been carried away to the grave. I called last evening to see your Aunt Aurelia. She appeared quite weak but walks about house and conversed though with weakened voice. I believe I mentioned in my last letter she had bled at the lungs.

We had a letter from R.B.H. last eve..g full of life and hope. I hope he will not loose sight of the great object of knowledge, to make us better members of society. Think of him often Otis and his best good. I have seen Warren a number of times. He will take a small package to you. He thinks highly of you. I would write more but Charley must go and carry my package to Warren.

After I go to Hallowel I intend sending you more letter stamps. I shall send you a pair of Wool Mittens to wear on quite cold nights. Give my love Mr Browne and Langdon. In haste  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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215 10/10/1850 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0207

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct 10th 1850

Dear Mother,

I have been thinking that I might have given you a wrong impression with regard to my situation here, while I was a little sore from sharp drilling, and a little angry from having my pride so often touched. But now it is different. Every one treats me like a gentleman. I stand in the first section in every thing and with the good will of my new classmates, enjoy myself as much as I ever have in any situation. I have to study hard, but this has, now, become a pleasure. You cannot imagine how different the character of every thing seems from what it did for the first few days. But like a foolish boy that I was in my momentary vexation. I forgot that I was making you unhappy by enumerating my petty grievances, and enlarging upon them.

Enough to say then that I am now contented, and am laying the foundation for a thorough & practical education. Those things which floated like shadows through my mind became by degrees tangible & real. If then I have conveyed the idea that I was acting against my will & my nature, or that the situation did not suit my taste and was very disagreeable, be assured that I have given a wrong impression. What I have written has been too much the momentary feeling of one, who had been accustomed to flattery & attention, and was at once deprived of them. Now reflection returns. It shows any & every situation in life full of what is irksome & laborious. Here every rule, regulation & exercise has been formed by the wisest men of our country for good reasons, for the best advantage of those young men who are to take no small part in the affairs of their country. My prospects begin to brighten up. Four years spent in hard study can do me no injury and on the contrary, it must be greatly for my advantage.

I am pained to hear of so many deaths in Leeds since my departure. It must be hard for Betsey to part with her little girl, but we have to believe it for the best. Death has taken her away in her innocence & youth, before the temptations & frivolities of society have tainted her heart and gained its homage. She has escaped much unhappiness of which all who live, & act & think must have their share. Give Betsey my best wishes.

Uncle Ward has not been a second time to see me. He wrote me a letter, saying that he should come as soon as possible. I have had two letters from Rowland. He is getting along very well I should judge from the tenor of his letters. I do not get much time to read here - not so much as I had thought. I study upon the manner in which I shall recite, the language I shall use in demonstration. This is necessary. It will not do, here, for a person to mean right alone. He must always convey what he means, ie. for any one who intends to stand high.

I have not made a poor recitation yet, but I think I made the best I have made at all to day. I shall pull steadily, and, methinks, that, those who keep square with me will have to study. When we have proceeded a little further, the studies will be more familiar to me, while they are growing harder for others. I usually visit Warren Lothrop Saturday afternoons. He has been here to see me a number of times. He, is not allowed to come into our Barracks during study hours, which last about all the time. No person is permitted to enter the Barracks except during the hours of recreation.

Peleg has got a pretty good situation, but I think it doubtful, whether he has a much easier time than I. Our shoes are blacked for us, our fires built & tended, and in the main there is no essential distinction between classes. The United States could not invent a system better fitted for the mental & physical training of young men.

Give my respects to all who may inquire for me. Give my love to Charlie, Dellie, Vaughan & John. I have not written Uncle yet, but shall soon. Remember me to father & Phebe. Has Grandmother come to Leeds yet? We are now having fine weather here. Some of those 'biting' mornings remind me of what I am to expect. This must be a much colder place than any in Maine - so open to the North wind. Write me all you can. Tell Charlie I shall write him as soon as I can.

Yr affectionate son,  
Oliver O. Howard



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216 10/14/1850 *From:* P. H. Townsend

*To:* Friend [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0209

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington Oct. 14. 1850

Friend Howard

You know how we laid plans together a few months ago when I thought of going to Washington, of going together and of writing each other when we should have become fairly established at our respective places of abode. I was disappointed as you well know in my expectations but now have a much better situation than that would have been. You have probably heard of my appointment, a clerk in the Comptrollers Office Treasury Department.

I have often thought of you, and wondered how you were progressing, yet could hear nothing either directly from you nor of you through anyone else. Perhaps however I might have heard from your friends in Leeds or Portl'd. You must write me now you are informed of my whereabouts and tell me all about your situation and what advancement you are making.

I find myself situated in an office which is by no means a Sinecure. I have to keep busily at it for six hours every day of the week. And it is somewhat tiresome & trying to the eyes which I do not like very much. I should prefer to have my mind taxed more and my eyes less. My labor is principally copying accounts - bills in favor & against US principally connected with the army department, pay of soldiers & officers, pensions &c. All these have to be recorded by double entry in books, showing at a glance how the several accts stand. I have also the copying of all the letters of the Comptroller. All which business is not laborious at all but when I stick to it closely I find it tiresome to the eyes.

I, of course, have some leisure out of office hours and if I should follow the course of vast many in Washington I should spend all my salary in riotous living. Here it is considered no disgrace for fellows to get tight on a space if they have a good time with a company. Nor is it at all disreputable for them to keep the company of bad women or even nigger wenches. Washington is indeed a miserable hole, when you speak of it as a place to live in. Give me a pure country village, where the majority at least are for good morals, where dissipation and riot bring disgrace on the participators. I would not live here if it were not for the twelve hundred a year which I get. And if I thought I could not lay up \$80.00 per month I would not stay a moment. My board costs me 16 dolls pr month and if I became a sot or a dissipator in any way I shall curse the day in which I first set foot in the city.

The only way for me is to get into a small circle of the first society in town, which I shall do if possible. But it is a hard chance for clerks to do so. Hence the result, they rush to destruction, taking the surest road to Hell, making friends of wine and bad women.

I board at present in a German establishment for the purpose of having to speak the German. I am going thru Ollendorff's system and reading and writing and speaking a little every day. I have fine opportunities for hearing the pure German spoken.

The Congressional Library which I have access to is full of the choicest books, and any one has liberty to sit and read in the library of the Smithsonian Institute.

I see the necessity of a man's keeping himself perfectly crammed with business in order to keep upright and to have some fixed aim and some definite end to be attained. I mean to read Law enough to make myself perf acquainted with the fundamental principles and perhaps in a future day I may make it my profession.

I suppose you are diving deep among mathematical pearls and are driving a strong business at French &c. Well! Success to you, old friend! I hope you will find it to have been a wise choice, your going to West Point instead of going immediately into the Law. I have heard as yet nothing from any of our class, shall expect to hear in a short time. You doubtless hear often from them.

Washington presents many attractions, with its disadvantages. Congress, and the general atmosphere of a

political metropolis, are of no small account towards introducing a young man to the machinery of our Government. I had the opportunity as I was here the 26 Sept of hearing and seeing many of the celebrated men of Congress. Clay, Benton, Cass, Hale &c. I have been to Mt Vernon also and visited the residence and the tomb of Washington and it is a great satisfaction although there is not much to be seen as the whole of the mansion is not open to visitors.

I should like to see you here, but I suppose it is quite uncertain if I ever see you here as you are not often away from your post.

Write me soon wont you and give me an idea of things as they exist at West Point. In haste

Yours very truly  
P. H. Townsend

Please Direct to  
Treasury Dept  
Washington DC

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217 10/17/1850 *From:* Ward B. Howard

*To:* O O Howard Esq

OOH-0208

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 17 Oct 1850

O O Howard Esq

My dear Nephew,

I returned home in the 10 oclk train the Evening I left you. My family are well with the exception of your Cousin Augustus who is no better. His complaint as I mentioned to you is epilepsy and so complicated that as yet it has baffled the skill of our most eminent Physicians. Previous to his entering the Bank as clk, he enjoyed remarkable good health. We attribute his decline to that circumstance, and I have no doubt had he remained in an active business that he would at this moment enjoyed good health. But the ways of Providence are mysterious and we are in duty bound patiently to submit. He expresses great anxiety to see you and I can assure you it would be gratifying to all my family to receive a visit from you.

I am unacquainted with the rules & regulations of the Military Academy at West Point but presume from the character of the Institution they are necessarily strict, and I have no desire that a relative of mine more especially one I so much esteem as yourself should in any degree solicit privileges incompatible with such regulations for I am aware of the necessity of close application and the strictest observance of all such rules and regulations, to entitle you to the <merit> and approbation of the Professors. But if consistent and you can obtain leave of absence, a short visit from you would be highly gratifying to your afflicted Cousin and affectionate Uncle,

Ward B. Howard

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218 10/22/1850 *From:* P. S. Perley

*To:* Chum [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0210

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Oct. 22nd 1850

Dear Chum

For thus I consider I have still the right to call you and though another may claim you for a chum now I shall regard myself as Chum "par excellence" and claim a place in your regard above all other chums whoever they may be or wherever found. And though Otis in our four years cruise together you found me often morose, unaccommodating and disagreeable, which fault ought to be laid partly to myself and partly to the woman yet after all I doubt some if you find another who in all respects still suit you much better than I did. Those old college days for though we are but just out they look already distant to me, it does really seem as though we ought to have enjoyed ourselves there and so in fact we did though neither of us enjoyed ourselves as well as we might. They are over though now with all their ambitions, their rivalries, their animosities, their heart-burnings, their jealousies, their loves, their friendships, their aspirations, their longings, their joys and sorrows. They are among the things that were - We have left them behind us and here's farewell to them and "now for the strife of the battle of life with a firm hand and true".

I am sorry Howard that you do not have a more agreeable time than those you seem to - it must be laborious and hard on many accounts but you have one consolation amid it all which is enough to sweeten anything almost and that is it will do you good.

I feel confident that you will take a high stand as a scholar and if you have to work hard for it it is no more than everyone has to do to arrive at any eminence. You have had some blue times there I dare say but you must take "nil desperandum" for your motto (in fact I believe it ever has been) and hope for the best. By the way I read Dane's "Logic and Utility of Mathematics" not long since and liked it very much.

Bill and Poindexter passed through here about a fortnight since on their way home and Butler and Smith in company with them. So you see our class is getting scattered as well as those who have gone before them. Ingraham is out south somewhere. Butler nor Smith had engaged places but were going to depend on the hospitality of their southern friends till they could obtain situations. Butler took me out one side and showed me a new miniature of his lady and said it was all right. All right! I guess she will find some things one of these days that won't be all right after she is married. There was quite a contrast between the looks of Poin and Bell and Smith and Butler the former looking joyful and the latter rather dolorous. I was with them about an hour. Jewett and Rob have about 40 scholars. Old Jackson down to East Pittston has a school of over 70. Pretty well that for old Jack in a new <alas>! Jewett has been in here once since I have been here. We went up to the U.S. and had a smoke and I tell you what it seemed like old college times again. He corresponds with Miss Knight to kill old nat. Cothren was here and stopped with me almost a fortnight. He wished me to tell you that he was going to write to you as soon as he gets settled. He is engaged to teach South Berwick five months.

Rowland was here last Saturday and stayed over Sunday. I think some of going out to Yarmouth next Saturday. There are 48 in the Freshman Class at Bowdoin. Good. As for myself Howard. I have a first rate place here on some accounts. I don't get great pay but have an easy berth - have Wed. and Sat. afternoons to myself and there is a grand chair here to loaf. I enjoy myself much. I find Liz a darned good girl tho we quarrel some occasionally. I tell you what Chum, you are fortunate to have now the heart of such a girl, fortunate to have such an incite to noble endeavor as to know that she loves you. Fortunate I said you were and so you are but not so fortunate as I not in but "out of" the love of them I tell you what I have seen both sides you been there and stayed all night and I tell you the fellow that loves may be fortunate the fellow that don't is a darned sight more

<> will answer very well for Tom Moore. <Say> "O there's nothing half so sweet in life as love's young dream" but still I could inform him and you too that it is not half a touch to love's old dream. So much for experience. But alas this sentiment you cannot appreciate. To you is denied the pleasure of looking back <> you an old affection and realizing the <> that love like all things becomes hallowed by time and hallowed by remembrance. Byron could say "tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark our coming and grow brighter when we come" but he should not forget that it is sweet to know that the eye that looked coldly and proudly on our coming not

tearless watches our departure. To be requested "to call again" sounds prettily from fair lips at eventide <> you stand by the door and after it a fellow trips home sort of happy thinking <> hugs, kisses and caresses and of still more <?ious> ones in time to come of which we are but the <?est> but "not to <be still> again" though it sounds a little <harshly> at first a fellow will trudge home afterwards with a wiser and really happier heart though his head may be a little lower and his hands a little deeper in his breeches' pocket. His heart may be less light but it is not more sad. His brow may be more shaded, his mood a little changed, for the world, everything has suddenly and strangely attuned to him but he grieves not nor does he wish it otherwise. He would not have the earth and all within it robed again in its fairy hues of Enchantment. He would not it should again greet his vision as of old though it were not so fair proportions or so beauteous hues to the naked sight as when viewed through the magic mirror (and strangely magic it is too) of love and youth. He would not again on this dull earth enthrone his ideal for he knows it can not here be realized. He would not again if he might see an angel in a fair haired blue eyed maiden, whose eyes declare her such but most wofully belie her - nor wishes to believe again as of erst that a heart beats beneath every round, full, snowy bosom.

Like the true student he would not give up his knowledge though ignorance were bliss. He feels as one who has just woked from a pleasant dream, he would not have had it last forever. He realizes that there is something higher in this world than hugs & kisses and though a girl's lips & not of mere gloriously sweet I've sipped their "honied wealth" more than once and now she may yield to another and be d-d to them.

But here I have been running on about the women till I guess you are about tired of it but I tell you what Chum! When I get on the subject of these women I hardly know how to leave it forgetting that you and others are not so much interested in this subject as I am. But as I always found you a willing listener to my foolish talk and really sympathizing with me I hope this epistle will find you as in the good old College days disposed to be lenient and we will not bore you in this wise next time. But Chum I want you to bear in mind the truths I have here endeavored to set before you and especially I want you always to remember the first <couplet> of that song which we sang among others in our last journey to Leeds which runs thus "There was an old nigger and his name was Ned. And he lived long ago, long ago." I repeat this to myself many times each day when things do not go to my mind and as I think of Ned's deprivations misfortunes and <some> trials "I take heart again".

You know that

"Lives of great men all remind us  
We may make our lives sublime  
And departing leave behind us  
An old bell toll out our chime"

And I think Ned affords an excellent example of the cheerful quiet resignation of a great soul.

I have delayed answering you for some time but it has not been because I do not think of you now nor because I did not think your letter of any importance. On the contrary Chum I shall always remember you and if we shall ever cease to correspond with each other it shall not be through my fault. You and Jewett and Perry have become endeared to me as no others have or can be and of this noble trio you are not the least. We have come out now into the selfish, business world and I doubt if any of us form such attachments again as we did in college or be capable of it. You cannot complain of the length of mine Chum if you do of my delay. So Chum here's good night to you and a blessing rest on you. Liz sits here and looks so sweet and good. I know you would like to kiss her and in truth I should like to do it for you but I suppose you would feel no better satisfied.

P.S. Perley

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219 10/25/1850 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0211

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct 25th 1850.

Dear Mother,

Again I commence the pleasant task of writing you a few lines, knowing that it will give you as much pleasure to hear from me as it does give me to receive letters from you. It is a rainy day & Friday afternoon. I rejoice at the prospect of a rainy afternoon, for then we can have no drill or "dress parade", and I can spend my time in studying or writing.

Our little "squad drill" has ceased, and we (September youths) have been put in the Battalion. I have made some gross mistakes since I have been put in to the Battalion, but I seldom make the same mistake twice. I am learning fast.

We are now in what I call the hardest part of the mathematical course - at least I have never found any thing so hard to understand and explain, ie - the proof of the Binomial Theorem in Algebra. I am obliged to apply myself constantly, much more than I would have believed it necessary before I came here; but as we are paid for it we can afford to work, and especially as every effort contributes to our mental wealth.

Uncle Ward was here about a fortnight ago, and I was enabled to make his acquaintance. I found him a man much different from what I had expected. Very intelligent, giving signs of rather a superior education, and very gentlemanly. You can't think how much he now, in his older years, resembles Grandfather Howard. Well! To return. He had many questions to ask about all his former acquaintances in Maine & c. He told me that his son Augustus was out of health, and wished to see me. Therefore I asked him on his return to write me to this effect, that my cousin was very low & desired me to come & see him. This he did. And by means of his letter, together with some trouble & solicitation, I made out to get permission to be absent from Saturday noon, till evening.

Hence, last Saturday, I crossed the river to Stonny Point, and went down to Peekskill in the Cars, & soon found Uncle & his little family. His oldest daughter is with him & both his sons, Augustus & Lucius (who is about 16). Augustus is a fine looking young man. He is a little taller than I, with my forehead, my hair & my eyes. He talked, walked and ate chesnuts with me all the afternoon, seemingly in good spirits, but five or six times during the afternoon he had those spasms. One caught him while he was walking; I caught him or he would have fallen to the ground. It passed away in a moment or two. It seems horrid to think of a young man, otherwise in good health of mind & body, so entirely deprived of the pleasures which others enjoy, and of the prospects which make it easy to endure a little pain & suffering. He cannot go into society; he is not allowed to read, but must sit still & brood over his lot with little to hope for & little to cheer him. He had a good situation in the Bank at Peekskill, where he was making high wages, when he was suddenly deprived of his health by an attack of this disorder.

My cousins took much pains to render my visit pleasant. They said, I was the first male cousin, that they had seen of the name of Howard. Uncle showed me the place where father traded, while at Peekskill, told me that he had seen the time when he himself had owned nearly the whole village of Peekskill, but said that he was now poor. But I find that he owns a large & profitable stone quarry, opposite Newburg & has much other property. I see also by the papers, that there is some prospect of the democrats setting him up as a Candidate for Congress.

So much for my relatives in New York! Oh! I met with a lady at Uncle's in the evening before I left, who claimed to be my father's cousin. I believe her name is "Knox", but am not certain. She resembles Aunt Lucrecia, but she is not so tall.

I returned Saturday evening to my confinement, much refreshed by the short respite. I received a letter yesterday from Thomas Bridgham, from Abbingdon. Another a few days ago from Mr Townsend at Washington. He has 1200.00 per annum, what I should call doing splendidly. He writes an excellent letter, and for a man of so little energy seems to be favored by Fortune.

Give my love to all, and tell Charlie to write me something in every letter of yours. If I had time to spare I should write to him personally, but I am obliged to write you all together. His time is in his own hands, but mine is not.

Your affectionate Son - Otis

I believe Warren is in New York City. He was well when I last saw him.

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220 10/27/1850 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0212

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth, Sunday Oct 27th 1850

Dear Brother

I have just been writing a long letter to Mother describing my visit to Portland and as you probably are a little interested in said visit, perhaps something in regard to it might not be entirely uninteresting to you. After a fine ride in the cars, which perhaps may partly be accounted for by my having very agreeable companion (a young lady who attends school here and lives in Portland) and after looking round a while I found Mrs Waites and was welcomed at the door by your own Lizzie. I found them both in excellent health and spirits. I think they will be contented to remain in Portland as long as Perley does.

On the Sabbath I attended meeting all day and in the evening with Miss W. In the evening we heard Mr Kellogg of Harpswell preach. I like him very well but not as well as I expected.

Perley was out here yesterday afternoon and said Mrs and Miss W were well. It was a week ago that I was in. Mrs Waite says she intends to be her daughters guardian herself. I should think it would be too much care for her to do so much business as she will be compelled to but I suppose she has relatives who will render her all the assistance she may require. Perley said he wrote you the first of last week. When going into Portland I saw Mr Fuller and wife and a number of other Wayne people. He said that all our acquaintances there were well that they had a prosperous school of about 35 scholars, an interesting Lyceum &c. Doctor Carey and family have moved here and live with Mrs Stackbridge. I saw the Dr on Fryday. He said his family were well. Before he left Wayne he gave a supper in the hall to his friends about 200 of whom attended, I believe. William and Joseph are coming here to keep store, a life which I should think in Yarmouth would be lingering death.

I am getting along pretty well here. We shall finish the Georgics and Eclogues of Virgil this term. We are now in the third Georgic. The class have read Cicero and I shall have it to make up this winter. Mr Jewett has gone to Brunswick today nominally for McArthur who is rusticated here, but some of the boys ill mannerly suggested that he would call on Miss Knights while there, which slander of course you do not believe. Mr Robinson was at Brunswick to the inauguration of Prof Stowe. He represents it as having been a grand affair. Speeches by the President D.D.'s and Professors.

I have not heard from home since I wrote you although I have written twice. They have a class of over 50 at Brunswick which I believe the Sophs have thoroughly initiated. We begin already to dread the discipline we shall have to go through with 50 Sophmores to take care of us.

Have you seen and become acquainted with Uncle Ward yet? If so how do you like him. Why don't you write. Are your duties so pressing that you do not find time. I believe this is the first time I have ever written two letters to you. One and to punish you (if it is any punishment) I subscribe myself to this short letter.

Your affectionate brother, Rowland

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221 10/28/1850 *From:* Laura B Howard

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0213

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 28 1850

Dear Cousin

yours of the 9th was duly received and very glad was I to hear from one I esteem so highly. Yes dear Cousin I feel interested in your welfare and look forward to the day when you will be a bright ornament to society. I know you must feel lonesome away from all of your friends, and among strangers, but there is one privilege left us of conversing with the silent language of the pen and I hope we shall improve every opportunity, but you know how negligent your cousin is. Therefore I will beg to be excused, this time and in future will be more faithful.

Many changes have taken place since you left Leeds. Some have died and some are married. The death of Harriet Herrick was very sudden. The day she was to be married was the day she was buried. Franklin [Benjamin Franklin Lane] takes her death very hard and can hardly be reconciled. Marilla Howard, she is gone. Pamela Woodman was buried a fortnight ago. There has been quite a number of old folks died since you left. Gustivus and Ann Jenning are married. I saw the bride last Sunday.

I expect to be very lonesome this winter have not got Otis or Thomas to call and see me. The Doctor he is going away this winter to attend the lectures at New York and Philadelphia, and all the young folks have gone to Mass. Thomas is teaching in South Abington, now. He had a very pleasant school in our district this fall. Mr Barrows teaches our school this winter.

Your Uncle Ensign was at Hallowell last week. Mr Strickland has gone to Portland. They have broked up keeping house and his wife boards at the Hallowell house, there family moved in to take care of your grand mother and she thinks she is a going to have things more to her mind now. Sarah and her beau have been to Calais on a visit. They did not visit Leeds. Your Uncle John is at home now. He expects to return this winter. William was out and made a short visit. I often think of you dear Cousin and the happy hours we spent together last winter, & little thought then that we should be so far from each other. But so it is friends cannot be always near us. It is ordered by and all wise Providence and showes us that we must not set our affections on any thing earthly but still we that are young look forward with bright anticipation to the future and think there is better days and it is right that we should, but our chief end and aim should be to glorify our Father in heaven and in so doing we shall find true happiness. I feel very thankful for your good advice for I am apt to feel jealous some times but I will try in future not to be so.

It must have come hard for you to submit to all their requirements and I often think of you and wonder how you must look in uniform. Your folks are all well. Everet [Bridgham] has moved back to Leeds and lives with Aunt Aurilla [his mother]. Keep up good courage and think of the reward and it wont be long before you will be free again.

Give my love to Uncle Ward and family when you see him. It is growing dark and I must close. Write as often as you can for I take great satisfaction in reading your letters.

Yours in Love  
Laura B Howard

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222 10/28/1850 *From:* Thomas W  
Bridgham  
South Abington

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0214

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Abington Oct 28. 1850

Dear Cousin

I am in So. Abington & propose to commence a school here next Monday to continue ten or twelve weeks, wages \$28 per month & boarded. I was happy to receive your very kind letter in which you were so good as to inform me of the strict discipline to which you were subjected; strict indeed it is, but yet, I see nothing in it which is not conducive to health, it certainly must be very repulsive to one's feelings, especially if he is in any measure inclined to be lazy or a great lover of luxury.

I suppose the future presents to your mind many bright and pleasing prospects or rather your ambition & enterprise excites fond hopes of future success & emolument but I trust you will remember that uncertainty is written on every thing earthly; I would by no means say any thing to discourage or daunt you in an enterprise in which you are conscientious that you are rightly engaged, but feeling interested for your welfare in every point of view. You will allow me to recommend the contemplation of such truths as are calculated in their very nature to benefit all men in all circumstances.

It certainly must have been very tedious for you to have sustained the positions you were obliged to do, especially one in which you were required not to move a muscle, I believe I should die being broken as they say of the horses but no doubt all these things are necessary in order to be a good officer.

I saw your mother at church last sabbath & showed her the letter I rc'd from you by which she was very glad to hear from you, although she had rc'd one not long before. Your friends in Leeds were then all well. You may have learned before this that Harriett Herrick was buried in just a fortnight from the sabbath she and Franklin Lane were published, & Marilla Howard died very soon after, about a week I think. Miss Pamelia Woodman died too before I left home. It has been very sick in Leeds since you left but the sick I am happy to say is now subsiding. Laura was in good health & tolerable spirits although she complains very bitterly of the young folks leaving the place. The doctor was well and thinks of going to Philadelphia to spend the winter if it isn't too sickly. He says he wants to see what is going on out of Leeds & wishes to have a respite from his labors.

Well, Otis, I suppose you have put your hand to the plough & never intend to look back. I wish you good success, but hope you will remember me to all your friends & write me as often as you can & it is perhaps unnecessary for me to enjoin it upon you to write to your mother as often as you possibly can. I expect you have seen Uncle Ward by this time & presume he was right glad to see you! This is all of importance that I have to communicate now. Remember & write. Affectionately yours  
Tho. W Bridgham

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223 10/29/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0215

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 29. 1850

My dear Son,

It is now two weeks since we received your last. I have set a part a number of times to write you, but something would change my purpose. I wish to know exactly your situation at all times, as far as in my power I do not wish to think all is well when it is not. I expected it would be a new life entirely for you. I did not expect either, ease, or luxury, but still such extreme fatigue, you know I could but feel for you, and you would be sorry to have a Mother that could not. I am glad your prospects Brighten and you are satisfied with your situation, and I will be try to be content. All I have heard of Perley is that he is teaching school in Portland and boarding in Mrs Waites family. I was in hopes Lizzie would have written to me, so that I could have been acquainted with here, for I still think I shall go to West Point next June and if she wishes to go with me, it will be pleasant for me.

Rowland's last letter was written the fourth of this month the last I have heard from him. I hope he is spending his time and money to his advantage. I read your letter to Thomas, and the one to Laura. Probably they have written you all the news. We have had quite a number deaths in Leeds this fall but not of late. It is now quite healthy. The last time I saw your Aunt Lucretia was at Marilah Howard's funeral. I have seen Mrs Bridgham a number of times. The last time she had Everet's little girl with her at meeting. Everet and family have returned to live with her again.

The weather has been very fine through this Month. The garden is full of fall flowers, but we have it much colder since the Sabbath, but I put the air tight stove in yesterday.

I went out just now to help Phebe about dinner and what a picture five boys churning at once. All had both hands on the dash, all laughing and carrying the dash up at once and down again. That will give you a good idea of our case. I seldom leave them, and for the most part keep them good natured. Your Uncle John has not been out to see the boys yet. I understand he is very much drove with his business.

Capt Turner's have received a package of letters from Charles. They were mailed 31th Aug. He was one hundred and twenty days on the Ocean between Panama and San Francisco. He kept a diary and that he sent home. I read it. He had good health, and that was all you could say. They had a hard voyage. He was very much encouraged. He had been the but one day but thought he saw chances to make money. We have heard some thing from the Kennebec Mining Company. We have heard they would have a handsome dividind this fall and would dissolve the company the first of Oct and that Elias Lothrop had been sick all summer. This news Doct Lord repeated to your father a few days since. Doct Hubbard told him of it. He had talked with one who had returned from California to Augusta. We are in hopes to hear more and better news soon. Mrs Lothrop has been quite sick but is now quite recovered. The Doct said he should not tell her what he had heard about Elias. She was so feeble.

Give my love to Warren Lothrop. I almost feel as though he was one of my family he so often interchanges looks with my son. From what I learn Henry Strictling [Strickland] has not got his family established in Portland yet. You never have told us whether you have any newspapers there and if any what ones. I should to know what your food is and it is regulated.

Mother came home with Rowland when he carried Maria down, and staid nearly three weeks. She went from here one or two days before Rowland went to North Yarmouth. Her health was better than I expected to see her.

I went to Wayne to the Baptist association one day. Found it very interesting. Had excellent preaching and singing. Your mother was much gratified that you should join the Bible class, for how can you spend your time to better advantage than in studying the word of God.

You spoke in one of your letters that you were sorry you had not taken some white drilling pants. If you think it is best I can purchase some white drilling and have them made. They would not cost more than Sixty cents per

pair here. You could easily write me what difference you would wish have between the cadet pants and those you wore here.

Tuesday Evening. This evening's mail brought us a letter from R.B.H. I began to be quite lonely it was so long since we heard you or him. His last letter was written the 4th of Oct. He is thinking quite strange that you do not write as you are always so prompt. Perhaps you have written ere this. He has been to Portland and gives a description of his visit. I think he is much gratified with his visit. He said Lizzie came to the door and welcomed him and he spent the Sabbath with her and Perley and her mother. Your father just Brought me the Portland paper to show me that Lizzie received a premium of one dollar for the best bead bag.

News has just arrived that Arza Gilmore has arrived at Warren Mower's from New York where he has been attending the fair in such a state of health that he wants his father to come for him in the carriage and bring pillows to bolster him up. I saw him have one of his worst agonizing spells in Wayne when I went over to the association but still he would not be persuaded from his plan of attending the fair in the City of New York. Now he has arrived in Green much worse than when he left.

I believe I told you Mrs Wingate had a son Capt Turner - had another letter from Charles by this evenings mail written eight days later than the other. Nothing very special in it. He had seen Capt Bodfish who was in the city for supplies and gave him an idea of the state of the Company. They had made a handsome summers work. Charles said nothing of Elias sickness but still I think there is no doubt of it.

Gideon Lane came in the Cars from New York with one of the company who stated nearly the same as we heard before and said Francis Lothrop he thought before he left was coming with him but concluded to wait for Elias. I could send you a news paper occasionally if I thought it would be acceptable. Rowland gave quite vivid description of his ride into Portland and the view of the bay all along with the shipping there in. I hope you will have your health and I very much desire you will hold it precious. Rowland met with lots of his old acquaintances in the Cars from Wayne and heard from the rest. Mr Nicerson who taught the school at Wayne has taken the school in the district in Leeds. Mr and Mrs Sampson came to the funeral of old Mrs Bates. I spoke with them at the rode. I understand that Martha Ann Martin is at Hallowel and the Hallowel folks are planning for me to take her for which I have no inclination. Charles Turner did not mention Addison Martin. He carried a letter out for him from me, and I understand he dated his last letter from Sacramento City.

Good night my son from your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

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224 11/6/1850 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0216

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Nov 6th 1850

Dear Mother

I received your letter this morning and as I now have a few moments to myself I will spend them in answering it. You know that I promised to write to quite a number; & as I have but little time at the most, you must not expect that I shall be quite so punctual in writing to you as I would like to be. But you may be assured that there will not many weeks pass at any one time without my writing.

I am now doing very well in all respects. The face of things has remarkably changed since I first came here. When one enters a military Institution every thing at first must seem new & strange; but in a very short time all those things which at first appeared so severe & unnatural become habitual & easy. It is almost as easy for me to march now as it was formerly to walk alone. I have but very little time for giving way to gloom & low spirits. There is much excitement & rivalry in the class, as there must necessarily be, where high standing is of so much importance. I have now fairly embarked. I partake of the excitement & rivalry and keep on studying.

I am sorry to hear such news from Warren's mother & brother, and hope that with regard to Elias it may not be true. Warren Lothrop was in N. York when Arza was there & saw him there sick. I hope he will get better now he has got home. Rowland wrote me about his visit into Portland. I am glad he has got acquainted with Lizzie for it will be pleasant for him to visit there now & then while he is at Yarmouth & also at Brunswick. It will also afford her pleasure to have him come.

I wrote to Lizzie that she must make you a visit as soon as she can. She wrote me in her last letter that she wished to write to you, but was afraid to do so. Perhaps you can imagine why she is so diffident. If you can find time I should like to have you write her a few lines and she will answer you. Then the ice will be broken, and she will enjoy writing to you.

Your picture of the little boys churning pleased me. I like to have you tell me of such little things transpiring around you. Such little pictures of home scenes always quicken the fancy & the memory, and make one think for a time that he is at home & in the midst of the happy circle.

I could hardly tell you what I eat, but I am sure that we have a plenty of bread, dry bread & butter. Soup comes at dinner once or twice a week. Tough beef on other days. We never have the least luxury except molasses to eat on our bread, once or twice a day & a sweet potato about once a month. No pies, cakes, puddings &c. Notwithstanding our "ordinary fare", I never had such an appetite before. If I would permit myself I believe I should "eat every thing all up", but as I know that "eating too much" is not congenial with hard study, I am obliged to be a little abstemious. The Battalion drills have ceased for this fall & will not be again resumed till next spring. We now have, every evening at half past four or five o'clock, a dress parade. I like these parades first rate now. We have such splendid music and the appearance of the Battalion is so grand. It will not, however, be quite so interesting when the weather gets to be a little cooler, to be obliged to stand out there with our fingers & ears freezing. But I came from a cold country and therefore should not cry for cold.

I do not see Warren very often, not oftener than once in a fortnight. If he was a commissioned officer, he could visit me any time. I hope if he remains in the army that he will get a commission. Whatever a man's talents may be, if he is an enlisted man, his associates must be confined to enlisted men. He does not enjoy the attention & respect he deserves. He is almost absolutely under the control of every & any commissioned officer & to such he must bow the knee & do his bidding. It is different with a low commissioned officer. He enjoys more respect & receives more attention whether he deserves it or not & is so far independent that he can resign when he pleases & never can be degraded into a common soldier. I almost envied Warren's position, when I first came here, but I begin to see the disadvantages of his situation. His present liberty arises from his good luck in having a fine man to command the Company. Warren is a fine fellow & has much <pennetration> & information. He will make a splendid officer if he is advanced.

Give my love to one & all of the family. And write me as often as you can. I don't think it worth the trouble for

you to make me any drilling pants. We are obliged to have them fit perfectly. They are purely white. I ought to have known about my shirts before I got them made. A linnen bosom is worse than useless. The uniform coat buttons up close to the throat, & instead of a collar a binding is attached over which we turn the linnen collar. All my good bosom shirts, I will exchange for plain shirts when you come, if you think it best. I don't know how good my shirts will be at a year from this time.

There are a good many little conveniences of which I am now deprived, which you can bring me. I shall mention them now & then in my letters. I count every thing upon your making me a visit next June & especially upon Lizzie's accompanying you.

I should judge from your letter that you had not then received my last in which I gave you a short description of my visit to Peekskill. I began this letter yesterday (Wednesday). The air is more chilling to day. Everything seems to look gloomy & solitary about West Point. The mountains look bare & cheerless, and the forrests that surround us, but a short time ago, so green & flourishing, have put on their winter dress.

My birthday comes tomorrow my twentieth birthday! This period of life is said to be the happiest. Well! Perhaps it is so! But I presume the principal was not drawn from the experience of Cadets. I do not now look forward to the future with any fixed determination. Every thing with me rests on probabilities & conditions. I may resign at the end of two years. I may graduate & then resign, or I may stay in the army. If I should by any chance fall short of the 5th stand in my class, I shall most certainly resign, unless my opinion changes. I find, however, that it is doing me great good in many points of view to recite in the manner we are obliged to do. It will not be time lost even if I do not become an officer.

My pages are filled so good bye. Your affectionate son. Otis.

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225 11/10/1850 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0217

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Nov 10th 1850.

Dear Mother

It is but a few days since I wrote to you. But as Frances Lothrop is here & on his way home and would like to carry a letter from me to you, I thought I would scribble you a few lines. Francis looks natural, but he seems to me much changed. He looks almost worn out. Francis will give you some idea of things here. He thinks I have not changed much since he left, not so much as his brother. Every thing with me is about the same as usual. The round of duty follows day after day. In fact, there is very little variety in any thing except in our studies. The excitement of study & the strife for high standing keep us alive. Francis will have much to tell you about Roland, for he has been with him all summer. He says Roland has not overcome that gloomy disposition of his, but will often sit & sing or whistle to himself some mournful song, as he used to do. I shall be glad to see Roland back.

Laura Howard wrote me a letter, which I received at the same I received your last letter. She said that Franklin Lane was to be married the day his lady died. I should think the circumstances would have made her death doubly sad. I was not surprised to hear of Marilla's death, for I did not think she would live long. But it is sad for me to see the companions, the play mates of my childhood drop away one after another. How rejoiced Mrs Lothrop must be to meet her son after so long a separation, and his wife too, whom he left so young & so soon after his marriage. The length of time is not so bad, as the anxiety & the uncertainty that his situation has given rise to. But he is now safely back. It is true, with no more than half the energy, vigor & enterprise he carried away, but with experience & perhaps with money. Time will repair all the injury done to his health & spirits. I wish I could go with him from West Point but it is folly to wish, especially to make a futile wish. I got permission yesterday afternoon & evening to visit Francis. He & Warren came up to my room towards evening & stopped till after Parade. Has Sarah & Mr Sargent made you a visit yet. When he has been to see you, you must tell me how you like his appearance.

Give my love to all the family. Tell Dr. Lord that he must visit me on his way to Philadelphia if he can make it convenient. Give my best regards to him & all my friends, whom you may meet at Leeds. It is now Sabbath morning, and a beautiful morning it is too. I presume you are all preparing to go to church. Laura said that Mr Barrows was to teach the school that I did last winter. It seems as though I should like to teach that school this coming winter, if by so doing I could be in Leeds.

I have not written to Uncle John yet. If you see him give him my best respects & tell him I am doing very well here. Is Maria at Gorham now? And where is William? Let me see, Rowland's vacation will come before a great while and I reckon he will enjoy a visit home. I can recollect how pleasant vacations were to me when at Yarmouth. I should enjoy this place much better if we could have a vacation once in 6 months or at least once a year. But it is as well to make the best of our circumstances, whatever they may be. I have voluntarily put myself here & hence denied myself many privileges, but it was all for some purpose, and that purpose is as clear now as it was when I decided upon coming. It was not particularly to learn the military art, but especially for the sake of mental discipline. And I know that there is no other place in the wide world where I should or could apply my mind as I am here, in a measure forced to do. For here, punishment is the worst of disgrace immediately follows neglect of duty, and true merit is some of its reward.

I have just returned from Church. We had a very good sermon, suggested, our Chaplain said by a visit from him to a young man in the Hospital. This young man's name is Polk. The Cadets of his acquaintance say that he is very low, sick. Write me what you know of my father's relatives (excepting Uncle Ward's family), who reside in N. York. Remember me to Arza. Tell him I should like to be with him while he is sick. I suppose he is with you. Remember me again to all.

In much haste from your Affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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226 11/23/1850 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0218

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Nov 23d 1850

Dear Mother

I have taken out my portfolio & placed my paper upon it without having any definite idea of what I am to write. Always when I have a little leisure I think I must spend it in writing letters. This employment constitutes my recreation. I believe that I have grown old since I have got to be a soldier - if not in looks. I seem to myself to be as much as five years older than when I left home in my feelings; that is, I am seldom so boyish, light hearted & joyous. One of my chief enjoyments is receiving letters from my mother & my old friends. These sources of pleasure seem to have failed me of late. Day after day I go to the Post Office, but some way or other, nobody takes pains to write & I am bound to come away disappointed.

I think, I have never said any thing in my letters of my room & room-mates. My room is situated in what are called the Old Barracks, in the third story. It is about as large as two of our College rooms & twice as old & "untidy". Four of us room together. Each has his furniture - a little iron bedstead placed in a particular position just wide enough for one, a trunk & a chair. As I sit now with my back to the fire, when I raise my eyes I see Brown, L, Treadwell, Howard, Lazelle printed in large Roman Letters & stuck upon the wall over the heads of the beds. The beds are folded, first the mattress is turned up, leaving half of the bedstead bare. Then the rest of the bed is folded and aranged at the head as neatly as possible. Between the names & beds is a row of pins, upon which our caps & clothes must be hung. At the head of the bed the trunk must be kept under the foot the shoes. Opposite the door is the gun rack, in which there are just four places fitted each for a gun, over which there are four wooden pins to hang our belts & side arms upon. We have between us four, two tables which are made of the best of iron, 1 wash stand and one pail. We have also two lamps & a broom. Every thing as I have told you has its place, and if any thing is out of place the inspecting officer will detect it immediately. We have a grate in the fire-place in which is burned coal ("sea coal" or anthracite). None of us are allowed to touch the fire, & in fact there is no need of it. For a man comes in every morning at ½ past four o'clock, & puts on a supply of coal & keeps the fire well supplied all day.

My room mates are all from New England. Mr Browne from Maine, Mr Treadwell from New Hampshire & Lazelle from Massachusetts. Mr Browne is a queer genius. He is large & fine looking & has much of the yankee persevera. He studies about all the time night & day. We are obliged to go to bed at 10. But he frequently gets up again about half past 10, and studies till one, or two o'clock. He now stands in the third section, but fears that he shall fall. He is one of those who came here with a common education & common ability. With his ambition & iron constitution I think he will be able to master the course, though he gets rather a low mark now. Mr Treadwell is a fine young man & a smart scholar. He stands in the second section in Mathematics & in the first in Rhetoric. Lazelle I don't like over much. He "bores" me a great deal for assistance, and doesn't appear sufficiently grateful. He stands in the 4th section in both studies. He does not seem to me to be very good hearted & his habits & manners I don't like. None of my room-mates use tobacco. By the way, I have not made use of tobacco in any shape since I have been on the Point, & I have now been here three months. I think I am entirely cured.

Henry Clay's grandson is in my Class. He is a queer boy & a very smart scholar. One of my most intimate friends of my Class is a Mr Abbot of Boston. He is a little ahead of me in Mathematics & very little behind me in Ethics, i.e. in marks. He is now called the first scholar in the Class. He is of so good a disposition & always so gentlemanly & kind that none would envy him his place, were he to stand at the head of his class. If I cannot do it myself, I hope he will be the one. He told me the other evening that he was intimately acquainted with Mr Charles Vaughan's family, that moved from Hallowell, now in Cambridge.

Professor Sprule, the Chaplain, very unexpectedly sent me an invitation, last week, to visit him on the Saturday evening following. After getting permission to visit I went with two other young men, took tea, & spent a very pleasant evening indeed. One of those who accompanied me had brought letters of introduction, and the other had been on the Point over a year. So my invitation appeared to be quite complementary either to my looks, my talents, or my moral character. I hardly know which.

I shall be glad when the January examination is over. This is an examination upon which every thing depends. You might think that I had passed such ordeals often enough to take them coolly by this time. So I have, but instead of growing cool, I become every day more excitable. I cannot make so clear & good a recitation as I used to do in college.

I shall expect to have a letter from you very soon. If any are unwell you must let me know it. You must tell me what Francis Lothrop had to tell. I did not see him to talk with him so much as I could have wished. I have not seen his brother for more than a week, but shall go to see him tomorrow (Saturday) if I can. Give my love to all the family. Write me as soon as you can.

Yr affectionate Son  
Oliver O. Howard

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227 11/23/1850 *From:* W. B. Howard

*To:* Nephew [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0219

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 23 Nov 1850

My Dear Nephew

I met Mr Rundle at Cold Spring & came down with him in the Cars. I am sorry you could not have accompanied him.

I have the pleasure to inform you that my family are in good health excepting Augustus who is much the same. I will in due time address a letter to either you or to Capt [Henry] Brewerton [Superintendent of West Point, 1845-1852] requesting leave of absence to visit us at Christmas. And you must not fail in availing yourself of it. I hear nothing from the Eastward. They seldom if ever write.

Mrs Henry, my daughter residing at Hudson, made us a visit the last fortnight. She expressed a strong desire to see you & may possibly be here at Christmas.

Accept our kindest regards and best wishes for your health &c &c.

W. B. Howard

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228 11/27/1850 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0220

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Nov 27, 1850 estimated]

Dear Brother

Take me when I'm well and in good spirits and it don't make a great deal of difference what kind of a pen I have but at present being somewhat cross and nervous, I won't write a letter with such an one as I have here. So you must wait for a day or two, and reflect that your brother is very particular on the subject of his penmanship. I am at present convalescent but not well. My legs are a little unsteady and my lungs quite irritable. I have written to you twice since I have recd any from you. I left Brunswick & Portland both too quick for the mail. I shall write you in a few days if I don't miss of it and remain as ever

Your affectionate  
Rowland

Cadet O O Howard

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229 12/1/1850 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0221 Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec 1st 1850

Dear Brother

I arrived home on Wednesday last after the usual disasters of being left by the hack at Yarmouth and consequently missing the train, and the carriage at Green (what wretched ink) and riding home after dark in the rain for a dollar. But I got home safe and sound bag and baggage.

Our examination passed off well. Do you know <Oler> father Cummings. Well he was so deaf he did not hear a word of the Latin, and it was so late that Mr Robinson hurried us over the Greek after the manner of Ichabod Crane when going to a spree. The poor man asked our pardons less than a hundred times, that he could not 'bring out' the vast knowledge accumulated in a single term by his wonderful scholars. We told him we were very sorry, but at the same time could hardly avoid an inward chuckle that we got off so well. My class is very small consisting of but 6 all told, but these we have strenuously tried to convince people, made up in quality what we lacked in quantity. Why! If you will believe it, I think they would compare favorably with any 6 Sub's that ever graduated at Yarmouth, either intellectually or morally. (Now hear the bombast) I wish you would take us up on the Eclogues of Virgil. I think we should sail as beautifully <fior> (wait till next page for quotations, write down here to save marring it ahem!)

'Tityre, tu patulae recubans sub tegmine fagi  
'Ite domum saturae, venit Hesperus, ite capella

(which (by the way (for we have to enlighten illiterate (is that spelt right) soldiers) is the last line of the X Eclogue, which is the last one) (ahem!)) (But to resume the figure) as a mud turtle among Junco limoso.

I don't know that there has been any drinking or playing cards in the Seminary this term, and you know that is wonderful for Yarmouth. I am going to read Cicero & the Aenead at the same time next term and am in hopes to make great proficiency in both. The rest of my class have read Cicero, so it will be review for them and advance for me.

Between you and I Otis should not you feel more contented if you could have a certain pair of eyes (black I believe they are) to gaze upon now and then, and if you could bear once in a while those silvery tones, whose loving cadences send such a thrill through your frame and would it not give you ecstatic delight to clasp that sylph like form, and drink from the overflowing fountain of your first affection, but I'm verging on the poetical, but if you did not write something like this in your last letter to L\_\_ then I'm \_\_\_ mistaken. But courage, brother, one year is a long time but there's many a longer. I am glad to hear that you are raising your head among your classmates. "Quantum lenta solent inter viburna cupressi " and hope and trust that you will be No. 1. Mother and I are coming within <10 cts> so I will stop here. Your Brother  
Rowland

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230 12/1/1850 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0222

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, Dec 1st 1850

Dear Mother,

Another Sabbath has opened upon us, and a delightful day it is, here in New York. The air is cool and bracing, but not too cold. We have not yet had any snow, nor any thing that would give the idea that winter was so near. Tomorrow is the day upon which many a poor school master will commence his labors. I can't help thinking how pleasant it would be to look in upon one of my old schools tomorrow, and view the many happy faces, upon which will appear that mingled expression of joy, expectation & respect, which almost makes you love the wearers & swells your own self-esteem.

No one writes to me. What can be the cause? Rowland always had been quick to reply to my letters; but for some reason or other I have not had a word from him for many weeks. Even Peleg, who is always ready to write has not answered my letter. I go to the Post Office every day. I am almost afraid to ask for a letter for fear I shall be disappointed, and when I do ask I am sure to be. No matter, what may happen, good or bad, do write, if you can, for suspense is the worst of torments.

I am prospering very well, taking about the third stand in my class. This rank I hope to maintain if I am not able to rise higher. I had no demerit recorded when I looked the other day. I expected, however, that I should have at least one or two marks. I suppose you receive an Account every month. I was mistaken when I told you that you would also receive the marks which show my rank in my class in studies. Only one month more must pass before the January examination, when those who are to stay will receive their "Warrants of Cadets". I sometimes envy those who are to go ("to be found" as we say), for they can go home. But you know, I promised myself to get a good start in some profitable business, before I saw Maine again. If I should be found deficient in my studies, at the January examination I did not believe that there would be any danger there. Now I am certain that 86 out of 90 will have to go if I do, unless sickness should come upon me. Even then, they would never "find" a man from the 1st section.

Warren came to see me last evening & stayed a few moments. He is in good health & spirits. Uncle Ward wrote me a letter the other day requesting me to visit him next Christmas (which is a holyday with us) if I could get permission. He is going to write to Capt Brewerton, Superintendent of the Post & ask his permission to let me visit him. I presume the stern old gentleman will not refuse.

When you write you must say as much as you know about Aunt Lucretia's family, Aunt Aurelia's & Uncle Stilman's &c &c, so that I may have something of interest to tell my Uncle & cousins on Christmas.

I have been thinking that I am accustomed to tell you my plans, without asking your opinion in the least. What do you think of my being here any way? How are you pleased with my condition & prospects in every point of view. An appointment to a Cadetship at West Point is something that is sighed after, & sought for in every way & by every means, from one extremity of the country to the other. A young man thinks "surely honor, happiness & knowledge are in store for me if I can once become a Cadet. The road is open & straight; the journey sure & easy." The poor fellow is very soon undeceived as soon as he is fairly esconsed among this honored Corps. As our Chaplain says, there is more prose than poetry in the beginning & throughout the whole course of a soldier's life.

There is no doubt after all, though, if I wish it, of my getting assigned to West Point as Teacher should I graduate high. But we will not anticipate. Suffice it to say that I have the advantage of the severest mental discipline, and this will fully compensate for all the little & foolish perplexities & <troubles> to which I am necessarily subjected. How foolish ever to complain! For there is no place in the wide world where a man cannot, if he chooses, be contented & comparatively cheerful, if he has the right spirit within him. On the contrary ambitious restlessness will make any man unhappy. Happiness is not inherent in the place, but in the man.

Give my love to father. How is his health, his spirits & his treasury department. Give my love to Charlie, Dellie,

&, in short, to all. I shall try to write to Laura Howard this afternoon. Make Rowland write to me as soon as he comes home. Tell me who is to teach in our Dist. Or let Charles & remember to write as often as you can to  
Your affectionate Son  
Oliver O. Howard

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231 12/1/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0223

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec 1th 1850

My Dear Son,

Last evenings mail Brought to hand a letter from West Point, and with it, our usually happy feelings. You are a good boy to write. I should answer every letter if I could, but my family is large, and very little time to myself except when I am fatigued beyond the power of writing. Phebe is gone and in her place I have a niece Martha Ann Martin, 14 years old, who came to Hallowel with the expectation of living with her grandmother [Elizabeth Otis], and being disappointed there, she came out here. I pity her, for she knows nothing about work of any kind, and makes a great deal of work for somebody to do. I think she will, or does, dislike me very much.

I do not recollect the date of my last letter to you but, I know it is a long while since I have written. I have been to Hallowel, went soon after I mailed your last letter, went Monday P.M. and returned Wednesday P.M. Found Mother quietly settled with Mrs Talpy. Your Uncle John, H\_ Strickland [Henry Strickland] and families boarding at the Hallowel House. Your Aunt Ann had not arrived from Boston. A letter from Sarah was brought in just as I was coming out. I read it. She had arrived in Cambridge the day before, after a hard voyage from Eastport, by water. It being rough, she was sick all the way and said her head was dizzy when she wrote. Ann has since come to H...I and is with Mother. Sarah had not come when I last heard. Mr Sargeant did not come by the way of Leeds. I can not give any reason unless it being late before he came he had not time to spare as he went all the way in the boat.

I thought your visit to Peekskill would be a short respite from toil. You ask me to tell you what I knew of your relatives in the state of New York. Your grandmother Howard [Desire Bailey] had one Brother Rowland Bailey, a Physician who went to that state and settled. Married his wife there. I do not recollect the name of the town, not far from Peekskill. I recollect the name of two of his sons Joseph and Benjamin. The latter was at the time of the death of your father a Physician, and Apothecary in the City of New York. The former I do not remember what his business was. Two of the daughters, Patience and Sarah, are names that I recollect. Patia as your father called her was married to a lawyer in the City and left a widow in affluent circumstances as much as 12 years ago. The Mrs Knox you saw is the same. Sarah about the same time, married and went out West to Texas, I think. The younger part of the family I do not remember enough about them to say any thing of them. It is so long since I have thought any thing on the subject and never saw them. Patience Bailey a younger sister of your grandmother married a gentleman by the name Phillips. They lived in Pokepsie. Mr P... and wife are dead. They left three daughters. They were well educated. Your Uncle P... failed in business, as much as 35 years ago or more, after that he gained a livelihood I think in the Book binding business. His daughters had a house Built for the double purpose of teaching and living in it and there your father found them, at the time he passed through New York, when you were two years and half old carrying on all branches of female accomplishments, taking young ladies and wholly educating them. The youngest of them is as much as fifty years old.

I have now in the house a great deal of Pamela's writings. I have never had any convenient opportunity of showing them to you, a long correspondence between your father and her for natural improvement and amusement. Aunt Philips has not been dead more than four or five years. This is an out line of what I know about your fathers relatives. In the state of New York.

Francis Lothrop arrived a little more than two weeks since. I received your letter from him and was quite as happy in reading it as ever. Francis has been with his mother and talked some of you, of West Point, and of Rowland, and California, but my family is so large I have but little opportunity to converse with company. I hope some day to have more time at my own disposal. Francis' wife and two little daughters are at Durham. He has been there a part of the time. Give my regards to Warren when you see him. Joshua Lothrop's funeral was attended about ten days since at the meeting house.

I am sorry to hear that one of your room mates possesses just such a disposition for I think it will require quite a tact, to manage him rightly, for it cannot be your duty to help any one in your present situation enduring privations for your own advancement and I hope you will think as I do about that. None but a mean selfish

person would ask it of you, and indeed in the end is no real help to him.

I am glad you have been invited out for I think it must be a great pleasure to you to change your stone flours and Iron bedstead furniture for a family circle. Every one thinks you are doing well and I hope so too. I desire to submit to our laws or the United States laws. I hope you will still maintain your integrity and keep cool.

I am sorry to hear that you find yourself excitable for it gives one unhappy feelings, and is an evidence of body and mind over done. I hope you don't find yourself so, very often, if so do try to find a remedy. There is one way that it can be done. Draw near to God and ask his guidance. How much I desire you might have a praying heart. We are so much better fitted to meet the disappointments in life that must more or less await us. There is a pleasure in well doing the evil heart cannot ever feel. I am sorry to hear you complain of your manner of recitation. I am afraid you have in some way created an undue anxiety. Keep steady and do not be over anxious about any thing. This Mr Abbot that is so near in competition with you, being so agreeable is, calculated to make you happier than if he were of a taunting disposition.

By the way, I must say something about Portland. Your father all at once was going to P...d and I wrote a few lines to Lizzy in haste as appropriate as I was capable. He presented it to her, and Mrs Waite was so polite to him he spent all his leisure time there and slept with Perley, and came home well pleased with his visit. Lizzy does not write yet. I suppose she can write easier to New York. Maria became acquainted Miss Waite at commencement and by the way I must tell you Maria came to Hallowel to see her father and attend Louisa Grant's wedding. She is Mrs Gilmore now. Although she bears the same name I do it does not raise my vanity. Perhaps you will see her Marriage in the news papers as the Honorable Mr Gilmore is a member of Congress from Pennsylvania about 33 years old and Miss L Grant and Mrs Gilmore will pass two winters in Washington.

Your Uncle John has been out to see the boys. He talked about you. He said he had expected you to have written ere this to him but had not received any letter. Maria wrote me a letter after the wedding and party. She was delighted with the party. There was two hundred at the party which took place one hour after the ceremony was performed. Maria did not attend at the marriage ceremony. Maria came into Portland and stopt all night with Lizzy Waite.

I must stop for want of room. So good night  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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232 12/8/1850 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0224

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec 8th 1850

Dear Mother

It gave me much pleasure to receive your double letter, especially after waiting so long after going to the Post Office day after day & meeting with that same ominous shake of the head from the young man who deals out the letters. I began to feel much anxiety to expect bad news. I thought some of the family might be sick & that you purposely kept it from me. And I was glad, indeed, to be disappointed in my surmises.

I shall have to tell you frankly, that I shall not stand at the head of my class, but you need not fear, that I shall not do my best. I have not done so well as I should have done had I retained at all times a little more self-possession. My want of coolness was not owing to want of health or to over anxiety, but in part to an excitable nature, & more to my being out of my sphere of action. No person can come here without feeling comparatively foolish and awkward for a while. A person who can stand No 1, must have talent, tack, ingenuity, coolness & a strong constitution. Could I have known as many in the first section did know, two years ago, that I were coming here, my mathematical education would have been different. But it is of no use to look back, but to take things as they are & make the best of them, is the right way to get along in this world.

I shall not fill my letters up hereafter with my temporary disappointments with my little ups & downs. You know that the man who forms the habit of complaining is always full of ailments. It is not that I do not have confidence in my mother, but that an affectionate parent always magnifies every little complaint of her son, especially if it written. To avoid giving an erroneous impression I always write when I feel in a mode. When I am irritable, it is sure to appear in the tone of my letters.

Neither you nor Rowland said anything about Charlie, or Rodelphus in your last letter. It seems a long, long time before I shall see either of my brothers again. And I cannot realize that I never shall be with them again any length of time. When this prospect ever presents itself to my mind I immediately bar myself against it. I do not allow myself to reflect upon the relation in which I stand to any of the friends that I have left, except with the pen in my hand. Were I to do so I should be homesick nearly all the time. I can tell you that it requires considerable resolution to voluntarily to deny oneself all the privileges & little kindnesses that are had at the hands of affection, for mere chimeras, for the mere shadows around which ambition throws a life like appearance.

After Uncle gave me the offer of an appointment to this delightful place, I sat down to think. I felt certain that by industry and frugality. I might gain a livelihood, or perchance by some good fortune become wealthy & live in comparative ease & affluence. But my ideas had become altogether too lofty to be satisfied with moderate things. So coming to the quick conclusion to be "something or nothing" to sacrifice ease to ambition I decided to accept the appointment. It remains yet to be determined whether I took the wisest course.

As I said it, however advantageous it may be in the end, it seems at least hard to be kept so entirely separated from my home & my brothers. Hence I wish you to write as often as you can, and keep me informed of every thing, of Charles, his progress & his intentions for the future, as he grows older & begins to think for himself. I expect to find him at the end of two years much changed, and as is natural, much improved. But above all things I hope he will strengthen his constitution. This educating the intellect at the expense of health & comfort is wretched policy. And Dellie too, I shall expect to find a bright, active intelligent boy, when I see him again. Tell him that he must strive to learn all he can, for the more knowledge he now gets, the more will he rejoice by & by. Tell Charlie, to describe his school to me, tell me who teaches it, what he is studying and what proficiency he is making &c &c.

The burning of the Insane Hospital presents a sad & gloomy picture. Though it may be a providential blessing to many an afflicted creature & a relief from suffering, yet nothing seems more horrid than the death that many of those poor wretches met. I have not seen a full account of it, yet I perceive, every time I get a glance at the papers that the fugitive slave law has kindled much excitement at the North. Abolitionism in whatever form it appears is decried hot & heavy by the New York papers. What is father's opinion on this all-engrossing

subject. No political excitement ever gets within this secluded prison. If you can I should like to have you send me a paper now & then.

[See note 1:] Got out of paper yesterday; so you must excuse this slip.

Give my love to all the family. My love to my cousin Martha Ann. I never saw her, but her sister Lydia & I were <best> cronies. Does she look like Lydia? You must try to make her contented with you, for the poor girl has no mother and I presume no home. Has any one heard from Addison of late?

Arza Gilmore, you wrote me, was sick <&> with you. Has he recovered? I am glad father stopped by Mrs Waites while in Portland, for it gives Mrs Waite much pleasure to have my friends call on her. As for Lizzie, perhaps she had as lief see me as my friends. <That> we will leave to her to say. I should like to see her at any rate.

Tell Rowland, that he hasn't got anything better to do than to write me letters this vacation. If he goes to Wayne he must give my respects to Mr Samson's little family & all my friends there. I went to make Warren a call yesterday, but found him gone to New York. <When I> <said> that I crossed over to Stony Point, I meant to Cold Springs, when I went to Peekskill. I expect now to be able to get leave of absence on next Christmas, and <> Uncle Ward, but it is uncertain whether Capt. <Brewerton>, the Superintendent of the Post, will grant it or not <>.

Yesterday we had a rain storm. In the night <> cleared away, and is now as cold as it well can be <> expect we shall suffer somewhat with the cold <> winter, especially those of us who cannot get a <> coat till January. Remember me to Uncle's little <>. I suppose they are now going to school. I wrote <> to Uncle & mailed it yesterday for Washington. You <> say that he had gone back to Congress, but <> that he had. Write as often as you can. Ask <Rowland> what has become of Mr Jewett, for I have not <> him for a long time. Probably he will spend <> vacation in Brunswick.

Good night, yr <affectionate son>  
Oliver O. Howard

[Note 1: From here to the closure, this was attached to another partial letter beginning "Have you learned how Aunt Martha Jane...". The attachment was glued and made the seam unreadable.]

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233 12/9/1850 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0225

South Leeds Me

West Point New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec 9th 1850

Dear Brother

This is about the coldest morning we have had this winter. Thermometer but 15 above zero. I suppose in New York it is as bland as an indian summer, which season by the way, has been uncommonly long, the last autumn.

Mother is watching Charles doing chores and the rest of the boys sliding down hill. We have had but about 3 inches of snow as yet but it has rained upon it and frozen so that it is excellent sleighing. I went to meeting yesterday, but found very few there on account of the stormy weather. Mr Barrows is as dull and prosy as usual and had I known that the chicken I was anticipating for dinner was an old hen, and tougher than tripe, I should have yielded to inclination and gone to sleep. As it was, I kept my eye on the ministers mouth and if you remember its form and contortions, you will have no doubt I was sufficiently interested to keep awake.

I saw Laura Unkle Ensign John &c which means Martha Martin who is boarding there. Father has got rid of her by hiring her board at Johns. I think that Mr Martin has developed new, and to those concerned, interesting phases in his character by the course he has pursued towards his children. He stands convicted in the minds of his relatives of being a miser, or an avaricious thief, but I am in hopes that the denouement will be more favorable to his character. As it is he seems to have exercised the greatest injustice towards his children by trying to appropriate their property.

The Insane Hospital <(what a looking I that is)> was burned to the ground on Tuesday night, or rather on Wednesday morning. I suppose the account of the fire has reached you through the papers. It is certainly the greatest loss of property that the state ever experienced. The cost of the building alone was \$250,000. But this is not the worst of it. About 23 miserable wretches perished in the flames. It was a horrid night. The patients refused to leave burning pile, and the only way they were saved was by their keepers, rushing in and dragging them out. Those that came out <'sun spout'> were naked howling about the streets or rolling in the cold snow. There are about 40 missing quite a number are now confined in jail. I believe there was but one sane man that perished, a keeper, by the name of Jones. He entered the burning building once to much, for he was never seen afterwards. So much for the Insane Hospital.

I am glad that you are going to spend Christmas with Unkle Wards family. A hope you will have a good time. I saw Seth Howard at meeting yesterday. His folks are well except Mary who has been sick so long she is very low. I saw Aunt Aurelia the other day. She was well and was blessed with another granddaughter. I have not seen Aunt Lucretia or her family since I have been at home, but presume if they were not prospering I should have heard of it. Mother will write again as soon as she can.

As I return to Yarmouth on Wednesday, you will direct your next letter there. I have had quite a pleasant vacation, although, like some of yours, rather dull. It has been so poor traveling that I have not been away from home much. I believe the Androscoggin Railroad Company prospers very well (except on paper). The track is to be laid by next September. The iron is already shipped from England. I am at present writing in the railroad office (our parlor) on the railroad desk (our table) by the side of the treasurer (our father) within a short distance of the treasury (his pocket). And yet strange as it may seem I am not overcome by this August presence, but you know I am naturally bold.

Give my respects to Unkle Ward folks, tell them I am rather a smart boy was 16 in October tremendous lazy, going to college next fall if I can get in (rather doubtful) and that I sympathize with my <young> brother. Write me at Yarmouth.

Your Brother  
R.B. Howard  
South Leeds Maine

Cadet O O Howard

West Point New York

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234 12/10/1850 *From:* Uncle Ensign Otis

*To:* O.O. Howard, Cadet

OOH-0226

Leeds

West Point N. York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Decm 10th 1850

Dear Nephew

Laury is too much engaged with her needle to write to you this evening. I very cheerfully accepted the proposal from her seconded by your aunt to write. A letter by me is soon dispatched unless on important business or for sage advise to change the purpose or guard some friend against danger from some habit, passion or predisposition. You will perceive that this is not of that character.

I can conceive of the difference between your mode of enjoyments and ours, of your duties, & privations & ours. You are I trust training yourself for more extended influence & usefulness. To attain it you must be in advance of those with whom you are associated in business both in moral, intellectual & often in physical attainments. You may find many who excel in one but few who are above mediocrity in all.

The first so to speak is a domestic or at home exercise, yet if deep & as we say well founded it will be discovered in all the developments of intellect and all men of whatever grade pay it a secret homage wherever intellectual acquirements are applauded & physical admired but when united with superior moral attainments the individual is respected & praised without an if or a but, or any disjunctive word or phrase. The coming age will make it their idol as intellect is in the present & physical was in the past. God has given us a standard of probability every age determines the standard of mental & physical acquirements but to develop them we must be familiar with all the mediums & acquire a habit of use.

In reading your letter I was led to inquire have you a reading room? Do you get the common news of the day? Do you get papers from Maine? If yea you have sympathized with us in the loss of the Insane Hospital. The loss of so many lives & the miserable conditions of many others who cannot be made comfortable.

This winter, altho 10 days of winter has past, it was but yesterday it put on its dress. & that rather peculiar a mixture of snow, hail & rain. To day all horses & sleighs are in motion & their movements are unusually rapid. Our ponds & rivers look like summer & the ground scarcely frozen. Apples &c have not yet been transferred to the cellar. Governor Hubbard seemed to anticipate the season by appointing thanksgiving the 19th, not connecting it closely with Christmas & New Years. J.H. & Helen are planing to spend next week at China & if good sleighing remains. J.H. has been absent mostly for two or more months on the R. Road survey. The last month between Jay & Farmington they are now making estimates. We expect to get out a report in a few weeks. I will send you one which will give all the information about our R Road affairs. It has required some effort to keep our people up to this work but it was necessary for their good.

Elder Barrows presides in the school house where you led them last winter. Dr. Lord left since to spend the winter at Philidelphia. Thomas B. is away, two of our often callers & I fear Laury will be a little lonesome.

Altho we paid R.Road Company in abundance our <> is much longer than last winter. <> at Farmington, &c &c are looking into offering, <> some from Boston & N. York.

Roland B. is at home will return to N Yarmouth in a few days. Vaughan goes with him.

I was at Hallowell a few days before your uncle John left for Washington. I suppose your uncle Henry and family are now in Portland. Mother & Ann were pleasantly situated &c even this I suppose Sarah Lee is with them. Your father's business is rapidly increasing. He may be compelled to employ a clerk next season. Should I get this R Road business off of my hands in good I hope and my health and vigour be continued to me. I now think I shall see West Point, Peekskill and other places in that vicinity. The scenery in & about the highlands once interested me much. Many men and families I have ever since remembered with great satisfaction. I hope and trust they will become interestng to you and as they were to me, places for retirement meditation and relaxation, or change from the closer and more arduous and even tedious duty.

We are spending the time somewhat as we did last winter. Laury laughs quite as harty although she has

recently mourned ye a grieved for the death of her uncle at Philadelphia. Helen sings quite as much & little Oliver has greatly improved. He is now as inquisitive & listens with as much interest as any child I ever saw. He gets more than an hour each day of his <grandsing> time and talk. Since last evening have twice had to give him an account of you. We shall suppose you with your uncle Ward Christmas eve. We all enjoy excellent health & relish a good dinner of beef steak L. white chickens or John's turkey. No sickness or accidents among our friends or acquaintances that I now recall it. I spent Saturday at your house. They are <>. Roland Alger home <>. Mrs. Lothrop and family well said <> at meeting Sunday.

Your Aunt Lucretia & Family Will Clark left last week for Mass. Everett B's wife [Everett & Sally Bridgham] has favored him with a little addition to his family. Roland B has called two or three times since he returned, is getting quite tall, a little stooping & <suithed> getting on a little reserve a sort of melancholy pensive look & a little of the bilious. Charley is as demure as ever & grows finely. All now seems fair and pleasant but sudden squalls & even storms in our social & temporal affairs are as common as in the atmosphere but he that has the grace of faith will have that of resignation & be greatly protected from the affects.

Your Uncle Ensign Otis

[Envelope]

Leeds Dec 10

O.O. Howard, Cadet

West Point N. York

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235 12/12/1850 *From:* John Otis

*To:* Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0227

Washington

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington Dec 12 1850

My dear Nephew

I was glad to hear from you by your letter, and to learn that you are getting along in your new position with credit to yourself. You possess advantages in having had a previous liberal education, and habits of mental discipline however imperfect that I presume few in your class have. This advantage I trust you will use to the best advantage.

Otis only in high advancement and high standing that an education at West Point is so very desirable. A mediocrity only gives him an appointment in one of the Infantry Regiments. Then to wait for the regular promotion by the service of years or by the accidental death of those preceding him. & every new class will make the advance more slow till it will take a long life time to get promoted to the second or third place in a Regiment.

I heard from you by Mr Sawtell who was at West Point to see his son. He said the adjutant, Mr Williams, who is from Augusta, & the son of Judge Williams, a friend of mine, informed him that you stood high in the class. As one from Maine he will be disposed to be friendly to you & will feel proud in your obtaining a high standing.

I looked over the return of conduct & found you were amongst nine who had no black mark against your name. This is well, very well. The return of the standing of the class will not be made till the first of January, & then I shall hope to see your name amongst the five first in the class.

I received a line from Rowland Bailey this morning. Vaughan is going with him to N. Yarmouth to school. I will when I think of it send you some newspapers. It will give me pleasure to hear from you.

Very sincerely your friend  
John Otis

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard  
West Point

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236 12/13/1850 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [O.O.] Howard

OOH-0228

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Dec. 13. 1850

Friend Howard

I must up to some diltoriness in answering your last letter which I received since 3 or 4 weeks ago. But in the mean time I have been very busy, I assure you. It was near the close of my fall term which you know is always a busy season with Teachers. Especially when they have an examination as we did from which we wished to derive some credit to ourselves. Then after that was over vacation came on of course & what a vacation is for letter writing you are well aware. A fellow feels just as though he "didn't care whether school kept or not", at least so I felt and acted - for I was lazy enough. I went down to Pittston to see "old Jack" & gave an address before his school which was something, for I had to write a part of it after I left Yarmouth. This & reading a little in Shakespeare was the account of my labor for two weeks in the Daytime. How I set up "o' nights" & studied & talked & read & planned is known to but few & it is hardly worth while that even I should make it a matter of boasting. I was always diffident upon such points.

Well vacation is now over & I am beginning to settle down into the realities of things again. The <facing> region in which I have been living is vanishing & will soon live only in the remembrance of the past though the beings that peopled it I hope will still continue to grace this terrestrial globe for long years to come. In fact, Howard, I have had a first rate time during my vacation & this makes the confinement of the school room & the Commons rather borous. But such are the charms & changes of fortune. To day we are reclining on beds of roses, snuffing the fragrance, distilled from the first flowers of fancy, tomorrow thrust out upon the wide & cheerless world, obliged to buffet the opposition of winds & waves with scarce a friend to encourage or support us.

But enough of <moralizing>. The "<>" of the world I know how to appreciate or if I did not I should soon learn. Some run to look out for them. I'll join my view to the universal discard, though not, I hope, to increase it, when the proper opportunity is presented.

Jackson has been getting along very well this fall & winter he had a school of about 80 scholars & continues at East Pittston during the winter & probably during the year. Adams is in Brunswick, working at his trade. He is attempting to tend <School> but has not done much at it yet. Everett was away & I did not see him. Perley you have perhaps heard from since I have. His school closes next Wednesday I think. Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, Dec 19. I shall probably see him then. Townsend wrote me a few weeks since. He was about as usual "fine & lazy" as ever. The world will go well with him whichever side is <[hole]>. And now I have told you of all the classmates I have heard from & how are you flourishing? Really I would like to give you a call & think I may next fall on my way out west if nothing special prevents. How I would enjoy a call from you & time to talk over old Times. But it cannot be at present.

Your brother R.B. & cousin B. V. Otis are here this Term. They are well & doing well. R. is a smart scholar I assure you. We have but just commenced yet & have at present only 26 scholars. This number we hope & expect to increase to 40 or 50.

And now here's wishing you prosperity & happiness during the winter campaign & a pleasant service through your course. Let me hear from you as soon as convenient.

Truly yr Friend &c  
J. N. Jewett

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237 12/17/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0229

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Dec 17th 1850

My dear Son,

Yours of the 8th came to hand Sat eve--g (as always is the case) was read with great pleasure. I shall not attempt to answer it, but try to give you some idea what has passed with us in one week. Last Wednesday R.B.H. left home for his school at Yarmouth taking Vaughn with him. Your father went to Green with him. Your Mother who had managed to leave every work undone to fit up R's and V's little affairs Set herself to regulating her house in washing, baking &c (her only help being Nancy <Manwel> Phebe's sister, who is feeble. She washes dishes, sets the table, mends clothes and makes some &c) in that way got nicely clean'd up by Saturday morn.

One fact I have left out in this eventful week. We received a letter from Addison Martin telling us Rowland A Gilmore was on the way home, and we saw by Tuesday evening's paper that the steamer had arrived in New York city Saturday about eleven in the morning. Who should come in but Rowland A Gilmore looking just as he always did when he lived at home and came into the house. You cannot think what impulsive feelings it gave me. Arza was in New York when Rowland came in. He came in the Georgia saturday morn\_g.

Arza left Wayne Wednesday quite comfortable but the journey was to much for him. He returned in a worse state than when he came home before. Arza has not stopt with us but very little this fall. Only to rest on the way from Green to Wayne. He was in a bad state all the time he was in the city. He was not able to go to the boat, when it came in and those who came to the house where he was knew nothing of Roland and R was in the city until Monday morn--g before he saw Arza and then by accidend. Roland with one of his companions in toil and hardship, were going the depot to go to Philidelphia to carry their chest when he saw Arza walking on before him. He hailed him in one of his old Phrases, "hold on there". Arza knew his voice.

We sent for Lavernia who was at her fathers Saturday evening. She came with a little babe six weeks old [Arza Gilmore Jr, b Jan 22, 1850]. A son she has never brought him here before. Arza suffered beyond accountable here. Yesterday his father and Roland conveyed him and his wife and child to Wayne again. Rowland A is very free to converse on what he has pass'd through and seen, his hair breadth escapes. He regrets very much he did not go to West Point, but says Arza did not tell him you was at W.P. until after he left the City, say Arza did not know anything except Rhumatism and bees. He waited in the City two days for Arza in which time he could have visited you with less expence than staying there.

Addison's letter I shall enclose to you. The part he wrote of it, which he wrote me, Martha his sister is boarding at John Otis' attends that school. Elder Barrows teaches in that district. I wish to be kind to her but she trys my patience beyond account. She is a great heedless girl. I wish she was better off than with me. I hope I shall feel different towards her from what I did when she went away. To see such a great lump of laziness before me and knowing it to be my duty to make an effort to benefit her almost crazy'd me. She will not exert herself any but keep telling her wants. I am wholly incapable of doing justice to her.

I have no news to write in particular. Charley and Dellie and John attend school, we have a good school Benson Caswell teaches. I hope you get along well. I shall write again soon. When I hear R. relate his sufferings I think of you. I hope you will not suffer with the cold. Wear all the drawers and under shirts you can get. Have your shoes large and were two pairs of stockings. O! How much your good is at my heart, but you must act from your own judgment.

In haste your mother  
Eliza Gilmore.

O.O. Howard

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238 12/20/1850 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0230

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec 20. 1850

Dear Mother

I have just this moment received your letter and am happy to find that Roland has really arrived alive, safe & sound. The name of Gilmore was among the names of those who came in the Steamer I saw by the papers. I presumed that it was he as the name of Capt. Bodfish (I believe) was in the same list. I regret very much that Arza should have been so forgetful. I presume that the pleasure of seeing his brother, coupled with his painful emotions rather perplexed him at the time. Nothing indeed, could have given me more joy than to have had Roland come to see me & spend a few hours with me. I wished at least to scold him for not answering those long letters I wrote him while he was gone. I am glad he has got home. I would shake him quite to pieces if I could get hold of him. I am sorry that you did not write any thing of Elias Lothrop, for Warren is very anxious on his account since Francis left him in such a low state of health.

My health is good excepting a horrid toothache. I cannot well make up my mind to loose another of my double teeth, but I presume I shall be obliged to sacrifice either my tooth or my comfort.

I applied to Capt Brewerton the other day for leave of absence for Christmas. He made no objections & therefore I presume he will let me go. Uncle Ward wrote him a note requesting that I might visit himself and his sick son. I anticipate much pleasure & recreation on Christmas, for one day's freedom is to be regarded as of some amount in this place. I am now doing very well in my studies - am obliged to study a little harder as we approach coming January examination. This season like every other will soon be over.

Uncle John Otis wrote me a letter that I rec'd the other day. He said that everything depended upon my standing high, that I had no demerit recorded against me, that the adjutant here, Brevet Capt. Williams of Augusta (Judge Williams son) said that I was doing well. I had seen this Capt. Williams, but was not aware that he was from Maine, or that he knew anything of me. I expect to stand amongst the first five in my class. If I find that I cannot: then, certainly, West Point will not keep me many years.

Uncle Ensign too has written me a good long epistle, for which I feel really grateful to him. Mr. Jewett informed me in his letter that Vaughan and Rowland were at Yarmouth. I want to hear how Roland Alger liked the far famed land of California. How cheerful home must seem to him. Ask him how soon he will be willing to leave it again to go in search of gold? Not very soon methinks. We had our first snow storm yesterday. This makes it look very much like winter. But all the beauty of the winter is lost to one who cannot take a single sleigh ride. I have heard one (pair) or set (string is better) of bells and seen one sleigh. This was enough to revive in my memory many old ties of "rides, tipovers, and breakdowns", enough of which it was always my good fortune to enjoy. Perhaps Laura can tell better than I of our mutual accidents, of the "futility" that seemed to attend every ride we took in company.

Warren Lothrop said that he saw Arza in N. York when he was there last. I hope really Arza is not going to lose his health entirely. He is perhaps over anxious about his business; I should suppose that he had been engaged long enough with Gid Lane, to be able by this time to put best face upon every thing. I go regularly every Saturday afternoon and make Warren a call. His Barracks are about a half mile from mine. Where he lives is off limits, but there is scarcely ever an officer there, I can go Saturday afternoons with perfect impunity. You perhaps know that we cannot visit officers or soldiers quarters or any public or private house on the Point without especial permission from the Superintendent. Among the Cadets it is thought almost degrading to speak to an enlisted man much more to be intimate with him. This is the foolish pride of rank. This universal spirit has some influence upon me, as ridicule always cuts me with a keen edge. But I always laugh at rank. I visit Warren and he comes to see me. Some fools stare and whisper, but "its all right". They say his Captain likes him much. You can't imagine how much I sometimes long to be at home. Generally, however, as soon as I find I am growing homesick I plunge more deeply into my studies, or commence writing letters. Two years will very soon pass away & again, if I am alive & well, the home which is now so familiar to my conceptions will again find me its inmate. Next June will come soonest, when I shall expect to see you here. I have written this letter much after the fashion of a child, who has just gone from home for the first time. But as my thoughts have

become crowded and disconnected, so is my letter. You need not fear for my comfort, for Uncle Sam is a very fair provider. He thinks of giving me a great coat as soon as I am fairly out of debt. I believe I am out of debt already. My uniform, bedding & furniture involved me somewhat at first.

You can't think how prudent we all are for the sake of having plenty of money in the pocket on furlow. Some Cadets save over 100.00 dollars & spend it all on furlow. All I wish is enough to go home with & get back with.

The next letter I write I shall give you a history of my Christmas adventures. They have queer times here on that day. I suppose Rowland Bailey did not see Roland when on his way home(?) Tell the latter he must either write me himself or tell you some of his long stories which you can transfer to me.

I study till ½ past 9 in the evening and get up at five in the morning & review my lesson again before "reveillee", which is now at 6. Breakfast is at seven.

Give my love to all and write as soon as you can. I see that Addison knew of my appointment. When I can get time I shall write him a letter. I should judge from the tone of Addison's letter that he intends to make California his permanent home.

I don't think, mother, more than you, that it is your duty to take & befriend all your lazy relatives. If Martha Ann was a bright, smart, girl she would be a companion for you as well as a great help to you. But as she does not appear to have the proper disposition, she would be but a burden.

[See Note 1]

Have you learned how Aunt Martha Jane is suited with city-life? I wrote Uncle Henry a letter the other day in compliance with Aunt Martha's request, which she made of me when I was at Hallowell. I have not heard from Peleg lately; perhaps it is his vacation.

Almost every day some young man, who expects to be "found deficient" the coming January, comes to <me> for "citizens clothes". I have'nt yet parted with the < right edge covered up> suit, that I wore when I came on; & shall not unless I <> get a pretty good price. I undertook once to <> my under shirt; but this made my uniform coat <> so tight, that I was colder than before. I am <> well versed in cold weather as you very well <know>.

My uniform coat is lined but not wadded. It <> very good service as it buttons up so snug. I wear <> vest. I would give more for a good solid pair of boots <> than for any other article of protection.

Uncle Ensign said that Rowland B was growing <tall> and that he stooped a little. I am sorry for the <latter> for there is nothing that injures the appearance of a <> man & nothing worse for his constitution than this <>ing the lungs into a small compass by not keeping <> the shoulders in their proper place. Tell Charlie <> keep up straight. How is Charles getting along with <> his studies - the best scholar in his school? And <> wide awake little man Dellie - is not he too to be <> good scholar? When I graduate from this place Charles <> will be a young man. It does not take long for a little boy to become a man, in stature; but much time & much experience are required to mature the mind. I have been industrious, but I am yet but a child in intellect. Of what avail do you suppose all my studying is to be? Could I acquire all the knowledge of a Macaulay it would not add one tittle to my happiness. But such is man. Just let ambition once enter his heart & take up its abode, and his life will be a restless strife after something he can hardly tell what. So far, however, as Ambition leads him to develop the powers of intellect, which the God of nature has given him for cultivation, so far it leads in the right track. With me the eye of hope penetrates the distant future, and marks in fancy, a happy quiet place, where I can enjoy domestic ease & prosperity & where, surrounded with warm friends, I can live a contented life. How foolish such dreams, when a man has once launched his bark upon the sea of ambition, he will never rest till disappointed hopes have driven him, broken & shattered, into a quiet harbor. His happiness must consist in reaping the fruits of his ambitious efforts.

Mother, I have been talking as though to myself. What I should have said & that briefly is that I might in the end have been as contented & happy as an industrious farmer; but that the channel of my life is now turned in another direction & that quiet & retirement could not now afford that contentment.

Remember me again to all. Don't puzzle yourself too much with the half-mysterious nonsense that you may now & then find in my letters. Good night.

Your affectionate Son  
Otis

[Note 1: May 1851 was written in pencil at the top of the partial letter that started here and went to the closing. But this is probably the missing page at the end of 12/20/1850]

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239 12/23/1850 *From:* F T Sargent

*To:* Oliver O Howard Esq  
Cadet

OOH-0232

39 South St.  
New York

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Dec 23 1850

Dear Otis

Are you still in the land of the living or have you long since taken your departure for another and brighter world where you are so happy that you have forgotten all that you ever knew of us poor mortals, or is your time so much employed that you cannot devote a few minutes to any save one? If this last be so, then I forgive you this long silence, for there is a pleasure in such correspondence that seldom attaches itself to any other, but seriously my dear fellow why have you not written to me? Did you not receive my letter written a few days after I receive your kind one? Or was it not worth replying to? I recollect now that it was written in great haste, and when my thoughts were confused, for I I was then very much engaged but I cannot attribute it to anything of this kind, and am quite at a loss, but think I shall know soon.

Months have passed since you were here, yet I have but few changes to note or few complaints to make. A kind providence has watched over me and mine and blessed us with comparative health, and we have no cause to complain. Epes & Silas [Epes Sargent & Silas Lee] are about the Same as when you left them, pretty steady for boys of their ages, but I am afraid they don't spend their time as profitably as they might. They will be <> if they live to grow older. They are still boarding at the Pearl Street House.

In October I made my visit East, and of course enjoyed it exceedingly. I found Sarah [Lee] in Hallowell, remained there three or four days and then we started again for Boston on our way to Machias where we went to visit my brothers. We remained in Boston two to three days, heard that sweet songstress "Jenny Lind", and then took the boat for Eastport. Sarah was quite sick but soon got over it after she landed. We went to Machias and there remained for two weeks. Had a happy time and enjoyed it much. We came from there back to Boston or rather to Portland and took the cars from there to Boston. Sarah was very sick returning, which is the reason we did not keep on in the Boat. If we had had time it would have given us much pleasure to wait upon Miss Waite, but as my furlough was fully up I was obliged to keep on and only remained with Sarah two hours in Boston. I was very sorry to leave her, but could not avoid it.

There is no use for me to attempt to tell you what a delightful time I had of it, but you can easily imagine, for you have been just as happy no doubt, as I was. My stay at Hallowell, though short was very pleasant, and I much regretted that I could not go out and see your mother and the rest of Sarah's friends in that vicinity. I stopped with Mr Strickland, and was very kindly treated by them all. Mrs L is a charming woman, your Grandmother seemed as smart as when I was there three years ago. I saw Henry Wingate & his wife. She had an infant of a few weeks, - spent one evening with Mary Richardson. She seems about the same as when I first knew her. She's very pleasant. I don't know that I can tell you anything more of Hallowell that will interest you. Henry Strickland has moved to Portland and commenced business there. They board for the present at the US Hotel. When do you expect to see your friends from Portland? I am sure you must want to, and I wish for your sake that it might be very soon, but presume not before next Summer. 'Tis hard to separate ourselves so long from those we love, but there is a great deal of pleasure in receiving a nice long letter every little while, and nearly as much in writing. I enjoy both.

How (to change the subject) do you get along with your studies. Is it cold work drilling this weather with white cotton gloves on or don't you have much of that to do now?

I wish you a merry christmas, and if I were not engaged to go a little beyond your place to Chemung I would come and see you. Do the cars stop on their way down? I shall return Thursday [27th] in the morning train and should be glad to see you and William Webb at the cars.

How cold it has been here today, and how the wind did blow yesterday & last night. Why! It was almost dangerous for a man to venture out when the wind could get a fair swipe at him. We have had no snow here yet. Ergo, no sleighing, but what if we had? Where is the pleasure in sleigh riding when there is nobody near that you care to take as a companion? I always found a pleasant female companion a large contributor to a

pleasant ride. This reminds me of the many grand times I have had in this way. I could say "come again bright day", but when will it come? Here I am pent up within the walls of a great city, the same river greets my eyes from day to day, the same buzy hum, and deafning roar of business greets my ear, but the pure sweet air of heaven gets contaminated e'er it reaches us. I would much rather live in the country on many accounts than in the city, but I am very well situated here, and hardly think I shall leave for any consideration at present.

Wednesday Morning 25th. I do not leave this morning as I intended to, for Chemung as I understand last night that the Rail Road was out of order, and concluded not to go. I shall remain at home all day, and do nothing particular more than on other days, although it is quite a hollyday.

Shall be glad to hear from you when you can find time to write and am

Very truly  
Your friend  
F T Sargent  
39 South St.

Oliver O Howard Esq  
Cadet  
West Point

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240 12/29/1850 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0233a

S. Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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S Leeds Dec 29 1850

O. O. Howard

Dear Brother Otis

I will try to answer to your request for me to write you, but I do not boast that it will be done very elegantly. You wished for me to tell you concerning our school. We have a good school it is taught by one of the most popular men we have in the town. He is one of the select men and our representative to the legislature. His name is Benson Caswell. My studies are Geography, Grammar & Arithmetic. I study two arithmetics, Greenliefs and Colburns. I suppose you are acquainted with the latter as it is your old one that I am studying. Why I studied it was because would give me a better idea of fractions.

I see by your letter, that you are glad as well as all of the rest of us that Roland has got home. He is the same old fellow that he was when he went away, only a little more gentlemanly. He don't seem to be afraid of any body now, but he is Roland after all.

We had a very severe storm here last Monday & Tuesday that filled the roads all up and the wind blew the snow up on great drifts before the doors. We just got them shoveled away when another great northeaster came upon us, for when we arose this morning the wind was blowing from the northeast and it was snowing very fast. The sun has come out though now.

It is now two o'clock A.M. and mother is a getting dinner. You know we always have a late dinner Sunday. Nancy Manwell lives here. She is a helping mother get it. Father and Roland are talking of California and things of California. I can't tell what Johny and Dellie are doing and saying, for they are doing and saing everything. They both go to school and I guess they will learn. Rodelphus' studies are Peter Parley's Geography and Smith's Arithmetic. He has just come in to the room, wishes me to send his love to you. We are all in good health here at home. I have just been to dinner and had some thing that I guess you don't have very often for dinner. It was some fousls. I have asked Roland if he should write to you. He said he didn't know. I think likely that he will. Mother will write some to you to send with this.

I wish you a good by. From your affectionate Brother  
Charles

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241 12/29/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0233b

S Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Charles]

My Dear Son

We received your very kind and seasonable letter last eve—g and one from R.B. at the same time, the first we have had since he went to Yarmouth. He expressed some concern because you had not written of late to him, thought you might be punishing him for some of his fancy jokes, but you probably have written ere this. Rowland is rather careless about his person in every respect, for which I am not only sorry, but disappointed. But I am in hopes he will yet do different. He has a chum this term, who is not agreeable to him. He says he is not getting on in his studies as well as last term on account of his chum. But the weather has been extremely cold all the time since he went back and studying in a room alone had become a habit with him, of which he will get the better of. Your last letter seemed more cheerful than they had done, and I hope your situation is not calculated to make you unhappy. When hear R.A.G. relate what he has past through and what he has seen others suffer I think your lot is comparatively easy. Altho, my heart has ached for you when I have thought of your discipline. I am sure it is a place I should never chosen for you but you accepted it and I hope it is for your future benefit. You are in a place where I do not trust my thoughts to look into the future, only in the thought of beholding you whenever I can. I hope you will always retain your integrity and cultivate a stock of useful virtues. I desire very much you should enjoy yourself as you go along. If you can do it in well doing don't think to much of perplexing circumstances that are unavoidable.

I now return to my writing after leaving at twilight. I have been listening to R. relating some of his narrow escapes. It is astonishing how much men will venture for gold. Roland has brought home nothing more than a fair compensation with all adventures. Roland brough from California a letter for Warren Lothrop from Elias, and gave it to Mr Leonard at the road the same time he gave him mine that contained Addison's. Had he been at the office when you wrote. Elias health was improving when Rowland left him. Roland thinks E will return soon. R feels bad when he says anything about E.s being still in California. It is an awful undertaking to come from California to New York City. A great many have died on the way and many have died immediately on arrival. Rowland intends stoping at home through the winter.

I have heard that sister M.J. Strickland is in Portland and that is all. She was making preperation to appear very Smart in P— when I saw her. Sister Ann is at Mothers and Sarah with her. The winter has been very close so far. I hope Jan. will be more mild.

Christmas with you is past. Just before Christmas we had a tremendous storm which prevented us from attending a donation at Mr B's our minister's. The roads were so blocked they could not be made ready in time for us to go. The donation is still on hand. I thought of new years, but a storm to day prevented an appointment. We shall have rather stiller times in Leeds than common this winter.

The Miers's and Sherril are gone and doct Lord &c. Jane Bates was here one day full of her lousy, uncivil talk as ever. She says we have seven Widowers in Town. That is enough to keep all the old maids on the watch.

I saw your Aunt Lucretia at meeting the last Sabbath and talked with her. She sent her love to you and said tell Otis to persevere all will prove right by and by. She said Laura had a son, several weeks old. Roland says he did not receive but one letter from you, and that one Mr Curry carried out in December. Your father mailed a Kennebec Journal date 26 of December.

Leeds January 5th 1851

My dear son. I did not think this letter would lay here over two mails when I laid down my pen last sabbath but it has been an uncommon busy week with us and very cold. The thermometer has ranged very low this morning, ten below zero after a severe blow and the roads blocked so much. We did attempt going to church. I suppose your class examination has commenced ere this. You have your mothers interest in this, as in all other situations, but she cannot be any benefit to you. You must stand for yourself. Divine wisdom has so fixed his laws that every Creature must give an account singly to him and in all things it is well for us to stand for

ourselves. But still we are very dependant on each other for comforts.

Rodelphus seems to come forward in stature and intellect but is uncommonly coarse in every respect. He gets whipt at school a great deal. Sometimes I feel almost overcome to think how much he is thrashed in school. He has never mentioned it to me but Charles is almost out of patience at seeing him a mark for a malicious temper. I shall be glad when the school is done as I do not wish to make any noise about it on many accounts. My first and greatest reason is the fear of injuring Rodelphus. How much we have to encounter, and how much wisdom we need to help us along. I seem to be carried along on the wheels of time for some reason or other.

Your Uncle John when he was here said William had taken a school in New Portland but I have not anything more about him since. Your Uncle Ensign has been gone to Farmington the past week to try to get up an interest there in his rail road. Your father spent the day at Mrs Lothrop's yesterday. They are all well.

Your affectionate  
Eliza Gilmore

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242 12/30/1850 *From:* Otis [O.O. Howard] *To:* R.H.Gilmore

OOH-0234

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[no date, assume 12/30/1850. It was at the end of all the 1850 letters]

My dear Dellie

Try and see if you cannot beat your brother in writing, by copying the letters you find below. Tell me if you can read my writing generally. I don't think you can without help, for it takes much practice & much familiarity with my shapeless characters to understand them. Tell me too, if you would like to see your Cadet brother & how much you would give to do so. Time passes rapidly & if I live & am well I will very soon be with you. Do you keep Rowland in wood or is he able to be out with the rest of the family!

Good night. Go to bed & dream of your affectionate brother.  
Otis

[the alphabet in script letters, both upper and lower case]

A B C D E F G H I J K L M or M N O P

a b c or c d e f f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y

Q R S T or T U or U V W X or X Y Z

Try, for I know you can beat that. To R. H. Gilmore

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243 1/1/1851

*From:* Rowland Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0235

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Jan 1st 1851

Dear Brother

I wish you a very happy new year. We have got an adjourn today, though I don't know what for. So I say again Happy new Year.

This is one of the mornings, such as you remember. Thermometer 10 below zero and no grumbling, but for all that it as pleasant as you very often experience. The air is clear and bracing, making one feel as though, if they did have to fly round to keep warm yet they were able to. I sat upp last night to see the old year out and the new one in, and some of the boys gave a first rate treat, to which we all did ample justice.

Then some of the students made so much noise this morning as to get Mr. Jewett out an hour before his usual time (8 oclock) and cause him to address them in no very conciliatory manner, merely remarking that such a noise as that was better fitted for the cedar swamp, than North Yarmouth Acad.

I have not heard from home since I have been here except through you. From you I first learned that Roland had got home. I see by the paper that the dividend to the working members of the Co. was \$1800. a small sum truly for such a risk, but he has obtained I suppose in some degree what he told me he was mostly going for, to see the country, yes! I think he has seen California to his hearts content, else he would not come home satisfied with enough of its golden treasures to comfortably start him in business there and double in a short time. But perhaps it is better as it is, as I see by the papers that the cholera is raging fearfully there, besides other death dealing diseases of the climate.

I was into Portland on Thanksgiving evening, but went in the evening train and came out at 7 o'clock in the morning therefore had not time to call at Mrs Waites. We had a Thanksgiving dinner a Christmas supper and New Year's holiday so I think we have fared quite well this winter. We are at present reading Cicero, have read the first 2 orations. I find several convenient pomes in the book I bought of you.

In Greek, my little class which is not so far advanced as the first one, is reading mythology in the Greek Reader. I find Greek is a great deal easier to me than at first though still rather a bore, but I shall come round by and by.

Perley has been at home spending his vacation, and yesterday on his way to Portland he stoped here. He apears in good health and spirits, says he has been blocked up at home all through vacation by the deep snow. Msrs Jewett & Robinson are going into Portland with him this afternoon to hear Pres Woods speak before the Lyceum. I should like to go in myself but went <[torn edge]> the 'change' makes me stay at home.

I seriously fear the state of Maine will fail. She is unused to such losses as the Insane Hospital & the State Prison, and if the State House should go I think, as, the saying is, she would be "dead broke".

Vaughan is with me and enjoys himself very well and I think is learning some. His father seems quite anxious about his learning. He has written me twice concerning him.

Perley & Jewett say give him my respects, and the former says 'answer my last letter' and the latter 'You will hear from me soon'.

Vaughan had a letter from Maria the other day. She is well and was going to Bath to spend Christmas. Says that William is keeping school. I did not understand where. Do you ever hear from Silas Lee. If you do, how is he, Mr Sargent, Sarah, &c.

I saw an article in Sartain's Magazine entitled, A Morning Visit at West Point, [Note 1] and the lady makes it out a delightful place filled with delightful people. You had better get it and see what you think of it.

Write me all about Christmas. I should like first rate to come out next Summer if I was prepared for College and had money enough &c. Do you have time to read any. If you do, and have not read "The <Caltors>", read it. I have read it three times and find the last the best.

Uncle Henry is in Portland. Got a great store. I saw it, but not him.

Your Brother  
Rowland

[Note 1:  
A Morning at West Point  
By Amy Lothrop

A short ride in the cars, a sail across the river, and a beautiful up-hill drive, brought us to Mr. Ryder's hotel one morning in time for a late breakfast. We were so unromantic as to have good appetites, and so thoughtless as to spend a long time in satisfying them. I say thoughtless, not because I advocate fast eating in general, but because our stay at the Point was to be a short one, and we wished to see everything, and the "lions of West Point" are numerous.

"Let us go and see the cadets ride, first of all," said Florence, "the Newtons went every day while they were here, at eleven o'clock, and they say it's perfectly lovely." The proposal was immediately adopted, and we all scattered, each one exhorting the others to make haste. But there is no hurrying some people, and one or two of our party tarried so long at the toilet, that of course we were late, - ladies always are, if one may believe gentlemen, and though we intended to walk very fast, it was no easy matter to accomplish. We were so glad there had been no drought, and the weather was so fine, and it was hard to take our eyes from the plain, and the flag, and the mountains - (I confess mine were fairly entranced) - that when we reached the exercise hall the groups of people outside the windows, and the quick passing horses' heads within, warned us that the riding had begun.

"We shall not get in!" was on every one's tongue, but at the moment a dragoon opened the door, and we entered. All I took in at first was, that two strings of mounted horses were passing rapidly round the hall; that the quick beat of their feet, the smell of the tan-strewed floor, and a certain metallic clang which resounded through the apartment, formed a combination somewhat confusing to my nerves; and that at the far end of the ellipsis there was a place of bonnets, and shawls, and safety, could I but reach it.

One string of horses had just passed, but I in my wisdom looked to the right hand, as well as to the left, and there were the second string, headed by a new figure in heraldry - a cadet and horse rampant, bearing down upon us sabre in hand. Don't anybody laugh, - horses do look remarkably large in doors, and cadets remarkably fierce with drawn sabres at the shoulder, and black straps under the chin.

Well, we waited to see the last horse whisk his tail, and then let out on a trial of speed, - not gracefully I presume, hurriedly I know. But we might as well have been graceful, for we could not reach the partition before tramp, tramp, they were upon us again, and once more I stood still while they clattered by. It was enough to make one think of the old legend of "The Wild Night Huntsman."

"Now you can go," said my companion, and a few steps brought me within the barricade - a slight one to be sure, but better than nothing, and where I had time to look about me.

In the place where I stood there was a sprinkling of cadets and officers, -

"Black spirits and white,  
Blue spirits and gray," -

just enough to amuse any ladies who might tire of the riding; the rest of the spectators were "them things, sir, that do wear caps and aprons" - some sitting, some standing, some mounted on benches, so as to be more on a level with the aforesaid cadets rampant. The caps and aprons themselves were sometimes wanting, sometimes to be seen in new varieties. For instance, - a silk apron with long silk shoulder-straps, unmodified by shawl, cape, or scarf, and overshadowed by a flat, has to say the least a striking appearance, when coupled with those years which we term, "of discretion."

In front of this assemblage of sense and nonsense was a long oval, from end to end of which stretched two rows of pillars. Outside of these went the horses, and in the central space there stood two gentlemen.

"That left hand is Mr. B—," said an officer to me; "he has just come back from his furlough, and has not yet

donned his uniform.”

“And why does he stand there?”

“I don't know, unless to display his mustache.”

There seemed some plausibility in this notion; for Mr. B— stood looking our way in the most complacent manner, and for no perceptible reason.

And now the trot was changed to a gallop, and the orders to “take” or “loose” stirrups, were obeyed without any diminution of speed. The tan flew from the horses' hoofs to our faces, and in the full bright eye of each animal that passed (each quadruped of course), I read no guarantee that he would not take a flying-leap over my head the next time he came round. On they went, without stirrups, and so fast that the inclination to the centre was often so considerable in both steed and rider; bright sabres in hand, and the long scabbards jingling and clattering a most suitable accompaniment.

“Do they never get thrown!” I asked instinctively.

“O yes, often; but they are seldom much hurt. A day or two's medical treatment generally cures them.”

“Black Hawk is a little restive to-day,” added my friend presently, and pointing to a dark horse not in the line, on whose back sat cadet officer; “he don't like that sabre-sheath. Poor fellow! he has been curbed pretty well! - see, his mouth is bleeding.” And as the fine creature threw back his head in uneasiness at the powerful bit, I perceived that the open mouth was indeed of a deeper red than it should be. I was glad to hear “Halt” “Sheath sabres!” and “Dismount!”

Am I ill-natured! - it certainly did seem to me that there was some attitudinizing when the cadets were once more on their feet, - or it may have been that their dress made them necessarily picturesque, stand as they would. I will let the reader judge; but his imagination must furnish the high, Mexican saddles, the gray riding-jackets, and white pantaloons, my sketch would be nothing without them.

One cadet was most affectionately patting his horse on the head and shoulder; another stood half reclining, with his arm thrown over the neck of his steed, cap off, and hair brushed back, both horse and man facing the spectators. A third had confidently let go the bridle, and was now endeavouring, by dint of eloquence, to make the emancipated charger come to his extended hand. But moral suasion failed for once, - the horse was a true American, and though he didn't run away, he scorned to surrender. Mahomet was forced to go to the mountain.

Some time was given them to rest, and then came the remounting, without the aid of stirrups. There seemed to be a preparatory order and motion, and at the next word every cadet but one was in his saddle. He failed; and I was amused at the flushed and somewhat furious look which he gave the spectators, as he led his horse out of the line to make a second attempt. The riding went on as before, with one or two variations, a-la-March cotillion, and then the two lines drew up to go through with what they call “the sabre exercise.”

The instructor, Lieutenant H— who, during the riding had remained almost motionless in the centre of the hall, now rode slowly, among the cadets to criticise their performance. To describe it well, would require much more knowledge of the words and motions than I can pretend to.

Once in a while I could understand an order, as “the point a yard from your horse's head, at the height of a man's neck from the ground.”

Very comprehensible that!

Then there was another manoeuvre, in which the hand being raised in front of the face, both heads and sabre-points were turned towards us - the inoffending spectators; the cadets-rampant being transformed into cadets gardant (heraldic truth compels me to reject the more descriptive term of regardant), and it was hard to tell whether eyes or aabres were the most conspicuous. I had much ado to keep my countenance.

After this the performers twirled the sabres over their horses' heads, and over their own (with an occasional admonition to “take care” of the former); and it was interesting to note the different adroitness and limberness of different hands and wrists.

Meantime some ladies were retiring - in other words, walking off in sight of everybody and a cadet would come

back in great haste for some forgotten shawl, or with a message to some left-behind friend.

N. B. Men should never run.

Or, as that might be a hard maxim to follow when a lady is in one place and her scarf in another, suppose it be adopted that people should never look at them when they run.

But the running ended, and so did the sabre exercise. The cadets dismounted, the dragoons came forward to take the horses; and while the riders "fell in," we walked out, flushed with excitement and the heat of the room, and felt the sweet, cool air, playing about our faces, and a good degree of satisfaction playing about our hearts.

People sometime attain ends which they never aimed at; and I fear I may have made that ludicrous on paper, which in reality was but amusing. If so, my apologies are due to all the horsemen herein mentioned; for they did ride remarkably well - for beginners, and "stuck on" to admiration.

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244 1/2/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0164

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Jan, the 2, 1850 [Probably 1851, because of the reference to West Point]

My Dear Son,

It is now two weeks since you were employed in preparing an epistle for your Mother's gratification, much may have transpired, either to your advantage or disadvantage, while with me, time has kept on. About that unvaried course as usual your letter came to hand Christmas eve. You may have been with your Uncle or not. R.B.H. wrote home on that day, said he had several invitations out, but refused them all. I am in hopes he is giving his whole attention to his studies. I thought when I commenced writing I would give you a detailed account of my manner of spending my last week.

Monday morn. After my usual round of duties, I left home with your father. He drove to the depot at Foster's. There I left him, and drove to your Aunt Aurelia's and took her into the sleigh, and drove to Esq Francis's to attend the funeral old Mrs Francis, who died very suddenly the Friday evening before. She had no sickness, only a shaking sensation that seized her 20 minutes before she was a corps. It can truly be said she lived to a good old age being 88 years of age. Few mothers have left just such a family. She had three sons in the house with her who had always been her peculiar care, whose ages were 68, 69 and 48 and one daughter 57. Davis her grandson took his little boy in his arms and followed his grandmother to the grave.

After the procession had moved away to the grave, my next course was to call at Warren Howards to see Melvin. When I first saw him, the change in him struck me very forcibly, but he seemed quite natural. He enquired after you and Rowland and Charles and said their prospects were good. Melvin will never rise from his sick bed again, his manly features are ghostly and will look no different in death. He asked me if uncle Rowland was as emaciated before he died as he was. I ask him how he felt with respect to departing this life. He said (in answer) that it is natural for everyone to desire life, and appeared quite excited, but I hope Christ will appear for him, and calm the struggle, that now lingers in his breast, for I believe, "Jesus can make a dying bed," feel soft as downy pillows are," while on his breast we lean our heads", and breath our lives out sweetly there." He is a great sufferer, a racking cough and canker in his mouth and throat. And confined to his bed with all other pains and weaknesses which attend such cases as his, He is with kind friends which is a comfort, a good capable mother, doing everything in her power to relieve his sufferings, but everything around him have the marks of Poverty. This much I write you, that you can have some idea of Melvin's prospects.

After taking leave of him I brought Mrs B and Laura Howard home. Mrs B talked much about Mr <Fole's> child that died suddenly the week before. She spoke of Thomas and his school and Valentine's leaving a horse for her &c. And on the whole was in better spirits than usual. I saw that day all of my old neighbors that I loved.

Tuesday evening brought a letter from RB as I have mentioned before, and the rest of the week (until yesterday) has been occupied in making me two winter dresses, one a very pretty striped alpaca, the other a delain.

Saturday. Butchering, finishing up the week. Saturdays' mail brought some comic pictures from RBH to Dellie a token of his remembrance.

This morning brought us a beautiful winter Sabbath morning (fine sleighing, the snow crusted over, you can see the glitter of the suns rays as far as the eye could reach) and with it a desire to attend church. We had no appointment at the centre so Charlie and I went to the Chapel. I enjoyed the ride well and the meeting and saw many familiar faces.. Theressa Howard a fine girl. I did not know her at first. Heard from Melvin no particular change in him. Rodelphus Leadbetter and Lucia made us a visit last Wednesday evening. They were at the chapel with their mother. Today Delphina is married in Massachusetts. Aunt Lucretia will soon be out of girls at this rate. Your father is gone. The most of the time and will be the most of the time. Your examination probably commences this week. The thoughts of your mother will be occupied with you frequently during its continuance. How much I desire that you may be upheld in a calm and happy temper whatever may come. I saw Mrs Lathrop at meeting to day. Charlie has been writing to Lizzie Waite this evening. Your father called there not long ago. He called in at Henry's store, at the same time. Henry Strickland gave him a regular

scolding for telling (last summer) that he offered him two thousand dollars on time, about the time he failed, said he told of it on purpose to haunt him and that one of his boys told of it in Portland. Your father had nothing to do but plead guilty to the charge, but without any design of injuring him, as he knew nothing Henry's business. He did not call on Martha. He was not in Portland but a short time.

I should be glad to be on visiting terms with my family, whether I ever visit them or not, or they me, I sometimes think there is distrust in every quarter, in speaking of your future prospects. In reply to Charlies observation, I hope you will live a just and good life and be prepared to sing Praises to God in the world to come.

There is an aching feeling in my heart towards you ever since you went to West Point, that I cannot define myself. But one thing is certain I have no Patriotism enough yet, to give my son to his country. But one thing I do wish or desire, or hope, that God will see fit to admit him to usefulness to His creatures, if he spares his live to mature years.

George Jones is about leaving for California. His brother in law Curry has returned to take his wife children out and take George with him. I do not hear much about Addison. Only by the Newspapers nor Mr Sargent or Ann, or Sarah.

But I must go and see Mother. I have not seen her since last May. Mrs Francis's sudden departure reminds me that Mother's voice may be hushed in death ere I should see her again. I hope this will find you at peace, and in good Health.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver Otis Howard

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245 1/4/1851

*From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0236

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Jan 4th 1851

Dear Brother Otis

I wanted to show you how well I could write. School did not keep yesterday. Roscoe and I went a skateing. Now I am going to make some Letters. Ss. Tt. Ff. Mm. Nn. Uu. Xx. Aa. Hh. Kk. Gg. Cc. Ii. Jj. Yy. Qq. Bb. Dd. Ee. Ll. Pp. Oo. Rr. Ss. Ww.

From

R.H. Gilmore [Rodelphus Howard Gilmore, b. Feb 14, 1842, Bowdoin College Class of 1863]

O O Howard

[Envelope]  
Paid 3 cts

O. O. Howard  
West Point  
N.Y.

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246 1/5/1851

*From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0237

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y. Jan 5th 1851

Dear Mother

I did think that I should not write again till the result of the examination was known to me, but as our examinations are necessarily very long lasting perhaps three weeks, I feared that you might have some degree of anxiety on account of my delay: therefore I write. My health is very good indeed, and my spirits are on a par.

The examination commenced on Thursday last. The Board of Examiners consists of all the Officers and Professors on the Point. The officers in Uniform & the Professors, with their long & serious faces were convoked at nine o'clock in one of the largest rooms of the academic building. My section was the first called. As we entered the room it seemed more like a solemn tribunal about to administer justice to a set of trembling victims, than like a friendly examination of a set of young men, all radiant with hope & <emulation>. I had seen such solemn visages before, and was neither afraid, nor abashed. Many of my mates were however. When called up some would turn red, some pale & very few would say just exactly what they meant. I gave my demonstration in a voice clear & distinct; and not one word was spoken during the whole of it: I hesitated afterwards when questioned once or twice, but answered nothing wrong. Mr. Abbet will stand at the head of the Class this January & Cadet O.O. Howard, if he is, Fortunate in his English Examination, as in his mathematical will stand No (2) in General Standing. Mr Lee & myself are just about alike in mathematics, but in other studies I am much ahead of him, therefore in general standing I shall stand above him. This is as much as I expected after I found that many of my classmates were my equals in point of a previous education. And if I can graduate among "the five" who are called the "stars" as the five distinguished for scholarship. It is as much as I can covet or my friends can expect. But a truce to rank.

I have paid a visit to Uncle Ward since I wrote and had a very pleasant time; only it gives me pain to see my cousin who once had prospects as bright as my own, so terribly afflicted. Night & day those convulsions continue, and still he can find no remedy. It wears upon his father. I don't think he will ever be well. I was gone one day (& a little over).

I wrote to Rowland Bailey Friday last. From him I have not heard excepting through Mr Jewett, since his return to Yarmouth. Mr Jewett merely said that he & little Vaughan were there & well.

Now how do you all do at home? Four months & over have now passed away since I left that home, whose charms & comforts I have better learned to value by being deprived of them, for more is my mind & my heart turned towards them than if I lived in luxury. It is good for a young man of reflection to leave home for a place like this. He can never half comprehend the true merit of affection, until he goes where no hand is ready to supply his every want, when no heartfull of sympathy can anticipate, and assuage the slightest pain. We are all fools, but experience, strange to say, will often cure us of folly. A blessing is a curse to him, who knows, who feels it not, but a curse is a blessing if it opens our eyes to truth, and makes us able to appreciate what is truly valuable.

Ask Roland if he did not sometimes feel a little desolate, a little heart sick, when he had toiled all the day for gold and retired to his quarters, to find no pleasant room, with a churning fire glowing upon the hearth, no warm supper, upon a neat & inviting table, no friendship, no sympathy, no anything which is comfortable. He must have said to himself sometimes "How foolish I was to be unhappy, to be discontented with myself & my lot, when I was surrounded by everything that a man could desire." Why the very atmosphere of home must be friendship & sympathy to him now. How I wish myself could fly to you as easily as my fancy, but my voice will not be heard in the family circle for a very long time. Yet I shall never be forgotten, nor shall I ever forget, or underrate the value of my home. Nature has bound me by a strong cord & though, it may be elastic, it is invisible and will never be severed.

Lizzie wrote that she was just going to Livermore. Have you seen her? If she has made you a visit you must write me. Have you no thoughts, no plans for the future, or determinations for the present that will be of interest to me to acquaint me with. I know your time is employed. I know that your pen can't be so active as mine, for I

am young & full of thoughts such as they are. They flow without regularity & I am sorry to say, often with very little sense. But there is no other way, you will be obliged to write to me a great deal, for you remember my restless nature, & from it you can easily see that I cannot be with you much again, although I may. For concerning the future we can only conjecture aided perhaps by the present & past. Everybody, almost, says I am well situated (?). yes, I am well situated, but not well settled. Before coming to this place, I had marked out the course that I should pursue with much precision. All my plans are disarranged, and in all probability the chance which placed me here has changed the whole course of my life. Would you like to see me an officer in the United States Army? You do not think I shall continue in the Army long after I graduate, neither do I. But to confess the truth, the habits, the companions & the influences of a military institution, over a young man, whose character is just forming, can only be fully understood by him, who has been subjected to them. Who can tell whether four years in this place may not almost wholly change my nature? But why reason so? You might judge that I was discontented & wished to leave. It is not so. This is my way. I would not leave if I could now; for this reason, that every thing in the world appears so uncertain. I always want something solid to stand upon. Should I leave, ie resign, I should not know which way to turn. Therefore I will hold my tongue, or rather teach my pen to say proper things & not complain. What a glorious motto for a young man is this: "Press steadily onward; take care of the present & fear not for the future."

I can imagine, yes more, I can see Charlie & Dellie, standing near & listening to the above. But methinks it must be rather dry to the little fellows. Tell Charlie that I have been studying grammar, & that the other day I was asked the definition of Orthography & I stupidly gave the definition of Etymology. Ask him if he could not have done better? Give them both my love; and little Johny too. I must not forget him with his laughing face. They must all be good boys & carry all the letters to the Post Office for me, that can be found. My love to Roland & Father. Don't forget that you have written but very little, about Roland & his travels as yet.

Believe me ever your affectionate son  
Oliver O. Howard

Warren was well when I last saw him. I presume he writes home often. Excuse me to Laura Howard for my delay. Tell her that I will make up for it soon. My respects to all my friends & relatives.  
Otis

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247 1/8/1851

*From:* R B Howard

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0238

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Jan 8th 1851

Dear Brother

The devil is in the mail. I know, for I assure you, that, neither "laziness sickness and serious engagements" could hinder me from answering your letters. Your last letter was written on the third and came to hand this morning. As soon as I rec the one before the last I answered it, and you should have got it by this time. I wish that you would just speak to the Post Master General, through your friend the Sec of War in order that after this, the mails may do their duty. If they do not, I shall just clap mine (letters of course) aboard the Telegraph which runs through this place and I advise you to do the same and then I guess that Uncle Sam, will be willing not only to reduce the postage, but quicken the mails, ahem!

Old Robinson has made the following miserable arrangement for a fellow's comfort, viz, the recitations of the first class will be heard in the forenoon alone. Now it must immediately occur to you from the above, that as a natural consequence, if we study at all, we must study in the afternoon, and that, Wednesdays & Saturday afternoons the same as usual. Now this you perceive is depriving us of our cherished "dignity" (what, <afuig> college terms already).

Jan 11th 1851

I wrote the foregoing just after I rec your letter, but was prevented from some cause from sending it. I rec a letter from mother same day I did yours. The folks at home are all well. Roland A rather lonesome and homesick and takes a great deal of interest in Calafornia affairs. I should'nt wonder if he returned or went some where else. I don't think <he> is the person to be contented in Leeds after having been to Calafornia, unless indeed he finds an 'Oman to suit him and then <perhaps> he will "settle down". Mother writes me that time goes rather slow with her, the sleighing is so bad she is not able to get out. I hope you write her often. I know that I have not done my duty in that respect. Sometimes I think very doubtful whether I get into College next fall, if I was a little ahead or behind what I now am, there would be little doubt. For If I were behind I should study hard and if ahead I get in without studying hard, but as it is, it is a doubtful case. I am exceedingly unpopular here this term, for the reason that I am in an office. I am pres. Of the Philogian Society and am Supt. Of the Read Room, in one of the offices I have to quarel about order in the other <> the papers. The Sec of the Soc has got my <> me and resigned, and the consequence of these is a treat anywhere I am not invited besides a thousand other little neglects that show <a> person that his company is not wanted. I must own that I am not a "good fellow" for I do not drink, and have sworn off playing cards. But all I have to say is, catch me in office again in Yarmouth. That's all.

Jan 13th 1851

I guess (Yankee) by this time you think it <takes> me a great many days to write a letter. But something calls me off every now and <then> and so the letter mopes along. I have <just> come in from my Greek recitation in <which> I for once sailed well. We are reading <> Mythological Notices. Greek grows easier every day. <Cicero> is so easy I fear I do not study it enough. You know how it is if a fellow feels that he has got a great deal to do. He will do it, but if not much that little is half done. At least that is the way with me.

I hear Mr Jewetts voice at the door. He has just come in to dinner. I like him first rate. Although Robinson is <> professor of religion, yet I think Jewett is <> best man. I suppose you think the same. <> goes the dinner bell, so here I go to eat <> beans as inseparable to a Monday's dinner <> (well there I can't think of a comparison) after I try their virtue. Good by.

After dinner.

I don't want you to answer me untill you rec this (<drill>) then you must. I am glad your standing in your class is so high for next to my own and almost the same, your success is nearest to my heart. Thus ends this miserable letter.

Your affectionate Brother  
R B Howard

Cadet O O Howard A13

P.S. Vaughan is well and enjoying himself, not studying much though at present.  
R B Howard

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248 1/17/1851 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0239

39 Smith St.  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Jany 17 1851

Dear Otis

Having a few leisure moments after the toils of the day I thought I would just wish you a happy New Year, commence an answer to yours of the 27th Dec, and trust to luck for an opportunity to finish it. I was glad to hear from you, and that you were "still in the land of the living"; good living I hope - and from your report of being "ragged & robust" I fancy you are in no great danger of starving.

How could you for a moment suppose I could make so long a visit as three or four months in Maine? I had hard work to get a furlough of three weeks and an extension of one more when they were up, but I enjoyed them very much I assure you. In one of Sarah letters a few weeks ago she said "Otis promised Mama & I that he would write to us but I have not heard from him yet" - dint you fulfill such promises to the ladies? Look out for your reputation, but that I suppose you think is well established in Portland on that score, and you don't fear much from other sources. Well! You certainly are under greater obligations there than elsewhere, and I don't think if I were you that I would neglect that one for any others but if you can find a leisure moment or two, I know Sarah would be very glad to hear from you. She is in Hallowell.

What did you do New Years day? In Maine and other Eastern States it passes off nearly as quietly as any other, except perhaps the young men get up a sleighing party or something of the kind. But how different here. It is surely a great day and most all seem to enjoy it. Then you have an opportunity of reviving old and cultivating new acquaintances. You have a right to go into almost anybody's house that you please, but there seems to be but very little pleasure and less heart in making calls upon those that you care nothing for. Being disappointed in not leaving town on that day I could not avoid calling upon my friends although I felt but little like it I can assure you. About 12 o'clock I made my first call (some start as early as nine) which was upon a young lady with whom I had met but once and that once at a concert, but feeling a desire to see her once more I mustered courage and went in. She hardly knew me, but soon recollected who I was. I sat a while and had a very pleasant call. During the day I made nearly forty calls, got through about nine, and was very tired indeed. I enjoyed the day very much more than I anticipated, and was not at all sorry that I had undertaken what I called a task in the morning. My last call was upon a young married couple (the bride I had never seen) and as it was late and a little hungry I told them I thought I should get no better dinner than their table offered, and as I intended that my last call I should invite myself to a repast, so my friend and host sat down with me and we fared, sumptuously, Roast Turkey, Oysters in different styles, chicken, Ham, Penguin &c &c & after leaving there I had to walk about 4 miles to get home, which settled the dinner so that I was not troubled much at night with indigestion.

Silas I believe made a number of calls in New York. He is a great hand to make acquaintances, and many of them I regret are unprofitable, he is a great hand to spend his money among the young men thinking thereby (but very erroneously) that he gains their esteem, and makes them think that he has plenty of money, foolish boy that he is, he does not know that true friendship can not be bought with dollars & cents, or that a too free and reckless manner will win the esteem even of those who are of the same cast. Understand me, I don't mean to say that he is one of this class, but he has some foolish ideas that would soon lead him into it. I would prefer that you say nothing of what I have said to you. I shall have a talk with him soon, and hope to be able to convince him of something that he has yet to learn, I think him very much like his father. How can there be such a difference as there is between him & Sarah? He has always listened to me with respect and attention and I hope I shall be able to make him think for a short time. He cares but little for what Epes or Dr Brown (his friend from Boston) says to him, although I think they often touch him on a tender point. You know his weakness. Write to him and give him some good advice.

I congratulate you most cordially on your success in your studies. I hope you may continue A1 (as we rate our ships) through your whole studies, and have no doubt you will. Your leave of absence on Christmas was indeed a short one, but as it was so hard to get, I presume you enjoyed it, was not aware that you had an uncle anywhere near you. It must make it pleasant for you, and yet he might almost as well be a thousand miles off if you cannot visit him. You must be looking anxiously for summer, or rather waiting anxiously when you hope to

see those you love. Well tis not far distant, and e'er we are hardly aware of it, it will be upon us. How rappidly does time fly, and as we grow older the faster it seems to fly. How important then that we shall try and make a good use of it, and strive to grow better as we grow older. I sometimes feel a desire to be good, of course there are but few who do not have this desire when they think of the matter at all. But I mean that I am led to reflect often upon what is the true road to happiness, and I feel sure that it does not consist alone in this month's gross.

I shall be right glad to call up and see you some of these odd days, and if not soon, and I live, I think I shall come on the glorious 4th. Perhaps "Lizzie" will be there about that time. I should like to see her, much, let me know when they come to the City and I will call and see them with great pleasure. Here I am at the bottom of my sheet without hardly knowing it, I dare not read this over for fear I should not send it. You must take it for the <> it is worth. I have written in a great hurry and hardly know what I have said. Respects to Webb & believe me

Very truly yours,  
F.T. Sargent [Francis Taft Sargent]  
39 Smith St.

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249 1/18/1851 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0240

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 18th 1851

Dear Mother,

To tell you the truth I have got out of paper; and after getting out, it is three or four days before I can get any, as every thing is obtained by orders; these orders must be put into a certain box, from which they are taken to the superintendent, signed by him & returned with the "check" or account book. Very often, too, he does not see fit to sign them, then the only alternative is to wait his movements, & after a time put in another order. Therefore have I, after Rowland Bailey's fashion, taken two half sheets, which I happened to find in my portfolio.

Your's & Charlie's double letter I received in good time. Charlie improves in his handwriting and in his manner of expressing himself. Tell him there is no doubt that he will become as good a writer & I hope, a better writer, than his older brother by the time he has seen as many years & written as many thousand pages.

You must never permit yourself the least uneasiness on account of the severity of the discipline under which I am placed. Every thing here has long since ceased to be irksome to me. After a man thoroughly knows what his duty is & forms the habit of performing it promptly, however hard it may be at first, it will grow less & less burdensome, till he will almost wonder how it ever seemed so difficult. Such is my case. At first I met with crosses & vexations at every turn, so much so that I was often sick at heart; but those times have passed. I am now treated as a man & a gentleman by all, and probably shall be thus treated as long as I behave like a man & a gentleman.

I received a letter from Rowland to day. He seems in good spirits as usual. For some cause or other he has not got my letters so regularly, as I have written them. I have written him many letters, & I always fill my sheet. I don't think he has any reason to complain or think of my punishing him. I like to find his letters lively, & jokes, though I do not deal in them over much, please me, rather than awake any feelings of <resentment [right edge is cut off]>. As Rowland is taking the same course, that I have already <pursued> through, I shall watch him with interest. I am glad to find that he has an independent spirit, and is not too easily influenced by companions & those into whose society he must necessarily be thrown. But I fear sometimes that he may carry his independence too far and by this means mar his own enjoyment, thus also rendering society & study less beneficial to him. I know, however, enough of human nature not to be too prodigal of my advice to a brother. Officiousness & long sermons are anything but agreeable to the most patient & affectionate listeners. With a brother example has more weight than advice.

Warren received Roland's letter, or rather his brother's brought by Roland. He did not know that Roland brought it. He said it was marked "way" without any other post mark. He said he could not tell, to save his life, where it came from. I have had them marked the same & explained the mystery.

Uncle John writes me at long intervals, and sends me papers almost every other day. He sent me one the other day containing a sermon, delivered by Mr Fisk of Bath, particularly applicable to the slave law. It was very good, especially enjoining obedience to law. Uncle also sent a letter of introduction written by Mr Sawtell to Capt Williams, of <Maine>. I believe I have spoken of Captain Williams, Judge Daniel Williams' son. He passed through the war in Mexico unscarred, and is now an adjutant at West Point. I have not presented my letter yet, but I think I shall this afternoon (Saturday).

Lizzie writes me that she did not stop at Livermore but a few days and the roads were so blocked up that she could not go any where. She is attending school; says when it is done she shall make you a visit at Leeds. I wrote Uncle Henry Strickland a letter, <some> lines complying with Aunt Martha Jane's request, but he has not answered it yet.

The weather has been quite warm & pleasant for over a week. The snow is almost all gone. In fact we have had but very little snow at all. The winter here hardly equals ones in Maine.

Our examination is over; and twenty three of my classmates have been found deficient & sent home. Some of

them felt very badly indeed. A few declared they would not go home. Others, however, had got sick of the place, and, notwithstanding the disgrace of "being found", were glad to get away. Among them were some with a good education, who depended too much upon former acquirements, and did not study quite enough. Mr. Abbot stands at the head of the class in General Standing, O.O. Howard second. Mr <Ruger> of Wisconsin, third, Mr Lee, of Virginia (Col Lee's son) fourth, & Mr. Deshler (of Louisiana, I believe), fifth. These are "the five" of our class for the present. Mr Treadwell one of my room-mates stands seventh. Mr Browne, 26th. Mr Browne studies night & day. I never saw a greater share of perseverance centered in any one man. He is bound to do well in the end. Lazell stands forty fifth. He has improved very much, treats me well, & therefore I get along with him now first rate. Now we have got to study steadily for five months. I know I would enjoy a vacation of a few weeks, but as I cannot have it, I must make the best of the matter, and take things as easy as possible.

(Saturday evening)

For several weeks past our Band of music have given a concert every saturday night. I have just returned to my room after attending one of these concerts. That is glorious musick. It thrills one often with indescribable feelings. It serves to allay all bitterness & sadness, and awakens a kind of joyousness, a lightheartedness, which has a favorable reaction upon the weary mind. Have you ever noticed that the mind can be tired? Almost every one has at some time exhausted his physical strength, and this had produced a corresponding exhaustion in the mind. But this is not what I mean. The mind when it is weary in my sense of the term, becomes even more restless, when you are awake it is not clear, it is misty; when you are asleep, it continues to labor over angles, triangles, theorems, without coming to any conclusions, it labors like the hero of mythology, who kept rolling a large rock up a steep hill & as soon as he got it to the brow, & thought his work almost done, back it would roll, and again he must roll & toil. My mind sometimes takes to itself such fits.

Well, when in such a state, then the music of the band has a strange & pleasant effect. Why I can sleep after a concert as quietly almost as when a child my mother would hold me in her lap, or put me in the "trundle bed", & tuck me in.

I made Captain Williams a call this afternoon, but he was not at his room, therefore I shall not introduce myself to him till next Saturday afternoon. I saw Warren to day. He is in good health, but scalding sadly, because his friends at home do not write him.

Give my love to all. Tell Roland, to enjoy himself just as much as he can, now, that he has got back whole. He must every where find open ears among the curious people of Leeds, and can probably tell them some hard stories, without in the least stretching the truth. Tattoo has just beaten, & hence we have a half hour to make our beds & stow ourselves away before the three last "taps", which say "tis" "time", "rest". Good night,

Your affectionate son  
Oliver O. Howard  
West Point, N.Y.  
Jan 18th 1851

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250 1/19/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0166

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Jan 19th 1850. [Probably 1851, because of the reference to West Point]]

My Dear Son,

I have attended church to day, a fine winter day and saw quite a number of our acquaintances Uncle Ensign, Laura, Hellen, and Martha Martin, Aunt Aurelia and Thomas, who has returned from Mass. He looks in good health and spirits. Oaks Jennings widdow attended meeting. She has returned from California, and within a few days arrived in Leeds. Last Thursday I attended a donation party at the parsonage. Roland A.G. went with me. It was small but pleasant and all passed off well. I met with Mrs Rackly there. She said Old <Esq.> Perley Peleg's Grandfather died the week before, very suddenly while his son's wife was alone with him. Peleg had been home and returned in RBH's letter of received last eve - he mentioned Perley's returning to Bowd on his way. He stopped one night at Yarmouth.

An idea suggested itself to my imagination that Mrs Waite and Lizey might have accompanied him to Livermore but no one has mentioned such a circumstance. N. Perley came home to his father's funeral and found his brother Ulmer dangerously sick with a fever. I did not inquire after him at church to day as my time was all taken up reading a letter from Lydia Parker to her sister Martha on the subject of her trouble with her father. It seems Lydia has written to Addison on the subject and received an answer. He is greatly grieved at the management, amongst them and had he changed the whole amount and took up all her grandfather left her, he would not have had her chosen a new guardian and now it is pending in law and in a fair way to waste a great part of what the poor child has got. I pity her, her father at war with her and no home to go to and no kind of faculty to make herself agreeable or useful. If I can be any use to her I shall be glad to be. Lydia wrote a good and capable letter. Lydia did not know of her coming away until after she came. Mr. Martin's conduct has been strange indeed to his children.

Leeds February 2th

My Son, you will perceive by the appearance of my paper, it is a long time since I laid down my pen. At the time I wrote the other side Charlie was writing to Rowland, and I covered the sheet to R and it being late left yours unfinished. That week was very much filled up. Arza and wife and babe being here untill Friday afternoon. Sarah Turner staid with me a few days. On the whole it was a week of care and toil to me. Arza is in a miserable way but still I have a hope he may yet be better. Saturday eve received your very seasonable letter. The same mail brought one from R.B.H. and the Jan. Ladies Book from Lizzie Waite. So you see my comforts did not come single.

On the Sabbath I attended meeting all day. After meeting gave way to wearyness and did not write. On Tuesday, I went to Hallowell and returned on Thursday not intending to stay but one night. When I awoke in the morning it was raining hard which continued nearly all day. I had a very pleasant visit. Mother is nicely. Ann is in good spirits and Sarah appeared well. She I think is sewing for housekeeping. She received a letter from Mr Sarjent while I was there. Sarah said he spoke of receiving one from you. Ann spoke of receiving one from Silas. I had my teeth cleaned and filled at the dentist. Thursday and Friday were the coldest days we have had this winter. The Thermometer ranged at twelve degrees below zero the first morning, the next 17 below, 8 at noon below, which made it rather cold for your Mother who goes out so little.

At Winthrop we met with a meeting convened to act on the fugitive slave law. It continued two days. Your father intended to have gone into the meeting and heard some of the discussions but the weather was so cold we made the best of our way home. I think I have never been so chilled since that time that you fell into the cellar which is seventeen years. But the weather is now become mild. Roland A.G. has gone to green to make a visit for the first time since he came home. He has grown fleshy and appears contented. I think he would dread leaving home very much. Charles is very slim in health has a bad cough. He is a good deal discouraged but I am in hopes he will be better in a few days. He has had a cough ever since you left home and the last sudden change in the weather has very much increased his cough. I have been writing to Rowland to see if he could not manage to have Lizzie Waite come home with him when his term closes but I don't know how he will think about it.

As to your expectations at West Point, everything has about met your expectations. You did not look for pleasure when you made up your mind to go, but as far as ambition is concerned you must be satisfied and if you are I am. But when I think how far from me you are and how small the prospect of my ever seeing you much more is, it gives me such a sad feeling of disappointment. But I hope let your situation be what it may, you will try and be a useful member of society.

Sarah Lee said she met one of Proff Packard's sons at a party who talked of you with great regard and told Sarah your standing at West Point, had heard from you by the way of Mr Ives who corresponds with some one at Brunswick.

Good Night  
Eliza Gilmore

Monday eve has brought your mother to her writing again. Charles is telling stories to entertain Johny and Rodelphus and that is better than groaning. You have spoken of our double letters. Write to me whether you pay double postage. You have sometimes written a sheet and a half and did not increase the postage so I tried it. I would like to know if mine were marked double postage. They were given to Mr Leonard here at the door.

Your uncle Ensign called here this morning on his way to Portland on railroad business. I think he has a business now that will last him the rest of his life. I think he enjoys it. You never have said anything about the appearance of your Uncle Wards family, his daughters and his son Lucius. I should like have you say more of them in some of your letters. The time is not far distant when your Uncle John will return to domestic concerns. I cannot see anything but perplexity for him. I believe William left his school before I wrote my last letter. He at his Uncle Ensign's. I invited him to come here and stay some but he has only been here a part of one day. William is growing tall and manly looking. If you should write to your Uncle John you can say John is well and William. He knows where William is.

Give my respects to Warren Lothrop when you see him. Some one was saying that Orville Jennings is married, had married a lady who had slaves and that Orville had written to some of his acquaintances that he found their services very convenient. My sheet is almost filled without anything hardly worth reading unless your attachment to home and mother makes anything from there acceptable. Charlie says give my love to Otis.  
Your ever affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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251 1/23/1851 *From:* C. H. Strickland

*To:* Cadet Howard

OOH-0241

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Jan 23 1851

Cadet Howard

I recd your letter some time since & Martha & I were much gratified at the content of it. We were gratified that you were so well pleased with your situation & that you were trying so hard to keep yourself up & ahead, in your class. It is a trying situation for you, to have to form all new habits & in fact to revamp yourself all over new, as it were. Yet it is an effort that you will be well repaid for in future years. It is trying now, but will be gratifying by & bye. It is a course that gives character & tone to a man, when he is thrown upon the world & nothing to depend upon but his own resources.

We have hardly yet got settled in our new quarters. We are boarding at the U. States House as yet, shall probably get to housekeeping in course of a month or two. Business opens pretty well so far, hope we shall be able to make a line of it, & make something of it. I shall make the requisite effort & hope to succeed. We see Mrs Waite & daughter quite often, think them very pleasant. They feel that you are fixed for a long time, yet that it is for the best.

Your taste is pretty good, as we all give you credit for. If you both can keep your plight for the requisite time, you will be worthy of each other. Your Father has not been down since we have been here. Ensign was down, I just saw him once. He staid a little while & did not call on Martha. He says Will Otis is at his house, having met with some trouble in his school, & left it. He lacks for perseverance & feels that his Father must help him along in the world, a bad idea for any young man to take into his head, as every one ought to have a feeling of dependance upon his own resources & then if all others fail him, he is not cast like a log upon the waters tossed hither & thither at their pleasure, but he takes his place in Society an independent man. Will has got some severe lessons yet to learn if he lives.

Mr Perley calls on us often. He is pleasant & I think will make a smart man. He has some corners in his character & appearance, that will get knocked of by contact with the world at large, as is the case with most of us.

Martha sends her love to you & says she wishes to see you become all that the most ardent wishes of your friends could desire. Adeline my Sister is at Gorham. She made us a visit last week. She likes very well. Maria is also there. She came in & made us a visit likewise & Vaugh who is at Yarmouth.

Jan 25.

I have delayed writing the rest of this until today. Last evening Miss Waite called at our room, said She had just recd a letter from you & you were well &c.

We should be glad to hear from you at your leisure, as we are always glad to hear of the well doing of our family. So when you nothing better to do then you can write to us. By the way we had a letter from Addison a day or two ago. He is doing well, very healthy and contented. California he likes very much. I think Addison will make his fortune out there. I am sorry his Sisters have not been more fortunate, both in their own home (this & others house) & their husbands. As I learn that two of them, Lydia & Emily are not married well. But you hear all of this news from your Mother.

Martha wishes me to give you a great deal of love & also that she feels a deep interest in your welfare & in all that concerns you. As I have no more time at present I must close.

Respectfully Yrs  
C. H. Strickland

[Note: Charles Henry Strickland was Otis' uncle. His wife Martha Jane Otis was a younger sister of Eliza, Otis' Mother.]



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252 1/31/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0242

West Point

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Jan 31 1851. West Point.

Dear Mother,

Some considerable time has elapsed since I have taken my pen to perform the agreeable duty of writing to my mother; for I consider it a duty, in as much as my prolonged absence together with my peculiar situation, has tended to increase the natural anxiety, which a mother feels for a beloved son wherever he may be. I feel it my duty, in a measure to allay any such undue solicitude by keeping up with you a constant, familiar, regular correspondence, placing before you myself as I am, and my situation as it is. But from some cause or other, my studies press harder & harder. I can scarcely steal time enough to write three letters a week. In Geometry we have gone two thirds through a book that we were over three months in completing in College. In French too nearly half of the first Section can speak the language, so, our instructor showed no mercy in giving lessons but taxes our utmost capacity. In Geography we are obliged to learn everything to recite "at tongues end" & to draw the maps from memory on the black board, containing all the principal features, lakes, rivers, towns, &c. This exercise is interesting, but requires time and industry.

Still, I shall write as often as I can. I received a letter from Rowland this noon. He says Mr Jewett is sick of a slow fever. Mr Jewett has done a great deal of labor, for the past four years, and I wouldn't wonder, if he had overburdened even his strong constitution. Rowland thinks, however, that he will soon be able to proceed with his school.

There is no snow on the ground here, but it is colder than Greenland. It had been very warm till yesterday morning, when it set in cold. At parade yesterday I thought I should surely freeze, but as good fortune would have it, I had bespoken a great coat & got it last night. This is the first of my wearing one this winter, but it feels nice & comfortable I can tell you when we are obliged to face the cold, raw wind coming down the river.

The Cadet over coat has, like all things else belonging to us, a peculiar construction. It is made of grey cloth, much longer than common over-coats, having two rows of bright buttons stamped "Cadet U.S.M.A." and a large cape, which we turn up round the face, when it is excessively cold. Those mittens you gave me, were the best article of clothing I had; especially when I went on guard, but I have lost them somewhere; and since we have no pockets, they surely are not "in my pockets" this time. I have worn my uniform dress coat four months steadily till my elbows begin to creep out. I put in an order for another, three times over, but they were not granted, so I went to see Capt Brewerton & showed him my white elbows. The next day he gave me an order for a coat & over-coat. I have now mended my elbows & put my new coat in my trunk.

I received a letter from Uncle Henry yesterday from Portland. He says, he is doing very well, but Rowland writes that his wife is homesick, because she has not a house of her own. When Warren was here to see me, he was scolding about the neglect of his correspondents in Leeds. He seems pretty well content with his situation, desiring, of course, like the rest of us, somewhat a little different, a little higher. I hope he will get promoted, if he is to stay in the Army; for, so long as he has no commission, he is liable, for any little thing, to be degraded into the ranks. So long as he has his present Captain, there is not the least danger of this, for the Capt thinks very highly of him. Warren is called one of the finest looking men on the Point. He does indeed look better than he did a few years ago, with his "bended neck & rounded shoulders." Tell me all you can learn of his relatives, for I like to have something to tell him when I see him.

Uncle Henry says Lizzie calls to see them often. He tells me that he approves of my taste, and with some "ifs & ands" dismisses the subject. He writes me a very consolatory encouraging letter, but with all quite distant.

Lizzie says that she means to make you a visit as soon as her school is done to make amends for not going to see you when at Livermore. She is now attending a High School. The Instructor is brother to my old friend & instructor, Professor Packard. I hear that William Otis has left his school. If you see him ask him to write to me, for I should not know where to direct to him.

Give my love to all the family and believe me

Your Affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

[Postmark] West Point N.Y. 3 Feb 5

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253 2/1/1851

*From:* W. B. Howard

*To:* Nephew [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0243

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 1 Feby 51

My dear Nephew

Your letter a few days after you left us came duly to hand. I was very sorry to learn that your short visit to myself and family should be attended with so much vexation & trouble to you, in fact I am not informed to a half extent. But sincerely hope that your excuse was sufficient to exonerate you from blame. Please write me the result, also any news you may have recd from the Eastward. Augustus health remains about the same. All the rest of our family are well. I hope that you will be able to visit us in the Spring without hindrance or unpleasant consequences. Your Cousins wish to be remembered to you & Join with me in Our best wishes for your health & prosperity.

Your affectionate uncle  
W. B. Howard

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254 2/2/1851

*From:* Maria Otis

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0244

Gorham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Gorham Sun Feb 2nd 1851

My dear Cousin;

I received your letter a little more than a week since; I had almost given up all hopes of receiving a letter from you, so that it was quite unexpected and I like above all things pleasant surprises so that the pleasure of hearing from you was heightened by its unexpectedness. I will therefore readily forgive you for not before fulfilling your promise. I suppose you have a great many letters to write to Maine, I will not say home, as I fear they are apt not to proceed quite as far as Leeds.

This brings to my mind the subject of some questions in your letter. You ask me how I like Lizzie. (I shall use this familiar term in writing you). As far as I know her I can sincerely say I like her very much and I should think as Traddles says in David Copperfield, she was "One of the dearest girls in the world". But you must remember I have only seen her twice. I saw her in Brunswick and dined with her in Portland and I cannot therefore feel as though I knew her very well. But I hope to become more acquainted with her as I shall go into P— quite often now. Aunt Martha Jane has moved there.

I am very glad you are getting on so well at West Point and that you feel better contented than you did when you first went there. Lizzie told me when I saw her at Brunswick that she did not think you were very happy there and I had hardly heard from you since until I saw her in November. She then told me that you liked staying there better than you did at first.

You ask me how I enjoyed Commencement. I was delighted with it; I staid at Prof. Packards, and enjoyed my visit there very much. The exercises were most of them very interesting. I say most of them. There was one exception and that was a poem delivered by Mr. Weston before one of the societies. It was a miserable thing; but I did not know but I might have felt more interested in it if I had not attended the ball the night before. So since I came back here I borrowed the poem of Mr. Weston but I found that it did not improve at all upon a second hearing. I did not go to the ball with Stinson. Will said he did not wish me too. I saw him though at the church on commencement day and spoke with him. He asked me if I was going to the ball and I told him yes; I was going with my brother, and I then asked him if he was going, and he said no. Afterwards Pointdexter came to me and wished me to go with him very much and as I thought and knew Will would like to <every> some of his acquaintances; I accepted and went; I had a very pleasant time. Perhaps you will think I did wrong. I am sorry if I did. But I am not very repentant I fear. I made the acquaintance of several quite pleasant young gentlemen of your class.

I am very glad you like Mr Sargent or "Sarah's Friend" as you call him. I believe he is quite a general favorite. I have never seen the gentleman I am sorry to say, for I should like to very much. I am very glad Sarah is going to marry so good a young man. I fear such persons are rather rare in these degenerate times. I should not say this if I did not consider you one of those same personages.

I have not received a letter from Sarah as yet although she promised faithfully, that she would write soon. But oh dear! These engaged persons have so many letters to write to their "beloved" that they never can think of any one else!

I wrote to Will last week and delivered your message, but I very much doubt if it will bring you a letter as the young man is not a remarkably good correspondent. He writes me he has left his school and is now at Leeds, enjoying himself very much in going to parties &c &c. He seems to be quite astonished to find so many pretty girls in Leeds. But I suppose he will return to Brunswick as his term commences a week from next Friday.

Our vacation commences a week from Thursday. I expect to spend mine in Bath. I am looking forward to the day I leave here for even so short a time as a fortnight, with much pleasure.

I hear from Rowland sometimes and I am now owing him a letter and I think I ought to answer his tonight. I do not think it is perfectly right to spend so much of Sunday in writing letters but I think it is more excusable here,

than it would be at home as there I have plenty of time to write all my letters; but here I do not have hardly any time to write excepting Sunday. I have written two letters today besides going to church all day and prayers twice. So you may suppose that I must have written this in quite a hurry and this must be my apology for sending a letter which

“One must be a friend indeed  
To pardon or to bear it.”

I have now come to the end of my sheet if not to my wits end, so I think it time to close this I fear exceedingly stupid letter but I hope you will find it at least worthy of a reply and a quick one too. I must now say good night to you.

From your affectionate <Cousin>  
Maria [Sarah Maria Otis]

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255 2/7/1851      *From:* Chas. A. <Nunn>

*To:* Friend [O O Howard]

OOH-0245

Wallingford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wallingford Feb 7, 1851.

My Dear Friend,

Your favor of the 16 ult. was most gratefully rec'd, and though I have nothing to say in addition to what I have already said, I will comply with your request and write you again, thus early. But it were a vain and fruit less undertaking for me to undertake to interest you with my prosy nonsense.

You of whose heart not a nook nor corner is left unoccupied by that dear angel of your young hearts affection. That one upon whom it is ecstatic bliss to meditate for whom your love is measured by the distance of hill and valley that intervenes between you & her. Yes I say, it were worse that madness for me who have grown into a crusty old bachelor to undertake this Herculean task.

I am unable fully to appreciate your case, having never been situated in like circumstances. I have never in my pergrinations through this world of sin and sorrow, seen many of those dear creatures with whom I have had a desire to unite my destiny. That there are such ones, and that I shall yet meet with such an one is a matter fully settled in my mind. To tell you frankly, I have never yet seen but one person that I thought I should like well enough to marry, and that being years ago, I dared not think of it, and now that youthful ardor is somewhat abated, and I doubt not but years will roll away, ere I shall see another, I look upon the world with far different eyes than I did even at your age. And when my disposition shall become soured, by dealing with ungovernable boys, to a greater extent than it already is. I am afraid I shall see little beauty in the youthful charms which once captivated the heart and led it captive at its will.

I would not have you infer from this that I am one of those unfortunate individuals, who have met with reverses; for such is not the fact. I have ever succeeded to my hearts content among the ladies, and still enjoy a fair share of their confidence. My situation here as a pedagogue enables me to go into the best society the place affords, which is pretty good N.Y. Beach standing at the head. I have been in town but 9 weeks but I reckon I am "round" some & go out almost every night. Spent the evening night before last at Mr Beach's where I danced for the first time in my life. The way my lady twiched me through the Spanish dances was a sin, to say the least. The music on the occasion was furnished by two N. York singers & piano players, together with his music teacher from Boston.

My school room is very incommodious & my school a miserable one. Were it not for these two weighty considerations, I should enjoy myself. Peleg has written me since I recd yours, did not say any thing about our classmates, nor how long he intended to teach in Portland. As for news there's no such article in the market, only that I hear by Perley that old Jennings is going to get married in the Spring. I would if I were in his place. So goes the world, but I am to be an old bachelor some time yet.

Truly your friend  
Chas. A. <Nunn>

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256 2/9/1851

*From:* Laura B Howard

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0246

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Feb 9, 1851

Dear Cousin

Your very kind letter was duly received and I expect you are looking for a answer from your neglectful cousin, but think not dear cousin that it is because I have forgotten my friend. I still cherish with the fondest recollections the many hours I have spent in your society. The rides we have had together and it brings sadness over my mind when I think that we are so long to be separated and perhaps never meet again. Oh how often I imagine to myself how you look and how I wish I could see you and have one good sociable time as we used to. The winter evenings that you boarded at Johns when they went down to the white house but I expect you will be entirely changed when you return but to me you will ever be the same dear Cousin that you ever have been and there is nothing gives me more pleasure than to hear of your promotion and hope I shall yet live to see you one of the first men in the country.

But all this will not give you true happiness unless you have true and genuine religion as the basis on which to build, then every thing is yours, both in this life and that which is to come. I feel glad to hear that you stand so high in your class and that you passed examinations so well, though I want to see you very much. Still I would rather wait than have you leave as they had to return home. I think I can discover by your writing you are a little homesick. I know you are subjected to hard life but it will not be long before you will have the reward and I trust that will compensate you for all your trials. So keep up good courage. I feel grateful that I am still remembered among all your friends, for I know your time is limited, and there are so many claims your attention, that to be one of that number I consider a great priveledge and hope I shall ever prove worthy of your friendship.

You have asked me a number of questions I will endeavor to answer them. I am well and happy and every reason to bless God that he has provided such kind friends as your Uncle and Aunt are. They speak of you very often and Aunt says she never knew you till you boarded at Johns and she really loves you. John & Hellen are as anxious to hear from you as I am and your letter has to go the rounds and after I have read it I do not see it again for a fortnight. Lucia L and <Elmind> H are always enquiring after you so you see you are loved by all your friends in Leeds. My Sleigh rides are few having no cousin but Thomas at home. I have not seen <Thute> since the first of the winter. I was up and staid three days with her while her father and mother went to Brunswick.

Our Lyceum commenced about four weeks ago and is very well attended. I fear I shall be Editress and I shall have no Cousin to write my Editorial for me. If you can find time write me a piece and send it in your letter for the paper.

William Otis has been spending three or four weeks with us. He is very good in our Lyceum. I like to hear him converse. He has so much general information; is one that has read much. I went to a party at Widow Lothrop with him. It was very large and we did not get home till two o'clock. His term commences next Thursday so he will leave here this week and then I shall be destitute of a beau but the Doctor is coming home in a fortnight and perhaps he will take pity on me. If he don't I shall have to submit.

I did not mean to be and old maid but I find I have got to be and therefore I will make the best of it. The Doctor has called several times to see my folks in Phil. I feel anxious to see him that I may learn all about them. I have been called to part with one of my best friends in the loss of my Dear Uncle Brewster and I feel to mourn for him deeply. I considered him as near as my Father and he was and I feel his loss as much. But so it is one after another of my dearest friends are taken away and I am left in this cold and unfeeling world alone, as it were, but the Lords ways are not as our ways and I pray that I may be reconciled to all his providences.

Little Oli has grown to be a fine boy. He could read all his letters long before he was two years old and can tell several stories all alone. He is a great comfort to us all.

We have had a very cold winter so far. It will come a snow storm and then a blow. It is snowing now and there is no one going to meeting to day. I thought I would improve the time in writing to my dear cousin. I feel glad to

hear that you have been to see Uncle Ward. I feel to simpathize with them in their afflictions. If you see any of them give them my best respects. I remember Elizabeth very well. I pity your mother. She has to work very hard having no help but a girl to sew a little. They have a great deal of company there as well as we. Everet has got another Daughter. Henry Millet has got a daughter. Valentine Bridgham is going to be married in the Spring to Mehitable Joslin. So you see the young as well as older are getting married.

Aunt Martha says give my love to Otis and a great deal of it too.

John has just come down and wants you to write to him, that Oli has not forgotten you nor they how much you thought of him. Write as soon as you receive this. I remain your true friend.

Laura B Howard

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257 2/13/1851 *From:* Charles Howard

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0247

Leeds

West Point NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Feb 13th 1851

Dear brother

I take my pen to write what news &c that I think will be most interesting to you. It is quite a pleasant day to day. Our folks are all in as good health as common & they are all about home. Father, mother & I intended to go a visiting this morning but Mr Veranus Lothrop, & Mr Alpheus Lane came in just as we were about to start. Mr Lane is Gideon Lane's brother & is an old acquaintance of mother's.

I said that we were in good health. I have been quite unwell for about a week. I caught cold week ago last Wednesday & the <anvils> of my ears came down so that I could not swallow well and I had the canker in my mouth so that it made me quite sick but I am a great deal better now.

In two weeks from today Rowland B is coming home. Roland Alger is here about home. He is in good health and spirits, only it is rather dull here at home. They have a lyceum up to the Centre. Mr. Barrows and wife were just in here. He said (Mr Barrows) their question tonight was whether the fugitive slave law was Constitutional or not. Janes folks have never been up, but Mary J Lothrop and Orinthy Foss were here last Friday. They were up the night before they were here. They said they didn't have so good a one, that night as they had day before this one. Said Gould's being there, and Franklin his brother. Mary J said that Leland would get up and speak and that Frank would answer him. It made some sport for the younger ones, but it was not so agreeable to older and more correct people. I guess by what William said that they have a pretty good lyceum, for William has been up to Johns untill last Thursday when he came down here and brought Martha Martin. He remained here untill last tuesday when he went back to Johns. I expect he went to Brunswick today at least that was what he thought he should do when he went away from here.

It was when William was here that the girls (Mary and Orinthy) came down here. In the afternoon they with Martha and William went out and slid down our long hill each of them had two slides with William. I said that I thought that they had a pretty good lyceum, but they do not have any Otis Howards nor Roland Howards there, and so I can't think that they have so good a one as they had last year, or as we had over to Wayne. I guess you would like to go to one. Otis, anyhow, I should like to have you here to carry me up this evening.

We have sold our great horse. I don't know but you knew, and father uses the four year old colt for his business as he did the great horse. But I tell you he can't make him lazy. It is just about as much as he wants to do to hold him, but I drive him, but I don't pretend to try to hold him. Most of the time I let him go as fast as he wishes to. My little colt grows. He has got to be nearly as large as the other one. I can take up his feet or anything. He is so clever,

I expect to go to Yarmouth in the spring if I have my health. This winter I got about half way through fractions in Greenless. As to addition of numbers of a diferent denomanation, I did the first sum and the second one. I tried three or four times, I guess, and then gave it to the master and he and I tried it and tried it and some of the other scholars tried it, but at last we gave it up. That we could not do it, the master says that the answer was not right but it is, because the key says so and the teacher down in Squire Turners district did it. I don't <> but I will give you the sum. It was to Add together <2/5> of a yard, 1/7 of an ell English and 5/4 of a quarter. Ans 3 gr 3 nails 1 189/142 inckes. William tried it but he didn't do it. I suppose you wish that I could see some of your sums, but may be I shall see the time when I can do some of your sums but may be's don't fly in the winter.

It is nearly night or aproaching to that, and besides that I have written nearly all I know, but I had ough to boast a little on the length of this letter. I have not taken so much pains with my hand writing as I comonly do.

I have written as much as will be agreeable to you, I presume. So good bye brother Otis. We all wish to hear from you.

From your afec brother  
Charles Howard

P.S. I don't know but mother will write on the next page & so put it in an envelope to you &c.

[Envelope]  
Greene Depot Me  
February 15

Cadet O O Howard  
West Point  
NY

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258 2/14/1851 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0248

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Feb 14, 1851

Dear Mother,

The weeks are speeding on, but the faster the better. I shall be glad indeed when next June comes along, for I shall hold you to your promise to come & see me, and after that I shall probably be waiting impatiently for another year to pass. I am sorry to hear you speak so discouragingly of Charles' health. He must break up his cough if possible & especially take care not to increase it. He will be quite a large boy before I see him again if I stay here two years without returning home as I probably shall. This time seems long to look ahead, but six months have already gone & that, too, very swiftly.

Mr Martin has truly acted the part of an unworthy, unnatural father. Little would I have thought it when I used to see him so pious, so humble at our house a few years ago. But we see through him what avarice will make of a man. He will however gain little by defrauding his children of their little property and methinks he will experience more real inquietude than they.

You asked me about your double letters. I never have received any for which I have had to pay double postage. Three sheets enclosed in a wrapper will pass for a single letter. You asked me also about Uncle's children, Lucius & Elizabeth. I have not said much of them, because they were such queer ones, that I could not say much of them, excepting that they think every thing of their Cadet Cousin and treat him very kindly. Lucius is hardly sixteen, very small, very plain & very pale. He is now in a store at Peekskill, which Uncle says is a very good situation. He doesn't seem much like Rowland Bailey, i.e. his looks do not bespeak a very talented or promising lad. My cousin Elizabeth is very talkative, and as far from being pretty as the rest of the Howards, and a little "old maidish" with all, that is, she is a little fidgety, but she is very clever. Her redeeming qualities are, that she is very attentive to her father & kind to her brother. She belongs to the Episcopal Church of Peekskill. Uncle lives in a neat little cottage in the upper part of the village about three quarters of a mile from the river. The road from the river runs directly east. He pointed out to me what part of the village he had owned, but of which fortune & a tricky lawyer has deprived him. He showed me the store in which my father used to trade & the place where he taught school.

When I went to Peekskill, a young man of the second class (that is in the third year of the course) by the name of Rundell accompanied me. He belongs in Peekskill, & is the son of a widow lady. He said that his mother asked him if I was not the son of Mr Rowland Howard & told him if I were, to tell me to ask my father if he did not remember "Emma Constant", for this was his mother's maiden name. Perhaps Uncle Ensign or Aunt Lucretia will remember her. Mr Rundell got his appointment to this place principally through the influence of Uncle Ward. He is a very smart, active young man, but a little too wild to maintain a very high stand here.

You spoke of Lizzie's going home with Rowland. She would if she were not attending school. She said that she was going to make you a visit when her school was done. I would be glad to have her visit you, because I think she would enjoy it as well as yourself. It would serve to divert her mind and turn her attention from the loneliness of her situation into which the sudden death of her father and my subsequent departure have thrown her. She never has appeared so sprightly & wide awake since her father's death, as before. But she is young & however severe the blow it cannot leave that lasting impress upon her heart, which has thinned the cheek & subdued the spirit of her sensitive mother.

Since I began this letter I have received one from Laura H. She writes, now, in a very natural & easy tone, but she thinks a little too highly of her absent cousin. But it is agreeable & flattering to him to have his cousins & friends err upon the favorable side. Yet you must tell her that vanity is the unhappy result of too much praise.

I fear that Everet is filling up his household at the expence of his coffers, but then that is his own "lookout!". Warren was well when I last saw him. His Corps have studying to do, on a small scale however compared with ours.

I have got one mark of demerit this month for forgetting to carry into the library on Monday a book which I took

out the Saturday previous, but if I do not get another this month that will come off. I have been wonderfully fortunate in thus far escaping demerits. Now & then I have unwittingly laid myself liable to be reported, but the Cadet Officers have spared me, when they have not others. I hope good fortune will continue to attend me in this respect till June: for demerit reduces a mans standing in the same proportion as merit raises it.

I am now doing well in mathematics & well in French, but not so well in drawing maps. We are obliged to prepare ourselves & go to the recitation room & draw our maps from memory. Altogether too much precision is required for me to meet. I draw my maps very well, but I draw so slow that I scarcely ever complete them in the time required, so Lieut Gilbert our Instructor "cuts" me a few tenths for not being more expeditious. Mr Abbot has not done so well as I in Geometry, and he has to study night & day on his French, for he has not studied it before. He is the only man in our section, who is not already comparatively familiar with the French Language.

I have ceased the foolish practice of continually borrowing trouble. I am bound to do my best & let my stand come where it may. Others have as much interest in graduating high as myself, and if by dint of hard study & superior ability they make out to rise me they are welcome to do so.

Give my love to all, and write me yourself as often as you can. I began this letter yesterday & wrote a few lines. It is now Saturday afternoon & as it is rainy I have spent the time in finishing this. My pen is mighty poor & I have written fast; so what you cannot readily make out you may pass over as unimportant. Uncle sends me papers every week from Washington. The most of them are Maine papers. I don't know what I shall do when Uncle returns home. Again my love to all. Goodbye.

Your affectionate Son  
O O Howard

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259 2/18/1851 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [O.O.] Howard

OOH-0249

Yarmouth Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Me. Feb 18th 1851

Friend Howard

I have recd an entire play of Shakespeare & propound one chumical Lecture this evening, I now take my pen to address you. Really, I had almost thought you my debtor for a letter - otherwise this had not been so long deferred, for I never write twice without an answer you know. That's a dictum to which I strictly adhere with all my correspondents, until I know satisfactory reasons for making an exception. I delayed the answer to your last longer than I intended & therefore probably imagined I had replied to it. Especially will this reason hold good when I inform you that for 3 or 4 weeks (last of Jan & the first part of Feb) I was quite unwell. Kept out of school one week. Thus I almost forgot myself & everybody else for the time. But however, I am gradually returning to myself & to others. I hope to be as I was & still somewhat improved. This business of Teaching does not agree with me. It is too much confinement. I can get no time for exercise or any thing else - <son> to scribble a few lines to my friends & that in such a hurry that it seems to me quite a predicament for them to peruse my scrawls. But "there's a good time coming" I hope for I surely have not found it yet. I presume I shall not blunder upon it whilst I remain in this region, though I do not complain since I am here voluntarily. Can we <screen> our volitions? What says Upham? Why "The next", Townsend".

We have just about as much confusion here as we can well enjoy ourselves in - I opine you - Woods you know has a school in opposition to the Academy & has also some friends & supporters amongst the Trustees, who try to make all the excitement they can. They called a Trustee meeting a few weeks ago & tried to get Woods back again but met with a total defeat. & I have only to say of Geo. Woods A.M. that he is the meanest man I ever knew. In fact he has no manliness about him. He at least cannot control his will (or his wife I hardly know which - Reports say both). I understand that he has a delightful half wit who not unfrequently combs his herd with a "three legged Stool" as the saying is. Happy man! Long may he live to enjoy the felicity of so rich a treasure! For he deserves it amply.

But I must stop here to look over a Lecture some parts of which I propose to give my scholars tomorrow afternoon. I laid this letter aside night before last & thought to have finished it last evening certainly but unfortunately I had an invitation to go out & here it has remained untouched on my table.

Our Term closes next Tuesday & I am heartily rejoiced that the End is so near. It has been to me a long & wearisome winter; such another I do not wish to spend at any rate. We have numbered 42 scholars, which is the average for Winter Term for 7 or 8 years past. Considering the <Time> & the numbers we have made a decided advance on last Fall Term. But it is uphill business. Woods allows his scholars to do just what they will & almost without correction. The example thus set is to a greater or less degree infectious & causes us some trouble at least. Yet in spite of this difficulty we have got along quite comfortably thus far. There is some prospect, I understand, that Woods will leave Town. If this should be the case, it will be a great relief to us in the management of our school, as well as some advantage to our pockets perhaps. But the man himself is so obstinately mean & willful that I can put but little confidence in such rumors. I shall believe that he can be a man in any proper sense of the word when I see him actually leaving & hardly before.

You know something about Yarmouth or what it was a few years ago. I will only say of it, that I think it can scarcely have changed much since your personal acquaintance with it. I hardly think I shall be persuaded to settle here permanently.

But to speak of other & more agreeable topics. I think I remember a remark in your last something like this that 'you should almost as soon think of forgetting "Lizzie's bright eyes" as the good old times of our College life'. Well that's a pretty strong <aran> I suppose you will say. But my Friend, nothing is more treacherous than the memory - especially when it harbors the recollection of beauty's dimpled cheek & lustrous orbs. Probably you did not recognize this fact when you perused the lines I have quoted. I believe I shall remember the associations of my College Days, whether I remember that 'the women' have any eyes or not. And is it, then a thing impossible, that you should forget the fancies of your younger years? "Frailty thy name is woman" Shakespeare says, you know, & who shall be able to tell how their fickle fancy says run from bud to blossom

resting on each only just long enough to convince one that they have <> the faculty to turn bitter into sweet, & decay into freshness? Ah! Ha! Now you talk as you used to, nothing's, I hear you say; but nevertheless I only speak the truth. What say you?

I shall leave this place for Brunswick on Wednesday morning next if nothing splits. I have not been there since Thanksgiving Day - about 10 weeks since. I expect they want to see me - quite as much as I wish to be seen. <Howr?> I imagine that I can spend a week there quite pleasantly & remain to attend R of Clovis lectures whilst I am in town. Perley I saw New Years day - not since. Jackson still in E. Pittstown. Emmett in B & Adams. Rest not heard from recently. R.B.H. is well, goes home soon. We expect a full school next term. Don't take example by my forgetfulness.

Truly Yr. Friend  
J. N. Jewett

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260 2/22/1851 *From:* J. S. Houle

*To:* Friend [O.O.] Howard

OOH-0250

Holly Springs

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Holly Springs  
February 22, 1851

Friend Howard;

I have contemplated for some time writing to your worship. Since my arrival South my ideas are somewhat enlarged and partaking of the chivalric spirit. I am a little inclined to learn of your doings at West Point. I would be pleased would you trouble yourself to give me what information you thought would be necessary for the establishment of a military school. I have charge in part of one of the finest Institutions in the S West. I think some of attaching a military department to it. If you have a Catalogue or any order of Exercises, or code of Laws, or any thing of the kind published, or in addition write what you think will be interesting.

I have met with fine success since my arrival South. I have an income of about \$1200 a year and a fine prospect ahead. It is much different teaching here than at the North, more difficult to get along with Southern chaps. Tom Smith is but 45 miles from here. He is doing well, has a large school & making money. Butler is at <Dresden> teaching, Bill is at <Dresden> studying Law. Tom has been elected Professor in a Masonic Institution in Clarksville Tenn. with a salary of \$600 per year. Bell is in Arkansas practicing Law & doing well. So you learn that we Southerners all are doing finely. I have never learned of Merrick. I can say nothing of him. I did hear that <> Tibbets put for California as soon as they reached the South. This is all.

I hear from the North occasionally, but have obtained no late news. The last was that Burbank of our Class was married & <> Charles thought some of it.

I should be very much gratified would you oblige me with the information that I need in this business and all matters connected with yourself of interest.

Your friend as formerly  
J. S. Houle

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261 3/7/1851

*From:* W.L. Lothrop

*To:* Mrs Gilmore

OOH-0251

West Point, N.Y.

Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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By request of Otis he being hurt  
W.L. Lothrop

West Point N.Y. March 7, [18]51

Dear Madam

You must not be startled at receiving this letter, although it is written by the request of your son Otis – who having lately met with a slight accident is in the hospital and denied the liberty of writing himself.

Last Thursday while in the gymnasium with several of his room mates exercising, he fell from a ladder & hurt his head. The wound is not considered dangerous. I saw him this afternoon & he appeared quite lively & cheerful. He said you must not be frightened at his first accident after entering a military life, as it was but trifling in comparison to what military men sometimes meet with. He said he should probably be allowed the privilege of writing himself in a few days & he would then give you a full account of his first wound received in the service of his country.

Yours truly,  
W.L. Lothrop [Warren Lane Lothrop, b July 5, 1823. A sixth cousin of Otis.]

Mrs Gilmore

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262 3/9/1851

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0252

West Point, N.Y.

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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O.O. Howard, West Point, N.Y. March 9, [18]51

Dear Mother

A little accident has prevented me from writing home as soon as I intended when I closed my last letter. But as I asked Warren L. [Lothrop] to write and explain the circumstances, I presume you have not been very anxious. My injury was more serious than I wished you to think it till I began to get well, and caused me more pain and disquietude, than I at first anticipated.

I fell while exercising at the Gymnasium, a week ago last Thursday, between four & five o'clock. I suppose my head must have struck against a sharp stone. The blow laid open a gash in my scalp of considerable length, but did not injure my skull. I went immediately to the Hospital. The Surgeon was there, cut off my hair and shaved the greater part of my head & dressed my head. All of which operations are easier told than suffered. That evening I was very comfortable and slept very well that night.

The next forenoon I very foolishly looked at some books, & wrote a letter to Sarah Lee. For soon my head began to ache with pains in all directions. My face & the well side of my head began to swell: the Errysipilus [1] had got fairly seated before the Dr. was aware of it. Well, my head had to be opened in half a dozen places & poulticed continually. I will not name all the operations but suffice it to say there were enough of them. Thank my stars; they are over! Dr. Cuyler, the Surgeon, was very kind indeed to me. He was with me two or three nights, till after one o'clock.

I have had the very best of care. Prof. Sprole, the chaplain, has been to see me often and his family have sent me everything that is good to eat. The Commandant's wife, Mrs. Alden, sent me some very nice jelly. Dr. Cuyler's wife sends me now & then a cup of coffee & buckwheat cakes. On the whole I have fared first rate, and am now getting well very fast. I shall be able to go to the Section room sometime this week. It is now Sunday. They are going to make me a little silk skull cap to ware [wear] till I get some hair.

This accident has put me back a little in my studies, but I will manage soon to be square with my section. It is almost remarkable, but my mind has been perfectly clear & collected from the first to the last. I never have been even faint. The Dr. would try me almost every time he came in by asking the times of day or some other question.

Mr. Sawtell came in to see me the other day & said that Uncle [2] accompanied him from Washington to New York & wanted to come & see me; but he had an appointment in Boston and was obliged to go. Mr. Sawtell said he should write him that I was better. Uncle Ward [3] too had heard, by way of Mr. Rundell, that I was hurt and came to see me yesterday. He was surprised to find me so well. He says Augustus is no better & no medical aid can avail him. He has little or no hope for him. Poor boy! It is hard, but he must bear it.

I notice by a paper that Lizzie sent me that Mrs. Waite has advertised her property for sale.

Let us see. Uncle's time is now fairly out at Washington isn't it? I hope he will now get his family collected together again. I rather think his domestic affairs have not been improved very much by his short term of public life. Is Rowland's vacation over? It will be, probably by the time this reaches you. If he has gone you must write me if Charlie went with him. Give my love to all. Write me as soon as you can. Be not over-anxious for I shall be perfectly well in a few days. I presume that Uncle John has written you, since he heard that I was hurt.

I hope this will find you all well.

Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

[Notes:

1. Erysipelas is a superficial bacterial skin infection that characteristically extends into the cutaneous

lymphatics. This disease has been traced back to the Middle Ages where it was referred to as "St Anthony's Fire," named after an Egyptian healer who was known for successfully treating the infection.

2. John Otis, the brother of his mother, Eliza Otis Gilmore was a U.S. Congressman from Maine, 1849-1851, had endorsed Oliver Otis for admission to West Point.

3. Ward Bailey Howard, the brother of Rowland Bailey Howard, had three children Elizabeth, Augustus and Lucius.]

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263 3/9/1851

*From:* J. H. Otis

*To:* Cousin Otis [Howard]

OOH-0253

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Mar 9, 1851

Dear Cousin Otis

Altho you have been absent a considerable time still I have had no communication from you (direct) nor have I written you not that I do not often think of you, and the many pleasant times we have spent together both when we were young and since we have come to maturer years. I believe there are few who feel more interest for the welfare and happiness of their friends and especially relations than I do. Still I do not always express that regard as others perhaps, and you may think from my neglect of writing for so long a time that I do not wish to hold a correspondence with one whom I regard as a special friend. But on the contrary it would have afforded me great pleasure to have heard from you often but excuse you from the knowledge I have gathered from your letters of your want of time and opportunity to address so many friends as you have left.

Last night I learned from father (who was at your fathers) that they had intelligence of a misfortune which had befallen you. I hope you are not badly hurt. I understand you call it your first miliary exploit but I hope they will not always be as unfortunate as that. I trust you have good care and kind nursing and will have a speedy recovery and during your convalescence (which I hope will be soon) you will probably have more opportunity to write your friends and shall expect then to hear from you. I hope you bear your confinement with resignation and fortitude altho I know it must be unpleasant in the extreme to be sick among strangers far from friends who if they could be with you would be a great consolation. But there have many who have so suffered even among inhospitable strangers and scarce any there to conduce to their happiness or comfort and I know your natural abilities to withstand misfortunes are such that you will not <> or repine and as all things happen for the best, so I hope this misfortune may turn out to you.

My little family are all well. We have had Wm Otis with us most of the winter, he having left a school which he commenced and found to much for his Physical strength. We have quite as interesting discussions this winter as we did last and the Garland (as you will recollect the paper was called) has been well conducted in the Ladies department and considering the advantages our young Ladies have had I think they will compare with any production of the kind, especially Lucy & Almira Howard are good writers and I think show great abilities for writing which are little looked for.

I have hardly seen R Baily although he has been at home for a few days past. He looks well and you well may be proud of such a brother. Thomas Bridgham has made "pitch" at Livermore Corner the <space> Hon Reuel Washburn has practiced and it is thought to be a good location.

Melvin Howard is sick with a fever, not dangerous I believe. The rest of your friends I believe are well. Helen & Olie send their respects and hope your speed recovery.

Your Affectionate Cousin

J.H. Otis [John Harrison Otis, son of Ensign Otis and Martha Davis]

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264 3/9/1851

*From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0254a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 9th 1851

Dear Mother;

Roland & I arrived safely here the day that we left home. After we left father at the depot, we turned the horse & drove to Warren's & remained there till after eleven o'clock when Louisa got us some dinner & we again went to the depot, took the cars at twelve o'clock. We left our umbrella at the depot. Rowland had walked to the baggage to make them understand that it was to Yarmouth not North Yarmouth that we wanted it to go & I was so heedless that I did not think of it.

Riding in the cars was quite a treat to me. When we arrived here at the depot there was hacks to take us down here to the commons. We found our room all ready for occupation, for Roland bought some paper before he went home last term & had it papered in the vacation.

Ours is the best room in the commons. The greatest trouble here is wood. We have borrowed ours so far of Mrs King. I believe there is twenty one scholars that board here in the commons.

I have got to have a new cap to wear every day. I don't like to wear my best one all the time. I have just been to meeting to the Congregational house. The snow was so deep (for we had a snow storm yesterday in the afternoon & last night) that Rowland thought we had better go to the Congregational house that being nearer than the Baptist house. I have not been much homesick yet.

I suppose that Rowland will finish this letter. I told him that you wished me to write one week & he the next. My cough is not very bad. The Academy is very near so I do not have to walk far.

Write soon mother. Give my love to Delie. Good bye.

From your Affec son,  
Charles [Howard]

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265 3/9/1851

*From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0254b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the preceeding letter from Charles]

Dear Mother

We came down safely and found things here better than I expected. They had my room painted as well as papered in vacation and now it looks as well as any of them. I have bought me a table cloth, lamps, brushes, oil &c. I together with the rest of the boarders here bought a Cap which I presume you would say is the worst looking thing you ever saw. Charles is anxious to have one of the same kind. They come to us at the wholesale price of \$.55. Shall I buy him one?

Charlie's health is good and he seems to enjoy himself so far very well. He studies Arithmetic Grammar and Astronomy. He would have studied Philosophy if there had been a class this Spring. I am anxious that he should advance in his Arithmetic more than any thing else. I think with the above studies that he will study hard enough for his health and profit.

We have over 60 in the school and shall probably reach 75 on Monday. I like the new members of my class very well. They appear to be honest, scholarlike and Temperate. I should have gone over to Dr Careys last evening if it had been fair weather and shall go at the first convenient opportunity.

Marcia came home from Exeter on Friday. I saw her and her father at the cars. Bartlett Frost came down on Friday and boards here. He appears very well.

I should think that the Depot Master at Greene felt about as much at home as a minister in a Rum Shop. He would have it that my baggage was going to N Yarmouth because the ticket was to N.Y. So bothering with him I lost my umbrella. Perhaps you can secure it by sending to the Depot.

Jewett looks rather poorly although he says he is well. He does not room here this term, but he says we have got to sign some articles to behave ourselves as we ought and the probability is that we shall be kept stricter than ever before. I owe Otis a letter and I suppose I shall get none from him until I pay him which I shall do forthwith.

Write me if Perley comes to our house or Mrs & Miss Waite in his vacation, which I suppose occurs at this time. It is so short time, that I have heard no news since I left home.

Write us as soon as you can. Don't forget the papers. I will write more and better next time. Love to all

Your affectionate Son  
R B Howard

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266 3/16/1851 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0255a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 16th 1851

Dear Mother

After attending Church all day I seat myself to write to you. I was greatly grieved at the intelligence of the accident that has happened to Otis. I have written to Warren Lothrop as you desired. Have you rec any additional news from him. If you have I am very anxious to hear. I feel like yourself, very anxious for Otis not only on account of his health, but also that his sickness if protracted will injure his rank materially, but that is a minor consideration. I did not enclose a letter to him as you desired but wrote to Warren. All that I supposed he wished to know with a request to tell Otis if his health would not permit him to read the letter.

I am enjoying myself a great deal better than last term. I have got rid of my troublesome roommate, and removing the cause in most cases removes the trouble. I believe his character is now pretty well understood by the students, so that now his attacks and meanness are duly apreciated, so well so that it is not worth my while to pay any attention to him any way, except to avoid his room and company as much as possible.

Charlie's health is good. I should say as good as it has been for a year or two past. He apears to enjoy himself well, but he can tell you about that, as he is going to finish this. He has found his voice again which he complained so much of losing and wishes to attend singing school. He also wishes to attend writing school, both of which will be additional expence. But if you think best I will have him go. His writing school tuition will become due before the end of the term.

I have not called at Dr Carey's yet but shall, one of these days. I see the family often. They are well. Today while I was gone to church a coal snaped out into the floor around the fire place and caught and when I returned, the room was as full of smoke as you please, and there was a hole in the floor about a foot across a half an hour more would have esentially fired my private property and N Yarmouth Seminary but 'an inch is as good as a mile', except the expence of fixing the floor which will probably be about a dollar. My eyes and nose still testify that there has been a very disagreeable smoke in these precincts. Tell Father I have not been to see Mr WP Johnson. I hear that he is away teaching school. I will make him a call when he returns. There are about 30 boarding in this building now and when we sit down at the table we make quite a long row.

As Charles is going to have the other page, I will stop here. Give my love to all.

Your affectionate son  
R B Howard

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267 3/16/1851    *From:* Charles H Howard    *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0255b                      Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of previous letter from Rowland]

Yarmouth March 16th 1851

Dear Mother

It is sabbath evening & Rowland and I have been to meeting today. I joined the sabbath school as you requested. I feel very bad about Otis and am very anxious to hear from him. I can't help thinking of his being hurt away from his friends and away from his mother & brothers. I think what should I do if were in his place. I was some frightened when we received your letter because it came so soon after we arived here. I thought there must be some particular cause for it and there was. I have not been home sick yet, although I felt as though I should like to be at home when we recd the sad news from Otis.

I like our teacher (Mr Jewet) well. My health is very good in general although I have a bad cold. Not a very bad one. I do not cough much but I am stufed up some.

Since I left my pen I have been to supper. We had fish hash and pie for supper. We have pie three times in a week.

After supper, Rowland and I took a walk down to the wharf. There are two vessels building down to the wharf. One pretty large, but the other is a small one.

I would like to go to the writing & singing school but I will do as you think best. Are Vaughn & Jonnie at our house now? Is Nancy there too. If she is give her my respects. Give my love to Dellie, how does Roland get along. Has he got all the wood up that he calculated to. Does Father have so much running to do (as he says) as common. Yarmouth is not a very pleasant place to live. At least it don't seem so to me. Has Phebe been over to see you yet. Has Jimmy got the measles yet. I study Astronomy and Mr Jewet has two globes with which he explains it to us. I think Dellie would like to study from a globe. It is painted like a map having the towns on it.

From Your Affectionate son  
Charles H Howard

P.S. Write soon mother especially if you hear from Otis, as I hope you will. Good bye. From Charles H. H.

[Envelope]  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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268 3/21/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0256

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Mar 21st 51

Dear Mother

I was thinking this evening that it was high time for me to write you and as my lesson is not very long I will rob it of a part of this evening. Me thinks I ought to have had a letter from you ere this. I am now very well & in pretty good spirits. The only thing that troubles me is my funny looking head with here & there a patch of hair & that little about half an inch in length. Nobody sees it however, for I have a curious little embroidered cap loaned me for the occasion, which never leaves my head, except when it is washed & dressed.

Lizzie wrote me when at Lewiston that she was going to make you a visit the next day. I couldn't get it out of my head that she took the same route that I did once, ie. she went to the famous Leeds depot, and had a rickety wagon & a bony horse to transfer her to the Quaker Ridge. My Ride is now distinctly remembered & it seems that it would be a beautiful & romantic treat for a young lady especially if it was a cold & dreary day. But perhaps you have snow. If so my idea of a rickety wagon is out of place.

You know the proverb or saying: 'there is no great evil without a little good'. Well! My misfortunes have procured for me considerable grace; for I am excused from all duty from marching, going on guard, getting up at "Reveille" (morning Roll-call), from Drills, parades &c. I go to recitations from choice. I seem to have a clearer head since my sickness. I think that the medicine that I was obliged to take purged my system. Let us see.

When a person uses "ego" in every line people call him egotistical. This, however, seems to be a fault of letter writers. They may be solicitous for the health, comfort & happiness of their friends, but it is very natural & much easier to tell great & small things of themselves. They resemble in this respect very many ladies of your acquaintance & mine, who love - that is, take a painful pleasure in describing their numerous pains, old & new complaints, &c, &c.

If Lizzie has been to see you, tell me how long she staid, how she seemed to enjoy her visit, & if she told you that her Mother was going to move away from Portland. She did not know that I had committed the folly of bumping my head, when she wrote me, but I presume she heard of it at Leeds. I filled up a letter to John Otis with a literal picture of the whole scene of my disasters.

Mr Lazelle has moved out of our room, & as none of us had any love for the poor boy, the vacancy which his absence causes is very acceptable. I now have a table, a lamp & various other conveniences, all at my own disposal. Nature unfortunately gifted him with an unfortunate disposition, otherwise he is good enough.

Uncle has now completed his term of Congressional labor, and probably this is the first & last time he will have the pleasure or burden of serving his country in the Halls of Congress. It seems that the pleasure of seeing his family once more collected around him, must exceed all the pleasures of being an Honorable man in the House. But we are queer beings. We seek happiness by trying to satisfy our ambitious hearts, whilst common sense is telling us that we are taking just the wrong road.

Our 1st Section in Mathematics are now just commencing a new book. We have completed Algebra, Geometry, plane & spherical Trigonometry. As all of which I had before, as father says, a 'smattering', but this book (called descriptive Geometry) is something entirely new to me. But still I like it. It belongs to the imagination entirely. One must conceive of figures, & lines crossing each other in space. There is need of close thought, care & patience.

Did Charlie go to Yarmouth with Rowland? How does he do? & how is your own health? I think every day how you all must change before I enter my home again.

Give my love to father, Roland, Charlie, Dellie, Johny if with you &c &c. It is now Saturday. I began this letter yesterday - a most beautiful day it is. Last Monday we had a very little snow, but it is fast disappearing. I am going to make a call, just as I am with my funny appearance, on Mrs Sprule this afternoon; for she sent me

cakes, chicken soup & ice creams, while I was convalescent; and I have not as yet been able to acknowledge the favor.

Good bye for a few days.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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269 3/21/1851 *From:* P. S. Perley

*To:* Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0257

Portland Me

West Point  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Friday Eve. March 21st 1851

My Dear Chum

You are indebted for this Epistle not to me entirely for after being engaged with my school all day and up to 9 o'clock at night I should not have commenced a letter to anybody had I not been importuned and coaxed into it. You know the women can do anything they are a mind to with me and always could but after all I shall obtrude my claims upon your gratitude for even being the instrument if not the prime mover. Lizzie heard from you yesterday and seems to be very anxious to hear from you again. We first heard you were hurt a week ago to day. I heard of it first up to Leeds to Mrs. Lothrop's and then went down to your house and let it out before Lizzie whom they were keeping it a secret from. It was out however and nothing strange either for such is always my luck.

But she felt no worse I think than she would to have heard it from you in your letter and probably not so much so as she would to have read that you were in the hospital &c for in the last case she might have thought you were hurt more than you would admit to her. I need not tell you Howard that I am sorry you fell and sympathize with you in your suffering and in your detention from your studies and this that and the other thing for I do not deem that you need be told this from me and us for we have known each other too long to require professions and we have both of us lived about long enough to know that they don't amount to anything when made.

Lizzie says you must be careful for if you had broken your head you would at the same time have broken her heart. I don't mean she "says" so but she looks as if she would like to say something about like that. She is sitting on a stool almost under me knitting away as for dear life just as though stockings were all that was needed in this world and her mind was on them instead of away.

Well she is pretty, "sweet-pretty" as she sometimes says of this thing or that and I feel almost as proud of her as though she were my own dear woman instead of yours.

I have just had a vacation of a week and a half which I spent very pleasantly or more truly very lazily at home. I pass my time sort of lazily, carelessly, dreamily except when in school where none of these moods will answer. I let the world wag about as it will content to float with the current where it bears me off. I am not half so happy as I have been and what is more I am not half so unhappy as I have been heretofore. I feel a sort of recklessness, indifference to everything the evil tendency of which I see and endeavor to avoid but cannot wholly escape.

I saw your brothers Rowland and Charles at Yarmouth were I stopped with John N Tuesday night. They have there 76 scholars there and are getting along well I believe. Woods I believe they said has 90. Harding is not liked at Limerick at all I hear. Frye is at home "batting" it as bad as ever. Thomas Wilson our old friend is in the city here studying law. He called here while we were gone. Poindexter is Proff. of Ancient languages in a College out south. Hodgman is on the express from Bangor to Portland a regular John Cleaveland.

There is a great deal I should like to tell you and write you about but I have not time to night as it is now quite late. You must write as soon as you can conveniently and next time I will try and discourse with you a little more lengthily. So good night and may heaven bless you and prosper you.

Yours as Ever  
P.S. Perley

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] Portland Me, Mar 22, 10  
Cadet Oliver O Howard  
West Point  
New York



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270 3/21/1851 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0258

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York March 21 1851

Dear Otis

You was not at all mistaken thinking that your last letter of the 18th (rec yesterday) was the second one you had written me since you had heard from me. When a person gets into a bad fix, there's nothing like owning up. I confess I was not a little mortified when I received your letter yesterday morning for I had not forgotten that I was indebted to you and fully intended to pay up, but without adding insult to injury by making a long apology I must be allowed to say that I was very busy for some weeks after yours of 24th Jany was recd and what little time I have had since that has been employed in sundry ways, but very little in writing excepting to Sarah who you know I could not if I would and would not if I could. In fact, I ythought as I was crossing the ferry the morning before yours was recd that I would certainly write to you that day. But when night came, I found that I had some writing to do that could not be neglected.

I am very glad you concluded to write. It was an unexpected pleasure and a well wanted reproof to me, and as you perceive not without its salutary effect. I am truly sorry that you "have been laid on the shelf", and from such a cause too, I think it must have been a very severe blow for your poor head, and that you have had a Providential escape from worse and more serious consequences. I can well imagine how it happened, for I have had narrow escapes from the same accident. You must have had a hard time of it, for the erysipelas of itself is an awful disease and when it attacks the neck and face is rather dangerous; and then too, to be so far away from your home and those who are so dear to you & who you would wish to have near you when sick and in trouble, to cheer and comfort you during the long and tedious monotony of a sick room and then when convalescent would you not willingly have lounged at home or in the sick room, could you have had one, dear to you, who would sit by you all day, who would take pleasure in ministering to your every want, bathe your <> <>, and with the tender affection of <womans> delicate love, make you forget your sickness, and sigh for a return of these happy fleeting hours - I sometimes think that I would be wishing to be sick, if I could be tended and cared for by her I love. But perhaps it is wrong to think so, but the thought is nevertheless a pleasant one, that if I were I should have one so dear to watch over me. What a strange being a man would be without a heart; he could not love, and would not care to be loved, but thanks to an allwise Providence that has made us what we are.

You ask how I am thriving. Well! I don't know that I can complain much. I have had good health all winter, which is a great blessing, and for the most part of the time have been as happy as could be expected away from those I love, for I am not one that can forget that to be happy is to be with those we love. There are as you well know many allurements in a city like this, and a young man need not seek in vain for pleasure, but some fun or other I can take but little pleasure in going to parties, making calls or anything of the kind now. I had much rather stay at home than go out of an evening, although I have some very pleasant acquaintances in Brooklyn, and if I were not interested in some one down East I am sure I should not spend one evening at home where I do twenty now.

I received a letter from Sarah this morning. She had just returned to Hallowell from Portland where she had enjoyed a visit of a fortnight, saw your Lady love, was very much pleased with her, thought her very handsome, agreeable, amiable &c &c and you a fortunate young man in <courting> so fine a young lady. allow me to congratulate you upon so favorable a report from one whose opinion goes so far with me, although I never doubted that she would think her anything other than a very sweet girl. I think Sarah a very good judge of human Nature, although she may have deceived herself once, but I suppose it would be hard convincing her now, that she had, even in that case, she says of course this is news to you, that "Lizzie" has gone to visit your mother for a short time. Don't you wish that you could spend a few weeks at home just now?

Sarah had received your letter. I tried to persuade her in one of my letters not long ago to come to New York with your mother and "Lizzie" if they come this summer, but I don't think I can prevail, although I have told her that she need not expect to see me down there this summer. I think it would be a grand thing for me, but I will not <> anything of the kind for in these matters I approve of a persons acting as they think right and proper.

So you heard that I was to be married before long. Pray, who told you? Madam rumor gets up so many reports that it would keep one busy in denying them if they took any notice of it so I will not attempt to question the report, but when you hear me <> so you may then think it bears some semblance of truth, but even then I would not advise you to be too sure of it.

I seem to have drawn pretty near the close of this sheet, but think I will not stop there for I can find a little more to say, although I can hardly think what I have written will be sufficiently interesting, after the unmerited flattery you were pleased to listen upon my letters; I have not felt much like writing this afternoon and from that I have allowed my feelings to creep into this sheet. I often wish that I could write a good letter, and yet I think a letter from a friend, written in a style that makes you think he is talking to you is far more acceptable than one that leads you to think of anything but the one that wrote it.

Tuesday 25th.

I intended to have finished this the day I commenced it but was prevented in some way or other. I would have closed it Sunday, but had a letter of Sarah's to answer, and such letters you know must be attended to in preference to any other. I was anxious to finish this as soon as possible, for I think when a person is sick they enjoy a letter so much. It seems to do one good, but I hope you are not sick now for to be sick so far away from home is any thing but pleasant. To be sure it is gratifying to have strangers show you kindness but there is no hand like a mothers to smooth down your pillow and administer the thousand little offices of a sick room.

Sarah wrote that they were feeling some anxiety about you, I hope, you will soon be able to dispel their fears. I told Sarah she must write you soon and give a good long letter, for I thought it would do you good. She has been enjoying herself finely in Portland, and has now gone home to settle down for a while. She found her mother sick, but was getting better when she wrote.

I have not seen either Miss Gilman or Miss Julia Morse since they have been home. Perhaps I may take a <> to call upon them bye & bye; if I do I will discuss your mishap to Miss Gilman. My acquaintance with both of them is very slight.

Silas & Epes have moved from the Pearl St House to the Battery Hotel, a good change I think for them. It is a better house and they will be better contented there.

I have no time to write more today, and if I mistake not, you will find this letter dull enough, but you will excuse it for I had so often been interrupted that when I commenced again I have said just what came into my mind first, and dare say I have repeated the same thing twice. Let me hear from you as soon as convenient & believe me

Very truly Yours  
F. T. Sargent

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271 3/23/1851 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0259a Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 23d 1851

Dear Mother

This forenoon I attended the Baptist meeting and stopt to the Bible class with Charles. This afternoon we have heard Mr Alden at the 1st Parish. I think I shall hold to this arrangement for the remainder of this term or for at least as much of it as the roads continue as wet and muddy as at present. In the morning when it is frozen it is quite comfortable getting up to the Baptist Church (about a mile) but in the afternoon it becomes muddy and uncomfortable and the Congregational Church is not more than two rods from the Academy. The minister at the Baptist is much the smartest man and the best preacher.

Today and yesterday I believe were the two pleasentest days of the season and with the bright warm sun and now and then a chirping bird, it would seem almost like spring were it not for the horrid walking and its necessary accompaniments.

Mr Perley stoped with Mr Jewett over night when going into Portland. He said that Miss Waite would have stoped if it had not been so very stormy. I rec through Mr P a large plum cake for which I do not know who should rec the credit - you or Miss W. Any how, I am lastingly obliged to the kind unknown.

I rec your letter which you sent by father together with the bundle. I am glad to hear that Otis is no worse. I think I shall write him today. Have you rec a letter from him yet? Charles has thought a great deal about Otis and feels very bad about him. It frightened him to think of one's having their head operated upon so many times. I went to the cars once or twice hoping to see father when he went through but did'nt happen to hit upon the right time.

I am sorry to hear of Maria's illness. If you hear anything farther from her I wish you to write me. I hear very good news from William, viz, that he ranks among the first in his class in his senior studies and seems to have taken a new start in scholarship. This is probably because his present studies are better adapted to his mind and habits of aplication than any heretofore.

Mrs Carey is quite low. She had an atack of neuraligy two or three weeks since. Her nerves and consequently her mind are in a sad state. To agravate the dificulty Mrs Stockbrige, her mother had a paralytic shock the night before last and is expected to survive but a few days. Her Mothers state of course had a powerful effect on the already diseased mind of Mrs Carey and I hear it said that the Dr thinks that unless there is some amendment very soon that she will not recover.

Charles will finish this so I shall write no more now. Give my love to all the friends and write all the news.

Your Son  
Rowland

[Following letter from Charles was here]

PS

Dear Mother

As I have a litte more time and a plenty of paper, I thought I would write something more. Dr. Cutler is delivering a course of lectures here on Physiology at .12 ½ a lecture. I told Charles he might attend the course if he wished. The Dr is a fine lecturer and understands his subjects. The lecture tonight on Temperance. Charles & myself shall attend. He treats of the subject physically and not otherwise.

It is now ten o'clock. I have been to lecture tonight and enjoyed it first rate. Charles has gone to bed and I must close this and go into my Greek.

Your affectionate Son  
R B Howard

[Envelope]  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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272 3/23/1851 *From:* Charles H Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0259b Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 23d, 1851

Dear Mother

As Rowland has already stated we went into the sabbath school this noon. It makes me feel very bad to think of Otis's situation. I hope it will not lessen his rank.

We have a pretty full school. There is about eighty schollars in it. Mr Wood (the opposition schooll) has about the same. There is about thirty board here in the commons. Our room is very finely situated being so that we can look out and see the cars, when they pass. I am turned around so that west seems like east when I am here.

Rowland & I went up into the cupola last night & we could see the Bay. It was the first time that I ever had seen salt water. Yarmouth is not so handsome a vilage as I expected. It covers across a large lot of ground & the houses set rather irregular.

Who waters my little colt now? Has Delie's knee got well yet? I hope it has. Will Roland Alger stay to our house this summer? Is Nancy at our house yet? I suppose uncle John's boys have gone, if not tell John to card my salty. Tell Dellie I should like to sleep with him in our little Bedroom tonight. Is it good sleighing in Leeds until now? Is Annie Gilbert any better yet?

The Ladies had a fair here Thursday eve for the benefit of the Sons of Temperance. It consisted of candy & Dolls, little cotten Rabbits, little Bedsteds and all such things as those, and they had a great many cakes and there was a gold ring in one of them & the one that bought that one could have the gold ring, so it was a kind of lottery & the monney that they rec they were to give to the Sons. Mr Cutler is to deliver a lecture on Temperance this evening.

Write soon especially if you hear from Otis.

From your Afec son  
Charles H Howard

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273 3/24/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear Son [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0260

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 24 1851

My dear Son,

After a long Silence I intend devoting this afternoon to writing to you, any one might think I had matter enough to fill a great many sheets, but my distress is too great for utterance. I have now by me your letter to John Otis, in answer to one he wrote you after we received the news of your fall. I received Warren's letter Saturday after it was written on the sabbath, (which is the case with all of your letters, as we do not have the mail but twice a week and all letters that arrive in Green after tuesday must lay there until saturday, as we have the mail brought only on those days. I wrote immediately to R.B.H. to write to Warren to ascertain your situation, and mailed it at the time John did his, and Rowland wrote me he did. We were thus particularly cautious for fear of giving too much excitement, knowing your trouble was on the head. I saw John's letter the morning it was mail'd and my first thought was to not have it sent, but on further considering I concluded those who had the care of you would withhold it, if necessary.

That day in the afternoon when I return home (my heart as full as it could be on your account) who should I find here but Lizzy Waite, with the girls. I felt as though I was sorry she had come as much as I had desired to receive a visit from her, for I did not wish to pain her young heart with the sad news that you were in the hospital, but I decided not to mention the circumstance to her, and prepared all the family to that effect, and in my struggle to make her happy I found it had a good affect on me. She stopt until Friday P.M. Mr Perley came here and carried her to Livermore, Mrs Perley was coming with him but company prevented.

Perley called at Mrs Lothrops on his way and there he learn'd that something had befallen you and enquired about it soon as he came in, and then I show'd Lizzy Warren's letter and the one Mr Sawtell wrote your Uncle John Otis, which gave us a very just idea of your situation and was quite complementary to your character, that is the estimation you were held, on West Point &c. Your father was at H...I soon after your Uncle John arived and he gave him the letter, Mr Sawtell wrote the day before you wrote yours to me and he also read Sarah Lee's so you see I knew all that I could, and not much neither for the idea of your having the Eryapulous never crossed my mind.

You cannot enter into the depth of feeling there is in a mothers heart for her son. I sincerely think there had been an undefined sympathy of feeling with you all the while after your accident before I heard anything of it. I do not feel that you were out of danger when you wrote to John. I feel that a small matter would throw you into a nervous fever. The loss of blood and that dangerous <chieus>, the E...lous [erysipelas?], has reduced you more than any sickness you have ever had. But I shall hope for the best you know if I were with you I could watch over you and get you strong again, but that cannot be.

I enjoyed Lizzy's visit very much. I was prepared to love her and was not disappointed, and I hope she had a pleasant visit. At least she did not seem unhappy. I think she is looking forward to June with a great deal of pleasure, and I have sometimes shrunk from leaving my family for the time, but of late it seems the one absorbing idea with me. I called to see Mrs Capt Turner and Sarah Turner with Lizzy, and should have called at Mrs Lothrops had it not began to snow, and we returned home thinking we should ride in the morning. About the time we should have gone, Aunt Martha, and Laura Howard came, and we spent the day quite happily, I presume Lizzy will tell you all about her visit. She looks in good health now.

Tuesday morn

You will see by my date that I did not close my letter last night. Just as night. Your father carried me up to Mr Salmon Wings, to see Steven Wing who was considered in a dying state. I presume he is living or we should have heard of his death. He has had the measles and took Cold, when recovering and brought on a disease of the lungs.

Charles went to Yarmouth with R.B.H. which makes it lonely as well as inconvenient for me, I miss his

attentions and care very much. They left home Thursday before Warren's letter arrived, so you see your mother has had quite a trial of her feelings for it is such a comfort to me to look at Charles' calm face. I know I have great reason for gratitude for the present hopeful state of my family. Charles will return to me in two months, and I hope he will be contented to stay with me.

Roland is still at home and is chopping the wood up, and doing the chores whether he has decided on any particular Course to pursue is more than I know. Arza and George Lothrop have gone to New York to establish an apiary or bee house in Brooklyne. His health is better but still poor. They left here one week ago. I expect they have had a discouraging time, owing to the severe storm of last week. We see by the papers that great damage is done on the railroads. They are moving bees and hunney to Brooklyne. I hope we shall hear favorable news from them. Arza is not able to do anything the labour depends wholly on G. L.

I already begin to feel quite attached to the people at West Point, feeling so sensibly their kind attention to you. I feel as though I would like to thank them in person. Warren's letter was very well and carefully written, I am greatly obliged to him for his interest in my son. Your father has gone to Mrs Lothrop's to day to assist them in their business. Francis is trying to fix their business so he can settle down there. His family has never returned to Leeds yet. How much trouble one death has caused. He that holds the rains and guides them for the children of men, knows why these things are so, we will hope. It is all to His Glory.

Doct Lord has called here once since his return from Philadelphia. His Practice is, as much as he can well attend. Two of his patients are pronounced beyond cure - Mr L. W. and Mr Randis Gilbert, his Brother in- law both Brought down with the measles. Sarah Turner has been with Mr. W through a great part of his sickness, which must have been a comfort to him, to have one of such feelings as Sarah to help to smooth the dying pillow. Louisa is here on a visit, and has her younger girl with her. I saw your Aunt Lucretia at meeting last Sabbath, her health is as good as common, the sabbath before I saw Aunt Aurelia. She is truly afflicted day by day. I hope Valentine situation will be happier than any of them. He is published to Mehetable Joslyn if not Married which will make a steady home for him if he and Mr Joslyn agree he has been living there all winter. Uncle Frank is published to Fanny Gould. Lucy Dunham is published. Her intended is <Arzon> Leadbetter of your age, and a lot of others that you would take little interest in. Your Uncle Stillman's family are about as usual. I see young Still—'s handsome face occasionally for (greatly to my annoyance) your father is town treasurer, and S is first select man of the town. This treasury office brings men, a plenty of men. So much for Leeds news.

You must lett me know all about your health as you go along this spring. It is now past eleven and must stop. Melvin Howard is prostrated with a fever, but hope is entertained for his life. I intend sending a paper or two to day.

Eliza Gilmore

P.S. You can let us know whether you receive the papers we sent. E.G.

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274 3/27/1851 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0261a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth, March 27th 51

Dear Brother

Hoping that your health is so far recovered as to be able to read and write, I, again, after what is comparatively long silence between us take my pen to open anew our correspondence. You cannot think how anxious Charles & I have been for you since your fall. We have heard but little about it except that the accident was very serious. And now if your health will permit, we must claim to be remembered among the first of your correspondents. Write all about your history for 4 or 5 weeks. Your fall. Your treatment - the effect your illness will have upon your rank and all of those other things which concern you in whose welfare, I feel greater interest than in any one except myself.

Mother has probably informed you that Mrs & Miss Waite paid her a visit during Perley's vacation. When they passed through here on their way to Portland I saw Mr Perley but not the Ladies. Mr Jewett stoped with Peleg the night before last and says the folks are all well. Was there a fracture in the skull by your fall? Was you obliged to have your head caped? Will it not be some time before you can study? If so, could you not get a furlough in the mean time and come to Maine? Traveling would do you some good and seeing your friends more.

Three weeks of our Term have passed and there are seven more to come. Charles health is good and he studies well. He is studying Astronomy in addition to the common branches. Our Class number 13 at present and it will probably rec great additions next term. I like the apearance of most of the members well. There are not more than one or two that drink at all. The most of them are about my size. Rather small you will say, but not so small either for I weigh 1.53 so as far as size is concerned I am, as father would say, quite a Boy.

Our School numbers about 80 so that Mssrs Robinson & Jewett have about as much as they can do. This school is inferior in every respect to the one at Readfield except in its College class. There is'nt half the tallent displayed by its members in the exercises of Declamation, Discussion and Composition, that there was at Kents Hill, But still it is good school enough for me, but I think Charles in future better go to Readfield.

Mother has probably written you of the whereabouts of Uncle Johns family. I hear from nine of them except William. His classmates say that he is taking at present as high rank as any in the class and that he sails finely in all the Senior studies, good news truly but I suppose it cannot recall three years of worse than idleness which he has spent in College.

Our Class begins the Eneid next week and are in hopes to finish it this term, most of us having read the five first Books. There are about 20 boarding in Commons this term, rather a noisy set too. When dinner is anounced there is as great a rush as if it was a cry of fire. Mrs Cary is quite sick. She has had an atack of neuralegy and unless there is some change very soon she will live but a short time.

I take the N.Y. Tribune and if you would like to have that or any other paper, write, and I will send them.

I will now bid you good by and leave the rest of the of the sheet to Charles who says he would like to write a little.

Your affectionate Brother  
R B Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

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275 3/27/1851 *From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0261b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Rowland]

Dear Brother

I am sorry to hear such bad news from you. I hope you will soon get well. It made me feel as though I wished I was at home, when I heard that you had been hurt so badly and I know that it must make mother feel very badly. I would like to have you write to us as soon as you are able and tell us (Roland & I) how you get along. I hope it will not make any change in your rank, though I suppose it must.

Rowland & I came to Yarmouth just three weeks from today. I had rather live to house than in Yarmouth. Mr Cutler has delivered a course of lectures here, the last one was last night, I must now go to dinner. The bell has rung. It is now about half past one o clock the bell has toled for school, but I study in my room. I recite in Arithmetic at  $\frac{1}{2}$  after two. I have got into Decimal Fractions in Arithmetic. Our Folks were well when we last heard from home. I wish you would write often to us. I think it is very bad to be hurt so far from home. My Studies are Astronomy, Arithmetic & Grammar. I have not written as well as common because my hand trembles.

Good Bye Brother Otis, I remain  
Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles H. Howard

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276 3/30/1851    *From:* Charles H Howard    *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0262a                      Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 30th 1851

Dear Mother

I will take my pen again this sabbath evening to write you a few lines with Rowland. I have been to meting this afternoon, but did not go this AM. I was'nt very well. I think I got cold last night. I went with Rowland and some other fellows to take a walk and was pretty sweaty when I got back, and took off my great coat. I think I got cold by setting where it was rather cold, in the back part of the room. My head ached some in the night, but I guess it will soon get well. "But a truce" to this (as Otis writes).

We have had a letter from Otis, maybe that you have had one too. He says that is all well now. He described to us how he got hurt, how his head was opporated upon, &c, said that he had made up all that he lost in study.

The snow is most all gone here. It will soon be dry here in the yard. It is very muddy walking in the roads. They use waggons here mostly. Is it good sleighing in Leeds still.

Mr Woods is about to build an Academy nearly opposite to this side of his house. I think if he has an Acad that it will spoil both schools.

I have reason to think that you have about as much to do as common or that you are sick for we have not had an answer to our last letter, I hope neither. I should like to be to home pretty well today.

The bell is ringing for supper. It is a very pleasant evening. The sun is setting.

I want you to write often mother for that is the only way that I hear from my home, please give my love to Delie, father and all. I would like to be there myself to night and hear you and father sing as you do sundy nights.

I remain your afec Son  
Charles.

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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277 3/30/1851 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0262b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Charles]

Yarmouth March 31st, 51

Dear Mother

Charles was very careful to restrict himself to a page. I told him to write farther as I did not know as I should have time to finish the letter today. But I have the half hour to spare, so I employ it, eating my dinner at present for there's the bell. Having satisfied my appetite which by the way is enormous, especially on bean day (for you must know that we reckon days here on a new method, viz, Meat Day, Beanday, Pudding day &c &c). As I said before, having satisfied my appetite by an undue quantity of Beans, I will inform you that this is a most beautiful day, when the Sun is out. The Yard is drying off fast and soon will be in shape to play in.

Charles has told you that we rec a letter from Otis. There was nothing in it which would be new to you. Charles has recovered from the head ache he complained of yesterday and today is as smart as you please.

How good this warm sun feels shining in at my window! We have not needed a fire for 2 or 3 days and I am in hopes we shall not need one much more this season, especially as I have some wood that it will cost me the price of, to get cut up. I think my room will be very pleasant in the summer, that is if coolness is a pleasing attribute. You must come down and see it either the last of this term or the first of next, and after stoping a part of the day we can go into Portland and make a visit. I think we shall not have a singing school there so few that wish to attend.

Charles has been grumbling some about his coats but I believe he has concluded to wear his new one. The other coat is small and worn very much. As near as I can find out, Charles is a little home sick, especially when anything ails him. Yesterday he was very childish.

I have had my great coat repaired, cost about 20 cts. It makes it much better. Mrs Carey has gone to Bath. They are in hopes that her health will be benefitted by change of scene. She is in a very depressed state. Her mother is in a precarious condition. One side of her being entirely paralyzed.

I have no more time, so I must stop. Give my love to all.

Your Son  
R B Howard

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278 4/2/1851

*From:* B. F. Kendall

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0263

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Apr. 2, 1851

Friend Howard,

Your long awaited epistle came to hand this morning; and right glad was I to hear from you, sitting in high places, supported at public expense.

I wish the public would support me.!!! But I am well pleased to hear of your high stand, and hope yet to hear that you stand No. 1.

I have always supposed that the course of study at the U.S.M.A. was much more calculated to "try men's souls" than the course here. One thing here however, which tends to increase the hatred is the non-intervention of Smyth. You never will be enlightened by any wisdom, he has hoarded in the midday study or dreamed out by the flickerings of his midnight oil.

It is the only objection I have to him, is, that as a teacher he is no better than a wooden one. Every day that I remain here is diminished my respect for old Packard. If he has learned anything during all his life, why does it not stick out?

We are now in the delightful field of calculus where some of the class already prefer to roam in shady paths thinking the sooner to find the maximum of all their joys.

I did not arrive here till some two weeks since, consequently I had some to make up. I confess that it was a little hazy to me at first. But I am doing pretty well in it now, at least I get along alone. I dread the math paper.

In German we are reading Schiller's thirty years war which is almighty dull.

The Senior class are all here but Pike and Hamlin who were suspended about one week since for getting tight, as usual.

Joseph Ware was also suspended at the same time. I forgot him at first.

The present Freshman Class number now fifty. The largest class since <>.

My class has dwindled down to Seventeen.

You spoke of your brother. I will do him all the favors I can, for I once was indebted to you for such.

Howard, I miss you and old Perley. You were far more intimate with me than any in my own class; and when I think of the many good times I had with you, in 26 M. H. I am sorry you are not here now. I shall probably be here a year with your brother and as you know my habits are not over bad, perhaps I could do him some good. You can tell him, that is, if you think best, that he can ask me for a favor or for advice at any time and I will give him the best I can.

I am sorry for Browne, that his prospects are dubious. I feared for him as I knew he disliked mathematics.

As for news from Albany quarter, tell him I cannot give him any, for I have not been in Bethel for a year.

I think I shall go to Bethel next vacation as I can go there now in the cars.

I taught School in Ellsworth six miles from the place I was the winter before. They paid me fifty dollars (I boarded myself) per month. I may teach one more town School, and only one.

I had to use the green-hide on four great ignorant boys during the past winter.

You inquired after I. Hand. He is doing well, only he gets a little tight sometimes, not often I think.

As to Athn operations I can tell but little; only that she is greatly involved in debts, say something less than \$200.00 but little interest has been manifested under Eaton's administration. The Ath. has so far, got more of the Fresh. class than the Penc. but it is not owing to any enthusiasm in favor of the Ath. only in favor of the  $\psi$ 's presidency.

I do not know whether they will elect their candidate or not. As for college popularity I can say I do not care three cents for it.

I cannot bow and scrape to win the favor of any body; and you know that but few can be very popular here among such capricious people as college affords.

They are to finish off the chapel this season, I hear.

Remember me to Brown. Tell him I hope the thoughts of Cynthia will not distract his mind.

Write again when convenient. I shall be glad to hear from you. Tell me next time how you & Abbot get on in the race.

As ever yrs truly  
B. F. Kendall

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279 4/6/1851

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0264

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y. Apr 6th 1851

Dear Mother,

I am sorry it happens so that my letters must be a week old before they reach you, but I must write Saturday afternoon or Sunday if I write at all. Once in a while perhaps I may manage to steal a few moments in the middle of the week. If I do I will surely devote them to your letters. My health is now very good indeed. You must not make any unfavorable hypotheses, that is, you must not borrow trouble; depend upon it mother, enough of it will come unasked. You must not fear or expect a relapse in my case for I have fairly recovered.

I have received a letter from Lizzie since her return. She enjoyed her visit very much indeed. She wishes to know when is the best time for you to come. After the June examination the first Class having graduated leave for their several stations. The Class next above us go home on furlow, leaving only two classes. About a hundred new cadets are being drilled in the mean time. These get their uniforms & go into the battalion about the last of July, ie, about the middle of the encampment. This time is really the pleasantest time at West Point. The Corps of Cadets then make the best appearance. But I would rather have you come the last of June or the first of July. In fact it matters not. Come when it is most convenient. If they can know when you will be in New York Mr Sargent or Silas will gladly meet you at the Cars and conduct you to some good place to stop. From the City you can come up river by the cars or by a boat as you please. I preferred the steam boat, for the scenery all the way up the Hudson is rich & interesting in the summer, whose beauty is all lost upon you when you are hurried along at lightning's speed. But if you should choose you could come by cars & stop at Peekskill. My Cousin Elizabeth Howard would think it a rich treat to have you stop so that she could accompany you to West Point. You can make your own arrangements about coming only let me know when. I may be able to meet you at Peekskill, perhaps even in New York. It depends entirely on the state of Capt Brewerton's will and temper at that time. At a favorable time I will ask him if he will grant me such a favor.

Rowland Bailey has written me. Says he & Charlie are getting on finely, thinks Readfield a better school for Charles than Yarmouth. He says that William Otis is doing finely on his senior studies.

It hardly seems possible to me now that I am a graduate from College. like many others I had been under the foolish impression that a College educated man was necessarily well versed in every thing pertaining to scientific & literary knowledge. Here ignorance is most certainly detected. A man cannot palm himself off for more than he is. In many respects I think this the best school in the Union, in others the worst.

The moral education that a person would receive in this place is just none at all. Yet it is said that a considerable number of eminent ministers in the United States are graduates.

I went to see Warren yesterday afternoon and had a long walk with him. He is still in hopes to get a Commission at least when a new force is created next winter. It seems hard that Commission should not be open to meritorious men from the "ranks", as well as to graduates of this Institution. But this seems to be the medium. It has this advantage that it confers a good part of the government of our land upon educated men; but all the Army regulations tend to promote rank & Aristocracy. Warren is a very practical man. He says an army would be no army without this high respect paid to the officer's dress, however contemptible the man who wears it. An Army cannot be democratic.

I saw Mr Harville you remember him perhaps. Charles Harville, who lived at Col Lothrops one season or more. He has had the small pox, and a strange looking creature he is. He secretly married a day or two before he was seized with this horrid disease. What a fool a man is to leave a pleasant situation, where he can receive attention & respect according to his merit or according to the goodness of his heart; and enlist in the Army.

Give my love to all and write me as soon as you can.

From Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard.

I have received all the papers that father has sent me. He made a mistake and sent me an Advertiser of Mar. 1850 instead of Mar 1851 last time. The Lewiston Journal was very acceptable.

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280 4/6/1851

*From:* Charles [H Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0265a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth April 6th 1851

Dear Mother

We have a rainy sabbath today, one which is not very agreeable to any one, especaly to one who cannot be at home. Very likely if it rained in Leeds you could not go to church, although I have been all day, Roland and myself . We went up to the Battist in the A.M. but it rained so hard this P.M that we went in to hear Mr Alden preach, it being much nearer.

We had a Lecture here yesterday the subject of which was Physiology, one which very much interested me. I would like to have Delie hear such a lecture. He hanged a skelliton or part of a one. Besides a <manikin> we have one other lecture or course of lectures on the same subject. I don't know but I wrote you.

Our writing school that we was expecting to have came off rather badly. The writing Master apointed a writing school and I went but there was not enough there and so we did not have any. But I am in hopes they will have a singing school, because they did not have a writing school.

I suppose that Delie had a good time the first day of April making April fools. I hope he did. The boys here had quite a time. They got the breakfast bel and rung it before breakfast was ready and so got the boys all down there for nothing.

I suppose that Martha is to our house yet. The roads had got quite dry before the rain, and it was pretty good wagganing. I suppose that you use sleighs in Leeds.

Fast day will be next Thursday. I wish that it did not cost anything to go home if it did not I should like to come home. I suppose that they will have a great time, playing ball.

We have not heard from Otis since the last time that we wrote. I hope that you will write soon & let us know whether you heard from him of late or not.

Give my love to father, Delie and all. Has Roland made up his mind to stay this year to our house or go to some other place to spend the summer. Is our wood all cut up. Please write mother and tell me the whole.

I suppose Rowland will finish this. So Good Bye

From your Afec son Charles

[Continued in the next letter from Rowland]

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281 4/6/1851      *From:* Rowland [B Howard]      *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0265b                      Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Charles]

[Yarmouth April 6th 1851]

Dear Mother

A classmate was in my room this evening complaining of a head, tooth and ear ache and said, why is it Howard that you never have any of these ailments? I thought that such a question would sound strange to you who have always heard me complaining of aches and pains ever since you have heard me speak. However such a question proves that I am either getting the better of them or if I have them, that it is of no use of talking about it here. But I think my general health has improved much within a year past. At least I hope I have overcome the habit of constantly teasing others with my ailments. Such a thing here would be downright foolishness. And such a person would immediately set down as a baby who had left his mothers knee too early. I think Charles health is as good as it has been for some time.

Mrs Careys Mother has died since I wrote and I attended the funeral on Thursday. Mrs Carey is still at Bath.

Mr Johnson is trying to get up a writing school here. If he does tell Father I shall try to get that little note, and I shall try if he does not, I should class him as a man and a paymaster among writing masters generally. That is as a regular "numhead".

It thunders and lightens tonight and I think the storm will clear away before morning.

As Charles has said, we had a course of lectures here yesterday on Phisyology. they were very interesting and instructive. But on the whole I thought the man better satisfied with himself than his hearers were with him, not but that the lectures were first rate. But I think no man could admire the mans tallent as much as he seemed to.

I shall have to have a new pair of shirts next vacation, for I find that if mine go to the washtub whole, they seldom if ever come away so. Mrs Mason has torn and worn the bosoms all to pieces by going through an operation which I should call scrubing in dirt. Write me the news from Halowell, from Arza, Addison Martin, Otis and home. Send me if you can the last Journal or Advertiser. I see the world renowned <> RR Car, puffed in all the papers. That financial item is what takes my eye. Haven't heard from Portland lately. I shall write again next Sunday. Charles is snoring so I must go to bed.

Your affectionate Son  
Rowland

P.S. Did you rec that Eclectic <> N Y Tribune I sent

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282 4/6/1851

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0266a

Leeds, Me

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, April 6th, 1851

My dear Son,

I have reread your last letter with a view to answer it in part, I believe in my last letter I said as much as I could recollect of Lizzie's visit but she did not come in the cars, she came with Mr. Hewitt in the stage as far as Mr Martins and his son brought her here with a noble fat horse and a good sleigh with two nice Buffalos. Besides it was very good sleighing, so you see your imagination is liable to take a wrong flight. I suppose you have heard from L-- herself all the particulars of her expedition from Lewiston to Leeds and back again. I am in hopes you are wholly recovered from your sickness ere this. Charlie said in his letter of the 31 Mar that you had written to them, and had made up your studies. Be it so, you are lucky in being unlucky.

Our winter is past and nothing now remains, of all the snow that has fallen the four months past, but now and then a remnant of a drift near the walls and fences. I shall soon be able to walk in the fields and woods, which I so much admire. I shall miss Charlie this spring, as he has so long been my companion in my spring rambles. But it will not be more than six or seven weeks at most ere he will be here. I felt really down hearted at his going to Yarmouth this spring but I hope it will not be lost time to him. I have needed him a good deal but the longer I am without him I have become accustomed to calling on others to do what he did.

I am about making your half dozen shirts for you. I think I can get them right except the collars. You can give me the exact shape of the Cadet Collar if it is a strait one send me the exact length and width of them and whether they should be stitched near the edge that turns over or not. And I would like to know whether you have any choice in the fashion of the wristbands. These trifles may be important in the set of your shirts.

I believe wrote a great deal of news in my last letter, which makes me rather short at this time. I attended the funeral of Steven Wing, who died the day I mailed your letter. Mr Stevens the Universalist Minister attended the funeral. He prayed earnestly, for one who expected to share his destiny in life. I suppose Sarah Turner since she returned from Augusta the first of the winter there has been an evident partiality existing between them. Sarah was sick at the time of the funeral. I have called to see her. She is now getting well again.

Your father saw Brother John [Otis] at Augusta last week. He said nothing about sending for John. Gave some directions about his treatment. Seemed quite cheerful about William. Said they had given him an Oration in his class this term. I am in hopes he will go to house keeping before long and collect their family. I expect it will be a great trouble to them, but that is their lookout.

It is raining fast which seems to say that vegetation will soon put forth her beauties. I long to see the fields covered with grass.

Don't buy you any stockings until I come to West Point.

Arza [Gilmore] has removed his business all to New York in Brooklin. We have received two letters from him since his arrival, in New York. He moved fifty beehives from here to New York all safe and is now there with George Lothrop to do all the work. He has a partner a man with whom he became acquainted last fall in New York by the name of Platt. Arza has staked all now on the <east coast>. How he will finally come out is in the future to decide. He sent his father a Brooklyn newspaper containing a description of a mammoth beehive. The date of the paper is March the 31, Brooklyn Freeman [2] if you have any curiosity to see the paper and read what is said concerning his establishment. That is the one. His father is going to Boston to try to settle Arza's old debts next week. I find it is a business he very much dreads. Arza health is much improved the latter part of the winter and he writes he is as well as when he left here. He is not able to do anything. All the labor is done by his partner and George Lothrop. He is as peevish as ever. George says he can reason with him tolerably well for the most part.

Our railroad progresses yet. I never wanted it and am always sick of it and never more so than now. Your father's time is all taken up and I very much fear his money will be too. I do not like any of the management at

all. Everything around us looks neglected and miserable and I have no hope of its ever being different. Roland will now probably remain at home this year if not always, in what capacity I know not. Betsey is all the time in hot water about her rights here and quarreling [with] Henry Gilbert about eggs, everybody is wronged. Martha Martin is with me a great helpless mass of flesh. I get all I can out of her which is misery indeed. I am satisfied Emily has thrown herself away on a miserable fellow. I pity her but it is no use. I very much fear that he goes by an assumed name and will finally give her the slip when he has got all she has. If my fears are true it is no matter how soon he goes. Martha has satisfied me of late that he is a great wretch.

I have a high mark set for you in principles and I hope I shall not be disappointed. There is one sure foundation and that is grace of God if you will abide in me, I will abide in you. With this abiding principle we shall not fall. I wish you be particular about writing me a description of your cadet shirt collar, the number of inches is a proper way to tell me. Your father will write some on the sheet and I will stop.

Your [unrecognizable mark] Elisa Gilmore.  
[To] Otis Howard

[Continued on the next letter from John Gilmore]

[Notes:

1. George Lothrop's father, Sullivan Lothrop, was a first cousin of John Gilmore.
2. The Brooklyn Freeman was a paper started by Walt Whitman in 1848 in response to the viciousness of the slave trade that he had witnessed earlier in New Orleans as the editor of the New Orleans Gazette. In 1855 he published his first set of poems "Leaves of Grass". According to web sites the paper was in existence for 2 years only, but it must have been in operation in 1851.

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283 4/7/1851 *From:* John Gilmore

*To:* My dear Boy [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0266b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Eliza Gilmore]

April 7, 1851

My dear Boy

Your mother has written a letter R B & Charles besides writing this she says she is tired & I will try to fill up the sheet.

I recd a letter from the War department last week respecting your conduct & standing for the month of February in which I find no marks of demerit for the month nor for the whole term & that you stood first in Mathematics and second in English studies. I told your mother that I thought you had better knock your head again for you stood better than you did at the semiannual examination.

I saw your Uncle John last week. He asked why you did not write him.

The grading of our Rail Road is progressing slowly this winter, but will probably be ready in season to lay the track as soon as we shall want it. We expect our first cargo of Rails from Liverpool in all the month of May & the other two in June & July. Our Sleepers are about all ready & shall commence laying the track when the Iron arrives & expect the track will be laid to Livermore Falls by about September next.

Yours affectionately  
J. Gilmore

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284 4/10/1851 *From:* Sarah E Lee

*To:* Dear Cousin [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0267

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell April 10th 1851

My Dear Cousin:

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to receive your kind letter, and I intended to have answered it more promptly, but have been so much engaged that I have not found time. But as today is our State Fast I thought that instead of attending Church I remain at home, and devote the day to writing letters to my friends as I find I am indebted to quite a number of them. Grandmother [Elizabeth Stinchfield Otis] and Mother [Ann Otis Lee] have gone to Church, and I am at home alone. They are both very well and happy. I think Grandmother retains her health, and faculties remarkably for one of her age. She will be 77 next Monday. I believe I have no idea of ever arriving at that age, have you? though if I could be as agreeable as she is I should not object to living as long.

We were very sorry indeed to hear of your illness. I am afraid my dear Cousin, it was more severe than you thought, when you wrote. Most all felt very anxious about you, but I trust you have entirely recovered from it before this. I hope you will be very careful. Your Father staid here the night before last, and we were very happy to hear from him, that you were able to resume your studies as quick and that you had been able to make up your studies so easily, we had feared that you would overtax your strength when you were able to study in order to make up. We are all rejoiced to hear of your standing in your Class, and trust that you will have your health, and that you may realize your highest expectations. It was not William Packard that I saw, but Charles A, a brother I presume. He is an Engineer on the Railroad and seems to be a fine young man.

I suppose you have heard before this that I spent a fortnight with [Aunt] Martha Jane [Strickland], a short time since. I had a delightful visit. I like Portland very much indeed. I think it is one of the prettiest places I ever saw, and the people seem so social and friendly, I would like very much to live there. I saw Miss Waite several times, and was sorry that I could not see more of her, but she was out of town the last week that I was there. I admire her very much indeed, and shall feel very proud to recognize her as a cousin. I think she is quite handsome, and the greatest charm about it is, that she is not at all vain, but is perfectly modest and unassuming. I think you could not have made a better choice and think as you say, that you are worthy of each other, and I hope that your separation, instead of making you less attached will only bind your affections closer to each other. I wish she would make me a great long visit this summer, I should enjoy it very much indeed. I invited her to come, but she seemed to think she should not be able to, but I wish you would induce her to come.

Your Father told us that him, and your mother and Lizzie, were going on to make you a visit in June. I presume you will enjoy it very much. I wish I could go with them, but I do not think you will see me till I come to New York to live, and then I shall avail myself of the first opportunity of visiting you. I suppose you will ask when I am coming to N.Y. but there is no particular time decided upon yet, though if nothing should happen, I may possibly go there next fall. I am glad you like Frank [Sargent], for I want all my friends to think as much of him as I do, and he thinks as much of you as you do of him. I received a letter from him this morning in which he says he has just seen the Endeavour spoken, the 27th of March, in the South Seas. It must have been a year ago I think as it would be impossible for the news to reach here so soon if was this year. I wish we could receive letters from him, it seems as if he were never coming home but I hope we shall see him soon. We received letters from [brother] Silas [Lee] last week. He was well and in fine spirits. Him and Epes [Sargent] have left the Pearl St. House, and are now boarding at the Battery Hotel on Broadway, a much neater and more actual House.

Laura Ann and family are very well and happy. They have a fine great boy, <build fair> to make a good subject for West Point. They do not change much and seem as quiet and happy as ever. Uncle John has not gone to house keeping yet, but is still at Mr. Grants. I suppose you have heard that they have another Daughter, but I have not seen it yet. They will go to house keeping in a week or two. Vaughan is boarding here with us now. I suppose you heard that Willie left his school rather abruptly. I hope after he graduates he will try to do something. Maria is still Gorham. I received a letter from Addison by the last mail. He is very well indeed and is doing finely as far as business goes. He says there are a raft of Boys coming on this fall to visit their friends

but does not say that he is coming, but I hope he will for I want to see him very much. I suppose you heard of William Spaulding death. His partner, Addison feels it very much. He is now alone in the business.

I received a letter from Olive [Note 1] last week. She says they are all very well; have you heard of the death of her Brother Warren's Wife, he feels his loss very much, and she was a very excellent Woman, and it will be difficult for him to find one to take her place.

I have tried to tell you about all the members of the family, that I can think of, but I am so negligent about writing that I do not keep myself as well informed as I might, with regard to them.

We are having delightful weather now, the snow is all gone and the ice is out of the river, and it is really quite cheering. I have enjoyed the winter here very much. It had been quite lively. We have had quite a number of Parties and <Slugnabs>, all of which were very pleasant and I am beginning to feel quite at home again, though I miss a great many of my old friends that were here when I left. There are quite a number of the young Ladies married, and the young men have gone to the "Golden "Regions" but what there are remaining are the same friends they used to be.

And now Cousin mine. I have written quite as long a letter, as I think you will care about taking the trouble to read. But I hope to receive an answer very soon for we are always happy to hear from you, and I hope you will find time to write to us often. If Grandmother, and Mother were here they would send a great deal of love.

And with a great deal of affection I remain your  
Cousin, Sarah E. Lee

[Note 1: Olive is Sarah's cousin Olive Woodman Hazard (b 1814). She is living in Cambridge Mass, married to Samuel Hazard. Her brother is Ephraim Warren Woodman (b 1823) and are children of Aunt Sarah B Otis (1797-1822) and Ephraim Warren Woodman (1787-1859). Warren's wife was Elizabeth Ferguson (~1829-1851).

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285 4/13/1851 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0268 Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Apr 13th 1851

Dear Brother

I have been to church all day and heard two very good sermons. The last by Dr Dwight of Portland, I think of the best I ever had the pleasure of hearing. It is a cool windy day very much resembling fall, with dust filling your eyes and nose and all similar apertures. Sat evening was one of the most beautiful I ever saw, the moon is about in her second quarter, and the street was almost as light as noonday. I had a splendid walk with a young lady for meeting of my acquaintance in the street I made an exception to my usual custom, on account of the beauty of the evening and her agreeable conversation. Such an occasion does not often arise in Yarmouth, even if I was in a disposition to improve it. For of all the homely, disagreeable people that ever met, the inhabitants of Yarmouth are the most uninteresting and disagreeable always excepting <Teunell> City and Beach Hill.

I made a very pleasant call at Dr Careys last week. Mrs Careys health is still very precarious. They sometimes fear for her reason. William and Joseph are not at home. but the girls, Marsha & Ellen are very agreeable, and the Dr is full as ever of his laughable anecdotes although sometimes they seem almost forced.

Charles is with me yet. He will remain through the term. He has contracted as I feared he would, some desire to go to College. I for one do not think he had better either go or have any desire to go. I do not think he should go for many reasons, and of course I do not want him to wish to go, and to be disapointed. I have talked with him some about it and I wish that you would write him a letter discouraging the idea of his going to college, for I am afraid he will set his mind too much upon going as I said before. Do not let him know that I said anything to you about it. His constitution seems to be weak and his general health poor. I think he would not live long in a sedentary mode of life or if he did he would not be half so happy as he would if he contracts no love for such a mode and lives upon a farm and takes interest in its affairs. But of course you will have your own opinion concerning these things and act accordingly.

Since I left my letter one of my classmates has come into my room with Howard, would you like a walk? I assented and we have walked round to the fore side as they call it, perhaps you used to travel the same path when you was here. We went to and old grave yard with graves and tombs almost a century old. There is a high bluff just behind it and a ledge, from which I saw Cape Elizibeth and Munjoy on the right, the bay and its beautiful islands, in front, with a vessel anchored here and there, and on the far left I could discover Harpswell and the spire of Mr Kellogg's Church. Of course you remember the time that we went a fishing in that direction. On the whole I have had a fine walk, and I am determined that one visit shall not suffice, to the beautiful place on the fore side.

Charles is beside me writing to Mother and I shall finish the letter. I am very glad to hear that your health has so far recovered, and I sincerely hope that your fall will not render you permanently skull cracked.

What a delightful meeting there would be between you and 'Lizzie' now. I can imagine you with your shaven pate and ridiculous skull cap. You must be quite a prominent feature of your class and a very ludicrous specimen of a down easter. If your strength was like Sampsons, how delighted I should be to <flog> you, or with out the supposition I suppose there would be no trouble about it if I could only see you.

Speaking of Lizzie reminds me that Perley was here last week, and on Fast Day (Thursday). He went with Mr Jewett to Brunswick. The latter looked prodigously sleepy when he got back and I cannot for the life of me account for it, can you? Perley said that his Landlady was in good health and spirits.

Uncle John passed through here on Wednesday and I had just time to speak with him at the cars. He said that his people were well, and Maria went to Gorham, the day before. Had I known they were in Portland I should have gone in. Haven't heard from home lately. I write every week. Did you ever know me to write so develish well before. I flatter myself that I am fast aproximating to that pink of perfection - a Macawber of our mutual acquaintance.

The May flowers are budding to blow and I shall gather some this week. Don't you wish that you and Lizzie were gathering them on some of the old and rugged hills of Maine. Of course, but don't weep, but constantly remember that old song,

"Oh a happy time is coming boys" &c (From that celebrated author the 'Poet')

I am getting along finely in Latin but confound the Greek. Tis an infernal bore any how, dry, hard and (excuse me) shit, but they tell us it is glorious disipline.

My respects to Mr Lothrop and every one that cares to have them.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Aint you glad that you once resided under the same consecrated roof that the down easter did who is making such a stir in Brookline. Enclosed is a High puff that I cut from the Brookline Freeman. Yankees are ahead and no mistake.

RBH

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286 4/14/1851 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0269a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Apr 14th 1851

Dear Mother

I have been to church with Rowland all day. The Text this forenoon was the 86 Psalm 8 vers. There are a great many that go to meting here. The meting houses are always full, which is some different from the meting in Leeds. Some carriages go with one load, and then go back after another and the carriages are passing pretty lively Sunday morning.

The weather is quite pleasant today though rather cold. I am in pretty good health though I have got a cold. I cannot keep my feet warm.

We are about to have a singing school here. It is to begin Tuesday evening.

We rec your welcome letter in season, I believe the same day that it was mailed. I much thank you for your kind advise, and will try to do as well as I can. I do not know what I should do if it was not for Rowland here in Yarmouth, I had rather go to Readfield than here. I think it will be much pleasanter to me.

The news of Stevens death came very unexpected to me. I never once thought of his dying. We heard of it the day before we got your letter. We heard by Mr Curtis, although he is deaf he seems to know more news than we do.

Uncle John passed through here from Portland last Thursday left Maria there, who was going to Goram the next day. They had a meting here all day Fast day and in the evening. We have not heard from Otis since we last wrote suppose he is studying to make up what he lost in studdies. Rowland is now writing to him.

I get along well with my studies, & hope it will be as you say the 21 of May. That is that I shall be safe at home. Give my love to Martha. Will she stay to our house all summer. I am sorry Annie Gilbert is so low. How does Delie get along this spring? I hope he do'nt go down to Betsey's much, I see by your letter that she is the same Betsey after all. I hope Hary Gilbert will not stay there always. I see that you have men there at home as usual. I hope you will not always have so much to do.

I should like to know the day that father goes to Boston, so I can see him when he goes past Yarmouth. We would like to see him very much when he goes through.

Have Capt Turner's folks heard from Charles yet? Has Silas gone to Vassalboro yet? Tell Delie he must learn to write. I shall be glad when he gets so he can write to me & Rowland. Give my love to him and father, and any one who may feel interested to Phebe & Nancy.

I will leave the rest for Rowland to write. Good bye, Mother. Write as often as you can conveniently.

From your Afecionate son  
Charles

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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287 4/14/1851 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0269b Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles]

[Yarmouth Apr 14th 1851]

Dear Mother

I think Charles is very punctual in writing home for as often as Sabbath day comes he begins his part of the letter. I have written a long letter to Otis of about four pages and it is now rather late. I spent Fast Day in reading which you know gives me vastly more pleasure than going to church or playing ball. I wish Charles would read more. He would be a great deal better contented. When I feel homesick or cross, melancholy, or anything of the kind, a book does more for me than the kindest friend could. I would not give a snap to sit down as some do and talk and play hours at a time. The greatest wonder is to me what they find to talk about. But those who can thus talk about nothing and find themselves I know are my good companions, and I know I am not half so popular as I might be if I should adopt such a course. When I am reading or studying it provokes me to have any one speak to me and of course the enquirer does not get very civil answers.

I had been over to see Mrs Carey this week. She does not seem much like that Miss Stockbid you used to know at school and that Mrs Cary that I knew at Wayne. Instead of the happy, frolicsome woman I found her unhappy and morose. She as well as my conscience reproved me for not seeing her before. She is better than she was and they are in hopes will finally recover. I see that C. O. Turner publishes somewhat, if that is a specimen I saw in the Journal. I think his composition might have been improved by early culture. But I suppose information is the main point. And it does not matter much how a person gets at it.

Give my love to all. Write soon, and don't forget the paper.

Rowland

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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288 4/14/1851 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0270

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth April 14th 1851

Dear brother,

I will put a few lines into Rowland's letter. I get along well with my studies. We have received your letter. We did rect it soon after we wrote ours, which brought us such good news. We have had a letter from mother since we wrote & suppose you have had one too. She wrote that Steven Wing was dead. Died with a fever after having had the measles. I send my love to you and will write more the next time that we write. So Good bye.

From you Afec brother  
Charles

PS write soon Otis.

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289 4/19/1851 *From:* O O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0271

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr 19th '51

Dear Mother,

I have again taken up my pen to write you, and am in hopes, as the mail now goes & comes twice a day with us, that this will reach you before the expiration of a week. I would write other days than Saturday and Sunday, but cannot very well, as my daily duties must be attended to first. I wish you to tell me in your next letter, when or about what time it will be most convenient for you to make your journey to West Point. You must fix upon it yourself, for it will not make the least difference to me when you come, if you only come.

I have constructed to the best of my ability a uniform Collar of paper. It may serve as a pattern. Almost any Collar will answer if it is not open behind and is not too wide, for I pin them on my coat binding over which they are to be turned, or pin them on to my shirt binding, according to the kind of stock I put on. It is better not to have any collar on the shirt, as in warm weather the collar must be changed two or three times a day. During the encampment the "wash man" (as the man who takes the clothes is called) takes the clothes twice a week and returns clean ones. A Cadet must be clean then for there is a close inspection twice a day.

You need not be at all surprised if the next monthly report charges me with 8 demerit. A fort night ago today (Saturday) in the afternoon I visited Warren as I had done often before. During my stay there three officers passed by and as I thought I was on limits I took no pains to conceal myself. The next night I was reported: "Howard off Limits 3 & 4 P.M." I wrote as my excuse that I did not suspect that I was beyond our limits on Saturday afternoon. The Comandt. said, I should have known & sent me for the regulations. He read me the articles & notes respecting the exact location of our limits and found me rather deficient in knowledge thereof. He may have taken off the report, as I have as yet no demerit registered, and it is generally registered within one week after the report. It does not make much difference whether it is off or not.

Demerit here does not always signify bad conduct or carelessness - but freedom from it is generally owing to chance or good fortune. There are so many thousand little things to be reported for that a person will necessarily lay himself liable every day. Perhaps the probability of my standing ahead would be stronger if I had no demerit than if I had a few. Mr Browne has tried as hard not to get demerit as a man well could & he has got about 20. Mr Treadwell 24.

Two young men of our Class got their Complement of demerit, and were dismissed the other day. One of them boasts himself a drunkard & the other is a blabbing disagreeable sort of a fellow. I did not regret their departure much.

(Saturday evening) I commenced this letter this forenoon after I returned from the Mathematical Section room and as I spent considerable time in cutting out a pattern collar I could not finish it before dinner. After dinner I went to Mr Sawtelle's room and with him went & made a call on Capt S. Williams. He has just returned from a furlow of a month. He says he spent his furlow very pleasantly in Augusta. He is a very pleasant <> man, and generally liked by the officers on the Point. Since I cut out my pattern Mr Sawtelle has furnished me with a collar, which I shall send in this letter. He says his mother has sent him twelve, 3 at a time in a letter. You may make the part above the binding half an inch (or three quarters of an inch) longer than the pattern which I send. I believe I told you that it was better not to have bosoms in my shirts.

This last week has been very rainy here; the sun has not been seen for five days. Such weather as this Cadets like much, for they get rid of drill, which exercise none, however military they may be, ever take pride or pleasure in. I have been excused from Drills & dress-parades by the Surgeon, since my accident. But as my head is perfectly well I think I shall tell him that I can return to military duty on Monday next.

You spoke or rather father spoke of my monthly report for the month of April. Tell him I would like to know my monthly standing each month. I stood well in April. My mark was not affected for that month by my illness, so I wish him to write what it was for March. This standing belongs exclusively to the month of which it is recorded. Father said that I stood higher than at the January examination. All the months must be put together to

determine my true standing. Last week I made the first mark in the class in Mathematics, the first in French, & the third in English studies. This week I have made the third mark in Math, the second in French, & the first in Engl Studies. I get all the time about the same; but others vary sometimes running above & sometimes below me. Here is the way my marks ran this week. Mond - 2.7; Tuesday -; Wed -; Thur 3.; Friday -; Sat. 3.; Total 8.7. The maximum for the week was nine; and I was "cut" 3 tenths in mathematics one day; the others I got a maximum. For those days under which I put a blank, I was not called up. If any one has been called up to recite three times during the week, the "max" is 9; if four times the "max" is 12. So if I am called up but twice when the "max" is 9, I am averaged on the two marks that I get for the other recitation.

Give my respects to all my friends. Remember to Mrs Lothrop & her family when you see them. Warren was well when I saw him last. Mr Browne is studying hard still and still afraid of being found deficient. I think they will let him pass this June. The Mathematical course indeed is hard to him; but he perseveres.

Charles & Rowland have written me of late. They were well & doing well. Give my love to father, Roland, Dellie and Johnny. As my sheet is full I must bid you good night

Yr affectionate son,  
OO. Howard

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290 4/20/1851 *From:* Jno Otis

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0272

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell April 20 1851

My dear Nephew,

I received yesterday your letter, the first since you were hurt. I was expecting a letter as soon as you got better; but suppose you was too much busied with your studies in your endeavour to make up for lost time. I wish you would inform me how your next rank is, for I feared your accident might put you back. R. H. Gardiner Esq of Gardiner, is the visitor appointed by the Scy of War for this State. His son Tredor Gardiner graduated at West Point & is yet Lieutenant in the regiment of Dragoons. Mr Littlefield's son was appointed a cadet. He was at West Point when we returned in March while you were sick & wrote his father from there that you were better.

I saw Rowland at Yarmouth for a moment while the cars stoped on Fast day, & also saw Charles who was on the platform with him. They were very well. I had been on to Boston & stoped a day in Portland with Mr & Mrs Strickland & found Maria there with them. She will return in about a month. I had a letter a few days ago from William. He says the class have chosen him to deliver the Class oration & that he has to prepare a fact for the Senior Exhibition. I greatly feared he would not obtain such standing with his class. I shall be happily disappointed if he suceeds well in the last year of his college life. He was greatly disappointed in not being able to get admitted at West Point. I hope it however has been the means of doing him good, & that he has since attended better to his studies.

I trust you will realize all you expect from the success of Rowland. He was looking much improved & I hear him spoken well of. I shall take an interest in his success.

It is no loss of time for a young man to be kept back from engaging in a profession or business till of mature age. So you lose no time while studying at West Point, if you'll study as I know you will & keep your morals pure & your mind and opinions uncontaminated. Many a young man has been ruined by a too early rushing into business, with the self-confidence of youth. I shall watch your success with interest.

Your affectionate Uncle  
Jno. Otis

Cadet O.O. Howard  
West Point

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291 4/27/1851 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0273a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Apr 27th 1851

Dear Mother

I have just come up from dinner and Charles has not returned from S School so I take time between the services to write home. I have been this forenoon to hear Prof Loomis of Waterville College at the Baptist Church. I like him very much. I shall hear him again this afternoon. Last Sabbath I heard Dr Dwight of Portland of the 1st Parish. They are both tallented men and excelent preachers. It is a lucky day for the people here when their preachers exchange.

We heard from Otis, week before last but I suppose I can tell you no news from him, as you have probably had a letter since then.

My health is good except a wretched cold that I have got in common with every one I meet.

I thought my old Chum at Readfield had forgotten me but I was agreably surprised a few days ago to rec a letter from him of four pages. Hood is a fine fellow and I wish to keep up a correspondence with him as long as I can. He says they are making preparations to have a May celebration at Kents Hill. I almost wish I was there to participate in it. After having beautiful weather for a week it begins to look like a storm again. I have two or three prodigious great, rough, logs that I shall make a violent assault upon, tomorrow in case it rains.

Monday Morning

I have just been examining into the State of my finances and I find that they amount to \$.01 sum total. It isn't quite the thing to be quite so short. There are quite a number of unexpected expenditures that have reduced me thus low, some necessary and some perhaps unnecessary. But most of them are sufficiently accounted for. I cannot send my entire Bill this time, for I cannot come at the exact amount, but I should like to have Father send me \$5.00 by Saturdays mail, and I will send for the rest as soon as I can find out the amount. Boarding in Commons begins to be rather borous. One or two terms is very well but three terms of the same monotonous living, the last term not half so well as the others, makes it rather hard. It is Beans, Fish & Fish hash, Fish hash, Fish & Beans from the beginning to the end of this term together with an altogether superfluous quantity of sower, (I should have said tart, I beg Mrs Masons pardon.) butter, poor Coffee and hard bread, to say nothing of the 'noise and confusion' of 20 boarders, which of course is inimical to study. I am going to have a hard time next term if get into College in the Fall. I have twice that to do that most scholars at my time in the course have, but I can do it if I have health and good spirits.

Just across the way, Mr Woods is erecting a new Acad. It is a wooden building, but has a steeple as tall as ours. It is a stock company, I believe, that are building it. I shouldn't think it would be a very profitable investment.

My love to all. Write by Saturdays mail.  
R

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

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292 4/27/1851    *From:* Charles [H. Howard]    *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0273b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Rowland]

Yarmouth April 27

Dear Mother

I will once more take my pen to tell you how I get along away from my home. It has been two weeks since we wrote home, on account of father's going through here we did not write last Sunday. I should like to have seen father very much but did not know the day that he would go through and my lessons came in the afternoon so that I could not go up to the Depot every day.

My health is as good as comon. I feel as though it would be pleasure to work now I have been with out work so long. Perhaps I shall feel diferent after I have waked a while. They have began to <work> in their gardens here in Yarmouth. I hope our garden will be sowed early. Are you not going to have any help but Martha <this> summer. I wish you could have help enough so that plant all of your flowers. I want to see a pretty garden when I come home. Tell Delie he must help you all he can and not go away. He remembers my promise to write him a letter. I think likely I shall next week.

It has been very pleasant this last week. I went to hear a man read Shakespear two evenings. We have had three singing schools and have got singing books. Give my love to Delie, Martha and all. I shall be to home in little more than three weeks. Rowland has gone to prayr meting. I have been to meting all day. Write soon so that we may hear from home and from Otis for I suppose you have heard from him since we have. I suppose Roland will go to farming soon.

Good bye. From your Afec son  
Charles

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth ME Apr 28

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine

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293 5/4/1851

*From:* Charles [H. Howard]

*To:* Col. John Gilmore

OOH-0276a

Yarmouth

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth May 4th 1851

Dear Mother

I have been to meting all day. They organized their sabbath school at the Baptist church to day. Chose their oficers such as Superintendent, &c, let the schollars choose their own teachers for the year and apponted a committee, to tell where the lesson should comence. For the whole school has the same lesson, and in course, and six verses to a lesson.

The weather is pleasant today although it rained last night. It broke away about eight oclock & has been pleasant all day. it looks a little like rain now. We did not have a ver pleasant May day for it rained here all day. The students at Brunswick had their <May Training> yesterday. I guess Otis would like to have been there. Many of our students went down there.

We have not heard from Otis very lately. Rowland saw Gideon Lane the other day in the cars, who informed him that John Harrison's wife [Hellen Otis] was very sick. I hope to hear that she is better in your next letter, which we think it is about time to receive.

My health is as good as it comonly is & I get along well with my studies. Have been through my Astronomy & am reviewing it & I am in the last part of my Arithmetic. Mr Woods has got his Academy boarded. It stands nearly oposite to this one. I should'nt think he would do so for he will ruin this Academy.

I suppose our folks have begun farming, likely they have sowed some. I expect a letter soon to hear all. How is Delie. Is he as smart as ever, tell him I did not get time to write him. I thought I would write to him today instead of you but did not think when I began. Please give my love to him and all. May be that we shall not write another letter before we go home

From Your Afec son  
Charles

[continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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294 5/4/1851

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Col. John Gilmore

OOH-0276b

Yarmouth

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[continued from the previous letter from Charles]

Yarmouth, May 4th, 51

Dear Mother

I waited this morning till after the mail arrived expecting to receive a letter from you, supposing that you wrote Saturday as I requested. But as I rec none, I conclude that Father wants my whole bill before he sends any money. So I will make it up as near as I can and send it in this letter. If I do not get it right, I shall have to let the balance lay over till next term at which time I will settle it. The Bill is as follows

To Board 11 wks at \$1.25 for two	27.75
" Books for Charles Ast & Arith	1.25
" Singing School for two and Books	1.80
" Repairs	1.00
" Extra for Furniture	0.75
" " " Wood & Oil	1.00
" Excursion	1.00
" <>	1.75
	<hr/>
	\$36.30

I have made up the bill as near as I could but I don't suppose it is enough. There is considerable damage this term and I do not know what the average is yet. My clothes are rather poor, and I suppose that I must have a suit this vacation. Would it not be better for me to buy my coat ready made. I suppose that I could get one good enough for \$10,00. I shall want something to wear in Vacation and it appears to me that this is the best way of obtaining it, either by going to Portland or stoping at Lewiston. Write what you think about it. If Father does not wish to send the money for all of my bills in a letter, I can leave the Board bill till the first of next term, but the others must be paid now. You must determine what you think about my clothes and act accordingly. If Father has sent any money he can deduct it from the amount he would otherwise send. I will write on Rect of the money and tell you when I wish you to meet me at Greene. Excuse my haste for I have a long hard lesson to recite in a few hours and none of it as yet read. I have a bad cough but am in hopes to cure it soon.

My love to all.

Your affectionate Son  
Rowland B Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] NORTH YARMOUTH ME MAY 5

Col. John Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine Yarmouth, May 5th, 51

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295 5/7/1851

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0277

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 7th, 1851

My dear Son,

I have just reread your two last letters but I fear they will be but poorly Answered. I have for some days been promising myself this morning for writing you but I seem as usual rather pressed for want of time for after my usual round was performed and got Johnny [Otis] a pair of pants patched, about to commence Mrs Lothrop and Francis came in for your father to assist them in their business, which has hindered me some.

I feel as though I had many comforts, you have recovered your health with much less loss than I could have expected at one time, as your March report Marks Mathamatics, 4, English 4. This reduction in your standing weighs merely nothing if your health is as fine as ever. I have been weighing it in my own mind when, on all accounts, I can best come to West Point. I think we must come in June, for many reasons. Our farming (which I desire to have done up in some shape) cannot be left untill June. R.B.H. will have returned to his school, and Charley get established at home, and a great many reasons I could give. Then the Milietary show at West Point, would be a curiosity to me and perhaps more so, to Lizzy and your father, but that is a small reason for our visit. I think we shall come on about the tenth of June. I have not written to Lizzy on the subject yet, but I think on may accounts that would suit her. We shall probably enjoy the first object of our visit that is yourself. All the time you can spend with us, as well one time or another.

We received your Cadett Collar and shall probably get them nearly right. The waistband you said nothing about, whether those you wear are right. I shall bring you four pairs of cotton footings and four pairs woolen footings. I have got your shirts made without bosoms, or collars. I shall probably write you again before I come to West Point.

I was invited to Valentine's wedding on the first day of May, but did not attend on account of the rain. I have met with Thomas since, and Laura said all who were invited attended with the exception your father and I. There were about forty invited. I intend to call on them when R.B.H. gets home.

Rowland in his last letter seemed rather weary. I am in hopes, his two weeks vacation will give him a new spring. I long to see him and Charley, which is a little more than two weeks. I am afraid their commons has not been so regular since Mr Jewet boards a way from them.

Lizzy wrote me a billet by your father when he returned from Boston, where he has lately been, to try settle Arza's old debts. Arza is now in Brooklyn in New York establishing his mammoth beehive. His father re—d a letter from him the last mail. He is in good health for him, and in good spirits, and expects to open his establishment for exhibition the Middle of May. Says all who have called in to see him have said their would be a great rush when it is opened. I hope he will do well and be able to take his family on there in the fall. George Lothrop is with him, and he has for his partner a man by the name of Platt.

Sarah Lee called here the first day of May, and stoped an hour perhaps. She said your Uncle John's wife has been sick all of this spring. Doct Stinchfield brought Sarah here. He said Mrs Sampson had been sick this spring and was now quite feeble. I saw at church last sabbath Kate Benjamin with Laura Howard. Melvin Howard has been sick all the spring.

Dellie says it is ten minutes past twelve and dinner is nearly ready. I fear you will think this hurried letter a small compensation for your two long letters, but the mail will soon pass here, and I must finish at once.

Yours in haste  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard



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296 5/9/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0278

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. My 9 1851

Dear Mother,

I received your letter this morning and hasten to reply to it. You said that you should come to see me the first of next month perhaps the 10th. In West Point one cannot see even his mother without a permit and as my examination will come about the tenth of June I fear I shall have little time to see you. the examination of all classes begins the second day of June and continues till all are examined, generally lasting till the 20th. Since it is most convenient for you to come the first of next month, rather than the last, if you will get here about the 15th I can be with you more than at any other time. My own examination in mathematics will then have taken place, so that I shall be more at my ease. Write me as soon as possible & tell me if you cannot come about the 15th.

You spoke of my waistbands. There is nothing uniform in them or peculiar. Everybody suiting his own taste, and as for me, I have but little preference if they be only white. If it does not increase the postage, I would like to have you send Mr Sawtelle's collar back.

You sent me two Journals. A good story continuing through them & not there finished. I should like to have the next. The last is Apr 17: the next probably Apr. 25th.

I put in a permit to visit Warren the other day & it was refused. Don't tell this to any of his folks. The circumstances are as follows. I wrote you that I went to see him one Saturday afternoon & was reported for being off limits. This report was taken off - after I gave in my excuse. Some weeks after this I wrote a permit to visit him one Saturday and carried it to the Commandant - Mr Jones - Lieut 7 fifty was the acting Commandant as Capt Alden was away. He tore my permit in flitters & abruptly & gruffly told me he would sign no such permit. At 11 (this was at 7 in the morning) I wrote another & went to Capt Brewerton's office (the Superintendent). Lieut Jones was there. Capt B looked at it, told me to carry it to the Commandant. I gave it to Mr J again & again he refused to forward it. I then asked Capt Brewerton if there was anything improper in my permit. He said he would talk with me about it some other time.

The next day I was reported for carrying a permit to the Superintendent, which the Commandt had refused to forward. I went to see Capt Alden who had then returned & explained to him the circumstances, to ld him who Sergeant Lothrop was &c &c. He said I was not in fault, that he had noticed my intimacy with a Soldier; that it was not discreditable to me or to him; but that the army was an Aristocratic institution & that its distinctions must be preserved for the sake of proper discipline; that if I suffered myself to visit him or the Soldier's barracks, that I laid myself open to slander, and that it would be of great injury to me in my position. Capt Williams, the Adjutant of Maine also talked with me - said I must not think it hard; said that it was not the man but the position which he occupied that placed me at such a distance. I was at first angry, could see nothing but folly & nonsense in all they said; but I see that intimacy between officers & soldiers would be subversive of all discipline, if carried out, and here they do not have any exceptions to their general rules. Warren is a noble fellow & if he remains in the Army will be promoted sooner or later. Don't mention this to his folks, for it would do no good. I wished you to know just how it was & this is enough.

If Charlie, Rowland & Dellie could send me their Dauguerotypes it would be the most acceptable of presents. Sawtelle has his whole family in his room. This made me wish for my brother's at least & your own if you would have it taken.

Write to Lizzie right away, as she wishes to know when you will go. I am expecting much happiness from your coming, but fear something will come to mar it. Perhaps it is better that you should come before I go into Camp, for whatever you may bring me I can get better as long as I am in barracks.

Give my love to all & write me right away, so that I may know whether you will come as early as the tenth or later. My rank for the month of March is as good as I could have expected, though I did'nt expect it so low as 4th English Studies. This is only for one month. I shall be 1st or second in General Standing I think. I have

now returned to all "Military Duty".

Yr Affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] West Point My 10  
Col. John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

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297 5/12/1851 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* Nephew [O O Howard]

OOH-0279

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 12 May 1851

My Dear Nephew

I recd a letter from you some days since and in my engagements on and about the first of May neglected to answer it. I was very happy to hear of your restoration to perfect health. In fact your Professor of Mathematics whose name I do not recollect, informed me some time before that you had resumed your studies and appeared to be well.

I have changed my residence since you was here. The trouble of moving paying for my plan &c has engrossed my attention for a month passed. August remains about the same the rest of the family are well. My youngest daughter [Anna] that married Mr [John E] Henry Civil Engineer has removed with her husband to Chicago Ill. where he is engaged on the Chicago & Rock River R. Road. I regretted to part with them more particularly my little Grandson [John Howard Henry] to whom I was much attached.

Should your friends visit you from the East this coming summer, you must enjoin on them to visit me & obtain for yourself leave of absence to accompany them.

I get no tidings or news from our friends at the Eastward except through you. They never write.

Accept our best wishes for you health & happiness.

Affectionately yours  
Ward B Howard

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298 5/14/1851 *From:* Charles [H Howard] *To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0280a Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Oliver O Howard Yarmouth May 14th 1851

Dear brother,

I now take my pen to answer to your most acceptable letter which I rec in season & which subject was one on which my feeble thoughts have rested much. Ever since I was a very small boy (not a giant now) I have had my mind made up that I could do what any one could, and then of course if I could do what any one could, I could accomplish what any of my brothers could, and I have thought that I would take (as you guessed in you letter) my brother for a pattern to go by. & I have always thought it would be a great honor to go to College, until very lately or until I rec your letter. I will tell you another example which I have looked at or tried to follow. That is, Uncle John <Otis>.

Now I have showed you some of my thoughts, & if you will just stop one minute and look at them you will see in them, the evil (Ambition) which you think (but I hope not) has destroyed your future happiness and peace of mind. If I am coming to the same point (not West Point, I never would go there but the point of unhappiness, I think I had better stop where I am (I said if so), still I cannot think of the idea of always working on a farm all of my lifetime.

If that is all the object I shall have ahead I don't think that I shall wish to set up late nights and get up early mornings to study if I have no prospect for any thing but to hire out to work on a farm for a living. I shall not live long, but I do not know but I can have education enough without going to College, but you seemed to write as though you would rather I would be a farmer.

Mother says that I shall go to Kents Hill next spring. I suppose I shall not go to school untill next winter again. Do you wish me if I go to Kents Hill to study Latin or do'nt you want me to study Latin at all.

I do not know what to do for a living unless I work on a farm, but I cannot make up my mind what to do for I always calculated to go to College. It is now Thursday morning as pleasant a morning as has graced Yarmouth this spring. I heard a Brass Band play last night and it was very good music to me.

From Your Afecionate brother  
Charles

P.S. I wis you a pleasant morning

[continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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299 5/14/1851      *From:* Rowland B Howard      *To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0280b                      Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[continued from the previous letter from Charles]

Yarmouth May 14th, 51

Dear Brother

This is glorious weather, I assure you. Is'nt it remarkable. We have had two pleasant days this spring and those two days were yesterday and today. I have had a bad cough for about 2 weeks but if we are going to have such weather as this, I shall have it no longer. It is enough to make one sick to have a cold during rain and uncomfortable East wind. I don't know what in the world started me to write to you today, for you have'nt answered my last, but somehow I got my pen in my hand and found my self addressing my Dear Brother.

Our term is most out again and I long to get away from Yarmouth. I am heartily sick of it, everything in it. But one week more and I shall not see it again for a fortnight. Charles is anxious to go into Portland this week but I don't know whether he will be able to or not. I may go it at the close of the term. I hav'nt heard from there lately.

Jewett is sick. The Dr says he has a liver complaint and his lungs are affected by sympathy with it. His sickness is doubtless caused by a want of exercise and years of inaction. I fear that he will have to give up his school or rather I fear he will not give it up until he is too far gone for recovery. He was sick last winter as has been so almost the whole of this term.

The students have almost all left Brusnwick taking it as an excuse, that Proff Upham's son had the Small Pox, so they all cleared out 2 weeks before the end of the term.

Thursday

I had a letter from home this morning saying that our folks were all well, but the worst of it was that it said enclosed is \$20,00. And when I opened it, it was not there. I have written father by this mornings mail.

We have not got along as well this term as well as we did last in our studies. We have read VI Books in Virgil and as far as poetry in the Greek Reader. We shall have Virgil to finish and Sallust to read next term, the Greek Reader to finish and a review of the whole course besides writing lattin and 6 sections of Smyths Algebra. I look upon it as rather a hard Terms work especially as it the hottest and most unstudylke season of the year. I wish I could go on to West Pt. or to hear Jenny Ling or some equally pleasurable excursion, but as I havn't a mint of money I suppose I shall have to rest contented with but little amusement.

Excuse a short, miserable, letter and write soon. Are you aquainted with the Cadets from this state? I hear a Mr Webb from Calais often enquired after. Write me about him.

Your aff Brother  
Rowland B Howard

P.S. I sent you the "Farmer" did you rec it. I will send you this week paper as soon as it comes. RBH

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300 5/17/1851 *From:* Charles [H Howard] *To:* Rodelphus H. Gilmore

OOH-0281

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth May 17th 1851

Dear Brother Delie

I will now undertake to write you, the Letter which I promised you, when I was with you although I cannot say that it will be a very good one, for I am small yet as well as you. But I presume when you are as large as I am you will be able to write a much better one than this will be.

I hope you have been a good boy since I have been gone & tried to please father & mother every way that you could by obeying them cheerfully & pleasantly, for I am afraid that I as well as you have not obeyed them in every thing. I would not go to Betsey's unless I was sent there for you will learn bad habits where there is so many. One is your language which I am afraid is not very good.

But I will leave off advice for I am not so much better than you, and tell you something about Yarmouth. The road that passes through the Village runs N. West & S East. The Academy and the building that I am now in which is the boarding house are two brick buildings facing the road. They each have a Belfry from which you can see the bay. The Academy has a Bell which is rung every hour. This building in which we room has four floors. The lower floor contains a dining room, wood room in which there is a cistern, a kitchen, bed room and butry. The next 3 floors are divided into rooms for the students. The wharf is but a little way down beyond here where they are building vessels most of the time. There is three a building there now.

Oh there was an accident happened yesterday on the R. Road that I must give an account off the axle to the baggage car broke yesterday when the cars were coming from Portland or at least they think that was the first that was broken for before they could stop there was two trucks broke off from the Engine and I believe all but two broken off from the Baggage car. & there was two pair broken off of one of the pasenger cars, and when they stoped there was some thing under one of the pasenger cars which came up through the floor and if they had not stoped as quick as they did, they would all have been killed. But as it was, nobody was killed or hurt. There was nobody aboard but Dr <Garallan> that I was acquainted with.

I shall soon be at home Dellie & I hope to see everything look neat about the dooryard for it pleases mother so much. I suppose you are at work this spring planting potatoes and corn. I guess you and Roscoe will have nearly as much as you can do if you drop all of the potatoes and corn. I expect to find some little Bosies & lambs at home. I do't see any thing of the kind here. I have not seen a sheep since I have been here, but I saw a car full of calves the other. Who will keep our skool this summer? But you cannot answer any of my questions yet. I shall be glad when you get so you can write. I suppose mother will read this to you.

Give my love to her and all. I shall soon be at home, and then I shall not make my folks puzzle their brains in trying to read my letters. I presume this is the first thing in the shape of a letter. The next one that you have from me I am in hopes will be better composed. The text this forenoon was in Hebrews 4 Chap 13th vers.

It is growing dark and I expect to write a letter to Otis tonight in answer to one he wrote me and I must conclude by saying good <night>.

From Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles

Rodelphus H. Gilmore

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301 5/19/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mr R. B. Howard

OOH-0274

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. May [19] 1851

Dear brother Rowland

I have indeed been neglectful to let so much time pass by, without having replied to your letter, but here's amends if possible. You begin by telling me how rare are pleasant days with you. Would that they were as rare with us. We almost have a festival rejoicing of over a rainy day: for then the cheering cry goes round: "no drill". Oh! You can scarcely imagine how dragging these drills become in a warm day, especially when one has been off duty as long as I have. The arm & back ache, but I endure it as joyously as you please, living as I am with the prospect of seeing so soon my father, my mother, &c, the time constantly coming nearer & nearer.

"Come to think of it". You will be at home by the time this would reach Yarmouth. If so tell mother, if you are at home, where I shall direct, if she has not determined upon the precise time to come, that it will be as convenient for me on the first as on the middle of the month for we are to be examined in mathematics as early as the eighth, & the other studies will not come till the 18th or 19th.

You said Jewett was sick. Tell me if you left him very sick. I feared his iron constitution would not endure the heavy tax which he has been obliged to put upon it for the last few years. I hope he will soon be well again for he is far from home with little to look for but "the strength of his own right arm."

Tell all at home that I am getting on admirably, homesick & bluish occasionally but on the whole about as contented here as I have been elsewhere. A feeling of delicacy has sprung up lately & made silent the tongue of some of my more aristocratic & viral classmates. There are several who refuse to speak to me, but it does not trouble me now that I know that it is originated in jealousy & fostered by subtle slander. If one is innocent, cutting imputations may "be passed by as the idle wind", for time is the true test of character.

Mr Abbot & Mr Lee are now & shall be for the future on the most distant terms with me. One of these men stands ahead of me in mathematics, and probably will in general standing next June, Mr Lee. I had considered him one of the finest young men I had ever met, till all at once for some unknown reason he conceived a strong antipathy for me & one day when I went into his room on an errand, he very politely asked me not to enter his room unless invited. I could attribute his conduct to nothing but jealousy.

Mr Abbot too believing that I was falling into disrepute began to treat me with coolness if not with contempt. I heard of his slandering me in other classes, & of other things, which forced me to ask an explanation & did it in anger, talking to him harder than I meant. The next day he came to me & wished to walk, & we walked and settled it between us, that we would forego all association & intimacy, till we might come to know each other better. This treatment of my classmates touched my feelings at first, but on the whole has been a blessing to me; for I walk much straighter & mind my own business more.

I have been to our afternoon drill & strange to tell am not so tired, but I can write.

I had a letter from Uncle Ward the other day. He says his family are about as usual. Augustus no better. Poor boy! I have to add my fears to those of the rest, that he never will be better.

Our examination is fast approaching; and is looked upon with dread by some of our Class; there is more than one who would rather be shot than be found deficient, who are nevertheless fast giving up all hope of passing. Mr Browne of Maine who has been my roommate ever since we came into Barracks, has fallen from the first section gradually till he has got to the one next to the last. He still perseveres but he says that there is but precious little hope for him. If I had tried as hard as he, I believe I could go home with a very good conscience.

You asked me if I knew Mr Webb. Yes I have known him ever since I first came. I know all from Maine as well as almost every man in the Company. Mr Tilson of E. Thomastown Me. came here two yrs ago, one of the finest looking young men you can find & all at once, a disease came into his leg, from which he suffered much & then had it amputated. He has now an artificial one, which serves him so good a purpose that you would hardly

detect his deprivation. He is a splendid young man, the best & smartest of all which Maine has sent at this time. He, Mr Webb & Mr Stevens (of Bangor) go on furlow in a few days, perhaps you may see Webb.

Give my love to all my friends & write me as soon as you can.

Yr affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

I leave off to go to a Military Parade. You ought to see one or at least listen to the music. It is about the best I ever heard.

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] West Point May 19  
Mr R. B. Howard  
South Leeds  
Me

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302 5/25/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0282

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 25th 1851

My dear Son,

It is now Sabbath day and every thing is now quiet around me. I feel a subdued pleasure in the scene's around me, Old Skip is not entirely blind I think for he is barking tremendously at Cap't Oscar Turner who is walking past leading his little girl. Charles is trying to help Rodelphus and John Otis get their Sabbath school lessons, which seems to try his patience mightily. Martha is all the help I have. Rowland and Charles came home last Wednesday. They went into Portland Monday night, stopt at Mrs Waites over night, called at Aunt MJ's [Martha Jane Strickland] and did some shoping and returned to Yarmouth Tuesday eve before coming home.

Charles has returned with that same old Cough only increased, and is very anxious to have it cured. I hardly know what to say to him, when he entreats me to apply to a physicion for I fear the medicine they would administer might destroy what constitution he has. He is now taking thouroughwort syrup. I am in hopes he will be better.

Your Father has gone to Meeting and took RBH. Him Roland A.G. and Silas Bates, have dressed and taken some other route to get through with the sabbath and now where is Otis is the next question. If in health about leaving the Church, (for the clock is now striking twelve) after listening to a learned discourse from one who fills one of the highest stations (as a divine) in the United States. I hope he has communion of spirit with the Most High for if he has he is ever interested in the hearts of all around him.

Arza Gilmore has been here and taken his wife and babe to Brooklyn with him. He is sure of success now. His health is good or better than it has been for some time. He left Wayne a week ago last Friday. If you were not so confined you could go down the Hudson river, and go over to Brooklin and pay A Gilmore, and George Lothrop 25. cents for seeing his bees work just as they did in Wayne and buy ice creams and honey to your liking. He had not opened his establishment when he was here, but would the middle of May. Huldah Lothrop [Arza Gilmore's oldest sister, married to George Lothrop] is in a poor state of health and is feared will never recover. An affection of the heart is the disease.

I have just reread your last letter of May the 9th. I shall not come to West Point until the 20th of June. It seems to suit your father better not to go so soon as there is a railroad Meeting, that is a stock holders meeting the 12th of June that it is necessary he should attend, and he thinks he shall have a good chance to know how A. is doing by that time. It will not make any material difference to me. I have never written to Lizza on the subject yet. I shall write soon to her. I sometimes fear our visit will make you trouble.

I suppose our only course is to go to the Tavern and receive you there. I suppose there is only one Public house at West point and that you have no means of knowing much about when we arrive there. What means must your father take to find you. I would like to have you ascertain and write the particulars. It will save making enquiry and some parade which you know is foreign to your Mother's wish.

I have not seen your Uncle John since his return from Washington.

That Cadet Collar I am sorry I cannot send it to you for I let Nancy carry it home with her, to have to look at while making them.

I am sorry for your losing the privilege of seeing Warren sometimes for even that was quite a treat to me, that you met face to face occasionally one who was bread and born so near me, and one whom I expect to see soon. But I am very much in favor of obeying laws. Let our situation what it may. I understand Seth Howard has an addition to his family, either a son or a daughter [Seth and Amanda Additon Howard had a daughter, Elsie Amanda Howard, b 17 May 1851].

I saw your Aunt Lucretia [Howard Leadbetter] at church last sabbath and Lucia who wished me to give her love to her Cousin Otis in my next letter. Valentine Bridgham [cousin to Otis] has been out with his young bride the

two last Sabbaths. A real pretty bride she is. Not so with V. He is not even good looking. Uncle Barney H [Barnabas Howard, b 22 Aug 1770, was the brother of Otis' grandfather, Seth Howard] attends meeting constantly and is as smart as ever. He is now over eighty.

I have just read your last letter to Charley. It called up many tender recollections, which with my views and feelings, it is as well never to bear in mind. I have many things to regret in past life, but nothing immoral or criminal. Neither have I ever gone into anything with out mature deliberation, but many thing have gone different from what I could wish. We can look into our own motives and the results of the course we pursue, but we cannot look into the hearts of others, nor direct them how to act. I have had many thoughts called up from the conduct of others, the unguarded observations of others has created feelings and suggested ideas I never could have thought of, but my only and best course is to remain passive and be watchful, and pray and hope for the best. O my son, I hope your life will not be spent in vain, but go forward with rectitude in the course you are pursuing.

I could have wished one of my boys to have settled on our old place, but it had long ceased to be any profit before it was disposed of, and even if it had been kept for Charles, he might have seen some other place he liked better after his brothers were both gone. Leeds would have lost half on all of its charms as Charles loves his dear friends so much. A letter is his idol. Your letters are wrapt up carefully and put in the best place, and read over a great many times. Sometime I fear this cough will destroy him. Dellie is delighted to have Charles come home, and has shown more pleasure than I could have thought him capable of.

Your father and R.B.H. have returned and brought news that Uncle John wife is worse and will never recover. What an uncomfortable situation your uncle must be in, but I hope Ellen will yet recover and collect his family once more.

The foliage is beautiful at present. The fruit trees just begin to show their blossoms, and the forest trees are all leaved out, and the meadows are a beautiful green. All nature seems to smile notwithstanding the discomfitures of man.

I have talked with R.B.H. about sending his dagauryotype. He thinks it looks to bad to send away. He has yet got to learn that the looks that we love are aways acceptable at all times. Charlie has just ask how much it would cost to go to West Point, and then ask if he could not go with me. If I thought he could be restored to health by a <poulty> he should take one. His mind is all in a commotion I see.

I have been talking with your father concerning the time we shall leave home. He says the 17th of June we will set for our departure. We shall probably arrive the 20 or 21. Your father has some business in Worcester. We may stop there if we think we cannot stand it to go so fast. I shall write again before we leave home.

Yours with much affection  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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303 5/26/1851 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0283

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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S. Leeds May 26th, '51

Dear Brother

I am writing this to put in to Mother's letter, so I shall write but little. Charles and myself went into Portland and staid over night at the close of the term. Mother has probably written you that we found your relatives, that "<hond-et futuris esse>" well and happy. I am spending my vacation just as you used to do. I shall return a week from Thursday. Your friends made earnest enquiries after you health and happiness, at church yesterday. I hear that your 'wool' is gray. If that is the case I advise you immediately to dip it in a solution of <urine> and charcoal and I will warrant a most beautiful blue.

My health is poor and Charles is worse. But I don't care for myself but I fear for Charles. Your friends here are all well. I suppose that Mother wrote you that Aunt Ellens state was very precarious. I should like to go to H. but don't know as I shall be able.

I sent you a paper Saturday about 2 weeks old. I'll get a new one if I can.

Don't write till I get back to Yarmouth but write to Mother in the meantime and I shall read the letters. Jewett has gone up with Robinson into the country. He is in hopes that his health will improve in vacation. Our folks are going to Lewiston and will take this along. I'll send the <Governors> message by this mail.

Good by  
R B Howard

P.S. Please look in one of those Kenebeck Journals one of the 3 last, and find the notice of a sale of Col Lothrop's estate. If you find it, cut it out and send it on in your next letter. It is of considerable importance.  
RBH

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304 6/1/1851

*From:* Frank Sargent

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0284A

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York May or rather Brooklyn June 1st 1851

Dear Otis

I suppose you have given up hearing from me again, but I think I will disappoint you if you have. I have hardly an apology to offer for not having written before, for to tell the truth I cant recollect when I have had an opportunity and should'nt now were it not Sunday. I have been to Church twice today and now I am going to make a few "crow tracks" for your edification for doubtless you will be highly edified - think I should if I knew what I were going to say, but my brain is unusually dry tonight, and I think 'twill be something remarkable if I succeed in filling this sheet with anything more interesting, or entertaining.

The reason why I have not had time to write is that for the least two weeks I have been alone in the office and expect to be for two weeks to come. Our Bookkeeper having gone to Halifax to see some of his friends, and for two weeks prior to his leaving I was very much engaged part of the time at the office and one week of the time on my private account, in my room, and on my back, or as <Macabe> would have it "in point of fact" sick and for three or four days I was quite unwell. Had a sort of spring attack, chills fever, headache &c &c, but I weathered it, with good treatment, and came out bright again, thanks to a kind Providence. I did'nt feel very mighty for a week or so after I got out, but am now as we have it in our Bills of Lading - "in grand order and well conditioned".

Now it is the first of June. My! How time flies, but I suppose it goes rather heavily with you, for I suppose you are expecting to see your mother and somebody else soon. What a happy boy you will be, only think of poor me got to wait ever so long, and you will soon have your Waite with you. Well if I cant be happy myself, I like to see others so, and hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing for the first time your lady.

Sarah says she is quite pretty, and Sarah ought to be a judge. I will not make up my mind however until I see her, and then shall be seen and not be disappointed. Don't pretend to be much of a connoisseur but shall be able to make up my mind, - "handsome is as handsome does".

Henry Strickland was here a few days ago, but I did not see him, called at his Hotel, and his place where he does his business a number of times. Sarah has had a letter from Perry [Sarah Lee's younger brother]. He was at Sydney N.S.W. Jany 16th and coming home; will probably be here in the course of a couple or three months. I am glad they heard from him for they were very anxious. Silas is getting along very well. His father has been here for more than a week, has not called to see me yet and I question very much if he does it don't disturb me much and wont if he don't. I do not feel that I can with any degree of sincerity show him any attention more than to a Stranger, and I detest hypocrisy. He is the father of one that is dear to me, but he never has been what he ought to have been, his protection and <support>, but all this I do not wish repeated, and you will oblige me by considering it confidential. Sarah and her mother both know my sentiments on the subject, and were it not that I have seen the unhappiness that his course has caused them, I could feel more cordial towards him.

When Sarah last wrote, she said that your uncle Johns wife was very sick, dangerously so. I fear she will not live, for she has been so long ill, that she must be quite low. It would be a severe loss to him, and I truly hope she may recover.

Your mother was preparing to come on this month. Sarah was out there for a day or two the first of May. <Suppose> you lay aside your studies this month and go into camp. Twill no doubt be an agreeable change for you. I shall try and drop down upon you some of these days, for a little while, have promised to go to Newburgh once or twice this summer, and expect what few excursions on the North Rim I get will be all the recreation I shall have until fall when I shall most assuredly turn my head to the East, and get under the lee of some fine young lady in that quarter.

[This letter from Frank T. Sargent continues on Sept 30 1851.]



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305 6/1/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0285

West Point N.Y.

Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. June 1st 1851

Dear Mother

I received your letter of the 25th a day or two ago and am glad to find that you are still resolved to come to West Point, although not so soon as I expected. When you do come, we shall probably be in Camp a few steps from the Hotel. Wherever you land ask to be carried to the West Point Hotel. After getting there father will find me very easily. He can come right to the camp & enquire for me, i.e. Mr Howard, if you please, or he can send a boy or anybody to seek me.

Warren says that I must let him know as soon as you get here, & he will dress in citizen's clothes & go about with you & show every thing to be seen at West Point. I see him occasionally. I met him a fortnight ago yesterday at the cemetery, & saw him a moment yesterday as he was going to the Superintendents. Be sure & never mention in his presence any thing I may have written about our respective rank or about his receiving a commission, for this he requested me not to mention but I believe I had written something about it before his request.

Uncle Ward has particularly requested me if possible to bring my friends to visit him. perhaps I can get leave. If I can, we will take a trip down to Peekskill.

Lizzie writes me that she is all ready when the rest are, said that she saw Maria & William in Portland at Uncle Henry's. They told her that their mother was very low. I hope that she will recover. No blow could be more severe to Uncle in the present, scattered condition of his family than her death, but it is not for us to decide what is for the best.

I think my dear mother that you are wrong to regret anything that has been the result of the course you have taken. Whatever may be my expressions, which are often & perhaps too often the result of impulse, or of a momentary feeling, arising from an occasional longing for the seeming quiet & happiness of my distant home, be assured that I believe that you have always done not only what you thought would be for my advantage, but what I am confident, will eventually prove to be for my highest good.

In reasoning with Charlie, I only wished, if possible, to root out the false impression which he seemed to have imbibed thus early: viz: that there was anything degrading in the circumstances of an honest farmer, or that he would be a happier man with a College education than he could be without. I wished if I could to make him look upon things in the proper light & see that a College course did not necessarily add to a man's happiness. But after all a young man must learn by personal experience: for my part I have no objections to Charlie's pursuing the same course as I have pursued, but I am afraid that his constitution is not solid enough to bear a heavy tax upon it. I am certain that a sedentary life requires even more native strength than the active life of a laboring man.

I fear that I have already said too much upon the subject for Charlie's good; for the damper which a few words unseasonably & unwisely spoken will put upon the youthful aspiring spirits is often felt for a long time. As I believe that more than half the man consists in his education, I would not willingly check any feelings incentive to industry in my brother. When he gets to be a little older he must make choice for himself. Scarcely any position can really honor us, unless we conduct so as to honor the position. We may seem to be great because we occupy a high place, but we know that "pigmies are pigmies still though perched on Alps".

You will of course do what you think best about taking him to New York. I would like much to see him. The expense must be considerable, as I am not situated so as to receive you as if I had a house & home here, instead of a soldier's room, & one seat at a soldier's table, where, provided you could go, you would scarcely eat any thing for a week at least.

Give my love to all.

The examination commences tomorrow. Tomorrow will be a lively day. We are to give the Board of Visitors a Military reception. This is not very agreeable to us Cadets who have to be in ranks so long carrying our muskets in the same position a greater part of the time, but it is fun to the lookers on. A few plebes (candidates for admission) are here, and their awkwardness & uncomfortable drills excite many a wicked smile, which is so torturing to the homesick heart.

Tell Rowland Bailey that I have received all the papers which he has sent. I cannot find the notice he asked for; one of the papers has been torn up - it may have been in that.

Write soon, Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

Silas Lee's boarding house is at the Battery Hotel. I presume you will go to see Arza in Brooklyn.

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] West Point NY 2 June  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

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306 6/3/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0286

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, June, 3th, 1851

My dear Son,

Since the arrival of R.B.H. C.H.H's letters I have felt particularly anxious to say a word of encouragement to you before the examination, an I feared your having trouble with those who are so nearly associated with you might confuse you or injure your recitations, knowing as I do your sensitive nature. Although you may strive to overcome your weak side, or bar against it, still it will haunt you when you would say begone, try hard to have a full mind. You are not responsible for any ones injustice my son, however galling the scandal you have suffered. You must remember no one in this world, that have any mark of consequence ever escape'd the voice of scandal. Let them alone and they often build a gallows to hang themselves.

Even our savior had enemies, in whom there was no guile, and can we who every day are obliged (when looking into our own hearts) to acknowledge our own faults, expect to move along so smooth or not to make enemies, and particularly at West Point, where all are striving to get as high a mark as possible. You have mentioned getting angry in your two last letters. I know you think well of governing your temper, for it gives your enemies the advantage over you when you lose command of your own spirit. Your mother thinks you have not so strong nerves, since your sickness although you may not be sensible of it. I know strength of nerve, or any other, does not return immediately.

I feel very anxious for you to have all the advantage that belongs to you because I think it is quite a privation in many respects to you to be at West Point, and you are spending some of the best part of your life, and I desire you should have that integrity which alone can give us peace of mind.

R.B.H. and C.H.H. return at the usual time. R.B. will return on Thursday. Charley's health is better than when he came home. Mr Gilbert's daughter Ann's remains were brought here to be interred last Saturday. She was married about six months.

We have received the report from the War department for April. You stand at that time 2 in Mathematics, 3 in English and fourth in French. Perhaps you have given more especial attention to M---ics than any other study. I hope our Visit at W— P— will not make any trouble for you, for I am of an opinion it is a peculiar place to see ones friends. We will have our Visit conducted as quietly as possible. Our visit will necessarily be short, but happy I hope. Self possession and a free mind are necessary ingredients for my son.

We are all about as usual moving on grand. I hope your father will fill up your letter as I always like to have everything said in my letters that can be. It is near the time of mailing. Your father would have filled out the sheet but the collector has called and must be attended to. I am sorry he could not say something to cheer you along. He takes great interest in situation at West Point.

Yours ever  
Eliza Gilmore

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307 6/17/1851 *From:* Peleg S. Perley

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0287

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland, June 17th '51

Dear Howard.

I have but a few moments to write and therefore can write but a few words. I have but just got back here from home where I spent vacation. Everything here looks blue as the devil and I feel so and everybody else I believe, but "Liz".

It is cussed cold here and has been and always will be I guess. What in thunder did you let Jewett know anything about those cussed verses for? He has been giving me particular on them and "Liz" too confound her. Old Jack is in a Doctor's office, ie studying mediine.

Perry's eyes are about the same.

As for myself I am all right and hope you are or at least will be ere you read this but if you don't read this within a fortnight you will get well.

As ever

Yours in haste  
Peleg S. Perley

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308 6/19/1851 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0288

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Boston June 10th 1851

Dear Brother

As our friends leave for New York this morning I have taken a sheet of paper and am standing up in the bar room writing with men walking and talking all around me. When our folks came to Portland, I finally concluded that I would come as far as here with them. I should like to go the whole distance and would, were it not that I cannot leave my Books long enough.

I heard her last night, that is Jenny [Lind]. She is the nightingale Canary Bird and every other warbler combined. Her power is beyond all conception and a human voice of such strength and sweetness should be received as one of 7 wonders of the world. But the beauty of her singing did not strike me. I was altogether lost in wonder at the perfection of her modulation and I could not appreciate her effect, or rather feel it, as I expected to feel the music of the worlds greatest singer.

My health is not very excelent nor very poor.

Lizzie of course attended the Concert with me and I am afraid unfavorable impressions were made upon some of her acquaintances by the looks of the person whom they supposed to be her Cadet 'Engaged'.

Write me by mother on her return. I must go to Breakfast now. So good by

Your aff Brother  
R B Howard

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309 7/1/1851

*From:* W. L. Lothrop

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0289

West Point

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[July 1, 1851] [written in pencil]

My dear Otis

Berry handed me a \$1.00 last evening, saying it was to pay; or be paid for a package. I do not understand it. I have no recollection about it. Please send me a note, & jog my memory. I received a letter from home yesterday - all are well. How are you getting along.

Yours truly  
W. L. Lothrop

[Envelope]  
O O Howard  
(Present)

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310 7/12/1851 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0291

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth July 12th 1851

Dear Brother

Here am I with a pen bad enough to worry the life out of Methusaleh at his one hundredth year, although in the flower of youth. But if you won't swear, I won't.

This is one of the most beautiful days of the season and last night excelled it a hundred fold. It is almost sunset and I feel too lazy to study and so I am here burdening you with the natural productions of thoughts in such a condition, and I'll be plagued if I know what I wrote in the last sentence, but I shall leave it entirely to your sagacity.

We ought to study as if Angels were becoming and fairies goading but poor human nature is weak and inactive. But I believe I study all that mine will let me anyhow, for my health is poor and &c &c (excuses understood).

We are reviewing Cicero at a oration a day and the Greek Reader in the same proportion. Review comes easy to me, except when this queer mind of mine gets the other side up and then order from chaos is impossible and oftentimes I find that implicit trust on providence and Old Rob is all that is left me. I don't expect to take a high stand in College for my mind goes by fits and jerks although my body is one of the most trustable and docile pieces of human machinery, that ever was concocted.

We shall have to make up Sallusts Jugurtha, for we have got into our review and hav'nt touched it yet. I believe Robinson is going to intercede with the professors in our behalf. May his vast influence in that direction prosper all his undertakings for the amelioration of humanity.

We have cool weather here all of the time, I haven't seen the day yet that I could keep both of my windows up with comfort. A cold North East storm prevailed all day on the fourth, but notwithstanding all hands of us went into Portland and enjoyed ourselves the best way we could within doors. After a steady rain for all day some of the wise ones have arrived at the sage conclusion that it is just as likely to rain on the fourth as any other day of the year at the same season. How many old and established opinions were overthrown upon that rainy "fourth" it would be difficult to enumerate.

I took dinner at Lizzies and tea at Aunt Marthas. The former professes to be delighted with her trip to N York and says she was quite homesick and lonely when she felt that she had indeed started on her homeward passage. The charms of the people, the country and the scenery must indeed have been fascinating to have divided with her mother and her home the empire of her heart and the tendency of her feelings and affections. You may be assured that she enjoyed her visit exceedingly and with all your self-accusations, your company was the most agreeable part of it. The homeward journey was pleasant and she is now to all appearances well and happy. Be thankful for that and wait for more till after I take a walk and light a lamp and see whether I touch the ruling or not.

Well the duties being performed as mentioned above, I will tell you that this is a most beautiful evening. The moon looks bright and the sea breeze feels cool and refreshing. I haven't heard from home since our folks returned. I had a letter from Charles while they were gone. He says his health is pretty good.

I had quite a serious thought of writing some poetry on the "Beautiful Suicide". But magnitude of the subject overwhelmed me and I consoled myself with the consideration, simple and heartfelt as it was that Julia Bates was a darned fool for hanging herself by the neck until she was dead.

I don't know of any news except the unusual depravity of human nature as developed in the case of <booledyers> and she that in the days of her virginity was Louisa Greenwood of Wayne. Don't you think the wretch had an heir five months after marriage. What will Miss Samson say now. Bill Varnum performed the

same deed of wickedness and lust for his future wife as the sequel developed. Verily people are getting rather social!

I rec yours of the 2d safely and am much obliged for the unaccustomed favor and hope to rec another soon. I am sorry for your position towards your classmates but I hope time and a knowledge of your true character will cure all the evils arising from envy or other bad or mistaken motives. I have no friends in NY to send respects to, so you must take all to yourself. What I've written I can't say, but make the most of it that you can and still remember

Your affectionate brother  
Rowland

P.S. Am devilish sorry that I did not get a truthful portrait to send you. Didn't dare to take but one look at it and didn't know how it looked. Father said it was natural and I took it for granted that it was a monkey with turned up nose and sent it along.  
R B Howard

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311 7/12/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0292

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 12th 1851

My dear Son,

Two weeks has passed rapidly away since we arrived at our old home, and I have thought almost everyday I must write and tell you we were safely "moored in our own harbor". After your father returned from the camp, we took a hasty breakfast and repaired to the landing and past over to Cold Springs (after parting with Warren). We went in the Cars to Peekskill where we found your Uncle W.B. Howard and went to his house and stopt until the next train of Cars for Newyork. When returning to the Cars We met Cadet Randal coming from the Cars, who gave us your best respects, and we passed into the cars for New York. You Uncle came as far as Sin Sing with us.

When we came into Chambers Street, I was thinking we were near our Hotell, and thought we could Walk. I think we must have walked two miles, in the heat. We arrived at the Battery Hotell before our baggage did. I was so fatigued I did not sit up untill nearly night. Lizza did not say she was fatigued but I thought she was, and would think us mean but it was altogether a mistake. Silas came in at evening and set a while and invited Lizzy to go to the Oppera where he had an engagement, but she declined, and Mr Sargent came in and spent the evening. I think him very pleasant, and much of a gentleman.

We spent the next day at Brooklyn. We walked across the Battery to the ferry and crossed over the East river, and walked to Arza's Boarding house on Fulton Street. I might have mentioned that Arza came over in the morning and accompanied us over to Brooklyn and offered us a coach if we chose but we prefered walking on account of the view. We had a fine view of Brooklyn, and New york after dinner Arza and Lavernia walked with us on Brooklyn hights which gave us a beautiful view of the shipping on the bay, the Island, a grand view of Brooklyn, and the City of New york. I had a fine visit at Brooklyn and should have enjoyed it, if I had not been in such a fatigued state all the time, my face red and I in great heat. I think Lizzie enjoyed herself that day pretty well at least I wished her too.

We came back to the ferry and Crossed over and rested us at our Hotell, and took the Boat for Boston at five O'Clock and splendid thing it, is, after we had got seated, in the saloon Mr Sargent came on board and spent the remaining time we were at the wharf. We did not see Silas Lee, through the day. I did not think when he went out in the evening, that we should not see him again.

We had a beautiful passage across the sound, one of the most splendid evenings, and the boat moved as smoothly as one could wish. And the view on either side was more beautiful than my pen can describe, untill wearyness drove us to our berths. Lizzie had some dread and fear of sea sickness but was happily disappointed. She had a good nights rest.

Took our breakfast early, and went in the cars to Bridgewater, where we were, at 7 O'Clock, after a half hour or more spent in getting a conveyance for ourselves and baggage, we started for Easton, in a good Covered wagon with stuffed seats. We had 7 miles to travel, to get to Alson Gilmore (brother of John Gilmore). A charming, clean morning, fine farms nice homes and front yards filled with all kinds of rare plants and flowers indeed.

I don't know when I have enjoyed any scene with more true pleasure than I did that morning's ride, for I was so much absorbed in looking at the beauties around me I had no thoughts for those I had left far away. And I believe Lizzie was quite as happy to be once more on New England shore as I was. I pointed out to her where your Grandfather was born [Bridgewater] and where your father was born as we passed directly by the houses. Your father chatted about old times all the way with the man who took us over. When we arrived at Mr Alson Gilmore's, we had a warm welcome there and Mrs Gilmore [Rachel Alger] said we must make her house our home while we staid. They were surprised to find that we could stay only one day and sent for all the acquaintances to come and see us. Amongst the rest Orinthy Foss came and took tea with us and spent the evening with us.

The next morning as soon as practicable we were conveyed to North Easton and Mr Gilmore and wife and Mother accompanied us. The next morning after having a beautiful shower in the night we prepared ourselves to take the stage at six o'clock which we did only for four miles, where we entered the cars and were in Boston in a short time. Alson Gilmore and wife went into Boston with us. Mr G accompanied us into the Cars at twelve O'clock and we were soon on our way to Portland, where we arrived at 5 P.M., went to Mrs Waites.

Lyzzie was delighted to get to Mother. I went to Henrys and passed the night. The next day took dinner at Mrs Waite. Mrs Waite ask me if I said anything to you about leaving West Point. I told her I did not. I thought she and Lizzie both seemed out of spirits the morning I returned from Martha, which made me feel a little troubled, and for some days it nettled me a good deal, but I could not accuse myself of any want of tenderness towards her at any time throughout our journey, but still I know my acquaintance with young ladies is quite limited and I think sometimes I lack in delicacy that some ladies have <[torn page]>. <> from the <retine> and manner of life I have chosen for myself.

I must confess that for some time before going to West Point I thought of having a serious talk with you about the propriety of remaining there but I went and returned, and made it a subject of study as far as in my power, with my means and I think I have formed a fast idea of your situation. Now my son, how do you feel about staying and taking your chance through three remaining years with your class? Do you look forward to that reward which four years of hard labour of body and mind, might expect? I feel as though it is a place full of fatigue and danger but I do not wish you to give up any enterprise that will be for your best good, or has a prospect of placing you in an honorable position, from mere weakness, or want of judgement in female friends. I do not feel any enthusiasm or ambition for military glory, or honor. Do you my son? If you do why then say so. I should be as glad to hear your sentiments if they did not agree with mine is if they did. I never have known what your calculations were if you had not gone to West Point. Perhaps I have never sought your confidence in a proper way.

I always <shrank> from the idea of a married life for you while so young, as fraught with loads of cares from necessity but perhaps I have overrated them from deeply feeling for your great responsibility, weigh well your situation and prospects and when decision is past let no painful reflections follow you. I do not wish your youthful brow clouded with care, whatever your daily duties are I do desire that they may be done with a cheerful heart. I cannot say that my example is such, but I think I feel the necessity that it should be so more deeply than a more light hearted person, since more mature thinking of Mrs W— and Lizzie appearance on my return in the morning. Lizzie might feel dispirited from fatigue, and she is her Mothers all, might feel for her so much as to feel pained, I hope nothing that I have done, would give her painful feelings for I feel very near the same interest in her as in you if your hearts are one and would not intentionally wound her delicacy.

My son write me freely and in confidence perhaps in some way I can serve you. I have thought I wished I could see Lizzie and her Mother again, but you know I cannot.

EG.

O.O. Howard

[P.S.] I saw R.B.H. just one minute at the cars on my way home and have not heard from him since. I have not written to him & expect he is waiting for a letter from home which he will have soon I think. Just like my luck my housekeeper left about an hour before I arrived and I was truly fatigued. This is my excuse for not writing sooner. E.G.

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312 7/14/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* [O O Howard]

OOH-0293

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July the 14 1851 [Monday] [probably continuation of letter begun on July 12 1851]

I still continue my writing. I have hardly finished my journal.

Saturday after leaving Yarmouth we soon arrived at green depot, where we found W. Mower ready to provide a conveyance to his house where we took tea and proceeded on our way home, where we found all our friends well as usual. Charles was very much improved and continued to gain. Once in a while he coughs a little just to show me that his disease is not rooted out entirely. While we were gone Johny had the mumps, and when we arrived Rodelphus had them. And Charles has them at the worst rate. He is swollen, so there is scarcely any natural look about him. He has swallowed but little to day, and his chest resembles a very fat infant of six months old. He has a strip of flax tied around him to keep the swelling from passing below his chest. Very little can be done for him. I hope he is seeing the worst of it to day.

Your father has gone to Lewiston to attend railroad meeting. Since I came home Mr Joslin has built our front yard fence and painted it white. It is quite pretty. The front yard is quite gay. Those rows of rose bushes that you set each side of the gravel walk is coved with roses besides many other plants are in blossom. It never looked so well before about here. Your father has made some improvements and Charles has not been able to work in the field as usual and since he has been gaining he has been picking up the old lumber laying about, which gives us quite neat appearance for us. I do not work in the garden much I would if I more help in the house.

Tuesday P.M.

You will see by my date how I am getting along with my letter. Last evening your father came home and said we should have seven men here at dinner, and now that I have performed that duty I again resume my pen.

I have given you some ideas of us on ourselves. How went matters with you after we left. I could not help feeling pained for you that you should get reported while we were there, and have felt anxious, since to know how you got along with it. Do write the particulars, to us, and how you feel in your encampment. Whether you are strong and healthy, or whether you feel dragged, and tired, the most of the time. I would like to know whether you enjoy yourself or not. But hard study will commence again when you return to Barracks. There is a kind of yearning for you, that I can hardly give a name.

Last Wednesday there five young men drowned at Monmouth centre. One out of six who were in a Sail boat when it capsized succeeded in swimming ashore. Capt Raulet had two sons in the Boat. One of them was the one saved. Mr Isak Clough had the Sons drowned, and Mr Clark a visitor from Newport made five that lost their lives. They were good swimmers but the weight of their Clothing exhausted them before they could reach the shore. I went out on Friday and the public services at the burial of the three Cloughs. They were three fine manly looking men. The three coffins were placed before the pulpit, a melancholly view. Their parents and four Brothers one only sister and one young lady who was engaged to one of them made up the remains of the family. Truly the hand of God seemed to be upon them. They had a large grave prepared to receive them all. Their father groaned audably after looking at them, while I was within hearing.

Your father is going to Hallowel tomorrow. I may go with him if Charles is better. You must supply what I leave out, for I am worse than ever.

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313 7/19/1851 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0294

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth July 19, 1851

Friend Howard

I have made my calculations to write you since 3 or 4 weeks ago, but unfortunately for my letter I happened to be in Portland about that time I heard that you were about to be visited in a way which I had good reason to suppose would be much more agreeable to you & I therefore concluded that I would wait until those emotions & impressions which must of necessity make my letter exceedingly insipid & uninteresting had <unasumably> passed away. A sufficient span has now elapsed I believe & although it has somewhat diffused my reply to your last I presume you do not regret in any way the cause of the delay so far as I <> it. But really I should have written earlier had it not been for the circumstance mentioned.

Well how do you find yourself feeling after a two or three Days intervening with your friends? Don't you wish study hours <are> <ours> & you permitted to mingle a little more <freely> in Society when & where you choose? I'll bet you did for once at any rate. When the parting words came slowly from your bosom in which conflicting emotions swelled high for utterance when the carriage containing the choicest treasures of life turned gradually from your lingering steps & disappeared behind a neighboring hill, or a boat, as the case may be, bore triumphantly from your lingering gaze the prize <look> which for you there is no other on Earth. Then I imagine you wished for the exercise of a natural <fudoms>, for the sudden sending of those <steam> bonds by which you are held to obedience in confinement that you might view with them the varied scenes of nature & of art & return with them to your Eastern home.

How is it am I not right or about right?

But alas! Students & Teachers are just where they put themselves & then must stay till their terms of service expires, unless they forcibly break away from the <> to which they have voluntarily subjected themselves, which for the most part is a course with easily resolved <> or easily followed. <True> we must make the best of it whilst for me thus shut up how hard it may seem. But my term of services is almost over unless they conclude to pay me my own price for a longer continuance here, which I suspect they will not do. I have offered to stay another year for \$700.00 though I am perfectly indifferent to remaining here at that rate. They must decide soon however for there are only 4 weeks more of this Term & then I am off. I shall not shed many tears on leaving Yarmouth, I opine you. There are some good people here, but there are more who do not know B from Bull's foot to speak in an old fashioned vulgar way. This is the most <ignoramus> <?nted> with the most self complacency & self conceit here that I ever found in one little place. And now there is so much quarrelling going on that the place is perfectly barbarous.

However in spite of all this <unformable> appearance I have got along very comfortably during the past year more so perhaps than I should <again> for I should know better how to act another time. I have been watching the moments of things without saying much so far I am now ready to speak which I should most certainly do & that plainly if I am to remain here much longer.

This year of out of college life is almost passed & how differently are we situated from what we were 12 months ago now! Then we were all together as a class, rejoicing in the prospect of speedy liberations from the bonds that had held us for 3 or 4 years. Now we are scattered on almost our whole country.

By the way I suppose you cannot come on to commencement. That will be a grand treat to those who can enjoy it. Townsend tells me that he is coming & I hope we shall have quite a class gathering - Old Buck & Perley & Adams & Jackson &c &c wont we have one of the Linaes'. But if I remain here another year I shall not be there, for I shall <> my vacation for a visit to Wisconsin & that will include Commencement time. I should be sorry for that, though in that case it cannot be helped.

We have been getting along very finely this Term with a school of nearly 50 scholars. I have a fine boarding place which adds not a little to the agreeableness of my situation.

As to news I hardly know of any. I can't think of anything worth telling, such a dearth in this respect I have seldom known. We had a most gloomy 4th of July. I was in Portland all day but it rained all the time & nothing was done. My health is much better than when I wrote you last though it is not entirely recovered. I shall need the journey out west on that account. Perley was quite well when I last saw him. Now, Howard, just let us hear from you within the next 4 weeks as by that time I shall be able to let you know where I shall be next year.

Truly Yr Friend  
J. N. Jewett

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314 7/27/1851 *From:* [O O Howard]

*To:* Father & Guardian [John Gilmore]

OOH-0295

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point July 27, 1851

My dear father & guardian,

For what reason I cannot tell, but there certainly is a combination against me, either to give me demerit or to betray me into some indiscretion in the hope that I may break some important regulation of this Academy, and receive a severe punishment, perhaps a dismissal. Several movements on the part of many of my Classmates, have produced this conviction. Under this impression, I have striven, all that lay in my power to do my duty: I have taken pains to observe the regulations in little things as well as in great. As I have never before been in Camp, my ignorance has betrayed me into some blunders, the reports for which I acknowledge to be just, and do not even attempt to get them canceled by any excuse. But many of my reports, the majority of them in fact, I do not deserve. Others of my class are not reported under the same or like circumstances. Every time I go on guard, take all the pains I may, I must get several demerit. This together with insults & slights that I cannot meet or answer without appearing to be myself the aggressor and thereby putting my position in jeopardy have so much exasperated me that I cannot think. I cannot resolve what to do. I see no prospect of redress. If I write an excuse it is insufficient; if I deny a report or say what any impartial cadet knows to be true that the report was given me through malice. Why such an excuse is improper is highly insulting not only to the reporting officer, but to the commandant.

There then I am. Cadets, who are my enemies, report me, and officers of the Army suffer the demerit to remain & be recorded. <> I can no longer bear. I must either have justice done me or I must resign my warrant as Cadet. I cannot exhaust all the energies of my youth in a pursuit worse than useless.

To live as I do now, the constant object of slight neglect and malice, I feel to be absolutely degrading. Had I talents of sufficient strength to keep at the head of my class, in spite of my enemies, I should think my prospect a little different, but even then I fear that three years at West Point would be of very little lasting benefit.

I wish you to write me your permission to resign. I may not use it, probably shall not be forced to, but I wish for justice & if I cannot obtain it, I shall have your permission as an instrument in my hands to fall back upon if necessary.

14th chapter Job. "If a man dies shall he live again?"

[no closing]

[there are mathematical equations on both pages in the margins - it is as if someone had used this as scrap paper to solve a math problem]

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315 7/29/1851 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0296

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. July 29 1851

Dear Mother

I have received your letter, I feel grateful to you for the pains you took to describe your journey so minutely. Your account possessed for me a great deal of interest. I am sorry to learn that you found <those> unhappy visitants, the mumps, in your house, when you returned, and am anxious to hear that they passed without doing any harm.

You said Mrs Waite looked disappointed. That is natural, for she loves her daughter, and feels that she is alone in the wide world trusting implicitly in the integrity of a young man; who however good his intentions still does little to warrant an earnest of that support and protection which he promises. I think a great deal & ponder over my lot, my circumstances, my prospects, but <to> confess the truth I have no great decision of mind. I do not want energy, but a spirit of resolve, upon which to rely with unflinching firmness.

My present position does not by any means render me contented, but hope brightens every thing. To tell the truth I do not dare to leave this place. I am afraid that other places will be filled with equal or worse difficulties. And if I once suffer myself to yield to injustice & malice, what can I trust in any other situation? Once of late, when I felt myself grossly wronged, and failed to get justice I went so far as to write to father to give me permission to resign my warrant as Cadet; that I might try my talents & my fortune in another and perhaps a more appropriate sphere.

But I called to mind the care & solicitude my uncle had exhibited towards me. How foolish he would think me, if I lightly gave up a place fraught with so many superior advantages, which but few of the young men of our land are permitted to enjoy. I thought that thus far by perseverance & industry if not by great natural talent, I had shown myself inferior to none. Thousands & thousand of preventatives soon rose up to check my momentary despondency. I resolved or rather thought I would give the place another chance to redeem itself in my good graces.

Did I believe it for Lizzie's ultimate good or should she insist upon it as such, that I should leave West Point and its military prospects for a quiet social existence. Why my honor, my heart, my sense of right would constrain me to leave; for to confess, what is likely to seem a weakness to the more practical spirit of riper years, I think my happiness is in a great measure to consist in making her happy. Yet whatever position I gain for myself she is to share with me, if Providence has not ordered it otherwise.

To be smited when very young, is too apt to be a clog upon that youthful energy which is the only surety of prosperity to a young man in moderate circumstances. It is not always so - it might not be the case with me; for I take much pride in showing myself a man; yet to be prepared for married life before one takes its responsibilities is too good a maxim too often attended with bad consequences when neglected, to be violated by one of my natural prudence.

Aug 1st.

Since I began this letter I have walked a tour of guard duty. The next day I can do nothing ever but sleep and rest. Therefore you perceive I have to finish it the third day. You ask me what I think of military glory. I think nature has endowed me with very little military spirit, so little that I would fight but poorly in a bad cause. Every body, however, who has any desire for distinction, must make the most of the means within their power. I would like to be a high officer in the army, but were my talents of the right kind & equal to it I would prefer to be a statesman. In fact I do not know what I am fitted for. I have about 30 demerit, 20 of which I do not deserve; but it is of but very little use trying to get them off, since they are such kind of reports that they cannot be cancelled excepting by the officer who reports me. Lieut Jones hates me. During a leave of absence of Capt Alden of about a fortnight he has been Acting Comndt, which made the time go hard with me. For my enemies would report me & he would not take the report off. he thinks I have a penchant for low company and will let no opportunity slip to exhibit his deep dislike. Capt. Alden has as yet shown himself my friend and I consider him a

very just man. If it were not for him I should leave as soon as possible. I am blamed by what friends I have for taking things with such apparent coolness, for not retorting upon those who show so much malice towards me. I don't know why; but it seems to me I never had so much patience before. The future will show notwithstanding my tameness, that I am bound to have my rights.

I met Warren yesterday & spoke with him the first time for three weeks. He said he was going home soon, this month I believe. He said I looked more fleshy than when you were here. My health is very good. I believe I told you about several young men going out after taps to play the rogue with the plebes who were Sentinels, and that one of these young men, Mr Gordon of my class got pierced in the lungs. His wound was very slight, and is now entirely well, so that <he> is performing all his military duties. What I was going <to> tell you was that this affair caused a Court of Inquiry to be instituted, which is now & has been for several days in session. It is thought that certain young <men> engaged in this "outrage" will be dismissed. I was in my tent & fast asleep, out of harm's way.

You must see Aunt Lucretia and tell her to come. The month of August is the most pleasant & favorable time to visit West Point. Uncle Ward has been to see me, but did not stop but a few minutes. He asked if Aunt was coming. I shall try to visit Peekskill with her if she comes, and if she does not, I think I shall go alone. Our Encampment <is> now over half through. The 28th or 29th of this month we shall return to barracks. I expect that this <demerit> & drawing will throw me from the head. But <> much more will be the credit if I stand ahead in spite of all these things. That will be the <best> revenge I can ask for all my ill treatments.

Give my love to Aunt [Lucretia] Leadbetter. Give it also to Uncle Ensign's family individually and collectively. I have not heard from any of them of late, not even from Laura, who is so good to write letters.

If you see Uncle John you must talk with him about my situation & prospects at West Point. Tell him of the opprobrium to which I have to submit. He once said that he wished for no better criterion by which to judge a young man, than the estimation in which he was held by his class. This I think would give me rather an unfavorable character. Write me how his new wife does. I don't remember that you told me when you were here. Just before, Mrs Gardiner said she was very low. Tell me how Charlie gets on with the mumps. If he is cheerful and in good spirits generally.

Now during some of these long nights <on> post my mind often reverts to you. I often long to be in your midst. I can't make it seem that I <am> never again to live at home as of old. It seems as if I were only away at school for a while, whence I shall soon return to enjoy "each passing day" free from clouding care. But reality whispers; you life has begun in earnest the happiness of your early home has become a remembrance. It is true that no one knows what home is until he has been long away, until it dwells only in his conception. I amuse myself by picturing you in my fancy in the midst of your various employments; making you take at times all the places I have seen you in. I almost always see father asleep in his chair with his paper or his candle & paper in his hand.

How does Dellie look? Is he fleshy, Is he manly? He will be a big boy when I see him again. It seems as if I could see him hanging around your chair while you were studying out my scribbling to see if Otis wrote anything about him. And there is Johnny, if he is with you, with his good natured face. Give them & Charlie my love, the only thing I have to send them. Tell Roland A. to remember me to the young ladies of Leeds whom he sees at the Sunday evening meetings & at parties. My regards to him, since he might think it "small business" sending love to a young man with whiskers. It has been a very long time since I have seen him.

Tell father that our battalion now presents a splendid appearance, that we have an additional parade just after breakfast.

Last evening we had what is called a stag dance. The strip of ground upon which we dance is rectangular - about 60 feet by 12. All along each of the edges is a row of candles about two inches high & a foot apart. You can hardly imagine how pretty it looks on the green. Then the cadets uniform & manner of dancing add much to the beauty & oddity of the scene. They dance till 9 o'clock, then waltz out the lights, which have burned pretty low. Then they wind up by singing songs till 'tattoo'. Two or three hundred people were collected to see us last evening.

I think I have written about as much as you will have patience to unravel for I am writing with a horrid pen, and as you would say in an awkward position, lying down. I shall try to see Warren before he goes to Maine. Tell his friends that he is well.

I had a letter from Rowland a few days since & answered it. You must not let yourself be too anxious for me.

Probably every thing will turn out for the best. Believe me as ever

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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316 8/10/1851 *From:* W. A. [Augustus]

*To:* O O Howard

Howard

OOH-0297

Peekskill

West Point NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Confidential

Peekskill August 10th 1851

O O Howard

West Point

Dear Cousin

If you remember some months since you and I mutually engaged to correspond. I told you then however, that you were not to expect anything entertaining, or in any degree worth the trouble of perusing. So, by a dim lamp, with poor eyes and a poorer brain, I sit down to introduce our long wished for correspondence.

The times with me are pretty much as <usual>, not so full of action as I could wish and I find this propensity to action is very apt to lead me into scrapes. You are aware of course, that your Father & Mother, accompanied by a very pretty young lady (I have forgotten her name) paid us a short visit, but their stay being of so short duration I had not much time to cultivate her acquaintance; but should judge her fully worthy the attention of a young, gay, enterprising, martial genius like yourself. Oh! what a clever circumstance it would be, to have such a wife, with her fortune, I have now and then an affair of petty gallantry, which might entertain you if you were acquainted with the different characters, I have to deal with, but, without that, would be very insipid.

Perhaps my dear fellow, you and I may meet yet in the same place, say New York, there would be something like a field for exertion,, and if you will direct your wishes there, I will also, that is to say in a few years. The Society of Peekskill I like but I like a bigger scope to exercise in, than this little town affords, not that I am possessed of such extraordinary talents, but but what little I have got, cannot be made a good use of.

Did two young gentleman from this place, give you a letter of introduction, from Father, last Friday? They were going to the Point, and wished to see the Elephant, when they got there, and for that reason, got the old-gentleman to write you, as I have not seen them since they returned, I did not know, whether they gave it to you or not.

Remember me in the most friendly manner to Rundle as he is an old school mate of mine and thereby associated in the happy days of boyhood; shooting marbles &c but as they are times gone bye, never to return they are hardly worth recounting in letter.

We would be happy to see you down this way, as soon as convenient to yourself, and spend a day or so with us, or any length of time agreeable to you, but hoping this will answer for the first letter, my illness having prevented me writing you before, I must close, hoping you will answer immediately.

I remain Yours &c

W A Howard [Augustus Howard]

[Envelope]

O O Howard

Cadet

West Point N.Y.

[Postmark] Peekskill NY AUG 11

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317 8/14/1851 *From:* Otis Howard

*To:* Cousin [Augustus Howard]

OOH-0298

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Aug 14th 1851

Dear Cousin, [W. Augustus Howard]

I was much pleased to receive your letter, glad to find you able to write and so cheerfully too, and also that you have opened our correspondence, which I myself should have done ere this, had not a sort of indolent languor played the dance with my energy & thoughtfulness at the same time. I am really glad to see you so much of a man, so little desponding. It is easy if a man chooses, to be contented & happy place him in any circumstances you please. If he has little of this world's goods, why, he is content, cheerful and full of hope for the future. If he has much he does not set his whole heart upon it & thus make himself miserable, by fear & refining at every little loss or disappointment. Yes! Cousin, above all, give me the cheerful spirit. The man who can always hold his head up, and bid defiance to this deteriorating influence of ill health or ill luck, exhibits a true & noble spirit. But adieu to lengthy dissertation.

In writing to you I would strive to entertain you if I knew how, but this is a difficult thing - I mean it is a difficult thing for the writer to tell when he strikes a vein that will interest his friend. He can do it after he becomes acquainted with his tastes & peculiarities, unless he be afflicted with that very common malady of all epistolary writers - egotism. But a person may be a little egotistical in this way without being selfish - he may like to talk about himself, because he is more deeply interested in himself & more intimately acquainted with himself.

I have bored many of my friends with the demerit, unhappiness & neglect, that pure jealousy, aided and abetted by malice, has caused me in the Corps of Cadets, but as the subject of so many words has become stale with me, I will not draw upon your sympathies, by depicting difficulties; and of which my yankee ingenuity & persevering spirit is soon to derive much good.

What shall I write? Suppose I attempt to stir up a bad memory and see if it can furnish me with any thing worth the telling from my boyish history. The first objects of which I have any distinct recollection are of course, my father & mother. I remember my father used to teach me pieces, make me step into the middle of the floor, make a bow and declaim them. Oh! How proud I used to feel, and delighted too when some stranger who happened to be at my father's would listen to my boyish eloquence with a smile of approval, & reward me with a dime or a penny. These they used to tell me grandfather Otis like, I would horde up in my little box: little thinking then that I would care, so soon, so little about money.

When about three years old I distinctly remember many particulars of a journey which my father and mother took to Bangor, a city if you remember on the Penobscot, whereas Leeds is on the Kennebec. This is not forgotten, because I came near breaking my head. It was in the winter, and I rode between my father's knees covered up, head and all beneath the buffalo, where the noise of the snow giving constantly & the jingling of the bells, mingling together, & producing a monotonous sound, soon put me to sleep, in which situation miles would glide away seemingly in almost no time, occasionally a jolt would start me, or father would raise my covering and ask if I was cold. We got to a town called New Sharon and stopped at a Public House. Mother & myself were shown into a reception room, where there was a good warm fire, and father, as he was wont, staid out to see if his pretty grey nag, of which he was so fond, was well taken care of. I don't know why, but I turned round, after mother had seated herself by the fire to go out to father. I opened the door to pass as I thought through the dark entry. I very confidently walked ahead. When to my consternation down, down, down I went. I brought up on a stone platform, with life enough left to scream with no ordinary power, thanks to a pair of lungs well developed by constant exercise. A man heard me and came to my relief. I can see him now just as he looked when he stooped over me to pick me up, letting the light flash upon my face, covered with dirt, blood & tears. He carried me back to my mother, where my wounds were bound up, camphor put on my head and my crying hushed. Having so many clothes on, to keep out the cold preserved me this time. This little scene in the tavern is as distinct before my mind as if it happened but yesterday. The tall man, who looked so kind, the two strange ladies, who spoke so soothingly, my mother frightened and weeping, and my father coming in and looking as I thought so sternly upon my mother & me sitting in her lap, for some reason strongly impressed my memory, and thus has become the earliest incident to which I can revert in my not very eventful life.

I remember also various characters that I met with on that journey. I had one day gone away up stairs in the house of a friend of my father's to play with his pretty little girls. In my roguery I attempted to shut one up in the chamber, caught her fingers in the jamb of the door & squeezed them unmercifully. She screamed, then sat down and cried as if her little heart would break. I tried to soothe her & tell her I did not mean to hurt her, but it did no good & I began to cry too. At this juncture a young man who had a very peculiar look made his appearance. The <> One of his legs made an angle of little less than 90 at his knee. He took the little girl in his arms and looked at me very steadily. Then reproved me gently, which reproof not in the least allayed the anguish of spirit that had taken possession of my little heart at the deed I had done.

Dear cousin, this may seem very silly & simple to dwell on these childish scenes, which happen in every house & every day. But I was merely trying to see how far back into my babyhood, memory would conduct me. Then I want you to try your own powers in the same manner. It is a diversion and that is what we want, to keep us from fretting over things that can not be helped.

The next thing in the train of events which I can recall, is that one evening, when I came from school, & couldn't find my mother when I was looking for her, going from room to room and calling the tall personage, called aunt Ann [Eliza's sister, Ann Otis Lee], with her thin face & peaked chin, suddenly stopped my progress and hushed me up with her mouth drawn down looking very solemn. I was only four years old, but I was observant. I thought by her look something dreadful had come to pass. She said if I would go and eat my supper & be a good boy she would show me something very beautiful. I must not make the least noise for my mother was sick. I went to the kitchen, with my little head full of wonderment and eagerly & uneasily awaited the fulfillment of my Aunt's promise - to show me something beautiful. Presently she came in carefully carrying a little bundle of white blankets in her arms. I ran up to her eager to see the precious thing so carefully wrapped up. She opened the blanket when lo! There peeped forth the head of a little baby, "See your brother Otis!" "Will you not be very kind to him & love him!" Of course I would." I was in high glee, I danced for joy. "A brother, where did he come from?" How came I to come home & find a brother. Why, tells me my Aunt. The Doctor has been here while you were gone to school and took him out of his saddle bags". Heaven pardon the innocent fib! So often used to silence curious little heads! For my Aunt is a very pious lady & would not tell a lie for all the world. It was enough I had a brother - no matter how I got him. I always was delighted with him, till he got big enough to quarrel with me, till my father would pet him and tell me that I was not so much of a man as he. When very young Rowland was a delicate boy, but very active & sprightly & I think still my father did love him a bit more than me, but in my mother I never could trace the least show of partiality.

My father seems in the distant view with which my recollection furnishes me to have been very stern - sometimes his brow would relax and a very pleasant winning smile would light up his countenance. But such is a childish judgment. Oh! Augustus, how I wish I now had my own father! I wish I could see him now - how would he look, how would he act to me now that I am grown! Do not misunderstand me cousin, and think that I am dissatisfied with my step-father, for I am not. He has always treated me & mine with much delicacy & kindness. He has preserved what little property I possessed for me with the most scrupulous care, and I always respect him. Yet none can supply the place of one's own father. Be thankful Augustus that yours is spared to you. Be always kind & respectful as I know you must be, to your father; for should you outlive him, this conduct will be a source of real happiness to you, will have a beneficial influence over you. I despise a man, who will suffer himself to treat with indifference or disrespect his father. It discovers a trait of meanness, too degrading for me to look upon with patience.

To resume, much time passed between the birth of my two brothers of which I have but a partial recollection. I had these my childish joys hopes & disappointments. About this time I was delighted with my first pair of boots. I remember what agony a dream caused me - the first night after my father brought them home. I thought some one had been in the night & cut them to pieces. Neither could I be convinced of the contrary till they were brought & put upon the bed beside me. A man came one day to my father's & gave me a little dog. You can hardly imagine with what fervency I loved that animal, and I believe the affection was mutual, for he never would leave my side unless compelled. One day he & I were sauntering about near where the hired man was at work, when Diamond (that was his name) discovered a woodchuck under a large rock in the wall. The dog in his eagerness to get at him, pushed his head under the rock & could not withdraw it. How he did cry. The man said he could not get out, he would not help him. He laughed & hectoring me, the animal would cut his nose off &c &c. Oh what agony possessed me & I cried! I lay down by him, caressing him & patting him. I don't know what I did; but I know that I never have felt such deep heart rending grief as I experienced for those few moments. At last I said I would kill him myself or release him. In desperation I seized him by the legs, & pulled with all my might. He came out whole. Then what a sudden change to joy. This dog was the best companion I ever had. If I should ever be blessed with a wife, she might consider herself blessed with an excellent husband, if she could develop in me half the affection I cherished for that little animal. A bad boy of the neighborhood at last

shot him pretending that he thought he was a skunk; for which act of cruelty & falsity I hate him yet. I was consoled somewhat for my loss by the present of a turkey & some chickens. These I cherished & nourished with unremitting care. But they would die, and then I would grieve. It seems strange to me now that I could have loved animals to such an exclusion of everything else. But so it was. It may be natural. This was before restless ambition took up its abode in my heart, which inevitably drives away all the gentle natural affections, which so beautify the human character.

Time sped on. When I was eight years of age another brother came into the world, smuggled into the household by the same officious Doctor. He became a beautiful boy with a calm mild face. He is yet my favorite. One day about a year & a half after his birth, my brother & myself were sent early one sabbath morning to father's corn field to keep the sheep &c from the corn. It was far from the house & the wind was blowing. When it was time to get ready for Church, father called to us. To make us hear he had to exert all his strength. He halloed very loud indeed. I wanted to stay at home & he let me. About noon, the servant called me from the barn and said my father & mother had come. This was unusual. They had never before come home so early. I ran into the house - saw my father bolstered up in a high-backed chair as pale as a cloth. He held out his hand, and said, my son, I have been spitting blood. He never recovered eight months I think he lingered with us bleeding now & then till his blood was all gone. He died. I don't know how it seemed to me then. I did not feel his death, as I should have, for I did not know the worth of a father then.

I will close now to resume again if you like my method. When I came to College life, perhaps I can please you by rehearsing more manly incidents. Your father's letter of introduction was not given to me. I have been refused a permit to visit you. If your father will write me a good strong request to come stating if its true, that he thinks it would do you good to see me & that you are hardly able to visit the Point. I think by means of such a letter I can get a permit. Ask him to write immediately, if he thinks best, so that I can go next Saturday. But he must take you all & make me his promised visit if possible. Commend me to him & to your brother & sister. With a deep interest in you all & especially in yourself, remember me your new Cousin & Friend.

Otis

P.S. I will tell you about the young lady one of these days. I am glad she pleases you. How does my cousin Elizabeth think of her?

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318 8/15/1851 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0299

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Aug 15 1851

My dear Otis

I am quite ashamed of myself for not having written you for so long a time, but have no apology to make now, for want of time. I am also very sorry I have not been up to see you before. I made arrangements last week to go today to Newburgh and come down from there with a pretty girl to see you but that's all knocked "into <pi>", as I received a letter from Sarah who is in Boston, and promised her if she came up I would go on, so I am quite happy to fulfil my agreement. I shall go this afternoon, and return some time next week.

I went last Monday afternoon to Baltimore & returned on Wednesday Morning, remaining there one day, and riding in the cars two nights. You may readily perceive that it was no pleasure trip.

I intend to come up to see you before you break up. Don't know that I have written you since I saw your "Lizzie" - was quite well pleased with her and sorry she did not stay longer that I could show her some civilities.

Excuse my haste as I have a deal to do today.

Truly Yrs in haste  
F T Sargent

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319 8/17/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0300

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Aug. the 17 1851

My dear Son,

We have finally received your letter of date July 11th.

After going to Liverpool and back I have dwelt much on your situation, since my return from West Point, and should be glad to be a counciler but am not capable. Don't you think other cadets have had such or similar grievances as yours. Are you the only sufferer. You must remember my son it is no small thing for a young man to take the first rank in his Class where rank is thought more of than any one thing. I have just reread your first letter after you left home, written in Newyork City after seeing Mr Ally. He said you could take a high stand in your class but it would be disputed, and you feel it, very sensibly to have demerits marked against you the second year, after having escaped them the first.

The world is full of vexations. I hope you will not sink in your own estimation. I hope falsehood (if you are accused) will not be your resort, or any other meanness of which you are accused. I am thinking whether you have these taunts thrown in your face from the parties themselves or whether you have tattlers at West Point, if you are shunned you would seek to know the cause, in some way to be sure. I hope your disponding feelings do not exaggerate nor aggravate the matter. You mentioned in your last letter of having 20 or 30 marks of demerit against you. I would like to know in what they consist. You spoke of your artillery drills, How do you like them.

The first word I received from you after leaving you was the 9th of August. You never can know how much I thought of it. You who had been so good about all at once entirely quit writing to his Mother. I could not think a letter would miscarry from West Point here, but the clerks in New York City sent it to England, and it returned here 16th of Aug.

You did not mention in your letter how it happened that Cadet Gordon was injured. I should like to know how it happened, and what was the result.

I have been to Hallowel since my return form West Point, had some talk with your Uncle John. He had seen Mr Gardiner and said Mr G said you stood high in the opinion of the officers and proffessors generally and your Uncle Ward said he was acquainted with the Professors and they spoke highly of your talents and said you were a hard student and spoke highly of you. Envy and malice are always in the world. Let us go where we will. It will come in some shape or other. I have felt it so much at sometimes in my life that it has given me a distaste for society. I have sometimes scanned every motive of my heart, and looked everything over, and concluded the will disposer of everything, permitted it for some wise purpose that was unfathomable to me.

I told your Uncle of your being unpopular in your class. He thought it would make you uncomfortable but thought it a matter of course & repeated some things you told me of Mr Abbot. He thought your course toward him perfectly right. He thought him mean minded to take the course he did.

19th Aug. You will see by my letter the abrupt manner of leaving my writing. I had an unexpected caller, on the sabbath. One who gave me great pleasure. It was no less person than your own dear Lizzie. Her Call almost changed my train of thought. Charlie went to meeting and found her there, and Mr Perley, who had a tremendous head ache, went his uncles and Charley brought Lizzie, and Cousin Laura Howard here to see me. They stopt two hours. I feel my son as though you had many blessings yet in store for you. To be sure you have deprived yourself of many present enjoyment for the sake of, or in hope of, future advancement, but don't augment your perplexities by an unhealthy imagination. I wish you to look to that, my son why I think of that, is because I have many times in my life found myself conjuring up things from appearance which reality would or could not prove, and I think you partake in some respects of your mothers nature.

You spoke in your letter of July 11th of being shuned by your Corps or the most influential of them. Even if it is so, live them down by good conduct. Have you not been rather taciturn, my son, since being at West Point,

being rather inclined to be homesick, have not some shunned you because they thought you did not wish their company. I saw something care worn or anxious in your look all the while I was there. Very likely all close observers noticed the same. I do not wish my son to be vain but to feel in his youth so care worn as to carry it about in his face or the expression of his countenance, as thou he had been guilty of crime, cannot make him happy and casts a gloom on all around him.

I believe my spirit is with you, many a night since I returned from W.P. have I spent in an anxious worrying frame until worn all down with fatigue would get my rest towards morning and nothing in my imagination but Otis! Otis! I have wished in such instances that I could hear the voice of sympathy, but that is not my lot. There are certain rights which belong to every man, and I would hold up my head and enjoy them. I have associated so little with you for several years that your mental enjoyments I seem to know nothing about, but I seem to think you enjoy the Works of nature, you speak of drawing. I seem to think you will not fail entirely. I have looked a good many at those pieces you brought from Monmouth when you were a boy. But perhaps that little talent is wasted for want of cultivation. Don't be over anxious about anything, but try be happy in well doing.

In looking after your letter of 11th July I took up Mr Sawtelle's letter written to your Uncle John after visiting West Point last March. In closing his letter he says at West Point rank all of H. in the highest commendation and praise. Now has the tables entirely turned. Look the subject over well, and try to have a right view of the subject. Anyhow you seemed to have earned a good name.

Abroad your two letters since my return seem to savour so much of melancholy that they almost alarm me. Don't be so distressed.

I am glad Silas Lee has been to see you. How did you spend the Fourth. Don't anything give you pleasure. And G. Lothrop, he could not be called a "lous" caller. One of the justices of New York City. I think your Uncle Ward is kind to come and see you. Now Otis have you any reason to complain. You are as high in rank as you could ask and when sick you had all the care you could ask, and you have kind friends all around. Put a complacent face on matters and cheer up. Only think of Arza Gilmore how much pain and sickness he has to encounter. When we returned to Brooklyn from you, we found Arza having a truss made. He had a small bunch on the side of his bowels near the hip that the doct called a rupture. He wore the truss three weeks and became satisfied it was not a rupture and had it examined by eminent Physitions who then said it was an absess and talked very discouraging, so much so that he sold out his so much and so long desired Apiary to his partner in the business and returned here with his wife and child. They have been here two weeks. His absess broke soon after his arrival here. It discharged as far as we could judge nearly two quarts. All the doctors expected he would be laid aside when it discharged but contrary from that he has never laid in bed one day and now rides out and will soon go to housekeeping.

Charlie is well and cheerful, so is Dellie, and has done well at school this summer. Johnny is as happy as ever. His father has not been to see him yet. I understand Sarah Lee has gone to Boston to get the filing, getting married. I shall be obliged to stop for want of time and room.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

(Don't neglect writing)

O. O. Howard

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320 8/18/1851    *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard]    *To:* Charlie [C. H. Howard]

OOH-0301

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Aug. 18. 1851

Dear Charlie,

Mother told me how much you liked a letter and especially from your brother. I cannot understand why my letters have so much interest for you, unless it be that I am your brother, and that your love for me myself invests my homely thoughts with more worth than really belongs to them. After all, affection & interest in the writer is the best passport to the reader's attention. These feelings make the commonest letter more than agreeable. I wanted you to come and see me very much, when father & mother did, but I understood your exacting jealous little heart; and knew that you would go away unhappy, if I did not pay you sufficient attention. Some time while I am here you shall come and take all the pleasure you can in seeing me and West Point.

I have told you of your cousin Augustus. I promised him & his father that I would correspond with him, in order if possible to divert his mind from the fatal effects of his lamentable disease if it was in my power. To undertake the task would afford me much pleasure; but as my own internal sources seldom furnish me with anything either humorous or diverting I was at a loss how to begin, how to touch upon themes that would suit his turn of mind, or become sufficiently ample, to give any kind of character or sufficiency to my side of the correspondence. But I love to do good when I can and especially to one, whose bright hopes have been nipped in the bud, whose future life, so full of expected happiness to us who enjoy health & vigor, has been rendered a mere blank. I resolved at last to make a trial of my poor memory, to see if in kindness it would not furnish me with the many little incidents in my own history from my earliest recollections, up to the present day, where I find myself an aged man of almost twenty one, calling upon him, if he can do so without any painful exertion to favor me with a similar sketch of his boyhood.

This method I have begun and find very interesting to myself; for it calls to my mind continually many almost forgotten little acts of kindness shown me first by my own father & mother then afterwards by my brothers. It will serve to bind me by means of past remembrances more nearly to you all than my every day, selfish existence is calculated to do. I more frequently see you in your little frock with a bright, shiny belt encircling your little waist, just as you looked when we left the old House, for a new home. I oftener think of you thus - a bright lovely little boy, than as the great one you have grown to be.

You must take good care of your health, Charlie, but don't for the world be spleeny - that is, be careful not to think yourself sick when in reality you only feel a little languid & lazy. You can scarcely imagine how much one may add to his health by cultivating a cheerful, independent sort of a spirit. Do you know the secret of cheerfulness & sprightliness? Unless a person is afflicted with some corroding, deep-settled sorrow, it is easy to be cheerful. The method I would propose would be - cease to do everything merely to gratify yourself. If you are away from home among strangers or cold-hearted, non-sympathizing acquaintances, your own rights must be rigidly maintained or you will be trampled upon as weak & spiritless; but in the family circle, where in the main you receive nothing but kindly attention mingled with the best-intended reproofs, there is the sphere to make yourself happy by affectionately extending your constant aid & sympathy to your father, mother & brothers. Accustom yourself to do little acts of kindness. You will soon become forgetful of self, a pleasant feeling will soon be uppermost in your breast. You will become cheerful & I doubt not your own cheerful spirit will become contagious. Try it, Charlie. Your home will be dearer to you one of these days for the experiment.

Perhaps you think this officious lecturing. Rowland says his elder brother is apt to write sermons. Well then you must forget the unpleasant words, but remember the intention is based on an affectionate interest in you my brother.

My health is good. We shall go out of camp in less than two weeks, and return to our very interesting studies. I look forward to the coming year, with both hope & fear. I require a great deal more strength of character than I have got to carry me safely & easily through the difficulties I have to meet here, much less sagacity than I wish I had that I might turn every circumstance to good account. Yet one thing is sure, I never despair, nor would I if the clouds hung around me ten times as dark as they ever have done before. But I will try not to burden you with trials, which are particularly calculated to make a man of me. Opposition is a harsh but an efficient tutor.

Pity & flattery make a fool of a man. The former makes me scowl & sometimes cringe; while enmity makes the cup bitter; but the latter make me feel decidedly silly.

Give my love to all - tell Rowland, when he gets home if he is not already there, to write me; no matter if he scolds me for forgetting to send his letter after I had written it. Has a register been sent home from West Point? Tell mother I have resolved to go into barracks with Mr Browne. In many respects he & I are uncongenial spirits. But he is double hearted and has maintained me and my cause when almost all have <accosted> me. Langdon, my present tent mate & I agree first rate, but I am a little suspicious of his habits of study. Browne I know from experience will study with unremitting assiduity, and his example will keep me from flogging. Tell me how Dellie looks, if he improves; if you & he live pleasantly & happily together. I shall be surprised if he does not make a smart strong minded man one of these days; for he has got the materials within him. Remember me again to all the family and write me as soon as you can.

From Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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321 8/23/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0302

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point New York Aug 23d 1851

Dear Mother

I was surprised to learn from the letter which I received from you this morning that my letter was over a month in reaching you. You have already suffered too much solicitude to take away your peace of mind. If you reflect a little you will remember that it is contrary to my nature to be gloomy cast down or desponding for any length of time. Be assured that I have now a more cheerful countenance this summer than ever before, neither has it been all outside show. As I had previously considered myself generally beloved. The sudden burst of feeling against me took me unexpectedly and wholly unprepared. There was no open insult, or ridicule, for such I could face down, but my classmates were many of them made officers, some of them insinuating mischief making and very popular at the same time. The first class officers took sides against me without giving me a hearing. I was forbidden to see Lothrop. Capt Alden went away, unjust reports were given me and would not come off. All this would make a stronger man than me a little blue. In such a mood I wrote to you. By degrees I set myself right, Capt Alden returned and took my side. I stopped these insidious reports. I became very military, guarded my movements on all occasions.

One time Mr Turnbull, acting sergeant-major, reported me twice in succession for not keeping eyes to the front at guard mounting. The second time I suspected what he was about from the manner in which he ordered me into the rear-rank: & steadily kept my eye fixed on an object in front of me during the whole of guard mounting, which lasted upwards of half an hour. This was painful & you can imagine how exasperated I was to hear myself reported for not keeping my eyes to the front. I positively denied the report & carried my denial to Lieut Jones then acting Commandant. He was highly incensed at my language, said that my excuse was not only highly insulting to him as acting Commandant but also to the reporting officer. When Capt Alden returned he treated me very differently, sent for me, told me I did perfectly right & called Mr Turnbull. He said Mr T must appear before a Court of Inquiry & swear that he gave me my report justly & not from malice. I have heard no more about it since, and I have not been since reported.

These young men began to find that they were losing ground and if they continued, in the end would defeat their own object. The object evidently has been to throw me from the head of the class this next year. This they have already accomplished, unless I do much better this coming year than last. This remains to be seen. The cards are gradually turning in my favor. When this present first class graduates, my footing will be better still. I have questioned the expediency of remaining here time & again and have come to the decided conclusion that nothing which can happen here will tempt me to leave.

Now forget any apparent gloom, cease to be filled with anxiety, for my situation and prospects with three Corps of Cadets like this my open enemies, would be far preferable to those of the majority of young men - much brighter than mine might have been, had I never seen West Point. This worrying & fretting when things do not go right is what I despise in theory, and if I do not always promptly resist & banish it in practice, be assured it is but a momentary humor & will not last long. When you were here I had several things to plague me and might not seem so careless & cheerful as usual; but you would find if you were with me every day that there is much levity left yet in my composition. It will not be a very important loss if I do not stand ahead next year. I will warrant you I will not be far from that place. I shall do my best. If I fail, why I can take it as coolly as I have learned to take the refusal of a permit to go to see my Uncle. Between the first five there is so little disparity in talent in industry & previous acquirements that the least thing, the turn of a straw almost will throw one of us ahead. We must take our chance & be content with the result.

We shall go into barracks in one week.

I did not know that Lizzie was gone to Livermore. It seems that she made a very short visit with you, probably she came again before returning.

It is Saturday afternoon. I have been to see if I could see Warren before he started for home. I find he has gone. Excuse me to him if he says anything about my apparent neglect. I would rather associate with him than

with any Cadet, but I now find it next to impossible. He will soon, I hope, rank me. Then he can pay me back in my own coin. He can give you a pretty good account of West Point. Tell him I saw Sergeant Holloway who told me that he had gone on furlough but did not say how long he had been gone. I went down to his barracks but did not stay long enough to make many inquiries for fear, as we say "of being hived" off limits.

Give my love to all. I wrote to Charles a few days ago. You probably have got the letter before this. I cannot understand why my letter went to England, for I certainly directed it to the right place. I think this is the fourth letter I have written you since you were here. That will be a letter once a fortnight. I would write oftener, but I fear my letters will not be so well filled if I do. I really depended on seeing Warren before he went, but I was afraid to invite him into Camp for reasons which I will explain to him one of these days. I wished to send many a word by him. You can send any thing you wish by him & I can get it. Perhaps he will be on his return before you get this.

Remember me to all my friends at Leeds. In ten months from this date I hope to be with you.

It is really wronging yourself to feel so much anxiety on my account. It is painful to me to know that you do. Tell everybody, tell yourself that I am doing well. Write me as often as you can.

From your ever affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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322 8/24/1851 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0303

Leeds

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 24th 1851

Dear Brother

Again I begin a letter to you dated at home sitting in our old parlor, the boys playing and Arza humming in the kitchen the same as ever. I came home yesterday about 11 ocl. Rodelphus performed the wonderful exploit of driving to Greene to meet me. Since that memorable occasion he has been decidedly on his <Taps>.

I suppose you feel some interest to know how I prospered at my examination at Brunswick. I went down on Thursday and visited at Teachers Institute at Topsham on the afternoon of that day and staid with Kendall that night, whose conduct struck me as being rather officious, but however I was much obliged to him for his kind, gratuitous tender of a lodging. Our Examination began at 8 ocl next morning and lasted till about four in the afternoon. I passed a favorable examination on all the studies in which I presented myself. I took a dead on Jugurtha and of course have it to make up this vacation.

It is with pleasure that I announce to you the presentation according to time honored custom of the College Laws and Bond, which I with accustomed carelessness lost on my way home. I was rather lonesome at B on account of my not seeing you there. I have not been there before since you left and it seemed odd not to have a room to run to in which I could do as I pleased so long as I pleased its owners. But, however, I find many students kind and gentlemanly, and probably friends will not be wanting on a closer acquaintance. But there is a certain patronizing peculiarity and <overwearing> care for my welfare which some manifest, especially two or three in the present Freshman Class, contemptible alike for diminutive minds and dwarfish bodies, that seems to me a mere looker on, like portraying in a miserably insipid manner the peculiar beauties of the  $\chi\psi$  institution. But such things of course will be only for my mirth, so contemptible are these figured sprouts of College life.

I leave Yarmouth with a high degree of friendship and respect for Mr Jewett, your old friend. He has uniformly treated me like a gentleman that he is and I shall always remember him with a great deal of pleasure. He will stay at Y another year. The Trustees have advanced his pay to \$600.00. At present he has gone to Bangor on business. Robinson is a very good teacher and understands Greek and Latin, one way, pretty well, but there is not the slightest degree of original thought about him or if there is it never finds vent in his expressions. The same illustration which he borrowed and used in 1850, suits his turn very well in 51 and probably will some years hence and the poor man imagines that it is equally aplicable and witty when told to the same persons for the fortieth time, that it was on the first relation. Such is 'Old Robb', as we called him. Much good may he do, especially to himself in the course of his honest, upright life.

Nearly all of the Proffs recognized me as your brother, and when that fact was clear to Goodwin I thought it made him amazing closer for he did'nt take me up but once in Cicero, while the others were "screwed" most unmercifully and Proof Bordy screwed his wry face into a smile and served as a dictionary while I was reading Sallust and even the Prex, when he handed me those honored Laws, said you sir are a brother of the Mr Howard at West Point. Come early in the term and get you a good room and Chum.

Our folks are all well. The cause of Charles sickness is not removed although he calls himself well. I hope for him while I fear. I have now over four weeks vacation which I mean to imploy (after reading Jugurtha of course) to the best of my ability, that is if Father and Providence are willing.

Now Otis I am going to put the real business in the postscript and ask what in the devil is the matter with you. I have plunged about in the dark regions of doubt and conjecture long enough, now misled by this and now by that paragraph in your letters. I have conjectured among other things as a cause of your unhappiness. Jealousy. Envy. Homesickness. Distant Love. Present hate. Pride. Poverty. Wealth. and the Old Nic. knows what else. But still I am more and more in the dark what should cause you that constant mental pain and anguish which your letters seem to imply. You have constantly mentioned this as a fact but never have intimated a cause sufficiently great for such results. To be sure, for me to know what the matter is, may do you personally no good. but I assure you that it is something more than idle curiosity in me that prompts me to ask

you as a brother what is the real cause of your unhappiness in your present situation. Everybody I see envies your place, your rank, and your advantages and you alone not only think lightly of them but declare yourself entirely disgusted with your situation and prospects. Is it the hatred, prompted by envy of those around you that has filled you with a seeming abhorrence to almost the very atmosphere of West Point and has caused you to look upon your place, your classmates and teachers like so many plague spots on the human body entirely revolting to your thoughts and feelings?

Aug 26th

Since writing the above I have been reading some of mothers letters and the mystery of your feelings is partly explained. One little passage struck me as peculiarly pertinent. I refer to that "ideal" of social happiness compared with the "sore" reality of life at West Point. I am sorry you have that anchor on a lea shore. But still I hope it will not materially change your course on the ocean of life. I did not know till now that you got so far discouraged as to write to father to resign your warrant. Neither do I think such a course consistent with your nature, if I am acquainted with it at all. You know that when I told you not to go on a piece of ice, you was sure to go. Judging from that little fact I supposed your spirit would rise with difficulties till they were overcome and as I told Father yesterday, difficulties never alone can change your resolution, but imaginary pleasures might. But my thoughts on such things can change nothing and in no manner effect the result. So I will leave my speculations here.

Mother says she has rec a "register" from whom she does not know. Things at home look as usual - the garden with its little modest wicket fence and gay arrangements of bright flowers looks really charming. I think some of taking the little boys with me to Lewiston today to see a Managerie. Dellie says he is going to write you and if his letter does not look better than this I shall not let him send it. Would You? Write soon.

Rowland

[Envelope]

[Postmark] LEWISTON ME AUG 26

Cadet Oliver O Howard

West Point

N.Y.

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323 9/14/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0305

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 14, 1851

Dear Mother

I have just completed a letter to Rowland and if there is material enough left in my head or my heart you shall have one too.

We are now fairly "underweigh" in the study time. One fortnight has skipped away, since we came out of camp, already. I changed companies in order to live with Mr Browne upon our coming into Barracks, going from "C" company in which I was when you were here to "D" company, the company of tall men. I stand almost at the foot - in the left of it. I am comparatively as short. I am now under Lieut Jones, as little Closson says I put myself into the Wolf's mouth, but I have not got a single report yet since I came into the Company. I think I have gained by the exchange.

Mr Browne is now a little unwell, went to the hospital this morning, where the Dr kept him, I presume, since he has not returned. I am now alone. I have a splendid room, one that commands all the scenery in and around West Point. <Croneat> that high hill directly west of the Hotel, Newburg, Cold Springs, the Hotel, the river, all met my gaze when I look forth from the window. The only disadvantage is in its distance from the ground giving such superabundant exercise to the legs by running up and down stairs three pairs of stairs, every time we wish to step out of doors. But it is new, neat, convenient, quiet, qualities very essential to a Cadet, who is obliged to study & to keep clean. It has two Alcoves in the back part separated from each other by a partition, with the whole front open into the room, on order that they eye of the inspecting officer may see the beds at a glance from the door. All the rooms are warmed by furnaces under the basement. Now that I have located myself, I have'nt though precisely. You remember the very long building, the east end of which was scarcely completed when you were here. Well, in the eastern division on the upper story, in the north east room, you will find on the orderly board Browne-Howard printed in small letters over the bar that runs along over the front of the alcoves, the same names printed in large letters from these <data>, you may easily discover our residence.

Now that I have located myself & given you somewhat of an idea of my position, I will pass to myself. I am hale & hearty, books are my companions, study & drills my recreation. The change from languor & comparative indolence to immediate & intense application was rather sudden, but its effect on me has not been unfavorable to health. In drawing I have made a beginning & hope to do moderately well. In riding the Frenchman finds no fault with me; in mathematics I made for the first week, the second best mark in my section. A man near the foot of it having made the first. In French I probably shall not keep my stand for there certainly is not an individual, who does not know more about the language than I, and there I am way up to the head.

To give you an idea of the way we recite in French. Professor Agnel himself a French man, who speaks & understands the English so well that you could not detect that he was a Frenchman, is our instructor. A man he is full of activity, driving, expecting others to be as active as himself. He is the best instructor that I was ever under. He gives us a reading lesson. This lesson must be got in such a manner that we can give him the english, as he reads the french. He gives us a long lesson in English at the same time that we must translate into french, orally as he reads the English. He addresses us in French, telling us to shut the door, open the window, to tell what page or where our lesson is in French. If we cannot learn the language by such method of instruction, we may as well give up hopes of learning it at all. It sometimes seems like jargon to me but he slackens his pace usually, so that my slow ear may follow him, whereas I find that all the other can understand him & reply without difficulty.

In Mathematics we have as instructor Guy Peck said to be the "keenest Mathematician that ever graduated here. If a man knows any thing he seems to have the power to bring it out of him, if he does not know a thing he is too sure to discover it.

This much for myself and instructors. You ought to see the battalion now. More than three times as large as when you were here. Twice every evening we are marched with the music by separate companies from the barracks out on the plane just in front of the Professors' houses, where you saw Warren's Company drilling,

when father & I went out to see him. This makes a splendid appearance for the battalion is now so well drilled that it moves with as much precision as clock work.

Now for yourself. How has your health been since your journey? You warn me not to let care wrinkle my brow & furrow my forehead, not to let trouble embitter my spirit or render it gloomy. Now you should remember that upon your health & strength depends the happiness of your children, that these must not be <impeded> by anxiety, by care, by overexertion. Let your mind be easy then for your children are well circumstanced. No remorse is gnawing at their vitals, while innocence reigns in their bosoms, no difficulties or danger can render them very deeply watched. Think of some mothers whose children, though dear to them, are lost to all sense of duty & right, whose lives are degraded by dissipation of others, who have their children hanging upon them, from whom disease has taken away all the pleasures of existence, whose hopes are a blight, with whom life itself is but a bitter draught. Are you not blessed should you be unhappy, should solicitude take away your rest and anxiety render your heart cheerless. No, let it not be so. Even had I reasoned myself into the feeling that it was hard to leave West Point & left. Why it would not have been that I was discouraged. Far from it. Should I be found to leave this & ten more such places I would not be at all discouraged. Why! I would try still another. So be not afraid. Like other men I am bound to see disappointments & trials; and if I would be a man I must not let this crush me.

Give my love to Father, Roland A Charlie & Dellie & have Rowland B to discover all he can in my prosey letter. Lizzie has returned home, says grandmother has been to see her. She went (i.e. Lizzie) to the White Mountains, while she was away. Remember me to all my friends. I have not seen Aunt Lucrecia's self here yet. Tell me all the news. I would like to have a paper now and then. I don't know but it would be better for me to take one say the Journal. Then I should not be in such continued & benighted ignorance in regard to matters going on around without the circle of West Point. Accept this as an apology for a letter; it being my second effort of today. Write as often as you can.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

P.S. Tell Father to send me some letter stamps if he has any. it being very inconvenient to prepay a letter since I have no money (en poche).

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324 9/24/1851 *From:* W. A. [Augustus]

*To:* Cousin [O. O. Howard]

Howard

OOH-0304

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Sept 24 1851

Dear Cousin

Your kind letters contain expressions of too friendly a nature not to impress upon me that it is my bounden duty to answer at my earliest opportunity, also the kind interest you were pleased to take in my personal welfare, you will also except my acknowledgments for your kind wishes for my restoration to health? I am of the opinion that the course of treatment I am now pursuing may be productive of the desired object for without health what is a person but but a being of disconsolation, of gloom, and of sorrow. More desirable is health than all the wealth of the world and more to be prized than all earthly possessions. The most serious affects of my protracted indisposition was my being compelled to relinquish the very acceptable situation, I have been holding for the last two years of Teller in the bank at this place. But such being the way of the world, and the end we must all be subjected too continually, we will let the subject drop for one more agreeable.

I was sorry to hear your governor would not let you come down and spend a sociable Sunday with us but I suppose were there are so many necessity compels them to be very particular. I saw Rundle here some few days since, at a little party given by one of the ladies of his acquaintance in this place. Father has been somewhat affected with diarrhea for some time past but has now nearly or quite recovered from it and <wishes> to be remembered kindly to you.

It has been rather dull here for some time with the exception of last Friday when a transient Circus Company made its appearance in our otherwise quiet village which tended to stir up the otherwise dull monotony of passing events. You must excuse my very short letter especially when you favored me with such a good long one, but a friend is waiting for me to take a ride out in the country with consequently if I do not write more I do not know when I shall be able to get another opportunity and I have waited so long now. I suppose you almost think I had forgotten you. Begging you will be kind enough.

Make my best wishes again to your mother when you write her again and hoping you may long enjoy your present happiness is the fervent prayer of your most humble and obedient friend and answer this at your earliest convenience is the desire of yours truly

W. A. Howard

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325 9/27/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0306

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 27th 1851

My dear Mother

You know I used to keep a sort of diary in College (if a book, in which one writes by fits - sometimes every day and again not oftener than once a month, is worthy of this name). I took it up this evening for the first time for three months & more and found it so interesting to run over my past reflections, that I came near forgetting that I had promised myself to dedicate this evening to you. I perceive through my former scribbling, that I am about the same being as of old, subject to fits of cheerfulness and depression, continually undergoing changes in feelings & spirits, yet ever guarded by good intentions, full of purposes & resolutions to press forward always enlivened by hopes of some success, a thing rather vague, rather undefined but still a little farther on. If I can continue to be as industrious and accompany my industry by a little nicer source of rectitude & uprightness I shall be content, let what will, come.

Perhaps I am talking in riddles. Why, you ask this continued review of the past. Such is my manner of reflecting when I forget that others have not been installed in my breast so as to become acquainted with all my thoughts. To state the case plainly. My passing life, like every other man's perhaps, is continually presenting to my reviewing eye, a sort of double picture - in one light it seems bright, clear & very pleasing; in another a dark mass of badly arranged, misplaced materials. When I catch a glimpse of the <latter> phase it fills me with dejection and a distrust of my own worth; then I try every experiment of turning the canvass till the picture resumes its happier face.

I am almost twenty one! Who would think it! Boyhood & youth chase each other in rapid succession and we become men in years before we are aware of it, and too often before we are prepared to pilot our own bark over the waters of life opening so suddenly & widely before our inexperienced eye. If I had remained at home, I would very soon be a voter. Who knows what my politics might have been. Father may suggest an abolitionist. The soldier however, must have no politics of his own. It wont do for him to slander the President. He must ever be the upholder & the servant of the party in power, i.e. hold his tongue & do as he is told.

(Sept 28th)

I put off my writing so late last evening that "Taps" put an end to my writing before I was aware of it. I never have attended so closely to my duties before, as now excepting the time just before I entered College. I seldom go to the section room without having every portion of my lesson well fixed in my mind. Whoever stands at the head in mathematics is expected to display considerable talent and if one has not much to boast of, why he must work.

Brigadier General Totten and the Secretary of War, Mr Conrad, came into the section room the other day accompanied by some other 'notable' gentlemen & several ladies. I was called up first & sent to the board on the most difficult thing for me on the lesson. I did, however, moderately well. Mr Conrad came & spoke to Mr Lee of my class, calling him by his Christian name. I believe in my heart I do not harbor the least hard feeling or jealousy against Lee. I believe our difficulty arose through the intervention of others and I regret it. But as he turned me out of his friendship & society, I shall scarcely go back unsolicited & probably not even then for a young man ought to think twice before he wrongs another quite so publicly. Yet with all, since he is a young man so talented, & generally so exemplary I cannot help respecting him. Day after day we sit side by side in mathematics & in drawing seldom do either of us make a mistake. Each keeps striving for the same goal. We never speak to each other, nor look excepting that the one in his seat usually looks at the other while he is reciting. It would never be remarked by a stranger, that we were not good friends. It seems queer, nonsensical perhaps, but so it is. I never injured him in the world nor he me but once. Mr Abbot is different. When I meet him he usually puts on airs; at which I cant help smiling sometimes but we never speak. I am sure I hold my head as high as his then, if not always.

You may think I am haughty - not so - had I been, these would not now be my enemies. I strove hard to avoid this. I over looked many things; but now I must hold my own. I am not unhappy. When I have earned a

position that they will respect, a character, that they cannot overthrow, then I may make overtures for reconciliation. Now they & others would think such a course "boot-licking". The sons of Dr Wood & Maj Turnbull are my bitterest enemies. I have as yet taken not the least notice of them - neither knowing, nor caring for their motives. They are both handsome, flattered, & aristocratic.

I have just returned from the bible Class. Our numbers have increased very much this year. There are a great many plebes some perhaps go for the purpose of getting the favor of Professor Sprole, but far be it from me to judge any. I care not what the motive, the exercise will do them no injury. There are a great many fine young men strictly conscientious and upright who do not go to this Class, on account of the ridicule to which it subjects one and the motives which Cadets are sure to attribute to them. I don't know for theirs is the wiser course; but as I begun when I neither knew nor cared for ridicule - now, for the sake of consistency if for nothing else, I will keep on.

Again, I am well aware from experience, that if I did not go, that I would scarcely look in my bible, and never converse at all upon religious subjects. I am not pious, I know, but as long as I am not an infidel, nor a skeptic, and would not be either, it becomes me to think upon serious things sometimes. And the most appropriate time is this Sunday afternoon at our place of meeting.

Give my love to all. Tell Rowland Bailey I am looking for a letter from him. I had a letter from Augustus Howard yesterday. His father & family are about the same as usual. Remember me to all my friends at the Center. Tell me how you all are getting on, if your own health is good! If Warren Lothrop came to see you tell me what he said.

Remember that I am as ever  
Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

P.S. Have you got a superabundance of letter stamps? It is rather inconvenient to prepay letters here, otherwise than by stamps.

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326 9/27/1851 *From:* Chas H Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0307

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept 27th 1851

Dear Brother

Your letter dated Aug 18 was recd by me with pleasure and your letters to mother & Rowland have been rec'd also. Why I hav'nt written before since I rec'd your letter is because I hav'nt had much time apart from my work and in what I have had I have'nt felt like writing. You will understand by that, that I work some; my health is better than it was before I was sick; I have no cough at all. Roland and I have done our work, with what father has done, since haying alone we have dug part of our Potatoes, & we found that a part of our white ones are rotten. The red ones are not so much so as the others. Father raised fourteen bush's of wheat this year. It is the first for a long time. Mr Barrows kept or is keeping a high school in uncle Ensign's district. I did not go because mother thought that it would be better for my health to stay at home this fall. Mr Davie is teaching a singing school here and I attend it. Mother pays a dollar for 24 evenings. They are about having a writing school which I expect to attend & which will be taught by Mr Silas Sprague.

I believe John Cain was tried yesterday for selling spirrituous liquors, but I don't know what the result was. The Baptist Association was held here Wednesday & Thursday. The Singers up to the centre hired Mr Horace Gould from Winthrop to come and sing with them. They practiced considerable before the As—ion, so that they had a very good choir. Mr Barrows' Daughter has a serephene which she plays upon & which with a violin played by Mr G makes good music.

Aunt Lucretia has given up her visit to N.Y. Clark, her son, came home from Boston sick with the fever. Mother heard from him sabbath day, he was better but he had not sat up any nor had any appetite. Little Henry has been sick with the Cholera morbus, but he has been out. I should like very much to have a sketch of your life. I don't know as you would have time to copy it, and send a copy of it home. If you could I should like very much to have one, or if you could bring it home when you come next year. The weather has been cold and windy of late, but today it has rained all day. It is quite an unpleasant day for that reason. The yearly Camp meeting of the Methodists was about 4 weeks ago. All of our folks went one day but Johnny. Uncle John's wife has been moved to his house. I believe she gains slowly. About a week ago William was up. He stoped all night to uncle Ensign's. He wasn't here to our house but a little while, he came up to Monmouth to colect old Newspaper accounts. I have for you rather bad news from Dr Cary's family, for Mrs Cary hung herself with a skein of yarn, on the bed stead, while on a visit to Gardner. It was quite a change in William. Rowland has gone to Brunswick. He went Thursday, as I believe he was going to stop to Yarmouth all night and then go to Brunswick. I went with Rowland to Lewiston to a Managerie and the two little boys went with us, and a pleasant time we had.

Brother Otis, it is Sunday morn. It rained about all night but it has ceased now and it bids fair to clear away, as I hope it will. Father & Mother have gone to church alone to hear a sermon from Mr Barrows. Roland is in the kitchen singing mournful tunes &c. He talks some about going to California in the spring, but I do not think that he will go. Laiza was here Friday, she was trying to make R promise her that he would go to writing school but he would not promise to go. We have had news that Sarah Lee was to be maried about the middle of next month. Aunt Ann was well when we heard from Hallowell last. The young folks of Leeds are many of them getting married. Lydia Turner is published to Mr Brown of Carrol Me. Ann Stetson has been published to a Mr Johnson, and Mr Frost's son (who lives at slab city) has been maried to Thomas Lothrop's daughter, so you see that the young folks are all getting married.

Oct 3

Dear Brother, it has been some time since I began my letter for it is now Friday. Yesterday I went to Lewiston with Orin B & Roland to get my Dagueryotype taken to send you by Warren. Mother thinks that it does not look quite so healthy as I do & rather older than I do. Roland & I have been ploughing this week down below the orchard.

Dr. Lord is about going to Dunkirk, a town in the west part of the state of New York.

Oct 5th

It has been a long time since I began my letter Otis but I must now finish it for Warren leaves tomorrow. Mother has some mittens that she intends to send to you by him. You will see by the date that it is Sunday again. Our folks have gone to meeting. It is a very pleasant day today, the sun shines bright, the wind blows somewhat but not hard.

We received a letter from you last night dated Sept 27th. I suppose that you are to be marched to meeting today. It seems to me as though that it is not a very pleasant way. I should want to go when I wished and come when I wished, but I suppose you cant help it now. As I look out of the window I see the pretty yellow apples likely a sight that you do not see very often. I wish you could come home here and stay a few weeks. I think that we all should enjoy it very much indeed. I now will end my homely letter by saying, good bye.

From Your Afec. brother  
Chas H Howard

P.M. You will see that it takes a long time to write a long letter. Charles.

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327 9/28/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmoie

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0308

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept 28th 1851

My Dear Son,

It is now six weeks since I wrote my last letter to you. We received Rowland's and my letters one week ago, it being the week of the baptist Association, and many things to do for R.B. preparing him to leave home, gave me no leisure for putting my thoughts into the form of a letter not that my thoughts are long away from you. R.B. seemed very light minded while at home, but I still hope he will give his attention to the pursuit of knowledge in the right way. Arza and family have commenced house keeping at Wayne Village. His health is not so bad as when he left home last year but still bad, but he has accumulated sufficient property to last him some time if he is prudent. I expect Warren will leave soon for West Point. The last time I saw him he said he should go the first of Oct. which is nearby.

Sabbath evening

I have been out to meeting to day; had a very thin meeting & gathered all the news I could from all our friends. Talked with Uncle Barney. He says Melvin is undoubtedly in the consumption. Uncle B. ask me questions about you; saw uncle Ensign and wife, John and Wife, and Laura. Uncle Stillman's two Sons and wives and some grand children, &c. I am glad to think from the tenure of your letter that you are in good spirits and in good health.

Tuesday P.M.

I have learned that Warren L will not go until another week. I have not seen so much of Warren since he came home, as I should like, but I presume he has found variety enough to satisfy him. I attended Camp meeting one day, saw many persons there whom I knew that I do not often meet with. I past the schoolhouse where you taught school. Uncle Frank was there with his young wife and many others, of my acquaintance.

The time is wending it way towards Winter and after Winter comes spring and then the month that will bring my son to me if nothing in providence prevents.

When I was at West Point you was anticipating much good reading. How was it? Did you enjoy that privilege? What authors have been your companions? Speaking of the Bible Class do you continue still to take the advantage of it, and what time in the day is it. We received the report from the war department through your Camping season containing your 28 demerits for July, 2 for Aug. They did not disturb me at all, but they might if I had not been kept acquainted so faithfully with your situation. I do hope you will continue to go on uninterruptedly in your course through the remaining part of the year.

All your Acquaintances in Maine remain about the same. R.A.G. has the same ups and downs he always did. What he intends to do with himself no one knows and I think he has no fixed purpose himself, for his dress and association company. He put on a pair of old worn out pants that you left at home, and an old blue jacket of Irvin Bates's and his beard very long, and would not come to the table, and looks more like a "crazy man than any other, but none of these things move me at all. I am so used to them and they pass away without any particular damage, to any one, but I sincerely wish he had a good wife, and was well settled, a wish I never expect to have realized, his marriage must be precipitate or he never would agree with any one long enough to be married. I am entirely alone in the house this afternoon. The girl has gone out to a quilting. Your father is making a dragg. Rowland and Charles are plowing the field East of the Orchard. I can hear Rodelphus and John's voice's out at play.

I am within sound of cannon, you might say, how is that? In a state where Military training is not tolerated by law. I will tell you there are ten independent companies come together at Turner Village for a Muster to day and this afternoon, they are firing off the powder from their field pieces. I hope no damage will be done. Oscar Turner has gone over to witness the scene. I understand your Uncle John has carried his sick wife home. She can ride out, but cannot walk. He carries her in his arms to the carriage, and from it, she has been in such a state of weakness. I wish Maria would take a little responsibility upon her, and take home John and Fanny and take care of them. In that she might show some gratitude to her overburdened father, for the over much care

he has taken with her education. But I fear her selfishness will keep her from seeing any duties before she is reminded of them. If Maria could only know it such a course would give her more consequence in the world than any other.

Wednesday

You will perceive that my letter is more like a story than any thing else that give you an idea of the amount of time I have daily to dispose of, not finishing writing yesterday has given a new stack of materials, for last evening's mail brought me a letter from your cousin Maria containing an invitation to Sarah Lee's Wedding to take place the 14 of Sept. morning.

Doct Lord is in, making his last call preparatory to leaving Leeds for ever, as a home, it seems a matter of regret to see all those leaving us, who have any desire for improvement. The doct intends taking West Point, in his way to Dunkirk his place of destiny. He says he shall be at West Point the 18 of Sept and Call on you. I hope you will be so situated that you can be with him some or you can introduce him to someone who can show him around, perhaps Warren. Will be there before that time I saw him yesterday. He will leave Leeds nex Monday. His Mother and Mary Jane will accompany him as far as Nantucket to visit a relation. He will be there by the 14th or 15.

Charlie has taken some pains have his miniture taken, to send you. I wish it loked more familiar but riding to Lewiston, gave him the headache and he was not so sprightly as common.

Your Uncle Ensign returned from H---I yesterday says Sarah leaves H---I immediately after the cerimony of Marriage is pronounced. I think I shall go down at the time as I am anxious to know how they all are. Your father's business will lead him to Portland next week. I shall probably hear from Lizzie at that time. Charlie wants to go to the Wedding with us. I shall write you about the wedding. I saw Mr Perley at Camp meeting. He talked some about his white Mountain excursion. Said Lizzie was blacked up some. Her looks would have suited Cadet Langdon better than when at West Point. Say to Cadet Langdon he has my good wishes and to Mr Brown my good wishes, with a hope he has fully recovered his health. I hope to see him here next year to visit us, and tender him my good wishes in word of mouth.

I have of late visited Mr and Mrs Sampson, and Mary Church, their daughter, and found them pretty much after the old sort paying great attention to visitors, having something to annoy them such as their high school had stopped for want of schollars to the damage of the teacher and their Boarder. Their were two Ladies teaching in the Village which took away so many of their scholars it spoiled the high school and he quit after trying it a few weeks greatly to his damage, &c &c.

Wayne is another place than it was four years ago a few dirty stores with little in them. The most agreable place I saw in the Village was Mrs Fairbanks little shop. I saw doct Stinchfield. He was quite social, has almost recovered his health so he has quite a good practice. Some think Gancel's Stinchfield will do pretty tolerable well practticing law in Kennebeck.

I believe I have written nearly all that will interest you. Roland is singing in the back room. His words as near as I can write them are te---de---te---duray. He sings that tune dayly. I understand Mrs Hammond from Brunswick is here on a visit. Her husband has sent her home nine hundred dollars from California, and sent for her, to come to him in California, which plan her friends are much opposed to. Charlie has been writing the news of the town. I heard last evening your Aunt Aurelia had been bleding at the lungs which is the second time this summer. I fear she will soon pass away. Thomas sang in the meeting house last sabbath. I wish this was written better but you must take it as it is.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O Howard

I enclose six stamps, half I have.

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328 9/29/1851 *From:* Peleg S Perley

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0309

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Sept. 29th 1851

Dear Howard,

I have been owing you a letter for some time, and have at last found the time and the inclination.

And to proceed at once "in medias les" I am here in Portland after a vacation of five good long weeks during which time I played the lazy to my heart's content and have been teaching here for the last fortnight. I have as you see entered on another year of teaching which I hope may be my last (not my last year but my last year of teaching).

During my vacation I had a very pleasant time (the women do not enter into my calculation of a time now though they used to be deemed so essential). Only think of my being at home for the long space of five weeks and meeting Miss Gould - Arzilla - and a number of others and not riding, walking with, hugging or kissing one of them.

By the way I saw your Mother at Camp Meeting as well as Rowland, Charles and the "Old Gent." They were all in good spirits. I was at Jack's Father's at Pittston. His woman was there. Her health is very poor. She has been at the Sharon Springs this summer. I suppose "Liz" has told you that we were on the summit of Mt Washington also during the time.

Jewett and Robinson are to be at Yarmouth I see another year. Neither Jewett nor myself were at Com. and it has been some time since I have heard from him.

I declare Howard I have fairly exhausted my stock of news and so for want of anything better shall be obliged to write about myself as I always do and in a letter I don't know but a fellow has the right to be a little egotistical and talk more about himself than he does about others at least that is the way I want a friend to do in a letter to me. I had rather he would talk of himself than to treat entirely of matters in general.

Now as for myself Chum, I am getting along now days sort of easily. My school goes easily at least my part of it and I take it easily. As for the women I have ceased to trouble my head about them and the time when I shall be a "married man" looks farther in the distance to me than it ever did before. "Chance and Change have brought their will" on all of us since we left College to a greater or less degree. The world as I find it is not such as I would be glad to have it. It is not such as I looked out upon and forward to, in our college quietude.

But everything to me has become disenchanted. It beats all how soon the contest and struggle of life and the contact with worldly and selfish men, knocks the romance and enthusiasm out of a fellow. "'Tis true and pity 'tis true" that such is the case. How soon with men even of intellectual character, a youth of enthusiasm, full of strong purposes and exaggerated impulses, is followed by a gradual disenchantment, till the care of self and its interests seem to become the only reality! How soon we learn to smile at our part delusions! How soon we being to look with an indulgence half contemptuous half tender, on our younger companions who are possessed of those longings of which we move the vanity and how soon we retreat from one advanced position to another, till understanding wit, and cultivated sensibilities and all the powers that once "wandered through eternity" are tamed and disciplined to the mere household business of smoothing their owner's progress through the troubles of the world. We look back and fancy we have grown wiser as we have grown older but in fact we have only grown worldly, hardened and selfish. Such I suppose is not your experience as yet. You have all trust in the women - but sooner or later you will I think find it so.

Jewett is at Yarmouth. Rumor says he and his woman have had a flare up but I don't think it can be so. Have you heard anything of that kind? Have you heard from Townsend lately? I had quite an idea of going to <Tenn.> this fall but gave it up.

Let us hear from you soon Chum and tell us all about yourself - how you are getting along - how you enjoy yourself and so forth.

In haste, I am  
Your old friend and Chum  
Peleg S. Perley

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329 9/30/1851 *From:* Frank Sargent

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0284B

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the letter written June 1 1851]

Sept 30th [1851]

Dear Otis

Right here I took a breathing space about 4 months ago, and now think I will go on again, only sending you this as a rare specimen of antique manuscript, and to let you know that I have not forgotten you. I am sure I have no idea whether I have written to you since the first date of this or not but certainly have not forgotten you, for I have thought time and again that I was sure of going up to see you, but something has always prevented me I am very sorry for I want very much to see the place & students to say nothing of the pleasure I should experience in spending a few hours with you, but summer has come & gone, the trees have budded & blossomed, and are now yielding the abundant harvest, the rich reward of the husbandman. Thousands have enjoyed the sweet pure air of the country, and have long since returned to their homes in the city with renewed health & vigor, and although I am not one of that happy number, I envy them not, though I would have been glad could I have spent a few weeks in some quiet county village in the happy enjoyment of (freedom from care & business, and) the sweet society of those I love, but

‘Twas ever thus, from childhoods hour  
I’ve seen my fondest hopes decay;  
These always came a <soaking> shines  
When eer I wished to go away,  
I never laid a plan to go,  
Forth from the <>fresh air to gain  
But when the mother came to know  
About it, it was sure to rain.

I will have my time yet rain or no rain (DV) before long. It runs in my mind that I have written to you since June, since then I have seen your mother & Miss Waite, perhaps Lizzie would sound more natural, “as you like it”. I spent an evening with them very pleasantly and was very sorry they could not remain longer. ‘Twas too bad they made you such a provokingly short visit, but perhaps [see note 1] that was better than none, though I sometimes think it is not, for one feels so very lonely afternoons that the pleasure of the visit is all destroyed. I was very much pleased with the said young lady, though I am convinced she felt exceedingly dull that evening, all of which I could understand fully, and perfectly appreciate, consequently I did not trouble her so much with my conversation as otherwise I might have done, but left her to her quiet, though I doubt not unhappy meditations. She had for a day or two had the happiness of being for a part of her time with the one she loves, and was then going far away from him again with no prospect of seeing him for another long year. I felt for her, and gladly would I have passed out to her the feeling of a sympathizing heart, but she was comparatively a stranger to me, and I felt a delicacy in doing so. I saw them on the boat the next afternoon on their way home, then months have elapsed since then, but whither have they fled?

And many times doubtless has your heart been gladdened by the reception of a well filled “Billet deux”. How pleasant it is to be the recipient of such tokens from those who are dear to us, and particularly in your case, confined as you are, it must be a perfect “oasis in the desert”. I hope you get them often, and are punctual in your replies. I suppose you are hoping for a furlough next Summer if you live, and are even at this early day counting the days that are to intervene. Poor fellow they doubtless will seem very long to you, but they are sure to pass away, and will then appear shut enough.

I will not offer much of an apology for not writing to you, for I fear it will be more than the injury, but procrastination - “the thief of time” and a constant expectation of visiting you from week to week, must be my only excuse, for I have often, very often thought of you, and my neglect. Epes recd a letter from you few days ago, yesterday I think, which I had the pleasure of reading. I am happy to know that you are so well, and getting along so well with your studies as to be at the head of your class. I expect the change from camp to Barracks in the fall is quite as pleasant as “Vice versa” in the spring, is it not so? I would have liked to have

been with you during Camp duty, but something always prevented.

Mr Benson was out of town all summer and I could not very well be absent much, and only went out of a Saturday afternoon and returned on Monday morning once only until the other day I went to Boston for a day or two as I wrote you and remained a week, nearly, had a delightful time, fine weather, and pleasant company. Sarah and her mother were there for two or three weeks, - I am going to leave this, about next Thursday week for Hallowell, and if it is any news to you am happy to say that I expect to bring a wife back with <me>, the happy day having been fixed for the 14th October. Is there no way that you can obtain a furlough for a week or so? If there is do try it, but I suppose you might as well try to fly, as I should so much like to have you present.

Silas, I presume will go along with me, Epes will not, cannot leave his business. I expect to remain in Hallowell from Saturday morning until Tuesday morning when we are to be married and leave in the Boat for Bath to take the cars. This is the arrangement now, so far as I know anything about it. We may stop in Portland for a day or two possibly if Mrs Strickland insists upon it, and if so shall see Miss Lizzie, and shall then come to Boston for a day or two and then I think shall return to New York via Albany & West Point if we don't make an alteration in our arrangements.

We shall board with a friend of mine in Brooklyn this winter unless we go to Nassau as I somewhat expect we may, though it is quite Problematical, depending altogether upon circumstances. I feel almost too poor to get married this fall, but have made up my mind that I can get along, and be much happier to have Sarah with me, and as she is willing to take the risk of going to the Poor house with me, I have made up my mind, and trust we may steer far clear of that place.

I regret that I did not have the pleasure of seeing my friend & townsman, William Webb. I called several times at the American, but was never fortunate enough to find him in. Am sorry I was out when he called upon me, but my business takes me so much out that I often miss seeing my friends when they call. Please make my regards to him, and say that I called &c.

Silas is pretty well now, though he has been unwell this summer quite often. He smokes altogether too much, knows it, but has not the resolution to leave it off; I have talked to him about it, but have the grand satisfaction of knowing that it is of but little use. He will learn by sad and bitter experience before long, I fear, that it is seriously injuring him and ruining his constitution, which is not the strongest in the world. Epes is fat & hearty as ever, and all that seems to trouble him is that his business is not <lush> enough, that worries a great many now days, and many of our <actuary> houses have failed on that account, and the extreme tightness of the money market. I am in hopes business will improve soon and give us all something to do.

I have written you quite a long letter, and you must take it as it is, for I cannot think of looking it all over for errors &c, and you must excuse a young man about committing suici-matrimony, I mean. Pray don't <starve> me as I have you, but let me hear from you once more ever I turn Benedict & believe me Truly Yours

F.T. Sargent  
39 South St.

[Note 1: The date at the top of this partial letter was written in pencil as Jan 8, 1852, but the reference to his upcoming wedding on Oct 14, 1851 puts it before that date. There is a missing ending to the letter written on Sept 30, 1851 (284B), which fits well to the date and the continuation of the paragraph.]

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330 10/1/1851 *From:* Epes Sargent

*To:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0310

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Oct 1 1851

Friend Otis

Yours of 24th ult came duly at hand. I hope this first letter may be the commencement of a long continued & frequent correspondence between us. I am fully aware you are not overburdened with <linem> time and therefore will excuse you accordingly. I suppose Frank will in all probability commence matrimony soon. He contemplates committing the act this month. I think Silas intends going with him. Perhaps after Frank has been thoroughly initiated he can give you a few lessons.

How does Webb get along since his return. Tell him I would like to hear from him. He probably had a good time while on furlough.

We have all left the Battery Hotel. Silas & myself board at 75 Beekman St. I moved more on his account than my own. It used to cost him more for board than he could afford to pay with the Salary he is getting, and another thing true being a bar at the house. I found it full to handy for him in the way of smoking &c. As you say it is his own fault if he don't make a smart fellow as he has plenty friends and a good situation.

I think if he had remained in Boston much longer he would have been a "spoiled child". His intimate friend Jerome Wass has been more injury than benefit to him.

I have just about satisfied him of the fact. Business of all kinds in N.Y. is very dull. The Banks are busting up and the merchants are failing which keeps us in constant hot water. There seems to be but little prospect of a change this fall as money grows tighter every day. The Banks won't discount for less than 18% a year which price would ruin any man to pay. I am afraid I shant make much out of my Boston Depot as I find Brown spends the money about as fast as he can make it.

I am glad you have entered your new quarters & like them so much. I see they have conferred the title of A.B. upon Dan D Eaton. I have no doubt he deserved it. He is a good fellow an honest fellow and one deserving success. I understand your Cousin Wm Otis gained some laurels at last commencement. I think Silas will go down with Frank. It will do him more good than anything else as his health is not remarkably good this fall. I will send you some papers soon. Tell Billy Webb to write me soon. Remember me to all my friends & write me often. In haste

Yours Truly  
Epes Sargent [Younger brother of Frank Sargent]

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331 10/4/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Cousin [Augustus  
Howard]

OOH-0311

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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(Oct 4 1851) West Point N.Y.

Dear Cousin

I undertook while in Camp to give you a brief sketch of my past life, such as it now presents itself to my recollection. I am thinking such a course may be a bore rather than a blessing to you. It is'nt best however for a young man to begin anything and back out before he tests his powers. A young lady said to me the other day that in these days, when ladies pay their own postage it gives them the privilege of writing what they please. Perhaps if I will pay my own postage I may claim the same privilege.

Since I wrote you we have left Camp & already been five weeks in barracks. I have resumed my studies with my wonted courage & industry and have thus far succeeded very well. Our time is more occupied than it was last year, so much so that it is almost impossible to get a half hour's respite during the week excepting Saturday afternoon. Our studies are no less in amount or number, besides we have to spend one afternoon in drawing. The next is the more pleasant task of learning to ride. I do not succeed remarkably well in drawing as you might judge from my penmanship.

I believe I left myself at the age of ten yrs, just after my father's death. I staid home, worked on the farm and made sap-sugar in the spring, scarcely anything transpiring of any note, till Col. Gilmore came to carry my mother, my brothers & myself to a new home. I was pleased with the change like all boys, though my brother was an exception. Rowland rather demurred, and out of revenge, would never upon any account call his new father, father, for more than three years. Charlie was very little, a pretty boy. of two years. So, he had not much to say upon either side of the question. I can see now that my mothers second marriage has been a blessing to us all; for my step-father has uniformly treated us with all the care of own children; he has preserved our property & put it in good shape, and never has been harsh or unkind to either of us.

At the age of twelve I went to live with my uncle Mr Otis at Hallowell. I took care of his horse, milked his cow & went to school. I saw other boys studying Latin. Of course I too must study it. My friends said, no! I was to be a farmer; what good would Latin do me? It made no difference; study it I would or nothing. There then, I first entered upon a course, which put the idea into my head of going though College.

I staid with my uncle over two years, a sort of gentleman servant, entitled to all the privileges of the one & obliged to perform the duties of the other. I worked on his farm about three miles out of the village, in the summer. He would ride out himself in the morning, sometimes bring me back & sometimes let me walk back in the evening.

In the fall & winter I sent to school to a fine Old Gentleman Mr Burnham. I shall always remember him with gratitude & Pleasure. He conceived a great affection for me & treated me accordingly encouraging me & stimulating my rising energy by praise, and never flogging me except when he could not help it; and even then whipping me very easy. I remember once our "recess" was to be conditional: if we wouldnt whisper once for the forenoon we might go out and if we did whisper we could go out by going up & taking a ferruling. At recess time about twenty boys marched resolutely up to his desk and took a ferruling. I got off mighty easy with two slight blows. When I first went to Hallowell the boys called me green; would laugh at me & mimic my flat country sounds. This as you may well judge I would by no means bear, and hence arose many a pretty hard fought battle. I was short & stout and used to fight about two at a time. I believe I generally came off conqueror, but seldom without a black nose, black eye, or some other hard mark. Soon however I got my spirit pretty well established, and gradually too my greenness wore off.

(Nov 2d) You begin to think you are not to get another letter, and you will not if I rest a month every time I lay aside my pen. I hear that Aunt Aurelia has been spitting blood & is in very poor health, that Aunt Lucrecia's family have many of them been very sick. She has been obliged to give up her intended visit to New York. Give my love to your father, brother & sister. Tell him, your father, that I am sorry he should think it gives me so much trouble for him to come & see me. All the trouble is that of getting a permit and this is nothing. Tell him

not to give up coming to see me.

I have not heard from you for a very long time. How is your health this fall? And my cousin Elizabeth. She did come to see her cousin last summer. Ask her if she remembers, that I told her Elizabeth was my favorite name, upon which she suspected that I was in love.

But to resume. After I got home from my stay at Hallowell, with a very little knowledge of English and very little knowledge of Latin (for I had read the Latin reader and Virgil's Bucolics) and also I had got the greek reader (tupto) my progress had been so promising, that I was very soon sent to Monmouth Academy, to prepare for College. Being between 14 & 15 years of age, I began to think myself man enough to beau the girls about; and hence as you may suppose, since opposite pursuits cannot well harmonize, I neglected my studies. I would study chemistry for the sake of sitting by the girls in the class. I bought drawing utensils, for the sake of having the pretty little drawing <misstress> come sit by me and show me. However I made out to wander through Cicero's Orations.

In this state of comparative ignorance, I set out the next spring dressed in an entire suit of grey for N. Yarmouth Academy, situated a few miles from the City of Portland. This was the 1st of Febr 1846. I arrived there after a ride of 40 miles in an old red "<pu? [ side cut off]> in a strange place finding not a soul that I knew, homesick, tired & cold. They showed me into a little bit of a dirty room, without a bed or fire. I had brought my bed<[side cut off]> though, so I was prepared for that emergency.

Well, in a short time I joined my class & was surprised to find them so proficient. They would read latin as so much English & rattle off the Greek verbs 'like fun'. I found myself a perfect goose. I had thought myself a scholar. There is nothing which will stimulate a young man to exertion so effectually, as to find others of the same age far in advance of him.

Nov. 5th

This class was to enter College the coming September. During that little time of about seven months, I should be obliged to read all Virgil, all Sallust, the Greek reader, and 4 books of the New Testament in Greek & review Cicero, and get in addition six sections in Smyths Algebra. To the Student this looks like a two years course, especially for a beginner. I began to apply myself with all my might.

Towards the last of the fixed time I thought I was going to fail. Mr Weld, my instructor said I would have to remain another year. I thought him a little selfish in his advice, knowing that it was for his pecuniary interest for me to remain. I declared I would enter College. One fortnight still was left. During that fortnight I allowed myself only 4 hours sleep each night excepting Saturday night, stood at a "stand-up" desk, and studied, took no exercise, no recreation only leaving my books long enough to get my meals. This took the flesh off, but I passed the College examination as well if not better than any one in my Yarmouth Class.

The young man with whom I lived at Yarmouth, called the most talented of the whole class, spent that last fortnight in "<spreening>", that is, riding into Portland & coming back drunk. I remember he & I rode to Brunswick, where the college is situated, 16 miles from Yarmouth. He often ridiculed me because I would not drink with him. He tried to persuade me that it was niggardly & ungentlemanly not to do so &c &c. Then he was smart, energetic and talented, before he graduated, he was absolutely degraded in tastes & in intellect - a perfect rake & drunkard - shuned by those who once courted & flattered him, but who were more politic but less openhearted & generous. He had been suspended from College three times, and hardly permitted to graduate.

Leaving you now at the thresh-hold of my college course, I will bid you good by. If you will come to see me I will show you my two brothers in miniatures, so you may form some idea how your cousins look.

I wish particularly to ask your father if my brother Rowland, resembles my father when he was of his age.

Write me as soon as you can, remembering that I am  
Your affectionate cousin  
O. O. Howard

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332 10/10/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Col John Gilmore  
(Mother)

OOH-0312

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This is letter is very faint.]

West Point N.Y. Oct 10, 1851

Dear Mother

Saturday night has come round again, and again I take my pen to commence the pleasant task of communing a few moments with you, my mother, to whose love & care my reason tells me I owe more than my heart is wont to acknowledge more than I seem to appreciate when wrapped up in self. I neglect to study your comfort & your happiness I call this a pleasant occupation because it is ever pleasant to feel that you are doing another a pleasure to know that your own weaknesses are over looked, your errors forgiven, and your thoughts however common or ill-expressed are pursued with an unfeigned & deep interest. It is pleasant too to let fancy disenchained from the common irksome every day confinements take wing & visit scenes more genial and more loved not because they are really more beautiful but because they connect themselves with the pleasures of boyhood, because they contain home & those friends who are friends indeed. When I am writing to you my mind flies to the places in which you are moving and is continually recalling and delaying upon those events in which we two have had a common part & a common interest. Thus recollection & fancy being wide awake & active begets in my heart for the home being a serenity & a pleasure which are real. You ask me of my reading during the period of our encampment. They amounted to nothing. Like hundreds of other good resolutions they <ended> in <unsolutions>. I read some portions of the History of the United States and a few novels but I was conscious of very little improvement therefrom. In fact I find myself every day losing what little literary knowledge I once was master of. I hardly believe that after emerging from this institution so celebrated for scientific researches. I shall be under the necessity of keeping pretty quiet or I will very often have to blush at my own ignorance; or surprise people by the apparent paradox that a young man naturally of good common sense has studied 8 years always with admirable success & turned out after all a fool. It would be the height of folly to complain for my mind is not of sufficient capacity to grasp & digest at the same time all the knowledge that I long to possess, hence we will learn that portion which is easy of acquirement at any period of a man's life for future study. Now my intellect is being trained to do my bidding.

The news of Sarah's approaching marriage anticipated you and reached me before your letter. Frank wrote me two or three weeks since inviting me to the wedding which invitation I shall of course be under the necessity of not accepting. I wish them all the joy imaginable at the wedding which is said to be a very important era in a man's life and a no less important one in a woman's: and especially do I wish them a permanent happiness resulting from the new relations into which they are about to enter. In my opinion Frank is a fine man - a man with whom a lady could not well quarrel and if Sarah is not happy with him as a husband & protector it will be her own fault. I believe all my young friends and play mates are marrying off, but it is some consolation to me to know that I shall enjoy a longer period of youth. I never meant to get married when I was a mere boy yet although it might seem often to my friends "mighty like" preparing for such a breach of prudence.

I have not seen Dr Lord or Warren in this region yet. I am sorry the Dr is about to leave you or more properly perhaps that he has left you just as Leeds is beginning to prosper, thanks to Uncle Ensign & her internal improvements. How happens it, hav'nt people paid him well? Or does he feel that the field is too narrow; that he can obtain another situation more in accordance with his taste & ability? Never mind: I will ask him if he comes to see me myself. I presume some of the "would be young" ladies feel a little nettled at his leaving? Or am I again slandering the fair sex?

I have been out this afternoon to gather walnuts. They call them hickory nuts here. Hickory trees are as common here as the beech with us. I suppose Dellie would like the sport of picking a few baskets full of these and more still the sport of cracking and eating them.

I have been unlucky enough to get some additional demerit this month: 3 for absence from the parade of guard at dinner. I forgot that I was on guard & went to dinner with the battalion, whereas I should have been walking post. Again one night I was late at unfixing bayonets at dismissal from parade. This will give me <7>. A man

has to keep pretty wide wake to keep clear of reports, unless he is a favorite, especially where they had as lief report him as not. I never expected to keep clear of demerit this year; and therefore if they do not increase, or exceed so I shall be well satisfied.

(Sunday) I have been to church this forenoon and listened to a very good discourse on the evidences of the Christian Revelation of its genuineness & authenticity. Since I was once obliged to study Paleys Evidences the subject being familiar becomes interesting when I hear it treated of.

My health is good. Give my love to Charles & Dellie, Johnny & all. Write me as often as you can get an opportunity; as often as is consistent with your health. I received your last letter & the envelopes.

Yr affectionate son  
O O Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] WEST POINT [Date not legible]  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

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333 10/15/1851 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0313

Bowd. Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll, Oct 15th 1851

Dear Brother

Having sufficient excuse in the state of my health from the admirable duty of attending Parson Adams delightful meeting and sitting on those luxurious seats, I take the opportunity for writing you. I have a bad cold and cough but I am in hopes to get rid of it in a few days.

The ground here is white with snow and icy, and this morning I noticed a sleigh gliding along quite smoothly to the twinkling of the Bells. From these indications I suppose that winter is very near at hand. The snow has stoped all exercise in the Gymnasium and the ropes covered with ice look gloomy enough. I suppose your place for recreation is well fitted up and of easy access in all seasons. Write me about it.

The students are dropping off one by one as I suppose they used to do when you was here. As the Fall Term draws to a close the brows of school masters grow darker and darker and gradually their forms become stiffer and more dignified as they prepare to "frighten the aple munching urchins with the squeaking of their shoes".

What a blessing it is, isn't it, that Providence has provided a way that a student may disipline his patience - or kill himself? I have not engaged a school as yet although I have had several very good offers. One in Bodoinham, a classed school of 45 scholars, for \$22, but report says it has some very hard boys, and I think I shall not take it. Sanbon U Carter of Portland wrote me that I could have a school in Cape Elizabeth of 3 ½ months at \$25.00 but did not mention its size or character. Not desiring to take a very large or ugly school. (For I have a presentiment that 3 should die) I have written them that I would take it if numbers and reputation were favorable. If I go to the Cape I shall have your Portland friends quite near. Mother wishes me to come home and stay this winter, which of course would be much more pleasureable to me than teaching. I don't know yet which I shall do. It will depend in a great degree on my health and my reflections on poverty.

We have one thing which you did not, and I assure you is a decided bore, viz. Proff Stowes lectures, the lecture in religion 3 times per week. On Frydays and Sundays we are compelled to attend, but on Saturday it is voluntary. I hear the bell ringing now for the Sabbath lecture. Proff Stowe is a man of decided ability but his efforts seem to be purely intellectual, his reasoning sound and incontrovertible, but he has nothing for the imagination, nothing for the affections, nothing that appeals to the heart, and consequently he is extremely uninteresting,

I have not heard from Mr Jewett this term and I think he has not been in Brunswick. I don't know how it seems to you but it strikes me that he is excessively cool. That is not so enthusiastic as you would be under the circumstances. Just think of only 16 miles and railway at that, and not visit the one of his hearts choice, but once in two years, or on Thanksgiving or some such occasion. But I have some doubt of the hearts having much to do with that match, although I know but one of the parties, yet it seems to me like a work of the head, a mere business transaction. What do you think? I tell you how it is "Sodom" is devilish cold, and the way the wind creeps up a fellows trousers leg is an argument for bloomers. Why if a woman should room here, there would be no necessity of hoops in their petticoats to give them a graceful presence, for their skirts would be constantly distended after the manner of an umbrella. Such is the rush if cold breezes from the cellar of Sodom through the cracked floor of no 20.

I had a letter from Charles last week. He is in good health and spirits. Mother wrote about a page, but no news. I suppose you hear from home nearly as often as I do although your distance is so much greater. Our Tutor read me a letter the other day from his brother, who is now stationed at Macao. He spoke of you among his class mates <[torn bottom of page]> the antipode of China. I sent you one of his letters last Summer, published in the 'Enquiror' of which you never acknowledged the rec. I think he writes a beautiful letter, his descriptions of men and manners in the countrys which he has visited are admirable. I am glad that Dr Lord and 'Our Cousins Sargent' visited you. It must have been a great relief for you to see old and familiar faces again, for although new friends are ever so agreeable, yet when you meet one that can be called Old theres some thing inexpressible in it. Is it not so?

I am not getting along as well as I could wish, getting some most excruciating <'senno'> especially in Greek. In Algebra and Latin I do very well but not so well as some others.

Write soon. Give my respects Warren, and don't forget your College correspondent and

Your aff Brother  
Rowland

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334 10/17/1851 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0314

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick [Friday] Oct 17th 1851

Dear Brother

As I have a little spare time I will begin a letter to you although I may not finish it until Sunday. In the first place I saw Father, Mother and Charles last Tuesday at Hallowell at which the long delayed wedding was at last consummated. They that is our folks were all well and appeared happy and at this point so much occurs to me for writing you that I must drop it for a future <session>.

This is a Sabbath morning cold rainy as you know all of those mornings are in rainy Brunswick if not everywhere else. I believe I told you that I had a fine time at Hallowell. Rev M. Thatcher of Winthrop performed the needful services to render our cousin and Frank Sargent man and wife in the eye of the law. Aunt Ann looks blooming but rather <aseiceive> by the press of duties. The bride looked excessively weary and the Bridegroom excessively comfortable. I like his appearance very much.

Silas is the same as usual. I suppose you have seen him lately. Don't he strike you as being rather proud of his rakeishness. His pedantry is my greatest objection to him. William is idle, at home. He has the reputation here of being a good scholar and fine fellow. His last two years in College were much more successful than his first. Maria is the same as usual, perhaps a little more womanly. On the whole Otis although I would not whisper it to anyone else I do not like my cousins over well. I never feel at home with them as I do with my school friends and acquaintances. William & Maria have a sort of reserve that makes me uneasy and Silas is continually boasting of the exploits of 'a man about town' as he has experienced them and does not even restrain his stories of wine bibing, oyster eating &c in the company of ladies, in which I think he shows a lack of good sense as well as good principles.

Most all of the wedding party came down with me in the cars on their way to Portland and thence in about two weeks to N. York. I hear that William & Maria returned to H yesterday, but I did not see them.

I am getting along pretty well in my studies but do not make good sails as yet, especially in Greek. We have a fine teacher in Greek, perhaps you know him, Jothan B Sewell, recently principal of Lewiston Academy. I tell you he is a decided 'screw'. Old Upham as he is denominated by his familiars is a queer one isnt he? He has held a number of long and serious consultations with me on a diversity of subjects and if I did'nt think the old Gent would <fit> a little more and then just for convenience just the smallest mite in the world I should think a great deal more of him. Don't you think he is extremely cunning in bringing about his ends. He has been trying very hard since our College initiation to get our class to sign a certain paper to prohibit anything of the kind next year, whether or no he will make out is a question.

You may well suppose that I have been bored to death by the fishing for secret Soc's. Our class is small compared to the Sophomore class and there is at present a question among them as regards the balance of power and each has exerted itself in the piscatory line, a little more than I believe is customary. And of course so much the worse for the poor, suffering Freshman.

I have been strongly 'fished' for the four Soc's and haven't decided yet which to join and don't intend to until I get ready Ahem!!!

Your friend Kendall has been rather cooler (but still more agreable) since I have avowed my independence.

I have been burdened with two rather onerous offices and devilish unlucrative. They are <com> of my class for Catalogues & Ceremony. The last is especially disagreeable as I have to wait upon the table pour tea and Coffee &c for which I receive the enormous remuneration of ten per cent of my board. All the students with whom you are aquainted inquire after you frequently and Proff Upham says that you was a particular <favorite> of his, with whom he has passed many pleasant hours. Write soon and tell me all about yourself, and about College and everything else and Remember me always as

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

P.S. I had a letter from Lizzie just before going up to Hallowell, saying that she would go up with me, but as the day was somewhat rainy she did not come, and I say much disapointed went alone and disapointed all the rest. But the day was not fit for her to be out. She wrote me in good health and spirits

Your Brother  
Rowland

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335 10/19/1851 *From:* Laura Howard

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0315

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Oct. 19, 1851

Dear Cousin

I feel to regret my negligence when I look at the date of your letter and think how long it is since I received it. I must confess I have grown very careless of late about writing to my friends. It is not for want of love or that I do not think of them, but as you know procrastination is the thief of time I have been putting it off from time to time till I am almost ashamed to write at all thinking perhaps you have forgotten there is such a person as your Cousin Laura.

But enough of excuses, I hear from you quite often and that you are doing well though I understand you have had some little trouble since your Mother was there but have overcome it in a measure. I was much interested in hearing your Mother read your letters last week. I was down to see her and spent the afternoon & could not help feeling hurt to think you was blamed unjustly but do feel glad that you have overcome them. It must have been very trying to your feelings indeed to be reported of that you did not do.

I expect you have seen Dr Lord by this time. He was going to call and see you. I shall miss him very much this winter. I expect to be very lonesome indeed. Most all the young folks have left Leeds. All those that were company for me but I anticipate much pleasure in seeing you next summer if we both live. Oh I long for the time to come, and think how you will look and of hearing you tell all that has passed since we last parted.

I have seen Elizabeth Wait three times this summer, spent the day with her at your house, called on her when I was in Portland and she came down one Sunday a short time ago with Mr Perley and we rode down to your mothers and stopped a short time. I am very much pleased with her and think I shall hold you to your promise of living with you. She is handsome, amiable and very lady like in her appearance and just such a person as I should think you would like and that you may both do well is the sincere wish of your cousin.

You gave me a long lecture on marriage in your last letter. I agree with you and think I am better off as I am, unless I could find one that would reciprocate my affection but I do not expect to. Therefore I will be contented with my lot and condition in life which is a very good one and I feel contented and happy as and uneasy mind like mine can be. I endeavour at all times to think all is for the best wither it be joyous or grievous, and when I can put my trust alone in Providence then I am happy and know that all he does is right. I feel at times that this world is all a fleeting show and that it is our duty to be prepared for another for we know not how soon we shall be called to give our account.

My two Sisters in Philadelphia have experienced religion since their Fathers death. It was a great loss to them and to me for I always anticipated that I should see him again but he has gone - to his long home and my prayer is that I may be prepared to meet him there.

Aunt Lucretia's family have most of them been very sick but are all getting better. I thought they would loose little Henry but he has got quite smart. Clark is better but gets up very slowly. Everet has put his Sister and William on the town and I do not know but it will kill Aunt Aurelia. She is very unwell and has been spitting blood lately. Her troubles have always been great but now they seem more than she can bear. Marian remains with her. Mr Joslin has taken William for the present. I told her I was going to write to you soon and she wanted me to send her love to you. I think her troubles in this world will not be much longer. My heart aches for her. She appears so disconsolate and unhappy with no prospect ahead of it ever being any better.

Uncle and Aunt Martha [Strickland] went to Hallowell to the wedding last Tuesday. They were married at eight o'clock and started for New York at nine o'clock. Sarah Lee is Mrs Sargent now. I presume they will call on you soon. Addison Martin was at the wedding and the governor so I expect they had quite a grand time. Your mother was there and Charles. She will tell you all about it.

John and Hellen [Otis] are well and Oli has got to be quite a boy, can do errands very well. I talk to him about you and he seems to remember something about you. The people in Leeds have not got done quarreling yet

and the singing & fear will go down and be the means yet of driving our Minister away but all we can do is to hope for better days.

Write as soon as you receive this and don't do as I have.

Your true Friend  
Laura Howard

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336 10/26/1851 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0316

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct 26th 51

Dear Mother

I fear if you do not get a few lines from me this evening I shall not get another opportunity before next Saturday to write you. Last evening my usual time for writing being Saturday, was employed in solving several very hard problems, connected with our lessons. To day I have already written Rowland a letter. I have heard from you in several different ways through Rowland's & Laura's letters through Warren, Dr Lord & Mr & Mrs Sargent (en propres personnes) or if you don't like the French (in their own persons). The latter three happened here together last Thursday evening about 4 o'clock. I got excused from drill & parade & was permitted to stay at the Hotel till ½ past 6 - then I had to leave my friends and go to my room. The next morning as good luck would have it, when I went to get a permit of Capt Brewerton & insisted on seeing him, Mrs Brewerton came to the door. I told her my friends came 'from far' were going away that afternoon & that I wished to be excused from recitations very much indeed. She made me come in to the fire, carried my permit to Capt B in bed & made him sign it without permitting him to put in his usual limitations "when not on duty &c". The Dr stopped only till 9 on Friday. Frank & Sarah staid till 1 o'clock. We had a very good time, visited the laboratory & all the places that you visited, saw the relics of the mexican spoils, as well as three of the revolution & discussed their merits. Sarah thought she would rather have those 42 pounders on our side than on the enemy's. She & Frank appeared very well & very lively, neither so insipid nor foolish as we expect the newly married pair to be.

(Monday) "Taps" came to interrupt me last evening in the midst of my meditations. It is now evening just after supper. I have two long lessons to get besides walking Post an hour & a half. So you see you can get but a few lines at this sitting. I had a city to make the other day in drawing, i.e. a city represented by topographical signs. Well! I thought I had done it admirably when our instructor, Dick Smith, came round & said "your lines are too light, sir, too far apart, show too much white paper." This is a specimen of my success in Topography. Yet I am confident I will rise gradually, for I can take pains & stick to it as long as most any one.

Warren brought me Charlie's miniature and what he says is a piece of Lydia Turners wedding cake. Give my best respects to Lydia as well as my best wishes for her happiness, if she is in Leeds. Remember me to Sarah, tell her I shall expect to hear of her marriage next. When you see Laura, give her my love, & tell her she must not be impatient for a letter, for I cant get off more than two a week, certainly not till the drills stop. I hear sad news of our enterprising rail-road. Why I was anticipating a ride upon it almost to my fathers door next June. How does Uncle Ensign feel about the down fall of his favorite road? Has "Gid" (following the common parlance) has "Gid" exhausted all his funds, gas & persuasion? Cannot stockholders be induced to contribute a few thousand more?

Tell Charlie, that I am very grateful to him for his miniature. If it is a true likeness, he has changed a good deal since I left. How thoughtful in you to send me those mittens, for they are really a luxury here in cold weather, & I was unfortunate enough to lose my blue ones. Good night now. I will probably fill out the sheet tomorrow evening. The Dr sent his best respect to you & our family, said he should always recollect our family & his Leeds friends with a great deal of pleasure.

Wednesday eveing (just before tadoo.) You see I am writing my letter by "piece meals"; but perhaps it is as well for if I had mailed it Sunday you would not have got it sooner than if I mail it tomorrow.

I find by yours & Laura's letter that Aunt Aurelia is in rather a bad condition. Do the people of Leeds blame Everett for calling upon the town to assist him in the maintenance of those children. It is indeed hard for a mother, who is proud, who has been accustomed to feel independent and to live independently, if not in affluence, to see her children so reduced and it helps the matter little to think that their poverty is owing to their own helplessness. But father would say such is the way of the world. Give my love to her if you see her & also remember me to Aunt Lucrecia & her family, through any one of whom you may meet. Tell Uncle Barna' who always takes a lively interest in me & in my welfare. Tell him that I often think of him, and hope that he will live till I return. Inquire after Melvin & Clark Leadbetter [children of Aunt Lucretia Leadbetter]. I believe I told you that the young Leadbeter who graduated here graduated at the head of his class, which I begin to think requires

a pretty long head.

Tell Charlie that a sketch of my past life has never been written. I formed such a design so as to amuse & enliven my cousin, but I found it too much. I have been obliged to give it up. I rather think Charles already knows nearly as much of my experience as I do.

Give my love to all. Roland A. must wake up. Tell him if he has the blues, he must kill them. Life is the best, the effectual remedy, life in its essence. Why who would grope along with a clouded brow and a down cast look, with a steady discontent visible in ones every look & act. Why! Such a man ought to be in the army, in this United States prison. Give me liberty, a lucky return from the gold regions with "a pocket full of rocks", wouldn't I cut round among the young & attractive fair ones. Do you think I would make myself miserable with imaginary evils? I reckon I could wake you up Roland. Even with my long face, I would start a fund of cheerfulness somewhere. I consider a young man a perfect absurdity who for no reason in the wide world, will give up his soul to a settled melancholly. I have had to bite my lips now & then, and felt as though all was not right; but I never have suffered & never will suffer Old Melancholly to have a welcome seat at my board. Heres "taps" again making periods in my writing.

Tell father "to never mind" the misspelling or bad handwriting this time.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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337 10/30/1851 *From:* Elizabeth A Waite

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0317

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Oct 30 1851

Dear Mrs Gilmore

I know you are not expecting a letter from me just now, but as you have formerly invited me to write you, I flatter myself the reception of this will be as cordial as if I had written the particular time. Will it not dear Mrs G?

I should be most happy to write and receive letters from my friends or have uninterrupted correspondence with many, if I was not so forgetful (or rather negligent) myself if one writes me, it is seldom I answer promptly if at all, therefore I can blame no one but myself if I do not have correspondents. I can remember "some things" and write "some letters" it is true, but considering is'nt that a natural consequence? I suppose you, as well as all the rest, enjoyed yourself very much at the wedding. I regreted to have the weather keep me from being one of the party; however am happy to say, I was at the wedding levee at Mrs Strickland's (Tuesday evening). I intended to have seen them again but unfortunately I did not have an opportunity. I see friend Roland, has not learned my name yet; he writes Lizzie M instead of Lizzie A. I'll have to tell him my opinion of him will not be very flattering, if I cannot teach him the "first letter of the alphabet"; hope the Professors of Bowdoin will meet with better success in their endeavors to instruct him. My last letter from Otis was written the evening of the 18th. He had been on guard that day and had just returned from walking post as he commenced the letter. It is true, we cannot appreciate the pleasure he takes in receiving letters away from all friends comparatively speaking.

How is Charley's health? I hear he was at the wedding too. Think he might come and make me a visit. We should like much to see him here and Delli.

With much love to you & yours. I remain your true friend.  
E.A. Waite

To Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Please remember me to Laura. Tell her, if you please, it would be most pleasing to hear from her too. Perhaps we (she and I) are somewhat alike with regard to letter writing, but tell her to write me & sit wright down without forethought as I did this afternoon. It will not be "much of a task".

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338 11/9/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0319

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 9th 51

My Dear Son,

Yours of the 26 ult was duly received on Tuesday. I was truly happy to hear from you, and still more also, to find you in such good spirits. I feel as though you had, had quite a share of pleasant friends to call on you, of late, which were no doubt real gratifications. You must almost feel as though you had been home. I thought of you a good many times yesterday it being your 21 birth day. I should have liked to have spent the day with you and made some account of the day, but you seem to be far away, and I hope you are going forward cheerfully in that way, which will be for your future benefit, in the package I sent by Warren Lothrop. I sent a slice of cake, cut through the middle of a loaf, about two inches thick, with sugar frosting on the outside of it. W. attended the wedding. Perhaps he brought wedding cake with him to W.P. I had a Visit from Clark Leadbetter last week. He brought his good little Mary Ann with him. It gladdens me to see two kindred souls happy together. Clark says Aunt Eliza with the same happy smile he did when he was five years old. He is recovering from a severe illness. Your Uncle Frank's oldest boy is sick at your Aunt Lucretia's it seems as though your Aunt Aurelia had arrived at the Crowning point, of trouble, but there are troubles in this world that hers is a mere shaddow, in comparison, but I think it will be the means of carrying her to eternity. Certainly Everet has not shown himself much of a man in any respect.

Charles had a letter from RB Howard or his Brother Rowland he did not mention having received a letter from you he says he goes on smoothly in College. Has a bad cold and dreadful cough which I am sorry to hear.

The railroad is not so far gone but it brings some labor for your Mother yet. We are to have a directors meeting at our house next Wednesday, tomorrow a town meeting is held to take measures for repairing the bridges, swept away by the late heavy rains. The two northern ones are gone <Dead River>.

Little John has gone home. William came after him last Thursday. He was happy enough to be one amongst them once more. John has left a <host> of kind friends behind him in Leeds.

I had a small letter from Lizzie A. Waite, one week ago. In it she mentioned receiving a letter from you. I enquired of William how the levee at Uncle Henrys passed off very well. W said he never saw Uncle H. exert himself so much to be agreeable. I enquired after our friend P..y how he carried himself. William thought P did not hold up the end of his yoke, or was rather absent minded or modest or diffident, said uncle Henry asked him to draw him out and he did endeavor to, but he soon relapsed into his usual cold state. I wish he could be more interested in what is going on around him, if he has talents why not show them, and have them some benefit to him. My interest for him makes me enquire after him and speak of him, we have had a snow storm, and had four or five inches of snow which laid on the ground three days and then a tremendous rain to take off the snow. The great rise of the Androscoggin caused the loss of our bridges. Everything in our neighborhood is about as usual. I believe I have not written you since the wedding. It went off very well. R.B. went down the river with them and in the cars to B. and stopt at his uncle Johns one night in company with Silas Lee. He thinks S real disagreeable. I saw but little of him, but R.B. thinks I saw enough of him. He is rather handsome, which will be a disadvantage if he is vain. How I wish he might do well. Ann thinks she shall go to Newyork next year she sees nothing worth remaining here for.

I have just read your letter, of Oct 10th. I am glad you are so good about writing. I often think what I should do if you should neglect writing to me, and indeed the interest I take in my sons keeps me from being a stupid thing. Charles is teaching Dellie to sing by note. Mr Davie is teaching a singing school preparatory to our dedication, as the Methodist are building a house near Mr Salmon Wing's. Charles attends the singing school.

It is now evening. Charles is bringing in our milk, your father is bringing water to work &c &c. We live after the sort. Jane Bates just called in to say somethings about work. And Huldah is here to make us a visit, your father has been out to meeting and says Nelson Rose is published to a lady in Canton. Charles was at Wayne yesterday and called to Mr Sampsons. All well there. I suppose you knew Addison Martin had return from California. He says the greatest reason for returning is to see to his sister Martha and put her in the way to

have a suitable education I understand she is already with Mrs Hazzard in Cambridge, when I returned from West Point. Mrs Hazzard said she would like to have her live with her, and thought she could do well by her and I really hope it will prove so for Martha needs such a friend. Addison has promised to come to Leeds, and I very much hope he will for I want to see him. I heard in Hallowell that he had returned here to get him a wife to carry to California. He says he shall go to West Point this winter as he intends stoping in New York some of the winter.

Your father received the report from Washington for Sept. showing your standing. It was, first in Math, fourth in French, and twenty fifth in drawing, demerits 27, I think. I believe I have not mentioned this to you before as I think I have not written to you since, Mr Bates is in the other room telling the news of the neighborhood and your father is reading law to him on the occasion but I do not hear enough to make any thing of it. I look forward full of hope to next June when you will return, if nothing in Providence prevents. We have not lost all hope about our railroad we think it will go forward next June perhaps in other hands, from what it now is. Capt. Turner's family heard from Charles not long ago. He is hired in a tavern in Sacramento City. His wages are one hundred dollars per month. His father thinks he changes business to often to do well.

I shall put into my letter some more letter stamps. I purchased some at Hallowel when I was there. Charles keeps coughing in the other room which keeps me in jeopardy all the time. I hope you will take care of your health through this cold winter that is approaching. Mr Peres Jennings was here last week. He said Orville had sent them his Wifes miniature. It is not long since he was married. Mrs Jenning talked as though he was pleased with Orville's prospects. He is so far from them he is nearly lost to them.

I see I have nearly covered my paper, and hope it will be acceptable to you. From your Affectionate  
Mother Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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339 11/10/1851 *From:* W. Augustus

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

Howard

OOH-0320

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Nov 10th 1851

My dear Cousin

Your most welcome letter came duly to hand and filled as I found it to be, "with thought rich as gems, sweet as eastern flowers" you can imagine it proved exceptible, especially, to one who has hard work to relieve the dull monotony of the passing hour. And not very often by a letter from a respected friend and Cousin and also of the same name and family.

Not satisfied with once perusing your welcome letter, I have taken it in hand for a second reading, when the thought occurred to me that this would be the proper time to answer, it being Sunday and nothing whatever to disturb the equilibrium of my passing thoughts, but the crackling of the old back-log on the Fireplace. So here goes for a letter, with my feet higher than my head, ensconced in an old arm chair, with my fundament most comfortably seated on a soft cushion.

So much for preface, and now, like the old preacher, I would beg leave to say a few words "before I begin". We have had considerable excitement for the last few weeks about political matters, and getting ready for election, thinking this would afford some fun I went in, as the boys say, and as the Lord would have it proved successful, so you see I feel rather elated over my victory, and the overthrow of the Whigs! "Poor deluded souls to dream of heaven" to make an empty boast of victory, as they did and then get defeated as they did, you can imagine it came rather hard, but "Sic transit gloria innudi".

Real every day life as for instance yours, is often replete with all and sometimes more than the fancy can conceive or the mind realize. For my own part, I have not seen the roses shed their leaves very many times, and the stars in my youths sky are almost as radiant as ever. But when I look back over the short stream over whose bosom my bark has glided, here and there its course is all ready darkened by mists and gloom.

Many of these clouds have been, as I passed through them, big, with events, which if narrated would be likely to earn a quiet shake of the head which expresses so plainly the secret conviction "he is indebted to his imagination for his facts." But it not being my intention to tax your credulity by the relation of these events in which I have been personally interested, for fear that in perusing them "your hair might stand on end like the quills of the fretful porcupine". I was what is rather inclined to be, in my youth a pretty hard customer, ready at any time for a good spree and being at that time, clerk, in the Bank in this place with a salary of \$500 which you know is first rate for the country you can imagine I flourished, after being in this two years, I was taken sick, and had to leave, this came rather hard as the President having just died, I had been promised the office of Cashier, provided I could get well enough by spring to except the office and perform the many duties, with a salary of \$1200 so I went to New York and consulted some of the first physicians the city could boast off, but found my self after staying there some month or so worse than when I first went so disheartened, and dissapointed, I came back, instead of a well man with (as the saying is) a flea in my ear, and since had then have not done anything in the shape of business. My brother Lucius was sent for, to tend store, out in a place by a man who formerly lived in this place somewhere on the Erie RR at a village call Port Jervis.

Lib sends her compliments and is much obliged for your kind message. Whenever I can get the opportunity I will come up to the point and make you a few hours visit. Write as soon as possible and trusting you will excuse all errors, and pass my youthful imperfect bye.

I have the honor to remain

Yours faithfully

W Augustus Howard

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340 11/19/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Col John Gilmore  
(Mother)

OOH-0321

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Nov 19th 1851

Dear Mother,

It is Wednesday afternoon, and I have just returned from riding and if I can hold my hand steady I will try to write you a few lines; for you may be sure that riding as we do without stirrups is rather violent exercise for the nerves. Speaking of riding, I may as well tell you something the manner we are taught to ride. Immediately after coming out of camp, we had to furnish ourselves with a riding dress, ie, very thick pants with buckskin-like bottoms & straps, a snug jacket called shell-jacket and a pair of leathern gloves, this with our forage cap which I had on when you were here completes our attire.

We ride one hour at a time, three afternoons of one week & two of the next alternating with the drawing section. To wit. The first section goes to drawing Monday, Wednesday, & Friday. The remainder of the class is divided into two riding squads, the first going at two o'clock, the second at three o'clock during those three days. The other two days, Tuesday & Thursday, my section takes its turn at riding, the rest going to drawing. This is the manner of the 1st week. The second week, my section goes to drawing the two days & to riding the three.

When we began we were allowed only to walk our horses, put into a "uniform" position & made to keep it holding ourselves firm by means of the knees & legs, without any stirrups & on rather slippery saddles. I thought I could ride admirably but found I knew nothing about the science of riding. In a little while after a few drills conducted by the "Frenchman", who could scarcely speak English, we were allowed to trot & still later to gallop. Whew! How we go round that riding hall now, some let go the reins, forgetful of their discipline, and grasp the pommel with all their might; some can't make their horses gallop; others have the side ache and ride into the ring. This was the fashion of our riding under the Frenchman. Very lately however the Frenchman has gone, & we have had some splendid rides under Lieut Sacket. He makes every man keep his place & his very voice seems to move the horses. The Horse I rode today at the head of the squad, would obey his commands to trot, walk, gallop, turn to the right or left as the case might be, as quick as a flash with scarcely any guidance.

I received your last letter, containing the stamps. I received a letter from Rowland to day. He says he has a cough, but is otherwise well. He writes in very good spirits - thinks he is doing very well in Latin, but not very well in Greek.

He mentions Professor Stowe. He does not seem to like him very much - thinks him all head & no heart - a very intellectual man & sound reasoner, but carrying no sympathy & scarcely engaging any of the sympathy of others. It was not so when he first came to Brunswick. He drew a crowded house then; everybody seemed to listen to him with eagerness & wonderment. I couldn't comprehend how a man in the short space of thirty years could lay in such an immense store of knowledge. He lectured on the old Testament, reconciling the apparent geological inconsistencies of some of the events recorded, with the true science of geology & showing these very passages were strengthened by the science. He seemed to possess a fund of humor, mingled with a bluntness of speech, which was for me almost irresistible. I could but listen & was sorry when he closed.

The reason I did not write you a letter last Sunday was that I got out of paper & had to wait till I could get some by order. It is almost parade & I must now close, wishing you all the best of health & comfort.

I suppose you have good sleighing already, as Rowland says they have in Brunswick. We have seen no snow yet; nor any remarkably cold weather. I am not getting on quite so well as I anticipated in my studies, but I don't neglect anything, shall stand as well as possible and put up with it. Give my love to all. Rowland says you tell him, he had better go home & spend the winter than keep school. He says he has had several offers of a school, but has not decided yet which to take, if he takes any. Remember particularly to Charlie & Dellie as I suppose they are listening to hear their names mentioned. In haste.

Your affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

Col John Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine

[Postmark] WEST POINT

[3-cent stamp of George Washington]

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341 11/26/1851 *From:* W Augustus Howard *To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0322

Peekskill

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Nov 26 1851

Dear Cousin

Although, most worthy correspondent! You are my debtor as regards letters, still, to while away the dull monotony of a few passing hours, I have come to the conclusion to pen you a few lines.

Perhaps you have never like me, been waylaid in the midst of your business avocations; thy heels tripped up, by a treacherous malady, and you left to count the tedious minutes as they passed, in the solitude of your sitting-room for two years in succession? If you have, my dear fellow, you can pity me with all your heart. But if not, just behold me? Seated in an old arm chair, the cushion of which occupied, day after day, and day after day, has got so used to my fundamental principles, that should I be absent for one day, would cry out for its old companion. I have in fact worn out every source of amusement. I know the sound of every clock that strikes, and bell that rings in the place. I know to a second when to listen for the whistle of the Locomotive, bearing the New York morning papers, the reading of which occupys an hour or so. But all these have grown wearisome to me! And even the well known step of my Doctor, as he enters in the morning, with healing in his countenance, as he slowly walks up the hall, no longer affords an agreeable interruption to the monotony of my apartment.

I then took upon myself to beguile the weary hours by studying music on a Banjo not for the purpose of joining a Niger-Band, but as I said before, amusement! I soon found even this had no charms for a languid ear, however sweet the sounds that issued. I tried to read, got among others Samartines history of the Girondists; which you are aware has attained quite a celebrity, as a historical work. But alas, my mind would not fix itself. I turned over leaf after leaf, but threw it by finally in despair; says I at length as a "dernier-resort" if I cannot read a book, I will go to work and write a letter to Otis,

So here you have it, and will undoubtedly find it to be, as Shakespeare says of the Justice in his fifth age of man full of, "wise saws and modern instances." We were honoured on Sunday last, with a visit from your companion Rundle; who in his suite of gray, and military cape, cut quite a dash in our quiet little church, even the ladies, when Charley was walking up isle would turn to one another and whisper, "what a proper man." Should you see him in at any time remember me, in the shape of my best respects.

We can boast among other things, of a visit from one of the Hungarian Exiles, who being a graduate of one of the Miliary Schools of his native place, was pretty well posted up as regards matters and things; and had also served as Captn under Kossuth, during the last war. He having been with my Brother-in-Law for a year past as engineer out west, of course met with a welcome reception, and left with a promise to come again soon.

But perhaps my letter, has proved tiresome to you? If so I have but one observation to make, my brain has become chuck full of odds and ends, and after a long time, these matters become shaken up in my mind, and find this an admirable way to relieve it.

So fall too, to what I have <set> before you most worthy friend. You <[hole in paper]> find it very long, and as some <[hole in paper]> "Variety is charming." So good bye, <Father> and Lib wish to be remembered to you. Write soon for your letters always prove, a welcome visitant.

Respectfully Yours  
W Augustus Howard

To O.O. Howard  
West Point

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342 11/30/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Col John Gilmore  
[Mother]

OOH-0323

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Nov 30th 1851

Dear Mother

I was thinking last evening, it being Saturday that you might be expecting a couple of letters from your two boys. Then I wished I had written one in the middle of the week. I would write every week if I could and do it well: but if I should try I would soon begin to hurry over my letters, and they would very soon be hardly worth the reading. I cannot write so easily nor so rapidly as I could when in College. It is partly because my mind is comparatively excluded from literature, not having the emulation continually stimulating me to study different authors & reproduce the thoughts which my readings used to suggest, and perhaps I am more considerate about writing whatever comes into my head. At any rate the fact is true that my intellect moves slowly now in everything; but if it goes right, if the results of thought, of meditation are correct, we will not complain.

The only thing to be regretted is that my friends have often to wait so long for an answer to their letters that they think I wish to put a stop upon the correspondence. I have received two letters from Augustus Howard since I have written him one. But I believe mine doubled his in length; so we are 'at quits.' He says "Perhaps you have never like me been waylaid in the midst of your business avocations, your heels tripped up by a treacherous malady, and you left to count the tedious minutes as they pass in the solitude of your sitting room for two long years in succession(?) If you have my dear fellow, you can pity me with your whole heart, but if not just behold me, &c". He describes his privations, & fallen self, but does it in a sort of cheerful humorous manner, which almost makes you laugh while you pity the poor fellow with all your heart. I want to make him a visit on Christmas if I can do it. I shall try to get a leave.

Time glides on pretty fast, tis almost January, one month more, and then comes another examination, which is to dethrone me from the head. I have been a little unfortunate lately in drawing. I was printing 'topographical signs' over the top of my piece, after I had finished the drawing, having worked on it ever since we commenced in September & got a blot on it, where a letter was to come. I scratched it out & scratched a hole through my paper. I should have cried, had I not remembered, that I was twenty one. A little care would have saved that; but 'tis no use reflecting. I have injured my standing very much. The instructor in drawing has not seen it yet. I am bracing my nerves for a "trimming". You know I always fear a scolding more than a whipping. The future must mend the past as usual, so good bye to the subject.

Lizzie writes me that she has not received an answer to her letter from you; says Peleg has received a letter from Rowland about taking the school at Cape Elizabeth. It is close by Portland as you know, & Lizzie thinks she shall see Rowland very often, if he will take the school. It being so near the city, I fear it is a large, hard school. Has he written you much about it? If he keeps it is not very far from the time to begin.

Uncle Ward has not been to the Point since last encampment. He thinks his visits put me to a good deal of trouble, because I have to run about after a permit every time he comes.

Thanksgiving day has come & gone with you. The day was just like any other to us. We had some bony salt fish with bread & molasses for dinner & our usual supper. We are generally better provided for now than when I first came here. A graduate of this institution has the oversight & direction of our supplies, and gives very good satisfaction. For breakfast & supper we have what are called 'rolls.' They are each equal to about two common biscuits. We have one apiece, with coffee in the morning & tea at evening. These rolls are made of flour & would be good if fresh, but there is a regulation in the army prohibiting the use of bread till it is a couple of days old I believe. At any rate our rolls are always dry. At dinner we have a regular routine - beginning Monday and ending Saturday. I have not paid attention enough to the subject, to tell what we have on each day, excepting that we always have fish on Friday.

Laura & I believe you spoke of Melvin Howard - his sickness. How does he do? Is Charlie going to school on the ridge this winter? Tell him he must write me without waiting my slow motions. He shall have a letter soon. I want him to tell me what he is going to study - about his singing school & anything in which he is interested.

And Dellie - ask him for <[hole in paper]> he is going to study this winter. Tell him he must study real <hard> for he must not be outdone by his other brothers in scholarship. I would like to race over the hill this winter with them, but such good times as they will have will not be mine. Tell Roland I think he cuts me rather cold. If he finds anything in any paper which he thinks will be of interest to me tell him he must send it to me.

Give my love to each & all & write me as often as is consistent with your many duties & your state of health. Do write Lizzie a few words if you can; she thinks so much of my mother & my mother's good will. Good Night.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine  
[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y.

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343 12/3/1851 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Otis [O.O. Howard]

OOH-0324

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn Dec 3 1851

Dear Otis

You no doubt wonder at our long silence, and perhaps with very good reason, for I think one of us might, amid the multiplicity of "dimish'd cares" have found time to have droped you a line if for nothing more than to inform you that we are still in existence, if we are lost to all around us, in the enjoyment of the "Honey Moon". I have been waiting a while to see if it (the moon) would not set, but I must wait still longer, and may Heaven grant that I may be so happy in the anticipation of it as to wait until I am grey, and then may I feel that by its light I may still see the virtues of my dear Wife.

Otis, we are happy, have been, and with the blessing of God hope to be through life. Sarah is all that I can wish, so far, as a wife. For five long years have we been acquainted with each other, three of which we have been engaged, and (as you are well aware) though it is pleasant, extremely so, to be with the dear object of our affections before marriage, and notwithstanding it is an old saying that "courtship is the pleasantest part of a mans life", I have the audacity to contradict it, at least in my case, perhaps it is one of the exceptions that proves the rule, and perhaps it may be that I have not enjoyed the married state as long as is sufficient to be a competent judge. I think I have, but though you may be entertained, you may not be much interested in what I have been saying, so for a change I will branch a little.

We arrived at home safe after leaving West Point where we enjoyed ourselves very much, thanks to our Cousin Otis. Once more at home I thought it time for me to look round, and see what was to be done next, as I had decided on leaving Mr Benson, where I have been for the last three years as he would not do for me, what I thought he ought to. I have finally got settled in Brooklyn, and have hung out my "shingle", having on it "Tucker & Sargent". "Lime, Lath Brick &c", so when you want a "Brick in your hat" you can be accommodated. We have been in operation for about four weeks and are doing "as well as could be expected". Next spring we expect to do a large business, and have every prospect of it. It is quite a different business from the one I have been engaged in, but I am my own man now, and in that I was another, and besides I have a prospect of making some money now; there it was slim. I must leave you now and go to dinner, will call again soon.

Decr 6. It took me longer to get my dinner than I thought it would, as it don't often take me three days.

The truth is I have been as busy as possible since I left off, and with all have one of "Jobs comfortus" right on my thigh, and a run round on my left thumb and this morning a prospect of another of the former on my hand - pleasant, decidedly, I don't think. <Beles> are something I am quite unacquainted with, for I have never had but one, and that about 20 years ago, I don't know how to account for them, if you can by any System, mathematically, Philosophically or otherwise, I should like to be enlightened.

As I am writing now, the Guns are booming from the Battery in honor of the arrival of the distinguished Hungarian, Kossuth. Such a demonstration as is now being given him in New York, was never known in this country. It would have afforded me great pleasure to have gone over with Sarah this morning to have intruded the moment, but 'twas quite impossible without neglecting my business, which I could not think of doing. She has gone however with some friends, and I dare say will enjoy it exceedingly. Kossuth, I think, is the most remarkable man of the age - think of a foreigner to our tongue, making such magnificently eloquent speeches as he did, one following another, throughout Great Britain, or rather in London & Southampton, I think him a most remarkable man, and one of, if not the, greatest orators of the age. I hope he will not be injured by the attention that he is receiving from the American people, there is some danger of it.

I suppose you hear from the East often. Sarah & I hear from Maria & Mother once in a while. I don't know of anything new or interesting to you. Addison is down there now and says he is enjoying himself "some". He will be here in Jany again and return to California in February. I think he has done very well since he left this country for the Pacific, and I am glad of it, for I think him a capital good fellow, and one that will make a good use of his money. He boarded near us while here, and we enjoyed having him come in and see us very much. It would not be very surprising to me to hear that he had, like myself "turned <Benedict>". He ought to have a

good wife to take to California with him, and I hope he may get one. I think he wants one.

9th

Yesterday I went up the River as far as Peekskill, having started off on Saturday a sloop that we had been purchasing, and I came, or rather went up to get a cargo of Brick for here. I thought of you as not being many miles above me, but could not spare the time to go and see you. I got home again about 8 o'clock in the evening & found that Sarah had received letters from Maria & Willie. The folks were all well, of your own family or relations; Mrs Gilmore (Miss Lucia Grant) was very sick indeed and not expected to recover, was confined not long since and gave birth to a young Son (I think), and has not recovered from her sickness. Maria writes that they are having fine sleighing and enjoy it finely with their horses & sleighs. Their Thanksgiving dinner came off at Laura Anns. Willy says "ample justice was done to the Turkey, which was a goose". The two together, I think makes a very respectable Bull. I should like to enjoy for a few days the fine sleighing they are having down East now, a very few days would satisfy me for the Winter.

I suppose you are having some fine cool breezes about this time. Mosquitoes don't trouble you much eh? Our weather has been rather cold for a few weeks past, but I hope, for the sake of our business, that it will be mild for a few weeks so that we can get in a little more stock before it closes up. It is getting along toward night and I must try and get this letter off tomorrow, for it has been in hand long enough. Why have you been so long silent? Waiting for Sarah or myself to write eh? Don't wait again and we will try and keep up with you. Make our united regards to Webb & Lothrop, also remember me to your room mate, Mr Browne, I think his name is, & believe me with consen'ly affection, Yours

F.T. Sargent

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344 12/5/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Cousin [Augustus Howard]

OOH-0325

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec 5th 1851

Dear Cousin,

I presume you think me a lazy correspondent, but you would find me otherwise, far otherwise, were I not tied down to a military academy - where, though you may be twenty one, you are scarcely your own man. Since I wrote you my birth day has come round - twenty one the 8th day of November 1851. Just think of it, we are twenty one, old enough to vote, big enough to think & act all by ourselves - to manage our own concerns, go a courting, if we please, get married if we have a mind. What liberty! Is'nt it a glorious thing to be twenty one - to be such independent men. But ah! Here's the drawback. We are both of us slaves. I have surrendered my liberty and misfortune has seized upon yours. But it's no use groaning, cursing or <reputing>. The past can not well be mended. Let us then together with hearts full of hope & cheerfulness look forward to a better future, to the time when we will be really twenty one. I would judge by your letters that you were in very good spirits & disposed to look upon matters philosophically at least. I covet more time to write you, and especially a more lenient set of governors that I might visit you now & then, & chat away some of those long, dull hours, which must draw so heavily upon your patience & equanimity.

It is now Saturday. Being on guard to day, I was obliged to walk Post while the Battalion was at dinner. This brought my dinner about two o'clock. This delay as you may well suppose sharpened my appetite not a little. The result was that I got a surprising quantity of corned beef. Hence you must not be surprised to find my brain dull & my memory clogged this afternoon.

I believe we followed the boy Otis till he arrived at Bowdoin College. I got into Brunswick the evening before my examination was to take place, and if you can recollect the peculiar feelings which you may have had upon the eve of some event, as you conceived it, all important to yourself, about to decide your destiny. You can easily picture the expectant boy, the novice waiting for the morrow with his heart palpitating between hope & fear. The day came at last, at day-light, we were on the ground. Students collected around us dubbed us with the name "sub freshmen", but yet notwithstanding the significant cognomen, they treated us with great <?vity>. We listened to their colored pictures of College bliss, and were charmed to think that we soon were to become participants of College honors & "College dignities". Soon we were interrupted, by the approach of a long, reverend-looking man; his head bent, as in meditation & his step slow & steady. He came up & asked if we were candidates for admission. Finding that we were (there were 8 of us). He led the way, beckoning us to follow. We entered a building which afterwards learned was the medical college, & were conducted into a large, dark room, where we met the assembled 'faculty' of College. I remember with what awe I regarded those dignified, stern-visaged men at that time. Their perfect silence & the dim light added not a little to the effect they had upon the simple boy. Our reverend conductor whom I found to be the celebrated Professor Upham brought out his big Virgil first then a man in gold spectacles, the very personification of dignity itself, took a part of us away into one corner of the room to examine us in Sallust. After passing through his hands, another Gentlemanly, handsome man led us away into another apartment, as dark as the first with skeletons & human skulls on one side & curious models upon the other. Every new thing served to impress me with awe anew, so much so that the greek roots stuck in my throat, but he took me up in an easy place where I knew the story & this good fortune limbered my tongue. Thus we pass round through the hands of all not excepting Old Prof Smyth. With his fierce look and stalwart frame, who found us most all wanting in his Algebra. I passed however through the ordeal & was admitted to all the immunities & privaleges of a freshman, to take my room & place at the ensuing 'Commencement'. Before this we were to have a vacation of four or five weeks.

Behold me then at home how large, how nicely I felt - Member of College! Didn't I strut about with my standing dickey & didn't the young ladies all look upon me as a splendid fellow. At least so in my pride I flattered myself. In September I returned to Brunswick, lived with a young man of my acquaintance - the first half of a quarter. Of this time I have but a poor recollection - excepting that I was a freshman. I recollect one night, my door was stove in and in came a mass of entrails, belonging probably to some stolen goose.

Before this term closed I met with the young man with whom all my college joys & sorrows are in a measure

connected. For we lived together for the four years becoming as much attached as brothers. His name was Perley. Your father will probably remember Eliza Lane. She married old Esq Perley's son, of Livermore. This young man was the fruit of that marriage. I never had seen him before, but had heard of him & knew that our mothers were very intimate when in their girlish days. This was enough to make me seek his acquaintance. He had been consumptive. He entered College about a year before me, but his health threw him back a year. He came about the middle of the term. Very soon I formed an acquaintance. The first thing that attracted my notice of his peculiarities was his love of romance. He always would have his Byron when I called to see him. Soon we read together, then we walked & talked together. In short not many weeks passed before we two were very intimate. I left my chum & he left his. Together we took a room & <hereafter> lived together till the close of our College course. Perley is an uncommon linguist and a splendid writer, but mathematics came hard. On the contrary I had a sort of predilection for mathematics, whilst I was very <apt> to stumble over Greek roots. Hence we combined giving and receiving mutual assistance.

I shall have much to say <about> my old friend & chum hereafter, but now I will give you a slight idea of a Freshman's life by copying a few passages from my diary (March 30 1847). "The sophomores attempted to hold our class into the chapel after 'prayers' this evening which occasioned besides striking, pulling, holding, <> scratching - an intense excitement, which made every body talk at once at the supper table, and has driven <> study from our heads this evening. But we were too <> they couldn't hold us". This is one of the long established precedents for imposing upon poor freshmen. It is now <> done away with, since the College government had an <> to that in building the new chapel. In these "Holdins" as we called them I being light used to jump upon the heads & shoulders of the 'sophs' & walk over them through the door way & entry till I reached the outside, where I succeeded in breaking the brace of men who filled the door once or twice, and with an enormous pressure in <> rear, out they would go all in a bunch - 50 young men rolling head over heels. If you had been there & heard the mingled shouts of 'victory & defeat' - curses & cheerings, you would scarcely believe that all those young men had just emerged from the house of prayer.

The next two pages have the edges clipped off]

(June 19th 1847). It is quite cool - the wind blowing quite hard. I have attended Prayers & recitation, & eaten my breakfast. Now I have seated myself to search my brain for something to write in my journal. As I can think of nothing else but <> what I am encircled with I will speak of College life - ie <the> life of a freshman. 1st he must bear the taunts & jokes of the upper classes, without a murmur, have the poorest room in College and that poorly fitted & furnished. Every one coming into his room takes liberty with impunity, spits upon the floor, covering it with no matter how much filth and dirt - rendering it so much the blacker as a room should be which had been occupied 14 weeks without washing. But to call these inconveniences he soon gets accustomed, so that what he thought at first his pride could not brooke he can submit to with perfect composure & enjoy himself in his humbleness. The freshman too has some privileges. All his misdemeanors are excused or overlooked on the plea of his being a freshman & ignorant of College laws and customs. He can study as hard as he pleases, provided <he> studies hard enough, read as much as he wishes & write "as much as he can" &c.

In my next I want to tell you of my first College vacation which I have skipped in my course - for that is connected with two pretty girls in association one of whom you have seen. Both have the name of 'Lizzie' & both were unfortunate enough to captivate two College 'chums'. I was going to write this letter over; since I have taken no pains as you see, but as my common fortunes would have it - after I had copied three pages oh! How nice! I found that the remaining side had a big blot upon it - so here goes trusting to your generosity to forgive & your friendship to conceal - I will send you this scribbled sheet. I want to go to see you on Christmas. If your father will write a pretty strong request for me to come - stating some pretty substantial reasons for I know you have some. Why I think I can procure a short leave. Give him with your brother & sister my love. My brother Rowland, now seventeen has entered College. I think he is teaching a winter school now. He is bigger & heavier than his Cadet brother. All about the same down East. Aunt Aurelia is quite low in health & spirits as well as in point of wealth, for she has now - scarcely a cent. Write as often as you feel like it. Don't be regulated by me. I will now tell you a secret. I can when I take pains write a plain fair hand. But like the poor Gascon who fought terribly when he quarreled I never take pains, excepting when I write a love letter.

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345 12/6/1851 *From:* RB Howard

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0478

Cape Elizabeth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Cape Elizabeth Dec 6th [1851] [See Note 1]

Dear Brother

It is Saturday night and I am at this writing, sitting in the 'Office' of the Ocean House beside a coal fire and writing on a rather rickety table. I have been here one week tonight and am about settled down into the dull routine of teaching school. I need not describe the opporation, for you perfectly understand it, but perhaps it would be interesting to you to know the machinery I have to work with. I have an old school House, not much better than ours at home, filled to the brim with about 60 good, bad, and indiferent urchins, motley, as all Town schools are. Tow headed as all boys are supposed to be until they are fifteen, and all girls until twelve. About two thirds of my school are quite small varying from the ages of 4 to 12, and the rest from that age to 20. My school House is small and I have to stow them in as I can, and you may suppose, I have a noisy crew. When I find two rogues together I cannot separate them for I have no place to put them and if I put an honest boy between them he is sure to become corrupted. I have a no of those 'bores' generally known as great girls. But as one of my little pratlers tells me that she heard them calling me the 'darling' master the other day. I presume there will be no trouble in that direction unless they are over affectionate, against which catastrophe I devoutly desire your prayers.

My landlady tells me today that the 'cream' of my school is coming next week in the shape of a dozzen more great boys, and 3 or 4 schoolmarms et cetera. I could not help exclaiming when I heard the above news. Lord, deliver me from the cream!!

I presume my school is as hard if not harder than any you have ever taught, and you can judge how my legs and head ache when it comes night and how thankful I am that tomorrow is Sunday. I am in hopes that after I have them organized and have learnt their names and have committed an assault upon several of their bodies, that my labor will be easier. It don't seem as if I could live through four months laboring as I do now, even after making due account of my natural laziness. If I was rid of my cough I would not care, but I cough all day, and when it comes night I am very hoarse. My boarding place is as good as I could wish. I have to pay 200 per week.

The tide flows within a few feet of the piazza and every night after I go to bed I can hear it surging and tumbling in, and when I lay on my bed can look away out upon the sea, and watch the <moon beams playing upon the foam of the breakers and sparkling on the ripples of the Bay. But when you come to feel the cold cutting breeze of the ocean, when the Thermometer stand at 0, it is not quite so comfortable. The wind blows bleak and cold across this cape in the winter, but I should this delightful spot in the Summer Season. This Hotel has been here about two years and has been very much frequented as a watering place by citizens of Portland and others.

This is not any part of the Cape that you have seen, but it is 7 miles from Portland, away over on the other side of the Bay. I did not see Lizzie when I came down. I had barely time to call and she was 'out'. I found Mr Jewett with Perley passing a part of his vacation. I spent Thanksgiving Day at home, in much the old way, with all the children and childrens children. I heard no news in Leeds except that Biatha Richmond as they call him is married.

I was at home two days and if I keep my school through, and return directly to Brunswick I shall not be at home much before I hope to see you down 'East'. Mothers health is good, and all the rest of the family. I shall go into Portland, if I can, some of my odd Saturdays and make Miss Waite a call. I may not go in for a number of weeks. There is no way of getting out here Monday mornings without costing me over \$2.00, a trifle to be sure. But if trifles didn't count you wouldn't catch me 5 or 6 miles out to sea teaching school for about 16 dollars per month. Nominally I rec \$26.00, but I have to pay my own board, which reduces my earnings very much.

I have not rec an answer to my last letter as yet. I suppose you directed to Brunswick. If so I am in hopes to rec it in a few days. Don't neglect to answer this soon. A letter is doubly welcome, you know, among entire strangers, as they are here. Direct to Cape Elizabeth. Be careful to put the 'Cape' on.

It is now Sabbath evening and the snow flakes are falling merrily and I am in hopes that the good people of the coast will be gratified with some sleighing. It looks melancholy to see them slipping about over the icy roads in their high waggons. Our P.O. is at Portland and communication is not regular. But I am in hopes to send this out tomorrow.

Write soon.

Your affectionate Brother  
RB Howard

Cadet O O Howard

P.S. Haven't any stamps. Will pay the postage if I can. If not excuse. RBH

[Note 1. Dec 6th occurred on Saturday in 1851, although this letter was filed with the 1853 letters. Rowland was teaching at Cape Elizabeth in the winter of 1851/1852.]

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346 12/7/1851 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0326

Yarmouth Me

Military Academy  
West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Me Dec 7 1851

Friend Howard

From your letter of the 27th ult, the reception of which I would surely, very gratefully acknowledge. It seems that while I was very easily & complacently throwing myself upon my dignity & conscious rectitude in the matter of addressing you, you were doing precisely the same thing in reference to writing me. Now I am certain that I have written to you since I recd a letter from you, prior to your last, though whether you received the letter or answered it & the answer failed to reach me. I am of course unable to say - I have been waiting about 4 months for the reply & had surely come to the conclusion that you had found other acquaintances more after your tastes & was almost ready to resign myself to the sad fate of a desertion & complete oblivion so far as you were concerned.

But really I am quite happily disappointed by the perusal of the one sheet now lies before me. It seems that though the attractions of West Point are great & absorbing, still a small nook in your memory is reserved for the scenes & associations of Bowdoin. These days of pleasure & profit, of struggles & disputes, of hopes & fears, all of which have been safely passed through & we go forth to the duties & responsibilities of men.

It is pleasant to look back upon these however & think of the many incidents which then so much interested us though they for the most part appear rather trivial now. But there was the opening scenes the initiatory steps of life characterized by their peculiar phases & yet giving a foretaste of the fierce struggles which were to come. <Apupenation> season in which trials were for the <> of our strength & of which our recompense was to be enjoyed in exact proportion to the effort we made in after life. I don't know that I regret any of the apparently frivolous circumstances of my College course. I am inclined to think that they all had their advantages which more than <> <> than folly & vexation.

But enough of the past. I am glad to be informed of your continued prosperity. I hope you may yet come out No. 1. However if others have the advantage of you, that is a circumstance in their favor which you of course are not provided against. I would not my self object to course of four horseback riders, for aside from pleasure of them (which as you suggest, could probably become wearisome as a duty) they are capital exercise of which I don't get more than an ordinary show. As to your opinion that I could easily take a prominent stand if there. I am willing to take your word for it & perchance to believe it without trial.

On the whole I should hardly deem it the kind of cultivation I needed, and no more do I need the discipline of school teaching. But the money - that's the object with me, while of course I endeavor to do my duty as far as I can. And yet amidst the toil & confusion of this drudgery, I find opportunity to study some which I also <> as far as possible. I have commenced reading Laws, & have finished or rather have gone through with Blackston & have nearly <completed> the 3d volume of <Kent>. At the <[ hole]> accomplish quite a mass before the close of <[hole]> did not intend to spend any more time <[hole]> - close of my first year out of College in Pedagoguing, but after a better reflection I thought it might be as well as perhaps better to endure it another year.

The 18th of August next will see me bidding a final Good-bye to this business without any fail. I shall then push for the West as fast as my <> will allow me. I shall probably remain to commencement, as I was not there this year.

My health is tolerably good, though both that & my temper I apprehend begin to feel the effects of my avocation. Oh! it is ruinous, too bad for a man.

How did you spend Thanksgiving? I did it in the most quiet way imaginable, right here & nowhere else all day - & all alone. Winter term commences next Thursday. I have only been to Portland this vacation - saw Perley &c. All well & in good spirits. And now wishing you all prosperity & happiness, I will subscribe myself

Yr Friend & Classmate

J. N. Jewett

Saw your brother in P. a week ago. He is keeping school in Cape Elizabeth

[Envelope]  
Cadet O O Howard  
Military Academy  
West Point N.Y.

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347 12/10/1851 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0327

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds December 10th 1851

My Dear Son,

This afternoon the house being left entirely to your father and myself, I have concluded to lay aside my many numerous occupations and commence a letter to my son. I have set aside times before to give to this purpose, and been prevented by some unforeseen occurrence. There are three letters before me from West Point, two of them I think I have not answered. You say nothing, but what your health is good, for which I am glad.

R.B. Howard came home to thanksgiving and staid until Saturday at eleven 1/2 O'clock when Charles took him to the depot, at Green. His visit and departure has given me an uneasy, restless feeling about him, I can hardly describe. He coughed badly, and seemed as though he could hardly hold himself up, he seemed to have a large collection of phlegm in his stomach, his head ached, and sometimes he would vomit. I could do but little for him in the time he staid at home. I made him a cyrrup which he took with him. When he wrote me on the sabbath, and Monday, after one days teaching of his school he liked the appearance of his school and his boarding house well. He described his chamber which he occupied in his letter to me, and concluded he was as well off as he should be in the one he slept in, at home with his feet sticking out of the bed some two feet or more.

The night of thanksgiving and Friday night our beds were all filled having Arza and family and Huldah and family home to spend the annual thanksgiving with us. George came from Baltimore where he had been attending the fair (with his employer) exhibiting their manner of rearing bees and making honey. I think I wrote you that Arza had sold out his right in that business. But that was but only for a few days, and now I [have] three beds unoccupied.

But I am in hopes next time he comes home to make him more comfortable and see him in better health. He is very fleshy and a half inch taller than his father. I fear he has not exercised enough, the latter part of the term, for his health, I thought when he left home he would be back in a week or two, but one week is past and three days of another, and he does not return, which gives me reason to hope, he will write me, his cough is better. He has \$26 per month and pays \$2 per week for board so he will not make any more than we pay in this town, but it may be better for him in future.

Our school has begun. Charley and Dellie are wide awake about their winter school. They think they have a prospect of a good school. This is the third day.

I think a great deal about your Jan examination, not that I am particularly anxious about your rank but I seem to fear for you in many respects. I hope you will not be annoyed in your feelings because you are not a favorite, or because you are not popular or any of these things, but go forward with a consciousness of rectitude in your course, with a cheerful and calm countenance and receive the rank in your class as coolly as you did when at the head. Everything that befalls you gives your mother a pang, but I feel as though I knew my boy, that I do not think all is well when it is not. I take it kind in you to let me know how you are situated from week to week, because nothing will come unexpected.

We have had two reports from the War department this fall. The third one I expect is at the centre office. (The last two Sabbaths we have not been out to meeting. The last Sabbath I had an ill turn that kept me in bed the most of the day.) In your Oct report you did not stand so well in drawing as in Sept. one better in french and one lower in Mathematics.

I thought about you all day the day you was twenty one years old and called to mind many occurrences in which you and I had participated. How close the ties of nature between mother and child. No distance or circumstance nor length of time can affect it. The same stretch of feeling is constantly in their breasts. I some where saw in reading something like this, that women formed good conclusions and right judgements, but could not give their reasons. A just idea of the sex I thought. I am in the habit of reasoning with myself, and forming my own judgements alone without giving utterance to them, ever. Therefore the judgements and conclusions

are all that can be known.

This is my 47th birth day. [She was b. 10 Dec 1804.]

I thought, while reading an extract from Augustus Howards letter, it was characteristic of his uncle Everet, his cheerful style of writing. I recollect one piece of poetry which he composed while lying on a sick bed, which ended every verse with, my bed to soft, my floor to hard, O, where then shall I lay. His active mind was put to rest by death at the age of 32 [Everett Howard was b. 22 Nov 1787, d. 23 Nov 1820].

Your father returned from Hallowell last eve—g. Addison is there yet, nothing is worthy of remark there. I have heard nothing said of Melvin Howard of late, but it is most probable he will not recover. I seem to be remarkable barren for news. O, yes. I tell you that the stockholders meeting, which was the first day of December, that all the officers but one were changed. Your Uncle Ensign is no longer one of the board directors. Neither is your father one of the officers.

Saturday morning

I left my letter to go and walk with Mrs Turner, Wednesday evening, and have just now returned to it. Mrs T has been sick a long time. Now she seems to be in a good way of recovery. Sarah is with her. She said she sent you a piece of wedding cake by Warren Lothrop. Mrs Enoch Tupper will be buried tomorrow. Ensign and Martha went from here just now. Their family are well. I have not seen Laura much of late. She told me at church, about your letter. She was delighted with it. I received a letter from Lizzie the first part of November, after the wedding and levee at Uncle Henrys, which was very gratifying to me, an old woman, and thought I would Answer it, after I went to Lewiston, and bought me some fine paper. So the time has run along six weeks. I did not think she would think anything of it, if I had I would have been more prompt in my answer. I think now I shall write soon, yes tomorrow.

I cannot express to you, the strength of my desire for your welfare in whatever situation you are in. My anxious feeling are always lasting, and hoping all is well, I know that every move of our lives, is attended more or less with disappointments. If it was not so, we should become puffed up in this worlds prosperity, and be forgetful, of the great and good being from Whom all blessings flow. I do not think my views towards God are as full of gratitude, as they should be. My heart is not always found in full confidence with that being who has always sustained me, through so many years of my life. I wish I could hear you say, I rejoice in hope in the Savior, and felt him to be your guiding star.

Your Mother  
E. Gilmore

[To:] O. O. Howard

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348 12/14/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0328

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec 14th 1851

Dear Mother,

I have written six letters since yesterday noon, and consequently feel a little tired, but happening to think that two weeks had passed since I had written you I thought I would try to fill another sheet this evening. I received a letter from Rowland at Cape Elizabeth, which I answered today & another from Dr Lord.

I am a little anxious about Rowland's health, having that cough. How did he look when at home, pretty bright & healthy? He writes me that his district is seven miles from Portland. I was sorry to learn that it is so far; for I thought that the situation would be much pleasanter for him, being where he could go into Portland & spend the sabbath & all spare Saturdays.

Dr Lord has settled in Lancaster this State, near Buffalo. He writes very favorably of his situation. What do you do for a physician at Leeds? It is a pity Dr Lord could not make up his mind to stay with you, for a young man of his integrity is rare. But like other young men he has some of the laudable ambition, and I will readily admit, that, if he wishes, wealth influence or reputation he does well to seek another spot than Leeds. I doubt not but that a philanthropic young doctor, would have an excellent field of labor at Leeds, but I would almost as soon think of settling there as a lawyer. Dr Lord has a reflective mind & a clear, sound judgment, and if he only had a little more native energy his success would be certain.

I have been reflecting a little upon the physician's life, and strange to say I have felt sorry that I had not embraced the profession immediately on graduating from College. There is something deeply interesting to me in the study of Anatomy, so far as our course entered into the subject, and then just think of the ability & the opportunities the physician has to do good. Hardship is often & always thought of when one speaks of the Doctor, but after all, there is no more, & no worse labor in the practice of medicine, than in the successful practice of any other profession. Everybody sees the physician, sees his toil, his restless nights, his travels in the cold & storm; but the mental labor of the would-be-rising lawyer & the midnight study of the conscientious divine one considered not at all are counted as nothing because they are not seen. And from my little experience I would not judge that the professions of arms carried with it very much of "ease & dignity".

I, goosey that I am, have got the idea of fame, of greatness, of reputation into my head. I know too that the physician however deeply learned, however skillful, stands but a poor chance of enjoying the esteem & praise of his country at large. But as I grow older my ideas undergo a change. Fame is a sort of nothingness, a bubble, which looks brilliant, beautiful, attractive, but which you cannot touch - you cannot grasp. Pursue it as it seems to dally in the air before you, approach it, it is nothing but a name. Common sense says the heart must find its pleasure, its true enjoyment in doing good.

These are reflections. I remain where I am, turn neither to the right, nor the left, study, prepare yourself for something, be not fickle, unsteady. These are the silent promptings of my inward self.

I am now getting on very happily, certain of losing the head of my class, 41st in drawing, bad marks now & then, considerable demerit. These things stir up occasionally some rather unpleasant feelings, inevitably succeeded by strong resolutions, clinched by closed teeth, but with all, my eye is as bright & my heart as light as it ever was. I am bound as usual to do as well as I can and take the consequences without flinching .

How is Charlie? In good health & spirits & very kind to his brother Dellie. And how is the latter young gentleman getting on? Is he going to be a good scholar & a great boy, when I get home. How I wish I could drop in upon you now, if only for a few moments. I presume I would find father asleep in his chair, over the financial part of the President's message. I can see you all as I have seen you on many a winter evening; in the kitchen rendered so pleasant by the big glowing fire on the hearth. Here we are warmed by subterraneous furnaces, by means of flues in the side of the wall, where the heat rushes in in invisible torrents. Tell Roland to stop his dreaming about the happy life in California. Good night. My love to all.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine  
[Postmark] WEST POINT NY DEC 17

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349 12/19/1851 *From:* Ward B. Howard

*To:* O.O. Howard Esq.

OOH-0329

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 19 Dec 1851

My dear Nephew

The anniversary of Christmas is fast approaching, with it we anticipate an annual visit from you and regret they cannot be more frequent.

Your cousin Augustus continues much the same. His health is such that he cannot visit you at the Point.

Will you present my respects to Capt Brewerton with a request that he will permit you to visit your Uncle and family on that occasion.

As the Ice in the river may cause some unavoidable delay in returning on the same day, could you not be permitted to stay over at least one day. If not incompatible with your rules and regulations. Myself and family would be much gratified to have you extend your visit for more than one day.

Your affectionate Uncle  
Ward B. Howard

O.O. Howard Esq.

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350 12/28/1851 *From:* W. A. Howard

*To:* O.O. Howard Esq

OOH-0330

Peekskill

West Point  
U.S.M.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Dec 28th 1851

Well my dear fellow, how does this find you, in a perfect state I pray, as I am in hopes of being one of these days (the Lord willing). I have however just returned from a walk to the Cold Hotel, and while there sitting in a very contented mood who should come in but an old school-mate and returned Californian. He insisted on my taking a hot whiskey punch and smoking a pipe with him, from the effects of which my eyes and brain begin to feel a little heavy but my heart is amok and if words come as readily as ideal joy will get a letter eventually. Although I am writing at random and just about half tipsey

My health remains as it was when you were with us. I am heartily tired of my every day scenes of life, and for you to spend a day or even an evening with us, would be willing to go in for another punch and smoke provided you would partake. I have just received a letter from Lucius. He says in it, he and his proprietor were one morning sitting very composedly by the store, when in walks our sherriff,, slaps his Boss on the shoulder, as the owner of goods he had obtained under false pretences for which he must take a short walk as far as the Court House and explain. This he did and satisfied the gentleman how they were obtained, after which he let him start for home.

What do you intend to do New Years, not I hope spend it over musty Books and moth eaten Algebras if you will do as I do, go around and see your friends, take a social glass with each one and when night comes go home about half cocked, you will have a merry day of it.

But the clock strikes ten my eyes begin to close, so I will close this letter wishing you a happy New year, write soon and tell me how you got home &c. Miss Johnson came last night and we had another good game at whist, all that was wanting being yourself. But then you know parties at Whist are, spectators and principals too, they comprise the whole theatre themselves, and I was more interested looking at Lib as I call her than at the cards. But farewell, I am writing this to while away an hour which has passed and half of another. Lib and Father remain in good health, and with many happy New Years to you I remain

Yours as ever  
W. A. Howard

To O.O. Howard Esq  
West Point  
U.S.M.A.

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351 1/4/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother - Col John  
Gilmore

OOH-0331

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 4th 1852 [Sunday]

Dear Mother

I have let more time slip by before writing you than I intended when I finished my last letter; but since we have no church to day, and I have resolved some time since not to open my text books for the purpose of studying on Sunday. I will dedicate this forenoon to you. Speaking of studies on Sunday. Sabbath evening I have usually employed to get my lessons for Monday morning. I had long thought it was hardly right, that I ought for the sake of my health at least to lay aside my books for one entire day out of each week, but the fear of doing badly on Monday would over throw my resolutions. But at last I began to get provoked at myself for such a want of sense & self-command, and broke off the habit which had been sealed by five years practice. I make up for it by getting up between three & four on Monday morning. I believe I have done as well on Monday as on any day. There are two young men in the first section, who never study sundays, and one of them almost always gets a low mark on Monday morning. Perhaps he cannot like me wake up when he chooses.

Since I wrote you Christmas & New Year's have come & gone, and with them all the luxuries we are to expect at West Point for another year. I found Capt Brewerton unusually pleasant & obliging when I presented my uncle's letter containing a very pressing request for me to visit him at Peekskill a day or two before hand. He granted me even more than I asked, allowing me to leave the Post on Wednesday evening & return on Friday morning. I had a very pleasant visit at Peekskill; found my cousin Augustus about as usual, still subject to those frequent & frightful attacks of his malady. Uncle had a fall down stairs with a lamp in one hand & a tumbler in the other; he broke neither, but hurt his head very much & dislocated his shoulder. But when I was there he had nearly recovered from the effect of the fall; his arm being still a little lame.

I left this place Wednesday evening just at dark a little after parade to cross the river for Cold Springs. The river had just frozen over leaving air holes as is usually the case where the tide rises (ebbs) & falls (flows) every day. It was storming furiously & growing continually darker & darker. But Cadets are not easily intimidated when a 'leave' is in question and I think I have never been a very timid child at least not within my recollection. Well three cadets of us with a guide & a lantern set forth for a two miles walk on the precarious route. Now I suppose you are expecting a scene, some narrow escape, but no, I kept ahead of the guide more than half the way and once even set time in the proper direction, thus clipping in to Cold Springs as light as a feather - so much for the exploit of your wonderful son.

Well when I got to the depot I found that we must stop there all the evening or nearly so for the cars. After racing about awhile in search of amusement to still my impatience I sat down before the depot stove & was soon joined by Professor Agnel (pronounce his name Angel.) He is the most accomplished scholar on the Post having visited nearly all parts of the world, & being able to speak purely three languages, as if they were his native tongue. I never could decide whether english or french was his mother tongue. He says he has a little boy six years of age whom he has never allowed to speak a word of english to himself. He says he used to whip him if he attempted it. Now the child is very indignant & will have nothing at all to do with his father if he addresses him in English. I asked him if the child could speak english as well as he could french. He said yes, of course, there being an English atmosphere all around him. He thus amused me telling me about his family & his experience abroad. He had travelled in South America, or was an Officer there I don't know which. He had much to say about the french authors, & the french institutions. He was in Paris at the time Louis Philippe was restored in 1830, and described to me with the warmth a personal observer the horrors of those three days which sufficed to put Louis again upon the throne. The excitement was intense, maddening the crowd, composed of men, women, children of every size & age. Would in their blind fury stand the full charge of the cavalry, rush upon the horses, get under bellies & slash them in pieces. He said the soldiers had been ordered to fire into every collected crowd. He told me too of some of his own narrow escapes.

Thus passed the evening very pleasantly. The cars arrived about nine o'clock or after & set me ashore at Peekskill just after all hopes of my coming had been given up & my cousins gone to bed. The next day I went to church with uncle in the morning, afterwards had a splendid Christmas dinner prepared especially for me,

went to Mrs Rundell's in the evening, where I took tea & stopped the evening in the society of lots of ladies. I felt of course like a fish out of water" but I reckon I behaved most of the time like a well-bred young man.

The ladies had a good deal to say about my father. Uncle Ensign they did not remember so much about. They all agreed that I resemble my father then, but Mrs Rundell thinks my hair is darker. I hardly think that can be, but my hair is darker & better now than it has ever been before. The misses Philips at Newburg are almost angry with me because I don't go to see them; but it is next to impossible. They are still keeping a large boarding school filled up with young ladies I would judge from New York & Brooklyn. They speak of me to almost every cadet who gets up there, requesting me to come. I think I shall get leave after this January to go up there to get my tooth pulled. I have'nt yet decided whether the lady cousins are worth such a painful sacrifice or not.

The January examination commenced Friday last. Our class will be examined about next Wednesday or Thursday. My mark for the whole time in mathematics is the best by a little more than a unit, 1.05 I believe. Everything depends on the examination. If I do well I shall probably remain where I am, if badly will fall. I am waiting for the issue, but with no great anxiety for I have done as well as I could, that is I have studied as much as is consistant with my health.

Now I have talked sufficiently about myself. I wish to know how my friends are getting on. Is Rowland's cold any better. Why has he not written? I wrote him a letter to Brunswick - another to Cape Elizabeth. Probably he has got neither. If he is well enough & at home tell him to write. I am anxious to learn how he does. Give my love to Dellie & Charlie. Ask them if they have'nt any good word to send me. Any news to tell me about their studies, their school, their master, their playmates, and their fine times. I presume a good many little boys remember me as their teacher, & more perhaps as their schoolmate. Hasn't Dellie any large stories, fine ones of course to tell me, about the new things that have happened? I shall look like a little boy side of Rowland Bailey, if he is so large and tall as you say. I suppose Charles is running up imperceptibly perhaps to you, but I shall notice it, for I have him in mind of the same size as when I left. Ask Roland A if he had as good a time on Christmas eve, as we had several years ago when we went to a party at Wilson Gilberts and returned late, late or rather early in the morning ensuing in a drifting snow storm. Lucy Dunham was my lady and she is married.(?) It seems to me now that all my old companions are yet boys & girls. How is it that they are getting married! But ah! I myself am twenty one and who knows but others may grow old as fast as I. On New Years we had quite a feast. Oysters the night before & at noon of the day quite a dinner - after which I got two whole pieces of mince pie. I live well enough always. I am not disposed to grumble at our provisions. I always have health & a splendid appetite, who can ask more? Yesterday after noon little Closson & I raced about the woods, for exercise & reconnoitering. Sometimes off limits & sometimes on. We didn't care so long as we did not get "hived". We met Harville in our rambles. He looks badly all freckled & pitted with the indelible marks of the small pox. He says Warren is well.

I got out of money when I went to Peekskill having 50 cts to start with. I borrowed of Uncle one dollar. I can pay him on furlough or you may send me a dollar.

Did Lizzie make you a call while she was at Livermore?

With much love for you all. I am your affectionate son.

O. O. Howard

P.S. Why think Uncle does not write me? Tell me how grandmother was when you heard from her. Give my love to father. Did he lose anything by his official transactions as treasurer of the Road? Mr Browne is again full of fears that he shall be sent off this January. I think he is safe.

[Envelope]

[Postmark] West Point N.Y. Jan 6 Paid 3

Col John Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine

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352 1/4/1852

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0332

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds January 4th 1852

My dear boy

Tis a long while since I have written you, many events have transpired to prevent me from it. Charlie's letter came to hand one week since. Glad to hear your health and spirits are good. Suppose ere this your preparation is made for examination, and will be over ere this scrawl will reach you.

Christmas too, is over with all its anticipation and I hope all is well. You will tell us in your next letter how you find your Uncle Wards family and how much Mixture of pain and pleasure you found in going to Peekskill.

The same day I mailed my last letter to you I recd one from RB Howard saying unless some radical change took place in his health he must come home. I was not disappointed. I knew when he went from home, he could not stand it long unless the syrup he took with him helped him. But his school was large, and school house hot, and walking on the beach a half mile where the Cold Sea breeze took him on leaving the school house increased his disease in two weeks to an alarming extent. He reached home and did not leave his bed for a week. Since then his disease has been wearing off. For ten days we kept his Chest and back one <series> of <sores> made by croton oil, and every other means used to clear his lungs of the matter collected there. He has had some discouragements in his progress towards health but I think he is in a good way towards health if nothing befalls him. He has a cough yet, and has never had a change of air, has never been out of doors yet nor any room where there is any change in the temperature. What will be the result of this sickness is yet to be seen. I fear if he returns to those College rooms again his disease will return in full force, but that is yet to be determined. He has not received any of your letters from West Point, he stopt at Mrs Waites over the sabbath on his return from Cape Elizabeth sick enough all the time. I am under great obligation to Mrs Waite for her kindness to R.B. and would be glad to thank her in person. R.B. said they were coming up with Perley to Lewistown, Turner and Livermore, to spend Perleys Vacation. When he first returned he was in hopes to be well enough to go for them and bring them here, but we have not heard any thing from them. I thought if Lizzie knew how sick R.B. was she might possibly find means to come here, but their time is expired I think. I have written Lizzie a letter the day I mailed your last. I expect it lays in the office at Portland now, after I had prepared my letter for the directions I gave them to your father to write the superscription and he directed to Lizzie A Waite as we are in the habit of speaking her name. If she should call for such a letter at the office it was intended for her. I intend writing her again now that my poor Brain is getting more settled. I have slept two nights without any care of RB, your father getting up to renew his fire. R.B. has begun one or two letters to you and thrown them aside. His head was in a sad condition when he came home but his pult is quite even, and his eyes look quite natural.

I know but little about what is going on in town as I have not been out much this winter. They always seem to be in trouble at Uncle Barneys. Ruggles Sylvester who has been so long in the habit of having fits died in one not long since. I don't know how Uncle B gets along. Ruggles was able to take care of them. Your father has just returned from Church and come in and given me a trimming about his shirt collar. They are always too broad or too narrow or too short or too long and I am never in any humor to hear him. Dellie is trying to write something to you and Charles is writing on the same table with me, and R.B. is taking a luncheon on the sofa. So you see my boys are near me all but you. The rest of our family are well.

R.B. had a letter (from W. O. O. [William Oliver Otis] and Maria [Otis]) of condolence and congratulation. William thought sickness much better than school keeping. Maria said their family were all sick except father. Her Mother she said was very sick. She (Maria) had been confined two weeks to the house. Don't think strange that your Uncle John don't write for of all men I think him the most full of <care> and business. I think he is living beyond his income and struggling with all his might to get the better of his circumstances. He is gone from home a great part of the time. I should not think strange that Maria does not write according to the view I have of her. She might answer a letter and she might not, from sheer indolence. Addison Martin has called on us and thinks he shall come to West Point before he returns to California. He intends arriving in California in March. I am glad to hear a good news from Sarah and her husband. I hope they will do well in every respect. Your Aunt Ann is with Mother. I have heard that she will visit Portland this winter. Probably visit Mrs Waite &c.

She has never come to Leeds since her return to H. I think she would come, and honor me with a visit if I should send for her, that I shall not do, at present. John Harrison Otis has gone into trade on commission in Mr Alden's store. I have not heard how much business he is doing. We have had an uncommon cold winter so far but still I am hoping for warmer weather and shall be untill spring. We have gloomy weather to day, neither snow nor rain but a frost catching on to the trees untill they are loaded with ice sickles.

Do you hear much about Kossuth the hungarian general. Our papers are filled with accounts of his greatness. I thought you West Point Cadets might catch the enthusiasm towards him. Gerry Lothrop I understand has had the honor of an Introduction to him. Your Aunt Ann would like to go to New York to live and I think she eventually will go there. How does Langdon carry himself. You have never mentioned him. You can give my love to him if you think best, and Warren too, although they accused me of preaching false reports about him when I came home from West Point. I was not in the least guilty, no doubt he thinks so. But I don't care.

Yours  
E.G.

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353 1/4/1852

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0334a

Leeds

West Point  
NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Jan 4th 1852

Dear brother

It has been a long time since I wrote you a letter, but I received one from you dated 20th December. It was quite a long one comprising five pages. As you say I like to have letters & long ones too from my brother, but better than I do to write them myself, but I know it gives you pleasure to hear from home. So I will try to answer all that you write. I am in good health and I think if you should see me you would not think that I was pale.

Rowland is getting along well, as well as we could expect. You asked, if he had any trouble with his school? I believe he did not. He liked his school very well. We have a very good school here taught by Daniel Wing of Monmouth. It has kept four weeks and will keep three or four more. I have been to singing school this winter. Mr Davie began a school here last Fall and it finished Friday night but there will be 4 more meetings to prepare for the Dedication of the new Meeting-house. I do't know that you know anything about the new Meeting house. The Methodist of Quaker Ridge have got them such and it is to be Dedicated next Thursday. It is situated below or south of Salmon Wings barn on the right hand side of the road as you go towards Mr Brewster.

Sunday 11th. It has been some time since I began my letter. I could not finish it because I went to school. Dellie is writing on the same table with me. He has written (if you can read it you will see) that I am sick, &c. I suppose that he ment to convey the idea that I was unwell. I have got a bad cold. I said the meeting-house would be dedicated Thursday, but I made a mistake for it has not been dedicated yet but will be next Thursday. There was a new meeting house dedicated at Wayne Village situated on the oposite side of the road from Arza's. Who lives where Mr <C> Wing the miller used to live.

We recieved a letter from you last night, and one from Lizzia which contained one which you wrote to Rowland and directed to Cape Elizabeth. I have got along well with my studies this winter. I study Weld's grammar. I have got to Interest in my Arithmetic. If I have good health I guess I shall go to Kents Hill next spring.

There is a funerall sermon to be preached at the meeting house to day for Mr Ebenezer Lothrop Mr Thomas Lyson. He died away from home and was not brought home, but they had a sermon preached. Our folks did not go up, it stormed so this morning. Lizzia wrote that her mother was sick all the time. She was at Livermore. If it had not been for that she would have come down here. She wrote that she just rec a letter from you.

Our teacher, Mr Wing, has some different arangments in school from what we had been used to having here on the Ridge. In the morning we read in the Testament, and then in the Fourth Reader, after which the smaller classes read and then Arithmetic and Geography. After we read in the afternoon, we write a spelling lesson taken from our reading list. Just as school closes at noon and night he asks them all if they have whispered, and they have to say whether they have or not and if they say yes he puts down a black mark.

I suppose you have not skated any this winter. Dellie and I have skated a great deal. You have enough to do beside skating and if not I don't know as there is boy enough left in you to play. The first part of the winter we skated, but the ice is covered with snow.

Rowland has been writing funy things here on the table so you see that he has not forgotten how to make fun. Rolan A is reading a novel out loud. It is one that you with some others presented to the Athenaeon society. I believe the name of it is Norman Leslies.

Dellie learns very well this winter. He studies Smyth's Arithmetic and he studies Geography with me. The boys and girls in his class in spelling have a chain to wear when they get to the head, and leave off there; then they take their place to the foot, the one that gets it the largest number of times has it when the school finishes. We have got a new oil cloth carpet on our kitchen floor. Mother has got some very, very pretty plants. There is one pretty rose on her bushes. Now it looks very pretty when there is nothing green out of doors.

From your affectionate brother  
Charles

[to] O.O. Howard

[This letter is continued on the next page with a letter from Eliza Gilmore on Jan 6, 1852]

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354 1/6/1852

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0334b

Leeds

West Point  
NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter is the continuation of a letter from Charles on Jan 4, 1852]

Tuesday morning [Jan 6, 1852]

Charles and Rodelphus have exerting themselves to write to you. Rowland still appears to be in a good way of recovery. He has not been out yet. We have such stormy weather. He cannot go out with any safety. I don't understand your being so short of money. I shall enclose a one dollar bill in this. I hope you will be careful and send it to your Uncle. If you need any money next summer before coming home write in season, to have it sent from here.

Yours ever  
Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]  
O. O. Howard  
West Point  
NY

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355 1/8/1852

*From:* E. A. Waite

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0335

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Jan 8 1852

Dear Mrs Gilmore

I should have written to you sooner in answer to your very kind and most welcome letter had I not expected to have seen you before this time. I felt unpleasant to return without seeing or even hearing from you, but mother was sick all the while we were gone, and I did not wish to leave her; she was not able to leave her room 'till New Year's day. She is quite well now excepting her cough troubles her much. Mr Perley received Rowlands letter last evening, we are very glad indeed to hear his health is improving. If I had known he was sick I should have made greater effort. After Mother got better, to have gone to Leeds. Mrs L was in this morning. She heard from Rowland when he was the sickest and had'nt heard since till I told her. Expects Mr Martin and Mrs Lee at her house tomorrow. Hope Rowland will pardon me for keeping his letter so long. I am very much obliged for the liberty of reading it. I have not heard from West Point since. Remember me with love to all who may inquire after me.

Yours  
E. A. Waite

To Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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356 1/8/1852

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0336

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Jan 8th 52

Dear Brother

I do not feel as well today as usual being afflicted with a severe headache, but I am gaining strength and flesh slowly and am in hopes to go out in a few days. What discourages me the most is my extraordinary susceptibility of cold. The slightest breath of cold air seems to close up my pores and gives me a cold unless I can overcome this difficulty, the climate will keep me within doors most of the Winter. I have my fears of returning to College and taking my old room and I don't know where I can get a better. The Sophomore Class is so large that they occupy their own rooms and all the best of the Freshman rooms. If I was in perfect health with 'listering' the windows and doors and covering the cracks with a carpet, I should get along well enough. But with the predisposition to a lung complaint which I think now is fastened upon me. It would be little less than self sacrifice for me to attempt to study under the same circumstances that I did in the Fall Term. But the state of my health will decide everything.

We have had a severe snow storm and the roads are drifted after the old fashion and the men have been out two days breaking them out.

Roland is the same as ever only worse. I think the evils of his natural disposition are increasing upon him. He seems to want energy, resolution, perseverance and independence of character, in fact all of the requisites of success in the world. But he has other qualities which if fully developed might be of great advantage to him in life. His sisters are <naging> marriage and if it is of the right kind, I think he had better conform to their views, & tell him he has arrived at that point in life, where suicide is inevitable and all he can do is to seek the most honorable death, whether to be drowned in the sea of matrimony or otherwise.

I like Addisons appearance very well and hope that he will go to see you. He has seen Lizzie and likes her very much, but think she is excessively little, but you know a Calafornian idea of everything is remarkably extensive.

I was to go to Livermore after Lizzie but the state of my health would not permit, and thus we were all deprived of the pleasure of a visit from her. In your letter to Charles I thought you prided yourself considerably on being able to hear the gossip of Maine without anyones knowing it. But as every one knows that you have a secret correspondent among us. Your information of remarkable movements (of the tongue) does not appear so wonderful.

But that was rather funny that the sage father of our Unkle Henry should take such a painful interest in your affairs as to try to arouse father's fears for his son's future matrimonial prospects. Mother told me and I told Lizzie and she wrote you and thats the whole story. I suppose L- wrote you that she had a present for your Twenty first birth day. If she didn't don't let her know that I have for perhaps she wishes to give you an agreeable surprise. It is a beautiful edition of Zumale poets of America, a very appropriate present, selected in fine taste.

Maria writes me that she is having a very gay time this winter, attending Balls, soirees et cetera but is kept from the Christmas gayeties by a severe cold. Report says that William is quite studious in his fathers law Books. I suppose mother wrote you all the news as so I shall none to tell. Write me soon and remember me as

Your aff Bro  
Rowland

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357 1/11/1852 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0337

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Jan 11 1852

Friend Howard

It is a week or more since I recd your very acceptable letter & I will endeavor to write plain the conjectures in which you seem to be indulging at my expense & in relation to my private affairs. In the first place you are correct in the supposition that I am a free man, free from entangling alliances with any & yet so far as I am concerned at peace with the whole world. (A certain portion of this little contemptible town of Yarmouth excepted). Then I must confess as hereupon I have few sympathies or bonds of relations or even friendship.

But to proceed - as I said I am a free man, free to go or come as I please, free to do as I please, to say what I please, free in the widest & most comprehensive sense of the term, & at present I feel no particular disadvantages from the peculiar Independence of my position. I reckon I am after all just about what you took me to be in respect to female society but nevertheless I do not yet despair of finding a better half to share the better or the worse, sometime or other as soon as I shall be ready to receive one.

It is a consoling reflection that there are enough of them such as they are, & some of them are good enough if you can only find them. But as for me I got kind of sick of the business & gave up in disgust as much as any thing. With no particular provocation & without any other pretext than my own individual impressions of propriety, I concluded it altogether wise to <dismiss> myself from all such connections for the present, & be ready to commence again when the occasion might seem to require it. I didn't cost me much of <course>. Whether it was more difficult for others I leave you to judge. Not that I am indifferent to the pain of others, by no sort of means. I regret anything like that most sincerely & wish it may not be on my account & really I imagine that the real happiness of all concerned was consulted in the <>.

As to the <rumor> of its accomplishment therefore I leave you to infer. It is done & can't be undone & I would not have it undone if I could. So now you see I am cast ashore, run aground yet at perfect liberty to swing in any direction I may choose & when I decide to put out if the wind <or> be favorable. I can do so without stopping to hoist in & stow away my anchors & cables. I am in readiness for the voyage.

But how is it with you? Still first I presume. Well, that is right & you incur less blame for doing so. But Old Jack they say has cut loose and anchored again rather suddenly. In fact I guess he was anchored in two places at the same time. That was too bad - too bad. There is no doubt about his playing a double game, I suppose. Who would have thought it of him. I always imagined that he was as immovable as the hills - <ad?ted>, faithful, unchanging <Cur> - one whom no thought or deed could vary from the star of his first adoration <> I had supposed that certain obligations increased by him in that quarter would compel him to the observance of his vows.

But it seems that all of these things & more too were not enough to arm his heart against those vily attacks of an unsuspected arrow. And then if he had only made a tolerable exchange it would seem to be better. But if the trouble was known I do not think his later solution a very flattering one for his taste. But there is no accounting for one's tastes in such things you know. & really I am beginning to think that mere respect is hardly a sufficient basis for such relations. Love goes when it is sent they say & I guess it does. Mine I fear has never yet been sent, when it ever will be or not is what the future alone can satisfactorily determine.

I saw Jack's present lady about a year ago, & really I was far from being favorably impressed with her personal appearance & accomplishments. A little and horrid girl about 18 I guess, as wild as a hawk, but Jack couldn't stand her facinations when they were so constantly bearing upon him & he therefore surrendered at discretions.

<Ardgraves> is married but this is probably no news to you. Well how wasted are his days of facination & gallantry in Brunswick. The first victim of the class of '50. Who'll be the next? I can't even guess. May be I shall take a notion to get married & go right straight off. I think this will be the only way I shall get off anyhow.

Perley was here one week ago to day. He was just returning from his vacation tour up <here> & he seemed to be in fine health & spirits for him. He is about as sick of Pedagoguing as I am & I presume that this will be the last year of the business for both of us. I shall be happy, most happy, to see you when your vacation comes. I expect a long visit from you of course & you must not disappoint me. I do not have much to do in school this term as we have a very small school. But I make my time of some profit to me by reading Law. This letter has been hastily written more so than it will be read I fear.

Write soon & remember me as

Your friend &c  
J.N. Jewett

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358 1/11/1852 *From:* R H Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0403

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Jan 11th [1852 see note 1]

Dear brother Otis

Mr Bates is trying to get a Private School. Mr Wing says he will keep. Our meeting house is done. It is to be Dedicated next Thursday. Charles is sick. He will get well. He is got a cold. Mr Wing makes us Read a verse til we can Read it Right. It snows realy hard now Rowland has got well so that he can go all about the house. so good bye from your affectionate brother

R H Gilmore

I guess I will write some more. I finished my letter once but I wanted to write some more to you. RBH will go to Brunswick next term. Mr Gilbert sails farm now. I want to no how dell you get along in your Class. How marks you have of demerits you have. Have you got many. If you have write.

So good bye

from R B H Gilmore

O O Howard

I have not rote very well. I Selft some

[Note 1. The year 1853 was written in pencil. I believe that it should have been 1852. The penmanship is more consistent with 1852. Also Charles wrote a letter at the same date (1/11/1852) in which he says that Dellie is writing a letter and is saying that Charles is sick.]

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359 1/18/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0338

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 18th '52

Dear Mother

I have taken my pen this evening to write home, and the question arises to whom shall I write out of my numerous correspondents at that cherished place! I am thinking on reflection that you deserve the next letter. Our examination finished last night & I came out as you will probably find before this reaches you, first in mathematics, fourth in french and thirty ninth in drawing. Mr Lee second in Math, third in french and sixteenth in drawing. I must now <trail> till next June. If I can rise twenty files in drawing, I will come out ahead at that examination. All things are possible to the determined mind - that is all reasonable things. I may do it - we will wait & see.

I have written a letter to Augustus to day & enclosed the dollar you sent me. You think it odd that I should be out of money - so do I. You know father let me have ten dollars. I bought some books to read in camp, particularly to keep from thinking so much about myself, my situation & my prospects. With a part of my money, I got some one to buy some things that I needed at the store. I let Langdon have a little, which he promised to pay in a few days, as soon as he got a letter from home, which he never did. In the summer while in Camp, I used to go to Joe's, you remember the little building close by the Camp ground, and get ice creams, and sometimes when it was hot & I did not feel like going to dinner, I would get a whole dinner. Well when I set out for Peekskill, I had between fifty & seventy five cents. Capt Brewerton would have let me have money from the treasury, but I forgot to ask him and I could not get it well after I came back. Here then is a fair explanation of my prodigality, showing at least where my money went to, if not my prudence.

I am now in debt about 25 dollars, I presume you wonder at this too. I will attempt an explanation. In the first place by coming in September I lost two months pay, 48 dollars. I was obliged to buy six pairs of white pants this summer, whereas my classmates had their old ones & bought none. Our class had to furnish themselves with a riding suit in addition, which has not come before till after furlough. This suit came to fourteen (fifteen) dollars. We have enough in all conscience to support us well for the four years, but you see by this that it is at present unequally distributed. One set of summer pants will last me nearly through. One riding dress & artillery suit will certainly. I now put in just as few orders as possible. Our drawing instruments came this year too - about 14 dollars. Third class men, those who are "boning" furlough as they call it, nearly all look threadbare.

Next June, I shall be I think about 12 dollars out of debt, that is, if I "bone" it hard. The two month's pay for the summer while we are away is given us in advance in Clothing. If we do not take it in Clothing we don't take it at all then. Perhaps you know that two dollars per month is reserved by the Government to give us a uniform suit & a sword when we graduate. Then in fact we have but 22 dollars a month now.

If you understand these statements you will not be surprised to find me in debt, and the strictest prudence would hardly have kept me from it. Those who are much out of debt made large deposits. If I draw money from home, for furlough, by prudence, I shall be able to more than repay it when I graduate, unless I should have the luck to be made an officer this coming year, of which I have no expectation, for since I have been squad marcher, I have not reported enough to please such military men as Capt Alden, our commandant, and then everybody knows I take more pride & more interest in my studies than in military bearing.

In our class four young men have been found deficient & are to be sent away, 6 more were deficient in drawing alone and are to be retained. One young man, Mr Philipps, when he came here says he did not know a vulgar fraction from a decimal & has by industry mastered the course in mathematics & in french but they 'found' him in drawing & say he must go. He failed to make a few straight marks & must leave. He has 180 demerit. His is the only case where drawing alone was the finale. I hate to see him go for he is my friend & I think it is palpable injustice.

This January is the first January examination in which any but plebes have been sent away. Mr Stevens & Webb of Maine were both 'found' last January, one in drawing & the other in Mathematics, but being permitted to stay both more than redeemed themselves before June & now are out of danger. Mr Browne has been 'on

pins' for some time, but he just saved himself again, next to the foot in Mathematics & also in french, & 45th in drawing. He will have to labor very hard between this and June to pass. After that he will have little trouble from the nature of the studies.

Just before they went to be examined in Mathematics, the last section (called "the immortal section") came to my room. They are all fine looking young men as there are on the Post. Some were as pale as a cloth, some trembling & all excited & anxious. They knew some of their number must go, but who? He that happens to get something that he cant do well on. I know some of them would as lief be shot as found deficient at this Academy. So much young men become attached to this place, after the first year. Our class is now 60 in number, no 59 - 15 or 20 more must take leave of us before we graduate.

My class is now drawing problems partly in perspective - niches, spheres, abacus, cones, cylinders, &c, with their shades & shadows the light coming in a given direction. It involves all our knowledge in mathematics to lay them out with the pencil, and the greatest care & neatness to put them in ink with the right line & circular pen. This exercise we have till the first of February instead of reciting in Mathematics, so that we are obliged to draw five hours a day.

Oh! How it makes my bones ache, but I begin to do admirably. I believe you would say some of my drawings look finely, though you would not understand them. But they are not half as good as some others in the class. But as usual - 'keep trying!'

I have said a good deal about West Point in this letter & its affairs, and if the above suggest anything, which you would like to know, you must mention it. I hope you will be able to say that Rowland is entirely well in your next letter. I shall answer Charlie's, Rowland's & Dellie's letters as soon as I can. I would like to write more & oftener, but you must see that I cannot always do it. But never imagine that I neglect to write through indolence, or want of affection for my mother & brothers, for you must know me too well to suspect me of the one or believe me guilty of the other. Give my love to all. Tell Rowland Alger, he needn't get married till I get home, for I want some young men in Leeds. After five more months of solid study I shall feel myself prepared for furlough & I fear you with others will find that I have'nt a bit more common sense or refinement, than when I set forth. But I am not going home to show what I know but to have the happiness of seeing again, face to face, my mother, father & brothers. So good night.

Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

I meant to write really nice when I started, but you will see how well I succeeded before you get through, if you ever do. From this you can form some faint idea of my great success in drawing topography. OOH

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360 1/18/1852 *From:* Peleg T. Perley

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0339

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Jan 18th '52

My Dear Old Chum,

What would I not give to have you sitting here to night with Liz and Mother and me! What a happy set we should be - in fact we are quite so now at least you would say Liz was could you look in upon her through these frosty windows and see as I do now working away, in her own graceful, happy way embroidering her 'scarf' and looking all so pleased to think she has got me to write to you for she says she is so busy she cant. As for me you have an idea that I am misanthropic, gloomy, unsocial, "ruined" in fine and it would be useless for me to tell you I am not so, so we will let it go as it is.

But by the way I am inclined to believe that I am about as happy as most men - mind you I have got to calling myself a man - and as for being "shattered" as 'Liz' and Lucretia (not Mrs. Waite) call me or as to having ever been love sick I most strenuously deny the accusation or the imputation. I am naturally communicative and say what a great many would keep to themselves and what had perhaps better be kept to myself and so under myself liable to be called ruined when I am not. You know just what I have passed through yes, suffered, for you know I did suffer, but you ought to know that I am not so gloomy and misanthropic as you pretend. But I am in a hurry and cant stop longer to talk, about myself except to say that I train "Liz" the best I know how. She goes to the Lyceum and we do hear some first rate lectures but she has found out some of my boys, who go there and detracts a good deal from my Pedagogueorial dignity by peeping round by me and making me laugh &c. Old Jackson, I don't know but you may have heard of it, has given Miss Clark the mitten and is engaged to another woman, a Miss Dearborn of East Pittston; and what is more Old Jewett has given Amanda the mitten. I saw Jewett a little more than a week since and he told me this with his own mouth.

What do you think of it? Eh! Isn't it a pretty pair? What do you say? I am ready to exclaim with Cicero "O tempora! O mores! Or as I should say O Moses! That Butler should have done it and got damned for it of course is nothing strange but that the pious and devoted Jack! And the deliberate, dispassionate, unwavering Jewett should have fallen from their allegiance is to me astounding, fairly so.

What is the "class of '50" coming to? I did not look for such a development so soon in fact I never did. I was much pleased with your glance back at our old college days. Many things that then occurred, already float dreamily before me while many show brightly and can never be forgot. How fortunate for us poor mortals it is that things past soon get shaded and dimmed. Byron says,

"Joy's recollection is no longer joy

While sorrow's memory is sorrow still"

but I think we forget our sorrows sooner than our joys and I am glad it is so.

I am really glad you are doing so well in your present career as you are and be assured I hear of nothing with more pleasure than your success. I have no fears for your success for your energy and perseverance will render your triumph certain.

In haste, I am as ever your more than friend.  
Peleg T. Perley

[To] O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard A.B.

West Point

New York

[Postmark stamp unreadable]

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361 1/30/1852 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0340

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Jan 30th 1852. The last part of this was written Sunday Feb 1st

Dear Brother

Although, I shall expect a letter from you tomorrow yet having a little spare time I occupy it in this manner. My health is decidedly poor although much improved. My general health is very good but my lungs are affected considerably and I have a coughing spell every morning. I am at a stand to know what to do. I fear if I return to College and occupy my cold room and devote myself assiduously to study that I shall be 'used up' for some time and you know if I do not return at the first of the term, that is in about 2 weeks, I cannot, for a year, if then. I think that to leave College at the present time will decidedly injure my prospects for life and I am afraid to continue there will ruin them. The former is certain and the latter uncertain. Now the question is, which is the greatest evil, the certainty or the uncertainty?

On account of making up my 'review' which I left last term I must decide very soon and my health at present will not permit me to study at all, if it does in the course of two or three weeks.

Another question with me is what is it best for me to do if I do not return to College? I should like to see you and talk over this subject. I think I ought not to stay in this climate unless there is some powerful motive for so doing. If I should leave Maine I should try either the Southern States or Calafornia. My inclinations at present lead me to look favorably upon the latter. If I understand its climate from what I have heard form Addison, Roland and others and from what I have read casually. I think it quite favorable to my constitution. The air is of equal temperature, and consumption and the thousand and one lung complaints incident to our State are unknown. The other diseases such as intermittent yellow fever and cholera are such as may be guarded against by proper attention to diet and apparel. Addison said, 'If your lungs trouble you so that you are unable to continue your studies come to Calafornia and I will see that you are well situated.' I have none of what is called 'Fever' for Calafornia, but rather regard a journey there as a sort of pennance that I owe to my forfeited health.

But perhaps I may not go to Calafornia or any where else, at least, don't say anything about it to any body. Dr Garcelen was here yesterday and advised me not to return to College at least for 6 weeks. I am quite fleshy after my sickness and probably if you should see me you would pronounce me to be in robust health.

They had a town meeting here yesterday (Saturday) to vote on loaning the credit of the town to the Rail Road. The Project signally failed. The friends of the measure being out voted two to one. The towns of Livermore, Wilton & Jay had voted to 'lend' before us, but will now retract (probably) as the measure was to raise \$75000 with 15000 for the share of each, and the taxpayers of those towns will not contribute any unless the whole amount is realized. The last hope of the Directors is now extinguished and future generations seem destined to see a road graded for 14 miles and abandoned. Which will probably teach them how futile are all such projects, and the above towns will sink into their former obscurity perhaps some what deepened by the dead loss of \$50,000 or more. A loss that falls the harder, because most of the sufferers are those of small property, who contributed their saving for this work. Father has lost his office of Treasurer and thinks he is very nearly secure for his debt against the Co. How Uncle Ensign is I don't know.

You probably hear from our Temperance law, now and then. I believe there is nothing that Down Easters feel so proud of as of that, although it meets with violent opposition in our own State yet such is the enthusiasm for it here and such its reputation abroad that I believe the Rowdies themselves are proud of it and of its author Neal Dow. Gov Hubbard at a late convention adopted the Law as his own child and has pronounced himself a temperate man now and forever and what John Hubbard says he means. I will send you a paper containing the proceedings of the Convention.

At my suggestion Father has subscribed for the Portland Advertiser for you and I suppose you will rec it regularly hereafter. By a late reduction, the price is 150 per year. I think it is the best paper in Maine. I wouldn't stay at West Point a week without a Maine Whig paper and I suppose you feel something so.

Our folks are well except Dellie who is complaining of various infirmities today and wondering if he shall be able to go to school tomorrow. It snows today, a regular cold winter snow storm of the worst kind, and out of doors all is chill and dreary and in doors Newspapers are in great demand. Grandmother is at Uncle Ensigns, is going to stay in town 2 or 3 months. She has a project in her head I believe to <remove> Uncle to Hallowell, but I don't know whether she will carry the day or not. John H has abandoned farming became a merchant trading in the shop that Jesse Lane occupied. I hope he won't quite ruin his father or anybody but himself by the operation. I have had one or two sleigh rides and 5 or 6 walks and shall double the amount this week if I can. We have not rec your rank yet, probably because we have not been to the Center P.O. I am glad to hear of your success and congratulate you upon your prospects. Hope to see you A No 1 at the end of the course.

Your aff Brother  
Rowland

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362 2/1/1852

*From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0341

South Leeds

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Feb 1 (1852) [the year was written in later, but it agrees with the letter from Rowland on Jan 30, 1852]

Dear brother

our school will kep two days more. I think Mr Bates will not get a <new> scool. It snows very hard. I have the headache. Rowland has got all most well. He is able to go all round the house. Doctr Garcelon sed he would get well soon if he takes care of himself. I cannot write a great deal. My head feels very bad. Our folks are eating dinner. I will make some letters. A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P a b c or C d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u n u x y z S Q R S T U V W H X Y Z

from R. H. Gilmore

[to] O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

Cadet O. O. Howard

West Point

N.Y.

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363 2/9/1852

*From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0342

Peekskill, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 9 Feby 52 [Monday]

Dear Cousin

W. Augustus died last Evening at ½ past 10 Oclk, after a painful illness of two weeks. His funeral will take place on Wednesday at ½ Past 10 AM. We should be pleased to have you with us on that occasion, also Mr Rundell, if the permission of Capt. Brewerton can be obtained for such purposes.

Your much afflicted and affectionate Uncle.

Ward B Howard

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364 2/15/1852 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0343

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Feb 15th 1852

Dear Mother,

I have received a letter & a paper from Rowland since I have written him, but I believe I have written him since I have written you, therefore I will address myself to my mother this time. Again, Rowland may have changed his purposes & returned to college. I presume it makes little difference to you at home to whom I personally address my letters, provided I do not neglect to write. Since as I suppose Otis' letters become common property among you. Taking this view of the case, one would think I ought to take much pains with my letters. So I ought, but I forget to do so. I begin with some such resolutions but they are soon swallowed up in thought all engrossing & lively reminiscences of home.

I have fulfilled the sad duty of attending the funeral of my Cousin Augustus the past week. I received a letter from Uncle Ward on Monday apprising me of his death, and inviting me to his funeral which was to take place the ensuing Wednesday. I got permission and started Wednesday morning immediately after Reveille crossing the river on the ice. It was then very warm & raining hard so that the crossing was becoming rather dangerous, but we crossed, Mr Rundell & myself, in safety. I found when I reached Uncle's that Augustus had been attacked with a violent brain fever two weeks before his death; this fever threw him into a delirium which scarcely left him till he breathed his last a week ago this evening. He wrote me a very cheerful letter just before he was taken ill, so that the news of his death came very unexpectedly to me. He must have had a dreadful struggle the last few days of his life, for his flesh was all wasted away, and he was so dreadfully emaciated that I could scarcely recognize him as the same young man whom I left a few weeks before so full of cheerfulness & hope. His father set much by him & feels his death deeply. He scarcely left his bed-side during his last illness & took no rest. His sister misses him & weeps for him. Yet both feel reconciled to his death - "It is better - say they - than such a life, as he seemed doomed to lead." So also it seems to me; and I am in no wise certain that an early death for the human being prepared to die is not always gain. But life is sweet & who in the freshness of youth is willing to part with it? Uncle has about half consented to go to Maine with me, when I go on furlough.

What troubles me most is Rowland's last letter. I cannot bear the idea that he should lose his place in his class. Yet I would not have him endanger his health. "Health of course must be the first consideration. He must, however, try his hand at studying at home. I never made any great headway at it I know, but I think I could have studied at home, had a years standing been at stake. But my constitution is of firmer build than than his. It seems odd to me, but I never have had the least cough since I have been here. Last winter I went till January without a great coat & this winter I have worn, till within a very few days, a pair of shoes as thin as as your own; no cadet ever has any cough. This perhaps is owing to the atmosphere of the place in a measure. I am troubled a little of late with indigestion, but it is because I eat too much & too fast and since there are no drills, I have no exercise.

Mr Rundell & myself returned from Peekskill after the funeral the same night, leaving there about eight o'clock in the evening. We came up in the cars, leaving them at the station house, just opposite the Point. It was very dark but had ceased to rain. The ice had started in the river, and cadets as we were, we did not have the hardihood to attempt to walk back the way we came, for in the morning in broad day light we had trouble enough to keep out of the holes. So we walked down the river about two miles till we came to a place where the river was open; swung a lantern over our heads as a signal to the ferry man on the opposite shore. He answered us by a like demonstration, rowed across in a few moments & took us back, safe & sound. Then we had two miles to walk in the mud nice & deep. I took the lead & in a half hour was in my room, wet with perspiration & covered with mud. I had just time to change my clothes & get into bed when taps beat. So you see by a little perseverance I managed not to over-stay my leave this time. Rundell almost always over stays his leaves & would this time if it had not been for me.

Give my love to Rowland B, Roland A, Charlie, Dellie & father. All in a bunch. I am sorry to see the downfall of all Uncle Ensign's rail-road projects. Remember me to his & John's family when you meet them.

I receive the Advertiser every Thursday & tell father he could not have done me a greater favor than he did by subscribing for it for me. Now I can amuse myself over the results of the celebrated 'Liquor Law'. Cadets are generally strenuously opposed to this law. I have based my opinion of it entirely on its efficiency. If it really subserves the cause of temperance, to the extent that it seems to, I am its advocate. I hope however that political matter will not be made of it, that it will not be adopted as the child of any particular party, but that it will be regarded like any other law which serves to protect the community against crime & violence, as an efficient agent for purging our state, and ridding it of the pest which has so long infected it. I feared at first that the measure was a little premature - perhaps too violent. That the opposition against it would hinder its execution & subvert the object intended, but I am glad to see it is not so. I am the only cadet that I have heard speak in favor of it. Mr Browne is deadily opposed to it. Sawtelle thinks the people of Maine are acting the fool or are crazy.

I love reform. As I stand here among young men from all parts of the union, each praising his own state, my eye turns towards my own, my ideas become in a measure generalized, and I look upon Maine as a whole more than I used to & long for her prosperity. I rejoice especially to see her take the lead in any question of importance, especially in any moral, intellectual or political reform. It seems nonsense often, "gass" as the phrase 'goes' to hear a man professing attachment to his state, that is it seems so to those who, with discontented spirits work on from day to day & scarcely leave the limited space of their immediate neighborhood. But let them go away where local questions are never thought of where the State is spoken of continually, as a whole, then local attachments are less felt, and local prejudices give place to wider views and unconsciously you will find that your state at large has become the theme of your thoughts & to some degree an object of your affections. It is said by the traveler that he knows not that he loves his country, till he has once left its bounds, till he can view it as a whole & at a distance.

My sheet is full. Good night. Write soon.

Your affectionate son.  
Otis

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365 2/22/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0344

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds February 22th 1852

My Dear Son,

This is the sabbath and rather snowy. We have just now concluded our sabbath dinner and Nancy is clearing away the dinner dishes while I am giving my time to writing to my distant son; and in a sick room for Roland is confined to his bed, with a fever. He was seized with a violent fever a few days since. It has some what abated and I am hopes, he will be about house in a few days.

I was surprised to hear of Augustus Howard's death, thinking he might live a great many years. I knew so little of him and his worth that I can reason coldly in regard to him, or his care, as death is in the world and we must all meet him some day. He might as well meet his cold embrace now as at any time, but I am not wanting in sympathy for his bereaved father and sister. His childhood has past before them in brightness and hope and all his former promise is recorded in their hearts, and they have seen them cut off as when they were looking for their britest hopes to be realized. But I hope he has joined his Mother in a world of everlasting bliss. I have been told that her interest and care for him were intense, that even when her health was such that she could not sit up, she had her cot in her parlor and kept him with her, from what I have been told of the strength of character she possessed I thought he would be a fine young man.

R.B.H. has regained his flesh. You would not judge from his looks there was any lack in his health any how, neither from his general appearance. He is cheerful. I cannot advise him anyway. He wears a warm great coat over his dress coat in our warm rooms. He reads the most of the time, goes out but little, but to think of his going back to those cold cold College rooms and confining himself to hard study is no use, in his present habits is not to be thought of he says. His looks are so healthful he could not get excused from the slightest duty. Sometimes I think if his habits could be changed, if he would rise early in the morning and bathe in cold water and walk swiftly untill he become warm with exercise, he might get a good circulation in that way. I have mentioned the subject to him and offered to rub him to get the right circulation, but he does not seem to have any energy about him. Walking is out of the question. We have not had ten mornings in three months that an invalid could do that. We have had a very uncomfortable winter in every respect. The day you went to Peekskill we had rain here all day which settled the snow and made the traveling hard and slippery, but another snow storm has covered the ice deep under it.

Your grandmother is at your Uncle Ensign's stoping for some time. She has not been here yet. She been there more than a month. I don't think she is as well usual and seems older and more child like than ever before. Your aunt Ann is with Martha Jane at Portland enjoying herself very much, receiving visits and visiting. Mother had a letter from her and M.J. one week since in which they mentioned some of the places she had visited. One was Mrs Waites. I have heard lately that old Mr Waite had died this winter, Lizzies Grandfather, but none of the particulars of his death.

Ann mentioned Judge Wells and wife had called to see her, and Mrs Wells was much rejoiced at the return of her son Charles, your old acquaintance, and school fellow. Said she look on him as one from the dead, she had never expected to see him again, had not heard from for three years until they heard from him in Newyork. Said his health was not good. You did not say whether Addison came up to West Point or not. When he was here he said he should go to see you. Your aunt Ann is delighted with his engagement in marriage to Mrs Brooks of Hollowel.

I missed Doct. Lord this winter very much. Doct Gancelon took charge of Rowland through his sickness and Doct Prescott of Monmouth has visiting Roland A. He is practicing in this part of the town. Tell doct L if you write to him he is very much missed greatly here. We have a great deal of sickness in town this winter. We have no Physician yet. I suspect the Doct has meet with some cold weather this winter where he is, if we judge from the statements in the papers.

Charlie is thinking of Readfield this spring but I have little courage to have him go from me, as there is very few days that I do not have nursing to do for him. He is fond of improvement. He is reading the history of England

now. Dellie will talk about every Country in the four quarters of the Globe, if anybody will talk with him. He has been in woods and chopped wood with his father two days. Our wood pile is laying along by the wall as usual ready for spring chopping.

I do not allow myself to dwell on the future in Rowland case. There is not a doubt but his lungs are diseased, and must depend on the future care he has of himself. The deaths in town are Mr Isaac Gould, Mr William Moulton, Mr Luther Ramsdell, Mr Ruggles Sylvester, Mrs C Tuppen, Mrs Beals at Mr Thomas Additons. Those are what I can recollect, in Leeds.

Tuesday

I shall be under the necessity of closing my letter without covering all the white paper, as I have company. You must try and make as good sense of it as you can. Your affectionate mother

Eliza Gilmore

[to] O O Howard

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366 2/23/1852 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0345

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Feb 23d 52

Dear Brother

I am in hopes to enclose this in a letter which Mother proposes to write you today. It is more trouble for her to write than for me and therefore I shall relieve her as much as possible. I had as leave write all day as not (such as it is) were it not for lameing my wrist by the operation. My health has not improved at all since my last but has rather failed than otherwise. I went to Halard last week and took considerable cold in riding home on a cold raw day. But my appetite is good and my strength middling for one of my obesity. My principle trouble is inflammation of my lungs, causing soreness of the chest and considerable cough mornings. I have on now two or three plasters as counter-irritants and am in hopes to experience some relief therefrom. It is now one week since the term commenced and I have not studied any yet. The Dr told me it would be better to make up half a term than to study much in the present state of my health and the weather.

Mother rec yours by last nights mail and as you conjecture it has passed through the whole reading circle. For my cousin deceased, I cannot feel otherwise under the circumstances than an entire stranger. Mother feels otherwise, has seen and conversed with him. I am glad that you take an interest in the Maine. It is something that every Maine man should be proud to own and vindicate. Its past has placed our state in an enviable position and gives consistency and truth to her motto, Dirigo, which heretofore I have thought was presumptuous for the cold north east corner of Down East to assume. I think that our beloved state is destined to some thing the same position towards the rest of the states that the little republic of San Marino bears to the states of Italy. Situated on cold, inhospitable mountains, sparsely populated with few resources or wealth of no political importance. It has furnished an example to the world of a people free, but firm and decided in their government - catholic, but consistent and upright in their religion and morals and amid the changes, ambitions and counter revolutions of a thousand years, as a state it has constantly maintained its independence and integrity. I look upon Maine as a state not destined to lead in wealth, political importance and influence, but in social and moral reform. She is already a noble example and her hardy men and women have vocally raised her standard and sternly say Dirigo!!

So much for our Pine Tree mother. If it was requisite for you to reside abroad, in order to inspire you with 'amor patriae' I am glad that event has taken place. But if you lose Maine, defend her highest and almost her first honor among her sisters.

The Rum law. What it has done for her you have seen, what it will do for her, Henrys way of judging is "the future by the fact" N.H. is agitating the passage of the Law. Mass will pass it. R.I. has passed it, N.Y. must pass it. She may not this year but I wager petitioners with 'Horace' at their head will not be driven, coaxed nor bought, although without doubt patriotic Distillers, Sellers, importers &c are contributing strongly for a latter trial, republican measure. The most interesting thing to the people of Leeds at present is the division of their own. Almost every man has his own position which he of course pertinaciously maintains as the best. The most practicable, feasible and popular method that I have heard of, is to enact each individual (is that a ball?) but into a separate town. I think that all antagonistical interests would in that way be reconciled.

All of this difficulty arose from the here celebrated Loan question which if passed, the dear people imagined would cause great revolutions in Stocks and place an almost fabulous amount of money in the hands of Capitalists. Whereas the Simple question was whether the town would become responsible for the interest on \$15000 worth of RR Bonds if the business of the Road did not pay that much. And so we have had town meetings, and speeches more remarkable from their energy than their eloquence. I attended one of the aforesaid meetings and the way Turner Gould Bacon & Co spread themselves was a caution to amateurs. The eloquent Lloyd took the American Eagle for his theme and standing with his head within half an inch of the plastering foaming at the mouth, red from over exertion if he did'nt discourse direct 'music' then I know nothing of the nature of aforesaid bird.

Of Rolands sickness Mother will probably write you. William and Maria were well when I was at H. Halowl has

become a city. It has some thing like 2500 inhabitants. The snow is about three feet deep. Father has finished getting up his wood. I think I will write to Lizzie today. I shall expect a letter from you on Tuesday.

Rowland

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367 3/7/1852

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0347

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Mar 7th 1852

Dear Mother,

After spending the sabbath in our usual occupations, that is in those occupations which we usually engage in on the sabbath, I find myself in my room, sitting at my table thinking about furlough, about my home & my friends in the distance. As I told you I have made up my mind not to study any more Sundays & Sunday evenings. I find it rather hard to abstain, when I know that I have'nt got a word of my lessons for the morrow, but a resolution is of course, good for nothing unless persevered in, so to preclude all inclinations of <coning> my text books this evening I have undertaken the very excusable labor of writing to my mother.

Since I have spoken of it, you may be a little curious & inquire how I manage Monday mornings, not having got my lessons the night before. Why I do as you do, washing mornings. I get up betimes & go at it, regulating the precise time of rising according to the length & difficulties of my respective lessons - sometimes at 1/2 past 3, sometimes at 4, and oftener at five. You ask, is there no danger of being reported! No, in the winter season I never knew an officer to get up before 6 o'clock nor would I, if I were in their places. I do hate to turn out so early, but I will not let laziness make me do poorly.

How do you all do. The invalids or as the frenchman says, 'les Malades'! How do they do - the two Rolands? You see by coupling their names I cannot do justice to the respective orthography of each. But seriously is not Rowland Bailey getting better? Are his lungs affected? I cannot seem to make much out of him. He says he looks well so much so that I would not believe him sick & still he is not well. Has he a bad cough like the one I carried to Brunswick a few years ago? Tell him I cured myself with Ayers Cherry Pectoral. This remedy might be efficient with him. But he must mind & not drink it by the gill as I did, for he might not have my strength of chest to bear it.

I presume you would be a little surprised & not a little disappointed if I should write you that I could not leave West Point this summer, and yet such might seem to be the case from a letter of the Secretary of War to a young man who formerly belonged to our class, but was found deficient & turned back last June. Mr Black (that is the young man's name) wrote to the Secretary of War, to see if he could not get a furlough with our class. The Secretary of War replied that he could not allow him one, for according to the regulations no young man could have a furlough till he had been here two entire encampments. He came in September with me. So if on that ground he is deprived of a furlough this year, on the same my prospect of a furlough is rather dim. Yet you need not be afraid, for I will go any how. They do things often in the Army without stickling at small things.

Capt Brewerton could not put on the face to tell me I could not go on furlough with my class, although he can tell those young men who have been 'found deficient' & turned back flatly that they cannot go till their present class does. But putting the worst construction we can upon the matter: supposing he would say, Mr Howard, I am sorry to tell you that you cannot go away this summer, but must stay & keep our pleasant company. I shall reply without hesitation. Capt Brewerton, I have not seen my home for two long years. My class is about to leave, & it is palpable injustice to keep me here. Give me my leave, or I tender my warrant as Cadet. Yes I shall certainly heave up my situation before I give up my furlough; unless I merit this as a punishment for some crime not yet committed.

This I believe is the meanest place on earth; just think of it here is Warren L, my friend & so near & I cannot ever see him without infringing the most stringent of our regulations. When I write I am ashamed to say to you that I don't know how he is & what he is doing? He took notice of me when I was sick, he came to me. When I heard that he was sick I could not get near him. You must not say any of you at home believe this to be pride. For it is no such thing - it is absolute necessity. When I was a plebe, I could go with comparatively little danger down to his barracks, but now every officer on the post will recognize me at any distance. I saw him pass the other day. He looked well at a little distance. I was marching my section. He did not see me.

Has Roland A recovered entirely from his fever? I was thinking about him this morning, when I saw a young man who resembled him a little I fancied.

My pen is very treacherous, tell father. In fact it is one that I gave up as good for nothing a month ago but I could not raise a better this evening. Perhaps I might write better with a stick. I do really long to see your faces once more, & time begins to drag because of my impatience. But 'drills' '<Ruon> Jones' will soon cool my impatience. Saturday evening I walked my first extra tour of guard duty. The first punishment baiting demerit, that I have received since I have been here. We had some very hard problems one night. Just before I went on Post as Sentinel, I had been studying them, but had not succeeded in solving a single one. So, I thought, there would be no danger in talking at the door of a room with a classmate who roomed on my Post about the said problems. Well, a military little Cadet Captain Mullan being officer of the day, came round to inspect for lazy sentinels, opened the door of the entry in which I was or rather ought to have been walking & asked 'all right'. I hastened into a proper place & answered 'all right', but 'twas no go! He did not see me in the door of a room, but suspected that that was the case & reported me accordingly. I knew I was guilty & did not say much about it, but felt rather mean walking extras for it.

Lizzie wrote me that she saw Aunt Ann in Portland at Uncle Henry's at whose house she attended quite a large family party. Do you know whether she has heard from Perry lately? What has become of the poor boy?

Give my love to Grandmother. Tell her she must keep smart if possible till I get home. Ask her if she cannot tell you something to write me. Give my love to Charlie & Dellie, ask them what kind of a looking being they imagine their cadet brother to be. Tell them I will pay them for all the letters they will write me, by coming to see them next June. Rowland Bailey must get well as soon as he can. I cant endure the thought of his staying, at home half well, half sick. Tell him I am ashamed of writing so few & so short letters as I have been obliged to of late, but I will try & repay him one of these days. How is father's health? Does he grow old? And in spite of the liquor law does he keep 'apple juice' in his cellar? Good night! I have filled my sheet, if you can read it you can do better than I could a fortnight hence. Tell me of your own welfare & remember that I am.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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368 3/14/1852 *From:* Charles [H Howard]

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0348a

Leeds

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 14th 1852

Dear brother

I have just eaten my dinner at home; a privelidge which you do not injoy. I did expect to be at Kents Hill before this. The reason why I did not go before was because Roland A was so sick, for he has been very sick. I believe Mother wrote to you in her last letter that he was sick with a fever. He had mostly recovered from that when he was taken down again by the Erysipelas which he had in his head. He was very sick but about all that Mother did for him was to put on Rum. She kept cloths wet with it all of the time on his face. The Doct burnt his forehead and neck so he kept it out of his hair & did not have his hair all come out as you did. And another thing he had his friends to take care of him.

There has been a great deal of sickness in this town this spring. Three little children have died here in this neighborhood lately, Jimie Gilbert, Henry's son died last night at about 10 oclock. He was about six years old. About two weeks ago Orman Wing's oldest and youngest children died with the same disease which was the Canker Rash. Ormans children were both of them little girls, one was about 3 and the other 6 or 7 years of age. His wife and his little boy had it at the same time. Henry Brewster has had it too, and his sister Martha.

Before Roland was taken sick he and father had got up about 17 cords of wood. Rodelphus, and I, & Rowland Baily have cut some of it up. RB cuts some and in a while, father has split most all that we have cut. Father has done more work this winter and spring than he has before for a long time. He cut almost all of the wood and Roland drove team. Now Roland is sick and he helps me do the chores. He cleans out the largest cistern most of the time. Dellie helps me some about my chores.

Would you like to know about the things out to the barn? I think you would. We have got two horses, one Rowland used to call his colt and the other is my little red colt. He will be 3 years old this summer. He is about as large as the other. Rowland has harnessed him two or three times. He goes well. We have taught him to back some. There is ten head of cattle now, four oxen & two cows. One of our cows died the other night. We have about seventy sheep. We did not have so much hay last year as common. The hay is rather low in both the sheep & the other barn.

It is growing dark so that I cannot see the line and I must stop writing. Mother & RB have gone down to Mr Gilbert. We rec a letter from you last night and a paper from Warren L. I have been reading the Hist of Eng by Hume this spring. I have read two Vol. I want to go to school this spring. I know that I shall learn.

Yours &c  
Charles

P.S. I must go to doing my chores. Good bye.

[Envelope]  
O. O. Howard  
West Point  
N.Y.

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland.]

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369 3/14/1852 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0348b

Leeds

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Charles written on March 14th 1852]

Dear Brother

I came in here and found Charles scribbling away and thought I would squeeze in a word, always having my pen ready. With no objections to writing except the mechanical part, i.e. in my way. Our snow is gradually melting away and sleighing is decidedly a bore. I had to lead the colt yesterday from Mr Bates with mother in the sleigh. Slump! Slump, all the way. Roland is rapidly recovering. He is thought by some to have been dangerously sick. I will write you a letter in a few days. Till then farewell.

Your Brother  
Rowland

Mch 15th

Charles has not filled up his sheet and I will occupy some of the spare cover. I have not studied any since last November. I left College two weeks before the end of the term and of course have all of the review to make up, which after laying three months is harder than it otherwise would be. Then I have to this or some future time the studies of this Term of which the Greek will be very hard for me. When at Brunswick last Fall, I had as much as I could do to keep up with the class and then ranked among the last in it. I have not a taste for study. I cannot learn as easy as I could three years ago. My health certainly will not permit harder study than I pursued last fall. I have a cough mornings and cannot bear any weight on my chest. The slightest cold gives a weeks soreness that I feel at almost every breath. My room is cold and uncomfortable. In consideration of these things is it a wonder that I do not know what to do about returning to College. My forte is in declamation and debate in which I can bring to bear my extensive but desultory readings but in recitation of Latin & Greek I fail, totally fail. Then you will say that fact should incite you to increased exertion. Those are my sentiments,

[See Note 1]

But there's the rub. I cannot over task my health. As I said before, it is hard for me, very hard, to prepare a lesson in the Languages, and after it is prepared to be among the poorest!

It is more than I can well bear. You will say this is false pride. Perhaps so, but I can't feel hardly to look a classmate in the face after 'failure'. When I went to Brunswick, for reasons not worth while to mention, I was particularly courted by individuals of my own and other classes and by Societies. During the Term these things remained the same, or nearly so. But making no better recitations than I did and no better than I expect to do if I return. You will see immediately that my situation will be, to a person of my temperament, disagreeable. So much so that to tell the truth, I look forward to four years at B as an unpleasant season. Things at College, they tell me, are different from what they were when you was there. A scramble for popularity has been succeeded by a scramble for rank and there are estimated by their standing upon the Proffs books. In English studies I hope, I trust I shall succeed better, and was I in a place where I could pursue those in accordance with my taste, I should enjoy myself much better. Unkle Ensign suggests that I remain 'out' till next Fall and then enter some other College. That is the course I would like to pursue, following in the mean time some active employment untill I fortified myself in a measure for sedentary pursuits.

My inclination points to Brown Univ, but if I should go so far from home I should not be worth a cent at the end of my course, and even your \$400 is better than nothing. This is the state of things and so you wonder that I don't know what to do. I want you to write me your disinterested opinion. What is the best course for me to steer. Judge me not by yourself but my myself as I have written to you. I do not wish to incur the charge of egotism by filling my sheet with my own concerns, but hope you will excuse me.

I have taken 3 bottles of that Pectoral you spoke of without receiving material benefit. Grandmother wishes to be remembered to you. She says next summer you must come and see her and bring Lizzie and make her a long visit. A project the continuation of which I suppose would put you almost in ecstasies at the present time. In regard to your getting caught off guard. It is nothing more than I expected if you tried that experiment. You know you was always caught when up to anything particular.

[The above was written on the Envelope]

O. O. Howard

West Point

N.Y.

[Note 1: The 2 page fragment from here to the end was attached to the letter of June 3, 1854 (453). It was written by Rowland to Otis while he was sick in the winter of 1851/1852. Otis' letter of March 21, 1852 is making reference to Rowland's suggestion in the fragment of attending Brown, and so it must be after this fragment. The words "But there's" were at the end of the first part of the letter and fits well with "the rub" from the fragment.]

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370 3/14/1852 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0349

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 14 1852

Friend Howard

Yours of the 22d ult was duly received & will be very cheerfully acknowledged. Of this I do not need to assure you. But how are you on Intervention & the next Presidential Election? Things which are at present agitating "the country & the Whole country". What is your own opinion of Kossuth, or do you have so much mathematics &c &c to attend to, that you are unable to give even a passing attention to the great Maggor & the cause for which is so indefatigably laboring? If I recollect rightly such things did not much concern us when in College & it may be that they are alike foreign to the business & thoughts of Cadets. But be this as it may. I have my own notions of the matter & I presume you have. Townsend & I agree perfectly here. Now I go in for checking the Russian Bear on his predatory incursion, south of his hereditary limits. He is of a disposition & motive altogether too fierce & overbearing for milder regions, though in his own arctic home he may be a pretty good Bear & nothing more. He has not yet learned how to put up his thick & heavy Furs & function in unison that they are as appropriate & necessary in the temperate & even torrid as they are in the Frigid Zone. He should in this respect be taught a lesson of wisdom by experience & be made to feel the suffocation, which is dear to his temerity & presumption in trespassing upon the enclosures of his more impassioned & liberal neighbors.

Or come to the plain matter of fact, I believe that the Russian Government, is the embodiment of every thing hostile to the spread or even the existence of liberal principles. It is the essence of concentrated Despotism in Europe & as such sits like an incubus upon the neck of Freedom, political & religions in the Eastern Continent. It is the leading antagonist of the very principles in which our government is based & as such it is & must be impossible for us to remain friends for any great length of time. The development of liberal Institutions in Europe demands our sympathy & assistance which cannot be rendered without virtually entering our protest most emphatically against Russian interference. I don't conceive that we are in any danger of causing ruin speedily to a rupture with that center of Despotism by a firm but respectful protest against its unjust & illegal assumptions, than we are by granting our encouragement & sympathy to those who are struggling for an Independent political existence. In the one case as well as in the other we openly avow our disapproval of the position which the Russian government has unwarrantably assumed.

I must confess that I am surprised at the quibbling and disputations that our Legislators are indulging in upon this question. Are we a free people having a free government or are we also tributary to the great stream of Tyranny & Slavishness, which pours its muddy waters of Adulation & Intrusion into the lap of semi civilized Russia? Are we or are we not what the world has been pleased hitherto to regard as "The home of the Free & the Brave". It seems to me that upon this question, the shortest possible amount of Time to decide is necessary - of what importance is the friendship of Russia to us. Let them shut their Ports to our commerce, & refuse to send us her Iron &c. So far as her Iron & her other Products are concerned I wish not only she but other European nations would refuse them to us. then should we develop our own native resources & grow great on the products of our own Industry. Confound this fawning to Russia & Austria too, I say. I grow impatient & sick as I contemplate the endless discussion, which the question of Intervention or nonintervention, of tradition and exigency & expediency, has already given rise to in our Congress with as little prospect of settlement as ever. Why not decide in one way or another & that too speedily.

But this is a question too "big" for a single sheet & I will therefore leave it. I would be content to leave it to the judgement & patriotism of our statesmen, if they would only decide sooner or later & stop their confounding clamors. But yet I cannot & do not entirely uphold Kossuth in his plan of operations. His appeal from Congress to the people, I do not exactly like the appearance of. I think it has a tendency to stir up the people against the government, & this is certainly very undesirable as it might endanger our own internal peace & serenity much more than Russian despotism can. That he is a true patriot & a sincere lover of civil liberty I do not question. I hardly think however that I shall preach a crusade against either <> or Kossuth though I should like most mightily to see them both put in to their proper positions. It is humiliating to intelligence & civilization that a semi-barbarous Autocrat should be allowed to reduce the character & Institutions of enlightened nations to his own servile standard. But hold up my pen.

I haven't said a word about the women yet. Well they do not disturb me at all now-a-days. & I give my thoughts to other & gamier subjects. & yet I can't tell how soon I shall be again entangled, though I see no possible chance now. I spent my last vacation or the most of it, in Portland with Perley, not having any woman to go to see. I now am busy in the Day-time & amuse myself evenings by reading Law &c. When is your vacation. I expect a visit from you then you know. Just give us a little information.

Truly Yr Friend  
J. N. Jewett

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371 3/21/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0346

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. March 21st 52

My dear Mother.

I presume you begin to think it is time you received a letter from the only son who is now absent from you. I have written two letters to Rowland, so near together that he will probably get them both by the same mail. I find that the letters that I write on Sunday never reach you till the next Saturday. I know that I could remedy this by writing in the middle of the week, but when I do this, I write so slowly that I hardly ever finish them till after taps, and it is poor policy for me to take the time out of my sleep. I always feel less clear headed the next day, and if I practice sitting up it would in time abate the vigor & energy that I am obliged at all times to display in order to preserve the confidence of my instructors & maintain my position.

If I graduate ahead in Mathematics as I expect to, if I choose, I can return to West Point as an instructor in that branch. The pay of an assistant professor is nearly one hundred dollars a month. This you see for a young man who needs a competency is worth striving for. But I dislike the idea of involving myself heart & soul in mathematics. I covet a field where other powers of the mind are called into exercise. Yet there are many advantages in a station at West Point. It gives a person in a measure, a permanent home. He is not subject to be sent hither & thither according to the exigencies of the moment. A wild life full of chance & change, is not repugnant to my enthusiastic nature, but if I should see fit to get married I would be indisposed to lead such a harum-scarum existence as the most of young officers are obliged to lead. As long as I remain in the army there is not the least danger of a want of a competency but seldom is an army officer rich.

I presume you often puzzle yourself over my views & leading principles, and wonder that war is not repugnant to every principle of my nature. Our good Christian people who reverence Washington and are willing to sustain & support in every respect the solid principles that he promulgated, that he sacrificed ease and pleasure to introduce, are apt to forget the basis of our government. They talk non-resistance, like Quakers, under any & all circumstances. Our Government is essentially mild & pacific, is ever ready to substitute intelligence & diplomacy for brute bravery & force, but still in the present state of the world our good & far famed government would very soon dwindle into insignificance if not be blotted from existence, if it proclaimed itself to the world a perfectly non-resistant; if it threw aside every means of defence; theologians & moralists may talk; fancy may depict a world of peace, amity & good will; but the most devoted Christian, who becomes a statesman, who opens his eyes & looks abroad without prejudice, & dogmatism sees at once that these model non-resistant states are but the airy creations of enthusiasts, who see evil in society & wish to experiment and through a desire of ameliorating man, propose measures which at present would be a curse rather than a blessing.

Others care not for expediency. They extend to nations at once the rules which our savior promulgated for the regeneration of the individual. In theory it is fine. But we know that a man must have a single heart before he can & will carry out our Savior's principles & precepts. Nations are composed of many & conflicting elements - it is impossible for them to act as an individual in individual cases. The Christian who is wronged, can heap his enemy with shame by forgiving him freely. Between heart & heart this influence is direct and all powerful. But the soul of an ambitious State is not so easily reached & tamed. If the individual in his humility & through a Christian spirit literally opens his vesture & bares his bosom to the knife of a heartless assassin; if he spare him 'tis well; if he slay him, the victim is a martyr to the cause & the principles he maintains; he will be the gainer since he goes to a better world. But let a nation like ours publish such, as an actuating principle, how soon would the beautiful fabric of our free republican government, be the object of the rapacity & avarice of foreign powers. How soon would our free institutions, disappear before the tread of Ambition & anarchy? Would it be right; would it promote the cause of Christianity, of general peace & universal love, to remain quiet, passive, & become extinct, I think not?

What then is the duty of the young man, who has been born in this free & favored land? His country has given him birth, afforded him every opportunity of culture extended to him a protecting arm - at the same time permitting him free thought & free action? It is right, it is his duty to defend her. Our fathers have bequeathed us a rich treasure and we their sons must guard it; we must give to the millions that come after us, the same rights that we enjoy.

“How then does this apply to you my son?” There in short is the sum token. I believe a defensive war is right, as the father would believe it right to slay the assassin, who was about to murder his wife & children, as the brother would believe it right to raise his arm against the villain who would seduce his sister & strip from her all that she possessed worth living for her character. Believing so I could conscientiously take the sword. But there may never be the necessity, perhaps reflection may tell me that I can do more in civil life.

My heart would incline me to do good, for a pleasure to take the position where I could benefit others the most, but my head gets filled with ambition, vanity & self love have good, deep root and will not easily be rooted out. It will not do to be governed by small narrow contracted views. It is wrong to pitch upon some ideas, the offspring perchance of a timid shrinking heart, and fashion it into a principle, to pitch upon some dogma & make every thing else conform thereto.

My mother need not tremble for me - a courageous soul is the ground work of all true greatness. I feel conscious, excepting at times when I have been acting the fool, that I am made for something, and therefore feel a dignity & a pleasure in pressing onward.

Rowland wrote me somewhat about Brown University. Tell him to inform me more about the course of study pursued there. I begin to agree with him that if he dislikes Latin & Greek & has no peculiar love for mathematics, to continue his course at Bowdoin might be an injury to him intellectually. But I feel that he ought to systematize his acquirements. If he could be made to believe it he is far in advance of what I was when I entered college. I was then but a child and far from being a thorough scholar. The best way after all is said & done is for him to take his own course. Then he will feel an interest in what he undertakes and we will not fear a failure. He must take exercise this spring & summer, not too much, but work moderately with father & Roland A.

Tell Charlie that I would put in, with this, a half sheet to him, but I am out of paper & dislike to borrow. I am making some preparations for furlough, and occasionally laying some projects. But I neither want nor expect any exciting pleasures. I shall return quietly, placing my enjoyment in prospective, in the welcome that I shall receive from you all, the happiness that I shall feel in being with Lizzie, & my mother, with my brothers & my old friends. I shall wear uniform, because I do not feel able in addition to provide myself with a citizen suit. But I am not going to be vain about it. If I thought I should become vain through attention or flattery, I would return with as simple a suit as possible, but the pride that I have, is deeper than vanity arising from dress.

Uncle Ward insists upon my stopping with him a few days before I leave for Maine. Little Classon wants me to go with him to N. York City, so that he & I together may support each other against the temptations that our classmates will throw around us. He & I braved ridicule & went to the Bible class & he wishes to show others that we can visit the city of N. York and enjoy ourselves properly, which the Cadet on furlough seldom does.

If possible, I would like to gain a little knowledge of the Great City, get a little accustomed to civilized society, before I start for Maine, therefore I may stop a couple of days in N. York. If we get away Friday afternoon or Saturday I shall stop in N. York till Monday. I think, though I know that I would feel impatient to be with you. Older Cadets say, it is best not to be in too much haste, if we would enjoy furlough. If Uncle resolves to go on with me I shall have to stop with him instead of going to the City for a day or two, but I don't much think he will. I am of the opinion that Uncle Ward is rather poor, though he always puts the bright side out.

In my studies I continue to do very well. My standing in French for last month is no test, for I got one or two low marks through accident having one or two French letters to write which I had not been able to prepare. The main object is to graduate high.

Give my love to Grandmother. Tell her I do not need an invitation to decide me to make her a visit, and if she would be happy to have Lizzie accompany me, she shall go too. Lizzie & her mother were at Auburn while Peleg was at home during his vacation. Wanted to make you a visit but thought she would wait till I came.

It will take you a week to read this now, so I will stop. Give my love to all. As ever I remain your affectionate son.

O. O. Howard

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372 3/28/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0350

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 28th 1852

My dear Son,

Tis a long time since I have written a letter. It is now five weeks since I wrote you. I have thought I had something of importance to say to you but I fear I shall not get it into my letter. You say my Mother need not trouble for me. My nature must be changed before I can become callous to the welfare of my children. Your Uncle Ward is a pleasant Gentleman, and if he comes on with you I should be exceedingly happy to treat him as a brother and his friends would be glad to see him no doubt. Your uncle Franklin's wife died this morning at 4 o'clock (I understand.) She became the mother of a young child a few weeks since, who lived two days. She has since sunk away in a quick consumption.

I hope you and Lizzie will be able to spend a good share of your time with me. My son I know it is impossible for you at your age to form any idea of the strong desires and intense feelings of your mother left as you were at your tender age to the sole care of an inexperienced mother, and full of plans to have you respectably rear'd. Do you think one day, or one hour can pass while I have my senses, without a glance of my imagination for all of my charge, I am always anxious about your <purse> because a small independence is so comfortable, I am always anxious for your prosperity in your undertakings, in every respect. You cannot imagine how much I am washed to and fro, by the tone of your letters.

I had an idea while at West Point last summer, that our visit in one way or other was increasing your perplexities. I do not yet understand what the use of your deposit was that you made, when you arrived. Nor can I conceive how you could buy whole dinners at Joes and not be reported for it. I recollect you said in your first letter that Mr Ally saved 100\$ while he was there and made no deposit. Now you have been there only one year and half and made 25 dollars deposit, and had 10 dollars since, beside other small helps, and still ask for 50 more to bring you home on furlough, and what have you done with your sittizens dress that you wore there. I recollect you said once in your letter you had had some applications for that suit but should not part with it easily.

You told me in one of your letters I could ask you any questions that your letter suggested, and as these are some of them, I would like to have them answered. Every month we have a report from the war department, giving your standing &c, and always attended with a strict charge not to provide cadets with money, as their provision was ample, and therefore parents or guardians were doing them an injury by so doing. You are twenty one and now in law have a right to act for yourself but that does not lessen your mothers interest in your welfare any. I do not feel as though your manner of life, had in any way been calculated to increase your habits of money making or saving only as years mature your judgement in every respect.

Your father settled with the juge of probate in January as the three years came round what you had left was 500.\$ I had hoped this sum might remain whole for future use, but if you say so, you shall have the fifty dollars you mentioned before your return on furlow. It is one of your mothers ambitions to see you independent not because your Uncle Stillman prophesied all your father had would be spent before you were twenty one if I married Mr G.

I have always desired you to be independent at one time as well as another, some times with money, a man can have great advantage which would alter the case very much without and I expect if you live you will some day have a part to act among men. If you remain there, at West Point and graduate and should have a lucrative employment and desired to get married you would find your five hundred dollars quite convenient. I do not suggest these things to you expecting you to be guided by them, but they are merely suggestions of a dear Mother to a son. I know you are young and full of hope and expectations and have a world before you, where there are chances in abundance nor do I wish to cool that ardor in your youthful breast. I hope your aims are high in merit, but as I have suggested my reflections to you, you will have a plenty of time to talk to me between now June.

You said something about my being jealous of your writing more letters to R.B.H. I take almost as much

pleasure in reading his letters as my own. Your Mother does not deny the pleasure she feels in seeing her name pened in the handwriting of a dearly beloved son.

I do not wish you to feel under any moneyed obligation to any of your fathers relatives. For you are not I could convince you of it at once. From your birth I have been your guardian and guide with the help of my heavenly master to whom I desire to give all gratitude. I desire to treat them with politeness but our <power> they have nothing to do with. What your father left he and I saved by prudence and care, and hard labor, and you are under no obligations to any of his family for they got all out of him they could at all times. These words are not pened in bitterness of feeling, for I feel none. At one time your father with me was reconing over what he had, and among the rest he had Wards due bill for one hundred dollars. I saw and read it. He in the way of his dealings needed the money and wrote him for it. He did not send it and after some years he came to Maine, and sometime after he had gone, I asked him if Ward paid him over the money he owed him. He said no he had brought on a note he said he had paid a note of his in New York city to the same amount. It was all a mistery to your father, and this was what he said to me. That while he was in trade sometime he had sent money by his Brother to take up a note and had neglected to ask his Brother for it. The money for which he took the due bill he counted out to him from his pocket Book at a later time thinking he should have it any time on asking for it. And when he left New York and went to Virginia, he gave up all the papers to Ward to settle. And somewhere Ward had found this old note. I will stop with one suggestion that your father always thought that his brother collected more than he paid over. There was one stage company in particular that failed, which he supplied with grain that owed him 600 dollars which was recovered, &c and the debts in the city that never were paid. He had letters asking for pay of him from the city after I was his companion which was seven years after he left Peekskill.

Perhaps Otis will suggest to himself why does Mother trouble me with these old things. Not because I wish to do it, but since you have become acquainted with your uncle and Peekskill, West Point &c and so harasing as I know it was to your father to be in debt. (But he was independent in this state, after a struggle of a number of years.) That I almost shudder that you should ever be so situated.

You spoke of Rowland B having to many advisers. Not so, for I think he holds every one at such a distance they would not be likely to offer him much advice. I have watched him as close as a mother could and am the most afraid of his nervous sistem of anything. This is what he is the most afraid of. I have noticed, when I am attracted to him that way he immediately laughs hearty. He need not <fear> me. I should be the last person to wound his pride, or approach such a subject. I know it has been painful to him to think, but am in hopes that state of feeling is wearing off. He did not come home any to soon. No one could know how he was. He has never been out in the evening but once. If he is not capable of pursuing a litturary course we must abide it.

Have just received a letter from Charles. He likes his situation but I have but little hope of his staying long. He carried away a pint bottle full of cyrup. He says it is half gone, and what he is to do when it is gone he don't know. He was so anxious to go that consented if you lived with him you would feel bad to see him try to hide his cough.

[missing closing]

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373 4/3/1852

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0351a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 3th 1852

My Dear Son,

You will see by my date that my other letter laid over the last mail day, but as it is of little consequence when my letters are dated, I shall send it. If there is anything that wounds your feelings in any way you must remember it is from a faithful heart where the ideas originated, and one that tries to view things on all sides and with candor. I do not wish to cool your youthful ardor, but when you pen your youthful anticipations, you cannot wonder, that the uncertainties of life present themselves to me at once. Although I am not in the habit of conversing or writing much on those subjects, still they are vividly marked on my imagination. There will be time enough between now June for us to say a great deal to each other on all subjects that concern us. If you wish to say anything in confidence, you need not fear my exposing any feeling of delicacy of yours. The last letter I wrote you, was put in one with R.B.H. Did you pay double postage on it.

Dellie has a letter written to send you but I think I shall not send it as it will make a suspicious looking letter of it. You ask in one of your letters if your father would loose anything by the railroad. That is uncertain. The company are now agitating their business. They have had meeting after meeting, adjourned. There is one this afternoon, trying to do something. Your father's services as treasurer will pay his first subscription but if the railroad goes down he is liable to pay the same amount for the debts due from the company. Therefore he offers to double his stake if they will go forward with their enterprise. They are now putting forth their last effort, and will probably, succeed, but whether it will be for our private interest is uncertain. It cannot be possible that your father or I shall see any income arising such an investment. We must live to a great age to see the debts liquidated that are, and will be accrued, by laying the track. It has been a source of affliction to me. It has kept me in hot water now two years, by wearing out all my best articles in the house, and taking away my time, to attend to people who came to the treasure's office without the least faith of even having them replaced or any remuneration. But never mind. I am still here with, R.B. and Dellie doing our best to be comfortable and I am in hopes to see the ground bare before long. But the view from the window looks more like <mid> winter than any other time.

Your Aunt Lucretia is about moving into our neighborhood on to the Been farm to stay two years. Mother has just left us for Ensign's. Laura has had a great party lately, but of whom it consisted I do not know. I want very much to see Lizzie but think I shall not until you come on. I shall think about what I have written until you answer me. All of us are in tolerable good health at present.

From your ever  
Affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

[The next letter from Rowland is a continuation of this one.]

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374 4/3/1852

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0351b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Leeds April 3th 1852}

[This letter from Rowland is a continuation of the previous one from Eliza Gilmore.]

Dear Brother

I have only room to say that still I am undecided as to my course. I shall answer your last kind letter in a few days. Father thinks to carry on both farms this summer. Orrin Lane is married. Charley has got a good boarding place and a fine fellow for chum. Hope he will do well. It is the last rub for the Railroad. If it don't go through, I think Unkle Ensign is a ruined man, but may be not.

Rowland

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375 4/11/1852 *From:* Peleg S Perley

*To:* Chum [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0352

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland April 11th 1852

Dear Chum,

I have been owing you a letter for some time, and have been delaying along from nothing more nor less than clear sheer laziness - but I tell you what Howard, I regard that as a pretty valid excuse. I tell you, you don't begin to know how lazy a School master gets to be for if three months used to be enough to make you feel any indications of it, just imagine what a continual drill of a year will do for a fellow. I own Howard I don't do right and I should be almost too lazy to excuse myself at such a length were I not afraid you might get a wrong impression from my silence and imagine it arises from indifference.

No, Howard, this is not the case I assure you. I don't write to you very often to be sure but I think of you often chum with the same old feeling of unconquerable and undying regard which I always cherished for you in College and those days with their mingled shade and sunshine and those others all fair and bright we spent together at Livermore in tramping through the snow to see two pretty girls rise, the latter indeed all too distinctly on my vision. Those were to me Chum halcyon days and I know they were to you.

I do not feel so much like writing letters as I used to do you? You think me growing indifferent to you I fear and perhaps to others but I am not conscious of this being the case and whenever I become conscious of such a thing's happening I shall lay it to this cussed school-keeping.

We have spent a great many happy hours together which I shall never forget at College and elsewhere and I trust there are many happy ones in store for both of us though we may not pass them together nor near each other.

How we used to lay abed and talk about the women hour after hour! Liz begins to think I have got over being shuttered and I know I have. What do you think, eh? Liz looked over my shoulder though the other evening and read what I was copying into my old book - that one I used to have in College and she disclosed I had a relapse. You shall see and judge for yourself. They are as follows:

"You are to be married, Mary;  
This hour as I silent lie  
In the dreamy light of the morning  
Your wedding hour draws nigh  
Miles off, you are rising, dressing,  
To stand 'mid the bridal throng  
In the same old rooms we played in  
When you and I were young.

Your bridesmaid they were our playmates  
Those old rooms, every wall,  
Could speak of our childish frolics  
Loves, jealousies great and small.  
Do you mind how pansies changed us  
And smiled at the word "forget"  
'Twas a girl's romance, yet somewhere  
I've kept my pansy yet.

Do you mind our verses written  
Together? Our dreams of fame?  
Of love how we shared all secrets  
When that sweet mystery came!  
It is no mystery now Mary!  
It was unveiled year by year  
Till - this is your marriage morning

And I - I am lying here.

I can not picture your face, Mary!  
The face of the bride to day;  
You have outgrown my knowledge  
In years that have slipped away  
I see but the girlish likeness  
Brown eyes and brown falling hair  
God knows I did love you dearly  
And was proud that you were fair

Mary speak my name, Mary.  
While yours in home's silence lies;  
The future I read in toil's <window>  
You will read in your children's eyes.  
The past - the same past with either  
Is to you a soft, pleasant scene  
But I can not see it clearly  
For the graves that rise between.

I am glad you are happy, Mary,  
Those tears did you see them fall  
Would show though you have forgotten  
I have remembered all.  
And though my cup is left empty  
And yours with its joy runs o'er  
God keep you it sweetness, Mary,  
Brimming forevermore.

She is living here in the city. I ran across her last Sunday as I was going to Church, in company with an elderly lady. I stopped on the steps and she passed up but her eyes did not meet mine. She does not look as she used to - but pale and Chum you will not think me weak nor unmanly nor moping nor torn nor anything of the kind when I tell you that the sight of her gave me a thrill which sent the blood rushing back upon my heart in a tumultuous tide.

[See Note 1]

But enough of her. I tell you Chum I have ceased to trouble myself about her though I now and then think of her and I do not believe even with your hardihood self-control you could meet the woman you love wedded to another without emotion.

The fact is with me what I feel I am sure to show - others feel as much and more but no one knows it but themselves.

By the way I hear that Old Townsend has quit his woman. So this adds another to the catalogue already too large in our class, of those, "Whose love is of themselves a thing apart." Do you think Howard the rest of that quotation is true "'tis woman's whole creation"?

I don't like the spirit in which Jewett speaks of his former lady. If he speaks of her he sort of seems to chuckle over his leaving her as though it was a mighty clever performance. I don't blame him for rejoicing at his freedom but to exult in the idea of having done a handsome thing is a little too much. Liz says she cant bear him

The say old Adams of our class is staying with Miss Susan Springer - so Old Jacks says, who is at Bowd. Attending medical lectures. Tom smith has got engaged to a rich girl out to Tenn, his uncle tells me and has quit his school on the strength of it. 'Thots the way they do it - not much of a way either. Jewett would like to wait upon one of Jen Broeck's sisters I guess. But all this about Jewett is "sub rosa" you know. He was in here about a fortnight since and spent the evening there. You see how the cat jumps with him don't you!

My father wrote me the other day he had sold his farm and he may possibly move here. I shall quit teaching this fall I think and what to go to doing I am sure I don't know. Cant you advise a fellow? I shall be glad to see you here Chum in June and no mistake and I know a number that will, though you will take the Shine all off of us citizens for the time.

Once more Chum accept my excuses and if they are not valid make them so by accepting them and let me hear from you as soon as you can.

Neal Dow has been defeated here but the issue was not the "law" but the execution of it. I think the law will be triumphantly sustained in the State and in this city. It is the best law this state or any other ever had as any one who witnesses the operation can but see. Though formerly a rummy myself I have given my support, such as it is, to the "law" from the first because I saw if carried out it must be effective.

As ever I am your true friend  
Peleg S. Perley

[Note 1: From this point to the end of the letter was filed separately with serial stamp 398). It has ca July 21, 1853 written in pencil at the top and was filed with the 1853 letters. However I believe that it is the missing end to the letter of April 11, 1852. The beginning of this is referring to a girl friend of his who is getting married, and fits well to the April 11 letter. The references to Jewett's relationship to his girl friend and their break up also fits with the timing of that event. The reference to seeing Otis in June is probably referring to his furlough which occurred in the summer of 1852. Neal Dow was defeated for reelection for Mayor of Portland in 1852.]

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376 4/11/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0353

West Point N.Y.

Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr 11th 1852

Dear Mother,

I have received your letter, and have perused it with attention and interest. You have touched upon subjects which have often presented themselves to my mind. But before I come to speak of them, I will say a few words about writing in confidence. Of course, what I write to my father's family is always confidential to some extent. That is, I write opinion sometimes perhaps betray feelings, that I would not wish to go beyond our family circle, but with you, my father & my brothers I have no secrets. My nature is rather open, so are my principles & my views. Do not think from this that I shrink from a confidential correspondence with my mother, whom I not only love, but have every reason to respect. But I think that father, who always takes a lively interest in all that concerns me, would feel a little hurt, should I affect privacy or give an air of secrecy to my letters even to you. But you need not fear any constraint on my part for I know to whom I am writing & feel a perfect freedom to say what I may feel or think. I am young, a boy, full of errors & extravagances at times, and I think it beneficial to lay myself open to you & father. Advice & even reproof are now taken by me in a far different spirit, from what my boyhood used to promise, when the advice of my dearest & best friends seemed mere fault-finding. Now I feel the need of the support & guidance of true hearts tempered by judgment & experience.

Respecting my property - I see clearly that the little I possess ought to be husbanded with the greatest care. I know the advantages that will accrue from a competency, or rather can easily imagine the perplexities & struggles to which utter poverty would subject me. It is, to some degree, with this and in view that I now persevere in a course which is not in every respect the most acceptable. My bright hopes & vivid anticipations are the direct antipodes of my own fears. I think it best to express the former & repress the latter - as a general thing.

To own the truth, however, my success in life as a man is as precarious as needs be. Take the matter fairly, without any coloring of the fancy, a second Lieutenantcy in our army, is an expensive position & one not over flattering. Any other profession must be acquired by additional toil. What then! Grow lax, perplexed & discouraged? Never! I mean to pull on; surely if anything is to be gained it is not by fickleness, fear or indecision that I am to gain it. Some of my expenditures since I left home the last time have been foolish, and yet perhaps few young men would have exercised more prudence. What I have got by order has been necessary to comfort & decency - or essential to my academic pursuits.

My suit of clothes, which had been injured by the drills, to which I was subjected as soon as I became a cadet, before others could be made, were finally got from me by a villain. A year ago, a young man, the Nephew of Geo. W. Crawford, the ex-secretary of War, was near being found deficient, and could get no clothes to wear. He had articles of Cadet apparel, which would be of immediate use to me. He came to me and offered to exchange, and I made with him a bargain quite favorable to myself. I let him take my clothes to clean & repair. His, of course I could not have till just before he left. Well he managed to get off without my knowing it & with this honest personage went my suit without any remuneration. Several other Cadets he served with the same bit of experience. He has since been boxed up in the State prison of one of the Southern states - for robbery, or swindling. Afterwards released by influential friends he has been sent out of the country. Before he came here he had served as a Lieutenant in the volunteers in the war with Mexico. To be sure, I was the dupe, but I am thankful that I am not the man who made the dupe.

The plain matter of fact reduces to this - I shall be rare economy manage to get out of debt from twenty to twenty five dollars - I have now in making a furlough coat, a pair of furlough pants, a furlough vest, fatigue jacket & neck-cloth. These just exhaust the \$40, given to each Cadet for his furlough Suit. In these things the price was fixed & I had no judgment to exercise. Now absolute necessity requires a pair of boots or shoes & a cap. I would not go without gloves, & standing collars. Notice again I am exercising prudence to my utmost. My Cadet clothes are getting threadbare & rusty, my pants require almost every day the exercise of my skilful needle, then just before I go I must get on an order a pair of Cadet pants if not a uniform Cadet Coat. This I fear we at the least will exhaust the fifteen if not the twenty of my twenty five dollars, leaving me either 10 or 5

dollars to get home. With this I fear I would be cramped a little too much.

Now I have no vices to support & no extravagant purchases to make in N. York, but I would not feel right, to go into the city, where any little detention, might oblige me to borrow or beg. True father's principle is good in theory: "Keep boys short & they will spend little". But he would not set out for New York, Boston or Portland with just money enough in pocket to defray the expenses of travel & pay for three meals a day & no more. I shall not need so much as \$50.00, the sum which I first spoke of. I cannot yet tell how much I shall require, perhaps none. You would hardly consent to my giving up my furlough.

Mr Alley told me he was \$100, out of debt - Mr Alley I find occupied a different position at West Point from what I do; of him I will speak at some other time. His \$100 was easily made up. \$96 is reserved from our pay during the course- 2 dollars each month, then he would have to be only four dollars out of debt besides to make the complement. "How can you eat at Joe's;" there is no regulation against it. Cadets receiving money is prohibited - but their spending it at Joe's is winked at. They are allowed money by order for this purpose, i.e. for sundries at Joe's. The object of this may be to keep them from having any motive to go off limits. Perhaps you would not call it a whole dinner, a piece of ham & a cup of coffee. Joe's is under the supervision of the officers. He is a Negro, with a very large family - our barber or rather hair dresser, for we have to shave our selves. Many Cadets, promise to pay him privately. After they graduate. No Tobacco or liquor can be kept by him nor by any other man on Government land.

There is, I find a hole like that on the 'pine plains' in Leeds, three or four miles to the South West of this place called, 'Tims', where Cadets sometimes go to get liquor & tobacco. They have to be expeditious & do it between roll-calls & on Saturday afternoons, running the risk of meeting an officer. Capt Alden sometimes rides round the back roads on horseback to see if he can meet any Cadets off limits. If he meets them he reports them, but it is beneath his dignity to enter a low, filthy grog shop. He might if he saw a Cadet in there, but there are plenty of hiding places where Mrs 'Tim puts them. I heard one say he was concealed in the chimney, another in the cellar. The only preventative to these violations is to get a class on a pledge; for no Cadet will break a pledge while here.

You spoke of Uncle Ward. I discover by his conversation that he is not a very moral man. He never hinted that my father had ever received assistance from him. But one or two of his other brothers and several young men from the "Eastward", have borrowed sums of him, he says, & have forgotten to pay. He takes great interest in me, especially, I think, because I was kind to his son. He is a politician, as you may know, but he shows a great deal of delicacy when he converses with me, whom he very soon found from my wonted frankness, to be somewhat of a Whig - somewhat of an abolitionist, rigid teetotaler &c - cherishing opinions diametrically opposed to his own. He has lost his property, does not do much of any business, but I never have seen the least sign of intemperance in him; although Peekskill is rather an intemperate place. I give it up, I don't exactly understand my uncle - a man of ability & knowledge with a little of the vain-glorious about him, taking much pride in what he has done & has been; poor - a gentleman in dress & appearance - apparently respected by those about him & yet as far as I can judge doing nothing. There seems to be a sort of mystery about the man to me; perhaps I fancy it.

You need not think that the 'Old Things' as you term them are unpleasant to me. On the contrary, I would if possible know ten times more of my father's history than I have yet been able to glean from the little you have told me. It is well too that I should know something of my Uncle's character so that I may always be on my guard. I borrowed a dollar of him but I paid him immediately as soon as you sent me the dollar. If I send for money, I shall get permission from Capt Brewerton. If he discovers that a Cadet has money went him in a letter, he sends for him, demands it & credits it to the Cadet's account giving it to him on furlough or at graduation.

I went up on Cro'nest this afternoon, which you may remember lies between this place & Newburg, a mountain between 14 & 1500 feet high. When after much toil up the side of the mountain which is almost perpendicular we finally reached the summit, the scenery that met my gaze was grand indeed. I never had been there before & was filled with delight & surprise. I cannot now describe the view. You could discern the Catskills, thirty miles to the north west, which elevate their blue heads more distinctly than you would think at that distance & all the intermediate waves of land, cut up into hills & vales appear to you like a vast field, and yet like one that you could traverse in a very few hours. Turn your head & you can view to an equal extent in each direction. From some of our large hills we can see the White mountains dimly, but here, the whole area, described with a radius of 50 miles is distinctly visible. When I got to my room I was tired I assure you. I got permission of Lieut Jones (my friend?), however, to have a light after "taps" & here I am writing.

Give my love to all. I will write again soon and take up other themes which your kind letter suggests.

Your affectionate Son  
OO Howard

[Envelope]  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

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377 4/17/1852 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-0355

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Apr 17 1852

Friend Howard

Your letter of Apr was duly received & carefully perused & I am now exceedingly happy in replying to it.

As to the political Items which it contained, I think I may safely say that at present we do not materially differ. I honor the cause of Liberty as one of the dearest rights of humanity. I am anxious for its advancement for I deem it the prelude to social amelioration & progress. But political Independence must not, nay cannot, be forced upon a people. They must grow up into it, make it by degrees a part of their habits & modes of thought, a part of their existence so to speak. Liberty untried has too often degenerated into anarchy & I wonder but little at the hesitancy men feel in applying themselves to the task of regenerating the political condition of long established & thoroughly concentrated states.

The evils of Despotism, do indeed pass severely upon the necks of the people & they groan under them in an agony of spirit & with the energy of despair often arise to shake off the power of the oppressor. But I regard it but a trifling & unsubstantial proof of the real strength of the principle of liberty in the hearts of the people that they have themselves risen up to thrust out those who have lorded it over them. Passion, jealousy, revenge or hate may prompt to almost superhuman efforts, in a nation as well as in an individual, and armies may accomplish wonders against tyrants without possessing one spark of genuine Liberty to fire their bosoms with a just & holy zeal. To establish & maintain Republican Institutions or even Independent government requires something more than mere physical courage.

There must be present the principle of obedience to Laws, if respect for personal rights, a nearly Independence of spirit & an equanimity which shall see the Individual in the public good. For these we may add (if indeed they are not included in them) a noble elevation of moral & intellectual culture. which shall enable the people to discriminate wisely between what are the necessary burdens of the civil state, & the exorbitant demands of despotic rulers. To such elements of national character every political reformer must give a careful attention & must more carefully should foreign nations heed them in deciding upon a course to be pursued in respect to a revolutionary people.

If we contemplate almost any of the old nations of Europe with reference to these characteristics I say must fear that we shall find sad deficiencies in comparison with our own country at the time it issued its declaration of Independence. & most assuredly when we examine external circumstances the contrast is much more unfavorable to them. Frightening powers on all sides hostile to democratic movements, large standing armies looking down threateningly upon the people whose slightest aspiration breathes of Republicanism, Despots lingered in firm alliance to repress the first exhalation of the spirit of Liberty. These are surely powerful dissuasions from foreign Interference.

In short I am rather opposed on the whole to protests which are doubtful in their effect, for the sake of securing a fairer contest between nations at war, unless we are ready & willing to maintain those protests & sure of success. We should look well before we leap in such a case. A step of this sort once taken can only be retraced amidst the <> & <jeers> of the nations of the world. or "the powers on Earth" as Kossuth says. But I also object to such a prodigal waste of time as has characterized our present Congress on this & other topics. There is other & more pressing business which ought to be attended to. More factories are languishing, Commercial Interests are failing & as a national consequence, Agriculture yields but small profits to reward the labors of the husbandmen. We want a Tariff - a protective tariff - & a specific one - In which the <cunning> <feignings> of entrusted men cannot so well erode. At the North this seems to me to be of vital importance, & the sooner we have it the better.

But I will not further exhaust your patience in these topics. In fact I hardly know how I have dragged so much of this kind of stuff into this Letter, but begging your pardon for the trespass upon your forbearance I'll change the subject.

As to news in Yarmouth. We don't have any. I live a monotonous life, varied only now & then by a trip into Portland by way of recreation. I was there on Fast & was reminded of a particular fast Day in your College History which you will probably recall without further specification. It snowed & rained all Day most unmercifully, I assure you, & yet I had a very good time talking, reading, &c, &c. Saw Old Perry. I had an opportunity to pity his severe misfortune afresh. Too bad. I could hardly help exclaiming - He is a fine fellow, but how unfortunate! Perley is as usual. Old Jack is in Brunswick & so is Buck. Our present Term is 4 weeks more from next Tuesday. & then only one more 11 weeks of school keeping for me, Good! Remember me in your Furlough especially & now as

Your Friend Truly  
J. N. Jewett

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378 4/24/1852 *From:* Charles H. Howard *To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0356 Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Apr 24 1852

Dear Brother

I have now been here at Kents Hill four weeks, and have not written to you since I came from home. And I don't know but you would like to know how I am getting along away from my friends. I wrote you when at home that I expected to come here. Rowland brought me up Friday and went back the next day. I got boarded at the Mansion house. Mr Eaton is the man that keeps it. He is a Meth Minister & preaches here at the meeting house. He is a very fine man & I like him much. We have a blessing asked every meal & prayers every morning and night. I was quite fortunate in getting so good a room mate or 'chum as we call them for I room with a very fine fellow, by the name of Hewitt. I was acquainted with him at Yarmouth. He is a very large fellow about six feet in height. He is preparing for College.

I like the teacher Mr Torsey very much. Any one cannot help understanding their studies if he explains them. I study Natural Philosophy Arith & parsing, and besides these I attend Mr Perley writing school. You would scarcely think so from my writing but I have just begun attend the school. May be I shall write better at the end of the term. I also attend the singing class which meets every night just at dark. But the stage just went by and I must hurry up to the P.O. for I may get a letter from mother.

I have been up to the P.O. since I left off writing but did not get any letter. I have eaten my dinner which was fish today and have been up to a sing. We have very good sings for they are most all good singers. I sing alto. I have got so that I can sing most any time in the book. Samuel Perley is here to school but I did not know it until I had been here some time. I thought he looked a great deal like Peleg. He was quite surprised when he found out who I was. I suppose you remember when you went with me up to Mr Perley's. We went with our large horse, and you was singing most all of the way. I hope I shall take another ride with you next summer. There are two boys here by the name of Baldwin who went to school to yours at Livermore. I suppose you remember them. They are really clever boys. I am well acquainted with the oldest. He is a good scholar.

I have declaimed three or four times since I have been here. I think I am not so diffident as I was when I first came. I have written two compositions since I have been here. I do not like to write compositions very well, but we all have to write some thing every other week.

I had two letters from home last week but I suppose that I cant tell you any news as you hear from home about as often as I do, although you are a great deal farther distant from home than I am. The Rail Road has been commenced again, and I guess you will have it to come home or come a very small part of the way. They have all been vaccinated with the Kind Pox so that they are most all invalids. Dellie says that he has got some sap molasses for you and I when we come home.

Mother writes pretty cheerfully. They have not got any one to come on to the farm yet or had not when they wrote.

We have had a very hard rain ths past week which carried the snow most all off, so that it seems more like spring and I think we shall have settled traveling soon. The sun shines bright to day and it is pretty warm.

Dear Brother

It is now Monday morning and a pleasant morning it is. The sun is just begining to show itself. Yesterday I went to church all day. The sermons were preached by Elder Eaton, and Mr Torsey made some remarks after the close of the afternoon sermon. I went to prayer meeting last evening. They are having a revival in religion here. There were six persons rose for prayers last night. I can hear the birds singing some this morning. The robins have begun to be seen & heard again. The snow went away very fast yesterday, so that it will all be gone in a few days if it is as warm as it was yesterday. I suppose I must leave off writing now and go to studying. I have got to or get almost through Decimal Fractions, in Greenlief's Arithmetic. I do all of the sums, every one, hard or easy. I do not have so many studies as I might have had as well as not. But I have more time to cipher I am in hopes that I can get about through my Arithmetic this term. My Philosophy is very

interesting. Mr Torsey <spirates> to explain every thing.

My health is as good as usual and it is usually good. I want you to write me a good long letter Otis for I have not heard from you but once since I came from home. Rowland sent one of your letters to me in his. I will now close by saying Good Bye. From your Affectionate Brother

Charles H. Howard  
To O. O. Howard

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379 5/1/1852

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

OOH-0357

West Point N. York

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N. York May 1st, 52

Dear Brother

I owe six letters. What shall I do? We began general review a day or two since, and I find that we have got to go over eleven hundred pages of pure mathematics in twenty six lessons, half of it was got before January, and has faded in consequence from my memory to an alarming extent. What shall I do? Would you not rehearse to me the fable of the speaking clock; reminding me that I shall have to tick but once in a second? I am not so very tired at the prospect as from the actual ticking that I have accomplished. But with a little more than a month between me & furlough, how can I be discouraged?

To tell you the truth, however, I do really feel a little chagrined to think. I can't go home and tell you that I am at the head of my class. Yet I console myself by the consciousness that it is no easy matter to preserve that standing, especially when we take into consideration my want of talent in the fine arts. At January I made up my mind to rise in Drawing. We began to paint. I descended to 56 the first month. We began etching the human figure & landscapes with the pen. By dint of unwearied application, working at my room & in the Academy I rose up to 45th the second month. I am still improving but I have to pull up hill. Oh this Drawing! I like it. I take pleasure in it, but cannot excel. I think I shall practice sketching somewhat on furlough. Speaking of furlough reminds me that I must have permission of father to go home, written after the following form.

Capt Henry Brewerton  
Corps of Engineers  
Superintendent Mil. Academy  
West Point N.Y.

Leeds Me. May-, 1852

Sir

I request that my son (or ward) Cadet Oliver O. Howard be allowed a leave of absence during the period of the ensuing encampment of the Corps of Cadets.

I am Sir  
very respectfully  
Yr obedt servant  
(Signature)

Since so many of these permits or requests are to be obtained from so many different persons, it is desirable, so thinks Capt. Brewerton, that there be a uniformity in the documents, though it may not be strictly essential. I shall write for \$25.00. I think now; but I hope to be able to make out with much less. I am out of debt now, but cannot tell how much till our books are settled. We have a muster of cadets & of all belonging to the army on the post every two months, which period is called a settlement. Then, or after this muster the account of each cadet is balanced, and if he finds no error, he signs the payroll, testifying to the receipt of an amount of money which he never sees, but which he realizes in the food that he eats the clothes that he wears, the rooms that he occupies with its accompanying furniture, the books & drawing utensils that he makes use of &c &c. The charges here are made just in conformity to the pay, reserving the equipment fund which is ninety-six dollars for the whole time - they manage just fairly to exhaust the remainder. This equipment fund the cadet has in cash if he wishes it upon his graduation or he can have the amount due, if he is found deficient, dismissed or sent away on any plea.

We have had quite an exciting time amongst us of late. The Comndt or Superintendent, wished to try some experiment about putting men at a table in the mess hall, plotting probably some new arrangement. They took a table, at which certain cadets of bad reput in the Corps were sitting, added to it others to make the original table a very long one, and then ordered a Cadet Captain to keep it full at all meals. He thereupon undertook to fill it with plebes but a person can fallout of rank after the roll-call if he chooses & not go to meals. Upon this

privilege, at the command "Fall out" all the plebes fell out. Well! At the mess, the Cadet Capt before mentioned, ordered third class men individually to go to the table. The hall has two parts called respectively the upper & lower mess-hall in the lower mess-hall several refused to go to the table, & were put in "arrest" some left the mess-hall by permission & were reported for that. When the same Captain came to the upper hall, where I sit, several of us who knew nothing of the excitement below went to the table. Those who are in arrest will probably be deprived of their furlough.

The class after this, that is all but one or two, determined not to sit at the table at any rate. I tell you I trembled when I went to the mess hall the next day for I had the whole class watching me - the hopes of my furlough began to grow dim. But as good luck would have it, the order was changed & certain men were detained from the fourth class by Capt Alden himself to sit there permanently, and my heart was relieved.

You don't know - can scarcely understand the <nature> of a disobedience of orders in the army - or of its punishment until you have been there.

Give my love to all  
Yr affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

I had a long letter from Charlie a few days ago. He seems to be doing very well at Readfield. I shall write him a letter some time today (May 2d).

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] WEST POINT NY MAY 3  
[To] Mr Rowland B Howard  
South Leeds  
Maine

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380 5/14/1852 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0359

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds May 14th 1852

Dear Brother

You can't think how everything has altered within ten days. The snow banks have all disappeared and in their places the grass has sprung up fresh and green. The trees are in leaf. Oat Wheat &c are up and looking finely. In short the work of a whole season has been done by a few warm, bright days. I have worked considerably in the garden mostly in mother's corner, among her plants and flower beds. Yesterday I have planted about two hundred strawberry plants. I suppose they will not bear much before another season.

The men are preparing the ground now for planting corn. All, horses oxen &c busily at work, hurried by the lateness of the season and the beautiful weather. Father, as usual giving the general orders at breakfast and dinner tables. Mother spent yesterday afternoon with Aunt Lucretia and I after tea, went for her. Lucia is the same slim, fragile looking thing that she was, perhaps a little taller and more womanly than when you knew her.

I should like to have you here now first rate, for the fun of fishing, if nothing else. I am just waking up to the beauties of sucker spearing. I know that you would be delighted with it. I don't forget the time that you kept me fishing in the Sail Boats, after I was pukingly sick, hauling in the lake wonderfully. That sickened me of salt water fishing when there is much of a breeze or swell, but down by a little brook on a dry shore, with rubbers on, it is vastly different.

We heard from Charley this week, through Mr Barrows, that Gent saw him at Fayette when on an exchange last sabbath. Charles appeared very glad to see him. I think some of us will go up for him next week. Since I wrote you, I have been down at Brunswick Portland &c. I settled my bills at the former place, disposed of my furniture and did other things preparatory to leaving College. I enjoyed myself very much the few days that I spent there. My classmates appeared very anxious for me to return to my class. <Ponies> of all sorts and kinds were offered to assist my making up and it was with much difficulty that I resisted their importunities, but I had made up my mind that it was best for me to leave and I have left.

At Portland I met all of your friends. Lizzie looks and appears as charming as ever. Mrs W is the same frank open hearted confiding lady that you I suppose know better than I do. Perley as usual was alternately sad and gay. I believe he is very popular as a school teacher.

The day before I went in Perley & Lizzie went a Maying with a party of friends. The latter was pretty well tired out and rather unfit for the long walk that we had the next evening. Going down to Unkle Henry's to make a short call. We found ourselves among quite a party that unknown to us had been invited for the evening. But however I enjoyed it very much and passed a very pleasant evening, although wholly unaquainted with any except our relatives and Lizzie. I believe she did not enjoy herself as much as I did. About ten o.cl. we had a fine oyster supper, served up in good style for you know when Henry tries he is decidedly <some>. I found Aunt Ann, a blooming, healthy, happy, looking Aunt, and quite polite, affable, &c, greeting her hopeful nephew with showers of kisses and et ceteras. The next day I took dinner with them and came as far as Yarmouth when I was set down by mistake. I found old Jewett, the same good looking, self satisfied slow spoken, unsocial good fellow as ever. By the way, you having a very delightful gossiping correspondent, must have heard (of course) that Friend J has abandoned his Brunswick speculation. The B. old women stick up their noses and talk mysteriously about broken pledges, dishonor &c. The engagement was one in which the whole town and Topsham too, were intensely interested. And Jewett is very unpopular in that region at present, but I'll bet on his upright honorable conduct in any matter, wont you?

I cant write without ruling and so I will stop, assuring you that your return is the most interesting topic of the season among relatives, friends and acquaintances. I hope that my time will be so disposed of that I shall have abundant opportunity to enjoy your society. I remain as ever

Your affectionate brother  
Roland

You have been an unfortunate youth from your childhood. I suppose you remember running against ports, spraining knees, getting into ponds, now getting caught. All the fulfillment of your dark destiny.

Your aff Brother  
R B Howard

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381 5/14/1852 *From:* Rodelphus Gilmore *To:* Brother [OO Howard]

OOH-0360

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds May 14th 52

Dear brother

I have not writen to you this great while. I just finished a litter for Charly. RB is writing to you. We got to working on the farm the last day in April. We sowed. We have got the great farm to take care of and this one to. I want you to com home now for I want to see you. Our old Rail Road must go now. Thay have money enough. It is not but a short time before you will be at home. When I see you I shal be pleased as you are when you see me.

and so good by from your affectionate  
brother Rodelphus

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382 5/16/1852 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0361

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. May 16th 1852

Dear Mother,

It is now a long time since I have written in fact much longer than I intended that it should be, but I find it impossible to write week days while we are on general review. But I will forego excuses, for it is time that I should write some thing else. It is Sunday as you may see by my date. Sunday morning & a beautiful morning it is at West Point. The trees are all leaved - and those which blow are in blossom. The grass is quite high, giving the plain a rich dark green covering, in fine, West Point now has on her finest dress. Nature thus decked, the clear morning sun with its genial warmth, and the quiet of a sabbath day, only disturbed by a few little songsters, give to the soul a sort of subdued pensive happiness.

Tis just the time to think of home, of one's early boyhood, of one's mother & those that are dear. Dream-like the fancy wanders from spot to spot, from person to person, far away. But stop or your mathematical boy will ape the poet, or your aspiring soldier forget his methodical calling & wander in the airy castles of the sentimental dreamer.

Everything proceeds with me as it is wont. The monotony is relieved by the prospect of furlough drawing nearer & nearer. In a few short weeks I will shake off the shackles of military rule, and steer my course free as the bird that sits on the tree before my window, towards my old home. I spoke in my last letter to Rowland of some young men, who had been put in arrest for refusing to go to a certain table in the mess-Hall. They have been tried by a Garrison Court Martial & their punishment was published last evening. They are to be confined to their rooms from June 1st till the battalion goes into camp. & walk Post equipped as sentinels from this till the 30th of June, & somewhat more during that period. Then they can go home. It is rather a hard punishment, but no more than they expected.

I went to see Warren yesterday. He has a very pretty neat little room all by himself. I have found a very private path by which I can get there without being seen off limits. I had not seen him to converse with him for several months before. He was in very good spirits & in excellent health. Give my love to his mother & tell her I shall visit him before I leave for home & get anything that he may wish to send.

Charles Harville has been reduced to ranks as a private soldier, for some violation of their military regulations. He has now a miserable wife. He is pitted horridly with the small pox, and has been deprived of his corporalcy & become a Common Soldier - rather an unenviable, hopeless position for a young man.

Now I will come to the subject of money matters. I did not gain so much on my last settlement as I expected, and if I do not receive anything from home, I shall not be able to leave with my class. I went to the Superintendent yesterday and got permission to write for money to make a deposit. I wish father to send me twenty five dollars if he can conveniently. I shall try to make out with as much less as possible, both for the sake of having money while on furlough; and also for my return. All who came with me in September have been obliged to write for money; graduating the amount according to the distance they will have to travel in order to reach their homes. The most of those who came in June are forty dollars in advance. You may direct it to me & I will deposit it to be restored to me when I leave. The most of those who came in June made a deposit of 70 or 80 dollars. This then will readily account for the amount that they now exceed me.

I received a long letter from Charlie not long ago, descriptive in detail of his school. He seems to be very content & happy at Kent's Hill. How is Rowland now? Is he at work with father on his farm? And Roland A? Ask him if it is three or four years since we have seen each other. But I have the time of his leaving recorded in my Journal. Perhaps would be amusing to him to read my reflections at that time. Here they are.

"March 15th 1849. Roland G has gone! Really gone! I have been so much engaged of late that I have scarcely thought of him. Now memory returns. Much time have we spent together in perfect harmony. Many pleasant recollections rise up before me of the times when we have made a hard task easy by our merry & joyous pratings, recollections of our boyish discussions & philosophy. These by our separation must become

the endeared memorials which we hold of each other. The future always looked brighter to me than to Roland. The natural bias of his mind seemed to incline him to view the dark side of the picture. His reading of fiction, or rather that class of novels which give a man false impressions, erroneous conceptions of human things, has had an injurious effect upon him (At least so I fancy). There is an undue excitement in such reading. To a person of his temperament comparatively inexperienced & very sensitive - and this excitement, when it abates naturally produces a depression and induces a gloomy spirit. I, on the other hand, ever having some object ahead have pursued it cheerfully. Life has looked bright & pleasant, and my bosom has ever thrilled with glowing anticipations of future good. So different were we in disposition. Yet for some reason we have enjoyed each other's society & many a pleasant time we have passed together. I humored his conceits perchance, and he was frequently kind like a brother. I am in College & he is gone to California. May he do well & return! It seems uncertain. But he is perhaps no more uncertain than the fate of those who remain at home. We can enumerate many dangers to which he will be exposed; yet there are many, many dangers to which we are constantly subject, but we think not of them. By change of place we may modify our dangers but we do not escape them."

Such were my reflections then. It may amuse him to hear them even if they are not all just.

Give my love to all. Ask Laura H when you see her if I did not write the last letter. Give her my love. & remember me to all uncle Ensign's family. My health is quite good; my hair not quite so grey as father's. Does Lizzie write you? Write as soon as convenient.

Your affectionate son  
Otis

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383 5/23/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0362

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 23d 1852

My dear son

Your's of the 16th inst came safe to hand last eve. We were all of us very happy to hear from you. Charlie made one of us last evening R.B.H. went for him Friday. His mother thought 9 weeks was as long as she wanted to be without seeing him. He will return tomorrow. I did not read R.B.s letter to you. I never read his letters unless I take them up when he does not know of it. I read his answer from you. I think he has imbibed some false notions which neither contribute to his comfort now nor his best friends who love him dearly. I think he studies to be peculiar. In this daily manner of conduct does trouble me, although in itself it amounts to mere nothing. If I judge rightly from words I occasionally hear him let fall, he thinks himself not duly appreciated, and with that idea puts on those airs which he often does. I am truly disappointed in R.B. But stop mother if nothing befalls any of us. We shall be together again in one month or a little more.

R.B. needs a real friend, such a one as his mother can be if he would admit her, but I am a stranger to him only as I watch his movements. How wrong it is in him to hold himself at such a distance from me. I perceive plainly that the cause of his ill health is not removed, and know he does not want I should know when he coughs, and gets as far from me as possible. I have great hopes when you arrive, and are with him you will get the whole truth of his bodily sufferings, and his secret discontent, while actually his mother does not know as he has any. I have just reread a part of your last letter in answer to my last one to you my suggestions in that letter were not merely to lay open a sense of poverty, but to have a perfect understanding between us. It does not seem to me, that a smart young man with your endowments would feel poor, but still cash in pocket is perfectly convenient at all times. and people who are the most capable do not always find opportunity of turning their tallants to advantage. Your father will inclose the twenty five dollars you require, and more if you say so.

I have seen but little of Laura, the winter and spring that are past. Uncle Ensigns family are in health. Mother has returned to Hallowell. I presume R.B. wrote all the news about Portland, Brunswick, Hallowell & Leeds in his last letter. I will not repeat the same. Mrs. Davie is very sick, and I am very anxious about her, she has been sick about ten days. Arza is so run down that he cannot do any business. That sore in his side that drove him from Brooklyn, has doubled its force upon him. It discharges a great quantity of matter daily. What with a bad cough and no appetite has reduced him very much. R.B. and C.H. called at Wayne Friday eve to see him. R.B. says he is strangely changed, since I saw him, so emaciated and purely white with a hiatic flush on each cheek, I have not seen him since Sleighing. Mr Berry called lately to see him, and speaks of him in the same way. There must be a closing scene to us all some day and some where.

Your father rec. a letter from one of the directors last eve. requesting him to be in Boston tomorrow afternoon. He will leave home at four tomorrow morning to be in time for the cars at Greene. I intend to write to Lizzie today to give her an express invitation to spend all the time with us that she can this Summer. I saw Mrs Lothrop a few days since. Her health is good. Mary Jane was with her. She is a great big girl with red cheeks. Maria Otis I understand is coming to Leeds this summer. She has not been here since you went to West Point. I suppose you knew William Otis was in Boston, in Mr Pear's Office preparing to be a collector of Newspaper accounts. If R.B. had not written so many letters this spring I would write some of the news of the day, but it would to incipid to read a second time. Leeds is just the same place it ever was, watching each other to make sure that they have as many faults as I have, and of a course no better. Charlie is indeed a lovely boy. He sings well, he has just now been singing with R.B. I believe I wrote you your Aunt Lucretia lives on the farm where Mr Been formerly lived. Her husband has hired it for two years. Your Uncle Frank and his two boys live together without any housekeeper having their bread baked out of the house and their washing done in the same way. Freedom Gould is married to Adelia Perley. I thought Lizzie and you would have to ride up there and make a call. I think I heard that Mr G had taken her house. His father died very soon after <Ternny> did. It is now about the time of the year I used to be looking for you home from College. Where think you are all of your College Class mates at this time? I expect your Aunt Lee is at brother Ensign's and will be here soon to make her farewell visit, and then for New York. I have not seen her since Sarah's marriage. I expect her visit with me will be short, as my conveniences are so meagre.

I expect soft beds & family tables will be unnatural to you at first. You will feel the change some time before you reach home. I have done expecting even to have much acquaintance with Mrs Waite. I think I have made sufficient advance, on my part. You must let us know of all your movements as often as possible untill you reach home. Charlie was quite punctual to write for a number of weeks while at Readfield. I wrote him one letter and he concluded not to write until I wrote him, but mother expects her sons to let her know what their situation is and pen a few thoughts for her perusal whether she can always write to them or not.

The forests are completely covered with their wonted verdure. The country from my window looks beautiful. Last evening I read your letter to Roland Alger. He was melted to tears, and after I got through he left the house for a short time.

Evening.

Since I wrote the other three pages I have rode to Mr Joseph Turners, to see Mrs T who is a great sufferer. She has a large absess on her side, which is a dark purple. How long she is to suffer is known only to him who overrules all things for the best good of such of his children as love him but O! the misteries of God. They are inscrutable, Mrs T seems to desire to have patience to bear all that is alloted her. Seeing her changed my train of thought very much. How much we need a higher power than human to guide our stumbling footsteps through this world of suffering. Your father said when he read your last letter directed to me containing two sheets he should write a part of my next and I gave him an opportunity but the suddenness of his journey gives him so little time for preparation, that he could not say any thing this time. One thing he says the theory of keeping boys short for money is not his. It belongs to some other person. I regret his being Called away from home as this time as we are doing our farming well this year. Your has helped three weeks constantly. Jane Bates has been on visit to Massachusetts, for a month past and returned a few days since full of spirit delighted with every thing she saw but happy to return to her old home. I think my pens are the worst I ever used. I have tryed a number and all seem to go in the same way. R B is in heaving and keeps a constant clearing or haming, which sounds bad to me. You will perceive two hands writing. I had nearly two pages written when I spilled a lot of ink on my sheet. It was then about time to get my dinner and Charley offered to copy what I had written and did. I hope I shall have a better pen before I attempt writing again.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

[To] O O Howard

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384 5/27/1852 *From:* W.L.L [Warren  
Lothrop]  
[West Point]

*To:* [O O Howard]

OOH-0363

*Source:* Bowdoin

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May 27, 52

My Dear Howard

I was sorry to learn the other day that you & Brown had had some difficulty. I have heard several different reports of the affair none of which I could believe. Will you please give me the truth of the affair - send down a note by Beny. Are either you or Brown in arrest. I am certainly very sorry that you have had difficulty.

I received a letter from my brother in California the other day. He was well & doing well at the time; have also heard from our friends in Leeds lately - they were all well.

Truly yours.

W.L.L. [Warren Lane Lothrop]

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385 6/7/1852

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0364

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds June 7th 1852

Dear Brother

I received yours on Saturday and I suppose you will expect one more letter from home before you see home yourself. As mother will not probably get time, I improve the present opportunity. You say you know you and I generally find gas enough to fill our respective sheets. I was not aware that either of us was inclined to be any ways gaseous. I think we generally write very staid, sober epistles in accordance with our general character, which perhaps is not so vivacious as that of some. I did not mean the town gossip as one of disrespect, but rather as a good humored, story telling, charming correspondent, who always has the charm of novelty.

Aunt Lee has left here for Hallowell this afternoon with Vaughan. They have been here four or five days. She does not appear as cheerful as when I saw her in Portland, probably because the company is so well suited to her taste. She is going on to New York before Frank goes to Calafornia, which he thinks of doing about the 20th just about the time of your furlough. Last week I went up into various parts of Franklin County, partly for business and partly for pleasure. I think Farmington a delightful place. I passed a day and night there very pleasantly. There are four of my classmates residing there. I called at your old Master, Mr Burnham, and found him as pleasant and condescending as of old. His hopeful son Seth, has grown strangely since you have seen him. He is a very good looking fellow of about my size, copying very closely the politeness and affability of his honored father. He indulged in some very pleasing reminiscences of your life at Hallowell. Recollected that you used to wash his face occasionally. Thought from early indications that you must be rather a pugnacious individual generally. Georgy remains the same probably that you know her. She does not look to me as one liable to abrupt changes anyhow. Of course she has grown older and is quite plain but has a wining smile and engaging maners. They are in hopes to see you this Summer. Perhaps you and I will go up that way sometime. I am charmed with the village and surrounding scenery. Among the natural beauties of the place I noticed several pairs of pretty eyes, but they of course possess no charms for you. Other and perhaps more beautiful ones have caught O.O.H. Long time ago.

Rail Road business is now the order of the day and you will probably hear enough of it this Summer to cause you to wish that there had never been one projected.

We are watching with much interest the result of the Baltimore convention now in session. Whatever it is I think we must have another Whig president except the Party are suicidal enough to nominate Daniel Webster or Millard Fillmore for that office. I never took so much interest in or understood the machinery of politics as I do now. Sometimes I ask myself why it is so, but I can not tell.

Mother is not very well today. She is at present laying down. We have not heard from Charley since he returned to Kents Hill. He comes home just before you do.

Ben Turner was married yesterday. We have a new law here abolishing publishing and numbers are taking advantage of it. Charles Collier died this forenoon after a very long and lingering illness. This afternoon I have worked on the road and have I believe been allowed the usual half of a dollar. Delphinia Leadbeter is just home from Lowell. She has been sick and looks quite poorly. Charles Turner writes from Cal that his health and business are good. For the rest come home and hear.

Rowland

After you return to West Point I am going to write more careful methodical legible letters if I can think of it. In other words turn over a new leaf. So pray I can once more.  
R.B.H.

Tuesday morning

Mother wishes to write a letter but has not time and so she dictates to me. She wishes you to examine your wardrobe and beding and if she can do anything repairing or supplying more during your furlough, she will. You

will write once more of course and let us know how long you expect to be on the way to Leeds. Whether you will bring Lizzie with you too.

Rowland

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386 6/12/1852 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* O. Otis Howard Esq

OOH-0365

Peekskill

West Point Academy  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 12 June 1852

My dear Nephew

Your kind letter of yesterday was duly recd. I am pleased to hear of your good health and flattering prospects in the Academy. I intended writing you before this & will try & do it before you leave for the East. My engagements (having foolishly excepted the Office of President of the Village Corporation) have been such that I have not as yet been able to leave home only a sufficient time to go to my Quarry.

The same difficulty of Official duties will deprive me the pleasure of accompanying you to visit our friends in Maine. Remember me kindly & affectionately to all of them respectively. No one would be more happy to see them either here or there than myself. Not the same reason as in my own case will prevent your Cousin Elizabeth accompanying you. She is my housekeeper and only dependence & in consequence of my having to remain she will be will be under the necessity of remaining with me besides we some expect my daughter Mrs Henry & her children here to spend the Summer. They are now at Chicago Ill. Their eldest Boy Howard has the fever & ague. I have written for them to come home if possible.

Lucius is in a Large dry good store 29 South Pearl St. Albany. I am in hopes he may finally make a merchant.

Elizabeth wishes to be kindly remembered to you, your friend in Portland & all in Leeds.

Visit all of them for me.

Your affectionate Uncle  
Ward B Howard

O. Otis Howard Esq  
West Point Academy  
N.Y.

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387 7/1/1852

*From:* Chas. G. Sawtelle

*To:* Cadet Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0366

Augusta Me

Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Me July 1 1852

My dear Howard

I promised to let you know when I came to Augusta so that we might arrange a meeting. I came today and now why cant you come out to Hallowel Saturday and stay over Sunday and two or three days. Then you know you can come up here or I can run down to Hallowel any time. You will find me in Augusta at the Rev Alex Burgess' house. To whose care please direct a letter to me immediately, provided, that is, that you can't come y'rself on Saturday. But see you I must even if I have to come out to Leeds for that purpose. I want you however to come here, as my sister who is spending a week here with me wishes to see you very much. At all events write immediately on the receipt of this, telling me when and where we can see each other and for the present - adios

Your very truly  
Chas. G. Sawtelle

[Envelope]  
[Postmark unreadable]  
Cadet Oliver O. Howard  
Leeds  
Maine

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388 8/27/1852 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0367a South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Aug 27th [1852]

Dear Brother

Although you have been almost a week from home, yet the time I suppose seems very short to you. When a person is almost constantly moving, hearing new sounds and seeing new sights, the moments do not delay. Another reason why the time now seems short to you is, that you are approaching rather unwelcome day. How slow that week draged before furlough. How swiftly the week of its close! We are all hoping that your journey is pleasant and will come to a happy close. Of course there will be a good long letter from you, giving us your notes and feelings all the way along. Tell us about each friend in Boston, New York and how you found Unkle Ward.

The best news I have to tell is that we are having a glorious, long old fashioned rain storm, such as the parched Earth has wanted for a long long time. Father is more content to "let it rain" than ever I saw him before. He even manifested some exultation at the first smart shower last evening. Mr Carpenter came here the evening after you left and Saturday I rode up to Kents Hill with him and Charley went up with the Old man. I got C boarded at Mr Robinsons. I suppose that you will hear from him in a few days. I returned to Leeds on Sunday morning in time for meeting.

Arza is about the same as when you left. The Thrashers are here at work upon that big mow of oats, but I manage to keep out of the dust. You know that I spoke of going to Kents Hill to review, but things were not as I expected and I shall not go. Sunday night I attended one of those "sings" at Mr Barrows. Charles Bates is in the other room talking temperance and politics as usual. Our public temperance meeting comes off on Saturday at 9: ocl. I hope you will get your Advertiser regularly as I suppose you have considerable interest in Maine polatics &c, since your furlough.

I think I shall go down to Commencement on Monday, but shall not unless my health is better than it is today. They are anticipating a great time. They are going to try to create a Pierce enthusiasm after the exercises of the day are over. I believe they expect that gentleman together with Douglass, & Van Buren and other prominent <locos>. Saturday night there was any quantity of documents for you from Washington & Peekskill. Your friends in W appear to be strong anti Scott men. Orrin Bates came home day before yesterday, but I have not seen him yet. I believe I will leave some room for mother and bid you good by.

Your Aff Brother  
R.B. Howard

Cadet O. O. Howard

[The next letter from Eliza was inserted here.]

Mother stops on the other page because she has not time to write more before the mail.

Rowland

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389 8/27/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0367b

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This is a continuation of the previous letter from Rowland.]

Aug 27th [1852]

My Dear Son,

you have hardly reached your destination yet my mind has been following you from hour to hour since you left home, hoping for a prosperous journey for you. Saturday's mail brought a letter from your friend Sawtelle saying he could not meet you in Portland, but would be glad to meet you in Boston, on Wednesday and go through to W.P. together. You cannot conceive my dear boy of the strength of feeling that your Mother has for you (perhaps it is just as well if you don't). I hope you will get along well. I shall feel anxious about you until you get settled with your new room mate. I hope former experience will teach you something towards carrying forward your future respectability. Try not be too excitable. It is a wrong state of feeling, sometimes we become so from fatigue of body and mind. I hope that ugly Bile is done with, that began to show itself before you left. Your Uncle Ensign is in the other room talking about railroad affairs as usual  
[Eliza Gilmore]

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390 8/31/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0368

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Aug 31st 1852

My dear Mother

It has now been ten days since I left you and I have made all my visits & enjoyed my freedom all I shall be able to for a long time. I have felt badly to think you should take my leaving so to heart. It made me reflect & ponder a great deal over the past few weeks that I have been with you. I presume that it seems to you as if I had been home scarcely any. In fact I anticipated a closer stay with you, but the furlough is over and I feel as if I had wronged you by not being with you more & striving a little more to contribute to your happiness.

I left Rowland & father at Greene without bidding either good bye and I thought of that a long time. I don't know why it was, only the cars were separated from the depot by the freight train. I thought Rowland would follow into the cars, but he did not. I met Sam. P. Benson in the cars as soon as I stepped in. He had much to say & many questions to ask - as many as one could ask in riding from Greene to Lewiston on the rail road. I left Lizzie Monday evening and arrived in Boston Tuesday morning & went directly to Mr Gould's. I was a little sea-sick for the first time in my life on the boat but I turned in - lay down on my back & was soon asleep forgetting that I had felt any heavings of the stomach.

Mr & Mrs Gould showed me every attention they could - went with me to the museum & showed me about the city. I went & found Nelson Tuesday and rode with him out about 20 miles & back. In the afternoon I rested sleeping part of the time. The next day I intended to go & see Olive, Rodelphus & Clark. First I found Rodelphus, got on his omnibus & rode with him about an hour afterwards with Clark still longer, then I went to Mr Gould's shop where he presented me with a cadet cap that he had made me. It was then dinner time & I gave up going to see Mrs Hazzard.

In the afternoon after I had put my things in order, I carried my baggage to the Fall River depot, then went to the Providence depot and went with Nelson as far as I could. He sent me through without expense to Fall river where I had to pay three dollars through to New York. On board the Empire State, a boat on the Fall river route, I had a good supper & a good sleep.

I reached New York early in the morning, left my baggage at the American House and started in search of my cousins. After waiting awhile at Mr Landon's where Silas is situated he came and told me that Perry had not left New York - together we went immediately and found him. Perry knew me instantly. He has not changed any, bating his growth. He is about as large as Rowland Bailey, a little round shouldered and very stout, but his face wears the same old expression & his hair is of the same flaxen color. I went with him in the afternoon to see Sarah & Aunt. Both are pretty well & talk of going to California stronger than ever. The baby they call pretty & large - it seems to me little & looks like all babies that young. Perry is soon to sail again for Australia as second mate.

In the evening of thursday I came as far as Peekskill reaching there about 8 o'clock - found all well - Uncle all swallowed up in politics. Friday I carried Elizabeth to Newburg to visit our cousins there. We spent the day with our three maiden lady cousins. They are in the best of circumstances - very pleasant, but all of them quite old. They still teach a boarding school accompanied by a day school. I saw also Mrs Knox, the sister of Dr. Bailey. The latter is an Army Surgeon, stationed now at MacKinnow Michigan.

Friday night I returned to Peekskill and did not come on to West Point till after dinner, coming up to Cold Springs in the first afternoon train. This made me a little belated - that is I did not reach here to report at 2 o'clock for which they put me in confinement to my tent & quarters after we moved into barracks. I shall get a few demerit for it. I do not know how many. It rained the night I reached here and all the next day in torrents & then very hard. The first night I slept with wet feet & wet clothes. The next day I was on guard all day & night in the cold & rain & Monday morning we moved out of Camp into barracks.

Now (Tuesday) I am well settled in my room with a very kind gentlemanly young man for a chum - and notwithstanding my extra labor & exposure I never was in better health. I had made up my mind to take every

thing coolly, but it taxed my fortitude to keep up my spirits under such a cool reception.

I have been a little homesick. If you could have a room & strew your things round & pick out what you want, it would not be hard. But we cannot have a trunk or valise in camp - must get in a tent already full and stow ourselves away the best we can. Our accoutrements are scarcely to be found & when found are all out of order and considering the unreasonably short space of time we have to get everything in order to go on duty, you need not wonder that the mind & heart revert to the kindness & attention that we have left behind, and now and then we feel a little choked - a little homesick.

Lieut. Clitz has been drilling our Class to day and has treated us finely. We are in Barracks too, and with our condition our spirits rise. I am now on speaking terms with all but three in my class. Mr Lee came up to me on my return and offered me his hand & asked very kindly & gentlemanly how I had enjoyed myself this summer. To Abbott, Turnbull & Wood I gave & received no greeting.

Give my love to all. I hope to improve much these coming two years. I think I have a better room-mate, at least one more congenial to my tastes & habits. Quite a number of my class have not been the least dissipated this summer. Several have been sick at home & have come back looking very badly. All, however, are here from Texas to Maine.

Tell Rowland to write me as soon as he can. Remember me to the family one & all. And also to Aunt Lucretia & her family.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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391 9/4/1852

*From:* Charles [H Howard]

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0369

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Sept 4th 1852

Dear Brother;

I concluded that by this time you would like to hear from me, as you had not, since you left me at the door at home and I thought too that I would like very much to hear from you, and so I take my pen. You see by the date that I am not at home and also where I am.

I came here the day after you left which you know was Saturday. Mr Carpenter was coming up here and Rowland rode with him. They started from our house about one o'clock and I about three. After I had said goodbye to all I seated myself in the waggon and taking the reins started the old White for she was the horse with which I came. There was nothing that happened in my ride which would be worth relating. I called at Arza's as I came and found that he was more comfortable that day than he had been but I have not heard from him since.

Well; I came from Arza's up on to the Hill and found that I had reached here before Mr Carpenter and Rowland. I stopt at the Mansion House and had my horse put up and took supper myself.

I found that there was but one chance to room, and that was with Mr Eaton's boy (the man who keeps the boarding house) in a very small room with two very small windows. The defects of the room I did not care so much about as the fellow I was to have for a chum. He and I never had any trouble but about all he says is nonsense. Still I did not make up my mind what to do until Rowland came which was in a little while. By the way the reason why he did not get here first, was because he went by the way of Mr Barrow's and stoped there some time then he came to Arza's and ate supper. Well when he came, he and I walked up to Mr Torsey's and he told us that there was a chance at Mr Robinson's to board, which is opposite to the Seminary on the other side of the road but when we went there we found that that place had been engaged that afternoon, which Mr Torsey did not know of. But as I could room with Roscoe Jennings if I boarded there, I wanted to board there very much. Rowland told them this and they said that I might come in and stay until the fellow came who had engaged it, and so I did.

Rowland went back in time to go to meeting down to Leeds the next morning. I remained at Mr Robinson's and the fellow came and they told him how that I would like to stay very much, and so he went and got boarded at the Mansion. So you see I remained at Mr Robinson's where I now am up in a little chamber in the N. West part of the house, which is my room. I will now give you a description of it. It has two rather small windows in it which face the West but has no East window for which reason it is rather dark here in the morning. It has two good closets attached to it which are convenient. We have for furniture a bed which Vine is stronger and not quite so hard on the floors a table two chairs a washstand and a looking glass. There is one piece of furniture more that I have not mentioned and one that we do not need very much, namely a chimney which passes from the fire down below in the kitchen up through here, and which with the sun in the afternoon makes it very hot, and rather uncomfortable staying here, but it will be (that is the heat) quite acceptable by & by when the weather gets to be a little cooler.

I need not say any thing about my chum Roscoe for you know him as well as I do. I like him very much for a roommate.

You know I spoke to you about my studies. I study the same that I spoke to you about viz Latin Algebra Arithmetic and Philosophy accepting the last which I could not study because it came the same time as my Latin. Latinum valde multus Amo. I meant that sentence for I love Latin very much if you find that it is translated right you will see that I have learned a little about it. I find no trouble in keeping up with my class either in my Latin or Algebra. Roscoe studies Latin and nothing else. He is in the class that is over in the last part of the book & in my class the book that we use is McClintock & Brooks First Book In Latin. Roscoe and I have some sport in looking over our book comparing our lessons after we have got them out for we do not get them out together. He gets his out in the evening and I mine immediately after dinner. When we compare, we keep account of the mistakes of each. We were comparing the lesson for Monday today and found that he

made 18 mistakes and I 6.

I bought me a blank book the other day and am going to keep a journal. I began to write in it Sept 1st and have written a page every day since and intend to the whole term. I think it will help me in writing composition. I don't know as I shall send a piece of composition in this letter as we were talking about. I have written a piece about the Maine Liquor Law but I shall have to hand it in before it would have time to go to West Point and back. I shall send one in my next Letter.

I should like to have you name a subject for me in your next letter. For sometimes I think of a subject to write about, then after I have written a little, I think it is not a good subject and wish that I had taken some other one.

Oh! I almost forgot to write you about my taking lessons on the Piano. Mr Carpenter staid at Mr Wheelock's while he was on the Hill. He made several calls on me while here and also went with me up to Mr Wheelocks and gave me an introduction to Miss W the Lady who gives lessons on the Piano, and I agreed to take half a course of lessons which is twelve. It will cost me three dollars for taking Lessons and one dollar for practicing one hour every day by myself.

Write as soon as you get this for I do wish to hear from you. Please write about your journey on to West Point. Oh! Otis I have grown old very fast within a few days. I am now fourteen and a few days ago I was but thirteen. For my birthday was a week ago to day [b. August 28, 1838]. Most boys wish to be or wish they were men but I do not.

My health has been quite good since I came here, only I have got a cold that makes me cough considerable. I have had one letter from home since I have been here and I answered that last Sunday. I am now going up to the P.O. to see if there is not one there now. I send much love to you Otis. Please write soon.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles  
(To Oliver Otis Howard)

P.S. Correct my mistakes and tell me of them Otis.  
P.S. Roscoe sends his love to you.

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392 9/8/1852

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0370

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 8 '52

Dear Mother

I thought perhaps you might be looking for a letter from me by next Saturday's mail and if this goes as quick as it ought you will not be disappointed. I received a letter from Charley to day, a good long one of four pages. He says he is doing finely in his studies, likes Latin & likes his room mate. The last news I heard from you was contained in Rowland's letter written at Portland. I had mailed one to him just before I received his. My health is now good and I attend to all duties both military & Academic. My "afflictions" are finally suspended, only once in a while my cartridge box or the bell buttons on my shirt will remind me of the tender places. I was released from confinement Monday and awarded three extra tours of Sunday guard duty.

Perhaps you wish to know why I did not get here before two o'clock. I was under the impression that I must be here before two but I wished to stay away as long as I could consistently with my duty. So I went & asked Rundell. He said that if I arrived here any time before four, it would answer all purposes & nothing would be said. He was mistaken, but I did not say anything of what he told me, merely stating where I was & how I was delayed. It does not amount to much, but I like to have a portion of each sabbath to myself for reading, writing reflection &c, but seeing I was a little careless in the performance of my duty, I will cheerfully walk them out. Sunday tours are more than any others, for the guard is on all day. One relief walks while the other two go to church. I shall be on the relief that stays away from church unless I exchange with some one. The before mentioned is the only report I have had since my return, and I am now getting on finely in every respect.

My room mate suits me well. He is good-hearted, very neat, neither swears, drinks, or smokes and is not licentious, which I have learned to be the especial prerequisites of a room-mate for me. I have not used tobacco in any way nor shape since I have been in barracks & have no inclination to do so. It is a great trouble to get tobacco here if one wishes to, & causes a great deal of trouble & inconvenience after it is got, so I consider it the part of a wise man to forego the use of it.

(Thursday) If I do not close this now you will not get it Saturday. Write to me when you can. I am always delighted to hear from you. Give my love to all.

Your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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393 9/12/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0371

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 12th 1852

My dear Mother,

I have taken my pen this morning to make you amends if possible for writing you so short a letter. I had not time then to finish filling up my sheet, and thinking that you would rather receive a short letter than none at all, I mailed what I had written. I have received a long letter from Charlie and answered it by one of equal length. He appears much engaged in his studies, says he likes latin very much & enjoys taking lessons on the piano. He proposes sending me his compositions for me to make criticisms & corrections after which I am to send them back. He also wishes me to correct his letters & tell him of his mistakes. I could not find one in his long letter of four pages closely written. I think this is better than I do myself, for I seldom ever 're-read' one of my letters without finding several mistakes of one kind & another. I received too a long letter yesterday from Lizzie, and it was a beautiful letter, so you see I have no reason to complain of my lot, you all are so mindful of my comfort and my happiness. It makes the time pass very pleasantly and seem very short, when I can get a good many letters from home & from Portland. They promote reflection and give me something to do in my leisure moments, to answer them. They make you seem nearer to me & "soften the pain of absence". They make me forget petty grievances by making me forget the present & myself, while I am indulging in past reminiscences, and in dreams of the future.

Perhaps you fancy by what you saw of me at home & by what you have known of my faults heretofore, that I am exceedingly irritable, but I am not. I now never suffer myself to get impatient; never in the recitation room, never in my room, or at any other time let what will happen. Some time ago I discovered that this fault, for which I seemed to have a predisposition, was gradually growing upon me, and subtracting fearfully from my quantum of happiness; and I resolved to exert myself to overcome it. Now when I feel a little vexed, when any duty seems irksome, I stop still & think - think it will soon be over, put a bright face on the matter and then I find both the task & my heart are light.

Silas Lee was up to see me Thursday and brought with him a man from Boston a Capt McKim, who was very much interested in military affairs, having been Captain of an independent company in Boston, the one to which Silas belonged when there. They stopped all day till after parade in the evening; so that I got excused from all duty from 9 ½ o'clock, after my morning recitation, till 8 o'clock in the evening.

I went to see Warren last evening between supper & 'call to quarters', a time of about three quarters of an hour. I did not see him but a very short time. He looked hale & hearty and said he was getting on well. He says he shall not be able to go home, since it always costs him over a hundred dollars, let him be as prudent as he may. He did not say that this was his only reason for not going, but I fancied it was the principal one because he mentioned the cost. He says his Uncle Jerry is coming to visit him in a few days & will make me a call.

Mr Lee & I now sometimes converse about the lesson. It is much better than to be as we were last year. I am if anything too ready to forgive an injury to suit the notions of military men, but it is right to do so, and my impulses <prompt> me to forgive a man, so soon as he is disposed to treat me well. I do not wish to be on speaking terms with Mr Abbot. He never has conducted himself as I fancy a real, whole souled man should, and I would rather have him keep his own side of the path.

Tell Rowland Bailey I have not yet learned what he is intending to do with himself. I want him to "spruce up a little" and put a little energy & heart into study if he undertakes it this fall. If he could only invest an equal amount of attention and interest in his text books that he ever exhibits in the subjects of Temperance & politics, who knows what a scholar he might make? I would not however for the world persuade him to take any course that would have a bad effect upon his health or do him a permanent injury. I like my room mate very much. He appears always very kind hearted, and has none of those defects which are so hard for me to put up with. I never have, however, had any difficulty of any amount with a room-mate in my room; but I now anticipate more pleasure in my constant associations. Browne rooms with Lazelle. I do not think they will get on very well; at least they did not formerly; but Lazelle is afraid of Browne & I always thought he hated him for Browne was always "hectoring him" when we used to room together in the old barracks.

(Sunday noon)

I have just returned from church. We had a sermon on parental indulgence & filial obedience - or rather filial disobedience and its results. The text was, Absalom! Oh Absalom, my son Absalom. Would to God I had died for the Oh! Absalom, my son my son! It was a good subject & we had an excellent discourse; and especially to me was it deeply interesting. One of his closing remarks was something as follows: "The young man who will by his ungrateful conduct pierce his father's heart with anguish, or fill with tears the eyes of the mother who has watched over him with tender affection & solicitude from infancy will defy all the bad examples that the dissolute can set time to ruin him, for he is already ruined".

A week ago today I finished the reading of the "Wide Wide World". It is a beautiful book. I want you to read it if you have not. I never read a book more interesting, where the main object seemed to be the inculcation of Christian principles. The authoress lives just over the river; her real name is Warner.

Give my love to all. I presume Dellie is still a good boy & helping his father.

Mr Stevens whose name is on the register as found deficient, procured a reexamination, but it did not avail him anything. By his course, heretofore he had prejudiced the academic board against him. He has now spent three years in College & three years at West Point & is if anything worse off than when he started.

Has Lizzie written to you. She wrote me sometime since that she intended to. I shall expect a letter before this reaches you. Remember me to all my friends in Leeds.

Your affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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394 9/15/1852 *From:* Charles Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0373

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Sept 15th 1852

Dear brother,

I received with joy a letter from you last Tuesday. I came from my recitation in Latin just after the mail arrived, came over to the house to bring my book before I went to the P.O. & a fellow said that he had brought me a letter which was up stairs in my room. I was not long in finding it then I tell you, nor did I stop until I had read it over twice. It seemed quite short but then when I came to look at it, I saw that it was all over one sheet.

The account of your journey was quite interesting to me. I had not heard from you at all since you left the depot at Greene, but now I have heard all of the events of your journey as far as N.Y. city.

The day that you wrote your letter week ago last Thursday I went to Camp meeting. Roscoe & I and a fellow by the name of Butler started immediately after breakfast to walk to Camp meeting a distance of six miles. We started about seven and arrived there a little before nine. They were having a prayer meeting when I got there. (Viz, was considerable shouting &c). I went to the Leeds tent and found Mary F Lothrop, who told me that Rowland was there. I then went in pursuit of him soon a fellow told me that he had seen Rowland & that he was looking after me; well I soon found him & was very glad to do so. He told me that the folks were all well, which was my first eager inquiry.

I kept with Rowland and we soon found Rodelphus Leadbeter. He had been at home but a few days and was soon going back I believe, although I am not certain. Brought Lucia up to Camp meeting that morning. Rowland & I did not stop long with Rodelphus, but walked on. We soon met Silas Bates who said he came up with Nathan Coffin. Rowland came up with Henry Brewster early in the morning & did not know that he was coming. Well we walked on and in a little while found Roland A. and Orin Bates. Orin had just got home from Mass and was soon going back. I had not seen him for about a year. I believe you did not see him while at home, did you? He looked rugged & healthful. I saw George Jones & Lucin Turner there & a great many others with whom I was acquainted. John H & Helen were there. Helen was as full of her fun as ever. Laura H was also there. She took dinner in Leeds tent with Rowland & me. Just at dark I saw her walking with a gentleman by the name of Webster who has been a kind of assistant engineer to Mr Reed on our new Rail Road ie the Androscoggin.

George Lothrop & Huldah assisted in furnishing the Leeds tent and he invited us to take dinner with him which as I have said we did. My dinner tasted good after walking so far I tell you. Huldah's health she said was about as good as it had been for the summer accepting that she was considerably bent out that day for she was not used to so much exertion. She told me that they were about to move away from Leeds and were going to Livermore Falls to live; said they had engaged a house there & should move soon. I forgot to mention that in the forenoon we heard a sermon by a Mr Foster I believe but I am not sure now what his name was. We had a sermon from Mr Primer in the afternoon, our minister at Kent's Hill. Rowland said he did not like it very well. He is a young man about 25 or 26 I should think. He uses a great many words but fewer thoughts sometimes. A week or two ago he began a sermon and preached a while on (I don't exactly remember the words of the text). Something about a great river or a river flowing on to the great city. It was taken from some part of the Bible, I don't remember where. Well he went on to compare this to the Christian people &c for a while. But! All at once stoped and began to speak on the Temperance & Politics of this state and to urge the people to vote for Holmes or Hubbard, I don't know hardly which but I think it was Holmes. After he had spoken awhile on that subject he changed back again to his sermon. They said that he preached the same down to North Wayne. But it will not do for me to criticize yet.

But to get back to the Camp ground. Rowland was full of politicks, it being but a little time before election. About every man that he met he would if he had a chance try and persuade him to vote for Crosby. I stayed with Rowland until he left which was about sunset or a little before. Mother sent me up a bundle in which was a shirt, some writing paper and some envelopes. How good mother is; she is always caring for me. I staid until the close of the evening sermon which was a little after ten o'clock and then walked home with Roscoe and another of the students. We got here at twelve o'clock.

Since I began my letter I have eaten my dinner and walked up to the P.O. but found no letter. I have got to go up to Miss Wheelocks to take a lesson on the piano now & will finish when I get back.

I have been gone from my letter two hours; I went up there about two o'clock. She had callers then and so I waited, and I have been playing about an hour steady which makes me quite tired to sit so still and strait for so long.

I suppose our folks have written to you that Francis Lothrop has lost two of his children. I suppose you hear as much news from Leeds as I do about. For I have not heard from there since Camp meeting. Oh yes I hear Charles Hutchens went down last Saturday but did not hear from our folks.

Roscoe has gone down to Leeds today. I expect to have all the news when he gets back Monday. He had a chance to ride over to North Turner bridge & so he thought he would go home it being but 2 ½ miles from their home, & he wished to see his mother who has been so very sick you know. The last he heard from her was at Camp meeting. He heard then that she was gaining slowly but had not then had her clothes on. He also has a cousin sick at his fathers with the Typhoid fever. Her name is Harriet Frost. Perhaps you know her. She is Porter Frost's daughter.

I thought of going home last night or going down to Arza's & stoping all night and then going home this morning, and I fairly made up my mind to go and changed my clothes, but I went in to prayers and to hear <> & while in there made up my mind not to go. I thought it over in my mind, thinks I they will think I am homesick if I go home tonight when it has been but about a week since I saw them, but not so much that, that made me change my mind but I thought I might wish to go home again before the term and another thing I did not want to leave my studies. One reason I wanted to go home was to get some winter clothes for I have been quite in need of them this first week. It has been very cold until today, but it is quite warm and pleasant this afternoon.

I have about as much as I can do to attend to my studies. I have no time to play or write or hardly any thing else, any day but Saturday & two hours of that are taken up in playing on the piano. We have got over to transposition in my Algebra, about through fractions in Arithmetic. In Latin we have got to the 62 page. I like Latin much. I have not writin any composition to send as I promised, but think I must next time. I have dec twice since I came. I have not written this very well but I hope you will let the quantity which I have written out ballance the penmanship. Please correct my mistakes and tell them to me in your next, if there is any after I have corrected all I can find, as I presume there will be.

From your affec brother  
Charles

To O O Howard

P.S. Excuse such a long letter. I know to read it is tiresome. Rowland told me that that you was punished for not being there at the right hour. I don't know what it was. Was it a hard one? If it was, I am sorry. We have not elected a governor. It (ie the election) will fall on the Legislature.

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395 9/16/1852 *From:* Peleg S. Perley

*To:* [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0372

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Sept. 16th 1852

Dear Howard

I have been gently reminded tonight that I ought to write you a letter and one reason set forth among others was that I am the elder. Well I have no particular objection to writing to you "on the contrary" I like to write to you always whenever the spirit moves - not that I always do when the spirits move because laziness irremediable, incorrigible steps in and hinders me. But I am in for one this eve, in time for mailing too and it is now 7 3/4 so I must haste and to proceed at once in medias us I thank you for writing so cheerily and kindly in my album. It smacks of the olden hopeful college days and shows that your memory of them has not grown dim nor your love for them and me grown cold. One more I thank from my heart for so kind a remembrance.

I don't know but an apology is due from me for my rudeness at Picnic and at any rate you will grant one for neglect of you by me anywhere or at any time is and ever has been however many times I may have been guilty of it unintentional. It really seems to me that I hardly need to make such a declaration to you but I find by sad experience that one must not take too much for granted even in the case of one's most intimate and best friends. Why till recently, I should no more have thought of your taking notice of an odd fib or strange conduct in me, to interpret it to my disadvantage than my own folks. You should have known me better. "Et tu Brute". However, Jewett who I thought knew and whom I sincerely prized as a friend, has taken offence at my mode of treating him so that I begin to think I may appear selfish, cold, distant, moody and uncommunicative and unsympathizing when I am not. So I must be on my guard perforce and be polite and pay attention to my friends and acquaintances and chat and appear cheerful and they will not then think I am careless of them. This is not irony - it is a truth and to me almost a new discovered one though as old as creation.

I don't know Chum but I am indifferent and obnoxious to the charge of misanthropic selfishness. I don't feel so but one cant compare his own feelings with those of others for he don't know what other's are. I don't know that I love any whom I call my friends as they love me - sometimes I fear I love them too little and then again too much, but my love for them varies not such as it is it is constant and trusting. Jewetts letter giving me the cold shoulder as it looks to me, made me feel bad. I could have cried over it. But sundered ties are not helped by tears. They lie too deep for that. I cant tell I am sure what his motive was in writing me as he did, whether he was put out because I made so short a stay with him or whether he merely put that forward in lieu of a better pretext for getting rid of a friend.

I was at Com. and it was a great time. Adams, Bullfinch, Gardiner, Goodwin, Atherton, Ingraham, Perley, Jackson, Snell, Smith, MacArthur of our class were there, all in good health and spirits. Hodgman is the father of a boy. Ingraham is said to have lost his woman - non morte. Annie I have not seen since about a week before we went up country in Aug. You remember what you told me in our bedroom after the tip out, when I had been talking with E. and you called me back? It has not come yet. Oh will it ever! Yes I hope so. Liz is writing a note and she will tell you about a thousand things that I cant now.

I think I shall go home Sat. and stay a few weeks - 3 or 4 say. I went up to see Perry last week and stayed four days with him. He has got so as to walk and ride out and is gaining fast. His arm will be probably stiff partially. His eyes are no better. God tempers the wind to the shaven lamb but seemingly he has not tempered it to him.

No Governor elected here by the people. Legislature - democratic though there is a large Whig gain. The Maine Law so far as accounts have come in triumphantly sustained. Hurrah!

Write me soon. Direct to North Turner Bridge. In haste,

As ever your friend  
Peleg S. Perley

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396 9/24/1852 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* Brother [C.H. Howard]

OOH-0374

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 24th 1852

My dear brother

I receive your's of the 18th day before yesterday - no, Wednesday, and at the same time one from Lizzie. Both were good, both of a good length. She rather beat you this time in point of length. She says she must be very careful or you will outstrip her in learning music. You can read the notes so easily.

As you say I carried you on as far as N. York in my last letter. After leaving the boat I was carried straight to the American House - situated on Broadway. Here I left my trunk & valise - and finding myself in such a busy, noisy place I forgot all about my breakfast and started off in search of friends. There is always a feeling of discomfort when you find yourself in a large, crowded place, with nothing particular to do, but elbow your way along - where you meet no eye of sympathy or recognition. However your military buttons will gain you a path if you put on a bold independent air. Yet even then all the Hack & carriage drivers will charge you a double price. Considering these things, for you remember the large share of economy in my composition, I resolved to "foot it" as much as my knowledge of the city would admit of. I steered my course down Broadway, till I came to the tallest Church spire in the city, belonging to what they call Trinity Church - this I recollected had served as my guidepost before. I remembered that Silas' store was on a street that ran just behind the Pearl St. House. I turned to the left and went straight forward a half dozen streets or more - then thinking I had gone far enough in that direction I turned to the right & proceeded in a direction parallel to Broadway. Soon I found Pearl street, then the Pl St. House. Then the store behind - Silas was not yet in. I sat down to wait for him & this reminded me of a want of breakfast. I started off then to find Frank Sargent's brother. I knew his shop was on a st called Old Slip, but where I could not recollect - vain search - my stomach was very angry at this superabundance of exercise.

A nauseating gas is always in those lower streets, and you are always meeting, dirty foreigners, odoriferous negroes - and wadling "old tars". Carts, truck & big footed horses are always in your way, to make you dodge & jump about. Well I sweat over this exercise & find my way at last back to Silas' store. He came in a few moments went with me for a breakfast, at the nearest Eating House - then took me down to the Warf and on board a big-bark bound for Australia, to set sail in about a month. Here I found Perry Lee - a square built big shouldered young man. A little taller than your humble servant - a regular sailor. He knew me instantly, and of course I recognized him. His face & hair, his voice, with many other Perry Lee peculiarities remain unchanged. He could not leave his vessel till noon, nor could Silas be absent from his duties for a long time, so I went to Epes Sargent's shop - where he does up medicines to send off, smoked a cigar and finding myself very comfortably situated, more so than I would have been wandering about over a dusty, dirty city in the sultry part of the day, I let curiosity and love of novelty subside awhile & sat down to scribble down my thoughts at my friend's desk. After dinner Perry left his vessel, dressed himself up & went with me to see his mother at Brooklyn. We found them pretty well. Sarah has had a hard time since the birth of her child, but is now better. They think the girl-baby very fine looking - interesting lovely in every development.

At six o'clock (Thursday) that same night I took the cars for Peekskill. The cars are drawn out of the heart of the city by horses - so you may sit at the window of a car and watch street after street pass by you. You can observe hundreds of different faces and fancy you trace these as many different characters. You see old & young, great & small - ragged boys & girls - prim & proud little ones - Noble, whole soul'd looking men, and thin faced, sharp nosed & chin'd sort of beings, who look very humble, and very absorbed.

Sometimes you amuse yourself by tracing resemblances between the passers by & your friends & acquaintances afar off. But by & by you are out of the city - drawn on, snatched through spruce by that big horse fed by fuel and whose legs never flag or hesitate to perform their circular paths unless broken. I reached Peekskill on the evening, found Uncle & cousin Elizabeth well, living in the same old place & by themselves. Uncle Ward is a Democrat, & goes into politics with his whole heart & soul.

Our father had some cousins at (New Burg or) Newburg - three old maids. They are now by the name of Philips. I took my cousin Elizabeth & carried her to visit them on Friday, and had a very fine time. We had to

pass by West Point on our way on the opposite side of the river. My eyes did not feast upon the grand scenery with the same degree of pleasure that they did two years before when I approached this place. That night, after having seen my elderly cousins, eaten of their nice fruit, and seen their pretty girls, for they keep a boarding school, we returned to Peekskill and like a foolish boy I stopped there till the afternoon of the next day. I ought to have been here dressed in Cadet clothes, ready to report at 2 o'clock. I was one hour & a half too late, for which I have served one weeks confinement to my room, performed one camp tour of guard duty & one Sunday tour & have still two more sundays, with 10 demerit & all that I may get in addition, while performing these duties. Is it hard? No. Only the demerit, all the rest sits on my shoulders as easy as my musket when I am marching to parade with the tune of "Old folks at home".

I am well & doing well. Remember me to Roscoe. You must take a great deal more pains with your hand writing than I do. I want to hear from you as soon as you can write. I have not seen those compositions. You made a few mistakes in your last. I can not correct them now - be careful.

I will give you a subject. "Labor vincit omnia" "Industry conquers all things".

You can take the example of a poor boy, with no wealth but good common sense, and show how he may rise to eminence by making this his motto. You can tell how Bonaparte gained his Laurels & his greatness, how Luther changed the religion of the world. How Peter the Great remodeled his government and made his semi-barbarous people assume a <rank> among the civilized & enlightened nations of the earth. In short how every man who has risen to any distinction has taken for his motto & adhered to it that "perseverance accomplishes all things".

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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397 9/26/1852 *From:* Rodelphus [Gilmore] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0375

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Sept 26th 1852

Dear Brother

I have my pen in my hand and I thought that I would write a little. Last fryday mother and I went up to Kents Hill and we went to Charley's boarding place and Charley was studing in his room. Soon he came. And then he had to go recite his lesson. When he came in he wanted to see Mother because he thought he should stay, but soon he changed his mind. So we went out to walk. We went up 4 pare of stairs and Charley and I got up on the Belfry. We looked off all round. Then we could see the Bates hill. They began to ring the Bell. Mother and C and Me Started for home. We stoped at Mr Gilmore's. He has got most well. He walks six feet. Saturday he Charley was sick so that he did not go out a great deal and to day he is so sick that Mother thought he had the fever. RB has got so smart that he kicks about here and all he thinks of is politics. He belongs to two Clubs Temparence and Scott Clubs. He is Secretary of the Scott and Graham Club. Old Mr Coffin has come in to see us to day or since diner.

From you afectionate Brother  
Rodelphus

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398 9/26/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0376

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept 26th 1852

My dear Son,

I have just reread your three last letters to Charlie, who is Sick at home (I concluded to take a little table close to his bed, and write to you). His head aches badly, his face is flushed; and pult very quick, I fear he has the tyfoid fever. He wrote me a letter last Monday saying he should come home Saturday. He should walk home, said nothing of his health. After reading his letter I decided to go up Friday and carry his flannels and other cloths, that the season required. Dellie and I started early Friday morning for Kents Hill to visit Charlie and bring him home if he wished. We reached there at half past ten o'clock.

I found C looking very pale and even deathly. On enquiry I found he had the headache several days. Mrs R the lady where boarded thought he did not exercise enough. At the time other boys were at play, he practiced his music. He said he should like to come home and talk with R.B. about his health &c. All the way he complained of his head, and ever since he came home the pain in his head has increased. I found his pult very quick and intermiting. None of my remedies have had the desired affect. The rest of us are in pretty good health, with the acceptions of teeth ache ear ache &c.

Your father is gone the most of the time seeing to the railroad affairs. The Locomotive passes through Leeds every day. R.B.H. is up to something about temperance or Politics all the time. I am not satisfied with his course. I like to see young men begin and follow out the same course. O! how I wish I could direct him and have him follow my directions, but I cannot. I cannot see anything but his general health is good.

Nelson Leadbetter is here on a short visit to his parents, has called on me, and would have come and made a visit with me, had not their babe been taken ill and prevented. They leave next Wednesday for their home. Francis Lothrop has had two of his children die with the dissentary. I was with them some in their sickness and death. It is one of the hardest things in nature for young and affectionate parents to see their little ones, sicken and die. Francis seemed almost wholly absorbed in the one thought that he must have them live, but he could not stay the hand of death.

If you see Warren give my best respects to him.

Tuesday 11 o'clock.

Charlie still continues sick. I have called in a Physition to take charge of him, as I did not feel confidence in myself to treat a patient through a fever. He has most likely lost his fall's schooling if no more. R.B.H. is playing on the aeolean, and Charlie cannot rest because he makes discords. R.B. plays some tunes well. I should like to write something pleasant and interesting but my mind is so full of cares I can hardly collect my thoughts to write anything. I called to see Mrs Sampson the other day. Found her very feeble, and found her quite discouraged. She is very spare. Called to see Arza. He is so he can (with the help of his canes) get from one room to another. Mr Sampson said he met with Mrs Waite and Lizzie in the cars going into Portland. Saturday's mail brought a letter from Lizzie to R.B. in answer to one he had written her.

I seem to feel extremely sensible every thing that touches you. Lizzie spoke as tho' Col. Lee's being superintendent at West Point would have a bearing on you for the worse. But, my son, try to have self possession at all times. If you do the best you can; keep your temper look well to the military rules. If you only knew how unhappy your mother was on account of your manner of commencing your years course I think on her account you will try to understand, and obey the laws of the institution where you seem to be placed. If you are sensible through much care you are subject to forget small Points. Do make a minute of them. I have not always spoken or written to you with that freedom, that I think is a parents duty to a child because I knew your sensitive disposition. But I do think Otis you must be more particular about small things. A great deal depends on small matters. I never could fully understand how it was, that you got your yourself into just such a situation.

Tuesday Oct 5th

You see by my dates in what manner I have written. Charlie is still confined to his bed, and requires the time of

one person to take care of him. I think his symptoms more favorable. He is sometimes beautiful to look upon his skin is so pure, with his dark eye brow and locks and forehead and hair so perfect. His flush of fever adds to fine looks. He has shone the judgement of a man in his sickroom. Dellie is keeping the flies of from his face while I write. Your Aunt Lucretia watched with him sabbath night. R.B. is a great assistance to me about taking care of Charles. We divide the night, one of us take care of him one part of the night and the other, the other part. We have Doct Bradford of Turner for our Physition.

I hope to hear you are getting on well in every respect. I do not want you to live dissatisfied. I hope your health is good. I am glad you went to see the Miss Phillips'. I have a lengthy correspondence between your father and Pamela written, perhaps, for their amusement, or improvement or both. I should judge from them that she had a finished education.

Dellie has written something of a letter for me to enclose in mine. He seems to think his best performances are acceptable, however unperfectly done. Dellie thinks highly of his brothers, and thinks much of their attention and is rather a good sort of a boy.

We have had a beautiful Autumn. So far our seasonable rains immediately after you left home has given a green covering to the fields that is a great improvement to our scenery. I have not seen any of our friends from H. since you left home. I have heard that Mrs Strictland was about to visit me but have not seen her. Since Charley has been sick, I am in hopes she will not come as I could not pay much attention to her.

I should like to have you write me, what is the difference between your daily exercise this year and last, so that I can be thinking sometimes in what manner you are then spending your time.

Francis Lothrop and wife called to see Charlie and tendered their kind services a few days ago. She feels the loose of her little children very much. She had a sister died about the same time of her children. Loiza Mowen has gone on a visit to Massachusetts. I hope she is spending her time agreeably this week while there. I seem to wish to fill up my sheet with something, however insipped it may be. I believe there is a general state of good health in town, with few acceptions. Florus Jennings has been laying sick more than two weeks at his fathers where he lately returned from Massachusetts. Your father raised six hundred bushels of Oates. Georgie Jones is gone to Boston to live. The man with whom he is hired has bought 3 hundred bushels of Oates of your father. I am in hopes we shall turn some of our produce towards paying our workman. I hope you will continue to write me, whether I write you or not. My care for my children is great, perhaps I have failed to inculcate those lasting principles in my sons which I so much desire them to have. I know that we are not our own keepers. With that view, it becomes us, to ask the protection of "Him, Who has an all seeing eye, and not a sparrow falleth to the ground without His notice".

Yours Ever  
Eliza Gilmore

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399 9/28/1852 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0377

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept. 28th 1852

My dear Mother,

I meant that you should have received a letter from me last Saturday - but I found before I got time to write, that it would be too late for a letter to reach you. I used to write one or two letters on Sunday, but considering my tours of guard duty I have not tried of late very often. It has been a very long time since I have received a letter from home, and I should be full of solicitude, had not Charlie said in his letter that he met Rowland at Camp meeting and that all our family are well. I presume you have had too much to do to write. I imagine, however, sometimes that my letters may not be the right kind - too cool - too distant - which makes it hard for you or Rowland to reply. But a little thought teaches me better. With a passing friend a cool & distant letter would deter him from replying, but mothers & brothers do not act on the same principle.

Perhaps you think I do not write enough - so much as a son would who entertained the right kind of feelings towards his mother - then perhaps you think that I devote more time to Lizzie & less time to you than I ought. Think it not if you ever did. For it is not true. I consider it a pleasure to write to you as well as a duty. And though I may have other calls upon my time, yet you shall have your share of it. I cannot think after all that my mother would harbor any feelings of jealousy because she is not the exclusive object of my affections; for this it seems to me would not be natural.

It is my earnest wish that you take us both Lizzie & me, into your love. I am well aware of the anxiety a mother feels for her son touching the step that she thinks is to have an important bearing upon his happiness - that is to say his marriage; it is natural that she should be a little critical in her observations, and perhaps a little more fastidious in her requirements (which perhaps too she never speaks of) than her son. But my mother must remember that I have a pretty clear head, and am disposed to mingle reason with all things. I wish you to love Lizzie. Why? because I think she deserves it. Is she without faults? No, neither am I - though I confess that all the faults I ever discovered in Lizzie were never the result of a bad heart or a bad motive. But I would rather not praise her. All those who know her best say she is a "noble girl". Yet, I do not take others eyes to see with.

I have said this much, not because I thought you did not entertain the best of feelings towards Lizzie, but because I fancied you would like to tell me many things - that you might like to converse with me more intimately, or if perchance you might have received any wrong impressions concerning Lizzie, that you might tell them to me as freely as you would tel me your thoughts when I was a little boy, so that I could correct them.

My health has been very good indeed since I have returned and I have been doing remarkably well in my studies till yesterday. You know I will not study sundays in the day time or evening. Saturday afternoon I took a walk up on Cro nest. Four of us walked in all perhaps fifteen or sixteen miles, up high promontory <steeps> over rough & rugged land without paths & with plenty of rocks or thickets. It was a "wild-goose chase", a sort of exploring expedition taken for amusement. I returned just in time for parade, and to own the truth I never was more completely tired out in my life.

As you see I did not study much Saturday night. Well Monday morning, I began to study as usual immediately after Reveille, but I could not get the whole of my lesson well. The last demonstration I just skimmed over. It was very hard too and was given me just as soon as I got to the recitation room. I put all the work on the board, but made bad work at explaining it. So you need not be surprised if I do not come out first in Philosophy, the first month. In drawing I have been doing well. My mark is very much better than it was last year. The scale of demerit has been raised - that is, now an absence from any duty is 8, whereas it was formerly 3, and other things in a like proportion. The maximum amount is still 200.

I expect to get a letter from you today. I will wait before I write more and see.

(Wednesday)

I did not get a letter yesterday. September is almost out & we have not taken off our white pants yet. It seems so chilly to day that I am in hopes there will be an order for gray pants this evening. Charlie told me all about

his journey to Camp meeting, whom he saw &c. How is Arza? You have not mentioned him nor has Rowland in your letters! I presume from this that he must be better.

I presume Rowland has been full of politics, for the last few months. Tell him there was some rejoicing here at Hubbards defeat. They said men were coming to their senses. The New York Herald seemed to be very much elated at the issue of our elections. It saw the triumph plainly of the opponents of the liquor law.

Have you heard from Grandmother lately? Perhaps if she is able she will be out to see you this fall. Will she not. Lizzie said Aunt Martha Jane was out at Leeds, when she was writing. Tell me what she had to say in extenuation of her husbands course of procedure. How do the Club & band flourish now-a-days. I want you to tell me everything that is transacting at home. Tell me about Dellie, how he is & what he is doing. About father, how his health is and if he is as full of business as usual. No matter how much you enter into detail, anything connected with home or Leeds will be interesting.

Remember me to Aunt Lucretias family. Give my love to each and all who are at home. I shall expect a letter very soon.

From your affectionate Son  
OO Howard

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400 10/4/1852 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* Nephew [O O Howard]

OOH-0378

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 4 Oct. 1852

My Dear Nephew

Myself, Elizabeth & Mrs Henry intend visiting our friends at Newburgh on Wednesday next by the ½ past 9 ock train from here.

It is by the particular request of the Miss Phillips' and Mrs Henry & Elizabeth that I ask you to join us either at Garrison or Cold Spring. We will return at an Early hour in the Evening.

Will not Capt Brewerton allow you a furlow to meet our Cousins from Chicago whom you have never seen. I sincerely hope he will grant you this favor on the present occasion.

All join in love to you.

Your affectionate Uncle  
Ward B Howard

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401 10/8/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0379

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Friday - West Point Oct 8th 52

My dear Mother,

It is very late - after taps. I cannot write you but a few lines. Your letter I got to day. The news it contained makes me feel very badly. I want to see Charlie, to be with him, to tend him. if he should be in any danger, do not as you value my happiness neglect to write. Another blow - Lizzie's letter which I got at the same time I did yours, tells me that her mother is very sick, very low, cannot be moved only to have her bed made - is in great pain - breathes hard &c. It seems dreadful to me to be bound here. I should have applied for a leave immediately - but I feared I would not get it, since you wrote so encouragingly about Charlie towards the close of your letter. If Lizzie should write to you or to father that her mother is much worse than she is now, I wish father, if Charlie is very sick to write me this simply requesting me to come home - or that he wishes me to come home immediately since certain unforeseen circumstances demand my presence.

Any way - only that the request may procure me a leave for a week or ten days. For if Mrs Waite should not live it is absolutely necessary that I should be there. I hope this will not take place. May God be with & protect you all. I will write more tomorrow. You will get this Tuesday, whereas you will not get the one I write tomorrow till a week from tomorrow. Give my love to Charlie. I do love him indeed & would give anything to be with him. I know he will be taken care of. I fear Lizzie will make herself sick.

Remember me to all

From your very affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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402 10/9/1852    *From:* Rowland B Howard    *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0380

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Oct 9th 52

Dear Brother

Charles continues more comfortable although we have to sit up with him every night as yet. I am in hopes that his Fever is gradually wearing off, but he is quite low. When he recvd your letter directed to Kents Hill he was so sick that he did not understand much of it, but we shall reread it to him now that he is a little better.

Florus Jennings is yet alive, but I believe the Dr thinks that he cannot recover.

I squeezed out time to attend one Club on Thursday evening. It has not increased in Members since you was here but has become very much more active and efficient. We have prosecuted three Rum sellers in town and have Warrants for a number more. The general opinion seems to be that now that Temperance men have made such exertion to sustain the Law, now is the time to execute it, and from what I can hear I think that it is being executed with a spirit and vigor before unequaled. I went with the Officer the other day to search John <Rees> premises and we succeeded in bringing away a load of Gin which will probably be destroyed and the Old Gent subjected to a fine of twenty-dollars and costs. The latter item is not small I tell you. This was his sentence at his trial. In default of payment of the above the Maine Law takes him to Jail. You get your Advertiser regularly I suppose and hear all you wish to in regard to Maine elections and politics. It is the candid opinion of many Democrats as well as Whigs that the Whigs might carry Maine for <Leah> but at this time from Temperance and other causes there is a dearth of political feeling and excitement in both parties and therefore I think Maine will line up to its natural instincts which are of course "locofoca". They have a Scott & Graham Club in this town but it is rather a lifeless and spiritless concern. All are perfectly agreed and therefore none have particular interest and the State is in much the same political condition that Leeds is. I saw John & Hellen yesterday at Lewiston. They as well as myself were on a visit to the <Seven> Mile Mirror which you saw in Portland. I took Dellie & Roscoe with me. They were much delighted with the painting and music.

Aunt Lucretia's folks are well. All of her family have left her. Melvin & family & Rodolphus left about a week since and Lucia has gone to Mr Barrows school. Yesterday the first passenger train was run on the new Rail Road. The train was for an excursion party visiting Lewiston. They ran from Norris Ferry in Livermore to the Junction. The passengers say the Road rides first rate.

The Wide Wide World as you say is a charming work and I am going to buy it for Mother the first time I have a chance. Do you read any now? If so, what?

I have the tooth ache most all of the time and night it is as Arza says 'tedious'. Arza is comfortable but cannot help himself at all. He is hauled around the room on trucks. Dellie is engaged in a dried apple speculation and I can hear that Cog Wheel Machine rattling in the other room. He thinks he is making a great deal of Money. I hardly ever saw as many apples as there are this year. Loisa has gone to Easton to visit her friends. She took the trip all alone. Huldah & George are about moving to Livermore Falls to live. I believe George expects some employment aboard the Rail Road. I have not time to write more today and you must try to make this ill digested mass of stuff suffice. And believe me

Your aff bro  
Rowland

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403 10/9/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0381

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct 9th 1852

My dear Mother

You may be wondering why I wrote last evening and so late. My evening's lesson was very long and quite hard so that I could not finish it, till "taps". If I did not write you & Lizzie both last night I could not get a letter off the post till Monday morning, so that as usual you would not get your letter till Saturday nor Lizzie hers till Thursday (perhaps Wednesday). I was too anxious to admit of this delay.

A second perusal of your letters and little Closson's persuasive sympathy made me look upon Charlie's sickness differently from my first impressions. I had waited so long for a letter, had fancied you sick, father sick or Rowland sick, by turns till I was wholly unprepared to receive any bad news. The first words of your letter I read at dinner, where you said you would take your sheet & write by the side of my sick brother, quite unmanned me. I could not read any more & had hard work to eat any dinner, and then, when I came to my room and read Lizzie's letter written in such a strain as though she was trying to conceal from me a heart full of grief & foreboding, it made me long for my freedom to fly to her and to Charlie. I thought of getting a leave. I planned it all out at the drawing Academy, where you will always find me from two till four. But Little Closson who had noticed my sadness at dinner, came to my room after drawing, advised me to give up trying to get a leave till I had heard again, for should I try & fail I would feel worse about the matter than if I had not tried to get a leave. Then I did not know but you would blame me for doing it without your writing me to come.

Last Monday I received a letter from Uncle Ward stating that my cousin from Chicago, Mrs Henry would be at Newburgh with her little family and that he & the Misses Philips seriously wished me to come up asking it as an especial favor of the Superintendent that I might be permitted a leave of one day. I applied, not thinking that it would be granted, but Col Lee let me go. I spent a very pleasant day with my friends at Newburgh. Uncle took me all over Newburgh to show me the beauties of the village and the relics of the Revolution yet extant. His daughter has two children - one is a beautiful little boy of about four years I should think and the other a creeping baby boy. I got back in season this time and went on with my duties as if nothing had interrupted them. Never mind my first late or the ten demerit. Since I performed my punishment without a single murmur or bad feeling and am getting on admirably, you need not be unhappy about it.

You must recollect that there are more than ten thousand regulations of minor importance, which can be learned only from your own or somebody's else experience which has come to your knowledge by the daily publication of delinquencies. It seems that, now, there cannot possibly be one of the whole system of reports, which I do not know. Since my misfortunes do not bring a wrinkle to my forehead or a murmur into my heart, why should you be unhappy for me. My liability to forget little things has been gradually lessening. West Point life is made up of little things, every half hour in the day has its peculiar duties. The mind must be constantly on the watch. Should I not be constantly careful about little things I would run up my maximum of demerit in a month. If I had been a fourth Classman this year my excuses would have taken off every report I have had, but now they have to stick if I am so unfortunate as to get them.

Since I have set foot on West Point this time I have been trying to do right. I have reflected more, read my Bible more for I do not let a night pass without reading one or two chapters & pondering them in order to try to understand them and apply them. I have been cheerful all the time, taken things coolly & philosophically, and have not been impatient once. I do not say this to praise myself, but to show you that I have already begun to remedy those faults which are so annoying to one's self and to others.

You need not strive to interest me when you write. Do you not know that you cannot write any thing uninteresting to me? Did it ever seem that you could? When you can get time & are not too tired tell me all about Charlie, how he looks, what he says. Have Rowland read to him when he is able to bear it. I wish I could be there. I could do so much - and he would love to have me too.

You wish to know what I recite in daily. From 8 till ½ past 9 I recite in Mechanics every day excepting Sunday. My monthly standing in this branch of mixed mathematics will read Philosophy No such or such or one.

Last Sunday Jerry Lothrop and Warren came up to see me. They remained with me at my room half an hour. I was on guard & could not be with them longer. Warren was dressed in Citizen's clothes as when you saw him.

We ride every other day on the plain with Lieut Sacket for an instructor, and now we have to ride. We wear a heavy saber slung from a leathern belt around the waist and dress as I used to at home in my shell jacket. I generally get a fine horse - a different one every day. Sometimes I get a hard one that taxes all my equanimity to keep me down on the saddle, but I am pretty well at home on a horse's back.

Write me just as soon as you can, or let Rowland every week - if it is not three lines so that I may know how Charlie is.

(Saturday afternoon)

I received a second letter from Lizzie today. Her mother was much worse. She thinks she will not get well. does not say she wants me to come home, but I know she does, if I only could. I might perhaps if I would go & make a confidant of Mr Lee (Col Lee I mean) but I cannot.

Give my love to all. I am hoping for the best. I have no doubt all the ways of Providence are right and we must try to think so.

From your affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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404 10/17/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Brother [R B Howard]

OOH-0382

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct 17th 1852

Dear brother

I really think it has come your turn to have a letter. When I write a letter home it is usually intended for all, still I know there is a particular pleasure in receiving a letter directed to yourself in person, saving this, that the letter is a good one. Without making this reservation, however, a letter from a brother is always more than acceptable to me whether it be a good one or not. If it turns out to be full of unusually interesting matter I count this as clear gain.

Since you have written me you probably have received two letters from me at home and know of Mrs Waites' sickness. The manner in which Lizzie wrote her first letter informing me of her mother's sickness frightened me somewhat, but she has kept me informed of every change for better or for worse. Her disease was a species of cholera and was very rapid in its progress. She is much better now. She has been out of her head a great deal & very nervous allowing scarcely any body to do anything for her except her daughter. Therefore Lizzie has worn herself almost out in watching sitting up nights coupled with her anxieties.

Now I feel more anxiety for Charlie, for his constitution is so slender, that I dread much the state in which his fever will leave him. Mother says he bears his sickness very manfully. I am glad for this, since a want of good courage will do him much harm. I hope to hear soon that he is able to sit up & to walk about. Tell him it is a great blessing if one must be sick to be sick at home, where you have every care tendered through love & sympathy, where every want is supplied even before it is asked. I would like much to see him & talk with him, and be with him while he is sick, but circumstances render it impracticable unless he is sicker than I hope from the bottom of my heart he is, or will be.

I presume you have my standing for the month of September before this. You will perceive that I took quite a start in drawing. I had last week the tenth mark in the class in drawing. So you see that one need not give up, because one year's trial fails to exhibit any marked superiority in his capacity for the fine arts. "Labor vincit omnia" as usual. By it I graduated first in Mathematics - by it I overcame the seemingly invincible hatred that certain individuals, I mean a great number, entertained for me here. And under the action of the same force, I have started up in drawing, yet I fear I cannot stay up.

The only society in this institution is the Dialectic. I have lately joined it, and enjoy its discussions very much. It meets Saturday evenings and those who belong to it are permitted to be absent from Quarters the whole evening. Our debate last night was upon the question: Is a Congress of Nations desirable? And upon this question which I had not heard of till I got to the debating room I made my maiden speech; and got considerable credit for the manner in which I handled the affirmation. The society is composed of picked men, selected from each class. I was happily disappointed in it. The southerners are full of gas, seldom ever speak to the point, but have a great flow of language.

You asked me what I have been reading. My leisure time has been spent for the most part in writing letters; but I have found time to read the Wide Wide World & Queechy by Miss Warner, who lives on the Island between this & Cold Springs - who by the way was here at Church to day. She is tall and very ordinary in her appearance generally. Her father, who comes with her to Church, is quite an old gentleman & personates well I should think Old Mr Kinggan, Flada's Grandfather. I have read the Reveries of a Bachelor, Dream Life and a part of Larnett, by IH Marvel. The latter you may not yet have met with. It is a satire upon the various characters that aspire to respectability in City life. All of this writer's works are well worth the reading. He too was here last summer, while I was at home.

I want you to write me often to tell me how Charlie is getting on, if nothing more. How is mother? Is her health still good, with all her cares and watchings? She need have not the least anxiety for me, since I am getting on admirably, with nothing to trouble but this bad news from home & from Lizzie.

I have experienced one inconvenience. My room was entered some day last week while my room-mate &

myself were absent. My writing desk opened & my money, what I had left, taken out & carried off. Many others have lost money just so of late. I never felt the sense of poverty so much in my life as when I discovered my loss. For I remembered that I had settled up with father and I owed a dollar for some pieces of music that I had bought - was just then going to get the money to pay for them - & lo! all was gone but twenty five cents, which I presume was left to console me.

I am considerably out of debt on my check book, having bought nothing except a few little necessities on that account since my return. I think at the end of this month, I will be \$28 dollars out of debt and then my equipment fund up to this time amounts to \$48, making \$76.00 yet this does not take away my sense of poverty, for this money, never comes into your hand in the shape of hard cash.

Give my love to all. Tell mother she must not exert herself too much. Charlie must make haste & get well. Thank Dellie for his letter. The last was decidedly the best he has written. The Advertiser does not say much about the Law - or about Maine affairs now; but has enough to say about the Argas, Generals Scott & Pierce & the coming November election. Again remember me to all.

From your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

Ask Dellie if he loves chestnuts. Tell him that my friends Closson and Chapman and myself went out yesterday afternoon into the woods and gathered as many as we could eat & they had brought home their caps full. They picked them up & hulled them while I being a Yankee climbed the trees. The chestnuts are surrounded by a thick prickly covering or shell - three or four encased in each shell. Ask Dellie if it would not be fine to have as many chestnuts as he could eat without paying anything for them except the labor of gathering them.

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405 10/17/1852 *From:* E Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0470

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 17th [1852, Note 1]

My Dear Son,

I must first say that Charlie is so he can walk the room, and if nothing befalls him will soon recover. We received yours of the 8th and ninth of Oct. The news of Mrs Waite Sickness had not reached us, until by your letters. I feel sadly about her sickness. I cannot bear to think, that she must leave Lizzie thus soon. I feel as though I should be glad to be some comfort to them if it was in my power. Since thinking more of Mrs Waite sickness, I think she must be better. Mr Haines met with your father at a directors meeting at Leeds junction, and said his wife and Mrs Strickland would have come up with him, if it had not rained. He said nothing about Mrs Waites sickness. I would go directly to Portland and ascertain her situation, if my family were in a situation to leave. I have heard for several weeks, that Mrs Haines and Strickland, were coming to Leeds and visit, and have had fear of their coming on Charlie's account, but now I am sorry, for if they had come I should have known how Mrs Waite was.

My family are all quiet in bed and I hope comfortable, and I will try to pen a few thought hoping they may give you more pleasure than my other. I see by your letters that you have as many friends call as is convenient for you to see. It must be quite a treat to go to Newburg and be treated with so much distinction by kind people. I hope you will have your health, for only think were you to pine away in a hospital at West Point as much as Charlie has, it would be dreadful. Charlie is dreadful poor. I wash him all over every day and rub him with a coarse towel. I am in hopes to see him get on some flesh soon.

I attended Church one service to day, which I had not done for a long while. Your father has been to Hallowel lately. Said Grandmother is quite well and all of Uncle John's family.

Your last letter, (although it contained the sad news of Mrs Waite sickness which is truly a great grief to me, and your thoughtless brother, Rowland feels very sensibly the kind lady's sufferings and his first impulse was to go to her but on second thought he recollected her kind sisters and brothers that could go to her any time and seem more natural than others. Where is Mr Perley this fall? I have not heard one word from him since you left Maine?) Has set my mind more at ease about you and your present situation, than I had been since your return to West Point.

I am not a young and active Mother seeking the daily comforts of her children around her, but a careworn old woman, anxious and worn, and watching, so much so, that I am not company for anyone, and am sensible even too sensible of it. I am not envious and am yet capable of being affectionate, I never had an envious feeling toward Lizzie neither an impatient feeling towards her, nor an indifferent feeling, and would have been glad to have been companionable with her if she had shown the slightest disposition toward it but she did not. I did not blame her any, nor have one hard thought of her neither had I one cold feeling toward her. It was a pleasure to have you here and about here and to have Lizzie with you. But you must know that I have such a careworn feeling all the time, that I am not capable of any conversation except the commonplace observation. I was very sorry to have Lizzie feel as though she was not welcome, for I would pay her the most delicate attentions, if I were capable of it. You cannot conceive the divided kind of life I live nor do I wish you to. I am particularly sensitive to the dirt in and round our carriages, horses and harnesses, and all the unthrifty ways that I am subject to see daily. My husband's manner of managing for three years past, is entirely foreign from what I ever could have expected instead of my income that ought to bring us in comfort and comfortable things and improvements has only made me more trouble, and brought me less comforts and more care. Your mother don't imagin cares for the sake of being care worn. No she comprehends all at once, and struggles on and on from day to day with a full view before her face.

Only think of what a fix he is in all the time with Arza's business and everything else on his shoulders. Now can you wonder that your Mother is no companion for any one even for herself. Now my son will say I thought my mother had religion enough to overcome all these things. I wish I had, but it is a constant struggle with all these varied cares, to keep in sight of the most important principle, and that which I know is the most important point for aim, but I have one hope that grace will conquer, and all these minor barriers will break down before it.

My son, you can not have the smallest idea what a large share of my thoughts are on you, and ever has been. You have the same protecting power over you in one place as another. May you never weary in well doing. Now I know how Otis will feel, while perusing my thoughts as I have scattered them along. He will say to himself O, Mother how much reason you have for <for> gratitude for innumerable blessings, your sons are promising and respected, and respectable, and your husband has no bad habits and always kind, &c &c. And here you are dwelling upon what you cannot help. I wish I had a happier train of thought and will try to have one, with the help of providence.

Arza still continues to gain although a cripple. He has not been to Leeds yet. Louisa has just returned from Canton & been here to tell us all about her visit. I saw at church to day Ensign and wife, John H and wife and child, all in health. Mr <Barrows> has a school at the Centre of thirty schollars. Elizabeth Manwell who lived with me attends the school. Lucia Leadbetter attends. The only ones who go from this neighborhood. The track on the railroad is laid as far as Haines Corner. The locomotive travels up there every day from the Junction, and baggage cars or freight cars through nearly everyday. Dellie is delighted with everything that pertains to the railroad. Our station house is building at Timothy Fosters, much to the annoyance of Sallomon Lothrop, and the neighbors of him. Arza Lothrop is married and gone to housekeping. The old Bachelor Row is broken. They had a wedding party and Ruel Foss while hunting the squirrel fell down - no bones broken as we know of.

Remember me to Warren. Tell him I haven't forgot his attentions to us when at West Point. What is to become of Rundel now. I am sorry your name which your Mother gave you in infancy should cause you so much trouble. I am in hopes you will find some place, that your name will not be a disgrace some day. The club I believe are prospering well. They have taken measures to break up three rum sellers. The band are doing well. I have not attended but once this quarter on account of sickness in my family, but am not sorry I joined & have enjoyed it much through the summer. It is now past one o'clock at night and I must get some rest.

From you affectionate Mother  
E Gilmore

Oliver O Howard

[Note 1. The year was written in pencil as 1853. But the contents of the letter indicate that it should have been 1852 - Otis had recently written letters on Oct 8 & 9, Charlie is sick and Mrs Waite is sick. All of these occurred in 1852.]

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406 10/19/1852 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Cadet Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0383

Leeds

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 19th 1852

Dear Brother

Mother says that she has entirely filled her sheet and if I write any I must take another. I am going to Readfield this morning and have only time to say a few words.

Charley is getting along a great deal better than I expected and as well as any of us could hope for. He is dressing himself this morning and sits up most all of the time.

I wrote to Lizzie last night. I wish that she had written me about her mothers illness. I am now quite anxious to hear from them. I think Mrs W must be better or we should have heard something from her before now.

I am glad that you had a day at Newburg and glad that you enjoyed it. May you have as many such occasions as your discipline will allow.

We are all well. Charley sends his love. Dellie is picking potatoes.

Good By.  
Rowland

[Envelope]  
Greene Oct 26  
Cadet Oliver O. Howard  
West Point  
N.Y.

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407 10/30/1852 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-0384

Madison Wisc

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Madison Wisc Oct 30th 1852

Friend Howard

I have been in the receipt of your last letter for a few days & take the present opportunity of replying to it. I can in some manner appreciate your feelings whilst laboring under the doubt & suspense of hopes & fears relative to the illness of your friends & relations. I was once similarly circumstanced myself and though the stroke of Providence then fell more heavily upon me & my family then I am happy to hear it probably will upon you & yours. Still the uncertainty of a few days seemed more intensely painful than the sad reality. As I said I am happy to learn that your friends are recovering & presume that before this they are restored to their accustomed health.

You ask me for a description of my journey to the West. There is very little of it to tell. I came so rapidly that I seemed hardly to have started before I was set down in this very serene quiet little town of Madison. You must know that I started on Thursday & on Tuesday next following I was here - only six Days & I stopped one Day & two nights out of that time. Soon we shall be able to reach the city of New York from this region in about two Days there at longest. Railroads are already within about 40 miles of us in one direction & 50 in another & both are pushing on towards our town. There is "a good time coming" for us I hope & it is at no great distance. But this is aside from my travels.

My journey from Portland to Boston was by cars of course. At Kennebunkport Upham (who was in college during our Senior Year) came on board but left at Lawrence. This was the only acquaintance I met on the route. I left Boston at 5 o'clock same evening for Fall River where I took the Boat for New York I arrived there in the Morning at about 7. I immediately entered a hack to drive to the depot of the New York & Erie Railroad - the length of this road is, as near as I can remember, about 468 miles. I rode about 280 & stopped for the night at Elmyra where I left my umbrella. If you will possess yourself of it, it shall be yours - a liberal offer truly. I again took a seat in the cars on Saturday Morning at 6 o'clock & reached Dunkirk on Lake Erie at about 12. From this place to Detroit, Mich. I proceeded by Steamboat & arrived in the latter Town on Sunday Morning. I remained there till 5 o'clock P.M. & took the cars for Chicago riding all night. In the morning early I was in this metropolis of the West. But I did not make a long stay. At 8 o'clock I took the Steamboat for Milwaukee, and got there safely towards evening. Here I stopped to call upon some old acquaintances from the East & the next Morning again took the cars for a short ride of about 40 miles & from there the Stage for Madison, where I arrived at about 9 o'clock in the evening. On Wednesday morning I went out home. I took them a little by surprise for they were not expecting me quite as soon. However they seemed very willing to excuse the intrusion & to make the very best of my unexpected arrival that they could. I presume they have long ago pardoned me for coming sooner than they expected.

I have been in the office where I am now sitting just 8 weeks. Enjoy myself as well as circumstances will allow, which by the way is pretty well, & am getting to be quite a Lawyer. I am not positive yet, that I shall locate myself in this vicinity. I have written to Bell of the class of '50 - and shall put a letter in P.O. tonight for Jennings in Arkansas and one also for a <man> in Chicago, making inquiries respecting the prospects to those several regions for young attorneys. I have also an eye out for any good opportunity nearer home.

Next Summer I shall make a pitch somewhere and of course would like to do so under as favorable auspices as possible. "Where there is a will there is a way" is the old saying. I have the will & hope to find the way.

As to Perley's imaginings respecting the letter I wrote him from Yarmouth, I have but little to say. I do not think I would have used him as he used me. I had been more with him, felt more confidence (in a private way) in him, had more fully divulged to him my purposes & thoughts, & in short had been more intimately & sincerely attached to him than to any other person for at least the last 3 years of my residence in Maine. I had been to Portland frequently (generally contriving to do a little business at the same time) especially almost to see him (where I was always very kindly entertained at Mrs. Waite's for which she has my sincere thanks) & he never came from Portland to Yarmouth (though repeatedly urged to do so) to see once. He called a few times only on his way home or back, & even then it frequently happened that I could not persuade him to stop longer than

over one train of cars.

Considering these circumstances, I expected nothing else than that he would spend at least one day & perhaps 2 or 3 with me at the close of his school last summer as he was aware that I was about leaving the county with no present prospect of returning very soon. I was disappointed & provoked when he called on Monday Morning & said he was going on in the afternoon train. I said very little to detain him after I found he was determined to do so - and as I knew that he had no good excuse for being in such haste - I came very naturally to the conclusion that he esteemed me less than I did him for under such circumstances I would have yielded to his expressed wishes of my own accord.

I always endeavor to forget when I am forgotten & Perley has not yet written in reply to my letter (which was I admit rather a repudiation of his friendship) in order to <recover> any false imputation which I may have put upon him. Perchance he may not think it of sufficient importance to do so & I would be the last to urge it upon him tho I would have done it long ago had I been in his place & he in mine. I did regard Perley as my very best Friend but feelings change I know & often words are empty sounds. Thus particular have I been to state my relation to him. I regret it exceedingly but it does not belong to me to correct the misunderstanding if indeed that is all there is of it. I shall hear from you with pleasure, at your convenience.

Yours truly  
J. N. Jewett

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408 10/31/1852 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0385

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Oct 31th 1852

Dear brother

As Charley was going write I thought that I would write to you. Charly has got most well. He has got so that he eats most any thing. He walked up to Mr Bates last week. Elizabeth Manwell is to work. She came here last Friday and Aurilla Barrows came down here with Elizabeth and Friday evening we had a kind of a party. And Lucia Leadbeter and Mary J Lothrop and a Morse girl that works at Mr Lothrops. Aurilla played on the Eolian and sang and so did RB Charley Elizabeth and Mary J Lothrop aunt Martha jane and Mrs Haines. Esq Haines's wife came here last Thursday morning. Mother and aunt Martha J Mrs Haines went up to uncle Ensign's. Afer dinner RB went up to uncle Ensign's at night. Mother stoped at the Band meting and RB at the club. When RB and Mother came home, Rowland had the little colt, and the little colt ran as hard as he could and R.B. could not hold him in, then she run away again and then RB fitted the Bridle so that she could not run. Mother and RB stoped at Mr Morrill. Just then Henry Brewster came along and Mother got in with him. When Mother got home she asked Silas to go and meet RB. Mother was afraid for she thought that R was <>. When Silas met RB he had <lot> to our long Barn down to the other house. When RB got home he found that the little red colt had broken the fender of the carage or the lether be fore the seat and we shall be obliged to get it mended.

Friday morning aunt Martha J and Mrs Barnes rode down here and staid untill Saturday noon. RB carried them down to the depot R.B. then came back and carried Aurilla home. We received a letter from Lizzie last night. She said that her Mother was beter. R.B. has greatly been engaged in polatics Lately. I suppose you know to morrow or next day that the Election is of the President.

I believe this letter is the longest letter I ever wrote, but I must not forget to tell you what a great meeting we had. It was a great Whig meeting Mr Goddard spoke and Hon S P Benson spoke. Mr Goddard gave the history of Gen Scott. They expected that the new engine would come and bring the folk but it did not come untill eight in the evening. Her name is Leeds. She weighs 16 tuns. Father says she went from the junction to North Leeds in 15 minutes - the distance of 17 miles and the road is not level. The folks say that the road is up and down all the way. I went to meeting today on the ridge & there was not only 14 there. I went into the new school house. It is done allmost. The seats are new and most every thing it is painted new. The collar is yellow.

I have wrote all I can think of.

from your affectionate Brother  
R. H. Gilmore

[To] O.O. Howard

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409 10/31/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0386

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct 31st 1852

My dear Mother,

I fear you will imagine because there is more than the usual interval between my letters, between this & my last, that something unusual may have happened. Last Sunday I did not write, because I thought it too bad that my letters should be a whole week on the way. I knew that I might find time during the week to write you & then my letter would seem fresher. But procrastination deprived you of a letter. And two things, out of the line of the invariable monotony that prevails here, was the cause.

1st. The two hours & a half that I have had heretofore to myself every other day - that is, tuesdays, thursdays & saturdays in the forenoon, are now entirely consumed in riding. One half of our Class have been joined to the first class, and together we form a squadron. So we ride double the time we did before - that is all the time that both rode when we rode separately.

2nd. The first of the past week, the president of the Dialectic society came to me & said that this association was to have a public meeting - and wished me to make a speech upon the Question under debate. To this I consented, and have spent all the leisure moments I could find in preparing myself for the occasion. The meeting came off last night. All the officers (nearly) & many ladies of the post were present. Little Closson was my opponent on the question, "Is the influx of foreign population for the best interest of our country." Little Closson is very eccentric and very smart, and though he did not have much argument, he got a great deal of applause. He kept the house in a roar of laughter. 'Twould have done you good as it did me to hear him talk. He has always been my best friend & I liked to see him do so well. My speech came after his, was pretty strong & to the point, some of it extemporaneous. I exerted myself to my utmost & I waked them up. I saw that the officers were surprised to see that I could do so well.

Col Lee was present & took a great deal of interest in the debate. A finer looking man you never met with. He is a little above the medium height. His hair is just turning grey and he has a very clear dark eye that seems to take in everything at a glance. I do not wonder, he is considered a superior man. His son resembles him much.

This debating society has done me much good. It enables me to take my proper stand here. I always wished to be estimated fairly - at least to have the esteem that I fancy my desert. Hence I am glad of the opportunity to show that I have got some sense over & above the mere capacity of study.

Your last letter did me much good. But it troubles me that you let things wear upon you so, because, to speak as I think, there is no need. The soul is capable of rising above petty grievances and even real calamities. And if the matter of worldly goods, of property which experience has taught you is such a real convenience should disappoint you; if it should fly from you & deprive you of the mother's privilege of contributing to the worldly comfort of your three boys why, you should remember that the basis of their happiness is not wealth. You may remember that you have striven to inculcate into their minds principles, that will be of more real value & encouraged habits that will ever promote their welfare, and render them one of these days if not now, very grateful, more grateful to you, than if it had been in your power to cradle them in luxury & thus foster their inclinations to idleness & ease.

You speak of religion. Once I gave way to idle speculations but I have discovered the futility and unsatisfactory states of mind which such speculations carry with them. I have found that it is no mark of a mean mind to take for granted many things which my present understanding cannot reach. It is enough & more than enough for an intellectual being to exercise his reason upon those things which he can understand. I wish a clear head & a simple heart.

You speak of grace. Grace is never exercised towards the unwilling & rebellious heart. But it is a hard thing to be what one knows the christian ought to be. It is hard for a selfish nature to become unselfish, harder for one who hates, to love the object of his hatred. It seems almost impossible, for the proud heart, to imbibe contrition

for the man who has been vain his life long, vain of his talents, vain on account of his position, vain on account of the applause he receives - to lay it aside, and give credit where credit is due to the Giver of all things. And yet all this must be accomplished, before faith can come to the soul, before Grace, though it may be extended freely all the time, can be at all appreciated.

I consider it a glorious thing to be a christian, but it is of no avail to be a professing Christian, it will not make this life easy & full of happiness, & can give no possible serenity for a future world. I really believe if a person is unhappy under the little trials he may be called to undergo, he is not a true christian. I have respect for sacred things, but I am as far from being such a christian as the simple doctrine of our Savior requires "as the East is from the West" as Professor Spirole says. I have hatred, jealousies, vanity, ambition & pride mixed up in my composition. I cannot bend my knee before my Father above, with a humble, hoping believing heart. I look about me & acknowledge intellectually that God is, that he is the maker & ruler of the universe, that all the blessings that I enjoy & have enjoyed since I first drew breath came from Him. Yet it is all an intellectual conclusion, there is not love, no hearty appreciation of all this. I cannot do good for the sake of doing good. I expect a reward. And as an instance of the vanity that <dries> up my heart, I keep thinking I am pretty good, keep justifying myself in every fault I commit. These are thoughts that pass through my cranium in my reflective moods. I am not unhappy, because I have no appreciation of guiltiness.

Tell me my dear mother, your thoughts upon such things. It may be a pleasant task to you, because you fancy me careful of all things else, but not of those things which you consider of the most importance. If I do not speak of what you tell me now, the time may come when I will. The feeling often passes through my heart, that I was placed here in this world for something, and that something is not to lead a foolish, useless, selfish existence.

Tell me of Charlie. Providence is kind to let him stay with us. Give my love to Rowland, father & all. Give my love to Charlie & tell him to write me as soon as he is able. My love to Dellie & tell him he must write again.

My health is good. I am doing middling well in my studies. Let me hear from you often if it be but little. Home is a grand place, though it may be for the interest of the young man to leave it, he looks back upon it as a sort of an asylum.

From your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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410 11/1/1852 *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0387a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 1st 1852

Dear Brother

It has been a long time since I addressed you by way of letter. And as you have learned, I am situated differently somewhat from what I was when I last wrote. And perhaps you would like to hear the circumstances connected with the change in the place of date of my last & this letter although perhaps you have heard them all through Mother's & Rowland's letters.

After writing you my last letter (of which I can hardly remember & perhaps you have entirely forgotten) on Saturday I remained at Kents Hill until the next Friday (I believe that I wrote you that I intended to walk down to Wayne Friday eve & then walk home Saturday morning). My health was pretty good that week, although my stomach seemed out of order and my head felt somewhat heavy & dull & sometimes pained me. Well Friday came, in the morning it looked as though it was about to rain, which made me feel a little disappointed. But I soon discovered that it was breaking away in the West & that it was going to clear off.

About Eleven o'clock just as my Latin bell rang, Mother & Dellie drove up to the door. I was glad to see them, I assure you. Mother had brought all of my things but she told me I might go home if I wished. I hesitated some time about making up my mind but did so at last just before it was time for them to go and concluded to go with them not thinking however of stopping more than until Sabbath evening. And so I took nothing with me more than what I had on me. I wore my palm leaf hat home, which you know would have been pretty cold to wear in the middle of Oct. for I believe it was past the middle when Rowland went after my trunk. But you know it did not make any difference to me whether I had any hat or cap as long as I had clothes enough on my bed for about two weeks & I have not needed a cap much until quite lately. But I believe I am getting ahead of my story.

We started from Mr Robinson's about three o'clock, had quite a pleasant ride down to Wayne for the weather was very warm & pleasant. We arrived at Arza's a little before five o'clock. We took supper there & when we got ready to start for home it was sunset. Mother thought she must call and just see Mrs Sampson who has been very sick this fall. I believe she was better the last we heard. Mother did not stop long and we were soon on our way home again. We got here about eight o'clock. The next day I had a bad head ache but I went about, out of doors & I believe that was the last I went out of doors for about four weeks when I rode down as far as aunt Lucretia's. Rowland went after Dr Bradford I believe Monday. He came Tuesday after this for a fortnight. I suppose you know about as much about it as I do, for I do not remember much that passed during those two weeks. After this I began to gain slowly.

After I got so I could sit up in the armed chair I was pretty lonesome sometimes, for mother was obliged to be out in the kitchen at work. I had to sit here in this North Room alone. If I could have read I should have had something to have taken up my attention but I was not allowed to read for fear of injuring my eyes.

I almost forgot to tell you that while I was quite sick they told me that there was a letter for me from Roscoe Jennings came in the mail of that night & that it contained a letter from you but I was so sick that I could not hear it. In four or five days from this time I felt so well one day that I asked mother to read it to me. She read a part of it, and had to put it away again for it tired me so to hear it that I told her I should have to wait until I got still better before I could hear it. It was not long however before I could have it read & also read it myself. It was in answer to my last one.

We rec a letter from you last - no week ago last Saturday. We were all as you also was very glad to hear that Mrs Waite was better. I was glad to see you write so cheerfully so very much more so than in your last one before. We first heard of Mrs Waite's sickness through your letters & we did not again hear from her until we again had a letter from you. I was very sorry to hear that you had lost your money for I suppose there is no way of recovering it there.

We heard from Mrs Waite last Thursday. Aunt Martha Jane & Mrs Haines, Squire Haines's wife of Portland, came here Thursday morning about eleven o'clock. They said she was gaining but slowly. They stopped here a

few moments & mother went with them up to uncle Ensign's. Rowland went up to bring mother home at night & brought her down to Mr Barrow's to the band for it meets there now & the club meets at Mr Tupper's house.

The meetings closed about eight o'clock when Rowland & mother started for home. The colt acted quite gently until they got into the road when he started and ran as fast as possible as far as Mr Alden's when Rowland turned him into his door yard he stopped. Mr Alden came out & he & Rowland examined the harness all over and also the <carriage> but could find nothing wrong. Mr Alden led her down that hill by his house & Rowland then got into the carriage and he went on as well as any horse until <they> arrived at the top of that hill where Arza Lathrop <> lives & where Melvin Berry did live. Then he began to run again & mother said that he must have run <faster> than he did at first. He ran until he got most <up> that hill by Mr Merrill's. Then mother did not care <for> riding any farther. After they had been there a few minutes looking over the harness, Henry Brewster came along <> & she left Rowland & got in with Henry & rode <home>.

We were some alarmed about Rowland & so <> although unwell concluded to walk down the road <to> meet him but before S. got more than down to the road <> & I being up in in the north chamber saw & heard him <> it being a moonlight evening. We saw him first just this <side> of Capt Turners & I could hear the colt's heels strike the <ground> about every second & he was running very fast. I being <so> weak it frightened me very much.

The stairs that I could descend in the morning with out holding on up above, & letting myself down with my hands I came down pretty quickly that night I tell you. We saw that he stopped down to the <> & mother went down there pretty quick. & I went out in the <> room to tell Rowland A & Lucia but when I got out there <> I could hardly speak & I almost fainted away. R.A. <& Lucia> went to meet them also. & found that no <injury> had been done except to the carriage which had several spokes bent in it. Rowland walked him about all the way from Mr Morrill's & led him down Squire Turner's Hill <> when he got on top of the Hill the other side of Capt Turners he began to run again & Rowland had fixed the bridle so that <he> could hold him this time and this made him mad and so he kicked. I heard someone ask father the <next> day if he know what made him run or something like that and he said he could guess perhaps you can guess and I want write what they think made him kick. I don't <> he would kick now. There was only two or three days about that time that he would kick. I thought you would like to <> hear what a time we all had here, so frightened.

Arza has so far recovered that he has been over to make us a visit although he has two cains when he walks yet we <should> be obliged to say that he can walk. He & his wife came over here week ago last Wednesday. They stopped all night here & then went to Greene for he wished to hear the news that Loiza brought for she has been to Mass. Warren brought Arza & wife back Sunday. They went <home> Friday.

Rowland was down to Hallowell Monday <& to> Augusta. He went to get a glee club to come and sing at the Mass meeting which was held at Leeds on Wednesday <> up by the Scott & Graham Club of which he is <a> member. Father went to the River on Tuesday & came back the same night. Mother consented to let me go to <> meeting although I had not been as far from them <before> since I was sick. I think we had a very good meeting indeed. Mr Goddard & Benson were the only speakers beside <Floris> Gould. Mr G I think is a very good speaker. He is a lawyer from Lewiston. Mother took me away before Mr B had got through. I suppose you have heard him speak in public. He seemed a little more at home than Mr G & I believe he is much more used to it. Mother said that just before Wm A Harrison's election he was sent by the Whigs to lecture all of the way here to Washington. There was about three hundred present. There would have been about twice that number had it not been for the disappointment of not having the cars run as they expected on the hand bills which they put up. It said that they had made arrangements with the A.R.R.Co. So as to have the cars leave Haines' Corner at 12 o'clock, Noris' Ferry 12-30, North Leeds 12-45 & be at Leeds Corner at one the time appointed for the meeting. But the engine did not get here so soon as they expected. Uncle Ensign was chosen president of the meeting. Rowland did not get the Glee Club of Augusta, but we had good singing by Mr Davie (Bass & <>) Thos Bridgham (tenor) Gideon (Alto) & R.B. (bass). They say from a Scott song book such tunes as "Old dan Tucker" "Dearest <Maine>" etc.

Tuesday

I think I have written about all of the news. It has rained here ever since last Saturday, does not rain much now but is breezy. George Lothrop & Huldah & Hilda came down here last eve. They are soon to move to Livermore Falls. Today is Election day in Maine. It is quite doubtful who will be elected. I have been thinking it over & have concluded that this is about the poorest letter that I have written for some time. My hand trembles so that I can hardly hold my pen & for this reason you must excuse the bad penmanship this time. And I will try when I get a little stronger to do a great deal better & I hope I can. I am quite weak yet but am constantly gaining. It has been but about six weeks since I was taken sick. Oh! I almost forgot to tell you that we had a letter from Lizzie last Saturday. She said her mother could not yet sit up. George W Jones is quite sick with the

Typhoid fever the same as the one which I had. He is at home. If he gets able he thinks of going back to California with his brother-in-law Mr Curry who has been there about two years but who is at Mr Jones' now. He will also carry his family with him.

Our folks are all well. The men are all going to town meeting today. Mother's health is pretty good. She is sweeping here by me now. Don't you wish you could have mother to sweep your room some times. This must answer for the present. I will try & do better next time. Write as soon as possible Otis.

From Your Affectionate brother  
Chas H Howard

[This letter continues on the next letter from Rowland]

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411 11/1/1852 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0387b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter is a continuation of the previous letter from Charles.]

Dear Brother

This is decidedly a bad day for the greatest election the world ever saw. It rains like (oh most anything) and Father says a rainy day always hurts the Whig vote. I should have had no doubt of Maine's going right had it been pleasant. No really temperance man will vote for Frank Pierce. If that gentleman is elected, it will be a grand time for Army officers. He'll shake his fists at somebody, and then look out for a fight. Vacancies and of course promotions. I suppose Charley has written all of the news as I see he has a monster of a letter. I at Mother's suggestion enclose \$2.00, supposing that owing to your misfortune, you may be a little short of change.

Believe me your aff bro.  
Rowland

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412 11/7/1852 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0318

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Nov 7th [1852. 1851 had been written in pencil - see note 1]

Dear Brother

We received your last in Saturdays mail and as mother will not have time to answer it, I thought I would write you by this mail.

We heard through Aunt Martha Jane that Mrs Waite was improving and we are in hopes to hear soon, through you that she is quite well. Our folks are all well. Charley as fat as a pig and about as voracious. I saw Mrs Sampson on Saturday. She inquired for you and sends her love. She looks very poorly. You remember there always used to be a bright red spot on either cheek, but it has all faded out and her face is thin and pale. She speaks as quick as ever, but her voice has lost its strength and her manners their vivacity. She thinks she is getting better and I am in hopes that you will see her yet the same Mrs Sampson that you used to know. Arza is better than I ever expected to see him. He can walk some around the yard. His wife is (I have forgotten those French words expressive of the fact) pregnant, and will be as helpless as her husband in a few weeks.

Our Rail Road is finished to within one mile of Livermore Falls and the Freight Cars run every day. The private security of the Director & Treasurer have done much towards finishing it. But they are quite confident that the road will pay them and I hope it will.

Franklin Pierce is president 'futurus esse' sure enough. The Whig Party never was so used up before and I fear there is not enough left of it, to use up so again. Democracy Progress, Rum & <Powder> are rampant and I hope that now they have got the power they will have a good time, with no whig to molest them. I am going to leave politics entirely now, but if the Whig party and myself are left four years from now. I shall go into it again head over heels.

I suppose that you have heard through Warren of his brother Elias death? It was a terrible blow to his mother and I suppose it must have been to his wife. They had concluded that in time they should see him again and now he is snatched so suddenly away and that cherished hope is so suddenly crushed that it seems even to us, cold lookers on, cruel. He was sick with the Cholera, but five hours although he had been down with the Diarrhea for some time previous. Charles Turner wrote his folks the first news of his death that Mrs Lothrop received. Charles says that he is doing well retailing liquors &c in Co with Mr Selden formally of Hallowell. I believe Roland talks some of returning to California this winter but I don't think he will.

I shall go somewhere and study this winter but I have not concluded where to go yet. I will leave this open and perhaps some of the others may wish to write. Mother suggests that today is your birth day and that now you number 22 years. I suppose this day is not so interesting as one year ago today, when you was 21, and a "man for yourself". However pull your own ears as hard as you think we should pull them if we had a chance.

I have just been reading the exlogics of Mssrs Choate Everett and Hilliard on Daniel Webster and I congratulate myself anew that I saw & heard that great man in the last public oration which he delivered, although I accomplished it with \$5.00 & one shirt. One never could entirely appreciate Webster without hearing him. One of the greatest attributes of a good speech, no doubt, is that it reads well, but not much less a mark of an orator, is that it sounds well. It has been remarked of Webster that he remarkably united the two, that while his speeches were eagerly read and greatly admired by all high and low. There were few Ancient or modern who could move or convince the mind of an audience like Daniel Webster. Since his death he has been elevated to a position which I did not think Webster would ever occupy. For many years he has stood our first Statesman and our first Jurist, but not till he was dead did the general voice pronounce him the first of Christians. I hope this is so. If he did unite in himself all of these attributes then truly may it be said. The world has lost and Heaven has gained the greatest, noblest man of time.

Write soon, and believe me, Yours. R.

[Note 1. The letter was filed with the 1851 letters, which was written on the top of the letter in pencil. The year

of the letter should be 1852 for three reasons. Firstly, Daniel Webster died October 24, 1852 and Elias Lane Lothrop died September 29, 1852. Finally, Otis, born November 8, 1830 turned 22, in 1852.

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413 11/21/1852 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0388

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov the 21 1852

My dear son,

I have built me a fire, on purpose to be alone and give my attention, wholly to you. It is a long while since I have attempted to write a letter to any of my children. I hope you have been prospering all the while but I have fears that all has not always gone well with you at all times, but I hope nothing very serious has occurred to you. Perhaps your Mother has done wrong in letting small things prevent her from writing in answer to each and every one of your letters, but we must abide the results. I could sit and write over my reasons, but they are nothing more than common ones. Your demerits count up to 43, which seems to say all is not right, your letters are good, affectionate open hearted, just such as should pass between Mother and son. My sympathy's are always awake to everything that affects you. I am happy in proportion as you, happy, have much I could desire, that you were not so much dependant on the treatment you receive from others. I cannot think but what your nervous sistem is taxed to the utmost in your daily labours, or you could bear more from a sneering man for whose conduct you can feel no other, than the utmost contempt of feeling, and showing contempt in some situations are very different things. What is past can not be recalled in your situation. Neither do I wish to call up any unhappy feelings to no purpose. I think you are perfectly sensible of the deficiency in your composition, on education, you must look upon yourself as far superior to such persons, in your candid moments. I can conceive of it, exactly but think it my women's weakness, but we will turn to more pleasant subjects hoping all is well! We have received your address and your long and kind letters. I feel as though mine is a poor compensation for them, but still there is a great pleasure in receiving letters from my son and in answering them.

Our thanksgiving is past and with us without much account, Mother was with me and is here now. I have not taken a thanksgiving dinner with her since my father died before this one. She has changed in some respects very much since you saw her. Your father went to Uncle Ensign's for her thanksgiving day. So she took her breakfast with one child and dinner with another. Your Uncle Ensign has had very poor health this fall. I have sometimes been affraid, he was running down entirely, but your father saw him out yesterday, and thinks him essentially better. He has had a severe cough with pain in the side, nearly three months.

I received a letter this evening from R.B.H. He is well and doing well. He has engaged our school, for his vacation eight weeks, so he will be with me through the vacation. Charles is with us, has been two weeks. He is assisting his father in <counting> up <interest> on our railroad stock. Charles does not talk much on the subject of religion. He reads his Bible when he gets leisure. Dellie is about as usual. Today he walked to the meeting house to see ninety yoke of oxen collected and some young cattle, all belonging in Leeds. I do not exactly know the object of the exhibition but I hope to incourage farmers in improvements. Your father has been in Portland and called to see Mrs and Miss Waite and found Lizzie a great many percent better than I feared. Said she had been sick but considered her self quite recovered, said she had been out that day and was quite gay, said she was twenty one years of age the day before and was making herself merry saying, now do as she was a mind to the rest of her life, said she was very anxious to go a picking Wallnuts that afternoon. His visit there, and finding Lizzie better was a great relief to me. I hope she may yet to have permanent health.

You have sometimes asked me what I think of your staying in the army. I have nothing to say, when you have spent four of the best years of your life to study a profession what can I say, but follow, it especially for a season. I do not know what your special causes of trouble have been, why you have so many demerits. I don't know but they have been, such as may induce you to leave the Army and seek a livelyhood some other way. But I hope they are nothing that arrises from a bad heart. I have sometimes thought Lizzie's visit at West Point might make you absent minded, and be the cause of some of your mistakes. It is a natural supposition. I very much feared that our visit there might create envy in the minds of Cadets less favored in that respect, to see one of their fellows walking about with his pretty cousins. Your father was decided against her going this Fall on that account, but did not feel free to speak to her about it. I believe he talked about it to R.B.H. I hope the Dear girl will yet see happy days, if my hearts desire could avail any thing, you would be perfect in all thing.

Sometimes I have thought, when I am thinking of your hearty anticipations, and then your discouragements,

who knows that your heavenly father is allowing the things for your own glory. To keep the vanities of life from surfeiting you, or to keep you humble, that journey yet be consecrated to a greater work, for whose work is as great as, the work of the Lord's? What can be so great an office as an ambassador of Christ, as to devote ones life of the employment to our heavenly master's.

Louisa has been confined to the house since last May. Last Friday, she had an abcess opened on her thigh the underside of it, been gathering all the time. Her health is very much run down. The general opinion is that she will never recover, but I have such a strong desire, that she may, that I can see a chance for her to recover. I hope she has seen the worst of it, and she will yet be a benefit to her family many years. I sent her your address which interested very much. Charles has been there since his return home. The last time I was there, I thought no person could be so well calculated as Warren to fill his place. His old father, you know what an invalid he is and his wife could not walk a step, only as he half carried her and Lydia had got so tired she had not set up for two days. All went well with Warren to appearance what a son? what a husband? what a friend? such a man must be. Arza is a confirmed invalid for life. How long he is to remain as he is, God only knows.

For six weeks past Rowland has conducted himself tolerable well. I do not hear much profane language now, so you see by my letter there is no exemption from trouble any where. I have written this all by candle light and it is now ten of the clock. Your father is still at the table reconing interest on railroad stock preparing one part for the next annual meeting of stockholders which will be holden the first Monday in Dec. I have bloted my paper more than common, but cannot copy.

Good night my son. Your affectionate Mother  
E Gilmore  
[to] O O Howard

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414 11/27/1852 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0389

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Nov 27th 52

Dear Brother

Thanksgiving day passed off with us in the quietest manner possible. Only six of us sitting down to Dinner all told as Father says, but on the whole I enjoyed it about as well as when we have a crowd. I should liked to have seen you here and farther than that I should not care. Mother, Dellie and myself went up and heard Mr Barrows Discourse, a thing I never did before Thanksgiving Day. His congregation numbered sixteen. He diped into Temperance & Politics considerably avowing himself a Ramrod and an Abolitionist &c. Thomas Bridgham was at the meeting and while there his mother came down to Aunt Lucretias and poor Tom took his Thanksgiving Dinner in the closet with a crust and a pitcher of cold water. Thomas thinks of moving to Leeds and I hope that he will. He will be quite an addition to this comunity, and I hope that they will encourage him to remain here. He is a fellow of sound principles and a kind heart. I wish that you would write him. I think he would be much pleased to hear from you.

Charley went to Portland last Monday and I suppose you will hear from him while there. I shouldn't wonder if he was a little homesick before he gets home again. He can't amuse himself anywhere so easily as I can.

I think of going to Topsham a week from next Monday and reviewing my studies preparatory to a return to College in the Spring Term. Your old Classmate Adams has charge of the Acd there and has written me an invitation to study with him this winter. I have heard from you that he was a good fellow and as 'Twas the most convenient place I concluded to go down.

Warren has been having a pretty good time I should think. He is quite a Lion among the young Ladies of Leeds and is looked upon by the Fathers and Mothers as quite a desirable match. Charles Bates has been almost <in> <extremes> because W called on Novella three or four times. Warren was to return to West Point yesterday but I have not heard whether he did or not.

Melvin Howard is failing fast and they do not think that he can live through the winter. I shall try to see him before I leave. Poor fellow! His much coveted visit to Bath has given the finishing stroke to his disease. Mrs Sylvester feels very much obliged to you for your kind letter and would answer it but she does not feel able. She has spoken of your letter to mother a number of times. William Otis has been stoping at John Harrisons for some days. I have not heard that he has gone home yet. I am surprised that he does not come down and see us.

Mother is quite well and will write as soon as she gets time. Our Rail Road is completed to Livermore Falls and the cars make two trips each way per day. I believe they are doing very well but they will have to do well many a year to reimburse parties for the great expenditure. But however I am glad Leeds has got a Rail Road and I am glad Uncle Ensign has got one, for it gratifies their pride and makes them feel a little smarter.

Father is now preparing his books for the annual report and a hard time he has of it. He is not used to dealing in thousands as he has to now. Write us soon and remember me as

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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415 11/28/1852 *From:* Peleg S. Perley

*To:* Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0390

Portland

West Point  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Nov. 28th, 1852

Dear Howard,

I am aware that I have been owing you a letter for a long time. I am also aware that we had a talk when you were at our house the night of the tipover about corresponding oftener than we had been accustomed since our exit from College. What the conclusion we arrived at was I forget but I don't forget that your last letter was a good, whole-souled friendly letter and that for that so full of ancient kindness such as warmed our hearts in the earlier if not the better days you deserve a good one from me. This I cannot promise you to day for I feel too much taken up with self to give to others especially to you such friendly entertainment as I fain would. So for want of anything better I shall give you a short history of myself, my own inner mood, since you saw me or at least such as it is now for it has undergone too many changes during this space to be all described in this sheet and this may be as interesting to you as ought else though I may get the credit of being gloomy and - though that will be nothing new. Well judge me as favorably as you can and here goes.

Inter nos, which being interpreted means between you and me and Lizzie (only I don't wish her to know this.) I have been tossed between doubt and hope and fear for the last six months nearly; all terminating as I might have known it would. The worst of it is I have made no mental progress during this time. I have lost so much out of my life. A new lesson not soon to be forgotten has been added to my experience making me wiser perhaps though I have my doubts but no better I am sure.

Strange that I should have hoped at all never seeing one single cause for hope. Well there has been something peculiar about it somewhere. So it seems to me. I don't understand whether she has been indifferent to me all the way along or not. I wish I did. Did you ever suspect you were indirectly and mediately the cause of hindering me in my suit? I suppose not. Did I ever? Yes.

Well we shan't quarrel about that. It is hard for a fellow to give up any object that he has cherished especially when that object is a woman that one loves but it is I suppose a part of our earthly experience of that trial and probation we used to read of in Paley and so maybe for the best. God knows. Hopes rise and set and those that are dearer than life I have seen fade and die without a tear and scarce a sigh with only now and then a prolonged sucking whistle.

I don't know that my case is hopeless but I regard it as nearly so. I no longer hope. Enough on this topic. I do not fear of tiring you on it but it has been so long since you have had any such experiences - in fact you never had - you have been so happy in your love that you cannot entirely enter into my feelings and I am glad you cant. Yes, Howard, I thank God that this experience has been spared to you. I would this last could have been spared to me. I am now going to work, not with a stout heart for such a one beats not in my breast but stout or resolute or not it must come to the work. I will study labor. It is my only hope, my only salvation. I cannot, I don't expect to make a great Lawyer but I am going now to study, to work with a will and though I cannot say it will be a labor of love it will at least save me from vain regrets.

It is the first time I could ever say it but I can say it now heartily, cheerily. Come toil, come labor, come study, I am your man. I am aware as you are that a man's life is not completely rounded without the love of woman. I know mine cannot be, but if one cant win that he can at least win and deserve his own esteem from the consciousness of duty done, of powers nobly and honestly and busily employed.

Still immeasurably yours  
Peleg S. Perley

Your brother Charlie is here - spent Thanksgiving here. His health is now very good. Kendall was here yesterday on his way to Wash. on <vt. orl> cases. Prex. Woods delivered a eulogy on Webster here which is to be published. It was all eulogy. Annie was just in here as I was reading this over. P.S.P. I thought Lizzie was to put in a note.

[Envelope]

[Postmark stamp unreadable]

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

West Point

New York

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416 11/28/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0391

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Nov 28th 1852

My dear Mother

I have not received a letter from you for a very long time, so it seems to me and perhaps you are under the same impression with regards to your hopeful son. I intend, however, to get a letter home once a week, hoping all the time that somebody will write me from home about "that often." The sun is pouring its rays upon us bright & warm. If you were here you would hardly imagine that it was the last of November. No snow. Winter is creeping upon us very gradually, so gradually that we scarcely perceive the difference of temperature from day to day. How happy I would be to be at home now & go to meeting with you today. It would do me good to see the faces of all my old friends, who will flock out to the old house. I can see familiar countenances, by dint of fancy with cheerful content impressed. I can see those aged men wearing a mild peaceful solemnity sitting with respectful attentive faces, looking up towards the pulpit, whence they receive a comfort & a pleasure. Old, young & middle aged, all possess an interest for you, when you cannot see them, when memory pictures them as they used to be.

It is time for Church. I have been to church & returned. We had a very good sermon, as we always do from Professor Spirole. He said at the commencement of his discourse that as we were not required on any particular day to suspend our ordinary duties for the purposes of thanksgiving & praise, yet it became us too, as well as the other inhabitants of this land, to feel and express our gratitude to the Author of our being & Bestower of all our blessings. Therefore he gave us a Thanksgiving sermon; I enjoyed the sermon much, but I would enjoy the thanksgiving dinner too.

We live pretty well now a days, excepting that we have had an enormous amount of Strong Butter. I have not murmured about it or cursed like many others, yet sometimes, I could not help turning away with disgust when I had 'spread' a piece of bread with butter, & put it to my lips to taste. But this is of small amount. I dislike above all things to think, or write about what I eat. It will do well enough to keep up a conversation by, such all absorbing subjects, where wit & sense seem to lag with exhaustion but it must be beneath the son who is writing to his mother, to fill his sheet, with a history of the eatables, delicate & indelicate which minister to his physical necessities.

I have been doing very well indeed in my studies for the past three weeks. The two preceeding the last I got a maximum for the week, each week, in both Mechanics & Chemistry, and a very good mark in drawing. I shall stand well enough here, not first it is true, in the end; but if I have my health I will graduate as high as I wish to. It does not matter much any way, only it is a little gratification to a proud man to succeed well in whatever he undertakes; yet a few failures are highly beneficial. They keep vanity down.

Charlie wrote me a note from Portland, which I received Thursday. He tells me he is getting right fat & looks & feels remarkably healthy. Very good. I am glad indeed. I feared he would not be well so soon.

We recently heard of the death of one of the present first class, who left us last summer on account of illness. His name was Henry T Latham. He belonged to our Bible class and was a very kind, quiet, good-hearted young man. He died at home in Georgia. I was quite intimately acquainted with him, as intimately as I was with any one (not in one of) my own class. His classmates have met to consult upon procuring a monument for him. Last evening, in the dialectic Society of which he was a member we chose a committee to draw up some articles expressive of our regret & sympathy in behalf of the deceased & his friends, who have been called to mourn his loss. The Corps of cadets wear the usual badge of mourning. It is customary in the army upon the decease of an officer to wear a strip of Crape encircling the left arm just above the elbow, for thirty days after putting it on as soon as they hear the news. All cadets now have this badge on, it being three or four inches wide.

West Point has changed its appearance very much since you were here. All the buildings that were between you & the new Barracks or Library, when you were at the Hotel have been torn down & carried off. The ground has been leveled, paths & gravel walks made, so that the plain & barracks present themselves improved ten

fold.

How does Mrs Lothrop seem after hearing the death of her son? It was very unexpected news to me. Although I never saw much of Elias, I always thought him a very fine man. I do not know whether Warren has returned yet or not. I presume not since he would probably have come to see me.

You cant think how military our new Commandant is. He makes us fold our clothes, a little nicer than I have ever been taught. Each thing must be folded so as to present square edges - all things of the same name must be put in a separate pile, & each pile brought out square with the front edges of the shelves - &c, &c.

I commenced this morning at six, and worked till inspection under arms at 8, folding sweeping, cleaning & arranging & then afterwards till ½ past nine, when the inspection of Quarters took place. At taps the Inspector comes into the room with a dark lantern, lets it flash in your face to see that you & not somebody else is in your bed. He is making various changes & revisions all, of them tightening instead of loosening the reign, by which we are curbed. But it does not matter. I do not care how military an officer is, if he is only stable so that I may know what to expect of him. I have not got any demerit since he came as yet. I still like Col. Lee. He comes to church regularly with his wife. She is not so fine looking as he I think, but she looks like a good woman; I wonder sometimes if Lee's father & mother know as much about the difficulty that existed between himself & me as my parents know of the same. I presume not, for his father would not have approved of the course he pursued in the outset - & he knowing this would not be likely to say much about the matter. I am now on speaking terms with every man in my class but Abbot & I cannot help avoiding him. I have as much as my philosophy & good principles can aid me to do to keep from hating him. He did not & does not seem to me to act as becomes a man, an independent, honest man. Yet it is my duty to pursue the same course towards him as I have towards all the others who foolishly made themselves my enemies.

Give my love to all. Tell Charlie to write me about his visit & Dellie to tell me the news. Tell Rowland not to wait for another letter before he writes.

From yr affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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417 12/5/1852 *From:* Rodelphus [Gilmore] *To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0393a

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds, Dec 5th 52

Dear brother

As mother was going to write to you I thought I would write to you. Charlie has come home from Portland. He came home last Friday morning. I am well, all but my leg. Last Tuesday morning I fell down and cut a place in my knee about 1 or more inches. But it has got most well now, so I think I can go to school tomorrow for it commences tomorrow. Mr Gancelo Petingill is going to teach our School. The cars are runing over our new Road. Father brags over them. He says that Mr Morse (the Engineer) says that this Engine is the best runing one he ever saw. Father says the cars are the handsomest in the State of Maine. I shall go to school tomorrow and study and read in the Town's Fourth Reader, Mitchells Geography, Smith's Arithmetic, Welds Grammar. It rains today and there is no meeting to day. Winter does not come upon us yet. We have not had more than an inch of snow yet. All the snow is rain. It is so warm here that we have rain in the place of snow. Wm Otis was here last Thursday all day. Mother received a letter from you last night. Charley received one to last Tuesday. Last night there was a blind Girl's Concert. They were two ladies by the name of Coy and Nelson. Every body could go in for 12 ½ cts. R. A. went, but no body from here went but him, for it rained hard as it could. Nancy is sick today. George Lothrop has moved up to Livermore Falls and is going to keep Tavern. It has been cold enough to freeze the ice so that I could skate on it. I have wrote all I can think of now.

And so good by Otis.

From your affectionate Brother,  
Rodelphus

To Otis

[This letter is continued on the next letter from Charles.]

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418 12/5/1852 *From:* Charles Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0394a

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Dec. 5th 1852

My Dear Brother

My last note to you; you remember? was written in Portland. I had a very pleasant visit in Portland, stoped there untill Fryday morning at 7 oclock. Lizzie wished me to stay still longer, but I could not because our school begins Monday. And I certainly do not wish to lose any of my schooling this winter, for unluckily I have lost it this past fall. But I will not complain but will be sure and improve what time I do have allowed me to attend school. Yes I think it quite a misfortune my losing my time this fall. It seems to me more so now just as I am commencing to study Latin, and also all studies with more earnestness and perseverance. For I am old enough now to appreciate the value of an education. And also know that now while I am yet young is the best time to aquire one. I speak of an education as though it could be finished but I do not think that I shall ever or at least very soon finish mine. But what I learn (or add to my knowledge) now will never have to be learned again.

But I wish to tell you about my visit in Portland. I enjoyed myself much. I think Lizzie took much pains to entertain me, for which I am very thankful to her. She went out with me as often as she had time to show me the wonders &c of Portland. She went over in the ferry to Cape Elizabeth with me to see the fort. Perhaps wishing to give me a little better idea of West Point, but that hardly could be. For I think as many times as you have pictured your situation to me, my ideas of it cannot much be improved. While in Portland I stayed part of the time with Aunt Martha. I was with her most of the nights for Uncle Henry was away from home and Aunt was afraid to stay alone. Uncle Henry is sittling up his business for he thinks of going a tour to Philiadelphia & New Orleans soon. Aunt Martha had not concluded whether to keep house or not while he is gone. She went to Hallowell last Wednesday on a visit & to bring home her little girl Lizzie who has been there about two weeks.

I was pleased to hear while in Portland that I had a letter in rest for me from Otis at home of four pages. And since I arrived mother has handed it to me to read. And last night we rec another one. You speak of the weather's being delightfully pleasant at West Point this fall! I can say the same of Maine for it is now the 5th of Dec and no snow to be seen nor signs of it, even last night and this forenoon we have had a warm rain! It seems much more like Spring than winter. You wished me to forgive your blots, but I did not see many to forgive but what I do see I willingly forgive hoping that you will grant me the same favor for I see that I have made a large blot by some water which doped from my sand box. We certainly have had no sleighing this fall nor have we had any thing near it.

Elias Lothropps death was very sudden to us all here as well as you for we had had no warning. You can have no idea of Mrs. Lothropps grief. She was almost crazed by the news. Speaking of Mrs Lothrop reminds me of what a time Lizzie and I had in getting to the cars that morning that Warren went through Portland, for the cars started some time before we got to the Depot but we got in after they started. A man helped Lizzie on. She was quite anxious to see Warren. We rode up to the Boston depot and back safely but had a hard time geting on.

I have had a short pause in my writing. I paused to eat my dinner & while eating Mr Berry came in. Then after dinner we had a sing. Mr Berry praised my playing on the Aeolian much. I have got so that I can play 6 or 8 tunes pretty well. I thought as you do when I read of Mr Websters death and of his belief to the last. I thought that it should & would influence those who had not so good & sound a mind & judgement as he.

I am very glad Otis to hear you say that "my health is good I am doing well in my studies & have no enemies" Yes Otis I am very glad that you are enjoying yourself. But I hope you do not enjoy your situation in the army well enough to remain there more than your four years. You see I suppose by the date that today is sabbath day. There was no meeting today and if there had been it rained so this morning that our folks would not have gone, but it has released off this afternoon. It is so dark that I cannot write any more now. And I must go and do my chores. Good night Otis. And write soon.

From your affec brother

Charles

P.S. I have just returned from a 4 o'clock ride to the Depot with Rowland.

[To] O O Howard

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419 12/6/1852 *From:* Charles Howard

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0393b

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter is a continuation of the previous letter from Rodelphus.]

Monday Eve 20 m of eight [Dec 6, 1852]

Dear Brother,

Since I finished writing, a night & a day have passed by in the tide of time. And as I had time to spend tonight I thought I would finish Dellie's piece of paper for mother is to finish my sheet. This morning Dellie & I went to school to our new school house & Teacher. We liked them both very much. I think Mr Petingill will be a very pleasant teacher. I asked him today if he would hear me recite in Latin. He said he would hear me every night after the close of the school. I am also intending to study Philosophy, Arithmetic, Grammar. The men folks all being gone tonight I & Dellie were obliged to do all of the chores. I think now I will go and find my Latin Book and look over the first Lesson.

Yr Brother, Charles

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420 12/6/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0394b

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Monday Evening at eleven o'clock [Dec 6, 1852]

My dear boy,

I have begun to fill up Charlie's sheet. I fear it will be rather curious filling - no lines for a guide. I will tell you the proceedings of this day with my family. It being the 1st Monday in December a stockholders meeting of the Androscogin rail road company was holden at Livermore Falls today. Your father RAG RBH left here early for the train and have but just now returned and got well settled in bed. Your father not returned .

C.H.H. and R.H.G. have attended their first days school for the winter, so you see none remain at home but Mother. I believe I will not attempt to tell you in what manner my day has been spent, after so many leaving in the morning and R.B.H. to leave for Topsham between 5 and 6 in the morning to review his studies preparatory to returning to Brunswick or Bowdoin College. You can not conceive of my anxiety for his health but I fear he will be sick if he sits day after day in a warm room without much exercise. He is quite fleshy but that is not always a sure indication of firm health I find.

Nothing new or worthy of note with us. Our Ladies Temperance Band still continues to meet and is quite interesting yet. I was chosen a delegate to attend the general convention at Lewiston in Nov, where I met a Hall full of fine looking women both old and young. Forty different towns were represented the day I was there. Who knows how much good so much exertion on the part of our sex may affect.

I am heartily glad you are in such good health and doing so well. I hope ere long to write you a letter that will appear rather more respectable, with poor pens poor paper and fatigued hardy, your Mother bids you a good night in haste.

Eliza Gilmore

[To] O. O. Howard

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421 12/12/1852 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0395

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Dec 12th 1852

Dear Brother

Although I think that I do not owe you a letter yet I am not sure that you would direct one to this place, unless informed of my whereabouts. I came here a week ago tomorrow and room with and recite to a College Classmate of yours, Mr Francis Adams. He appears like a ripe scholar and a good fellow. We board at Mrs Frosts having a fine room and good table. I think I shall study pretty well this winter and enjoy myself too, if my health remains good. I directed a letter of Charley's to you the day that I came away and so I suppose that you have as late news from home as I can give you.

On Saturday I went over to the College, to see old friends and find what kind of a class I was about to enter, and remained there until this morning. The Students have at this time almost all left it being very near the close of the term. Saturday and Sunday evenings I heard O. S. Fowler of N.Y., the great Phrenologist, lecture. The first time on Phrenology the second on Temperance. It was the most finished Temperance lecture I ever heard. It took up and treated the evil and remedy in a masterly manner, arguing the question by Phrenology & Physiology. He fortified his position by facts and Science and finally proved the Maine Law as the greatest preventitive of drunkenness yet found and consequently the greatest preventitive of crime. I have not enjoyed myself of an evening so well for a long time. I went into hear Mr Adams preach yesterday afternoon. They have had those wretched hard seats in the students gallery, cushioned, and they are now quite comfortable for much so that I don't know but that I shall turn orthodox if I return to College. I have been reading Prof Hitchcocks (who you will remember takes Prof Stowes place) eulogy on Webster delivered before the Students. I would send you a copy if I could obtain one. I had just previously read Theodore Parkers and I was rather disapointed in the Profs. When Pres Wood's comes out I will endeavor to send you one. It is spoken of very highly.

Greek and Latin come rather hard to me after so long a vacation but I am getting a little used to them again. I am reviewing in both now. Bowdoin seems to be flourishing, the three lower classes having over 40 members in each. I have a very pleasant almost elegant boarding place and if I have good health I see no reason why I should not enjoy myself and make good improvement.

I think I will write to Lizzie in a few days for as I am among strangers, I am doubly grateful for the letters of Friends. I believe it is pretty well settled that I never do rec letters unless I write once twice or three times before hand. Lizzie though has always answered me. But however I suppose that most of you think that I don't labor much on my letters and I might as well be writing as not, and it is about so. I expect by and by to fall in — with some body that I shall not wish to see my scrawling hand and awkward paragraphs. Some one whose very little opinions I shall deem — but there! You know all about it, so it's no use for me to tell what queer possibilities are in the unknown future. Two of the mildest fellows in the present senior Class have become pious, Southgate & Crosby. I knew them both before their change but do not know nor cannot understand them since, Otis.

There has never been anything that has so shaken and thrown down all my doubts on these matters as the death bed of Webster. Not that I regard or ever did regard Webster as a true hearted Christian as we have been taught to understand the term, but in his last hours when he had to <> and quietly finished all his Earthly <> there is something startling in the <> acquiescence of that great mind in <> those simple but eternal truths. If there <is> one thing more than another that makes a man an infidel it is pride of intelect. He is so surprised at the extent of human capabilities, he concludes that they are <>. What man had the intelect, and who so proud of it as Daniel Webster. Yet what was all that greatness when the shadow of Eternity crept upon him. He knew how weak, how fearful weak even he was, those were the words of a tottering child. "Thy rod, Thy staff, Yes, that is what I want." I feel, and I cannot if I would, avoid it, that if the strength of Webster was such weakness that if he needed the <> and the Staff of God. When he approached <> dark valley and shaddow. Who shall do <wit> I cannot reason. I am too small, too weak but Webster could reason and he when the hour of trial came could find but <> source of power, and then he placed his <>. I have said these facts have made a deep impression upon me, they and the thoughts <> have suggested have swept away all <> in regard to

<>necessity.

My mind is convinced of this last and yet for the total absence of desire & feeling <> the matter. I am persuaded I should be <> Christian. We all look upon great men with reverence. We have watched them in our Country and seldom do they say one word or write one sentence in behalf of Bible Truth. I mean great political men, the members of our Congress, the lawyers of our Courts, the writers of our literature, all keep silence on these matters like Willis belie their own thoughts by their own acts. I will come back and try (for I don't know as you feel as I do.) I have looked at all these and thought they <> through life and many of them die without religion and why shouldn't <>. The avocacy of religion is left mostly with those who make it their hole profession, not only basing their hopes of a future world below it, but also their livelihood for the present <>. I have regarded these as slight evidence compared with the great needs of my Countrymen <> - when I see them one after one surrendering <> like Webster on the threshold of the tomb. I am convinced that man must surrender elsewhere. Does the early or the late man make the best terms with his God! It is only a question of time. I don't know now as I ought to send <> but if I do, don't misjudge me. These are my own secret thoughts expressed without arrangement or care. I don't wish to appear wise. I only desire to make a confidence of my brother as I would of one who is kind and trustworthy. I have written so far without stoping. I hope you can read it and I hope you will forgive its faults. Write me soon at Topsham. I've got lots of things to say to you but I will not write them now, but perhaps I may change my mind before I write again and not write them at all but good by, tonight and God bless you as does your  
Aff Brother  
Rowland

[Note: Pages 4 and 5 have their edges glued together, making some of the words hidden. ]

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422 12/13/1852 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0396

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec 13th, 52

My dear Mother

Since I have a few moments leisure after returning from Chemistry I will begin a letter to you, in order that I may at least get it into the Post Office in time for you to get it Saturday. I feel a little dull to day as I usually do Mondays, for I get up at four o'clock. This practice may do very well for those who can retire early, but to get to sleep about half past ten & be up at four is rather too much of a good thing to suit my taste. I think every Monday afternoon, as soon as I begin to feel stupid & dull: "Now you will learn to get your lesson Saturday so that you can have a good sleep next time till reveille", but Saturday always manages to pass over without my Monday's lesson being got.

(Tuesday Dec 14.)

It is now after taps. I have put my quilt to my window to conceal my light, so that I am safe from being reported. Yesterday, when I was writing, a young man came into my room, who had to be entertained & he staid so long that all my leisure time was consumed. I was on Guard this evening besides having a very hard & long lesson for the morrow which I made out to get over once just before the 'taps' beat. After I got to bed, I began to think how anxious you would feel if you did not get a letter Saturday. So although I feel tired & sleepy I will try to write you a few lines now to let you know I am well & write you a long letter next Saturday or Sunday. I shall have to study pretty closely between this & January or I will lose my standing in Mathematics (Mechanics) this January. You will observe I have been second for two months. Mr Ruger 1st, Lee 3d. I would have been 1st last month but for one bad recitation. If I do well at the January examination, I shall expect to retain my place still.

I went to see Warren, Saturday while the battalion was at supper & staid with him about an hour. He brought me into his little room, a bowl of coffee with some bread & meat, so that I made a grand supper. He told me he saw you all. Said Charlie looked a little pale, when he met him on the cars with Lizzie at Portland.

I received yours, Charlie's & Dellie's letter last Friday. Ask Charlie why he says he hopes I do not like well enough at West Point to remain in the Army after I graduate from this place! Ask him what he thinks I am to do. What I am good for, if I ought to study three or four years more for another profession, with poverty staring me in the face. I have not made up my mind yet on the subject. I think, however, I shall remain in the army at least a year. In either of the Corps that I will be likely to go in, the duties will be very light. I shall have good pay & about half of each day to read whatever I may wish & study law.

Give my love to all. I will not write more tonight for I am too tired.

From your affectionate son  
OO Howard

I presume Rowland is at Topsham already, is he not. Mr Adams was a very good hearted good principled man. I liked him very much. He may be a little too quiet for Rowland.

Yr son -  
O O Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 1<?> DEC

Col John Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine

Paid Chg. Cadet Howard

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423 12/19/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0392

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec. [19] 1852

My dear Son,

It is now two weeks since we received a letter from West Point, I was truly disappointed, last evening when the mail came in, but recollecting, that I mentioned (R's immediate departure for Topsham) in Charles letter, I thought he was the favored one, and consoled myself that nothing had befallen you. R has written two letters home since he went to Topsham, which are quite satisfactory. Mrs L was here a few days ago, said she had received letters from Warren since his return to West Point, but he had not then seen you. I am glad to learn from your letters, that your intellectual enjoyment have increased and that you feel more like one moving in his own proper sphere than formerly. Yesterday I went to Wayne to visit Arza, found him quite comfortable though not able to go out. He can rise onto his feet with the help of two canes, and then walk half bent to the table or bed. An abscess on each side that discharges constantly and one limb drawn half way up - a good appatite and the tones of his stomach good, has grown quite fleshy, seems in good spirits, cheerful, and social. I met with Mr Sampson in a store, said his wife was about house but in poor health. I told him I would call, but your father made different arrangements about returning and I was obliged to go the rounds with him in consequence did not see Mrs S.

I have been out to church to day. Mr B gave us two very good sermons. The morning service was pointing out what our heavenly father required of us as Christians and the afternoon service was requiring repentance and the final consequence of not repenting. Very few people attended meeting so little is the privilege of the Sabbath regarded in this place.

We have good sleighing, with but little snow. Our little grey horse carried us swiftly over the ground to church, and then home again. I saw Laura and John, and wife and boys. They all looked nicely.

Your father is very much engaged filling out his papers, preparing his yearly report for the railroad company. Our rail road is completed to Livermore Falls, in spite of all the hindrances heretofore endured. A survey is now going forward from Livermore Falls to Farmington to extend the road to that place.

We have sad news from Sacramento City - almost the whole city in ashes. My interest in Addison, and Mr Sargent has been all alive, and Ann and Sarah must have had a fearful time of it but not so much so as if they were there in the fire. O! What an amount of harm or suffering must have been in that flaming city. We have had the <Alton> California a paper which gave a particular account of the fire and the relief they received for ten days. I have not visited Hallowel for a long while, but believe they are all in pretty good Health. William made quite a long visit at John Otis' and Maria has been stoping in Portland a long while the past fall. I understand C.H. Strickland is going out to Orleans this winter. Frederick is put to a farmer in Gloucester for two years. Melvin Howard is confined to his room - will probably never go out again. We have a good school this Winter. Boys are very much engaged in their studies.

I am very much pleased, every day with Charlie's developments of Character. He seems to have an abiding principle. He is a great benefit to Rodolphus. R truly loves him and likes to please him. Although he is a selfish little fellow, he is willing to 'shant' do well. The teacher has offered a prize to the one of the class, who shall stand at the head the most nights. Dellie says he wants Charlie to have the prize if he can't. He studies evenings to get his lessons. I am seated near the stove by a table in the front room and Charlie reading near me. Dellie came in a little while but found this room a little too quiet for his nature, and went out.

Roland A has been confined to the house for a number of days with one of his feverish turns. Began to go out this morning. Our daily rounds are much the same as usual. some days a plenty of irish coming in to receive their pay out of the treasury, which makes some variety.

I was told at Wayne that J. Moulton is married to Lucy Foss, W.Foss's daughter of North Leeds. Elder Foss has three daughters less now than last year at home. I saw Morison Foss yesterday who is depot Master and Post Master at North Leeds. One might suppose those were quite profitable offices, but I think in this case, the

honor is greater than the profit. I saw him open his mail. He had perhaps one doz. of letters and as many newspapers. I don't know how much freight he has to mark, everything seems to be tending towards the railroad.

Mr Brewster has built a new store on the line of the railroad. Orman Wing has shut up his store, and gone to Mass, and taken his wife and child with him, in consequence of being detected in selling wine unlawfully. He passed through a course of the Maine liquor law and paid his fine, which so enraged him he could not be peaceable with any one. John Keen is now being passed through the ordeal I understand the Supreme court have found him guilty, this last week, probably will be obliged to lay in jail a while. How many wretched family he has caused. I feel no regret at having justice overtake him in the form of the Maine liquor law. Our Ladies T. B. meet every two weeks but so not full as in warm weather.

Your father says he shall go to see his Mother this Winter. If he does I intend to go as far as Portland, with him and stop with sister Martha while he is gone, and call on Mrs Waite and Lizzie.

This is my third page, filled. I fear it will hardly pay the way from reading, although I determined to write, I had nothing in particular to write to you except to remind you of the uncommon long time since we heard from you. R. wrote me he had written you a long letter, and now should be looking out for one from you, said he should write to Lizzie soon. Your father has not been in here once to hurry me about my letter, but I expect him every minute for I hear him on his feet now. I think there is a letter on the way for me now if you are in good health, or nothing else has befallen you. I shall draw to a close.

With much affection  
Eliza Gilmore

[to] Oliver O Howard

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424 12/19/1852 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* Nephew [O O Howard]

OOH-0397

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 19 Dec 52

My dear Nephew

Can you make us an annual visit the coming Christmas, come down on Friday Evening & return on Sunday. Myself and your Cousins would be highly gratified to have you with us on that occasion, separated as you are from family & friends with the exception of my family. I flatter myself your Commanding Officer Major Smith (I think it is) will grant you the privilege of this annual visit to your affectionate Uncle & Cousins.

Yours Sincerely  
Ward B Howard

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425 12/20/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0398

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec. 20th 1852

My dear Mother

When I last wrote you my letter was of necessity so short, that I hesitated about sending it till I could fill it up better, but I thought you might feel some unnecessary anxiety if I delayed writing so long. This evening my lesson being unusually short I have concluded to devote my spare time to you. I mailed a letter to Rowland this morning, in answer to one I received from him a few days ago. He wrote me a very good letter indeed, seemed well pleased with his situation at Mrs Frosts, as well as with his instructor Mr Adams. I am glad that he has got so good a place and am in hopes he will now persevere in his studies to advantage.

I received a letter from Uncle Ward to day giving me a pressing invitation to spend my Christmas with him & his daughter. So many have applied for leave to visit relatives who may be living anywhere in this vicinity and have been refused that I think it highly improbable if I succeed in getting a leave. I dislike to put so kind a man as Col Lee usually is to the necessity of refusing me a favor. He says leaves of absence interfere with our studies now. He will not have objection to granting us favors during Camp.

I am looking for a letter from yourself. If you do not write me oftener I fear you will get so out of the habit of writing that bye & bye you will not write at all.

I believe Charlie is the only one who speaks plainly his opinion upon my remaining in the army after I graduate. I would like your opinion too. Does it not seem rather too bad to have spent all this time in hard study & not reap any immediate benefit from it? Would it not be better to take up with the pay of the army officer, with his duties which are generally in no way very arduous, till from rest I had recovered sufficient energy to prosecute my studies further & fit myself for some other profession? Is it wise or right for me to throw myself on the world in comparative poverty with all the uncertainties of life on my shoulders, when in my profession, in the profession I am studying for, there is certainty of a livelihood? Ask Charlie these practical questions - let him think of them and answer them as he thinks.

Had I the head of Daniel Webster undoubtedly a struggle with poverty might tend to develop my dormant energies, might call into action hidden talents and give power & character to an intellect filled with a heterogeneous mass of shapeless material. But however much vanity may make me swell with importance, after all I am only O.O. Howard, whom it becomes never to trust to chance for his fortune while he is within the haven of security. Still I have not resolved to remain in the army yet. In all probability I will not many years, for many reasons.

Some civil profession is more in accordance with my taste. I want a home - a permanent home. Peremptory Orders, sudden & unexpected changes of Station, any little foreign difficulty, which leads the government to put itself in shape to resist danger, then & many other matters of a like nature are not very consistent with the quiet of a domestic life that I covet. Again I would like to have it my power to go to war or not as I thought it my duty; if I thought the cause was a just one - our homes - our liberties - our institutions under which ours has become so happy & prosperous a nation, if I saw them in danger, it would be my duty in common with that of every son of America to be ready & willing to defend them. The only real importance ones life has is its usefulness or its capacity for usefulness. And if like the Martyrs of old or like our fathers that we so much reverence, we see that the sacrifice or the exposure of our lives is the only alternative by which those principles can be maintained that involve the interests of millions, then it becomes us if we would be noble & generous to make the sacrifice. It is always a hard doctrine to maintain with mothers & brothers, or with those whose affections may be attached to you, but it is the doctrine of common sense.

But on the contrary if I believed from my heart a war to be unjust, I would have difficulty to ask the blessing of my God to rest upon me in its prosecution. The army officer, even here in America, is not his own master, the citizen is or may be. Hence on this account the position of the latter is preferable. What may be my lot hereafter, I know not - life itself may not be spared me. Now it is my duty to do my duty, and if I keep on this all will be well.

We had the proceedings of a General Court Martial published this evening. Four or five young men were suspended for one year, three dismissed whose sentences were afterwards remitted. One of those suspended was my old room-mate Henry N Lazelle. His offence was merely speaking to a reporting officer (a Cadet) about a report & asking him if he meant to insult him, telling him if he thought he did he would strike him. Had I been the Cadet Officer I would have told him to strike away if he wished, but I would not have given him such a report. I once gave Lazelle a pretty good whipping in that big room where father found me (a year ago) last summer, for telling me I was a liar &c. So I do not think he would be likely to say much to me about any report that I might give.

I continue to get along very well in my studies. I got in Mechanics a maximum every day last week - 3.3.3.3.18. This you would think was doing pretty well. You perceive too by my monthly standing that I am getting on a little better than last year. In Chemistry not so well as I expected. I study it very hard but I cannot remember it as it has to be got here. I never was good at storing up a list of separate, independent facts. Such is Perley's fort. But after all I do well in it. I never can make it seem that I do well, unless I do the best, which is an impossibility in everything & at all times.

Rowland wrote me that Melvin Howard was worse. If you see any of Uncle Barna's family, remember me affectionately to them & especially to Melvin. I fear I have seen him for the last time. I saw Warren not long since. He was well. His Corps is engaged in study now, as usual in the Winter. How does Charlie get on with his studies under your teacher? Where does the latter board? Remember me to Uncle Ensign's family. And tell Aunt Aurelia that Uncle Ward tells me always to send his love in my letters to her. Rowland said he wished I would write to Thomas. I would like to, but I cannot. I can not do justice to my present correspondents which are few indeed, since with the exception of Lizzie they are confined to my own family - you, Charlie & Rowland. Once in a great while Peleg & I exchange letters. Good night. Give my love to Charlie & Dellie. They must improve their time this winter. My love to father Rowland & all. We are having a rain storm indeed. No snow yet, but plenty of mud. God bless you all.

From Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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426 1/2/1853

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0399

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Jan 2d 1853

My dear Mother,

A new year we have entered upon & your boy is far away. I would have been very happy to have spent yesterday with you, to have had Dellie or Charlie wake me with a "happy new year" but this was not permitted me. I had not even the pleasure of exchanging a word with any of you, nor could I visit you except by dint of the imagination. January has come and with it the examination, which commences tomorrow. I think my section will be called up about Wednesday. I never have felt myself so ill prepared for an examination in my life, but I will say little about it till it is past, then I can tell you whether I failed or not. Now I can only surmise and predict, for who can decide the 'fortune of war' before the battle.

You spoke of father's going to Massachusetts and of your accompanying him as far as Portland. I hope you will and will spend considerable time with Lizzie, for you two do not seem to be so intimately acquainted as I wish you to be, and she would be so happy to have you come.

I shall be able to tell you the result of the examination in my next letter. I am really glad to hear you speak as you do of Charlie. I know that he has a good mind and will not make a superficial scholar. Dellie too must persevere for his father's sake, for father will soon be an old gentleman and what would cheer him more than to see his youngest son a smart persevering man, bound to make the most of the talents God has given him, cultivating his mind with assiduity and thus preparing himself for an honorable and useful position among his fellow men. To be over ambitious I know is hurtful to happiness, is wrong. But every youth ought to have high & noble aims; and the higher & nobler his purposes are the better since they must spring to be such, from an upright heart.

God only knows the motives by which I have been & am still actuated. Sometimes I would be useful. Sometimes I would be great. Sometimes I am swayed by ambition, sometimes by impulse and at other times I fancy that I am possessed of some strong implanted abiding principle. If you can my dear mother, you must try to influence Dellie & Charlie to love the Bible & its truth, for however unconsciously attained these truths of the Bible will be a safeguard to them when they come to mingle among men. It is dangerous to grow up without a knowledge of this book or a love for it. You remember my little history of Joseph. This story and my sabbath school lessons and what you may have instilled into my memory when I was a very little boy have left a deep & effective impression on my mind. All these things have begotten in me a reverence for sacred things, that all my intercourse with skeptical & infidel young men could never shake.

(Thursday evening Jan 6)

I did not finish my letter the other evening, and now as I have leisure I will try to fill it out. I received your good long letter this noon - and am happy to hear that you are still enjoying good health. Another still of our old neighbors is gone, and another still, my old playmate is on the road to his grave. It is sad to think of but we must submit to the will of Heaven without murmuring. The same power that causes these afflictions will heal the wounded hearts of those bereaved, and made desolate.

I passed my examination in Mechanics to day; did very well as well as I could ask on my demonstration at the board, but failed on some important questions that were put to me. (Not because I did not know the principles involved in the questions but because the instructors put them so blindly, and perhaps I was not quite so cool & self possessed as I might have been. I rather expect that I shall not stand first in Mechanics, as Mr Lee did better than I. The standing will be published in a day or two. Then I shall be able to write you. We will not be examined in Chemistry till next week, Thursday or Friday. I expect to be about fifteenth in drawing; this is pretty good to rise from 35th to 15th about twenty files, since furlough. There is nothing like trying.

Lizzie says she hopes you will make her a visit for she is attending school again & cannot visit you this winter.

Henry's language to father makes me feel unpleasantly on his account. I do not remember of telling of what father said, perhaps I might, for discretion is not a part of my composition. If I did the blame ought to be thrown

on my shoulders, for father did not dream of its being repeated out of the family. I would as lief Uncle Henry would'nt like me as would. He has no need to act thus if he wishes to be considered an honest upright man. I would'nt wonder if Henry surmised that father told of it. And it would be very plausible that I should repeat the same in Portland.

Give my love to all. Rowland has not written me very lately. I expect a letter tomorrow.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] WEST POINT NY 8 JAN  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

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427 1/2/1853

*From:* Rodelphus Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0400

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Jan 2nd 1853

Dear Brother

As mother was going to write to you I thought that I would write. George Jones was here tonight. He is going to Calefornia with Mr Curry, his brother-in-law. He is going to learn the carpenters trade. Mother said she would ask him to go up the River to West Point as he was going to stay in New York city 2 weeks. He is going to start next Friday.

I had a little Book sent me last night from R.B.H. It was a Comic Almanac.

Nancy is here to work. George Bates is here to work. Roland A is not to work. He has had a bad cold and did not do any thing until within a few days. Oscar Turner & George & Rowland killed the swine yesterday. George hauls poles over on the R. Road to build fence.

How long after you graduate shall you go in to the army? I hope it will not be a great while.

We have a very good School. I have learned more these 4 last weeks than I did in the whole of last summer. I study Michels Geography, Smiths Arithmetic, Welds Grammar and read in the Town Fourth Book and spell in the Town Speller & definer. I believe that is all, that I study. Charley has just wrote Lizzie a long letter. Charlie sent his love to you and said he should write soon.

George will be here tomorrow evening and mother will ask him to come to West Point and see you. So good bye.

From your affectionate brother  
Rodelphus Gilmore

P.S. Write me soon for you have not writen me but one letter, since you have been at West Point. So write soon.

From your affectionate brother  
Rodelphus

To: O. O. Howard

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428 1/6/1853

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0401

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Jan 6th 1853

Dear Brother

I began a letter to you on New Years day, and in that wished you a 'happy new year', but I did not send it. I really hope that this will find you enjoying heartily 'a happy new year'. I received your last in due time and hope I appreciate your feelings and sentiments. I have the more respect for them because I know that they are more regular and uniform than my own.

I am aware that my whole character and life partakes too much of the manner of my penmanship, of which you have often remarked. A single letter taken separately is well enough but as a whole it has not a pleasing effect. It has no system, no regularity. Of course you that know me so well, know that this is a fair index of my character. Now and then I have a thought or perform an act that is well enough, but I consider myself and doubtless my friends consider me, a bundle of inconsistencies. The fact is Otis, I have got a multitude of those plans & things, which, a certain good man has said pave Hell. Viz. good intentions. I make no doubt that I could give middling good advice, how to study, how to live, how necessary it is to think methodically and to write correctly and legibly and doubtless I know the means that will contribute to these desirable ends. But there! My whole example would give the lie to my advice, and show the uselessness of my knowledge even to myself.

As you say of yourself, I am at times theoretically a Christian and feel my own peculiar need of Divine assistance and support. Yet I despise myself the more for this, because I do not live that talk, that act, that, which my own conscience teaches me is right. My delinquency does not arise as with some, from influences without, but from within. The prime opposer of all good resolves is that shallowness of mind and character, natural and acquired, which prevents their taking deep root. The mind having no good soil in which they can be cultivated. The natural quickness of my thoughts aided by love of praise, early indulged, has contributed most of anything to the superficial character which I now possess.

Verily the hardest study that we engage in is the study of ourselves. I have often wondered if others found so much difficulty in understanding their own characters and motives as I do.

Why? <'Cui boaiu'?'> these constantly recurring questions generally have to answer themselves. We echo the thoughts of others and they are reechoed within us, but such as we are, we must live, and I believe him the happiest who 'takes it easy'.

Mrs Stowe's St Clair is a fair specimen of the kind of mind which I have tried to describe and of which I fear your younger brother partakes too much, ever to become successful in life as men count success, or as I count it myself.

This letter so far has been in downright contradiction to all the rules which have been made for epistletory writing, but I got to writing so and continued it so excuse the egotism of the above moralising (or what ever it is) for this time. For you and all of my correspondents will bear me witness, that it is seldom that I attempt a long sentence or express one of my own ideas, which I have rather taught myself to conceal than divulge, filling up my letters and conversation, too much I fear, with somebodys say so.

I have met several young ladies of Brunswick, who say they were formally acquainted with you, and the other evening a Mrs Forsyth took tea here, who said that you stoped at her house last summer with Lizzie.

On Wednesday I attended the installation of the Orthodox clergiman of this place. The services of which were very impressive. I believe I won't be an Orthodox Minister, if they do all that was charged upon Mr Wilde by his ministerial brethren. It is a little more than human nature can endure or perform.

I recd a letter from Charley & Dellie the other day. I find Dellie has improved considerably in his writing this winter. I am sorry to hear of Addison Martins loss and I really hope that he has enough left to start again but I have heard no particulars. His loss is stated in the papers at \$30,000 which I should suppose was high but

don't know. Addison seemed to be on the high road to success, but the fire I suppose has well nigh ruined him. I suppose it will be rather sad news to Miss Brooks.

Write soon and remember me as

Your aff Brother  
Rowland

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429 1/6/1853

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dellie [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0402

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 6th 1853.

My dear Dellie,

You firstly call me to an account for not having written you more than one letter since I have been at West Point. It is too bad, but you must forgive your brother since he intends that you shall have the privilege of reading as many of his letters home as you may wish. But now to make amends if possible, here's for a letter. I have just finished one to Mother, and would have written her four pages, tell her, if I had not got out of envelopes. You have learned from myself on furlough and from my letters that the Cadets eat in a large building called the Mess Hall, each cadet sitting on a little round top iron stool. Well I do not eat there now, but board at a private house. How can this be? I will tell you if you will listen. In the Florida war there was a Gallant Col Thompson, who fought for his country very bravely against the savage indians, but the number of his men being very small and being at a great distance from the main body of the army so that he could not get reinforcements, he was killed & nearly all his men. He left a mother who was a widow & three sisters who were all in rather low circumstances as far as money was concerned. Now out of gratitude to the Gallant Col. for his bravery & patriotism and out of sympathy for his afflicted family, thus left without a protector, the government of the United States gave these four ladies a place here at West Point, where they could board a portion of the Cadets & receive the pay. They came here a long time ago - the three sisters have got to be very old maids, the youngest I should think being upwards of fifty, though she yet seems to think herself very young. They take twelve boarders, and these are always Cadets of the second Class. When one leaves for good, he proposes somebody in his place.

Here at "Mammy Thompson" as the place is called, in a low-roofed cottage I am going to board the next two months. I get rid of marching to & from meals with the battalion. As soon as the roll is called at breakfast & dinner, the first Sergeant says "fall out", and all those who board at Mammy's "fall out" as well as those who do not happen to want any breakfast or dinner.

We have, on entering the door of the room where the ladies are, to make a respectful bow & say "good morning ladies" or "good evening ladies", as the case may be. The same formal process is gone through with on leaving. This seems like a private table, and here we have many of the good things.

I am glad to hear mother speak so well of your progress and to hear you say that you have learned so much. Keep on, my little brother, it is impossible to know too much & as impossible to know what you are acquiring too well.

Good night. Tattoo is beating and Otis must prepare his bed, so that he can jump in at ten when the drum beats tap! Tap! Tap! Be very kind to Charlie, try to please father & mother, and be a happy boy. I did not go to Peekskill on Christmas, could not get permission, but I did not care much to go, for I wished to be getting ready for the Examination. I have not time to read this over. See if you can find any mistakes.

From you affectionate brother

Otis

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430 1/16/1853 *From:* Rodelphus [Gilmore] *To:* O O Howard

OOH-0404a

South Leeds

West Point York New

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Sunday January the 16th 1853

Dear brother

I received your letter Last night. I am very much obliged for it. I have just eaten my dinner. <I have> I suppose you know have dinner Sunday along in the midel afternoon. I went to meeting to day. We did not have but one meeting to day for there was a funeral in the northern part of the town. Mr David Trask's daughter was buried. Mr Barrows had to go and preach the sermon. She was brought home from the factory. The girls are going to Mr Gilbert's to see <Tatia> G.

Father is trying to get a longer school. We had only 7 weeks schooling. We have got 17 dollars and we want only 1 dollar more to pay the master but we have got to get some money to pay for the wood and board although I guess he would board all a round the district.

I slid down the hill all day yesterday. We have got the hill so slipery that I guess that you could not walk so fast as you did last summer when you was to home on a furlow. There is a lot of crust on the ground and the boys have a board and slide along.

Father has got up a lot of green wood. George and Rowland A get it up to the house. Father nor any of us could not tell where the town of Belas is. In what county is it in?

Nancy is here yet. Lucia is here to. Mother and father went down to Hallowell last Thursday and stayed until Friday. Mr Crosby is Governor of Maine. He got two majority in the Senate that was the smallest majority I ever heard of. I have wrote all I can think of to day.

From you affectionate Brother  
Rodelphus

to O O Howard  
West Point York New

[continued on the next letter from Charles]

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431 1/16/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0404b

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[continued from the previous letter from Dellie]

Dear brother

It seems some time to me since I wrote my last letter to you, but then, when I remember I find that a great period has not elapsed since I wrote. Still, I know that you will be just as glad to receive one from me. But Betsey has just come in to make us a call, and her tongue, which you know is an important article of her composition greatly perplexes me.

You ask me why I do not wish you to remain in the army? But I think you know my reasons & can tell them to me better than I can to you. I wish to have you have a little more liberty, so that you can go to your friends somewhat oftener than what you now do & by so doing I think you would convey more to their happiness as well as to your own. & I suppose, & think I have a right to, from what you have said & written, that such a liberty or at least a little more liberty than you now have, would also be conducive to your own happiness.

I was very glad & I suppose the rest were to receive your long letter last night which you will perceive was that of Saturday.

Our school did not keep yesterday, and I went over to Brewster's store in the morning to meet father, who came in the cars from Winthrop. I should think from what I saw yesterday that Henry had considerable trade at his new store, as well as R Road business, for I saw him sell several R Road tickets.

I get along well with my studies this winter, though sometimes I am obliged to rise at four in the morning to get my Latin, which I shall do tomorrow I think.

I expect mother will write a long letter. Write soon & remember your brother  
C H Howard.

P.S. Wm G. Crosby was elected Governor of Maine Friday by the Senate. Rather unexpectedly.

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432 1/21/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0406

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds January 21th 1853.

My Dear Son,

This is one of the finest mornings, that Jan ever brings forward, the sun shining brightly over the encrusted snow, which is nowhere more than a foot deep, and never better sleighing, the thermometer about twenty degrees above zero. I was thinking this morning, that I ought to avail myself of such a day to visit some of our friends, but your father's business was such, that it was not convenient, so I decided to visit my two sons in imagination, by conversation in my letters. I received a letter from R.B.H. on Tuesday, after yours of the sixth. His letter was of a serious, or reflective kind. He spoke of having a cold, which I fear will be bad for him. He said he had written Lizzie and you very late and should expect letters soon.

Last week I visited Hallowel, left home Wednesday morn with your father. We went to Wayne and stopt at Arza's till after noon. Found Arza in good spirits hobling about the house with the help of two cains. Lavernia had a young babe, four days old, a son as promising as any little fellow of that age. Arza had his Loung in the Chamber with his wife, when we went in he was watching the starting of a sleigh ride from his window, at Daniel Foss's, ten couple from Leeds the remainder in Wayne.

We had a very fine ride in the afternoon from W— through to H— found mother quite well and very pleasantly situated. Staid two nights. Called at uncle John's. Came home friday evening.

Melvin Howard died saturday evening [January 15, 1853, son of Warren Howard and Rhoda B Mitchell] at six o'clock. I did not attend the funeral, as I did not hear of his death until after he was buried. I was at the centre on the sabbath, but as there was a funeral of a Trask girl, in the North part of the town, the people were gone there, and no one who attended our meeting knew of his death. Mr Steemens of Wayne attended the funeral and will deliver a funeral sermon at the Chapel next sabbath. I met Almira [Howard, sister of Melvin], at the Ladies band, last evening. She said he was perfectly sensible as long as he breathed. His voice failed him some days previous to his death, but could be understood in whispers. His father could understand him to the last. One minute before his last breath, he said his hope was firm. I recollect after your older brother died, and I was trying to raise you from a bed of sickness, his Mother used to send him up to our home for me to see him because he was so much like my lost one. She little thought, how much anquish her kindness caused me, but the little boy of three years old, has grown to be a man and now, has passed to that bourne from which no traveler returns. I have long since done questioning the disposition of our Heavenly father towards his creatures, but in the little intercourse I have had with Melvin, his honesty and true heartedness, makes me say in my heart we have parted with a good citizen, that he would be one "who would come up to the help against the Mighty" the man of sin.

I heard some more of Addison's situation on my visit at H. 'Tis a hard case, but I think he will come up again with the rest of the citizens of sacramento. Perry Lee seems yet to be among the unfortunate. It seems he did not go to Australia as he intended when you saw him, but gave up his voyage, and took a place in a vessel bound for West India, and on his return took a large number of sick passengers on board which proved to be the Cholera, and undertook to land them at Charleston south Carolina and was refused by the Authorities, and after a great number of deaths they succeeded in landing them on an Island, and the Vessel was seized by the officers of Charleston and there he is waiting a course of law.

I have not referred to, or answered any part of your letter, as a general thing I suppose you would rather have home news and home affairs written than refferences to your letters. Your father was sorry I said anything in my letter about Henrys talk. I did not mention it, to make any account of it, but to show you that H thinks we are under obligation to sustain him let him do what he sees fit, but your Uncle John has been here this week, after reading your letter he said he wished I had not mentioned it to you, it was not worth your notice. Said he was the one who told H what he heard and gave him a real schooling (says your father is not the only one he has talk to in that way) so he may keep still. He thinks a man who is cheating his creditors out of half their dues should not be offering his thousands on time. It is H who lacks in discretion not his friends, but enough about H.

I did not intend to give half so much paper room to his case. Your uncle and Vaughan stopt a night and day with us and one night to Ensigns. Its very pleasant to see ones friends. I thought a great deal about you, at the time of the examination, but then, I could not define my anxieties unless they were for your general welfare when I first went to visit Melvin Howard, he enquired after my boys separately, then said, the boys prospects are good, it almost affected me to tears. I thought how ungratefully I had spent many an hour worrying myself I knew not why about my boys.

I understand Doct Washington Turner was a candidate for Governors Council if Chandler had been elected Governor of the state of Maine so you see what narrow escapes we people of Maine have, when such men as W. are members of the executive we must expect misrule, but we have escaped so much and perhaps more. Your fathers business appears to drive him as much now, as it has done at any time although our railroad is finished, and does as much business as could be expected in the winter. I invited George Jones to ride up to West Point, and see you before he sailed for California. He had an Uncle in the city of New York where he would stop a few days. Yesterday was the day he was to sail. Farewell George, we may see him again.

I have seen but very little of Ensign's family this winter but think they are quite healthy. I don't know how it is but that <hairraising> feeling. which has worn upon me seems to have passed away for a time. What will be my next call for vanquishing my nature I know not, but it is so far out of the way that it don't seem as though it could be called up again. We have had several young persons brought home to be buried this winter, one was Elmira Turner, Mr Simeon Turner's daughter.

Your Uncle John said Joseph Hale Abbot has called at his house, this winter, the father of your classmate Abbot. Said he spoke of you, and said his son said you was a fine schollar, and your Uncle said likewise that you said his son was a good schollar but without any reference to your trouble with him. Your uncle said he did not mention it he would not. I did not know before, that I had known his father. He spent one of the May vacations of College at fathers while at Bodoin College. I recollect after spending an afternoon and taking tea with your father, R.B.H. I heard him in conversation with John say he did not think of finding such a fine young man in Leeds and said, Otis I wonder I never heard you speak of him before. John answered he seldom spoke much of his acquaintances. I recollect I thought him a very unassuming pleasant young man.

I understand Kate Benjamin is married and on her way to Kentucky she was married last Wednesday. I do not know even the Gentleman's name who has taken her off so suddenly, but understand he is a railroad builder and has a contract out there.

Yours,  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O.H.

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433 1/22/1853 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0407

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 22, 1853

My dear Mother

It is a very much longer time since I wrote you my last letter than I meant to let elapse before I wrote again. I thought I would wait till the examination should be entirely over. It finished last Wednesday & I have not been able to write a word since from want of spare time.

We commenced a new subject, acoustics which is not remarkably easy in its commencement. It is too of great importance to learn the first principles thoroughly, else it is difficult to master the subsequent portion of any mathematical work. Sometimes, when I feel remarkably well, my mind is very clear and I can master a subject in a comparatively short time, but at other times my head feels dull & heavy and I drag over my lessons drawing conclusions very slowly. Often I cannot account for this difference. Lately, however, I have been troubled with indigestion for a few days past, which very readily accounts for all dull feelings, want of aptness &c...

You will probably receive my standing from Washington as soon as if not before you get this letter. You will find me 2d in Mechanics, 4th in Chemistry & 16th in drawing, which would make me third in general standing if it should be made out. Our general standing will not be made out till June. Mr Lee is ahead in both studies, & 5th in drawing. I have not done so well as I ought to have done, but I doubt if I will ever do any better, for I do not study now with much pleasure or alacrity.

I wrote Rowland a letter a short time ago in answer to one I received from him. He did not say but he was well. I have felt a very little homesick lately, for no particular reason. It seems as if it would do me a world of good to take sleigh rides, sit by the kitchen fire of an evening, have a chat with you all and perhaps I would find a quantum of pleasure even in keeping school. But after all I may be as contented & happy as any one of you, since it is not the place that makes a man contented but himself.

We have had but one snow at West Point and that was over two feet in depth, the greater portion of which is on the ground yet. The river is frozen over - making good skating for those Cadets who know how to skate & can get permits. I have never been since I have been here. I have no skates & am too lazy to work for nothing, as I remember the fun of skating used to be ever dearly paid for, if I did not tumble down & bump my head, I was always sore & lame for a day or more afterwards.

Are you all very well? Is it cold? Have you much snow? We have had the most remarkable winter here for mildness & warmth that I ever remember of passing. The whole month of December & a part of January seemed like October.

How is Uncle Ensign & his family getting on this Winter? Does Cousin Laura get any sleigh rides? I would like to hear her merry laugh. You spoke of Grandmother in your last letter, said Mrs Francis' death reminded you that you ought to go & see Grandmother. Have you been? If not, when you do go, give her my love, and tell her I shall try to come home, almost on purpose to see her sometime next summer. It seems almost like a duty neglected that I have not written to her. Addison has been a better grandson in this respect. Had I been differently situated, I should have written her. I never have learned the art of writing fast, so that it takes about all the time I have to spare to write to you, my brothers and Lizzie. I scarcely ever read anything but my paper, and certainly I seldom ever spend an idle half hour. I hope Grandmother will continue to have good health till I can see her at least once more. Remember me particularly to Uncle John & all his family.

Lizzie wrote me that she had received a letter from both Charlie & Rowland. She told me of Charlie's modesty, saying that the reason why he thought while at Portland that he should not write was that he did not wish to expose his ignorance, but said he wrote a very good letter indeed. Ask him if he takes much pains when he writes to the young ladies. I think she said Dellie wrote too. Is Dellie or Charlie going to get the schoolmasters' present?

There are 13 or fourteen plebes who took leave of us this morning and are now on their way home. These do

not number so many as those who were found deficient the first January in our Class. We had four 'found' in our class this January & two in the present first class, none of whom have yet taken their 'walking papers'. I presume only two out of the number will have to go - both of whom have considerably over one hundred demerit. I hope none, for they are all smart enough to get the course, though they deserve a little punishment for getting lazy.

You spoke of Melvin's low state of health. Is he yet living? It did not seem when I last saw him that that time would be the last. I am glad he is so contented & happy now, so reconciled. You speak of the evidences of poverty at Uncle Warren's. They never seemed to me poor there. It never once entered my head that they were so, so much can a cheerful spirit throw into the shade every sign of want.

(Sunday morning Jan 23d)

It rains quite hard here this morning, perhaps you are having a snow storm. So many alternations of cold & warm weather, of snow & rain make the Winters of West Point exceedingly unpleasant.

I got a couple more demerit this morning which is rather amusing. I mean the manner in which I got them. I could not find my cap at reveille soon enough to get to our parade ground. I felt for it in the dark till I found I had already got 'a late', then I went without any, throwing the cape of my overcoat over my head. So I will get reported for two things, for a late & for no cap at reveille. I suppose you think there was no need of my losing my cap, so there was not and this is the only time for the two years & a half that I have been here. I found it on my table. I felt for it there, but passed over it some way in my haste & excitement.

Does Rowland write home often? Remember me to Uncle Ensign's & John's family, to Aunt Aurelia if you see her, to Aunt Lucrecia & her family &c. I hope they are all well. Give my respects to Thomas Bridgham. I am glad he has gone home to help his mother. She will be happier now & he too now & as long as he lives. I have not seen Warren L for quite a long time - I do not like to risk going to see him very often. I think he must be well - since a cadet told me he saw him riding out with others in a sleigh the other day.

Tell Dellie they call sleighs 'Cutters' in New York, and many of them are rather ugly looking things. What we call a double sleigh they call a sleigh.

Give my love to father, Roland, Charlie & Dellie. How is father's health this winter? Has Mr Strickland taken father aside & whispered any scandal in his ear this winter? Was I that boy who reported what Henry said to father? I hope not, and I feel badly about it, for I know father would blame me for repeating what he said. I do not remember of ever mentioning it - the fact itself had escaped my memory till you recalled it.

From Your Affectionate Son,  
Otis

I would like to have you let me have any little amount of money that I may want while here - and charge it to me, so that I may not break in upon the note that I hold. Rowland sent me two dollars. The most of which I owed for some music that I subscribed for. I do not need any particularly now but I would like to have two or three dollars by me for various reasons. Never send me any, when it will leave yourself in need, for I can do without. A young man thought very strange that I would not partake of some of his refreshments the other night. I would not because I felt that I could make no return. I knew he did not expect a return, but that did not make me less sensitive.

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434 2/11/1853 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0408

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Feb. 11 53

My dear mother,

I received your kind letter yesterday and the money you sent me. Your letter reminded me of my neglect. I wrote three letters at the close of last week, one to Rowland, one to Lizzie and one to Perley, and intended to write still another to you, but time was wanting. I am obliged to go to the dialectic society sat. night so that I have to get permission to have a light after taps to get my lesson for Monday. I almost wish I did not belong to the society, then I would have Saturday evening to myself.

I am not sick and have not been. I was and am now occasionally troubled with indigestion or a species of it. I throw up my breakfast now & then, but it does not amount to much. It is because I eat too much for the amount of exercise that I take. Soon the spring drills will commence and then I will be obliged to take plenty of exercise.

When you read in the report from Washington the prohibition with regard to letting the Cadets have money, you must regard that as a general order. It was found that many Cadets went off limits, bought 'contraband articles' as these things which are forbidden by the regulations of the Academy are called and smuggled them into barracks. Now to prevent this the law is that cadets shall have no money. Money of course does the Cadet no injury unless he spends it for an improper purpose, as for drink &c.

This law is not stringently enforced here. Lee <G.> the son of the Superintendent also has money. They say his father never gives him any, but his mother always does when he wants any. If the authorities found a letter filled with money they would make the Cadet who received it deposit the money in the treasury or send it back to his parents, at his option. If he deposits it, it is put to his credit, and he can have it at graduation or when he goes on a leave. No letters are ever opened, and none suspected to contain money unless they have in them some heavy coin.

My money was not taken by an inspecting officer, for Inspecting Officers never use anything but their eyes. It was taken by a thief and that thief was probably a Cadet. I now keep my money in my watch pocket and since my pocket goes with me, my money will not be very likely to be taken. The grand difficulty that the loser meets with is that he cannot have a search made by search-warrant or otherwise, since the law does not recognize him as a holder of personal property. I went to our confectionary and left the name & mark of one of my bills, but it did no good. Lost money has been recovered that way & the offender discovered and sent off. I told Capt Alden about losing my money before he left & he said he would do anything he could to assist me in discovering the thief.

I told you it was hard work to study. This every student will find to be sometimes the case, but he must not let it make any difference with him, but continue to drive ahead. It is like every other labor. There are times when a man works and takes pleasure in his tasks. But there are very many times when this is not the case. Occasionally I feel a little down & perhaps a little discouraged but not oftener than I did in College or even at home where I had without realizing it, all the comforts that heart could wish or affection bestow. So think no more of what I wrote. When I am sick enough to make any account of it, I will see that you know immediately for I have found by experience this open course the best to pursue - for heretofore when I attempted to conceal from you my sickness I failed of my object & gave you more anxiety than was necessary.

I am almost delighted at the prospect of father's visiting me for I want to see his face very much. I shall expect some little token from each of you. Do not send me any big presents for they would be worth to me no more than little ones that cost nothing.

I heard tonight that a Bill had passed the House for increasing the course here to five years instead of four, commencing with our class. I think this arrangement will not begin with our Class, however. I do not care about staying here another year after the four are up under my present circumstances though I have no doubt it would be highly beneficial.

It is now nearly nine o'clock. I have been to the Dialectic society, made a speech from there to the Concert given to Cadets by the Band (this being every Saturday evening during winter when we have no dress parades)

I received a letter from Rowland a short time ago, but you have received one since. Give my love to Charlie & Dellie. I am glad they are good boys and know they will make good men. Give my love to Roland A. Tell him if he is gloomy that he has no right to be so and no need. Tell him it is an easy thing for a man to pester himself and eke out a heap of misery from this life, but it is as easy to enjoy oneself, and this is done simply by cultivating a cheerful spirit. When I say this to him he will look in the fire and say to himself How easy it is to say "cultivate a happy & cheerful spirit." Yet how impossible for one situated as I am to put such a maxim in practice. He may be married one of these days, and after a few months he will wonder why his wife does not make him a happy man. Ah! she will, if he tries to make her happy. Here then is the secret. In order to be cheerful, one must cultivate generosity, be generous in little things, generous to all those who are around him. It is difficult. But begin by doing a kind act to somebody, without letting him know your intention, without wishing for a return. Try the experiment again and again. It won't be long before kind acts & kind thoughts & kind feelings will become a habit. Roland would like me if I should come home, always treat him kindly, share every pleasure of mine with him, always be polite & gentlemanly & considerate. Will he not try such a course for himself. What is the use of sowing the seed and reaping the fruit of gloom. It is beneath a noble soul to do so. Cheer up man, you are as well off as & better off than your brother Otis, if you will admit me as such. And I would not be gloomy & thus be my own worst enemy. I would rather face the cannon. Give my love to father. Remember me to all at the Center: Laura, Uncle, Aunt Martha, John, Hellen, Ollie, Aunt Aurelia, Thomas &c. And remember that I am

Your very affectionate son  
Otis

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435 2/20/1853    *From:* R Howard G[ilmore]    *To:* Mr O O H[oward]

OOH-0410

South Leeds Me

West Point  
N Y Y

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Me Feb 20th /53

Dear brother

Mother received your letter last night. I thought that I would write to because you always like to have a little from your brother. I like to have a letter from you as you like to have from me. Silas Bates is here and a good many others. Rufus <Huit> is dead. He died with the Iryciphulous. Nancy been over to Monmouth to pay. Aldin & Julia Gilbert are here. George B. has come back here to work. We have had some cake eaten. We received a letter from R.B.H. last night. The grey horse has cut her foot so that we have to use the red horse we call both a great horses so we call one red & grey horses. I have been to meeting to day. R.A. had 3 valentines. Nancy 1. R.B. 1. He is comeing home this week and I guess he will stay a week. write soon.

From your affectionate brother

R Howard G

Mr O O H  
West Point  
N Y Y

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436 2/20/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0411

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Feb 20th 1853

Dear brother

Some time has glided away since I last addressed a letter to you. We were very glad last eve to once more rec a letter from Otis. And to hear that he is enjoying good health. We also had a letter from Rowland last night. He wrote that he should come home the last of this week & should not stop long. The term commences again the 7th of March. We had not received a letter from you for some time until last evening. Which caused us to have some apprehensions for your health. And it seems by your letter that you are not entirely well. I am sorry for health I think is a very great blessing, but you say that you are not sick. I think realy Otis that it will be too bad for you to be obliged to remain at West Point longer than four years.

I must tell you Otis about our excursion. Well, there was a committee apointed who were to make arrangements with the Railroad Co & with George Lothrop for the dinner. They agreed for the use of the cars last Wednesday to go the whole length of the road from Leeds Junction to Livermore Falls, for which they paid 30 dollars. There were 60 couples who bought tickets, so that it made the price but 50 cts a couple, or 25 cts apiece. It was pleasant in the morning, but it snowed before noon. Roland A Nancy Manwell & I went from our house. We with Capt Turner's young people went to Mr Brewster's store to take the cars. There were a few other who went there to take them, but not a great number.

When we arrived at Mr Fosters Depot, we found that there were a great many there to join us, and also at North Leeds. We arrived at Livermore Falls about half-past eleven o'clock. It then snowed pretty hard, but it is but a short distance from the depot to George's, so we did not go far in the storm. At George's the gentlemen passed into the Barroom & the Ladies up the stairway into the chambers to "take of their things". In about an hour dinner was served. We all dined at one time & in one hall. It was in Mr Treat's house which is but a few steps from George's. Our dinner was a good one consisted of roast turkey &c. After dinner about 3 o'clock we all attended a concert given by the Misses Macomber Twin Sisters. Perhaps you have heard of them, and you may have heard them sing. I was delighted with the music. There was a man who attended them and also another young lady who played the guitar. One of the Misses Macomber played the violin, the other a bass viol. One of the tunes which they played was "Yankee Doodle". Another was "Home of my boyhood" I can play that on my Aeolean. It is the piece of music that Lizzie bought of Mr Carpenter & gave me. But to go on with my description. After the concert, we went again to the depot. It was now about dark, the cars were lighted & we had a very pleasant ride down to the junction & back again to Mr Brewster's. Mr Davie was with us so we sung tunes which we knew from the book. But the worst of our ride was coming home after we left the cars. The snow had got to be about 12 inches deep but we arrived safely at home a little after eight o'clock in the evening. I think that the most of them enjoyed themselves much, but riding in the cars made some of them quite sick, among whom was Mrs Barrows, but she soon recovered from it after leaving the cars.

Good night.

It is now most nine o'clock sabbath evening. I have been to church at the center to day heard two sermons from Mr Barrows. I saw Uncle Ensign's folks. They are all well. He & wife have been down to Aunt Fannie's on a visit.

20 min after 5 o'clock Monday morning

Otis, I again resume my letter. Things are passing the same as they usualy do Monday mornings and perhaps very nearly as they used when you were here. George Bates is "pounding the clothes", Lucia washing them. That old pounder is thumping the same as I have heard it about every morning (when I have been at home) since I can remember. Our mother is preparing breakfast. Father sits at the table writing, and looking over his papers. The Co is preparing to make a report, when it is printed I will send you one. Since our school finished I have studied three Latin Lessons each weekday except three. I wished if possible to enter the class which I left last fall when I was taken sick. I don't know though as I can, for the term commences the fourth of March at Readfield & 7th at Topsham. I think that I shall go to Kents Hill this spring. It is not quite sunrise yet. It will be a

pleasant day I think. Father is going to Barkers Mills. Mother is going to Warren's visiting & I wish to send this by them to mail so I must close & harness the Horse.

Write soon. From you Affectionate brother  
CH Howard

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

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437 2/20/1853      *From:* Rowland [Howard]      *To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0412                      Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Feb 20th 1853

Dear Brother

Your last was duly received and I could realize the truth of the old Proverb, which says "better late than never." I should like to see your hard exercise first rate. I should think it would be a kind of recreation for you. To me, that and similar exercises would be all that could make West Point 'bearable'. They must relieve the tedium of Study especially to one who is so fond of physical exertion as you are.

I don't know but that I wrote you before that I received a good long interesting letter from Lizzie in answer to one that I wrote her. I have since replied to it and am in hopes to have another before a great while. I really hope that Mr Perley & "Annie" will coalesce I should think it 'a first rate match' in a worldly and all other points of view. As far as I am conversant with the facts.

Yesterday I went over to the College and met many old friends and had a good time talking over "old times." I don't know much about the Class that I am going to enter except that it is very large numbering at <meuyr> nearly fifty. Mr Samuel S Pike is The new Tutor. Perhaps you were acquainted with him. He was in the Class of '47. The Freshmen think very highly of him. In fact, I believe that a new broom always is thought to sweep clean even if it does not. It was thought that they never could replace Mr Sewall. But now they say Mr Pike is worth three of him.

I notice in the papers that Miss Larua A Cram of Wayne memory, is married. She set hers at <cach> <pined> that Mr Dyer, which I was afraid she never would do. He will probably now reform, and devote himself to his wife as a good Husband should.

Leonard Maxim is in Brunswick taking medical Lectures. He was in to see me this morning. I believe he likes it very well. What kind of an M.D. do you suppose he will make?

I have been to meeting all day today and heard Mr Gillpatrick, who is certainly one of the dullest preachers without any redeeming qualities such as Mr Barrows has. Mr G possesses neither talent, education nor yet much good sound common sense. He is loud and boysterous in his delivery with out producing effect, which I consider the only excuse of that loud declamatory style which the Methodists practice. I shall probably be examined on Tuesday and then I shall spend a few days at home, from which I have been away about eleven weeks. I hear from Leeds that R.R. Excursions are all the rage there. I suppose the people are trying to make the Androscoggin Rail Road 'pay'. Rather a hard undertaking I should say.

I shall not stay at home more than a week at most, so you can direct your next letter here as usual. Mr Adams has gone home as he usually does on Saturdays. He says give my respects to Howard and tell him that "Georgiana" is not married. Mr Adams is much respected in Topsham and is liked very well as a Teacher. I am in hopes that his income from his School will increase somewhat the coming Term. If it does not he will have to abandon it. He is reading law and intends to make a lawyer. I tell him he hasn't crass enough for that profession.

The Maine Law seems to be triumphant all round. The triumph in sermons is the greater that it has seen since its passage in Maine. They can in truth then call it the Peoples Law, and they cannot as they do here twit its friends of legislating against the popular will, and of forcing an obnoxious Law upon the 'People'. The Friends of the Law have recently held a Spirited Convention in Augusta and I believe the general opinion is that the Law will be made more stringent and easier of execution at this Session of the Legislature. If Maine does not do a little more, She will lose her place as the standard bearer of this Reform. Neal Dow and others of our leading Temperance men have been chosen to act in conjunction with the Legilative Committee to remodel the Law and put it on a firmer constitutional basis at the same time they will put on What is called the "Vermont grip" which is imprisonment of a drunken man, that he may testify where he obtained his liquor. I expect the next thing will be thumb screws after the manner of the Old Inquisition.

I believe with Gov Crosby, that the People of this State demand a Law sufficiently stringent to close every Grog Shop in the land, and such is the law I want to see upon our Statute book. We have come within three votes of having a Whig U.S. Senator but I fear those three cannot be obtained. I should really like to see Pitt Fessenden in the US Senate from Old Maine. She has been disgraced by such a man as Bradbury long enough.

When I am examined I will make some enquires of the Prex in regard to your Diploma. Perhaps I may hear something from it, but I should like to know in the first place what Perley <did> about it.

Write soon and Remember me as  
Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

Cadet O O Howard

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438 3/6/1853

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0413

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Mar 6th 1853

My dear Mother,

I have set apart this evening on purpose to write you a letter. In order that you may feel cheerful & in no way filled with anxieties for your son while you are perusing these lines I will premise by saying that my health is very good indeed, that trouble of indigestion was removed by one dose of the Surgeons pleasant medicine, which by the way was almost as deliciously bitter as those bowls of warm 'thoroughwort' that you used to give me.

Tell father that I do not know how to spell thoroughwort, but since I believe it a very thorough medicine, I have presumed that the above is the proper orthography. I know it is a mark of a scholar to spell well, but it is also the mark of a military man to convey his meaning in the plainest & most expressive way possible. Ask father if I usually spell well now. I am not at all so sensitive upon this point as when I imagined I knew considerable. I would like to know his opinion. Tell him he can scarcely imagine how glad I should be to see him.

Friday Rodelphus Leadbeter, who has been for some time break man on the road over the river, came to see me. After returning from Chemistry at 12, the officer of the day came to my room & said that a gentleman wished to see me. I thought it was my father, and my room-mate said I turned perfectly white, I was so much excited. I went to the Guard-room & found Rodelphus. I was so much excited that I could hardly write my permit. I spent the remainder of the day in showing him what there is of interest, that can be seen at this time of year at West Point, and that is not much. He had a very bad cold, said he could not work very well, therefore he thought he would "lay by" & visit me.

I think he enjoyed his visit & liked West Point very much. He promised me if he remained in his present situation till summer, that he would come & see me again when there is more to be seen & when as you may know this place looks less barren than now. I left him at 5 at the wharf. He said he had not yet seen Uncle Ward but thought he would spend that night with him. I sent him to the Hotel to get his own dinner, for you know that is the mode of our hospitality here. I bought a lunch at Joe's & brought it to my room. We went to see the third class ride & I showed him the modus operandi of our Saber & musket exercises. We had a pretty good time. I got rid of one afternoon's drawing, which was clear gain. He wished me to give my love to you all & particular to his family, telling them that he had been to see me. Rodelphus is a good, steady temperate industrious young man & I like him much. He does not like his present situation much, because his wages are so small that he cannot board at a good place & make anything. He seems to have both the spirit of industry & frugality combined & cannot fail in the end of gaining a respectable livelihood anywhere. I wish I had the elements of the latter good quality more fully or rather more deeply implanted in my composition. I mean frugality or prudence - this then united with my industry might make a man of me too.

We will not have to remain here five years & I am glad. I had made up my mind, if the term of our stay had been extended as it was rumored, to leave at any rate at the end of our course. I will now most probably remain in the army a year or two after I graduate, but can estimate the pros & cons better bye & bye.

I presume Rowland will have returned to Topsham before this reaches you. Do you not think he will be able to visit me next summer? Has father given up his visit to N. York? Rodelphus said I look rather thin in the face and as all cadets do excessively little. He thought a cadet looked very small on horseback, who weighs about two hundred; so much does dress change the appearance of a man. I am about as heavy as I was when on furlough.

There is but one thing that troubles me now & that is the idea that I shall have to get up at four o'clock tomorrow morning to get my lessons. You think this is a small thing I suppose, so it is for any physical employment, but the mind gets excessively dull before night when you get up at 4 & sit up till ten. I am about the only cadet that can do it. My will is therefore pretty strong, but it does not hinder me from feeling very sleepy in the morning.

We had a strong sermon today and last Sunday against universalism. I get a little uneasy under them

sometimes though I acknowledge their truth. Professor Sprole preaches most excellent sermons and with the most perfectly independent spirit of any man you ever heard. I love independence in a speaker & therefore I like him. I doubt if I will ever hear an other man who will suit me so well. We take him all in as he. His text to day was 'Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh'. His sermon was principally an appeal to us to be prepared to meet the Judgement.

I have not been able to see Warren lately, when I last did he was well. I thought of taking Rodolphus to see him but I was afraid of being "hived" off limits & gave it up.

Give my love to all our family individually & collectively. What does Uncle Ensign find to do now, since his favorite project is carried through. Remember me to all Uncle E's family. Lizzie says Laura has written her a letter, and that L says that you told them I was not in very good spirits. You may now retract the assertion. Has Ollie got to be a big boy? I would like much to correspond with them all at Uncle's but I think I had better not now undertake it. I do not write home now any too often, but I am always very happy to hear from my home, and especially do I enjoy a letter from my own dear mother.

Does Dellie think I neglect him - perhaps I do. I will write him now. So good night; from your affectionate Son.

O. O. Howard

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439 3/6/1853

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dellie [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0414

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Mar 6th 1853

My dear Dear Dellie

You must not expect a very lengthy letter to night, for I have but half an hour to write it in. I am not going to write it very plain either, for it will exercise you at reading writing to study out my scrawl. I had an excellent ride on horseback yesterday on a horse called Santa Anna. Do you know from what man this horse was named? Tell me in your next letter all you know about him. What country he belonged to? What office he held in his government & any thing else you can learn about him. Write down your thoughts on your slate - let Charlie correct the spelling if he can find any mistakes, and tell you where to put periods, commas & capital letters. I was about to tell you of my ride on Santa Anna - a horse you know & not a man. When it came my turn to ride out, round the ring & cut the "heads of bran", which I told Charlie of in his letter, I drew my saber, which is a big, heavy broad sword, carried it in my right hand against my right shoulder, driving my horse with my left. One of the heads was on the ground & my horse got under such desperate headway that I did not have time to rise up & make my second cut after cutting the head on the ground, but I had a splendid ride. Would you like such a wild ride?

I have once or twice ridden a horse named Murat. Leave off the t when you pronounce this word & pronounce the a like a in la in music, or as if the word was Murah. Now tell me if you know who the General was from whom this horse was named. I will tell you this much. They called him a marshal (which is in French Marechal) - this corresponds to our brigadier generals very nearly. Then tell me all you can find out about Santa Anna & Marshal Murat, in your next letter. I will then write you somewhat more about these men. My half hour is up. The drummers are beating tattoo, (half past nine). One of the drummers, yes, two of them, are smaller than you, and one is a little bit of a fellow, who plays on the fife. These boys have to get up in the morning & come up to the barracks, for they live about half a mile off and drum us up for reveille. It would do you good to see them fife & drum. They can play anything. Sometimes the little fellow sleep in the guard room on the hard benches or seats, so as to be here in the morning. One night a Cadet who was "officer of the day", found one there at 'taps' at ten o'clock at night sound a sleep - he took pity on the little fellow. Got some old guard cloaks, wrapped him up - and he had a good warm sleep that night, such as you are at this minute enjoying in all probability. So good night, be a good boy and remember that I am your affectionate brother.

Otis

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440 3/8/1853      *From:* Rowland [Howard]      *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0415a                      Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham March 8th 1853

Dear Mother

It is Tuesday evening and I am pretty well tired. My duties in the school are considerably harder than I expected. It seems as if I had been here two or three weeks. Charles arrived about 4 o'clock safe and sound but quite weary from his ride. He has gone to bed now and is having a good sleep. He will add a P.S. in the morning if he wishes to. I came down here on Saturday afternoon. I found our friends in Portland all well, except that Lizzie has a bad cold. Lizzie and Mrs W board with Esq Perley who has all of his family with him in Portland. They are not fairly settled. I think that neither enjoy the arrangement as yet very well. I called to see Aunt Martha and staid about an hour and a half. I did not see Uncle Henry.

When I first began this I thought I would send it by Mr Barrows but I cannot get ready soon enough and perhaps you will rec it nearly as soon by mail.

Wednesday

This morning I have been all over town with Mr B - up to the College &c. He has started for Leeds. Charles tells me what a smart board of Select men you have. I think 'Young America' must have ruled.

Aunt Martha is very anxious that you should come to Portland, when Father goes on west. She thinks she shall break up housekeeping if Henry goes away. If she does, she will leave Portland. Henry talks a great deal of going to Australia. I think the bodily fatigue if nothing else will be sufficient to prevent him from going.

There are three young Ladies here making with Charles myself and Mr Adams six boarders. It is half past nine in the evening and the cars are just passing along. They pass almost under our window.

There is a Lyceum lecture in Brunswick tonight but I am too tired to attend it. I have two classes in Latin, one in Greek, one each in Nat Philosophy, Geography, Grammar and Reading. They occupy my whole Afternoon. I shall be able to Study considerably forenoons but evenings I do not feel much like it yet.

I have not had a letter from Otis, although I wrote him a week before I left Topsham. You must have worked pretty hard to get Charles ready. I hope you are none the worse for it. They have not succeeded well at all with my Dickeys this week. Tell Lucia I think I shall have to send them to her.

Remember me to all, and write us as soon as you can. I hope Thomas will succeed in getting up his Singing School. You must help him just as if we were at home.

Rowland

[This continues on the next letter from Charles on March 9, 1853.]

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441 3/9/1853 *From:* Charl [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0415b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This continues from the previous letter from Rowland on March 8, 1853.]

[Topsham] March 9th 1853

My Dear Mother;

I sit now to write you my first letter after having arrived at Topsham and to confirm what I see Rowland has already written in regard to my reaching here with safety and soundness. I was not sorry when I got to my journey's end, for I began to grow tired, somewhat, of riding when I reached Topsham. When we were just by Mr Gilpatrick's house Mr Barrows inquired of a little boy, whom we met, where he lived. I did not stop to go into the house but took my carpet bag and started for Rowland's boarding place to which I was directed by Mr Gilpatrick. I had no trouble in finding it. When I rang the Doorbell Mrs Frost came to the door. I think she is quite a pleasant woman, resembles Aunt Ann some in countenance.

Rowland hearing me inquire for him came down stairs. He said that he expected me that afternoon in the cars, but finding that I did not come he concluded that I could not get ready to come so soon. By supper time I began to grow some what hungry, so eat a good hearty meal. Soon after supper Rowland went over to Mr Gs and Mr Adams went out, so I was left alone. I did not sit long before I found that either I must sleep in my chair or go to bed. I chose to do the latter. My bed is just large enough for one person. It is in a room which joins Rowland's & Mr Adams'. There is no stove in my room, so I shall be obliged to study in Rowland's which I am now in. I have a large closet as large as Dellie's & my bedroom.

Rowland went to Brunswick express office this forenoon & there found my trunk. He (the express officer) is going to bring it over this afternoon. The bill was one dollar, rather more than I expected. My Trunk has just arrived looking just as it did when I shut it. Dellie's apples & all. Tell Dellie that Rowland laughed heartily when I showed him the apples which he put in.

Rowland is now sleeping soundly on a kind of lounge which we have in our room. It is neither a chair nor a lounge, but something between those two. It is not so long as a lounge nor as narrow as a chair. It has high arms, is filled with cotton and covered with calico. You know that I spoke of taking one of father's watches if he was willing but I forgot it again. Rowland wants one very much & I certainly should like to know what time it is now. I think it <> must be considerably after three o'clock in the afternoon. Rowland keeps up his snoring.

Perhaps you will wonder why we are not both at school. School does not keep Wednesday afternoon.

Saturday P.M.

I find that the school is not as well classed here as at Kents Hill. It seems very much like a town school. I study in the Academy mostly, but I think I shall study in my room. Our windows are right in sight of the cars. I have seen them go past nearby.

When I rose this morning it was quite cloudy. And about ten o'clock it commenced snowing and after dinner it began to rain. So that Mr Barrows has rather a bad day to go home. But it has now closed raining.

I have just now come up from the supper table. Before supper, I went over to the other part of the village, to give Mr Harmon the letter for Josephine if I could find his store which I did readily.

All the inconvenience I have experienced today and certainly that is a very small one, from yesterday's ride is a burnt face. For I rode so long in the sun, which you know shone very brightly yesterday, that it made my face pretty red last night & today, and so a little "soar". I think perhaps the wind had something to do with it. Rowland says that Mr Barrows' face looks worse than mine. He was more exposed than I, for he gave me the best seat. You remember there was two seats. He gave me the back one after we had got a little away.

Thursday morning.  
Dear Mother

I rose this morning about as early as I did when at home, about 4. It is half past now and Rowland and Mr Adams are sleeping by my side in bed. Since I got up I have been studying my Latin Reading book, which is Caesar. I have no fire and so it is rather cold. Why I have none is because I have no matches but I shall get some when the family gets up. I have my great coat on so I get along very well.

I am soon going out to take my morning walk as you wished me to. I suppose it is of no use to send this today for you will not get it until Saturday. I guess you will think this is my journal that I have sent you when you get this letter, for it is now past dinner Thursday afternoon.

There has been a very sad accident happened here on the Railroad. There was a very old man riding in a sleigh across it when the cars came along and ran over him. He had his thigh broken & he was very much injured otherwise, on the head I believe. His horse was also killed. I believe he was somewhat hard of hearing.

I am now going up to recite my first lesson at Topsham. Rowland assists now in the forenoon, and I do not have any recitations so he & I am here all alone. I have concluded to study Physiology, Latin Grammar & Caesar & Algebra.

My letter must go this (Friday) morning & so it must be finished. Give my love to Dellie & tell him to write much in your next letter which will come soon I hope. You did not feel very well the morning that I left, but I hope that you soon overcame it. We shall know if you write as quick as you can. I found that the school yards were all quite small here especially the boys. This is not like Kents Hill Acad at all.

Give my love to all of the family & Good Bye to them & you Mother.

From you Affectionate Son  
Charl

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442 3/14/1853 *From:* Peleg [Perley]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0417

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Sunday March 14, 53

Dear Otis,

I have delayed writing to you for sometime but it has not been because I have forgotten you. No. The fact is I should write you very much oftener if you did not hear from me or I thought you did not hear from me through another source.

This is not a good reason why I should not write you and perhaps oftener than I do but it operates as I tell you. For instance if I were sure you had not heard of it I could tell you something of recent events which might interest you as connected with my history but I am quite certain you cannot have remained uninformed of it. So you see I have not the heart to tell you what you already know nor is there the need of it. Every thing outward, external relating to myself or any of us you hear without my telling you and knowing what transpires without me and around me you have the data at least to judge of my interior life, of the thoughts and desires, fears, hopes and regrets that agitate by turns the soul and with the same old round of eating drinking and study make up what we call living.

Old Jack was here with me and stopped all night last Friday. I ran across him at the cars as he was steaming home in all impatience after a five months absence to greet his lady-love and made him stop all night with me. He is just as ever - laughs in the same old way and he and I discussed the histories of our class men so far as we could trace them. I learned from him that Butler is married - was married last fall. There was a fellow at Phil. with Jack who knew Butler and told him But had married a woman who was reputed rich though it was some what doubtful whether it would turn out that he really was so. B. is teaching. Bell is reading law. Frye too is married to a Miss Spear of Rockland where he is settled as a lawyer. So you see they are fast going - three out of our class. Jack and myself too discussed anew the old subject of the women with the new light which the years since we left college have shed on it but we did not make out to arrive at any different conclusions than we used to. The fact is Chum, women as in the olden days are somewhat frail. Well never mind. They were made so. They are not altogether to blame for it. Women I suppose must have their way and I would be the last one to hinder them from doing as seems to them best and if they prefer some silly <fop> with just enough of culture to indulge in common place platitudes such as no man of sense would use even if he knew he could not please without why all is I am ready to give way to them and let the dear creatures have such if such be their preference. Women of such a caliber I wish to have nothing to do with.

It is enough to make a fellow mad though to think that he has not discernment enough to tell such a woman and to realize that he has been seduced into bestowing a single thought or care on such a one. You cant tell what a woman is at first glance though that glance be a keen one. It takes a sharp eye to see through a grind-stone or to discern by what meets the sight the spirit and soul of a woman. A sweet face too is a mighty warder off of scrutiny and are oftentimes in the pleasant bewilderment of loving does not like to scrutinize too closely lest he discover what he <fears> to. Miss B. did by me as no woman of any regard for duty or stability of character would have done. Her approach as in the last case were unsolicited. In my own mind, I had given up or well nigh given up all expectations if not all desires of winning her love when it came to me unsought as a voluntary offering, full, free and unreserved so different from what I expected that I yielded myself without one doubt to the charm. She made no hesitation of speaking of herself as my one in the second letter she wrote me whereas I expected to win her love only by stages and much pains and you may well conceive that my hopes were highly raised as whose would not have been under the <case> and that my opinion of her rose with the thermometer of her love - that I thought her quite discerning in her appreciation of me and that my hopes collapsed some too suddenly for comfort with the <> of her whims. It was no long and lingering <> after distrust and fears and jealousy and <> doubt but utter indifference treading on the heels of what had worn to me the garb of love. I was dreaming

That love-lit eyes were mine to <go>  
Dewey lips were mine to kiss

but I was reckoning without my host in <> words not yet grown classical I was "Cussed" sacked. But I am not

ruined yet. Not by a good deal. I do not and could not care for her <till> I know her, I only regret that I have given <> many kind thoughts to one so Je ne sais quoi. I am heart-whole yet - have as strong faith as ever in the faith, truth and purity of some women. In general they maybe good but there are some exceptions I am slightly inclined to believe. Do you honor women so do I. Do men love women so do I. Have you one to be a solace and a comfort and a companion and a blessing through life, a loving, household fireside joy forever, with a smile and a <> and loving words and gentle deeds and <> affection, after the heat and labor of the day are over to greet you? I hope to have <> you hope in times to come to pillow your head on a true breast and feel that you are not as now alone, so still do I. As for the past as far as the women are concerned, I would not have it other altogether than it is. As for false women damn them. No! That savors of resentment - Confound them - No, blast them - No <> wont answer; it don't express my feelings which are those of utter unconcern in regard to them. So let them be false - false to me, to others, to themselves - false to what is true - false to their own higher interests else to everything but their own nature to which they can but remain true.

Thursday. I wrote you thus for last Sabbath and intended to finish it and send you ere now but the hour kept delaying partly because I did not wish to intrude upon you with my own selfish regrets though I was conscious all the while that you could and did sympathize, deeply, heartily with me. You tell me in your letter of to-day that you suppose one reason for my not writing you <> is that you give me so much advice by no means. You give me good advice such as you may well give, such as I need, such as from my heart I thank you for I have already told you in the very first of my letter why I do not write you oftener and the real why it is too. I thank you chum for your letter of to-day. It did my heart good and I come nearer shedding tears over it than I have over anything else. It was a most welcome messenger and came to me with <> in its wings. No man writes me letters which I prize and take to my heart and trust to as I do yours. But it is almost eleven o'clock and Liz and all of them scold me for staying so late of the Office and I must hasten though this is a theme on which my pen loves to linger. I will only say Howard that in all the past I can recall no act or word of yours which was not dictated by the purest friendships and most self-forgetful kindness. I shall not allow myself to be snuffed out by a woman & shall try not to become more morose or selfish though hopes have faded which were dearer than life. There is yet doubtless much more for me to do to suffer and perchance enjoy.

Howard, may God bless you and prosper you and keep you and many a loves that knows not to despair ever be as now yours. I have not written half I would wish. There are some things in your letter I will touch on at a future time.

Yours  
Peleg

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443 3/15/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0418

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 15th 1853

My Dear Son,

Saturday evening brought to hand your's of the 6th, which I need not say met with a hearty welcome. I am glad to see you write in such good spirits, although your excitability does not indicate a very firm state of nerve, but I hope to hear that you are improved in that respect as such a state of feeling is not always calculated to keep a man firm in an emergency. I had not supposed my son that your health was very poor, but I thought your symptoms indicated a poor state of health, such as a dispeptic state which I well know, is calculated to destroy the energies, and bring on melancholy feeling, and the sooner they are removed the less havoc will be made with the nervous system.

I am glad Rodelphus [Leadbetter] has visited you. R.B.H. called with me a short time to see [Aunt] Lucretia [Leadbetter] the only time I have called this winter. Your aunt was gone to Winthrop several weeks with Laura who has had a severe sickness. I never learnt Rodelphus' place of labour until then. His mother thought, from what he wrote to Lutia, that he was not contented, for some reason or other. Yesterday I had an invitation to spend the day there, or at Mrs Leadbetters. Laura's was there, she has recovered her health so as to come home. I did not go, I was expecting a cousin from the eastward to visit me, in company with Mrs Davie. They came and spent the day.

Your fathers visit at New York is defered by reason of the railroad business, <financieving> with them is as brisk as ever. Your father has never made out his yearly report yet on account of his not settling with the officers of the company. Your Uncle E. O. [Ensign Otis] is sometimes gone from home a week at a time carrying forward the railroad debts and keeping them at bay. He does not want for railroad business yet, neither does your father.

Arza Gilmore, is in the same condition he was, when you were at home, an absess has been gathering in his back, for several weeks. Roland A.G. was over last Saturday, said A. said he should have it lanced the next morning. We have not heard since, both of his others discharged a quantity daily. He had got quite encouraged about his health before this last absess took place.

R.B.H. called to see Mrs Sampson, found her quite <> but had not been out this winter. Mr Sampson is gone from home, is at Bidaford, an overseer of a batting factory.

The same mail that brought your letter, one from each of your brothers. Charlie has gone to Topsham to study with R.B.H. I am not certain whether it is a good arrangement or not, but time will show. R.B. has just got underway in his new situation. He says it is harder than he expected. I fear he will not be able to accomplish what he has undertaken. They will both of them write you how they are getting along.

I understand Sarah Sargent is at Machias with her husbands relations and Silas is gone to Canada with his father, and Perry is on the Ocean, and Ann is in Brooklin where you saw her awaiting his return, and then will return to Maine, with him. I feel very much to regret, their disappointments.

I do not put any dependance on Charles' health. R.B.H. tells me Esq. Perleys family are in Portland and Mrs Waite and Lizzie board with them and that Uncle Henry talking of a voyage to Australia. I think it mighty uncertain whether his great self goes that voyage. I feel as though sister Martha is poorly calculated to be left alone with care of three children, but there time will carry us through with various destinations.

Elder Barrows just called here. I did not go out to speak with him, because I wished to mail my letter this mail, and I write so slow. I must calculate my time or I shall fail. Aurrilla Barrows has gone to Topsham to attend that Academy. I hope her improvements will meet her parent's expectations. I really hope R.B.H.'s conduct towards A. will not be such as to create expectations, or give occasion for observations by speculating people, for I think A needs improvement in mind and person. Her mind had better be occupied in that way than any other. I have no reason for saying this, only from general gossip.

Nancy Manwell has returned from Monmouth after a fortnight stay with her older sister whose husband died the 26th of Feb. All the one of the family that was settled, and now a widdow with one Child six months old. Nancy has been with us so much she like one of us, and we are interested in all her cares and troubles.

We hear from California quite often considering the distance. It is thought that Addison will or is in a good way to reinstate himself again as a prosperous merchant. He had at the time of the great fire at Sacramento a freightage of goods arrived in the harbor of San Francisco. He was there at the time of the fire getting them out of the Vessel. He hired a store at San Francisco and kept his business a going on, and has done remarkably well. Ensign Stinchfield told me that Uncle Ezekiel Stinchfields son, returned from California, with \$1500 dollars and had made great search for his father but in vain, had let his mother and others of his family have a great part of his money, and returned to California mines again.

I also learned from Brother E. O. and wife who have visited Montville this Winter James B. [James Otis Bartlett, son of Jonathan Bartlett and Fanny Otis, Eliza's oldest sister] is doing well in California. My sister Fanny's son perhaps you will understand who all the relations are.

Your father has not given up going to Massachusetts and thence to New York yet. I am glad your privilege for hearing preaching is so good. I hope the privilege will be a lasting benefit to you. I have not heard many Sermons this winter. Mrs Lothrop and her two daughters in law visited me last week. I think them fine women. Lizzie has answered Laura's letter and put one in it for Charlie and Dellie. Nathan Coffin is dangerously sick. He sent for doct Millet at Lewiston yesterday. I have not heard from him to day.

It is almost the hour for our mail Carrier, and my letter not finished, but I must leave a blank sheet. Yours ever.  
You will please supply the missing words

Eliza Gilmore

OO Howard

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444 3/15/1853 *From:* Dellie [RH Gilmore] *To:* O O Howard

OOH-0419 South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds March 15th /53

Dear Brother Otis

I received your letter last Sat'y night I was much pleas with it. Mother a received letter from Topsham from R.B. & C.H. They are both at Topsham so Charles is not here to correct my letter. R.B. went to Portland a week ago last Friday noon. C.H. went last Wednesday morning with Mr Barrows & Aurilla B.

The Temperance men have been doing some great things here in LEEDS this spring. Mr Caleb Sumner had \$100 to pay for selling liqors and he had to pay the cost of the court which amounted to \$200. Solomon Lothrop Jr has moved up to Leeds again. He is going to trading here this spring. He is going to begin to trade the first of April. R.A. is chopping wood here at the door. Father will go to Massachusetts the last of this month or the first of next month. Nancy went away the first of this month on account of her brother in Law dying. She came back yesterday. I went out after her at Monmouth. I went in to the factory and saw Elizabeth M. Mother has got Aunt Ann's miniature & Sarah's. Mr Davee's wife went down to Hallowell last Thurs'y and got them. Tomorrow Mr Haines, Read and Stubbs are appointed committee to come and settle up with father tomorrow.

You asked me to write all I knew about Santa Anna. He was commander and president of the Mexican troops at the Bat of San Jacinto. He was President of Mexico when General Scott entered Vera Cruz. He was commander of the Mexican Army when Taylor was in Monteray. He was banished from Mexico after the Americans left Mexico. It is expected that he will be called again president of Mexico. As for Murat I never read much in history about him. He was one of Napoleons 1st commandant in the army he was about the same as our Major General. He was king of Naples and his wife was sister to Napoleon 1st therefore Napoleon made him king of Naples after conquering that nation.

Father is Treasurer of Leeds again this year. He got all but one of the votes. We have got some of the smarter Select men this year. They are 1st Harvey Bates 2nd Stillman L Howard 3rd Isaac True Boothby. We have got a man to work on this great farm. It is Samuel Langley. I suppose you know him. He lives in Greene upon the Mountain as they call it. It is expected that Solomon Lothrop will be P Master and will be licenced to sell Liqor. Amial Jones is here visiting. Mr Barrows is here. William Hallowell was here this morning. He had to make his mark so fashion X. So good by.

Write soon. From your affectionate brother

Dellie

To O O Howard

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445 3/16/1853    *From:* Rowland [Howard]    *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0420                      Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham March 16th 1853

Dear Brother

I am going to begin a letter to you whether I ever received one from you or not. But I am in hopes I shall get one before I put this in the Mail.

I spent about a week at home in the usual manner of our Vacations, talking with my mother, and visiting our neighbors and friends. There was nothing in Leeds especially to interest you except the general welfare of your friends. When I returned, I visited Lizzie as you doubtless have heard. Herself and mother had not got settled in their new mode of life when I was there and of course were not enjoying it much, but perhaps they will when they become habituated to boarding.

Aunt Martha and family were well. I did not see Henry. Aunt says he talks much of going to Australia, but I don't think there is much danger of it, as she does. In the first place Henry has not courage enough to undergo the bodily fatigue necessary on such a Journey and this and some other reasons are sufficient to keep him from going.

Before I went home I went to Pres Woods and besides my own business asked him if there was any reason why my brother should not have his Diploma? He replied in his characteristic way, which you know every Student tries to imitate. None in the world that he knew of. Your brother left College bearing in fact, a very high character. He told me to go to Treas McKeens and take the Diploma and report progress to him. I did accordingly and returned with the Document in hand. The old gent seemed much pleased, and said tell your brother that we shall be very happy to see him whenever he comes to Brunswick. I deposited the Diploma with Mother. Lizzie says it belongs to her and I should have carried it to her if I had thought of it. However it is safe, and you are a candidate for "Secundun graden in artibus."

At last. I have received a letter from you. I got it at the P.O. on my way to Brunswick tonight and have just finished its perusal and with it there was also a letter from Lizzie. Two welcome messages! You ask how Lizzie looks? Just about as charming as she did in your Furlough. But I suppose it is not so much to her beauty as to health that you refer. She has a little cough now but I should think nothing serious. Probably a common cold of the season. She was in good spirits although I thought feeling at that time a little embarrassed by her new situation.

Charles is with me and will probably write in this or soon after. So I will let him speak for himself, simply saying that I think him as well and as happy as he has been for some time.

Your letter suggest matter enough for me to write over a number of pages and I hardly know where to begin. You like Pres Pierce [President Franklin Pierce] very well you say. I do, rather better than I expected to, but I own I can't discover all of that beauty of style and sentiment in his address that newspapers of every political stamp seem to allow. I have read it two or three times, but I have failed to discover his sentiments on what I have learned to regard as the leading subjects of the Day. It seems to me a carefully written document, but I can't see as it possesses any more if so much of open frankness and unequivocal plain dealing as similar lamentations from Presidents Taylor to Fillmore, The Sec of of War. I take to be a very 'smart' man. a man who will try to do rather smart and perhaps uncommon things. Am I mistaken? I can not see how there can be, long, Concord between such discordant elements as compose Mr Pierces Cabinet. Extremes have thus truly met, and perhaps they will unite.

You spoke of Father. he has come to one conclusion and that rather prematurely and think, that Gov Crosby is an ass, or Locofoco who with him are synonemous terms. Of course it is rather hard for him to put the second Whig Gov Maine has ever had, in that despised class. I think it very doubtful, about his going to New York, but I am some in hopes that he will make up his mind to go. He is too much of a utilitarian to go unless he has business - a regular Yankee, I was amused when I was at home, at a remark of his. Mother and I were going down to Aunt Lucretia's to make her a call. I had not been there since my return to Leeds. When we were

ready to start, Father came to the door and in his earnest and rather imperative manner, asked when we were going? Mother told him. But What's the object said he, Going to make a call, said Mother. But what's the object repeated Father with still more emphasis. And he went away entirely in the dark as to what use it was that she and I should go down to Mr Leadbeters.

Our school numbers 70. I work considerable hard afternoons as I have to take the control of the little wretches for that time. They are a regular rabble. All of the rogues of Topsham and Brunswick combined. Adams is back and I have to put them through. I am studying yet as much as I ought.

You said something about writing a decent looking letter, and I believe I will keep this page in about that 'trim'. But come to look at it I see it is as bad as the other and so I will give it up.

Yourself and Lizzie both write about my going to West Point this Summer. She evidently deems it a matter of first rate importance that she should go. This is right and does honor in her affection for you. I am flattered that she should wish me to go with her and on that account if from no other, I should endeavor to go. But this aside, the desire of seeing you and taking you by the hand, and the examination of the place where you have spent four years (or are about to spend) of your life. The sight of West Point with its historical associations, and the Hudson with its romantic beauty and a thousand minor considerations, would be sufficient to do away with all objections of a pecuniary character. In fact I have but a few scruples on that point concerning almost any thing I desire. You recollect I went to Boston with 5.\$ and a clean Shirt and for myself I should have no hesitancy in starting for New York with double that amount of money and of Shirts. Which capital I can raise almost any Day. Suffice it to say, that I shall come out this Summer if circumstances will admit and you and Lizzie will continue to desire it. I could go to New York on two days notice and enjoy it just as well as otherwise, but I suppose it is different with a young lady, who has preparations to make for a Journey and to meet her Intended. So I will write to Lizzie and tell her I will go, unless something occurs before August to render it inexpedient.

Last night I heard Mr Abbott lecture on Louis Napoleon. The lively style of the writer and the present position of the man rendered his subject very interesting. It was in the same style as his Napoleon Bonaparte now coming out in Harpers and for which he receives \$4000.00 per year. He made out Louis rather a fine fellow, and justified his present position before the world on the same ground that he justifies the murder of the Duc de Eughein by his Uncle viz. "He made a virtue of necessity." He has been introduced to Louis since he was President and has seen him in many situations. He says he is a gloomy retired man, his smile is mournful, and his appearance melancholy. I think Nap III. is the most interesting man (politically speaking) now living. Kossuth would be more so if his efforts were crowned with success.

Write again, and still remember your brother  
Rowland

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446 3/19/1853 *From:* C.H.Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0421a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Mar 19 [1853, Pages glued at the edges]

My Dear Mother (To Eliza Gilmore)

I have a good still time, comfortable fire and nothing to annoy me at all, and I will take the opportunity to write you a letter, knowing <as I> do that you always are glad to receive letters from your absent boys & sons. Why I have this good opportunity for writing this afternoon is because it is Saturday and Rowland and Mr Adams have walked to Brunswick & left me with myself to enjoy it. My studies are not so hard that I can leave them Saturday afternoons & at most other times during the week too. On Thursday evening, I as also did Rowland, attended a Lyceum lecture at Brunswick, by J.S.C Abbott. His subject was Louis Napoleon. He gave a history of this now quite distinguished man from his birth until the present period. He has been to France, & has seen Louis there. He said "I have seen him in his private walks. I have seen him in his palace and I have seen him reviewing his <army> of Eighty Thousand men, and he always wore that same sad unhappy countenance". I wish that father might have heard that Lecture. I do not think he would have gone to sleep even into a "drowse" but I do think that it might (I do not say that he would) have abated somewhat his dislike of Louis Napoleon. Mr Abbott is a resident of Brunswick. I suppose mother, you are acquainted with his name, for he has written many books such as the lives of the different Kings & Queens of England. He is writing extensively for the Harpers Magazine. The lecture was interesting to me indeed. You know I never heard any thing of the kind before. The tickets were twelve cts. so much for the lecture.

I get along well in my studies. I now read Latin "like folks" take my reading book & read quite fluently ie that which is in my lesson, which usualy is about 16 lines. I never studied Physiology before this term. I like it pretty well. It tells me many things which you have before taught me. It says it is a good thing to take exercise in the morning air, which I have done every since I have been here. Yesterday it rained more or less nearly all day & this morning it was very clear & pleasant, and I walked nearly two miles before breakfast. This week Mr Adams has given some rules to his school. I told you I believe that most of the scholars study in school. He is to mark every misdemeanor & when they get thirty they are to be expelled from school. They are to be expelled too if they do not either declaim or give a suitable excuse, or if they are not excused by their parents. We have now in school about seventy scholars. There has got to be so many that Mr Adams thinks some, of geting out some catalogues for this spring term. I like the school full as well as I did the first week. I shall have time enough before the end of the term to give it a fair trial. Then I can tell whether it will be best for me to come here another term.

It has now got to be so far advanced towards evening that I am obliged to have a light. We burn fluid for lights. We are furnished with but one lamp & that with but one wick, which is hardly enough for three of us to study by. Rowland thinks of having my lamp filled with oil. Rowland & Mr Adams came back some time ago. We have eaten supper & Adams has walked home. He goes every Saturday night to see his folks. I wish I could be situated so that I could go & see my mother, father & brothers every week. But nine weeks will soon be gone mother. Will they not?

The wind is rattling the windows tonight so that it sounds cold. We have had some very cold days the past week, Unfortunately one cold morning last week just after the fire was built I was sitting as near the stove as I could get, with my feet on the hearth, for we have very much such a hearth as that to our stove in our parlor at home, I burnt those coarsest pants of mine so that a piece half as large as the palm of my hand came out on the inside of one ankle. There was a girl who works for her board & goes to school, here in the room making up the bed & she said that she would mend the place, but when I came to look in the trunk for the pieces, I could find none. I thought I put some in but couldn't find any.

I suppose you would not know that I have made so long a pause in writing if I did not tell you. For just as the last sentence was written, Rowland came up stairs & invited me to go up to Mr Gillpatrick's to a choir meeting, for I sing in church down here & I went with him. It is about half past nine. I tell by the cars, they come it at that time & they have just gone past.

We were very much disappointed last Thursday when we found no letter at the P.O from mother & Dellie, for

that is the day they get here when they are mailed at Leeds on Tuesday. but perhaps you could not get time to write so as to send it Tuesday, but we suppose of course that we shall have one the first of next week. You are not quite so good to write as Mr Barrows folks. Aurilla has had three but I cant tell but you are sick or tired, or something else may prevent so I mustn't blame you.

Rowland will want some room. So Good night, a good sound sleep for you & Dellie always has that.

From yr Affec son  
CH Howard

You will see mother that I began with a poor pen but after writing a little may get a better one. I know why you did not write before Tues. because you could not get my letter read by that time & will be so with this I guess.

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447 3/19/1853 *From:* C.H.Howard

*To:* Dellie [RH Gilmore]

OOH-0421b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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To Dellie. Has the wood pile begun to change its form yet Dellie? Or does it remain the same? And how is the little boss as common looking as ever? Does Lucia live at our house now? If she does, please remember me to her & Roland & the others. And has Nancy come back yet? Mother talked some of having you recite to some one this Spring. If you do you write me all about it. And remember your Brother  
Charles

P.S. You & Mother are thinking of going to Portland soon. Lizzie was anticipating <> letter to Rowland last week. Dellie we should like to come here to see us very much, while mother is in P. if she does not come. It would not cost so much for you to come from Yarmouth up here Dellie, as to go to Portland.

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448 3/19/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0421c

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear Mother

Charles has left me the page which has no ruling, but I can make it do, and must add to it another half sheet. I have been to Church this forenoon and heard Mr Gillpatrick. This afternoon I shall hear Mr J.O. Fiske of Bath at the Orthodox meeting. Thursday I received two welcome letters, one from Otis and the other from Lizzie. They both wrote in good health and spirits. Lizzie begins to talk considerably about going to New York. I have told her that I should try to go if circumstances would permit.

The school remains about the same as when I last wrote except an increase in numbers. Lizzie writes that she shall expect you in Portland. They are not quite so pleasantly situated to receive visitors a formally but your acquaintance with Mrs Perley will make you welcome to all. Aunt Martha also will be very glad to see you. Uncle Henry is at present gone a fishing to Moosehead Lake but is expected home soon.

They are thinking of sending Fred to a family School in New Gloucester. The expense is \$2.50 per year. The school is of the same character as Mr Abbotts at Farmington, except that the no of Scholars is smaller.

I see that my friend Mr Sumner has been found guilty of being a Common Seller of Liquor, and I suppose fined. This will come hard on Caleb but perhaps it will do him good. The Committee of the Legislature has reported a bill making the Liquor Law easier to be enforced, so it will be of no use to try to make up fines by selling more Rum, the usual resource of Rum sellers.

The new County project fared as I expected. <> all of the great <> effects. The fact is that Lewiston like all new places has more activity than influence. Although Hallowell does not have so much of the former, yet her influence in State or County affairs would be twice that of Lewiston. She has older and more influential men - men of wealth and stability of character, while the men of Lewiston were only men of the day sprung up like weeds suddenly. They are liable to fall as quick. I would not trust their smart men a great way in any great undertaking.

I was talking with Mr Wilde (the Orthodox minister) yesterday about Mr Drummond who writes so much for <Janspaper>. He says he regards him as one of the first men in the State for ability and goodness. He says that in his opinion they haven't a superior in their Denomination as a speaker and writer on almost any subject that happens to come up. From reading his articles I have long been struck by his sound sense, elegant style, and ready thoughts. I should feel safer in adopting his sentiments than those of any writer which you now read. He has a complete education, high talents and strict integrity of principle, besides possessing means for the most accurate information of passing <>.

Charles has limited me to three pages. If I keep within the postage and so I must soon stop. Aurilla I think is doing well in her studies, only now and then a little home sick. She is reading French, Drawing and practicing on the piano. Her trustful and and confiding disposition have made her many friends among the young ladies. Remember me to our friends. And you and Dellie give us a letter as soon as you can. Be careful of your health this damp Spring for our sake and for your own. Recollect that we are hourly thinking of you and your welfare. Love to Father, Dellie, Lucia and the rest of the family. Remember me as your affectionate Son.

Rowland

Charles health is better than when I was at home. He enjoys himself well.

Charles says, hereafter we will give them six pages a week. I told him I had no objection. I can write four with ease when I feel like it, such as they are. R

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449 3/20/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0422

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham, March 20, 1853

My dear brother:

Some time has slipped away since I received your kind, and lengthy as usual, letter. You think I suppose, and why should you not! That there is nothing to prevent and that I might reply to you sooner. I will try then to excuse myself from this tardiness. It was but a day or two before I came to Topsham that I received your letter. So I concluded not to write until I got settled in Topsham. When that was accomplished I thought I would wait until Rowland rec his, for you promised that he should have one when he again got back to Topsham. Now when this time came which was last Thursday eve, I thought I would answer your's. But as Rowland wished to fill his letter himself I concluded to put mine off a few days longer. And today, being Sunday, I take the opportunity which I have from not being obliged to perform any school tasks. Perhaps you are not aware of the way that I came here, which was in a sleigh with Mr Barrows & Aurilla. The same manner as that in which you used to be brought to Bowdoin before the Railroad was built. But now the cars stand ready in most every town to take the passenger and his money. But then, everyone if he is to travel any great distance much rather pay for his ticket & go in the cars than by other conveyance. And you would not come home as often as you now do were it not for the Steam Engine.

Mr Barrows was kind enough to offer me a free passage in his sleigh, so I sent my trunk by express & rode down with him. By this I save 80 cts. (for I was obliged to pay a dollar for the passage of my trunk) and as I have not a great abundance of money, I was glad to do this.

Rowland came down several days before I did & went into Portland as you know. When I came Mr B stoped at Mr Gillpatrick's. I in pursuit of Rowland started, whom by the direction of Mr G I soon found at his boarding place, Mrs Frost's. I room with him and Mr Adams. We have two rooms but only one fire.

My studies this term are fine, viz. Latin grammar & Caesar Algebra Physiology & Arithmetic. I have your old Smyth's Algebra and am studying it with as much desire to go ahead, if not as much go ahead as you used to. For I wish to be as good a scholar as you and as any one, but I don't suppose that I can be. I read about one Section in Caesar a day. There are two in my class besides me. Rowland is our teacher. Puffer hears my class in Algebra. Perhaps you know him. He is a senior at Bowdoin. Most of the scholars that attend here study in school but I do not. For I cannot study so well & it being about a quarter of a mile from Mrs Frost's up to the Acad I derive considerable exercise from not studying in school.

I attended the lecture by Mr Abbott at Brunswick the other night. I suppose Rowland gave you an account of it. I never went to a lecture of the kind before. It interested me very much.

I have not heard from home since I came here. I left mother as well as usual. She was as watchful as ever to see that I had everything that would conduce at all to my comfort. She must have been very tired after fixing me away, for she worked sewing very steadily for several days before I left. First, Rowland came home with a lot of rends to be mended. Then when I began to pack my trunk I found many garments which wanted repairing.

I hope mother will go to Portland this spring for I think she will enjoy it very much, and Lizzie seems to be anticipating it with much pleasure. And Aunt Martha Jane wants her to come very much too. I have not heard from home for so long that I can not tell you much news from there. Perhaps you have had a letter since we have.

I don't know yet whether father is going to New York this spring or not. I hope he will on your account. You mention sometimes my coming to New York this summer. I should like to very much go and see the scenes which have now become so familiar to me, besides seeing my brother Otis. And this summer you are to have an Exhibition at N.Y. city. That alone I suppose will cause thousands and thousands to visit that city. Roland A was saying before I left home that he should go to the Exhibition, if he lived & had his health. I think it somewhat of a doubt though whether he will go.

You observed I suppose that my date is Sabbath & if you did not, I believe I have mentioned it before. You would not know did I not tell you I suppose, but that I have written steadily without stoping since I began. But I have done far different from that. I began this in the intermission between the forenoon & afternoon meeting, after hearing Mr Gillpatrick. This afternoon I went to the Orthodox & heard a Mr Fiske of Bath. About dark Adams came back, having been home and stayed all night. He has been sitting by my table all the evening, talking some & reading French some. I gave him your last letter for him to read your description of "Cutting Heads". He wishes me to remember him to you. Rowland has been and is now sitting down in the sitting room with the ladies.

I finished three pages in a letter for home to mother today & Rowland has written three so mother will have a long letter of six pages in Tues mail. We sent her one of six pages last week too. If she puts one in to the mail yesterday we should get it Monday or Tues. I really do want to hear from home. It has now got to be nearly if not quite ten o'clock & I must close. & repair to my bed, or I shall not rise early enough to take my usual walk before breakfast. You have not the time to write Rowland & me separate letters, & I will not ask you to do that when we are together. I don't think you will want me to write much more if I do not do it better than I have on this last page, for I see I have written it rather badly. I find that I grow worse on every few lines so I will bring this to a close by reminding you Otis that

I remain Your Affectionate Brother  
C H Howard

Good night.

P.S. I have not brought it to its end very quick, neither, for I see I have scribbled over the whole of a sheet. Excuse the scribble this time. You will get this so to reply next Saturday afternoon. Wont you Otis? Monday morning while Mr Adams & Rowland were sound asleep in bed here I have read my writing over & corrected all the mistakes I see. Please tell me what faults there are left.

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450 3/26/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0423a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham March 26th, 53

My dear mother:

Another Saturday afternoon has arrived and I will write my accustomed letter; although I think after this I must write Wednesday afternoon, which time too I have for such exercises for I think you rather have letters Saturday nights, and I know it always seemed the right time to me to have letters from my brothers. But I don't know but the reason was, because we always or usually did rec them at that time. We rec one letter from you & Dellie the same day that we mailed one for you, which was last Monday. The letter was dated the 15th. When I went to take my walk in the morning early I mailed our letter. When I was going up to my Arithmetic class, I met Rowland with a letter from home. I was glad I tell you mother, for we had been here about a fortnight & had not heard a syllable from Leeds. I was glad to find that you had been enjoying yourself, for I didn't know but you might be a little lonely after Rowland & I both left.

Will Thomas (Bridgham) be at home this spring? Or was he only at home for a day or two? The best & the best educated young men are the first to leave Leeds, are they not? Speaking of Thos playing reminds me, of how I used to play on the Aeolian. Mrs Frost is very sorry she says that I did not bring it with me. Rowland & I sing to her without <> [ink blot] though. She likes singing very much. I guess that she used to be a good singer.

But surely it seems unhealthy up there this spring, for I believe you mentioned three besides Mr Cary (who you say is buried) who are very sick, and I forgot his father who makes the number five. You did not mention their disease but Rowland met with Old Mrs Gilbert (Benj. G's wife) who told him all about Leeds folks. She said that Dr Millett said that is was doubtful whether Nathan Coffin ever recovered from his trouble at the Lungs. Now this is sad certainly. When I first heard of his illness, I thought it nothing serious, and still I hope he will recover. She also said that Aranda Gilbert, had had an attack of Numb Palsy in his arm. This is also dreadful, for likely he never will again be able to use his arm. This makes me think of Uncle Ezeikel, tho I suppose (by what you say) that he has gone to his long house. If it is so, we cannot help it.

But Mother: We again were gladened with a letter from you Thursday morning, which was given I suppose to Mr Leonard on Tuesday then came out to Portland from Greene on Wednesday and then came down here Thursday morning in the morning train of cars from P. which got here about eight o'clock. There are trains of cars on this road at most all times of the day. In the morning the train from Augusta gets here about 7 o'clock. Then there is one from the other way at 8. Then a train again to P. at 1 o'clock returns at 30 min after two another at about four and returns at about half past nine in the evening.

I have just returned from a choir meeting up to the Baptist church, having been absent from my letter over an hour. Aurilla was there. We have an organ but not a very large one at the Baptist house. I see that you too have very pleasant weather, for I think I never saw a pleasanter day than we had here last Tuesday & also Monday. In the roads it was quite dry & good waggoning here until this afternoon, when just enough snow fell to make it muddy. I suppose very likely you have not got to using wheels yet this spring, although I have not seen a sleigh here for a long time.

You ask if my studies are hard or if I find it hard to get my lessons? No not very, although I should like to get along a little faster in algebra, but I am as far advanced as any who have not studied it before. (As to Dr H's pills I think that they do not have much if any effect upon me. I am as well as I was when at home I think every way.) I have not taken my Syrup regularly which you made me, for I have been about as free from a cough as ever I was, but I find within a day or two that I have caught a slight cold so I must try the medicine. I said I had not taken it regularly, yet I have taken it most every morning before breakfast.

We have not got a letter from Otis since our last. Have you heard from him, mother? You did not mention about going to Portland in your letter.

From your Aff Son  
Charles

Give my love to Dellie & tell him to write me a long letter to put in mother's next. I wish him to tell me of home affairs &c

I think that it must be late for my eyes wink often. Very likely you are looking now to see if all is fast for the night.

So Good night. CHH

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland, March 28, 1853]

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451 3/27/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0424

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Mar 27. 1853

My dear Mother

I did mean that you should receive a letter from me last evening, but as I did not write it on the Sat. or Sunday preceding, I failed to mail one for you in the middle of the week. The reason would be apparent to you if you should know the amount of Chemistry I have to get now at a lesson, considering too that Chemistry requires merely the exertion of memory in which the majority of my class are fully equal to me. The subject is really interesting & easy to understand, but there is so much detail, so many manipulations, numbers, figures, formulas, & substances with which to burden the memory that this study costs me more time & closer application than any other. Our infantry drills & dress parades commenced too some time ago.

I am not apt to write excuses to fill up my letters with, but I tell you this, to show you that it is not a wilful negligence, that I do not write my mother oftener. If you wish it I can write you a few lines every week, but I never receive such short epistles & I imagine that you prefer to see the sheet full.

Lizzie is counting strongly on getting a visit from you, and perhaps you are there already. Rowland & Charlie have each written me long letters, which lie before me unanswered. Charlie says we have both just written to mother. Charlie tells me how hard mother had to work to fix him away. He is a good, affectionate pure minded boy, and I hope he will remain so. I covet the time to correspond with my brothers all I would be glad to.

I am very happy to know that both are upright, intelligent and persevering storing their minds with useful knowledge. If God spares our lives & permits us health & strength, we hope to do honor to the mother who has sacrificed so much for our welfare and is willing even to give up everything for our happiness & prosperity. Though I seldom speak of it, I am far from insensible to my mother's kindness and anxieties. I have done little to make her happy, but it is a negative virtue to which I aspire to do nothing which will make her unhappy. I am old enough now and wise enough to trace the finger of Providence in almost every thing, that, through my mothers instrumentality and foresight has made us what we are, and given us the privileges we enjoy. Nothing but ourselves can hinder us from making men. You say you are glad I have the privilege of hearing preaching. I am glad too. I do not know as I ever will be a very good Christian, but I enjoy preaching and love to reflect at times on subjects appertaining thereto, and I take pleasure in striving to do right. I truly believe the Bible and why I am not a Christian I cannot tell. I suspect it is on account of ambition & vanity. You would not call me vain. Vanity manifests itself in more ways than one, and the best test is to ask one's self if he is constantly inquiring what people about him are thinking of him. He may be vain of his character, vain of his position, vain of his talents. All these feelings which spring from a common principle hinder him from bowing before his Savior in that humility of spirit, which is essential to his receiving a blessing. Ambition too is in direct contrariety to the principle of humility, excepting the latter is assumed as a hypocritical garb to cover a black heart, and aid in attaining to ambitious ends.

But enough of dissertation. It is not befitting a letter. I heard a good sermon to day on the Resurrection. It was preached because it is Easter Sunday. The Episcopalians make much of this day and it is well thus to commemorate the annual return of this day. I mean the anniversary of one of the Grandest era in the affairs of Mankind. We discussed at the Bible Class this afternoon, the first six verses of the seventh chapter of Romans which always puzzles the common reader so much to fully understand.

Rowland says he deposited my Diploma with you. Lizzie wanted it, Rowland says, so I am now A.B. in reality. Some of my classmates put on the A.B. in directing their letters but I forbade it; while I am a Cadet. Cadet must be my prefix. Dellie wrote me a very good letter the last time he wrote me. Tell him not to use abbreviations but to write out everything in full, such as his brother's name &c. He spells very well. He must form the habit of spelling everything correctly, else he will find bye & bye difficulty in correcting habitual errors. I have never been accurate enough. How much better to know a little & that little perfectly, than to have the brain filled with a heterogeneous & unwieldy mass of imperfect ideas. I believe Charlie takes the proper course, he used to do so, never being satisfied with an imperfect knowledge of whatever he undertook to study. Dellie must follow a similar course. What he learns, learn thoroughly.

I shall remain in the army a year or two & perhaps more after I graduate. It would be hardly right to resign immediately and after being at the expense of getting an officer's fit out in full which is very costly, I cannot afford to leave till I have receive some return for the expense. In any corps but the Engineers the duties of an officer do not exceed three hours a day. I mean a second Lieutenant, so there will be abundant time for studying a profession and fitting myself for civil life while I remain under Uncle Sam. I will some time explain to you in full my intentions & my reasons. I always have a set of plans laid out. I may fulfill my purposes & I may not.

I am well. Give my love to all. Roland A when he comes to the Worlds Fair will visit me of course, since he can come up for almost nothing & in little time. I want to see father.

Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

Excuse the blot since I have not time to copy.

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452 3/28/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0423b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles, March 26, 1853]

Monday Morning [March 28, 1853]

Dear Mother

Charles has as usual left me a page and I will make the best of it. The sun has risen clear bright and beautiful this morning and shines in at our windows very pleasantly. I attended Church all day yesterday and heard Mr Gillpatrick. He does not improve much and I wonder how Topsham people tolerate him. The Snow is now well settled and the walking between here and the Academy is fine. The ice has left the river and I can see it plainly from my window looking as blue as the sky.

On Thursday Mr Adams went to the Wedding of one of his friends and left me with the entire charge of the School. I succeeded very well.

On Saturday I <> the Libraries and took out some books. I do not find time to read myself except <> but Mrs Frost likes to read and I got them for her.

So much sickness and death in Leeds make one feel a little melancholy but He doeth all thinks well?

In my reflections on these matters I can always contemplate my own death with more complacency than the death of friends. I have thought that there were those with whom I could not part forever. It seems as if it would be more than the human heart could bear unbroken, but <> our day, our strength shall be. When we are filling the future with mournful pangs, the severing of the ties of love and friendship, the parting with those dear to us. What sweet consolation there is in that little, I should say great, promise that strength will be given us to bear them all.

We have been passing some of these moonlight evenings very pleasantly. Strange that Charles has not mentioned them. He has enjoyed them finely. Two evenings our young Ladies have boiled some molasses and invited us down about eight o'cl to help them work it. You may imagine that we had a jolly time. We have attended a party also. One of our scholars made one and invited her schoolmates and teachers. I cared more that Charles should go than myself, that he might begin to understand the usages of Society.

Topsham people are by no means patterns of politeness and good breeding in all things. Yet the Ladies display more ease and refinement in manners and much better taste in dress than those of Leeds or in fact many places of a larger population than Topsham. The vicinity of the College serves to raise their standard of conversation and gives them a taste for study and reading that they may associate with educated men and students on more equal terms.

My health is good. I am now taking some bitters prescribed by Prof Peaslee with whom I consulted in regard to my health. He is a professor in the Medical School and on account of his extensive and accurate knowledge, and long experience, probably is well qualified as any man in the United States for medical practice. I conversed with him about Charles. He spoke (I did not name any one but gave him the symptoms and asked his advice) very encouragingly and said one great thing was to keep up good spirits, take active exercise, bathe in cold water and the disease would gradually wear off. It would not do to stop it suddenly. When I see you I will tell you more. Suffice it to say I was greatly encouraged and Charles is also.

Remember me to all. Tell Delle we like his letters first rate. I have got a letter about half done to Lizzie. Shall send it tomorrow. Horatio Howard [b 1830 Abbot Maine, a second cousin of Rowland] thinks some of going Leeds in his vacation, which occurs about the same time as mine. If he does I shall invite him to our house.

Your affectionate Son  
Rowland.

I made up my mind when I saw Nathan Coffin that there was not at that time much if any direct inflammation on the lungs. I thought that his lungs were either swelled contracted or out of their proper place. Does it not so prove. They became collapsed in the first place from excessive fatigue and afterwards could not regain their elasticity from weakness.

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453 3/30/1853 *From:* CHHoward

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0485a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wednesday eve, March 30th 53

My dear Mother

I will this evening do as I agreed in my last letter, by writing, so that you shall rec it by Sat.'s mail. We have not yet rec a letter, but I hope we shall have one by tomorrow morning, which is the usual time for getting them when they are mailed or handed to Mr Leonard On Tuesday. You see that it is now Wednesday. It is but a short time (Last Monday I believe) since we mailed our last, so this will be minus much news. But it will inform you mother, that your sons, or one of them at least, for Rowland has written for himself, is in good good health & spirits; for I believe with me neither of these were ever much nearer to perfection than they are this evening.

Rowland & I are sitting here all alone in our room with no one to molest or annoy us in any way. Mr Adams having gone to the Unitarian Society meeting, of which he is a member and which meets at Brunswick during even weeks. As he I believe has written, we have just returned from a long walk alone with each other. We passed the time & walk very pleasantly, we talked of Home and friends, times past & present. Oh! how much pleasanter it is to be with my brother & friends than among strangers.

When we got back home tonight from our walk Mrs Frost told us, that we had had callers or that she had had some who inquired for us. They were Miss Ann Gillpatrick & Miss Aurilla Barrows. They said that they were going to the prayer meeting tonight. I do not see A. very often. The last time that I saw her to speak with her she said that she was not home sick now. I am glad of this for I do not know what we should have done if she had remained so long. I don't know but she would have to have been sent home in the cars. I shouldn't think that she could remain so long in the presence of Ann, for I tell you she is a lively one.

Oh! Mother has spring arrived up to Leeds yet? I consider Spring as come when the robins begin to sing their joyful songs. These I have heard here in the morning while I have been at my walks. The ladies begin to speak of May Flowers but I have not seen any thing more than their green leaves yet. We shall have some though in a few days.

It is now, about Topsham, what is generally called "rotten traveling" the streets every where being quite dry. And I also observed yesterday that the ice had all left the river. I suppose the Kenebec breaks up as quick or nearly so, as this river. Then the boats soon will begin to run & very likely much business and travel will be taken from the Railroads. The other day Mrs Frost let me take her watch to keep hanging in my room, so as to tell when to go to recitations. She said that as she did not need it, if I would take care of it & wind it up regularly, she had as lief I would have it as not. It is a gold watch, which cost about 30 dollars. Good Night

Thursday Morning

This is a delightful morning. The sun shines very bright & the air is clear. I have just been to Breakfast & have not yet been to the P.O. If we find a letter there we shall put in another half sheet. But if not shall mail this as is.

From Your Aff son  
CHHoward

By looking at the before spoken of watch I find it about 10 o'clock which is past my bedtime.

P.S. I find that last night in the dark, I began to write very blackly. Give my love to Dellie & tell him that I guess our next will be to him.  
Charles.

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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454 3/31/1853    *From:* Rowland [Howard]    *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0485b                      Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles]

Topsham March 31/53

Dear Mother

Charles and I were thinking tonight that it would be pleasanter for you to have your letters on Saturday than Tuesday. So we concluded to begin this week in making the change. After threatening rain a while in the morning it cleared off beautifully and we have had one of the pleasantest days of this pleasant March. We have taken a walk tonight of over a mile in length and have just come in. The Northern Lights begin to show themselves brilliantly and bid fair to make this evening still more lovely.

I hope everything is pleasant and all happy at our Home tonight. I hope that you especially are well and enjoying yourself. The week with us has passed, so far with but few occurrences to interest you. Today I have nothing to do but study, as the School keeps in the forenoon only. So I get Wednesday and Saturday entire.

Mrs Foote was here the other day and wishes to be remembered to her Leeds friends. One of her daughters is in Brunswick under the care of Dr Peaslee. She has had a tumor taken from her face. I believe she is now doing well, although she has had a pretty hard time.

I am sorry to hear of the Rail Road accident. \$1000 is a heavy loss for a poor man or a poor Corporation. Almost equal, I should think, the net earnings for a month.

Our School increases some every week but does not advance much in character. The Young Ladies Department is quite respectable in points of age and education, but the Boys are very backward, especially the larger ones.

Otis has written us but one letter yet since we have been here. But we are expecting one every day. We shall look some to have one from you and Dellie, tomorrow morning, but not much. You speak of the low state of moral and religious feeling in Leeds. I know that it is a fact that it is very low, but I do not despair I hope there is a better time coming. I am not much of a churchman, but I do believe that what Leeds people most need to put an end to their foolish feuds and contemptable quarrells is a little more of the true spirit of the Christian religion. The removal of one man or half a dozen won't help the matter any. Trouble didn't leave with Mr Lawton and won't with Mr Barrows. The fact is things won't be better until the people as a people are radically reformed or <anticipated>, which last remedy, I fear, wouldn't be much of a loss to the world, but "If there are three good men &c". You recollect the quotation.

Love to all.  
Rowland

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455 4/6/1853

*From:* C H Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

OOH-0425a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Topsham April 6th 53

Dear Brother

I will do as I said and write you this time though I think it will not be a good letter for the first thing I did was to make a mistake ie. in writing Leeds instead of Topsham. It is Wednesday afternoon, Rowland has just left our room to go to Brunswick. I am all alone so if stillness while writing will make a good letter, I see no reason why this may not be that.

It is still in my room but I can hear noise enough from out of doors. Children playing, wagons passing & cars a roaring past too, can be heard at most any time here by quite a deaf man. The cars passed a few minutes ago & immediately afterwards we saw a little boy walking along, from the depot towards our house. And who do you think we thought it was? Rowland saw him first, & spoke & said, there was a little boy coming who looked just like Del. I ran right down to the front door, but found to my disappointment that it was no such a boy.

If you ever do come down to Topsham, you will find Mrs Frosts house to be very nearly opposite to the depot. After leaving, the depot you go a few steps, then come on to the main street, which is called Elm St because of the many Elm trees that are placed on each side of it. Most of these must have been planted here many years ago, for they now are large trees. A little way above Mrs Frost's on this street & between it & the Academy is an old two story house inhabited by only one person & that & old crazy woman. I have heard say that she is quite wealthy, if she is, she does not show much of it, for she wears one of those old white coats like Jacob Baily's instead of a dress.

Up on this St a little farther, on the north side of the road is the Academy. It is a pretty large building though not quite so large as the one that you saw at Kents Hill. It is built of wood & painted a kind of red like the depots. On the inside it is divided into two large rooms one above & the other on the ground & besides these there is a small room called the recitation room on the ground floor. In the room above the ladies stay & recite in some things to Miss Griffin who is the female teacher of the school & come down below to some. Mr Adams has the care of the large room below in the forenoon & part of the P.M. Rowland has it the rest of the Afternoon.

Thursday morning.

I did not finish my letter last night but studied, in hope of rec a letter from home this morning. I shall go up to the P.O. after breakfast & see if there is one. We rec a letter from Otis the other day. He has a bile so that he is excused from drill, dress parade &c. Dellie you must write me a good long letter on the recpt of this. I don't know any thing about affairs at home now, so you will have plenty of material for a long letter. Breakfast bell hurray.

Rowland will finish the letter Dellie after having been to the P.O. Give my love to mother & all. I hope father will go to N.Y. for Otis will be so glad. You & Mother are preparing to go to Portland now I suppose. When I look this over I find I have written very poorly by writing fast. Mr J Perley is to teach writing school here the last of the term. But I am encroaching upon Rowland.

From your Affectionate Brother  
C H Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland, April 7 1853]

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456 4/7/1853

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0425b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Topsham April 7 53, continued from the previous letter from Charles to Rodolphus, April 6 1853]

Dear Mother

I can but think that you are sick or away from home as I have been to the Post Office this morning (Thursday) and found no letter from home. I receive them this morning when they are mailed on Tuesday. Charles and myself are enjoying good health.

We had a letter from Otis a few days since. He writes that he is well except that little trouble which Charles mentioned. A boil is troublesome, but he gets rid of Parade, which I should think would be quite a relief. I suppose that he writes you that the new Sec of War, Jeff Davis is introducing some reforms into their drills and general discipline, making the former more difficult and the latter more strict.

I see that Uncle Ward has got some kind of an office. Do you know what it is? I am glad for him for I suppose he needs it, and I have understood from you that he has been a soldier in the Democratic ranks for some time. Of course he deserves it. I am glad to see that your R.R. is doing so well. 89 passengers per day is quite a crowd and would afford some income, if they continued at the same rate. Lizzie has not written me lately and I have no news from any one else. I was so disappointed in not receiving a letter this morning that I hardly know what to write.

Friday.

I hear from Aurrilla that you are preparing to go to Portland about this time and so I conclude that you are there. If you rec this before you go, I wish to invite you come and see us. After you get away from home it will not make much difference and surely you will not value the expense. You can come down here and return to Portland any day you chose. Or if you prefer going directly home from here, you can go as far as Yarmouth and from there home. Peleg will give you information as to what train you should take in Portland. Get a ticket for Topsham and in an hour you will be just at our door.

George's death has given us a very melancholy surprise. I will write more about him in my next. Dea Cary is a great loss to your Church and Society. He was an upright man and good citizen.

Love to all.

Yours affectionately.  
Rowland

Write particularly of Georges death.

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457 4/11/1853 *From:* Rowland Howard

*To:* Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0427

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Apr 11th 1853

My Dear Brother

We had rather sad news from Leeds the other day. Mother has not written for some time but we heard it through Aurilla. The most painful part was the death of George Jones. He had lived at our house so long, and was of such a mild and amiable disposition, that we had learned to love him. Poor fellow. He died in pursuit of wealth. California always had strange attractions for him, especially after hearing Rolands marvelous stories after his return. He at last obtained the wished for opportunity and sailed with his brother in law, but he never lived to see what he really believed was an EL Dorado. We have heard no particulars in regard to his death. It is a sad thing for his Mother and his family, & Mrs Berry (Melvin) says it is a terrible blow to Lucia, but I think that her volatile disposition will soon recover from the shock. She loved George and she labored hard to obtain him, and to have the cup dashed from her when almost within reach, must be a bitter disapointment. I think that such disapointments more seldom leave their trace with the young, than is generally believed. But doubtless, when no new object presents itself for their affections, and they are compelled to spend their days in single blessedness, they will cling with tenacity to the old love, and throughout all their long years of disapointment, they will relate such a circumstance as the reason for their forlorn situation and constant repinings.

The other death was that of Dea Cary. I always regarded him as a good man and therefore an honor and an ornament to the Church and Society in Leeds. If you and I ever attend that meeting again together, as we used to do, we shall miss him from his accustomed seat at the right of the pulpit. Don't you recollect how quiet and attentive he used to be through the long sermons, rising perhaps at the close of service to give some notice of interest to the Church and People. He had a good heart and a ready tongue, and it will be long before they can find one to fill his place in the Leeds Society. The Church at L is in rather a deplorable State. If a column stands firm and unflinching in battle, keeping their ranks and maintaining their disapline, it matters little if the shot of the enemy takes down some of their men even if they are their best and bravest. With evolutions as regular as when on the parade ground, the places of the missing men are supplied and the unbroken Column stands ready to again renew the battle. But let the army be undisaplined and at each soldier be his own commander, and march according to his own mind, and that mind influenced by superstition and prejudice (as was the case with the Scottish covenanters) and the loss of men can never be endured, their places can never be supplied and their enemy will in the end triumph. The latter state is that of the Leeds Church and it seems to me as if Sin and Death must finally triumph over them. But still we are allowed to hope for better things. Yesterday I heard Rev Jo. Hutchinson, who I believe used to preach in Leeds. He is decidedly a queer one, and some of his ideas had the merit of originality, if nothing else.

Leonard Maxim came over and stoped with me Saturday night. Sabbath morning we took a walk on the bank of the river above the village, towards that old fashioned Meeting House which you will recollect we used to pass in those delightful rides to and from College, with the old white mare. The May flowers (trailing Arbutus) are just beginning to blossom. We got a good large handful of them, and today, their fragrance makes my room very pleasant.

The Street in Topsham is dusty and has been so for a week, but vegetation advances slowly on account of the cold nights. The weather in Maine is similar to Indian Summer. After the Sun is up in the morning, the air is warm, pure and delightful, but in the afternoons, the cold wind comes down from the snow covered hills and the evenings are quite chilly. This has been our weather for three weeks. The farmers are plowing and I have seen early peas sowed and potatoes planted but they will not come forward much until the ground is warmer. The grass does not start yet, and the boys as usual are having great times playing ball in the fields. Our Fast day occurs on Thursday of this week.

You spoke of our Liquor Law there bids fair to be nearly as much excitement growing out of the new amendments as there was in regard to the old law. The worst rummies that we have, used to say they like the old law, but do not like to see it executed. These new amendments take care of that very thing, viz. the execution of the law. I have heard its opposers talking freely in Brunswick and this town. They say now that the old law was enough, if they could only have let it alone. Shephard said so in our State Senate. The Portland

Exposition says so. So I begin to think we are getting at the root of the evil. It is true as you intimate that every reform has at some time a reaction in progress, but it is also true, that after their action a reaction, reforms like physical substances, at last find a medium. And at that point they remain. I am expecting a reaction in the Temperance movement in Maine, at some future time altho there are no indications of it at present, but I shall not expect that reaction until Rum is driven from all of its hiding places in our midst. And we shall be better able to resist the reaction, <> we can be while it retains a strong foothold among us. Look out for some new <emegra> next June. Rummies say Gov Crosby has his head in the same noose that Old Hubbard did. He ought to have believed such an enormity

[missing page]

I am rather in hopes she will come. I asked Lizzie to come with her if she could. I have received no letter from either of them since I wrote you last. Mr Adams send his respects. What Office is it that Uncle Ward has got. Do you know? I hope is worth something to him as I have understood from you that he had the air of a poor and disapointed man. I am sorry for that boil and hope that it is better by this time.

I shall expect a letter before a great while. The details of your West Point experience are very interesting to me. Never fear being tedious but give me a good long letter. This letter looks no better than my poor offspring are wont to do, but you will excuse it. I must now go to my School, so good by.

From your affectionate brother  
Rowland

Cadet Oliver O Howard

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458 4/11/1853 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0428

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr 11 1853

My Dear Mother,

I intended to have written you a letter yesterday, but I began one to Lizzie and after finishing that I did not have time to write another. I thought I would not write after taps lest it should unfit me for the duties of the morrow. We usually go to chemistry at eleven & return at twelve & I determined to devote the hour after I came back before dinner to you, but Professor Bailey had some experiments with the microscope to show us & kept us the whole hour. After dinner as you may remember we go to drawing & draw till four. Then to drill & drill two hours, then to evening parade, which takes up nearly an hour. Then to supper. After this we run about, walk or visit each other for half an hour when the bugle calls us to our book & our studies. Do you ask why I am not studying? We have a review lesson, and I think I can get it in the morning between reveille & breakfast. At any rate I am going to write you a letter & run the risk else you will not be likely to get one this week, then you will imagin all sorts of things.

So here's for a letter. In the first place your son is very well, in very good spirits, not doing very well in his studies for he is bothered with his poor memory, which all his application has failed to remedy; so that chemistry which ought to be the easiest study in the course very often procures a partial failure. But this does not matter - if we do the best we can, it is all that we can exact of ourselves.

I am reading during all my leisure moments the book that Professor Sprole gave me - Nelson on Infidelity. I have read it almost through and with every page I become more & more convinced of my ignorance of the volume that I have had in my hand if not in my breast from boyhood. It has set me to thinking & to reading with renewed interest. I went to one of my friends, borrowed a volume of Clark's Commentaries, commencing with the prophet Isaiah, and am trying to read understandingly.

It is disgraceful to a boy born & educated in a Christian land to be ignorant of the Bible. Those prophesies which tell us in brief the history of the world, and which are proved by rigid facts to have been written, thousands of years before the events predicted by them transpired, ought to possess an incalculable amount of interest for the scholar, independent of his duty as a native of a Christian land & a son of Christian parents. I am glad I take pleasure in such studies, for I hope that they may finally result in something more than a mere assent to the truths involved in them. If I had time I would like to correspond with a Christian divine, who was wholly acquainted with the business of his life theoretically & practically, but now it is better, perhaps that I make converse with my own thoughts.

Master Dellie perhaps is expecting a letter. I wish he could have one, but if I cannot write him now I will make up for it by & by. Tell him to be sure & not be idle, for he will sooner than he anticipates be a young man. It may be a received maxim that education begets pride & untoward ambitions and unfits the young man for manual labor, but it is a mistake. 'Tis not knowledge that does this, but the ignorance & folly of the majority of men, who have stamped one of the most worthy vocations as unbefitting the gentleman. I still say that if necessity should urge it I would take a pride & a pleasure in raising my own bread. Why do you not then do it? It is because I feel myself now better fitted for other things. You need not be surprised to see me yet settle down as an unpretending industrious farmer, although such a thing is rather improbable. I hope my brothers will all feel like me in this respect. It will save many hours of anxiety & many pangs of disappointed ambition.

Lizzie is expecting you - desires much to see you. You must love her for she has been a true & faithful friend to your son. Her love has been a safe-guard many & many a time of which no one knows but the object of it. I chose her, I don't know why. I loved her and I could not enumerate the causes. But this love has not developed in me, wild, aimless & romantic fancies, but tended to foster the good feelings of my nature & filled me with good & sensible resolutions which ever awaken & fortify right principles. It has not made me weak & remiss in my studies, but if anything had an opposite effect. I am glad it has been so & I wish I was to be circumstanced so as to afford her happier prospects, than I shall be able to.

I was intending to tell you of a remarkable case of somnambulism - a Cadet walking post in his sleep but I have

not time or room now. I will reserve the account for my next or to amuse Dellie. You thought I was doing remarkably well to come out 7th in Drawing doubtless. Nearly all the Class had commenced painting but me. As it was new to them they got low marks for a time & I continuing penciling got a better mark than they. My genius in the fine arts is not yet remarkably developed & I fear it will always be diffident of appearance.

Give my love to all. Remember me to all at Uncle Ensign's, Aunt Aurelia's, Uncle Barna's, Aunt Lucretia's &c. Warren L was well the last time I saw him. He must have written home once or twice since then. I seldom have any unhappy moments excepting sometimes for a few moments after I have done badly in Chemistry or tried in vain to paint passibly a mountain. I want to see father. Is he coming?

Your affectionate son.  
Otis

I would not send you such a foolish little envelope but it is all I have.

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459 4/12/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0429a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Apr 12/53

My Dear Mother

Although you cannot receive this until Saturday yet I thought I would write a few lines immediately after receiving your letter of the 3d and Dellies of the 10th inst. The most painful news is that of your illness. Dellie tells it very well for him, yet I cannot gather from his letter what is its nature and extent. He says the Dr visits you regularly I know this would not be the case unless you had some thing considerably worse than your common ill turns. He says it is a lung fever but I must still hope not. Let me believe that it is the result of the change of Season and that remedies will soon overcome it. I shall wait with a great deal of anxiety until I hear from you, which I am in hopes to do on Thursday morning. Mrs Berry wrote Aurrilla that you were talking of going to Portland the present week. As soon as I heard it I wrote to Lizzie to be sure and tell you to come down here and see us. Dellie intimates that you would have done so if you had not been taken sick.

We heard of Georges death and Dea Careys through the same source as above. Poor George! He never realized his dreams of California. His good constitution and moderate habits availed in nothing when attacked by disease in another climate. I pity his poor Mother. George had a good heart and a kind and amiable disposition. He was generous and happy and had he lived he never would have made enemies, but would have been surrounded by warm and confiding friends. His errors were of the lesser kind - more of the head not the heart. Young, happy, hopeful. We must say Good by. How I wish that Roland would take his death to heart, and be more forgiving, more kind, and more indulgent to the faults of his friends, while he more strictly guarded his own heart. I have at times partaken too much of that misanthropic spirit which he too frequently indulges in. But I have found human nature almost every where the same. Men are not what they should be, and we must take them for what they are. The faults of others must be indulged else how can ours be forgiven by them. Dea Carey is an almost irreparable loss to your Church and Society. He had a good heart and a ready tongue and I fear it will be long before his place will be filled in the Leeds Society. May the bereavement teach them to finish their dissensions and become more united, while they have an opportunity.

I heard Rev Joseph Hutchinson Sabbath day. Did he not preach in Leeds some years since. I did not remember him. I liked his Sermons pretty well. His expressions had the merit of originality if nothing else. But I thought I could gather from them however a little vanity, but that can be easily forgiven him if he is a good man.

Lizzie, from what I wrote her, will expect to see you almost every day, and I suppose she would have seen you if you had not been sick. Dellie says Father has put off going to Massachusetts perhaps you will yet be able to accompany him as far as Portland. I was surprised to see your letter dated the third until Dellie told me the reason. I have got a little head ache today other wise Charles and myself are very well. I wrote Otis six pages yesterday and Charles will write him in a few days so we will make up for the lack of letters from home, while you are unwell. Dellie wrote us the longest letter he ever did in his life. If he keeps on improving his letters will soon be worth a dollar apiece to his brothers. Charles & Mrs Frost have been fixing up a project for you there to ride down to West Bath to Mrs Footes, when you come to see us, but I tell Charles we cannot spare you to West Bath unless you stop here some time. I shall leave this letter now until Thursday when I am in hopes to hear from home again.

Thursday.

I have been to the P.O. this morning and got not letter from home. We fear you are not improving as we were in hopes. Dellie thought you would write Tuesday forenoon. <That> Day is cold and rainy. We have no School. We shall expect a letter from home now every day. I shall mail this that you may receive it on Saturday. Good by.

Your aff Son,  
Rowland

[Continued on the next letter from Charles on Apr 14th 53]



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460 4/13/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0426

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April <13>th 1853

My dear Son,

It is a long time, since I have written you. I thought when I received your last, it would be but a few days before I should write you a long letter, and then I had a number of things to say, in particular but now I do not know what they were, for I have been sick nearly ever since. I believe I have not had a Physition for eleven years until now. I have had quite a severe attack of Neuralgy in my head and attended with a bad cough, which are now wearing off. The attacks in my head are not so severe, neither do they last but a short time. My cough is loose and not very troublesome, as I manage it, whether it really is any better or not only from the course I pursue, I have had so many blisters, and mustard poltices on me that I am quite an invalid.

Rowland and Charles were punctual to their resolve to write to Mother once a week. They appear to have tolerable good health, what I most fear is a failure in their health. My visit to Portland is over for the present, as I cannot even look out of doors without giving me pain. Your father has been extending the time ever since January, to visit his friends at Easton, and look after Arza's affairs, but my indisposition and the affairs of the railroad have delayed him so much, that he cannot go at present. A very long piece of railroad fence is now pressing upon him.

The frost is out of the ground, and stakes can be driven, and the fence must be made, to stop damages to the company. So I see no way for him to leave at present. A Haines of Portland went to New York, (at the time I mention that your Father talked of going) to make some payment on the bill for Iron for the railroad.

I was very much gratified with the general tenor of your last letter. Your advantages for high attainments, have been far superior to mine, but your mother never once felt any sacrifice in what she has done for her sons, but always would be glad to do more. I feel such an expanding desire for my children that it is inexpressible, but never in those feelings have I looked forward to their filling high stations, but to their being fitted for such stations. I do not allow myself to look into the future but my constant course is to submit it to Him who holds the destinies of all things. Daily experience shows us the uncertainty all things worldly, but it is a happy feeling to think ones children will be a blessing to the world, that their influence is for the intellectual improvement of their fellow beings. If it is so, let their course be onward; onward.

When it occurs to me that I may be called to eternity any day, and leave my boys I shrink to think what would be the worldly situation of my boys. But my trust must be in the same Being, "who takes this mortal breath" can direct our steps aright in this wearying world. If in such a case you should ever be led to reflect on any course your mother has pursued, recollect she has used her utmost endeavor in her situation to keep her property for her sons but if you fail of obtaining it, depend on your own resources, cultivate an understanding that will stand the test against all worldly goods.

Your father says he has always felt since he has had the care of my property like one who holds a property in trust, but this is a subject I seldom approach. The death of George W Jones on his way to California seems to make quite an impression on me. I have spent many pleasant hours with George. Last summer he did not seem as he use to, some times he would be George again. But George found a watery Grave.

Amial is in this neighborhood at work, when the family received the news. Pethuel wrote him a letter, detailing the particulars of his death as they came to them, and adds Amial you must bear it as well as you can, for I don't know but it will kill Mother. He died in four day sail Sanfrancisco, with the Panama fever. He had a fever in the fall which unfitted him for such a journey.

Mr Currie's family arrived at S— the 22d of February all in poor health but the little boy - six or seven years old, George has been with us so much I feel as though one of us had passed to eternity. Lucia Turner has been doing my housework this winter and, is still with us. Since G's death she keeps up a screeching kind of laugh a great part of the time. I have my fears that Lucia is destined to an unhappy life. Her flesh wastes almost as fast as if a fever was upon her.

Deacon Cary and his son Orman have lately died out of one house. They were both members of our baptist Church.

Our Maine liquor law seems to have gained in strength by legislation, it seems we have nothing to fear this year, as regards the law. I sincerely hope we shall retain the law long enough to test its value.

I have received a very good long well expressed letter from Miss Aurilla Barrows, now at Topsham, she gave a very pretty description of Topsham, her Boarding house, and all her employments and the river, the female department of the academy. The letter was on the whole worth reading and answering which I shall do soon. Mr Barrows called here this afternoon. He is very well pleased Aurilla's situation. Mr B-ws tell us that Mrs White is to be buried tomorrow, her funeral at one o'clock, the death of our neighbors makes such an impression on us, that our pens record them almost involuntarily.

Your father keeps teasing me to stop writing for fear of fatigue, but my subjects are so common place, they require very little intellectual labor. Our farm is set for the year. It seems as though if you and Lizzie could come this year we should be more at leisure & should be glad to see Lizzie, but she had such a poor visit last year, and I feel so uninteresting, I am afraid to invite her here.

Friday morning fifteen minutes of ten and the distress in my head is less severe than usual, although I feel it sensibly. It has began at six or seven, and began to pass off at twelve this morning. At nine I felt but little of it, and now it is not so severe but I can think tolerable clear.

Your father is gone, and I seemed so quietly situated, that I resolved to fill out my sheet. The sun shines beautifully over the vast extent of snow, that fell yesterday. The water is dropping from the eaves of the houses, and indeed it seems quite a fitting time to say pleasant things to some dear friend, if anyone could collect their thoughts sufficiently. I hope my son you are in a cheerful enjoyment of life. Rowland and Charles spoke of your troublesome biles, one of the troubles we creatures are subject to. I hope however they are over before now.

Perhaps the foliage at West Point is already showing itself, to the gratification of the lover of the beauties of nature. With us, we have thought it quite forward, to be so the farmers could plow and sow oats and peas, but the snow that fell yesterday will stop them for a few days. I suppose at West Point the river, trees, and government buildings, officers house, soldiers barracks, gravel walks, Cannon, and imitation brestworks, have become one and the same thing to you, you pass them and repass them, daily without notice, I would like to know every day how you spend your time, but again your little perplexities would annoy me with out adding to your comfort.

Rowland says in his last letter, that uncle Ward has got an office under government <Troy>. What is it? I am glad for him, if he is capable of filling it. Perhaps he will retain it some time.

The last I heard from your Aunt Ann she was alone, in Brooklin, Perry being at sea, and Silas had gone to Canada with his father, in some of his wild speculations and Sarah had come to Maine with her husbands relations, at Calais and that vicinity. The last I heard from Hallowel our friends at that place were all well, as usual. I am quite anxious about Ann. I wish to know how she was getting along, and whether Perry got out of his troubles at Charleston. Well, write me as often as is consistent with the occupation of your time. I shall enclose a two dollar bill in this.

Yours with Motherly affection.  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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461 4/14/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0429b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Rowland on Apr 12 53]

Thursday forenoon Apr 14th 53

My dear mother;

Rowland has begun a letter to you & I will finish it. As he has said the news of your sickness was sad & unexpected, but Dellie said you were recovering. This is good news; and I hope that you will continue to improve fast, for I cannot bear the thought of your being sick when we are so far away. It has got so lately that we hardly dare to open a letter for fear of reading some bad news, for all the letters from Leeds contain, of late contain some thing grieving to read. But I was very much pleased to rec <so good> & long a letter from Dellie, if it was not pleasing to learn the facts which it contained.

There was never any circumstance which came more unexpectedly than George's death, to me. I had never dreamed of such a thing, although there is no reason why I should not. But on the other hand much <reason> why I should have feared it. For there is scarcely more than one in thousands who passes through the dangers of a journey to California in safety. I can hardly feel that George will never be seen by us again on earth. <But> it must be so, if it is so, of which I suppose you have no doubt. It is fast day, mother, today. How are you today, very sick? I hope not. Dellie said you would send us a letter by Tuesday's mail if able. If we should rec it today, & it usually comes in the morning mail, which arrived, but with no letter, but perhaps it will come in the afternoon.

We had the warmest & pleasantest day yesterday that we have had this season, & this forenoon we have had a hail storm, but it has <> & I think it will soon be clear again. We have some of the sweetest & prettiest May flowers in a vase in our room & downstairs <> have abounds in these. But, tell Dellie, that the boys & girls here are not so fond of "Hanging May Baskets" as they are in most of places, & hardly know what these are. I hope mother you will be able to Port[land] with father & Dellie for I think you will enjoy yourself very much & we will be so glad to have you come to see us.

It is now most night. The mail has come <> & I have been to the P.O. but found no letter, so we must despair of hearing from home today, & from our sick mother, although we hope this is not so. As I was walking along from the P.O. I thought how the season was advanced up to Leeds, & I see, by the side of the road that the grass is starting since our rain. And the <wheeling> is very good between this place and Bath, but I believe your letter said it was dangerous traveling, though it was dated <3d> of April. And have you or any one began to work in our garden any yet? Major Frost began on his nearly 2 weeks ago. He is Mrs Frost's father -in-law & I believe the wealthiest man in Topsham.

Rowland says he is going up past the P.O. & will take this up. So I must close now. Hoping that you will rec it in health & that you will write soon.

From yr Affec son  
CH Howard

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462 4/14/1853    *From:* Rowland [Howard]    *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0430                      Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Apr 14, 1853

My dear Brother

As I know my last letter could not possess much interest to you both from the nature of the subject and the manner in which it was treated. I am now about to write a few lines which will be more interesting from my locality than any other cause.

I came in yesterday morning and shall return to Brunswick this noon. Lizzie is sitting beside me heming a handkerchief which I have just purchased, her eyes are better and look as well as ever. She has been at the Waite <for> better times, when I came in on this, and yesterday morning. I never saw her look more interesting than when the exercise gave a glow to her cheeks and a certain earnestness and spirit to her manner which her ill health sometimes prevents. Lizzie has changed her dress now and sat down with me. She appears quite cheerful, and has none of that troublesome cough which worried me when I saw her last (in October). Yesterday was Fast Day and we had no Recitations. I spent the forenoon here, and the Afternoon and evening with my particular friend, Frank Gilman. I also slept with Frank and have returned here, after breakfast this morning. Last evening Frank & I attended a Concert of the Sacred Music Society. (Lizzie did not choose to go) and I enjoyed the Concert exceedingly. The Oratorio which they sung was one on which we have been drilled this winter, and the words and music were very familiar.

Something in music, that we have heard before, always sounds best.

Mrs Waite has not entirely recovered from her illness, but is still quite weak, but she appears in good spirits and says she thinks she has a long <> of life.

Mother wrote me a few days since a letter overflowing with love and tenderness. Charles wrote the same day and appears to have a good time at Kents Hill. Rodelphus wrote me a letter of three pages and was very enthusiastic over one that he received from you, a short time before. They tell me of the death of Mrs. Turner, Esq Turners wife. This is not unexpected.

We have a Temperance Society in College numbering 50 good sound men and we are working in a quiet, social conciliatory manner to gain new accessions from the ranks of those who get drunk on Fast Days.

Mrs Waite sends a great deal of love and says she is glad that the four years are nearly up. Lizzie don't know to whom I am writing. Mr Perley is at Livermore. Miss Ellen & mother are here. The family appear pleasantly situated. I have no more time to write as I leave for Brunswick in a short time. I remain with much love

Your Brother  
Rowland

I wish you would drink with me some of Mrs Ws bark beer. It's good.

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463 4/15/1853 *From:* Dellie [R H Gilmore] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0486

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds April 1853

Dear brother

As mother was going to write I thought that I would write you a short letter.

Rowland has has gone over on the Railroad to get some posts to build a R.R. fence. Father has just returned from a rail road <?>. Mother is knitting stocking now. Nancy is making rugs.

Father is counting his money to see if he has not lost some. He does not say any thing about his money. I guess he has not lost any. He is treasurer of the Railroad and Town both. Some Days he will say when no one has been here: no body has meddled with my purse to day. The first thing he will know some one will pass the window, soon they will knock. He will go to the door and there will be an Irishman. He will ask father if he has got any change about here. He will come in. Father will ask him what his name is. He will tell what his name is. Father will ask him if he can write his name. He will say I do not write much. Father will say make your mark then.

Father is going to drive a way his sheep to pasture. Father has now 63 live sheep & 3 dead ones which are in the sheep barn.

Mr Caleb R Sumner was here to day after some money for Sleeper.

So good bye. Remember me as your affectionate brother  
Dellie

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464 4/17/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0431

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham April 17th 1853

My dear brother;

Rowland brought me from the P. Office a letter of the usual stamp, ie. in length & quality, from you, last evening. I answer so quickly; for it seems you have not heard from home very lately, from which we had a letter, not containing so desirable news as could be wished for, a few days since. Dellie wrote me the letter of four pages, enclosing one of two pages from mother, written a week before the date of his, which was last Sabbath, a week ago today. I will copy some parts of it in his own style, then you can draw your own inferences, in regard to mother's situation at the present.

"Why mother did not write was because she was sick." "She was threatened with the lung-fever." "Dr Bolster came here three times." "She is getting better now; she got up this morning by 7 o'clock." Then our mother has been sick Otis, but how sick I am unable to tell. He says in another place. "Mother said that I should write for her, now she is not able to write." "She was calculating to come to Topsham to see you if she had not been sick." "She will come now if she gets well." &c.

In another place "Mother intends to write Tuesday forenoon to you, if she is able." If mother had written at that time we should have rec. the letter last Thursday, instead of that, we have not yet rec. one. I hope we shall have one tomorrow or Tuesday, which will be the case if one was mailed Saturday at Leeds.

You do not have near so much leisure time as I do. I wish I did not have so much, you wish for more. I do not apply myself to study near so closely as I ought. And especially this past week have I had much play-time. In the first place there was our usual Wednesday afternoon, which I had to myself. It was as pleasant an afternoon as ever I witnessed. Rowland went out after May flowers & for a walk. I thought I would study & actually came up in my room & took my Algebra for a short time; but I found that I could not study with any profit, & so concluded to take my walk also in the pure and fresh air.

I went across the Railroad bridge, went over to Brunswick grave-yard. I went alone; I had not been there since, (do you remember!) I went with you & Mother, also accompanied by Mrs Greene. I remained there quite a long time, read nearly every, or the inscription on nearly every grave stone there.

The next day was fast day in Maine; so we had no school. "It was not pleasant today", my Journal says (for I have a journal) "but hailed a little in the morning, was cloudy & rainy all day long." "I read Putnams monthly in the forenoon & during the day wrote a letter home." That night an inch of snow fell, but was melted away by the hot sun the next day.

Then Friday evening I went over to Brunswick & heard the Macomber girls sing for I had no lesson to get for Saturday afternoon, but then I had enough to study if I had stayed at home. Rowland & Mr Adams went over too. Then Yesterday forenoon I studied, then again in the afternoon I went to walk. But in the evening, after Rowland & I sang some, I took my Algebra. I am nearly as far advanced in that as any in my class. Those who are in advance of me do not perform all the questions & I do, but I shall soon over take them I think, although they have studied it before, for I have gained upon them since I began. They being some what in advance of me when I commenced. As the first bell has rung for meeting I must prepare to go.

After leaving my letter this forenoon, I started to go to the Baptist church with Rowland, but at a little distance up the street we met several of his old classmates, with whom I used to be acquainted at Yarmouth, & hearing that there was to be a baptism up to the Freewill church, we went with them up there, and after listening to a short sermon, we with the rest of the Congregation repaired to the river to witness the baptism. There were four persons baptized. I should think Otis, that you would be somewhat abashed in the presence of such great men unless you know more than they do, or at least if I judge you by myself I should think so.

I do wish I did feel a little more fearlessly. I try to overcome this bashfulness pretty hard, but still I have not done much toward accomplishing it yet. I entered to declaim every week this Term, so to become an

unabashed speaker if possible. Your explanation before Sir James Alaxender was of the polarization of light. There are 10 or 12 pages in my Philosophy devoted to this, but this is exceedingly short I suppose compared with your study of it. Are the undulatory & wave theory the same? I supposed that they were, if they are, I suppose I can study in my Philosophy just about enough perhaps to give me a slight idea of what your demonstration was, & that is all.

Yes Otis, I like Phil- & Chem-. Very much & should be glad to have you write much about these & I might derive some benefit perhaps from what you might write; though I know you might write much very much, which would be far beyond my comprehension. Yet I hope to have a knowledge of such sciences, "One of these days" as well as, my brother. Although I know it will require application & perseverance, properties which I know are more prominent in my brother than in myself, although I mean to possess both. Surely these traits have not shown themselves much in my course of last week, as you know I have pictured it to you.

Some young men need much caution to keep them from studying too hard, so as to injure their health, while others, (& there are very many of this class), need much, very much admonition to make them study as much as they themselves could wish or as their friends wish them to. I think I come much nearer to this latter class than to the former; for I know that there is no danger of my studying too hard. I shall never therefore have any thing to fear, from that source.

But there seems to be another chance coming along to take me from my studies if I am of a mind, to go, this very next week. They are to have a poem from Tutor Pike in Brunswick lyceum; & I am almost of a mind to go as I have never heard any thing of the kind, & as he is a man of some note. Did you ever hear him speak? I would like to get some advice from you Otis, in regard to such things. I like always to go where I can acquire knowledge. I rather go to a lyceum lecture than to twenty concerts & I should not have gone to the concert if I had not had my ticket given me.

I think your adventure with Cadet Arthur was about as amusing as anything I have ever heard of occurring at West Point. We had a little laugh over it, I tell you. Rowland said that it was just like you to be carrying him up to his room in your arms, "Otis is always dipping into every thing."

Rowland has had a Cyclopedia of English literature, this even & for amusement instruction &c has been getting Mr Adams to see how many of the poets he could quote & how much of them he could quote. Now they are on American poets. Rowland does better quoting than Adams, ie verbatim. I think that Rowland remembers what he reads very plainly. This I cannot seem to do as well as I could wish. Though I think that I do not learn very hard but seem to be wanting in memory, though perhaps if I should <have> something to call up what I have read I should remember it better.

It has now got to be half past ten, Sabbath evening. So Adams says, on whom we have to rely for time, this is past my bed time.

From yr Affec Br'hr  
CH Howard

Mr Adams wishes me to remember him to you.

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465 4/18/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0432 Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Monday Morning Apr 18 [1853]

Dear Brother

The news of mothers illness came very unexpectedly, but from what Dellie says, I hope that it is not serious, or at least is leaving her. Had she not been sick she would have visited Charly and myself by this time. Do you recollect Horatio Howard? Charles Howards son. He has some remembrance of you. He appears to be a good fellow and a fine scholar. This is his first term of Medical Lectures.

Yesterday was a very cold uncomfortable day. But there were two Baptisms, one on each side of the River, opposite each other. There are to be a number more.

You seiged that fourth classman in a very characteristic maner. I could relate many anecdotes of your prowess under similar circumstances and some how, you know, you always get hurt.

Miss Annie Bartlett has been down to Brunswick but I did not see her. I have not heard from Lizzie for a long time. Henry Gilbert has lost another of his daughters. Topsham news, there is none. Ditto Colege. Ditto Leeds. Ditto Portland. Hoping to hear from you in answer to my last long (if I recollect) letter. I remain as ever

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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466 4/21/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0433a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Apr 21st 53

Dear mother;

I am sorry that it has so happened that you will be obliged to defer your visit to Topsham. Yet I am glad that you have recovered your health sufficient to write us a letter, for I began to think, not having the letter at the time Dellie mentioned that you were not recovering & I find by your's that you were not well enough to write at that time. But I hope you will now soon regain your health. It seems very unhealthy at Leeds this spring of sickness & death is the only news we hear from there. Esq Turner it seems is most gone now & Mrs White was just buried. Such is what we have found in every letter. I hope we shall not hear of any more deaths, although I know all are for the best.

Then father is not going to Mass or New York? Otis will be some disappointed when he hears that for he anticipated having much pleasure from his visit. I had a letter from him a few days ago, he seems to be enjoying himself. He told of an amusing occurrence which happened even at West Point the other day. It was of a fellow's getting up from bed in sleep, & performing his usual military exercises. At last Otis carried him to his chamber & placed him back in his bed.

I suppose then if you do not come here mother, there will no one visit us from home this term. If any one should I should like to have some of my summer clothes such as my shirt & pants, for it is growing warm. Besides my clothes are growing thin, verging to a hole in some places. But I can make them last by getting them mended if there is no other way. All but my best pants, which I have been wearing for two or three days, are worn through at the seat but one of the boarders promised to mend them but I have no pieces, but darning will do for a little while. And some of these hot sunny days my face gets burnt with my little caps. still if there is no other way, I can get along with what I have.

Dellie writes a real good letter every time. Tell him to try hard on writing well, as well as all other things & he will do it. He writes a good lot of news. One thing that seems rather misterious to Rowland & me is why he has so much to say about Mr Rangley a man whom I scarcely ever saw in my life. I'll tell you mother, what we have surmised as to this. We have concluded that he must have moved on to our farm. Is it so? I suppose Dellie thought that you had written to us all about it.

22 Apr

Last evening I went to hear a Poem at Brunswick lyceum given by Sarra S Pike. It was a very pleasant evening. Mr Maxim who you know is one of the Medicos at B came over here just before night & went with us back to hear the poem. It looks this evening very much as though it would rain. The grass already begins to look fresh & green, but I think a rain would help it.

Yesterday about noon there was a vessel launched here, one which has been building here for some time. Mr Adams & the school went to see it launched, but I was obliged to study so as to get my lesson.

Give my love to all at home, it will not be a long time before I shall be there too.

From your Afec Son  
CH Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[P.S.] Aurilla has a bad cough which troubles her very much in School and out. She needs her mother to cure her up. Like all young girls she is rather imprudent of her health. Remember me to Aunt Lucretia & Del, Mrs Woodman.

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland on Apr 21 53]



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467 4/21/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0433b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles on Apr 21st 53]

Topsham Apr 21st 1853

My Dear Mother

You can't think how pleased I was to hear from you, at last. The letter was mailed at Hallowell and we got it two hours afterwards. I am very glad that you are getting along so well and am in hopes that by the time I see you, you will look and feel the same as ever. Otis writes Charly in good health and spirits. Tutor Pike recited a very fine Poem last night before the Lyceum. He is a young man of much talent and promise. The son of an old Brunswick Schoolmaster. I shall recite all of my Lessons to him next Term.

I have written two letters to Lizzie since I have received one from her. I suppose she has not heard of your illness and is still expecting you in Portland or She would write. You mentioned something of our clothes in your last. I have been compelled to wear my best coat and pants pretty common this term especially in school, and my back has become so much worn as not to hardly decent. My <burck> coat has come to mending at the Elbows, and of course begins to look very rusty for Sunday, after mending it all of the week. I think I must have me a new coat of some kind to wear for best during the Summer and Autumn. I would get measured now and have one made at the tailors here if I had the money to pay for it. But as Father has suggested that I get nothing on the credit system, I shall wait for a remittance. I must get a coat that will do for Sabbath during the Summer and be suitable to wear to New York if I go at the close of the Summer Term.

I have not settled with Dr Peaslee yet for his consultations & prescriptions. I have had no means of knowing his bill as he has not been in the three times that I have called upon him. It must be a gratification to you to know that his medicine helped me and that Charles has not been so well for six months as now. He is fast recovering his usual spirits and muscular energy. The settlement of Charles bills and other expenses may be deferred until my return at the commencement of the next Term, but I have thought it best that I have the money now for these two things. The Dr's bill, I should suppose, will not be over three dollars as I consulted him but three times and had pretty long conversations. Such a coat as I wish for and as you would wish me to have under the circumstances would be about \$14.00. If you and Father think it for the best, I should like to have him enclose this amount (17-) in you next letter.

Cousin Horatio's Term closes so much before mine that we shall not be in Leeds together unless he stops there some time. I have not seen him very lately.

Remember me to Father Dellie and all the rest of the family. We still feel anxious about your health. Write us a few words just to let us know how you are getting along, if nothing more by Tuesdays mail. Dellie writes as though he was a very busy and important personage. I am glad to hear that he is making himself so useful.

Think of me still as your affectionate Son.  
Rowland

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468 4/26/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0434

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr 26th 1853

My dear mother,

I received your last kind letter in good season, and should have answered it Sunday but I thought my letter would appear to you new or fresher to know that I wrote it but a day or two before you read it, since if I put it in the office tomorrow morning you will get it just as soon as if I had put it in on Monday.

I had not dreamt that you were sick and so sick for a long time and I knew nothing of it. I got a letter from my brothers at the same time I got your letter telling me of the same unpleasant news, that my mother had been very sick but was now convalescent. I hope from my heart that you will be well entirely when this reaches you. I presume it will do your poor head no good to dwell on your sickness, so after telling you of the affectionate sympathy of your son - and that nothing would make him happier than to be with you now and be able to minister to your comfort & if possible soothe your pain, and talk with you when you might be able to hear it. (But this may not be at present).

I will pass to other things that will be pleasant for you to know. Since I last wrote you I have been made an officer - Quartermaster - Sergeant, with the fair prospect of becoming Quartermaster next year. You will of course be curious to learn the advantages of this office. This officer belongs to what military phraseology is denominated the staff. I do not have to attend roll-calls, drills, or parades. I do not have to carry a musket but wear a sword and sash to Sunday morning inspection and to Church. All my duties except Academic duties - riding & Artillery - are to inspect 1/2 barracks for damages every Friday night, to open the storerooms & remain by them for a time every Sunday morning after inspection, to attend Sunday morning inspection. These duties of course are easily performed. I wear a pair of chevrons on my arm at all times. You may remember this insignia of Cadet Officers, Each officer of different grade has a different badge. Mine is the second office in my class, and by far the most desirable one. It was very unexpected to be thus raised from a private in ranks and put above 15 or sixteen sergeants of my class.

The vice president's death [William Rufus King] was announced in orders last night. This morning 13 guns were fired at reveille, at 12 o'clock we will fire as many more and at parade 30 will be fired. At ten o'clock today we all paraded & listened to the announcement by the President and Secretary of War of the departure of their brother in official honors accompanied by a brief obituary. Death seems to deal inspiringly with us as a nation cutting off our first & greatest arm sorely afflicting those who are left to us. But it becomes us to acknowledge the wisdom of Providence even in chastening us.

My brothers wrote me about George's death and that of Dea Carey. But they did not tell me that Orman C- had died too. I do not know what will become of Leeds. I have always felt a deep respect for Dea Carey for I believe him to be just what he professed - a good Christian, an upright honest man. I hope Lucia will recover from the effects of her disappointment which must have come so sudden, so unexpected, upon her. Her hopes were undoubtedly as bright, her love as real and deep as mine. And they were crushed. But though it may pale the cheek, and embitter the cup of life, yet it is needless & wrong to cherish & aggravate these feelings of bitterness, which end in gloom and melancholy. It is not a proper tribute to the memory of the one that's gone. Still no one is capable of interpreting the state of another's heart, the feelings, the tender cords that may easily be broken and certainly the one who has not felt such a insight of disappointment is incapable of appreciating the feelings of one who has. We are all very practical, can easily predict the course we would pursue, but it needs experience to make us feel a proper delicacy & sympathy for those who suffer.

We seem to have a great amount of cold rainy weather this month. I fear it may injure some of the farmers' early crops. I presume however, very little has yet been done in Maine except to sow some oats or work in the garden.

Capt Williams brother made me a call the other day, while the battalion was at drill, and I spent a very pleasant hour with him. He is a very fine young man, pleasant & gentlemanly. I call on him about every Saturday. He is staying here with his brother to read. He likes the place much.

The foregoing I wrote this morning between ten & twelve. I have now just returned from drawing. The battalion is gone to drill. Isn't it grand to have so much time to myself? I did not tell you of all the honors that have been conferred on me. Last Saturday night I was elected vice president of the Dialectic Society, and am told that I will have to deliver the oration on the fourth of July next. This last does not portend anything like ease.

I am very anxious to hear from you again. You must not be anxious about property. We have been boys highly favored and if we have not or do not fit ourselves for the duties of this life sufficiently to take care of ourselves we are not worth much.

I got the dentist to extract a tooth for me the other day & he made bad work of it. He crushed it & then failed to get out the roots, so my tooth is in a worse state than it was before - rather troublesome.

I was sorry that it happened so that father could not come to N. York for I would have been very much pleased to have seen him. We have only one month more before June, but in that time there is an abundance of study. I wish it was over. I want to get into the last year. This is the hardest year we will have I fancy.

Remember me affectionately to all my friends & relatives. Thank Dellie for me that he wrote me so good a letter.

From yr affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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469 5/4/1853 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0435

Madison Wisc

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Madison Wisc May 4th 1853

Friend Howard

I do not owe you a letter & I do not wish you to construe the writing of this into an acknowledgment of any such indebtedness. But inasmuch as this is a gloomy & uncomfortable day which has given me a feeling in some respect kindred to that which we used to term technically "the Blues" & I have thusly been led to contemplate partially at least the things that were, I have been reminded of you & your long & persistent silence & have resolved therefore to give you a little bit of a schooling for your obstinate negligence & then perhaps go out & call on the Ladies as an antidote against the effects of the little ill feeling, that, at present, pervades my mind. Well then, Howard, how happens it that for these six months or more, last past, I have not heard a word from you? What's the trouble & wherein lies the cause of the difficulty? I have hitherto considered you next to myself in promptness in all matters of friendly correspondence & were not aware of having given you any occasion for offence, wherefor you should so unaccountably withhold from me the pleasure of knowing from yourself the circumstances of your "Earthly Lot"

Will you now if you please recall the event which induced you to present towards me so unbroken a reserve, if any such event there may have been. What was it & when did it transpire. To what epoch of my life does so unfortunate a period belong? Strange that it should have passed me with so slight an impression of the momentous results to which it was giving birth, that my memory utterly refuses to confess any recognition of it whatever! I am mortified at my forgetfulness or my want of perception to whichever the fault is attributable. Why I can imagine how the season for securing "all the hopes of future years" might now pass by me & I remain utterly unconscious of its presence or of its flight, save as subsequent Events disclosed it to the long forgotten past. Really I had given myself some credit for quickness of apprehension: but I entirely fail at this time to ascertain the veritable "locale" of the Element of dissonance which has grown up between us, or of what it is in itself composed. Then give us a touch of explanation, the why & wherefore of the whole strange occurrence & I will <> to be satisfied.

As for myself I have passed the famous ordeal & now stand on the other side of the fence. No longer a student, namely I claim a right within the Bar. My introduction to professional life was rather auspicious & the initiating process not very serene. What I may do now is altogether another question. My arrangements however are all made & I am about taking up my line of march for a permanent location. I am going to leave this State & yet for the present shall be so near to it that a few hours ride will bring me within its boundary. I pass to the South & West within five miles of the Mississippi River to the Town & City of Galena, Illinois, where I shall probably be found at my office on Main St. at all times during business hours, unless otherwise professionally Engaged, for the coming year at least. I intend to leave for that place next week. Have Engaged my office & am going into it to make or break on my own Expense. "Fourteen favors the brass" you know & as Prof Bordy told Perley, "A faint heart never won a fair Lady". This latter branch of diplomacy I intend to study & practice upon at the earliest possible date. Yes Sir. I go into it on the principle that "it is not good for man to be alone" whilst there may be by chance, somebody who would be pleased to accompany him. Good philosophy & good sound practical doctrine that. But it is not Everybody's company that is desirable. A little discrimination is necessary & be sure I shall exercise it to the best of my ability & perhaps to the exclusion of all particular companionship. Don't know. Can't tell, as the fellow said.

But to Galena I am bound to go! It is a Western city of about 8000 inhabitants and only about a Dozen Lawyers, & thay are mostly young men. With them I shall take my chance, perhaps successfully, perhaps not. So if you please to favor me with a reply to this you will direct your letter to Galena, Jo Daviess Co., Ill.

In my last letter to Perley I made special inquiry after you. I shall expect to learn your state & condition therefore from him. Townsend is going to Galena with me. I expect Perley's woman, it seems, has shipped him. What luck he has. Perchance some misfortune of this kind is preying upon your spirits tho' I hope not. I am losing my confidence a little tho' not much, but it will not do for me to make complaint for it is a poor rule that won't work both ways.

With assurance of my kind regard,  
I remain truly Yr. Friend &c  
J. N. Jewett

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470 5/4/1853

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0436a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham May 4th/53

Dear Mother

After you left we felt a little lonesome for a short time, but amid one May Day pleasure we soon merged all regrets into earnest wishes for your safe return to your home and family. It was somewhat windy Saturday, but on the whole I think that you had rather a pleasant day and I hope you reached home without any unpleasant occurrence. The same morning that you left I received a letter from Lizzie. She seemed overjoyed at Otis' promotion. It is a glorious thing for him and I hope as he says that he will endure prosperity as well as adversity. His character and disposition, I think, fit him admirably for the latter and I hope that he will enjoy the former.

Charles and myself went to the May walk and had a very good time and a very good dinner. It was warm and pleasant in the woods and I don't think Charles got any more cold. But Sabbath evening he was rather poorly and I gave him a sweat and a dose of pills, with a gruel breakfast Monday morning. He improved immediately and is now as well as usual.

May 6)

Charles has closed up in a hurry and gone up to recitation and I put this in before eleven. You will not rec it by Saturdays mail. Monday evening I attended Temperance Levee in Brunswick in a new Hall over the School House. It is a beautiful hall and we had a fine time with Speeches, songs and sentiments. Mr Abbott is the best man for such an occasion, that I ever met with. He is always ready and he always amuses and interests. Proff Packard and Dr Adams spoke feelingly and to the point. The Colation was prepared by the Ladies Band and served by the Javeline Watchman Club.

That medicine which I got is pretty bitter but I begin to relish it. As Charles says, we are anxious to hear how you got home. I hope it was safe and sound.

Maxim say Horatio had the 'blues' before he left and concluded to postpone visiting his friends. I believe he is subject to seasons of depression and melancholy. Sometimes I have feared that he was like his cousin. Charles has just come in and says Puffer is sick and I must hear his classes. So I must go. Remember me to all.

Your aff Son  
Rowland

[This letter continues with the following one from Charles on May 6, 1853]

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471 5/6/1853

*From:* CH Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0436b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter is a continuation of the preceeding one from Rowland on May 4, 1853]

Friday May 6, 1853

Dear Mother

We have been waiting in writing you expecting one from you, thinking that you wrote the next day after you arrived home, Sunday. But the day has passed away that we should have rec it in. But I suppose you was tired, so soon after taking your journey. How did you get home? Did you have any trouble in getting from Mr Fosters? What did father say because you stoped a day with us? I guess they got along, just as well without you. And what did Dellie say? Tell him he will have other chances to visit Topsham & Brunswick for Rowland will be here three years longer if nothing prevents. And Mother did you find the folks as well as you left them? How did Elizabeth & Chancy get along keeping house in your absence? You will answer these questions & tell me all about home when you & Dellie write. The day that you left you remember we were to have a May walk which we did & had a very good time. The girls carried out the dinner in bags & baskets. Mr Maxim went with us, but Horatio did not. He left soon after for Abington Mass having concluded not to go to Leeds & Livermore this Spring. Maxim went home to Wayne yesterday morning. He did not stop here as long as he had been expecting to.

The Monday after you left Mr J Perley the Writing Master came. He has now got a class of over sixty Scholars in writing & Book Keeping. He told me that he would give me lessons in Book Keeping at the same rate as the writing. So I concluded to join his class. I think that I can learn in writing as well as Book Keeping for I have his copies all of the time before me in my Book Keeping. The terms are usualy \$1.00 for twelve lessons in writing & \$1.50 for ditto in Book Keeping, but he agreed to give lessons to me in Book Keeping at \$1.00. Rowland & Mr Adams too take Book Keeping. Our Catalogues are now out, I have Mailed one to Dellie. Don't you think they are neat ones mother? But mother Rowland says it is time to go to school & I shall be obliged to close. Please give my love to all. Tell Dellie to write in yours

From Your Affectionate Son  
CH Howard

[to] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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472 5/7/1853

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Cadet Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0437a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham May 7/53

Dear Brother

You couldn't have written us more grateful news. We wish to rejoice with you over your good fortune and as you say I hope you will endure it with as good grace as you did ill fortune. I suppose the thousand little reliefs that you have, are almost invaluable to one who has been closely innured so long. After Lizzie heard the good news She hurried to impart it to us, but we got your letter first. We all wish you joy and bid you 'God Speed'.

Mother has made us a very pleasant visit. She stayed a day and a half and two nights and returned home on Saturday morning. Her health is very nearly restored, although she yet has some of Job's comforters like those that you enjoy. She took dinner in Portland, when she came down, with Aunt Martha and Lizzie came up to see her. We were expecting the latter with Mother when she came to Topsham but she couldn't get ready soon enough. Mother says Lizzie is looking well although she was somewhat weary with her long walk.

What should send Uncle Henry to Minnesota I can't conjecture. I suppose however that it is a journey of pleasure. Such as gentlemen of his property and leisure are accustomed to take. His family are very well.

We had a fine time last Saturday in celebrating May Day. the true day was Sabbath so we took Saturday. Had a pleasant walk, and a good Collation served up by the Young Ladies of the School. On Monday evening I attended a Temperance Levee in Brunswick, by which the Hall over the new School House was dedicated. I enjoyed the Speeches, Songs and Sentiments very much. Mr Abbot and Proff Packard spoke well and to the point. The former is just the man for such an occasion. He is always ready with some enlivening sentiment or amusing anecdote. There is a marked difference between the interest with which Mr Abbott is heard and Dr Addams. The latter is an old proser, put him where you will.

I mailed a letter for Lizzie yesterday an one for mother this morning and Charles has sent one of our Catalogues to you, and Charles and I have sent them to almost everybody else. We have but two weeks after this to stay here, and after that I get a weeks vacation. Then comes the tug of war, viz. making up Greek. But heres go into it. One of my old Class told me the other day that he believed that I could catch up with their Class if I applied myself, but it is too late to talk of that.

John F Spaulding delivered a good Oration before the Ath Soc at their Anniversary. You would hardly have thought that great awkward, long, ignoramus of 3 years ago, could have become so much of a 'Gentleman and a Scholar'. So much of a man and orator. His Oration has been universally admired as displaying great research, sound scholarship, depth of thought and Strong reasoning powers. His appreciation of Milton was almost poetic, and save occasional roughness of style, bad selections of words, it was one of the best efforts of the kind. His subject was 'The Sublime'.

On Saturday (Tomorrow) comes the 'Annular, triumphant, retrospection of the Bowdoin Militia'. Won't we make that 'a glorius an immortal day'. But I forget that I was a School master and can't go into such a spree.

Monday morning.

The May training went off in good shape. The Militia did not turn out in as large numbers as usual, but many of the designs were well got up. Old Page was Commander in Chief and Fuller, Chaplain.

Yesterday I attended meeting all day at the Baptist Church. Heard Mr Wilde in the forenoon and Mr Gillpatrick in the Afternoon. Aurilla sings in the Choir but she has one of the worst coughs I ever heard. Our school continues two weeks longer. Charles thinks it about time that you wrote him and I will leave space for him to urge his claims for a letter. Your last to me was very short and you promised another soon, but it hasn't arrived. As you say doubtless your correspondents will have reason to feel thankful for your newly acquired leisure. Remember me as ever

Your affectionate Brother

Rowland

[to] Cadet Oliver O. Howard

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473 5/7/1853

*From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Cadet Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0437b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Topsham May 7/53] [The date line is copied from the previous letter from Rowland]

Dear Brother,

I have not yet rec an answer to my last letter to you. But I never have any trouble in finding something to write to you when there is a chance. And I always take pleasure in so doing. It looks as usual this morning out of doors after a heavy fall of rain, the light of the sun trying to make it's way through the clouds to us. It commenced raining last eve about or just before dark & rained briskly all the night that I know anything about for I don't keep awake in the night to hear it rain. But it was kind enough not to rain until after meeting, so we did not get wet in returning from church.

I never saw a May Training before Sat. They had some laughable looking objects. An Uncle Tom & Topsey & all kinds of ridiculous looking fellows.

Mr Perley & I went over to the Orthodox, in Brunswick yesterday. I was never in that building before. I suppose I can tell you nothing new about it. Mr Kellogg from Harpswell preached. You know him I believe. Rowland said that you & he went & called on him in his field at the time you were in Harpswell.

J. Perley is the teacher in writing here, you know of him I suppose. He came here from Kents Hill last Monday. He says that they have had a school of about 200 scholars there this spring. He has got a large class in writing & book-keeping here. There are 60 in all, but they are not all of our school. I take lessons in Book-Keeping. I thought that by so doing I could learn to write as well as to keep Books, for I have his copies constantly before me in Book-keeping.

Otis, I tell you we were glad to find mother here when we came in from school, for as I wrote you we didn't know but she was sick again. She stoped two nights with us. We went to the depot, which is but a step from our boarding place Saturday morning with her & Rowland went as far as Brun in the cars. We have not yet heard how she got home.

Have you heard what an accident happened on the R. Road between N. York & Boston last Friday? We have not yet learned the particulars, only that the cars of one train all went in to a river, the Draw of the bridge being left up & they have taken out the bodies of 50 Drs who had been to a Medical convention at New York. Is this not awful!

My paper seems to be all consumed besides it is time to go to my recitation in Arithmetic. I have got over to Cube Root in that. Can perform all the questions but one (& that none of the faculty here can do) as far as I have gone.

From Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles

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474 5/8/1853

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0358

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 8th 1853 [See Note 1]

My dear son,

Your letter came to hand by Saturday's mail. The evening after my leaving your brother at Topsham, it being the morning of the thirtyeth of April, thirteen years since your father closed his earthly course. I mentioned it to Rowland at the depot as I left. I saw Lizzie a short time. I hoped she would go to Topsham with me, but she had some scruples about going to a boarding house and I would not remove them, as I knew so little of the people where I was going, but on arriving and finding how pleasantly the boys were situated I regretted exceedingly, that I had not tried harder to persuade L-- to accompany me as I should have spent a day or more with her. Rowland said why Mother why did you not make her come. I will write to night for her to come tomorrow, but I thought of returning early in the morning and could not in that case have seen her, if she did come and so my visit passed along.

I did what I could for the boys and returned, found your father at the stopping place ready for me in less than three hours after parting with Rowland at Brunswick, where I saw Horatio Howard, and Leonard Maxim, who are Medical students. Perhaps you may remember Cousin Charles Howard with whom your father used to exchange visits. Horatio is his son. Rowland has become acquainted with him. He roomed with L. Maxim. Since my return, I have been afflicted with biles on my neck and shoulders, which have made me rather a helpless creature, but seven or eight of them have mattenated, and I am in hopes the worst of it is over. I am very glad you have had a change in your position, and as I have reason to believe you deserve some relief from your former annoyances.

I saw William Otis in Portland. He was glad you were removed to a higher place. Still the higher the place, the greater the responsibility and your mother thinks from your reflective mind you will consider it in that light.

I have been in hopes that the light of the gospel was dawning into your heart, if so my son encourage such a dawning. You cannot conceive of the daily comfort of leaning on an <Allrufficient> one, Brother Charlie said Otis would have more time to study now and attend his drawing, and would not be reported for every little thing. That is quite a consideration to have more time to study and be in readiness for examination. This Vice Presidency Mother hopes will be a future benefit to you. You have no Idea what bounding feeling your Mother has when thinking of any benefits that will accrue to her sons. I have just refined to the March report from Washington which gives your standing No. 2 in Phylosophy, No. 6 in Chemistry in Drawing No. 15. His demerits for the month 9, Academic year 33.

Yesterdays mail brought my accustomed letter from R.B.H. and C.H.H. Rowland says he received a letter from Lizzie the same day I left. She seemed overjoyed at Otis promotion. It is a glorious thing for him (R.B. says) I hope he will bear prosperity as well as adversity. He thinks you have had that and, Borne it manfully, that led me to think wherein you might fail in that respect. I questioned myself all around, and could not or did not Answer them at all. Perhaps you have questioned yourself on this subject yourself, and could answer them better than anyone else. Your father has within a few days been commissioned by the directors to go to New York city to make a payment on a rail road contract and has expected to leave here tomorrow or Tuesday, but the late report of the disaster of the express train seems to confuse all his calculations, as Doct Garcelon was a delagate from this state to the Medical Association, convened in the city of New York the last week and is reported, that forty Doct, have already been taken out of the Carrs drowned who were returning to New England the disaster was caused by the draw being left up. Brother Ensign will go to Lewiston in the morning train to learn the facts. It is of vital importance to our community, that doct G is saved if it proves that the Doct is saved, your father will leave here at noon tomorrow, or in the morning the day after.

If I am able I will go to Portland with him and have him set for his Daguaryotype he has promised me to set for it. I hope everything will turn out for the best. Tuesday morning your father has concluded to start for New York this afternoon. I cannot tell when he will be at West Point, but will go there soon as he gets through with his business in the City, and not come back by the way of the City. I shall send you a small package by him. You must ask him for it, for he will never think it. He cannot carry much because he will take nothing with him accept

a sachel on his arm.

We got but little news yesterday from the railroad disaster. The only hope that Doct Garcelon, is not lost is that he did not enter the Cars. Doct Putnam of Brunswick is lost. He was one of the deligates from this state. One other has reached home safe with his wife to Waterville. Doct's Millet and Garcelon no news of them had reached their homes at nine o'clock yesterday Morning. Your father has come in and says he will probably be at West Point Friday. I feel rather feeble to make a visit of a number of days from home but am in hopes to feel the better for it. I shall return on Saturday.

I am particularly anxious for you to enjoy yourself in your New position and I know you to well to suppose you would be happy unless you fill the place to your satisfaction. I hope you will run no risks upon other people's statement. I always have had a presentment that Rundell of Peekskill, had no principle whatever, would as live get any one into troubles he attracted my attention that way entirely particularly after we met him at Peekskill. Don't never trust his Word an inch. Keep this in remembrance from me he would defraud any man of the idol of his heart to gratify the lurking devil in his heart. He had a faculty of making himself agreeable to those he would injure. These are my views of him before I knew his name, when he was walking guard as we passed him and repassed him.

Mrs Woodman is with her Mother. I believe all your friends in Leeds are in health. I have bearily seen them this spring. Nathan Coffin rides out pleasant Days. He cannot speak any better than he has for three months. He can scarcely whisper. I expect your Brothers will enter deeply into the late disaster as Doc. Putnam is a brother in law to Mrs Frost with whom they board.

Within a few days nature seems to be putting forth her bounties like herself in May. The grass begins to cover the fields and foliage begins show itself.

You never say any thing about the young man you live with. Do you board at <manor> Thompsons now. I seem have an imaginary view of West Point at time, as quite beautiful.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

[To] O. O. Howard

[Note. This was filed with 1852 letters, The year was not clear. I believe it to be 1853, for the following reasons: (1) the death of Eliza's husband Rowland was in 1840, which would be 13 years in 1853, (2) the references to a promotion. (3) Rowland & Charles at Topsham and (4) Father leaving for New York tomorrow or Tuesday. May 8th 1852 is Saturday but in 1853 it is on Sunday. Thus 1853 would have Tuesday the day after tomorrow, which is consistent with the letter.]

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475 5/11/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0438

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point NY May 11 '53

My dear Mother,

I have been very anxious, since I received your last letter, to hear from you again, but nobody seems to write me from any quarter. My brothers have let an unusual interval elapse since they have written me. But I received a catalogue from Charlie on Monday. I really hope you are entirely recovered. Our examination is very near and I am by no means well prepared to meet it.

I was surprised to see my monthly standing for April 5th in Philosophy. I think there must have been some mistake in adding up the marks, for I had the second mark in the class nearly every week, but this does not matter, if I do well on the examination I will not fall in my standing from second. Neither will I be lower than 4 or 5th in Chemistry. I am doing admirably in painting, much to my own surprise. My health is very good this spring.

Since I became an officer I get up, and instead of having to go to reveille I can go & take a bath. I take a cold bath every morning. At first it was rather difficult to muster the courage to lie down in cold spring water, but now it does not chill me more than to wash my face & neck. For nearly a fortnight, I did not have any thing to do for the time that the battalion was at drill. But since I have to go to Artillery drill every evening between four & six immediately after returning from the drawing Academy. I am not certain of being made quartermaster next year, but if I am not I shall be a Cadet Lieutenant, whose duties are rather arduous. I have boarded at the Misses Thompson's or "Mammies" for nearly five months. All the marching I have to do is to march to the Academy with my class to the place where we ride & to the place where we drill at artillery, a little south of the camp ground.

I go out to parade every evening & look on. It is good fun compared with being in ranks. I think somebody might come to see me now I am so well situated, capacitated to go to parades without being on duty. They elected me vice president of our Dialectic Society, & I have been obliged to act as president for the last two meetings. The society intends to make me president for next year & Orator for a public meeting on the fourth of July, a cumulation of honors, which might be very agreeable. Did they not bring with them so much additional labor.

Col Lee's coming here did not do me an injury - it had an influence in his son's favor in some departments but Col Lee himself has taken pains to treat me with attention & respect, and was in all probability the one who caused me to be made an officer. My position here is rather pleasant than otherwise. I do not get any demerit now & have duties which are far from being irksome, besides my studies. I have studied too long & too steadily, but the next encampment will soon be here. We have to study tactics next encampment, but our standing is unaffected, so it does not matter much if occasionally a lesson is not quite so well prepared. All that has hindered me from doing well is Professor Bartlett, a very fine man, but so excitable & nervous, that he can hardly contain himself sometimes. And you know I am not always remarkably cool. He sometimes teases me half to death. He says when he asks a question I am bound to miss it no matter how simple & I am afraid it is too true. He has a peculiar way of putting one & then upon that a half dozen more and beginning to lecture you before you have had time to make an answer; unless you happen to recall instantly the exact answer required.

If you are able you must write me immediately on the reception of this. I want to hear from you very much, and shall be full of anxiety till I do. The drum for dinner is beating. This is the time when the mail is opened. I hope I will get a letter - I will go & see & tell you my success.

I got a double letter from Rowland & Charlie, containing the good news that mother had recovered & paid them a visit. Did you not go to see Lizzie while at Portland? She has written me regularly till within a little more than a week. I fear I have said something in one of my letters that has troubled her. Write me about your visit, how you found all at Portland &c.

I must now go to Drawing. I will finish tonight so good bye till then. I went to drawing at 2, returned at four and

went immediately to Artillery drill & have just returned. We are drilling with the mounted battery. That is, the pieces have horses attached. This causes us to run considerably which makes it rather tiresome, but I suppose it will pass for good exercise.

Did you ever hear of a worse rail road accident if accident it can be called. on the N. Haven road. Such gross carelessness! By and by, people will become afraid of rail roads if accidents multiply as they have for the last few weeks. Have you heard whether Rodelphus Leadbeter continues on this road over the river? He did not like it much & thought he would not stop long when he came to see me. I have not seen him since. Warren sent his respects to me the other day by Bentz, our Bugler - the man who blows the bugle for every recitation and for call to Quarters. Warren wanted to know why I had not been down to see him. My bright chevrons make me so conspicuous that I could be recognized at any distance, and I do not fancy the idea of being reduced to ranks till after next encampment at least.

Give my love to Father & Roland. How are they getting on with planting? Give my love to Dellie. Has he begun to work & left off playing in the sand with Betsey's children? I suppose he has & works right hard. I wish I could see you all. If they write for me to come to take my second degree at Bowdoin College, I shall try to get a leave, the last of next encampment.

As ever your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

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476 5/12/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mrs E. Gilmore

OOH-0439a

Topsham Acad

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Acad May 12, 1853

My Dear Mother

We shall be with you in a little over a week if nothing happens to prevent and I suppose this is the last letter we shall write home. The last news we heard from you was through Miss Whitten, who went as far as Freeport with you. She returned some two days since. I have written to Otis and Lizzie since I wrote you but have received no answer as yet. My last letter I had to close very suddenly on account of an unexpected recitation.

We have had a nice little rain and it has cleared off finally. The grass grew more yesterday than it had for 3 weeks preceding and everything this morning looks fresh and green. Both Charles & I are taking lessons in Book Keeping and making good progress. Mr Perley will remain here until next Monday. Perhaps I may learn to draw one of these days (when I get through College) as Mr Perley thinks I have a good call for it. I took only a short lesson of him on Saturday afternoon.

What a terrible accident that was at Norwalk. I think no simelar one has created so much excitement. A number of the dead bodies went through here yesterday for Gardiner & Richmond. No one from this place was killed although Dr McKeen was aboard (Mrs Frosts Brother in law). They were in dreadful suspence for a short time. Dr Peaslee was in the next train and came along about two hours after the accident.

I will go to the P.O. now as see if there is not a letter from you as I have just seen the Cars come in. I have been to the P.O. but found not letter from home. I fear that you are unwell or some unfortunate circumstance has prevented your writing.

This is one of the most beautiful days of this pleasant Spring. Our windows are up and the music comes floating in from the House opposite. Miss Read is playing the piano with doors and windows open and the effect is delightful. The distance is just sufficient for us to trace the tune distinctly.

Last Saturday the Studens had their Annual May Training. They did not turn out in as large numbers as usual but some of the characters were well got up. They had an Uncle Tom and a Topsey. A Bloomer and a 'Strong minded woman' and all things of the kind fully displayed.

We haven't quite concluded yet which way we shall take home. Perhaps Charles will go one way and I another. A very pleasant little Boat runs up the Kenebec from Bath and as I wish to see some friends there I have about concluded to take that route. The College Term closes next Wednesday. Ours will continue till Saturday and we shall not probably get away before the following Monday. I will now leave room for Charles.

So Good Bye for a short time. With remembrance to all Friends, I am

Your affectionate Son  
Rowland

Mrs E. Gilmore

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477 5/12/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mrs E. Gilmore

OOH-0439b

Topsham Acad

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Topsham Acad May 12, 1853]

Dear Mother:

I was in hopes to get a letter from home today. When I found that there was none then of course I began to suppose some reason & to suspect something must have happened unusual to prevent. Do write or get Dellie to & tell us whether any one is sick or whether you cannot find time or why it is that we have not heard from home since you left. Perhaps you are busy, that you do not have time weekdays & are tired Sundays. We should put it to such reasons as these, did we not know that you had been very sick & were not fully recovered when you were here.

We were very glad mother, to get a letter from Otis tonight. He says that he is pretty well "but has not much flesh", has improved his complection somewhat by taking a cold bath every morning. But most the first thing in his letter is an inquiry about your health. His letter was written Sunday the 8th, very likely he got one the first of the week. He is now very busy in preparing for the Examination, thinks he is not very well prepared. Says 'tis not easy to retain 2000 pages of Philosophy & Chemistry in his head so as to pass a good examination on it.

The fields here are looking green now, & the Apples trees are leaving out. Otis writes that the Cherry trees have Blossomed at West Point. Maj Frost's pease have got to be quite high some of them more than 6 inches. Did your plant that I got for you live? The Daffas are all in bloom here now. It will not be long before I shall be home & see how every thing at home prospers. If you have had good health since you went back suppose our garden is now flourishing. Do you remember the brick house right above Mrs Frost's. What a beautiful garden it was! I see that lady out in her garden most every time I go past.

Do they keep Dellie flying pretty smartly now? He must write us one more letter to put in yours before we see him, & tell us about it. He knows without my mentioning it that it is healthy to live & work upon a farm. Still he gets tired often I suppose. He will have his turn of going away to school I guess one of these days. Then he can tell which he likes best. I'll bet he'll wish himself at home on the farm with father & mother some times.

(Friday Morning)

I have not yet eaten my breakfast, but I think I will finish my letter so it will go this morning.

As to the manner I intend to go home, I have not fully made up my mind. Rowland says that there might be some trouble or cost in carrying our baggage by the way of Hallowell. You no that is the way I thought of when you were here. Aurilla says Thomas Bridgham is coming for her & Lizzie says that we must certainly go by the way of Portland. But you need not send any horse for us or any thing to the Depot, unless we write something. More particularly about it. We shall start from here we think the Monday after the school cises on Friday.

Give my love to Dellie & all.

From your Aff Son  
CHHoward

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478 5/22/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0440 Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland May 22 1853

Dear Brother

You will see by the date of this that I have left Topsham. I came down here last night. Charley was in a hurry to get home, so he went through directly yesterday morning. I find Lizzie well, and through her hear that mother has spent nearly a week in Portland. I have not yet been up to Aunt Marthas. I went to Church with Lizzie this morning and this afternoon John Perley and myself have been up to High St and heard Dr Chickering. I was very much pleased with the sermon and singing. Lizzie did not attend Church this afternoon. She is looking in good health and appears in fine spirits. I hope you will see her this Summer bright and blooming as ever.

Charley received yours a few days since and will write to you soon. Fathers visit must have given you much pleasure. Our Term at Topsham closed very happily. We had a Levee on Friday evening and a very pleasant time.

From what you wrote in your last letter to me I think there is a strong probability of your coming on this Summer. You ought to know pretty nearly whether you can get leave of absence. Of course if you are coming home we shall give up the idea of coming on. I really hope that you may get leave of absence. It would be so much pleasanter to see you here and you would enjoy it so much better than you would a visit from us. I think this would be especially gratifying to Lizzie. Her mother is quite fearful of having her go to West Point.

Last evening after writing the above I went with Lizzie up to Henry's. He got home from the West Saturday evening. He was in excelent spirits, is delighted with his journey and the Country he has visited, but has not quite concluded to move yet. He was full of stories of his journey. He says he experienced the emotion of fear very strongly on Niagra Suspension Bridge and Aunt Martha says it makes her very nervous to think of it.

William is still at Henrys. He talks some of going up with me, but has not concluded. I have not heard from home since you have. My vacation continues till a week from next Saturday and I shall expect a letter from you while at home.

Charles and I will both write you a long letter in reply. Excuse the shortness of this as you know it is rather difficult to write away from home.

Your affect brother  
Rowland

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479 5/22/1853 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-0441

Galena, Ill.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Galena Ill. May 22 1853

Friend Howard

Yours of the 16th inst came to hand this afternoon & if I had not known you intimately before I should image that you had arrived to the 4th act of the play of life as directed by Shakespeare after this fashion

"Then A Soldier

"Full of strange oaths & bearded like a pard

"Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,

"Seeking the bubble reputation

"Even in the cannon's mouth."

But I know better & therefore let it pass of course. So firm the representations made of me & mine in Brunswick & Topsham you were almost disposed to admit me a regular rascal & called upon me to exculpate myself, under such circumstances fully known to me I might have hesitated in giving the explanation I did so cheerfully, when I tho't myself interrogated by a friend only. God forbid! That I should have a Friend to whom I would not grant every opportunity of testing the honesty of my intentions & the justness of my motives.

I wished all of <> to my former connections in Brunswick omitted not because I wished to stop the investigations of my conduct or screen myself from reproach. All of this that rightfully belongs to me I will most cheerfully bear. I suggested a silence upon the subject because it is unpleasant to me even now, as every fault either divulged or secret must be. But believe me my fault & I will not undertake to excuse it was in the beginning & not in the conclusion of that very unfortunate engagement. What I could do to repair that wrong, I would do even at this late day & still I protest that there was on my part no intentional wrong & I would not now, nor have I at any time to my knowledge harmed a hair of the head of the person most interested. Her reputation and her history so far as it was entrusted to my keeping are & have been as sacredly kept as though the connections had been consummated. The confidence she reposed in me save in one particular has never been violated by word or action & I esteem her as highly as ever. I did for the many good superior qualities she possessed. My acts and the reasons for them are only appreciable by myself and I was not drawn in another direction by the flashing of bright eyes. The scintillations of a lively wit nor the attractions of worldly wealth or honor. Ambition was not my motive as was gravely charged upon me by the Lady herself.

But enough of this - I have entirely forgotten what I wrote in my last letter sent on to you - that I had any intention of speaking seemingly of our acquaintance or correspondence I entirely deny. I might have treated some things jestingly but if so the recollection of them has entirely escaped me. I think you must have studied very long ways to suit the temper of your mind at an unfortunate moment.

If anything of the sort should occur again, please to let me know it immediately. I do not wish a veil drawn over all the past. No! Not for the wealth of Crezus would I have the <memory> of my past life blotted from my remembrance. There are few things in it which I have occasion to regret & I would not for these few lose the pleasure of reviewing the thousands of pleasant incidents with which the past is flooded.

I am glad to learn of your continued prosperity and good condition. I hope & presume it will continue. Your weary four years will soon be ended now and you will then doubtless assume the duties of some responsible station. May fortune attend you propitiously through them all. This I wish most sincerely. Perchance in my hereafter meet in the business & bustle of the world in a different stage of action.

If so you need not doubt my honor & I will not yours. What I shall accomplish in this Town is yet unknown to me of course.

I came here last Wednesday - I hardly got settled yet - Shall hang out my sign tomorrow & be ready for whatever business may come up thereafter. This is a rough but rather romantic city of about 8000 inhabitants on a tributary of the Mississippi, five miles from its mouth. It is in the midst of a rich mineral region & accessible by the Mississippi Steamboats at all necessary times. There are some Dozen Lawyers in Town, but all of little or no repute & scarcely one has to any very great extent so far as I can learn, the confidence of the people.

Business in my professional line is said to be rather dull at present, but it is admitted by all to be a very good opening for a Lawyer.

Well I'm here & shall stay here as long as money or credit will keep me, even if I don't have anything to do. I have been at church twice to day & am going again. I am quite pleased with the place & the people so far as I have become acquainted with them. I have a pleasant office &c. I expect Townsend here in a few weeks. Now just write us at your earliest convenience

Yr Friend truly  
J.N. Jewett

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480 5/30/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0442

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. May 30th 1853

My dear mother,

You may think it a very long time since I have written you, and it is true that I ought to have written so that you could have got a letter last Saturday night; you could not have expected father to have taken a very long epistle from me, for he only staid all night & hardly that, and this you know is a remarkably short time to visit a cadet, who has to spend a portion of that time in getting a permit, and has to leave his friends at tattoo.

I have two excuses for not writing a letter last week. One is the examination which begins to show its grim visage to frighten us poor youths, even us, who know by experience that the animal will not hurt us. Another is, my speech for the fourth of July. I am President of the Dialectic Society & have to deliver, as orator, a speech in public on the glorious Fourth of July. We are expecting a crowd of people here this summer: but for my sake I hope they will stay away till after the fourth. The reason I have begun so soon is that the Camp is no place to write in; I am fearing that I will not be made Quartermaster next year, though I hope to be. The Quartermaster's tent is very convenient to write in, and he can always have a light after taps.

I got to writing Saturday night after getting back from our society meeting just before ten. First I copied a long computation for finding the variation of the magnetic needle at West Point, which took till eleven. Then I commenced to write on my oration. I took no account of time till I began to feel a little sleepy. I went to bed & had just covered myself with the quilt, when I heard the guard room clock strike two.

So I mustered as much as I could to get to sleep, but the bed bugs had got hungry at having their supper delayed so long and would not let me get to sleep for at least half an hour. I had my revenge in the morning for I slew several by hurling them upon the floor & indignantly tramping them under my feet.

I have improved very much in speaking since I came back from Furlough. I mean in extemporaneous debate; though still when I first get on the floor, I have to be searching for words to express my ideas, thus occasioning hesitancy, but this difficulty yields to the enthusiasm of my nature. I lack in knowledge more than in other qualifications for a speaker. My memory as you know is not retentive. I would rather deal with abstract ideas than attempt to relate an anecdote, for when I tell any story, if I do not supply the lost links from my own imagination, why the story is good for nothing.

I sent my etching to Lizzie by father. I had promised them to her before. Father it seems either did not understand to whom I sent them or forgot to deliver them.

(Tuesday May 31)

This is the last day of May, and tomorrow is set apart to receive the board of visitors in the usual manner, and on Thursday the examination commences and will continue till all the classes are examined. A week from to day your son will have to pass the usual ordeal. Between this time & then, he must study constantly. We finished drawing to day. I had not quite finished my last piece in painting, but am permitted to go over to the Academy at my leisure and complete it. I have succeeded well in painting, far better than I hoped to do. I completed five large pieces in penciling & am on my fifth in painting. I can now sit back & paint away with comparative ease. When I first commenced I had to copy mark by mark & line by line, but I now draw with more rapidity & with better effect. I like to paint very well, but I partake of the common joy, that we are all through. These two years of drawing have been rather wearisome, especially when I could make no head way, but I have worked industriously all the time, and have never been discouraged a moment. I do not mean to be discouraged at anything except at impossibilities.

A Gentleman with quite a party composed of several Ladies and little folks, met me this morning when I was returning from my breakfast, & introduced himself as a gentleman from Boston. He wished me to find a Cadet with whom he was acquainted. I did so. This evening he spoke to me again & introduced me to several of his party, and I had the pleasure of introducing him into the mysteries of cadet life. I believe he went away with the idea, that there is no place like this to give a young man a complete education. There is much about this place,

that is captivating to the uninitiated, but few young men know what they undertake, when they come here with the resolution to stay & acquit themselves with honor.

Rowland & Charlie are again with you. Would that I could be there too, to complete the family circle, and no doubt you would be very glad to see me, still it must be pleasant to have them home again. I presume you have some fine times singing & playing, since Charlie I understand has been improving his musical talents.

Rowland wrote me at Portland. The worst piece of news he could have written, that he had given up the idea of visiting me. There is hardly a probability of my visiting Maine this summer, and if I do it will be merely a journey thither & back as fast as the steam engines can carry me.

Give my love to all. How did father like his visit. What does he say about West Point? Oh that cake was very good. Thank the donors for me. I will ever remember their kindness.

From your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

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481 5/30/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* OO Howard

OOH-0443a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 30 1853

My dear Brother

I was thinking this afternoon that I owe you a letter, and you know I am a great hand to pay my debts. It seems a great while since I rec-d your letter, but when I consider I find that it is but a little more than two weeks. I came from Topsham May 21st. The school finished 20th, when we had a public examination. I was examined in Latin in the forenoon & as I was the first one taken up, in my class I had nearly finished my recitation before any of the Supervisors came, so I was not examined very hard in that & I recited in Physiology, the first thing in the afternoon before any of the visitors came so I passed easily in that.

But when I recited in Arithmetic & Algebra many of Ladies & Gentlemen present. I did not fail in answering every question asked. I was given a question in Square Root to perform in my Arithmetic about 4 men grinding their <sharp> from a Grindstone. After the recitations there were Declamations from five of the boys. I was the first one as my name began with the first letter in couze. I spoke "Paul Clifford". I have declaimed so much this Spring, that I am or was not at all embarrassed that day when I declaimed. I felt as calm before the visitors as I did before the scholars alone. Mr Whites, Wilde & Smyth made each a short speech & the school was closed by a prayer from Rev Wilde.

All scholars were requested to remain a short time after the visitors had left. When they had gone, Mr Adams thanked the school for a present of a Bible he found in his desk when he returned to school that afternoon. It was held together by two clasps. On one of which was marked Mr Adams Name & on the other "From his pupils 1853". It cost about \$6.00 in all & he & Rowland gave each & every scholar an invitation to come to Mrs Frost's to spend the evening & bid them Good Bye. About every scholar came, went away about half past ten. Thomas Bridgham was there having come down that afternoon for Aurilla.

That Night I made up my mind that night to start for home the next morning in the 7 o'clock train of cars & so packed up my things. I rose early in the morning & got all ready. Rowland could not go that morning on account of business with Adams, but sent his baggage. I arrived at Brewsters at half past nine. Our folks were at work on the Rail Road. They brought home my bags & I took dinner with Mother. Having been gone about 11 weeks, I found her well, & had been on a visit to Portland. Father had returned from West Point. Rowland went into Portland the same day that I came home & he came Tuesday.

Father went to Boston last Thursday & came back Friday. Edwin Gilmore, Uncle Alson's son came with him & stayed here until last night, when I carried him to Warren's to stop all night & go home today. He liked Maine better than he expected. He appears & looks very much like Arza. Arza is here at our house now with his wife. He is as well as usual.

Mother wishes to fill this sheet. How do you pass examination?

From Your Affectionate Brother  
CHHoward

OO Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Eliza Gilmore]

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482 5/30/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0443b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles Howard]

My Dear Son,

I am thinking much about you at this time, it being about examination time, and feeling your excitability almost myself, I am greatly in fear you will lose some advantage by it. It almost haunts me, or at least my fears do. I am particularly anxious for you to feel cool and unconcerned about the result of the examination. As you know you have done your best (and I fear) have drawn on your nervous system to much already, but my dear boy do not be too anxious, about anything in this world. It is all a grasp which when attained what we desire is not often any satisfaction.

I hope after the examination is past your duties will be easier than you anticipate. Still I keep hoping on, for you, and always shall, your Mother wishes you to meet the cares of life as easy as possible. Seems as though I could not have all this pleasant summer pass and not see you but if it is necessary I can. Again I say, keep calm, and support disappointment with the dignity.

I shall not say anything about my visit at Portland in this as the clock has already struck twelve at noon and we design this letter for Mr Leonard at one O'clock. Every thing is about as usual with us. Today the 30th of May is a delightful day. All nature is gay with its most beautiful plumage showing forth its promise.

Arza is here on a visit together with his wife and babe five months old. He sits up and lies down alternately all day making about half of the time that he is up. He has three abscesses now <> discharging on his body. One of his legs is drawn up so he is quite a cripple.

I could easily fill up this sheet if had time, talking about our acquaintances but my mind is absorbed wholly in your examination that you will sustain your whole self with that degree of self reliance, that will give you pleasure when you reflect on it. I hope nothing will befall you that will a single regret in your mind, from your dear Mother, always affectionately yours,  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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483 5/30/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0443c

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Eliza Gilmore]

Dear Brother

Wm Otis and myself have just came in from fishing after having had tolerable luck. Wm sends his respects and congratulates you upon your promotion. I suppose you recd mine from Portland, and I shall be looking for an answer soon.

Your aff Brother  
Rowland

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484 6/19/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0444

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. June 19. - 53

My dear mother

We are now in Camp. The examination with all its tedium, & unpleasantness is over, and our standing was published last evening. I came out 2d in Phil. 5th in Chem & 9th in Drawing. This will put me 2d or third in general standing. I have through the kindness of Judge Goodenow & his son who came with him, made the acquaintance of many of the board of visitors.

Maj Ward of Florida gave us a splendid address, having been chosen to speak before the Dialectic Society. He formerly ran for United States Senator & afterwards labored in Florida for General Scotts Election. I never could understand before the merits of those stump speeches which are said to be characterized by so much originality & eloquence, which are delivered in the Southern & Western part of our country. He has great compass of voice & great enthusiasm in his nature. He asked to be introduced to me to congratulate me on the recitation which I made in Philosophy. I have met him & talked with him several times since. He came into my tent this morning & said he would come again before he left West Point.

Mr Rayner of N. Carolina also addressed us, or rather the graduating class, Friday evening. His speech was written & was as good a one as I wish to hear. Mr Davies of N. York was the President of the Board. I went into Ladies Society considerably while they were here. Mr Davies gave me the reputation of being the most gentlemanly cadet he had seen so his innocent little boy told me. Upon this I had to be introduced to the young ladies the Board brought with them. I got quite well acquainted with three. Miss <Pharance> of Maryland & Mrs Groome from the same state, Mrs Davies & Miss Baird from Green Bay, Wisconsin the Daughter of a member of the Board from that state.

Then Uncle Ward & his daughter visited me about a week ago. Two days after the latter came again & brought her uncle & aunt & a large party of ladies & gentlemen from Cincinnati Ohio & I had to be introduced & to entertain the crowd. Aftersward my room-mate's sister came & spent a day. You can imagine how much opportunity I had to study after the examination commenced.

I was & have been for several months afflicted with biles, but I will not get excused from duty. The most troublesome one was one I had on my neck causing it to swell up very large. After the one I have now goes away I do not expect to have any more as we are in Camp & have every means to promote a healthy circulation of the blood. I have been made first Lieut of C company; have a nice large tent, a table & writing desk upon it, & another Lieut (Mr Carr of Virginia) of my Camp to live with, a fine good principled young man. My room mate - Mr Townsend was also made Lieutenant, but was put into another Company so that we cannot live together. He is a very good young man indeed & if it is possible we will room together when we return to Barracks in September.

Mr Browne has been extremely unfortunate, was found deficient in everything. 8 of my classmates were found deficient this examination, leaving only 38 of the original members of my class. Some of these were among my best friends and were very fine young men. We cannot but pity them, especially those who have done the best in their power, & as I think did not in any way deserve the lot awarded them. Some of them it will ruin & some will take a pride in proving that their talents have been grossly mistaken.

The first Class have left & the third gone on furlough. My duties will require constant activity & vigilance & judging by yesterday's labor I would think that I had not gained much by my promotion. Yesterday we pitched our tents, moved our goods & chattels, a part into camp & a part into the Academic building to be stored there. I have got a speech to prepare before the fourth of July, so you must not be surprised if my letters are not very frequent. We will have to study infantry & artillery tactics, & study & practice civil engineering all summer. There will not be many minutes when I can say I have nothing to do. But I will not complain as it will be for my advantage physically & mentally to be active.

It is very hot here indeed. Our tents, which are entirely new, have the peculiar property, to draw the sun, and I

sweat like rain, though perched on a water pail up side down on the top of a Camp stool.

I have not got a letter from any of you for an age. I hope indeed you are well. There is no prospect of my getting a leave this summer, but thank my stars this is the last year. I want Rowland or Charlie to visit me if it is possible this summer. Uncle Ward sent his love to you all. Remember me to all my friends. Give my love to all those who are around you, who are & ever will be near & dear to me. Tell me if you can read Camp writing. Lizzie told me you wrote her an excellent letter, just such a one as she wished to receive from you, but she did not say what you wrote.

I did well on the examination in Philosophy & pretty well in Chemistry. Prof Bartlett treated me very kindly, as I am happy to say all the officers on West Point have done thus far. I come into Camp with a lighter heart & more agreeable prospects than I did two years ago. My responsibilities are considerable & my duties many of them unwelcome but I shall try to discharge them conscientiously & trust to the result.

Mr Abott was dropped from the list of officers which he feels very severely if the countenance may be considered an exponent of ones feelings. He came out 2d in drawing, second in chemistry & 6th in Phil. If he is second in general standing I will be third.

From your affectionate son,  
O. O. Howard

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485 6/20/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0445

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Monday June 20, 1853

My dear Brother

Though it has been a long time since I or any of us here at home have heard from you, yet we have received a letter since I have sent one, but not an answer to our last. Still I think that brothers ought to write one another when they have an opportunity and not be particular about getting answers before they write. I think this especially ought to be the rule between you & me, for you always like to hear from your friends here at home, but cannot always find time to write or answer letters and I can say the same for myself, though I suppose you think I might well enough find time to write letters being here at home, and it certainly seems so, but always when I have leisure time, that is, that which is not consumed by work on the farm, there is something that some one of the family wishes me to do, some little chore, or perhaps I have set that time for some particular thing I wish, to fix, mend, move, look at, transplant, or some particular action I wish to perform for myself. Often I have to harness the horse for father, and else bring some water for Nancy or place some stakes around a plant in the Garden for mother or help Dellie bring in his chips & wood before it rains or help him carry potatoes to the cows, or perhaps I thought when I was hoeing that corn that when I had finished I would play a good long time on my Aeolean not having played much for some time, and of course I wish & ought to read some if I can get a chance. So you see Otis I do not have so much time to write letters as you might suppose. I am not one of those kind who wish to contrive or find something to do to kill time as they call it, for I have heard this expression. For on the contrary I rather, yes very much would I rather invent some method of making more time, then I think I would find no trouble in using it all.

Now the question that would naturally arise is, why have you the time to write Monday as busy a day with farmers as any & at the time of day too that the chores should be done. The reason is I have for two days past had a pain in my side just above my hip & I thought I would not do any thing until I was sure that it was well for fear I should wrench it again for I think I wrenched it last Friday & then got cold in it. Mother put on a plaster & to day it is well. You do not have any mother to put on a plaster when you have a little pain in your side at West Point, nor even if you have a great one, which lest we begin to think is true or some thing of the same nature, we have not had a letter for so long. But we do not think so much of it as we should if we had nothing more than usual to lay it to, for now we say to one & other that he is busy with the Examination. But Otis we really did expect a letter on Saturday.

June 21st

Otis I suppose you would not know did I not tell you, that I had made quite a pause in writing. Just about dark last eve, Uncle Ensign & wife called, so I paused in my letter to see them. I found that their family is well, I do not think that Uncle changed much. I went out with him & father into the Garden to gather some Cabage & Luttice plants. The principle topic of conversation with them was business of the Railroad. They did not stay long. Aunt Martha informed us that Mrs & Aurilla Barrows were sick, so they kept their kids all day yesterday. Aurilla had a cough while at Topsham, was not very careful of herself, and came home with it, has not recovered from it yet.

I am sorry Otis to inform you that our family are preparing this morning to attend the funeral of one of the good citizens of Leeds & an acquaintance of yours, Perez Jennings. You know he has been sick some time with the Dyspepsia. Poor Orville can never see his own father again & I suppose will not hear of his death as soon as you will. Roscoe & Rollin have been at Kents Hill this spring Term. Rollin came home. he told me in eight weeks, sick. But Roscoe stayed the whole or nearly the whole Term. Rodelphus told me that Roscoe became pious while there. I pity those boys in losing their father, though they are older than we were when our father died.

O, Otis I was filing yours, & Rowland's & my letters yesterday & I found quite a Number of letters, which you wrote while at Hallowell, years 1843, 1844, 1845. There were 4 in year 1843 when you were but 12 years. I read them all, & I could not help thinking how much easier has been my lot to what yours was. You went away from your parents at the tender age of 12 years & hardly have you lived with your mother since. It seemed to me while reading your letters of that time rather hard, sometimes you could not have clothes so to go to

meeting, sometimes you wished to come home & see your sick brother Rowland but could not & once you wrote that you wished to go to writing school but no one would let you have the money. How much different is this from my easy lot, when I always have had all that I have wished for, have been to school when I wished & have then come home to my mother. I don't know as ever I asked for a book, or any clothes, or for any privilege of any consequence but what it was granted me. So I will not grumble at my lot at any time for you did not having a much worse one.

I had a letter from Rowland last Saturday night, in which was enclosed an acct of the Examination for the two first days of June & no more, Rowland was well when he wrote, his eyes were very weak when at home, but are quite well now. He says he is very busy "making up" just now. He has not rec Mother's & my long letter when he wrote & he scolds some about our not writing, says every body owes him a letter, but he has not rec one since he has been at Brunswick. Wrote to Lizzie six week ago, Frank Gilman 3 months, Otis 3 weeks.

Otis I should have written more but father is going to the depot & it will go one day sooner if I mail it now.

From your affectionate Brother  
CHHoward

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486 6/26/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0446

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sunday June 26, 1853

Dear Brother

I just returned from church & came into the North room & found mother writing to you. I have been up to the New meeting house on the Ridge. They have now a preacher new to them having preached here but one Sunday before. Elder Hill. You I think must have heard him spoken of, if not heard him speak yourself. For he is the man that lectured on Temperance here in Leeds a few years ago with so much enthusiasm. His sermon this afternoon was some what National on account of the approaching 4th of July. He thought that our Countrymen should be very thankfull that they lived in such a country & showed the things in which it is superior to others. He also spoke of the two great evils - Slavery & Intemperance.

I finished my last letter Otis in rather a hurry for the time arrived, when I was obliged to carry father before I expected. I did not direct it but left it for father to do. We got to the depot just as the cars did. I came home after seeing father away & wrote a letter of nearly four pages to Rowland which I sent by mail. Then I went over to the funeral of Perez Jennings. The sermon was preached by W. Foss.

We have had Otis as well as you some very warm days this summer but it is now quite cool. You know I suppose that this is the time of year when we do our hoeing. Our corn we have hoed the second time & shall begin the Potatoes tomorrow for the second time. Our family is not very large now but they are all well though mother has been quite slim on account of a cold. Arza has been here 4 weeks. Some of the time very slim. I carried him to Wayne yesterday.

Have not been to Wayne before since last fall. It does not change much. I called a little while to see Mrs Sampson. She talks all of the time as usual inquiring very particularly about you & Rowland. She had not heard of your first promotion, but she always thought that you would take a high standing in every thing you undertook. Mr Sampson is still at Bideford. Kary is at home but was strawberrying. They are to have a Sabbath school celebration at Wayne on the 4th July.

I know you wish to know about all Leeds folks & affairs but usually I do not tell you much about them nor a very interesting letter any way. We had a full meeting to day. Werry Mower was there, Louisa quite unwell, so lame she cannot walk, afraid of an other Sore or Abscess. He has got two very pretty little children who attend the S. School. This is quite large. They have it every Sunday though there is a meeting but half the time. Mr Gilbert's family were there, also Mr Brewster's. Henry is doing quite a business over to the new store. Old Mr B (91 years of age) is as smart as ever, always knows me & shakes hands heartily & always inquires about Otis. He ran down here a little while the other day to see Arza. I see Aunt Lucretia's family often. They always enquire of you. Aurealia is at home now. I just or a few minutes ago accompanied <Pethaed James> down to Capt Turner's who was on his way home. Mr Jones' family were well. So Capt Turner's. Mrs Turner has just returned from Bangor. Been gone a fortnight. Mr Bates folks are well excepting Mr <Bane> How, whom I told was there unwell.

Roland A says he is going to the Worlds fair & shall visit you. He always seems to think considerable of you. Silas & Roland Alger have been to Monmouth to a Baptismal just returned. Lizzie has not answered my letter that I wrote to her while at Topsham about 2 months ago. I suppose she does not get time. Dellie sends his love to you Otis. I will write more next time if you wish, for I think this is written so poorly. I wish I could come & see you Otis & wish that you could come & see us. Is it impossible.

From your affectionate Brother.  
CHHoward

Do you have a good lot of strawberries? We do!

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487 6/26/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear Son [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0994

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 26th 1853 [See note 1]

My dear Son,

Last evening's mail brought us a thrice welcome letter from West Point. I had been looking a number of Mails for one. My last letter from Rowland, told the same story; no letter from Otis. I am glad to think the last year has past off so favorably, and the beginning of the new Academic year, has commenced with so bright prospects. I hope your health will be good through the encampment. Those biles I know some things of them. I have had them until very lately. I cannot imagine why you should be so troubled with them.

Charles has written you not long since. I did not read his letter, but suppose he wrote all the news. Charles went to Wayne yesterday with Arza, who had been here four weeks. We were quite anxious, how he would bear the removal, but Charles says he appeared quite comfortable after the ride. His family were six weeks from home, two weeks at Mrs Bishops sometime while he was here I thought he never would leave us, he was so sick, and then he would gain some. There have been some whole days that he could not speak he was so filled with Phlegm. But after spitting of the Phlegm he could talk again. He has three large abcesses that discharges constantly. He may live years, I think in his diseased state.

My general health is rather impaired but still is not very bad. I frequently have long communications with you in imagination, but do not retain them long enough to write them to you. What a close tie of nature is a mothers with a child? No situation can sever the link that binds their nature together. Let no restraint ever be between them.

In general we have no stated preaching at the centre. I have not been there since the first day of May. That day Mr Banners delivered the funeral sermon of Deacon Lane. Mr Banners has been gone to the Eastward, preaching what is called the home Mission, in the thinly inhabited towns. His family are here.

Aurelia is in a poor state of health but I am in hopes she will soon regain it. Mother staid with me several days. I think it rather confused her visit being here when Arza's family were here, but she did not say so. RB's visit was so short I hardly knew he had been here. I have not written much to him since his return to Brunswick. Charles left a portion of clean paper for me to write some on to Rowland, but before I had half filled it out I saw Mr Leonard coming by the old barn, from the Chamber window and directed it, without even writing my name.

In Rowland's last letter, he complained of not having any letters. He says he can study better when he has letters often. In his letter he talked as though he was boning out the Greek day after day. I hope he will not make too hard work of it and get sick. I hope you will find time to write him an encouraging letter occationally.

Those drawings you sent Lizzie, were sent back immediately. Her name was attached to them, and your father went on to Boston a few days after his return from New York and took them with him. He gave them Allen Haines, Esq. who said he would immediately send his boy to Lizzie with them, together with an <air ball>. I would like to know whether she has obtained them or not. I have not heard from Portland since William came from there. I wish Lizzie would write me, & she and her Mother would come up and see me now.

The strawberries are ripe. Our garden strawberries in the garden are very plenty. They just now turning red where they are most exposed to the sun. They will be good in a week.

Rowland did not say anything to me that he had given up going to see you this year when at home, but his expenses have always been higher than yours were while getting your education and last year he lost a good deal. Take it in all besides his time, he never mentions it but I think about it and I think he does. Every thing even his traveling expenses comes out of his income. I used to save two dollars to you when I sent for you or sent you to Brunswick. It accumulates to quite a sum in year. He earned \$25 this spring but board will be very high in Brunswick this summer. I would be glad to have him visit you at West Point, and Call at the worlds fair but you know our purses are light.

I do not know what Mrs Waite and Lizzie have concluded about going. You must remember you are as near our hearts as if we did visit you. Charles I should not dare to have him go unless he had some one to go with him. Capt Turner has quite a desire to go to the worlds fair but it is very uncertain which will triumph, his love of money, or the desire to see New York and the Crystal Palace. I think some of your more distant relatives may call on you when visiting the worlds fair. Your Uncle John and wife are talking, attending the World's fair. Martha told me when in Portland, Henry had asked her to go but she should not leave her little girls to go. Roland A Gilmore I have heard is going but he has said nothing to me of it yet. I think he may go. If he does I shall ask him to visit you although he never was more odd and hogish than this summer. He had a cousin made us a short visit from Easton in May. He did not spend a minute with him except at the table.

Our citizens are dying one after another. Mr Peres Jennings died last Sabbath about this time in the day. You recollect that he and deacon Carey Married sister in their youth. I did not attend the funeral, as I had a head ache and the weather was intensely hot. Our railroad is doing well, it is said. I understand Louiza is very lame and cannot step. I am seriously affraid it will be a long while before she will get well. I recollect telling you that Isaac Howe was dead and I heard so and thought so but it proves otherwise. Last fall he was brought back to Leeds a pauper, and after recovering from a bad sore, which broke on his shoulder, he began to gain his own livelyhood. This summer he has lost his health, and is now at Charles Bates, supported by the Town. Charlie has been in and talked with him. He enquired after you, said there were a number drowned when it was reported that he was, and he laid out all night, and froze himself some.

Our garden is handsome. There have been flowers in it ever since the first of May composing almost every colour you can mention. Pethuel Jones has called here to day. I mentioned George to him. He looked very sad but talked some about him. Says Lydia is discontented in California. They have received a number of letters from her. Charles called to see Mrs Sampson yesterday, found her health very much improved. Mary had been to Biddeford to see her father who is employed in a batting factory. Aurelia Leadbetter has lately returned from Lowell. I have not seen her. I understand she is not in good health.

Tell Lizzie she must answer some of the many letters she owes. R.B. and C.H.H. and Mother are all feeling that justice is not satisfied. Thomas Bridgham and his mother are gone on a visit to China to visit Everet's family.

I have covered the whole sheet with what kind of matter I leave you to say.

Your ever affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

[Note 1. This letter (Bowdoin #58) is filed with the 1859 letters. The date could have been read as 1859 or 1853. However, it should be 1853 for several reasons. First, the reference to Arza Gilmore places the date prior to his death which was May 25, 1854. Second, Otis' encampment would have been before his graduation in June 1854. Third, the references to visiting Otis and the Worlds Fair fits with discussions at that time. Fourth, the reference to Mrs Waite being invited to Leeds puts the date before her death in 30 June 1847. This also places the date before Lizzie's marriage to Otis in 14 Feb 1855.]

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488 7/5/1853

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0447

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. July 5 1853

Dear Brother

I have returned from Portland today after spending my 4th of July there. I did not care much about going to P but I thought I should like to see Lizzie and perhaps she would like to see me. I did not find her as well as I was in hopes to. She looks a little pale and feels languid, but she thinks she shall be better if the weather grows cooler. We have not decided yet entirely whether we shall go to West Point or not. It looks to me like quite an expense for one who is spending so much money other ways as I am, but I shall think it over some more before I decide. I went with Lizzie to see the Fire Works in the evening. She was pretty tired but stood it better than I expected. The Fire Works were poor and the people noisy but on the whole I think she enjoyed it pretty well. I saw J.G. Goodenow in Portland. He says you are looking pretty well only rather thin, i.e. more so than when he knew you at College. He says he enjoyed his visit very much and that your presence and kindness contributed more to this than anything else.

You delayed some time before you wrote me your last letter and I wrote many first pages giving you a trimming but finally concluded to let you take your own course as you probably would anyhow. The Athanaean has been entirely broken up this term by one of those party rows which I suppose you experienced while in College. The defeated party would not attend the treat and broke up the induction of officers by certainly very unmilitary if not uncivil conduct.

We shall have to get rid of about two Classes before we shall be able to do much. You can now understand fully the folly of Party College politics and without doubt look upon them as rather small business as they certainly are yet it is astonishing how much interest is taken by Students in these Society elections.

We are now reading the Odessey & <DeLenactate>. I had the former mostly to make us but I have accomplished the most of it. The class that I am in is not so pleasant on many accounts as the one I left, but it is as large and has of course some first rate fellows. I could not get a room in College and so I room at Mrs Grows. They all remember you very well. I suppose you boarded with them some time. I recollect taking a number of meals here.

Do you receive papers and pamphlets that I send you? I have sent you a number, first & last and you have acknowledged the rect of none. I sent you last week the Brunswick Telegraph, a new paper published here, but it was partly to remind you that you owed me a letter.

Do you wish me to get your Diploma for you? If so I suppose Prof Clear must know it before the 20 inst that they may have them printed. I can get the money you know, and pay for it, if you desire it.

I have not heard from home for some time, probably not since you have. I sent my Daguerrotype by Esq Haines on the 4th, thinking it would be a grateful Fourth of July present to Mother. I am anxious to hear how your Oration came off. Did it receive much applause. I have no doubt that it was a good thing. The question is, whether it was appreciated by the Audience. The two parts for A.M. are, I believe performed by Everett & Perley. Everett having the Oration and Perley the Salutatory.

I am not going to give you much of a letter this time as I dont feel a bit like writing. Let us not have our correspondence drag as it has done for two months, but let us write once in two weeks, i.e. if you can get time. I can write you a great deal more interesting letters if I write often so do answer this very soon, and I will give you a long one in reply.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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489 7/14/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0448

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. July 14 '53 [certain words very faint]

My dear Mother

I presume it seems odd that I do not write you oftener, but the reason is I cannot. I will give you in detail the duties of each day, and you can see how difficult it must be to write; if I were never tired, and always felt in a mood for writing I could get a few moments every day.

Just as soon as Reveille is over in the morning I take out a large squad of plebes & drill them with muskets till surgeon's call, then I have just time to prepare for breakfast. It takes some time to march from Camp to the mess hall. Get breakfast & return. After we get back we have to prepare for heavy artillery - or light artillery - some of the first class are detailed to act as chief of <officers> as the plebe or third class drill at artillery. The remainder go to the siege or mortar battery - you remember where we told you they throw shells from just by this flag staff. Then we drill for an hour. Then we return & go to the laboratory - where you saw with Langdon the big chain & the guns taken in Mexico. Here we have to make cartridges, rockets, fire balls grape & canister shot &c. Every day till dinner at 1. We go to dinner, return then study artillery tactics till four one day & infantry tactics the next. I usually take my book & go down by the river, get under the shade of a tree & study, since I cannot help going to Sleep in Camp in the afternoon. Then I have nearly an hour to myself, then I go to drill plebes again with muskets & remain a little more than an hour. And some of our work at heavy artillery & at the laboratory is right hard & we are apt to feel tired by parade.

You may wonder why I am writing now. I have another bile on my back & not feeling like going to drill got excused by the Surgeon. Dr Cugler says every one of these things is worth five dollars, but I would willingly give them away & five dollars "to boot".

Rowland complains of my letting so much time elapse between my letters. Last Sunday I had intended to write three letters, but I went on as officer of the day Saturday & had to keep awake all night or nearly all night, so that after I got off I got a foot tub in my tent, washed myself & changed my clothes & lay down and went to sleep. I slept till 6 in the afternoon merely getting up to attend dinner roll-call. Well, instead of three I made out to write one letter. I had a letter from Rowland telling me of his visit on the fourth of July. I did not know till then that Lizzie had been sick. I received a letter at the same time from her. I presume you found the account I gave of the death of Cadet Frank in the Advertiser. I fear it is rather plainly spoken for afflicted parents or relatives, but I wished people to see what is a legitimate result of sending young men here who are not fitted to pursue the courses of study here attended to. Mr Littlefield came here & had to resign. Mr Frank followed him, and his death only prevented him from being found deficient. Now we have plenty of smart sensible young men, who are eager to come to West Point & they should come. It is a grand mistake that some people make who fancy that a young man who is unfit for every thing else is fit for the army. If any man in the wide world wants a clear head and a sound mind it is the army officer. My course at West Point has been alternately unpleasant and pleasant, hard & then comparatively easy. But if I am permitted to judge I would say it has done me no manner of injury and on the contrary a great deal of good. My mind has changed very much relative to the army since I have been here because I have become more enlightened with respect to the material that compose it & its object. Above all things next to our Legislators the officers of our army ought to be good, upright men. Charlie must tell me how he spent the fourth of July. I suppose you are haying now & perhaps all of you are too tired, whenever an opportunity presents itself to write much. I hope all are well. I am thinking of sending my paintings to Portland by express - let Lizzie take a part & give you the remainder. Some of them will look well when they are framed & covered with a glass. I shall send them in a tin Diploma case so that they will not take hurt.

They are firing at the third class artillery battery and also shells at the mortar battery. It is right good music for me. I do not know why but I do like the sound of canon fired one after another with an interval of little less than a minute between each. I like every thing in camp this year but the studying. The lessons are very long & require too much pure memory. Mr Carter the Editor of the Advertiser wrote me a letter and said he had been here two years, went home on furlough & circumstances prevented his returning to complete his course. He asked me to write any thing that occurred of interest & he would publish. I have thought some of publishing my

fourth of July oration but I can hardly make up my mind to do it. If it was the best I could write I would not hesitate to publish it, but though it got so much credit here, I know it is rather insipid.

Give my love to all individually. I will be most happy to see Roland A when he comes. R.B.H I shall not urge to visit me for I know he cannot afford it. How I wish I was able to defray his expenses. But in a little time I will be with you again. Jerry Lothrop Esq called to see me but I was out of camp. It is found that I can do the duties of an officer as well as those of a private. I am well with the slight exception that I named in the beginning. Write as soon as you can. Remember me to all. Warren was well the other day.

Yr affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

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490 7/20/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0449

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Wedn July 20, 1853

Dear Brother Otis

It has been so long since I wrote you that I don't know where to begin. I received a letter from you the 9th of July which I have not answered. It was dated 5th. But I think I have written since the Fourth though you have not yet mentioned receiving any letter. And did you get my letter informing you of Mr Jennings' death? It might have miss carried. We were all very glad to hear from you, & to hear how you prospered on the Fourth in delivering your Oration. It must have been very good or you would have had no applause, for I do not imagine that West Point people are very apt to do such things or that the Ladies at Caesar's Hotel would have taken pains to have sent you a Bouquet if you had not given them a talented oration. How you are troubled with biles Otis. You were obliged to write this letter lying on your side & you mention a new one every time you write. There is a Jim in your letter to me I should like to have you explain.

Mother says he must be your waiter because you have become an officer. I see you like to have some sport at the cost of the Plebes. The same as that which used to cause you to feel so badly when a Plebe. Though I suppose you do not use them near as badly as the older classes did you for you certainly can pity them.

But I suppose you would like to know of House affairs. Well, you know we have been Laying farther last three weeks. We mow the same ground that you did when you used the scythe. I have not mowed much though I have had a scythe & snathe of my own. There is always enough to do in Haying besides mowing. We have had very good weather for making hay ever since we began but not good for causing grass & the other crops to grow. It has been so dry that the people of Leeds thought they would have scarcely any crops of grain & Potatoes at all, but today it is mending the matter. We have got into the barn all of our upland hay & have cut some on the medow. Thomas Langley has been at work here by the day now. Amial Jones is here. He Roland & I with father make up our Haying gang. It being a rainy day today I take the opportunity to write my brother a letter, but Amial is playing on the violin up in the South chamber & I being in North room am puzzled to keep my mind upon it. Father & mother started for Hallowell yesterday morning, leaving Nancy Dellie the Boys & I to keep house. They had a good day to go down though rather warm. They thought of coming back today but it has rained so they have not come & it is now most three o'clock. Do you not wish you were at Hallowell as you were 12 years ago, when you used to be so glad when the time came for a visit from Father & mother or Father for I have been reading letters of yours written at that time, when you were wishing for & anticipating with pleasure, such visits. We have a letter from Rowland every week. He says "it is prudence & not economy for I know I am not economical" that keeps me from going with Lizzie to West Point. But Poor Lizzie is not able to go to West Point now. I got your letter to mother last night. I read it, for I know she just as lief I would as not.

It has been just about a week in coming. We shall get your letters sooner when the mail gets to going on the cars & they have now contracted for carrying it. But have not everything ready, such as P.O. &c.

You mentioned hearing that she was unwell, but Aunt Martha Jane wrote us a letter on her arrival in Portland, saying that Lizzie had a slow, Lung Fever. But very likely you have heard about it before this. Aunt Martha came to Uncle Ensign's week ago last Friday & stayed till Sunday when she rode down home with mother & I & stayed till Tuesday, when mother carried her to the depot to take the Noon Train of cars.

We sent some strawberries to Lizzie but she was not allowed to eat them. Have you had anything like Strawberries on your table this summer Otis? We have had a great many from our beds in the Gardens & we have them now. And do you have green peas. We have had some the first were a week ago last Tuesday.

We have preaching every Sunday now Otis. Our new minister is just about your age, and he reminds me of you often. I think he resembles Perley in features.

Friday

Otis, I did not finish my letter Wed you see & could not get a chance to write any Yesterday. But I will write a little while now for I can overtake the boys for I have to spread what they mow.

Father & mother came from Hallowell after it closed raining, arrived about sundown. Grandmother & all of our Friends at Hallowell were well. Uncle John had gone to Dixville.

I had forgotten that you mentioned in your last letter that you would like to have me tell you how I spent the Fourth of July. I went to a sabbath school celebration at Wayne with Mother & Dellie. We had a good time in the forenoon heard a Temperance lecture from Elder Hill & then we had the refreshments which were placed on three Tables in front of the Baptist House. In the afternoon had lectures on different subjects from several & had singing & playing on Aeolean by several little girls & a little boy played on violin. I went in P.M. to Winthrop for Mrs. Sampson to get Mr Sampson who was coming in the cars from Bideford but he did not come till next day. We stayed with Mrs S. till after tea then called to see Arza a little while before we came home. He was as well as usual, has rode out once since he went from home.

Mother just came in & says write Otis that he must not despair of Rowland's coming to West Point yet, for he may come she thinks in September & that she saw Maria & Uncle's family at Hallowell, that Maria said she had not yet seen your letter in the Advertiser yet. But her father has & he said it was a very good letter. I suppose you minded that your letter or some things in it hurt the feelings of Cadet Frank's parents. But Mr Carter excused it well. On one acct, Otis I should like to have you publish your Oration i.e. that I might have a chance to read it.

I think of going to Kents Hill in a fortnight. If I go I hope I shall not be sick in five weeks, & as my health is very good now I think I shall not.

Dellie has gone to school. He wished me to send his love to you & says he has got almost through his Arith & Gram. Otis what do you think of my beginning Greek this Fall. I have read about one book in Caesar & there is a chance for me to go into Roscoe Jennings' class in Virgil who had studied it a part of a term. I talked with him about it & he said he knew I could go into his class because I was so much easier to learn then he, but I don't know what to do about it. What is your advice. I <studied> six secions in Algebra, have studied Nat. Phil. & Astron & Physiol, gone through Greenlief's Arith. If you see mistakes in spelling or Gram, please mention them & I will correct them in my other letters.

From your Affectionate Brother  
Charles

P.S. My letter is rather disconnected.

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491 7/21/1853 *From:* Maria Otis

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0450

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell July 21st /53  
Wednesday Eve'g

I have been intending for a long time to write you a letter my dear Otis, but have put it off from time to time till I felt almost ashamed to write at all, but as I have been talking with your mother a good deal about you today, I determined to write you so that we might sometimes hear from you here. The only way we get any news of you is from Leeds and that rather seldom. Your mother came down with Col. Gilmore yesterday but went home to day, the visit was decidedly a short one, but I spent the morning with her and saw her off this afternoon, so that I made the most of it I could. Father went away on Monday up to his town ship in New Hampshire where he will stay two or three weeks. I trust the gentleman won't be eaten up by the ravenous mosquitoes.

I have not yet seen the letter you wrote to the "Advertiser" as we do not take it, but father said he had it down at the office and had promised to bring it to me but as he has not a remarkably good memory, I am still waiting with patience to read it. It must have been a very, very sad thing to you all and still more terrible to his relations. But if he has gone to a better world where is no weariness of spirit or flesh no one would <call> him to a life which lately at least must have been but a hard struggle.

I suppose you have heard of poor Eugene Thains death this spring and Annie Stevens, a young lady that I believe you use to go to school with, died about the same time. "<Ady>" Thains a young lady a sister of Eugene's died a few months before he did. Eugene had a typhoid fever and was unconscious nearly the whole of his sickness. It has always seemed to me a most terrible thing, the idea of dying without the least consciousness of one's situation. Will says that Dr. Bell has given them some reason to hope that Spenser Wells will get better. I do so trust that he may yet recover.

I have been in Bath a great deal this spring and summer and became great friends with a young gentleman that you may remember in college named Jackson (J.E.B.) I believe are his initials. He spoke of you and enquired about you. I wish you would come on here to commencement this fall. I suppose a good many of your old friends will be there this year. I suppose a good many of them will be unable to come as they have gone so far away. Tom Atherton went out West this spring. Goodwin went last fall so they probably will not return so soon. I suppose you have heard of Tom Smith's marriage. He has married a young Southern lady who seems by all accounts to possess all virtues and the blessing of quite a big dowry besides. They were to be in town this month. Poindexter has got engaged to a young lady but I believe it has not increased his happiness as he finds after a more intimate acquaintance that he does not love her very much, but I cannot imagine why he does not break off with the young lady.

I suppose you heard of the sudden death of Wm Gardiner's father, a few months ago. He went to the druggist's to get some sort of medicine and the boy made a mistake and gave him arsenic, which he took and died in a very short time.

I hear from Addison and Mr Sargent once in a while. Addison thinks of coming home this fall I believe and Mr Sargent will come in the spring. Therefore Sarah will not be under the necessity of going out there.

I have received a note of invitation to your cotillion parties tonight. I was rather disappointed at not finding a letter but nevertheless am glad to see I am not forgotten. It would give me great satisfaction to flourish about with young gentleman in such fine dresses as you have, but I must <can> forgo the pleasure. At present I am much more interested in riding on horseback than in dancing. We have got a famous mexican pony who is a remarkably well trained animal and has always been kept for riding. I go to ride three or four times a week. Will has been in Portland this spring. He saw Lizzie several times. I have not been there since last fall and do not know when I shall go again. My friends the BW are going to move there this next September. I shall miss them very much indeed as Tom is almost my only friend, that I care for him.

I am now taking of going to Philadelphia this winter but do not know whether I shall accomplish it. If I go I shall certainly come to West Point either going or returning.

Will is studying law quite busily this summer. We are all very well here and at Grandmothers. But I find I must be about ending this epistle as I seem to be coming to the end of this sheet and besides it is time all respectable, sedate persons should be thinking of going to their rests as it is after ten o'clock some time. Write me soon as you can find time. As ever

Your affectionate cousin  
Maria Otis

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492 7/22/1853 *From:* Rowland [R B  
Howard]

*To:* Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0451

Bowd. Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll July 22d 1853

My dear Brother

On the same day which I received your letter I went in to see Jos McKeen, Treas, as he still delights to subscribe himself, and asked about your second degree. He coolly informed me that if I wished one struck off, I must pay for it then. So I pulled out my wallet and found, for a wonder, just the 3.00 required so I paid in, and he entered your name among the list of Applicants for A.M. It will be delivered at Commencement or as soon afterwards as called for, and then you can have it I suppose. When you graduate at West Point, I shall sum up your titles and see how many you have had bestowed upon you.

I received a letter from Charles & Rodolphus yesterday by the way of Hallowell where I suppose Father mailed it. The Family were well, but Loisa (Mrs Mower) was very sick. They have heard from Lizzie that she was no better since I saw her on the Fourth inst. I wrote <her> one of my usual jolly joking letters, last Monday and have not yet received an answer. I really hope that she is able to write, perhaps you hear from her.

We have had fine weather all Summer. The College yard looks finely. There begins to be some talk about Commencement. The Seniors go away in about a week. I suppose this is the last College Class that you are acquainted with as they were Freshman when you Graduated. They are the smallest class in College numbering 25, but they have some very smart fellows and will probably have a better Commencement than last year. They have engaged Dodsworth New York Band - which ensures good music.

Long John Spaulding is behind no one in the class in point of thorough education and real ability. I suppose you would hardly have thought it when he entered College. He has been in no Society since, remaining in College Term time and keeping town Schools vacation. He is as awkward as ever. He is going to Cambridge Divinity School and will make a Unitarian minister. Fuller, as you wrote some time ago has the reputation of being a smart man, but not much of him. He is full of talk and his talk is full of Gas. So all judge him. Foss, Simonton, Dewars & Wheeler, Place &c you probably recollect, they will come out of College with little or no improvement from their College course. Webb, Southgate, Cummings & Drew are their strongest men every way. Page is the handsomest man in College and that is his highest praise. I think Wovel of the Junior Class will take your place at West Point. I think he can have it if he wishes, as Mr Benson, an old neighbor and Friend is the Member having the Appointment. If he does take your place he will follow pretty closely in your footsteps, graduating here in the first place. He is now president of the Athenaeum Society, but is not a great scholar. If he goes to West Point I hope he will do as well as you have and then I shall feel that Old Kenebeck & Old Bodoin had been twice in succession honorably represented at the Military Academy. But right glad am I that it does not fall on me to sustain this reputation.

I suppose you know that Prof Upham is in Asia Minor looking around Jerusalem and the Holy Land. He has been gone nearly a year and will return next month. His letters are published in the Boston Congregationalist. The present Freshman Class has had to do without his protecting care. Prof Hitchcock is more popular in College & in town than ever Prof Stone was. His Seminars are the best I ever heard. You should hear him.

Monday morning July 25th.

Various causes have prevented me from finishing my letter until now. I received a letter from my Chum on Saturday informing me of the death of his Brother. His name is Carlton & he belongs in Monmouth. The circumstances of his brothers death are melancholy. They are two orphan brothers with neither Father or Mother, ages were 19 and 21. The younger one was at Waterville at school and was about ready to enter College, which he would have done next Commencement. My Chum was looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when they would be united and pursue their College course together. Francis came down here and went to Portland with us on the 4th of July and was taken sick immediately on reaching his school. Cyrus was with him in his last few days. He is almost distracted at the loss of his brother and writes me a strange wild letter. It is just like losing a part of himself. Francis had a share in all his plans for future happiness. He was appreciated with all, and Cyrus will need all of his religion to enable him to bear his death.

They were members of the Baptist Church and as far as I know consistent Christians. I dread Carltons return as I know he cannot see us all again without renewing all of his sorrow and repinings. He is naturally melancholy and I fear the worst for him, but I am resolved to do what I can to cheer and encourage him that he may again enjoy life, which has lost one of its principal attractions.

I attended meeting in Topsham yesterday as I usually do. We had good Sermons. I belong to the Choir there and usually pass my Sabbath day very pleasantly for although I eschew wine & women as they are generally used, I have no objection to music and women once a week for recreation.

This is miserable paper and my letter will look worse than ever. But if you can read it I shall be satisfied.

I am anxious to hear from Lizzie and if I do not otherwise think I shall write to Perley this week. I think her illness resembles Anna Bartletts last Summer if Charles writes me correctly. Write soon and tell me if you hear from her.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

Cadet Oliver O Howard

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493 7/25/1853 *From:* Rowland [R B  
Howard]

*To:* Dellie [RH Gilmore]

OOH-0452

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. July 25, 53

Dear Dellie

I forgot to answer your question in Mothers letter and now I haven't any book but if I recollect this is the way to do the question and Charles will explain.

[Shows the example of a conversion of time.]

The time was 21 m & 49  $\frac{1}{11}$  sec past 4 ock.

Tell me if this the answer and if you understand.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

P.S. I enclose map of the <A. & K. L. R. R.> which I happen to have.  
R

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494 7/26/1853 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0453

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. July 26th 1853

My dear Mother,

I suppose you will be expecting a letter Saturday night. I am officer of the day, to day, but I will try at odd intervals to write you a few lines and let you know I am very well. The last letter I had from Lizzie informed me that she was ill, and I have not heard from her since. You may suspect that I have some anxiety. I am in hopes to get a letter to day noon, then I will know.

I heard some plebe using profane language just now and had to go & see who it was. The officer of the day has to report every violation of the regulations he meets with. He cannot avoid it for he has to sign a certificate to that effect. It is a disagreeable duty. I have been one five times as officer of the day and have not had to report for profanity before. There is not near so much profane language meets my ear as formerly. Somebody gets reported for it every week & oftener. This does not have the effect to regenerate, but it gives us a fairer exterior.

To day we complete our laboratory duty. but we have to go instead to practical engineering, making Gabions, fuscenes, embankments &c in the open sun. I like to be employed but I was in hopes to get some tme to read this encampment, but I find it impossible.

Some people, relatives of my Uncle's family at Peekskill, came here yesterday afternoon and sent for me. Not being relations of mine, I could not have got excused from any duty. I went about with them however and went to recitation at 4 without a lesson. What we study during th Encampment does not in any way effect our rank, but they report for not making a proper recitation, which gives four demerit.

The 4 Capts and 1st 4 Lieutenants go on as officers of the day. The remaining 8 Lieuts go on as officers of the Guard. The former seldom if ever get reported, for their certificate precludes every possibility of it, except an army officer report them for lying, but not so with the latter, for they almost always get 8 demerit or 12 every time they go on, for they are not only held responsible for themselves but for the three corporals and the 24 men who are under their charge. I was very fortunate to have been made as high a Lieut as I am.

I have not seen Roland yet at West Point. I shall be much pleased to meet him - will call him my brother & can thus get excused from duty one day, and after that can be with him when not on duty as long as he will stay.

We have parties Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings in the Academic Hall. I usually go, but seldom dance. Last evening I spent the evening conversing with Mrs Bliss, the mother of a Classmate. He is her only child. She says she has to be "Bubs" mother, sister, &c all at once. Bub is over six feet tall, finely formed, with a handsome pleasant countenance. Quite a big boy for bub. There has been a beautiful lady here from N. York Mrs James. She was one of those who sent me the Bouquet. I got acquainted with her and amused myself by conversing with her.

I think it better for me to spruce up and go down to the parties. I am usually too tired to write read or think. It helps me to get a little accustomed to Society. I have quite a number of acquaintances now on West Point at Professor Sprole's, Prof Bartlett's & Mrs Berard's &c. Sometimes on Saturday evening I get permission to spend an hour or two with them.

My Speech, whatever be its intrinsic merit, has opened the way to our little society here. I presume you have a register before this time. Ask Charlie if he got an invitation from the Corps of Cadets to attend the cotillion parties this summer. Ask him if he is coming. It seems to me Rowland has not written me for some time. Is he not well? I am almost afraid to get letters for fear of getting bad news. I want to hear that Lizzie is entirely well.

Yes my Mother, there are links between a mother & her son that do not exist elsewhere, and I feel the interest my mother has for me & the affection she bestows upon me. I do not repay it as I ought but I believe that I have an excellent mother and will not be likely to forget the lessons she has taught me. Have there many from our

part of the State been to visit the Crystal Palace?

I wish to go home very much, but I believe I will not try. I do not think I would succeed if I did try in getting a leave, since I have so little pretext for going. My second degree I can have as well without going. And they would not give me a leave to go & see Lizzie, since they recognize no such relations. I wish you & Lizzie could come to West Point again this summer, but it's no use wishing.

Professor Sprole invited me to accompany him & his family on a fishing excursion to a small lake, back five or six miles. I told him I would go if he would ensure my getting a permit signed before I put it in. He said he would do so, but I do not believe Maj Garnett will approve of the same. There has been a rumor that the Maj was going to take us down to New York next month, but as the Superintendent laughed at me the other night when he heard me tell a lady that we were going. I inferred that he did not intend to let us go.

Uncle Ward seems to be having town offices in abundance - Pres of Health association, Supervisor &c. He sends me a paper nearly every week.

Give my love to all. Does Dellie grow any? I expect he will be quite a good sized young man when I come home again. Remember me to all my friends. Warren was well the last time I saw him. I do not visit him now. There is too much danger. I am too well known by everybody. I would be glad to, but it is better that I should not often.

Yr affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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495 7/27/1853 *From:* Epes Sargent

*To:* Friend Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0454

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York July 27, 1853

Friend Otis

Your kind invitation was duly received for which I am much obliged. It would afford me pleasure to be present at your Cotillion Parties but being very busy at present it would be out of the question. I hope you dance & enjoy yourself enough to answer both of us. It is a pity Portland would not send a female representative for your especial benefit.

Silas I suppose you know has gone to Niagara C.W. with his father. He has been there some months.

Perry leaves here to day mate of the Bark Manil. He has been mate of my brothers Brig Pedraza for some time. I think he will make a smart man, at least I hope so. Sarah has been at Machias several months. She has a fine little girl about a year old. They are both well. Mrs Lee is well, she is keeping house where she boarded. I am boarding with her. Frank has gone into business for himself in Sacramento. They (Frank & a man by the name of Freeborn) bought out Addison. The firm is Freeborn & Co. Add is doing business at San Francisco. I think he will be home this fall and take a better half. Frank will probably be here next Spring,

I suppose you cry quits with West Point next year. I saw Webb when he went through. He was looking finely and I think has improved much since he left home. Let me hear from you soon. In haste,

Yours truly  
Epes Sargent

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496 7/31/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0455

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. July 31st 1853

Dear Brother

I was in the Presidents room today on business and he took occasion to renew his compliments to you, and recommend me to your illustrious example. He says "Your brother was a young man in whom we placed a great deal of confidence. He maintained a noble character in College and I am happy to hear that he has more than sustained that reputation at West Point. You have something to do, to come up to his standard of excellence, and his course must be an encouraging one to you and an incentive to exertion." Say that over in the Prex's own voice and then you will "take". This, I own, looks very flattering to you, but I think the Prex meant something besides to flatter you.

You told me a number of years ago that you feared I attributed bad or double motives to others because I found them in myself. Perhaps it is so, but the English of the Prex's remarks appeared to me like this. Howard, from what we have known and seen of you, we have reason to think you a little wild and reckless and very careless and therefore we feel it a duty to give you a word of warning. So he gains my attention and esteem by well timed compliments to you, which he knows I love to hear, that he may have an opportunity to give me a little reprimand. This is all right, but I think the President thinks me a little worse than I am. He knows that I am noisy and very careless in my recitations, not having much fear of a "dead" and gradually learning to take a "Screw" without wincing. So he is in hopes to incite me to defer in these particulars - to pay more attention to my "rank" and small College Laws. I think this is what your frequent praises mean, although I do not doubt, that you deserve them all, yet he would not take the trouble to bestow them so liberally did he not look upon them as a kind of rebuke on me. But still I honor him even for these motives. They are for my good and that of the College.

Prof Upham used to talk to me in the same way. He stopped me one morning after Recitation and said, "Howard, I know the structure of your mind and your ability to do well. I feel an interest in you on account of your brother and I hope you will excuse me, if, during your College course, I see any defect in your recitations. I remind you of the same." This was simply saying you make pen 'sails' and you ought to better them.

I thank them for their interest in me but I can't think that it is all on your account. They probably think me (no?) worse than I am and to this gentle way to reprove me. Don't you suppose it is so. I don't suppose you had reason to think when here, or since, that you was any more esteemed than many others of your classmates, and I don't suppose you was. Do you? But however, I think highly of both Pres & Prof and doubtless they mean only my good.

But here am I filling up my sheet with nothing at all. I have been reading Boswells Johnson lately and came across this passage. I thought it peculiarly encouraging to you and as you may not recollect it, I will transcribe. The Dr says "The character of a soldier is high. They have the respect of mankind. An officer is much more respected than any other man who has little money. In a commercial Country money will purchase respect. But you find an officer, who has, properly speaking, no money is everywhere well received and treated with attention. The character of a Soldier always stands him in stead." You know all about Dr Johnson and properly estimate the great worth and weight of the opinions of "the greatest scholar of his age," Assuming these opinions to be correct, as they undoubtedly are, it is certainly no slight pleasure to pass through this world with the respect and esteem paid to Wealth - and not have the trouble of acquiring it - and, after all, "the bubble reputation" consist in a greater measure in the amount of respect, in which we are personally held and the amount of pleasure which we are personally able to convey - more than in anything else. So, as far as you are concerned I feel considerably more reconciled to your devoting yourself to the monotonous duties of an Officer, than I did when you first went to West Point. I believe that as a military man one can be as happy and as useful as in any of the more peaceful pursuits of labor. Haven't you concluded so? Thus much of my letter <> have written without a date and I think I will <> send it until I hear from Lizzie. I expect a letter from Mr Perley this afternoon and he will probably tell me how she is. I have heard nothing since I wrote you last, nor have they at home.

Charles wrote me yesterday that they were all well at home. If Lizzie is able, I think it very probable you will see us at W.P. that is, if she still wishes to go. I have pretty much decided to go if nothing occurs to prevent. Mother writes me that father has given her an invitation to visit the Worlds Fair with him. She says she does not wish to go and shall ask him to give me that money for my journey. I would not have her sacrifice one jot of pleasure on my account, but if she thinks she would not enjoy a visit to New York, <> I have no objection. The proposed diversion of the <>. Still, if possible, I should like to have her go too - and <then> it would make a very pleasant party. The President had his "Levee" last night and the Seniors leave soon. Dodsworths Band is engaged for Commencement and Hon Bellamy Storer of Ohio delivers the Peucinian Society Oration. The Freshman Class bids fair to number 60 <> Bodoin seems on the high road to prosperity. The election of Gen Pierce sends down flocks of N.H. boys. The Granite State Freshman think that every Bodoin grad if Democratic, is president - and every one even if an abolitionist a candidate for that high office. Hale & Pierce have earned College already a number of Students.

Aug 1st 53

I have kept my letter out that I might hear from Lizzie before I wrote. I have just received a letter from her, a part of which was written yesterday and at the same time she says she is going to write you. So I can tell you no news. She says she won't tell me how she has been, but that she is now improving every day and that she is going to Lewiston with her Mother Tomorrow

(Tuesday) You must write me very soon. Tell me how much money I shall want to visit West Point and the Worlds Fair, bearing in mind my habits of expense. You can reckon some of your own journey to and fro, that is, if you recollect anything about it.

I spent the Sabbath in Topsham yesterday and took tea with Mr Adams. He has recently heard from Jewett that he has gone into the Office with Hon Mr Washburn of Galena, Illinois. He is member of Congress for that District. Townsend is in the same town. I've seen some of the Seniors today as happy as they well could be just got through. I tell you, I envy them.

My Chum Carlton has just returned today from the funeral of his brother. They were two only, orphan brothers. <They> belong in Monmouth, had about as much property as we had. Cyrus (my Chum) entered last, and his brother was to enter College this Fall. He came down from Waterville (where he was at school) and went into Portland with us on the 4th. He was taken sick immediately after and is now dead and buried. I don't know but that I wrote you this before but Carltons return, with his grief and tears, and the whole house weeping about me, has recalled it again forcibly to my mind. He will not be comforted.

I shall write to Lizzie while at Lewiston.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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497 8/7/1853

*From:* CH Howard

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0456

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Aug 7 1853

My dear Brother:

I seat myself again to write you from Kents Hill, old Kents Hill. I have not rec an answer to my last but I will write you again so you may know where to direct your letters to me. First I will tell you why I am not at meeting it being Sunday, & then how I came here &c. The reason is I have quite a bad Diarhea & am taking Medicine (I had it of Mrs Eaton). I think it will help me. And I am more willing to stay at home today than I should be did I not intend & wish to write my brothers & mother each a letter.

I came to Kents Hill last Wednesday, it being the day of the commencement of the Term. I like to be present the first day & remain till the last for I think I can learn two times the amount that I can when I am absent the first & last Fortnight.

I packed my trunk the day before I came away. Mother mending, making, or fixing any thing for my comfort & good as usual. Mother brought me in our carriage, it was a pleasant day & we had a very pleasant ride. Started at half past seven it being cool then. We called at Arza's, left him some English strawberries. He enjoy's now pretty good health for him, I mean general health, has had no bad spell since he was at our house. We arrived at the Mansion house a little after Ten. Mother did not take off her bonnet & only staid till I had chosen my room, wishing to get back to Wayne to dinner. I room in the West end Attic Room in the Mansion house, perhaps you remember its situation. It is as large as any in the house & has three windows.

Some students do not like it because there are two flights of stairs to ascend & because it is so far out of the way, think they should be lonesome away up here, but I like it for those very reasons. The trouble usually with me is I do not have near enough Flights of stairs to go up. If I had ten or twelve to ascend & descend every time I go out & come in, I think I should enjoy pretty good health. Yes I mean good health when I am away at school. For I think the most I need when away to school is exercise, excepting good <pure> air & having so many windows in my room I can have this & not have the wind blow upon me. & the air is <purer> a little distance from the ground. Is it not Otis? "We must have air & exercise to live & thrive & grow". And it being so far from the crowd of students & being above all the noise makes it a nice chance to study.

The day that I came, there were but few here. I had no room-mate till yesterday, when Roscoe Jennings came. I was glad to get some one that I knew & so good a fellow too. Roscoe, I don't know but that I have written you, experienced Religion last spring when he was here. After dinner the day I came I went up & saw Mr Torsey & Robinson. Mr Torsey said "Well Charles I am glad to see you, I like to have all the steady ones come back". After talking with Mr Robinson I concluded to begin at the beginning of the 2d book of Caesar, then I shall finish Caesar this term. I read one book at Topsham.

I think I shall begin Greek this Term, the class will be formed tomorrow. I shall be obliged to buy me a book. I suppose Rowland has one that he would willingly let me use if I only could get it. I have also got to buy me an Andrews & Stoddards Latin Grammar. When at Topsham I used Rowland's but he needs it himself now. I have also concluded to study Physiology again this term. I did not go much more than half the way through it last Term. You know Otis I have chosen my studies this term with out any advising from any one, for I did not get a letter either from you or from Rowland on the subject, & mother does not know. She says any better now than I do what I ought. to study. It seems to me Otis that you & I do not correspond as regular as we used to. I will wait this time, I mean after sending this till I get an answer before I write again. I have recited two lessons in Caesar & two in Physiology since I have been here, & have got learned my Caesar & Physiology lesson for tomorrow.

I am going to take lessons on Piano or try it again this term. I must not speak of what I shall do this Term so sure, for you know I said the same last fall & was taken sick in five weeks.

I want you Otis if you have heard from Lizzie to write me if she has recovered & if she has become very sick. I have not heard from her since Aunt Martha Jane wrote the second week in July.

Have you sent your Fourth of July oration to be published yet? I should like to read it very much. I suppose you have seen accounts in the Advertiser of the two Democratic conventions in this State that of the Rum & of the Temperance Democrats. Mr Eaton went to Portland. He said Mr Morrel was nominated by a great Majority. He is to Lecture I believe at North Wayne next Saturday & as school does not keep Saturdays I think I shall go & hear him.

Father when I came from home talked of going to N.Y. but did not know as he could go to West Point, for he said he wanted to get home Friday night, so to go to Augusta Saturday. He thought of starting tomorrow. I should think Otis you would like to go to the Exhibition. It would be rather aggravating seems to me to be so near it & not be allowed to see it, but perhaps you may. I shall take pains with my Declamations & compositions this fall I shall speak in public I think & I shall I think join the Caliopean Society. It is now five o'clock P.M. & I began this before meeting this morning, but I was not well when I began so did not write steadily, but the medicine took I think has nearly cured my Diarrhea, so I shall not say anything about it to mother.

I wish you Otis to write me in your next if you see any misspelling or bad grammar so I may correct. Now Otis I hope you will write me soon.

From Your Affec Brother  
CHHoward

Write me Otis how you rank since Examination. Oh I had forgotten but I believe what you study in Camp does not affect your rank.

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498 8/22/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* O O Howard

OOH-0457 Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Aug 22 1853

Dear Brother

You requested me to write immediately yet I don't know as I can give you any farther information in regard to my going to West Point. Nor can I until I see Father and Mother. Our Examination is a week from next Thursday and I shall probably get home on the Saturday following. I can then tell you what I shall do. There is an Excursion to the Worlds Fair advertised from the Kenebec to take place about the first of September. The fare out and back not to exceed eight dollars. If we can avail ourselves of some such arrangement as that it will lessen our expenses materially. The time that I shall start for W.P. will depend entirely on Lizzie, if she goes. We shall start at that time during my Vacation as will best suit her convenience.

I have had no letter from Mother since Lizzie has been with her and therefore do not know how she is now. Maria Otis was down here to a Pic Nic last Wednesday and spent the day and I heard from home through her. Father and Uncle Ensign were at Hallowell attending Court. Father told her of Lizzie's being in Leeds but she did not learn how her health was. Uncle Henry and Aunt Martha are boarding at the Hallowell House. She will remain there while he goes West.

I think the chances of war during the next two years are great. Santa Ana is a belligerent old fellow, and when the two armies are opposite each other on the Rio Grande, it needs but a spark to kindle the flame of war. If there is war in Europe as now seems probable, it will be very difficult to prevent our people from letting off their extra fire somewhere and it is safer for our government to fight Mexico than any other power.

"If I was you" J.E. in your situation I should desire war. Of course it would never do for a man to resign in such a Crisis. In fact, I believe that the declaration of war by our Government furnishes to every officer the stepping stones of Fame - and no man of spirit would hesitate to prosecute that profession with ardor for which he has been educated.

These matters we will talk over when I see you. I don't think either Mother Lizzie or an others of your friends would make any objection to your pursuing your profession of arms whenever your Country and Honor called you. Dangers to life and limb beset us everywhere but all but women and babes hold these lightly. After doing what he considers his duty to himself and others, let a Man leave his life and health to Providence, and he will feel, I believe, just as safe whether his profession be warlike or peaceful.

Maria said she had received a very interesting letter from you. Vaughan & Johnnie were down to the Pic Nic and appeared to have a good time. Charles writes from Kents Hill that he is well and studying pretty hard.

Politics are raging in this State as noisily as last year. There are four candidates for Governor & each has very fierce friends. I'll risk the Maine Law anyhow. Three of the candidates have pledged themselves in its favor and the other don't dare to oppose it and so he is mum. I wish I had more news to tell but I have none and you must make this note suffice until I get matter for and time to write another. You may be pretty sure that I shall come on to West Point as soon as I can get ready after the Close of the Term if nothing occurs to prevent. I shall remain here over ten days longer and you can write if you see fit. I shall be glad to hear from you once more.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

O O Howard

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499 8/27/1853 *From:* Jno N Jewett

*To:* Friend Howard

OOH-0458

Gelena, Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Galena Illinois  
Aug 27th 1853

Friend Howard

Your Letter reached me a few days since. I very much regret your unfortunate condition under arrest as you said you there were. But I make no doubt that long before this you are at large again & enjoying all the honor & dignity that your position entitles you to expect. Your military courts I suppose are not quite so galling as a civil or criminal court is, tho either being a deprivation of personal liberty is not much to be desired. It will scarcely compare with an arrest for debt which the Laws of Illinois still tolerate. This relic of a barbarous age works sometimes peculiar hardship to the unfortunate victims of it & I have now on kind a case of this sort. Whenever a poor fellow was delivered up to the tender mercies of the Law & its minister because he could not pay his Debts. I was out a day or two ago some 14 miles from this city & released his small possessions from an <attainment>, which one of his malicious creditors had said <>.

But this has very little to do your punishment though it was suggested by it. I have therefore thrown it in for its own sake. But now especially that you may know that I am about some of the town. I imagine however that it is much more agreeable to be confined to one of your tents or Barracks than it is to be shut up in an Illinois Jail or even a New York one - tho' generally speaking I suppose the confinement of either position may not be very pleasant. Well we must take the reverses with the favors of fortune & as they intertwine themselves in the progress of Life endeavor to draw out the lessons which each as calculated to teach & improve by the instruction. Thus may we grow wiser as we <journey> onward in our Earthly pilgrimage & to preparing for the sublime developments of another world - when our progress will be unrestricted & our happiness unallayed. Well that is closing up with a moral sentiment worthy of the clerical profession, whereas I make no pretensions to being more than a Lawyer tho' I am not yet & I hope I never may be so thoroughly initiated into the practices of the legal profession (if report speaks correctly of them) as to be incapable of appreciating moral truths or [missing page].

But as it seems, you and your trouble are not wanting of sympathy & consolation I seem to see the interior of your little tent steamed with beauquets the consolatory offerings of fairy heads & tender hearts & you as you gather them up picturing to yourself the force that suits you best & endeavoring to pursue to yourself that she bestowed the fragrant gifts or at least approved the donation. And then you wander far away to muse upon the changing scenes of time or cast forward a look of anxious anticipation that the writers of other days may again return, doubly close & secure from severance. Ah! Howard you are a happy fellow in your prospects - The future is bright before you & without a cloud. Fortune has smiled upon your pathway & its voice is still flattering to your expectations. What care you for the difficulties of us plodders after competence & scarcely ambitions of <>? How can you appreciate the anxieties of one whose only dependence is the confidence & interest of a selfish world, whose only hope of the future lies in the operations of the present! I seldom allow myself to distrust my destiny. But the realities of the present will occasionally disturb the light that is reflected from the distant <[inkstain]>.

Well to leave such topics, our Circuit Court is now in Session & I have an opportunity of estimating my competitors. Few of them are very formidable, whilst others are too insignificant to mention. I think I shall be able to sustain myself amongst them when I have a little more experience at the Bar. It is practice that gives the finish to a Lawyer & if a man has a practice he cannot help knowing something, the feuds at least.

I am enjoying myself as well as I can socially & that is well enough. I have an <> chance of invitations; thousands of opportunities of spending my time screening in social amusements, but it will not do. It is too expensive - too serious a draft upon my attention to books & business. As soon as the evenings get a little longer, I shall confine myself to my office for the most part.

I had a letter from "old Jack" a short time since. He is located at Richmond Me, it seems. Perley wrote me a few days ago. He seems to be getting along about as usual. 'All seems to be right.' I am happy to hear of their prosperity. Write soon & believe me

Truly yr Friend  
Jno. N Jewett

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500 8/28/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0459

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Sun Aug 28/53

Dear Brother Otis

I was very glad to receive your good letter, (as it seems your letters to me always are good ones) last Thursday. It must have taken the sunkist Route, for it was post-marked 23d which was Tuesday, making the time in coming from West Point two days only. I had really began to think it strange that you did not write. But I was at home Saturday night when mother had one from you, so I found out that you were not sick. It seems so long since I wrote you Otis, that I do not know where to begin, still after thinking I find that it was but three weeks ago today that I wrote. It seems longer because I am away from home.

I have had 3 letters from Rowland & also 2 papers, with a Circular at Topsham Academy. But Otis you must not think because I am writing to you of the no of Rowland's letters &c that I think you do not write as often as you can or that you do not like to write me letters. I did not mean to compare your hesitation in regard to this to Rowland's. My last one from him was written & recd last Friday. He was well, wrote there had been a Pic Nic at Brunswick at which he saw Maria Otis, Vaughan & Johnnie. His vacation is a week from yesterday or at least he will be at home that day. He wishes me to meet him there at home & stay over Sabbath with him, as he thought he should go to West Point the first of the following week. But he did not know as I suppose you do not that I had so recently been at home. (Have procured a better pen, will try & write a little better].

Last week (i.e. week ago) I concluded to go home & stay over Sunday, as I was not very well & wished to get some medicine & I had recd a letter from Lizzie from there, stating that she & her mother were there & still another reason, I wished to get my Aeolean as I could save two dollars & learn more by practicing on it. I started Friday eve at 6 o'clock & walked to Wayne Village getting to Arza's about dark a little before eight. I found Arza as well as usual also Laverna. I tarried through the night there & after breakfast in the morn, a little before seven, I started on foot again, for Leeds.

It was a beautiful morning so I had a pleasant walk getting home about half past nine, found all in good spirits & as glad to see me as though I had been gone a year "for all that I know". I was glad to find that Lizzie & Mrs. Waite were still at our house. Mrs W had been gaining for several days & went out to dinner that day. My walk that is the exercise of it, did me much good & I had not eaten any thing but light food for several days & was careful about eating at home so that my stomach had acquired its usual tone & the Diarrhea also left me, for my stomach had got into a bad state so that I threw from it my food, produced I think by a want of proper exercise & a bad cold.

My cough did not leave me & my stomach was quite soar Monday so mother wished me to stay longer & father went to Augusta with our horse so I concluded after staying over Sunday to stop till Tuesday, when I felt better & mother had prepared something for my cough & I had had a mustard seed poultice on my stomach & also put on a flannel undershirt & got my things entirely in readiness, & I had lost only one days schooling, where if I had stated at Kents Hill all the time I might have been real sick & lost much more than a day.

But it will be interesting to you to know more particularly how I spent my time at home with Mother, Lizzie, Father Dellie & all Sat. We spent in conversation at home. I feeling somewhat tired & not very well otherwise. At night we were all made glad by getting a letter from you & the first thing when I went into the parlor at home I saw two pretty paintings, in gilded frames covered with lace over our mantelpiece. You can guess whose they were, as I did know immediately, for I knew they could be drawn by no one else than you. I think they laying there in our parlor are an ornament not to be found every where & that they are an honor to the Son who drew them.

But to go on. Sabbath day Dellie & I went out to the meeting house to Church meeting with the (my) colt, that a four days before had kicked the front of our Carriage in, & had caused Lizzie to jump from the <front> of the back part of it. And Father Lizzie & Mother went with the other horse & Carriage. After we got home at night & had eaten our dinner Lizzie & I had a pleasant walk down in the field & gather & eat as many blackberries & chokecherries as we wished for. Monday in forenoon I was about home. Oliver Hazard was at our house. His

mother and brother at Uncle Ensign's. I went with Dellie & got some nice chokecherries for mother said they would not last more.

In the P.M. I got Oscars horse & put him in our Carriage & Mrs Waite, Mother Lizzie & I rode up to Francis Lothrop's & stayed till after tea. Mary J I and Lizzie took a walk out in the field, after supper & gathered some blackberries. Returned home about sundown & found father. He had brought home a <lantern> table & mother has a large salon lamp. These with the new Carpet make it as pretty a parlor as there is to be found.

Tuesday Dellie & I came to Kents Hill bringing father to the depot as we came, arrived about noon. Found that Roscoe had engaged to leave for Belfast this week, for a man had come for a fellow to teach the Grammar school of that City & he had accepted the offer of \$40 dollars a month & Board him self the board being from two & a half to 3 dollars per week. He went home yesterday.

But I have moved into the other end attic room with a good & pious fellow in my Caesar Class. Tis as good a room as an other. I will write more about these things in my next letter. I have much more to write you Otis, I wished to write soon in answer to your last letter. I think one cannot judge himself or of himself always rightly. Though you have thought of the subject much & have looked at it fairly, I don't think you are able to judge rightly of yours compared with our ability, but tis dark & my space is confined. I will speak of this in my next letter. I have written a letter of 4 pages to mother today. I must write to Rowl tonight as I must study Greek in morning. I have 3 studies get along well. <>

Good night. From your Affec Brother  
CHHoward

<Dark>

My best wishes Otis!

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

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501 9/8/1853

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0460

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sep 8 1853

Dear Brother

I came up from Brunswick on Friday last and have been about home ever since. Lizzie came down from Livermore to our Meeting House to see me on Sunday, and on Monday I went as far as the Junction with them on their way to Lewiston, where they now are. I had a letter from L last night saying that they would remain in Lewiston until Friday. We have concluded to start for New York on Wednesday the 14 inst and shall probably come directly without much delay on the passage.

Lizzie & her Mother were both looking well, and were in fine spirits. Mrs W has decided to go with us. Mother says she thinks it is because Mrs Waite is afraid that it may cause scandal for Lizzie to travel alone so far with a gentleman (for I have began somewhat to assume that dignity since becoming Sophomore).

We received your letter by Tuesdays mail and were very glad to hear from you, although sorry that you were expecting me so early.

Yesterday I went up to see Charles. I found him pretty well and very glad to see me. He says tell Otis that I should like to have gone to see him too. He has a pleasant boarding place and Chum and I think is doing well. I took mother as far as Wayne and left her at Arza's. It rained in the evening and we staid all night coming home this morning.

There is a great deal of Election excitement here and Uncle John is coming out today to stay two or three days. He will try to unite the discordant elements in the Whig party, but I doubt his success. The Maine Law excitement will carry more votes than all the parties combined. From this town they will probably send a Rum Loco, L.L. Howard in spite of all that the Whigs at home and abroad can do.

The reason that we do not start sooner for New York is that there is an Excursion on that day and we can save about 4 dollars apiece in the trip by going then. Beside, the Ladies could not get ready till about that time. I shall see you so soon that I will write but little more now.

If you wish to write to me before I start, a letter mailed on Monday will reach me. Father wishes you to direct all of your letters hereafter to Leeds, as they now have a Daily Mail and can get them that way the soonest. Mother sends love - Dellie is at Mr Barrows at school.

Your aff Bro  
Rowland

Oliver O Howard

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502 9/10/1853 *From:* J.S. Houle

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0461

Holly Springs Miss

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Holly Springs Miss, Sept 10, 1853

My friend Howard;

After a long period I write you again. I saw that your name was honorably mentioned as a Student of West Point. Let me congratulate you upon your success. I suppose that you must be somebody to acquire reputation in the position you occupy. Unlike Bowdoin, where success depends upon a little application on the part of one, and some indolence on the part of another, you find talent is the master key to success. I hope you'll wear your well earned honors manfully and still march proudly on.

I am teaching yet. It is a thankless task. I of sure and sometimes I think I'll quit forever, but nothing more alluring opes upon my vision and I plod on. I have a very fine position, perhaps the best in this Country. I have an idea of converting my Institution into a Military Institute, or perhaps introduce rather the Military feature into my School. I think I could do it with the best success. Can you tell me where I could procure an Instructor, a Graduate of your Institution, who possesses the requisite qualities to aid me in carrying out this plan. I would want him to be firm as a Rock, decided in his discipline and determined in his Nature, one who would possess the character and talent to carry out the same discipline that you have in your Academy. I would like him to be of the Methodist persuasion, as this Country is very Sectarian and the Methodists are the strong denomination. I would want him in January. I could afford him a tolerably fair Salary, the first half year. The next if he was the man I could increase it. It would in a short time be a post of honor exceeding anything in the State and of profit sufficiently encouraging. If you know of any such I wish you would let me know him. I would like a man of pretty tolerable size, as that would do some thing with us.

I hardly hear of Old Bowdoin. My correspondents are very few and they have but little to say of our Alma Mater.

Owen is quite near me. He is succeeding finely. I see him occasionally. Pike is not far off. He is doing something for himself, the same jovial lively fellow. Goodwin is in my State, but a long distance from me. I recd a letter from him a short time since. He was getting on in the world. You of course have heard of Smith's success. He married a cool hundred thousand and is now enjoying the benefit of it so has been North. He is bound to shine! Poin is studying Law in Tenn & Bell the same. This disposes of the most of our friends. All are doing quite well.

Nothing that I can write, is taking place to interest you. We have some Rail Road excitement & some Political but these afford you no interest.

I hope you will write all about yourself, how you are getting along, and what you think of doing when you get through

Your friend as formerly  
J.S. Houle

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503 9/12/1853 *From:* Lattimore

*To:* Sir [O O Howard ]

OOH-0462

Wiscasset

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wiscasset Sept 12 1853

Dear Sir

The class of '50 met in the "Tontine Hall" in the good old town of Brunswick on Tuesday last, and then & there had a supper as in the days of yore. I am sorry to inform you that of the thirty members of our class but nine were present in the meeting. It was then noted that the first baby presented to the class after that time should be presented with a baby jumper by the class, so be prepared to contribute your proportion whenever C C Everett calls upon you.

C.C. Everett was chosen orator and G.G. Poindexter Poet for the class anniversary of 1860 - Everett & Stinson Comm.

The absent members were duly remembered in Sunday "bimorning bumpers". When again we come together may you be there to see is the earnest wish of your sincere friend & your <dear> classmate.

<Lattimore> Secy of the Class of '50

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504 10/7/1853 *From:* R. Gilmore (Dellie) *To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0467a South Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Maine Oct 7th 1853

My Dear Brother

I have not written to you for a considerable time. Charles came home last Friday evening, he is here now. I came home last Night, and he went to Mr Barrows and brought me home. I suppose Rowland told you about the school so I need not tell you much. We speak and write compositions every Wednesday afternoon. I have not written but one composition since I have been up there. Mr Bridgham is a very good teacher. We have from 24 to 30 scholars. Theresa Howard goes to school. In my spelling class there are about 10, and the one that leaves off at the head, the most times is going to have a present. We don't know what it will be, but I guess not much. I study Smyth's Astronomy, Greenlief's Arithmetic, Natural History and Grammar. I board at Mr. Barrow's and go home to dinner every noon.

Roland A and <Amial> Jones work here. R.A. has got a bile on his neck. It is a very bad one. This morning I saw it. Charles is well and says give my love to Otis, and should write if he had not written so short a time since. He and I went out this morning through the orchard and so up to Mr Bate's to see Loyd's family, who are up there. They came yesterday and are to stay about a month. I went up to Warren Howard's last week and staid all night. They inquired about you.

Thomas B. had a husking last week and I went to it. Mr Rackley had a husking and I went to that. I enjoyed it very much, he had ten to it. He had a very good supper.

I have just returned from the sheep Pasture. Father and I went down to find the sheep.

I cant write any more. It is growing dark and I cant see the lines.

Remember me as your affectionate Brother  
R. Gilmore  
Dellie as you

O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

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505 10/9/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0466 Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Oct 9th 1853

Dear Brother

It is now almost three weeks since we bade you good bye at West Point but I do not doubt that the time has seemed shorter with me than with you, for I have been busy most of the time in a great variety of duties, which pleasing variety is denied you, but I really hope that the time which has passed since we left you has passed pleasantly with you.

Lizzie has written no doubt before this giving you all the particulars of our return home and of our stay in New York City. We had an excellent time and I believe she was better when we arrived in Portland than when we left N.Y. I saw L when I came down (a week ago Friday) and although she was not so well as I should have liked, she was better than I expected to see her. I am in hopes that her journey to see you has done her no injury, as I really feared it would.

Mother received your letter the night before I left home and has probably answered it ere this. I was very glad to hear from you so seasonably. You evidently had an excellent time at the Ball or 'Hop' (as I believe I heard them calling it at the Hotel).

Mrs Scott appears very condescending and affable and without doubt seeks to make Cadets happy as possible. I should think from what you said that the General rather disapproved of her party for fear that it might interfere with your disipline. On the whole, I guess you had a good time.

You see that my paper is ruled wrong or something else, but you will make out right after awhile. I am now fairly out of the Freshman year after passing two years in that delightful season.

I suppose the College distinctions are in a great matter humbugs, but there is real satisfaction in being for the first time a Soph and enjoying his general license against all Freshmen and his Friday afternoon 'dignity'. On Friday Prof Boody gave the subject of our first theme and an introductory Lecture to the duties and excedences of his Department displaying his usual vanity and many unhappy 'hits'. He then handed us over to Tutor Packard and for himself he takes a vacation of nearly a year to recruit his health exhausted by his onerous College duties. He will visit Europe and come back no doubt a more finished orator & Rhetorician with a new addition to his vanity and self importance. Now after this, I know I shall get a labored defense of Prof Boody, because your generosity will not allow anyone spoken ill of. But it will be of no use as I do not doubt that our real estimates of the man are quite similar. He told the Senior Class the other day that his rank when in College might be found by refering to the Archives of a certain Society.

All of the Profs have remembered you to me this Term and Prof Upham told me the old story that great exertions were necessary for me to rank as well in his esteem as you did.

We had a good time the other night initiating the Freshmen and also yesterday in holding them in. These things, I will allow, are foolish but they are also very funny. I love to think of the ludicrous figure that some of the Freshmen cut, on their 'initiation' and often enjoy a quiet laugh with myself at their expense. I became a *óí* immediately after my return but it is not known here as yet. If Gilman inquires for me, you may tell him this as he is a Bro. The Society is prosperous and is taking the best men in Freshman Class.

Charles was well the Sabbath before I left home, but I have not heard from him since. Most of the Kents Hill scholars who came here to enter were turned away. Prof Packard having a mortal aversion to Everything that comes from that direction. I don't think Charles had better stay there much longer if he is fitting for College as I suppose he is.

I liked Miss Tupper, who came in as far as Boston with us, very well, but cannot express so much admiration for her as you seemed to feel when you came home on Furlough. I have been to meeting all day and feel rather tired. So I must finish my letter and go to bed. Remember me to your Roommate and others who may

enquire. If you see Warren, tell him I remember very gratefully his kind attentions while I was at West Point. I shall send you a paper and some Catalogues now and then and I am in hopes to hear from you often.

Uncle Ward was very savage in politics, but I never contradicted him a word, but as I knew it was of no possible use to try to contradict his positions. I communicated with him very well. He was very kind to me and told me to come to him when I get through my studies, and as he was well acquainted, he would try to be of some advantage to me. I think his Son in law a very superior man. He will make his mark in the world and get rich. He likes good Brandy, but I think he is too strong minded a man to make a drunkard.

Good night. Yours affectionately  
Rowland

O.O. Howard

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506 10/9/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0467b

South Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Dellie]

Sun. Oct 9, 1853

Dear brother

I have but little space to fill, but I conclude that I will finish Dellie's paper. I received your very interesting & kind letter last Thursday. You need not consider this as an answer, for I will write a longer one next Sat. Since I wrote to you before, I have determined to become a Christian. Have sought to have my sins forgiven through Jesus our Lord, by prayer & have also asked in meeting the prayers of Christians & expressed my determination to live a pious life & have <obtained>. I have faith to believe the same. I shall if I keep on be saved in Heaven at last. But I will write you all about it in my next letter.

From your Affec brother  
Charles

Father & Mother are singing their old tunes.

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507 10/11/1853 *From:* Jno N Jewett

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0468

Galena Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Galena Illinois  
Oct. 11th 1853

Friend Howard

Your letter of the 3d inst is received. I must protest against any title of A.M. or others of that sort - as I am not ambitious to wear them just now. The fact is that I did not feel interest enough to such trumpery to forward my 3\$ for my 2d Degree. I allowed the opportunity to slip & unless very favorable circumstances favor the attempt I shall probably never apply for another Parchment from the Faculty at Bowd. I prefer my professional to say literally <>.

But your report of my advancement into another & very different profession is a little the most startling announcement of the age. I am sure you have got the very first intelligence of any professional change on my part, for really your letter contains the very first intention I have received that any such high destiny was before me. If it should happen that I am yet to be a fellow laborer of Rev Antoinette S Brown, I shall expect a sufficient warning to give me a little time to prepare & commit to memory a few discourses with which to start out. I object however to this forcible abduction of one from a profession of his own choice & profess in very great faith in any body's getting me into the Pulpit without my own knowledge. No Sir. I should resist that to the very last. But if I went there wouldn't I give them a blowing up generally. I would like to have the scope of a minister occasionally, but at present I do not care to undertake his office. I am at a loss to account for such a story as you have reported and in the whole don't care how it did originate & circulate. When I think of leaving Law for Divinity as a profession I will give you more than an intimation of that fact & until then you may consider me more familiar with Chiltz Blackstone, Coke, Kent, &c &c than with the Fathers. I apprehend that one profession is as much as I can do justice to and it is rather too late to begin upon a new one. I am satisfied with the one I have chosen as a science, & will be as a practice if I can only get enough of it to do. In this respect I am not overburdened just now & therefore devote a very considerable portion of my time to reading.

I am glad to hear that you were so soon & so easily released from your unpleasant confinement & hope you did not suffer much in your reputation by it. Confound them I would say to shut a fellow up on so slight a pretext & keep him from what few pleasures life affords whilst he might be in a condition to enjoy them. Ah, ha, Military subordination would not do for me.

Yes, What are you going to do after you have finished your course & where are you going to be? Question of serious importance surely. I admit your liability, if you remain in the Service, to be sent off almost anywhere. But can't you get into the Corps of Civil Engineers, which deals in short distances for the most part & always in well attended & well furnished companies. This Service it seems to me could be much more agreeable than the military & equally & perhaps more profitable.

Perhaps you can get an appointment in the Turkish Service where according to present appearances there is to be a present demand of men of your profession and where lots of glory is to be won I have no doubt. Then again the Messilla question is growing darker and more threatening every day & you seeing how an opportunity to try the tactics of the Mexicans, or perchance Austria, trodding on the conduct of Capt Ingraham may imagine the stain can only be washed away in Blood. Any thing to get up a fight & you are in demand. But after all I should hardly like the employment I think would rather see it at a distance, than to be a participator.

Well I guess I'll continue to sit in my office which by the way, is a very comfortable one, & give men advice for 5\$ a piece or write deeds & leases, or prosecute claims in Court. I am comfortable then all of the time tho' perplexed often.

I am sorry to hear that Lizzie's cheek is fading & presume I may attribute your apprehension to anxiety & solicitude. As soon as you get out, get married & take her on a excursion for health & pleasure. I would get married tomorrow, if I could, satisfactorily. I am sick of Living in this way, I assure. Remember me to Lizzie & her mother.

Your Friend truly  
Jno. N. Jewett

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508 10/15/1853 *From:* C.H.Howard

*To:* brother Otis [Howard]

OOH-0469

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Oct 15, 1853

Dear brother Otis

As I promised you in my note that I put in Dellie's letter, I now take my pen to write you a letter. As I said in that, I now profess to be a Christian. Not that I have much changed from what I always was, not that I am any more or less than your younger brother Charles. But I now endeavor to discharge the duties which our God & Father has enjoined upon all & try to walk in the paths taught us by our Savior while upon earth. I was influenced to reflect & think of the matter by my Chum not exactly to think but to think & reflect more upon it, for being educated as I have, I have thought of the subject & at times quite seriously from childhood. By thinking & conversing & also reading my Bible I came to the conclusion that it is the duty of every one to love & serve his God. Besides this, by the same means, I was lead to believe that I could not be happy hereafter, in Eternity, if I did not do the commands of God while on Earth. On the contrary that I should be miserable if I did not endeavor to do as He requires, & I knew I could not be happy on Earth, because I know my stay here will at most, be short, then I was & should have been unhappy when thinking of Eternity. Then from a sense of my duty to God & for the sake of happiness here & here after, & from a sense of my great sinfulness during the short time I have lived, I went to God repenting & asking through the merits of Christ who died for Sinners, that I might be forgiven my sins & accepted as a Follower of Him, & as our Lord hath said he that asketh believing shall receive. I believe that as I was sincere that I had my sins forgiven. Since this I have endeavored to do my duty. I attend the prayer meeting & speak, and read & pray every morning & night with feeling, now I have to pray & I love God's people much better than I ever did before.

At first it was a great cross to me to speak in meeting before my associates who were not pious & to keel at family prayers. But we are commanded to take up the cross & follow Jesus. It required resolution from me at first to go forward. But I am thankful to God that I had this resolution of character.

Now Otis you may think that I became excited & was frightened into this step but I was not. I know because I believed the Bible that it was my duty. I think your last letter Otis was as good a one as I ever received from you or at least as interesting. If you are sincere in prayers Otis & mean at all times to do right & are not ashamed of religion. I do not know why you do not or cannot enjoy it. All about my Father is very interesting to me.

I was at home last Saturday & Sunday. I found all well. Mother had been sick but was about well again. I had a real pleasant stay at home. I talked more with father than I ever did before with mother & she & I read & keeled together before God. She was very thankful because I had become pious. I went up & brought Dellie home Sat. He is doing well this Fall.

I received a letter from Rowland Thursday. He went to Portland when he went back to Brunswick found Lizzie pretty well. He advises me not to stay here at school only while I am studying English studies for he thinks it is not a good place to study languages & he says that Prof Packard is preduced against Mr Robinson.

There has been a Teachers class formed here this Fall for the benefit of those intending to teach this winter. I have thought some of teaching so I joined it but I hardly think I shall teach. We meet about every evening at quarter after six & remain till half past 7. We have a lesson one night from the Teacher in the form of a Lecture & questioning some, reviewing the next with also another Lesson or Section. There is a Teacher for Arithmetic one for Geography, Perley teaches principles of writing. Mr Torsey of Grammar, the art of Teaching &c. We are supposed to know all these things before, & this is a review. Each night some one is drawn out by taking a name from a box in which he has those of the members of the class, on a review of what was given out the previous one. Do you not think this a fine idea Otis? That it is an excellent place for one wishing to teach? It is attended free from Tuition. I rather think now that I shall stay at home this Winter & go to the town school if we have a good teacher. I should like to study Algebra if we have one who understands it. I don't suppose I had better try to get into College before two years from this Fall (if my life & health is spared) though I shall be prepared before that if I study I shall then be seventeen, I shall have a good lot of time to study English & to get a good fit before that time. Though I suppose I shall have them in College, I should like to study Rhetoric,

Chemistry & Mental and Moral Philosophy.

Write me what you think about my entering College if I go & about my going Otis. And I wish you to ask me any thing about my religion that you wish, as of course you will. I feel badly that you are not doing better this Season in point of rank in studies. I hope that your next letter will say that you are doing well. I wish to write part of a letter if not a whole one to mother to night & also go to class meeting for which the bell will soon ring. I have not written to Rowland yet about this step of mine. What think he will say, he will be glad I think. I hope I shall meet you both in Heaven. I am glad that there is some prospect though slight of my enjoying once in a while an interview with you after next year.

Please tell me my mistakes if you observe any.

Last Wednesday & Thursday were the days for the Cattle Show & Fare. I attended the first day & got me a pair of boots sent up by Melvin Berry. It was at the Corner.

Write me as often as you can. May you be a humble Christian.

From your Affectionate brother  
C.H.Howard

When you pray, Otis, pray for me that I may be a good boy & lead a useful life.

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509 10/16/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0483

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Oct 16 1853

My dear Brother

Immediately after receiving your letter, on the spur of the moment, I sat down and wrote you three pages, neglecting my recitation for that purpose, but after reading your letter again and rereading my own, I came to the conclusion not to send it but to wait for my sober second thought, which if not so earnest and enthusiastic would perhaps be more sensible. I mention this simply to show you what interest your letter excited in my mind. During the writing of my former letter and ever since I have been in a brown study, and I am now in the same unsatisfactory state of mind and therefore I, of course, shall give you an unsatisfactory letter, but I feel as if I should be unkind to your love if I did not answer your heart revealingings in some way, and in a corresponding spirit.

How selfish I am! The first thing that occurs to me is, to defend myself from the implied imputation in your letter, but after all I don't know but that this should come first that you may feel no kind of distrust in regard your young Counselor if I may borrow your idea of the matter. God knows as I know, Otis, that I have no disposition to laugh at any mans feelings, but his follies and much less your own, which I most heartily sympathize in.

No! I can never make the sincere feelings of an upright and confiding heart, the subject of mirth and humor. I would not speak of this but I suspect in the same way that you do, that I make such subjects (the most sacred of any), the butt of ridicule, and thus much of confidence and heart communion is lost between us thus. I trust to time, if you shall continue associated together, to dispel all doubt of the purity of my motives and the cuity and would be generosity of my disposition. Of this enough!

Concerning the very delicate subject which you have broached in your letter, after all this thinking and writing, I do not feel prepared to speak. Your words have surprised and filled me with wonder and astonishment. In fact, I am utterly confounded at the conclusions which the facts seem to point out, and the suspicions which you seem justly to have formed, not but that these suspicions have crossed my mind before, but that they should take so real and tangible form.

Mother has not liked some things in Lizzie and I have always taken occasion to be her earnest and hearty defender. Is it possible that I have been mistaken? Is she not an aception to rest of her sex? as I have always argued. Would she stoop to deceive anyone? Has she been deceiving a heart like yours? The almost damning evidence which you present almost answers these questions in the affirmative.

Now what can I say in palliation? What do I know that is calculated to inspire and encourage you? Shall I bring forward my preconceived admiration of her character? If these suspicions prove true, I will abandon all pretense to an insight into character, of which I thought I had a little. I have assiduously cultivated a regard and friendship for L. on your account and also on my own, for I have valued her as a personal friend and correspondent, and after what I have heard, seen and believed, I will not yet give up that she is better and purer than appearances seem to indicate.

After what has occurred it is her bounden duty to write you if she has sufficient health to bear the exertion, and explain these things or confess her duplicity. Heavens! Who would have ever thought that I could use that word in regard to Lizzie Waite. I am not going to say the word to encourage or excite in you a false hope. Time and her own pen or lips can make these things straight. Doubtless you have reflected as I now am upon his opportunities and her weakness. Childlike simplicity and sisterly affection.

Remove yourself from the question and let us see how it has been. They have constantly lived together. They have been perfect confidants and have sympathized together in everything. P. has a great passionate and susceptible heart and Otis, I have not for some time doubted but that it was deeply interested in her, and I knew that she loved him, but I did not reflect how dangerous to the young heart is the indulgence of a sisterly affection towards one who bears no nearer relation than that of friend, and I own that I have been deceived in regard to one thing and that may cover many. She has not that manly independence which she first impressed

me as having. It was more in her appearance & in her mind. This I am convinced of, and this may be one reason why I am deceived if I am, in regard to her command over her own heart. I have thought that her reason controlled her affections, and her sense of honor would render your suit safe under any circumstances. I fear that I reckoned her too much like yourself, but these conclusions may be too hasty, and I pray God they are. The great question with you is does she love him? You do not deserve this. Has this affection proceeded so far as to estrange her heart from you.

Have they made any mention avowal of affection? The affection I mean of the lover? Does she love Perley more than she loves you? Would she rather that he than you should be her husband? These are harrowing questions to you both, but they must be answered. Yes! She must answer them. If she does not answer your letters or when she does, she evades these direct questions, then should I not ask them for you? I owe it to you both if matters take this turn to you as my brother, who is so situated that he cannot move, and to her as a near and dear friend, for so I regard her. I know the way Otis to her heart and if once I should demand her confidence I shall not be refused. If she does not write you within a week, write me again, what you think.

This matter has quite stirred up my feelings and as I said before shocked me, and as I have written hurriedly I fear it has been incoherently, but I care nothing for spelling or <[hole in page]> if you understand what I mean and while I am writing this, I am <> you will be dissatisfied with <> is nothing in it to quiet your feelings or to give you satisfaction anyway, but it is the best that I can do now.

Mother writes me that Charles has experienced religion, but I have not heard from him yet. I fear he feels a delicacy about writing.

Remember me to your Chum and write soon.

Yours affectionately,  
Rowland

P.S. I substitute the last page of my old letter because I have not time to write more. I wish to tell you in regard to my visit to New York, that I was entirely satisfied with it. Everything in your conduct which you seem to fear that I should construe into neglect, I found good reason for. Lizzie, if you love her, demanded your first attention and I should have come away disappointed if you had directed it elsewhere. You did not tell me hardly enough of your future plans but these you can give me in your letters. It is now after 11 o'clock and I must bid you good night. I shall wait and ask to hear from you if it is but a mere note.

Cadet Oliver O. Howard  
West Point, New York

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510 10/17/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0471

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 17th 1853 [edges glued together]

My dear Son,

This is, indeed a beautiful afternoon, and the fourth day, of just the same. This afternoon, no one remains at home but myself, and Nancy, there being an excursion on the cars to Lewiston to view the seven miled Myrror, it has been a long while since I have began to set times to write to Otis, but some common occurrence would prevent. I thought when I received your last letter I would answer it immediately, but you see that eighteen days have passed since the reception of it.

R.B. appeared in good health when at home and wrote me, soon after he got settled at College in good spirits, he says. Now if I can have my health I can do well. He went into Portland, and called on Mrs Waite and Lizzie. I presume Rowland and Lizzie have written you all about themselves ere this.

Charlie has written me, and made me a visit and brought home your letter written four days after mine which I read with much pleasure and tenderness. Too it brought back many trying scenes, which to my sensitive spirit were, indeed trying at that time. Truly I always had a desire to make those around me happy and when I have failed I have always attributed it to a lack of judgment in myself, but of late there seems to be a great change in me I do not, or are not capable of feeling as I did once, I look at my responsibilities very different from what I did even ten years ago, but I forbear I know not where my pen might lead me, I have lived as long with my present husband as I did with your father. I hope I shall deal justly and my friends will look with Charity on my <>.

Charley seems to have a desire to live a Christian life and I hope <he> will, faith in the upholding hand of God sustains us in <Trials> perhaps Otis, you think Mother might write something of Leeds, and Leeds folks but my interest in Leeds people, and the affairs, of Leeds, is not, as it would be if my Children were here. I believe our relation are generally doing well nearly all my family have visited me within a short time, your father was at your Uncle Ensign's this morning on business. Says Ensign's health is poor, he has had a bad cough a long time, and is quite reduced. I fear he may not recover if the cold weather should come before he is better.

Your Cousin Seth Howard has become the father of a pair of twins a son and daughter so your relation are increasing. Nelson Leadbetter and wife have been here, this fall and made me a visit. They were detained at his fathers, sometime. He had a sick turn which lasted, a week or more.

We have no preaching in our house this fall, the Brethren fell out some how with Mr Barrows and he preaches in other places and we do without. I am happy in the thought that you hear the gospel from sabbath to sabbath, and I sincerely hope you hear with an understanding heart. Our heavenly father knows our hearts.

I have not visited Uncle Barney this season. Your fathers business has kept him almost all of the time away on the railroad. With the horses he has built a great many rods of fence by the railroad and carried dinners for his men from home that you will see makes employment for all of us.

I am now reading Doct Payson's Sermons, perhaps you may have read them. This volume which I now have contains sermons. They are very good. They interest me, very. The one that I read yesterday. I thought seems to set the character of God in its true light and us poor frail creatures in our true light. How vain it is for us dependant creatures to fight against the providences of God.

Your father has returned from the excursion is delighted with the idea that the six cars were so full that half of them could not get seats, this is the second excursion within a week on the road. Your father said he saw Uncle Stillman on the train, going to see the seven miles Myrror. I was one of the few who were left at home. But I have engaged myself well, as I have been calling over my domestic cares.

Dellie is still at school in the centre of the town. Thomas Bridgham the teacher. His school is rather small. Your father said he saw Mrs Bridgham on the cars this afternoon. Your father only went as far as the Junction where the directors held a meeting this afternoon. They have an office there where they hold their meetings.

Your father is now seated at the table counting piles and piles, of money, or bank bills. How much financierring a railroad creates how we shall come out is uncertain.

I am anxious to hear from Lizzie, but cannot unless through you, or some one else. I think a great deal about my absent sons, and always hope they will be happy in well doing. I hope you will have your health through the coming winter. I have not heard whether your Aunt Strictland has returned from Brooklyn. Rowland said she spoke of going up to West Point with him and Lizzie but he did not encourage the idea at all. His route was such Rowland was not well pleased with his Uncle Ward. I concluded he took an unfortunate time to visit him as he had just returned from his political conventions, and it did not go to suit him. He was quite well pleased with Mr Henry, his uncles son in law. Arza Gilmore is a cripple, one leg drawn up considerably with three absesses, but strange to say with all these, enjoys tolerable good health. Louisa has been confined to the house since last May, with the exception of a few times she rode out the first of August. Prospect is, that she will be confined all winter if she ever recovers. I go occasionaly to see her but not as often as I should if our horse could be at home more. I have lately visited Deacon Turner's. Mrs T. still living. Sarah her nurse she is a great sufferer. Sometimes think it best to mention some of our troubles, so that you may not be surprised to hear of the death of some of our friends.

I am much obliged to you for giving me an idea of your studies as it is a comfort to me to know how your time is employed and to think you have some rational enjoyments. Your letters always interest me, more than anything. I have got a part of your drawings framed and have bought me new carpet and table for our room which makes quite an improvement. This must be a complicated letter. Write when you can.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O O Howard

P.S. The reason why I have my paper in two pieces, I blotted one side of one half sheet and cut it off.

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511 10/28/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* brother Otis [Howard]

OOH-0472

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Oct 28th 1853

My dear brother Otis

I received with great joy your letter of the 19th on Mon. And I now improve the first opportunity to reply. I was exceedingly glad to find that my last was a welcome & interesting letter for I like in every act of mine to please my brother. He always is & has been so kind to me; yet if this news of which I wrote had not been welcome, notwithstanding my love for my brother, it would not in the least have changed my predetermination; for I even I am Commanded in the Bible to love God with all my heart, might, mind & strength; & this I will endeavor to do, though it may be a cross. But Otis I knew that it would be well received by you, you would be a Christian Otis & you must; yet I cannot say anything that will influence you, it must be the workings of the Spirit & Otis does not some thing whisper to you now, that you should seek & live for your God! I know it is so, your letters speak it though in different language. Your letter was full of excellent thoughts & good advice & I will try & profit by it. I know I shall be subjected to sorrows & disapointments in this life, but when this is the case I will look to God for aid. Temptations beset the path of every one, but in this I have the example of our Savior for he was tempted, & I will watch & guard against them, as much as in my power.

How, Otis, do you think Rowland will or did receive these <writing> of which I have been speaking? For I wrote to him a letter last Saturday mailing it Monday and I have not yet recd an answer, though perhaps I shall get one today. Rowland also has been as good to me as a brother could be. He is sensible & sensitive so I have reason to think he will coincide with you in his judgement of this matter, first because his good sense must show him the necessity & expediency of it, & second his regard for me will prevent his condemning the act of mine.

I was real glad instead of feeling hurt because you corrected my mistake & mentioned my carelessness in writing. I will profit by it & be more careful hereafter, & even with all my caution I am liable to make mistakes in this letter, if you can find any Otis I wish you to tell them all to me. Any defect in expression, or spelling & also in thought, if I entertain any wrong idea whatever, or if, considered so by you, please write me about it. In this way I may improve nearly as much as in writing other Compositions. This reminds me that I have not written but two compositions this Term. I should have written more but I do not get time. I suppose I ought to write a composition instead of letters today but then I like to receive & so I am obliged to write letters, & writing a letter is not so hard a task to me when I have leisure as to some.

My Eolean lessons have taken much time this term, but I only wished to take lessons one term & so I shall not be troubled with them again. Writing about letters brings to mind, that I have been particularly blessed in respect to receiving letters the past week. Monday I recd yours. Wednes. One from Mother of 4 pages & one from Dellie of 3 p. in which was enclosed one of 4 p. of note paper from Aurilla and Thurs I recd one from a schoolmate at Topsham & residing there. He says that Mr Adams has rather a small school there this Fall, now at near the close of the Term there being only 19 scholars. Mother wrote that all were as usual, mentioned receiving a letter from you, says you do not stand as well in your class as usual. You did not mention your standing to me.

Dellie seems to be doing well at his school, but expects it will close soon. Mr Barrows has had an attack of fever lately but was getting better when he wrote. Aurilla congratulates me on having given my heart to God & trusts she has done the same, says she does not enjoy very good health, has a pain in her side often & has a bad cough, thinks she has not long to live in this world, though I hope that she will yet get well & enjoy good health & a happy life here as well as hereafter & do good in the world for there is much to be done.

I have not thought very strongly that I should teach this Winter. I only thought some of it because I did not know as they would have any fit Teacher in our district. But as you do not think best & as Mother is not much in favor of it I will give up the idea entirely. I mentioned the Teacher's class to you I believe in my last letter. I have since been examined by a Committee of three & got a certificate or shall have one at the close of the Term from Mr Torsey for teaching school, although many that were examined with me did not get one, but studied a while longer & then again were examined & even then some did not get one, but this will not hinder their teaching school for they can well enough get one of the Town school. Almost all were older than I that were examined. I

had also about concluded not to enter College next Fall for I thought two years study before entering, will not hurt me, but on the other hand I shall rank better in College & what is of the most importance I shall have a better education and as I shall not have to study hard to enter in two years. My health can be recruited & my body as well as mind prepared for the duties of College life. I have no weighty reasons for entering next year, only I should like to be in the class with Winter & others as well as be in College as long as possible with Rowland. For if I enter next fall I shall be with him two years.

The latest news I have had from Lizzie came through your letter. I really hope she will soon recover. I suppose it is my turn to write her a letter but I do not have only time to answer those letters I receive, & perhaps if she is unwell she would not or could not correspond much. Does Lizzie ever mention the subject of religion in her letters to you Otis?

My sheet is full & I will close.

From your Affec brother,  
Charles

I hope Otis you will do as you know, for this is all that is wanting. Continue to pray. I shall practice two hours & then write mother & Dellie & Aurilla a letter & I owe one to Chum Winter.

[The following clipping was glued to the letter.]

We learn that Hon. Orville Jennings formerly of this State, and a graduate of Bowdoin College of the class of 1849, has been recently elected by the people to the office of Attorney General, in the State of Arkansas, by a large majority. The merits of Maine boys and Bowdoin graduates seem to be appreciated wherever they go. [handwritten comment] sent me by Rowland some time ago.

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512 11/1/1853 *From:* Jno N Jewett

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0473

Galena Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Galena Illinois  
Nov. 1st 1853

Friend Howard

Your favor of the 24th ult. was duly received & it gives me much pleasure to acknowledge it. You are indeed becoming quite prompt, very respectably so & I suppose that as your term of confinement is approaching its conclusion, your duties are less irksome & perhaps less arduous, & therefore leave you in better humor with yourself & "all the rest of man-kind," especially your friends.

Well I wish you much joy during this, your last Term at West Point, for I suppose you have entered upon your last term by this time. I well remember the Sensations & hopes with which I commenced my last quarter of College Life. It began to seem like breathing free & clear again, but then I had the dingy walls of a school Room for a year (finally lengthened into two) before my vision & this was not very pleasant prospect as you can testify.

You now go forth with business all assigned you, if you choose to accept of it & very good pay at that \$65 per month. Well I should have accepted that with pleasure tho' about the Service I am still in doubt. Well I have got through my school days, my days of teaching & the incipient stages of professional Life. I am in the eyes of the community an independant man having an individual responsibility, & a reputation to establish & sustain. I shall endeavor to put myself through according to the principles which, I judge, should govern a man of honest purpose & ambition.

The result of my efforts I shall leave for future development.

Townsend is here, doing just exactly for all the world as he did when in College. He reads when & what he pleases, goes & comes when & how he pleases, is a gentleman & a gallant to any extent he pleases, but as for business & business qualifications he has very little inclination that way, I believe. I have come to the deliberate conclusion that he can & will be of very little Service to me & have already made other & better arrangements for the future. I have formed a partnership with a Lawyer of good practice & reputation, a shrewd business man & practitioner. The firm name will be Weigley & Jewett, the arrangements are all made, the Articles drawn, & nothing remains but to sign them. This I think will be for my advantage. We shall have business connections in New York & elsewhere, & expect to win a large & profitable establishment of course. Tho' not proposing to get rich, at once. I shall probably realize enough to pay expenses so long as I remain in single blessedness of which I have a good prospect for the present.

You complain of not hearing from Perley. I have not received a letter from him since soon after commencement. I am surprised at his not writing you. I intend to visit Maine next May or June, part of the way at least on business. I shall be most happy to see you if possible. I hope your fears in relation to Miss W are groundless. My respects to her & others.

Truly yours  
Jno. N. Jewett

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513 11/1/1853 *From:* J. W. Sill

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0474

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal

Nov 1853 [Day not written - Assume 1st]

Dear Howard

I would have acknowledged the receipt of your letter at an earlier period were it not that my numerous correspondents had imposed already so many serious obligations on my shoulders as to make it necessary to leave your own call unanswered though I assure you far from untended. I wish that you might find time amid your multifarious duties to give me frequent information of your affairs, interesting, as on all the incidents, of the to me now past but not forgotten Cadet Life. You are gradually shortening the long road which you have trodden with such varying success and intermixed & wavering steps, I congratulate you my dear fellow that you have advanced thus far so well, not complimenting you so much as rejoicing that you have been able with so many competitors to stand erect, with the consciousness, <Stamo Sem stihil humani a me ahinumi puto>. With that feeling uppermost, not puffed up by success unreasonably, not cast down by unexpected reverses, your career will be enabling to yourself & useful, & glorious, Sinn it too much upon an unwound consciousness of desert & ability which too frequently is the brother of conceit & vanity. But go forward trusting on the assistance of God & hoping for a right end to a right pursuit and a right purpose.

Every day convinces me anew that time well put in if I may use such an expression is not without a corresponding useful effect afterwards. And you will feel amply rewarded for your present labors when you get to a resting place when you can make a retrospect while at the same time your life can dimly take in the outline of the path which you will tread in company with your coming years. Let us then in the words of the great poet from your native state be up and doing with a heart for any fate, still achieving still pursuing learn to labor and to wait. I rejoice that your mind is in a serious mood with reference to the <Community> of Religion. My dear Sir I do hope you will not be led at any time either now or in your coming days of worldly praise & prosperity to forget the tenderness of that to which links you to the passing, fleeting things of time and sense. Sudden death might find you unprepared.

But suppose that bugbear as the religious term that solemn visitation of the Duty to be far away from your scenes, the stuff of life may show you going more slowly perhaps, but not less surely to the bitter end of the unbeliever. Such I trust may be neither your or my lot, but still it becomes us to tread manly when an erring step may thrust us down a frightful precipice.

I wish that you might be able to join me next year in this delightful situation. I wonder unceasingly that the ordnance should not be the first choice of those men who stand any chance of getting into it. I would not exchange my present station with any other in the Country. True it is the best ordnance station and I can not expect to remain here always. While I am here, I expect to be as contented and happy as ever hereafter, probably more so.

The superior officers are men quite to my taste, and as for society & books you are set down in the Garden of the <Stespinds>. You only have to put out your hands to pluck your choicest fruits. You will not be surprised then to hear that I am almost as much of a student as at West Point. In fact the real necessity of being & doing something never impressed me so strongly as now. The Army is not a very fertile field for greatness or extended usefulness, but there are so many occupations thrown open to an enterprising and thorough student that a West Pointer need not fear that he shall ever want bread. I have heard officers more than once express their regret that they had not when fresh from the Academy step into a more lucrative & useful profession.

Every one must of course be governed by their own feelings & interests. The polar star of a man's existence should be fixed & defined and then if he is a skillful navigator there need be no anxiety as to the <outcoming> he will sail into the wished for heaven with his sails set and his colours floating at the mast head.

You are aware I presume that during the coming week the Steamer San Francisco is to sail away freighted with the 3rd Reg. for California. If it had been an English Regiment and greatly distinguished as the English pretend all of their Regiments to be, I might have prepared gallant or invincible to qualify the designation. But our 3rd is

neither renowned for gallantry or invincibility. They fight bravely when the time comes and the officers are duly <>, but the gallant 3rd, would be an anomalous toast at a mess dinner. Our friend Smith sails for the rewards of the West with a heavy purse I imagine enclosing six months pay, but poor fellow I fear he has a counterpoise in a heavy heart. Smith is a singular fellow, the creation of a singular combination of circumstances. I admire him at one time and censure him at another. I always feel a stormy sympathy in his behalf on account of his misfortunes. I pity him for his failings. But who has not them? If you feel conscious of none, I must say that you enjoy a greater satisfaction than myself. Let me then gently draw a veil over what it avails not to expose.

There is a subject for reflections & sympathy. The ways of the duty are not our ways we may be sure. Here we anchor our hopes for one moment while the zephyrs play over a sunny & untroubled sea. But the night may find us struggling on the breakers, with a sky shrouding every star in midnight blackness. Poor Smith nurtured not in care but harassed with biting poverty, loving and not beloved, yearning for the gentle attractions of quiet, peaceful living, and yet thrown among the rough & rude company of the Indians & the wild mountaineer, to live where noting & <> hold nightly converse with the small hours of morning and the hymn of praise & thanksgiving gives place to the prolonged nails of bacchanals. Surely he is of adamantine firmness who yields not to the only call which allows him into <forgetful ends> of deep seated sorrow. Surely God must keep a heart pure and fervently pious that yields not to despair and subtly down it to stem misanthropy. Life is brief and eternity holds out a cheering prospect for the true Christian. "The alarm, the struggle, the relief. Then sleep <> side by side". I have been peculiarly favored and it will become me to be thankful. I hope that if many years are before me, they will not attest a lack of improvement or at least a disire to avail myself of their passing opportunities. You see I have given you quite a long talk though much has been about my own important self. You must make one allowance for all exaggeration.

Now for business. I left some sheets at W.P. which I stand greatly in need of. I do not remember whether I gave them away or not. If anyone has them and says that I gave them to him let him by all means keep them. I am under the impression that I put them with my books in Closson's trunk. Please oblige me by making inquiry. Don't post a notice in No 10. That would be going a little too far.

Give my regards to Clossen and Chap. I will answer their letters at the earliest opportunity.

Your friend  
J W Sill

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514 11/6/1853 *From:* [Rowland Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0475

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Nov. 6. 1853

Dear Brother

I am solicitous to hear from you frequently, for a cause which I am very sorry for. The more I reflect on your affairs, the more I am mystified. How she could ask me to let her accompany me to New York, how she could visit our relations with me, and thus confirm the opinion that she belonged to our family, I can't understand. It is so foreign to the modesty & delicacy which I supposed characterized her. When I think of all these things, I cannot make myself believe your suspicions true. Since you have so deeply interested me in this matter. Do write me, on any new development. If these things are so. I should have liked to send your last letter to Perly, that he might see the disposition of the man whom he has injured.

That letter lies quietly in my draw, but I shall never forget it. Lizzie has written me a letter, recently in her usual pleasant vein, and this morning I thought I would answer it but when I had got one sentence down, such a feeling came over me as caused me to throw the paper aside, in disgust, but perhaps I shall feel better by & by and finish it.

Charley has written me a letter somewhat similar, I presume to yours, giving me an account of his conversion and his present convictions of duty with many warm hopes that I should pursue the same course. Charles manifests feelings in this matter honorable to his head and heart. I anticipate for him a cheerful and happy life. From Mother I have not heard for three weeks. I fear she is sick. Write me if you have heard from home lately.

I am having a very pleasant Term in College, and if it was not for the frequent "screws" I should enjoy myself well enough, but those I am getting used to as the eels get used to being skinned. My themes cause me as much solicitude as anything. I have written two and am now on the third. It is new work for me and I do not succeed so well as I could wish. Thanksgiving comes a week from next Thursday but I do not think I shall go home. It is rather a road about & expensive road and I am trying to retrench a little this term on account of my New York excursion.

This morning when I awoke I found it snowing merrily. I should think there was three inches fell, but it is fast disappearing before the Sun. It will make the street muddy and uncomfortable. I am my own monitor and therefore do not have to attend meeting today as the walking is bad and I am

[MISSING PAGE]

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515 11/14/1853 *From:* Margaret Hetzel

*To:* My dear Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-1735

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[321]

Washington

Nov 14th [1862, (written in pencil) –see note.]

My dear Mr Howard,

The kind interest which you expressed for my boy while I was at W. Point encourages me to appeal to you now in his behalf. I am unusually anxious about him, having just received the report for October giving his number of demerits – as 94!! Why he has been so grossly <cached> I cannot imagine – not for what offences or negligences this great number have been received. But I am in despair about him. For certainly when he had already so many at the beginning of October, if he could not go through the month without adding 22, there is little hope that he will pass through two months, with no more than six. Is there no hope that some of these dreadful demerit may be taken off? And will you not give him some assistance or advice that may be useful to him? I do not know what, or how, but beg that you will see him and do what you can for him.

He has some absurd notions on the subject of demerit which I wish you could disabuse him of - and he fancies that 12 of his will not count because he received them before the 22nd of June. Now that is impossible because he did not enter until the 20th. I commend him to your kindness, and will consider it a great favor if you will do what you can for him, & write me a line giving your opinion of his prospects - if they are not already passed all hope.

With best wishes for yourself,  
I am - truly & sincerely yours  
Margaret Hetzel

[Note. S. Sheldon Hetzel entered West Point in July 1, 1853. Thus Otis, in his senior year, would have overlapped with him in his freshman year. In the June 1854 Official Register of Officers and Cadets USMA, he had acquired 99 demerits, in the June 1855 Register he had acquired 90 demerits, and in the June 1856 Register he had acquired 200 and had been suspended since April 5, 1856. He never graduated from West Point. His mother must have been asking for Otis' help prior to his suspension. Since Otis graduated in June 1854 and did not return until 1857, this letter was probably written before Otis graduated, presumably on Nov. 14, 1853.]

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516 11/26/1853 *From:* Epes Sargent

*To:* Friend Otis [Howard]

OOH-0476

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Nov 26, 1853

Friend Otis

I feel almost ashamed and in fact I really do that I haven't answered your letter before. I was sick some ten days after your brother left, and when he returned from W.P. I understood him you would not want the cigars. When I got about after my second sickness I found so much to do that I was obliged to neglect my friends until now as I am little more at leisure. I will send the <nadfull> now with pleasure if you want them.

Frank and Addison returned ten days since. Both are well now. A. has been sick.

Let me hear from you soon. I will try & be more interesting next time.

Yours Truly  
Epes Sargent

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517 12/1/1853 *From:* W.L.L. [Warren  
Lane Lothrop]

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0588

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dec 1st [1856, written in pencil. However I believe that it should be 1853.]

Friend Howard

Ben'y handed me a dollar the other day, which he said you gave him to pay or be paid for a package. I did not understand so I sent you a note enquiring about it. <Have> you not received the note? Please send me a note & explain. I think I must be forgetful.

Are you acquainted with a Cadet by the name of Biggs. If you are & know anything of his character, I would be very much obliged if you would tell me something about him. I have a story to tell about him the next time I see you.

In confidence,  
Yours  
W.L.L.

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518 12/2/1853 *From:* Warren L Lothrop

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0477

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point  
Dec 2nd [1853]

My dear Otis,

I arrived here last evening, after spending about three weeks with my friends in Leeds. I saw your mother just before I left Leeds, who was in good health & spirits. All were also well in Leeds.

As I came through Portland I saw your Lady who came into the car with your brother. She looked remarkably well. Sent her love & wished me to see you.

Come down some evening if convenient so I can tell you the news. Please send word by <Benjy> so I may be in when you come. I left here very unexpectedly & could not call on you before I left.

Yours Truly  
WLL [Warren L Lothrop]

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519 12/9/1853 *From:* W. L. Lothrop

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0479

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dec 9th [1853] [The year was written in pencil.]

My dear Howard

Ben'y did not tell me you were coming down to see me, until late the same evening you came. For this reason I was absent, at the Falls. Can you come again. If you do send me word so I can be in. You had better send it the day before you come so I can be sure to be in. I should be pleased to have a chat with you, & would come up to see you if I could without being seen. Every thing with me goes smoothly, our school commenced last week & the most of my time is occupied in my studies. I have heard from home twice since my return. All are well. Do come down & see me if you can.

In haste

W. L. Lothrop

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520 12/17/1853 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0480

Galena Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Galena Illinois  
Dec 17th 53

Friend Howard

Your Letter of the 4th inst found me in excellent health & spirits and enjoying myself in both a social & business capacity as well as circumstances would allow. At that time & ever since however I have been very busy. For it is now court time & we have some considerable to attend to which is all very well & exactly in our Line of course. These weeks we have been compelled to be in attendance for the most of the time at the Court House & we have the encouraging prospect of remaining there two weeks longer at least. The novelty of Court practice soon wears & it then becomes a matter of duty which without objecting to, we feel little pleasure in doing. I do not say that this is my case exactly, tho' I must confess that as a matter of pleasure there are many thing much more agreeable but we have been very successful thus far & therefore do not complain.

By the way we came very near burning out about a week ago. I had been out to a little party of young folks & was just returning with "my Lady" as all good citizens are bound to at about 12 o'clock when the alarm of fire was given. We hurried along as fast as the existing condition of things would permit & I soon discovered that the building just across a very narrow street from our office. Leaving the Lady, in a manner rather precipitate I presume, to look out for herself, I rushed to the office & held myself in readiness for the emergency that might arise. The fire was so hot that it caught our window casings & sash and the cornice of the building & quite destroyed them. But by perseverance & the assistance of a very bad fire engine we escaped without further damage. Our Law library worth about \$1500.00 & Notes & papers to the amount of \$10,000.00 or more were in the office & without insurance. We could hardly afford to lose so much as that for the sake of getting rid of the old wooden building, which it was no loss to have destroyed.

By the way we have a little the nicest office in the city & it would be a great pleasure to me to have you step in & take a comfortable smoke with me & chat about old times & doings. I would advise you when your course at West Point is completed to take a trip out West & see what a country we have here. A journey of this kind would do you good I have no doubt. About Aug or Sept. it is delightful to go up the upper Mississippi & well pays the expense as I am informed. I mean to try it by & by when it comes right.

My respects to friends with whom you may have correspondence & believe me

Yours truly  
Jno. N. Jewett

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521 12/17/1853 *From:* Peleg [Perley]

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0481

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland, Dec. 17, 1853.

My Dear Howard,

Now I know I ought to have written you a fortnight since and more and I did actually commence a letter to you a week or fortnight ago to morrow but I found Lizzie was writing you and she showed me a letter you had just written her, showing that your heart was so much more at ease than when you wrote me that I neglected to write to try in my poor way to console you or cheer you under such unmerited indignities and so barbarous treatment and I knew you had practiced too long on the maxim of Horace "Quid quid nefas est corvigenes buins fit paticitia" to be easily discouraged by the insolence of officials in any station.

Lizzie is looking very much better and is very much better both in health and spirits. She has improved very much these few weeks past and I have been much happier than for some time past at the thought that you were and she was. You have been happier have you not Chum?

I hope so, I do from my heart I do. You deserve to be happy Howard and I doubt not you will be. You are not going to do me the injustice (for it would be injustice) to think that I don't care for you - don't love you - because I have delayed too long on this. You wont think any such, hard thing of me will you, at least not for a long time for you know I am a terrible fellow to put off things and Jewett gave me a nice blowing up a little while ago because my letter to him was, what might well be charged to some of his epistles, civil and cold- accused me of having forgotten all the friendships of earlier days and the memories of College life and of having come to be regardful only of self and quoted you as having the same impression as himself. I acknowledged to him that perhaps I had grown selfish, had become too neglectful of friends but I did not admit that I had become wholly selfish of had forgotten my friends in College, either him or you. I don't wonder he got the idea, I don't wonder you should have got such a one at all, for well you might. I did not answer your letter of last spring and you spoke of my neglect in writing to him I suppose and well you might think a man might remember his Chum who had so much in common with him better than that.

I should have written you but though I did not I had not forgotten you, nor did I cherish envious or harsh thoughts of you. By no manner of means. The world has its effect on all of us, numbing our hearts, chilling our affections, making us gradually but none the less surely though somewhat imperceptibly, selfish, hard and cold but though I am aware of its effect on me and deplore it I know I shall never become so selfish, my heart so indurated that it shall not beat warm towards some of my classmates and especially towards you. So I feel now, so I think I ever shall.

Sunday evening.

I am thinking strongly of going to Law School. I want to go very much but the wont of funds is a serious objection which stares me in the face as Law schools, all of them, are very expensive. I have been and am reading very busily and one week goes after another almost imperceptibly, stealing off ere I am aware and almost discouraging me by their rapid flight for it seems as though a life time were too short to gain a knowledge of the law though one should live to a good old age and Time himself should lag a little in his course. Every new elementary work opens up a vast field which never before existed to my imagination and makes me feel as if I should add "one more".

"To baffled millions that have gone before". It is really in the present state of professional <reputation> and professional learning a serious not to say hazardous attempt in a young man of but moderate abilities and every day energies to enter into either of the Professions expecting to reap a rich harvest of rewards or honors or professional emoluments.

It requires a great mind to do this and the greatest often fail to attain it. To make a good professional man requires a union of rare qualities such as seldom unite in one - to make a good man requires it in any walk of time. As for me Howard, you know my hopes were never so high as those of some and I don't see as even these bid fair to be realized very soon. However, I do not despair nor feel very blue though I have felt

sufficiently so at times and expect to in times to come. I shall try and keep steadily on and try what the future has in store for me. I am not at all impatient to see for I have learned that our fate unravels itself fast enough.

As for you Howard I think really you will enter on your Profession with good auguries of success. You will be well fitted and will know whether you are or not which is not so easily to be told in the case of us Lawyers. It is hard for us to tell whether we know anything about law or not til we try it and then I opine some of us will find the not with a vengeance. I hope you are much happier than you were. I am Howard as in days of yore

Truly your friend  
Peleg.

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522 12/27/1853 *From:* N. T. Manwell

*To:* Friend [O O Howard]

OOH-0482

Monmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Monmouth Dec 27th 1853

Dear friend

I take this opportunity to inform you how we get along. My health is not very good <the> could [cold?] that I had when I left your house troubles me yet. When I got home I did not find Benjamin as well as I expected to was very sick with the Lung Fever. Mother Phebe and I took care of him every night for two weeks. After I come here we got pretty well beat out. I thought when I come home that I should have some help of about my work but instead of that, I had to help the rest and I have not got my work more than half done. I should like to stay here till the 12th of January if you could get along, any way Janes Boy is quite sick. She does not know what the matter is with him. That sore has healed up. Write me as soon as you get this.

From  
N. T. Manwell

[This is probably Nancy Manwell, a house worker for Eliza Gilmore.]

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523 1/1/1854

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dellie [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0487

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 1st 1854.

My dear Dellie,

I have already written two lengthy epistles tonight, one to Lizzie & one to Mother, but as I fancied your disappointed looks that will spread itself over your countenance every time mother breaks the seal of a letter from West Point with nothing enclosed for you. I began to have a pressing sense of my unpardonable neglect & could not resist the temptation of stealing another half hour from sleep, in order to pen a few thoughts to you if they are not so bright as you might expect from a young gentleman who has had a double dose of education. But the very awkward, disconnected sentences that have their birth on the disputed territory, situated between the country of Wakedom & dreamland are often the most entertaining by far. You see, we have so many common sense matters to deal with in ordinary every-day-life that we get surfeited with them, so we say "anything for variety". We can laugh at a fool for his folly & at the odd man for his eccentricity - while the wise remarks of a rail-road man are too dry & stale to possess a spark of interest.

My room-mate has gone to the Hospital & I am all alone. He poor boy is afflicted after the manner of Job, only not to such a degree, since he has but one thorn in the flesh. He has been lying on his bed for two days looking pale & disconsolate. I took the part of Job's comforters. Only I did not try to convince him that it was for the sin of self-righteousness, that he was afflicted, but I laughed at him & after gave him the <old> prescription - "patience, patience my boy"! I told him of my six month's experience, three at a time, & of the rich times I had on furlough where these grievous afflictions were particularly calculated to render the spirits sore & by an equal reaction make the body sorer.

I am glad you are going to be such a nice boy this winter and learn so much. You must as you undoubtedly have done, get Rowland to tell you what you had better study as he can tell better than I can.

Our class chose horses by lot while I was at Peekskill - so that we now have each a horse that we call our own. They chose for me one called Ritchie, a very good horse. He is smart & has one good quality, he never stumbles or falls. I shall ride him & him alone till I graduate next June. A week ago last Wednesday I rode a horse name Dike. After riding all together a while our platoon was halted & each one required to ride his horse by himself twice or three times round the riding hall. My beast was contrary at first & said he wouldn't go. After getting a decent whipping from our instructor & a good spurring from myself he started at a rapid rate but with the wrong foot foremost. Mr Sacket said "don't ride him so fast", just as I was passing the corner, at that instant all four of his clumsy legs went from under him & he came on his side with me in the saddle as a consequence my foot was under him & got slightly jambed, but the tan bark was soft & it did not hurt me much. I got up before the horse but could not ride any more that day. I am well now. So you perceive I am slightly prejudiced against horses that cannot keep their feet under them.

Good night - a happy New Year

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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524 1/1/1854

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0488a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sunday Jan 1, 1854

Dear Brother

I wish you a happy new Year! And scores more of the same sort. We have all exchanged the new years greeting this morning and would be much pleased to make it verbally to you. But wait a little while and I am in hopes we shall all be united again at home.

We are literally buried in snow. Two storms of eighteen inches each accompanied by gales of wind, have piled the snow mountains high. The road between this and the School House is filled from wall to wall, as you used to see it but if possible, worse than ever!

The drifts are ten and fifteen feet deep. The change is sudden for when I came home a little more than a week since the ground was bare and people were earnestly wishing for a little snow. Now they have it in abundance. The drifts prevent all traveling and they must content themselves to stay at home and count themselves happy if they have warm houses and a plenty of fuel. The cars do not make their regular trips and we have no mail for four days and Saturday night has come and passed without any letter or newspaper. This is something that seldom happens to us.

I left Brunswick the next morning after our Examination. (Wednesday) The Examination passed with as much credit to me as I deserve. I took a little screw in Greek & French and got off pretty well in Latin and Mathematics. That Geometry is very easy, but I expect to bring up against something in that branch before long.

I have kept school now for one week but have not had a full attendance of scholars since the first day on account of the Storm. The scholars all appear kind and obliging. They call me Rowland out of school and are very familiar but they appear to like me and try hard to please me. The school is not like the one that Townsend undertook to keep in the same place. All those great boys have left, except Silas Bates and two or three others of his age. The School House is new and comfortable and I see nothing to prevent my having a pleasant winter if my cold gets better. My cough is very bad now but I have considerable faith in Mothers doctering.

Lizzie has not answered that long letter that I wrote her before I left Brunswick. Charles wrote her a few days since and I added a note. I fear she is sick. Perhaps she is offended that I did not write her before, but I did not feel a bit like it till after the "reconciliation".

I have not been about in Leeds any yet and have not learned "the gossip". They have three singing Schools, a dancing School and a debating Club in Town. Solomon Lothrop has been <mulct> in the sum of two hundred dollars for selling Rum. This decision has almost killed the old man and has created considerable excitement in certain quarters. Gramother is at Uncle Ensigns but will return to Hallowell as soon as the traveling is suitable. I have not seen her yet.

Monday Evening.

I have kept school all day and am now seated at home, tired enough helping Father about his books. The boys have a Juvenile Temperance Society, and I have scribbled down a slight Oration for Dell to deliver at the next meeting. I told him and Charles not to trouble me any more about it and they have spent most of the evening in getting it out as I would a Greek Lesson. Some of the words both bother them dreadfully.

Our old neighbor Alvin Lane died last night after the long illness which has afflicted him for years. Walter Bishop, Jo's youngest son, was brought home on the cars yesterday a corpse. He has been working in Ohio lately. He died suddenly and the first warning of his fate that his friends received was his coffin.

Father keeps the worst kind of pens, paper and ink. So this letter is as you see perfectly horrible. Our kind wishes are all with you during your coming Examination.

Charles will answer his good long letter before long and Dellie will send a note in this. Mother will write a word or so. Let us hear from you frequently.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

[Continued on the next letter from Eliza Gilmore]

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525 1/1/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0488b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Rowland]

My Dear Son,

The new year has commenced and with it are brought forward all of mothers anxieties. This week will probably commence your semi annual examination. Your Mothers hope is that you will have patience and long suffering if necessary, and self command all these must necessarily be to your advantage. I wish I could be any benefit to you. We have many blessings, which I hope I am not wholly insensible, but some how labor comes hard to me, but hope to endure a while longer.

I heard today that the remains of Walter Bishop remains were brought into Town to be laid away with his friends. It came very near my heart, as I feel that I am liable to meet the same dread news. Mr Alvin Lane died last night. He has been in a low state of health for some time. Alvin has always moved in the same circle of acquaintance with me, and I feel his death very much. Perhaps my turn will be next to be called away.

Your Father called at Esq Perleys the other day and learned the whole family had left Mrs Waite's. I should like to hear how Mrs Waite and Lizzie are getting on, this winter. Rowland is hurrying me, as he is in haste to go bed.

In haste, your ever affectionate mother,  
Eliza Gilmore

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526 1/1/1854

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0489a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear Brother

"I wish you a happy new year"

Charles H Howard

Your Brother

Jan 1st 1854

[Continued on the next letter from Dellie]

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527 1/1/1854

*From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0489b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued on the previous letter from Charles]

Leeds, Jan 1st 1854

Dear Brother

As it has been but a short time since I have written to you, I shall write a short letter. It is the first day of the Week, first day of the Month and of the Year. Our School has begun with a stormy week. It has snowed every other day. Our house is well banked up for the rest part of the winter. Mr Berry is in here. He says the snow is three feet deep where it has not blown of & we have a hard time of it going to school. They did not beat out the roads until yesterday in the afternoon. One night when we were coming home we froze our ears, most all of us. George Bates froze both of his feet the same night. After all the trouble we have had, it snows hard now, the snow that came this morning, is 4 inches deep, (all Snows) I have got most tired of such weather.

Charles Rowland & Mr Berry are singing. Charlie is playing on the Aeolean. Mother & Catharine are getting dinner. Mother says it is ready now.

I have just eaten dinner. We had some sauce and Beef steak. Charles says he shall write a letter to you soon in answer to your long one that you wrote him last. I am well and all of the rest of us are the same. Answer Soon.

I hope you are well and will get through your examination well.

Your affectionate Brother  
R.H. Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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528 1/6/1854      *From:* C. C. Everett

*To:* Dear Fellow [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0490

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Jan 6 '54

My dear fellow

At a meeting of the class of 50, held the 7th day of Sepr last, it was noted that a testimonial be presented to the first of the class who should become a father. Our esteemed class mate William P. Frye having sent in his proposals therefore claiming to be the father of a young lady of some weeks; and no one petition having appeared against him; the Testimonial aforesaid has been awarded to him.

You will please, therefore, forward to me, as soon as possible the sum of \$2.00, or in default thereof, such less sum as may seem to you convenient to be expended for the above purpose.

At the request of Frye the present will be a Cradle - instead of the Baby Jumper originally contemplated.

In accordance with another vote taken at the same time, you will please inform me of any change in your residence &c and at any rate report yourself every year at Commencement time.

Yours truly  
your friend & class mate  
(signed) C. C. Everett  
Secretary

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529 1/15/1854 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother & Brothers

OOH-0492

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 15th '54

My dear Mother & brothers

I received your very long & kind letter in good time, but as I have been busy in preparing for the Examination I have not yet replied to it. I will only now write you a few lines to let you know of my health & prosperity.

I have been examined in Engineering & in International Law & Logic. I did very well indeed on my demonstration in Engineering & did not fail on but one question "or questions" and that was unimportant. I came out fifth. In logic I did well too. Got slightly confused once and as others did remarkably well I came out 6 in law & logic. We will be examined in Mineralogy & Geology tomorrow. I will soon give you a detailed history of the whole affair.

After my Explanation to Professor Mahan, he & Capt G. W. Smith have treated me very kindly & behaved towards me after the same Gentle manner on the Examination. I have my ups & downs, but on the whole am quite happy. I fight away when in hot water & enjoy the cool breezes when I get out. Mr Abbot & I have made up & I have the good will of all my classmates. Shall graduate finally as high as third.

Give my love to all. I will write soon.

Yours affectionately  
O.O. Howard

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530 1/17/1854 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0405

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Jan 17, 1853 [See Note 1]

Dear Brother

Your pecuniary wants, if nothing else would be sufficient inducement to me to write and if it can be obtained of Father I will enclose the ten dollars in this.

Father handles a great deal of money to what he did when you were about home. I should think that something like \$5000 had passed through his hands since I have been at home. He has almost constantly a thousand or over, in the house. Not because the Railroad is rich but because it is always for the Co to borrow to meet its payments.

My school goes on swimmingly and is about as pleasant as I ever expect any school to be for me. I am constitutionally unfit for the business and shall continue in it only so long as it seems necessary. I am glad you was able to visit Uncle Ward's at Christmas. It must be quite a relief from your monotonous duties.

I sent Uncle a Catalogue, while I was at Brunswick and he kindly reciprocated with now and then a Democratic paper hard in politics and religion. We are about to have our Whig Governor reelected and probably a Whig U.S. Senator, when these results are consummated. I will send him the account, as he rather disputed my estimate of the politics of Maine last Fall. Uncle appears to me to be a very irascible gentleman. He seems to love all that agree with him a little, and hate all that disagree, a great deal. I made no opposition to his 'hard' sentiments but I gathered from his remarks that you had. He said that your Abolition sentiments had probably injured you somewhat at West Point. I told him that I thought you never would obtrude them.

Lizzie wrote me a neat little letter tonight, the first that I have had from her this two months. She says nothing about her health except that she has the tooth ache and is very cross.

I have not been to Uncle Ensigns since I came home. I saw Laura at Church a week ago last Sabbath. She says Aunt Martha is quite unwell. The newest thing to me is the engagement of Lucia Turner and Roland. The latter is fairly under petticoat government. She has done one good thing for him, got him into the Watchman Club, but she has not character enough of her own to retain her influence over him, although it may last until they are married. They say Elmina Howard is fast hastening the same road that Melvin & Marilla have gone. The accounts I hear from her are very melancholy. You will not probably see her again.

Charles & Rodelphus are both sick with colds, but have contrived to go to School today. Those little bits of girls who used to attend your schools, now being fifteen, esteem themselves young ladies. Betsey Bates, Catherine Hannah Dunham, Sanford Gilberts girls &c. Hannah has grown quite pretty and is a good scholar and despite her rustic manners is a very interesting girl.

The larger portion of Ezekiel's tribe have left the stage, but the dirty faces, and horrid scents of the remaining three or four painfully remind me of the rest.

Elijah is now a beau wearing whiskers and possesses a kind of 'distingue' air which is quite popular with the Leeds ladies. He attends dancing school that he may add that to his other accomplishments.

I brought a whole box of books from Brunswick and I employ my evenings in reading them and the newspapers of which Father and myself take eight. I have kept school of 7 hours today and am much fatigued, so I will close this soon. Remember me to Warren. Tell him I feel indebted to him for some of my most amusing recollections of West Point. Charles says tell Otis, I will soon answer his letter at length. Mother says tell him I contemplate writing him a long letter which I have been putting off for some time. My respects to your room mate and a speedy delivery from his tormenting boils.

Remember in a letter at your earliest opportunity after Examination. Fathers message is, Tell him you enclose \$10.00 ten dollars. Good night.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

Oliver O. Howard

[Note 1: The date of this letter is inconsistent with a letter written by Eliza Gilmore on Jan 21 1853. Eliza's letter is definitely dated correctly because of the reference to Melvin Howard's death. But in it she says she received a letter from Rowland, which would mean that he wasn't at Leeds on Jan 17, 1853. The reference to Elmina's poor health, places Rowland's letter in Jan 1854, because Elmina died on Jan 25, 1854 and was in relatively good health at the time of Melvin's death.]

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531 1/23/1854 *From:* Susan V. Greble

*To:* [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0493

Philada

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Philada January 23d 1854

My dear Mr Howard

After remaining silent for so long a time, I fear now to address you lest you will say that selfish motives impeled me to write to you, and yet I would not have you think for one moment that we have forgotten the pleasant hours which we passed at West Point last summer, my reluctance to write to a stranger must plead my excuse for so long delaying to write to you, and now that I am so very anxious about my dearly loved son, I can not suffer my pen to remain longer idle, but must seek for the cause of John's silence from you.

It has been six long weeks since I have received one line from one who is so dear to me. I have feared that John must be ill or that he may have a broken leg, or an arm, from having fallen from his horse. Last week to make me more anxious, Major Crossman's son informed me that there was a Court Martial being held on some Cadets for disorderly conduct. Now at any other time I should not have thought of my dear sons being involved in any thing of the kind, but not having heard from him, I have been induced to think that he may have suffered himself to be led into temptation.

On Tuesday last I wrote to him, and then told him, that he must write immediately, and have been looking anxiously for a letter every day since Thursday, and as there is yet no news from him, I thought it best to write to you. No matter my dear Mr Howard what has been the cause of my dear John's silence, I look to you to tell me all, if sickness we will be with him, as soon as the news reaches us. If from any other cause, who so able as his parents and home friends, to sooth his wounded feelings. If nothing is the matter with him, which God in his Mercy grant, we will of us next summer laugh at the fears of a loving Mother.

We will all be very glad to see you Mr Howard, at any time.

Mr Greble joins me in many good wishes for your future welfare, and Loui with kind regards wishes to be remembered to her loved brother's friend. When did you last hear from Pinkie? How does the Major succeed in his courtship? How often I think of him, and just as often feel provoked to think that he pushed things so far last summer. I have often thought that he saw that we were all too happy, and that made him brake up the harmony of our feelings.

With sentiments of esteem I am my dear Mr Howard Yours truly  
Susan V Greble

P.S. Loui is now writing to her brother and our letters will accompany this.

Yours  
S. V. G.

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532 1/25/1854    *From:* W.L.L. [Warren L Lothrop]    *To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0494

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Jan 25th [1854]

Dear Otis,

I received your note with the money enclosed. I am pleased to hear you have recovered from your accident. I heard of it the day it happened & went to the Hospt to see you, but the Dr was absent & I could not get in. I also met with an accident about two weeks ago, while riding out, the horse fell on my right leg tearing off the skin & bruising it in a horrid manner. I was off duty about a week on account of it.

I returned from N.Y. yesterday - went down to meet Jane (Elias' wife) who has gone on to New Orleans to spend the winter with her brother Ruggles. I did not see her as she stopped at the St Nicholas. I wrote to her to stop at the Astor House, & expected to meet her, but I suppose the gentleman with her preferred stopping at the St. Nicholas. We were both in N.Y. about 24 hours at the same time. I was greatly disappointed. She sent a note to me at the Astor, but I got it a few moments too late.

I met Emery, (or Armory, I don't know how he spells his name) at the St Nicholas. I had quite a chat with him, & satisfied myself that he is a "bad boy". I also met your Uncle John Otis at the St Nicholas, & had a long chat with him. I told him of the accident you met with & he seemed to think you would get killed yet. He had been on to Philadelphia. Every thing with me goes smooth.

In haste & truly yours  
W.L.L. [Warren L Lothrop]

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533 2/12/1854 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend Howard

OOH-0495

Galena Ill.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Galena Ill. Feb 12/54

Friend Howard

Your favor of the 19th ult came to hand in due season & I must excuse myself on the plea of business, that I have not replied to it sooner. I was sorry to learn of your misfortune. You are certainly of the recklessly ones & I fear that it is owing somewhat to a sort of daring recklessness in the composition of your genius. Pray consider the accidents to which you expose yourself by an effort to gratify your vanity - I mean physical effort. You would without doubt make a brave soldier, but I must suggest that you are a dangerous sportsman & practitioner - dangerous to yourself as well as to others. Don't kill yourself before you graduate for there may be need of just such men as you in actual service.

You ask me what you shall apply yourself to when you have finished at West Point. I am hardly in a condition to advise - Civil Engineering I am aware is a profitable employment & one in which genius & industry will want their due reward. In the present condition of this portion of our country, it is also one, which will furnish steady occupation for many years to come. I have no doubt that you would find it a pleasant & profitable business as long as you might choose to pursue it. Rail Road projects are all about us here, & I am certain that practical engineers cannot fail of employment for a long time to come and at good prices.

You ask also my opinion of the Legal Profession. I cannot express myself fully enough to <> within this brief space of an epistle. I am satisfied with my profession, but this of course is no guaranty that you would like it as well. It may be presumed as a science or as an accumulation of isolated facts & arbitrary decisions. Many Lawyers know nothing beyond reported cases, but then are principles which govern cases & on which precedents are founded which reduce the study of Law to a scientific pursuit. There is a reason for every fact, if one will take the trouble to go behind the fact to discern it. I would hardly wish to advise any one as to the <profession> he should adopt. If your inclinations are for the study & practice of Law, go into it. Otherwise, by no means!!

We are now doing a very promising business. In the course of a year or two I think, that with ordinary good fortune we shall come out at the right end of the heap.

One thing has come over me recently, which I did not like. I was obliged to change our boarding house & go to a Tavern. This is abominable. I want to live in peace with all men except Rum sellers, counterfeiters Horse thieves & others of like character but at this rate I shall hardly be able to - boarding is a nuisance any how & I mean to get out of it as soon as practicable. Our weather is now quite warm. We have not had more than 4 or 5 inches of snow for the Winter. I have had but one sleigh ride. Let me hear from you often.

Truly Yours  
J. N. Jewett

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534 2/14/1854 *From:* R H Gilmore

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0496a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Feb 14th 1854

Dear Brother:

As Rowland is going to write I thought I would; as you have been waiting for some time. I am well, and hope you are. I go to school yet. I have got a considerable way in my arithmetic; I began to cipher in fractions and I have got most to Proportion which is more than one half way through. I have got through my Astronemy, and have began to review. In my Grammar I have got to Syntax. Reading I have got most through my Fourth Reader. Spelling, I have left off at the head 9 times. Charles, 10, Harriet Fross 8, Catharine 8. You see that I have left off the most times (except Charles. he left off the most times last winter). Rowland said he would give the one that left off at the head the most times a prize. One day Charles said he would resign his claim, so I have left off the most, and I am to the head today. I will leave school as it closes next Saturday. It is the day to-day to receive Pictures which are some times very good ones i.e. Valentines.

From your affectionate brother  
Dellie

N.B. In your next to mother write me a little. RH Gilmore

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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535 2/14/1854    *From:* Rowland B. Howard    *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0496b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Dellie]

Leeds Feb. 14, 1854

My dear Brother

I haven't much time this morning but as none of us have written in weeks, I thought I would send you my Valentine, if it was short.

Sabbath evening I carried Perry Lee up to Uncle Ensigns. He was here two or three days. Perry has changed in his general appearance some, but I think he is the same old boy after all. I believe you saw him in New York. He will not sail again till April.

Our family are all well. My School continues through this week and then three days into the following one. Then I shall return to Brunswick as soon as possible as my Term will commence before that.

I shall take Portland on my way to Brunswick and of course see Lizzie. Perry was quite desirous of making her acquaintance. He is now just of the age and temperament and profession to be on the lookout for every pretty girl. He will make his own choice before long if he has not already. At Uncle Ensigns all are well. Hellen is "enciente" and the time of her delivery is near at hand. John of course grows prouder of himself and wife every day. It must be interesting thus to look upon the growing fruits of your own efforts and your wife's amiability.

I have lately shook the hands of some happy Whigs. They have been down so long in Maine, it seems like a resurrection to come so suddenly into power. We have all the offices in the State Administration, with but one or two exceptions from the Governor down to deputy Sheriff and best of all we have selected Pitt Fessenden U.S. Senator for five years.

Mother will not have time to write. As you conjectured, we heard of your mishap from Perry, and hope you have fully recovered, for a lame knee is an awkward affair.

I will write you a longer letter soon. I have many things to say but it is now time to go to School.

Your affectionate Bro  
Rowland B. Howard

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536 2/19/1854 *From:* Dellie [RH Gilmore] *To:* Brother [OO Howard]

OOH-0409

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds February 19th 1854 [See Note 1]

Dear brother:

As it has not been a great while since I wrote to you I shall write a very short letter. It is my birthday to day. I am twelve years old.

Our Society is getting along very well. We have got 30 members all of which are very much interested. We have got money enough to send for a paper, so we shall have a paper in a week. We shall take the Maine Temperance Journal now printed in Portland. The Temperance Watchman is United with the Cold Water Fountain of Gardiner, & is called the Maine Temperance Journal. Then we have some Regalia's which are well suited to the society. We have got a box (which is here) to keep them in.

Charles is writing to Lizzie. He received a letter from her not a great while ago.

Our School is not closed yet. It closes next Wednesday. Our Society talk of celebrating the last-day. I have got to Proportion in my Arithmetic.

Good bye. Remember me as your  
Affectionate Brother  
Dellie

P.S. Poor pen.

[Note 1. The unit's digit of the year was difficult to read. The letter had been filed with the 1853 letters, but Dellie was born on Feb 19, 1842, which would make him 12 in 1854, not 1853. The handwriting is more consistent with 1854 than 1853.]

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537 2/19/1854 *From:* C H Howard

*To:* Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0497a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Feby. 19th 1854

My dear brother,

I have delayed writing you, for the sake of a good opportunity, that I might write as good a letter as possible, in answer to the one you last wrote me dated Dec. 18th, 53. It is two months yesterday since it was written & I received it in due season, yet I have not yet found that desired reason, when I could sit down & write you a good long letter in return for yours, equally interesting & long. But am now obliged to write & make the best of it in order to get another from you.

I have plenty of time to day & it is quiet here at home but I have a bad cold in my head (& on my Lungs somewhat) so I am unfit to write a good letter on this account. It is Sunday you perceive, & Father, Rowland & Catherine have gone to the Center to Church. Mother, Dellie & myself are sitting in the middle room at home by a good green wood fire. Dellie is writing & mother reading & conversing at intervals. Mother is unwell so she did not go up to meeting as usual. Silas is here. He & Roland have been talking in the back room about dancing school scenes, I suppose, for their dancing school furnishes & has furnished a theme for conversation & for thought for them this Winter. And two evenings of each week are occupied at the hall at Leeds Corner. Now you know how we are situated here at home today.

I wish I knew how you are occupying yourself just now. I suppose you are at Church if well, listening to an excellent sermon from a good man, a privilege denied to many. You judged rightly as to what subject would suit me best to have you write upon, and in fact by what I wrote, I meant to convey to you that I wished some advice & would like to know your religious tenets. I think your ideas as to creeds correspond with mine, although I don't think I could have defined mine nearly as well. My ideas have been formed from the observations that perhaps I have made unwittingly in the short time that I have been in the world of understanding. And from the books which I have chanced to read, often perhaps not thinking that I was forming opinions & my belief from them. For I never till lately tried in earnest to know of the beliefs of different Christian churches & if I had it would not have been of use for I could not have well understood them had I known them all. And much of my doctrine is what has been taught me by my mother & brothers & nothing, more nor less. And had I not wished to have a little deeper foundation than those you spoke of who believe or else do not know, but concur with the tenets of their fathers & unite themselves with the same church I should have done likewise. But I thought I should like to know the tenets of a church before I united myself with it so that I might not be sorry for it when I found out. Still as you say I find so far, & always thought from what I have seen & heard & mother has always told me when I have asked that they do not differ materially.

But I have begun I think at the wrong end to answer your letter. First I am & have been sure that it was best for me to unite with some church for <> many reasons, which I will not mention. And as you supposed have been thinking of the subject considerable, but I will assure you I have not decided which one to join. And if I were to stop everything till I should decide it would be bad. But as it is I think perhaps it is not essential that I should at present push the matter. I think I might serve God & do no [see note 1] harm, and be constantly on the watch to learn any thing which is permitted me & take time to decide & so if possible not take a step that I may regret. I have no hesitation how to occupy myself for a few years to come but shall if possible pursue steadily the course on which I have started & always intended to pursue, i.e. I will first get a thorough education. The profession or occupation I shall then follow is an after consideration, though I confess it would be better to decide upon that as soon as may be.

I have some objection to the Methodist as well as the Baptist church & others I do not know much about. The Language I would use about the Methodist belief as to Sanctification or Christian perfection in this world is this, "I have not been brought up" to believe in it & I do not yet understand my Bible thoroughly enough to judge for myself & I am not acquainted with the reasons alleged for & against this by men well enough to decide for myself. I know enough about it to know that the Methodist people hold it as one of their tenets, & is it not peculiar to them? As to Close Communion I do not think so much stress should be laid upon it as is sometimes the case. I do not think it very wrong, but think open Communion better.

As to Baptism I do not think it necessary to salvation, but should be observed as well as communion in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Savior, who sent his disciples to preach the Gospel to all men that they should repent & be baptised. And it is an evidence to the world that you intend to follow the example of Christ, who himself was baptised.

But Otis I <must> right to a close as mother will write some, by asking you if you can get time to write the very belief of the four churches - Congregationalist, Methodist, Presbyterian & Baptist.

Rowland's school finishes in three days more & he will then go to Brunswick & I think I shall go to Kents Hill. Term commences 14 of March. Mr Torsey is in the state Senate. Mr Waltch will teach Languages this Spring. I recd a letter from Lizzie a short time since. She is well complains of not having letters from you often, is afraid you are sick.

The sun shines pleasantly to day but the Wind blows cold.

From your Affec Brother  
Charles H. Howard

P.S. You did not mention receiving RB's letter & the death of Almina but you must have had it.

[Note 1. From this point the pages were included as part of one written by Rodelphus on Feb 19, 1854, but the first page(s) of Charles' letter was missing and follow on the first part letter written by Charles on Feb 19. Almina Augusta Howard died on Jan 25, 1854. These dates are consistent].

[Continued on the next letter from Eliza Gilmore]

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538 2/19/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0497b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles]

[Leeds, Feb 19, 1854]

My Dear Son,

How are you to day, well and happy, I hope. I received yours of the 12 inst, the fourth day after it was written, and intend writing an answer as soon as my nerves are strong enough. I am much troubled in that way. You will have to use your best judgement in regard to supplying your wardrobe. Your underclothes I will have ready when you get here. You will not need many I hope before that time, at least new ones. I hope to meet you happily in a few months. In haste

your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

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539 3/1/1854 *From:* Epes [Sargent]

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0498

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Mch 1, 1854

Friend Otis

Yours came to hand yesterday. I have bought and sent you twenty pounds of Waltons best Va Cavendish which cost (wholesale) 50c and comes to the amt you wished. You will find it an extra article. I can vouch for it as I use the weed myself.

I have wondered what had become of you as I had not heard from you for a long time. The folks are all well & send love. I have directed Wm H Huestis Pacific Hotel Cold Springs. Let me hear from you soon again. In haste

Yours Truly  
Epes

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540 3/7/1854

*From:* W [Warren L  
Lothrop]

*To:* Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0499

West Point NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mar 7, 1854

Dear Otis:

On my return last evening I found your note, informing me that you had made me a call. I was up to your barracks soon after retreat, in hopes to see you & tell you not to call down as I had to be absent, but I could not see you. The truth is a Lady sent for me & nothing but my presence would do; no excuse would answer. Women never listen to reason. On the other hand I knew you to be a very reasonable man & would take a reasonable excuse. I am very sorry I could not be at home, it is so seldom you call. I should like very much to have a chat with you.

Reed was here last evening. He said he had been spoken to about the bundle & would send it to me as soon as he received it. It may be some days before he can get across the river. As soon as I receive it, I will take it to you.

Truly Yours

W.

[Envelope]

Cadet O. O. Howard

West Point NY (Present)

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541 3/8/1854

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0500

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Mch. 8, 1854

My dear Brother

I write you as soon as I can see any chance. I had about a fortnight 'to make up' and I have been pretty busy since my return to College. Owing to the state of the track, the Cars did not run about the time I came to Brunswick. So I took your old way. i.e. gave Warren 2.50 to bring myself and baggage in his Pung. I haven't taken such a ride before since the times I used to drive you & Perley to and from Brunswick. I meant to have gone by the way of Portland and seen Lizzie as I know she was expecting me, but for the cause I mentioned I was unable to do so. It is a great while now since I saw her, not since a few weeks after our return from New York. Mrs Waite is unwell now, up in Turner, but Mr Hicks said this must not be told Lizzie for fear it would trouble her needlessly. I saw Mr H at Lewiston when I came down. How much consideration all her family seem to have for her feelings. I wrote her the other day and made my excuses for not visiting her.

I left our folks well. Dellie is a very pale looking boy, but tolerably healthy. He has rather a disagreeable disposition, one that needs a great deal of care and study to get along well with. He has some of those Roland Alger traits which are peculiarly distasteful to me but I have striven pretty hard this winter to correct his ideas of right & wrong, the honorable & dishonorable. He has as active an ambition as any of his brothers, but he lacks in sense of honor and uprightness in regard to means by which he may gain his ends. If it were convenient I should like to have him with me for some time. Dellie is a good scholar, a quick learner, and has a boundless spirit of inquiry, which will be of great advantage to him, if properly encouraged and directed. He is now getting pretty old and I am anxious to see him do well to get over his little jealousies and envyings and be more different from some of his half brothers.

Charles' religious interest still continues though perhaps not quite so active as it was. I thought it best for him to return to Kents Hill, that the strong religious interest there might aid him in the strife which he is trying to wage with the various sins which easily beset us. He has got a hard work to do, and all foreign assistance he can gain, will be of advantage. There is hardly a school in the state where religious influence, real piety is predominant, except at Kents Hill. He talked some of coming to Topsham to be near me, but I did not advise it, for the reason I have mentioned. He will remain at Readfield one more Term, and in the meantime I shall look up a School for him. I shall get what information I can of the Andover Mass School. I think it the most suitable one for his purpose. Charles will enter College one year from next Commencement if his health permits.

I am more and more convinced of the wisdom your decision to remain in the Army after you graduate. Our Army will fill a much larger portion of history for ten years to come than it has for ten years back.

The news by the Steamer last night settles in my mind the question of Peace or War in Europe. When a Bonaparte writes an autograph letter, it means something. Napoleon 1st wrote one, you recollect, to George III, and the consequence of its rejection was the most terrible war the world has experienced. Nap. III has written one to the Czar, and been answered in the same way, and I shall expect the same consequences.

The insurrection of the Greeks makes the question more complicated and more liable to excite a general war, for it divides Christians from each other, uniting the whole Greek Church in a common cause and compelling Catholics and Protestants to make a common cause with Mohamedans. This war, if it occurs, between such gigantic powers, will thoroughly arouse the military spirit, all over the world and our people, excitable as they are, will not be the last to feel its influence.

The result must be favorable to all men whose "fortunes lie in their words" or more sensibly, who belong to the American Army.

These things must occur, even if (which I doubt) our Country is able to maintain a strict neutrality. But then, Whats a man going to do who has a wife? Please answer that in your next, and tell me whether you think my reasoning is correct in regard to Army interests. Do you not remain in the Army with an eye to active Service, if any be required?

Out next "Theme" is the Missouri Compromise and after thinking and reading on the Subject pretty thoroughly, I think I am about prepared now to give Uncle Ward "a piece of my mind" on Douglas and his crew and all such as advocate and vote for its <[hole in paper]> Rhetoric, I like first rate. It is <[hole in paper]> I have made a "sail" on yet <[hole in paper]> entered College.

We have Prof Smyths new Trigonometry this Term, and the Old Prof. flies about as if this was the most important Text Book of the course. You know all about the science of course. We have just begun and I have got me a scale and dividers and am constructing triangles to order.

Write me as soon as you can and constantly remember me as

Your very affectionate Brother  
Rowland

O. O. Howard

[Note: This is Bowdoin letters 435 and 436 combined.]

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542 3/12/1854 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0416a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 12th 1853 [It should have been 1854. See Note 1]

My Dear Brother Otis

I took it into my head to write a letter to you to-day as I have not written to you this great while, & I think, a longer period has elapsed since you wrote to me. You have written me 4 short letters since you have been at West Point, the last of which was written last May I think. (A mistake it was in January 1854. [this parenthetical remark was written by Eliza]) I would like to have you write to me soon Brother. Charles is at home yet he will go to Kents Hill soon. I have been to Meeting to-day, Reverend D. Putter preached; It was thought to be his last untill we got up there and found it was not, mother thinks he is going to preach all Summer, but we have no reason to think he is going to stay than that he said he wished as many to come as possible this season.

Oh! Otis who do you think we have for Town officers this year? I will tell you they are as follows: Jno Turner, what is his office? He is Clerk, of Leeds Maine; Harvey Bates, Stillman L. Howard, Isaac T. Boothby, Selectmen. John Gilmore Treas. (only one that is fit in the lot I guess) P.B. Caswell, Agents. Collector of taxes & Constable. Florus Jennings is the Committee chosen to fill the place of Mr Barrows.

Mr Jabez Leadbetter is going to Leave town very soon. They have bought a farm in Monmouth, about three miles from M. Centre. It is said to be a very good, had the power farm to make you happy or comparatively so.

Roland is gone away and Charles & Myself will have to do all of the chores; I expect he has gone to see Louisa H Turner who he goes to see most every sabbath evening.

NEWS John H. Otis has got a girl, a little baby, it is about a week -two weeks old, weighs 10 pounds or more. Mr Caleb Wing is dead, he died a week last Thursday I believe [He died Thursday March 2, 1854]. He is much missed here by many. He was a very good old man I think, and was much loved by his friends he had some enemys as every one has. Mr Joseph Turner Jr is sick with the same disease of Mr. W. He is attended by Dr Jones of Green. The Dr. thinks that if he lives untill summer he may get better.

Our Society is going along very well. We have got 37 members, all are very much interested in the meetings. We have new members at most every meeting. Charlie is gone to the Prayer Meeting. He said he would send his love to you and that he would write to you after he got to Kents Hill. Father & mother has got their Daguerreotypes taken. They have not brought them home yet. Grandmother has had hers taken too. It is here. Mother payed for it. Father is going down to Augusta tomorrow and will bring them home. Thomas H Longley has got the Measles. No one in Mr L family has had them, except himself. Five in one family has not had them. Don't you wish you had had them?

Remember next June. Good night. Remember me as your affectionate Brother.  
R. H. Gilmore

P.S. write to me next Otis. Rod's

[Note 1: The year appeared to be 1853 and was filed with the 1853 letters. However it should have been 1854 for two reasons. The parenthetical remark by Eliza refers to a letter written in Jan 1854. Also the date of Caleb Wing's death was March 2, 1854.]

[Continues on the next letter from Eliza]

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543 3/12/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0416b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Dellie]

[Leeds March 12th 1854]

When I took up the front folio, and took out Dellie's letter, I took up one he wrote you just one year that day last year that did not send. I find he has improved very much. I was just reading over one of your letters where you ask the question shall I remain in the army? It cut me to the quick, were I to decide and should say resign but I do not know what is for the best.

Your Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

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544 3/19/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0502

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 19th, 1854

My dear Son,

I have this morning tried to draw my whole self away from home cares, sufficiently to address a letter to my distant son. It is more than three months since I have written a whole letter to anyone and I could fill a whole letter with reasons and appologies, but I will leave them all, and write to you as tho it was our every day occurrence, and I had attended to that duty, as punctually as to my house hold duties.

Your last letter directed to me, which I intended particularly to have answered I cannot find, it is probably mixed in with R.B.H. Books and papers and gone to Bowdoin. I will endeavor to answer it is as far as I can recollect. I am always desirous for your general benefit in all things, but I know so little of your calculations, and your requirements that I am unable to say much to your advantage, your shirts and stockings, I am making arrangements to prepare for you, I would like to have you tell me in your next letter whether you are wishing apart of them with linnen bossoms, summer drawers. I will prepare, with regard to your graduating suit, you must be guided by your own judgement, your other clothes you ask my advice in your next letter as I have lost the other.

We have had a very severe winter and I have been mostly shut up at home doing all in my power to make my family comfortable with but little satisfaction to myself or others. R.B.H. and Charles are now returned to their studies, and I hope are doing well. It has been a comfort to me to have them about me, and when my nervous system was sufficiently settled I have had such views - two good boys with me, both pleasant and and intelligent. I have lately been to visit Mother, saw your Uncle John, went there and spent the evening, your uncle has a very fine woman for his wife and two fine Children by his second maraying. Vaughn, John and Fanny, appeared well. I found Mother in good health enjoying the good news from her children and grand Children.

I heard a week ago today by Laura, that Lizzie passed up in the Cars through their town to go to Turner, where her Mother was sick I should be very glad to hear whether they are detained there or not, or what was the matter with her mother. I fear some anxiety, and not a little about your future destiny, and for you to save as much as possible of your little all to commence with, because I know money gives a man advantages after you have bought what is actually needed to make all right at West Point, would it not be better to delay the rest of your purchases, untill you come to Portland and be guided by your friends that is for your own consideration. We received your part in your discussion, and I have read it with pleasure, as I ever do any of your writings.

Your father brought home the report of the war department of your standing for Feb a few days ago. Your demerits were 9 and 54 or 7 since the commencement of the Academic year.

I frequently have a Wakefull time in the night when my imagination to W.P. and B. and Kents Hill in no time at all. If you should wish any particular favor from home or from your mother write just what you would like to have your mother do. Because your manner of life is so different from mine, that I cannot forestall your desires as I once could. I shall of course expect you and Lizzie to spend a good part of your furlough at home, or with me. I shall do all in my power to make you comfortable. Your Watch I have never purchased. I have looked at quite a number but not feelind a confidence in my own judgement & put it off for another time, untill the two years has almost expired. If I could get it I would present it to Lizzie before your return.

Addison has been in Maine twice. I did not see him, I was told at Mothers that he is about returning to California, and that his health is not sound. I fear very much this is his last voyge. He is not married as was talked before his return. Hallowel does not look much as it did seven years ago, very little doing. All the trade goes to Augusta. I presume you have heard of Mr Grants death, your Uncle John father in law his property has been prized at four hundred 1000 dollars without encumbrance. We did not have our mails yesterday. The traveling is so bad we should have had letters from some of you. Your father is suppoanied to Augusta as a witness to be there at nine o'clock tomorrow morning. The snow is very deep and has been very soft for a week untill <now it is season>.

Dellie is at the table with me writing. That is his favorite amusement, since the close of the school. Charles has been trying to give him some lessons in music, but his progress does not seem to amount to much. How much I wish he was more capable of Closer application. Rowland leads the same life he always did. Louisa has not borne her Weight only on one foot since last May.

Your father went to visit Arza last Wednesday, said A. had failed considerable since he saw him last (a few weeks since), had lost flesh, looked poor. I suppose the boys have written to you of John H Otis, little daughter. Clark Leadbetter has a son a few days old. Your father has just rode up to the door. I am in hopes has brought letters. I wish I felt a more Cheerful spirit. Your father has brought no letters, nor papers, the trains are all stoped by the storm, which has been the case a number of times the past winter. Your Aunt Lucretia's sons have bought a farm for their father, to live on in Monmouth three miles from the depot towards Monmouth ridge paid two thousand dollars. They will move in a few days. I am sorry to have them go. They are such good company and take Warren Mitcheal instead. Charles and your mother made your Aunt Aurelia and Thomas a visit and took Aunt Lucretia with us. It was both painful and pleasant. It was painful to see those helpless ones, and pleasure because Aunt enjoyed the visit.

Yours with much affection  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

Write soon and I will answer you immediately.

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545 3/19/1854 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0503

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill March 19th 1854

My dear brother

You observe I am away from home again to school, and that I have again taken up my quarters at Kents Hill. Dellie brought me here last Tuesday, my clothes being all fixed up as usual by mother; whom by the way I left in good health, as well as the rest of the family at home.

I board at the Mansion house & room with Bartlett Frost, whom I suppose you remember. He is Porter Frost's son, is fitting himself for College. He was at Yarmouth a while when Rowland & I were there and has been at Kents Hill when I have been here. He first earns some money then goes to school. He is a pleasant & studious fellow. I think I shall like him for a chum,. The only objection is that he is not pious and this need not interfere with me, although it would be pleasanter if he were religious. We room in the North West corner room in the Second Story, the same room that I occupied with Hewitt the first term I was at Kent's Hill.

I study Greek & Latin. Began the first book of the Aeneid of Virgil, and am reading in the Greek Reader. My Teacher is Mr Waltch. I like him as a teacher much. He is thorough & also gives pretty long lessons. I have 28 lines of Virgil for tomorrow's lesson and 12 of Greek. Do you think I better take up any more studies this Term? If so, what shall I take? Mr Torsey is in the Legislature you know, a Senator, so he will not be here till that rises, in the course of three or four weeks. Mr Robinson is here to take charge of the English department of the school.

I have been to church to day both in the forenoon & afternoon. Heard Elder Prince in the forenoon & Elder Eaton in the afternoon. I enjoyed the Sermons much. I like to hear Elder Eaton speak a little better & he preaches a rather more connected & interesting discourse.

I thank you Otis for your kind letter of Feb. 26th which I received in due season & should have answered before, but thought I would wait till I was settled at school. I don't think I am any better than you, although you do not seem to be very proud (if that is the right word) of your religious conduct & appearance, at least it does not seem to me as a matter of course. But I hope that I am better, for then I should not be too good, should I? But the idea entered my mind when I read your letter that you perhaps knew yourself better than I do myself, & that perhaps I am more self conceited, or perhaps that you were deceived, in not thinking highly enough of your Moral & Religious works, although it is an unusual thing to be deceived in this manner. I think there is a little of both. I am some self conceited & you in the sense which I have taken, are a little wanting in self conceit. You say "All expenditure of breath in convincing me that I ought to serve my God &c is useless." Well, I hope you will do no harm & will continue to pray to the Great God, & will read the Bible regularly, & that I shall do the same. I asked Elder Hill what were the conditions of joining the Class & he said, "that you do no harm." But adieu to this subject for a while.

I wish you to write me about West Point affairs this spring. What are you now studying? & do you have to study hard? Are you quarter master now? We received your speech before I left home, & are you prospering in your society this spring? I should like to have you give me a condensed order of exercises in your next letter if you please. We had a very pleasant Temperance Society at South Leeds this Winter. There were 37 members when I left home.

Father & mother went to Hallowell & were gone from home four days, a short time before I left home. They left all well there & brought home with them Grandmother's Dagu'type & they each had theirs taken & are to have them encased in one case. the man did not have such an one as they wished so they did not bring them home & I did not see them. He was going to send to Portland & get a case such as they wanted.

I had a letter from Lizzie mailed March 3d. She wrote in good spirits. She has since gone to Livermore for she went through Leeds in the Cars. She says, Otis says, March, April, May & then June, Hurah! I shall I suppose get through school here about the 20th of June this is the time you will be free from West Point, is it not?

I have written a letter to Rowland since I have been here for him if he can get them cheaper to buy for me a Virgil & Lexicon. I wrote Mother a letter last night of four pages. Thomas Langley was sick with the Measles when I left home & none at Mr L's family except himself have ever had them, so I expect they will have a hard time, but our family have all had them, excepting you. Have you ever had them? And Otis what kind of weather are you having at West Point now? It has been quite a cold & windy day here today, as it also was yesterday. Before this we have had very pleasant weather most of the time this Spring. Write soon & remember

Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles

Cadet O. O. Howard

P.S. It is now about sunset and I shall attend prayer meeting this evening. My health is now pretty good Otis. How is yours?

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546 3/26/1854 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0504a

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill March 26 '54

My dear Mother

My second Sabbath has arrived and as we have no meeting this forenoon, I purpose to write you a letter, knowing as I do the pleasure that letters from an absent one give. I received with great pleasure yours & Dellie's letter the next day after it was mailed. I was pleased to have you write although but a few lines. And glad to find that all were well as when I left. I suppose you had not received my letter when you wrote, for you did not mention it, & did not answer my many questions, although you gratified me with some pieces of information which I wished to know. Dellie I find has improved in writing letters & he will continue so to do by practice, so he must write me often.

I am glad that you have written to Otis for you had not for some time previous. I have written to him but have not yet received an answer. I was glad you sent Rowlands letter, although I received a short one from him the same day directly from Brunswick, for I had written to him about some books, so that he only wrote a short business letter, as he wished to get an answer to me as soon as possible. But he wrote more news &c in the one which you sent to me.

Have you heard from Lizzie & her mother lately? If you have you must tell me about them. When Lizzie gets back to Portland, I intend to write her a letter.

I have been doing very well since I last wrote you in my studies. Like my chum well, whom you know I have changed if you have received my letters. He is not pious but studious. I also like my teacher Mr Walsh better than I expected perhaps. I hardly ever have a class or at least am in a class that wish to get as long lessons as I do but I have some this Spring, that are obliged to get as long lessons, as I wish to, for Mr Walsh thinks every one can learn as well as himself. But still he has them go through. I have had forty-two lines in Virgil and twenty lines in Greek & the class that has studied one term more than I has but 45 & 30.

I attend the class & prayer meetings here and enjoy them much. It certainly can do no one any injury to attend these <two> & must on the other hand do them much good. I thought perhaps you & the rest of the family would like to see some of the Letter paper with the engraving of Kents Hill or the Maine Wesleyan Seminary & Mansion house upon it. So I have procured three sheets of this paper & send you these lines on one, you observe. And I will send one to Lizzie & Grandmother to whom I will write on her birth-day if you will tell me when it is. You observe that the form of the buildings & the ground looks natural, but the trees are not near as large in the original.

Perhaps I better address Dellie a few lines to close the sheet, & Mother write again as soon as you can. And remember me as

Yr Affec Son  
Charles

P.S. Father doubtless has returned ere this, and what news has he brought from the West? And How is his cough? Seems to me that it holds on a long time. My health is good, my cough most left me.

[continued on the next letter to Dellie]

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547 3/26/1854    *From:* Charles H. Howard    *To:* Rodelphus H. Gilmore

OOH-0504b

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[continued from the previous letter to Mother]

Rodelphus H. Gilmore

Sunday at 12 o'clock PM [March 26, 1854]

Dear brother Dellie

I am really glad to find you so willing and able to write letters. Friends & brothers are truly such when they will employ a portion of their time uncompelled to enliven & please their absent Friends, especially those weighted down in spirits by poring over Greek & Latin. It pleases & wakes me up to have a letter from home telling me all about home affairs. I can study better afterwards. The same as though I had had a vacation & been home to see all such things.

I am glad you have taped the trees, it is just what I should have done had I been at home. But I hear you have been about discouraged before this, not having any sap weather. For if you have just such weather as we do here, you have had a dreadful storm during the past week of about two feet of snow, & it is now blowing enough to take your ---h h-a-t off, for it is doing so here.

You are fortunate about a knife & will be more so if you keep it till the end of the year & if you wish to, I guess you better lock it up in your box. I think you have done well at playing if you could, when you wrote. Play on part of the time & in time, persevere & you will have your tunes all learned by the time I get home & perhaps some other ones. I have a better room than you saw now, it has two windows instead of two looking glasses. Winter has gone to Mr Torrey's.

Give my love to Roscoe & Wills & George & Nancy & Natie & tell me about the Society.

From your affectionate brother  
Charles H. Howard

P.S. Write about the same that you did before & avoid miss spelling all you can & correct my mistakes that I have.

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548 3/28/1854 *From:* Epes Sargent

*To:* Friend Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0505

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Mch 28 1854

Friend Otis

I sent you some time since a package directed to care Pacific Hotel Cold Spring and have not heard if you have received it or not. You will please inform me of the fact. Add has gone back to Cal to remain about a year. The folks here are all well. Frank & I caught a burglar in the house last month & sent him to Sing-Sing for life. Perhaps you would like to call on him. If so I will give you a letter of introduction. Perry has shipped 2d mate of the Clipper Ship Defiance bound to Liverpool & Calcutta probably. She will sail soon. In haste

Your truly  
Epes Sargent

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549 3/29/1854 *From:* Jno. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0506

Galena, Ill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Letterhead]

WEIGLEY & JEWETT

Attorneys at Law and Solicitors in Chancery

No. 134 Main Street, Galena, Ill

[end letterhead]

Galena March 29/54

Friend Howard

Yours of the 28th inst was received yesterday morning. You will excuse brevity when I tell you that it is now Court time & we are tolerably busy. In fact for the last three weeks I have scarcely thought of anything but Pleas, Demesnes & Motions, Jurors & Judges, with all the various paraphernalia of Court duty & responsibility. But it drags hard. The most tiresome business in the world of which I have any experience, (except teaching school) is attending upon Court, waiting for your own cases to be called and disposed of & compelled to be always there lest some rule of Court may be taken upon you in your absence, greatly to your own & your client's disadvantage.

Ah I fear it will hardly suit your quick & compulsive temperament, & yet you seem determined to make the trial. Well come on! There is nothing like trying, you know & perchance you may be pleased with the profession, in spite of its more uninteresting features. I am not dissatisfied nor disappointed. It is on the whole neither more nor less wearisome than I had anticipated and I hope by years of patient study & practice to arrive at a fair understanding of its mysteries. That then is labor in at there can be in question.

In all other respects I move on about as usual. Feel about as I used to & would be as pleased to see you as ever. I assure you. It would not be amiss for you to take a trip out west after you get through at West Point for recreation & pleasure. You could find a trip up the Mississippi very interesting & agreeable in the month of July or August I have no doubt. I intend to avail myself of the first opportunity I have, to see that noble stream somewhat <near> its beginning. It is said to be a delightful <> when I am less "engaged", I will give you further Information, & in the meantime, I remain

Yours truly

Jno N. Jewett

P.S. This is our business paper & allow me to introduce you to the Firm & its business card.

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550 4/7/1854

*From:* Mrs [Mary] Lee

*To:* Cadet Howard

OOH-0290

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs Lee will be happy to see Cadet Howard tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock.  
Friday, 7th

[Envelope]  
Cadet Howard

[July 7, 1851. This was written in pencil, but the only Friday the 7th in 1851 are the months of February, March and November. Gen Robert E Lee was superintendent of West Point from 1852-1855. This invitation may have been in that time period. In 1852, the only Friday the 7th was May 7, and in 1853, Friday the 7th occurred in January and October. In 1854, Friday the 7th occurred in April, which is consistent with Otis' letter of April 30, 1854.]

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551 4/10/1854 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0507

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Apr 10, 1854

My dear Brother

In bringing forward constitutional objections to the original Missouri compromise you certainly take the most tenable ground that the advocates of Repeal have yet occupied.

The opinions which you know are too common to be startling, even from you - and it is the prevalence of their opinion at the North sown and cultivated by Mr Cass - which, at this time demands strenuous effort on the part of those who love freedom and hate Slavery.

I esteem your moral sense without regard to "prejudice & education", much too high to correct you otherwise than an Anti-Slavery man. This leads you to abhor Slavery and to be in favor of all possible attributions in regard to it. Your efforts, then, like my own if they follow the promptings of your heart, will be towards the eradication of the Evil. Such being our common principles, however much we may differ in matters of expediency, ought we to be "in favor of the passage of this Bill independent of its amendments? You say, that the constitution sanctions Slavery. I will not deny this, although I do contend that this sanctioning is rather in the sense of tolerating than authorizing. The Constitution suffered Slavery to exist because its annihilation was, then impracticable. Our fathers never designed or framed that Instrument to perpetuate Servitude in any form. It is founded on principles diametrically opposed to Slavery, and whatever contends against Slavery is not at war with the Spirit of the American Constitution. The history of the War, and of the Constitutional Convention, are sufficient foundation for these associations. But you point out particular provisions, and say what ever shackles the power delegated to the States, & violates the spirit of the Constitution. The Missouri Compromise had a tendency to limit those powers and therefore should be repealed.

This is your idea? The first question is, What is the nature of these powers, and to whom are they granted? I answer, they were granted to States in their independent and organized capacity. They belong to a State already admitted into the Union, already recognized as a State, by the general government.

The invasion of State rights, thus defined, I allow to be unconstitutional. But with unorganized Territory the case is very different. The Constitution reserves to itself the guaranty of State Rights, but leaves to Congress the entire control of the public domain. Congress has the same right to legislate in regard to the Territories as the Legislature of Maine has to control her public lands. The Constitution specifies nothing in regard to a territory except that it shall be governed by Congress in such a manner as not to interfere with the rights of Sates. In the naut, then, of very specific provision by the Constitution, we are left to the general one, which commits the public lands to Congress.

Instead then of going to the Constitution to find how we shall govern Territories, and on what conditions we shall admit them as States. We need go no farther than Congress, for in this, has the Constitution rested the power. Congress then may prohibit Slavery in a Territory, may say that it shall never be admitted into the Union while Slavery shall exist, and yet, not transcend its power. Suppose a State admitted, with a provision in its Constitution, prohibiting Slavery being compelled to such a course by the general Government, when that State is once organized and independent, Congress must let her alone. The rights of that State are rested in the people of the State. And then if they choose to Establish Slavery, they can change their Constitution for that purpose. The people of Maine, can tomorrow establish Slavery, without the interference of Congress by simply altering their Constitution. I mention this that you may clearly understand what I consider the point of separation in the rights of a State and those of a Territory. But, you will say, if the people of a State will alter their Constitution, why advocate a measure the force of which ceases when that Territory becomes a State? It is because that there is the highest probability that a State admitted under such restrictions will never change her Constitution on this point. Such a proviso debars Slave holders and Slaves from entering the Territory, and it is hardly possible, that a State formed from it should relapse into Slavery. A reason for the Missouri Compromise's continuance, is that it secures a Territory to Freedom, without violating the Constitution of the United States. I mention this alone, as it all that your letter takes up. There are many others which are equally good but which I will not now write, as you are probably sick of the subject by this time.

Charles, Rodelphus & Katie have written me and so I am pretty well posted upon home, and Kents Hill matters, but I have heard nothing from Lizzie this term. I did think of spending Fast Day in Portland, but I shall not go unless I am certain that Lizzie is there.

No news of interest about College, but I will pick up some for my next if we can get out of this Nebraska Question. I remain, sharing with you the hope of our future union I love,

your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

---

552 4/10/1854 *From:* J N Lill

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0508

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

April 10th 1854

Dear Howard-

I received your letter a few days since with much pleasure, and feel that my gentle remonstrance against your forgetfulness has produced a speedy & happy result.

The anomalous condition of Cadet life is too well understood by me to render it necessary for any of my friends among the Cadets to enter into detailed explanations of the causes of their delay; so that you need not unless particularly desirous to do so, bother your brains for appropriate terms of apology. Only with a little more frequently and the entente cordial will be preserved not only without difficulty, but in the full perfection of amicable feeling.

I need not entertain you with the floating gossip of a locality which bears so little interest to a professional military man, who has no special ties or acquaintanceships which are connected with the place. I will only remark as I have before, that I do not expect ever to live at a better station, for there are none in the army which are just similar, and the majority of Posts need not be mentioned in comparison.

The advantages of proximity to the great centers of business, amusement & novelty, the pleasures of an educated society, easy access to books & means of learning, and not least, moderate expenses of living, combine to make this as desirable a station as an officer need wish. On these accounts your knowledge of my likings & dislikings, and of the wants & needs which characterize many young officers, will readily convince you that my contentment with present advantages is unalloyed save by the lurking apprehension of a change at some unknown period. I would be much pleased to see yourself at this post when you graduate, or if not yourself at least some other person with whom association & intimacy will be agreeable. Officers however cannot expect to be always suited on that score, so that in any result I shall try and not be materially elated or depressed.

You go into a lengthy and interesting revelation as to your own intellectual abilities, and I see with no favorable judgement on your own capacity. I am sorry you see fit to dishearten yourself with such notions of your future prospects. You may be sure that this very feeling is a striking proof of the existence of aspirations which lie locked within the bosom, and strive as you may to check them the struggle will be pointless & unavailing. You will not be able to check those inward yearnings, even should you in despair abandon the path of intellectual eminence, and throw yourself into the mechanical monotony of routine which is the function of most kinds of business which depend on simple rules, and require no effort of mind. Therefore do not attempt to curb your ambition, but divert it into some useful channel. A sanctified ambition is the glory and crown of man and leads him farther and farther above the grovellers who live to eat & propagate and then finish with as little concern to the true world of true men as the insect.

I will not attempt an elaborate argument to prove a position which may startle you, but will simply assert a belief which at another day you will be inclined to assent to, viz. that the differences of intellectual calibre considered in aggregate are but small, and that those are more dependent on artificial causes as for instance education than on the natural bounty of the creator. The consequence or deduction is too obvious, and I believe if men struggled alike for pre-eminence, the uniformity would present but few instances of uncommon men, and those would be the favored few in whom (a god-like race of intellect) the creator always perpetuates the divine spark of genius, something the proposition, you see it affords no encouragement for vanity or undue pride; our elevation beyond our fellows being chiefly attributable to exertion. But as you may be sure that the sloth & inactivity of human nature will always enshrine the efforts of the mass even of educated persons. You see a ground of encouragement to press forward & win the prize over your laggard competitors. The talk so prevalent about persons of genius being able to achieve wonders without exertion often deludes young men, but I am sure your natural good sense will save you from giving adhesion to such an absurd dogma. Men of Genius never amount to much until they have in common with others acquired the materials and foundation on which to build.

As for that distrust in yourself which you speak of, I will not speak my mind about it, for I would be severe and offend you. But I must say that the sooner you get rid of that, the better. It is a fault though so far as I am concerned I would freely pardon what so often stunned & mortified myself when a Cadet. I attributed much of it to the fault of a certain instructor who I fear did not consider the humiliating or degrading effect of his contemptuous treatment.

Remember Dear Howard, that your thinking part is immortal, and let the soul assert on that ground a conscious dignity. Surely it is dreadful to be tied in this world to a portion of ourselves of which we are ashamed, and that portion constituting the sum total of our eternal being hereafter.

But enough. I should endeavor to encourage you, and to do so, I need only point to your success previously and the fair field ahead of you. Your West Point career is not decisive of your life, and strange mutations will take place in the fortunes of your competitions before their standing is fully made out by the world. Therefore be consoled and do not become too uneasy and anxious about the future. I should like to allude to the remarks which you were pleased to make with regard to myself, but perhaps it is hardly worth while. You are right in assigning me a more appropriate sphere than the present, but the assumption would hardly have required so much solemnity of diction as I believe I conceded the fact long ago, and your remarks do not astonish me though made as a confidential disclosure, and your fears of my being somewhat discontented I assure you are unfounded as I am only too well pleased with my present situation, of course, I must change my plans, but for the present I am altogether passive.

I have not heard from Smith lately, but I believe he is still at Governors Island, awaiting orders for departure to Fort Union, New Mexico. You have probably heard from him since my last letter dated a month ago. It's needless to say that the natural impetuosity of our friend can hardly be bottled, and I hope such effervescence may never be, though Smith is certainly not a genius in the true acceptation of the word, his energy & perseverance will yet I hope be the source of profit to himself and the world. I regard his present rough & tumble life, so inconstant & variable as an excellent discipline which he needs in some respects and which is best gotten from that unpleasant school of experience called the wide wide world.

You tell me little of your incidents of every day life and it was just as well. What bears so uncomfortable an aspect as the prospect (even at this distance) of your toils & trials? I will indulge the charitable hope that the Garnettian Administration will find more ardent admirers and faithful retainers than it numbered in my own class.

I hope also that your bills of clothing equipment will not be so large as to render your life long debtors to each <will arrive sooner>.

Write occasionable at <>.

From Your true friend  
J N Lill

P.S. Love to Chap. & Closson

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553 4/16/1854 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0509

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill, Apr 16th 1854

My dear Brother

I have been waiting for a letter from you before I should write, but I have waited a long time & have not received one, so I think I will write again for perhaps you did not receive my other one. I shall not always wait for an answer, to be sure to my letters, before I write, but I have not had time to spare, so I thought I would not write till I had received an answer, thinking it would be here surely in 3 weeks, after first expecting it in two. But not only two & three but 4 almost five have passed & nothing have I heard from you. I fear you are sick, for if you have not received a letter from me, it seems you would have written ere this. But may be, your studies are harder than usual & you cannot get time. This seems longer to me now, that I am away from home. I hope you are enjoying your health as usual.

I am progressing well in my studies; have read the 1st book of Virgil nearly through & am reading the Natural History in the Greek Reader. We take between 30 & 40 lines in Virgil & some times more & 15 or 20 in Greek. I have taken another study since I first wrote, that is, Arnolds Prose Composition. I recite in this 3 times in a week, there are five or 6 in the class. I have not bought a book for Hamlin Eaton offered to let me study with him. I suppose you have studied this, and know what it is, for I am informed that it is studied the first year in College at Bowdoin. Mr Walsh advised us to study it, all who were fitting for College or not. And I think I shall gain a better knowledge of the language thereby. We have had a pleasant term of school so far; there are about the same number of students as usual.

Mr Torsey has not yet returned, but expects to by next Saturday. We have had pleasant meetings this term as usual. Three boys about my age have been converted. All the past week I hope there will be still more who will seek & find Religion. The month of April has again come round in the course of time, & nearly passed or I believe half of it has gone. But our snow has not left us here yet & there has been no rain or not much rain to carry it off. Still if we have so warm a sun as we do this afternoon it cannot tarry much longer. And it is time it should leave according to the laws of Nature. For I never knew a time when there was so much snow at this time of the year as there is now. Last year I see by reviewing my Journal the snow was entirely gone on the 1st day of April at Topsham.

Our Fast day was last Thursday [April 13]. I attended meeting in the forenoon & heard a sermon from Mr Eaton. In the Afternoon I wrote a letter to Grandmother Otis. It was a long one of about four pages & had an engraving upon it of the Maine Wesleyan Seminary, for they have such paper at the office to sell. And I will send you a picture which some one cut off from a sheet. I only bought 3 sheets & I sent one home thinking our folks might like to see one & one to Lizzie & one to Grandmother. Grandmother was eighty years old the 14th day of April, the day that I mailed my letter to her. I thought a letter would be as good a Birthday present as I could make her & one that would give her as much pleasure as any thing.

I wrote to Mrs Frost of Topsham & to Lizzie each a letter Yesterday. I was owing them both a letter. Lizzie wrote me before I left home, she then went to Turner, so I thought I would wait till she returned to Portland. I have had one letter from Rowland & I also received a Catalogue from him a short time since. I have received two letters from Mother & Dellie. They are all well. But I suppose you have heard from all these as lately as I have.

The New County I suppose you know is formed & John Harrison is I believe Register of Leeds, but I don't know who holds the other offices. Father has lately been to Mass. to sell Arza's land.

I am attending singing school, have been twice. The Teacher is quite celebrated hereabouts as a singer & teacher of vocal music. His name is Glitton of Fayette. We voted to use the old Boston Academy, for he said it was much better than any of the new books. We meet twice a week. The terms of Mr Glitton the singing master are 1 dollar for 25 lessons of two hours each. I thought it would improve my voice to attend.

We have good Calliope meetings this term have had one public meeting which was quite interesting. I was one

of the disputants appointed on the Question last Friday night. It was a private meeting. Our Question was "Does the Farmer live a happier life than the Professional man." I had the Neg. I think I should have chosen the Aff. but the fellow opposed to me, wished to have the Aff., so I was willing to take the Negative. It was decided in the Neg (on my side) by two majority. There were 12 in Neg, 10 in Aff. 9 undecided.

You must not forget to tell me about the society at West Point. Today is a good Sunday, the sun shines warm & there is plenty of snow, and it freezes nights so that the crust bears a man in the morning. I usually take a walk. I have been to meeting today all day. Mr Prince preached. His text this afternoon was the prayers of the Pharisee & publican. You remember the Pharisee thanked God that he was not as other men were &c &c. And the Publican prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner." My Chum, Frost, is a Universalist or Unitarian or both or nothing. I can hardly tell what. But he & I often get into warm discussions on different parts of the Bible &c.

It is about supper time & I must close. I am in hopes to get a letter from you by Tuesday's mail & to have good news. If nothing occurs contrary to what I expect, you & I shall arrive home about the same time about the 20th of June. So write as soon as you can or I shall suspect that you are sick.

Good Bye to you Otis. From Your Affectionate Brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Please correct any mistakes you may see, for I wish you to, that I may improve. I have always remembered how to spell "till" & "until", since you corrected them in my letter.

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554 4/30/1854 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0510

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Apr 30th '54

Dear brother Otis;

I with great pleasure received your letter a week ago yesterday. I was glad to find that you was well, but am afraid you will not be As obliged to study so hard this Spring. I received a letter from Rowland a short time before I did yours. He is well & doing well as usual & I suppose has written you since he has me. This letter of his I have just been answering & have written four pages entirely over on large paper but my large paper is entirely gone so I must write you on two small sheets.

I received a letter from mother day before yesterday. She does not write but that all of our family are enjoying good health. But says that Mrs George Turner is dead & buried. Mr Barrows preached the funeral sermon. He & his wife were at our house. They say that they & their children like living at Fayette much. Mother writes that Dellie has layed away some Sap Molasses for you when you shall come home in June.

I am getting on well in my studies this spring, have got to the 218 line in the Second book of Virgil & to Mythology in Greek. I have declaimed twice this term & written one composition on "The Boyhood of Daniel Webster." I think I shall take a part in Exhibition this Spring. Don't you think it best? If I do I shall be obliged to give one original declamation. What had I better write on? I think the preparation for the Exhibition would do me good. I should improve in Declamation & Composition by it. And I think I can do this & not interfere materially with my other studies.

We have a very good singing school this term. Mr Glidden is a master of the Science & the Art of Music. I think by Attending Singing school I shall improve my voice for speaking which is at present pretty poor. I think I have something like the Bronchitis in my throat. We sing in the old Boston Academy, for Mr. G. said it was a better book than any of the new ones that are out.

We are having a very <backward> Spring here in Maine. It had now got to be almost May & the snow has not yet left us. But I think it will soon for it is now raining hard & it has been for several days more or less.

I attended a "Love Feast", this morning & then heard a Sermon from Mr Eaton. His Text was the 16th verse of the 3d Chap of 1st Timothy. His discourse went to prove that there were many things in religion & in the Bible that are misterious yet they should be believed, & that this did not prove that religion & the Bible are false but on the contrary that they are true & that God being an infinitely wise being is the author of them, for what is misterious with man is simple with God.

This afternoon I have been in my room as I am now & I finished a letter to Rowland. It rained so hard & as I did not feel very well I thought it proper that I stay at home. I have a cold in my head so that it ached some but it does not now, but I do not ever feel very well when I have a cold, which is pretty often, but I am in hopes to soon get over this one.

I was intending to go home last Friday but it rained so I did not go & I shall have to wait another week. I wish to get some things as well as see the folks. Mother says that Uncle Jabez Leadbeter has moved his family to Monmouth; that Lucia & Aurelia have lately made her a visit & that Aurelia brought me a present, the Young Christian's Guide.

I have thought much about the different churches & what one it would be best for me to unite myself with this Spring. If I were to be a preacher it seems to me I should not want to be a Methodist, not considering their doctrines but their customs. But many <useages> of the Methodist Church I think are very good. I think it a <very good> thing for Christians to attend such meetings as the Class meeting at the close of every week. It does them good to review their religious <career> of the week just past & to speak of their faults & failures to their brethren, & it is a good preparation for the coming Sabbath. But I should not want to join a church if I was to be a preacher of the Gospel, if I did not acquiesce fully in all its beliefs & doctrines. And I do not now know hardly whether I do with those with the Methodist or not. I do not know whether to disbelieve or believe many

things for I do not yet know whether it is right to believe them. As to Christian perfection I am not certain whether any one can be perfect or holy in this world or not, but I believe that there is a passage in the Bible that says without holiness no man can see the Lord. If you wish I should like to have you write a part of your letter about these subjects.

We have very good prayer meetings this term. Several have all ready experienced religion & others are seeking it earnestly. I do not enjoy religion so much as some do or seem to, but I do love to meet with Christian people & to pray to God, to pray for my brothers & friends when praying for myself.

Write soon Otis & keep up good spirits as I have till next June when you'll leave West Point.

From Yr Aff Brother  
Charles

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555 4/30/1854 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0511

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr 30, 1854

My dear Mother,

This is as you perceive the last day of April, one month more of recitations at this institution and we have done not quite so fast! Then the examination commences and we will have finished by the 17th of June - and "change the grey for the blue." This last month has sped on like the wind and as I will have to be uncommonly busy I presume the next will go as rapidly. We have such an immense amount of study to accomplish between this and the examination that I will hardly have time to think of Graduation till it is upon me.

Though I have not done as well this year as my previous success might lead one to anticipate, yet this has been as happy a year thus far as I have spent at West Point. I have been received into the first society of this little place. Mrs Lee has more than compensated all the difficulties that I have had with her son in years gone by from her kind attentions. She has invited me to her house whenever an opportunity offered, puts confidence in me & gives me always a hearty welcome. At Capt Boyntons I am treated as a brother. Mrs B. is my model of a lady. When little Closson and myself visit her we are made as joyous & happy as she is herself. When she has a friend come to visit her from her native state Vermont we are always sent for. Last night we had a permit to go there, and though it rained pouring and Capt B's is about half way to the Cemetery, we felt ourselves soldiers enough to go. We found there a young lady, Capt Boynton's cousin from Vermont, who looked as fresh & beautiful as the morning rose. After having an excellent supper and a happy evening with a little dark lantern that the Captain gave us in lieu of a pilot, we plodded our way back through mud and water. Again at Mrs Berards I am treated like a son and a brother. In fact the girls call me brother Oliver. And so it goes. It is almost a mystery to me how I got so intimately acquainted with every body, but it is after my usual fashion.

This going into society so much has had a beneficial influence. It has had a tendency to improve my social qualities and taught me how to converse with a lady without pulling away as if for dear life at my coat-tail as cadets are want to do. Their hands seeming more burthensome <woods> than useless appendages.

So I must say that my final leave of West Point will be attended with far deeper feelings of regret, than one year ago I could have anticipated. That I have been less assiduous in my application to my books, and that a little indolence of spirit has stolen imperceptibly upon me and all that in consequence of my heart being possessed of objects of more immediate interest within the circle of its action. I have no doubt. But I do not suspect that I have received any permanent injury, and hope to meet you with as bright an eye and as light a heart as I possessed when I had the happiness of eating my meals beneath my mother's roof, and was subject to her immediate care and felt continually her ever present & watchful solicitude.

In less than two months I will be there again, with the same boyish spirit as of old. Home is already near - there I will meet my mother, my father & my brothers. It is saying enough to mention these relations of intimacy & affection. It needs not words or the strong colors of a lively fancy to invest ones ideas with a visionary halo, and make sparkle like diamonds one's fervid anticipations of happiness! 'Tis enough to say I will soon be home, in the midst of those that never cease to love me. My soul is still filled with misgivings in view of the distant future. For I feel severely my anomalous character, an educated ignorant man, well versed in intricate and untangible knowledge and yet not fit to buy a lady's shawl or a piece of meat in the market. But courage, thou soldier by profession. There is ten times more wisdom in the seeming than in the real. It is the province of man to <gammon> his fellow man. Strategy is not confined in its operations to military affairs. Many a man takes advantage of the shortsightedness of his fellows to cover the true position and true amount of the forces of his brain. He throws foward his most showy troops whose brilliant armor dazzles & deceives.

I attended Church this morning, and the Bible Class this afternoon. The text was: The bruised need he will not break, the smoking flax he will not quench. A beautiful text, which the Professor treated admirably. It was a sermon that would delight you to hear. He examined at the class, the last part of the XII chapter of Matthew, where our Saviour likened the people of his age to the children who declared - We have piped unto you and ye have not danced. We have mourned for you and ye have not lamented & the following. I presume our comments & dissensions might interest you but tattoo is beating and my sheet is almost full. I did not have the

heart to fill my letter with the language of brokers and money changers, and perchance of railroad men. It is sort of out of place. It gives the impression that ones soul is troubled about many things. You may ask father if he could by any manner of means furnish me with 150 or 200 dollars.

My love to all - Yr affectionate Son  
Otis

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556 5/6/1854

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0512

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. May 6, 1854

My dear Brother

I had a letter yesterday from home - Mother writes that they are all well. She is thinking considerably about you. You are an individual in my opinion in regard to whom all her forebodings are uncalled for. <The> risk you in the battle of life, if your mother won't. I believe you have the stamina necessary to final success. Had I half as much confidence in regard to my own success as I have in yours, I should daily congratulate myself. I own candidly Otis (inter nos) that the only obstical of any importance in the way of your immediate advancement is this Women business. And yet your connection with Lizzie may all be for the best. A fellow with your passions, your energy, your proclivity to "the Sex" would be in much danger if he is let loose upon the world of female beauty & fascination. You are, by nature, by no means impervious to bright glances & bewitching smiles. It is very hard for you to withstand the influence of a sweet face & a tender word. You needn't deny this, for I know <'ea ita sunt'>.

I said above "let loose". I meant by this that you have been for four years allowed to approach but the verge of Society - only to peek through the windows on that vain, gay, giddy crowd called the 'world'. You have seen just enough of it to make you long for its pleasures and feel as if you could fully appreciate its good things and half forgive its follies. I say, had you not "this anchor cast within the vale". (I mean your attachment to Lizzie) who could foretell where you would land after having once launched on this boiling, whirling Sea? Considering then the restraint which your love puts upon you in affairs of gallantry. The food that it furnishes to your wandering thoughts, the unity and consistency which it must give your intercourse with the world, we may, perhaps, conclude that these considerations counterbalance the thousand inconveniences to which a permanent arrangement (whether of engagement or marriage) must subject a young man, who has his own fortune to make by individual effort. After all, say I, let me be free, untrammelled independent! But inasmuch as your head is in the noose. i.e. your affections are interested. Why! We must make the best of it, thats all. The heart they say, will not subject itself to the dictates of reason, and coldly rejects the maxims of prudence, and makes its own decisions. "So make it be."

I think I hear you muttering, but whats all this to him? (Oh! Nothing! Of course!!) Only I happened to be thinking about these things in a sort of brotherly way, and wrote 'right on'.

May 9

After I wrote thus much the other day something called me away and you have not yet got your letter. This is a beautiful May morning, almost the only one we have had this Spring, which has been the most cold dismal and backward, that I ever knew.

Mother writes me that the drifts are still in the road and much of the frost in the ground in Leeds. I hope the roads will become settled before my Vacation, which comes a week from next Wednesday. Our Class have tomorrow to go after trees. We shall go about 7 miles and have a good time generally. After two weeks Vacation the next Term will be 8 weeks to Commencement, before and at which time I shall expect to see you.

As to my Nebraska ideas, they are clear and convincing to my own mind, and if I have failed to make them so to yours, it must be that I expressed myself too obscurely to be understood. I intended to meet the idea which you advanced in regard to State Rights, and if I did not, the fault is not in the arguments themselves but in my manner of conveying them. Perhaps we shall have a chance this Summer to talk the matter over.

Charles was well at last account. John Otis writes me from Lewiston where he is Register of Deeds. He thinks he is enjoying otium cum dignitate [leisure with dignity]. I have no more time. So pray excuse <inaeeear Lies> and believe me

Your very affectionate Brother  
Rowland



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557 5/8/1854      *From:* Jno. E Gavitz

*To:* O.O. Howard Esq

OOH-0513

Albany

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Albany 8th May 1854

O.O. Howard Esq

Dear Sir

In answer to your note of present date I would by this inform you that I have the diplomas order in your favor completed and intending to visit West Point this week. I will have them with me. Your note required they should be done by 1st of June. I neglected answering your letter as I should have done so you might be aprised of it receipt.

In reply to the enquiry of indebtedness of the society for diplomas. I would say that the amount against it is \$127 on my books that is including the present order.

Truly Your Ob St  
Jno. E Gavitz

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558 5/10/1854    *From:* Oscar V. Whitman    *To:* Mr Otis O. Howard

OOH-0514

No. Turner Bridge

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No. Turner Bridge May 10th /54

Friend Otis:

you will no doubt be surprised by receiving these lines from one, whom you know no more about, than of me, but I have strong desires of becoming your friend if I am worthy and sincerely wish to be admitted into your friendship.

I have strong inclinations for securing a place for myself where I can turn my mind to study, and have no other employment but, as yet, I have not been favored with an opportunity, and in my opinion it is time I should be seeking out a place, for that purpose. It is for that I address these lines to you. I wish to know whether I am qualified to enter at West Point (I am not much of a scholar, but am ashamed to confess it). Do all who enter there have to be advanced to a certain degree, or can any enter who wish? If that be the case there will be some prospects of my entering. Therefore, if you think there is any chance for me to be admitted there, I would like for you to intercede for me if it would not be inconvenient, unless I could get in as well without aid as I am ignorant of the rules and regulations of West Point. So you must excuse me for this, and I will endeavor to see you when you return.

Aunt [Lucretia Waite] was up last Winter, and was very sick. I will not relate the particulars, for I suppose it would be no news to you. So I will close and hasten to the office before the mail leaves.

Respectively Yours  
Oscar V. Whitman

Mr Otis O. Howard

NB. Please answer this if it is not beneath your notice.

[Note: Oscar Whitman was a cousin of Otis' future wife Lizzie Waite. Lizzie's mother was Lucretia Strickland Whitman Waite, the sister of Oscar's father Sylvester Strickland Whitman.]

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559 5/14/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0515a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, May 14th 1854

My dear Son,

It is one week since I received your last letter and I did propose writing on Monday, after Charles went away, but that was filled up, as usual, with household affairs, and so on, through the week until the sabbath is arrived, and am using it in writing to you. Charles walked home from Kents Hill, the traveling being so bad we could not go for him, the heavy rains of late, together with the immense quantity of snow that has melted has swollen to such an extent, that it is difficult passing them. Charley crossed the Dead River on the railroad bridge.

Your letter was dated the same day of the month, the 30 day of April, that your father died, fourteen years since, and mailed the third day of May, that was the date of his burial. His remains were committed to the grave on the third day of May. How much I think of you at this season of the year, and trace back the time when you were a little boy. Fourteen years has made quite an impression on your mother in every respect. I do not look forward with that bright hope in the future as youth do, but all my anticipations are more or less mixed with, fear and dread. You have been along while under tutorship of some kind or other about twenty three and a half years almost one third of the time allotted to man. It must have become a second nature, how will you feel, when released from it? This last month, that you are at West Point, is one of great interest to you, and I hope you meet with that self possession and calmness, which is so necessary to every person in an interesting position what I desire in my son, is what I lack in myself.

I had a letter from R.B.H. last night. He will be here the middle of the week, to stop two weeks. He has written me some very good letters since he returned to Brunswick the last time. He went into Portland on fast day and saw Lizzie, but I suppose I cannot tell you any news about Portland, I suppose you hear from Lizzie often. Your father called at Mrs Waite's a little more than a week since, said their family were the same as usual, Mr Pearley, Mrs Waite, and Lizzie and her Aunt Ellen. He took dinner with them. I ask him to call, as I was anxious to hear how they were. They were so unfortunate in their visit at Leeds last summer I fear they will never be willing to come again. I should be quite as happy to try the experiment or even, and see if we could be more fortunate. I have thought all winter I would write Lizzie a letter, but somehow a fear that an old woman letter will not be acceptable to her prevents me from doing it. I have no disposition to make any one any other than happy. Tell her she must come with you when you come home. One week has changed the face of nature astonishingly, everything (although backward) look in a growing state, the farmers are planting potatoes, and sowing grain, and the fields of grass and changing their color.

Your father laughed at the idea of hiring money for you. He says you must write the exact sum you want, and the way you will have it conveyed. He says there is some risk in sending money by mail, and it will cost 25 cents on a hundred to have a draft on N York and if you would like to have it sent in the form of a draft let him know as soon as practicable to give him time to prepare to send it. Be sure and have enough, so not to borrow until you reach home.

Your Uncle Henry Strickland lives a few miles out of Boston in the town of Summerville. I received a good and long letter from Martha J, a week or two since, in which she invited us all to visit her. She spoke of you, and your return in June and said she should expect you to visit her then. She enquired after Lizzie and her Mother. Says she does not hear anything about them but would be glad to see them.

This probably will be my last letter to you at West Point but perhaps not. I am glad to hear you say that you enjoy yourself at West Point, for there is no use in dragging a miserable life, because everything does not go right.

R.B.H. in one of his letters speaks as though this had been an uncommon pleasant term with him. I hope he will do well. Leeds is a stale place for news. I believe I generally write the news of some person's dying in every letter. Joseph Turner Jun. died yesterday in the forenoon about forty six years old. Samuel Leadbetters wife and John Gould's wife died within a short time at north Leeds. I called at your uncle Ensign's last week. Saw all of them. Hellen and her two babies live at Ensign's since John got his office, We have a new county,

the name is Androscoggin and John is register of deeds in it. He has let his farm and his family have gone to Ensign's. Laura is quite anxious to go to Philadelphia this season. Thomas Bridgham has let his farm and going to China to go into the Practice of law. Lloyd is sick and is a great deal of trouble. His Mother takes care of him.

This is a rainy sabbath. Dellie is sitting by me writing to some one perhaps to Otis. Lavernia was here yesterday. She had not been here for nearly a year. Arza is a cripple, and very low beside. Laisa is a cripple, one leg is drawn up so she has no use of it and walks with crutches. It is a year since she was here. She came to see Arza when he was here. They must both of them remain cripples the rest of their lives, let them be longer or shorter. Roland lives here just as he has since his return from California. George and Huldah are at Livermore falls. Betsey remains at the old house always quarreling with somebody or about somebody, generally hoping for a judgement to come so she can have every body judged rightly.

I don't know but I have mentioned in my letters that Charles Turner was married in California. Mr Hains arrived from California last Thursday night at Mr James Wings where his wife has remained these two years (you recollect Mary perfectly I suppose) those who were present said she met him with a great deal of outward demonstrations of joy. I suppose now she will not remain a neighbor to us any longer as his home is farther east.

I wish you in your next letter to tell me what are your calculations with regard to Lizzie, in your furlough. I would like to know of course. It will be in confidence between you and me.

Your father has been to Boston about ten days since and went out to Somerville and stopt at your uncle Henryes a few hours. I should judge from what that Henry is turning his tallents to very different account from what he ever did before. He is one of the superintending committee in the town and is giving his attention to Fredric's studies, and is domestic entirely.

I have nearly covered my sheets, with one thing or another, and will close with suscribing myself your ever loving Mother.  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

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560 5/22/1854 *From:* J W Sill

*To:* [O O] Howard

OOH-0515b

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

May 22nd 1854

Dear Howard

No offense is meant I assure you, in thus serving up a few thoughts on so scant an allowance of paper. My stock is low (I mean of paper), and my epistolary debts are many. I want to discharge them if possible to day. The gratification you afforded me by your late letter, was not small. You talk of my severity as if friendship could only deal in honeyed phrases, but you must feel better for knowing one's true mind, even at the risk of personal discomfort. You understand me too well, to dread my severe (as you term it) wordiness.

Homer first introduced the fanciful idea of the επιπτεροεντα. How many of these feathered messengers, are like the arrow, barbed? Not many I trow. So I console myself in all the plenitude of dogmatism, and the full sweep of unsparing harshness that a deeply grounded sentiment of friendship, is proof against the most violent attacks of rude uncourtly breezes. What is swept away in their fury had better be replaced by something fairer & stronger.

The gossip of the Point is like all gossip good or bad, relished with a gusto. What a taste. the old Athenian infirmity is transmitted through all the centuries since Paul, and our curiosity will ever be morbid. Seeking and telling of new things. such lightsome talk unsubstantial & inconstant as the wind forms the sauce and a piquant sauce too, to the weightier <click> of the soul.

You tell me of your rise in rank as an officer. I congratulate you on your advance to so easy a post as Qrmr. With Cadets it is a sinecure. You will in the army find it very different and you suppose there is but little if any leisure to a man like Maj. Sevard at New York. Why does not that old fellow Chapman obtain some compatible position as an officer. I shall begin to distrust his qualifications and advise his application for promotion to be laid on or under the table, until he shows indirectly his fitness for the gentle & joyous art. Chap is decidedly unfit for the command of armies. Tell him to go home to Alabama and join the Militia. Become captain of the Wigginsville rangers, whose weapons are single barreled cornstalks and summer uniform, an airy shirt and pair of spurs on the naked heels. Perhaps the last article was a part of defensive armor. The Wigginsville rangers are fierce Achilles' with vulnerable heels.

Ives formerly of my corps, but now of the Top. Eng. And recently of Whipples Pacific railroad survey, has just arrived from California and bestowed on his friends here, a visit of a week. Happy man to have acquired so durable a stock of interesting conversational materials. Were I in his shoes, I would preserve the same with a crusaders attachment to saintly relics. Top. Engineering is a marking, such as amounts in the end to positive tool of incalculable amount.

Boggs has been at work ever since graduation. So have not I. At present, I have got something on hand in a professional way viz, the proving of two or three thousand barrels of Powder. I find it monotonous but not laborious. What a model of happiness is before you in the coming months. I envy you the to me irrecoverable hours. If there is ought in this world that ever comes up to the brimfull cup of a graduating man, that has not yet come to my experience since last June, a year ago, certainly time was soaring before me on light feathered wings. "Oft in my waking dreams, do I live o'er that happy hour". West Point will be a picture of ever varying shades in the sunlight of memory. But sweetest and fairest in the golden noon-tide of graduating June. Revel while you may in the blissful emotions of homeward yearnings, anticipated welcomings, greetings of the loving observers at home, who watch your course with interest & sympathy, and the treasures of that affection bestowed by the "fayre lady" enshrined in love's innermost recesses, appropriate thankfully such a sentiment as love is honorable and chastening & has been to many a young men a shield and a safe-guard from the throng of impure visitors who constantly besiege the heart.

By the death of Capt. Ringold my brevet comes off. Shunk is now the only Brevet in my Corps. I shall expect you, Chap & Closson without fail next June - between which period & this you can write me of your movements. Write soon if you can, and do same advice to Chap & Closson.

Your true <>

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561 6/6/1854 *From:* Maria [Otis]

*To:* Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0517

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell June 6th / 54

My dear Cousin

I was very glad to receive a letter from you and intended to have answered it long ago but various reasons have caused me to put it off till this late day. But I hope you will forgive the delay and give this late reply a welcome.

I suppose you are feeling very anxious & excited just now as I believe your last examination will very shortly take place. You have my best wishes for your good success and we all feel quite sure you will get one of the first, if not the first part, or I do not suppose you have parts as in College but I forgot that it was not like College.

But I suppose your mind is more taken up just now with a pleasanter subject and one probably more important to your own happiness. For I hear & not before I see you again I shall see you with a wife. You gentlemen book no delay in these matters. I hope we shall see you both down here very soon.

I suppose all is mystery before you as to your future home. I trust for Lizzie's sake it will be a pleasant one but I suppose she has made up her mind to be contented wherever it is your duty to go. I think a soldier's wife has some trials to expect and to bear. But for that matter I do not think one life has many more difficulties than another. Think of poor Addison! There seem to be a great many slips for him just as he thinks he has got all drink to drink a little pleasure. I hope he will be able to come home this fall and be married. There will be quite a series of such affairs in this family if he does. I think you have decidedly the pleasanter month for it. I should certainly choose that month myself if it was equally convenient.

I have regretted very much that I have not been able to visit West Point while you were there, but it has been quite impossible. I do not suppose I shall ever have so near a friend there again so that I shall not enjoy it as much as if I had gone before you left.

I came directly home from Philadelphia. I saw Sarah and Frank for an hour or two in New York. The both looked very well and happy. He has just gone into business.

We had two or three hours in Boston Saturday & went out to Summerville to see Martha Jane. She was very well indeed. We left Phila on Tuesday morning May 16th and arrived home the next night.

We had a visit from Will. the week before I left P and he did not leave til the day we came away. He likes Baltimore very much. He receive a fee of five dollars a few days after he was admitted to the bar. He seemed in very good spirits. When he went on there in March he called to see me and I thought he looked rather low of spirits but as soon as he wrote me I found that he liked it better than he expected.

I hope you will be able to read this letter but I really have not time now to write very slowly. I have a great many letters to write but not much time for it so I have to impose a little on the good nature of my friends sometimes. You must give my love to Lizzie when you see her with my best wishes.

I shall try and go out to Leeds this summer as I do not expect to have many more opportunities. I hope I shall find you and your wife there whenever I go.

Good bye with hopes for your realization of your fondest wishes.

I remain your most affectionate cousin,  
Maria

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562 6/13/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0519

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, June, 13th 1854.

My dear Son,

Notwithstanding we have received no intelligence, yet, of our last letter which was mailed the seventh with two fifty dollar bills inclosed, neither is it time your father think it best, to mail the other hundred to day in two fifty dollar bills we shall expect news of the other to day or tomorrow.

The country was never more beautiful, with us, than at the present day. I thought this morning I wished some of my most beautiful flowers would retain their freshness until you reached home, but I fear they will not. The air is perfumed with the sweetness of the early flowers.

I hope Lizzie will come home with you, when you come. I will wait to hear & think, soon and see if she will come. We have a prospect of abundance of English strawberrys this season, and everything else although we had such a long tedious Winter extended almost to summer, yet we have summer, in all it beauties just the same as ever.

In haste your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

P.S. You had better drop a line to us on receiving this, and let us know how your getting on. E. Gilmore.

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563 6/14/1854 *From:* Dexter A. Hawkins

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0491

New York 27 Nassau  
St.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York 27 Nassau St. June 14/54

Friend Howard

I think you graduate this week, if my Calendar is correct.

I am settled in business here, board at Metropolitan Hotel, am at home from 6 P.M. to 8 ½ A.M.

If your duties allow you to come down to the city, make me a call; shall be happy to talk over old times with you. I returned from Europe last August, came here in Sept. Opened an office first of Jan'y.

Yours truly  
Dexter A. Hawkins

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564 6/15/1854 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0518

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. June 15th '54.

My dear Mother,

I received your last letter enclosing the last 100 dollars. I was happily disappointed for in my previous letter I wrote for you to send no more as I could not remain long enough to receive it. I am glad because it enables me to square up every thing. I completed my course in the mental department this morning. Tomorrow the medical Board will determine upon our physical qualifications. In this department I expect to stand moderately high, since all my bumps & knocks have left me in all my strength of mind & body. The final standing will come tomorrow, that is we will know where we come out in the class, but cannot yet determine into what Corps they will put us. The officers of my acquaintance and some of the Professors are anxious for me to go into the Engineer Corps, but I fear they will not be able to recommend me. I will graduate among the fives and had it not been for my excitability of temperament I should have <>. Custis Lee graduates 1st in Eng, 1st in Ethics, 1st in Mineralogy & Geology, 1st in Artillery, 1st in Infantry, 1st in Cavalry. I did badly in Infantry & not very well in Cavalry

[missing page]

in the <Chapel> by Mr Clemens of Virginia. We expect a treat. I have been to every house on West Point almost to invite people to the <same>. Mrs Cuyler offered me some wine. I told her of my pledge, and she said it was "beautiful" to find a young man who would refuse &c. She is a beauty and an excellent lady. I never have been at her house without the warmest of welcomes, and she always sends me nice things at the Hospital. So also Mrs Berard & Mrs Boynton & Mrs Spole. You would think I was a lady's (or a Ladies' man rather) to see me going about here, but I don't believe I am. I do love West Point now, almost as much as I used to hate it. You perceive a picture may appear differently when regarded in different lights. I saw everything once through an unfavorable medium. The Professors are without exception my fast friends, and I wish I was half as good a man as I have the reputation of being here. But I have said enough of myself.

I got a beautiful bouquet this morning in my periginations this morning, but I know that they would have been sweeter to me if they had been gathered in our front yard. I shall leave West Point on Monday next, for New York, shall reach Portland by Saturday following, will be home pretty soon.

Good bye for the present. My love to all. Yrs affectionately  
O. O. Howard

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565 6/17/1854 *From:* C C Everett

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0520

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College June 17 1854

Friend Howard

I was pleased to receive your letter to which I have not I believe yet replied.

Your brother handed me the money as you said. The funds have come in slowly however, & it was only yesterday that I dispatched my order for the cradle.

I have not time to say more now, indeed I shall see you so soon that it is hardly worth while. My object in writing is to say that I hope when you come you will come directly to our house & make that your head quarters while here. We shall all be pleased to see you & no one more than your

Friend & Classmate  
C C Everett

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566 9/8/1854      *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Brother Dellie [R H  
Gilmore]

OOH-0521

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Sep. 8. 1854

My dear Brother Dellie

I received your good long letter, written & directed wholly by yourself, this morning and hasten to answer you. I am very glad to hear from you, very glad that you are enjoying yourself so well and making so good progress in your studies. Be very careful that you understand everything in your Arithmetic thoroughly, and I have no fear but that you will get through it quick enough.

This is the first time that you have been so far from home at school and I will mention some things which will be of great use to you in gaining the good opinion of your schoolmates and the Vilagers. Don't stop much at the stores when you go & come from school. If you do stop, hear the others talk and offer no opinion yourself. In this way you will find out what others know, and add so much knowledge to your own.

It is now Thursday and if you do not write me tomorrow as soon as you receive this. You had better put it off till next Monday night, and then tell me who they send representative from Wayne & also tell me the news from home if you go there on Saturday as I suppose you generally will.

There have been two Fire Companies under my window a part of the Afternoon and kept me from studying. One was from Lynn Mass & the other from Bath. They were a fine looking lot of men and had very tasty uniforms. The Boston Cornet Band is with the Lynn Co. and the Bath B. B. with their own. They have been playing alternately all the Afternoon and in this clear atmosphere, cleared by last nights tempest, the music sounds beautifully. I can hear it now away down Street borne along by the north wind.

I suppose Charles came down to Yarmouth yesterday and I shall expect to see or hear from him in a day or two.

The Democrats are making great exertions to carry the State at the election next Monday, and their prospects are a great deal better than they were a fortnight ago because the Whigs - Morrill men & Free Soilers will not stick together. The Know Nothings will vote for Mr Morrill, which will increase his vote somewhat, as they number nearly ten thousand in this State.

If you don't know what I mean by the 'Know Nothings' tell me, and I will explain in my next as nearly as I can.

Remember me to Arza & Lavernia & Mrs. Sampson & Mary if they inquire. I am glad to hear anything about your School & Scholars and I shall expect a full description of the Cattle Show when that comes off if you get time to attend it.

Remember me always as  
Your very affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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567 9/24/1854 *From:* Charlie [Howard]

*To:* Brother Dellie [Gilmore]

OOH-0465

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter is very faint.]

Yarmouth, Sept 24 [1854, see note]  
Sabbath noon

Dear Brother Dellie:

I was glad indeed to receive your letter on Thursday last, which I have been expecting for some time. On Wednesday the day before, Otis & Rowland were here & spent the afternoon. Otis went to Portland Tuesday & Wednesday morning went to Brunswick. Then he & Rowland came to Yarmouth after dinner. They stayed with me till night then went back to Brunswick & Otis bid me Good Bye < > to Troy N.Y. to be gone a year he expects & I < > how likely it is that we may never see him again. He was going to stay in Portland all night, then he and Laura were going direct to Sommerville from thence to Philadelphia where he would stay over Tuesday & where he is therefore today. Then he was to return to New York & stay Monday night & Tuesday when he would leave for West Point. Thence to Troy on Friday. It caused rather sad feelings to arise at <leaving>, but I do not forget that he has the same God to care for him & the same Being to guide his prayer that we all have and I am very glad to know that he is in the habit of praying to his heavenly Father at the close of each day, for thus he informed me was his practice. I was glad to have you with us.

Among other things something about Leeds folks, for I have not had a letter from home since I left. And it pleased me especially to have so good news <for it>. I can order it the best of news that a young person has become pious, for I know it is so much for their own well being & so much for the good of those who may associate with them. And I was also glad to hear you write as though you were on that side, instead of being opposed to religion as some vain youth are. And you say you were also at the class meeting and I hope you will also read your Testament, because a good Christian so that you may be a good companion for Roscoe that he may not be led astray from the path he has begun to walk in. So I hope in your next letter you will be able to write me another item of good news.

But I was pained to hear that the Fuv. Society did not prosper better. And I think I will write a letter to be read to the Society. It was very wrong in Davis to speak as he did & if I had been there he would not have done it. But you must get along as well as you can, and be a peace maker among them. Perhaps things will go on well now, but if they do not you better adjourn til 23 of November, Thursday, when I will be with you. Do you have prayers now at the opening? I will write to Roscoe, or some other one of the members a letter to be read in the meeting, for I think it would be better than to have it written to you, for then they would say you had been writing to me & then some would not pay any attention to my letter just to spite you. So you better not tell them that you have written me about it, & I will write just as though I knew nothing about what has been done but still will give them a hint so they will be likely to do as I say.

I am glad to see you take so much pleasure in Declamation & hope you will declaim always when it is your turn, so to be a good speaker. Try to speak as though you were uttering your own thoughts, be natural. I hope to see you improve in Declamation when I get home this Winter. I want you to write me in your next how you get on in your studies now. I saw your letter to Rowland so it seems you are prospering. I am glad to find you so willing to be corrected in spelling. I will now look over your letter to see if I can find any mistakes. With all my criticism I can find only seven words which are, but few for so long a letter. I think you have improved very much in letter writing & if you will continue to write to your brothers often you will soon make no mistakes of any kind. I want you to correct any mistakes you may see in my letter too. Perhaps you better keep that list of words a little while till you can spell them all correctly. I had to look some of them out in the Dic'y so to be sure that they were really wrong.

Was Aurilla baptized at Kents Hill?

But perhaps something about Yarmouth people would interest you. We have at present in the school above eighty scholars, when there was but 25 last term. Mr A.B. Wiggin you know is Principal. He has the whole direction of affairs, makes a prayer before the whole school every night & morning. And in the morning the

students take turns in reading the Testament till they have read a chaapter. We also sing, those who can, every night & morning some one of the Ladies playing on a Piano which is in the School room. There are quite a number who study in school here. Mr Fasten one of the Seniors at Bowdoin is another teacher. He hears my Greek class. He is a clever fellow & ranks one of the first in his class. There is another assistant lady teacher who teaches the smaller scholars in many branches. Her name is Hooper from Bath. I recite in Greek & Latin every other day, but I only have one recitation a day and that is a long one. But besides this I have a Latin & Greek Grammar lesson to get each once a week. We recite in those just as we used to recite in spelling by taking up words which are declined wrongly.

We have the Philologian society in operation this term. I am Treasurer. I was one of the disputants on the question "Should women have equal political rights with men?" against the women. I made a pretty long speech & the question was decided in my favor & most all the girls voted for my side. My paper is filled so Good Night Dellie. I heard a man from Madeira Isle preach today.

Give my love to Mother & tell her I shall write her the first opportunity.

From your affectionate brother  
Charlie

P.S. I find I find I began my letter on the wrong page, but it is just as well. [I have put the writing in the correct order.]

[Note: The edge of the paper was torn and the year was missing. It was filed in the folder of 1853. But in 1853, Sabbath occurred on Sep 25, not Sep 24, and November 23 was on Wednesday, not Thursday. Both of these days are correct for 1854.]

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568 10/1/1854 *From:* Mopsibah [Lizzie  
Waite]

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1465

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[481]

Dear Sir,

Have pity upon me, for I am in love! Spare my blushes & call not upon me to reveal with whom - suffice it to say that the usual self-depreciation & modesty of your sex will instantly suggest to you the object of my adoration.

Elf-like locks & Gorgon eyes have always, to me, a charm but in you are superadded, those, which, in writ, are spoken of

“Those lily lips,  
That cherry nose,  
Those yellow cowslip cheeks”

of the irresistability of which even you cannot doubt.

In myself I have none of these attractions, being an every day sort of clod of humanity; but is not the appreciation of yourself some evidence to you that I have a divine spark within me? But ah me! This, I feel will ruin my cause, let me redeem it by saying, that I can do all things for which woman was made. I can, like Mrs Quickly, “wash, wring, brew, bake, scour, dress meat & drink, make the beds, & do all myself” & my higher instinct will even at times soar so that I can read the Almanac turn not away at such an evidence of aspiring beyond my sphere, twould be only when you willed it, that this higher casket could be opened. If you accept my humble offer I have but one provision to make - keep not, I beg of you the casket forever locked, but let it be opened as often as a good country dame would don her wedding gown annually.

Yrs Mopsibah.

[Written on the back as on an envelope] Mr O. Howard

[This was probably written by Lizzie prior to their marriage, Feb 14, 1855, perhaps Oct 1, 1854.]

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569 10/15/1854 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Master Rodelphus H  
Gilmore

OOH-0522

Yarmouth

Wayne

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Oct 15th 1854

My dear brother

I suppose you are ere this anxiously awaiting a letter from me, and I own I have been rather dilatory. But I have no time to write except Sat. or Sundays & I skipped last Sunday so have not written yet till now. I have been engaged as usual in my studies as I suppose you have. We recite 250 lines at a lesson in Virgil, which takes much time to get.

It is getting to be towards Winter, the frost has often visited us, & has robbed our trees of their foliage. How do you keep warm these cold nights & mornings? Have you a fire in your room? We have had a fire more or less for a fortnight for about that time ago I procured two feet of wood 4 feet long, which we cut as often as we need it. People are now gathering their apples. I wish I could enter a well filled orchard about these times & enjoy a feast upon some such as I have seen in days past & gone. But still I am not so badly off for apples for Winter & I have at times boughten a peck, which lasted well.

I was into Portland to the Fare a week ago last Saturday. There I saw all sorts of articles that are made by mechanics & also other works of art some of which were very beautiful. I saw specimens of steam Engines, printing press, ploughs, a mowing machine &c of iron. Waggons & Chaises of beautiful form, color & material with harnesses & Lights, bedsteads & washing machines which were very curious. And also a Sewing machine with which a woman could by turning a crank sew very fast, mending a chore in about a minute. These were of wood & iron. But I saw so many thousand things that I could not begin to mention them all. Among other things some most excellent paintings & drawings & daguerreotypes. Some beautiful pianos on which I heard some excellent playing & fine music. It took me a long time to look at all the things to be seen at the are & I returned to Yarmouth in the Evening.

We have very good prayer meeting at the Academy building under the direction of the students only & they who are pious take turns in taking the lead of these meetings. I shall take the lead next time. My duty will be to open the meeting by reading a chap & prayer, then read a hymn & all sing who can. After this the meeting goes on as usual, the time being occupied in speaking & praying & singing.

Do you attend the meetings now? I suppose you do, & hope you enjoy them better than ever before. But I have not written to the Society yet, as I thought I should. How have you prospered? Does not Davis make a proper president or do you now have any difficulty? Or do things go on smoothly & pleasantly? Tell them (if I do not get time to write), that I hope they will get along well & happily till I get home when we shall all meet again & have a joyous meeting with old friends & a profitable time for us all.

Write & tell me all about it Dellie. And your own feelings in regard to religion. Also how do Roscoe & Josephine prosper, in the new road which they have started in? Which I trust leads to Heaven, & they will get there (as must you) if they follow it till the end of life, & <> - Jesus Christ our Savior as their example & guide. Oh be a good boy & love & serve your God & you will have your reward Dellie.

We have about 90 scholars here now. Miss Fay came here yesterday from Wayne Village. Do you know her? Says she has been staying with her Grandfather Owen I believe of Wayne Village. She is a girl about 17 years old of black eyes & hair.

But how did you enjoy the Cattle show? You must write all about this. And how far you have got and are likely to get in your studies. I heard a lecture on Government last Friday night, which was very good & I have bought for you a very useful & interesting school book to study this winter. "The Governmental Instructor". This I shall carry home with me. You & I will meet at home at Thanksgiving.

Yr Affect br  
Chas. H. Howard

Master Rodelphus H Gilmore  
Wayne

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570 10/15/1854 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0523

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Oct 15th 1854

My dear Mother

It seems long, very long since I heard from you. I did not write last Sunday, for I was in hopes to get a letter before writing. And I have not had time to write week days on account of my studies. But another Sabbath has arrived & the day has passed & I have received no letter yet nor have I written any. But I hope that you are in good health & spirits to night although 'tis strange that I have not had a letter since I left home.

I am quite well & have been since I last wrote, getting along well in my studies although I have to study pretty steadily to get all my lessons well. We are ranked in all our studies & our rank is to be reported at the close of the term. Also we are to have an exhibition at the close of the term at which those who stand best in the classes will have most honorable parts. We are ranked on Declamation and composition also, so you see we have quite a prize to strive for.

We get quite long lessons and I never went so thoroughly as I do this term. We have very good Philologian meetings this term & I often have a part to perform in these. I am appointed to prepare a Dissertation for the next meeting which takes much of my leisure time. My subject is The Study of Greek & Latin in our schools & colleges.

We have quite an interesting paper connected with the society for which nearly all contribute. My Chum Winter is Editor & there is an Editress. We have our prayer meeting regularly every Tuesday night, at which there are none but students. Thus have I been spending my time since I last wrote, studying, writing, declaiming, attending Prayer meeting & Philo. I also visit my acquaintances some, & have been into Portland to the Fare I believe since I wrote, of which you have probably heard through Rowland, & that he was here & tarried awhile last Sat. eve, then went to Portland with Frank Gilman, stayed over Sat., saw Aunt Martha Jane & Lizzie, returned Monday forenoon stayed at dinner with me, then went to Brunswick in half past one train. I enjoyed my visit into Portland very much, saw sights worth the time & expense, for the time was only Sat afternoon & the usual expense was lowered one half.

I read at Lizzie's a letter from Otis, written at Philadelphia & I have, as I suppose you have, rec'd a letter from him since he arrived at Troy. I am glad to find that he likes his situation thus far, for if it pleases him he will be much happier for the coming year if he is there as long as that.

Rowland was well as usual, tells me he expects to teach in Topsham this winter & may not go home at the close of this term. I wish he would be at home to Thanksgiving for I shall be there as I see by yesterday's paper that it is the 30th of Nov one week after the close of this term. Have you yet found out who will keep our school this Winter? I hope we shall have a good school for Dellie's sake.

Warren Mower has written me to get Esther Frost to keep his school but she could not go as she is intending to keep in New Jersey this winter. Has Warren got any one yet? I suppose I shall have to return here this winter after a vacation of two or three weeks. Rowland thinks this is the best course to take if I am going to College next Fall as I intend to & I think I better get a good fit.

I have not answered Dellie's last letter yet but must do so tonight, for he has been real good to write this term, for which I am very much pleased. I also owe to Otis a letter which I must compose at first opportunity, but meanwhile I hope to hear from home, & hear all about Mother & father, brother, friends, neighbors & all. Dellie I suppose will tell me about the society. How goes on the farming & I am utterly ignorant of picking apples, digging potatoes, getting in & husking corn, pumpkins, turnips, garden sauce, garden seeds, plants & flowers, chickens, lambs, Boys & Girls, Men & Women, old & young of Leeds at this time. Where is Roland Alger? & where is Katie, Nancy, Roscoe & others of acquaintances intimate.

Please mother give my love to all & write very soon if alive & well. Now good night & remember Your  
Affectionate Son

Chas. H. Howard

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

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571 10/26/1854 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Brother [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0524

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal

Oct. 26th 1854

My dear Brother,

I have a good mind to reprimand myself for not writing you before, but now you come to have a letter for I have set about it in good earnest. Yesterday, I went to the shops and got a piece of pine, of cylindrical shape & about nine inches long. Around this I wrapped my picture and directed the same to Col. Jno. Gilmore. After all this preamble I wish to ask a simple question. Have you got the piece of pine? Tell mother, I hardly think the production worth a frame. To make it look respectably she must put it in the middle of a blank sheet of drawing paper, sticking it at the corners with wafers, or all along the edges with Gum Arabic. Even if it was framed it would not look well unless it was widened by a white sheet.

You will notice the building with a clock upon it - that is the Stone Arsenal and our house is off to the right as you face the Arsenal. The road commences just after crossing the canal bridge and runs up between our house & the Arsenal. The other building you see in the distance is a stone house for Heavy Artillery Carriages on the lower story and for implements & harnesses &c on the 2nd floor.

I live in the tenement towards the Arsenal. We are at the moment in the front Chamber, that has three windows two on the front and one on the side. The parlor is immediately beneath the kitchen in the part of the house that runs back from the main body. The entire structure is built of granite. The Canal runs parallel with the fronts of the House & Arsenal, but I couldn't well take in the grounds quite to it. Maj Symington's Quarters are just as far to the left as ours are to the right of the Arsenal. The road that runs between those two posts in front of the Arsenal leads to his house.

You must write me and tell what satisfaction you have derived from my productions of art. I presume Rowland and Charlie have left you and perhaps you yourself have left for school. Have you and your brothers had grand good times? Music in plenty? How is Warren Lothrop's health? Has he left the Army for good? Write me if you know. I expected to see his name among the appointments to the new Regiments - was looking for it. Lieut Boggs went to West Point on a Court Martial - said when he returned, that he saw Lothrop and that he looked completely broken down. Next I heard from Rowland that he was at home. I wish to hear from you, whether you are going away to school or intend to stay at home this fall and keep mother company. You must remember me to all friends who inquire for me and write me when you can.

Lizzie sends her love to Dellie. Give our love to Mother. (I am going to write her this week) and also to Father, Roland & all.

Trusting that you are all in the best of health, I remain as ever

Your affectionate brother

Otis.

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572 11/1/1854 *From:* Chas. [H. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0525 Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Nov 1 '54

My dear Mother

As I have a little leisure this afternoon, I have come to the conclusion to write you a letter. I say leisure, but to tell the truth there is enough to do & enough which calls my attention. But I have been studying hard all day, strange to say! And also for many days have not had much respite, so I am inclined to write the letter this afternoon, which must have been written within a few days, to take my mind from its labor & give it rest & joy by thinking of home. I say, "must be written with a few days" not only because it is due to you, but the term is now about closed & I am obliged to make necessary arrangements.

I shall be obliged to pay for 11 weeks board \$19.00. Mr Wiggin's bill for Tuition is 4.00 & with books 5.00. And what I owe Winter for other expenses is 2.00. And as I wish to have enough for a emergency beside 1.00. Ant that I may get a passage in the cars to Leeds 1.50. Please send \$28.00 . Then if there is more than I have need of I will return some.

I am in hopes that you can write me a letter next Sunday with Dellie & inclose \$28.00 to send me Monday. The Term will close in 2 weeks from next Thursday night & I shall I suppose go home on first trains Frid. We have expected to have exhibition until lately but so many are leaving the school that I think we shall not have any but Mr Wiggin says that he shall have the parts (Salutory in Latin & Valedictory in Eng. which I have) performed at the Examination. So I shall be obliged to prepare my article & commit it to memory & speak it before visitors & the examining committee although there is no exhibition to come off. I am sorry for this on some accounts as it will take up much time, still if may be the best for me in the end. I am obliged to study hard now & I have been pretty diligent during the term. To be sure I should not have got the valedictory had I not ranked the best of any in School but I have that I have not ranked so well of late. But I am determined the rest of the Term to rank as well as I did the first.

I had my lesson well this morning. But it is pretty difficult to get my lesson as well as Winter for he has read it all before & I have not. Still I think hereafter I shall do as well as he.

I was happily disappointed I tell you mother to get your long letter Monday morning just after I mailed mine. I sent one to Dellie at Wayne. Has he obtained it yet? I often hear from Rowland & I rec'd a long letter from him sent up by <Tarter> (our Assistant Teacher) who is of the Senior class at Bowdoin) last Monday. Rowland is well & I suppose cannot tell any news as I suppose he has written home lately. I am real glad to be at home thanksgiving day for if ever I enjoy myself it is on this day. It always brings up pleasant reminiscences & our family is collected from different parts of the earth to the old homestead. But Rowland & Otis will be absent this year. Indeed I anticipate great enjoyment during this vacation of homework, for I am to be at home so short a time I think I shall improve the time & make the most of it. I am sorry I cannot be at home all winter, for this is the last time I can have of any length till next vacation in College.

(Supper)

Thursday Morning

After heating my supper last night I went out in the yard & played for exercise till Philologia meeting, then I attend that, so I did not finish my letter.

I find if there is no Exhibition the term will close Wed instead of Thursday, 22d of Nov.

We have had pleasant weather this Fall. Have we not? we have had no rainy weather for some time till last Monday & Tuesday, so that our cistern had become very low as to water but now it is some what replenished. But Yesterday was a most beautiful day for the first of Nov. In the morning every thing looked so clean. And the sun shone out clear & bright & the weather now just warm enough for comfort.

I have not heard from Otis lately nor Lizzie. I was real glad to find such a religion interest at Leeds & I hope it will result in much good. I suppose you will get this, this morning. Good Bye.

From Y. Affect Son  
Chas.

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573 1/20/1855 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0526a

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal

Jan. 20th 1855.

My dear Mother

I have taken up my pen to write you a few lines this morning in the hopes of getting a reply from some one of the family for I am no little anxious to hear from home. I wrote to Rowland some time ago, but have received no answer. I hope his cold did not grow upon him. I have not heard from Lizzie for some time and cannot tell how she is getting on. I have applied to Washington for a leave of 20 days commencing on the 5th of February, but have not yet got a reply. Maj Symington who is now president of the Board of Ordnance has gone to Washington, went yesterday. He says he will hasten my leave, so that I may know certainly before hand that it is granted.

I have been into society very much since my return. The parties which are now quite frequent, will be over before Lizzie comes. Since very few people in this part of the Country have parties during Lent.

I am very anxious to hear from Lizzie. She has so much to contend with of which I never dreamed till I was home last. Her mother cannot bear the idea of being separated from her, and I fear does not enter into our arrangements with a very hearty good will. I shall be glad when the wedding is over and we are fairly settled here at Watervliet.

Day before yesterday I visited Mrs General Wool, of whose husband the secretary of war is so disposed to Congress. She is one of the most interesting and sensible ladies I have met. She got upon the subject of her husband's treatment & could hardly stop. I intended to stay ten minutes & was obliged to remain upwards of an hour. Army officers have splendid advocates in their wives.

I wish you would write me if publishment is now in vogue in Maine. It is in New York.

Give my love to all.

Your affectionate Son  
Otis

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574 2/18/1855 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0526c

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Feb 18th 1855

My Dear Mother,

I am sorry to disappoint you in the time I set for my visit to Leeds. Mrs Waite was quite sick after you left. Her sister has left, and if we should go to Leeds it would be alone, so we have concluded to settle our affairs, box up goods to be transported, & come before we leave at all. We will do all this as soon as we can. Then we will take Mrs Waite to Lewiston & go on to Leeds. It may be Friday and it may be not till Saturday. I hope you got home well & safely. Give my love to all. Do not try to meet us at the cars. We can get a horse at the Depot. I think we shall start for N. York from Leeds. I wish to see you & have a long talk with you. Good night. Lizzie sends her love.

From you affectionate Son  
O O Howard

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575 4/20/1855 *From:* Ed G Fisher

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-2438

Insane Asylum of No Ca

Commanding Army of  
Tennessee  
Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[144, 145, 146]

Insane Asylum of No Ca  
April 20th 1855

Major Genl O O Howard  
Commanding Army of Tennessee  
Raleigh  
General,

While I deeply regretted the sudden and somewhat abrupt termination of our interview a few days since, I was entirely ignorant of the cause until informed this morning by Genl Ward that your feelings were wounded by remarks of mine touching the admission by an insane negro into the asylum as well as my complaints of injuries inflicted upon the property of the institution.

Allow me here to say that I do most emphatically disdain any intention or thought of saying or doing anything then or at any time in the slightest degree discourteous to you. My very high appreciation of your personal character as a Christian Gentleman, my own self-respect and the time and place all forbid that I should for a moment place my conduct by even a doubtful, much less an offensive, attitude before you.

The order of committal of the insane negro to the asylum by Col Warren Provost Marshal of Raleigh was presented to me as you remember just at the moment when we were in the act of inspecting the interior of the institution and from the novelty of its character both in its source and kind, I confess, did create for a moment with me some embarrassment.

Up to that time I had acted in the management of the institution as Chief officer under statutory Laws of the State and a system of By laws & regulations passed by the legally Constituted Guardians of the institution; to wit the "Board of Directors."

The order of Col Warren being in conflict with both the state law and the required usages in such cases caused me to make such comments upon it to you as occurred to my mind at the moment. My seeming hesitance at compliance with it however, did not proceed from any want of respect either towards yourself or Col Warren, but simply to the novel condition in which I was placed as Superintendent - a few moments reflection upon the subject together with your suggestion to me to admit the man "Simply upon the ground of humanity" decided me upon that course, but which I had not the opportunity of making known to you before your departure from the house.

The institution was erected by the authorities as a state charity and under a liberal appropriation made annually by the Legislature has been conducted almost exclusively for the benefit of the indigent citizens of the state for the past nine years, in which time its apartments have been uncomfortably crowded with occupants and many others awaiting their admission as entirely insufficient are the buildings.

As yet, no provision has been made by the Legislature for the negroes but from past legislation, it may reasonably be hoped that ample provision will be made for them at no very distant day. In the mean time the <masp> of a slave is required by Law to make every provision for his comfort so that he is not less dependent upon his master for proper care & safe keeping when insane than in health.

In justice to myself I will here say that on more than one occasion I have ventured to recommend to the Legislature of the state the importance of erecting a building expressly for the insane negroes of the state.

With respect to my complaints because of injuries & losses sustained by the institution I desired merely to reply to your urgency upon the subject without intending to locate the blame upon any particular Troops, as I did not then or do I now know with a single exception to what command the parties engaged were attached, except the

<canging> sway of the mules, wagon &c belonging to the institution by <> of the Cavalry, I am entirely ignorant of those who were engaged in forcibly entering different store rooms and of removing Contents from them. Most of these depredations were committed before Guards were placed around the buildings and in my first interview with Gen Ward after locating his head Quarters near the house he voluntarily tendered full and Complete protection to the institution and assured me that, I must not hesitate to call upon him for all needful aid. In justice to him I will say that he has most faithfully redeemed his promise. Under such circumstances as these am I much pained to learn from Genl Ward that I had charged upon his Troops the perpetration of these gross improprieties. I certainly did not intend to convey such impression upon your mind with respect to them and deeply regret that you should labour under it.

I have thus Genl in as brief manner as possible endeavoured to submit to you a statement of all the circumstances connected with our brief interview as far as my memory can now recall them. May I not hope that my explanation will not only prove satisfactory but be accepted by you as such.

In conclusion I avail of the opportunity to tender to you in much cordiality, an invitation to visit the institution where I will be most happy to see you and where I am very sure your well known philanthropic feelings will be much enlisted altho unable to ameliorate the sufferings of Gods most heavily afflicted Creatures.

Very respectfully  
Ed G Fisher

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576 5/26/1855 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0527

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
May 26th 1855

My darling "Little Wife",

This is the first note I have commenced to you since our marriage, the first time I have written that appellation that struck us both at Uncle Oren Whitman's and caused the flushes to mantle your cheek that one I mean that Aunt Lucy spoke of suggested by the title of a book, "The Little Wife." I hoped to have found a letter, will get it tomorrow probably. You know I am full of hopes & fears like a fond husband that I am, but I will not bore you with a rehearsal. I will not say much about the sense of loneliness that came over me when I entered the familiar quarters here & was almost of a mind "to gloom" a little - no I will tell you of these things that are felt & not easily described when you get back. Now to the point. I left you, with a tear or so in your eyes - you know where & when. I went immediately in search of Mr Pease's office - Tremont St. for Uncle, nobody there but an old man who takes care of the rooms. He let me put my bag in the office. I went to the Tremont House next. Saw Mr Carter of Troy and talked with him, he has been in Boston for some time on business, asked after Mrs H & wanted me to say a good word to his friends at home if I saw them. I went again to Mr Pease's, Uncle had not come & waited some time, then went to the American House to find him.

When I got back the third time I found him & talked with him an hour or more. When I left him to go to Cousin's at East Cambridge I took an Omnibus at Brattle St. It was soon full; one gentleman besides myself. The rest women - after the seats were filled four more of the fair sex jumped in. The horses could not start then up the hill and began to be fractious and backed round slewing the Omnibus into the middle & across the street. One woman who sat next to me had a little child, a "borrowed one" as she styled the "little brat" about 2 years of age. The child was getting squeezed, so I took it in my lap. Like a parcel of fads all these women fourteen or fifteen of them then jumped up & screamed. I was mad of course, but calmly told them to be seated, but no. The unruly creatures would jump out behind. The woman with the child among the rest. She begged of me to follow with the "little one"; but no I wasn't going to make a fool of myself so I sat still. So did the other gentleman & one or two women to their credit. The Omnibus turned round (not over) & draw down Brattle St, took a turn round the square & returned to the head of the same. The woman with the borrowed child came rushing in; "where's the baby! Where's the baby! Why she (Twas a Gal) and I were having a grand ride. The woman with the borrowed child said she was afraid I would carry it off, it was such a dear little thing. All the while I'd been thinking what the deuce I should do with it, without you along when night came. I could put it on the back & lay it on its little (that part that aches so when the baby has eaten too much or got worms). Well the little one gave me a kiss and the borrower a multiplicity of thanks as my 'Bus ride was brought to a close.

I got a good hearty welcome at Cousin Olives. She wanted to see you. Sent her love to you & says tell Lizzie she must come right here when she returns. I got a good welcome too from Mr Hazzard when he came to dinner. He brought his horse to take his baby to ride. He gave it up to Ollie & Roddie, who took me to ride to visit cousin Martha (Martin) at Old Cambridge and go to ride where we pleased. We paid the visit to Martha. Then went on past the Colleges, saw Henry with wife, Mrs Hardy, daughter & Laura in somebody's garden. They came and inquired if you got to the cars in season &c. Said Watertown Arsenal was about three miles distant. So the boys & myself concluded to go thither. I went with them accompanied by a polite old clerk to all the store houses, shops &c, saw Capt Wainwright & the young Mr Webber don't think Watertown can compare with Watervliet - not so many buildings by half - surrounded by a high peaked-top board fence. It is on a small stream of water, and the grounds within are very prettily laid out and are now looking finely. I attended the trial of John Chapman for the murder of Cozzens committed in Framingham Mass. The Court House is but a step or two from cousin Olive's, you may remember. This Chapman is a small handsome young man with beautiful hair. He looks slender & innocent. I (who do not mean to boast) believe I could whip four of such as he is. Still if he did the murder, he must have thrown a big Irishman, half as heavy again as himself and struggled with him through two or more rooms to the outer door and all this he must have done against a man of double his strength struggling for dear life. When I looked upon the fair face & delicate form of the youth I said in my heart it is inevitable. He came from Maine. I heard a part of his defense, not very able but I don't think he can be pronounced guilty of murder, though circumstances seem to show that he was accessory for by a falsehood he decoyed the old man out to meet his untimely death. It was a sad thing to me to listen to that trial yesterday. I

think the lessons I learned did me good. How important it is to live in such a manner as to completely disarm suspicion. Ollie Hazzard is here. He was to have a weeks vacation from tomorrow. So I asked his father to let him come with me. He was a companion for me on my way back & will be so here.

Birdies are well - glad to see me back undoubtedly, fed them a little with large seeds from my hand. You haven't been out of mind since I entered this front room except perhaps while I was reckoning my expenses & setting them down. All well I find - haven't been to the major's yet. Boggs says if I could go into my old room & sleep tonight, I would wake up tomorrow morning & think the past three months had been a dream and that I had not been married at all.

I should inquire how you find our mother & aunt & all, but expect you have told me already by the letter that's coming. My love to all and may God bless & protect my darling wife. Good night.

Otis

I am a little tied up before I heard the young men come in from visiting Mrs Thornton about ½ past ten. They called out Ho! Ho! "I called the guard" as usual & went down. Both the young men & Ellen 1st and Ellen 2nd asked after you, how stood the journey. Ellen thinks this part of the house boring without you. I won't say I do for you would enjoy your visit & be very happy. Your mother must not bother you about your being a weak little thing &c. I shall have to scold if they do not all be very cheerful & make your first visit after your marriage very pleasant to you & to themselves. Tell mother what a good husband you have got & how good natured he is to all who help him to make his darling happy. Accept another Good night &, as Shunk would say my best wishes for a "miserable time"

Otis

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577 5/27/1855 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Husband [O O Howard]

OOH-0528

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn May 27 1855

Evening 4 o'clock

My dear Husband

I have been to Church - have had my afternoon sleep, and now I do not know what to do with myself unless I write to you. I hope you will mail me a letter before you receive this. I am very anxious to hear from you, to know how you got home, and to learn how you get along alone at Watervliet. My darling Otis, what shall I do? I see I must keep all secrets locked in my own bosom. (Erza has brought me some puffed corn. (We are at Aunt Sarah's.) Would you not like some?)

I think I shall go to Leeds this week and was telling Mother that if I made all my visits, and she got quite well I should not stay as long as I intended. Mother is getting better very fast. I found her quite sick and busy writing a letter to me. I wish she was boarding where it would be more pleasant for her. She does not wish to go to Watervliet. I think she will board with Aunt Betsey, this summer. Uncle Hicks does not live in any better rent than he did before they moved, so she can not board with them. In the spring Uncle Everett thinks of building a new house, and till then I wish she could find a pleasant boarding place, but if she can be contented where she is I will say nothing. I only wish it otherwise because here she does not have a room to herself excepting her sleeping room.

My dear Otis. I have learned a great deal since I have been here, and learned it indirectly. I am going to tell you the truth and that is I do not want to come to Maine alone again. It is at this time of day - twilight, that I think most of you alone at Watervliet. I ought to be there, and now I find myself disappointed in some things. I wish to be back to Troy. I will be happy and cheerful all the time I am here, but when I get home I shall do just as I wish.

I spoke with Mrs Gould coming home from Church. She leaves Lewiston next week.

Uncle Hicks made us a call since I wrote the above. He has gone now.

I hope to get your letter before I go to Leeds. I do not know as I shall wait till it gets here, but go to Leeds and have it forwarded to me. I think now I will go to Leeds Tuesday afternoon, and stay till Friday or Saturday, but I wish you to send all your letters to "Lewiston Falls" as I shall be here the most of the time.

I am coming home just as soon as I can get away dear Otis. I like to be here and see my friends, but I want you to be with me.

Evening nine o'clock.

I have been talking with Mother about going to Troy which she had rather do, stay here or go there. Her health is so poor and is so feeble, I am willing to do any way almost. She finally says, that she would not want to go till another winter. I see that she wants something to look forward to. I will write very often to you, my husband, and I wish you to do the same. Mention no secrets to any but me, but I need not caution you I know.

Remember me kindly to my friends at Watervliet and tell Mr Boggs, I shall surely stay eight days, but shall say nothing about the three weeks he mentioned. I would like to write to Miss Mary but with making and receiving visits I do not expect to find time to write only to you.

Now good bye, and believe  
I love you with my whole heart.

Your affectionate  
Lizzie



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578 5/29/1855      *From:* Otis [O O Howard]      *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0529                      Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.  
May 29th 1855

My dearest wife

I received your welcome letter this morning. I was looking for it hoping to get it as early as Saturday night or Sunday morning and therefore was a little disappointed , but it is all right now.

I was sorry that you did not find mother in better health and am glad on her account that you have made your visit so early. Ellen has made frequent inquiries for Mrs Howard, seemed pleased to hear from you through your letter and said tell her when you write that we wish her back.

The table Ellen wanted you here last Saturday and Sunday she said. We had company. Lieut McPherson of the Engineers stationed at New York & Lieut Cogswell of the infantry, instructor of Infantry Tactics at West Point, besides a Young Lawyer Jackson from Albany, friend of Mr Cogswell's. McPherson is a classmate of Boggs. I like him very much and so would you, since he is a good hearted, honest, straight-forward fellow. He wanted to see you much, and said that though he had not seen you he must leave his kindest regards for you. He slept on Laura's iron bed stead and when he came into our chamber to adjust his collar, I gave him a rose that had just blossomed on the rose bush. He thanked Mrs H for it through me and put is into his collar box to preserve it till he got home.

We had a great dinner on Saturday, and the young men had a great time. The particulars I will tell you here after. On Sunday, they got two carriages and went to the Shaker village to witness their novel service. I let Ollie Hazard go with them. I staid at home and went to Church with Mrs Lansing to hear her new minister at the South Church. I liked him very well, though I fancied from his doctrine that you would not be so well pleased. I came back and accepted Mr Lansing's invitation to dine with him upon what he called his simple Sunday fare. I had a very pleasant time, smoked a cigar with him after dinner and conversed with the old gentleman & lady on various topics. He declares the ladies always do have their own way and made the grave assertion that Mrs Howard was fast getting the rule in my family. I laughed of course & told him that I liked such government first rate. You will not take advantage of this confession will you - 'wouldn't be fair you know as I am writing in confidence.

I called to see Mrs Wool to day. She came in to visit you the day you left. She seems so kind and affectionate, so much like Mrs Vaughan, William Otis Grandmother, that I can but like her. She says I wish you & Mrs Howard would not be so formal with me, coming in only five or ten minutes in the morning. I want you & her to come in the afternoon, just when you feel like taking a walk.

Mr Cogswell left Sunday night & McPherson yesterday morning. The latter has been engaged recently in surveying, sounding & cleaning out bars in the Hudson River that were so situated as to impede navigation.

Ollie seems happy here; will return next week. I hope father can be induced to let mother accompany you as far as Boston. The birdies get on finely. They were exceedingly shy when I got back, but now like me first rate. I gave them a rose bud from out of doors this morning, and let them play about the room. Ellen says tell Mrs Howard about the birds.

The plant always comes in at night. There are two new blossoms on it to day. They are beautiful & sweet. Only a few afour flower seeds prove good. I water the beds frequently. Somehow I want everything to look pretty & inviting when my Lizzie comes back.

Is my darling healthy because she is determined? The value of a gem seems enhanced when it is lost, but the value of a wife, who can tell when it is most?

Give my love to your mother & Aunt Sarah. I would like to hear what they have to say to you.  
Give my love to John, Helen & family, Uncle Hicks & all, for haven't I a big heart, with a heap of love in it?

I must write to mother. I intend to do so to night. I did not mean to write you but a few lines when I began, but here we are on the fourth page. I have been at Maj. Symington's only one evening since I came back. Miss Mary & mother inquired affectionately for you. so did Mrs Thornton when I saw her on the door-step yesterday evening as I was passing. All ask how long you are going to stay from us. My marriage does seem almost like a dream, and I believe I would consider it as some waking fancy, were it not for the little reminders I meet with in the shape of birds, flowers, shoes, parasols &c. How goes the new dress. I received the trimmings that you ordered at Albany. If you think best, write immediately and I will send them to you by mail.

Give your mother a kiss for me & tell her she must be well. When the officers that are now at West Point are relieved this June, who knows but Lieut O. O. Howard may be sent. If the place is offered to me shall I take it? Kiss my mother when you see her once for yourself & again for me.

God bless you darling. Good night. I mustn't write more.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

Nights are the worst sort of times for widowers. I pity widowers, don't you?

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579 6/2/1855

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0530

Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

June 2nd 1855

My dearest wife,

It is Saturday night and I know I cannot get a letter off before Monday and perhaps I may get one from you before this is closed, but I cannot refrain from writing. I wish dearest you could look into my heart & see it as it is. I don't mean for you to witness all the stains that time has stamped therein, but even if you could have it all laid bare, you would never dream that my heart was cold, that my sympathies were weak. You are mine now darling and there can be nothing gained by pretense.

I cannot tell you what I meant to when I began, words are either too cold or too warm. One may say he loves you when he loves himself & loves to have you please him, the darling man. Then something keeps you off, you are not delighted while nestling close to his bosom, though what he says is ever so charming. But sometimes the heart is very warm & the words you attempt to clothe your emotions in seem very cold. Pray my darling not judge me by mine. There is a heart here that beats for you, that feels lonely, and would droop a little, did not the ugly head above it control it. It will long for you.

"Is she happy away? When her head presses the pillow, is it soft and comfortable. When she sleeps is it a gentle & peaceful sleep? Does she wake before the day, and think long of her new home, and of him, who is there? Is she unhappy still? Does she cry for grief. Oh! Will she not come back & be happy? Can she not bear the heavy burden, as a sweet sacrifice to him she loves?"

I want often to talk with somebody who will inquire after you. I called on Miss Mary once, after the first few words in which she asked in an affectionate manner after you & I told her I had received a letter. I couldn't get up a pretext for talking about my wife, & though my mind and heart were upon the little one. I didn't know as other people's were so I talked absently about other things. Home with my book or drawing is the place for me. Here is the rocking chair, the little birds, the books, the windows towards Troy (& the Canal) and their seats. In the next room is the bed. The half table, the rose bush.

Don't think all things remind me of you Lizzie, no, you are right here in my heart all the time night and day, and I fear I worship your little self too much. But the dream is so sweet, that you must not break the charm. Don't think me silly (the use of that word brings to me your expression when you have used it and almost makes me - almost touches my pride). I say don't think me silly when I write as I have been writing above, for my wish is to try to open my bosom to you & let you know what's working there. It is selfish in me if it gives you any permanent sadness, but it seems to me if you love & are sure you are loved, you like much to have the beloved one, a little of an egotism, just a little, enough to let you know his circumstances, both without and around him & within?

But my feeling now is that Lizzie says please don't gas Otis, but confine yourself to real things. So I will.

Ollie Hazard is still with me, will go home next week sometime. Messrs Boggs & Shunk are alive, well, & full of fun, have been singing songs & amusing Ollie. Mrs Thornton said to me the other day, Give my love to Mrs Howard and say she must hasten back. Her husband leaves for Santa Fe via St Louis, Fort Leavenworth &c, on Monday next. Mrs Symington & Miss Mary have gone to New York to visit a friend who is about to leave for a foreign tour, and taken Johnie along for a beau. Major S & myself are widowers virtually. The major has children for comfort & consolation, I have not.

I am happy that you want me with you. I know you love your husband and it is he that must not only love you in return, but strive to be a good and worthy husband. I want three things my darling. I want to fear God, not fear man, and love you rightly. I will finish this tomorrow, when I hope to have more common sense, for I have made out so many accounts, i.e., mess bills. P. Treasury bills and foremost debts & credits that I may say, a la Shunk, I am getting decidedly practical. How I wish you were here this night. I have the night cap now. Don't tell though.

Good night. God bless you.

(Sunday evening five minutes of 7) It has been raining or looking as if it wanted to ever since June set in till tonight. Now it has cleared up & Watervliet invites your return my darling, with many smiles. I seem to think you are at Leeds, for if Saturday was a rainy day you would not have returned to Lewiston.

I hope you are well now and I know this to be your time of dreaming, musing and thinking of the dear ones who are absent from you. Perhaps you are just now thinking of your husband. What is he doing? When this reaches you, you will know he is thinking of you. A young man from Albany, Jackson of whom I spoke in a former letter, has come here again for a good time. After tea the young men set out for a walk. I ran away from them, saw your letter on the table unfinished and here I am. I wish the young men could choose some other time than Sunday to visit us. The coarse ribaldry & vulgar jokes, to say nothing of other things don't set well on my palate.

I took Ollie to Church to hear Mr Temple today. The new Church is completed. Mrs Willard Miss Emma & Mrs Tibbets inquired for you. Mrs Willard says she shall claim me there, and wants me to get a part of a pew. The renting will take place on Wednesday next. I wish you were here to consult with. I want a seat some where, and don't like to wander about from Church to Church. But your prejudices & mine seem to run in different directions in this matter. I almost wish we, as man & wife, might unite in religious sentiments as we are united in others, and I believe we will if we both wish it sincerely. I want you back darling at all hazards, say when shall I meet you.

I have got some new drawings on the floor. Mr Boggs & myself are detailed through the Major to make drawings of a Gun & the Gun-pendulum, an instrument for proving powder & other things, to be sent to England. I shall try to do mine this week so as to go for you next week. How did you find Mother? Is she to accompany you to Boston?

I will not write any more tonight. Mrs Symington & Miss Mary will return tomorrow. Write me when you can come, and believe My heart is yours

Your own  
Otis.

This is the third short letter.

Any man can find time to write to his wife if he loves her (?)

My love to our mother, Aunts Uncles & cousins. Learn all you can darling. It is useful sometimes to know how to meet emergencies.

I looked out sharply for a letter this morning, none came.

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580 6/2/1855

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Husband [O O Howard]

OOH-0531

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn June 2 1855

Saturday 5 o'clock

My own dear Husband

I received both of your affectionate letters this (Saturday) afternoon, on my return from Leeds where I have been spending the week. It did seem so very long before I heard from you.

Your Mother received a letter from you yesterday, and we were very glad. I will not write you some things, but when I get home I shall, with arms around your neck, tell you how lonely I am at times, and that I shall not again come to Maine alone. I am going to Watervliet just as soon as Mother will let me.

Your Mother will not accompany me to Boston, and I see no need of your coming farther than Springfield. I will let you know in season to meet me there.

Cousin Adams and Frank came in after tea, and now they have gone. I will resume my writing to my dear Husband.

When I went to Leeds I found your folks having their house painted throughout the inside. Some rooms were dried - the dining-room floor varnished &c, but we got along nicely and I had a very pleasant visit. We (Mother and I) went to Turner one day, saw Grandmother and Aunt Nancy, took tea the same day with Aunt Martha and Laura. Uncle Ensign got home while I was there from Waterville, where he saw Rowland, and returned with him to Hallowell. Dellie took me to the Depot. Just before I started Col G. gave me two apples for you, two for Mother and two for myself, quite a rarity. I presume you have received a second letter from me before this time, and you ought to have received another this evening, but I did not write while at Leeds. I gave Col Gilmore \$100.00.

Secrets are secret still and we will keep them to ourselves. It must be so.

I have been very well all the time I have been from you excepting one day at Leeds (that was yesterday). I am very well to-night, and am wishing my visits were over and I was at home at Watervliet in our pleasant chamber and you reading aloud to me or I to you.

I have not told you how Mother is. When I returned to-day I found her about the same as the first day I saw her. Seems to be very weak and is surely very nervous. I think that she will soon be better.

It is half past nine and I will go to bed to please Mother. Good night my darling. I hope to see you soon.

Monday Morning. I hope you will not be very anxious about me, my darling, because you have not heard from me for so long a time. I am very well indeed. I should be so happy if I could start for home this week, and it may be that I can. I do not know as I shall be able, that is, know in season to have you come and meet me, but do not fear to have me go alone. I have just thought what I can do - telegraph for you to meet me. I can do that after I start. I will do so, dear Otis. I have not seen Charlie, but on my way home I intend to stop with him over one train.

I would not have Mother receive one of your letters after I leave for anything. I will not be anxious too about you if I do not hear from you again, but you may write to Mother. I presume I shall get a letter Wednesday next from you. I am now hoping I may start this week, but you will know if I do.

This is a very rainy day, therefore I have to stay at Aunt Sarah's.

Now good bye my dearest Husband, the mail goes out this afternoon and I wish you to hear as soon as possible from your  
Lizzie.

Say nothing please about \$100.00.

You need not send that dress trimming. I am sewing for mother.

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581 6/10/1855 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Husband [O O Howard]

OOH-0532

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn June 10 1855

I desire very much to write you a long letter to-day my dearest Husband, for I know you must be very anxious to hear from me. I shall not be able to tell you when I can go home. I am very sorry to say Mother is not as well as usual. We made up our minds to come down here to Uncle Alden

Whitman's (live in the lower part of Adams house where Frank and Adams first went to house keeping) to come yesterday. We did so, but the ride seemed to tire Mother very much, and she was obliged to lie in bed all the rest of the afternoon. She is better this morning, got up to breakfast and sat up two hours, and is now at eleven o'clock lying down. I do hope and think she will be better in a few days. She wants me to go home, but I do not wish to leave her while so ill. Aunt Ellen is in the place, been staying with Aunt Hicks, and Mother says I may go and she will have Aunt Ellen stay with her.

I am very well so do not be anxious, my darling, and I will be with you as soon as I can.

Your last letter, how shall I speak of it? The tone was so kind so affectionate, I did have a good long cry over it, and I did feel so much condemned for saying you could not feel as much sympathy as some others might. I now know it is not so. I will be very happy when I get back to, at Watervliet. I shall know how to prize my happy home and your society. I do not write much of this, but it is not that I do not think of you, or long to be with you. I am writing up stairs in the room with Frank and Adams. How I wish you were here. I do want to see you so much, but I do not think it worth while for you to come, of course not. I am coming to you soon.

A lady of my acquaintance saw you yesterday afternoon. You will smile when I say that she was in a mesmeric state. It was Mrs Mudgett put to sleep to examine Aunt Hicks hand. (I believe I told you she has a felon on her finger.) She only saw you pass by, and says he seemed to be commanding has some thing in his hand. I was not there, Aunt told me. Mother got up, ate dinner, and has not lain down since, and it is after two o'clock; dinner at twelve.

I remember that this is the day we were to have ripe strawberries; how many have you eaten to-day? I do not believe you have eaten one, for a very good reason - that there are non ripe to eat.

We are having a rain storm. The first rain that fell after I came to Maine was on Saturday, the day I came from Leeds. We have had a shower nearly every day since and this is a regular rainy day, but I hope the storm will not last long. I am more lonely when the weather is not sun-shining, and am apt to "look out at the window".

I do not know as you have heard the sad news - (not so sad as it might be to you), the death of Arza Gilmore. He was buried Sunday before I went to Leeds Tuesday, and died the same afternoon I arrived at Lewiston May 24.

It has taken me nearly all day to write this letter. I would write a while, and then do something for Mother, and talk a little, then write a little more. It is now nearly five o'clock. Mother is lying down. How I wish that she was well, for her own sake, as well as my own. Sometimes I feel as if I should fly to Watervliet. I so much wish to be there. I have written no letters excepting to you since I came away. I wish to write to Miss Carrie and ought to, but I know not how to take time.

Give my love to all at Watervliet. I shall be very happy to be with them again. Mother is very much better to-day than yesterday. By the time you get this I do really think that she will be quite well. I shall try to write to you oftener than I have. I wish to hear from you, and wish you would write that I may receive the letter by Saturday. If I should not be here please say nothing you would not wish made public. I may possibly start for home this week.

Ever and wholly your affectionate wife,  
Lizzie



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582 6/10/1855 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0533

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

Yarmouth June 10th 1855

My dear Mother

I have an hour which I think I will improve by writing to you.

Perhaps Dellie will think I ought to write to him, but he must consider this as an equivalent & I will try & write him next. I was very much pleased to hear from him & home for I had not heard from home since I left & yesterday Rowland wrote me for the first time saying that he also had not had a letter from home this Term. He heard of Arza's death through Uncle Ensign whom he met at Waterville! Dellie wrote me just enough said that I knew he must have died but I believe he did not state where or when the funeral was &c & about his death. He thought I knew all about home affairs or was afraid he should tell something I already knew, which he never need fear. He did not write a word about the Society. Tell him to fill up his sheet always when he has time for it will all interest.

I am well & have been, am getting on first-rate with my studies. How is your health mother? Do you work very hard now? I suppose you will always have enough to do.

Is Lucia at our house? If so, please remember me to her; also to Roland Alger, happiness to him & his bride; also to Oliver, tell him I don't think hot weather has taken much flesh from him yet & if it don't before long I fear the cold weather will. I hope you & Dellie will write soon & tell me all.

Have you a good school. Dellie must make his plans to go entirely through his Arithmetic & all his books if possible, so to take a fair class when he goes to school again. I spoke to you mother about teaching school this Winter. Morrill is very earnest for me to keep his school & has talked with the Agent, says I must at 25 dollars & board. Don't you think I better engage to teach it?

All things go on pleasantly here. We have about 40 scholars. I have nothing to hinder me from studying. We have very good prayer meetings each Friday, which I do not fail to attend; also Philologian meetings Wed. evening. There was an Auction here of books yesterday & last night. They sold books very cheap. I got some, but should like to have bought others, yet probably before 4 years are over I shall come in contact with another book auction.

How are the meetings in Leeds? Do you have preaching every Sunday & do you go to hear it always? Who preaches at the Methodist? How does the Sabbath school flourish. Dellie must pay good attention to this lesson which only comes once a week. I hope he will not neglect to give to Religion its due attention. You must, when you can, read with him at night mother, & he must remind you of it when you forget. Must he not? I now have plenty of time to read. I pray regularly twice a day. Only get in the habit & it is not much trouble.

I have not seen Lizzie yet, although Dellie wrote that she would be here on Thursday. I suppose her mother is very sick. Is she not? Rowland heard that she was in Maine by Uncle John who saw Otis in Boston. I wish to hear about Mrs. Waite & when Lizzie will return to New York. Dellie did not mention that Mrs Waite was sick but Rowland wrote she was. He has been to Norridgewick & to Portland on business for the Athenaeum Society.

Great excitement in this region about Neal Dow & the riot in Portland. But it has turned out as I thought & I do not think it was wrong to use weapons of death on such an occasion for which Dow is blamed by <>.

We have had severe rains lately for which to be especially thankful, as they were especially needed & I think now the crops will grow finely. It rained here most all of the forenoon. So I went to the Baptist, near by, in the forenoon but to the other this afternoon. I like Mr Aiken the Orthodox a little better as a preacher, than I do Mr Allen. I shall soon go to prayer meeting up to the Baptist.

Dellie must study well this Summer for it is probably the last Term he will go in Summer to the Town School. I have not rec'd the promised letter from Jun. Temp. Soc. yet. I hope you & Dellie have written me today.

Your affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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583 6/28/1855 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0534

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth June 28 1855

My dear Mother

I was greatly pleased to receive a letter from you this morning, and to find it was one of those good long ones which I had thought belonged to days gone by. I have but little time to write tonight before I should be in bed but thought I would make a beginning of a letter. I was not aware that so long a time had elapsed since I wrote a letter home. But time flies & I have it all occupied, hope I do not spend a moment of a day idly.

I was glad to hear about Arza's death & funeral of which before I had had no account. I hope that Laverna will soon be well to attend to her little boys.

Charley Haines saw Lizzie going through in the cars, said she was bound straight to New York. I should have been pleased to have had her tarry a night in Yar. I wrote Rowland a letter the first of this week, a part of it Sunday.

I attend Sab. School Sunday morns which takes some of my leisure of Sunday. I think it is the best way I can spend the time, and I hope Dellie will continue to go to Sabb. School & try to make his class interesting. Let him study Clarkes <Comm> on his lesson & it will make it more beneficial & pleasant & let him ask questions of his teacher & not only say his verses & then hasten away. I should like to be his teacher or a fellow pupil & would be were I at home. I'm glad to hear that you have a good school, Dellie must improve it to the utmost. I shall see how much improvement he makes when at home the 2nd week in Aug. I must delay writing more tonight as I rose at 4 this morning & did not get to sleep very early last night as it was that of the Philo. I hope you are all enjoying good health & spirits tonight & are not retiring with too weary limbs to your beds.

Friday Morn

Dear Mother, this is a beautifully pleasant morning. I rose about 4 o'clock. It will be warm but I have not suffered much from heat yet because I just (day before yesterday) took of my underclothes. Mosquitoes trouble some but not much yet for we go to bed soon after dark so do not have a light long before.

I am thinking about home much lately, because I have been at home always for all my life before at this season of the year. This is the time when I used to be going to the town school so pleasantly & happily, when we used to have such joyous plays at noon or perhaps "go a pipping". Often when I am going & returning from the Acad I am thinking about our folks at work in the field & how I would like to be there. Perhaps our folks are hoeing. How are the crops looking pretty well.

I am getting on better than ever before in my studies. I have missed no recitation & no part of one in my Greek & Latin & do not mean to. Shall be all ready for College by the 3d of August. Then if nothing happens contrary to expectation shall spend a week at home with Rowland.

Give my love to all our family. Remember me to Jose if she is at our house & Dellie must send me the letters more abundantly in future & tell him I'm waiting for one from the Society. I am in a great hurry this morn for it is time for the cars to go so good morning, day & 3 months to all. Please to write as often as possible. I have not had a letter from Otis for 3 months.

Your Affectionate Son  
CHHoward

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584 8/4/1855

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0535

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal

Aug 4th 1855

Dear Mother

I have hastily made a sketch of the Arsenal Grounds and of the relative position of Troy & West Troy. Tell me if you can form any idea from this of our location. I will try to get you up a drawing of our house, the store arsenal and the Majors house with the scenery in front. Lizzie thinks this last would have been more acceptable to her than a plan of the grounds before she came. She says in a plan, you can form no kind of idea of the trees & shrubbery or of the actual appearance of the houses. I would have sent you a good drawing of the grounds in full, but the paper necessary is too heavy to send by mail and I hope you will be able to visit us before we are ordered away from this Post.

Rowland and Charles must be at home by this time. The boys must tell me how their examinations were got through with. I want to know how many questions Charlie missed, how much he has to make up, where they took him to examine him &c. Did Professor Upham give him any serious advice? Dellie is at home I suppose and working hard. Tell Rowland it is too warm weather for him to do anything else but write to me. I know I don't deserve it, but for the sake of former punctilious behavior, he should forgive recent procrastinations especially to a man who has a large family to look after.

Mr. P. S. Perley came here about a week ago or more on his way to Maine. He was only intending to stop the night and leave in the morning train, but I wouldn't listen to it. It did me good to see his face once more: for if there is anything that remains in status quo as to externals, it is Peleg himself. He arrived the other day when I found him on my front steps waiting admittance like the very same lisping boy I saw for the first time eight years ago on the steps of Ole North College. But he has changed - he looks you full in the face now. He may have called to see you. His accounts of his own good fortune in the land of his adoption, almost made me discontented with the slow accumulation of riches hereabouts.

Last week on Monday night I went to N. York in the Steam-boat Commodore & returned in the same the next night. I saw Aunt Ann, Sarah & her boy ten weeks of age. Sarah was not very well - had a head-ache the day I was there. Aunt was in good health. I stopped with them to dinner - staid at the house two hours - I went in the afternoon to the Arsenal on Governor's Island. There I met Capt Whitely of our department. I was never more <impressed> in a man's favor at first sight. He seemed a whole-souled man as well as a perfect gentleman. He has been stationed for a long time in the West at Baton Rouge and at St. Louis. He has a very large family, one or two grown up children and the rest small.

I left for Troy about 6 o'clock P.M. passed the night in a state room with a sick stranger, who reminded me forcibly of the days of thorough-wort. Poor man he kept me awake somewhat, but he had the "worst of it".

My love to all. I wish the boys could visit me, but good sense must prevail. I have one scholar, who recites to me every day in Latin. William Thornton, the son of the Major, who is on his way to New Mexico.

Lizzie sends love to all.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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585 8/15/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard] *To:* Brother [CH Howard]

OOH-0536 Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Aug 15th 1855

My dear brother,

I have just received Rowland's letter and am glad to hear from you all. His accounts of his journey and his doings generally are very gratifying to such quiet people as Lizzie and myself. It must be pleasant to mother for Rowland to take her on such an expedition. Her health must be better this summer than usual.

Uncle Ward's death came very suddenly upon me. Soon after I dispatched Rowland's letter I received the paper which I transmitted immediately to Maine. I have received no further intimation - no particulars. I don't even know if his daughter Elizabeth was with him. I wrote at once to Chicago and have not yet received a reply. I felt badly to think I had written as I did to Rowland, touching upon Uncle's peculiar weaknesses, when I was so soon to learn the sad news of his death. He always treated me with the utmost consideration and kindness; visited me at West Point when I was lonely and a stranger, received me with a warm welcome and cordial hospitality at his home in Peekskill, came to me when I was so very sick at West Point as to be almost despaired of, and at several other times spent a social hour with me at the Hotel of the Post or on the plain. He never would take me from any duty, rejoiced at my success, he gave me much wholesome council. All these remembrances appertaining to times when I sensitively appreciated any show of kindness or sympathy now come thronging back upon me to reproach me for the idle words I have used, and to awaken warm feelings of regard for him that is gone. He was so much like Grandfather Howard that he seemed near to me from the moment I saw him first. I have had vague impressions of his faults and could not sympathize in the ultra political & social doctrines that he maintained at all hazard but with these I was not brought in contact and I cannot do otherwise than draw the veil over them.

I believe his only living son is in N. York City. Mrs Henry lives near Chicago and I presume Elizabeth is with her.

I received your letter from Brunswick. I am sorry I permitted so long a time to elapse between my letters, and I must acknowledge it was laziness in great part. Future separation, or rather immediate separation is ever the best of apologies. After reading what you said of your speedy return home, and of your wish for me to be there to make the family complete, there seemed to come over me more forcibly than ever before, a sense of my separation from you all, "from the home of my childhood," though not from the fond recollections pertaining thereto. Though new interests spring up around me and new feelings arise under new and peculiar circumstances, still my heart must revert to the old place, and I can't make it seem possible I have any other real home but the one that covers my mother's head. The life we are to lead in the army, moving before we get much acquainted with people whose interests don't run in the same channel with ours, never acquiring strong local attachments, will serve to foster rather than abate the old home feelings. When I speak of home I will mean the old place where Mother is living & thinking of her absent boys and where father builds the bright winter fire, and with lighted candle dozes over the Advertiser's columns.

I fear I am getting sentimental - 'Twont do for a soldier.

I went out to the Shaker Community last Sunday. I intended to have given you an explicit account of my visit but I only have this page left and it is getting late. Mr Lansing (our Military Store Keeper and <pay> of the men) invited Mrs Howard & myself to ride with himself & wife to the Shaker settlement and to attend their services. As Sunday was the only day I could form any idea of their religious practices & tenets I concluded to go. We left here at ½ past nine last Sunday morning and after a ride over a rough road of about five miles we reached our destination. Here we found beautiful farms, cultivated with extreme nicety and buildings new or in excellent repair. We passed a large building with the sign Office in large letters upon it, turned around it to the North and followed up an avenue with a picket fence on each side of fifty or sixty rods in extent. This was completely crowded with Carriages of spectators from Troy, Albany and the surrounding country. We left our carriage and walked up the Avenue - passed through a gate and a few yards further on came to the church door. They have two doors of entry side by side - with two aisles separated by a railing, one for the men & the other for the

women. About one third the extent of the church a railing runs completely across the house & thus cuts off the apartment for strangers & visitors. Mr Lansing was recognized by one of the fathers & our party was taken beyond the cross railing through a gate that was closed and fastened at the commencement of the services. The remaining two thirds of the church was surrounded completely by one wall seat and at each end there were two or three rows of seats facing each other. At the farther end and opposite our entrance were two more doors. The entire and extensive interior was a plain unpainted floor - as smooth, pretty & clean a one as you ever saw. Soon after our entrance I was looking towards the opposite end and saw the door open and the women apparition like file in one after another till about sixty had entered. They arranged themselves along the wall on the left side. The men came in at the same time from the opposite side.

What strikes you first is the dress of the women. Each wears a plain quaker cap, projecting slightly over the face, a three cornered white cape or kerchief with point behind extends down to the brief waist. The dress as much like old Mrs Z's night gown as anything - one or two gathers before & behind and none at the side, with a waist up under the arms the dress goes straight down to the feet. Round toed shoes with heels to them complete the attire. All the women are dressed alike in pure white, from top to toe. They each carry a white towel folded & laid across the left arm.

The men are simply dress very much like our quakers. Their broad brims & drab coats were thrown aside before entering, excepting some few old men, who threw aside theirs before commencing the service. So the men were in their shirt-sleeves. They all cut their hair in an oval shape close around the face and left it long behind making it look as bad as possible.

The men & women at a signal from an old man arose simultaneously and arranged themselves several ranks deep - the men facing the women. The old men apparently in the front rank & the younger in rear - so also with the women opposite. First some remarks from the old man - then they all struck up a hymn or chant, swinging the body slightly as they sang. They sang & spoke alternately (some one made remarks). Then all resumed their seats and one man came into the middle of the floor and addressed the congregation showing the people the object of their singularity. He spoke well & to the point. Their doctrines I cannot speak of this time. After he took his seat they resumed their places in the middle of the floor - sang - then a few of the singers separated themselves from the rest and sang while the others danced. They took a simple step, moving forward a little ways, then turning moving back just as far & turning again - all did this at the same instant & keeping time with the song. After this some more remarks were made by an old gentleman to the "saints" & the dancing was resumed. This time they moved about the singers in circles. Every one made motions with the hands up & down in front of the body, palms up. After this another man addressed us worldly people & we separated .

Good night. Lizzie sends love to Charlie, Mother, Rowland, Dellie & all just before she drops asleep. My love to all - to Uncle Ensign's folks when you see them. Write soon.

Your sleepy brother  
Otis

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586 9/9/1855

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0537

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Sept 9, 1855

Dear Mother

We received your letter yesterday and very happy indeed were we to get a long letter written by yourself. I do not wonder that you do not write as often as you intend, having so many duties around you that require your attention, and surely I would not over task you with writing, if it is a source of great pleasure to us to receive your letters. I regret much to learn your health has not been good, but do hope with the cool weather it will improve, and that for the future, we shall hear you are very well. We usually hear of you when we get a letter from Maine, and that is much better than not hearing at all.

I know I have been very delinquent in writing to you, ever since I could address you by the dear name of Mother, and have no reasonable excuse to offer as an apology.

Otis and I, at present, have enough to think about. We are arranging for house-keeping. We shall very soon sit at our own table, but I fear things will suffer under my direction. Otis does not seem to have so great fears, and with his encouragement, and by experience I hope to do better and better. We are to have one of the servants from the "Mess" for cook, and she is a very good, honest, faithful girl, that we can trust with anything. When we get settled I must give you a description of all our rooms, if I should make the attempt now I would not know where to begin or where to end, and you would think I did not keep a very neat or orderly house. Have bought a dining set of white French china, and Otis sent home a good supply of groceries yesterday. There was an auction here last Thursday, and everything belonging to the 'Mess' was sold, with the exception of things we "bid in". Mr Boggs is left alone as Mr Shunk has been sent to West Point. Otis bought the Cow, and as it will cost nothing to keep her, I think it will be a great saving. We shall not purchase so many things or have things so comfortable, as if we were permanently settled, and I find that is the way they do throughout the army.

Otis and I have passed through the village of Waterford several times and have noticed the "Mansion House". It is quite a pleasant village about four miles north of us, and should we go there again, we should take more particular notice of the place, for it now is full of interest to us, since we have learned it was the place at which Otis' father stayed.

Rowland and Charlie must find it very pleasant living together. We have not heard from them since they went to Brunswick but hope they will soon write. It is indeed sad to hear that John Harrison is spitting blood. I presume it is not well for him to be confined to his office. Laura I have not written to, since I returned, but I think of her and all often. Mother I suppose will be with us this fall. I know not how soon, or that Otis will go to Maine. I cannot hardly realize that it is as late as Sept. I do not know where the summer months have flown to. It has seemed the shortest summer I ever passed. Otis has been writing to Mother, but has finished his letter and now has gone to inspect the guard. Could you look in upon us you would say we looked very comfortable and happy. I hear the clock striking ten and will not write more this time.

Please accept much love from your children and believe me affectionately your daughter,  
Lizzie

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587 9/25/1855 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Brother [C.H. Howard]

OOH-0538

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Sept 25 1855

My dear Brother

I did not hear of your illness till Rowland wrote me you were getting better and that mother was with you & would take you to Leeds the next day. I am very anxious to hear from you again and if possible that you are quite well. How did you stand the journey home and how are you now? I am glad you are with mother. You will not now fail of receiving proper care and she has had more than ordinary experience in treating the dysentery.

My little family is in perfect health and prosperous. I have a horse and carriage. The horse is not yet paid for. I bought him of Maj Symington. He will give me six months to pay for him in. His name is Mallech and a splendid horse he is. The Major brought him up from a colt of Arabian breed. He has always been used for a saddle horse - perfectly kind and gentle and yet very spirited. I bought a nice covered carriage for one horse (second hand) for seventy five dollars. Lizzie and I have a ride nearly every second day. My horse is purely white and carries a very high head. Lizzie can pet him & feed him and is not the least afraid to ride after him. I now go marketing, shopping & visiting with my own horse and since he can live on the forage I draw for him, I think he will more than pay me the interest of his price.

Perry Lee ran up to see us last Friday, stopped to dinner with us and went about the Post to visit the different buildings. He had to hasten back to N. York to see to unloading his vessel. Perry looks better than he did; is in good health & spirits - master of a vessel & receiving very high pay. Silas was here on Sunday, when Lizzie & I returned from Church, we found Silas waiting in the parlor. He had changed so much in personal appearance that I hardly knew him. His face was almost completely covered by whiskers & mustaches and his manners were changed. He was very quiet & seemed more unassuming than ever before. There is quite a contrast between the two brothers. Perry has a freshness & vivacity of spirit that never has abated since he was a child, whereas Silas appears like a man more advanced in life & more affected by the manners of those with whom he has been thrown. They both appear like perfect gentlemen, but Perry seems to carry his heart in his face, whilst Silas has acquired more of the social polish. Here I am married & keeping house & two boys & playmates came to visit me as grown men. We have gone forth to occupy different posts & fill different spheres in the multiplicity of human duties & human destinies. It is pleasant to meet, pleasant to talk over the days of boyhood, the incidents that have transpired since we parted, and chat about the variegated prospects for each in the future.

Aunt Ann will accompany Perry in his vessel to Calais & perhaps thence to the West Indias. Silas was on his way to visit her before she left. He is in a large publishing house in Buffalo. A man of his acquaintance Capt. McKim of Boston has recently established himself in Buffalo & invited Silas to join him & be his book-keeper. His father is engaged in the meat trade for the N. York Houses in some of the Western states.

I recently heard from Perley. He has returned to Henry Illinois. He sent us a paper, said he was well. He did not call to see us on his return from Maine. Lizzie is busy in the kitchen making some peach preserves. I wish father & mother could visit us & see how pleasantly we are getting on. If I am sent on inspecting duty this winter I shall visit you if I can get time. Then the government would pay my way to & from Boston.

I trust all our friends are well. Maj Symington is now at West Point on a "court of Inquiry". I am right glad now I did not go to West Point. I like this keeping house. Lizzie is hard to beat. She don't think so but you know she has a low estimate of her own abilities. My love to Father, Mother, Dellie, Roland & wife &c. Lucia. Remember me to all my friends. Hurry up & get well. Write me immediately if you are able.

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard



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588 10/12/1855 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0539

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
Oct 12th 1855

Dear Mother,

I received Charlies letter Wednesday and found that only the wrapper belonged to me. I am glad he is getting on so well, and hope that his hard ears will cover his eyes and render them fit for use.

Last night without a word of warning Lizzie's mother drove up to the door - she had company all the way to Albany. She wrote us a letter & telegraphed besides, but we got neither message. I am sorry she did not see you before she left. She said she saw father on Monday before she left Lewiston. He was looking very well she said. I think Mrs W. will be very well now she is here. I shall take her out to ride often and it is a fine country for this. I would like to take you with my fine horse to Albany, Troy, Cohoes, Waterford, &c &c.

Charlie writes that Louisa is quite sick. Give my love to her & all at Warrens when you see them. I trust she will soon be perfectly well. It is raining very hard today. We have had very much wet weather lately. The river has risen considerably but not quite as much as in the spring, but if it keeps on raining as it does now I fear the lower part of our grounds will be overflowed again.

We have had plenty of melons & grapes as well as Hickory nuts, & white oak acorns, but no beach nuts. What Charlie wrote about having beach nuts made Lizzie say she wished she had some. Mrs Dunlop has some friends from England on a visit at her house, and gave us an invitation to meet them there this evening, but Mrs W's arrival will prevent, and it is fortunate for it is too rainy to go out.

I heard from Rowland a few days ago. He writes cheerfully, hopes Charlie will soon be back, says he is doing well, for he is eating voraciously. Maria & her husband has been to Maine on a visit it seems, went on a tour to Canada. Why couldn't they have made it convenient to pass this way and make a cousinly call. I wonder if Maria wouldn't be offended if I passed through Philadelphia and did not make her a visit. I don't like it because she did not come.

How is John Harrison. I hope his spitting blood did not amount to any thing. Was it much? Give my love to all at Uncle Ensign's.

Are you not lonely when the boys are all away? Lizzie & her mother send love. I have got to economize more & more now. It was against one of my cherished principles to buy any thing & not pay for it down. For example - my horse, but if I have my health I will come out straight.

Affectionately yours  
Otis

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589 10/27/1855 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* R. H Gilmore

OOH-0540

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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C.H. Howard  
Bowd. Coll.  
Oct 27 1855  
To R. H Gilmore

Dear Brother Dellie

Although it has got to be rather late in the evening yet I think I will begin if I do not complete a letter to you. My health has been very good since I have returned. I entered my classes & so get my daily lessons with them & make up what I can. I shall have a hard task to get through by review which begins in two or three weeks. I should like to hear from you, to know how you are prospering in studies &c &c. You must write us soon. We have not heard from home since I left.

Rowland and I have talked some about your going to College. He says & I agree, that if you do conclude to go, you ought to find some good school which you can attend all the time when you do go to school, and that pretty constantly till you are fitted. We have thought of Andover Mass & Exeter N.H. But I don't know yet what father's mind is.

I hope you are doing well this Fall in Algebra. That is pretty hard for me here in College. Most of the boys had been through or partly through Smyths Algebra & I had only been over what is required for a fit.

This is quite a place for getting off jokes & making fun. The boys are getting "<grindo>" as they call them on to each other very frequently. Perhaps you would like to learn some of their terms & words which are peculiar to College. We are all seated according to the order of letters of our names. About half the class are "up" one day & half the next. Each one stands while reciting. When one makes no mistakes, he "makes a sail". When he fails & the teacher (tutor) questions him closely he "takes a screw".

So the other day we saw on black-board, put there by Sophomores a drawing of a screw like that of a Cider mill with a boy under the screw & the teacher turning it round. The boy appeared to be most squat in pieces. When my Freshmen come if they are good scholars & desirable fellows there is always much "fishing" for Societies i.e. persuading to join. When the teacher stays away from recitation for some reason, sometimes to please us & we have the same lesson for next day it is universally called an "adjourn". "Hold in" is where the Sophs try to hold Freshman into a room for a minute or two, as it is their privilege to go out first. Staying away from Prayers or from recitation without a good excuse is called "cutting". We have a "monitor" who marks out absences from Church & Prayers. All after leaving College hill is call "down town". 1st Coll. building is North Coll. or Winthrop hall. Next Middle C. or Main hall, next building is Chapel consisting of Picture Gallery. Chapel, where we have prayers, Library, & a large hall in one ell for other purposes. Each class has a class-prayer meeting. Three have been converted of my class this Term.

Give my love to Mother &c.  
Affectionately,  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Next to Chapel is South Coll, where I am, alias Appleton Hall. Room No 28 A.H.

Give my respects to Mr. Norcross. Get your piece well. Practice on it while going home or while at home down in the woods. Try to be natural. Have no affectation. It spoils all public speaking.

Yours  
CHH  
How go the spectacles?

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590 11/4/1855 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0541

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Nov 4th 1855

Dear Mother

It seems a very long time since I have heard from any of you. I had a letter after Charlie had recovered from his illness but haven't had a word since. I don't know whether he has returned to College or not.

Maj Symington went on to inspect Augusta Arsenal a week ago tomorrow. I sent a package to Rowland by him. I had written him before, in hopes that he would meet the Major at the cars, but he did not and has not yet advised me of the receipt of either the letter or package. I trust you are all well and the boys at College.

Mr Boggs was away at the same time with Maj Symington, so that I was the only officer on the Post, and I had to be very busy, at least I had to have my mind on my business, being, like one new in command, anxious to do all things well. On this account I have put off writing any but business letters, till now.

You know I have had a horse & carriage I suppose for a month and upwards. Since Mrs Waite has been here the roads have been so muddy and the weather so inclement that we have not ridden much. Yet we have been to Cohoes falls on the Mohawk, to Troy Cemetery where we have a more extensive view than elsewhere in this vicinity. It was a little misty when we went there, but soon after I took Lizzie to the same place in a clear day. It is on the Troy side of the river & about two miles to the north & about one mile East of the Hudson.

The Cemetery comprises upwards of three hundred acres, has a large pond & pleasant groves included and is intersected in every direction by fine gravel roads & paths. The cemetery itself is comparatively new but as fine a one as I have been in. The grounds are not level but consist of hills & gentle slopes. Many of the vaults belonging to the wealthier people of Troy are extensive. On the highest point of these grounds & towards the river is a small observatory that overlooks an extensive & beautiful section of country, comprising the valleys of the Mohawk & the Hudson for miles & miles. The former makes its junction with the latter right in front of you with two or three mouths.

You can see the whole of Troy & west Troy & some little of Albany towards the south, the Catskills & the wavy country intervening, dotted with groves, forrests & houses at intervals to the south west & west, to the north west Cohoes & the Falls on the Mohawk, Waterford between the Mohawk & the Hudson & Lansingburg on the Eastern bank of the latter & nearer at hand. You can trace the rail-road lines to the north, south & west, & the great Canals to the north & west. It is a beautiful scene & particularly so at this season when the trees & fields have put on all the hues of the rainbow.

I went to Waterford the other day with our Military store keeper Mr Lansing. He is a gentleman quite advanced in years & a native of this country. He said he knew Mr Fisk of Waterford & would take me to the house where father stopped. The old public house has been burned to the ground & another built in its place. Mr Fisk is driving an express between Troy & that place and no longer keeps a public House.

Is Dellie still at Monmouth? I am very anxious to hear from you & hope I shall before this letter reaches you. How is Louisa? Lizzie says: "you didn't tell them, it is my birth day." & again: "I am 23 years old". She says my whiskers look like old pine bows - sort of brindle: true enough they have turned sort of reddish since my marriage, hair dye being too expensive for a married man.

The report is that we are soon to have another bride within the Arsenal walls. Lieut Boggs vs. (as the law term is) Miss Mary Symington as they haven't told me & made me promise not to tell, I have a right to gossip.

The Indian war seems slowly progressing. Some of my class mates were in the battle of Bluewater. I am reading Napiers history of the peninsular war of which father probably has some recollection, it being between 1808 & 1813. Reading it with maps particularly for military information. I am also reading Mansfield's history of

the Mexican Campaigns. I completed first before I began these the history of Charles the 5th who was king of Spain & Emperor of the German states, succeeding Ferdinand & Isabella in Spain. I think I shall spend all the time I can get in historical readings while here. I take a daily paper from N. York besides the Portland Advertiser weekly. I should like to have you visit us very much indeed - but would rather for your sake you should come in the summer or early in the fall. The prospect is that I shall be here two or three years more.

Lizzie & her mother send their love to you & all. I hope Father is well as well as yourself in the best of health & prosperity.

Affectionately your son  
Otis

Lizzie promises to write soon, but she is a little lazy - I say.

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591 12/9/1855 *From:* Charles H. Howard *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0542

Vassalborough

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Vassalborough Dec. 9, 1855

Dear Mother

One week has passed since I began my new sphere of action. Now welcome Sunday has come round & I find it a day of rest. I am very much pleased with my school. If I had had my choice in all the schools I ever saw I should have chosen to teach this. Probably you have seen Otis & he has told you how he left me & where. I was not examined at that school house but soon returned home with Mr Chadbourne, (who is a very agreeable man) took supper, then was examined by him. It was not a very close examination. I did not fail to answer any question. The same evening he carried me to Mr James Wiggin's, where I now am. He told me I should have to "board round" which I "did not like pretty well."

I found Mr W's family ready to receive me to stay a fortnight with them. They are a very pleasant family & being so near a relation to Mr Albert Wiggin seem like old friends. There are three children. Edward 20 years old, Mary 19, Lucy 11. They are all three my scholars. After all it is not so bad a circumstance to board round where one can board a fortnight at a place. I have to walk but a few steps to the school house. I find my school consists of about 25 scholars, about half of them older than I am. I have a class of 3, two girls & one boy reading Virgil. Two classes of 3 each in Algebra. Two classes in Arithmetic. 1 in Grammar. Two in Geography. You see my school is pretty well classed.

Everything goes on very pleasantly now. They had been in the habit of whispering, but for the last 4 days there was scarcely any. I have stayed by my boarding place very closely. Only have called out one evening, at Mr Coleman's with whose son and daughter I became acquainted at Kents Hill. The other evenings I have spent in reading till ten o'clock each night. I have read one Vol of Neibuhr's Rome through, which Rowland will remember is a large book. I see no reason why I cannot read the other Vol this week. I think I shall go to Augusta next Friday night to spend the Sabbath with Otis. The cars go down about 7 o'clock in Eve. There is a meeting in my school-house today, but will be none hereabouts next Sabbath.

My thumb was quite painful for 4 or 5 days but is now most well, were it not I could not write. I could not set any copies this week, but shall be able to do so next week. Tell Rowland, Linscott & Stetson have taught this school. The former two winters in succession. Washington Humphrey also taught two Winters. Last Winter a Senior from Waterville, name Bradbury taught here. Two of my old classmates Coleman & Marble teach in neighboring districts.

I hope you will write me before next Friday, and tell me how your health is now & how the family are & where they are. Dellie can write if you do not and I think Rowland will soon. I want to know if his school is as pleasant as it was last Winter. I am now going to meeting. A Methodist man by name of <Rhennie> preaches.

Your Affec. Son  
Charles H. Howard

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592 12/18/1855 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0543

Kennebec Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Me  
Dec 18th 1855

My dear Mother,

You will have heard of our good fortune before this reaches you, but I cannot refrain from writing you a few words. Lizzie's sickness was rather severe, but the end was so gratifying, that we can but thank kind Heaven for the blessings, that are continually vouchsafed to us. She has been so courageous - and lies there so peaceful & patient - that it makes my heart almost over flow with affection and sympathy for her. We have an excellent nurse, very kind, attentive and obliging. The little boy weighed 8 pounds. The nurse said he would have weighed more if he had not cried during the process of weighing. He nurses well & then sleeps, but knows enough to cry when hungry. Charlie says he has a forehead like mine. But I think him too young for resemblances.

I carried Charlie to his school Monday morning. He likes and seems to be very much liked at Vassalboro. I went into his school after I got up there Friday afternoon and staid till the close. He has about twenty scholars, one class in Latin and another in Algebra. His thumb pained him for several days and finally a sore formed on the end of it & broke or was opened. It was a felon but not so deep as the bone, so said Dr Briggs.

Lizzie would send her love if she knew I was writing. You must hasten & come down to see your first real grand-child. Perhaps you can think up a name for me.

I keep myself busy inside of the arsenal nearly all the time. The enlightened and liberal people of Augusta will not let the soldiers children go to school here in town on any condition whatever, so I am going to have them study in my office for a while.

It is late & I will not write more tonight. My love to all. Ask Uncle Rodelphus if he doesn't feel grand.

Affectionately your Son  
Otis

(Wednesday morning [Dec 19, 1855])  
Lizzie continues quite well & baby bright.

[Note: Otis and Lizzie's first child, Guy Howard, was born on Dec 16, 1855 at Kennebec Arsenal]

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593 12/23/1855 *From:* Chas H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. E. Gilmore

OOH-0544

Vassalboro

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Vassalboro Dec 23 1855

Dear Mother

Another Sunday has come and nearly gone. A rain storm ushered it in, but with us it cleared off before noon. There is no meeting in these regions. I went up to Mr Wiggin's about ten o'clock. Soon he got the book to sing. We sung several tunes & then I read till Dinner in Hiawatha. After dinner I read awhile, took my clothes returned to Mr Appleton's changed them, read some more, in Upham's Interior Life, now here I am by their West bed-room Window, pen in hand. Mr A's is down the hill East of Mr W's. I have boarded here 1 week, shall be here a day or two longer. They are very pleasant people. Do every thing for my comfort possible. I should like to hear from Lizzie & that little nephew. Otis wanted me to come down next Saturday in the cars. But I think I would not go if Otis in 3 weeks would carry me to Leeds, but I suppose it would hardly pay. If I go I should be pleased to see you or some of our folks & I think Otis expects Rowland to come.

My school is pleasant Mother, & I am not sorry I came here. I received with much pleasure yours & Dellies letter a few days ago. We have a prayer-meeting in my school-house this evening. I think I shall go. They have not had any for several months.

Otis was saying to me he wished mother would come and see him now that he had got settled. Said he did not write you but should write you soon.

I want Dellie to write me more about his school next time he writes. Does he declaim this Winter? My scholars want to declaim. They have a Lyceum in the school-house below in which all members declaim each night. They have a paper also when the schools close. I attended the other night. They had some funny pieces. One spoke an Indian piece & was disguised like an Indian with plumes in his cap & face & bosom red. Tomahawk at his side & dagger in his hand. I think he must have resembled an Indian.

Give my love to Dellie, Father & the others & write me when you can.

Your Affec Son  
Chas H. Howard

Mrs. E. Gilmore

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594 1/9/1856

*From:* Unknown

*To:* Friend [O O Howard]

OOH-0546

Wallingford Ct

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wallingford Ct Jan 9, 1856

Friend Howard;

It was proposed, I believe, during our college days, that the acquaintance there commenced & perfected by a four years continuance, should not be swept in to oblivion, the moment that we stepped out into the world. Whereupon, after much sage reasoning, I have concluded to write you, at hazard, notwithstanding you & I both might & ought so to have done long since. While you remained at Brunswick, I might have been at no loss, whatever, where to find you; but now that you are out upon the dashing world, mingling in the turmoil of men, carving for yourself a name, somewhere on the wide domains of Uncle Sam's territory, it is quite a different thing. Last fall I was informed that you were going to West Point, again to become Sisaphus the son Aeolus damnatus eterno

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595 1/17/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0563

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Me Jan 17th [1856]

Dear Mother

I suppose Rowland got through Tuesday as I heard from him at Winthrop. He had rather bad traveling I should judge from my ride the next day. I put a pole to my single sleigh & attached both horses, got to Winthrop an hour before the cars, so took Laura to visit Laura Burgess. I took dinner with the latter. I never saw her looking better than she is now. Her little Everard is still so lame he cannot walk. The poor little fellow has suffered a great deal this past year with his hip, but his parents think him gaining gradually.

Mrs Clark's oldest girl Mary has concluded to go out to live with you. Rowland thinks Lydia Leonard would not suit your turn very well. I shall carry Mary Clark to Leeds a week from today (Thursday). Her mother is very capable, as you observed and I think her daughter will suit you. I hope she will stay some time. I have not said anything about wages. I would like to have you write immediately & let me know if you would like me to do as I propose. If I don't get a letter I shall take her out to venture. I don't think you ought to be alone, or depend on help that is so temporary & uncertain.

I sold my smallest colt today for fifty dollars cash. I have been offered one hundred and twenty five for the other, but think I shall keep him awhile. He will make a grand horse.

Lizzie and Guy are well - her mother came back with me yesterday and is well. Charlie wished he could have met you. He and I had rather a cold & hard ride on Monday, but I thought he had better get back as soon as possible.

Allow me to congratulate father on finding his watch. It is rather a careless place to lose a watch in the road and in the snow.

Lizzie says tell them Guy is laughing and playing. Love from all & to all. I want Rodelphus to visit me as soon as he can.

Affectionately your son  
Otis

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596 1/20/1856 *From:* Chas H. Howard

*To:* Mother [E. Gilmore]

OOH-0548

Vassalboro

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Vassalboro Jan 20 1856

My dear Mother

It seems a long time since I wrote you but I suppose you heard from me by Rowland. I would have written a letter for him to carry but it was not convenient. I have prospered well since I returned & shall not have to make up the day I lost. It was so stormy that no one came to school. I teach just 3 weeks longer. Then I suppose I better go direct to Brunswick tho' I'd like to go home.

I attended church at the Baptist house today for the first time since I came here. Heard Elder Avery, a man seeking contributions for the domestic missions. He also preached in my school-house tonight & I have just returned from hearing him. The Baptist preacher's name is Bartlett, an old man. The house is about 3 miles by the road being across the pond east from me.

I am now boarding at the Poor House, tho' 'tis about the best house I have found. It is a new one painted yellow, commodious & convenient. The paupers have a room by themselves & I have not seen them but once, then I went in on purpose with Mr Wiggin & got "Old Hilly" (a woman of 250 lbs) to sing to us. The people here are pleasant & try hard to make "master" comfortable.

I called at Mr Wiggins this afternoon. Mrs W's brother Asa Hodge merchant of Augusta was there & her daughter Ellen of 15 who lives in Augusta with her Uncle & grandfather. They returned to A. tonight & we passed the time in singing in the Dulcimer & talking till meeting. I am writing in Mrs Small's kitchen (similar to Esq Turner's) with 4 of my scholars, 3 boys & 1 girl, also Mr & Mrs Small sitting by the stove. Mrs King just made me some juniper tea.

I want to hear how & when R. got home from Augusta and if Laura has got home yet. How is Dellie getting along in his studies. I want to know about them all. My class will go thro' the Algebra. Also thro' the Arithmetic. And gone thro' the Grammar & can give all the rules of syntax. I hope Dellie is making good progress. Give my love to him & father, Roland & Cynthia. Remember me to all my young acquaintances & neighbors & write me when you can mother. The Shirts suit first rate.

Your Affec Son  
C.H. Howard

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597 2/6/1856

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0551

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me  
February 6th 1856

Dear Mother

I received your letter to Dellie & myself last night. Rowland wrote me from Brunswick that he would like to have Dellie visit him, so I let him go to B yesterday. He will return today or tomorrow. The cheapest and best way for him to go home will be to take the stage for Winthrop, which meets the down train at ½ past eleven. I have a bad cold myself and could'nt leave very well to take him out.

Lizzie is weak and low but in no apparent danger. Her fever, if she has any, is very slight. She looks bright and cheerful this morning. It will take some time for her to get back where she was before this ill turn. It was occasioned entirely by a cold we think. The baby is perfectly well. I feed him myself sometimes. His mother has a little nourishment still but not enough. He is very good and does not worry at all as grow poor, eats his dinner from a spoon, winds up with a little dessert from his mother and then goes to sleep.

I had a letter from Charlie this morning. He is well, finishes his school Friday. I think I shall go after him myself. Maybe he and Dellie will go out together. We are not in want of anything. Mrs Clark came back and has been with us for a week.

Mrs Waite is quite well. Mrs Clark asks for her daughter. How does she - & how do you like each other?

My love to all. My colt was not injured. He is waiting at the door getting a little impatient as his master does sometimes from waiting.

Your affectionate son  
Otis

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598 2/8/1856

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. E. Gilmore

OOH-0550

Vassalboro

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Vassalboro, Feb 8 1856

Mrs. E. Gilmore

Dear Mother

I am today kept at home from meeting by the bad roads & weather for the wind blows hard. I have penned a few lines to Otis. He & Dellie wrote me a letter a day or two ago. Now I think I'll tell you that I'm prospering & that my school closes next Friday night. I should like to go to Leeds to see the folks. Besides I have lots of mending to be done. If I do not go home Sat. or Friday night, I shall get them mended somehow at Brunswick. I suppose Rowland has gone ere this.

I saw Dellie last Sat. & Sun. Mr Wiggin's young folks carried me down & I came back with them Sunday afternoon. It was a pleasant day & I had a pleasant ride. Dellie enjoys his visit at Augusta very much. He attends the lectures, & sees all the sights there are to be seen. My school is very pleasant still & I feel sad to have it close. I am quite attached to my scholars & their parents. It has been some time since I wrote. It is because I have been down to Augusta most every Sunday.

I wonder how you like the name Guy. I like it well. It is convenient too. How is Roland & his wife? Has Mr Longley moved away yet? I long to see the new house mount up on the old place. Dellie is studying some at Augusta. He is very well advanced in his Algebra & will finish it in a week or two. How is your health now & how do you like your new girl & is she contented to stay with you. I have not had more than one letter from you this winter, if one. You must write me a letter to Brun. if I do not come home.

When my debts are paid I shall have no money left of this Winter's wages, tho' I shall earn 62 ½ dollars. King of Monmouth in my class has the school at Yarmouth. He came over to Leeds you know when I was at home. He has 37 dollars per month. Merrill has written to engage me next Winter to teach in Falmouth. But I shall make no engagements yet. I hope I shall enjoy school teaching as well as I do this Winter. I hear Mr Wiggin is not going to teach any more after the close of this term, but is going to study law. I doubt his making a first class lawyer. He has always desired to be a lawyer.

Remember me to my friends & neighbors at home. I would like very much to see them especially Melvin Berry for I want my boots mended. Write me soon & remember me as  
Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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599 2/8/1856

*From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

OOH-0552

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Feb 8, 1856

My dear brother

My school closed last night and here I am at the Arsenal where I intend to remain till Monday when you may expect me at Brunswick.

I left off one day sooner than I intended, thinking I would go to Leeds. My school also appeared sorry the last day had arrived. The girls seemed to feel it incumbent upon them to shed a tear or two. Wm. A. Morrill won both prizes. Some tho't it too bad that one person should receive both, but no great dissatisfaction. I received my pay for 10 weeks minus two days, one of them being the Monday I spent at Augusta. It was very hard to part from my friends there this morning. Edward Wiggin bro't me down this morning & just before I came to the gate of the Arsenal I met Otis with his colt starting for Vassalboro. I got into his sleigh & rode back to town to see the colt travel. He is now well trained & travels steadily and prettily. Dellie had just arrived and almost as soon as I had shaken hands, who should drive up to the door but father? He looks natural and left mother well. I have concluded not to go to Leeds as I could not well return to take the cars to Brun. Mon forenoon I was very glad indeed to receive your letter from Br. I should start to return very much did I not know that I must study very hard especially on the Algebra.

I have had a long relaxation tho' now I should be ready to begin with renewed energy. Dellie don't want to go to Leeds but will be obliged to go with father. Otis & father went to Hallowell this afternoon.

I should like to meet you at the depot next Mond. forenoon.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Chas. H. Howard

Rowland B. Howard.

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600 2/20/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0553

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta  
February 20th 1856

Dear Mother,

I fear you may be unnecessarily anxious about us if I neglect to write you longer. Lizzie is very comfortable - her system has been completely prostrated, but, though all her flesh or a great portion of it has left her, and consequently very much of her strength, she is gaining gradually. She does not sit up much longer than to have her bed made, but her pulse is getting stronger and more regular and I am in hopes to see her on her feet soon. Poor Girl she has been perfectly courageous all the time. Little Guy grows, is well, fat as he can be. He is now nine weeks old. He laughs and plays with us all.

What could we have done, if father had not sent us that new milch cow. We have milk in plenty. Guy has the strippings. Mother Waite thinks there is great virtue in strippings. We have had two grand churnings, but have brought no butter; one before Dellie left & one since. Every expedient has been tried but to no avail.

How does Dellie prosper since his return. I couldn't be with him or show him so much attention as I should if he had visited me when Lizzie was well.

I have not heard from Charlie since he went to Brunswick, heard through Dellie that Rowland had sore eyes. His friend Wing said he had written him & asked if it was a fact that he had caught sore eyes. How do you all at home. Is Mary less homesick than she was. Her Mother is still with us & likely to remain some time longer. It troubled her considerably to think Mary was so poorly contented at Leeds. Now that she has got acquainted she can't help liking. Are Laverna & her little boy still with you? How is Roland & his wife. Has she moved to the other house?

Lizzie wanted me when I wrote to give her love & say that she wanted you to put a piece of the cloth of your cloak in a letter and send it to her. Mrs W is in perfect health. I still hope we will be able to visit you.

Affectionately your son  
O. O. Howard

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601 2/26/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0554a

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal August Maine  
February 26th 1856

Dear Mother,

Since I wrote you I have received two letters from you. Lizzie gains every day. She now sits up nearly all day and Guy continues well.

As soon as Mrs Clark heard that Mary had returned, she wished to go home to spend the day. She had been before. She was getting a little careless & forgetful thinking about her family perhaps. I told her she could go & when she got ready I paid her & told her she need not come back. The next day we sent to Windsor & got a girl for the kitchen. Katy tends the baby days & I take care of him nights. He sleeps in his cradle, wakes up once or twice in the night to have his bottle or nurse and then goes to sleep. This girl that we got has been a tailoress & dressmaker & makes us a most excellent servant. I think we get on better since Mrs Clark left, for the kitchen work is done without Lizzies taking any care about it & she has better sleep nights because she knows the baby will not be neglected.

A gentleman in this town wishes to buy my colt if he will make a saddle horse. I am training him for such now. I ride him nearly every day. He is now well worth all I ask for him. I think if I could get my other horse here I could dispose of him to good advantage for Augusta is quite a place, for good horses to be appreciated.

I have heard from Rowland & Charly lately. As soon as Lizzie gets well I shall go down & see them if I do not stop more than over one train. I think some of going to Troy & returning, shall if I decide to bring Maloch, my horse on. He is now an expense again. Here the expense would be so little that if I remained three months it would refund all my travelling expenses on and back. I have not decided yet.

My love to all at home. Our folks had begun to scald the milk, but think it will be better to follow out your suggestions. Lizzie & mother send their love.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

[continued on the next letter to Dellie]

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602 2/26/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dellie [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

OOH-0554b

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[continued from the previous letter to Mother, Feb 25, 1856]

Dear Dellie,

I solved your problem as soon as I got your letter & have the honor herewith to enclose the solution.

$$(1) x^2 + y^2 = 10^2$$

$$(2) xy/2 = 24$$

[In equation (1)] Square the 10 as indicated & the equation becomes  $x^2 + y^2 = 100$   
Multiply equation (2) by 4. Both members & it becomes  $2xy = 96$

Add these [latter two] eqns [to get]  $x^2 + 2xy + y^2 = 196$

$$\text{hence } (x+y)^2 = 196$$

$$x+y = \sqrt{196} = 14$$

$$x=14-y$$

Deduce the value of x from eqn (2)

$$xy/2 = 24$$

$$xy = 48$$

$$x = 48/y$$

Hence

$$48/y = 14-y$$

$$48 = 14y - y^2$$

Transpose & obtain  $y^2 - 14y = -48$

Complete the square  $y = \sqrt{(49-48)} \pm 7$

$$\text{hence } y = 1 \pm 7$$

$$\text{or } y = 8 \text{ or } -6$$

$$x = 48/y \quad \text{Substitute the value of } y$$

$$x = 48/8 = 6 \text{ or } x = -48/6 = -8$$

The answers then are  $y=8, x=6$  or  $y=-6, x=-8$

This solution depends on the principal that the square of a binomial is equal to the square of the first term plus twice the 1st by the 2nd plus the square of the second - for example  $(x+y)^2 = x^2 + 2xy + y^2$   
The second step is to deduce the value of x from two different equations & place their values equal to each other.

Affectionately your brother

O. O. Howard

Rule for solving an equation of the 2nd degree involving but one unknown quantity.

1st reduce the equation to the form  $x^2 + 2px = q$  in which x is the unknown quantity; 2p any known coefficient of x and q the known term.

2nd write out the value of x. It is equal to the square root of the sum of the known term & the square of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the coefficient of x  $\pm \frac{1}{2}$  the coefficient of x.

N.B. 2p may be positive or negative, a whole number or a fraction, so also q

Then if you had this equation  $x^2 - 4x = 5$  & you perceive  $2p$  would be represented by  $-4$ . Follow your rule.

$$x = \sqrt{(5 + (-2)^2)} \pm 2$$

$$x = \sqrt{(5 + 4)} \pm 2$$

$$x = \pm 3 \pm 2$$

$$x = -1 \text{ or } 5$$

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603 3/17/1856 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs E Gilmore

OOH-0555

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs E Gilmore

Bowd Coll Mar 17 1856

Dear Mother

I was thinking you might be expecting a letter from us today and as I have a little time this morning I gladly write. We received yours & Dellie's in due time. I was very glad to have you write. Yesterday Rowland and I went to Topsham & after meeting went down to Mrs Frost's so did not have time to write you a letter. Mrs Frost's family are well. Ella Patten is with her. We went over Sat. evening & stayed a little while. Ella plays finely on Piano & Mrs Frost you know has just got one.

This is a beautiful morning. A real March morning. Sap would run this morning. I have just returned from my breakfast. I got up at 4 o'clock this morning to get my lesson. At 6 went to prayers. Recitation at 6 1/4. Breakfast at 7 1/4. Now here I am at 8 o'clock.

Rowland is beside the table also. He thinks we will not have time to write as he wants to get his lesson so to go to town meeting. The Republicans it seems have succeeded in N.Y. And also in most of the town elections of this state but got dreadfully whipped in Leeds. Many young men went home to N.H. from here to vote.

It is very pleasant here in our room I can assure you. The sun shines in so brightly. After all I should like to be at home this morning. I hope you will write again & Dellie must write soon. No matter if he don't get a direct answer. We write to all at home. I should think you would feel relieved to have so small a family. I suppose has not yet concluded where to go to school. Rowland & I have thought Andover would be an excellent place if he would be a good boy & attend to his studies. Ella says it is a fine school & we knew this before. It is an excellent place to fit for College.

Rowland & I attended a concert of songs & bell-ringing Friday eve. It was fine. There were 3 little boys two young ladies & a gentleman all of our family. They had about 30 bells on which they made music & music it was! The little boys sung finely also. Our Term is about 4 weeks longer.

We heard thru' Wing who is clerk, assistant, in a department at Augusta that Otis had returned from Troy via Winthrop. Lizzie is doing well. I am getting on in studies as well as usual. Two boys have been suspended for initiation. I hope they will put a stop to it. But many of my class want to have it next year. They came to coax me to go with them. But I shall not. I shall not make any opposition any farther than I am personally concerned tho', for it would only make me unpopular & do no good. I expect to write my oration in vacation. I feel sorry when I think Rowland will hit 20 soon.

Give our love to all our family & Remember me as  
Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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604 4/26/1856      *From:* Charles H Howard      *To:* Brother [R.H. Gilmore]

OOH-0556                      Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr 26th 1856

My dear brother

I must commence my letter with an appology that I have not written before for certainly I ought to have done so. It is because I have been so busy with I can hardly at this time mention what but you know how swiftly the time of vacation flows away.

There has been so much to occupy my mind & my hands that though we got both your letters all safe & the money & the paper yet none of us have written. I have myself spent a part of every day or almost every day in copying some chemical lectures I brought home, and have spent every evening in studying French.

Spent the part of the day in going to Mill to the "city" where I found the mill-dam washed away so brought back my grist unground. Came back by Mrs Mann's & got two chances. Another day I was a good part of the time at Sanford's & Mr Wing's. Roscoe has a pretty nice Melodeon now. I gave him a piece of music calle "What is home without a mother". Another forenoon hoped in getting my brits mended. Roscoe did this Frid.

I went to Monmouth to Mill. Met Mr. Norcross on the Wed. He inquired about you & said he thought Andover just the place for you. Said he preached at Monmouth last Sunday & would preach there to-day. Rowland & I talked some of going to hear him but the going is not very good yet & we have so suitable waggon.

Martha Dennin has died since you went away. Rowland was at the funeral. He came back from Hallowell & Bath Monday. Mrs. Waite went down to Portland the same day & returned last Thursday. Lizzie & Guy meantime were taken with the Mumps. Lizzie has not got over them yet.

Rowland believe now that he has had a change of heart. He never had "a hope" before such as he has now - though you know how much interested he was one Spring. He says he is willing all the world should know. He expects to study Law with Stinchfield at Hallowell & board with Henry Wingate. He meant to have written you a little last week & so did I.

That paper was part of a different kind but I don't care. I have not had it yet but I believe Rowland has. I don't write any letters now-a-days. I don't believe in your going to Exeter if you are going to continue your studies. It was only if you was going to change your course that I ever thought it admisable to go to Exeter.

There is no place in the world so good to enter Bowdoin College from as Andover. Besides it is far better not to change. You would lose <number> while getting used to the manner of teaching &c at Exeter. If you go to College you better stay at Andover & make the most of the great advantages you have there. Make it your business as you say you are now doing to study & get every lesson perfect if possible. My Roommate Abbott went there, & entered the second class when he had not had the training they had had & had not read near as much but by dint of very close application to his studies he came off one of the very best in his class & in fact took a very high rank soon after he went there which he kept throughout. I am perfectly satisfied with what you have done thus far & if you should continue the course I know you will do well, for you are conscious at what an expence you are that to school. I am not sure as it is best for you to go to College. I am very sure that it would be utterly useless unless you made up you mind to study very hard.

I hope you have some fine class-mates & that you will cultivate acquaintance with such. Are you acquainted with Smyth of Brunswick yet? I fear you do not try hard to make yourself agreeable. Your <sucess> in life, as you must see, depends immensely on this ability of making yourself agreeable. You will oftentimes have to indulge what seems to you very foolish whims & overlook faults & quite frequently sacrifice self-interest to the interest of another but this the only chance of getting along well. The grand aim of life is or should be to be useful to the world & we must take into consideration always our relations to the individuals about us & not think of self alone.

How does Merrill get along this term? I owe him a letter. There is no meeting today & we are all at home.

Rowland & I worked in the garden yesterday. We have worked considerably splitting wood & it is almost all split. George as usual went home last night. Mrs S & Sarah went to Wayne Friday & called here when they came back. Mary brought up lots of smelts which we finished this morning. I am going back to B. Friday & I hope you will write me as soon as that if not before I go away. Otis is at the same, tho' we see by the paper that Gen. Kearney has been removed to Ft. Leavenworth Kansas. Warren Lothrop has received no orders yet.

I hope you are enjoying the privilege of hearing the gospel preached today. It costs vast sums of money & much labor & suffering of <> to send the Bible to the Heathens & shall we disregard it who live in this Christian Bible land. I hope you will, if you have not give your heart to Christ & thus be a pietus blessing to the world, an honor to God & comfort to your friends.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles H Howard

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605 5/4/1856

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0557a

Bowd Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll. May 4, 1856

My dear Mother

Hearing that you might be a little lonesome since Charles left & Betsey & her family went to Lewiston I told Charles just now that we had better write you today even if the time is so short since he left home. I came down Friday Afternoon & am all straight on my Recitations. I left Otis & his family very well. Guy had not begun to feel his vaccination.

I talked with Murphy, the gardener, about your "Hips" and he thought you had not better have them put in Earth, but says he will take them up at any time, when he can send them out. I went thru the yard with him & he pointed out many things which you have not got & which I should think would be very desirable for you. The best way will be for you to go down, go into the garden with him & tell him what you have not, & desire to have.

I did not go to Hallowell again before I left. Otis thinks he will be down here before a great while. I am right glad to hear that Cynthia & "John Francis" [born May 30, 1856 to Cynthia Lothrop and Roland Alger Gilmore] are <bottom edge of page 1 torn> felt very much concerned for them that day I saw them & found them in such a miserable condition. Charles thought that they were doing very well when he came away. I found my Clothes in good shape. I am glad that you didn't mend those old Pants. I have enough without them.

Charles & I have gone to board at Mrs. Grow's. I wished to have him with me & I asked her before I left last Term if she wouldn't take us. I thought it would be better for her & Lucy Ann to have somebody & not reflect so much on Lizzie's death. They had a good crying spell when they first saw me this Term, and I hope they will grow more cheerful now. I shan't say anything about the price of our board but leave it to her at the end of the Term. She will not charge any more than she can afford it for & you know how kind she was to us all when Charles was sick. I would rather pay her a high price, even, than any one else in Brunswick.

I went to the Episcopal meeting this forenoon. I have got a Prayer Book - I believe I told you - & have not got so as to keep the run of the prayers & responses & chants very well. This afternoon Charles went to Topsham to the Baptist. Mr. Robbins baptized 11 this morn & gave them the hand of fellowship. After service this P.M. among the number were his own wife & only daughter. Charles & I spent the evening at their house last night, but they did not tell us they were to be baptised today.

Tell Dellie I shall write him before a great while. I was much amused at those anecdotes of Rev Mr Bills which he cut from an old paper. Two of my class are finally expelled & 4 Sophmores are dismissed. I shall miss Johnny Stanton a good deal. He roomed directly opposite and was as kind & obliging neighbor as I ever expect to find. I must leave the rest for Charles & bid you a very good night.  
Rowland

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

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606 5/4/1856

*From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0557b

Bowd Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Rowland]

Dear Mother

You see I arrived all safe, all sound. Stayed two or three hours in Yarmouth. Saw there James H.H. Hewitt, Obediah's brother. I took dinner with him. Everybody seemed glad to see me so it was not so unpleasant after all. Mr Wiggin seems to have a flourishing school.

I learned when I got there that those of my own class had been sent away. One dismissed another suspended. I hardly know what I think <[torn bottom edge page 3]> with whom I was as intimate as I am with any of my class. One sat next to me in recitation. One of the pleasantest & kindest fellows I ever knew. The other was Mitchell. You have heard me speak of him often. Probably it was for drinking. Hayes too, had never drunk a drop of Liquor before he came here.

Tho' I came in such a hurry from home, yet I have not missed anything. I need <tyst> & if you are not made sick by it I am glad I came. Rowland has told you what an excellent place we have to board at. I had rather pay Mrs Grow board than any one else I know of. Rowland made many inquiries about Cynthia & her babe. The boys may tell Betsy Bates I am ever so much obliged for the May-basket, having thought it over <> if ever another May-day comes when I am at home I shall feel it encumbant upon me to buy her one.

I must get up early tomorrow morning & get my lesson, which I have not looked at. I wish I had thought to take some of the medicine you made with me. If you have a chance you can send some. Otis said he should be down here. But I do not need it much. Only 4 of my class are here & three of them came yesterday. Good night! Give my <> to Dellie & George & the rest.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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607 5/8/1856

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0558

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me  
May 8th 1856

Dear Mother,

I have ascertained to day that Mr Dalton has left that farmers place vacant. Our people want to pasture their cows there as usual. I want father to say to whom I shall apply. I have sold the old cow for thirty dollars with the reservation that I shall have what milk we need as long as we stay. I sold her to one of the men. Ask father if the price is satisfactory. She continues swollen. I think the drain last winter at that time occasioned it.

I had a letter from Rowland yesterday. All things seem to be going straight at Brunswick. I found his daguerreotype out at Manchester this forenoon. Went out purposely in search. A man in the north part of that town had picked it up after breaking the case by running over it. I am glad to hear through him that Cynthia & the baby are doing well. I hope both will soon be entirely well. Mr Pease has him at Hallowell, wants Uncle to assure the debts in this state & give him the demands that Uncle has in possession. I was at Henry Wingate's day before yesterday, but ascertained nothing new.

McGregor is making a picture frame for your painting of Watervliet Arsenal. It will soon be done. Murphy says he can send you a great variety of plants but it is not worth while to transplant them into a box, for they will remain good long enough to carry them to Leeds & transplant them after you get them. If you can come down so as to pick out those that you have not got, it would be well. If father comes without you, I will send you a variety & label them so that you may know them.

Give my love to all. We are all well. Guy & myself have just been vaccinated or rather are just getting over the effects of vaccination. Neither of us have been much troubled with it. I went hunting about nine miles on <East> yesterday. We did'nt have very good luck, had enough for breakfast however.

I hope you will be down again soon. How is Dellie?

Your affectionate son  
Otis

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608 5/11/1856 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Dellie [R.H. Gilmore]

OOH-0559

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. May 11th 1856

Dear Brother Dellie:

It is now Sunday evening at eight o'clock. I am alone in my room. Rowland just left in Mrs. Grows' sitting room. There is no meeting this evening, I suppose on account of the inclemency of the weather. But I think it now looks like fair weather. It has been raining most of two days with us and I hope it will be a benefit to farmers in two ways: first that it will moisten the earth which had begun to need rain & thereby cause the grass & grain to start up with new energy & but secondly, because I expect the temperature of the atmosphere will now be warmer, for I have feared that with the dry cold of the last week father's wheat would hardly get its head above ground. When you write you must tell me how the farming goes on; for you know I got quite an interest in it when at home.

How is your health now? I was very sorry to see you as unwell and thought much about it, though I said but little, thinking it better for you to keep up good courage and make the best of it. The best way to preserve health & strength is to take habitual exercises in the open air, to keep the skin clean and the clothes dry & to sleep undisturbed in a well ventilated room. But sometimes when one is already out of health other means must be resorted to to restore it. This seems to me a good rule for you while at home: if your eyes are good, to read rather than sit perfectly idle; and when the weather is fair to work rather than read.

I was very glad I came back in so good season, as I had very little to make up. My Latin this term is very pretty to translate. The sentiment is good & the style very smooth having no such long and difficult sentences as are met with in Cicero's Orations. It is "Cicero de senectute et amicitia", Cicero on old age and friendship. I have to study most of the time but I get a little leisure to read & play some most every day, say an hour. Yesterday afternoon I wrote an hour on my oration. Commenced it. Then after the lecture in the evening at 9 o'clock I wrote again & wrote till half past twelve. I wrote about 5 in all of these pages. By another week I shall get it pretty well along. I have gone to bed, about every night before last, since I returned, at ten o'clock. I get up at 5 o'clock when, you know, the sun rises & I can see without a lamp.

Most of my class have now returned. They have been coming along every day of last week. Manwell from Jay is here. He had never been here until this term. I have got acquainted with him to some degree. I like him very well as far as I have seen. I have been at church all day, and I attended a meeting of the "Praying Circle" this morning. Prof. Egbert Smyth preached an excellent lecture to the Circle & other students who were present last night. Students and young men generally are apt to neglect their moral and religious culture if not the intellectual. I hope you will be more judicious & wiser than others and commence that culture young for it is easier to pluck up the tender weeds than when they have become rank & strong. No man in these enlightened days argues for moral neglect more than intellectual, but some foolish boys think life is less delightful to the moral & religious, which is a sad mistake. I wish you would learn to love the Bible more, Dellie.

I have made inquiries & find the year, Academic year at Andover, commences in August. You will probably see Rowland & me before that time. Rowland can also talk with father about you. But remember Dellie, that it would be useless to go away if your health is not good & your body strong.

We had a letter from Otis a day or two ago. His family was well. He had found Rowland's miniature. How? Have you ceased hanging May-baskets? Give my love to George & when you write, which will be soon I hope, tell me all you think I want to know. Have you heard how Betsey gets along in her new home? How does Roscoe like Lewiston? Is your sowing all done? And did father set out any more trees?

The Sophomores went & got their tree the other day. Every Sophomore class set out a tree - an old custom. Many of them die but I do not know as it presages the premature decay of the members of the class & I don't know but it does. At any rate I should hope the tree of my class would live for the labor's sake and for an ornament to the ground. There is one, an oak tree here, the acorn from which it sprang, as it is said, having been planted by the first class that graduated at the College, and now every class that graduates goes out after the final examination & hand in hand, form a circle about the tree & walk around it.

Give my love to mother & to Cynthia and to Father. I expect we shall have a letter from mother tomorrow. Tell Cynthia I expect John Francis will grow out of my knowledge before August. I hope he will not get so big that I cannot lift him, for he will then be old enough for me to tend. Now, Dellie, I want you to write me a good long letter as soon as you get time and meanwhile remember me as

Your Affectionate Brother  
Chas. H. Howard

To R. H. Gilmore

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609 5/18/1856 *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0560

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

Bowd. Coll. May 18 '56

My dear mother:

It is Sunday evening. Since supper I have been to walk with Moody, of my class, who boards with us at Mrs. Grows', on the plains towards Bath. I have been in my room a few minutes and built a fire and lighted my lamp. I thought you would be very glad to hear from us again, tho' we have not heard from home since I left. We should be very glad to have Dellie write often, if you cannot for we well know how hard it is for you. Dellie I suppose is engaged days in work on the farm, but I hope he will take some evening to write us a letter often. I want him to do this both because we wish to hear from home and because it will be beneficial to him.

I have heard members of my class say if they could be good writers i.e. composers, they would willingly give up their other learning such as of Mathematics, Languages, &c. But to be a good writer needs a great amount of practice. Letters are better than anything else to begin with. They give an ease to the style & flowing manner of expression very pleasing.

Rowland, I think, has gone to meeting. I have been three times today. I like these privileges of attending church, mother, very much. We have a Bible class, as I have told you, taught by Tutor Chamberlain, which is very interesting & meets in the Tutor's room, at 5 o'clock P.M. I intend to go down to the Sabbath school on the plains to the "Forest Church" again this Summer. Rowland thinks he will not go and Mr Savage, a Sophomore will go with me.

Today has been a beautiful day. This will make the grain start. It has been the pleasantest day of the season I think. The grass has grown green, the trees are leaving out, the flowers, many of them, are in bloom, violets, dandelions &c. The birds are beginning to sing boldly & sweetly, the air is refreshing, neither too warm nor too cold and the sun shines out in all his splendor.

I saw at church Judith Gilbert rather Hall & spoke with her for the first time since I entered College. After the last meeting, walking along I overtook her alone. Her husband had gone to his mothers. So I walked along with her & when she came to turn off for the street to go home she asked me to go with her so I went. I had seen her every Sunday nearly, but had never spoken with her. She though it strange Rowland & I had not called before. She lives on a pleasant street in the West part of the town, in a cottage house. Going into the house a little curly headed boy of two years, I should judge, met us. I did not know before, she had a child. He is bright & active. Has a white head. He resembles his mother, but is quite pretty. He had been left asleep but had arisen himself & tho' all alone did not cry. I stayed about half an hour & then returned to the Bible class.

Our May Training came off yesterday. We made a fine display, it was said, but you think a horrible one. But as the object is to look as bad as possible, fineness in this is horribleness. We had the whole of Bath Brass Band dressed in the most beautiful uniform I ever saw. We paid them \$42,00. Among other things too numerous to mention was a company of Artillery with a gun weighing 1100 lbs. Towards the last they put in two cartridges at a time, which made it roar as though it would shake down the old College.

We had a letter from Otis not long ago. He sent Rowland, (who was Col. & aid of the General & Com. in Chief Thompson), his epaulettes & sash. Rowland rode on a handsome horse with an elegant bridle & saddle & had a new uniform so he presented a beautiful appearance. We had a daguerreotype of our forces taken at the request of the Artist. I trained in disguise.

Give my love to Father, Dellie, Cynthia & all. I believe I asked Dellie some questions which I suppose he will answer in his next. I am

Your Affec. Son,  
C. H. Howard

Mond. Morn. It is cold & foggy here this morning. I arose at 5 o'clock. Have now just returned from recitation.

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610 5/20/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0561

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Me  
May 20th 1856

Dear Mother,

We are going to Brunswick tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent. All well. I have had an offer for the Dalton farm - 1200 dolls cash. A man by the name of Gilbert is to return to this place in about ten days. His wife is here now, says she likes the place & wants her husband to buy it. If he takes it he will pay cash down. I think I can get 1600 for it. It has been advertized, so uncle said, in the Kennebec Journal.

Uncle has offered to settle with his creditors at 50 cts on a dollar, so Stinchfield told me last week.

Nothing new from Washington. My love to all. I am writing in town. Lizzie is shopping.

Affectionately your son  
Otis

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611 6/5/1856

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0562

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta  
June 5th 1856

Dear Mother,

I returned from Boston yesterday - did not have time before I went to write you that I had received my orders. I am to go to Troy as soon as Capt Gorgas arrives to relieve me. I have sold the farm at Chelsea for \$100.00 much to old Dalton's chagrin. The other is not yet disposed of. I understand that a man in this town has a Tax deed against it.

My love to all. I trust you are all well. I shall make you a long visit before I leave. Don't think I shall take Lizzie on till I have been with my house and put everything in order. Lizzie has just come into the office & sends her love.

Affectionately your Son  
OO Howard

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612 6/20/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0564

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta, Me.  
June 20th 1856

Dear Mother,

I received your letter, day before yesterday and have waited to hear from Captain Gorgas, so as to give you some positive information. I have not yet heard a word from him directly, and can therefore not determine when I shall leave. I am expecting a letter every day.

Aunt Aurelia was mistaken. I have thought I should go on first with my horse and put the quarters in order, get a girl &c before Lizzie came. Lizzie would be very happy to remain with you some time, her mother too will be likely to go with her. They will both assist you and make it easy for you.

I have agreed to sell the Dalton Farm to a Mr Gilbert, an Englishman & machinist from Cold Springs. He <has> the refusal of it at \$1400.00 cash. The place was so run down & the buildings so poor and growing poorer, that I did not think it best to hold on to it. If I could have remained here I think I could have turned it to better advantage. A great many men have been to look at the farm, but have offered me much under its value. I have taken up two or three tax deeds and paid the taxes for 1855. All of which I will show father when he comes down.

Aunt Fanny came up from Hallowell yesterday and is here now. We are all very well. Tell Dellie I will not forget his saddle. I cannot leave now for a visit at Leeds till I hear from Gorgas, for he may come in upon us any day, then I have all my accounts to settle for the Quarter at the end of June.

I am glad that the prospect brightens for the Androscoggin Road. Are they actually paying their debts? is a very pertinent question at this time. When Uncle Ensign is worth 20,000 I will begin to trust R.R. Stock.

Charles staid with me from Thursday till Monday morning. The Small pox had broken out in Miss Hinkley's school and caused some apprehension to all who had not been vaccinated in that vicinity. Charlie got himself fixed up and came up here for a few days for <>. He got all his lessons so he did not lose anything by his visit.

My love to all. Truly your affectionate son  
O O Howard

I will write you as soon as I hear from Capt. Gorgas.

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613 7/7/1856

*From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0565

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

Bowd. Coll. July 7 '56

My dear mother

I have a half hour at this time, 12 o'clock, & I have concluded to spend it in writing to you. Rowland was intending to go from Bath to Augusta today. Ella I think will go with him to see Otis and Lizzie before they leave as Otis writes he expects to go pretty soon. I went with Rowland to Bath on the 4th and remained till the 2 o'clock train of cars came up to Brun when I again returned & got my lesson for Saturday morning. Rowland came up Sat. Afternoon & went back in the evening. I don't know as he will be able to go to Leeds now that Ella is with him at Augusta. He will return to College to write his oration I believe. We had a not very favorable day for the 4th of July, but most of the students went mackerel fishing. They are very plenty down in the Bay now. They could draw them out as fast as they pleased. Moody of my class who boards at Mrs. Grows' with me got about 50 which he brought home & tho' they tired his arm yet they were worth the labor as they are not all gone yet & have furnished two or three good meals.

We are now reviewing. The Term is drawing to a close. There are a thousand little expenses which I had not imagined and which I cannot get rid of paying and therefore shall be obliged to call for ten dollars more.

My class decided to have a cap which, (as I was in need of some kind of a one), I was not strenuously opposed to. This will have to be paid for this term \$2.22. The Republicans have a reading room or rather the "Fremont Club" & also the "Keystone Club" and as I am a member of the former I was obliged to pay a dollar for their reading room. My class supper comes off soon and I shall be compelled to pay \$1.50 or 2.00 for this. As I have about finished my Freshman year, I must get my society pin \$4.50. I have warded off as many of such expenses as I could & yet there are many left. I succeeded in my opposition to a "Bonfire", which would have been another large bill. I hope after I have settled with Rowland for his half of the furniture, that my expenses will be less than they have been but I don't know how it will be.

I went to my S. school as usual yesterday. There were 20 present. My term will close in three weeks from tomorrow. Do you think I better come home to stay the week before Commencement? I suppose it will be more expensive to go home if I go in the cars or stage. There is a Stage which runs between Searstown & this place. Leaving Br. Mond. Wed. & Friday. It is quite pleasant today for Rowland to go up on the boat. I hope some one will write soon and send me the money & that this will be the last I shall need for some time.

How does Dellie get along with the farming? Give my love to him. He ought to write me some longer letters, he writes so few. Otis is soon going. Well, He has made us a pleasant visit & longer than he or we expected. We will cheerfully bid him "Good Bye". Remember me to Roland & Cynthia & to George. Also give my love to Father & I remain

Yr Affectionate Son

Chas. H. Howard

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614 7/12/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0566

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Maine  
July 12th 1856

Dear Mother,

Since Father and Dellie were here I have been to Montville. I went a fortnight ago to day and returned the Monday following. I had a very pleasant visit, found Aunt Fanny's family well. I will tell you more about my visit when I see you. Tell Father that Mr Gilbert backed out of his bargain. Ask him if I had better advertise and sell the farm at Pub. auction.

Gorgas will be here the first of next week he writes. He is now on his way. I shall be here about a week after his arrival. I think Lizzie may leave sooner. I sold Malach to Lieut Gilman of Rockland, who has just graduated at West Point and is now at home. Dellie's saddle is ready for him.

I shall leave Lizzie here for a time, and hope Rowland will come on with her and stay to study law with me. It will be of advantage to me and keep him out of the coming political excitements, which I fear would absorb his entire time and attention if he remained in this state. Rowland spent the 4th at Bath and came up here on the following Monday bringing Ella with him. They staid with us till Wednesday. We had a very pleasant visit from them. Ella is a quiet girl, very unpretending and unaffected in her manners. I like her very much.

I saw uncle John a day or two since, but not long enough to have any conversation with him. I am now very busy preparing my papers to turn over. I thought I should have gone to Leeds before this, but will not be able to now, till I am relieved.

Guy grows & changes every day. He jumps after me every time I come in. He still continues fat & clever. Give my love to all. Father must write me immediately about the farm, for if I sell at Auction I must be about it. I have advertised again in the Journal.

Rowland thought a little of going home for a day or two. He has got considerable to do before commencement. How is Cynthia, Roland & their baby? Remember me to them.

Affectionately your son  
O. O. Howard

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615 7/17/1856    *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard]    *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0567

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me  
July 17th 1856

Dear Mother,

I got a letter from Rowland yesterday saying he had been to Leeds and found you all well. He adds that Amanda has got the small pox. I am very anxious on your account, lest some of you may have been exposed.

Capt Gorgas has been expected every day since last Monday, but has not made his appearance yet. I was thinking of bringing Lizzie and Guy out the last of this week or the first of next if he came. My papers are nearly ready to turn over the property &c. I can finish everything in two days, but it will take some time to pack. I don't want to be exposed to the small pox for I never have had a vaccination take properly within my recollection. Lizzie will be vaccinated again. Guy has been & it took nicely. I want to hear from you all about the matter.

I sold Malach, but there were three Army officers (West Point instructors) passed through here on their way back from Montreal and had a horse a piece. I bought one of them. A French pony. He is fast & tough. If Roland A or father wants a smart one I can sell him.

Tell father there are a couple of men who want to buy the farm, paying part cash & for a part give me a nice span of horses with a double carriage, and harness. This offer I shall not take up with, I don't think, unless I can find a market for the team prior to buying it. If I can sell my horse to advantage I might go with my two horses &c to Boston by Steam Boat & drive them through to Troy in four days, to dispose of them there. I have merely thought of this. Joshua Turner offers me his house & place in town, that he values at \$1600 for mine & says he will rent the house of me. I am bound to sell if I can for I don't like to be balked. Ask Father if he has got the Bond signed by Wm Smith, making him (Smith) responsible for rent on the Dalton farm. Mr Bradbury wants to find it. He tells me that Wm Smith is going to try to force uncle to pay the balance over & above the price of the place. Some of that old scamp Dalton's maneuvering.

Joshua, Charles, wives & Miss Emma were here last night & staid quite a little time in the evening. They are very anxious about their friends at Leeds. Write soon.

Yrs affectionately  
Otis

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616 7/19/1856 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-0568

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 19th 1856

My dear Brother

We received your letter last night. Mother thinks that there is no danger from Capt Turner's on account of the "small pox" and that Lizzie and the baby can come any time just the same as if they were not sick. Mrs Turner takes great pains so that no one will take it. The Doctor says that Mrs Berry's symptoms are very favorable. There are a number of cases of the Small pox in Auburn and in Lewiston where Amanda took it. We think that there is not so much danger here as at Lewiston.

Father says that the farm is more desirable than Joshua Turner's house, but you had better give him (Mr Turner) any pay day which he might wish if he wishes to buy it.

Is Mrs Waite at Augusta or has she gone some where on account of the small pox. Is she coming to Leeds with Lizzie & Guy. I cannot come to get my Saddle, but I would like to have it very much if you can get it here with out much inconvenience.

Give my love to Lizzie, Guy & the rest of the family.

In haste your  
Affectionate Brother  
R. H. Gilmore

Lieut. O. O. Howard

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617 7/20/1856 *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0569

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. July 20, 1856

My dear Mother:

It is only nine o'clock, and as Rowland has not come in I will devote an hour to writing you a letter. I have this minute returned from prayer-meeting or rather from hearing a lecture from Prof. Packard, for instead of the usual prayer-meeting, Prof Packard was present tonight & gave us a very interesting sermon without any notes. It tended to prove that if any purpose or providence of God seemed unaccountable or even wrong to us, it was no evidence in truth of its being so, for God's thoughts are above our thoughts & his ways above our ways. I have been at church all day. An acquaintance came up this morning to get me to go down & play on the Melodeon at the Baptist. You know I never played any in church but they urged hard so I went down. I played for them in the forenoon & then they must have me in the afternoon. So I procured some one to go to my Sabbath-School & played also this afternoon. They say they will furnish me with a horse to go to my Sabbath School if I will play for them.

There is considerable excitement here today on acct. of a man missing. Mr. Fields, rather an old man, has not been seen since last Tuesday. Today most all of the College Students & many of the townsmen have been searching the woods for him. His family is very respectable, consisting of a wife & several children, young ladies & Gentlemen. The man has been intemperate in years past & destroyed his health. He was seen walking towards Freeport last, facing Brunswick. Many of the students will go to search tomorrow. One if not more than one of the Seniors is engaged to a daughter of his. There are three daughters. They must all feel very sad.

Rowland returned in safety from Leeds. I was glad enough to hear from you all I assure you, but I was sorry to learn the "Small Pox" was so near you, and it was no welcome news to know one of my old friends & neighbors was sick with such a disease. I hope it will not spread about the town. We had a short letter from Otis a day or two ago. He hardly dares send Lizzie & Guy up home for fear of the "Small Pox". He had seen nothing of Capt Gorgas as yet, said he was looking for him in every train of cars & every boat. I was greatly obliged for so long a letter from you & from Dellie. Dellie's was one of the best he ever wrote me. I was pleased too that you were so prompt to send me the money. It seems very strange to me to call for so much money.

I guess Rowland has called on Miss Cornelia Patten, who lives in this place, (a cousin of Ella's), who is very sick. She went to Bath & stayed a week about the 4th of July. She is of a weak constitution & was taken with the Cholera morbus a few days ago. The Doctor thinks it doubtful if she ever recovers. Rowland has been with her much & seems to feel badly. He has commenced to write some on his Yarmouth oration.

Mother, I did not know what you meant by saying I should do all I could to make you happy. I'm sure if I desire any one thing more than all others, it is that you may be happy. And if there is any one thing I would labor for or endure troubles & trials for it is that. And if there is any person I honor & love & would lay down my life for it is you, mother. Yet you need no such professions to assure you. If I neglect any duty I owe you, or any opportunity of doing a kindness, it is not intentional neglect. No person claims or shares my attention to & regard for you. And no one is half so near & dear as my brothers, mother & father. I suppose I shall not be home till I see you all down here. Till then Adieu

Your Affec. Son  
C. H. Howard

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618 8/1/1856

*From:* R. Arnold

*To:* John Beeson Esqr

OOH-0570

1st Lt. 3rd Arty.  
A.D.C.

San Franco  
Cal.

*Source:* Bowdoin

Benicia California

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Benicia California  
Augt. 1st. 1856

Sir:

I am directed by Major General Wool, who is at this time too much indisposed to write, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultima and to thank you for the kind sentiments therein expressed and for the information it contained and which accompanied it.

The latest news from Rogue river county were very flattering. All the Indians have moved to the Reservation and new Posts are being established, at the three passes leading to the reserve which will, I think, prevent a recurrence of the Past. The volunteers are disbanded, and if the people are disposed, quiet will again be restored, and everything go on prosperously.

Accept my best wishes for your future success and believe me

Very Respectfully  
Yr obnt. Svt.  
R. Arnold  
1st Lt. 3rd Arty.  
A.D.C.

To John Beeson Esqr  
San Franco  
Cal.

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619 8/1/1856 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dear husband [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1156a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Feb 1861] [The date was written by someone else. It should be August 1, 1856. See Note 1]

Friday Morning

My dear husband,

I will write one short note but I fear you will not receive it this week. My journey to Lewiston did not seem a very long one. Mother did not see me till I opened the door. I did not find her as well as I expected and Aunt Sarah [Jones] says that she is really glad I came. I am with Frank now. Mother and I drove here this morning. I am now well indeed, and shall keep well all the time I am here. I tell them I am to stay four weeks, but that need not make it that I shall.

I assure you Otis it does not seem as it did formerly (before I went to Watervliet) to be alone. My place is with you, and wherever you are, and I feel it to be so.

I did not see Charlie at Yarmouth as I hoped. I looked through the crowd till the bell rang, then asked a student if Charlie Howard was at the Depot. He said he was not, then I told him if he pleased he might tell him that Mrs Lizzie Howard was in the Cars. I waited 25 minutes in Portland, did not leave the Depot.

My friends are all well, and are very happy, but surprised to see me. I shall see your Mother soon. Mother is just as she was when you were here, is better to-day, just because I am here, but as nervous as she can be.

I shall write to you very often, but not with a pencil always. Give my love to all friends at Watervliet, and write soon to your

Lizzie

[Attached to another letter from Lizzie, written Sunday Evening, in Fall, 1861.]

[Note 1: OOH-1156 had two short letters that were glued together. However they do not follow in time. The first letter had the date of Feb 1861 written by someone and enclosed in square brackets. It cannot be that date. There are references to a trip that Lizzie made to Lewiston, where she saw her mother (who died June 30, 1857) and one to Watervliet where Otis seems to be now. Otis returned to duty at Watervliet after his duty at Kennebec Arsenal in Augusta in August, 1856. Lizzie joined him in September, 1856. The reference to seeing Otis' mother soon, probably places it prior to a letter she wrote from Leeds on Aug 3, 1856, which would date this letter in between that date and the date Otis left which was July 29, 1856. Since the letter is dated Friday, the date of the letter must be August 1, 1856.]

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620 8/3/1856

*From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0571

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal Aug 3d /56

My dearest Lizzie

Undoubtedly you begin to be anxious to hear from me & I confess I feel no little anxiety to learn that yourself & little Guy are over the summer disease & have not been exposed to the Small Pox. I have not found it convenient to write you til now, unless I had written yesterday, and if I had my letter would not have left till Monday. Although I feel somewhat downhearted at our separation, still I am very glad you did not come on with me, for they have not had a drop of rain for six weeks & it is considerably hotter here than at Augusta, though we are having a cool breeze to day.

Now I will give you a brief description of my journey. I left you Tuesday evening, arrived at Winthrop about 6 P.M., took tea with Mr Wood, who accompanied me to Augusta soon after. Pony went nicely, got over his cough entirely before the next day. I left Mr Wood at the Augusta house, put up the pony at the same place & staid all night at Charlie's. I did not make any calls.

The next morning Wednesday I took Wood to the Arsenal and introduced him to Capt Gorgas, got my goods &c, bade all good bye & went on board of the Secor. We started at the usual time and had a pleasant passage down the Kennebec, but it came in foggy so that we could see only a short distance ahead out at sea. We arrived in Portland however without accident about 6 in the evening. I left Wood to look after the baggage & pony and walked up to Uncle Edward's. Found himself & family away, gone to Freeport on a visit. I then returned to the boat which at seven, left for Boston. We had a dense fog, but the experienced Captain of the Lewiston, put us through without difficulty. Joshua Turner accompanied me as far as Boston on his way to N. York. At Portland I was introduced to Mr Dinsmore Editor of the Bangor Mercury, who proved to be a very pleasant & intelligent companion.

We got into Boston about half past five A.M. Thursday. I waited to get my pony & freight off the boat, took an express wagon, had pony hitched behind & with everything proceeded to the Worcester station. I put up the horse nearby, <carried> my baggage to the freight house & rode back with my little trunk to the Revere House, where I had promised to breakfast with Wood & Dinsmore. I met them there & took breakfast. After which I assisted Mr Wood to make his reports to Washington & elsewhere. ((By the way) he has rec'd his commission, being appointed a 2nd Lieut into the 1st Regiment of infantry & ahead of the present graduating class at West Point.) Then I accompanied him to Mr Earls the Army Tailors and to a place where he could get other necessaries for service.

We dined at the Revere at ½ past 2, thence walked to the Worcester Depot, made the necessary arrangements for transporting pony &c. I concluded to leave pony to his fate as I could not accompany him without going in the same car. I then returned to the Revere, for my trunk, took a carriage for the Stonington route for New York. Mr Dinsmore accompanied me. We reached Stonington about ½ past nine, then had a good supper on board the Vanderbilt & a pleasant passage to New York. We got in at six o'clock (Friday). I went to the Astor House. I got ready to leave for Cold Springs in the nine o'clock train, but Dinsmore who thought he should go on to the same place, could not go till twelve. So I waited for him. He afterwards found the people he wished to see in the city, so, I started alone at 12 on the Hudson River road got to Cold Springs about two, went to find Mr Gilbert, met him at the foundry, at his solicitation went to his house & took dinner, found Mrs Gilbert with a pleasant little family of four children around her. She set before me a good dinner, after which I strolled about the place till six o'clock, having in the meantime a little sleep on the settee at the Hotel. Mr Gilbert had not got the money ready, he did not know that I should let him have the place till a day or two before. He said that he would pay me the whole in two weeks from Monday - I shall go down there at evening & back in the morning. He is a man very much "before-handed" I should judge.

I arrived in Troy at about eleven o'clock that night, staid all night at the Union House & came over here in the morning. I dined with Mrs Boggs, and fixed up one room up stairs to dress & sleep in.

I found everything in good condition, excepting some of those rugs & an old comforter, which the moths have

been inclined to cut up. I have not opened the piano box yet. Pony came at 12 yesterday - "bright as a silver sixpence" & smart as a cricket. I found here - Major Symington & family - Mr Boggs, wife, brother and two sisters, the brother will not stay long. Lieut Johnston, nephew of Mrs Symingtons is stopping at the Majors & two Army ladies, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Colonel Steward, the former has two children. I met them all at Breakfast at the Majors. Johnston has been five years in New Mexico & Texas, ever since he graduated. He belongs to the Cavalry & is sent to Albany on a recruiting tour. He rode with me after the Pony to Albany yesterday evening.

I shall soon have a girl. I am going to try Bridget's sister. You remember Bridget, Mrs Boggs table & waiting maid? She is said to be a very fair cook & willing to do all sorts of things. I shall take my meals with Boggs for the present.

I want to hear everything about yourself & my little boy as well as about the rest of the family. Give my love to our mothers and all. My boxes hav'nt yet got through.

Kiss Guy once out of every three times for me. I shall write to Rowland as soon as I can get time.

Your affectionate husband,  
Otis

All inquired very affectionately for Mrs Howard. Haven't seen Mrs Thornton yet, nor Mr Lansing.

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621 8/3/1856

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0572

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 3 1856

My dearest Otis

I think you will wish to hear from me so much at this time, that you will not care if I do write with a pencil. Dear little Guy is sleeping and I am by the cradle writing and watching him at the same time. He is better than when you went away. I am quite well, but I find it great confinement to have the care of him alone and that is all the inconvenience about it. Mother has sent for my mother to come here tomorrow.

She (Mother Gilmore) will go to Commencement Tuesday with Dellie, Col G and I think Laura will go. I received a note from Ella wishing I would spend Com week with her, but I shall not go and leave baby. Charlie came in yesterday evening very unexpectedly. He came to Lewiston to listen to an Oration by one of the Seniors from Bowdoin. He will return to B. on Tuesday.

I am very happy here, but Otis darling, I do miss you so much, and Guy seems lonely, and looks about as if he knew something or somebody was missing. I know you will write me very soon, and tell me all about the house, and how you find the things, and when you will be at "house keeping." I am making rapid progress with my work, but you need not hasten thinking I will be ready to go so very soon. You are anxious to hear from Capt Turner's family. They have all had the varioloid except Florence. Capt T is now sick and Mrs Oscar Turner - we have not heard from them this morning. Charles and his wife are still at Augusta.

Thursday Eve Aug 7

My Otis dearest

I was so happy to hear from you this afternoon. I have been a little anxious about you since you went from here, and am very glad that you and Pony reached Troy in safety. I do think it is better that we should be here this month than at Troy. I am very happy here and do not feel but that we are most welcome. I try to make as little extra care for your Mother as possible. Dear little Guy is just as good as need be all the time. He plays with the kitten a great deal, and goes out door to see the hens and "Fanny", and observes many to him strange things. (I can scarcely write with this ink and if you can have patience to read it I shall be glad.)

Col Gilmore and Mother came home from Commencement this afternoon, had a very pleasant visit at Mrs Frost's, met Mrs P and Ella, much pleased with her. Rowland did finely. He is at Yarmouth this evening, Charlie and Dellie also, and they will be home tomorrow. Rowland will come the first of next week.

Laura did not go. Aunt Martha "bought" her off. I have so much to tell you that I don't know what to write first, and I forget something interesting while writing something not so important.

My dear baby is such a little comfort I have to play with him and kiss him a great part of the time. You say "my baby" but I shall say he is "my baby" now for he is with me. Dear little treasure. He got something in his eye yesterday and it is some inflamed now but better and by morning will be all well I presume. He has gone to sleep for the night now.

I am not at all surprised that the moths were in those rugs. Please [do] not keep them in the house for fear they will go to the carpets. Mother came here last Monday - is very well. We were alone two days last, except George Langley. Esther went to school. Baby seems to feel more at home than when he first came. He is now quite well, and I am perfectly so. Mother G has made him many useful presents.

I will bid you good night now. I wish I could come over and see you.

Morning Friday

I think you must have had rain by this time at Troy. Last Monday was very foggy and not since then have we seen the sun (excepting about half an hour yesterday evening). Much rain has fallen since that time but to-day, it looks as if it would be pleasant by evening. I have not heard from Capt Turners family this week - getting

better I have no doubt.

Mother stopped at Auburn a few hours on her way from Brunswick. Hellen is quite well, has a little boy six weeks old.

Mother received a letter from Uncle Edward saying that he had procured some shares in the Casco Bank for me but had not been able to find any for sale in the Canal. The balance is deposited in the Canal Bank.

I am very glad you find a girl so readily. I hope she will prove such a girl as we need. I know you are fixing things just as well as if I was there, and will suit me as well. I shall go to Lewiston in a few days not to visit but shopping, go in the cars in the morning and back in the afternoon, leave here at ten and get back at four o'clock.

It is going to be a very pleasant day. The sun is shining very bright and is cool enough for comfort. I found in my trunk your cigars, blacking brush, nail and tooth brush, one shirt and night shirt. When you will let your wife live with you, you can have them, but not before.

I want to see you so very much sometimes, and would be so happy with you but as long as I am as pleasantly situated, and am so very welcome I can be contented till all necessary arrangements are made for our comfort at Watervliet.

I will not write much more this time but hoping you are well, I remain your affectionate little wife  
Lizzie

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622 8/7/1856

*From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0573

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
August 7th 1856

My dearest wife,

I take it for granted you will be glad to break the seal of another letter by the time you get this. If you have not done so, just take a pen and scratch me a few lines, telling me how you do and everything you know I am anxious to hear. How is Guy? A pretty good boy?

I have had as hard a time to get a girl as Capt Gorgas had at Kennebec. Three or four have given me the slip and not till to day have I been able to secure one. Her name is Kings, sister to one of the soldiers of our command. Her first name is Kate. She is stout and short. We first had the parlor washed and put the furniture in it. She washed the windows, mop board & floor and then dusted the furniture. I had the piano put together this morning and the box put down cellar. The crockery came through without breaking a single thing. This has been unpacked & put away. I am going to commence keeping house tomorrow. Katy is a very pleasant girl ready & willing to do everything. I hav'nt tried her at cooking yet.

It commenced raining last Saturday afternoon and has rained hard ever since. I hope it will clear away soon, for I cant get out to do anything. It looks a little like clearing up now.

Pony has had a good long time to get his mouth well, as he has not been out since Saturday. I carried my carriage over to the firm of Wittel & Jones to have it put in running order & have a few repairs.

Has Mother W come to you yet? If she has tell her I think Katy will be smart enough to suit her. I just found her putting the Kitchen in order. I told her if she would do all the work I would give her \$1.50 per week till you came & then you could make arrangements to suit yourself. I think you will be obliged to have a small girl to run to the store, wait on the table & take care of little Guy when we go out.

This is Commencement day and I presume Mother has gone to Brunswick. I hope she did not have such a rain to ride in as we have had.

I got a letter from Uncle Edward while at Augusta but did not answer it, as I expected to see him at Portland. I will write him immediately while I think of it. He said he could send mother \$150 dolls, at any time if she would tell where to direct it & also that he had your certificates of Stock in the Bank, which he would transmit.

Kiss Guy & tell him father sent it. My love to all.

Affectionately your husband  
Otis

I have written Uncle Edward to send you the certificates at Leeds.

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623 8/10/1856 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0574

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

August 10th 1856

My dearest wife,

It will be two weeks next Tuesday since I left you and it is already one week since I arrived at Watervliet, and I hav'nt got a line yet. I expect, however, there is a letter on the way. I wont try to tell you how much I am thinking about you and Guy or how much I long for the time to come when you will be here to share my lonely home, for I don't believe I could tell you if I would. I trust you are all well and are fast abreviating Guy's dresses, shirts &c.

Lieut. Johnston relieves the monotony a little by taking tea with me now and then and by taking a smoke a little oftener. For his especial benefit I have put the lounge & window seats down in the dining room. I have sent away the table to be altered to more convenient dimensions and have had new window seats made for the parlor. I have put down the straw matting on the little room in which I now am. I am going to fix up the little back room that Mrs Boggs occupied once when her father lived here, for Rowland's studio. It has got two windows, is just large enough and will be very retired. I don't know as I shall put down any carpet till you get here. The rooms down stairs being oiled don't need any while the weather is warm. I think oiling the floors has killed out the moths.

We have had very comfortable weather for the whole weak past, plenty cool. I dined with Mrs Thornton yesterday & she asked me to do so again to day, wants me to live at her house till you come, but I prefer not to. She was away on a visit when I first came; had she invited me then I think I would have boarded with her. Her Girl works to suit me and I think would suit you after a little of your tuition. She does not stay here nights, but goes to sleep with Le Roys girl.

I have bought a nice cow. I went on Friday with Robert Boggs, the Lieut's brother on a ride into the country on purpose to find one. After several trials I came across a man that had one to sell that just suited me. I got her for 42 dolls, led her myself for six or seven miles into the edge of West Troy, where McGrath met me. She gives about 10 qts per day and is very gentle. I now have plenty of bread & milk. My family don't consume a great quantity of provisions.

I wonder if you want to come to me as much as I want you to. Walter Fillmore's wife is dead. He married her you know after we left. I met him and Charlie Church, when crossing the ferry on my way to the Arsenal when I first arrived. I have not seen any of the Troy people yet, besides them. As the appropriations are tied up the Army could not afford to paint my quarters, and coming to look at them I find them not a very good state of repair.

I want to know how soon you and Rowland can make arrangements to start for this region. What does Guy & Mother W think? Slap him a little bit for me. Mrs Thornton wants to see you and him. She had all sorts of questions to ask. I think I have done pretty well, got a girl, a cow, and the house pretty well arranged. Now if you have got the petty coats cut off, its all right, and the sooner you start the better. Manage to strike the steamer Lewiston at Portland and you will have a pleasant night to Boston, let the night be what it may. There were plenty of babies came up the night I did. I fear the journey will be hard for you without me, but Rowland will be a good substitute. If I could know when, I would meet you at Springfield. But may be I had better not if Rowland comes through. You must let me know just when you will start.

How is my mother, well, still? And how come on the neighbors with the small pox? I expect mother will be sad over your departure for undoubtedly she has become quite attached to little Guy. You cant be so lonely as I am for I have nothing to console me in your absence and you have Guy. I almost envy you. The Major says I ought to have a kitten.

I want to see Rowland about the manner in which Commencement went off & how he got through with his part, &c. Tell Rowland he must settle my account with Mr Carter as the Editor of the Advertiser and stop it. I

presume he will take a Maine paper while here and that will be enough for the family. Is Charlie at home and Dellie? My best love to them & to all. Tell Rowland my pony is just the thing for him. He goes to Albany and back in a short time. I went to Mr Gregory's Church this morning on this side of the river with Mr Lansing. Mr Lansing and wife were right glad to see me and want you to come and so do all especially your husband. I have got a bed made up in Mother's room for her, and one ready for Rowland.

Lots of kisses some for yourself & Guy  
Yr husband  
Otis

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624 8/15/1856 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0576

Watervliet Arsenal, N.  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N. York  
August 15th 1856

My dearest wife,

I received yours of the 12th last night. I felt not a little disappointed to find that you would not be ready to come before the September election, four weeks from the present time because I had thought you would be here much sooner. I don't want to be selfish about the matter or be instrumental in hindering Rowland from voting, though I feel rather lonely and want your assistance as well as your company. I suspect that many times during our lives duty will keep us apart for longer periods than will suit our convenience or inclination and therefore it is best to live together when we can as well as not. Your work can be finished here as well as there.

There are very few people in town. All gone to watering places or places of summer resort, so that you will not be troubled with too many visitors. If you admit the above, the question will turn on Rowland's consent, if he can forego the pleasure of casting his vote for Hannibal Hamlin, I think you can come by a week from Monday. But I wish you to act according to your judgment. The girl is willing, but of less judgment and more heedless than suits my turn.

I was going to put down the carpet on the front room up stairs to day but as you are not likely to come so soon as I anticipated, I told the girl to begin to fix her own room. She prefers the little room, back of the kitchen down stairs. I am exceedingly afraid of the moths, have purchased some musk and put a little in the buffalo, the carpets and in my great coat pocket. The nights are very lonely. I read till quite late and then go to bed all by myself in the big house.

Yesterday in the afternoon I took Mrs Thornton's boys up to Waterford and gave them a boat ride, and in the evening went to Maj Symington's. The Major's people had all gone to Mrs Patterson's to a party excepting the Maj & Mrs Colonel Stewart. The Major told me all he knew of Col. Fremont. About his conduct at St. Louis while the Maj was there, and about his family that he knew of at Richmond. He told more things discreditable to the man than I imagined could be said with any show of truth, more moral & official delinquencies than I imagined could possibly believe even from the Major's candor. To these things, which I will not repeat, I had no reply to make for Major S spoke as he said from personal knowledge. I was very sorry to hear these things, for I thought his official conduct, personal merit & moral deportment had been above reproach and beyond cavil. According to the Major, Col Benton's influence has made him, supported him and crowned him with laurels actually due to Gen Kearsey, Com. Stockton., Kit Carson & the French scientific explorers. He says Mrs Fremont is a very nice lady. The old major is quite interested in politics this year. I was glad indeed that Mrs Symington was not there, for she "pays on" so heavily on politics that I can hardly keep my temper. She never has mentioned Fremont & I don't think she will to me.

I have written to Charles Mulliken and have had a word or two from him on an enclosed letter - all were well.

Kiss little Guy for me. I have got his crib at the house. Give my love to all and write me what is your final decision about proceeding to this Post.

Very affectionately yr husband  
Otis

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625 8/17/1856 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0577

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 17th 1856

My dearest Otis

I received your letter dated the 13th last Friday. I am so happy to hear from you as often as I do. You have probably received two letters from me before this time, and I know they were received with as much pleasure as those I have received. How fast you are getting the house in order. I should judge from your account that you had already done all there was to do except putting down the woolen carpets and that I hope you will let be til we get there, and how long do you think it will be? Your last letter seems to say "come immediately", but I rather guess you had better make up your mind to live alone three weeks longer, but if you are going to be as restless as you usually are when waiting, I should prefer to come now alone. I know, Otis, dearest, you must be lonely and desire to see us very much but I was not thinking you could be ready and have done so many things in so short a time. I am getting ourselves ready as fast as possible and shall be ready about the time we set when you went away. I wrote about this in my last letter and I am waiting to get a reply to know what you think, so I don't care to say more about it this time.

Charlie and I went to Lewiston yesterday - rode to Aunt Sarah's where we left the horse, dined with them, then went shopping on both sides of the river, called at Uncle Hicks, saw him, very glad to see us. Aunt Novellia was out, walked back to Aunt Whitmans on Auburn side where we remained to tea. Charlie in the meantime called on Betsey [Jennings], found Roscoe not at all well. We got home about eight in the evening.

I feel as well to-day as if I had not gone. We are all very well. Col Gilmore had a sore gather on his lip last week and Charlie has had a slight sore finger like the one when he went to Vassalborough. Capt Turner was very sick but is out now and Charles and his wife will be here the last of this week. I went up to see Laura one day last week. John Harrison [Otis] and all his family were there spending a few days. Perry Lee was at Commencement, went to Hallowell and to Augusta to see us, did not come to Leeds. Charlie & I went raspberriyng one day, got enough for tea. I go down to see Cynthia [Gilmore] quite often & went to ride with Charlie down to Mr Boobyer's to get a girl for Mother. She comes to-night, Diana Boobyer. They live on the same road with Mr Joseph Turner, and a Mr Richmond the quaker.

I wish you could send me three things - my new black silk visitte, a round cape (like my old traveling dress, it is tan color lined with brown silk and has three rows of trimming on it, and a plain black silk <visitte> with fringe around it. I am not sure about the latter being at Troy. You will find them in the one of the middle drawers of the bureau left hand side with my green shawl which I do not want. How can you send them? Will it cost too much by express? If you could get a little paper square box to put them in you can fix that, and then Otis in the upper drawer you will find laces, ribbons, mitts &c. There are three pairs of black mitts and I want one pair. I do not want the long ones - neither do I want that delicate short pair - but I do want the short pair without fingers and shorter than the delicate pair. I want the traveling cape to wear on and Mother let Mother G have her new visitte, and she wants one to wear on. There is no express on this road, but they would come I presume if you should direct the package to Leeds or you may send them to Mr Samuel Hicks, Lewiston Falls, Maine. Please tell me about the time you send them. I need the cape more than anything, if you can do no other way, you could send that by mail, and not send the rest.

Evening 6 o'clock

Where are you dearest about this time. I do want to see you. I must try to go to Turner before I leave here. Uncle Sylvester W [Whitman] has gone west. His family go next month. I would like to see them and Grandmother. I thought we would be carried over there then go to Lewiston in the stage and then come back here from Lewiston in the cars.

Mother Gilmore and I walked down as far as Capt Turners gate and talked with them. They all came to the door. Soon after I heard Esther bringing Guy down. Florence was very glad to see him. We made Cynthia a long call. I fear her little boy is not perfectly well, but it may be because Guy seems so much older.

Col Gilmore has just come in with some blue berries, gave Guy some and said he supposed Otis would say his little wife must have some and gave me the rest. Rowland takes care of Guy ever so much. Charlie went for the girl, has not yet returned. What very good brothers I have got. Charlie has just come alone. That girl has gone to Lewiston to work. I am sorry for Mother, for she wishes to do many things for Rowland before he goes away. I hope she can get some one else. Now I must bid you good night. Guy begins to fret for his milk and the cows have not come.

I must not neglect to tell you that he did creep a few steps to-day. I will give him ever so many kisses for you and your little wife.

Lizzie

Sunday. Prizilla's sister Mary died this morning.

I do not think you have done too much for the house, but I just as lief you would not do more. You have got the house very comfortable and that will do nicely. Col Gilmore and Charlie go to Augusta tomorrow. I think I shall write a note to Mrs Mulliken and send by them. I wish you would see if the moths have got in to any thing in the bureau drawers, and your cloths hanging in the wardrobe.

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626 8/18/1856 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0575

Watervliet Arsenal N.  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N. York  
18th of August 1856  
(Wednesday morning)

My dearest wife

I sat down in our little room to cast up my accounts and now that I have finished I believe I will write you a word or two. I received your letter yesterday morning and was glad enough to get it and more so that it contained no bad news.

I am all ready for you to come when you can make yourself ready and for me the sooner the better. I have put the furniture in most of the rooms and could give you a fair chance to spend the night should you come this afternoon. I have put down the matting on this room where it belongs, procured the same sort for Rowland's room; only it is  $\frac{1}{2}$  yd wider in the breadth.

Katy is washing the windows & wood work of the same and I shall put down the matting this afternoon. I got a straw bed filled & with one of the feather beds Katy has made up in that room a comfortable sleeping apparatus. She does not sleep in the room yet. So I am my own watchdog.

I got a nice crib for little Guy and am having rockers put to it, with stops to make it fast when you want it a fixture, one side can be taken off at night when you put it by the side of the bed. Our table I have had reduced in dimensions and made of an oval form, a little larger than ours at Kennebec. I have had four new window seats square on the top and one inch lower than the old. I got oil-cloth for putting under the dining table. 2 yds wide &  $2\frac{1}{2}$  long in one piece. It is cheaper, as handsome and will not ruffle up like backing.

So much for household arrangements.

Robert Boggs, myself and Pony went up the Mohawk yesterday on a fishing excursion. The water being very muddy we did not catch many - had enough for breakfast however. Pony is fast getting fat under Thomas' care. The carriage will be done Friday. I am having a new lining and the top mended up. While this is being repaired, the carriage makers let me have a light wagon, the wheels of which pony makes turn in fine style.

Miss Carry Symington came here yesterday - looks just as she used to, will remain only till Thursday. I really wish you could see her and make her personal acquaintance. She says she believes it is her destiny not to see you. She wishes to and inquires after you & Guy. She has been with her father on a tour to Niagara and Saratoga. My new cow gives plenty of milk. I frequently have bread & milk for lunch and sometimes for regular meals.

Rowland will be home by the time this reaches you. I got a paper from him this morning, am glad for him that he did so well at commencement. You can say to him that I count upon his coming. His room will be cool and quiet and if there is a good place to study 'tis here. It will be beneficial to me and to him. If you want any more money get it of him or of father and I will repay it.

I want you to make up your mind to take a ride every other day. The weather is & has been since a week ago last Sunday as cool & pleasant as it was in Maine at the Arsenal. This side of the house is particularly pleasant for summer.

Let Rowland play with and carry Guy just as much as you can on your way to Portland. Mrs Boggs found the United States hotel the pleasantest & best and so I think. You will reach Boston early by the boat - take a United States carriage for the House & take a room if you wish to stop all day. But I would'nt stop in Boston if I got a good rest on the boat but come on in the first morning train. Get a "Stopover Pass" at Springfield if you are too tired there to come straight on. I would'nt go to Martha Jane's directly with the baby, for it would only tire you, but if you stopped till afternoon in Boston you might ride over & make her a call during the day.

The State rooms on the boat (Lewiston) are very fine, neat & comfortable. Don't go into the ladies cabin to be made sick by others unexemplary conduct. There wasn't a single person sick the night I came up, & I hope you will get a good large piece of salt fish for an antidote and keep clear this time. You & mother can have a nice time, leaving all care of the baggage to Rowland.

Drop me a line as soon as you know letting me know when I may expect you. I will ride to the Depot the first day you may possibly arrive & each day thereafter till you get here.

You need not think I have done too much for the house for you will have plenty to do after you get here. Tell Rowland if he is made a convenience of in traveling I will try to compensate him after he gets here. I suspect he will have some visits to make after he gets home before he can come.

I shall go to Cold Spring next Monday evening and back Tuesday morning.

I feel very sorry that I had to come away without seeing Charlie again. I want to hear from him. Give him my love. He has now got two brothers to emulate in the remainder of his course. I hope he will not fail to outstrip them both, though he will be better to fall behind than to get sick.

I want to hear about that class oration, how it came off, what applause &c. And Dellie I presume he has had some fine intellectual treats. Didn't he feel proud when Rowland stepped on to the platform? I am glad father & mother went to Brunswick & were pleased with Ella. I think I shall write her with Rowland's approbation.

My best love to my mother & to yours. I suspect the latter will have thousands of wonderful things to tell me about your little boy. Make haste & get here for I must have my share of him. My love to Father. I shall write him so soon as I close the business with Mr Gilbert.

God bless you all.

Your very affectionate  
husband  
Otis

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627 8/20/1856 *From:* Otis [O O Howard] *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0578 Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
August 20th 1856

My dearest Wife

I have just received your long letter. The difficulty has been that my letters have all been written before these two, Rowland's last and yours were received. I didn't mean to plead my selfish wishes against your desire to remain in Maine or unnecessarily urge your coming. I can eat, drink, sleep and do my duties till you get ready to come. I don't want you to come alone without Rowland. Wait for him and when everything is in readiness, your husband will be here to welcome you. I am sorry I was foolish enough to give you so much uneasiness. I dread that projected journey to Turner & thence by stage to Lewiston. Tell mother she has forgotten about "your being so short a time for this world." The carriage is hard & the roads none of the smoothest, but go and save yourself as much unnecessary work as you can. That journey of yours going from place to place and carrying Guy will be harder than your journey to Troy I think and I fear you will return to Leeds all tired out if not sick.

On Monday I went to West Point. My pony took me as far as Albany. I intended to leave at one o'clock, but found that the first train that stopped at Cold Spring went at 4.45 P.M. I dined at Congress Hall with Lieut Green of the Infantry who is on Recruiting duty at Albany in Miller's place. I reached Cold Spring a little before nine, staid all night with Mr Gilbert, gave him my deed of the place, received the money in bank bills and left him in the morning. I found Maj Laidley at the Highland Hotel and delivered a letter sent him by Maj Symington. Maj Laidley inquired for you & sent his regards. Then I went over to the Point, first to the Hotel, and thence to Guard Mounting, where I found very few acquaintances. Miss Emily Berard & Miss Julia Nichols were there.

After Guard Mounting I accompanied them to Mrs Berard's where all seemed joyous to see me. Mrs B had been very sick, but had now recovered. I promised to dine with them and then went to see Warren Lothrop. He had more room than he used to have, was taking photographs - some of the best I ever saw. One of Professor Bartlett & another of Professor Wier were splendid. He was well & had many inquiries to make about yourself and Guy, and about his friends in Maine.

I went to the Band practice & then up to Camp. It began to rain then and has kept it up ever since. I saw at Camp all the present first class and tried to recall their names, but could not more than half of them. I sat down in a tent and they came in three or four at a time & called me by name and seemed glad to meet me. These were the Plebes when I was a first class man. Next year at this time I will know scarcely any body.

I dined at Madam Berards as engaged & left in the 2 o'clock train for Troy, arrived here safe & sound before dark with my money. When it stops raining I am going to Troy to make arrangements about sending it to Father. I will get those things, cape, visitte, etc, in the morning and send the package to you at Leeds by Express. The Express will take it as far as it (the Express) goes & is responsible for its safe transportation the rest of the way. I thought you had got traps enough with you without having more.

My pony is getting fat under Thomas' care & my carriage is very comfortable. It has a new lining, lace binding, & curtains. The top has been newly & neatly patched & oiled & all the tires reset.

Mrs Barard & her family want to get acquainted with you very much. I invited her to visit us after your return.

Boggs sisters will leave before you come & so will his Brother. This brother is the one who has just returned from Italy. He is quite an Artist & musician. He has got "sister Marys" portrait most done & brother Willies "under weigh". He has with him a Guitar & a bright dog call Reno. Reno understands both English and Italian, will walk across the room on two legs, climb eight feet on a small tree, and shut the door. Robert will play & sing finely to the edification of us all. I am really glad you are not coming till these young ladies are gone for one reason, one day while I took my meals with Boggs, at dinner politics got introduced. I didn't say much either way, finally Miss Pamella turned to me & said, Mr Howard, you are not for Fremont are you? I said why Miss Mella you ask the question right at me, then I said, Yes I am. Immediately I found a cold feeling run around the table. I took my meals in my own house as soon as possible.

I have'nt taken any notice of their prejudice and I reckon they begin to see that a Fremont man needn't be so much of a scamp after all. The reason I am glad they are going before you come is because these women are full of such strong prejudices that I don't think you would like them, though Miss Rebecca is a very quiet & sensible girl. I have had quite a number of sectional speeches to put up with. I think it best to keep clear of all quarrels, as my position will not admit of my entering the canvass.

Kiss little Guy for me. Bless his eyes, I would like to see him & you but good night. It is raining very hard. A hundred kisses. My love to all.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

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628 8/28/1856 *From:* O [O O Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0579

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Thursday Morning Aug 28th [1856 written in pencil]

For Lizzie

My dearest wife,

I learned for the first time this morning that your mother was really ill. Mother calls it the erysipelas. I hope it will not prove like mine. I presume it is confined to her limbs. Having Guy and mother both to take the care of will be quite a tax upon yourself. I wish you were all here that I might assist. If mother is better or worse you must write me - just a line if no more.

I am very well, have been to Albany several times lately; what I saw and heard I will tell you after we meet.

Neither father, mother, or Rowland wrote whether you had received my last letter and your bundle. I found it as cheap to send the whole by mail and hope you have got it all safe.

I have received a letter from Charles Mulliken, who wrote that all were well at his house. Maj Symington is ill but not very sick to day.

Boggs has completely changed, has got to be very active & industrious, walks fast and don't stop in the day time. Mrs Boggs <is> about as of old, makes him a good wife. They <are> very affectionate to each other, much more so than anticipated. The Misses Boggs will leave with their brother <about> next Sunday night for home. On Tuesday night Mrs Crosby invited all from the Arsenal to take tea with her and spend the evening. The Major staid at home and the rest of us went. We met Mr & Mrs Dunlop & Mrs Hillhouse, all of whom inquired particularly for you & Mrs H said she wanted to see you very much. Mrs Dunlop has a sociable this evening but I think of excusing myself. I am officer of the day and the Major is ill will answer I reckon.

How is that darling boy? Forgotten his father of course? Ask him if he does not want to see me. Has he got so as to creep all over the house? Give my love to your mother. I wish to know the particulars about her illness.

My girl makes very good coffee & tea and succeeds admirably in housekeeping. The flies bother me considerably but we have not been troubled with mosquitoes yet. I heard one last night. The weather has been cold, more like the latter part of September than August. We had only one warm day after I arrived. After that heavy rain it cleared off cold & then came another rain. The river rose so as to overflow the lower Gardens, but did us very little damage before it subsided.

Give my love to all, and be pleased to accept what is due to yourself. I must see you soon.

Yr loving husb.

O.

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629 8/28/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Father [Col. John  
Gilmore]

OOH-0580a

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
August 28th 1856

Dear Father,

I received your note together with the enclosed note of hand this morning. I did not mean to make any charge. If you had dealt with me legally I should be one hundred dolls out of pocket. But our admirable congress seem disposed to embarrass me a little, and it becomes me to get all the change I can. My extra expenses from visiting Cold Spring the first time were \$5.00 My second trip R.R. fare both ways \$4.00. Paid for the draft on Boston Bank \$3.50. Making in all \$12.50.

I am sorry to learn that Lizzie's mother is sick. I shall enclose a letter to her with this. Who will be the candidate for Senator to replace Issacher?

Is Rowland's canvassing going for naught, rendering it impossible to unite Straight Whig's and Republicans in the coming campaign?

Very truly your son  
O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter to Mother]

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630 8/28/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0580b

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter to Father]

Dear Mother,

I was glad to hear from you again by your own hand. I know it is hard to see sons, one after another leave their home and understand the struggle between a deep affection and the self denial that duty seems to require. But while Rowland is with me you will be happy in the consciousness that we are together.

I have been making inquiries so as to ascertain the best place for him to study, and think that he could hardly find a better place to study his profession than in Albany or Troy. At a distance from local interests and politics, he will here have every inducement to push forward in the legitimate study & practice of the law, will have good examples to follow and fair models for imitation.

Yesterday I visited Albany and went to the scientific convention, in the afternoon listened to a grand extempore lecture from Professor Agassis, ate my breakfast at seven in the morning and did not dine till after my return at half past six in the evening.

Don't work too hard - I trust Lizzie will not wear herself down on account of her mother's illness. My love to all.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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631 9/1/1856

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0581

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Sept 1st 1856

My dearest wife

It is Monday morning after breakfast. As I was coming to this place the Officer Murphy met me with a little white letter, which was welcome I assure you.

We have now got through the long month of August, the weather is pleasant and cool enough even for you. I have not said anything about the month of September, but if you can start on the ninth you know who will be glad to meet you at the end of your route. Rowland mentioned the tenth which is Wednesday. I am ready for you & have been for four weeks. I am glad Guy is growing & improving and that mother W is better. I have been a good deal anxious about her. The workmen were all disbanded Friday night, but the Army Bill passed Saturday & a telegraphic Dispatch called them together again to commence work this morning. The suspension of the regular appropriation caused much depression and anxiety here, but it is over now. Mr Robert Boggs left yesterday evening with his sisters. Miss Pamella after she had bidden me good bye came back and said "please give my love to Mrs Howard & Guy & tell her I am very sorry I could not have seen her. Mrs Laidley & the Major are here. She says she was in hopes to find you here. I believe you are half a head taller than she is. Don't you feel proud?

Major Symington is still unwell, confined to the house, but is much better. The good news that the Army Bill had passed did him a deal of good. Maj Laidley has become Captain in the regular course of promotion by the H.qrs. rule - being now full Captain and Brevet Major & Boggs is 1st Lieutenant. Stone has resigned. I will be 1st Lieut by regular promotion next July.

I have't told you about Lieutenant Syms of our corps. He was Asst. Professor in Prof Sproules department at West Point. About a month ago he was taken deranged from softening of the brain. It is thought to be hereditary. He was a young man of ability far more than ordinary. Maj Delafield has been sent to West Point as Superintendent and Col Hardee as Commandant of Cadets. Professor Sproule was summarily relieved from duty at West Point a day or two ago and replaced by Rev Mr French, Episcopalian. The Old Professor had no warning but was arbitrarily dismissed by Jeff Davis. He went to Washington to learn the reason. Jeff Davis told him the last report of the Board of visitors showed that he was inefficient in the extreme. It was probably effected by those professors & instructors who [did] not like him any too well.

We had a social party at Mrs Wool's on Saturday evening. Gen Wool is sick and is expected home as soon as he can get relieved. Mrs Wool & Mrs Hart inquired very affectionately after Mrs Howard. So also did Mis Emma Willard. <[torn page]> grand mother. Miss Mary Patterson also wished to be remembered to you. All had a good many questions to ask about Guy. My old instructor Guy Pick, seemed much pleased that I had called my little boy Guy. Miss Emma looks just as she used to. Her Grandmother, Mrs Willard I am sorry to say wants to have a private conversation with me. I fear she will take me to task about my delinquency in relation to her tidal theory. She has a sociable this evening, but I shall not go. Miss Symington treats me with considerable coolness lately. I suspect it is on account of politics or some other small matter. I call there quite often, however, was in last evening to see Major & Mrs Laidley, found Dr. & Mrs Viele & Mr Cady there. Miss Laidley likes Dr Viele as well as you do Dr Briggs & for the same reason I presume.

I stopped writing to inspect & report upon the fabrications for the month of August and have just resumed my writing.

I shall be glad when this week has passed if it does make me a week older. I am of the opinion it will make me a few weeks younger to have you all here. I don't know that I have any more news to write and I don't feel like moralizing.

As for my housekeeping I shant say anything about. I generally eat my dinner about two o'clock, which I don't find half as good an hour as one, sit down to my paper & a Cigar immediately after, and that is the end of the

matter. What do I eat? Why potatoes, tomatoes & corn with beef one or two days & then mutton chops. This is my dinner. I cant afford a desert only when Mrs Boggs sends me in one as she sometimes very kindly does. She always sends me a dish of soup when she has it for dinner. I like Madam Boggs very much, though I can hardly make it seem right that she is other than Miss Mary.

Guy, bless his little heart, what is he doing? Sleeping I will bet ten to one, when this arrives. Does he like to be kissed yet? He must have a kitten when he gets here. There is no use in asking all these questions, you & his grandmother will know a thousand & one of his wonderful transactions to tell after you get here, and there is hardly time to write them. Don't he get covered with dirt tumbling about the floor? Write me as soon as you get this what day you will certainly start and what day I may look for you.

Give my love to all individually. Charlie has gone back to Brunswick so you will not see him again. I don't know whether Rowland will be in Bath or at home when this gets to you. Yes Rowland will be quite an addition to our little family and will make time pass pleasantly. Mother continues well? She feels badly to have Rowland go. I don't wonder, Rowland, Dellie, & Charlie, all gone. 'Twill be almost as lonely as I am at Watervliet. Tell Rowland to cast his vote very quietly & not create a disturbance at the polls.

Kiss little Guy for me just once.

Your affection husb  
Otis

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632 9/2/1856      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0641

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Watervliet Arsenal, Sept 2, 1856]

My darling Lizzie

I have broken open your letter to tell you the news. Major Symington told me tonight that Mr Boggs would leave for Boston Tuesday or Wednesday next and Boggs says he will be retained in Boston on duty at Algiers foundry some two or three weeks. The Ordnance Board will meet some time this week at Springfield first and the Major expects to go. Do not let this influence your return for I can meet you at Springfield any time even when Shunk and myself are alone, and if Mother has determined to accompany you as far as Boston, I will try to meet her there.

Write immediately as soon as you get this. The Major spent the evening here. I suspect he is lonely in his big house with four of the principal members gone. Maj Thornton will not get away till Tuesday. I saw Mr Hillhouse today crossing the ferry on our return from Church. He says his wife is well. He inquired after you and wanted to be remembered.

The major told me tonight that he was struggling hard to lay by something for his wife and "little ones" when he is gone. Says to me "you are young, make the resolution now never to live up to your pay, but try to lay by at least \$100 dollars a year.

Good night and sweet dreams. We will soon be locked in each others embrace.

Heaven bless you dearest.

Otis

[Note: this seems to have been added to a letter from Otis to Lizzie around the time she was coming to Watervliet after their stay at Kennebec Arsenal. I assume this accompanied Otis' letter of Sep 1, 1856.]

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633 9/13/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Brother [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0582a

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy  
September 13th 1856

Dear Brother

I understand you, too, have gone from home, gone to Andover. I fear you are having a sober time of it. When you get time you must write me all about your situation and companions. You must keep a "stiff upper lip" and let nothing discourage you.

Rowland, Lizzie & the rest left home last Wednesday and reached here Thursday evening. They had a very good journey, no accident on the boat or on the road excepting that Mrs Waite got separated from her party at Springfield and was carried on towards New York as far as Hartford and was obliged to follow along to Albany in the next train which reached that place in the night. I was waiting for her at Albany and brought her up with my pony.

Guy seemed to enjoy traveling wonderfully, though he got a pretty dirty face before he reached Albany. Rowland is here. I am in his room and he is arranging his books. He has quite a pleasant little room, an iron bedstead, table, bookcase &c after a regular student's fashion.

Yesterday afternoon we went to Albany, went in my carriage. We visited the office of a young lawyer, Mr Jackson, had quite a talk and returned about night. Today Rowland & I went to Troy and visited the office of Mr Beach, one of the principal Lawyers of Troy. Rowland has not yet decided where he shall study. He may go to Law Lectures at Albany and study in Troy.

Guy has just come in to see us and seems to be very happy to visit such a literary place. He would not be satisfied till he had got my smoking cap. He is now pulling my hair and I cannot write.

You must let us hear from you often. I suppose you will be very industrious. You will have to be very careful of expense, since Board & everything else is so high.

Accept love from all of us. Rowland will fill this letter.

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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634 9/13/1856 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Dellie [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0582b

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Otis]  
[Watervliet Arsenal West Troy  
September 13th 1856]

Dear Bro Dellie

I am glad that you room in the same house with Humphrey and Henry Thompson. They are old scholars of mine & I think Humphrey particularly a good fellow for you to associate with. Do you board near Mrs Edwards who has a small select school for young ladies. That was the school that Ella & a number of other Bath girls were at for some time.

What latin book are you in? & what is your teachers name? I wouldn't care for a carpet if I were you. I did not have one till my Senior Year in College. The way is to begin small and go up & if you are two or three years preparing you will find that it requires the strictest economy to keep your expenses within reasonable bounds.

You must recollect that even a "Freshman" isn't much & any boy before he reaches that point is below it. Don't feel proud of your advantages. Otis went thru West Point after College & he don't "feel big". I have had some success, but I always endeavor to be kind & equal with all & when I reflect how much I have yet to accomplish before I can be anybody or even "get a living", I feel as if I was just nothing at all.

I was very much gratified at the result of the Maine Election. I did as much as I could to bring about that result, but now, I have got all through with politics. I have been invited to speak in New York State but have declined. I wouldn't say much about politics if I were you. Talk & write about your studies & your miscellaneous reading & then you will improve yourself & make no enemies. Father & Mother ought to stop over one train with you either going or coming from Easton. If you wish it I have no doubt they will.

Remember me to Merrill, Humphrey & Henry.

Rowland.

Vote of Leeds

Morrill 127 Read 42 Wells 162 = 1855

Hamlin 165 Patten 27 " 136 = 1856

Hamlin's maj - 2, but it was hard work

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635 10/4/1856

*From:* Rowland [R B  
Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0584

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy Oct 4. 1856

My dear Mother

I have waited till this time before writing again because I supposed you would not return from Mass before this, if indeed you have now. We are all very well. Guy grows more & more interesting every day. He is not so quiet & inoffensive as he used to be, but has some pretty strong times & sets up a will of his own & shows plainly that he knows enough to have his own preferences. He walks by taking hold of his hands and alone by chairs & the Lounge. He has learned many playful & cunning ways which amuse us & endear him more closely to us all.

Mrs Waite & Lizzie have enjoyed excellent health since they left Maine. Otis had got the carpets down & the house in pretty good order when we got here. My own room is in the L of the house & is a very pleasant one. I have a little iron bedstead just right for me alone. I have also a very pretty & convenient Lounge, Book Case, Round Table, Dressing Table &c. One side of the room was intended for hanging clothes. We have suspended a calico curtain before that & it makes a very convenient wardrobe. The furnace does not warm this room & when it is a little colder I shall have a stove.

Otis has gone into a pig and a hen speculation. He has got two little pigs which are fed on the slops from our quarters & the Barracks, and he is now building him a Hen house & is going to have 20 hens. Of course, he has bright visions of the future of fresh pork, chickens & eggs. They keep but one girl & she does all the Kitchen work & takes care of Guy at meal times.

Day before yesterday Col Craig, the Superintendent of Ordinance Dep, was here on his Annual inspection. He is an aged gentlemanly man with gray hair & quiet, unostentatious manners. We had the Col & Mr & Mrs Boggs here to Tea & tho' Lizzie was fearful that everything would not pass off satisfactorily, I believe there was no trouble. I sort of pity a young housekeeper like her who feels so much need of experience in the form of a Society to which she has not been accustomed, but to which she is expected to conform.

I have my Books of a Mr Beach, an eminent Lawyer in Troy & expect after I have read the rudiments here in my room to go into his Office & employ myself reading there & making out writs, warrants &c for the firm of which he is a member, who do an immense business. The next Term of Law Lectures at the Albany Law School commence the first Tuesday in January. I think I had better attend them. I will have to go & come in the cars & the fare is 12 ½ cts each way. The fee for the Lectures is \$30.00. I don't think I shall have a better opportunity to attend Lectures & one accompanied with less expense.

I wrote to Dellie about the time I supposed you would go to Mass & asked him to hand the letter to you. If he did, you will see by that some account of our excursion to Saratoga Lake with Mr Lansing. I have been at home pretty much since then attending to my reading, with an occasional walk over to Troy or ride down to Albany with Otis' horse. I never would settle in such a country as this among such a people unless I could make double the money that any other place would afford.

Tell Father that I heard Gov. Ruder speak a few evenings since. He is an honest & candid man & a powerful & eloquent speaker. Fillmore is the man here for President. His friends make all the noise & in this region he will get a good share of the votes. But I feel very confident Fremont will carry the State & be the next President. A bargain is being attempted between Fillmore and Buchanan. If that succeeds it will look differently.

Charles & Dellie have each written me one letter. Capt. Patten one & Ella many of course. But I want you to write, Mother, & tell me about your visit & how you found things on your return to Leeds. All send their love & Otis will write before a great while.

Affectionately, your Son  
Rowland



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636 10/10/1856 *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0585

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll  
Oct 10, 1856

My dear Mother

I have not yet heard whether you have returned from Mass. but I venture to write you a letter knowing that you can get it when you do return. I am getting along well only I don't have any letters from New York or from home or very often from Dellie.

I have been spending the afternoon since I declaimed at 2 at a show of glass-working. I am now writing with a pen wholly glass which I got in exchange for my ticket & this cost 15 cts. To be sure it is not the best pen I ever saw but it is wonderful that it will write at all.

We have very pleasant weather at present. I hope you are so as to enjoy it. I expect to get a letter soon. I should think you would be a little lonely. Dellie writes that everything does not go perfectly smooth. He has had a little trouble with his boarding mistress but it has all been settled. He has probably told you about a little difficulty with Mr Taylor - he mentioned it to me but did not give any particulars.

I want to hear how you enjoyed your visit. My studies are not very hard this term. I have Friday afternoon to myself, but usually have a Theme to write or a declamation to get. It is a great curiosity to see these men work with glass. They have a steam engine complete, which keeps in motion, made wholly of glass. They make all sorts of toys & every one has a right to a present who goes in. This pen is quite a curiosity. I shall put it away & try to keep it to show to you.

There is to be a cattle show & fair in Topsham next week. Ella will be up there. I took a walk over there this morning & called at Mrs. Frost's & took the children out with me. They bought the ground of Mrs Frost. They have fenced it in with a high fence. They have also built a high building for the fair &c. I suppose I shall go over next week.

This pen of mine will write quite fine one way as you see it does now and & one side writes coarse as you see just above.

I hope you will give me a long account of your journey & visit. I hope I can go next year. Did you go to Uncle Henry's? Did father enjoy his visit? Is he engaged in harvesting? I should like to spend a week, like the past, at home. Many of the students have been home on a visit but it is much better not to be absent. Who will teach our school? I could send excellent teachers if they paid good wages, but I don't care to recommend anyone to Leeds. I have got my lesson for tomorrow morning & shall go to bed pretty early. I hope you are enjoying health & happiness. I have thus far been quite successful in my College-course & if it will add any thing to your happiness I am very thankful.

Your Affec. Son  
C. H. Howard

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637 10/21/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0586a

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy  
Oct. 21st 1856

Dear Mother

I suppose you have been to Massachusetts and back since I have heard from you. At any rate Dellie writes that he saw you at Andover. I should like to get a letter from you and hear all about your visit, whom you saw and how you found all our friends &c. I am now in Rowland's room writing at the same table with himself. He appears to like us here pretty well, says it appears to him that he is on a visit all the time. He seems however to act as if he was at home. He must speak for himself with reference to his studies. He has plenty of books around him and Sunday papers.

We have taken Mr. & Mrs. Lee to board for the present. Mr. Lee graduated at West Point this last June, was married in the ensuing July and subsequently assigned to this post. He was the only one of his class attached to our corps. Thus you see we have a pretty large household which increases Lizzie's cares and my own. Lizzie's health continues good as also her mother's. Guy has had one or two ill terms, slight attacks of the summer complaint, which have weakened him for the time, but have done him no great harm. He grows taller but is not so fat as when at Leeds and he is a little nearer spoilt I fear. He is, however, a very good boy, always sleeps at night and wakes bright and early.

Lt. Gilman has been here and brought Malec my horse back. This has discommoded me somewhat as I have not been able to sell either Malec or the pony and it costs me too much to keep both.

Rowland & I went to Schenectady yesterday and visited Union College. On account of what I had heard of old Union I thought it best to find good buildings, but on the contrary they are old & somewhat dilapidated. The rooms hardly fit for pigs to sty in. In the engineering department however, we found not only a good professor & a good set of rooms, but apparatus superior to any I have yet seen. We drove up with the pony and after spending a very pleasant day returned, reaching home at seven o'clock in the evening.

I am now engaged in drawing, generally spend the forenoon in this way till 2 in the afternoon. How is everybody at home? I presume you don't hear so much about railroad matters as you did. We hear from Dellie and Charlie frequently. Dellie was very much interested in Franklin Pierce when he wrote last, as Andover had had a visit from him. Dellie says he got within 6 feet of him, near enough to satisfy himself how the man looked.

Give my love to all.

Affectionately your son  
O. O. Howard

Remember to give my love to Laura & Uncle Ensign & Aunt Martha. I hope they are all well. Lizzie sends you her love, says she can't find time to write now. I hope to hear from you soon.

Otis

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638 10/22/1856 *From:* Rowland [R B  
Howard]

*To:* Brother Dellie [R H  
Gilmore]

OOH-0583

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
October 22, 1856

Dear Brother Dellie

I was glad to hear from you in your letter to Otis & hope you are still enjoying as good health and spirits as then & are still progressing well in your studies. Let nothing I beg of you detain you from them. I shall try to ascertain from yourself and your teachers just what progress you are making this Term. If you don't succeed in getting the first principles of Latin pretty well fixed in your head I shall hardly advise your staying at School where you are subjected to, so great expense, unless you derive some proportionate benefit. I suppose Mr Pierce is the first President of the U.S. whom you have seen. May you live to see many greater & better ones. Still I hardly think it possible that in History Pierce's Administration should stand so low as it does now, or be so universally condemned as it is by his Contemporaries, who are actuated more or less by Party feeling and blinded by Party zeal.

Since the elections in Pennsylvania & Indiana I have wholly despaired of Mr Fremont's election & tho I am very sorry to come to this conclusion, I think it is sustained by what political knowledge & sound judgement I may possess. It is hard to be undeceived in regard to the final result so late as I was in 1852, viz. the day after the election. I have not time to give my reasons but I think we must wait four years longer for the National triumph of Republican principles, tho' I am thankful that we have got those fellows down where they will lie still a spell in Old Maine. In the nation we can afford to wait 4 years for political power better than they, the Pro-Slavery Party can. There will be a North four years hence if there is none now.

Otis & I went up Schenectady to visit Union College last Monday. It is a fine ride of 14 miles thro' a fertile country. Schenectady is about the size of Portland & a place of great business. The Erie Canal & Central R.R. pass thro' it & there is also a R.R. to Whitehall at the foot of Lake George. Union College is on high ground East of the City. It was founded 1795 & there are two College buildings 200 ft long & 4 stories high. They are very old & much more dirty, dilapidated & out of repair than Bowdoin. President Nott is 84 years old & has been President 52 years. He is very rich, has given the College \$600,000 & is said to be worth \$5,000,000. When he dies they will make great improvements in the College. The old man does not like to have them changed now. There are 120 in the Senior Class & 2 from Maine, whom Otis & I found & got acquainted with.

I am still busy with the Law. It is rather dull work but must be done. When does your Term close? I hope you hear from Mother. We haven't heard a word since she left you for Easton. Write us if you have heard from her & the news from home.

Last Week I visited the New York State Library at Albany. The State House is not so good as ours but the Library is magnificent. It is in a noble room, has many thousand books & various valuable & interesting relics of Revolutionary times & those previous. I saw the very papers, with Arnold's signature, which he gave Andre to facilitate his escape when he had been to see him about his Treason. There was the "Charter" of New York granted by George III - papers, coins & medals without number, that it would take weeks to examine & months to describe.

Guy is very well. He is getting a little roguish & willful. He likes to ride on my head & shoulders when he can get up there he laughs and crows merrily. Lieut Lee & his wife board with us - so our family is now quite large. Otis will write you before long. All the family are well & send their love to you. You must write me pretty often & see how nice you will make your letters look.

Remember me to Mr Merrill & the Thompson boys.

Very affectionately, Your Bro  
Rowland



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639 11/7/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Brother [R. H. Gilmore]

OOH-0586b

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
Nov. 7th 1856

My dear Brother

I have set apart this morning to write you. My time has all been taken up lately with drawing and other duties and I have been forced to neglect my correspondence. Rowland received a letter from mother yesterday, the first we have got from her since she returned from Massachusetts.

Our dear uncle has passed from the stage of action since I wrote you [John Otis died 12 Oct 1856]. His death came very suddenly and unexpectedly to us as well as to his family. Aunt Ellen is now a widow with a large family to look after and complicated affairs to arrange. God has truly visited her & hers with severe affliction and I trust she will make His Arm her protection and His merciful forbearance & Love her consolation. So it is, we surround ourselves with all the comforts & conveniences that human foresight can provide, when one single blow dashes our most cherished hopes to the ground. When will we learn where to place our confidence, and on whom to lean at all times for safe guidance.

We are all very well. Guy has got to be a great boy. He can walk very well by holding on to one finger of your hand or holding on to a chair or the bedstead. He plays hard all of the time, has his drum, India rubber balls, silver mug, knife, fork and spoon. He affords me a great deal of amusement, comes to meet me on all fours. He has taken one ride on Malec, and enjoyed it wonderfully, but it is getting so cold that he won't be likely to have any more rides for the winter.

Rowland has probably written you that Lt. & Mrs. Lee board with us, so that we have a pretty good sized family. Now that I have given you a slight account of our family I want to inquire after yourself.

How are you getting on? Boys & young men at school sometimes forget there is such a thing as subsequent life, or if they think of the future they gloss it over completely with all sorts of air castles, but you have read a good many books understandingly and I trust you have a little unvarnished common sense. Now it don't matter so much in all cases what one studies, whether Latin, Greek, or Mathematics. But it is well to have clearly before you at every moment some well defined object as the ultimatum, towards the attainment of which all your efforts should be directed. As soon as you are old enough to understand your own tastes, you can form your notion of what business would suit you best, provided you could be assured of success. Would you like to be a lawyer, doctor, Minister or businessman? Would you like to confine your attention wholly to literature, or to science? Think it over and fix upon something and then with the permission of Providence you can go on to accomplish something. I don't mean to urge my dear brother that you neglect any study if it does not seem to bear upon the result you desire, but you can shape your course generally by your final goal.

If you would like to be a businessman, carry on large operations, iron work, factories or attach yourself to any extensive business firm you would want to study the economy of trade, mathematics and practical philosophy. You would not want a college education, but get as good an English education as you could in three or four years, close application and then enter at once upon your profession as a clerk and your after success depends on your diligence. I believe that the surest & quickest road to an independent fortune for a young man of ability lies in this direction. It needs steadiness of purpose, self denial and continued earnest effort to attain any position worth having. I won't prolong these remarks further now, but Dellie, at any time you desire it my counsel is at your service. I would like to have you lay open your heart to me and tell me what you would like to do most of all and how you propose to accomplish your ends. I may assist you somewhat. My own studies generally have been too desultory and the want of a fixed purpose is now my greatest sense of annoyance. Rowland is in very much the same way. Circumstances are left to guide us and it is not in our power to press steadily and surely on to prosperity.

I hope you will write soon. Charlie was well when we last heard from him. Remember me to all friends when you write and

Believe me your affectionate Brother  
O. O. Howard

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640 11/16/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0587a

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
November 16th 1856

My dear Mother

You must not think, because I have written so little of late, that I am growing careless or remiss, or that I have forgotten that I have dear friends elsewhere than home. I have trusted to Rowland's letters to tell you of our good health and of the news. I have been waiting for a favorable opportunity to write you a long letter. Of late I have been very busy in the line of my duty - have been making drawings every day till I get tired of confinement and so think it a duty I owe myself to spend as much of the rest of the day as I can in the open air, and every night when I think I will write, I feel too weary to write a readable letter. This is Sunday and as it is a cold, rainy day I think I will not go to Church but spend the time in writing and reading.

I have already written to Aunt Ellen as good a letter as I could. I have not been able to make it seem as if Uncle was really gone to another world, or more than I could realize that Grandmother [Elizabeth Otis died 3 Mar 1856] had been taken away. I do feel for his family and appreciate the trying circumstances that Aunt finds herself in. But as you said we must believe that there is the hand of Providence in all things and that He will <overzeal> even affliction to our advantage and most probably the Divine <direction> is intended for one spiritual good.

I feel and acknowledge that we should all labor for His Glory of our Beneficent Father and that all our efforts and <strivings> should be subservient to His will, that we should have something above a selfish purpose in life, but I soon have taken a single step in the path of duty. In fact if you were to ask me to tell you exactly what things I might do, what practical I ought to pursue I could not answer you. Say to me love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself. I cannot do it, and probably shall not till some terrible stroke has awakened my sensibilities and prostrated my soul with its pride and yearnings earthward in the dust.

You may think I am not happy. But I am. I enjoy life and its blessings: I appreciate a love and affection of my wife. I enjoy the regard that my position affords me, I love my little boy. Neither do I tremble in view of the future or of death: but still I am in that state of mind where every man is, who feels that God has made him for a purpose, and in doubts whether or not he is fulfilling it. There would be no use in any outward demonstration, I will not join a Church or make any of an profession of faith, till I am sure I possess that faith, and am prepared to devote myself to the service of my maker without reserve.

Lieut Lee is a very young man just graduated, and has married a mere child. But he is steady with excellent principles, a perfect gentleman, without making any pretensions. His wife seems to be really good hearted perfectly ingenuous, but full of whims, quite frivolous and inconsiderate. She loves her husband, her mother, her kitten, her oranges & her candy. There were no quarters on the Post unoccupied and Lee had to go somewhere. I thought of the advantages and of the disadvantages of boarding. His quantum of fuel is of advantage to me, prevents my buying. In a money point of view he does not benefit me; excepting that when he is here we can keep two girls.

Lizzie does not work more than she did before. I have not yet sold either of my horses, have a cow, two pigs and fifteen chickens; quite a dramatic establishment.

Lt Closson & his father paid us a short visit Thursday & Friday night. The former has been in California, New Mexico & Texas ever since he graduated. He got a leave of absence at Baton Rouge to go home; has spent a week there and is now on his way back. He has already got promoted to a 1st Lieutenantcy. My turn will come next July, or sooner if somebody resigns in the meantime.

You spoke of the death of <Uncle> Zebulon Millet. I can remember seeing him at Church as long ago as I can remember any thing. One after another of our aged drops away & we grow older. Soon the children will think our hair was always gray and wonder why we are not active & gladsome as they. Yet they too are plodding on to manhood age and the grave.

Yes it will soon <grow> to you to have Uncle Ensign, Aunt Martha & Laura at Lewiston. What are they going there for? Give my love to them when you see them. Tell father Rowland's hopes are strong for 1860. "Bide your time, truth must triumph in the end." I have written Dellie lately. My love to Father. Remember me to the neighbors who inquire.

Affectionately yr son  
O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Lizzie]

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641 11/16/1856 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0587b

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Otis]

[Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.]

November 16th 1856]

My dear Mother

I have not written you since I came to Troy, and now Otis brought me into brother Rowland's room without telling me what he wanted of me. If he should do so every time he writes I presume I would write as often as he, but when I say I would like to write to you, and not go directly about it, I am very apt to think of some household matters that need my attention, and therefore that opportunity passes without my having written. We are very glad to hear of you often, and hear of your health. I hope you do not have your work or cares increased, but are as happy as it is possible for you to be. Be it as it may be assured ever of the kind love of your daughter Lizzie. Please give my love to Cynthia.

[Lizzie Howard]

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642 12/1/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0589

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
Dec 1st 1856.

My dear Mother,

It is a fortnight yesterday since I wrote you and I have received one letter since then from you, giving an account of your visit to Massachusetts. I should be glad to see Mrs Ames & get better acquainted with father's relatives, but I may never have the opportunity. Should any one of them come my way I would be very happy to have a call & should any opportunity I would be pleased to pay a visit to Easton & its environs.

Lizzie wrote a little in a letter to you, the last one I sent. She loves dearly to get letters from you and I think would enjoy writing if she would write oftener, so as not to get out of the habit entirely. She depends on me entirely to keep up the correspondence. Sometimes a longer time slips by than I am aware of between my letters. Before I was married home was always in my thoughts, but now my cares have increased and my anxieties have been extended over a wider circle. I don't love you less since Guy has been given us, but more. I more fully appreciate parental feelings.

But I have more little things to divide my attention. When I feel like writing a letter, I am not so much alone and master of my time as I used to be. If I have griefs & vexations I don't have to trouble my mother with them as I used to, when I have pleasant surprises I don't think of taking my pen as I used to & telling my mother of them. This you will bear me witness is one of the bad fruits of getting married & having a domestic hearth of your own. Still there need be no interruption of warm sympathies & old fashioned confidence. Surely I don't mean there shall be. My heart is as tender as it ever was and I am as capable of kindly feelings as I ever have been and I don't mean to let age or care change me in these respects.

We are all very well. Guy & his mother have just come into "Uncle Rowland's" room to bother. He is showing "Uncle" his new mittens, and his new shoes - now helping him lock his trunk - now playing with the round looking glass. He is still fat, almost as tall as the table. Eyes dark blue, when pleased expression pleasant, when observing things new & strange he has a little of the Howard concentrating scowl. He plays hard, talks not much; mimicks the chickens & the Kitty, says "cut - cut - cut - dah!" "Tate tare", for take care, "pa-pa & ma ma". He runs alone quite well, but he topples over occasionally, and now & then gets a bump on the head. He is a lively, sprightly boy, always wide awake and ready for a frolick till sleepy time, but he has'nt got a tooth yet, and though his bottle has been laid on the shelf he will put his thumb in his mouth when he is hungry & to go to sleep with.

So much for Guy. I amused Lizzie by telling her what Guy would be saying to little John Francis when they meet, how Guy would talk about the canal & such things as he saw in New York to the admiration & wonder of the latter & how John Francis would show Guy strange & new things on the farm.

How is Cynthia, Roland & the little one? Remember me & Lizzie to them. Tell them if they chose to make it so, theirs may be a quieter & more comfortable life than ours, but comfort and domestic happiness may attach any where even to a flying camp if the hearts are only right.

I manage to keep my expenses within bounds. I have deposited 150.00 dollars in the savings bank since my return and have supported my family & kept out of debt on my pay. My horses are too expensive, but I have not yet been able to dispose of either to advantage.

We have had a heavy snow storm, commencing Saturday. To day I have taken Mrs Lee & Lizzie to town (Troy) in a sleigh. This accounts for Guy's new things. Lizzie & myself are going to New York by the Boat Tuesday night, on a week's visit. She has been rather unwell & I am in hopes the visit will refresh her. Perry Lee is now at Brooklyn. We had a letter from him a day or two ago.

We had a letter from Uncle Ensign and Laura, were very glad to hear from Lewiston. Uncle Ensign says he has at different times written reminiscences of his younger days in which father bears quite a prominent place. I

should be delighted if he would continue & give me these accounts. Uncle Ensign always treasures up events of interest; whether time & frequent repetition has suffered a vivid imagination to color them slightly or not, they are all as real to him & would be as interesting to me as anything I know of.

Charlie must have gone to his school. Is Dellie at home? How is father this winter (for I believe winter commences to day). My love to all &c.

Believe me as ever your most affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

To  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Leeds  
Maine

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643 12/15/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0590

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
Decr 15th 1856.

My dear Mother,

I told you in my last letter that Lizzie & myself were intending to go to New York & spend a week. We did so and returned last Tuesday night. We left here Tuesday preceeding in the large steamer Commodore that runs by night between Troy & New York. We were hindered by a snow storm three or four hours on the way so that we did not arrive till late on Wednesday, but we had a good State-room & a good night's rest - and an excellent breakfast on board. When we reached the wharf we found it raining hard. I left Lizzie on the Boat & threaded my way across the city to Frank's office, where I found him & got the necessary directions to his house in Brooklyn and returned to Lizzie at the boat.

Landings if you remember, for the Hudson River boats are on the western side towards Jersey City and not very far from Broadway. I took the valise & a bundle and Lizzie the carpet bag & we walked up to Broadway, followed by little boys, crying "shall I carry your baggage"? "Will carry it to any part of the city." We came out near Trinity Church & took an Omnibus for South Ferry. We crossed, went up Atlantic St. till we came to Henry turned to the right down Henry St & went on till we came to Harrison, turned to the left & walked up Harrison till we came to No 54.

This may serve you as a direction should you ever visit Brooklyn. We found Sarah not very well, troubled considerably with a sick head-ache. Aunt Ann was very well. She feels Uncle's [Ann's brother John Otis] death very grievously. She cannot speak of him without crying. Sarah's little boy is an active little fellow, just beginning to talk. He is quite tall of his age & very spare. He made us think Guy quite young by comparison. Perry was at home, wanted me to give his love when I wrote. He cleared for Jamaica last Thursday & will visit England & Bremen before he returns again. Rowland says he wrote you that he took Freddie Strickland with him. The latter came after we had been there a day or two. He is a great fat boy isn't he? He was much pleased with the idea of going to sea, more I presume than he is at this present moment.

Aunt & Sarah had a good deal to inquire about you & wanted me to send their love in my next letter. They have at present a very large family. Edwin & Grenville Darling, Frank's sisters children & a boy by the name of Allen McClure (son of a clergiman at Nassau) were boarding with them. Frank's brother Charles who is in his office also takes his breakfast, supper & lodgings there. Lizzie and Sarah spent Thursday shopping in New York, while I walked about & talked with Perry. Lizzie came back at night pretty well used up.

On Friday we went over to New York & thence to Governor's island starting near South Ferry in a barge belonging to the Government. This boat is manned by six oarsmen & runs back & forth between the Island & New York regularly. The wind was strong & the waves ran high. Lizzie though a little timid at first was not sick. The "New York Arsenal" belonging to the United States is situated on this Island as well as Fort Columbus.

Capt Whiteley of our Department is stationed there. We visited his quarters but found him & his wife both gone to the city. I found other officers of my acquaintance. Lizzie & I went into the fort to look about, called upon the wife of Lt Carroll & returned to Capt Whiteley's just as they were coming in sight. We stopped & dined with them & had a very pleasant visit. Capt W sent us over to Brooklyn directly about 5 o'clock P.M in his own boat. We got to Sarah's about dusk took tea & went to New York to spend the evening at Walack's Theater. We were entertained with a tragedy & a comedy both in very good taste & pretty well acted with less affectation perhaps than usual. The scenery was most excellent.

I would like to delay here & give you a description of what I saw & heard but I must hasten on for Lizzie is waiting for me to leave Rowland's room & go to bed. The next day Saturday I went shopping with Lizzie in New York. She bought her a cloak & Guy the materials from which to make one. She got him also a little hat, with which he is much pleased, never pulls it as he did his handsome bonnet.

On Sunday we went to Church three times, in the morning to Mr Chapins, who is probably the greatest

Universalist preacher in the world. The Church is situated in New York about a mile from South Ferry on Broadway. It was crowded full. Mr Chapin is indeed an eloquent man & apparently most sincere. We went in the afternoon to hear Professor Hitchcock formerly of Brunswick, Me, but were disappointed, having to listen to rather a dry discourse by a Professor Smith. In the evening we went to the Church of Henry Ward Beecher. It was crowded to overflowing. It is a Church of a peculiar construction & will seat as many as three thousand people, and there were probably upwards of four thousand there that night. I never listened in my life to such a discourse. In originality, power & eloquence it far exceeded my highest expectation. It was as strong an appeal as could well be made to young men.

Tuesday Lizzie went out again a little while with Aunt Ann. Aunt says she will visit us at Christmas. We came up Tuesday night on the Harlem road, had a collision on the road 38 miles beyond Albany - were thrown from the track & detained all night, but nobody was seriously injured. We found all well. Rowland attending Law lectures at Albany & Guy trolling all over the house. Lizzie Thursday evening last went up to bring me my cap, for I had opened the scuttle window & gone out in the housetop to shovel off the snow, & when she was returning the window fell down on her head and cut it quite badly. She is now most well.

Affectionately yr son  
Otis

I have sold my horse Malec and bought a sleigh in partnership or rather as a joint owner with Mr Lee. I am writing this marginal note on the 16th Guy Howard's birth day. All send love. Rowland leaves here at 8 A.M.

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644 12/22/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0591

Watervliet Arsenal W.  
Troy N. Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal W. Troy N. Y.  
Dec. 22nd 1856.

Dear Mother,

I am sorry not to have more time to write you a long letter, before I leave for the South. I received orders to report to the Commanding General in Florida as soon as practicable last Thursday evening. I did not feel sure of going even then, for Mr. Boggs had just sent an application to be sent south during the winter. But he has not heard from Washington & I am certain he will not be substituted for me. This duty is not permanent but nobody knows how long I shall be there. It is an important Command. I have charge of the Ordnance Department in the field, to purchase, make requisition for or otherwise obtain, arms ammunition &c and issue them to the troops as they are required. I will have a detachment of men & be ready to make all the necessary repairs. I shall go first to Fort Myers. (Fort Myers is on the western coast & south of Tampa Bay). My order don't specify that Fort, so I must look out for Genl. Harney & find him where I can.

I have sold my pony, sleigh, harness & robe this forenoon. Lizzie will remain here till Rowland's Law lectures are over & then (say about the first of March) go on to Maine. I will leave it to Rowland to explain in detail. Lizzie, mother Waite & Guy are well & wish their love sent to you. It is rather a hard case to break up & be off again so soon, but I regard it as somewhat to my advantage. I shall leave here tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent. I may not leave N. York till Saturday.

God grant that we may meet again in the best of health. May his blessing rest with you all & my little family is my prayer.

You will hear from me often on my journey & after I arrive, I will write when I can get the time. My best love to Charlie, Dellie & father. Remember us to Roland and his family. I am cheerful & not much displeased with my duty.

Very affectionately your son  
Otis

P.S.

I enclose a letter from Ella which I thought might be interesting to you as it gives some account of her ancestors. By "Grandpa" she means Capt. Hunter. Will you please to put it by & keep it safely for me. Some of it may be a little unintelligible to you, but what you can understand may interest you. She wrote very hastily as she has to now, since she is "Housekeeper" & taking care of the children. "Abby" is a seamstress & "Mary" an Irish girl "Julia" is Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. Foote's daughter.

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645 12/24/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0592

Brooklyn N.Y

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn N.Y.  
Decr. 24, 1856

My dearest wife,

I am at Frank's. We left Albany about eleven, the train being delayed waiting for the Troy train. We came straight through without much delay & no accident on the H.R.R. We reached Chambers St. by 5 P.M. and I came straight here. I met with an officer Lt. Hemer, who got aboard at Garrison's. He had been in Florida & told me the route. It is by Steamboat to Savannah & thence by Steamboat to Palatka on the St. Johns River. Thence by stage to Tampa. This will be my route. I leave Saturday at 3 o'clock p.m. I shall go to Governors Island tomorrow & next day to Fort Hamilton to Lt. Wm. Webb, who has just come there. I went to see Mr. Parke the auctioneer at Albany. He says he will go to see you & the <> furniture the first time he goes to Troy. I hope <> are well & happy. My love to all. <> and kisses to Guy.

Yr loving husband  
Otis

[Bottom left corner torn off] <> sends her best love & hearty sympathy. Frank <> confined to his room.

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646 12/26/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0593

N. York City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N. York City  
Dec. 26, 1856

My dear Mother,

I came here from Watervliet last Wednesday, got in about five P.M. It was very stormy when I left Troy. I rode to Albany in an open sled & had a cold ride, but the rest of the way we talk on very well. I found Frank Sgt. confined to his room. He has been bleeding at the lungs, but from the upper part. All think he will get well. He has no cough. Sarah & Aunt Ann are quite well. I went to Governor's Island yesterday and dined with Capt. Whiteley of the Ordnance. I have attained considerable information with reference to Florida from officers who have recently come from Tampa. I went back to Brooklyn last night. I resolve to go Saturday next in the Steamer Alabama to Savannah and thence by Steamer to Palatka on the St. Johns River in Florida & thence by stage across the country to Tampa. This morning I went aboard the Steamer Alabama and then went to the office in Broadway, where I paid my passage through to Palatka thirty-three dollars. After this I went to the Paymaster's office and then met Lieuts Vincent and Haynes. The latter had just arrived from Florida he told me about the route. Says he got through in seven days. He says I will be permanently located at Tampa, and that Arms will be sent into me for repairs. I can't tell anything certain about my return. It may be in three or four months & I may be there much longer

Give my love to all. If I can get time tomorrow I will write to Charlie & Dellie. I shall write you again to send a letter from Savannah, till then farewell.

From your very Affectionate Son  
OO Howard

I am at Frank's office.

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647 12/26/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0594

New York City  
Paymasters Office

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York City Dec. 26, 1856  
Paymasters Office

My dearest Wife,

I shall enclose you herewith a check for 50 dolls endorsed over to your order. If you don't want it immediately please put your name on the back & deposit it to my Credit at the State Bank Troy. Get Mr. Lansing to go with you & introduce you. You will thus be enabled to be recognized at any time you may wish to draw.

I visited Governors Island yesterday and spent the day with Capt. Whiteley. The Capt. & Mrs. W. sent their love & sympathy to you. The Capt. says I will have a permanent station probably at some settlement and arms will be sent me for repairs &c, perhaps at Tampa or Ft. Myers. It was rougher when I went over in the morning than when we went, but the Capt. sent me to Brooklyn in the evening, when it was very calm. I dined with Capt. W & had a fine Christmas dinner. I met several officers there, one of whom Lt. Ward had a son born the night before. He was in most excellent spirits. It was his first child. It forcibly recalled the anxiety & subsequent joy of Dec 16, 1855, when our darling guy made his ingress.

Remember my darling wife that your husband's heart will be with you in the coming trials. Be very cheerful and bear up nobly. God will help you. Your happiness will not be mired in the end by this separation & what is to come. I feel it and know. Don't retire at night without asking Heaven's blessing on your absent husband & yourself. Give my best love after yourself & Guy to Mother & Rowland. My love to Mr. & Mrs. Lee and the rest.

I have paid my passage to Palatka thirty-three dollars. It is so much less than I anticipated that I have resolved to send you fifty dollars for your use when needed. I have been on board the steamer Alabama in which I go to Savannah. I might delay and go with some troops next Tuesday over the same route but would risk losing my transportation.

I have had none too much time in N. York to do everything, otherwise I would have been most happy to have returned & spent a day or two with you. Write to mother if you can and tell her how handsome are my prospects for a pleasant command & pleasant duty. You will not hear from me again till I reach Savannah unless something happens to detain me. Take good care of yourself darling & <> our little boy as much as you please. Tell him not to grow too fast for me to know him.

Yr loving husband  
Otis

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648 12/28/1856 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Rowland B Howard

OOH-0595

Andover

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Andover Dec. 28, 1856

Sunday eve 9 o'clock

My Dear Brother

I have long been trying to get time to write you a letter, and I have now found time to do so. As it is late I cannot write a very long letter so you must keep up with what you can get. I started from home on Friday the 12th inst. and went to Boston or rather Summerville. I was landed on the ground about 20 rods from any building whatever but seeing a building on the railroad at some distance, I started for it, and soon found it to be a watch house for the man who tended the gate. No one was there, I walked along following the directions given me by father until I met an Irishman of whom I asked the way to Winter Hill. He directed me so that I found Uncle Henry's after walking over a due amount of land. I got there about 8 o'clock in the evening after the girls had gone to bed; Aunt Martha soon got me a dinner and supper and I eat like a good fellow. I went to bed.

When I awoke the first thing that I thought of was what was best to do. At last I concluded to walk to Boston with Uncle and see the "Elephants". He went with me to see a great many buildings of importance and finally landed me in the Old State House in pursuance of the directions given him by Oliver Hazard. I must wait until Mr. Hazard came who was coming soon, but if I had waited until he came I should have stayed until the next day which I was in no way disposed to do as you may imagine. After staying there about one hour and a half I was very much relieved by seeing Oliver come himself who soon took me to the Omnibus office with him where we found what we wanted viz. an Omnibus (t). After I was seated in Mr. Hazard's parlor. Soon we eat dinner, then Roddy and I started for the tour of Boston which we duly accomplished in the course of the afternoon to my infinite relief. In the evening we I read, talked, thought, played, moped, sat still, &c until I got sick of it, and with pleasure accepted the invitation to "retire". Went to church in the forenoon of the next day and stayed in the house in the afternoon. In the evening I accepted the invitation to go and see Mrs. Mount an old acquaintance of mothers. Came home, went to bed.

Went to Boston in the morning and took an omnibus for Summerville, where I arrived much earlier than I was expected; but for all of that aunt said she was glad I had come. I stayed round in the house some, read some, talked some and did other things some. In the afternoon I followed aunt into the cubels. She stayed with me some time and as she found that I had a notion of staying some time longer she gave me an opera glass and told me to amuse myself as long as I pleased.

The next day I went alone!!!!!! (How funny) alone to Bunker Hill Monument and after paying the "fee" a man put a lantern in my hand and told me to take care of myself which I accordingly did!!! When I got back I found it was most dinner time. I amused myself then until it was time for the girls to go to school and after receiving a due amount of shaking goodly hands and..., They went to school. At two o'clock I started for the depot having previously learned what time the cars were to go by Summerville. When I got most there the cars were just starting from the depot but I knew that they only went to Reading so I didn't care. The depot master told me to go down to a white post which was down on the railroad and the cars would stop there. But when I got there I found that, that post was not the only white post as there was another about 50 rods below, how could I tell which one it was? Well I thought I would stand about halfway between them run the risk of getting into the cars. Now you see I run the risk of it and had to RUN too, but I got on board and in about an hour was found standing in the depot at Andover Mass. I looked around, found my baggage where it had been put on the night that I went to Boston. Man carried them up and after paying a 25 cent piece to him I found my chum.

I got settled that night mostly and was admitted into the club. That night it was cold, Wednesday it was colder, Thursday Coldest, the thermometer was 14 below 0. I have not done any thing since I got here of any importance except getting my lesson. My Chum is a rogue. Is about half sailor and half lands man. His father is a lobster fisher. I don't think he and I can do much together but I shan't say anything to disturb the harmony. Don't say anything to mother about my chum because she will be troubled more about me than she is now. Had I better accept an <agentsy> which I can obtain? Write me what you think about it. I wish to make some money if I can and not depend entirely on father for all I wish for as I do not know how he will be able to furnish us all, with money and I want to relieve him some if I can by any exertions of my own. Give my love to Otis

Lizzie Mrs. Waite, & Mr. Guy.

I remain &c your brother,  
R.H. Gilmore

Mr. Rowland B Howard

P.S.

I should not do anything with my agency except in vacation. I will send you a paper showing what it is before long. I have sent it home now and as soon as I can get another I will send it to you. The fellow who rooms opposite me supports himself by means not near so good as this. He said he would give anything if he could get it. He is now a senior and does not get a cent of money that he can't earn himself and he gets it all by this business.

Rodelphus

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649 12/28/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0596 Steam Ship Alabama

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Steam Ship Alabama  
Dec. 28th, 1856

My dearest wife,

It is now eight o'clock Sunday night and I am several hundred miles away, on the ocean & out of sight of everything besides the stars, the water & the ship with its contents. We are going on smoothly, have had a remarkably good passage thus far. I haven't been sick yet. Slept soundly all last night and was up bright & early to see the sun rise up from its watery bed, but was disappointed for there were clouds to obscure it then, though we have had it bright and warm all day. We have 40 or 50 passengers aboard, a dozen of whom are ladies.

I will give you what I have scribbled down in my diary so as to account for myself since I wrote you in the paymaster's office. I then enclosed you fifty dollars which I hope you received. I want you to write me directing your letter to Tampa Fla as soon as you get this if you haven't done so already.

I went from the paymasters with two Lts. Vincent & Haynes (who by the way had just returned from Tampa & gave me quite an idea of the place) to the Treasury office to get my check cashed & then to the post office to mail your letter. I bought two pairs of shoes & a semi-uniform cap like that of Mr. Boggs. Then went to Chambers St. Depot where I had left my trunk, put my things in and sent it by an express man to the ship. After this I proceeded to Maiden Lane & bought a sword, then went to Frank's office, where I wrote a short letter to mother and returned to Brooklyn & spent the night.

Now for the diary for the rest: viz:

"Dec. 27th. I took leave of my friends in Brooklyn about ½ past 9 a.m. to day and went to see that my trunk was on board the Steam Ship Alabama & find my room. I then went to Appleton's to procure a travelers guide & was surprised to find an old acquaintance and distant relative of my wife, Emerson Whitman, a clerk in the establishment. I talked with him a while. He had been there over a year & lives in the city with his wife & child. I went to Frank's office in South St. to bid them good bye & then returned to Appleton's & bought several presents. One being the "Margaret" with illustrations in etching struck my fancy. I bought it & directed it to be sent to Lizzie for a New Year's gift. Emerson & I took dinner together at a Saloon & then walked to pier no 4 to the ship. He stopped with me about an hour & then bade me good bye.

This is the first time I have been on a steamship & I find much that is new to look at. I had a curiosity to scrutinize the countenances of those who were to accompany me on the voyage. Striving to get at their character, profession & place of nativity by their physiognomy, their language & their manners, as they were coming on board talking with the friends they were to leave behind & who had come to see them off. I stationed myself for this purpose near the gangway. I soon however left this place & went on deck, walking about generally. After a while I made the acquaintance of a Navy officer Mr. Thomas & through him of the captain of the vessel, who has the Euphonic name of Schenk. I was also introduced to a young man by the name of Gosner. The Navy officer is on his way to Pensacola Fa under orders. We smoke, talk & walk together.

In the meantime the hawser is thrown off & the wheels begin to move. The passengers crowd upon the upper deck & wave handkerchiefs to friends left behind who return the compliment with interest. We now move off in a graceful & easy manner. New York begins to recede. The forest of shipping at the docks begins to bristle in the distance as we take in a more comprehensive view. Now we are gliding in between the Sea-Girt Isle (Long Island) & the Jersey shore. How beautiful (a panoramic window) is this part of the harbor.

We stopped before we reached Sandy Hook to put off two men who would not pay their fare, had a good supper at five, went on deck to smoke a cigar and then down into the cabin where the passengers amused themselves with reading, games of chance &c. Now I am in my room. The boat is very steady, trembles a little, but not enough to do any harm, even to a weak stomach.

It is 10 o'clock & I will try my bed. I am fairly on my way. Goodbye Lizzie & Guy & all. Good bye New York. May

the time not be long before I see you again.

Dec. 28 (Sunday) I went to bed at 10 last night & had a comfortable sleep till seven this morning. We have had delightful weather. I have not been sick at all yet & really there is nothing to make me so. The ship has moved on as steadily as a riverboat. I have been on deck the most of the forenoon."

It is now Monday morning and the sun is bright & warm. What a delightful passage we have had. Last night I retired before nine o'clock & had another good nights rest. As we passed Cape Hatteras we had a little swell & many passengers were sick, but I was too sleepy for that & came out in good shape this morning. My companion of the Navy is a very pleasant man. There is a strong fellow feeling between us, not only that we both belong to the Service but he too leaves a wife & one child in New York.

(Monday evening) I am about to "turn in" my dearest wife and I will finish up this letter as I expect I will have little time in the morning for we will get to Savannah pretty early. I couldn't have enjoyed a passage more than I have this, except if you had been along & been well. We have breakfasted at eight lunched at twelve, dined at three & lunched again at one half past nine. Our fare has been first rate. The machinery is so covered that you do not have that oily smell that you object to on the steamboat. I suppose you are sleeping & that little boy is kicking you as he did me. I would like to kiss you both before I go to sleep, but cannot.

Give my love to all. You & Rowland must be the best of friends. Write me everything. I want to know all your little troubles & great ones. May heaven bless you. I hope yr mother is in good health & spirits. Good night. I do hope you will get on well. It won't be many days before I write again.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

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650 12/30/1856 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Husband [O O Howard]

OOH-0598

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Dec 30, 1856

My dearest Husband,

I was very happy to receive two letters from you while you remained in New York, and knowing you will be happy to hear from home as soon as possible I will write this early, hoping it will reach you soon after your arrival at Tampa.

It is now Tuesday evening. Dear little Guy had but one nap to-day and has gone to sleep so early this evening that I will have time to write a long letter to you, dearest. I desire so much to hear of your safe arrival & to receive a letter written after you have arrived at the end of your journey. I do think of you constantly, and cannot help feeling lonely sometimes, but my best Otis. I do bear this our first separation with fortitude, and you would say so if you could see me a day. My dear little boy is so doubly dear to me now, and I do pray that he may continue in health and be spared to us many years. He does not miss you as much as I thought he would, but I think it is because Mr Lee and brother Rowland play with him so much.

My dearest Otis I feel and am convinced of the truth of all you said to me in your second letter from N.Y. and will anticipate the future full of pleasure and happiness and not pain. I received yesterday by express my beautiful present you left me. I like it very much indeed, nothing could have pleased me more, and what you wrote in it is so pretty. The writing looked so natural and the "Two hours before leaving for Florida" and the pleasure of getting something from you I must say brought a few tears that I could not suppress.

Mr Lee and brother Rowland have gone to the "Lyceum lecture". We all went last eve to hear brother R and I did not know and had never heard Mr Holland (who lectures this evening) therefore preferred to stay and write this letter. I have received a letter from Mr Bernard Gilpin saying "I am very much obliged for the tracing received, think they will be quite sufficient for my purpose. I have instructed "Mssrs J.N. Lawton and Bro" of Boston to transmit to you \$20.48 &c", by the next mail came from them a check to the order of Mr. O. O. Howard on the firm in New York. "Mssrs H. W. Haydock & Co." 71 John St., N.Y. Check dated Dec 26. I intend to see what I can do about it at the Brokers here, shall ask Mr. Lansing. Rowland acknowledged the receipt of it for you. You see I am well supplied with money and shall not need more from you for some time.

Mr Parks called to see me yesterday. I told him "Lieut Lee might purchase my furniture, but if he did not I would like his assistance". I get along exceedingly well with every thing. I shall settle the bills for the month tomorrow, and do a little shopping in Town. I hope you will not give yourself an unnecessary anxiety about us, who are at Watervliet. Brother R says his term finishes about the 22d of Feb. Therefore I think we will be in Maine the first of March. I do not feel that it will be hard work to get ready to move. I know Mr Lee will purchase many things, and some I do not wish to sell, so there will be very little if any to send away. I think only the sofa and table.

I have been collecting all your letters today looking them over and not keeping those of no consequence whatever: then I came to our two boxes, and have selected our letters from all others (excepting a few from your Mother and brothers) and arranged them in this manner. I put my first letter to you in the same envelope containing your first letter to me, and so throughout the whole correspondence. Not every one of your letters has a letter of mine enclosed, but just where they belonged (by the date and year there they are enclosed. I shall reread them some day and would you not destroy those unpleasant ones!

Darling how much 'I love you' now, truly love you. In many of my letters I saw that expression but then Oh! it did not mean then what, or half it does when I say now, I love you; even those words do not seem to express my affection for you. No, my darling Otis, not one night has passed, or shall pass without my asking God's blessing to rest on us, and that He will be with you during your absence, and teach us all to love him more and more, and to turn to Him for support in times of trouble. I have already written a long letter to our Mother. I wrote as cheerful as I could, told her the brightest possible view of the change and that I would always write her as soon as I ever heard from you. We received a letter from Dellie to-night who has just returned to Andover from

vacation.

The clock just struck ten and as I have nearly covered this sheet I will not write more tonight but finish tomorrow or let brother Rowland add the next sheet. With the kindest and best feelings of affection towards you I remain your little Wife.

Lizzie

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651 12/31/1856 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0813

[Watervliet, NY]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wednesday morning [From Watervliet, NY]

Dec 31 '57 [Should be 1856. See note 1]

My dearest Otis

I asked brother R if he wished to write in my letter this time, and he concluded he would not, but would write a letter by himself very soon. He goes to Albany every morning by the cars from Troy at 8 o'clock. We breakfast at 15 minutes past seven regularly. I find that I can do nothing with this check, therefore will enclose it to you to be endorsed.

All send love to you, and please accept ever so much, from  
Lizzie

[Note 1. Dec 31 was on a Wednesday in 1856 and was on a Thursday in 1857. The references to Albany and Troy fit better with Dec 1856 than 1857.]

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652 1/1/1857

*From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* [O.O. Howard]

OOH-0597

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy Jan 1, 1857

Dear Father

As I have not yet learned how to write I have got uncle Rowland to write for me. I miss you very often & continues when Mamma says where's papa? I look all about for you & sometimes try to ring the bell. I wish you a very "happy new year". I have tumbled down several times today but it hurt my feelings full as bad as it did my head. I have been down in Uncle's room & had a nice time playing "peep" under his bed. I don't think I have learned much since you went away.

I want to ride so I don't know what to do. I saw lots of sleighs full of little boys & girls not much bigger than I am & they had some music which pleased me so much that I kept time on the window pane all the time they were passing by. There have also been a great many sleighs & bells to see Miss Edith & Mrs Boggs today & I love to look out of the window & cry whoa & oh-jack! When they drive up & away. Mamma put a card on her door saying "Mrs Howard does not receive company today" so we didn't have any except Rowland & Mr Lee who rang the bell & sent their card up. Uncle Rowland & Mr. Lee went to call some. I call "Annnn" very often & have very good times with her and Katie down in the Kitchen.

Lieut. Todd is to take Mr. Boggs place when he goes away next Tuesday.

Grandmother is not very well, but I love to plague her all I can because she loves to have me. I wish you had'nt sold Pony so Uncle could have carried me to ride. Now I've got my new hat & Mamma has got my new cloak most done. Then there's my mittens. I could go just as well as not.

Uncle Rowland goes over to Troy & takes the cars every morning at quarter before Eight. So we have breakfast at 7 1/4. I don't care for I love to get up early but it is rather hard for Mamma & Mrs Lee. I wish Mamma would let me see those pretty pretty pictures in her Christmas book, if it is as big as I am.

I have some "cukes" every morning after the rest get through. Mamma let me see your letters but I tore one of the envelopes & she took them away tho' I held on good & cried a little, just to let them see that I must have my own way in everything. I guess I shan't write to you again till next 4th of July so you must make the most of this.

O I had a real pretty spoon & fork given me Christmas day by Mrs Thornton & Mrs Lee. Uncle Rowland showed me twenty five dollars in gold that they gave him for lecturing. I guess I <will> lecture one of these days if I can get those yellow shiners wouldn't you? I wish I could sit still long enough to have my picture to send you, but I can't, there is so much to look at. I don't love to sleep alone with Mamma & I wish you would come home.

Tell me about the Indians & the pretty flags they hang out all round in the woods. I'm going to learn to read those blocks you gave me pretty soon. Mamma wants me to tell you that she sent you a draft for \$20.45 for you to put your name on the back so that she could get the money for me.

I'm going to make a picture one of these days & get shiners.

Guy Howard X His Mark

Witness R.B. Howard

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653 1/4/1857

*From:* Rowland [R B  
Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0545

West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Troy Jan 4th, 1856 [Should be 1857. See note 1]

My dear Brother

We are all well this morning and all at home. I gave a very distinct invitation to each of the ladies to go to church with me, but there is a light snow which fell yesterday on the ground so that they had a good excuse which you know they are not loathe to take advantage of when church-going is concerned.

Lizzie wrote you the first of the week & enclosed the draft sent by your English friend. In the letter accompanying, he expressed his thanks to you in so cordial a manner as to make me say to Lizzie, that if you had read it I guessed you would have said that you wished you had said \$30.00, or more. Guy wrote you in his letter the principal details of his life for a few days back. The chickens are gradually disappearing down our throats. Christmas & New Year's made sad havoc among them. Lizzie writes you about the furniture. What Mrs. Lee will take & what she will sell otherwheres. I have done nothing about the carriage yet.

Mr. Boggs has not yet received his leave altho' he expects it every day. My lecture passed off in a way very gratifying to me & would have been so to you, could you have been present. When the president paid me the 25.00 he said that everyone pronounced it the best they had had & in every way excellent. He was sorry that their circumstances would not permit them to pay me more liberally. I was, too.

Dr. Gregory came & shook hands with me after I got through that night & expressed himself "highly pleased, yes more than pleased, instructed & edified". I always expect the ladies to be pleased with my enthusiasm, but I prized the Doctor's praise more highly for I think he judged of the performance by its real merits.

I go down on the Troy & Greenbush R.R. every morning to Albany at quarter before 9 o'clock. I get eight tickets for a dollar & am carried over by a R.R. Sleigh at Albany gratis. I have taken part in two of the " moot-courts" & am jun. Counsel in a case to be argued next Friday. Judge Conkling is very kind in assisting me to look up authorities and in advice.

We have had no violently cold weather since you left. Lizzie's present was, in my opinion one of the most beautiful and appropriate in the world. It is a work of art for national pride as well as individual delight.

Friday. Mrs. Lee and Lizzie walked over to Troy. Lizzie stood it first rate but Mrs. Lee came to near freezing her feet that they swelled and she had a real crying spell. Everything goes on very much as it did when you were here. I settled the months gas bill yesterday & it amounted to \$5.94. Learned 11.06. Bread 4.19 Skinner 12.27. So you see we are a little better off than last month. Lizzie thinks she will dismiss Thomas entirely as Annie can just as well see to the furnace. We shall either kill or sell the pig alive before long.

Mrs. Dunlop called to see Lizzie Friday. Lizzie seems cheerful, but if possible still more devoted to Guy than when his father was here to share her attentions. The only danger to the little fellow is in too much love & care. I fear for him. We haven't heard from Mother since you left. Dellie writes from Andover where he is passing his studies. I enclose his last letter to me which I think rather funny. Ella writes me about twice a week. Her letters are full of expressions of sympathy for Lizzie. She says she is "in hopes that the day may come when we may reciprocate the kindness for which I have been indebted to you & Lizzie". Ella fell in love with you at first sight & now wearies in telling me how much she loves you. She has few favorites but as her mother says, "she loves them to death". You are decidedly among the number. Of course, she is overjoyed at the prospect of seeing me as soon as the first of March.

Lizzie has written mother & I wrote her a long letter New Year's Day. We shall expect to hear from her soon. I also wrote to Charles & Dellie. If any of them write to you before we hear from you they will direct to Tampa. I think Ella may write as I told her I know a letter would be very welcome to you, isolated as you will be from all your family, relatives & friends.

I expect some active operations will commence against the Indians about this time as the time of the truce is now over. We are, of course, chiefly interested in those things that <> you personally. Lizzie is looking for a letter tomorrow or next day from you while at Savannah. I suppose it will take about ten days to hear from the neighborhood of Tampa.

I have not missed the cars any morning yet & tho' it was a little hard at first. I believe we are getting along nicely with the early breakfast 7 1/4 o'clock. I will not enlarge upon the feelings which I experienced at your sudden departure & separation from all you love & all who loved you. You find them all in your own heart. It is a cheering reflection that the same kind Providence governs everywhere & he will take care of you. Lizzie likes to be so independent in her dealings, that I can be of little use to her now. She enjoys it better so-but if anything should occur to make me necessary, my efforts shall never be wanting to make her & Guy comfortable & happy. She seems to me sometimes to think that I have more confidence in my own judgment that it deserves. I hope I may prove the contrary.

Your bro. Rowland.

Lizzie will write as soon as she receives your Savannah letter. Guy has waked up & is having a ride in the back hall with grandmother. Mrs. Waite sends love. Ditto Lizzie. Ditto Guy!

[Note 1: This is one of a group of letters that were mistakenly dated as 1856, rather than 1857. They are all written from or to Florida in January. Otis left for Tampa from Watervliet in December, 1856 and didn't return until August, 1857.]

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654 1/4/1857

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0599

Palatka Fa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Palatka Fa  
Jan 4th 1857

My dear Mother,

I did not get an opportunity to write you from Savannah, but I had a pleasant passage in the steam Ship Alabama. We left N.York at 3 o'clock Saturday a week ago yesterday & arrived in Savannah Georgia Tuesday noon. Wednesday morning I took a steamer for Florida. We were till nine o'clock last night getting through to this place. I came in an old boat. We had plenty of dirt & rough fare - no state rooms, but slept in a small cabin aft. We followed an inland passage along the coast, which passage looked very much like a river. We went out to sea seven or eight miles just before entering the St. John's, crossing what is called the St. John's bar. The reason we were so long on the way was that we were stopped by the fog.

I had a good deal of pleasant company. Travelers get pretty well acquainted when they are together so long. We had a Rev Mr. Thomas president of Emory College Georgia, three Catholics, one a Bishop & two priests, a gentleman & two ladies from New York, an old man from N. York state somewhere coming south for his health, a young lawyer from St. Louis, with a lame leg, another from Arkansas with the consumption, a rich man & a spiritualist from Louisiana, a young planter, who lives in South Carolina & owns a plantation in this State, a Doctor from Georgia, who has slaves in Georgia, but is carrying them home and one or two overseers of plantations. They nearly all took a fancy to make friends with me. The Bishop expounded the doctrines of his church, & as he was a learned man & had traveled the world over could make himself very entertaining. The spiritualist found me a candid listener to his wondrous revelations. The lawyer wanted my interest to get him a place so that he might pay his way while in Florida & the young planter & myself found each other very pleasant companions. Together we combated the priests sophistry - together we watched the porpoises & pelicans, & looked out for alligators along the bank of Black Creek River, where we went twenty miles & back out of our way to meet a mail contract.

The only three of those who reached Palatka were the President Thomas, the planter Mr. Kinsler & an overseer. The planter goes on with me tomorrow by stage sixty miles on my route. I shall have to ride three days & one night before I reach Tampa on Tampa Bay. Thence sixty or seventy miles by sea to Fort Myers. I have enjoyed the trip, been well all the time, wasn't even sea sick.

I went to a Presbyterian church today & heard a good sermon. Everything here in Florida is in most primitive, houses rough & unpainted & sand, sand all the time. The trees are magnificent - Magnolias as large as our red Oaks & green as in the summer, groves of oranges, with their yellow fruit in beautiful contrast with their green leaves & live oaks, which are green the year-round. Palatka is on the right bank as you ascend the St. John's. It has not got so many houses as Mayan village, has one steam Mill & two or three stores. The church is a log house. The St. John's is a succession of beautiful lakes & apparently has no current at all. Everything is new to me. The people are social & kind, the Negroes happy & respectful. I haven't heard a white man speak an unkind word to a Negro since I came from N. York but Irishmen get plenty of abuse from whites & Negroes.

One little scene on the boat grieved me; there were two little children a boy & a girl under twelve. I had noticed them. The little girl had looked up to me when I passed. I noticed her and she laughed & hid her face. When we got to St. Mary's on the Florida coast, I saw some Negroes come aboard the boat & speak to the girl, one of whom was a woman. The little girl was crying. I soon went ashore with the young lawyer. We saw the women crying behind a house. The young lawyer asked the woman what was the matter. She said the child was hers & her master would'nt buy her because the owner asked six hundred dollars for her - he would'nt pay but five hundred.

The boat went on & took the child along. I saw that she was happy again & playful, but I suspect the mother felt differently. Our steward whose name was Simon a Negro & a slave, said it was too bad. He said he had a good master, let him go where he pleased & hire out. He says bad mas'r make bad servant & bad servant make bad mas'r sometimes. This was his soliloquy. I did'nt ask him what suggested it. I give the slave holders the credit as far as I have seen them of treating their slaves as indulgent parents to their children. The slaves go to them

with all their little wants & complaints. One boy was asked at Pickalata what they had paid him for taking care of the horses. He says promptly "nothing". My master owns the line of stages from this place to St. Augustine & I stay up here & take care of the horses for him.

I am glad to observe these things - glad to see that this relation is generally so amicable between the Masters & his slaves, for having so deep a root it will not speedily be possible to enfranchise them, and their capacity for self-government & independence is evidently not yet. They had better be cared for as they are now in this place than turned loose on the world, with all their simplicity & improvident habits without a proper education. The master has a great care & a high responsibility to his Negroes & to his Maker and if he is a Christian he feels it. Tis wrong to think these men are not Christians. It won't do for us to judge them.

I have observed closely for I was curious. I have concluded that we should have been like this people, if God had planted us here, I find men here just like men with us. I am not defending slavery but showing you how it makes me feel to visit here & what would be precisely your experience should you journey with me.

I have got a long ride tomorrow, so I bid you good night. Give my love to all. I hope father is well. Direct to Tampa Florida & I shall get your letter. May Heaven guard us both until we meet.

Yr affectionate son  
Otis

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655 1/4/1857

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0601

Palatka Fa. (Mr. Duval's house)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Palatka Fa. (Mr. Duval's house)  
January 4, 1857

My dearest wife

You will see by the above that I am thus far on my journey. I closed my last to you just before we entered the Savannah River on Tuesday. We sailed up the Savannah slowly, where scenery altogether new to me opened upon us. The whole country had the appearance of a grand marsh. The river has hardly any current & seems like an inlet of the ocean. We arrived along side of the wharf about eleven a.m. but the river is so narrow that we were an hour at least in turning round before we could go on shore. We found that the Florida Steamer had been delayed in her passage up & would not leave till Wednesday.

Our view of Savannah from this quarter was sorry enough, far more gloomy than the river side of Troy, for in Troy you can look up & see fine buildings in the distance. Here the bricks of the buildings are of a mongrel description, light-colored & dirty and banks of sand completely obscure any view of the town.

As soon as we got on shore we moved up the steep into the town. Here I found a town altogether different from my anticipation. It seems a beautiful little village on a space of Earth as level as the house floor. Shops & stores mixed up with the houses, parks in the middle of streets separating one part from the other. Streets at right angles throughout with green trees on both sides. The city is so quiet that it makes you feel as if it was Sunday. I could walk a mile & more without meeting a carriage. Sometimes a little woolly head would strike up & sing a merry air or set himself to whistling briskly, but I felt inclined to tell him not to disturb the general quiet. But with all the beauty & rest of Savannah it don't seem as if I could live there contentedly, for there is no variety in landscape & very little energy of the people apparent.

In fact the enterprise of some of our busy towns would not seem in keeping with the scenery as the climate. But we had one exciting scene that showed there was energy there, though latent. A fire broke out near the hotel where I was stopping in the upper story of a large brick block. Guns were fired and bells were ringing faster & faster. The streets were filled with people. There was in a moment the greatest uproar & confusion. In an incredibly short space of time, five or six engines were on the spot, and then such a time I never saw before. Engines playing water shouting from all directions, the Negroes were singing in unison at the brakes. One would sing alone a few words then all join the chorus, & didn't the brakes come down? The perspiration rolled down in streams, but they seemed delighted & worked with all their might. Soon the streets were flooded so that you could hardly cross them. The fire was extinguished, the engines were run about the streets by the Negroes singing and in a little while all was hushed again, except the sound of the patrol galloping through the mud.

It was rainy in Savannah all day. It would be fair & then in a few minutes rain again. I met Lts. Evans & Trowbridge at the Pulaski house. George Crabtree, Maria's particular friend, whom I had met before at uncle John's and Mr. Sawtelle, Lieut. Sawtelle's father. I went while in Savannah to see their crack monument to Pulaski, the Polish hero, who was killed there during a siege in 1779. It is a very fine monument, has a square base or pedestal, a long shaft, a cap & the goddess of Liberty with her olive wreath in one hand & weapons laid aside in the other. Around the lower part of the shaft are four cannons inverted carved on each corner & near the base the Eagle with his usual accompaniments. It would have amused you to have heard an Englishman, my companion of the walk, criticize the work.

I sat in the office of the Pulaski house till after 12, talking with my friends & then retired. I had a pleasant sleep but was up bright & early, for I had left my slippers on the Alabama & the Fa boat was to leave at 8 o'clock. I went for them, returned, had a good breakfast and then started for the boat with my valise & sword in my hand. You need not imagine me on a magnificent steamer but on an old flatboat about as wide as she is long with the steam engine about mid-ships. We had a drizzling rain nearly all the time. We left Savannah a little after nine, and followed an inland passage sometimes about as wide as the Hudson & sometimes just wide enough for the boat to pass till we got within seven or eight miles of the mouth of the St. Johns River. We stopped at a place called Brunswick, afterwards at St. Mary's three or four hours, which for filth, sand & old buildings I never saw

equaled. Our Slab city in Leeds is a paradise compared with it.

We went down as far as Fernandina (the terminus of a railroad in process of building) & stayed all (Thursday) night alongside of a dock. The next day we put out to sea to cross St. Johns bar & took a course between breakers on either side. Many of the passengers went to bed and some were sick. I stayed on the upper deck & enjoyed the prospect. The old boat would pass & jump & tip & roll like a good one, but I was not sick. The ladies were rather frightened, but there was no danger. We soon got across.

The water was full of porpoises, jumping up & disappearing and the beach was frequently covered with cormorants or pelicans thousands in a flock. We reached Jacksonville about ½ past 3 PM Friday. This I found the most lively little town I had seen. We went on nine or ten miles & were overtaken by a fog, anchored & staid another night. We went on in the morning till we came to the mouth of a little stream called Black Creek. Sailed up this 25 miles, to Middle Burg & back to the St. Johns & then on up to this place Palatka. We arrived about 9 o'clock p.m. I found Capt. <De Busey> here looking for his wife to join him.

I would like to write you about my traveling companions & the splendid views on the St. Johns. Everything is new and strange to me. I have thought of you much. I went to church here today. Shall leave in the morning (Monday) for Tampa.

How are you all? God grant that you are well. Kiss Guy for me. Tell him his father wants to see him. My love to Roland & mother. Remember me kindly to all. I hope & trust you are not unhappy. Heaven guard you & bless you.

Yr husband  
Otis

I am very anxious to hear from you, how you manage & whether our darling is a good boy. Can he say papa yet?

It will take me till Wednesday night to get to Tampa. They say here there is not a healthier place in the United States than Tampa.

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656 1/4/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband [O  
O Howard]

OOH-0602

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan. 4, 1857

My dearest Husband

I first thought I would not commence this, my second letter, until I had received the letter you were to mail at Savannah, but to-night I am thinking so much about you, that I wish to write fearing I will be more lonely if I only think, and keep my thoughts to myself.

Brother Rowland mailed a letter to you to-day and I would have added a note but he enclosed one he had received from Dellie and that made letter enough. I intend that one of us shall write, so that there will be letters mailed to you twice a week. I must tell you that we get along nicely. I settled all the bills for last month myself, excepting the gass bill. The bills outside were not quite as much as last month. I think everything will pass pleasantly and I will not have much, if any, extra care during the remainder of our stay here. I only feel anxious about you and regret I cannot hear from you oftener and sooner, but darling, as soon as I do begin to receive letters from you, I trust you will write as often as you conveniently can. I must write to you very often that you may not be overanxious about us, or annoyed by long silence.

Little Guy is not asleep this evening so he comes to help mother write, in his way, very often. If he sees horses at the door, thinks he must ride, and brings me his creeping skirt, towel or anything to put on him so he can go ride. Then Annie takes him in his carriage up and down the hall and into Mrs. Lee's room and our rooms, which he seems to think is as good a ride as if he was riding after a horse.

Mrs. Dunlop, and her friend (whom we have seen there) Mrs. Sheward called here the day after New Year's. Mrs. D wished me to give her kind regards to you, and say she did not know you had received orders, 'till the day before, Mr. Dunlop informed her (he was at Mrs. Boggs New Year's day). I did not receive company that day but hung a card on the door on which I wrote "Mrs. Howard does not receive company to-day." I have since heard that Mrs. Tibbets did the same. Mrs. Boggs is now packing to leave here next Tuesday for Baltimore, where Mr. Boggs will leave her for the present. Edith goes with her. He has not yet received orders. It is now nine o'clock and little Guy not asleep yet, and probably will not be till I go to bed with him so, my dearest Otis, I will write a "Good Night." Heaven protect you always.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

My dearest Otis, I was very, very happy to get your letter this morning; (it is the one you wrote on board the Steamship) and I will now fill this sheet and have it mailed to-day if possible.

I am very glad your voyage to Savannah was so pleasant. I think I shall receive another letter from you by Monday next. This one I presume came back by the "Steamship Alabama" as the postmark is "New York" and has no other. I mailed a letter to you (my first letter) one week ago to-day and directed it to Fort Myers, Tampa Florida not via Tampa. So this will be the third letter you have had written to you from us. I presume brother R. told you I enclosed a check of \$20.48, from a firm in Boston by request of Mr. Bernard Gilpin for you to endorse.

Mr. Boggs has received his orders to "Baton Rouge" on Monday evening last. He has not yet returned from Baltimore, in fact they are on their way to Baltimore to-day, will return Saturday sell off, and pack up and start as soon as relieved by Mr. Shunk who has been ordered here, and also Lieut. Todd and Mr. Thornton says Maj. Bell. Mr. Boggs will take Mrs. Boggs through Richmond to Augusta on his way to his post, where she will remain 'till next April.

The last news from Maj. Symington was that he was gaining but slowly. I do not think the society here will be as pleasant as it has been a few years past. Poor Mrs. Lee is feeling rather "blue" about it, is dreading to have us all go. I believe she does not now intend to go to Beaufort in the spring, but wishes her Mother and cousin Neila De Treville to come to her. I hope they will for she would be happier with them, and better contented.

We received a letter from Uncle Hicks this morning saying that he would like us to come and board with them. I now think I would prefer to live with them than Aunt Joan's, as their family would be smaller and I rather Guy would not be with many children and Aunt has only Rosa. Uncle says, "We have been wanting a boy sometime." Thinks Guy as good as he could get.

Mrs. Lee has purchased the furniture in my chamber and the carpet, and will take more things. I intend and hope to get ready to go to Maine, as soon as Brother Rowland's lectures are finished. Guy has waked and wishes to help me. He is now giving your letter to grandmother, going back and forth and is very happy. He is very fond of his blocks, and is just as good a boy as ever.

If there is anything you need, and you apply for any of the men here, I hope you will let me send to you if the things are such as I can send, and get here better than you can there.

I made Edith a present of the smallest prayer book, and she was very much pleased with it.

All send love to you, and I hoping you are well and happy remain ever your affectionate little wife

Lizzie H.

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657 1/10/1857 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* Lizzie Howard

OOH-0547

Head Quarters Dept of  
Florida  
Tampa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters Dept of Florida  
Tampa Jan 10th 1856 [Should be 1857. See note 1]

My dearest wife,

It is a week tomorrow since I wrote you from Palatka and no doubt you are anxious to know how I got through the Indian country. I will begin back at Palatka & follow myself through my weeks work.

I slept at the house when I wrote last (Jany 5th Monday) was waked this morning by sunrise, breakfasted and started at 1/2 past 4 for Tampa. Our passengers on the stage were Capt. Taylor, a wealthy gentleman of Okala Fla, formerly a South Carolina gentleman, a young planter Mr. Kinsler, the Rev Mr. Thomas, Pres. of Oxford college Ga, an old gentleman Mr. Wyatt in the last stages of consumption with his servant and also the mail contractor Mr. Hart formerly of Vermont. We have been together long enough to get well acquainted and managed to pass the time agreeably even in this old cart of a stage. We now have four nice horses, but the roads are of a deep fine sand all the way & the best of horses will soon tire. We have been traveling all day in a forest of pine trees. Occasionally we would pass a place where a man had squatted with his family miserably poor, his shelter an old log hut & his children thin meager little creatures, with matted hair of the color of the white sand in which they play. These huts never nearer to each other then four or five miles. The forest is not generally thick but continuous. Even where somebody has planted, the trees & large stumps are still standing.

We reached Orange Springs about noon. There is quite a little settlement. They have got as far as a church & a public house; just back of this house is the spring, which gives healing to so many kinds of invalides. The water is clear & limpid, but tastes of sulfur & exhales a strong odor of the same. Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wyatt & servant left us here 25 miles out of Palatka. After we had got our dinner the rest of our party went on, over the same kind of road, jolting over the uncut roots of the Palmetto. We left Mr. Kinsler four miles before we came to Okala. This place we came into just at dusk. Capt. Taylor's plantation being not far off, he got off at Okala. He was truly an agreeable gentleman, showed me much attention and wanted me to stop a day or two with him & as I could not, insisted that I should visit him while I was in Fla and that you must stop & rest at his house over one stage at least, should you start for Tampa. I felt sorry & lonely to lose these companions. They had afforded me entertainment & instruction & Mr. Kinsler & myself had been together six days. We had got 60 miles, took supper, had two poor horses with a new driver.

Jan'y 6 (Tuesday) traveled all last night. At Okala we took in two gentleman, roughly clad, Judge Ewbanks & Mr. Nix of the Fla. legislature. The judge is an aged man & a senator. Mr. Nix a hearty middle-aged man & a representative. We passed through a continuous forest as in the day time without a sign of a habitation for miles & miles, occasionally there were hammocks covered thick with trees & underbrush so that you could not see three feet into them. I rode on a horse brought by the stage contractor to ride back on, for seven or eight miles. While riding I saw two deer skipping along, for we had a bright moon.

Before we got to a house where we were to change horses & take a meal, the driver would blow a blast on a long tin horn. About sunrise he gave some terrible blasts 4 in 15 min. after, we drove up to a log- house, where a Mr. Noyes entertained us with a warm fire (for even here we need a fire) & a warm breakfast, changed our horses, which, poor creatures, had dragged along their loaded cart in the sand over roots & stumps for 30 or 40 miles. It tired me badly to walk a couple of miles. On we went with the same monotonous scenery & the same sort of roads till we came to a Mr. Mayo's for dinner - a rich man, with a log-stove, a log-house & a log-kitchen outside of it. We dined and exchanged horses again.

The next eight miles I rode on horseback, another gentleman riding kept me company. We chatted away the time & distance & I hardly could think I had ridden so far. Here we lost our legislators, but had picked up a young man & a little girl of 7 yrs and a negroe boy. I got into the stage & we went 8 miles further. Night finds us at Mr. Whitfield's. He has a comparatively handsome log-house & a number of negroes. On the end or side of these structures of hewn logs is a chimney of clay & sand, & an immense fire place opening into it from the room within. They put on wood four feet long. Mr. Whitfield is from Mississippi himself, but married his young wife in N. Carolina. She is suffering from chills & fever now. She looked to me as if she could rate her husband

for bringing her here & did sometimes. We have good fare & a good bed here.

Jan'y 7 (Wednesday) we started on by sunrise, amused ourselves as best we could by getting the little negro to sing, reading & sleeping a little between jolts. We came about noon to a station of volunteers, where we found a small detachment without arms. The captain, McNeely, had been sent to Tampa and left his wife here in a miserable hut with two children sick with chills & fever & two more too small to take care of them-selves. She set before us such a dinner as she could. Here we changed horses for the last time & got two that had been poorly fed, so that we moped along for the next 20 miles.

We reached Tampa just after dusk without having seen an Indian all the way. All the people along the way are getting scared & moving off.

(Jan'y 8 Thursday) I find myself on board the Fashion a steamer belonging to the government & bound for Ft. Myers. Last night on my arrival at Tampa I went to a hotel & and met officers who told me that Genl Harney was at Ft. Myers and that this steamer would leave in half an hour. I made my arrangements and started immediately, was rowed out of the Bay for three or 4 miles to the place where the Fashion lay at anchor. I had last night a good & comfortable bed on board & slept soundly the whole night. Before turning in I went forward with the Captain to enjoy a moon light view of Tampa Bay & the coast of Florida. We had a gentle breeze and it was just cool enough for comfort. This morning I was up bright & early. The sun rose free from clouds & the water was still. After an excellent breakfast I walked the deck. We hardly go out of sight of the coast. The land which you can see for miles is a dead level & covered with trees & bordered towards the sea with a white sandy beach.

(Evening) We arrived at Pt. Azrasso at the mouth of the Calooslahatchie River, about one o'clock. Here we found one company of artillery commanded by Major Rochelle with Lts Hill (not Jennings) & Wingate. We stopped an hour or more, manned a small boat with 5 good oarsmen & proceeded up the river for Ft. Myers which is on the right bank 18 or 20 miles distant. We got on well for a while as it was warm & pleasant but the wind soon set in ahead & blew so hard down river that we could make very little headway. The scenery very like that on the St. John's, a succession of beautiful lakes, the channel, however, was narrow & winding. We passed the point where Gen Harney in the last Indian war was surprised & escaped alone in his drawers. He had some forty men killed. He was taken off by a boat some seven or 8 miles below. We got to the Ft. about 9 in the evening. I reported to the General immediately. I found Lt. Terrill at his office & his asst. adjt. Genl., Capt. Pleasanton. The General is about six & a half feet in height and stoutly built at that, his hair & whiskers quite gray, his eyes blue with a little of the devil in them. He received me very cordially & said I would go to Tampa with him in the morning. Capt. Pleasanton is a very handsome little man, who does not look older than 22, though he must be nearer 30. Mr. Burns of the 5th Infy. kindly offered me a part of his bed & gave me a warm fire & supper. In the morning about 9 o'clock the General & his staff consisting of Dr. McLaren, Capt. Pleasanton & myself set off with a crew of soldiers. One of the latter was crazy or a fool, laughed in the General's face & replied to him. Genl. Harney got in a perfect rage. He cursed the man & the orderly Sgt. that detailed him. The old Genl. is most terrific in his anger. He is impatient, no reasoner, jumps at conclusions, rather self-willed but continually shifting his tactics. We reached Pt. Azrasso at last, went on board the Fashion & got off for Tampa as soon as the Capt. could get up steam. In the evening we four played Dominos. The General was beaten every time. He says that is just his luck. I found the Dr a very pleasant & agreeable companion. He has been at Boston for the past five years & arrived here about two months ago. We got here late this morning and this afternoon I was assigned to duty here as Ordnance Officer.

(Sunday Jan. 10th) My candle burned out last night before I finished your letter & I went to bed. I am now at the Ordnance depot writing on a board laid across two boxes I find an Ordnance Sergeant here. I am stopping for the present at Duke's Hotel, shall have quarters as soon as I make requisition for them. Tampa is a healthy place, but everything is so rough & there is so little chance for comfort that I would not bring you here. How is our darling little Guy. I would like to see you all. Give my love to Rowland & mother & my regards to the rest. The Indians have murdered a whole family at New Smyrna, and Genl Harney has declared war against them. We have some 9000 men in the field of which 10 companies are volunteers. I may be here some time, at least as long as the campaign lasts. I shall have much to do. I think your arrangement for going to Maine the best. My dear brother must assist you all in his power. May God be your friend & your Guide. Tell Guy he must be a nice boy and love mama.

From your most affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

To Lizzie Howard

[Note 1: This is one of a group of letters that were mistakenly dated as 1856, rather than 1857. They all were written from or to Florida in January. Otis left for Tampa from Watervliet in December, 1856 and didn't return until August, 1857. The dates and days of the week correspond to 1857.]

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658 1/10/1857 *From:* Lizzie A Howard

*To:* My dearest husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0603

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Jan. 10, /57

My dearest husband

It is now Saturday evening, and I did hope to receive a letter from you by this time, but I suppose I ought not to expect one so soon. I wish I knew how long it takes a letter to come from Tampa here. I must wait patiently 'till I can get a letter from you and then count the days from the time it was mailed. I "count days" now but to what object I scarcely know. Sometimes they seem pretty <[hole in paper]> to.

But I do not make myself unhappy. I cannot avoid having lonely feelings, and must miss you very much, dearest, every day. But I feel it my duty not to look too much at the dark side, but to be as happy and cheerful as possible for my own, and dear little Guy' s sake, and it will render it more pleasant for those that see me constantly. We can think of each other, love each other, and write to each other, and it is such a pleasure to write to you, and I know you must feel the same. I want you to hear from us so often that you will be surprised, but very glad, every letter you receive. I could not wait till to-morrow but wish to write or commence this letter this evening.

Little Guy went to sleep very early and I did not want to do anything else. The distance between us does not seem so great when I am writing, and I feel nearer to you. I shall not ask for an excuse to write often, but do it from pleasure, and to pay for deficiency and neglect in years gone by. But I trust in your heart you forgave me that long ago! When I first accompanied you to Troy - as your little wife, was I not happy then? And have I not been <[hole in paper]> since? Indeed I have, most truly happy, and I pray and trust that this separation will before long be ended, and when it is ended "the rainbow will come", as "Guy" told "Amy" at one time. The Sentinel says, "half past nine o'clock" and little Guy begins to be restless so I better leave this to finish to-morrow sometime. He goes to sleep in his crib, and when I go to bed I take him into my bed. Mother still occupies her room as before you left, and every thing goes smoothly about the house.

Sunday evening

None of us I am sorry to say have been to church today. It snowed all day yesterday and today but we have not much more snow on the ground than when you left here. Mr. Boggs returned from Baltimore last evening, he says he saw the sun everyday he was gone and no snow beyond Philadelphia. Mrs. Boggs I think was very glad to go from here: he is not looking as well as when you left. I think he is really out of health. I shall ask him to-morrow how he intends to dispose of his furniture, if at auction I shall propose that we send ours at the same time, after Mrs. Lee takes all she needs. Mr. Lee had four boxes made for me, while he was the only officer on the post.

Brother Rowland's lectures finish the 25th of Feb, and I wish to be all ready to go to Maine the 26th, which is Thursday. I am anxious to leave as soon as we have nothing to keep us here; the next seven weeks will soon pass away if I can hear from you often during the time, and I shall have just enough to do to keep me busy so the weeks will not be over long.

I had the pig killed last Friday. I found it would be better to kill and eat him than to sell him; and in the afternoon when Thomas came in, I told him now the pig was killed there was nothing but that the girls must do. I felt I must be as economical as possible and I could not afford to pay him for only building the furnace fire, and did not want him to do it for nothing, and I would have to take the care of it now. I then gave him \$1.50 for what he had done, and told him to come on Monday and I would give him a piece of meat. Annie takes good care of the furnace and Mr. Lee says to save coal. I hope you will approve of the change.

I have some doubt about disposing of the carriage, that I think will be the only thing to leave, and as long as our boxes remain here I shall not care so much. I did not come up stairs last evening 'till about nine o'clock, for Mr. Boggs came in directly after tea; for that reason I have my letter to finish this morning. Mrs. Lee has been in

with a box of things that she wants. It includes everything in the kitchen, dining room tables, chairs and bedstead in the girls room. I have scarcely anything left to send away, excepting the sofa and marble top table. My rocking chair is the only chair left not sold. I have no fear but I can dispose of the rest to advantage.

I don't think I will write very interesting letters if I write as often. I certainly cannot tell much news in every letter, but I do not think you wish me to tell you only the news. I do not know but you may get two or three letters at the same time, but never mind I shall write often till you tell me not to. I do hope the 'Orderly' will bring me a letter this day noon. I so much want to hear from you. I have been very well ever since you went away and so has Guy and Mother. He has not forgotten you for when I asked him where is father? He points towards the door if I am in my chamber, and towards the window when in the parlor. He has taken a great liking to his "ponies" lately. I will close this letter and give it to the 'Orderly' when he comes (just after 1 o'clock).

All wish to be remembered. Guy is asleep or he would send a kiss. Now good bye for the present.

With much love I remain your affectionate little wife.  
Lizzie A. Howard

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659 1/14/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0604

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Jan 14, 1857

My dearest Husband

I write to you again so soon to tell you how happy I was to receive your letter, telling me of your good health and pleasant journey as far as Palatka. You must have been very glad to find someone you knew at Savannah and I am very glad you had pleasant companions all the way to spend the time with and not be thinking too much about home. I received your letter Monday evening (Jan 12) after I mailed one to you in the morning. I presume you will get more than one letter from me at a time, as you cannot get the mail at Tampa every day. At least, I should think not.

Mr Shunk is expected here to-day. Mr. Boggs has everything packed and will leave the next day after Mr Shunk gets here. He took dinner with us yesterday. We had everything good and I am very glad I did invite him. He leaves some of his packed boxes here, to be sent to Baton Rouge, whenever Mrs Boggs is ready to meet him there. Mrs Lee has purchased his dining set, and a few little things. She has taken of mine as many things, as I care to have her. As soon as the men are done putting up ice, I shall send the few remaining things to Mr Parks at Albany to sell at Auction.

My darling Otis: you cannot imagine how fat and boyish little Guy is fast getting to be. I am writing in Mother's room at her table, and Annie has Guy in my room, and he is having just the best play that ever was. When Mr Boggs returned from Baltimore, we opened the door between the houses to speak with him. I went to shake hands with him, and as soon as I did it, Guy ran in as straight as possible and held his hand to Mr Boggs. It amused us all. I went to the Lyceum Lecture last evening. (Lecture by Alfred B Street of Albany, not very interesting). I spoke with Miss Emma Willard. She inquired after you very kindly.

I am quite well today, but feel rather dull, and somewhat lame caused by going out last evening, but I shall go again when I think I may hear a good lecture. I am beginning to be anxious to have the time come when we can go to Maine, for no reason whatever, only I know I am going and want to start. Mother is down in the kitchen: just sent me a bowl of chicken broth and I ate it without even offering you any. I wonder what you will have to eat: Everything nice Mrs Lee says, and thinks, herself, of oranges &c. I hope you will have everything good and cooked good and never be hungry. I do so hope if there is anything I can send you that would add to your comfort you will permit me to do so. I saw in yesterday's paper the death of Capt J.C. Casey, of the Subsistence Department at Tampa. He died of consumption & so I do not think it is unhealthy there. I really do hope it is not unhealthy because I will not be so likely to be constantly thinking you will get sick.

We are all well and have been since you went away. I have not been sick any. The day you went away I found that Guy had cut his second tooth. The third one (upper tooth) will soon be through. I am thankful he is well during all this trouble of cutting teeth. I have not yet received a letter from your Mother. Probably she is waiting to hear from me again. Won't she be glad to see Guy? I intend to make her a visit soon after I go to Lewiston. I think I shall like to stay at Lewiston. It will certainly be a rest from housekeeping. I will only have to sew, receive your letters, write to you, and help take care of Guy.

Guy waked just as I finished writing the above and as Mother is busy down stairs and Annie too, I will finish my letter with him about me. I have given him five spools to play with and he is amusing himself with them. He likes to play by himself very well. Adelia Thornton has been quite sick, but is now getting better again, and thinks she had better not come home. Guy came and gave my letter a few marks and went away again to play.

I hope to hear from you again very soon. The last three days of your journey, I should judge would be the most tiresome. I will continue to trust that you are well and happy, and will remain so.

With best love, I remain your affectionate little Wife,  
Lizzie Howard

Lieut O.O. Howard

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660 1/14/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0734

Tampa Ft. Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tampa Ft. Brooke Fla  
Jan 14th 1857

My dearest wife,

I am here still & have just time to say my love to Rowland, Guy, Mother & all, that I never was in better health. The mail has just come in & I have got no letter, have'nt had a letter from a soul since I left home.

I have been at work. I was opening arms for two or three days. I have sent to Col Craig for four men.

How are Mr & Mrs Boggs & Mr Mrs Lee.

Good night. Will try to write a long letter by next mail. Much love.

Your most affectionate husband  
Otis

I am very anxious to get a letter from you. The mails leave here Sunday & Thursday, arrive Sat & Wednesday.

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661 1/17/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0605

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
Saturday Jan 17, 1857

My dear Brother

Lizzie had a letter from Mother night before last, urging her to come directly to Leeds & bring her Mother & Guy. Mother says that she is prepared to make her very comfortable & enlayes on the great amount of substantial household stores that she has laid by, her small family, her longing to have Guy with her, & her desire to have a chance to hear the first news from you. She speaks with confidence of Dr. Loring & think Lizzie will feel contented at Leeds with Guy & the letters. What do you think best? I have not talked with Lizzie about it, but if she could feel contented at our house I wish she & Guy could stay there till you return. It would be the least expensive & the most pleasing of anything she could do to Mother. I wrote Mother last night & told her that I thought the chief objection you & Lizzie would have to it would be the absence of an experienced Physician. If Mother's health continues good & her family small I am quite in favor of the project - at least during most of the Spring months. I shall not determine what to do myself until that is settled & I have seen Father about my finances. I would like to attend the Harvard Law School. I think a good law school is just the thing for me.

Mr Boggs had a letter from some responsible gentleman in Washington a few days since, saying that there was no doubt of the speedy passage of the Army pay bill by which you will get you \$30.00 additional pay. We are expecting every day to see it introduced in the House. I believe it dates back to last June. So you will get a snug little sum if it passes.

Lizzie came down to Albany in the 11 o'clock train Thursday & I met her at the R.R Station. She first called on Mrs Sprague & then we went "Shopping" till 3 o'clock & then took the train home. It was pretty cold for her when coming down from the Depot, but she has been none the worse for it since. Mrs Waite is very well now. Guy is very glad to see me when I get home from Albany every night & I always have an hour's play with him down in the parlor before I come to my room. He seems perfectly well, as fat and happy as ever.

Mrs & Mr Lee are as usual. Mr Boggs has got all packed up & is only waiting for Shunk to relieve him that he may start for Baton Rouge & relieve Lieut. Todd, who comes here. He has expected Mr Shunk every day since Wednesday. Mrs Boggs & Edith have been in Baltimore a week.

There is no change in my daily proceedings. I think I get a little insight into some branch of the law every day. I had a letter from Dellie Thursday. He was well. He has gone into a speculation in the form of selling books & Stationary at the houses in Andover. I rather doubt the propriety of the move.

Lizzie went over to Troy with Mr Lee & myself last Tuesday Evening & heard your poetical friend Mr Street of Albany & the Library. The lecture didn't amount to much, but she seemed to enjoy the walk as it was a pleasant evening.

Sabbath Evening

I have just come down from Lizzie's room where Master Guy & myself have been having a fine time. He has been stringing his spools on a stick & performing certain other wonderful & extraordinary exploits at which Mother & Uncle Rowland have been greatly pleased & Grandmother in ecstasies. She remarked, today that he had a thousand ways like his Father & asked me if I did not observe them. I told her I would let his other Grandmother decide on that when she sees him.

It has been a very cold, blustering day & none of us have been at Church. I have been reading Emerson's English Traits, <It> an excellent & characteristic work, but very common sense & easy to understand. Mr & Mrs Lee have read 17 Chapters of Proverbs in alternate verses. Mrs Lee has had her wedding "wreath" out to show me tonight. Mr Lee has spent some time in my room this afternoon conversing on general topics. We are expecting Mr McGrath to sell the cow before long. I have done nothing about the carriage yet. We are all

anxious now to get away as soon as possible. I take full notes of my law lectures, copy a good many papers for Jackson & Judge Conkling. They are both very kind to me. The weather has continued cold with no abatement since you left.

We have seen a recent account of the murder of the "Shine" family in Fla by the Indians. I should think such a thing would stir Harney up to a summary vengeance. There has been no news from him in the papers since Jan 1. when he was at "Fort Myers - sending out troops".

I had a letter from Ella last evening. I have been drawing as dark a picture of my poverty & prospects as I could & telling her that she will have to marry a poor man & go, I know not whither. In reply she quotes Ruth 1st Chap 16 & 17 verses & there is no doubt that she is just as faithful & self-sacrificing as those verses imply. I do not deserve her. She would be very glad to hear from you if you get any time to write this winter & very glad to answer your letter.

Shunk has not arrived & Boggs has a good mind to shoot himself from impatience. He sits there disconsolate among his boxes, the picture of discontent.

I had a letter from John Harrison [Otis] Thursday. Uncle & Aunt & Laura will remain with him till Spring. He thinks Aunt Martha will dread to go back to Leeds. His family are well. We haven't heard from Aunt Ann or Frank. I want to go down to N.Y. some Saturday if I can. You needn't trouble to write me personally unless it is more convenient for you. Lizzie will tell me all you say to her, but, of course, I should be very grateful for a letter if you can get time, which I suppose is very much employed. I envy you nothing at your new post, but your delightful climate.

Hamlin & Dr. Nourse, formerly of Hallowell, have been sent to the U.S. Senate from Maine. They will probably put Davis back upon the bench. The Governor speaks very decidedly against his removal.

It is getting cold & I must close.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

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662 1/17/1857 *From:* William H Goodrich *To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-0606 East Windsor Hill  
CONN

*Source:* Bowdoin

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East Windsor Hill Jan 17 [1857? Entered in pencil]

Lieut. Howard

Sir

Perhaps you will remember the stranger whom you conducted over the buildings at West Point in Dec last; and who gave his name as William H Goodrich: that person and myself are identical, and I shall long remember the kindness which you then showed me, making the day which I spent there, one of peculiar pleasure to refer to.

The object of this communication is to ask you sir, for a list of districts having no representative at West Point, as I have an acquaintance at Washington who can perhaps introduce me to the member of congress, from some of such districts, and among so many perhaps I can find one, from whom I can obtain a nomination.

Should you see fit sir, to honour me with an answer to this, will you state whether the third district in this state (Conn) has now a representative there, as in answer to the application which I made to Mr. Dean, he told me his vacancy was long since filled and I thought, he might perhaps have referred to the nominee of last spring, not knowing the fact, which you told me, that he was rejected.

Pardon the length of this letter sir, and if you should notice it will you direct to; with since respect, your humble servant,

William H Goodrich  
East Windsor Hill,  
Conn.

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663 1/18/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0607

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, Jan 18 / 57

My dearest Husband:

I cannot let brother Rowland send his letter until I write a note to be enclosed. I love to write often to you, and I know you like to hear from us as often as you can.

I received a long letter from your Mother last Friday; she gives me a very kind invitation to come to her, and stay as soon as we leave here. How that will be, can better be decided after I go to make her a visit, which I intend to do soon after I go to Maine. I would like very much to be with her, but all in all it might be too hard for her. I cannot make any permanent plans for the future while I remain here. I wish to attend to things here while here and leave in good shape. I intend to have the boxes numbered and take a list of everything packed in each box. I think it will be well to do so. I presume we shall leave here on the 26th of Feb. if the weather is suitable to take Guy out. I cannot help being ready by that time. All the things I have to dispose of are the sofa, marble-top table, work table, three kitchen chairs, rocking-chair, crib, little carriage, cricket, painted table, half-round table, two wash stands & mother's bedstead. Do you not think they are reduced to a small number? I shall send them to Albany next week. I want them all to bring me \$66.80 and hope they will.

I went to Albany last Thursday in the Cars, on this side of the river. Mr Lee walked to the 'Depot' with me, and brother Rowland met me there (Albany). I called to see Mrs Sprague, found her quite well at home. She has lived at Tampa, accompanied her husband when he was stationed there. She tells me that is a delightful climate, and even in Summer when the weather is very warm, it is not an uncomfortable heat. I wish you were to be at that place all the time you are to remain in Florida.

I do not see anything scarcely in the 'papers' about Gen Harney's proceedings. I saw that he was at Tampa on the first day of January sending troops to different stations. I hope he was there when you arrived at that place.

I have never thought since you left that I ought to be with you. We would be most happy together, but I do not think now it would be best.

Mr Boggs is here yet, waiting for Mr Shunk. He is very uneasy to get started in order to take his wife to Augusta and stay with her one week. Mrs Lee has really given up going to Beaufort in the spring. Everything moves smoothly about the house and I shall try to have it continue so during the remainder of our short stay. A little more than five weeks more to spend here before brother R. can go.

Not one word yet about Guy! He is having his second nap now; continues to call 'Ann' very often, and ma-ma is very familiar with him, but sometimes hesitates about pa-pa, but looks very wise when I ask about papa. He understands a great deal more than when you went away, and I do not think he manifests a very bad disposition.

Monday morning.

My dearest Otis. I am very glad you cannot be having so bad a snow storm as we are. I must bid you good morning and close as Mr Lee will take it to the office.

Yours with much love,

Lizzie Howard

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664 1/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0608

Ordnance Depot  
Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Tampa Fla. Jan 18th 1857

My dearest wife,

I received the first letter I have got since I left you on the 24th ult last night. Along with it came one from Guy dated the 2nd and one from Rowland dated the 5th of January. By this time you have mine from Savannah and another from Palatka, and there are still two others from Tampa, one that I mailed a week ago today and another the Wednesday following. The mails leave here Mondays and Thursdays, and arrive the evenings before.

I was delighted to get your good long letter last night, so cheerful, so much more so than I anticipated. You made a little mistake in the direction, putting on both Tampa and Fort Myers. The latter place is about one hundred and seventy miles below but there was no danger of its getting past me here, as I was on the lookout.

General Harney started from this place day before yesterday with his staff on horseback to visit all the Posts in Florida. He has called into service nine companies of Volunteers, the greater part of them were mustered in after I came and I had to issue them arms, accoutrements and ammunition. I found here an Ordnance Sergeant, & two rough wood-buildings, one for the store house and the other for ammunition. They are built on a part of the Military reserve and at about a hundred yards from the bay, in a direct line and surrounded by a wooden fence. There is a row of houses facing inwards nearer the bay than these buildings. These are used as officers quarters. I moved into quarters yesterday from the hotel where I continue to take my meals. My Quarters are comparatively isolated. Lieut Mack of the 4th Artillery who has charge of the Commissary Depot has a part of the same. When I have time I will give you a sketch of the military reserve & of the quarters &c. We have a few ladies on the Post. Mrs Page & her sister, Miss Devall. (Maj Page, who is in bad health is the Asst Adjutant General for the Dept of Florida). Mrs McKinstry (the wife of Maj McKinstry, Asst Quartermaster to whom I turn over everything for transportation). Mr Hazard has gone to meet his wife. I suspect she is on board the Steamer out in the bay - waiting till the wind dies away so as to come in. Mrs Morris, the wife of Maj Morris who is in command of this Post is also on board the Steamer on her way to join him. Mr Hazard is Adjutant to Maj Morris, both belong to the 4th Artillery.

This is said to be a healthy place, but it would make you homesick to live as we do. My bed room is a poor show for a shed. It has a floor & windows but is unfinished. The musketoes & cockroches already have made their appearance. An Artillery Officer Lieut Magilton of the 4th Artillery had been sent here to do Ordnance duty. I relieved him. He has now been sent to Fort Mellon, 100 miles or more above Palatka. He leaves in the stage tomorrow morning. We have struck up quite a friendship. He leaves a wife in Ohio. Maj Scott whom Boggs knew in Boston at Ft Independence left here this morning for the Allyfire twenty miles distant. He & his two Lieuts Mack & Dana are married and leave their wives behind them. Capt. Dekussy also left here yesterday or day before for Fort Capron. He had written his wife to meet him at Palatka but had to countermand. She is at Fort Hamilton.

I would rather risk you & our darling Guy, at the north than here through the hot summer. Tell Rowland I am sorry I cannot write him this time. I had set apart today to write letters home, but I have been called upon to fill requisitions, invoices, receipts & write business letters.

I do love you my darling Lizzie more than I used to do though I always have since I have known you. Now I understand you & my heart is troubled for you. But you bear up so bravely & are disposed to look trouble & trial straight in the face and make the most of your blessings, that I can't help praising you and would kiss you if I could. I will get the check you sent cashed here and send you another bye & bye when I draw my pay. I hav'nt drawn my transportation yet, shall not till we hear from Washington. You did not say whether you recd a draft of 50 dolls from New York. I presume you did.

The Indians paid no attention to the white Flags of Gen. Harney, and he declared war against them as soon as he heard of the massacre of that poor family at New Smyrna. We have now 36 companies of 85 men each. 9

are volunteers & the rest are artillery & infantry in the field. So you see there are upwards of 3,000 soldiers in search of the Indians distributed all over Florida. The Volunteers are all <> and a hard set they are. Their Captains are pretty good men, but have very little control over their soldiers.

Give my love to Rowland & Mother & Mr & Mrs Lee. I trust you are all as well as I am. Guy's letter was just the thing. Didn't I tell you he was smart - a letter like that at a year old. Dellie had a grand time among his relations in Boston. I am glad to get a letter, a paper or anything. They are rarities. You musn't spoil Guy by loving him too much. I shall be jealous of him. Kiss him however for me. May Heaven bless & protect you my darling wife.

Yr affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

It is almost dark - cold today - wind blows - writing in the loft of the store house, where there are no glass windows.

Maj Scott heard that Mr Boggs was going to Baton Rouge, Todd & Shunk to Watervliet, Rottoman to Pittsburg. Give my regards to Shunk if he has come, also to Mr Todd if he remembers me, or to Mr & Mrs Boggs if they are there.

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665 1/20/1857 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0609

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[a sketch of Otis's building is here at the top of the letter, but is not shown in this transcription.]

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla  
January 20th 1857

My dearest wife

Tomorrow is mail day & as I have received but one letter from you since I left I shall expect at least one tomorrow. I am now fairly settled in my quarters. Lieut Mack and myself are writing, before a large fire, on the same table. By reference to the above sketch you can form some idea of the shape of this tenement. Mr Mack's office will be mine by and by.

The night was so cold yesterday that I slept in this room, the only place where we can have a fire. The ice on my basin this morning was a quarter of an inch in thickness. When the wind comes from the north we have very cold weather, but as soon as the wind changes it is warm again, but it has not been so warm that I have been uncomfortable with a great coat on.

My room is fitted up in style. I bought a bowl & pitcher, a pail, a looking glass, a candle stick & two lbs of candles, also a box of blacking and a brush. Lieut Magitton lent to me his cot, mattress & bedding. Lieut Day who is here on a sick leave gave me a mattress and Lt. Mack a pillow. All these with my blanket make me a fine bed. For four dollars I am furnished. I made me a clothes-press out of a packing box and took another box for a wash-stand. It is the opinion that Floridians get us out here to bring them money. This is evinced in the prices they set upon everything they sell us. Now the best plan is to buy as little as possible. I pay 20 dollars per month for my board. This is cheaper than we can mess in this place, for every species of provisions is higher here than at Troy, except fish & venison.

The Quartermaster's Clerk has written to the Post Master General for a book of distances and as soon as it gets here, I am going to draw my transportation. Then I will send you a draft to your Order. You can use what you want & deposit the balance in the bank. When you leave Watervliet, you need not draw out the money in the bank, unless you wish to use it, or only so much as you require, for it is as safe there as any where and drawing interest. I did not send you back the draft you sent me, for two reasons. One was that it was late Saturday night when I got it and I could'nt then replace it by another for the mail which left Monday morning early, and I thought I could use it now & send you a larger one in a few days. A draft to your Order is the best & safest, though I might have endorsed that over to your Order but I did'nt think of it. I got it cashed yesterday.

I called to day upon Mrs Morris & Mrs Hazard who arrived Sunday. I told Mrs Morris I would like to have put you in her charge. They came out in a ship sent by Government with two or three hundred recruits & several officers for Florida. She sailed from New York on the 1st of January, and they said had a delightful passage. Hazard married his wife in Baltimore last September. She is delighted to get here, thinks she can put up with anything. Her husband is very liable to be ordered into the field. In addition to the ladies I mentioned before & their new arrivals, is the paymaster's (Major Leonard's) wife. She lives in town & not in the Garrison. I saw her riding on horseback the other day but have'nt visited her yet. I think you & little Guy are really better off at the north. It is well enough now, but the summer with continued hot weather & oceans of musketoes to plague you would be almost insufferable and, maybe, as soon as this Campaign closes I shall be on my way to the North, but as Mr. Todd & Shunk are both sent to Watervliet I don't see much chance for us there. I presume you don't care much for that, as you don't fancy Watervliet over much.

It is now about ten and I presume you and Guy are in our bed. Does he kick any nowadays? Why cant I peep in upon you just a moment & give you a kiss a piece.

Lieut Mack married his wife in Oswego N.Y. She went home after he left her in Boston. He came by a Government Transport with Maj J.B. Scott & his company. He is doing Commissary duty here.

Good night my darling. I will go to sleep too. May God watch over us both.

(Wednesday) the wind has changed and the weather is as warm as it is in September with us at the North. It is very quiet here since we have got rid of General Harney and the Volunteers. I have taken your letter to the Depot to finish, and am writing on a packing box with a smaller one for a stool. Lieut Mack and I have a very cozy time together. He showed me a Daguerrotype of his wife this morning. She is larger than you with light hair & complexion and blue eyes.

Rowland says you have breakfast at 1/4 past seven. I am glad, for I want him to have every facility to perfect himself in the study of the law. We never lose anything by these little sacrifices. I hope you will have confidence in him and allow him to assist you when you have need of assistance. I presume you will pack up what you don't want to sell or take with you & get them stored at the Arsenal. You know Mr Witbeck promised to make boxes for you of convenient size. Whenever I send you a Check, My darling, don't forget to acknowledge it immediately. I shall mention it in a letter preceding or following so that if one did not come to hand after it was sent you might know of it. The route from here to Palatka is still a little uncertain, though the stage has a guard or Escort to accompany it over the most dangerous part of the route. There was no Guard when I came through, but the mail contractor threatened to give up his contract & stop the stages, if one was not furnished. I was exposed to the measles on the way across, but did not know it and again a little more than a week since, but did not take them. The mumps, measles & small-pox don't seem to fancy me, and I hope Florida Musketoos wont.

I see my little wife's affection in looking over & arranging those letters. You must do as you choose about destroying any. You know there are ups & downs in life. It is well to preserve a recollection of our shortcomings in order to avoid them in future, but if you wish to blot out that short page in our love, which was a mere cloud passing over the Sun, it is well. I now rest happy & contented in your affection whether present or absent. I leave with you a little hostage, & you with me your image & him in my heart.

Guy says Grandmother is not very well. Is she well now? Give her my love and tell her to forget all unpleasant things & be a kind good mother to you. Rowland's letter accompanies this.

Your faithful & loving husband  
Otis

Give my best regards to Mrs Thornton & her family. Does she hear that her husband is coming home.

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666 1/22/1857 *From:* Mrs O.O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0610

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 22 / 57

My dearest Husband

I have been so engaged for the last two days that I could not write this letter sooner, but I hope you may not think we (any of us) are sick, as we are all perfectly well, and I hope and trust you are also. There has been a very severe snow storm here this week, so that the cars could not run regularly, and I must think that is the reason I have not as yet received a letter from you, since the one you mailed Jan 5 at Palatka. I would be so glad if the orderly would bring me one to-day noon. It is almost time for him. I received a letter from Uncle Edward Waite last evening with an invitation for you and myself to attend Lizzie's wedding this week. I did not imagine that she would be married so soon. I must write her a letter of congratulation & c.

Mr Boggs left here yesterday morning. Mr Shunk arrived about ten o'clock Sunday morning, having left West Point Saturday afternoon. The storm I spoke of was the cause of his delay, and we hear there is at Washington two feet of snow. All the people in the post spent last evening at Mrs Thornton's by invitation, a very pleasant little company. It seems very natural to have Mr Shunk here again, and hear his funny jokes. He comforts me by telling me that no Officer ever comes home for five years, who has been sent to Florida, and presumes you will be sent to California from there. I believe if I knew everything he said would prove true, I could not help smiling to his manner of saying it.

Mr Lee took Guy in to see him to-day and Guy was rather shy and sat in Mr Lee's lap as still as a mouse 'till I went to the door when he down and ran to me, but he went back as I requested him to, and shook hands with both, before I took him home. It is now four o'clock in the afternoon and I will finish my letter while Guy is asleep.

I do wish I could hear from you, dearest. Time will seem so long 'till I hear you are well and comfortable. I so desire to get to Maine, that I am not patient one hour any day. I feel as if I was losing all the time I remain here. I can hear from you sooner here than in Maine, and that is the only thing that makes me so willing to stay five weeks longer. I feel, dearest Otis, that I should be doing something that I cannot well do here and it will be so late - near spring - when I get settled at Lewiston. You will say five weeks cannot make much difference, well I don't know as it can. I guess if I could only hear from you I would be all bright again.

I have advertised (as Mr Boggs did). Brother Rowland wrote an advertisement mentioning the carriage, cow, and furniture and put it up in the P.O. I shall send the furniture to Albany as soon as I can. The men are now putting up ice and the horses cannot be spared at present. I thought possibly somebody might come to see the cow if I advertised. Mr Lee does not seem to think he can buy her. I told him he might have her for the same you gave, and send the money to me, in the course of two months, but I think he does not want to run in debt for anything. That is right generally, but he does not know the advantage of a cow in a family - how much it would save him in a very short time.

I write this letter as I can catch the time. It is now late in the evening. Guy was not sleepy this evening, and was a very good boy, therefore we all remained down stairs nearly the whole evening. All have gone to bed but myself, (unless brother Rowland is down stairs he was a short time ago) and I wish to finish my letter to-night that I can send it to the P.O. very early by R. in the morning.

The Cars from New York to-day arrived here at half past 4 P.M. I did think I would have a letter. I do want to hear from you very much, darling. I wish Florida was'nt so far. You desire that I shall tell you all my little troubles. I don't have any. I only have one big one, and that is, I have received no letter from you when I think I ought. I know you have written before this time. I will hope it will come to-morrow, and now go to bed to dream of you.

Dear little Guy is a sweet little bed fellow. He wakes me every morning by getting up on his hands and peeping

into my face, saying something in his own language. I don't think I have written much in this letter, and in fact after I have closed every letter, I then think I have not written much. I have not told you half I would. I don't know as anything can interest you more than to tell you about ourselves, and you must tell me what to write. What I leave out that you would like to know &c.

Now, dearest Otis, I must write a good night, and trust you are in the keeping of Him who kindly watches over all his children, and that among them you are numbered and your little boy, and your affectionate wife,

Lizzie H.

Recd at Fort Brooke, Fla, dated Jan 22 57 Mrs O.O. Howard

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667 1/23/1857 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0549

Fort Brooke  
Tampa, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Tampa, Fla.

January 23 1856. [Should be 1857. See Note 1]

My dearest wife

This letter will not leave here till Sunday night, but as I have time & Lieut. Mack is writing I will commence a letter to be finished day after tomorrow. I received two letters from you the night I mailed yours of the 21st. I was obliged to put the letter in before I took any out for fear the Postmaster here would fix the out-mail without my letter. One of your letters was mailed the 7th & the other the 12th. You couldn't have made a better resolution, my darling wife, than that your absent husband should have a letter twice a week. I watch every mail for one. It is a consolation for absence & a pleasure to feel that there is such a little messenger on the way, if it does take eight, & sometimes twelve days for one to come. How can you ask if I want you to write so often. Your heart will answer such questions.

I have written every mail since I got back from Fort Myers, so that you must begin to receive letters regularly by this time. I have also written three times to mother, once at Palatka, one a week ago, & another lies on my table directed to Leeds. I have written also to Rowland and a brief note to Charles Mulliken, partly on business that concerns him. The mail contractor wanted to purchase hay from somebody in Maine & I told I thought Charles would furnish him on commission. This contractor lives at Palatka.

"Little Guy is not asleep so he comes to help mother write, in his way." You don't know what a magic there is in these little expressions to the heart of the absent father. Don't my darling Lizzie neglect to speak of him when you write, even if I do not mention him. You can tell me of his cunning little ways without doing him harm, though I would rather neither you or his grandmother would tell of them to any one else, for a habit once formed is not easily broken, and his self-importance will be proportionate to the great things he is taught he has done, is doing, & can do. Oh! I would not have him grow up & be like so many others whom the over fondness of parents & grandparents has spoiled. To save us pain & bitter tears in the future which will soon be the present, I must beg & urge you & mother to be careful in these little things while his little mind is forming. But in a letter to your husband you can pour out your heart fullness without reserve, and the little boy may someday read how much his mother loved him. I hope & pray that our Saviour may help us to so bring him up as to be a joy and a blessing to his father & mother.

How happens it that Mrs. Boggs don't go with her husband to Baton Rouge? I shouldn't think she would like to remain with his family at such a time. I presume you think fast when I say this. But there is less difference between the climate of Augusta, Georgia & Baton Rouge than between Watervliet & Tampa. You & Guy might be well & happy here and you might be broken by the summer weather. I dare not risk it now. I never could forgive myself if I should lose you by your coming here. Let us be content you with Guy & whatever else God in wisdom may vouchsafe to you & I with the happiness of having such a wife & such a child though now far away, and the lively hope of being with them again. It is for the Christian & him alone, to be happy let what will befall and, my precious wife, may we not be such?

Saturday Jan 24th.

It is just four weeks today since I left New York. The time does not drag heavily yet. The new things & various to be seen in traveling and the immediate activity required after my arrival here, have made the days pass rapidly, but I expect I shall weary of this place if I am left long idle. Very soon however I shall have enough to do. I don't know whether the Colonel will send me any men from Watervliet or not. I did not mention anybody in particular. If I had not joined a good Sergeant here, I should have applied for Sanders. But the Ordnance Sergeant, Flynn, is a capable man & a good clerk. I asked for an Armorer who is a good man at his trade and three Artificers. If they go from Watervliet they will start before this reaches you. I don't know that I want anything at present, that I can't as well do without, except yourself & Guy.

(Sunday morning January 25)

Dearest, I looked for a letter from you last night but none came. I suspect there is one or more on the way. Only one of your letters has come straight through. We are having fine weather now. I saw the negroes planting

potatoes yesterday. I have a horse to ride every evening. Day before yesterday rode three miles and yesterday five or six. I don't keep a horse but borrow one from the Quartermasters Department. I shall be glad for you when everything is settled at Watervliet and you have performed your journey in safety. There is but one objection to the change and that is it will take two days longer for your letters to reach me and the same for mine to reach you. I don't know whether our letters go between N. York & Savannah by land or water.

There is now the best prospect in the world for an increase of our pay. I hav'nt yet drawn my transportation, which will amount to one hundred & sixty dollars at the least, and there will soon be a months pay due and I have sixty dollars in my pocket. I shall transmit to you 50 dolls per month on an average. After you get to Lewiston you must ascertain the best place for deposits, or if anybody wants money & will give a note at six per cent with good security you can let it for me. I shall send you a check for 200 dollars in a few days which you can place in the State Bank of Troy. Always my darling take for yourself what you need. Don't stint yourself. If you like you can get uncle Edward Waite to deposit for me in a Portland Bank. The banks in New York State are the safest in the world, so you need not be uneasy about leaving in the Troy State Bank whatever is there that you do not need. I don't know how much it will cost you to live in Lewiston. You must write me. If the Pay Bill passes I will be able to send you more than 50 dolls per month after the check that I spoke of.

I am glad Mrs. Lee has concluded to take so many things. We don't know where we shall keep house again and the fewer articles of furniture we have the better. Maj. Leonard was in to see me yesterday. He said he hoped the Lord would spare your little one to you. His wife is a year younger than you & about your size. She lost her child a year ago & the Major said it came near killing her. It was a boy & two years old. She never can bear Tampa since. A child may live or die in any place. Mrs. McKinstry's little boy two years old is rugged & fleshy, and so is Mrs. Page's. Dr. Ward our surgeon came in to see me late last evening (not professionally). His wife is in Connecticut, New Haven I think. He is about my age. He may be two or three years older. He has a little boy at home. Then you see my darling, we are not the only ones who are parted by this war with the Indians.

My love to mother & all. Kiss little Guy for his father. Write as much as you choose & can, and don't hesitate to tell me what you like. God bless you, your loving husband  
Otis

Tell Rowland I have just written to mother and to Ella. I have got nothing from either yet. Look out for next mail. Old Colonel Monroe arrived last night. He is in command now of the 4th Regt. Of Artillery-a very aged man. He is very kind & social. Every body is glad to see him at the Post.

[Note 1: This is one of a group of letters that were mistakenly dated as 1856, rather than 1857. They all all written from or to Florida in January. Otis left for Tampa from Watervliet in December, 1856 and didn't return until August, 1857.]

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668 1/24/1857 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0611

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Jan. 24, 1857.

My dear brother

I have learned from Rowland first that you were ordered to Florida, now that you are at Tampa Fla, where a letter will reach you. I leave it for you without any questions from myself to tell me all about your situation for the present & the probabilities of the Future. Hence I will occupy my paper with telling you about my own circumstances.

I came from my school in Falmouth to Brunswick today. I started from Falmouth at 8 o'clock. Came to Yarmouth Junction & waited till 3 o'clock before the train came from Portland. Today has been the coldest day ever known in Maine! Thermometers were this morning, at Augusta, Brunswick, Yarmouth, Lewiston & Portland from 36 to 42° below zero. Prof. Cleaveland says it is the coldest ever known in this Climate.

So the R.R. Superintendent tho't it would not pay to run but one train of cars each way & I waited six hours at the Junction. I froze my face in riding a mile notwithstanding all efforts to the contrary. So you see, as is often said, there is no great loss without some small gain & if you have lost the pleasure of family & friends this winter, you must also have found a warmer climate.

My room is in the fourth story of South College - north east corner & looked rather dreary at first, but I had at close of last term filled my closet with wood, which I have found very convenient. I soon had a rousing fire & having taken supper at the Commons and made a short call at Mrs Grows' I sit before it with comfort not felt by every citizen of Maine.

Rowland & your family were thriving when I heard last - not long ago. But Rowland seems to have almost got sick of law or perhaps I should say wisely come near the resolution to give it up. Yet I may be mistaken. He wrote quite a serious yet interesting letter last to me of 10 pages! He says he is naturally better fitted for other things & the ministry for instance than for the law. I think he would be a fine preacher if he should become a minister & has the power by the help of the Spirit of doing much good. He spoke of the success of his lecture which I had not heard much about before. The great trouble with him is the want of money. How I wish I had enough for him & myself too. He dreads to teach school yet says he will have to do it.

My school prospered fine all the time. It closed last night. Was just two months long, for which I received 66 dollars to bring to Brunswick & pay my debts which amount to just about that sum.

We had a Debating Club which I was instrumental in starting & assisted to sustain. I wrote the Constitution & Bylaws & prepared as a member of the business Committee the doings of each meeting. I took part in the debates. A classmate of mine taught in next District & was a member of the Club. We had a paper which I contributed to very freely & on the whole the Club was very profitable & pleasing to me.

Many of my scholars wanted me to take the Academy in their place & if I wish I can have it in the Fall. We had a dreadful storm here Monday last. I had but 8 scholars out of 58 but I walked a mile facing the wind. I am not very tough but I am in hopes I have some of the energy & a small degree of the perseverance which you used so eloquently to recommend to me.

I am troubled very much by my throat, but the trouble has not reached my lungs yet, since I had that Typhoid Fever 3 or 4 years ago. I have been so hoarse during the last week that I could hardly speak. It will not do for me to teach school any more. I must do something else that will pay as well & not destroy my health & voice.

Dellie is getting along pretty well in his studies but says his room-mate is not what he ought to be. Mother was enjoying herself the last time she wrote. Father not very well. Probably you have heard from her as late as I. Prof. Packard has gone to Biddeford so we shall not have a lesson for Monday morning. We have Prof. Smyth's Geometry in the forenoon. I hope to stand well this term as I am in season & we have Rhetoric which I know I can get as well as any body in my class. Every thing about your present situation & how you got there

will be very interesting to me. I was in hopes to visit my two brothers in Troy next summer but my disappointment is small compared with yours. I'm alone but in good spirits.

Your affectionate brother  
Chas. H. Howard

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669 1/25/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RH  
Gilmore]

OOH-0612

West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Troy N.Y. Jan. 25th [1857]

Dear Brother,

It has been some time now since I received your good long letter, but I haven't seemed to see any time till now to answer it.

I don't know as I quite understand the nature of your business. Do you go round from house to house in Andover peddling! Does it not take some time that ought to be devoted to your studies? You must reflect that you are in Andover to learn & that alone. I wish I knew the circumstances. I own, I fear that the "business" is hardly reputable & that you have been induced to take it up by some designing person who wished to make money out of you.

Are you sure that you had better go to College? I do not think much of a college education to fit a boy for any business except that of a minister. It costs now over \$1000 & that amt of money, if put at interest, would make quite a capital to begin the world with. Had you better not attend an English Academy & fit yourself for a business life of some kind - Farming, Engineering, Medicine, Trade & even Law are not much better acquired after a Classical Education.

The point is. What do your tastes lead you to? What is best adapted to your mind? If you design to be a Classical Scholar, you ought to know by this time whether you can excel in that.

One of my objects in recommending Father to send you to Andover was to try & see if you would succeed in or enjoy Classical Studies. We are all of us fitted for something. If we can't do one thing we can another. The first thing to think of by boys in our circumstances is, how we may best prepare ourselves to get a living. If we can't do that, we can do nothing beyond.

Write me fully & freely. I have your best good very much at heart. You have not a single moment to waste, nor a single cent. We have not heard from Otis since he reached his destination. I have no letter from Mother lately. Charles wrote me that he was to close his School yesterday. Do you suppose he is at Brunswick. I sent a letter to B. for him yesterday.

The thermometer was 26 degrees below zero here yesterday morning. Today the weather is more mild & pleasant. We shall start for Maine the very last of February. What is the fare from Boston to Andover?

I attend the law School every day except Saturdays & am at Albany all day. You will be surprised to see what a large stout boy Guy has grown. When is your vacation? Mrs Waite is not very well. Lizzie & Guy are well. I hope you will take time & write me fully what your feelings are about the matters I have mentioned.

Remember me to Humphrey & his brother and as your affectionate Bro.  
Rowland

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670 1/25/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband [O  
O Howard]

OOH-0613

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 25 / 57

My dearest Husband

I scarcely have the courage to begin another letter to you, but having made the promise to write to you twice every week, I will persevere, hoping I may receive a letter from you before it is finished making due allowance for all delays by storms &c. I do think if you were well, I would have heard long ago. This letter, darling, will be the sixth one that I have mailed to you and brother Rowland says he has sent three. I did not know he had written but two. In one of those I enclosed a note and in another he enclosed one he had received from Dellie.

I try not to be over anxious about you and try to make myself believe that it is not time to receive a letter, but I will not be convinced. I know I ought not to trouble you with, or write such a down hearted letter as this, but I cannot write cheerfully when I am so worried, fearing something has befallen you. I don't know what I would do if I were all alone.

Now my dear little boy is such a little treasure, and I take ever so much comfort with him. He now understands everything I say to him, and when he teases for anything I say, 'please ma-ma', then he will change his tone and turn up his little hand very kindly and try to say 'I thank' and gets it 'a-tack'. Every time brother Rowland comes home he goes to have him take him up, and he will call uncle. He wanted two sleeps yesterday, but I did not want him to have the second sleep, so I took him up, and began to talk to him about his playthings, and asked where grandmother was, Mr Lee, and where is ma-ma? He looked up and pointed into my face, and when I asked where is father? He raised himself up, and put on a very grave yet knowing expression, and pointed to the door as much as to say, don't you remember he went away? I did feel bad to have him tell me so plainly.

He is all ready to go to Maine. His cloak is very pretty indeed. I have made him two morning dresses (and you will be glad to hear) high in the neck and long sleeves. They are cheap but pretty, and are very convenient for as soon as he gets up I take off his night dress, and put one of these on and he is ready to go down stairs. Who says I don't wash his face? You? I am astonished. When we go from here, wherever we go, we shall find colder houses and I wanted him comfortable when he first gets up and he does not always wake in time to be fully dressed before breakfast. The remainder of the time set for us to stay here is fast growing shorter - a little more than four weeks, and I hope we may all be well and happy as can be at the end of that time.

I know I must hear from you very soon and I would be very happy to hear you were very well. I did not think when I took my pen to write that I could write as much as I have already. Everybody was sleepy very early to-night, and came upstairs directly after tea, and as Guy went to sleep before seven o'clock I have had a long evening to myself. I will not say I have been writing steadily, for if I had I would have more than filled this sheet. I have spent about half the time resting, thinking and looking at Guy. He does not have to be rocked to sleep. I put him right into my bed alone and he is soon asleep.

It is now half past nine and I think I had better go to sleep too, and dream as usual of my dearest Otis.

Monday morning, Jan 26, 15 minutes of twelve o'clock.

I fear I shall be obliged to send this to the P.O. without hearing from you, but I will try to believe that you are not sick, or that anything has happened to you to cause me to grieve. The papers say that Gen. Harney has withdrawn his flags, and will proceed directly to hostilities. Someone in Florida has written to Mr Boggs, but as it did not reach here till after he left Mr Shunk remailed it to Baton Rouge, where he will probably be about a week from this time. Brother Rowland saw it and said it was not your hand writing on the envelope. I will have to send only this sheet this time, as Guy has waked and wishes to be taken up.

As you can see by the writing, I asked Mr Shunk about sending things to Albany. He said he would attend to it. Mr & Mrs Lee have received an invitation to a party at Albany. I presume they knew you were away, and

thought I was not here. I do not know then Mr Robert Townsend but presume he was married last winter to a young lady from Troy. I do hope, dearest, that you do receive our letters, and know we are well. I will close now hoping I shall hear from you soon.

Think of me, and believe me ever your affectionate little wife,  
Lizzie Howard

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671 1/28/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband [O  
O Howard]

OOH-0614a

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 28. 1857

My dearest Husband,

I am to commence another letter to you, but I intend it shall not be so gloomy as the last one I sent you. I have not yet received a letter from you, but I think you are well and have written although I have not. Yesterday's paper says "no mails have been received from the south for one week"; (I mean New York papers.) This it is that gives me so much courage.

Brother Rowland received this week a letter from Mother and one from Laura. Your Mother wrote in very good spirits and seemed very happy to receive brother Rowland's letters in which he told her very much about himself. Mother is still very anxious for us to stay with her while in Maine. I shall visit her as soon as I get to Maine, and we will talk it over. Then we will consult you, and ask your advice.

She received a letter from you on the 16th of January - it was written the same time that mine was, at Palatka. I received mine on the 12th, four days earlier. I presume letters to me after I get to Maine will be two days later than they are here. I wish letters could fly or be sent by Telegraph. How happy I will be when I hear from you. I think the whole south must be buried in snow, and they know not how to get out.

Cousin Laura wrote from Leeds. She was passing a week with Mother. She is very glad to spend the Winter in Lewiston, says Aunt Martha, likes better than she expected. Laura says that Hellen's boy is the fattest, and she guesses the smartest boy she knows, weighs 25 lbs, at six months old. I should think that he was too fat. Mother wrote that she had been to Church but once this winter - the roads were so drifted and Laura said it had been such good sleighing at Lewiston, that she had not thought of the blocked roads in the country.

Rowland has also received a letter from Aunt Ann, saying that Frank has not been able to leave the house, and will go to Nassau in ten days. Sarah and Frankie go with him. They will not return before July. She invited brother Rowland to visit her so I think that she will remain in Brooklyn for the present.

Uncle Ensign, Aunt Martha and Laura will go back to Leeds soon after we get to Maine. Laura says about the middle of March. I wonder that they go back so soon, but presume it is on account of the farm. I hope nothing will prevent us from starting for Maine, the next morning after four weeks from tonight.

McGrath came to see me yesterday about selling the cow; the man that bought the other cow of you when we left here for Augusta, will give thirty five dollars for her, and wants to take her now. I told Mc Grath I could not let her go till I was ready to leave on account of the milk for my little boy. I did not wish to change milk here. He was to see the man again. I have not sent my furniture to Albany yet. The men have not finished putting up ice unless they finished to-day. You cannot imagine how cold the weather has been some of the time for the past two weeks. I dare not say how much below zero.

Do you get or see any papers from New York? I shall take the 'New York Times' after I am settled in Maine - take it just for the Army news. I cut out these & send you from the 'Herald'. I think it begins to look like increase of pay. I have ever so much money on hand, and have not taken any from the Bank. I shall not need it and do not know what to do about taking it out when I go away. I shall consult Mr Lansing if I do not have time to hear from you. Mr Lee payed his board bill for the present month to-day, and Mrs Lee payed me for every-thing belonging in the kitchen which amounted to \$14.15 cts. They will not be in debt to me when I go away. Next months pay will pay me for anything else they will take, unless he concludes to take the cow. I want to finish this to-night, so brother Rowland can take it to the P.O. when he goes to Albany in the morning.

Guy is very well, gone to bed for the night. He calls Uncle a great deal. If he hears any body walking down stairs, or Mr Shunk going up stairs 'tis Uncle! Smart boy he, and he eats nearly as much dinner as I do every day. Mother took cold the night we all visited at Mrs. Thorntons, and is not quite well. I am very well, and all the

rest.

I don't feel as if I had written all I wished, but I have covered this sheet. I think of you all the time, my darling Otis, and do hope our separation may not be prolonged over five months. Heaven knows I would be so happy, and a very good girl if you could come home before, but I will be cheerful and trust all is for the best and we will be all the happier in the future for this separation. Guy would send a kiss to pa-pa if he was awake, but instead please accept the best love from me and believe me your affectionate little wife.

Lizzie H.

My first letter to you was directed to Fort Myers and contained a draft of \$20.45.

[Written in another hand, possibly Otis']

Recd at Fort Brooke Fla

dated Jan 28, 1857

Mrs OO Howard

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672 1/28/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0615

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.  
January 28th 1857

My dearest wife,

A week ago today as I wrote you I had to put letters into the mail before I took yours out and last Sunday I did not get any, so again to day I will have to mail this before I can get anything from the mail. By this operation I can't reply by return of mail as I would like to do unless your letters arrive Saturday night. But that you may hear from me, I will write semi-weekly whether I have a letter to reply to or not. Your last letter dated the 12th inst showed that you had not then been apprised of my arrival at Tampa. You had not even got my letter from Palatka. Still all uneasiness has ceased by this time for you must have at least two letters & perhaps four.

Everything goes on uniformly here; one day is very much like the preceeding. General Harney has made some changes in the distribution of his troops since he left & has by this time arrived at Fort Myers himself. All the troops are moving south, towards Lake Okeechobee. The Everglades are south of this lake and so the Big Cypress Swamp, the former occupying the Eastern & Central & the latter the Western portion of that section. No Indians had been seen when we got the last reports. There is probably some island in the midst of the Everglades, that has not yet been discovered, where the Indians have concealed their women & children. Nobody who is at all acquainted with Florida will wonder at the immense labor & cost of carrying on operations here. I have kept a little diary all the time but it does not amount to much. If you like however I will copy that portion written since my last letter.

(Sunday January 25th).

I was in hopes we would have no work to do to day, but I found a requisition for ammunition waiting for me when I returned from breakfast. The papers must be made out & the stores got in readiness forthwith, and so they were as soon as possible, and I hope to be quiet the rest of the day. I was told there was no preaching in town to day, so I am at my Quarters, felt not a little disappointed to get nothing by yesterday evening's mail, not even a paper. I have finished a letter to my wife this morning and have two more lying on my table, one to Mother and another to Miss Ella P. Colonel Monroe arrived last evening by the Palatka stage. He is Lieutenant Colonel, now in command of the 4th Artillery. He seems to be quite an aged man, looks older by a good many years than General Harney. He was never married, is very courteous in his manners.

(Monday January 26th)

I don't always write here because I have anything very important to record, but in order to take some cognizance of time as it passes. The business of to day is so much like that of yesterday that days slip by without being marked. Yesterday evening at twilight, I began to feel slightly depressed, but I seized upon Bacon's essays (Rowland's gift) and was soon myself again.

Mr Mack and I read and talked the evening away and bed time came before I was aware of it. We got to speaking of Henry Ward Beecher, his sermons & lectures. I told my experience; how I visited his Church and what I heard. This suggested the Chapter in the Bible that he preached from. I found it Deut 27th and read it with the following. I shall try to remember those mountains Ebal & Gerizim, the mountains of curses & blessings.

(Tuesday, January 27th)

Yesterday evening Lieut Mack and I paid a visit to the paymasters, found the Major & Mrs Leonard at home. We had a very pleasant game of <Qulpu>. The young madam reminds me very strongly of Lizzie; just about her height & size, same color of hair and eyes & similar features, particularly the forehead and nose. She played the Guitar & sang some French & English pieces. The Major's house is a half mile distant from the Fort. After some refreshments we reached our quarters by Eleven.

This day has been passed like the preceeding. I have written two letters one to Frank Sargent & the other to Perry Lee. Had a long conversation with Colonel Monroe about the duties of my department here. The Colonel

made us a call & had much to say about Florida, smoked a pipe & left. Had a long & invigorating ride on horseback this evening, visited the Graveyard nearly a mile out of town, returned, took a different direction, followed up the Hillsborough River to a Steam sawmill, which is the pride of Tampa. Spent the time from supper till ten P.M. at the Quarters of Major Morris & Mr Hazzard. I don't think I have improved the day to the best advantage. (End of quotation from Diary)

Now I have come down to the present time. How is my little wife & my darling boy? It seems as if I could see him busy with his blocks. His father's step won't disturb him now. Can he go up stairs or down stairs? I know he can go into "the Lady's chamber". Do you know I am expecting a great many letters tonight, one from mother, one from Rowland, one from Charlie & two from you, besides half a dozen business letters.

The weather is charming as warm as summer. Every body has got his garden planted, that is every body who is not too lazy to plant at all. I expect I have done Tampa injustice, just to think! Plant potatoes in January. A gentleman told me that everything would look differently (different(?) Mrs Symington) here in the Spring. I suppose this deep sand will be covered with a green carpet, but when I see it I will write you. The live oaks are beautiful now. They are quire tall, spread themselves considerably, their branches are covered with green leaves & let fall from them large tassels of moss.

Do you want to know what I do every day? Get up a little after seven, when Peter Kane comes thundering in to build the fire - dress, fold up my bed a la West Point - Breakfast at Eight, return - I won't mention the reed-stem pipe, because we have got out of Virginia tobacco - go to the Depot by nine - do my work there, be it much or little - return - read & write until dinner (as now) - We dine at two - The afternoon's work is irregular - go to ride two hours before sun-set & ride till the Sun goes down, return, change clothes & get ready for tea - go to tea at 6 - return & spend the evening as the inclination prompts. Very soon, one of these companies of Florida mounted volunteers will be mustered out of service & afterwards mustered in again. The arms &c must be received & receipted for & others will be issued. Soon what I have made requisition for will be here. There is work enough ahead, but now I am comparatively idle.

How is Guy's Grandmother & Uncle Rowland, Mr & Mrs Lee & Mr Shunk, for I presume he is there by this time. Remember me to each & to all. I hope Mrs Thornton's & Mr Lansing's family are well. Tell Mr Lansing there are plenty of fish here. I am boarding, if I was keeping house or mess I should be catching them.

Good bye my darling, till I get your good letters to answer. One kiss to Guy & as many more as you say.

Affectionately yr Husband  
Otis

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673 1/30/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Otis [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0614b

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 30 / 57

My dearest Otis

I am so happy to-night I must tell you of it, if I write only a few words for it is rather late to begin a letter. I received three letters to-night, all from you, darling, and I am very glad to hear from you, and to know that you are well. I saw by telegraph that the Southern mail reached Washington last Wednesday and I felt I would have a letter when they reached New York. Now I hope my letters will come quite regularly, or at least not be detained again by storm so long on their way. These letters are dated Jan 10th, 14th and 18th. I wrote a note and enclosed in brother Rowland's letter that day (the 18th) which I suppose you must have received by this time, and since then before you receive this you should get one written the 22d another the 25th, and the one before this mailed on the 28th of this month. I shall write to Mother to-morrow now I can give news of you. I presume she will receive it with one from you, as I know you would write her also.

How very anxious I have been at times about you, my darling Otis, but now I can not realize it - those unpleasant feelings are all gone and I comparatively very happy. I do love you so much, and I know we will be truly very happy after this separation, for I do trust you will return, "unto <> and to me." I shall not retire as early as usual if I write more to-night, as I heard the sentinel just say the time 'half past nine o'clock &c". So I will write good night to you, and hope you are as well and happy as myself.

Sunday evening, Feb 1st.

I wrote the above last Friday evening, and last evening I wrote a letter to brother Charlie, in answer to one I receive from him a few days since, and to-day I have been writing to Mother. Now comes your turn, my dearest Otis, and what of so very many thing that I want to tell you shall I choose to write?

The time is fast passing that we intend to spend here - a little longer than three weeks. I have not done much about breaking up since yet, but have got everything ready to pack, such as marking bedding &c, have had all my blankets washed. I fear the letter will be too heavy if I write a whole sheet, so I will cover only this half. I shall continue to write to you twice a week and wish it could be so you would receive a letter every mail.

I do think it is much better for us all that Guy and I [remain here] while you are in Florida, and I think you can make yourself more comfortable alone than if you had us there to care for. Guy goes to sleep every night in my bed. He has four teeth. I did not read his letter but fear it was too smart.

Charlie writes that he hopes I will make my stay in Leeds, thinks you would like to have me at your old home, and knows your Mother would like it. I do not think that Lewiston or Auburn are healthy places for children, that is the greatest objection to living there. I might go to Leeds the last of July and stay during the rest of the Summer. I cannot decide till I get there, and see how things will be. I shall make myself contented where I do stay, and take as good care of myself and dear little Guy as I shall be able to.

I must again write good night to you, and tell you to keep yourself in good health, and think often <[torn edge of paper]>  
<Lizzie>

[Written in another hand]  
Recd at Fort Brooke, Fla  
dated Jan 30 1857  
Mrs O. O. Howard

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674 1/31/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0616

Fort Brooke, Tampa,  
Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Tampa, Fla.  
January 31st 1857.

My dearest wife,

It is Saturday night & the last day of the month and as it would do my heart good to see you and have a chat with you, perhaps "about the weather & the skies", I will do what comes nearest to it, write you a few lines before mounting my cot for the night. After putting your letter into the box last Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure of taking out not four or five, but one letter from you dearest, dated January 14th. It was fourteen days on the way. You had then received only mine from Palatka. It seems queer after having written as many as six letters from this place to receive one as far back as the 14th in answer to the one you received from Palatka.

(Sunday afternoon Feb 1st).

Mr Mack asked my assistance in some accounts of his last night and when we had finished it was after 12 and so we read a chapter in the Bible and retired. There was no through Mail yesterday so that we were all disappointed.

Lieut. J. H. Wheelock is here on his way home in Boston. He was an instructor in philosophy at West Point, when I was there. He has just resigned and intends to go into business with his father very soon. He will leave at the same time with the mail that carries this letter. He paid us a visit at Watervliet, when you were gone to Maine in 1855. If you or Rowland could see him, he could tell you how I am situated.

I had a horse-back ride yesterday afternoon with Maj Leonard & wife and Miss Duvall the sister of Mrs Major Paige. Mrs Leonard had me for a beau, but my horse was too uneasy to make me a decent escort. She rode a little Florida pony which did not match my large horse very well, but we had quite a lengthy ride of five or six miles.

February is such a short month I fear you wont get many letters before you will be ready to leave for Maine. I shall however direct letters to you till the 14th inst. In my next look out for a check. After the 14th I shall direct to Lewiston, so that you may hear from me on your arrival.

Lieut Wheelock says his father's place of business is No. 460 corner of Essex & Washington Sts. Col H Wheelock is his fathers name. If Rowland would go there, if you remain in the city of Boston long enough, he would meet him or know where he was to be found.

We have had several callers this afternoon & they have spoiled my letter. Kiss little Guy for me. Give my love to all. We have no army news of importance. No Indians found yet. I shall write a long letter by Wednesday's mail & as I said enclose you a check. I want you to write all about your monetary affairs. I continue in perfect health. My regards to the offs & people on the post. I would like to write more but it is getting late. So good night & God bless you my dearest wife.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

There are a few minutes more. I went to Church this morning, hope you were able to do the same. The weather continues very pleasant & warm. We had a short & fine shower of rain yesterday, what farmers would call a growing rain. I have bought of Lt Wheelock two blankets & a feather pillow. We have a "gang" at Mr Duke's hotel. I am making preparation by this means not for you as I should like to do, but for the time when Lieut Magitton returns for his things. I shall buy some shirts soon. These you could not send me so cheap as I could buy them here. I am glad little boy is so well & so fat. That's right let him grow & be happy. I hope his mother is so too. There are hundreds of little things I would like to ask you, but I presume you can imagine them, and as I must close this letter I will reserve everything till next time. Is it very cold at Troy? Have you had any sleigh ride? Does Mr Shunk tease you about Florida. Tell me how much Mrs Lee took & what you have

realized for everything.

Lots of love to Rowland, Mother & our darling Guy.  
Yr affectionate Otis  
(in haste)

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675 2/1/1857

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0617

Watervliet

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet  
Feb. 1st 1857

My dear Brother

This is my "love-letter" paper and admits of a pretty long letter at a small postage & convenient size, but I will not promise that this shall be long, on account of the dearth of topics. But I suppose anything is of interest to you. You may be sure that I was delighted that Lizzie should receive those three letters which have been so long delayed. I ran all the way from the P.O. & handed them to her in instalments of one each. So she could read & digest one without being oppressed by the anticipated pleasure of the next.

Mr Lee & myself have been over to St Johns Church today. None of the lades have been out. Indeed the walking was impracticable, but over head it has been the warmest, sunniest day of the whole winter.

Guy seems to consider me more & more indispensable to him. I know "Papa" would be jealous if he could hear him say "Uncle" first. Lizzie & I get on swimmingly & whether absent or present she is just the nicest little wife you could have. Mrs Waite's health is not very good & it has the usual depressing effects on her spirits. But the prospect of being so soon with those after her own heart at Lewiston, will soon make her more cheerful & hopeful. I am less useful to Lizzie than I wish I could be, on acct. of my absence at Albany & my occupation with my own affairs even while here.

Guy is going to be a regular beauty. I should count myself blessed beyond anything that money can <better> were I Father to such a noble boy. In spite of the responsibility imposed, the danger of sickness & death, the trial of absence & the thousand fears for him every way there is, there must be a blessing in such a possession beyond all power of expression and all measure of gratitude. God bless you all - Father, Mother & Son & keep for you all, intact & unbroken, the rich bounties He has granted you in domestic love.

I went to hear <Chulberg>, the great pianist yesterday week & was perfectly delighted with him. Mr Lee & I went to hear H.W. Beecher Tuesday Evening last before the Y.M.A. of Troy. We got no seats, of course, but what we heard was fully up to your description of his Eloquence, which was, surely eulogistic & enthusiastic enough. Do you see the N.Y. papers as soon as they can reach Tampa by mail? You will see how suddenly "Bully Brooks" died & passed to his long acct & how a Mr Savage in the House said that his great act was like that of Brutus & like that would always command the approbation of right thinking men!

The Army Bill (Quitmans) passed the house without much opposition & we are looking every day for the Senate to pass it. It dates the pay back to July. I think I will have to leave the Carriage here, subject either to your order, or to be sent to Mr Pack in the Spring & sold at Auction as you think best. Lizzie has been offered \$35.00 for the cow, but has not decided whether to take it yet, I believe. We have sold nothing except to Mr Lee. The furniture will be sent to Pack sometime this week, that he may sell & we realize, before our departure which is now in about 3 ½ weeks only.

I am now decidedly in favor of Lizzie's & Guy's spending the greater part of the Spring with Mother. If Lizzie prefers to be at Lewiston the last of the Spring & the first of the Summer, she can go, you know, very easily. If Lizzie could enjoy it as well I do hope she will consent to gratify mother who is very anxious to have her & Guy. I don't see why both Grandmothers can't be satisfied, as Guy can be with both of them a part of the time. I fear I cannot get an answer to this before we leave, but if you write in time, let us have your advice & pleasure.

I want to go down to N.Y. some Saturday before I go away. I had a letter from Aunt Anne saying that Frank was no better & that they will leave for Nassau tomorrow (Frank & Sarah & their little boy). I want to stop a day in Boston, to see about the Cambridge Law School & the expense of studying law in Boston, to go out & see Dellie, to see Mrs Patten & Lizzie (her daughter) at Somerville. Lizzie would like to stop but Mrs Waite does not seem pleased with the arrangement.

Mr Shunk is a "good fellow" & I like him first rate. I have a case in the "moot Court" tomorrow & have my part fully prepared. I think our side will beat. Charles finished his School Saturday week & is at Brunswick. Dellie still at Andover. I had a letter from Wing Friday. He keeps his old place & <Length> has gone to Illinois. He gives very flattering accounts of his prospects & is "determined to be a rich man" - wants I should invest some money in House lots! Wonder where I would get it! He expresses great gratitude for your kindness at Augusta & a desire to hear from you.

I have been sadly disappointed in not getting a letter from "my Ella" today. These snow storms are bad things for regular correspondence. I had one last Wednesday & also from Capt. Patten. He is closing up his mercantile business. Laura Howard has been making Mother a visit & wrote me a very good letter from Leeds. I design to write to Aunt Martha Jane before we go on, and ascertain whether she is still in Sommerville & if we had better go out there, if we stop in Boston. Aunt Anne has heard nothing from Perry & Fred. It is a dreadful winter for Shipping, the papers are full of disasters.

I am connected with the Young Men's Debating Soc. here & have once participated in their exercises & shall again tomorrow evening. Shall you travel or be stationary? Shunk anticipates a busy time for you. There is no need of my saying "write often" for you will. Everything about you is of interest to us all.

Affectionately,  
Your Bro  
Rowland

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676 2/1/1857

*From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0618

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy Feb 1st 1857

My dear Mother

I received your kind letter some time since, but as brother Rowland wrote you very soon after, I thought I would wait till I had news from Otis. We were all very well when your letter was received but now mother has been unwell since Wednesday. She is getting better, and will soon be well I trust. All the rest of us are very well. Guy has four teeth, can say quite a number of words, calls Uncle constantly.

I thank you very much for the invitation to stay with you, during the time Otis is from us, but I cannot under the circumstances, decide before I go to Maine where I had better make my stay. The only, or rather the greatest objection I have to Lewiston is on account of Guy. I do not think it a healthy place for children. I will visit you very soon after I leave here, for I presume I shall stop at Lewiston, make that our first stopping place after we leave Watervliet Arsenal. Then I will talk with you and consult Otis and learn his wishes.

I do not think of going to Florida unless Otis should remain two years, or much longer than he now anticipates. It is not a comfortable place (the quarters) for ladies and children. There are a few ladies there, wives of Artillery Officers, but he says he had rather risk Guy and myself at the north than there. I presume he can make himself more comfortable alone than to have us with him, although we would be very happy to be together. Every letter I have written to him has been a cheerful letter, and I shall strive to continue to have them so. I did not receive my letters regularly. The first ones were detained by storm. Therefore last Friday eve, I received three, all he had written. The first letter written Jan 10th gave me a description of the remainder of his journey, and that Gen Harney was at Fort Myers when he arrived at Tampa. He sailed immediately for Fort Myers (one hundred and seventy miles below Tampa) in the steamer Fashion belonging to the government. Gen Harney received him very cordially, and he, Gen Harney and two other officers returned to Tampa the next day (Saturday) and he was assigned to duty as Ordnance Officer. The second letter written on the fourteenth of Jan, was only to say that he had not received a letter since he left home. The last letter was written on the 18th. I have already given the news of it condensed considerably. He gets the mail twice a week Wednesdays and Saturdays, and leaves Thursday and Sunday or Monday. I direct letters to Tampa Fla.

Gen Harney had gone out with his staff to visit all the Posts in Florida. He has declared war with the Indians. He has 36 companies, 85 men in each, 9 of the companies volunteers, mounted, and the rest artillery and infantry. I presume you may have a letter soon from him perhaps as soon as you get this. I should judge that Otis had had a great deal to do since he arrived at his Post. He writes that he never was in better health, and I do hope he may remain in the best of health.

I am now writing in the evening. My dear little boy has gone to sleep. I put him into my bed as soon as he is undressed every night and he is soon asleep, and he does not wake till seven o'clock the next morning.

I am very glad that Esther has gone to live with Mrs Ames. It will so much to her advantage. I hope Rosco's health has improved since last Fall. I think he must be quite well, as you say Col G. has no one else to help him. Brother Rowland received a letter from Aunt Ann saying Mr Sargent, wife and little boy would soon go to Nassau, as he gets no better. I presume she will not now visit us. I am glad to hear that Cynthia, Rowland and Jonnie are well. I suppose he is almost as large as Guy.

I have not yet begun to take up carpets or done much towards moving. I have had all my blankets washed, and am marking all my bedding preparatory to packing. I wish to have packed everything in good order.

I wrote to Charlie yesterday, and shall write to Otis as soon as I finish this. Rowland just came in, and said he would write to you also. I received a very kind brotherly letter from Charlie, a few mornings since. I am very glad his school was pleasant to him. I know it must have been so to the scholars. We heard from Laura a short time since. I did not imagine they would go back to L so early as the middle of March. Remember me [to] all

friends & give my love to Rowland, Cynthia and tell her to kiss Jonnie for me.

Believe me very affectionately your daughter  
Lizzie Howard

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677 2/3/1857

*From:* Mrs OO Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0619

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y.

Ft. Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Feb 3, 1857

My dearest Husband

I do think Guy is the best, or one of the best children I ever knew. He has just gone to sleep by himself in my bed, does not make the least fuss about it. He fell down on the carpet to-day, and left the print of the threads on his forehead and made his nose bleed for the first time. I was a little frightened at first, but he soon returned to his playthings, and seemed to forget it. He is very fond of filling his wooden needle full of spools and will put on six or eight sometimes, and then two on my 'white taped pencil'.

My furniture has all been sent to Mr Parks to sell. Sargeant Smith & Mr Madan went with it once yesterday, and to-day once. I wrote a note and sent him yesterday and brother Rowland is to call and see him at his rooms. I do hope the things will bring nearly what they are worth, but I shall not worry. They must bring what they can, and I shall make the best of it.

Guy had his nap on the lounge to-day, slept as well and as long as usual. I was very glad to get another letter from you this morning, and brother Rowland received his also. I do think you should have received more than one letter from me before the 20th of last month. I have written regularly, and mailed two letters every week, only when brother Rowland has written, I have merely enclosed a note. I form a very good idea of your quarters from the sketch at the top of your dear, kind letter, and of the military reserve. Mr Lee says, he supposes you imagined yourself a 'Topog' while sketching the 'reserve'. I took it downstairs when I went to dinner. I fear you are having it too cold for that climate, and the changes may produce sickness. I do hope you will not be sick so far from us; and if you did take the measles you are now sick with them. I hope not but if you did take them do not expose yourself too much to the cold while they are coming out, or while they are out. This will reach you too late for me to prescribe if you are sick, but I will trust to your judgement, and the skill of Dr Head.

Wednesday Evening.

I will now finish my letter, that brother Rowland may mail it early in the Cars. I hope, darling Otis, you received tonight one, at least, of the many letters I have written you. Perhaps like me you got quite a number at one mail. I know they will be welcome to you, my Otis, whenever you get them. I love to write as often as twice a week if it is only to tell you I am well.

I do not think you have fitted up your room in great style, but I think you have 'done wisely' in not purchasing furniture, but I do want you to make yourself as comfortable as you can. I wish I could send you something, I don't know what, that you would like. I wish you had taken bedding with you although you are now supplied with both bed and bedding. I am very glad of the least kindness shown you by those about you, and have no doubt you also appreciate it.

I get the 'Army Register' to find the names of the officers you speak of and are with, as I have never known them. I wish to form some idea of them and their characters, but it may I should not judge of them rightly by their rank, regiment and native state. I am so much "northern", would I not be partial? Mr Shunk has been here some time. He received a letter from Mr Todd, who wished to know when Mr Boggs would be at 'Baton Rouge' on account of private business he wished to know. He is engaged to a young lady at St Louis, and we thought he might be going to be married on his way here.

You need not hasten to send me money for I am in no need of any. I sold the Cow this morning to the same man for 35 dollars. He will take her away Monday next, and after that leave us two quarts of milk every day.

Last evening was not as long as I imagined, and I did not get my letter finished. I will try to finish it now, Thursday morning, and give it to the Orderly at noon.

Gen Wool is coming home, and I hope I shall see him before I leave. I do not know when he will be here. Mrs

Thornton hopes the Major will return in the spring. I do not begin to think when you will return to us. I can only hope you may not be gone very, very long, and that you may continue in good health is my constant prayer.

I am still very well and have no fears, for myself. I do hope we will leave here just three weeks from to-day. I have nothing to do now but to pack what I leave here, and what I take with me to Maine. I will take good care of myself and not do much, but merely look on while others work. Brother Rowland is very kind to do all I ask him. Will see Mr Parks, and tell him that you have a carriage to sell but not send it to him. There was a man here the other day, asked to see Mrs Howard. He said he had been looking at the carriage Mr Howard had to sell, asked the price. I told him seventy dollars, and I would like to sell it before I went away. He said he would consider of it.

Guy has just come up from the kitchen to have his nap so good bye, my darling Otis. Mother sends her love to you, and believe me ever your loving little wife.

Lizzie Howard

I asked Guy to send a kiss to father and he pointed towards the door.

I did receive by check 50 dollars from you while in New York.

[the following was written in another hand]

Recd at Ft. Brooke Fla

dated Feb 3d 57

Mrs O O Howard

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678 2/4/1857

*From:* Charley (CHM)

*To:* Dear friend Oliver

OOH-0620

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Febr'y 4th 1857

Wednesday A.M.

Dear friend Oliver

Your esteemed favor of Jan'y 16th came to hand this morning and I can assure you it astonished me to find you directing your letters from other quarters than "Watervliet", although I had heard through "Cap't Gorgas" that you had been ordered to Florida still I could not realize it until now. First to Maine, then to Florida, this is moving about rapidly, and to the extremes, but still aside from the seperation from one's family in many respects you must enjoy it. The change can be but agreeable of climate, people, manners, customs &c. It is not pleasant to break up housekeeping and divide one's family for any length of time I am aware - particularly the exposure attending you from all sources still the new ideas that are obtained in an entire change of scene is beneficial to say the least. I should enjoy it I know.

I am very glad to hear you are well and that you remember your old friends in Augusta. I hope you will not forget that I think of you very often and wish you back to the pleasant quarters at the Kennebec Arsenal. It may be selfish in me in part for I have missed you so much since you left. Still I can but think you enjoyed yourself here and would like to have remained. I must confess that I owe an apology, for not writing you ere this but all I can say is something has turned up every day that has prevented me and with all have been pretty busy since I was at your house at West Troy last fall. It is not because I have not wanted to hear from you or that I wished to drop our correspondence - far from it. Should you write me just as often as you have leizure I will endeavor to reply to all in due season.

I should be pleased to do something with Mr Hart if an arrangement could be made mutually satisfactory. Hay can be bought here as low as at any point in Maine and from May to November shipped from here direct and from Nov to May (at Bath) which is thirty miles below Augusta, it can be shipped, these places being connected by Rail Road. And Good Pressed Hay Delv'd at Depot here can be bought for twelve Dollars per Ton now - as the season advances it will probably be higher. A large quantity of Hay was damaged in the field last summer, consequently great care should be taken in selecting prime lots. If it is not too much trouble you can see Mr Hart and get the particulars - how he wishes the Hay bought - What Kind as near as possible, also the terms and if he is responsible as well as good for all transactions he proposes to undertake.

I will do his business for him here for as small a commission as is done any where, but do not care to assume very great risks with an entire stranger at such a distance. I will rely upon you Oliver and as you are acquainted with me and know how I am situated any arrangement you may make I will be greatly obliged to have you forward when ever he (Mr Hart) is in want of any thing that can be bought here such as Hay, Oats, Barley, Beans &c and the prices are now as follows [respectively] \$12/ton, 45cts/Bush, \$1/Bush, \$2 1/4/Bush.

Perhaps it is troubling you too much and if so Mr Hart can write me by your reading him this. Until I hear from you or him, will not write him.

The Good people you know here are all well and not many changes. Mr Dana was here this winter and created as much sensation as he did last summer attending Tea Parties, riding about &c. The Scandal of the town has him now engaged to Lizzie Briggs. It remains to be seen, whether it is so. Time brings about all these things, however he is really a very nice fellow and is thought a great deal of here. H. W. Severance is now here. He that is engaged to Hannah Child and they will probably be married soon going back to Calafornia to live. Without doubt Mrs Cushing will go with them. They are the same as when you was here - just as lively and as handsome. They will be missed very much particularly at home.

Doct Briggs & family are well. AD Brown & family live just the same and are the same in all particulars. Geo Williams is a bachelor still but as gallant as of yore. Cap't Gorgas & family seem to enjoy themselves riding about this cold weather and are generally liked I imagine. He is a very still quiet man. They have improved their quarters very much in many respects and think they have considerable company. All of the good people here in town are the same - very few changes. Sarah & the children are well and we live in the same place in

the same way as when you was here. They wish to be Kindly remembered and your name is frequently mentioned by us both.

With my best wishes Oliver for yourself & wife I remain your friend  
Charley [Charles Mulliken]

Brown says we sympathise with you. He is in my counting room now and sends his kindest regards. CHM

Friend Howard I pity you as I know how he should be happy. <> Mrs Howard make us a visit whenever it is her pleasure.

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679 2/4/1857      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0621

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.  
February 4, 1857

My dearest wife,

It is Wednesday afternoon and I must have a letter in readiness for this evening's mail. It will be four weeks tonight since I entered this place for the first time. You may think I will add "how time slips away"! No it does not go on so very fast either. It is rather a dull place when your wife & child are seventeen hundred miles away - rather a lonely place when you lie down & get up without them, when you go out & come in and do not find them. Sometimes you want to talk with the one, sometimes it would do you good to play with the other, but what will you do when you cant have these comforts & these innocent pleasures? Look sad & mope? Murmur at your luck & keep wishing? Walk your room & worry yourself with bootless complainings & repinings? Oh! No. Speak patience to your heart! Give exercise to your mind. "The rain-bow comes after the shower." Be dilligent in all you do, cultivate a cheerful spirit, make the most of God's blessings. All will be well. One may study his life long. One may work day & night. He cannot arrive at a more practical solution of the problem of life's philosophy. Perhaps just this state of mind cannot be attained except by the Christian's ladder, then use that ladder certainly.

I am expecting a letter tonight, my darling. That is one of my blessings. I am writing you another, and that is another of my blessings. I have now drawn my transportation & enclose you 150 dolls of it and my month's pay in another check. I shall register the letter here for safety. You must write me what you do with it, how much you use & how much you leave deposited in the State Bank. The whole amount of what I send you is two hundred & thirty six dollars. My transportation was 174 dolls.

Last night the Quartermaster sent me what they call some Old Tampa Oysters. They are larger than ever Mrs Lee dreamed of. I invited in the three Quartermasters clerks, Capt Kilburn & Dr Head; & we had a grand roast. One was almost large enough for a meal, but they were most excellent. You say you hope I have something good to eat. Yes, I have enough that is good. I don't know exactly what good beef, good pork, good venison, good chickens; but the sweet potatoes are all watery and not so good as those you have. Every body here prefers the irish .

If you were here I would plant a garden & put in it every sort of nice thing, and am not sure but I shall as it is, just to keep me busy. Mr Mack proposes it. There was once a fine garden connected with these quarters. A man by the name of Ferris built the house on the government land and was lately obliged to leave. He undertook to remove his house, but was stopped just after he had made way with the greater part of the Garden fence. So that we have no fence around the garden plot and it will not pay to put one there at private expense.

You noticed the death of Capt Casey. He died some time before I came here. It is thought he would not have lived so long by a great many years, if he had not been here. Major Page, the asst adjutant General is here in part for his health. He is able to do duty every day, but he coughs badly and looks emaciated. Lieutenant Day is here also for the consumption. I never have heard of a case of consumption commencing here. Hundreds come here to get cured, but very often too late to receive any benefit. There is a sad case where I board, Dr Lesley is in the last stages of the of disease & his wife is wearing herself out taking care of him. Their children are at home & he poor man has left them to die here. There is not a single case of fever of any kind in the place. Mr Day belongs to the Artillery & not to the Dragoons as I wrote before. I have become quite intimate with him. He has seen a great deal of hard service in the field in Oregon & California since he graduated. He was three years before me. He looks very well generally but one of his lungs is almost gone with the pneumonia and he often has an unnatural flush on his cheek. He is always cheerful and his spirits keep him up in a great measure. He rides on horseback every day. I hope he will recover.

The mail has arrived from Palatka earlier than usual. I hope it has brought something for me. I have'nt yet heard anything from Washington since I have been here. I don't know whether the Colonel will send me any men or not. I shall feel a little more independent if I get some men. Several requisitions have gone on but we

have as yet got no reply.

I am glad Guy is putting those little teeth through. I hope the little fellow will have health, while his father is gone, and always if it can be so. Does he kiss Mama as affectionately as he used to.

It is getting dark. I cannot see the lines, but never mind. I wonder Mother has not written. She will be truly glad to see you & Guy. I would'nt wonder if she were anxious for you to go & live with her. Yes, it will be a rest from house-keeping to live at Lewiston. You must'nt mind little grievances there. Be generous, be kind to them all. Rise above their foibles. Remember, my darling, that true dignity is not pretentious. True greatness seldom shows itself. People who have not risen much in the world are very apt to be full of envy & back-bitings. We must pity & not dispise them. I say this because I think you will be exposed to many little annoyances. I don't like to think you will have to suffer all alone, but Caesar's wife should be worthy of Caesar. We must both cultivate courage & fortitude.

Remember me to Miss Emma when you see her & to all the Willard family. I would like to have seen Mrs Wool before I left. Remember me to all my friends at Troy. What makes Mrs Thornton think that Major Bill will be sent to Watervliet? I hope Mrs Thornton & her little family are well. Give her my kind regards.

Tell Rowland I shall answer his letter as soon as I get it. Give him, Mother & Guy lots of love. I need not tell you, my dearest Lizzie, how much I love you & how happy it would make me to fold you in my arms. We have just heard that Lt. Perkins came across a party of Indians, but thought it imprudent to attack them, near Ft. Kissimmee. Maj Pemberton has put him in arrest for not doing so. I want you to remember me with much regard to Mr & Mrs Lee.

From your loving husband  
Otis

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680 2/7/1857

*From:* F T Sargent

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-0622

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn Feby 7th 1857

Dear Otis

As you have been gone nearly six weeks, it is fair to presume that you are long since at the end of your journey and settled down in your new home(?) - at all events I hope you have safely arrived and reported yourself at head quarters, so just before I take my departure for a more congenial atmosphere, I will inflict upon you a few lines.

But first let me thank you on behalf of the recipients, for the very acceptable presents for New Years. Mother and Franky were highly delighted with theirs, Sarah read hers through on New Years day & was much pleased with reading again those beautiful verses and in such elegant binding. As for myself I can not say so much, mine being the larger book. I have not yet read it through, but have looked it through, and so far as I have read, must say that I admire the quaint style in which it is written, & expect to enjoy it on my passage to Nassau.

The vessel is ready for sea, waiting for a wind, and we, Sarah & Franky & I are waiting for her. My health has been about the same as when you left, until within the last two or three weeks, when I think I have been improving. Still I am advised by the Dr to go south until May. We shall no doubt get off on Monday. We shall leave the house as it is, and I hope my health will allow me to come home in May. If not I cannot tell what will be done.

We heard from Perry [Lee] at Kingston. He came near losing his vessel the first day out of New York in a severe gale, sprung a leak &c &c.

Henry Strickland has decided on going West, and starts with Mr Skills (Ada's Beaux) the first of the week to locate & will take his family out in the spring. We heard of your Mother about a week ago. She was well then. I have tried written to Wm Merrick but have no word from him yet, & do not know how Maria is, cannot understand why I have not heard from them. Have had a pleasant letter (to Mother) from Rowland. They were all well and of course missed you much. Think of going East soon.

Do you know Mr I J Merritt of Troy? He goes out with us as US Consul at Nassau.

I notice that the Army pay bill is likely to pass both Houses & become a law. I congratulate you on this. How do you get along with the Indians? I see the truce has been called in, and Genl Kearney has seven scouting parties out.

I hope you will write to me & let us know all about your movement prospects &c.

The young man that wanted to take your orders for the South, has been ordered to Baton Rouge.

We have been in complete confusion for two weeks making preparations to go away, and Sarah is pretty near tired out. I don't think she would care to go just now if she liked to have me go alone, however I hope <he> may grant us safety, and that my health may be completely restored.

Franky talks famously, often says "Otis gone."

All join me in <loud> & good wishes to you. May God bless & keep you,

Yr aff Cousin  
F T Sargent

Lieut O O Howard



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681 2/8/1857

*From:* Otis H [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0623

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.  
February 8th 1857

My dearest Wife,

Last Wednesday after mailing your letter containing the checks, I was made happy by receiving two letters, one Rowland's with yrs enclosed & the other your own, mailed the 20th & 23d respectively. Now I will write a little while before Church this morning. We have but one minister in the place. He is I should think an Irishman & a Methodist. I heard him last Sunday morning. He preached good doctrine, good common sense & was in earnest. I was pleased & thought nobody could complain. But some young men who heard him in the evening were mimicking & ridiculing him.

Your letter & Rowland's mentions Mother's pressing invitation for you all to go & live with her. If you would not confine yourself too much to the house, I don't know but you would be as happy there & as well. You know my Mother is never so much in her proper element as by the sick bed. If you are sick I feel confidence in the affectionate care of your Mother & mine. We are apt to have too little confidence in a young physician. Yet they have a double interest in doing well. They have a reputation to establish and no old reputation to fall back upon.

My darling, I feel very anxious for you & wish you to act in accordance with your best judgment. I know Mother would be happier to have you there than at Lewiston, but I expect your Mother would prefer Lewiston. Wouldn't little Guy summer it better at Leeds? I don't think I am an unprejudiced judge, for I confess a preference for Leeds as a place to live in, for health or sickness. But again I say My darling, Do as you think will be best for yourself & Guy. Keep up good courage Lizzie, may be I will be home to see you in June. I wish you were here during these beautiful months of January, February & March. But let us be content.

Mrs Maj. Page had a little girl born yesterday afternoon. I saw the Major last night & said to him, "All well, Major?" He answered - all is well, which you could see by his happy face meant a good deal. He has the consumption. His oldest boy can't be more than six. His children are Frank, Lucy, Powhattan (commonly called Posey) & now the Baby. It seems to be the fashion in his family to alternate between boys & girls. I think of Guy, when I see his little Frank mounted on a horse & riding off by himself. I think of Guy hereafter. Mrs McKinstry's child is two years old. She calls him "Guy", his name being Carlyle. It sounded so much like our darling's name, that I stopped in passing the yard where he was playing & asked his mother his name.

I will resume after Church. I have just returned from Church. We had a sermon upon the history of Moses, who forsook pleasure for affliction. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Hebrews XI.25. The text is enough of itself without the sermon.

It will be well to do as you propose, take a list of the things in each box, but I am afraid you are laying out quite a task for yourself. Can Rowland ascertain what it would cost to take the carriage to Leeds by cars. Perhaps more that it would be worth, O, yes it would not pay. You can leave it to be sold, if you do not have a chance to dispose of it before you go. You called to see Mrs Sprague. Her husband was here during the Mexican war. We have a large book written by him which I have been reading, The History of the Florida War with the Indians. I expect Mrs Sprague was here with her husband all the time he was here. There is no doubt that I shall remain here all the time as you have by this time gathered from my letters. Gen Harney is now at Fort Myers. His troops are very actively engaged scouring the whole country, working step by step into the swamps & Everglades. We have got the news that our pay bill has passed the house. Nobody here thinks it will be retrospective. You don't see anything in the papers, about Gen Harney's proceedings because he don't report anything. Telegraphic news even has to be communicated to Savannah or Washington by letters. The news of a battle would be three days in reaching him by an express if it happened in the interior & would be four or five days in getting here & ten days or more in reaching New York. Hence you would not read of it in the paper till some twenty days after its occurrence. However three thousand men & more have already been hard at work for two months, but nothing has yet been done towards bringing affairs to a crisis.

The indians are few in number & their haunts almost impenetrable. You may wade in the water up to your neck, push yourself in little flat boats till provisions and strength give out and find nothing. You may take a company & penetrate into the Hammocks, pass within three rods of a party of indians & never see them. They will not attack a party unless they can kill nearly the whole at the first fire. They must have concealed their women & children on some Island in the Big Cypress or the Everglades. General Harney is determined to leave no means untried to find them. They (Harney's men) burn up the woods as much as they can & keep moving.

This day is as warm & pleasant as any day in mid summer at the north. The trees are full of birds warbling & singing. The gardens are planted & vegetables begin to show themselves. You can hardly credit such a tale when you look forth upon the black hills covered with snow. The space of time between broad sunlight & darkness is very short. Twilight does not last long enough to make you gloomy, and the sun sets you a good example, making you get up quickly as soon as you are awake. Tell Rowland to be careful how he "draws those dark pictures of prospects &c." They try the heart too severely, and they are all in the imagination. He will understand.

I sent you two checks, as I said, one \$86.83 & the other \$150.00. If this letter arrives soonest you will know the other is close. I shall direct twice more to Watervliet.

Next Saturday 14th February - two years ago. Brick house, Chatham St. You can kiss Guy instead of his father, that day. [Otis and Lizzie were married 14 Feb 1855.]

Lots of love to all. Tell Guy his father will soon be as fat as he is, he hopes. I almost envy Mama her little bedfellow. My kindest regards to Mr Lee & wife & to Mr, I am sorry I can't say Mrs Shunk. Tell him I expect to see my little wife & little boy before I am thirty.

All is well that ends well (?)

Your most obedient & Loving Husband  
Otis H.

Add my congratulations, that there are now no Lizzie Waites, and tell me who has annihilated the second Lizzie Waite. (the name I mean). Don't be offended. Lizzie Waite is a sweet name for a girl. Would you like to take it back.

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682 2/8/1857

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0624

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Sabbath Evening Feb. 8th 57

My dear Brother

This must be my apology for an answer to your long kind letter which I received the first of the week. Nothing could make us so well contented with your absence as the good accounts we hear from you. Lizzie also kindly read me extracts from her Friday Evening's letter, which she has been answering today. She has doubtless told you of the sale of the cow & the sending off of the furniture. It seems too bad to make such a sacrifice of the latter as we shall have to, if it is sold at Auction. I think the best course with the carriage is to leave it here till Spring & then Mr Parke can dispose of it more advantageously than is possible at present. Lizzie seems quite well & happy, especially these last two days. Of Guy, his Mothers accts are more interesting than mine can be. Mrs Waite seems quite smart today but she has truly a most unfortunate disposition. I now think Lizzie had better go to Leeds directly. I think she will be as happy there & Guy as well off as anywhere, but I fear it would have to be without her Mother's consent & so I hesitate about proposing it. Mrs W does not want to stop in Boston any either.

The river has broken up with this prolonged rain & warm weather & presents an awful as well as majestic aspect today. The ice was about two feet thick & it is a great sight to see it rolling, groaning & tumbling between the crowded banks. I fear much damage will be done to property & some to life by this terrible freshet. I cannot cross to Troy in the morning, so I shall wait & go in the 9 o'clock train on this side. I hope it will soon freeze. It is so far to the Bridge & the ferries are impracticable.

I spoke in our "Moot Court" Friday & am assigned to a very hard "case" to come off next week. I mean if possible to acquit myself well, for I wish to leave a good impression behind me when I leave the School, So that hereafter when my fellow students meet me in business they won't be afraid to speak well of & trust me as a Lawyer. Thorn says he has heard me spoken of as the best "Speaker" in the school. My ambition now is to achieve a more substantial reputation than that. Dr Thorn's son is a fine fellow and a pleasant companion. Pity he is so little. Jackson says "Remember me to your brother & tell him I am taking good care of you morally & intellectually." He is very kind & so are Mssrs Townsend & Conking. Write Jack a short & pithy letter & express your obligations & tell him the Florida news. Thats the only way I can pay him. I think tho that a valuable client not secure tho my means the other day.

I had a good long loving letter from Ella this morning. Charles spent last Sabbath with her. The K&P R.R. didn't run for a week & Charles came near not getting back to Brunswick again. No news since I wrote from Dellie or Mother. Mr & Mrs Lee are as usual. I will write you real long letters as soon as law school is done.

Rowland

Monday morn Feb 9th

No mails will probably leave today. The water kept rising all the afternoon. Yesterday & at 9 o'clock last night the gas went out. Mr Lee came to my door at 7 this morning & told me that the grounds were submerged. The water is over the top of the door of what used to be your office & it reaches up to the Engine House. No boats could be had for money. He offered one man \$5.00 an hour for one to relieve Mr Lansing & Mrs Thornton. The whole of those lower stories are under water. The men have built two rafts and are now trying to break the ice through to Mr Lansing. It has turned off cold & the grounds from the Canal to the old Channel of the river are a field of ice. In 1832 there was the same state of things. Never since. Many families only saved themselves by boats. I have heard of no loss of life. A large two story white house went down river about five o'clock this morning.

It is now after 9 o'clock & the water has fallen two feet & the men have got their raft as far as the Hospital & we have news that there is a boat coming. I couldn't help laughing to hear Mr Lansing. He stuck his head out of the chamber window & yelled "Do, for God's sake, buy a boat if you can't hire one. We can get neither fire nor

water & are freezing to death. That's all we have heard from him as yet. Not a word from the Guard or Mrs. Thornton. The offices are full of water & the papers must be ruined. Mr Lee's new lot of books & yours too, in the Post Library have probably gone for it. I will go out again now & see how things are getting along. All the lumber on the wharf is of course gone. The ice formed a dam three miles below here & hence this flood.

Evening.

Mr Lee & I have been "inspecting" the Offices. We went to the door in a boat & then by means of chairs and boxes visited them all without getting very wet. Every desk & table lies flat on its back. Books, papers, Drawing & documents of all kinds are completely soaked. The four upper shelves of the Library were saved, all the rest were spoiled. The New Shakespeare, Burke & Dickens (8 large volumes) are reduced to pulp. I suppose the loss of some of Deans papers & the whole of the Drawings will be the most, but nothing looked so sad to me as the destruction of the Post Library.

Tuesday morn

The water has gone down 4 feet & there is not more than two inches on the Office floors. It has frozen over & is now good crossing on the ice to Mrs Thorntons & Mr Lansings. I will send yu a paper giving you an acct of the freshet. At one time the water in front of the hospital was 12 ft deep. I don't know whether the mails will go today. Lizzie, Guy & Mrs Waite all nicely this morning.

Rowland

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683 2/8/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0625

Ft Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Feb. 8, 1857

My dearest Husband,

I have now commenced to receive your kind letters regularly. One mail Jan. 25th was brought me last Friday - three days later than the one mailed on the 21st ult. I am always so very happy to get a letter and the last one was written in so very kind a tone and with so much affection, that I could not not keep back the tears of joy and love while I read. I do feel a little anxious about you, and your health all the time. Just enough to make me fully appreciate yourself and your affection, and to make me most happy to receive a letter saying you are perfectly well. I am writing now about eleven o'clock Sunday morning. Guy has just gone to sleep and is lying on my bed, and Mother is writing to Maine in her room (and she has the ink that is why I use my pencil.) Mother is very well now, but has been quite sick over a week so that she did not sit up any and Dr. Viele was in a number of times. Dr. said there was no action of the liver at the time. I did not tell you because I feared it would make you over anxious about myself and I trusted that she should soon be quite well, as she is. I am very glad she is not sick, now or later for we have no time to lose, if we go from here on the 26th of this month, and I do hope we shall.

I squared my accounts last evening, and have cash on hand \$144.24, besides what is in the Bank (\$210.00). Learnett's bill \$9.48, Meat bill 4.86 (remember we had the pig killed to eat), Gass bill \$3.60, Bread bill \$3.32. I think I am a good girl to keep account of all the money I spend. (?) I think I had better find a good place to deposit your money on interest in Maine. I presume I will not need for my own use \$50.00 per month, and shall wish to add to it sometimes. Brother Rowland thinks I better not leave it here. I might leave it 'till I found a place to deposit it with safety.

Evening

I finished writing the above just before dinner. Mother went down to dinner for the first time since week before last. You must not think I ought to have told you of her sickness before. I did not want you troubled about us. I shall continue to write to you twice every week as long as I am well, and I do wish you could receive a letter every mail, but I do not know when to mail them to have you get them at those times.

The weather here has been very warm and spring-like nearly all last week, and the ice on the river broke this afternoon and looks ragged enough. The snow is nearly all gone on the hills, and inside the Arsenal grounds below the Canal, and in some places above. I do not think I shall "look out the window" much at present as things do not look very inviting. Brother Rowland and Mr Lee have gone to look at the river. Guy is busying himself about the room with my shoes, his playthings, papers &c. Mrs Lee is sitting by the window looking for Mr Lee. Mother is lying on the lounge. It has been foggy all day but now it is raining hard, and seems as if we would have a long storm. Guy is beginning to be a great talker. Can say Uncle, Ann, Apple, Mama, mam night, (for good-night) biddy, biddy, minny (for money), and tries to say many other words. Mrs Lee taught him to say Mam (in answer to her) and night. He cannot get acquainted with Mr Shunk - does not see him very often. Mr Shunk went to Albany yesterday to see his class-mate, Mr Craig and bride. Went with Green, Johnston and two others and has not returned. He has a great many young men to visit him. I do not know why Mrs Boggs will stay at Augusta. No, my darling Otis I do not want to go to Tampa for I do not think it would be as well for you, for myself, or for Guy to be there. You say you would'nt think she would like to remain there with his father's family nor I presume, darling Otis, you did not think how that might be interpreted by me. Mother has given me a very strong invitation to live with her while you are gone, (and Charlie urges it.) but if I am to take that as your wish about my going to your Mother, I ought not under any circumstances to go. I will not think so for I do not believe you thought of such a thing. True, Mother G does not know how I am situated and when she does know, may not think it would be well for me to be there, I would think it would bring her too much care and extra trouble. I will give myself no uneasiness for I can arrange all that after I get to Maine.

Evening. 9 o'clock.

Guy has gone to sleep. Mother says he eats as much as any man. I fed him at the supper table and she was

there. She has not seen him eat for some time, only drink his milk between meals. He went to the Piano after supper to have it opened, for him to play, and sat there some time dreaming. I think I had better send my Piano to Maine. I can keep it in Aunt Sarah's parlor very well now she has a new house. Send it a few day's before I start. I can pack my bed and such things I wish to take with me in the same box. I know you have no objections and I would feel better than to leave it here in the store-house. I tell Mother I am glad the snow is disappearing. I think there will be a better chance of my selling the carriage before I go. I have seen quite a number on wheels this afternoon.

Guy was so thirsty from eating so much toast for supper that he waked a little while ago, and drank as much water, as he did the night you gave him some at Augusta.

I did not think my sheet was so nearly filled. I would write another sheet, but I have nothing very urgent to tell you or very interesting or more news. Guy is turning all sort of ways - is half asleep and half awake. I think he does kick pretty hard some nights, and I frequently find his feet where his head should be. He has grown a great deal since you went away, can take the brush off the top of my bureau when it is over the edge a very little.

If I mail this to-morrow morning, I think you ought to receive it by Saturday the 21st. Brother Rowland goes to Albany on the cars this side of the river to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and he will drop it at the P.O. on his way. He just came in to my room and laughed to see Guy, who has turned over, and round so many times, that he is or was naked on the outside of the bed. He said leave this open and he will add something. He wrote one week ago to you and I added a note. The gas is very dull to-night. I have to have a fluid lamp lighted beside it, in order to see to write.

I have one of those counting room almanacs, merely a card with the days of the week at the top, and the number of days in each month underneath. I keep count of every letter I write you, and make a mark across the date this way X and when I get one of your dear letters I make a mark this way I and when I enclose a note in one of brother Rowland's letters I mark it this way \. During the month of Jan, I received one from you on the twelveth and three on the thirtyeth.

Now Good night darling and God bless you and keep you is the prayer of your little wife.

Lizzie Howard

Monday evening

My darling Otis

I would write more to tell you what has taken place here since I wrote this long but as brother Rowland has been writing to you today I presume he has told all. I will only add that we are all very well, and I love you very, very much, my best Otis. I am going to bed now.

Your Lizzie

[written in a different hand]

Recd Ft Brooke Fla

dated Feb 18th

Mrs O O Howard

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684 2/11/1857 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0626

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Feb. 11, 1857

Dear Brother

I have not yet heard from you by letter but know you would like to have one from your native state & your brother at any time. I went to Bath last Monday afternoon in the cars in order to hear Henry W. Beecher. I heard him with the greatest pleasure in the evening. I found Capt Pattens folks well. Ella went to the lecture with me. She came up with their horse & sleigh & a woman that lives with them, the next day & brought me up. She showed me a letter from you which gave me some idea how you were situated, what occupied with &c. Rowland had written some before, as much as he knew I suppose for when he wrote they had not got your letters from Tampa. But Lizzie wrote me not long ago & told about your journey &c. I hope I shall have a letter soon though I believe my last was only an apology for a letter. I have not heard from mother since I came to Brunswick & I do not know what the matter can be. It has been nearly a month since I heard last. Dellie wrote a few days ago. He is still engaged from time to time in selling paper. Ella seemed pleased with your letter & I guess will answer it soon. I spent nearly a week with her while her father was in Roxbury, during a storm which we had week ago last Sat. Sun. & Monday. I went down Sat & the cars did not run again till Wednesday. I enjoyed my visit there very much because she seemed to be pleased.

It is now almost ten o'clock in the evening. I have got out my Horace lesson for tomorrow morning. Think I shall go to bed pretty soon as I have been up till twelve for several nights. It has been a very cold day today, but we have a good Franklin Stove & keep warm enough while in the house but look out for the ears when out of doors. I have been caulking my windows today so that I may not be compelled to warm the surrounding atmosphere quite so much. One thing is delightful with you - that is the climate. I believe you said in Ella's letter that you had seen them planting. But I should not like quite so much woods & so many swamps it seems to me. Please to give me a minute account of your daily duties & tell me if your wages are the same as you had at Troy. Rowland & Lizzie, it appears, are coming to Maine but what Rowland will do when he gets here & where Lizzie will stay seem to be undecided. Mother wants Lizzie to go and live with her.

My term closes about the middle of April. Dellie is to come home the last of March. The Medical lectures began a few days ago but I think there are but few medics here yet. The Seniors & Juniors go to Prof Cleaveland's lectures now at two o'clock. I shall have the privilege, if nothing happens to prevent, next Spring at this time. They are having a sort of protracted meeting at the Baptist Church now. A man from Lowell preaches. I was down last night. I sing there Sabbath days. Two of my choir - young ladies - are seeking Religion. Ella has quite an interest & there are some young men of my class whom I hope this season may not leave unconverted. Rowland it seems is not fully decided to be a lawyer. I asked him whether he did not think he ought to be a minister & he answered it much more seriously than I feared he would.

I did not think I should write so much before going to bed, but my Chum does not seem to start so I remain. He, being Pencinian Secretary is writing invitations for the whole Freshman class to join that brotherhood.

Though it is so cold tonight yet it looks beautifully to gaze on the bright full moon & the stars which always sparkle best in a clear cold night like this. As I sat here by my table looking out toward the East at <the> 1st of the Evening I saw the moon rise above the tops of the pines. I know not whether I was thinking of you before or not but it came into my mind whether you mightn't be gazing on the same moon at the same time - at any rate you might by this time see cheerful faced Luna were you to look out.

I have just had a pause in writing, as Josh Laightons senior, came up & asked chum & I to go down to his room & have some parched corn. I went down but bro't the corn up here & with him & another we soon devoured it. We bro't it here because I had the best fire. My chum is now playing the violin in right good earnest & they are listening & I am keeping time to a dancing time with the point of my pen. I have pretty well waked now. Now they & I engage in a song. These things are peculiar to College life. I have congenial spirits, as we are, fit together in College they cannot fail to contribute to each other's present pleasure if not lasting advantage. Laighton & Currier are Seniors. My Chum Abbott is a Junior - I a sophomore. "O boys carry me along" now greets my ears. But this is more interesting to me I suppose than to you, and I think I will not write any more

tonight except the two words to express my prayer for you "Good Night".

Thursday Forenoon, 10 ½ o'clock now finds me ready to continue my letter. It must be finished before my Trigonometry lesson comes off at 11 because I can carry it to the P.O. after that and it will go out in this noon's mail. We have but one train a day each way now. It is a bright clear cold morning which it will only require an effort of the memory to bring to your mind and which needs no description of mine in order for you to see in your mind the town of Brunswick as it looks today.

We have Rhetoric in the afternoon now & recite to Prof. Chamberlain. I do better in this than in any thing else & I like to study it but my class all call it dry & hard. Prof. Chamberlain & I always seemed to get along swimmingly but the other Profs don't seem to like me at all. But no matter I do about as well as I can. I shall not get a Junior part. I should like to have done so for the sake of pleasing my friends but do not think I shall despair & give up my studies because I do not get one. I have some correspondents but no very constant ones except my brothers & mother. I hope you will remember that your letters to them are never seen by me, that I am alone here at Brunswick & am as anxious for the welfare of my oldest brother as ever I was and am at the present time desirous to have a letter.

May God be with you  
Your Affectionate Brother  
Chas. H. Howard

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

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685 2/11/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0627

Fort Brooke Tampa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Tampa  
Feb 11th 1857

My dearest wife

I meant to have commenced a letter to you this forenoon, but as I had official work to hinder me, I will cut riding this afternoon and spend the time between this (four o'clock) and tea time at your service. I have answered all letters received so this must be independent.

It seems to me you must know all about Tampa, Fort Brooke & its environs. What would you have me write? "What your heart wishes as your fancy dictates"? Methinks I hear you say. Suppose you met a stranger from Tampa Florida direct, who knew me here. What would you ask him? "Is he well? Yes, very well. Does he seem contented? Yes, so, so. He seems a little like a man in love, whose Love is not there. What does he find to do? Oh! he is Ordnance Officer at Fort Brooke and has to make out invoices & receipts & write letters. He tries Greens Carbines with Lt Mack, firing at a target. He talks with the Colonel about a new store building - with Major McKinstry asking him to put up a fence around his Garden - with Major Page about the Volunteers. He reads the Caxtons, a little of Bacon, a little of Shakespeare and the life of Captain Vicars of the British Army and at certain times you might find him reading the Epistles of St Paul. He goes to ride in the afternoon on a very fine horse, a bay. He rides sometimes ten miles.

He generally writes to somebody thrice each week. Why isn't it known that he is married? Oh, Yes all the young ladies have found that out long since. Don't he ever say anything about his little wife & little boy. He talks about them sometimes, but he looks like a man that would think about them when he wasn't talking. If there are any more things you would like to ask of the Stranger note them down. He will be able to tell you for he has been quite intimate at the Lieutenant's Quarters.

I hav'nt yet got a single answer to the numerous letters that I have written you from this place, and not a word yet from Washington. I hope my men will be here tonight. I have got a good deal for them to do. I want first an Office repaired and have got a great many arms to overhaul. I want an Office table & Desk that I cant buy. I want a trap door to the chamber of the Store house, to keep careless people from falling through &c&c. I want to see my darling wife & little boy, Guy. I don't think an Armorer & 3 Artificers will assist me in this at all.

Colonel John Monroe has come in. I told him he must excuse me while I finished this note. If he was a married man or ever had been one he would understand me, but unfortunately his hair is white & his head is bald, his whiskers white & he wears spectacles & yet he never knew what it was to have a darling wife or a happy little boy. Patience Colonel, patience, you are a jolly, good hearted man & would not deny a poor, lovely little wife the consolation of a letter from her husband?

Oh! No. Tampa is all alike. The trees are all alike, Florida is all alike, and I fear my letters are a little monotonous, but you know Darling that my heart is in the right place. I don't know what I should say to you if I could take to myself the wings of the Fairie or any other spirit and jump down suddenly into your midst. I expect I should kiss you & Guy & Mother & then tell you of my journey and what I had seen or make you the talker & I the listener. If we said silly things or wise things it would all be the same.

How is Lizzie? How is Guy; If not asleep what is he doing. How is Mother; Is she talking about Guy Howard still? How is Uncle Roland? How are Mr & Madam Lee? How is Old Shunk? Does he tease Mrs Lee? Does he Knock his pipe on the spittoon in the other room several times a day? Is he dignified? Does he entertain with his double Rations & increased pay? Does he walk about in the snow with cow-hide boots & pants inside, a thick coat buttoned to the chin, & a slouch hat, coming to a point on the very top, and tipped slightly to one side? Do you look out of the window any? Longing to go to Maine?

Well, you will soon be there. Don't let the hours seem long. Don't work too hard, sew too much. Remember the "Sheet" that you talked about once on a time. Where you have'nt cartridges, use powder & lead. Where

you hav'nt venison, eat pork & beans. In short confine yourself to what you have, make a virtue of necessity & so will I.

I found an idea in the Caxtons pretty well expressed & therefore took note of it. It is this: "God made us - not to indulge only in crystal pictures, weave idle fancies, pine alone & mourn over what we cannot help, but to be alert & active, givers of Happiness". It was the belief once in the West of England, that the absent may be seen in a piece of Crystal by those who have this special Gift. The foregoing words were quoted from Young Pisistratus Caxton's speech to his cousin Blanch when he was about leaving for Australia. She observed them. She was spirited active & a giver of Happiness - It is thus I hope my darling wife will make the time speed away till the "Rainbow comes again".

But all I have said to you I have to garner up for my own use. Among strangers, I have to make them friends. Much above I have to work hard to observe my own precepts. But not a gloomy hour have I passed since I have been here. My own weaknesses & shortcomings, my want of conformity to the will of my Divine Master are my drawbacks & hindrances to contentment.

I am looking for a letter from you tonight. The mail failed last time & I will be sure tonight. I expect it would tax my patience a little if none came. Give my love to all individually. I have written just as fast as my pen could go, and have not time to read it over. You may correct the mistakes and if you cant find out the meaning, it don't matter. You can turn to these last words. I love my little wife as ever. Kiss Guy. May God protect you all.

Affectionately Yr husband  
Otis

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686 2/11/1857 *From:* Lizzie H [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0628

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, Feb. 11, 1857

My dearest Husband

The letter I wrote last Sunday was not sent to the P.O. 'till yesterday, and I presume it is there now, and you will receive this and that letter at the same time. We have had no Cars between here and New York since last Friday. The river was so high then that it was over some of the rail-road bridges. I think brother Rowland must have told you about the great 'flood' so I will not go back farther than night before last when the water still made the Arsenal grounds froze over hard enough to bear a man, and the weather has been getting colder ever since. Now it is fine skating all over the lower part of the grounds. The river is very high now, and stopped running when covered with floating ice. Last night it froze hard together and people walk across. But it presents a very rough appearance. Mr Lansing has moved in with Mr Shunk and Mrs Thornton has moved into Major Symington's quarters. We asked her to come up and stay with us, but she said her forces were so great that she had rather not. I sent her a hot cooked dinner yesterday before she came up this side the Canal. I presume it will be two weeks before their quarters will be in good order again.

Mother has gone in to see Mrs Lansing. Guy is playing, and brother Rowland gone to Albany, the first time this week. Nora is visiting Mrs Lee in her room, just came in to play with Guy, as I wrote she was there. I am writing in my chamber and I am very well.

Yesterday I had the parlor carpet, and the one on Mrs Lee's room taken up. So much towards packing. I hope to have more done before Saturday. Nora, Guy and Annie are having a good play. I have to leave off writing to look at Guy and hear him laugh. He does enjoy a play. Annie will hide and when he goes to find her will creep after him and he will run and laugh so hearty. I do love to hear him. He does understand so much, and tries to say most everything. He heard me say 'hammer' and he immediately repeated 'haming', and now when he sees it he picks it up and brings it to me and says ham-y, ham-y. He looks out the window a great deal since there is so much passing on the 'Canal', and he calls every man he sees 'Uncle'. I fear you will want to see him too much if I tell you much about him, so I will not write more till he goes to sleep and then I will not write so much about him.

Evening.

I hope to finish my letter this evening, darling Otis, so it may go to New York to-morrow. The Cars from N.Y. arrived this evening. I don't like the delays, or irregularity of trains for I do want the letters you write me to come straight through. I have felt all day that I would give a great deal if I could know how you are at this present time. I dreamed of you last night - thought I was in New York city and saw a great many men starting for Florida. One attempted to desert and was to be shot, and much more. I was a little tired and was thinking of you before I went to sleep and I presume that is why I dreamed as I did. I do hope you are well, my Otis, and not lonely, but enjoy the company of Lieut. Mack.

I see the greater part of the Officers with you are from the North. I don't know as they are any more agreeable to you. You may have to leave them and go somewhere else. I hope you will remain at Tampa, but are you not likely to move about and go to some other part of the State. I wish it did not take twelve days for a letter to reach me. I think I will get a letter before Saturday. It will be two years that day since we were married. I do a little wish it was to be four years. Brother Rowland began about a month ago to tell me that I would certainly get a letter from you on that day. It will be mail-day with you. I hope you will receive one or more letters on that day.

Two weeks from this evening, I hope will be the last evening I will pass here at present. I think now I shall have just time to get ready and not have to hurry at the last, as is most generally the way with people moving. It will be much easier and pleasanter to have a family in the house when we are getting ready, for we can be comfortable 'till the hour we start.

You will receive this letter about the 25th of the month. I am sorry to go further from you, but I will be with

friends and relatives, and that will be better than to remain here alone. I fear I will miss you, dearest Otis, more and more. I will try not to. I shall occupy a great deal of my time in sewing after I get settled in Maine. I am not going to do too much myself. I shall hire a great many pieces made. I know you had rather I would, so I can have more time to spend taking good care of little Guy while I am able. He is getting to be such a great boy that he will soon take care of himself. I have no fears about myself, and feel that everything will go well with us all here, and if you continue well and return to us safely, then we will be very, very happy. I wish to do some shopping before I go to Lewiston and if I cannot go to Troy before we are ready to leave here, we shall "stay over" in Boston one day, for me to make purchases, and brother Rowland would go to see Dellie.

Guy went to sleep before I commenced to write this evening, and now it is little past nine o'clock and I will soon be sleeping with him. Mother sends her love to you. She is very well now. I hope you may not have so much to do that you will get very tired, or, worn out. I fear you will sometimes have too much to do, or have the care of. Do, my darling, take care of yourself and keep well if you can. Now Good night and think of me ever as your affec'ate and loving little Wife.

Lizzie H.

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687 2/14/1857 *From:* Mrs O. O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0629

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Feb 14 /57

My dearest Husband,

It is too late tonight to think of finishing this letter, but I wish to write some as this is the anniversary (second) of our wedding. Yes, two years of our wedded life have passed away; they have indeed been happy years. True I in looking back can see many wrong doings and was I to live them over again, would try to live better and more for your happiness, darling, for I fear I have sometimes been too selfish. I will not though mourn over the past, but in the future, during the many years I hope we are to pass together. I must prove myself more worthy your dearest affection, and live I trust a better life.

I received to-night another letter from you. It was dated Feb 1st, and written after receiving my letter, which I wrote in answer to the one you wrote and mailed at Palatka. It does seem queer to receive a letter in answer to one I wrote so long ago that I almost forget what I wrote. Some things you write recall what was in that letter. I have asked many questions in my letters that you have not yet received, but you have already answered them or rather written about the same things without knowing that I had asked to know. It is very pleasant to have it happen so, for when you do see what I asked and you have written about, you will say, "she already knows and will not have to wait for my next letter to tell her".

The way you speak of doing about mailing letters to Lewiston after the 14th inst, (which is to-day) is very good. I will be likely to receive all your letters in good time. I hope we may be safely in Maine when you get this. I would like very much to see Lieut Wheelock, while I am in Boston. If we make any stop, I shall try to do so. I mailed a letter to you last Thursday, and I almost forgot to tell you that I received one from you the same morning, but too late to tell you so.

Guy is sleeping sweetly in my bed. To-night is the first night that I did not put him to bed. It being Saturday night I wished to finish a piece of work to have washed Monday and Mother came up stairs with him, and I remained in the parlor till I finished it, at half past eight. He cannot go up or down stairs alone yet. I sometimes let him creep up ahead of me but he generally gets tired before he reaches the top of the stair-case. The clock has struck for half past nine and is now about 15 minutes of ten, so hoping you are still very well I will write good night, and finish this to-morrow.

Sunday evening. 15 minutes past eight o'clock

My darling Otis. I will now finish my letter to you. I generally wait 'till after little Guy goes to sleep before I write for then I can give my whole mind to my writing, and not think I may have to get up to see to him often. He always will continue to play 'till he is so sleepy he can scarcely walk, then he will run to me and lay his head in my lap with his thumb in his mouth, and looks as if he could not wait to be undressed. He is asleep always in less than five minutes after he is put into bed.

I went to Church this morning to hear Rev. Mr Gregory. This is the first time I have been since you went away. It was too cold or stormy before, Mother was sick, and the storm and flood has kept me in since. There is yet water in the cellars of Mr Lansing, and Mrs Thornton's quarters. The ground is covered with thick ice, but has been cut off the walks between the bridge and gate, and offices. I had not been out since the 'flood' till to-day. Large pieces of ice are lying about the streets of West Troy, and the lumber is a confused mass every where. I see that men watch the river a great deal. They expect it to break up very soon. The weather is mild and a strong south wind has been blowing some days.

I think I shall be very busy all this week. I must go to Troy shopping one day, and visiting one day. Mr Lee will go to Troy with me and we intend to go by the way of the Bridge in an Omnibus, and when we visit to hire a carriage from the stable outside.

I miss you and 'fancy' both when I want to ride. I am very glad that there are some ladies at Fort Brooke, and

that you have pleasant rides on horseback. I love dearly to have you say 'such a day passed pleasantly. Do be as happy and cheerful, my darling Otis, as you can every day, and make the time, pass rapidly away, that we are to be separated. It seems so very much like spring here now, that I fear by going to Maine will make a long Winter for me. We shall probably have much more snow fall there and the Spring is some later there.

I shall watch for your next letter, which you say is to contain a check. I am not in want of money to use and shall make deposits for the present.

Brother Rowland has been to Albany Saturdays also of late, but will remain at home next Saturday to assist me. He has given up going to New York. He will go to the Freight depot when or with my Piano, and see if it can go directly to Lewiston. I know the Rail Roads do not connect at Boston and I wish it to start before we do for that reason and brother Rowland could see to it while we are there. I think now that we shall stay one day in Boston. Brother Rowland wishes to see Dellie and Aunt Martha Jane. I would rather stay in Boston at the American House, and let all who wish to see us come there. I do not feel as if I could go anywhere, and take Guy too.

I am very well now, and so is Mother and all the rest on the Post. I send you "Lizzie Waite's" card. It is too late for you to think it is I who is married to Mr Garcelon. I can think of no news to write and will not fill another sheet of paper as it is bed time for me.

Brother Rowland said as we returned from Church, now I would have some thing to write to you. I had had nothing for three week he knew. I don't believe you think so. I think you better appreciate my frequent letters, because I might not write as often. I hope I may not lose my promotion to "Mrs Lieut" when I go to Maine. I am getting sleepy (for it is almost ten o'clock), and should be very dull if I should attempt to write therefore I will close this letter and pray God to watch over you and return you to your family and little wife who loves you so dearly.

Ever your  
Lizzie

Gen Wool is expected home soon.

[Written in a different hand]  
Recd Fort Brooke Fla  
dated Feb 14 1857  
Mrs O. O. Howard

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688 2/15/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0630

Tampa  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tampa  
Fort Brooke Fla  
February 15th 1857

My dearest wife,

It is now half past 12, on Sunday. I did intend to go to Church, but just before the time a requisition was brought in for me to fill & issue on and when that was done another still was produced which I have just done with. You perceive some people have to work on Sunday.

It is very strange that you had not got my letters up to the 28th of January. I received two letters from you & one from Charles by Wednesday's mail. The mail due last night failed as it does generally every other time. I was happy to learn that you & Guy were so well and hope Mother has got over her dissipation at Mrs Thornton's before this time. You seemed full of anxiety when you wrote the letter before the last. I do not wonder at it, but I hope the roads are cleared out before this time.

Major J.B. Scott who left his wife at Baltimore, received letters from her at the same time I got yours. She wrote that she had just received six letters from him all at once. Mine must have accompanied his; two days later on the 1st or second of February I expect you got an equal number. Friday night I wrote a letter of two sheets full to Charlie & last night I wrote one to Mother. This is the last letter I shall direct to Troy, and it is very doubtful whether you get this before you leave. You may in eleven days, if the mails should happen to connect.

I have spoken about the money in previous letters. I would like to know the name of the Cashier and President of the Bank. We hav'nt heard whether or not the Army bill has passed the Senate. We understood from an Officer who came from the North & arrived last Wednesday, that it would meet with considerable objection there on account of the General Officers, who are thought to receive pay enough already & those officers who draw a commutation for fuel & Quarters.

I almost envy you your little comfort. Next time I will take you with me as a venture. We might have made ourselves very comfortable here and the weather is not bad when you can get a cool breeze every day. We are now having a charming day. The birds are singing merrily in the trees, the sun is warm & the breeze is cool. It is really a summer's day in the middle of February. I have never been in better health in my life than since I have been here. I have a first rate appetite. The only danger is of eating too much.

You hope I will be home in five months. I don't expect I shall unless I get a leave of absence, but now there is a prospect of a summer Campaign. They must have an Ordnance Office here during a Campaign. I don't want to excite hope to disappoint them. If my darling can do without me, I shall not get a leave till I am ordered North for it costs a good deal of money to get from here to Maine. But I have no more idea how long I shall stay than I had when I left you. As soon as the Winter breaks up the mails will be more regular. It will take twelve or fourteen days for a letter to get to Lewiston or Leeds, without reckoning for loss of time by the way. Name the month in which you would like to see me most. Keep up good courage, my darling, tout sera bien.

Lieut Torbert of the 5th Infantry came up from Fort Myers yesterday. He was taken sick in the Big Cypress Swamp, where he was in command of a Company. He had the Bilious Fever and had to be brought in, in a baggage cart, over new roads. He reached Fort Myers in two days traveling sixty miles. He says he would rather have been left in the swamp to die, than take such a ride, lying in a cart very sick & jolting over palmetto roots & stumps. He had a relapse at Fort Myers & has come up here to recruit. We have invited him to stop with us. He graduated the next year after me; was a member of Prof Sproul's Bible Class. I hardly knew him yesterday, he had changed so much. We shall have plenty of sickness by & by among those poor fellows in the Ever Glades & Swamps, particularly if General Harney continues his operations with the summer. Won't the Surgeon's have duty enough.

I shall assist to muster out two Companies of Volunteers this week. I will have enough to do to inspect their

arms &c & make out Receipts in accordance with their condition.

Mr Torbert brings us a piece of bad news from Fort Myers. Lieut Terrill whom you saw at Watervliet not long ago, has not been heard from for several days. He started to coast along Lake Okee-cho-bee with a small party of men in a small boat. His destination was Fort McRae on the Eastern shore of the Lake; he left from the Western. It is supposed his boat has been upset or that he & his party have been killed by the Indians. I saw him at Fort Myers when I was there. I met him in Gen'l Harney's Quarters. Terrill was truly a fine man & a good Christian. I hope I shall see his face again in life & health.

Some volunteers came across an Indian encamping ground near Estokpaga Lake [Lake Istokpoga]. It appeared to have been a small party. They were all gone, but left behind several things that indicated they had left in haste on the approach of the volunteers. Some signs of them have been seen in the Big Cypress, but no Indians have been encountered at last accounts. General Harney has recently left Fort Myers with an escort in small boats. He is following the coast & visiting the Keys round by Key West.

I am glad to hear that you have made Guy some morning dresses, high in the neck, and that you wash his face before he makes his appearance down stairs if I understand you aright. He will have to be careful & not take cold on the journey, and after he gets to Maine. I hope you will have good luck in settling up all your affairs. I shall look for all the particulars & also all about the journey. Guy will get to be quite a traveler very young. Tell him father thinks of him a great deal and is very happy to hear such good accounts of him. His mama must love him so well as not to love him too much. This paradox will apply better by & by.

If at Watervliet give my love & good bye to all. I should like to write a good deal to Rowland. I shall do so when I get time after he gets to Maine. I am rather hoping you will settle at Leeds. I have every confidence in your courage & pray Heaven will give you fortitude to bear every trial.

From your most affectionate husband,  
Otis

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689 2/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0631

Fort Brook Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brook Fla  
February 18. 1857

My dearest Wife,

I have been hard at work yesterday and today. We mustered out one company of volunteers & mustered in two. I had to receive and inspect all the arms received & receipted for them and issue arms & accoutrements to the two new companies, all of which is sooner said than done, with my <> consists of one sergeant & one man. Colonel Craig has directed an experienced Armorer to come here from Baton Rouge, but he has not yet made his appearance. He desires me to obtain such other men as I need from the Line of the Army by detail.

In about a week you will start for Maine. I shall be somewhat anxious till I get an answer to this letter which I shall direct to Leeds. Everything goes on here as usual excepting the little disturbances kicked up by the volunteers, whom I consider worse behaved than the Indians, for the latter are seldom seen or heard from.

When you are reading this letter I shall imagine you at father's full of the excitement of your journey; little Guy knocking about much to the amusement of both his grandmothers. I know my mother never will allow that he is a paragon of excellence, for that is not her way, but if he behaves well she will love him ever, ever so much. Eunice Francis must see him and say if he looks & acts as his father did. My fancy pictures you all after your arrival. The big winter fires, Rowland filling the room with his person & his voice; Mother laughing with tears in her eyes; Father sitting with spectacles on forehead and asking questions that have occurred before, that could not be solved; & Grandmother W putting in a word or two about how Guy conducted himself &c. I wouldn't object to drop in upon you just then.

It seems to me, my darling, you will have a small volume of trash to read when you get so many letters at the same time. I may have written the same thing several times, but as you are my wife and not my critic you can skim along & call it all new & fresh like the hearts of the writer & the reader.

Our summer weather still continues. I have been forced to put on my thin coat. Rather unseasonable you should think? True it is the middle of February. Supposing I should go up the Kennebec next June, would't I put a cloak & muffler on and talk to all the passengers about the cold weather they are having? "Why Sir, you must be from the South?" Yes, I am just returning from serving the United States in Florida. "You are a Southern man I presume?" No, Sir, I was once a white man & came from this very state. "Have you seen any slaves?" A few of them. "Tell us what you think of the Peculiar Institution?" A wayfarer like me must be non-committal. I have met travelers & known the conversation to take this turn many times, but I don't precisely see what I am driving at. If I am ascending the Kennebec I expect to be pretty light-hearted. It seems now very much like West Point, for a Band is playing on the plain, and though I could not name a single piece of music I have been hearing, still it is very <sweet>.

Rowland would enjoy it. I have at last bought me a bedstead, gave eight dollars for it. I have made two or three trials to make the parts fit each other, and after two or three exchanges have succeeded. The Posts reach higher than I can reach. A frame is on the top and a musketoe bar is superposed, whose white drapery hides the meager establishment below.

I am writing in my office, which Mr Torbert had the assurance to call a Garret. My desk consists of three arm chests - one on edge across two others on the floor with a board in front of the upper one - thus [a small figure showing the desk]. I am sitting on the little box in front of all, but I don't want to obscure your view. I am alone, the sergeant having gone out to shoot at a target.

I can scarcely refrain from stopping to listen to that delightful music, though I believe it makes me think of Sweet Home. It is very like it. Sweet Home is a bad tune to play to any man in Florida. I am expecting letters by tonight's mail. It is growing on towards the time for the arrival of the stage. You must ask for anything that I

have omitted to tell you. I havent seen Mrs Pages baby yet. I mean her last as so far she has four. I am like Guy's Grandmother Waite. I like to talk to little boys & might play with them if it was not for keeping up the dignity of the Department.

Give my love to Aunt Sarah, Uncle Hicks & their families, to Uncle Ensign, Aunt Martha, Laura, John, Hellen & family at Lewiston & to all our family at Leeds. I am very well, thank you. You may have all the love there is left. And as you have the distribution I expect you & Guy will reserve a good share.

Do you think I shall be held responsible for all the Indians killed with the ammuniton I issue? They seem thus far to have been wonderfully preserved.

With the warmest love for my little family I am your Most Affectionate Husband  
Otis

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690 2/18/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0632

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Feb, 18, 1857

My dearest Husband

I commence my letter as usual, after tea, but my dear little Guy is not asleep as he generally is when I write. He is very much engaged playing with his blocks; there are three that he likes particularly, his 'biddy, biddy', his 'kitty', and his 'a-jack.' Whenever he sees either of these he shows them to me, or calls them by name. He wears now plain pink frocks and white socks. The last shoes you bought him being the last pair he has. I must go to Troy to make some purchases before I go away, and the same time call on Mrs Gen Wool.

Brother Rowland did not come home to-night 'till very late so we took tea before he came. I have now just come up stairs again - went down to see to his supper, and to learn why he was so late. He came up in the cars to Troy, and then walked home by the bridge. The ice on the river broke again last Monday, and has floated down as far as Castleton where it has formed a solid dam. The river is high enough to cause the water to rise over the road between the Canal bridge and the Hospital.

Guy went to sleep just before I went down to see brother Rowland. He has not been to Albany very early in the morning lately. On Troy side the time has been changed from 15 minutes before eight, to 15 minutes past seven, and he cannot often wake early enough, or care to go so far round by the bridge. Therefore goes down on this side at nine o'clock. He has got to be there early tomorrow, and will walk to Troy by way of the bridge. I put his breakfast on the table when I was down stairs - just before I came up this last time. It consists of cold coffee, tongue, bread &c. I will have him a hot supper when he comes home at night.

He called again to an Mr Parker to see if the things were likely to be sold before I went away. He said he had sold the sofa, got twenty dollars, and would sell all and come up and settle with me a few days before I went away.

I received this morning another dear kind letter from you, my dearest Otis. I am very happy to learn you continue in good health. Please not work too hard in your garden if you make one. This letter contained the two checks - one of one-hundred and fifty dollars, and the other of eight-six dollars and eighty three cents. I went to have Mr Lansing cash them this morning but he was going away with his horses and they were at the door waiting for him to come from the office, and I did not see him and hinder him. He came home to-night and I shall go in to-morrow morning immediately after breakfast, and get him to cash them. If I can get to Troy to-morrow I will not have him cash but one (of \$86.83) for I can deposit the check as well as cash and I wish to deposit \$200.00 of this you sent me. Then I shall have a great deal too much on hand. Mrs Lee owes me a little over \$50.00 and Mr Parkes will bring somewhere about fifty dollars. I would deposit more but I have a great many things to buy and I cannot make an estimate of them before hand and it will cost considerable to travel to Maine.

Do you know that the Army bill has passed? We are all very much rejoiced here. Mrs Lee says she will have \$281.00 and Mr Lee will pay me before I leave, if the 'Order' is published so he can draw his. In the 'Maine Legislature' all that was done to remove Judge Davis last winter has been (I will call it) blotted out, and he is to be restored. I have been helping Mr Lee pack. Yesterday we packed all the crockery in one box, and to-day two of the stuffed-chairs, Guy's feather bed, mattress, and some books in another box; to-morrow intend to pack the remaining two chairs and books, pillows, &c in another box of the same size. I shall have nearly finished by Saturday, when I write my next letter.

I was some tired before tea, but now I am not in the least. I assure you there is no fear of my doing too much. The weather is so bad, and the ground is so wet that I cannot yet have my parlor carpet cleaned, but presume it will be well done time enough to put up that carpet & "all the rest" will go with the great chair. I have been thinking I would take this money you sent me to-day and what is deposited in the Bank here to Maine with me but now I do not think I shall, but shall leave altogether \$410.00 and interest, in the "State Bank of Troy".

I have written this letter very hastily and have only written a little news, and business. I have not at all answered your letter, but will do that in my next for I do not expect another letter this week, although it would be very welcome, next to your own dear self. All have retired before me.

I could write another whole sheet, but it is getting late. Do not get lonely, darling, for if you do I think I ought to be lonely too. I shall keep well and cheerful, and when we are together again, we will be happy, happy. How much I could write if my pen would keep time with my thoughts, and how very much I could tell you were you here to-night. But the best I can tell you is that little Guy has six teeth, four above, and two below, will soon have two more. He and I are perfectly well & Mother also.

Now, Good night, my best Otis, be cheerful, and time will slip away faster than you are aware, and you will soon see us all - Guy and your little wife

Lizzie Howard

I don't think there is much prospect of Maj Mordecai's changing with Maj. Bell to come here.

[Written in a different hand]  
Recd Fort Brooke Fla  
dated Feb 18 1857  
Mrs OO Howard

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691 2/19/1857 *From:* Mrs OO Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0633

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Feb 19 1857

My dearest Husband

I mailed a letter to you this morning, and have nothing very particular to tell you so soon, but as I have nothing else to do, and do not wish to be idle, I will write you a few lines. I am in the midst of packing as I told you in my last letter. I have not done much today - partly packed a box with the two remaining stuffed chairs. I spent nearly the whole day looking about the house selecting things to take with me, and gave Mrs Lee the prices of a list of articles she wishes to purchase.

The weather is getting very cold since noon; will have my carpets cleaned to-morrow if the ground is frozen and I know it must be.

Brother Rowland will go to Albany very early to-morrow morning, and that he says will be the last time that he shall go so early. His breakfast is ready. The Cars do not run on this side at all, on account of the high water. It is over the rail-track in some places. The last time they attempted to run, they ran off the track while in the water, and the passengers made their way out the best they could. The water continues in the arsenal grounds, and has been rising very slowly all day. It is about as deep now as it was the first spring you were here, when the temporary bridge was put across. There is temporary bridge there now, and the children (Nora, George, McGraths boy) were in a boat this afternoon sailing all about between the offices and hospital, or rather at the end of the hospital building. Horses go in and out at the lower gate near the shops.

Mr. and Mrs. Lansing are yet near neighbors and Mrs. Thornton is at the Major's quarters. They all wished to be remembered to you when I wrote. They all laughed very much at Guy this evening while downstairs. He commenced by bowing to the little boy on the wall (his shadow). He finally got to doing it more for a joke than other wise, and would bow so very low that his head would nearly touch the floor, not his knees for they went down also. I was directing a letter for mother this afternoon to Uncle Jones and spoke to Mother, who was in her room, and asked "Shall I direct it to Auburn?" Guy was playing on the floor, and immediately repeated Au - a - bin. He calls for his "ham - ma" often, and goes about driving in nails, or drawing tacks out the carpet. I must make this letter a sort of journal, write some every day 'til Monday, then mail it. Good night, darling, now.

Friday evening. When I finished writing last evening, I looked out the window and the ground was white with snow, but it was all gone before noon to-day. The weather is not as cold as last evening, and we are now having rain and sleet together. It just lightened and quite a heavy clap of thunder followed. I was quite surprised to see it, at this season of the year. The river has risen a very little since yesterday evening. I did not have my carpets cleaned. The ground was not dry enough.

Enough about the weather, as I fear your answer will be, "I am very much obliged for that calendar of the weather you sent me. I would now like a letter, a Daniel Webster (I think it was) one wrote on receiving a letter.

I have not done much to-day. I cleaned my silver set of castors, put up a bottle of ketchup to carry to Mother Gilmore, and gave Mrs Lee the remaining full bottle. There are so very few things, such as groceries left, that I shall leave them and take no account of them. I want to go to Troy to-morrow very much. Brother Rowland will stay at home and help me. I "thought of what things to buy." Guy had a very short sleep during the day and went to sleep this evening almost as soon as he touched the bed. He grows very fast, and is quite fat, but he is Guy for all that and you could not help recognizing him were you to see him, and I have no doubt but he would recognize you. He still says you went out the door and are out the window. I shall take your little writing desk with me, and our letters. Not either of the boxes would hold them all, so I have made a square package of them, and shall put it in my trunk. We used to talk about destroying them. I would not have them destroyed now, unless it was to bring you home. In the letter I mailed last Thursday morning, I acknowledged the receipt of two checks from you, whole amount \$236.83. I shall not want any more money to use for some time, but if you choose to send money to me every month, I will try and find some place to deposit it on interest. I shall add

two hundred of this to the two hundred and ten already on Interest at the "State bank of Troy" and leave it here.

I shall to-morrow some expect to receive another letter from you. I am very happy to have you mail me a letter every mail, and I would be more happy if you could get two of mine every week. I have written twice each week so far. I think twelve days a long time for a letter to be on its way, and when I get to Maine they will be fourteen days reaching me.

But my dearest Otis, if you continue in good health I ought and will be most thankful for that. I think of you nearly all the time, but I do not, as I have seen ladies think about their husbands, think you are certainly not well and happy, and constantly fearing something is wrong with you. I do most certainly hope you are well, and as happy as you can be alone, but I do not think I ought to worry all the time about you. It would not be well for me to do so now, even if I did not know it was my duty to be cheerful, I would now try to be for besides my own sake. No little wife loves her husband more, or thinks of him more affectionately than your Lizzie, but I know you also wish me to do my duty in other things. I shall not, my Otis, care what 'people say' as the people say. I shall make myself comfortable and take good care of myself and little Guy, and be as happy as possible. If anything is not pleasant, I shall try to make it pleasant.

I shall go to Leeds very soon after I get to Lewiston, and (let me count the days) yes, I think I will be there when you receive this letter. I guess you will get it Saturday, March 7. They will all be glad to see us and I hope you will be well at that time. We would like to have you there too, but the time is coming, the "good time coming" we will visit there together. This will be quite a long letter. I will go to sleep now with little Guy, but I hope he wont kick any harder than usual. Good night.

[Written in another hand]  
Recd Ft Brooke Fla  
dated Feb 19 / 57  
Mrs O. O. Howard

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692 2/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0634

Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Fla  
Feb. 22nd 1857

My dearest Wife,

It is getting rather late in the day, but I must write you a few lines before the mail closes. I have had a great deal to do to day. General Harney came back to this Post last Thursday & has been trying to get away ever since. The Steamer came up the bay during high water, but cant get water high enough to get out again. It is the same Steamer I went to Fort Myers in or rather to Punta Rassa, on my way to Fort Myers. Last night the General ordered me to deliver some Green's carbines & some cartridges for the same this morning at a half hour after sun rise.

I have written as many as six public letters to day & had to run about a good deal as you may imagine. The only thing that makes me mention it is because it is Sunday & I don't like to be obliged to work. I can write to my wife & little boy & "all that sort of thing" as my friend Magitton says, but I don't like to write business letters & put up arms on Sunday. What would you do, apply for a Court or tell your wife of your troubles?

By the way your husband has been assigned to duty on a General Court Martial to convene at this Post on Thursday the 26th the day you leave for Maine. Everything goes on here about the same. I have got some money from the Colonel of Ordnance & am fitting up an office in the North East Corner of my yard. I am to have it ceiled all round & have a piazza on two sides according to the fashion of Tampa. After I get it done, I will abdicate my garret, will have a new desk & an arm chair.

I meant to have written you a letter on the Anniversary of our Marriage, but I didn't, & I don't believe I mentioned it in the letter I wrote you the next day after. I received an invitation to go to a Ball the night before St. Valentine's day, but did not go. I thought of our wedding then & resolved to write you the next day, but I don't believe I thought of it at all during the day. Though I am writing this on the 22nd of February & you are now at Watervliet, when you get this you will be in Maine. I believe I will direct this to Leeds & keep doing so till I get a letter from you telling me not to do so, for I think you will decide to go there first.

The stage came in yesterday evening & did nt bring any mail, but as nearly every other mail fails we don't think much about it. After I mailed my last on Wednesday evening I received yours of the 5th & yours & Rowland's of the 2nd inst. I was glad to find that you had got letters from this place & that your anxiety was relieved in a measure. That was a good idea of Rowland's not letting you have all your letters at once. I almost wish somebody would deliver mine in succession, but I generally curb my impatience & read them in regular order according to date.

Mr Day came back when the General came & Maj Morris has gone to Fore Dade to muster in some volunteers. Dr Head has been ordered away & has gone to Cape Sable. Mrs Morris looks sad, says her husband must go to For McRae across the Okee-cho-bee lake as soon as he returns from Fort Dade. He will leave her here. So that she experiences very little comfort from having joined her husband; only she will be here & can hear from him oftener than if at the North.

You ask me if I will have to move about any. I don't think I shall move from Tampa for the present. I have too much to do, receiving & issuing arms &c, from & to the Volunteers. General Harney's movements seem now to portend a Summer Campaign.

I had a long letter from Charlie Mulliken at the same time I got yours. He says he would be happy to have a visit from Mrs Howard. Brown says the same in a note in which he tells me how much he sympathizes with me. It is getting late. I want to hear all about the journey, how is my darling wife & my little boy & his Grandmothers both, & his Uncle Rowland. It is very warm here now. The trees are leaved & summer is upon us.

Give my love to all. I must close here. I was called away by an order & could write more or better this time.

May God bless you my darling & your sweet boy. It is so dark I cant see a line.

Affectionately yours  
Otis

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693 2/22/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0635

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Feb 22, 1857

My dearest Husband

I will add another sheet to the one I have already written and tell you how much I accomplished yesterday (and did not over fatigue myself). I will not tell you now but before I finish. It is now ten o'clock Sunday morning. I do not go to church to-day, and as little Guy has gone to sleep so early I will not wait for the evening before I write. He stood in the front door and on the steps last Tuesday morning quite a long time and took a little cold in his right eye, and is now sleeping with an alum curd on that eye. I put one on last evening while he was sleeping and it did a great deal of good, and this one will nearly take out all the cold if not quite. He is & has been perfectly well otherwise.

I received this morning two letters from you, dated Feb 8 and Feb 11. The last one only ten days on the way. All the others have been twelve days or more. I have one more letter to receive, from you before I leave, and I shall write you one more from this place, and if I can I shall write from Boston.

Brother Rowland received a letter from Aunt Martha Jane, dated Feb 17, saying that Mr S. had gone West, and that she received since he left home news of his fathers death. He was to be gone three or four weeks. They had received letters from Freddie at Jamaica and was to sail for Bremen Feb 1st. Mr and Mrs Sargent have gone to Nassau. Ada Strickland is at Somerville. We shall stop over one day at Boston, and if convenient go to see them at Somerville. We shall get to Lewiston if nothing happens to prevent on Saturday in the afternoon. I shall write to you the following day. I do not much dread the journey, but shall be very glad when we have accomplished it.

I went to Troy yesterday afternoon at half past <>, had an early dinner, & crossed the river in a little boat. Brother Rowland went with me. The river is yet very high. There is a little water over the wall at this end of the Hospital and when I got into the little boat I went about two yards from the steps of the ferry house on this side to get in. There was very little ice in the river and we crossed in safety. I first went to Gregory's, purchased laces &c to the amount of \$10.44. Then to the Bank and deposited \$200.00 and took out Mother's money (\$102.68) from there to 'Quackenbush' (my packages and bill from there will come to-morrow, will be about \$15.00). Then bought Guy a pair brown boots, me a pair of fancy slippers, Guy some stockings and a prayer Catholic & prayer book for Katie, and one for Annie, and then down River St, nearly as far as 'Ferry St' to "Wyatts" for some yarn I could not find elsewhere. We took an Omnibus from there, then just six o'clock, for home by the way of the bridge, and arrived at the Arsenal at ten minutes before seven o'clock. Not very tired but some muddy. I did want to call on Mrs Wool, but I really did not have time. I may go over again this week. I have a few more purchases that I would like to make but did not have time yesterday. My Piano, and the little green box McGregor gave you containing the legs and stool, was sent over just before we started, and brother Rowland left me a while at Quackenbush to go to see about its going through Boston with out our seeing to it.

I think there will be no trouble about your letters, dearest. Up to Feb 11 have all been received. They are not in the least monstrous. You write every thing I want to know, every letter is full of interest, and would be ever welcome. Write what you would. I am glad you are in good health, and do hope you may continue so. I hope you are to remain at Tampa all the time you are in Florida. I feel better about you, than if you were constantly changing. I am pleased to hear such good news about Mrs Maj Page. Her little girl I know is a little <> sure, but having one older perhaps she does not think much about it. Tell me if they both continue well when you write an answer to this. Brother Rowland thinks he will remain in Lewiston with us over Sunday, and go to Leeds Monday afternoon, but I shall tell him I think he ought to go directly to Mother. He will go to Bath that week and when he returns to Leeds I shall go with him, if I do not go with him Monday. I fear when I first go to Leeds I shall feel that you ought to be there with us. It may be a little sad for Mother to see Guy and myself and not you, but I can give her news of you up to the eleventh if I do not get the last letter that is to come here, and good news will compensate in a measure for your absence. I shall take all the letters I have received from you since you left, with me to Leeds for Mother to read. She will enjoy them very much.

I love to write to you on Sundays, and on Wednesdays for then I fancy you are writing at the same time, and it is pleasant to think so. It does not seem to me that I have written all I wished to in this letter, or what I would in answer to so many dear letters from you, dearest. I think a great many I would whisper to you, my best Otis, but if you wish to know them now, you can imagine us living in the south side of these quarters, just before we went to Augusta, and remember some of our conversations then. I was happy then and we will be again.

I am finishing this in the evening. Guy is by my side on the floor playing with a pencil and old Cadet register. Had to have a pencil to write because I am writing. Is now reaching for something under the bureau, a spool to put on the pencil. Gone into Mother's room to get some more playthings. I can't keep up with him, when he is busy at play he will say over every thing he knows. Au-burn is a new word and come quite often. I asked him what I shall tell father, and he came to look at my letter, wants to go to sleep now so I must say good night and undress him. Every morning, he makes noise and then looks to see if I am awake and if I am not he soon wakes me and when I ask him if he is mama baby, he gives me the answer 'um', and I take him up in my lap sometimes and ask him questions. He understands them all but will not say Papa or father but I talk to him about you that he may remember you when you come home.

I have no more room to write and if I have not expressed much affection know that there is enough in my heart, and that I do love my Otis.

Affectionately your little wife.  
Lizzie Howard

I don't think either of the Lizzie Waites wish to return to their name they have lost.

[written in another hand]  
Recd Ft. Brooke Fla  
dated Feb 22 / 57  
Mrs O O Howard

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694 2/23/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0636

Albany

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Albany Feb 23d 1857

My dear Brother

I havn't much in particular to do this morning altho' the Lord knows enough in general. Yesterday was Washington's birth day & today is celebrated because yesterday was Sunday. Albany is in gala suit. I.E. there is a great display of "milingtary", flags, music & whiskey. The mud being of all depths from one to six inches. I should think it would be as much like "fun" as chasing Indians in the Florida swamps. Lizzie received yours of the 9th & 12th yesterday morning & I mailed one of your little wife's letters this morning. Lizzie always likes to have the news to tell if there is any so I don't write as much as I should otherwise.

The freshet has at last gone down & the Northern Rail Road has at last got started. I came down by that at 9 o'clock this morning. I came over the road the last time the cars ran 10 days ago & we went 50 rds thro water three feet deep. Both Conductor & passengers looked mighty pale. A stop or an "off the track" would have been in ten feet water.

A letter from Mother yesterday morning / very short says she is well & has received letters from you.

My Advertiser this morning states that the "Supreme Court Bill" in Maine, which reinstates Judge Davis & expunges the Barnes resolutions of last winter & passed the House by a vote of 106 to 22. Senate unanimously! I would like to see some of those friends of yours at Augusta who were so positive that I must be wrong in predicting just such a result, not only the conservative feeling of the people, but their sense of Justice was outraged. I should have liked to have made a speech on that subject myself. Paine's, Smith's & Choates arguments would have made first rate "ponies" & social labor.

I am getting better reconciled with the world. Things are all balanced - Politics, Religion, Reform, Conservatism - work for themselves & for each other remedies for the evils they engender. The raskality of the politicians, the cancer hypocrisy of the Religionist, the fanaticism of the Reformer, & the bogysm of the Conservative, will run to the end of the rope & then bring up Reaction, Retributive Justice will step in & correct the wrongs & the villainies that seems to be the Divine system of government. To be sure we learn something of the kind in Butler but we never believe it, never have faith in it till our own eyes behold its workings.

Ella write me: "I am almost afraid to tell you of the little flattering hope I entertain. I feel now as if I had a right to pray & I expect to be answered. I feel the sufficiency of Christ. I have long prayed but never as now." How much will that "hope" add, Otis, to the riches I will possess in a faithful & virtuous wife. I already feel the influence of her simplicity & singleness of purpose. Perhaps I may be able before long to participate in her faith. She was about answering your letter for which she was very grateful.

There passes a "band of music" with "pop goes the weazel". How many of those men know anything or care anything today for the substantial blessings which Washington conferred on his Country. I am of the opinion that the noblest legacy of all that he left us, was the simple unostentacious virtue of his character. Isn't it beautiful to see at one of the most conspicuous points of all History the Epitome of manly, I had almost said Godly, virtue. Surely there was something Divine in that long-suffering & forbearance. Who can help being reminded of Him, who tho' reviled, reviled not again.

I had the very questionable success last Thursday of gaining a cause in our "Moot Court" agst my own convictions of the Right. The more I studied, the more I was convinced that the weight of law & authority was agst me. I carried the case by admitting the general plausibility of the "points" of the opposite Counsel & starting one of my own, for which both the Judge & the Class were unprepared. I thought the Argument specious but it succeeded & here have begun that temptation which must always exist in the profession of law, viz, "to make the worse appear the better reason." A man must be ever on his guard if he would keep in sight the firm basis & strong barriers of Truth. I know, "there is not need" but the tools are at hand - who, how many would refuse to use them, to arrive at an end, to carry a point, to gratify the will, to subserve a purpose.

I have two ΨΥ [Psi Upsilon] friends here from N.Y. City by the name of Opdyke. We have been good friends & they are real good fellows. Brothers of 18 & 20 years of age. They have taken an interest in me as a promising amateur in the law. They have had six months more study than I. I told one of them the other day of my doubts as to my fitness for "Law". His brother came to me this morning & said he had heard that I thought some of abandoning the profession. He said earnestly - "Do not do it". "I wish you would go & talk with Judge Harris" (one of our professors). "There is no doubt of your success." I can't feel so. I don't think I have a good business capacity. I have been talking the matter over with Charles & Ella & they would both be glad to see me a minister. I have often thought this winter, what a nice thing it would be for me if you were out of Army & could go into partnership with me. The checks & balances of our characters and abilities, our mutual confidence & good will, and the unity of our objects would, it seems to me, be excellent guarantees of our Success. Such advice as that of Opdyke where it seems dictated by no fear or favor & no design to flatter makes me in love with the law again for a short time. To be sure, he has only heard me at our examinations & Moot Courts & cannot know all the drawbacks.

Mother writes me that Father thinks he will be able to bear my expenses at Harvard if I think it best to go there. Would you? I mean next fall. I shall study in Lewiston <>. Lizzie goes to Leeds to stay & if she does I may. I want to see some practice now so as to fix the principles I have been learning this winter. We have been over the subjects pretty fully - Real Estate, Contracts & Partnerships, Pleadings & Practice under the "N.Y. Code". This last is the rule of practice substituted in this State instead of the old customs of Common Law, which prevail in N.E. Penn & most of the Atlantic States, California, Wis, Iowa, Ohio. Ken & some other states have "codes" very similar to this. New states will be likely to adopt "codes". They abridge & simplify the "practice". It is so uncertain where I shall practice that I hardly know which would be more advantageous to me to learn. Com Law is tonight at Cambridge.

Jimmy Thorn & I have become quite intimate. He wanted I should promise to write him, this morning when I go away but I fear I cant increase my correspondents without neglecting some I already have. Write to me at Leeds & they will forward it wherever I am. I expect to spend next Sunday in Auburn to go home Monday & to Bath Wednesday. I shall make inquiries in Boston about law studies, when we go on.

Yr. aff. Bro.  
Rowland

I forwarded Lizzies piano and took a recpt at the Troy Depot. Lizzie bore the crossing in the skiff & the shopping bravely.

If any one you fall in with should happen to wish any law business done in Albany - there's "our curse." I would like to help them any way I can.

Mrs Waite withdrew her money - \$100.00 & Lizzie deposited sufficient of your last remittance to swell the amt in Bank to over \$400.00 I shall be owing her for borrowed money when I get home, about \$45.00, which I will pay or give Guy my note.

I have got a new suit of clothes. I wouldn't "go a courting" looking shably would you? I paid \$37.00. I would give \$5.00 to have a coat suit any time.

I exchanged your <check [torn edge]> for a "certificate of deposit" which will bear interest till the money is drawn. It can be drawn any time by Lizzies endorsing & getting it cashed.

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695 2/25/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0637a

West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Feb, 18, 1857

My dearest Husband

I commence my letter as usual, after tea, but my dear little Guy is not asleep as he generally is when I write. He is very much engaged playing with his blocks; there are three that he likes particularly, his 'biddy, biddy', his 'kitty', and his 'a-jack.' Whenever he sees either of these he shows them to me, or calls them by name. He wears now plain pink frocks and white socks. The best shoes you bought him being the last pair he has. I must go to Troy to make some purchases before I go away, and the same time call on Mrs Gen Wool.

Brother Rowland did not come home to-night 'till very late so we took tea before he came. I have now just come up stairs again - went down to see to his supper, and to learn why he was so late. He came up in the cars to Troy, and then walked home by the bridge. The ice on the river broke again last Monday, and has floated down as far as Castleton where it has formed a solid dam. The river is high enough to cause the water to rise over the road between the Canal bridge and the Hospital.

Guy went to sleep just before I went down to see brother Rowland. He has not been to Albany very early in the morning lately. On Troy side the time has been changed from 15 minutes before eight, to 15 minutes past seven, and he cannot often wake early enough, or care to go so far round by the bridge. Therefor goes down on this side at nine o'clock. He has got to be there early tomorrow, and will walk to Troy by way of the bridge. I put his breakfast on the table when I was down stairs - just before I came up this last time. It consists of cold coffee, tongue, bread &c. I will have him a hot supper when he comes home at night.

He called again to a Mr Parker to see if the things were likely to be sold before I went away. He said he had sold the sofa, got twenty dollars, and would seel all and come up and settle with me a few days before I went away.

I received this morning another dear kind letter from you, my dearest Otis. I am very happy to learn you continue in good health. Please not work too hard in your garden if you make one. This letter contained the two checks - one of one-hundred and fifty dollars, and the other of eight-six dollars and eighty three cents. I went to have Mr Lansing cash them this morning but he was going away with his horses and they were at the door waiting for him to come from the office, and I did not see him and hinder him. He came home to-night and I shall go in to-morrow morning immediately after breakfast, and get him to cash them. If I can get to Troy to-morrow I will not have him cash but one (of \$86.83) for I can deposit the check as well as cash and I wish to deposit \$200.00 of this you sent me. Then I shall have a great deal too much on hand. Mrs Lee owes me a little over \$50.00 and Mr Parkes will bring somewhere about fifty dollars. I would deposit more but I have a great many things to buy and I cannot make an estimate of them before hand and it will cost considerable to travel to Maine.

Do you know that the Army bill has passed? We are all very much regjoiced here. Mrs Lee says she will have \$281.00 and Mr Lee will pay me before I leave, if the 'Order' is published so he can draw his. In the 'Maine Legislature' all that was done to remove Judge Davis last winter has been (I will call it) blotted out, and he is to be restored. I have been helping Mr Lee pack. Yesterday we packed all the crockery in one box, and to-day two of the stuffed-chairs, Guy's feather bed, mattress, and some books in another box; to-morrow intend to pack the remaining two chairs and books, pillows, &c in another box of the same size. I shall have nearly finished by Saturday, when I write my next letter.

I was some tired before tea, but now I am not in the least. I assure you there is no fear of my doing too much. The weather is so bad, and the ground is so wet that I cannot yet have my parlor carpet cleaned, but presume it will be well done time enough to put up that carpet & "all the rest" will go with the great chair. I have been thinking I would take this money you sent me to-day and what is deposited in the Bank here to Maine with me but now I do not think I shall, but shall leave altogether \$410.00 and interest, in the "State Bank of Troy".

I have written this letter very hastily and have only written a little news, and business. I have not at all answered your letter, but will do that in my next for I do not expect another letter this week, although it would be very welcome, next to your own dear self. All have retired before me.

I could write another whole sheet, but it is getting late. Do not get lonely, darling, for if you do I think I ought to be lonely too. I shall keep well and cheerful, and when we are together again, we will be happy, happy. How much I could write if my pen would keep time with my thoughts, and how very much I could tell you were you here to-night. But the best I can tell you is that little Guy has six teeth, four above, and two below, will soon have two more. He and I are perfectly well & Mother also.

Now, Good night, my best Otis, be cheerful, and time will slip away faster than you are aware, and you will soon see us all - Guy and your little wife

Lizzie Howard

I don't think there is much prospect of Maj Mordecai's changing with Maj. Bell to come here.

[Written in a different hand]  
Recd Fort Brooke Fla  
dated Feb 18 1857  
Mrs OO Howard

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696 2/25/1857 *From:* Lizzie A Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0637b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Rowland]

Wednesday evening, ten o'clock [Feb 25 1857]

My dearest Husband,

I cannot write much to you to-night but I wish you to have your regular letters. Every thing is now ready for our journey to-morrow even to our lunch, and before I go to sleep I will add a few lines to you. We are all very well, and I trust will accomplish our journey in ease and safety. I leave five boxes here, in the care of Mr Lee. They have only your name on them. Mrs and Miss Catherine Thornton came in to bid me good bye, wished to be remembered to you. I have not felt any sad yet at leaving Watervliet, were you here and I was to leave you I think it would be very different. Now, my darling Otis, I have been about five min writing this and will say good night and God be with you and protect you, and in good time restore you to your little wife.

Lizzie A Howard

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697 2/25/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0638

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.  
February 25th 1857

My dearest Wife,

Mail day has come again, some letters will come from you to-night & it is a pity I could not get them in time to answer them by the return mail. But it is our luck to have a post master who is smart with his tongue but exceeding slow in other motions. He wont take anything out of the letter box after seven this evening & it is rarely the case that the incoming mail is open before eight or nine depending somewhat on the size of it.

You will start tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent. I wish you could have such delightful weather as this to make the journey in. I wonder how Guy will like the cars now; will he laugh and play with travelers? Think he will be looking for father? I am afraid he will forget him. No doubt his darling Mamma will remind him of father, way off in Florida, but when father comes home, he will say, 'who is it Mamma'? But then you know we can soon get acquainted again.

I hope you will get my letter containing the checks before you start. But you will write me all about these things. I wrote you last Saturday that General Harney was here. He did not get out of the Bay till Tuesday morning. Last night Capt F.N. Clarke, 4th Artillery, came in from a scout of five days out of Manatee twenty miles below Tampa. He had found some signs of Indians on a Mangrove Island near Manatee & wanted men to assist in catching them. A volunteer company under Capt Lesley of this place was just being mustered in, consisting of fifty men. The order came to me just at sunset, to furnish them with arms, ammuniton & accoutrements immediately. And I did so, but I tell you I was pretty tired when it was over. One company & a part of another were sent off last night to head the Indians off by land & a little steamboat took Capt. Clarke with his detachment & Capt Lesley's Company of Volunteers to make for the island by water. I hope they will be fortunate enough to bring in a party of Indians. There is no hope of closing the war unless some can be caught. If a good large party of women & children & old men can be found & taken, the others will come in & treat. You know a great part of the Seminoles have removed to the Western Country & the principal object of this Campaign is to make the rest go too.

Monday night there were two rival parties in Tampa & I had an invitation to both. As I did not go to the one on the 13th of February & as there is considerable jealousy of the Garrison in Tampa on account of fancied coldness &c towards the inhabitants, all of us who could went to the said party or Ball. One was denominated the Old men's ball & the other the Young men's ball. As in duty bound out of respect to Grey hairs I went to the Old men's first at Mr Post's hotel, where I found a very pleasant little part, plenty of young ladies, & some not so young, dressed, Goodness! just as ladies usually dress, some in pink, some in white, some in taste & I suppose some in bad style. We had suppers & refreshments after nearly every set of Cotillions as long as I staid. I danced with Miss Hooker, who showed her whole neck & lovely, bony, broad shoulders &c, with Miss Strafford from the country, with Miss McCay, Mrs McCay, Miss McBee, Mrs Clark, the wife of the Army Sutler at Cape Sable, Fla, who married her husband at Oswego, went to Boston & thence with the 4th Artillery to Florida, the daughter of a Sergeant, a very modest & pretty woman of the Northern stamp - with Mrs Thomas, the wife of Bob Thomas, who was a Cadet with me two years, entered the army, served in Fla., loved a pretty girl, resigned after marrying her. She has two children, one is a month old only - Warm climate - southern Country - Mrs Gorgas - Now? Large families at the North too sometimes? Oh! Yes, warm hearts in any climate. Well, I danced with Mrs Kennedy also. In the mean time, I visited the other ball & danced with Miss Bell & Miss Lucinda somebody I don't remember whom. Tampa is a new place, but quite old fashioned. Nobody boasts of much wealth & nobody aspires to any thing higher than respectability.

I have given you an account of my proceedings, and I dare say you think I have been rather gay for a married man, far away from his wife, particularly when I tell you I didn't get home till after three. Well you see, I don't have anybody to consult with on propriety & have to be guided by myself entirely. I want to get on well with the people here for I am dependent on them in a measure for my comforts & it is gratifying to such people as I must have to find that officers are not above them in feeling & will engage with them in their innocent amusements.

But my darling wife, I don't love my little family any the less for all that. And I don't believe we would be any the happier by isolating ourselves while away from each other. And though I have written all this as if in self-defense, still I believe you will be glad I went. I'll tell you what I think from my observations of the ladies here. Tampa is a first rate place for you to wear out your old clothes.

If you could have seen Captain F.N. Clark when he came in yesterday, you would have laughed. He had on soldiers pants & jacket with straps sewed on & soldiers wide bottomed shoes. I went into Major Page's Office & saw him sitting there, but thought it was some soldier & didn't speak to him till I heard his voice. On these scouts they do not take off their clothes but build a fire, wrap their blankets around them & lie down. Upwards of two thousand men will do that same thing this very night.

I didn't begin to think I could be given so much work out here, but this mustering out & in, companies, receiving all they have got & issuing new, keeps me moving as father says. A Volunteer Captain said to me tonight (a few minutes ago) when I closed an issue to him - "You young gentlemen from West Point learn one good lesson & that is, to do things up on the spot." Yes, we have to do so, or confusion is easily created. I told him I must leave, for I had just time enough to finish a letter to my wife before the mail closed. He said is it possible that you are married. He thought I was a boy, wouldn't take me to be more than twenty one. Good, your husband is growing younger, I will be eighteen in three years.

I hope Mother will have welcomed you to Leeds by the time you open this. My love to all. Kiss Guy & tell him papa loves him.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

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698 2/28/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0639

Somerville, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Somerville, Mass. Feb. 28, 1857.

My dearest Husband,

You will see by the date where we are and I will now go back to the time I last wrote ,and give you a sort of journal of what has taken place since.

Thursday morning. As we intended we left Watervliet, but the ferry boat was so very long crossing the river that we were not in time to take the early train as we wished to. We all went into the "union house" near by and waited till the afternoon train at half past two. Time did not seem long, and Guy was as good as he could be all the time. We went to Springfield that afternoon, arrived about eight in the evening. Soon after we left Albany, Guy went to sleep, had a long sleep and when he waked I warmed his milk on the stove in the car, and fortunately the cars were stopped at the time, long enough for him to eat, and get through entirely, and when we got to Springfield was as wide awake as he could be and ran about the parlor calling "Ann". We soon had a warm room, went to bed, slept soundly, and waked about five o'clock.

Then got up (had a warm room) dressed myself, then waked Guy, gave him his milk and dressed him, and we all went down stairs at half past six. The girl was to take Guy while we ate but did not come immediately so I led him toward the dining room, and we took our seats and one of the waiters immediately brought a high chair for Guy. I had him sit up at the end of the table at my side. (We were by ourselves at one of the small tables.) He was delighted to look about the dining room and did not ask for anything.

We had not been there long before the clerk came with a girl to take him (the one he called Ann and who took him upstairs the morning before sitting by the side door at the parlor), but I did not have him taken away he was so good. The Clerk asked if I wished the girl to take him, but he could remain just as well, and I told him he would be quiet either way, but as long as he wished for nothing I would let him remain. We had a very nice breakfast, waiters very attentive all the time.

We did not have supper, but after we went to our room I rang the bell, had a cup of tea and warm water brought up, so we all had some warm drink, Guy his milk and went to bed.

We took the Cars, everything in good order at 15 minutes past seven, Guy went to sleep about eight o'clock and when he waked he had some ginger-cakes, milk and a piece of sponge cake. It was then about ten o'clock and a little girl came into the Cars and took a seat back of Guy. He was very glad to see her and played with her and the buttons on the cushion and back of the seat till we were very near Boston when he began to be little tired from standing so much on the seat. I then gave him his ponies and he was very glad to see them, talked about their teeth and eyes with this little girl who was about four years old.

When we arrived at Boston we took a hack for the Boston and Maine Depot left our baggage there and from there came to Somerville in the first Winter Hill Omnibus, left the Depot ten minutes past one o'clock, waited there about three quarter of an hour. I went out and bought me a pair of gloves in the mean time, having lost mine on the way somewhere.

Guy did himself a great deal of credit all the way from Watervliet, got a great many compliments and much attention from strangers. He got to sleep riding out here in the Omnibus and cried for the first time to be waked when he was taken out. He was very hungry and sleepy, and did not got rested 'till this morning. He is as happy as ever.

Saturday Evening. I left my writing to go to Boston in the twelve o'clock Omnibus. Cousin Ada Strickland went with me. Brother Rowland met us at the omnibus office, went in to Boston at ten to find Lieut Wheelock but could not find his father's place of business. He soon left us and I gave up seeing him. Ada and I then went shopping, bought Mother a dress, Guy some stockings, and myself a collar &c, came home at three o'clock, not at all tired for I had not been out long enough. Guy was very happy to see me come in, and said Mama a

number of times, and kept near me a long time, trying to tell me a great many things. Mrs S. Has a very large black dog, and it is the first one that Guy has ever seen to know. We call him "bow-wow", to Guy and he calls him 'baw', and likes him only when the dog kisses him. He thinks then he better fear him.

Brother Rowland has not yet come. He has gone to Roxbury to see Ella's sister. Mother ate clam chowder for dinner and since then she has not felt very well, so she went to bed early and Guy went with her as it was his bed time. I presume she will be quite well in the morning. Now, my dearest Otis, I will write no more about my or rather our journey, but leave the rest for Brother Rowland to tell as he spoke of adding some to this letter, but remarked he supposed I would tell you everything and he would write the same unless I let him read what I wrote.

I was obliged to leave Watervliet, without receiving your last letter, but Mr Lee said he would send it to me as soon as it came. I shall get it as soon as I get to Lewiston, and may be another beside. I told you in my last letter I would write to you from Boston if I could get time, and we are making such a long stay that I have plenty of time. Mr. Strickland and Mr. Skiles, Miss Ada's intended, have not returned from their western tour. Three letters came to-night saying they would be home next week.

We are having a very pleasant visit here, and are to spend to-morrow with Mrs Hazard. He will send his carriage for us, and probably we shall stay with them all night and go from there to the Cars Monday morning. If it would be better we shall go to the American House in Boston and stay the night before we are to take the Cars. I wish to make it as easy as possible, and stay all night where I can sleep late in the morning.

I have thought of you a great deal to-day and when I was coming out here this afternoon I felt very lonely a little while. It might be because I expected to have seen Lieut. Wheelock, and was disappointed. I thought one while before I left Watervliet I certainly would see him while I stopped in Boston, but our last decision, after being left the morning we started, was that we could not have time, and that was the reason I did not try to remember his father's address.

I am very anxious to get to Lewiston and get my letters. I stand my journey very well indeed. I want to talk with you sometimes and I cannot, and then I will look back to the time we lived in the south side of those Quarters, and think over the many little conversations we have had there and how very kind you always were to listen to my long stories, and it is very pleasant to recall all you then said, and wished. I presume you think of me as much as I do of you dearest, and hope we are quite well &c. I must say good night as it is past nine o'clock.

I hope you continue in good health, and do not have to work too hard. Your men must be there by this time to relieve you of the hardest, I hope.

Now I must put away my writing and ask you to remember me as your dear little wife.  
Lizzie A. Howard

[Written in a different hand]  
Recd at Fort Brooke  
Feb 2nd [Not Feb 2, perhaps Mar 2nd]  
Mrs O O Howard

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699 2/28/1857 *From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* Lt [OO] Howard

OOH-0640

West Troy, N.Y.

Tampa, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Troy, N.Y. Feb 28th 1857

Mr Howard,

Altho' nothing of any consequence has transpired here since you left, which you have not heard of through Mrs. Howard or your Brother, still I hope you will excuse my writing to you, for altho' I have no news to give, yet there is information which I should like to obtain through you of affairs at the seat of War. Have you heard anything yet of your classmate and my Cousin, Stephen D Lee of the Artillery, who was ordered to Fla, from (Fort Brown) Ringgold Barracks about the time you were went there. I had not yet heard whether or not he has arrived there. He has been at Ringgold Barracks ever since he graduated, and was more or less desirous of being sent somewhere else. I don't know whether or not Fla. suits him, but I expect it will be an agreeable change even there.

He states that he hardly saw a single lady the entire time he was there with the exception of the familys of such Officers as were married. The climate of that portion of Texas is the most changeable in the world, so much so, that when one goes out, if only to stay an hour or so, he must necessarily take his overcoat with him, for in half an hour sometimes, one of those "Northwesters" will come up and bring down the thermometer from 90° or 100° to almost freezing. Moreover the state of morals is so bad, that it is not safe to go out of the Barracks without taking with you a brace of Colt's Revolvers.

You stated that Lieut Perkins had was put in arrest, for failing to attack a party of Indians which he met, which Perkins was it, D.D. Perkins or I.N. Perkins. They are both Lieuts. I am acquainted with D.D. Perkins for he was an Instructor at W.P. while I was there. It seems to me that an Officer in command, without positive orders to attack any party he might meet with, should be allowed to use his discretion, and not attack rashly when he is of the opinion that no good could result from such a course, and that it would only be with the loss of his men without decisive results. In some cases even if sure of a victory it is better to retire without an engagement.

March 2d

Mrs. Howard got off from here on the 26th of Feb though I expect you have heard from her before this. Your last letter to her got here after she had left, but I sent it on to her. She was pretty well the morning she left and left here at half past six in a carriage for a train that left Troy at 7 1/4, the ferry running, though I have since heard that they were late for that early train and were obliged to wait till near mid-day. The baggage was there in plenty time, for the cars left here at 6 A.M.

There is plenty of ice floating about in the River here still, yet the Frances Skiddy has just arrived this evening from New York, and one or two others came as far as Albany. The river all through the Highlands, they report as clear as midsummer.

Guy was improving fast, and will soon be able to speak, already he can pronounce with tolerable distinctness various words of a simple form. All the sounds he utters as yet though, are "labial". Even his pronunciation of Uncle is entirely by the aid of the lips. His teeth (five) were cut I think very easily and he had two more just ready to present themselves.

Have you met with many mosquitoes yet? Or is it yet too early in the season? It is rather early for the large fat fellows. What do you have to do? Anything where you could want the man who spoke to you just before you left? He asked me if I wrote to you just to ask you if you thought there was any chance for him in Florida.

We are having another snowstorm here again; and March has "come in" as March should, stormy, blustering, blowing, windy cold. By the death of Dr. Kane the Country has lost a great man and can well afford to lament his loss. Do you find our peculiar institution much worse than you expected? How do you enjoy the climate of Tampa? Any officers there whom you knew before going? Mrs Lee sends her respects. Appropriations for damages by the flood here was \$2100.00.

With the hope that you are well, I remain ever

Your friend  
Charles C Lee

Housekeeping goes pretty well. Mrs Lee likes it better than boarding out.

Lt. Howard  
Tampa, Fla.

[Written in another hand]  
Lt. C C Lee

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700 3/1/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0642

Ordnance Depot  
Tampa, Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Tampa, Fort Brooke Fla  
March 1st 1857

My dearest wife,

I received two letters from you last night, one mailed on the 10th with one from Rowland and the other on the 12th ult. If anything could compensate for home & its enjoyments, it would be these dear, kind letters, that are so truthful & affectionate as to make a man who possesses such treasures as I do, both proud & happy. What is wealth or distinction compared with a faithful & loving wife, a bright eyed & sunny hearted boy, warm hearted & high minded brothers, a mother who almost worships you because you are her son and friends who never desert or forget you. Are not these my blessings? And should I not be ever deeply grateful to the Giver of all things, that He remembers not my offenses against me. God is a God of love. Let us love Him and one another. Among the first things she teaches her little boy, let the young mother teach him to lisp "Our Father". Oh! How much I want him to be truthful. Never deceive him, darling, in the smallest thing and he will never deceive you.

You say you will not write so much about him, because I will want to see him too much. Never fear that. I love to have you write about Guy, for the little picture you & he present is very beautiful.

Mrs Lesley, the wife of Dr Lesley who died here of the consumption a short time ago, left for New Orleans yesterday. She, poor woman, has been waiting for a chance ever since her bereavement. I have noticed her often, bowed with grief & the tears falling fast. Yesterday I went and spoke to her in her room to bid her good bye. I saw her afterwards on the wharf, with her servant & her little boy. A frivolous young man was talking to her & I noticed he was, though unwittingly, only opening her wounds afresh; so I went up & spoke to her, took the little child who is two months older than Guy, and talked with her about him. She called him Howard & I learned that his name was Volney Howard Lesley. He couldn't talk any, but noticed everything - was a fat & heavy boy with a good forehead & bright black eyes. I told her I had a boy of the same age, and his mother wrote me he was beginning to be quite a talker. Her eyes brightened up & the color came into her face, & she seemed happy again. Les Enfants, ils sont tout et tout!

Lieut Torbert left for New Orleans on the same boat. He improved very rapidly after his arrival at Tampa. Lieut Day has come back. He never expects to get well, but he is very cheerful & very kind to every body in need. I have learned to love him as a brother. Mr Mack & I get on finely, never have any fallings out; we both have enough to do but our departments are distinct.

I have got my new office done, a new table made where I am now writing. It is a neat little room 15 by 15 feet square, with two windows & a Porch or piazza on the south & west. I can always get a cool breeze & take some pleasure now in doing business here. My Ordnance Sergeant John Flynn is delighted with the new arrangement.

Your letters were written during & just after the storm at Troy. I am sorry for the loss of property occasioned by it. But you are now in Maine. I felt grieved on account of what I said about Mrs Boggs & Augusta Georgia for you misunderstood me. I thought she would prefer to be with her husband when she could as well as not. Baton Rouge being a place equally healthy & pleasant at this season. Then I remembered how Mr Boggs' sisters used to worry her & thought she would be happier with him than there at the time of her confinement. I know you couldn't bear being without your husband that first time, but now you have higher duties. You couldn't well come to me. It wouldn't be so well for you or Guy & I will try to get on alone, but I don't know a single objection to your going to Leeds. Mother wants you to go & I prefer that you & Guy both should be there, for you will certainly be subjected to less annoyance & have somebody to write me letters if you are ill. Heaven protect you then my darling wife.

I think you are at Leeds already. You must have got my letters urging it & learned that I should direct yours to

you there. If so when you are reading this, give my love to my mother & yours. I am very, very anxious to hear all about that journey. I hope you got my letter with the checks, though you don't appear to have done so before the 12th of February. I expect my last letter directed to Watervliet would hardly reach you before you left. I am glad you took your piano to Maine.

The pay Bill has now become increased. Tell Mother Waite her heart may be at rest now for if her Grandson's father has his health, there will be no occasion for any more family disputes like some of those that began to poison our cup of happiness. God grant that the mammon of unrighteousness, may never sear our affections or distract our hearts from each other. Poverty is of no manner of consequence as compared with want of principle. Oh! Dear what a poor miserable existence it is to have wealth & no integrity. Your mother must not be offended at me. I want her to love me more than money & her daughter more than either.

Money separated Gen Harney from his wife. She gives him so much & he never goes near her. He asks often & she refuses him. Oh! My sweet wife you cant comprehend the horror I feel of a home ruined & desolate for the sake of a few paltry dollars. In this you & I agree and we can ward it off. Let your own property be kept separate from mine. Go on with me & we can save enough soon to be independent - do good if we want to educate our little ones & give God thanks.

Give my love to one & all. Tell Guy to say papa & kiss him for me. I hope he will continue to be good & love his other Grandmother too. I haven't half answered your kind letters but have written straight on, but I am your most affectionate & loving husband.

Otis

I am in good health & spirits. This is a Sunday letter number.

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701 3/3/1857      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0643

Auburn, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn, Me March 3, 1857

My dearest Husband

I must now write you as long a letter as I can. I mailed a letter to you from Boston yesterday morning on our way to the Depot, or rather I handed it to "Oli" and he was at the Depot when we left was going to the P.O. from there. We stayed with Mrs Hazard [Otis' first cousin Olive B (Woodman)] Sunday and Sunday night, and they took us to the Depot in their carriage Monday morning. The Cars left at half past seven. Dellie was with us Saturday and Sunday and came with us in the Cars as far as 'Andover'. Guy went to sleep as Dellie got out, had a long sleep, and his milk warmed on the stove afterwards with some ginger cakes was happy and pleasant 'till we were very near Portland. Then was uneasy until we got out at the St Lawrence Depot. Was very happy running about the half hour we were waiting.

Uncle Edward was there to meet us, wished us to stay a while at their house, but I thought better to get to the end of our journey. Guy went to sleep before we reached Yarmouth, and waked just before we arrived and Guy is so much attached to him. I hope Guy will not forget his dear father. I remind him of you often. I shall subscribe for the New York Times, the weekly. I think I would learn more Army news from that paper than any other.

I have very much to write to you, but to-night I cannot seem to think. I may be some tired, but I feel perfectly well. When I think of my little aches and pains I feel sometimes that I wanted you to know too. Mrs Thornton thought I could not be enceinte. I do not yet show it in my form, and when I tell anyone, they say they never should have known it. Were you to see me any day now you would find me dressed in a flounced black silk skirt, and black cloth basque, a very becoming dress and hides a "multitude of sins".

I am quite happy darling and my greatest wish is that you may continue happy and in good health. I do not think the journey fatigued me at all. I feel very well. Mother is very well. I shall go to Leeds next week, and Mother and Guy. I shall go with brother Rowland when he comes home from Bath. He will go there this week sometime.

I may not have time in the morning to write more, so I will close this to-night. I wish to hear from you very much darling. Your last letter was written on the eleventh, I mean the one I received. There was not any snow at Troy, and I do not find much here. Heavy teams go on wheels but sleighs run very well a short distance. There has been no freshet here. Guy and I sleep together and Mother sleeps with Rosa. I think of you a great deal, and little Guy gets a great many kisses and they don't all belong to him.

Now I must again write a good night to you. From your little wife.  
Lizzie

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702 3/4/1857      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0644

Ordnance Depot Fort  
Brooke, Tampa, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke, Tampa, Fla.  
March 4th 1857

My dearest Wife,

My duties have kept me a going till after five o'clock when I take a pen to write you a few lines, just to say that I am very well & waiting impatiently to hear the same from you all. I shall get a letter from you tonight I expect, but it will be from Watervliet, from which place I shall get letters probably till the 9th or 10th.

Last Monday Lieut Dana sent in a report from Fort Meade about forty miles off that he had discovered a trail of some Indians & that he wanted help as he had but seven men. Two companies of Volunteers were immediately sent to his assistance, but we have not heard the result yet. We are hoping he will bring in a few, just to let us see how an Indian looks, whether they really are red men or not. You see I could'nt volunteer to go on that scout as a court martial was in session of which I was a member. We have tried three men & commenced on the trial of the fourth, but Col Monroe the president of the Court being sick to day we adjourned till tomorrow.

I think there is little doubt but we shall have a summer campaign. Everything goes on here about the same from day to day. I trust you now are quite settled at Leeds, or certainly will be by the time this reaches you. How is that little youth Guy? Give my best love to all - my mother & thine, Rowland & father, the friends who say where is Otis & what is he doing - to them say he is doing well & has time to think of old & familiar faces.

We have had quite a cold time for the past two days but it is getting warm again. When the wind is north it is always a little colder & the people call it a Norther. I have not yet got my armorer from Baton Rouge & don't believe Boggs has got there yet. I would'nt wonder if he stopped a little on his way. Perhaps he is sick or a part of him, say his better half, may be so. I hope nothing serious. Last night Mr Mack & I took quite a long ride but I have'nt had time to day & I don't think he has. General Harney has carried off all my Green's Carbines so that I cannot practice any more with them, but Capt Whiteley has sent me a new kind of arm, a colts Rifle. It is about as long as my cadets musket but a revolver, or a shooter.

Major Morris has been sent to Fort McRae & leaves Mrs Morris here. Major & Mrs Morris say I look almost precisely like their son William and hence they have taken quite a fancy to me, & I don't feel very much complimented for the other officers who know the said William Morris say he is rather a sad fellow. I don't mean sad in its proper sense but in its young America sense. Mrs M & the Major dropped in to see Mr Mack & myself on Sunday evening, caught him quite in dishabille, but you know I am always up an dressed.

I do long to hear from you now, my darling Lizzie. I want to know where you have decided to go & hope it is at Leeds. I do miss you a good deal, but you know I don't like to own that anything can give me the blues, so I keep my heart up, but I tell I should'nt cry to be ordered north, though this is a fine warm climate, though the trees are all leaved out, the potatoes six inches high &c.

Kiss Guy several times & tell him he has forgotten his father & tell him I shall be jealous of Uncle unless he will say father too. Remember me affectionately to Laura & uncle Ensign when you see them, & your friends at Lewiston. Again may God bless & protect you my darling wife, and help you to bring up that little boy Guy so that he will not be a sad fellow, but a truthful, pure-minded, upright little man.

There's no more time  
Your most loving husband  
Otis

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703 3/7/1857

*From:* Lizzie H.[Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0645

Auburn. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn. Me. Mar 7. 1857  
Saturday Evening

My dearest Husband,

I must now begin you another letter. My dear little Guy has gone to sleep. We occupy a sleeping-room that opens out of Aunt Sarah's kitchen, and is always warm. That is why I prefer it. Mother sleeps up stairs with Rosa over my room. I must give you a little plan of the house enclosed in this letter. If you are half as glad to see it as I was the plan you sent me of your quarters. I will be over payed the trouble of sketching it. We have boarded with Aunt Sarah so far, without making any arrangements for the future. I am waiting till I go to Leeds, and see what Mother G says about living with her. I really had rather stay at Leeds than anywhere else while you are away, but I do not want it to be hard for her to take care of us. I think I shall try to get Mrs Hinkley to stay with her a while at the time we shall need help the most.

I formed a very different opinion from what Ada and Mrs Strickland said of them. I should judge Ada was pleased rather than otherwise.

I have received two letters from you since I came here. The first one Mr Lee remailed from Watervliet and the other was sent down from Leeds, written on the 18th of Feb. I am so glad none of your letters have been lost. I feel that I have received all you have written. They are a great comfort to me, dearest, and if you continue in good health, we will try to be as happy as can be, wont we, dearest Otis. I never was better, or had such a good appetite as I have now. Guy is fast getting over his cold, and Mother continues in good health.

The trial of George Knight of Pownal, for the murder of his wife is going on here, and consequently great excitement prevails, even ladies go to listen, but I think they are out of their place to do it. Every one thinks him guilty of the crime.

I have written rapidly to-night and covered this sheet before nine o'clock. I must add another to it before I mail it Monday forenoon.

Now good night my darling. I pray you are well.

Sunday Evening

My dearest Otis

Your last letter received dated Feb 18 was the first one you directed to Maine, and you sent it to Leeds, thinking it may be, that I would go directly there. I had so much baggage I thought best to leave what I did not need for present use, and not fill mother's house with it. I brought all the cloths you left and shall give brother Charlie your brown winter coat. The remainder is not of much account. I cannot tell how much my expenses were for the last month yet, or how much it cost us to come to Maine. I gave brother Rowland thirty five dollars a few days before we left home to pay some bills, and then fifteen when we were at Springfield, and some more in Boston. He will settle with me when I see him. I have kept my book straight so far, and I balance my account at the end of every month. I have lost no money as yet.

Mr Lee gave me his note for what he is owing me for furniture. It is \$50.00 and he can soon pay me all.

John and Hellen came up here this afternoon. He wanted to see Guy and had more leisure to day than he has during the week. Frank and Adams came up this evening, and Prentiss, all wished to be remember to you. How much my darling Otis I do think of you. I do hope you will make yourself as comfortable as possible while you are there. I do believe, however so much. I would like to see you that I rather you would not come home on a leave. I shall probably be confined about the middle or last of June. I hope I may be at Leeds then. I want to tell you a little secret. Guy kicks his little sister, and she kicks at Guy. Do you think she will love him? If you

are not here you will love it just as much wont you? I know that when we are housekeeping again I will always be very happy. I wont be naughty any. Guy is asleep, and quite well. Everyone that sees him flatters him very much. He had a nice play with Uncle Hicks this afternoon. I presume he reminds him of the little boy they lost, for he once called him 'Willie' in speaking to him.

Now I must write good night, and if I get another letter in the morning I will tell you.

From your little Wife,  
Lizzie H.

The mail arrives at nine o'clock A.M. and goes out at noon.

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704 3/8/1857      *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0646

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 8th 1857

Otis, my dear Son,

It is now on the third month since you changed your place of abode and this is the first time I have attempted to write you a letter. The great distance between us has given me such a degree of tenderness on the subject, that the thought of writing to you was even painful for a long time, and now I am not free from it, but such talk as this will not give you any great pleasure or be of any sort of proffit, to you.

Lizzie will write the particulars of her journey better than I can. They stopped over the sabbath at Summerville and Cambridge and R.B.H arrived at home Tuesday evening and spent the night here. His father was gone to Augusta, so he concluded to go to Bath the next day. He saw his father in the cars on his way to Auburn. Rowland proceeded to Bath, and your father went to see Lizzie, Guy and Mrs Waite at Auburn. Guy he said was Somewhat out of tune, with a cold he had taken in his changes. I would like to know whether it passed off without making him entirely sick. I shall see them or hear from them, before many days. Rowland said he would write, and let me know when he should return. If Guy is not sick I shall expect Lizzie with him when he returns. Your father says Guy looks better than he did, last fall and is quite active - ran across the room very smart, and seemed astonished to hear the name of grandfather but said uncle plainly.

Rowland was the first one of my sons whom I had seen since the first part of December. I was very happy to receive him, and my house seemed more like home than it had for the winter, but my health is good and I have been active, doing all in my power to make those around me happy, and taking every opportunity to write to my absent family. Our winter has been unusually severe. When the Thermometer has been below zero, day after day, I would think with pleasing sensation Otis is free from this. We have our share of the blessings of life, but some of our deep drifting snow storms are gloomy aspects for the men who have the shoveling to do.

Your letters have all reached us I think, one from Palatka, the next a short one written two days after your return from Fort Myers, and one the twenty third of January, and another written the 14th of Feb all which were gratefully received. There have two come to Lizzie. The first one I remailed to Auburn to her the other came last night. I opened and read, and shall not send it to her, if she comes in a few days. Rowland lives at the other house apparently comfortably, a warm stove, in the room where Betsey lived. His cattle to take care of his wood to prepare for his fire, and help break roads sometimes a little company, and then again going abroad, some neighbor dropping in to talk about the size and price of oxen, steers, and &c. I suppose he has his troubles as well as the rest of us.

Dellie has gone out Saturdays from house to house selling stationary. He seems to enjoy it. A student offered him the chance and he accepted it, and now his father has sent him money to put in to make a whole sale purchase with a number of others. Rowland thinks very differently about it from what he did, since I talked with him about him. Dellie thinks it does not interfere with his studies, and seems to be a pastime for him on Saturdays. Rowland wrote for him to come to him at Summerville and slept with him and talked with him on the subject. Dellie has been entirely open and frank in all his movements. I have never mentioned it in this place. He goes out a few miles in the cars into the neighbouring villages and sells. Since he has had no particular ill luck I am loosing my anxiety about him. He thinks he is learning to get his living, and when I think of your fathers age, and the prospect before us I know it is quite an attainment to know how to get an honest living. I hope he will not swerve from the strictest integrity. Do write to him, Otis. How much he would enjoy a letter from you. He says when he gets letters from home, and from his brothers, he feels encouraged and his studies go easier with him. Charles I have not seen since last fall, but R.B.H. will see him, and tell me how he is, when he returns. I have filled my sheet in a chat about our folks, just as we should if we met alone together.

Do write often to me. I fear the hot weather for you.

From your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

I intended to have written some about the neighbors but have no room. Mrs Brewster was buried last Tuesday.  
E.G.

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705 3/8/1857      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0647

Fort Brooke, Tampa,  
Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Tampa, Fla.  
March 8, 1857

My dearest Wife

It is now Sunday morning and has been storming hard all night and continues to rain & blow now. The room is so dark that I can scarcely get a glimpse of the lines and you must not mind it if I do depart from them. I have just finished and closed a letter to Rowland and reread the first one of yours in order of date that I got last Wednesday. I took from the office that night five letters - three from you, one of the 17th, a second of the 19th, & the third of the 23d ult. The fourth was from Rowland & the fifth from Ella. All were first rate letters. You must not mind Rowland's teasing you about having nothing to write for I can assure him I am more than satisfied.

I was as happy as could be Wednesday evening. You wrote just as ever wish you to, just what was in your heart, about our little darling & everything. There was not a line that was not full of interest. I would like to get your letters sooner, but it is a pleasure to get more than one at a time. I can thus follow along with you for several days. Yours mailed on the 17th was commenced on the 14th of February.

I don't want any better wife than you have been to me. Perhaps at sometimes you have not been so happy as you might and I am conscious that I have often been at fault for that. But I think we have begun our marriage career admirably, and I pray that we may continue as we have begun in mutual love & confidence while we live. You have had to suffer for our sakes, but as you have found there is a recompense. You will find strength to bear everything in fortitude, patience & love. And Heaven gives a blessing even in the midst of additional care & pain.

Your journey is over by this time and you are either at Lewiston or Leeds. I am waiting the due course of the mails to learn particulars. If you started when you proposed it is already two days since. The mail failed last night, but if you wrote from Boston I shall get the letter by next Wednesday. You will find that your "promotion to Mrs Lieutenant" has been dropped by Order of the Chief of the Ordnance Dept. in Florida. You forget that you are entitled to Mrs Captain in Maine.

I have just read over your last letter, filling two sheets. I don't know what I would whisper to you if you were here. I do not ask for a better than that, my darling wife. There is no use in your imagining me sick, for you know I am never so, only when I can have a little wife to sympathize with & comfort me. I hope Guy has not added to his cold. Kiss him & tell him he must say papa. I have got some little shells that Mr Day (Lt 2d Artillery) sends him. He got them on his trip to Key West. He intends to give him a large & elegant one, but I cannot send it. I will keep it & take it in my trunk, when I proceed Northward.

You ask about Mrs Page. She got about too soon & her baby had the measles. She & the little one are now quite well. I have'nt been in there since the evening before her confinement. Almost every body in Tampa has had the measles, but I have not had them unless so lightly that I did not know it. Mrs Leonard the young wife of the Paymaster inquires for Mrs Howard. As she lost her only little boy here, she thinks Tampa a bad place and says tell Mrs Howard not to come here & bring her little boy. Mrs L is only twenty two and her husband must be as much as forty five.

Maj Morris was ordered to Fort McRae, and after he had started an order came for him to be stationed here & to inspect the different companies of Volunteers. Mrs Morris is delighted, though the Major has not yet returned. We met on the Court Martial Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. We tried five prisoners, all soldiers, and then adjourned sine die.

Capt Clarke's expedition failed, so also do Lieut. Dana's. No Indians could be found. You speak of the Officers here, the most of them from the North. We all consider ourselves from the North, while in Florida. I don't think I could tell who was from the North or not, without looking in the register. We get on very amiably. My best friends are Lieut Mack & Day. You would have to search a long while before you could find better men than

either. Day has had the pneumonia & now has the consumption. But he is fresh looking & cheerful. He is always doing somebody a kind turn. He likes to have me tell him about my wife & Guy. Mrs Mack writes that Mr Howard must be a good fellow, and desires her husband to give me her regards. So Mr Mack must have been telling her some unauthorized tales. We generally read the Bible together. I read to him at night & he to me in the morning. We are both kept pretty busy in the daytime. He does not go out as much as I do. I visit the people in the Garrison and somewhat outside.

I spent a very pleasant evening at Mr Kennedy's last week. Mr K is a very small man with one leg, but good company. He has one little boy & one little girl, about five & seven respectively.

I shall send you some money every time I draw my pay, perhaps more than fifty dollars at a time. I don't want to invest anything here so I will send all that I do not use to you. I have not drawn for February. I wanted to hear the news of the increase of pay officially before I drew. My debts are all paid & I have now due me from the Government about three hundred and sixty dollars, and here after "entre nous", my pay will be one hundred & twenty dollars per month all told.

There is still no Army news of importance here. General Harney is at Fort Myers. He didn't go across Lake Okee-cho-bee as he proposed when he left here. I think he will give up a summer campaign if this one continues so very unsuccessful, but nobody can tell what he is going to do a day before hand, not even himself. It will depend a great deal on fortune. Now no enemies are to be found.

I expect to remain here all the time but am not perfectly certain. I would rather be here, than at any other place on this side, on account of the mails. Write me how you find mother, how she is looking & what she says. If she can get time I want a letter from her. I have already been looking for one. Tell me how father is. I like to have you write all about yourself & Guy. I wont write you any more at this time. I got a paper and circular from Rowland giving an account of the storm & of his school.

Remember my heart is full of love for you. Affectionately your husband  
Otis

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706 3/9/1857

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0648

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bath Mch. 9th 1857

Dear Brother

I am going to write you a long letter by & by, but this wont be one. Lizzie will have told you before this that we performed our journey without <leb> or hindrance & that I got the whole convoy safely into port at Lewiston at last. We reached Auburn Monday at 3 o'clock. I took tea at Mr Jones' & staid all night with Uncle & John & went up home the next day. I found Mother well & alone (?) with an old woman called "Hittie" for her companion. She has engaged a good girl to come about this time & I think Lizzie will be quite contented there.

I am going to stop for Lizzie when I go up Wednesday or Thursday. I have not seen Charles yet but think of going up to-day to Brunswick. I only spent one night at home & then came a "courting". I have been here since Wednesday & have been enjoying myself as I suppose only a lover can. Ella has, within the last month "entertained a hope" as I told you. It has had the effect of removing her still farther from my poor desert, but making her still more worthy of my constant & abiding affection & confidence. We have been speculating a little on the time of our Union, but with us it still more indefinite than it was with you when you went to West Point. We are at the mercy of fortune.

Mother says she will write you soon. She is looking nicely & was overjoyed to see me. She has been lonesome this winter. Everybody is full of inquiries for you. I got many compliments for my "noble boy" on our journey.

I have settled nothing as yet about my studies. I am going to see some of the Lawyers at Lewiston when I go home. If Lizzie stays with Mother I shall feel at ease about her & possibly may go to some other place than L to study.

John H says he is "very anxious to have me there". He wants to be reelected to his office & would like my influence. That is just the best argument to induce me not to stay at L but I have settled nothing yet.

I have had no "talk" with Father. If he only had the means as he has not, but ought to have. I don't know but that I should go back to Albany. I can get boarded there for 3 ½ per week & pay nothing for the use of an office & Library & have superior advantages every way in study & practice. The times are very hard here & you know our money is in those R.R. bonds & not available. If you think Mrs Waite wouldn't be "reflecting" on it, I would like to let my debt to you (which accumulated fast on the journey) remain till I earn some money. I think I shall tell Lizzie so when we have our "settlement."

My stay in N.Y. has been of great advantage to me. I only wish that I had attended the law School in the fall also. The Cambridge Term begins in September. I believe it is more expensive there than at Albany.

Ella's health is not so good as I could wish. With all her ruddy cheeks, I believe she has less strength & power of endurance than Lizzie. We have been laughing about our "log house" in the "West". Mr & Mrs Patten went to Boston Friday & will be at home today. So we have been "housekeepers". Lizzie P is still at her Physician's in Roxbury & improves in the most encouraging manner.

I believe I want to see Guy even on this short absence almost as much as you do. He is lovely. Dellie stayed over night in Boston with me & will be at home in about three weeks. He is well & I should judge doing well. I don't know whether he had better stay at a "preparatory School" or not. I doubt the propriety of his going College. What think you?

I am writing this with little "Horace", three years old, talking all the time & I expect it will be unintelligible. Elijah Kellog preached three excellent sermons to us yesterday. He always seems so "kindly affectionate"! Do you find those who sympathize with you in your desire to become a pious Christian man?

Ella sends "her best love & would write a line or two if she wasn't so busy this washing morning."

Your Bro  
Rowland

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707 3/10/1857 *From:* Mrs OO Howard

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0649

Auburn, Me.

Ft Brooke

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn, Me. March 10, 1857

My dearest Otis

It is now Tuesday evening, and I will begin another letter to you, so I can have it ready to go out to-morrow at noon. I am always glad when those days come round that I am to write to my darling Otis. Some of my friends think I write very often, but I write no oftener than is a pleasure to me; and I know you are glad to hear of myself and Guy; and everything taking place that concerns and interests us.

Col Gilmore was down to-day, and took the trouble to come up here to see how Guy was, for the day he was here before, Guy seemed to feel his cold the most. I do hope I may stay at Leeds for the next six months (if you are away so long). I don't wish to stay here, for there is no sick room in the whole house, and no room that can well be taken for one. If I cannot stay at Mother G's I have made up my mind to come back to Lewiston and board at the DeWitt house. I think that would be the only place I would be comfortable.

You must not think dearest, that because I write so decided about it, that I wish to complain, or am at all down hearted. I write you every thought, wish and change. I think you can well judge of my wishes and my feelings from my many letters I have sent you. I think this will make the fourteenth, not counting the little notes I have enclosed in brother Rowland's letters.

Yesterday I took care of dear little Guy, and did not do much else; to day I have been sewing for Mother. Guy is getting to act quite old, begins to climb upon his stool, has learned some new words, can say 'egg', 'box', calls 'Eba' for 'Eva', and money and Minnie, are both 'minnie', and bird is 'birden'. I have a high chair for him and he sits at table by me. I feed him from my plate with his little fork, and he drinks nicely out of his silver cup. He behaves very well, does not ask for every thing, but is contented with what I give him.

I do not have as much time as usual this evening to write, for Guy did not go to sleep till nearly eight o'clock. He is so good to go to bed alone. I put him into bed, and fixed him nicely, and immediately sat down to my writing. I went and looked at him in a few minutes, and he was sleeping as quietly as a kitten. The clock is striking nine, and as the rest have gone and going to bed, I will not sit up alone but finish this to-morrow.

Wednesday morning. This is a very pleasant morning. The sun is shining brightly, and the ground is covered with clean snow that fell last Monday afternoon. The air is quite sharp and cold. I some expect brother Rowland from Bath to-day. I want to go to Leeds some warmer day for fear Guy will take cold, and I must go shopping once more before I go to Leeds, so I hope he wont come to-day. That is, with the intention of going to Leeds this afternoon.

Laura is not here, went to Leeds to make a visit and intended to go from there to Livermore and Wayne, but went home instead with Everett Bridgham, and that was six weeks ago. Aunt Martha fears very much that she is married, but does not know of any chance for her. They will go back to Leeds in about two weeks.

I did not think to ask Col Gilmore if Mother had any help. There is a little girl here I think some of taking with me. She has been working for Uncle Hicks. He has gone into the same business again. He has bought the upper part of Uncle Jones' house.

I have re-read your last two letters. I find them full of interest to me, even on the third reading of them. You must not be anxious and think too much about my circumstances. I presume I shall get along finely. I shall if I can stay at Leeds, and not make too much trouble. The cars have come, and I have seen nothing of brother Rowland. I wish I might get another letter from you, when I send this to the P.O. I might think my letters would not be very interesting to you, but I am your little wife and know you are glad to hear from me if I do write carelessly, and omit to tell you every thing interesting and of importance.

I am to pass the day up stairs. Mother and Guy have already gone. This is the last sheet of paper I have so I

cannot write much more, but you must think of me as an affectionate wife, who thinks of you a great deal, and who has much love for you in her heart.

Guy is very well and so is Mother. I have a little cold, not enough to trouble me any. I have a new morning dress of plain blue. I shall have that on, or my black silk and basque whenever you think of me.

Now good bye my dearest, keep well, and be happy and so will your own,  
Lizzie

[Written in another hand, possibly Otis'.]

Recd Ft Brooke  
dated Mar 10  
Mrs OO Howard

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708 3/11/1857 *From:* H.W. [Harry W.  
Closson]

*To:* O.O. [Howard]

OOH-0650

Fort Dadas Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Dallas Fla  
March 11th 1857

Dear O.O.

I received your letter addressed me under the pleasant delusion that I was still at Baton Rouge. I am almost half inclined to doubt that I was ever there - it seems now like faint memories of a sweet dream when my thoughts stray back to that delightful spot. I have almost despaired of ever being allowed by contact with the refined pleasure of Society to fashion my tastes into shapes becoming a Gentleman.

After floundering all day through the bottom-less pits of slime with which this country abounds, I find Sutter's Whiskey by no means unpalatable - vulgar though the confession be - a ravenous appetite is appeased by the hardest of Hard Bread and the fattest of Fat Pork - vulgar though the confession be. I am obliged to cover my nakedness - or attempt to do so with non-descript garments no beggar would wear - tattered, faded, dirty, remnants of past dandyism. Face, hands, all are dyed with a dingy black that even tinges my paternity with the brownest of doubt, my daily tramps have flattened out my feet into dimensions that even crowd No. 9 soldiers shoes.

I am not allowed a single thought beyond bridge building and hammock clearing. In my prayers my tongue wanders from "Deliver us from evil" to 'deliver us from the Seminoles' - between the commandments and the mosquitoes I am kept in a state of mental anathema. Dishes of mule steak and Horse hash are continually steaming before me. I go furtively stealing through the thickets as though I was an escaped member of Congress with a Corruption Committee after me with one of Old Jack's bloodhounds for its Chairman. My hand is continually straying from my scalp to my revolver to see if both are 'thar'.

Now that our pay is increased I am certain of being "garrotted" in the mud and water gruel of these swamps. How in the name of Beau Brummel in the face of all this am I to be a Gentleman. Mankind are not only gregarious to Carlyle-ize word they are also assimilations. Confine a man in a mad world and he must become a maniac. Confine him in Florida and he will become a cross between an alligator, a pack mule & a rattle snake with a touch of the sand fly & mosquito to impart airiness to the monstrous mixture. I feel I am now as ugly as the first, as meek and as patently obstinate as the second. I have the venom of the third and the exquisite importunity of the last. I am as unfit for agreeable companionship as all of them.

In the rocks of Texas I thought I should ossify. In the swamps of this country, my blood must turn to water & I shall finally die of softening of the brain.

Now, O.O. Dear, write me and suggest some method of holding on to the capacities I once possessed of adorning a Drawing room. Tell me how I can most speedily de-Hottentotize myself. Now that our pay is raised I think of getting married, tho' man is prone to a downward tendency, woman is also prone to an upward one, and even under the disadvantage of life in Florida I think betwixt myself & my wife we might manage to keep on a level.

No news except Lee S.D. [Possibly Stephen D. Lee] of our Class is here on a scout. He leaves to-morrow - sends his regards. My father was very much pleased with his visit to yourself. Remember me to your wife & brother.

Yrs.  
H.W. [Harry W. Closson]

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709 3/11/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0651

Ordnance Depot  
Tampa, Ft. Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Tampa, Ft. Brooke, Fla.  
March 11, 1857

My dearest Wife,

The mail stage by driving all night got in early this morning. I went to the Quarter Master's office & was told there was no letter, so I went to my quarters quite disappointed. But when I got there I found a letter on my table. Mr Mack had taken it from the Fort Brooke Mail at the Post Office. I was glad enough to get it. It was written by you and Rowland just before you left Watervliet.

You did indeed take an early start. I should'n't have thought Guy would have got his eyes open at half past six. I now want to get a letter from you after the journey is over. The fatigue of packing & fixing off for a start must have been considerable and I am disposed to credit fully what Rowland says, "Lizzie has more of a Genius for doing things herself than for getting work out of other people." But I hope the hard work produced no worse consequences than fatigue, and that the whole journey was pleasant. Did you cover up Guy's face in the coach?

You remember the Rockaway at Augusta? It is the worst part of a journey to get ready & get started. I must not be anticipating, to me you are just on the eve of departure, whereas to you the journey is over and you are at Lewiston or Leeds.

I suspect you will go to Leeds for your letters. I had resolved in my mind that you would settle upon Leeds finally and I am in hopes you have done so. I shall feel better about you and Guy to have you there. I like to have you in a place I am familiar with.

The U.S. Steamer Gray Cloud came in, bringing Lieut Kearney formerly of my class. He was sent away from West Point for something or other & has obtained an appointment into the 10th Regt. of Infantry. He is the son of the late General Kearney & a mild, reckless, fine looking young man. He has been spitting blood, but it don't help him any to mind his ways. I went to Maj Pages with him last night & saw Mrs Page the first time since her illness. She was looking well indeed, said her baby was hearty & unusually fat. There is always something unusual about a little incomer - & why should'n't there be.

I went on board the Gray Cloud at the Dock this morning and saw Mrs W. W. Burns & a beautiful little Girl about two years old, that she called Pet, name is Mary. You remember I wrote you how kind Lieut W.W. Burns was to me at Fort Myers. His wife is about your age & almost as good looking. Wont he be happy when the Gray Cloud gets to Fort Myers. He don't know she is aboard.

I couldn't help thinking how happy I would have been to have found you & Guy there. I should have said ho! ho! how came you here.

We got news from Fort Myers this morning. A battle had been fought. Capt Stevenson, who is in command of two companies at present I think, was changing his rendezvous from Fort Keays to Bowleys Town a little farther south east; both these places are in the vicinity of the Big Cyprus. Lieut Freeman of the 5th Infantry was in charge of one company or a part of one & had moved on in advance. He came upon an open space where some potatoes had been planted. Here he encamped near by & with seven men went to digging some potatoes. Before they were aware of it about twenty Indians came upon them & fired. They fired in return & ran back to their command carrying away their wounded. Lieut Freeman's arm was broken. He now intrenched himself & sent out small parties to decoy the Indians from the thickets. The Indians fired upon the camp several times but didn't come out for an open battle.

The next day Lt Archer joined Freeman with a detachment of mounted men. They found the Indians again & routed them - don't know how many were killed. There were four white men (soldiers) killed & three or four

wounded. Lt Freeman besides having his arm broken by a ball, had his nose grazed & some part of his clothes hit. The Indians seen in these skirmishes had red shirts, either red flannel or cotton cloth painted, and they numbered about one hundred warriors. They seem to be more numerous than we have estimated them of late.

Four drummer boys have been carried away by them, it is supposed. The boys were out in a boat near Fort Keays & disappeared. Probably the Indians have got them. In the engagement Sergeant Taylor of Lt Freemans command was wounded, & while lying on the ground an Indian came, it is thought to scalp him, whereupon the sergeant shot him with a pistol through the mouth. Lieut Archer shot a negroe who was with the Indians, as he was descending a tree.

There were a few Indians killed but it is not known how many. This was a regular Indian skirmish. They skulk about till they find a small force, take deliberate aim fire & then run. It is thus they have whipped the white men for thirty years. This news will or rather has stirred up General Harney to the fullest. Now the Big Cypress will be scoured.

I will direct this letter to Leeds. If you want them directed elsewhere I shall know soon.

My love to my Mother & yours. Tell Rowland I have written to Mr Jackson by this mail. I would write to Mother if I didn't think you were there. Kiss our darling boy especially for papa. Mr Day has given me a beautiful shell for him, too big for a letter. Remember me affectionately to all as I am remembered by them. I endorse your simple & earnest prayers for my speedy return to my little wife. I remain as ever.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

I sent some little shells in the last letter - did they get broken. Hav'nt got a line from Mother since I have been in Florida. Tell her it is'nt very far off. I have got a letter for Dellie ready for the mail. If you wrote from Boston I will get the letter Saturday.

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710 3/12/1857 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0957

Andover

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Andover Mar 12th / 57 [See note 1.]

My Brother Otis

I should have written to you before if I had known where to direct my letter. I did not know where to direct my letter to you until last Friday night when I received a letter from Mother. I have repeatedly written to Rowland & Charles to know where to direct a letter to you and as yet they have not told me. Rowland wrote that you had gone to Florida and that you supposed you would go to Tampa.

I am doing well here and I am going to study hard here while I stay here. Rowland has expressed some doubt whether I had better go to College but I think I had better go ahead if I cannot do any better. You have often inquired what I intended to do in the world. In the first place I would like the Army if it were possible for me to get a commition, but I could not do any thing in the Army as I am nearsighted, excitable & timid. Then the next thing to that I like is the "Law." Now I am in no way qualified for a lawyer, as I cannot express in any way before any number of people what I think without making horrid & blundering work of it. But as it is the only profession that I care any thing about, I believe I must try and qualify myself for that profession. After I have committed a piece to memory I can declaim it quite well, and if I can write any thing and have what I have constantly before me I can do quite well too.

But I am now young and after I have had 10 years study and application I am in hopes that I shall be better fitted for the practice of law. Rowland has written to me a great deal about my prospects and I was in hopes to have had a talk with him about these things when he went through here but as Mrs Waite is not very well he could not stop here when he went home.

After this term I shall not be a great burden upon fathers shoulders as I have a way by which I can make from \$2 to \$4 per day. Now school costs me about \$50 each term and if I can make me on an average \$2.50 most every day in vacation I shall make in a year \$150.00 in the whole of my vacations. They would pay my expenses if they did not cost me more than \$50 dollars per term. But in very term if I could do as well as I have in this I should make fifteen dollars more so that I could make in a year \$195.00 which I think would pay my expences quite well. Now you may ask what kind of business have you got into? It is peddling stationery which I can sell for more than twice as much as it cost me and then sell it a number of cents cheaper than it can be had in any part of Maine except in some of the large cities and villages. For instance paper that I give \$2.00 for I sell for \$4.50 and I can sell over \$5.00 each day.

Shall you stay at Tampa long? What kind of quarters do you get there. Write me all about the place, country, war, Indians, your employment, &c as I shall be very anxious to know all about you as I have not yet learned any [Note 2] of the particulars of your business. How long do you think the war is likely to continue? Will you be obliged to stay in Florida until the close of the war with the Indians.

There is a young man in my class from Florida but I do not know from what part of Florida.

Since I wrote the above I have ascertained that the young man I spoke of came from "Western Pensacola".

Rowland has gone home with Lizzie, Mrs Waite & Master Guy. I received a letter from him day before yesterday saying that he was in Bath and was going to Brunswick the next day.

I am now rooming alone. My chum has left me and gone in with some one else as he could have a great deal better room where he has gone. I do not hear from home very often. I wrote a letter to Charles last Sunday and one to Mother at the same time.

My term closes in one week from next Monday. Then I shall prepare to start for home. I shall go home through Boston in the boat stopping one day in Boston and then I shall go to Falmouth where I shall stop one day more and get home on Thursday.

Monday I shall go to some town where I think I can do best selling paper. Last Saturday I went from this place about nine and got back before supper time and sold in that time over \$5.25, and made over \$3.00. I went only two miles.

It is now time to mail my letter. Remember me as

Your affectionate Brother  
R. H. Gilmore  
Leeds Me

O. O. Howard  
U.S. Army

[Note 1. The year should be 1857. It appears that someone has written in darker pen over the date and added a mark that makes the 57 look like 59. The return address is Andover where Dellie was in 1857. The reference to not knowing where to direct the letter puts the date some time soon after Otis arrived in Florida, which was December 1856. The reference to Rowland not stopping due to Mrs Waite's illness is a reference to the move from Watervliet to Maine in Feb 1857.]

[Note 2: The letter from this point to the end was attached to the letter from Eliza Gilmore to Otis Howard, OOH-1013, dated 9/5/1859. It is the ending of this letter from Dellie Gilmore to Otis, for several reasons. The reference to Rowland Lizzie, Mrs Waite and Guy having gone home refers to their move from Watervliet to Leeds on Feb 26. Also the reference to going home through Boston, is a reference to his school in Andover Mass, which was in 1856/57.]

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711 3/13/1857 *From:* Mrs OO Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0652

Auburn, Me

Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn. Me. Mar. 13. 1857

My dearest Husband

This is not my regular day for writing, but sometimes I feel as if I did not wish to do anything else, however much work I may have, and that is my feeling to-night. I am thinking a great deal about you to night, my darling. I hope you are in good health. I will trust you are and often think about your wife and little Guy far away. We are both quite well.

I have been down street this afternoon; made some purchases that I wished to before going to Leeds. I do not much think that we shall return here at present. I do hope I shall not for I now feel that I cannot stay at any other place but with your Mother while you are away. Do you think you will take us along next time you are ordered away. Well I hope you will, for this living separated I do not much approve of.

I am looking every time the cars get in for brother Rowland, who has not as yet returned from Bath. We shall go to Leeds as soon as he does come. I know Mother must be very anxious to see Guy.

I met John Harrison down street this afternoon and he told me that Laura had got back to Leeds, and will come to Lewiston to-morrow with Uncle Ensign. I received my last letter from you one week ago to-day. I presume I have one or more at Leeds, for you directed the last one there, and I fancy you will continue to direct them all there. I think you had better. I told you in my last, that that was the fourteenth letter I had written you. I have written more than that. I have down on my list twenty one letters (this will be the twenty second) that were mailed to you from Watervliet. Five of them were letters that brother Rowland and I wrote together, and Guy's letter I have not got down, and one other brother Rowland wrote you that I did not know of at the time, and perhaps more. I do love so much to write to you. I can tell you every thing without reserve, and you are I think interested in all I write. I am in all you write to me. What a comfort it is to write and receive letters. I wish dear little Guy could write how much he would tell 'Father'. I fear he will forget you, now we are in a strange place, and he has nothing to remind him of you only what I can say to him. Dear little boy, he has gone to bed and is soundly sleeping, and it is time I was thinking about going to sleep. It is now little past nine o'clock with us, but I presume you are not thinking of sleep yet. I wonder what you are doing, reading, writing or visiting. Wherever you are or whatever you are doing, I hope you are well and happy.

Sunday evening. 6 o'clock. I will now finish my letter to you dearest, and tell you what I have been doing since wrote the above. Friday was a very warm day. I expected brother Rowland in the train that got in at nine o'clock in the morning, but he did not come.

I took Guy out to the door it was so very pleasant, and about noon Uncle Morse, who lives one mile before the North Turner Bridge on the river road came in, dined with us, and took Aunt Hicks and myself down street in his sleigh. We walked home about four o'clock, and brother Rowland did not come in the three o'clock train.

Yesterday morning, I certainly thought brother Rowland would come, because we could go to Leeds in the afternoon if he did, but he did not. I had just dressed myself and little Guy after dinner, when John Harrison (and a gentleman who had been buying a small piece of land from Uncle) came in & came to have the deed signed.

Mother took Guy up stairs after that, and I sat down to work alone in the sitting room. Aunt was busy in the kitchen, and the children all gone. The Cars came in as I was sitting alone, but I did not look for brother Rowland, because it was too late to go to Leeds. Very soon I saw someone pass the window, and went to the door, to meet brother Rowland. I was indeed very glad to see him. We soon went up stairs, and Guy was delighted to see "Uncle." I never before saw him look so pleasant and happy. He stayed an hour or longer then went down to John's, having promised to go to Church with me in the morning.

This morning he came about nine and we made a call on Frank and Adams before church then went to church

with them; did not hear their minister preach, so we concluded to take dinner with them and go again in the afternoon to hear Mr Drummond. After church we called to see Hellen. Laura did not come with Uncle Ensign but is getting the house ready for Aunt Martha at Leeds. I rode home, and brother Rowland went back there to stay to-night.

I am writing in my room and little Guy is sleeping on the bed. He had his first nap so early that he could not keep awake 'till time for him to go to sleep for the night. I left my writing when Guy waked, and Uncle and Aunt Hicks came down stairs. He and Guy have had a fine play. Now they have come home and when I got ready to write he came with his pencil to help me write. You can see where he has written. He has his own paper and pencil and is writing "a-a" Annie used to read 'a, b, c' out of my book or piece of paper to him, and he has learned 'a' and reads it every time he gets a paper or book.

I received last evening a letter from Mr Lee, enclosing a check for the amount he was owing me. I shall acknowledge it very soon.

We intend to go to Leeds to-morrow. I know Mother will be glad to see us and Guy is very well; he bit his lip a little to-day by falling on some of his play things so I shall be quite busy to-morrow selecting things to take with me to Leeds, and shall leave the rest so Mother can come for them, or send. Brother Rowland is coming up here in the morning, and will cash my checks for me. Mr. Lansing was so kind as to take all our bills and gave me a check on the treasury but by mistake gave it in the name of R. B. Howard so I have been waiting for him to come and endorse it over to me. I shall have them both cashed.

Uncle Edward Waite has purchased me two more shares of Bank stock. The money came from interest on the Rail Road shares. I have spent for Guy and myself \$15.00 since I have been here, and I have left in my purse 165.00 dollars besides. Brother Rowland is owing me considerable. He borrowed \$12.00 before we left Watervliet and \$10.00 out of the money I gave him to pay bills, and his expenses coming to Maine were paid out of my money.

It is but fifteen minutes past eight and all have gone to bed but me. Mother has gone to bed with Guy. She sleeps with us sometimes. My cold is getting better. I am quite well generally, was not as well yesterday as to-day. I did get so tired walking about town with Aunt Hicks the day before.

I feel sure that I have letters at Leeds or I would be anxious to hear from you. I forget to write to you about your money deposited in the State bank of Troy. When I deposited the last two hundred dollars they gave me a "Certificate of deposit" on Interest - amount of \$413.00 and when I find a better place to deposit them there, I will merely have to give the certificate as I would a note and interest and not trouble to send back and forth to them, as I would have had to do had I kept the book. Any bank will take this. It certifies that I have deposited in the State bank of Troy \$413.00 with interest at 5 ½ percent.

Guy will be one year and one quarter old tomorrow. A great many think him older because he understands so well, so well everything said to him, and can himself speak so many words. I hope he may be well all this coming summer. I fear sometimes that when I do not have the care of him, they will give him something that does not agree with him. I trust I will not have a long sickness. You must do your best, to keep well, so you can write good news every time to me, but should you be sick, dearest, do not keep it from me, someone would write for you.

Brother Rowland said he read the death of Prof Bailey at West Point since we came to Maine. I have heard you speak of him often.

I will close my letter to-night and have brother R mail it for me in the Morning. I think of you often my Otis and love you more and more every day. When we are together again we will appreciate our happiness. I expect Mother G has a good girl by this time. I presume we shall stay there through the summer now. I will write a good night to you and pray Heaven to watch over us both from day to day, and give us strength to bear all trouble and be with us in the hour of sickness.

Faithfully yours,  
Lizzie

[written in another hand, possibly Otis']  
Mrs OO Howard  
dated Auburn Mar 13/57  
Recd Fort Brooke Fla



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712 3/15/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0653

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla  
March 15, 1857

My dearest wife,

I was very happy in receiving two letters from you last night, one mailed at Boston and the other at Lewiston or rather Auburn. The latter came through quicker than any previous letter. It reached me in ten days after it was mailed. I was particularly glad to get these letters giving me an account of your journey & safe arrival. I think from your letter that Guy stood the journey remarkably well & behaved like a good boy. You didn't say whether you had made up your mind to stop at Leeds or Lewiston but wanted me to direct your letters to the latter place. I thought you would resolve that Leeds was the best place and have directed all your letters there. I will direct this there also as you will probably be at Leeds on a visit if you do not stay.

I suppose Rowland did bring your letters down to you when on his way to Bath. I shall enclose a check for \$100.00. What I send you had better be put in some Bank than let to any of our relatives. I want it where I can have the ready money by the asking. I shall send you \$100. more at the end of this month & if nothing happens to prevent, \$100. at the end of next. I think we are doing pretty well now in money matters. I want you always to reserve what you think you shall need. I don't think I am at all avaricious, but I am anxious to be independent. I want to give the practical denial to those especial friends who have worried you & me on account of our extravagance. I have drawn every thing up to the close of February. We received notice of the pay Bill officially last night. You will notice that I have got the Check payable to my Order on its face but on the back I have endorsed it over to your Order. You would have to identify yourself at a Bank if you draw it but you can endorse it over (as I have done) to any body you chose and sign it. I want you to acknowledge the receipt of any check as soon as it comes to hand. In case one should be lost, the payment can be stopped & another obtained.

I think I have said quite enough about monetary matters for Sunday.

I went to church this morning & heard a very good discourse to the Sunday school children. It made me think several times I was a father. He enjoined upon them (the children) very earnestly, <has> to obedience to parents, truth under all circumstances, and honesty in all dealings. His text was in the 8th Chap and fifty first verse of John. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."

I walked back from church with Mrs Morris. Major Morris returned to this post from Fort Myers & corroborated the Indian news I wrote in my last letter. Only it is doubtful whether any Indians were killed. They yelled so that they frightened the recruits. The Indians don't mean to leave Florida. They intend to fight it out & sell themselves as dearly as possible. A delegation from the West conducted by a classmate of mine Lieut O'Connor is on the way to Florida, to try and induce their brother Seminoles to emigrate, but I don't believe they will succeed.

As Major Morris has come back permanently, Lieut Hazzard wrote me that himself & wife would be obliged to move. And as Mr Mack & myself had the only quarters fit to live in, they would be taken. Mrs Hazzard had great objection to taking our quarters. Major McKinstry took us to see some quarters occupied by a member of the Band. His wife was a pretty little woman and begged hard not to be moved out.

I would'nt disturb her so I have moved into my Office. It is rather a small place but very comfortable. I am now all alone, far away from every body else. A Sentinel walks post in my yard. So you see I am safe, but I shall miss much, very much. It is a great deal better room than the one I have been occupying. Don't you wish you could keep me company. The little <band> woman offered to take care of my room for me, but I declined the offer. I board at Mr Dukes as I have all the time. When I get lonesome I can go and see Day at the Hotel or Mack. The latter will have one of Hazzard's rooms for the present. You cant think what a cozy little place this is. My bed in one corner with its high posts and covered with a white musketoe bar. My home-made wardrobe & trunk in another corner at the foot of the bed & my little table against the wall between them. Our Desks are

on the south-side. The door opens towards the west into the Ordnance Yard. One window opens to the south between the desks & the other towards the East & outside the grounds upon an open & uninhabited tract. The Porch on the South & West gives a pleasant place for smokers to sit.

I got a letter from Mr Lee last night. He said he had sent your last letter directed to Watervliet on to Lewiston I shall direct this to Leeds at a venture. I am expecting a line from Mother by every mail.

I followed you through your journey - should like to kiss little Guy & his dear mama. It is getting near Mail time. Tell me of every body you have seen and all they have to say. I do think about you, wish you & I & Guy were the only gentle folks on the "south side" now.

My love to all.

From your affectionate husband  
Otis

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713 3/17/1857 *From:* [Lizzie Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0654

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Me. March 17 1857

My dearest Husband

We came to Leeds yesterday and I found here three of your dear, kind letters waiting for my perusal, the last one was written on the first day of March, and arrived here on Saturday the fourteenth. I presume it will not always be convenient to mail letters to you every Monday and Thursday, but I shall endeavor to be as regular in sending and writing them as I can. You say that 'the mail fails every other time': do you mean fails to bring you letters, or it brings no mail?

I am very glad to hear of your good health and do hope it will continue good. I know you have a great deal to do, and you must take care of yourself and not get sick for you can not have your little wife to take care of you there.

Guy did not take more cold coming to Leeds as I feared he would. I am quite well, my cold nearly gone, and our Mothers health is good. I told Mother G this was the first day since I left Watervliet that I felt at home and could sit down to rest. Guy takes care of himself where there are no children, but at Auburn. Mother and I both had to watch him constantly. He has gone to sleep now and I am writing in the same room - the north room. It is warm and comfortable. I can here work, play, sleep rest, or anything I please. I shall stay here and from what Mother G. Said to-day when I was talking with here, I judge she will like to have us with her.

I do not think there is the least prospect of your being relieved before fall, if you can come then. I do not think you had better apply for a leave. You might not be here when I most would like to have you, and you could not be with me a long time. All things considered I feel it is much better for me to be here than in Florida this summer. Your frequent letters so full of kindness and affection, give me strength and comfort.

Mother has gone to bed with Guy, but I must write a little longer as it is yet early. I am glad you wrote me about the party, and I am very glad you went. I shall isolate myself from society now because I am obliged to, but I certainly do not want you to. You need not be growing young any more, especially while I am growing so old.

I met Mr. Francis Lothrop at the Depot the day we came. His family is at Saco, Me. and he is intending to go west. Arza's widow called to-day and Louisa and her youngest daughter, Evaline were here when we came, are with Cynthia to-night. She goes home to-morrow. Rowland Alger was here this afternoon, says Guy is a great boy. Jonnie does not walk yet but can stand by a chair.

I fear Guy will forget his dear father. I showed him your picture yesterday and he tried willingly to say "pa-pa." He does not yet get it quite plain. It seems to be a hard word for him to speak. When you had a fire was it not an open fire place? Such a fire is very cheerful and I like it in this room. I do not know when I shall mail this but do not think it will be to-morrow. So I can write then and will not write more to-night.

Wednesday morning. Now, my dearest, comes your letter to finish. I have written to Mr. Lee, Uncle Edward Waite, and cousin Prentiss. I spoke about taking the New York Times, and he being in the P.O. was to write for it, for me, but now I am to remain here, I want it sent to Leeds.

Afternoon. Col Gilmore is going to the P.O. this afternoon, so I must write fast or I will send you a short letter. Brother Rowland is in my room writing at the same table. He told me of his visit at Bath, and I think it was very pleasant, good sleighing there and they went to Brunswick with a horse and sleigh.

Dellie will be home the last of next week, and I am glad, for he is to bring me some paper, pens and envelopes. I cannot be out of writing materials. I wonder what you would rather I would write to you. I don't seem to be answering your good letters, but am writing straight on after mere mentioning that I had received them. Guy has had his nap and Grandmother is now giving him his dinner. I shall go down to see Cynthia when the horse is harnessed. Perhaps you may think the walk would do me good. Granted but it is very muddy and wet. I

could not soil my new clean dress. I shall not take Guy because his left eye does not seem quite well, when he gets a little cold by being in the wind. His eye will seem weak. I do not think he will necessarily have weak eyes. We have the worst winds in the spring - they are generally very damp. I want him well all the time, and you because I would not know of it immediately.

Laura is at home. I want to see her. I suppose she is all ready for Aunt Martha to come home. I don't know what Aunt Martha would do to have her get married. She was very anxious to have her come home. John brought home a girl while I was there last Sunday, so Hellen will not be left alone. I have not made my sheet yet. Uncle Hicks had some nice times with Guy while we were at their house. I know he is a boy to be proud of, and I shall say it. He tries hard to say papa. He reads 'p a p a' letters sometimes. Brother Rowland, Guy and myself rode home from the Depot on one sleigh and Col Gilmore and Mother in the other with Oscar's horse. Did not go with the red horse because he knew I was afraid of that one. I do appreciate every little kindness.

Florence came up this morning to see Guy. I have not seen any the rest. I think of so much I want to tell you when I am about to finish a letter that I know not what best to write. This is the fourteenth day since the stage left Tampa March 5 and I some expect to get another dear letter. I wrote you about the trial of George Knight. He has been found guilty since I wrote, is in the jail waiting his sentence. Brother Rowland is writing a letter to Mr Lee to go with mine. There will be letters enough go from this one house to-day to fill a mail bag. Mother G mailed a letter to you while we were at Auburn. Grand-pa and grandmother both think Guy a very nice boy. Grand-pa brings him an apple from the cellar. Guy is watching him chop wood from the window now.

I went out to see if they had any thing in particular to say to you. Only love from all, and most from your Lizzie.

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714 3/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0655

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
March 18 1857

My dearest wife,

I am now quite settled in my little bachelor-stall, have been building an out house which is just completed. This morning I have assisted the men to remove some Guns & Carriages from the yard, had to take hold myself to show the men the way to handle heavy Guns & have consequently blistered my hands. I am going to have the yard ploughed up & sowed to oats & seeded down, to make a green plat of ground in front of my delightful quarters. I bought a piece of cotton cloth containing twenty six yards at ten cts. per yd. & have put it up on the south side of the Porch as an awning. I have also purchased a new mahogany colored desk for the office. Everything looks cheerful enough for a lady to look in upon me. Don't you wish you could? You can see I am a very busy body & keep things in motion. A man constantly employed is not homesick.

I left off writing to go to dinner and on my return, found at the quartermasters' Office, four public letters from Fort Myers and at dinner received one from Fort Clinch. These have delayed me somewhat & will more by & by. While the Sergeant is endorsing them & making out some papers, I have given him instructions for, I will hasten on & tell you that we are all right on this particular quarter. No news of importance from Fort Myers. I sent you a check for 100 dolls in my last letter. I have just been interrupted again by a sergeant of Volunteers, bringing a requisition for ammuniton, so my darling Lizzie you must'nt mind if I don't keep up the connection.

We are having beautiful & growing weather. It is warm but there is a nice cool breeze. I have been obliged to day to put on my thin coat and find it very comfortable. Don't you wish you could lay aside your thick dress and put on a thin white or pink? Come out to Tampa & you can do so.

I have been reading the Pickwick papers lately. They are quite a source of amusement. I shall be sorry when I have finished the second volume. I think it did cost a great deal to transport you piano & am glad you found so good a place to put it & so good a use for it. You might sell it with the promise of having it again if you should wish to buy it back, when we shall have retired from public to private life & can (as Mrs Mack said in a letter to her husband) live like folks. He told me she said why don't you resign & come home to live like folks. You see Mr Mack will not do it, as neither himself or his wife are worth anything, besides the army pay.

Little Guy Howard - I can't for the life of me imagine how he looks there at Lewiston or Auburn. I don't know anything about the new house that Aunt Sarah lives in. Cant see him at play or asleep. How is his cold and how does he like the place? Has'nt Laura been to see you & told you that Hellen's baby is much the fattest &c? But the idea of calling Guy a baby. You know he lost that blessed soubriquet at or before he was six month's old. Lieut Mack says he will be six years old before I see him again, but he does'nt know more than I do about that.

The mail stage has'nt got in yet and I am glad of it, for when it is late it is more likely to bring me a good parcel. Bless me, I meant to have written mother a letter by this mail and also to have answered Mr Lee's kind letter, but, I procrastinated and have to write this in a hurry. Rowland said he squared up with Mr Parke & receipted for thirty seven dolls & something. Is that all you were fortunate enough to get from him?

But never mind now that the pay is increased and we are out of debt, we will soon add to our little stock.

I wrote you once something about Lieut Perkins having been put in arrest &c. It was all false - a Cracker story. The Volunteers are called Crackers and as a general thing they are a very corrupt set of men. They drink, gamble & swear and do all manner of discreditable things and are not withal very good soldiers. I have been bothered with them a good deal, but I have'nt got right short with any but once.

Give my love to Mother & the rest. I am glad Prentiss has got so good a birth. Is it on the Auburn side. Tell Guy, father wants to see him, but Uncle Sam prevents.

God bless you, my darling Lizzie.  
Otis

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715 3/19/1857 *From:* Simon Murphy

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-0656

Augusta Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Maine March 19th 1857

My Dear Sir

I was very sorry when I heard you were ordered so far away from your family. May God grant that you will return safe to your family. The Capt and his family are well. Every person that was acquainted with you have missed you very much. And so did the Boys. John, he cryed for missing to see you to bid you good by. I expect if my son James is in that part of the Country youd be kind enough to let me know something about him. He wrote to me last November. He said I need not answer his letter untill he wrote again that he would be leaving in ten days and coming to terms and have not heard from him since. I would not take this liberty were not being acquainted with your kindness towards me and many others.

John Murphy stands day guard and has but very little use of his arm.

I heard from you through Mr Mulligan.

I remain your obedient serv!

Simon Murphy

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716 3/21/1857 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0657

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla  
March 21st 1857

My dearest Mother

I received your very kind letter this evening with two from Lizzie at Auburn & one from Rowland at Bath. It seemed quite natural to receive a letter from you again with father's superscription.

You need'nt think of the distance at all. It is true it takes a little longer for a letter to get here, than it did when I was at West Point or Watervliet. But eleven days is'nt long. Two thousand miles is nothing compared with one thousand when you first knew my father. My duties here are not irksome. I am the only representative of my Department in Florida, and have to receive orders from nobody but General Harney & very few from him. I have now an Ordnance Sergeant for my Clerk, an Armorer who has just arrived from New Orleans & three other enlisted men.

Lizzie said she should take her letters for you to read, which she has probably done before this. By these you can form some idea of my duties and every day employment. I have considerable responsibility, but this must always attach to any desirable position. I have recently fitted up my Office for a house to live in. I have made gates & paths & a garden, in which I work a little for exercise. I wanted to improve the grounds belonging to the Depot, so I have had all rubbish removed, had them ploughed & a part laid out in beds. I have had corn, potatoes, pumpkins, mellons of different kinds, onions, salsify, cabbages &c &c planted. So you perceive I retain a part of my earliest employments. Last year I planted in Augusta & this year in Tampa. I wonder where I shall plant or be planted next year. I have'nt been lonely or down hearted since I have been here and why should I be? God gives me all sorts of blessings and when I still have such kind & warm hearted friends to write me affectionate letters how can I feel at all low spirited. Then I find friends everywhere. Everybody seems to like me. I do not lack for attention if I want it. I strive to follow the golden rule, "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you." It softens hard heads and never estranges any.

But I ought not to enlarge upon meritorious conduct, for in the sight of my Heavenly Father I am to test myself. Not a day passes but I am conscious of doing wrong. Policy - a frank demeanor, and a disposition to do an occasional kindness, will beget favor with men, but let the wise man not rest satisfied with this. To be liked, may be a good sign of a cheerful temperament or of amiability, but the true Christian who does his duty faithfully is not apt to be popular. May God purge me from my besotting sins - viz. self-righteousness, vanity, and ambition.

Lizzie and Guy must have been to see you before this time. She fears to bring you trouble, but I know that all the trouble she will bring you will be a pleasure. I should have written you oftener of late, but I thought she would be at Leeds and make my letters, a sort of common property. I have written a great many letters since I have been in Florida. I have written to Lizzie, Rowland, Charlie, Dellie, Ella, Perry Lee, Frank Sargent, Mr Jackson at Albany, Lts Closson, Lee & Boggs, Capt Whiteley & yourself & others. Then my official letters count up near one hundred some long & some short. But it is no trouble to write and I will promise to write you often. As soon as I have time I will give you an intelligible sketch of my little spot of ground within the fence, consisting of a building that looks as if it was on stilts, where we keep arms & accoutrements - a smaller one for ammunition, called the magazine, in the fore ground & my humble abode & office, in the back ground. I think Col Craig, the Colonel of Ordnance, is well satisfied with my proceedings, for he has granted me everything I have asked for, and called my attention to no inadvertence since I have been here. I mean to be prompt in obeying Orders & careful in my expenditures, and should do so whether I got credit for so doing or not. My Quarterly returns will have to be made out between this and the end of the month.

My health has been very good thus far. I do miss my wife & little boy very much - nothing can replace them; but if we live and are well this separation will have an end & the probability is that we will not be separated again for many years.

There is much more I would like to write but it is getting late. Lieut Solomons, who was three years with me at West Point, came in tonight in the stage. I spent the evening with him & did not begin my letter till nearly ten. It is now after Eleven. So good night. The same Father that takes care of you all will take care of me (1st pg.)

Give my love to all my old friends. It will be April when this is in your hands. We heard tonight that another Indian woman & child were taken. Poor Mrs Brewster. She has done her duty well. Many are the warnings I have heard from her lips, Octavia, Martha & Henry are past the stage of youth. Little Salmon Clark must be quite a boy.

My love to Father, make his task easy & pray for your son far away.

Very affectionately your eldest.  
O.O. Howard

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717 3/22/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0658

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Me. March 22, 1857

My dearest Husband

It is now Sunday afternoon and I will commence my letter to you. Mother G, Rowland and myself have been to Church all day, saw Laura, Aunt Martha and Uncle Ensign who came home from Lewiston yesterday. Laura has been at their house one week and had every-thing in good order to receive them. Saw also Aunt Aurelia. Thomas has sold the farm and is to move to China. Aunt's portion from the sale of the farm is \$400.00. I do not know where she is going to live.

I mailed my last letter to you on Wednesday, and when Rosco returned he brought me a letter from you and I also received another Saturday, the last one mailed Mar 8th and came in thirteen days. Those little shells came safely. Guy was much pleased with them, and played with them some time. You must thank Mr Day for Guy. I am very glad you have two such good friends with you as I know Lieut Mack and Day are. I would be happy to become acquainted with both. Please give them my kind regards.

You spoke a little encouraging in your last letter about coming home, that is, that Gen Harney might not continue this campaign through the summer. We should be happy to see you no matter how soon. I tell you what, you better not come home till you want to take us back with you, because I should not let you go alone again, never. Not that I can not be contented here, I can be and comfortable too, but I am not going to live alone. I don't believe in such nonsense.

I never came here when the whole house was in such good order and everything so very comfortable as it now is. Mother's 'old woman', as she called Kitty Lambert, went away the day before we came, and she with my mother's help had done all the work. Her girl she is expecting this week.

Guy has not got quite over his cold. His eyes are both weak yet, but are better. He finds a great many new things to learn since we came here. He calls Fanny (the lamb) as he would a dog. He usually leaves the table before the rest of us and passes the time by walking about followed by the cat and kitten. He likes them as well as Mrs Lee would, sees the 'biddy-biddy' out the window. I shall not take him out while his eyes are not strong. The sun shines so brightly on the snow that it is very trying to my eyes. The sleighing now is what is always is here in the spring. snow thin in places and then deep soft drifts, but there is not as much snow as there is generally at this month. Laura will be down to see us this week. Uncle Ensign was at Mr Stricklands last week; they have sold their house preparatory to going west. She with the children is coming to Maine this week, and Henry will come down to go home with her at the end of two weeks. I think I have never written you that Mrs Sargent will be confined next June, at Nassau. I should like to hear from Mrs Boggs.

I continue very well, me darling, and last week cut out a great deal of work to do. Shall begin my sewing next week. I shall be very much engaged for the next twelve weeks. I went down to see Cynthia as I told you. I do not think Jonnie has grown as fast as Guy. It may be because he cannot walk. He looks as he did, but his head is in better shape. Roland Alger has been doing well ever since I was here last August. Oscar Turner has been in one evening since we came and I have seen none of the rest.

I want to go to Lewiston soon, down and back the same day, in order to finish my shopping, and bring up my bed and a few things I shall need by and bye. Betsey has written for Rosco to come to Lewiston. He will probably go soon. Esther likes at Easton. I think Mrs Ames is doing a great deal for her.

I having been giving Guy some bread and milk, and then Mother undressed him and he went to sleep almost as soon as he touched the bed. How little trouble he has ever been compared with most children. I hope the rest will be as little trouble.

How much I shall miss you during my sickness. Who will take me up so kindly and so carefully as you did at Augusta? And did so many little things so cheerfully, and watched me and baby with so much interest. God

grant that all may be well, and you will come home in health to love us afterward.

I shall add more to this to morrow, and I will not write more to night, but go to sleep early, and dream of you perhaps. I do sometimes have very pleasant dreams of you.

I cannot send you a very long letter this time as Brother Rowland will go to the P.O. this morning. Little Guy's eyes are very much better this morning and all the rest are quite well.

<Florence> has sent word that she is coming up to see Guy this afternoon and tomorrow Mr and Mrs Foss are coming to pass the day with us. I presume Rowland will bring Laura home with him this afternoon.

Guy is with me and has come to have me go and find the kitty. He cannot say kitty, but lets me know what he wants by mewling like her 'new-new.' He takes up some new work nearly every day. He is now leaning against me with his thumb in his mouth waiting very patiently for me to go with him. I tell him as soon as I finish father's letter, and as it is nearly time for Rowland to go I will not try to write more.

With much love, from your affectionate wife  
Lizzie A. Howard

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718 3/22/1857    *From:* Charles H. Howard    *To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0659

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Mar 22, 1857

My dear brother

I was very glad to get your long letter in about a fortnight from the time it was written. I intended to have written long before this but have not had a fitting opportunity. I sing at the Baptist & one evening of the week is spent at the Choir meeting. Our Class prayer meeting takes another evening. The Societies meet another & some times the  $\Psi$  meets another, besides the lectures &c that we have down town. Dr. Peabody of Portsmouth lectured last week & Prof Everett I believe is to lecture next Thursday.

Rowland has been here & spent about one week here & at Bath - much the greater time at Bath. He brought Ella up in a sleigh one afternoon & I took tea with them at Mrs Sanford's, where Cornelia Patten lives.

We had no services today at the Baptist so I went & heard Bishop Burgess at the Episcopal in the forenoon. He does not preach sermons particularly interesting to me - partly perhaps on account of the delivery. This afternoon I went to the Baptist house & heard a Sabbath school class. Stayed about an hour & a half - returned to College, went to Young & Mitchell's room, where there is a seraphim & with several of my classmates spent nearly an hour in singing. We expect to commence tonight to sing in the Chapel. Frank Sewell of Bath plays on the organ.

The junior parts came out last week. My room-mate did not get one as most all expected he would.

My term will close in about three weeks. I am hurrying on to the Junior year. That will soon be gone & the Senior will seem the shortest of all. I wonder what I shall do then. I wonder what I am fitted for. I am inclined to think I am fitted for nothing in particular & nothing in general. There has been some religious interest in College of late & was in town a few weeks ago which I believe I wrote you about. One Senior has been converted. A great number of my class are pious. I have got a noble class. It is united & for the most part I think united for the right. We are all on good terms. I have not an enemy in it & in fact we are more like brothers than otherwise. My class is not like the others.

There is considerable drinking in College, <not> mostly in the Senior Class though there are some who are accustomed to get drunk of every class. The town-house was burned the other night. It was a splendid sight when burning at about 2 o'clock in the morning. It was set on fire by some one - very likely students.

I have to study pretty much all of the time now. We are reading Electra in Greek, Horace in Latin, the Satires & Epistles, Napoleon's life in French, are studying the last part of the Trigonometry in Mathematics. Trigonometry is the best Mathematics I have seen yet - probably because it is easy.

I was glad you wrote me about your journey out there & particularly about your situation - the people about you, your daily duties &c. I wish I could live in such a climate then I should not be so likely to have the consumption.

It is quite a pleasant day today but we have had rainy weather of late which has made the walking very wet. I have India Rubber boots. It has now frozen up & some snow fell last night - a small quantity. We shall not have much more sleighing.

Dellie wrote me not long ago. He has some hesitation about pursuing the course which the rest of us have done. Father seems to be hardly able to meet the expense & Dellie is not much set upon going to College. He wants to be a lawyer. Have you written to him lately? I believe he is going to peddle paper during his vacation.

We had here last night a prayer meeting quite interesting. The two Profs Smyth were present & spoke. It was in the Senior Rec. Room. Prof Egbert Smyth read letters from Amherst & Yale saying that they were having a revival in religion in those places. I wish there might be one here. The meeting of the Circle this morning was well attended. The religious element of the College is large enough but it is not fervid & active as it should be.

We professed Christians are not always a lever. As lever the whole lump of those we are associated with. Oh I wish Rowland was a true follower of Christ but I am afraid he is no nearer to it than he has been for years.

Do you read much now Otis & what do you find to read? I do not get time to read. I wrote a Theme on William Penn yesterday, but I read his life this winter so only looked over some reviews lately. Am to write on the Duty of Sympathy next. Then shall read only what Prof Upham says about this.

The prayer bell has begun to ring. I do not think I have written so good a letter as I might if I had taken more time & pains but I may do better next time. I hope you will write me as often as you can.

I remain here 3 weeks - then at home two. I will close. Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles H. Howard

(To: Lieut O. O. Howard)

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719 3/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0660

Ordnance Depot Fort  
Brooke  
Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke  
Fla. March 22, 1857

My dearest wife,

I received two beautiful letters from you last night, one containing your sketch. I have asked you in one of my letters for a sketch of the new house &c, and I was right glad that you anticipated me.

Lieut Solomon who was three years with me at the Point & in Mr Shunk's class arrived last night by the Palatka stage. I spent the evening with him and wrote to mother after ten, and I went to church this morning. It being a quarterly meeting, we did not get away till nearly dinner time, and Mr Solomon came in to see me in my office this afternoon and has just this moment left.

So now it is after five, and my darling wife must pardon a hurried letter. I am very glad of your determination to go to Leeds. I think you & little boy will be better off up there. Guy must be too sanguine about that new relation. Un Garcon n'est impossible "Par nobile fratrum", used to mean a noble pair of Brothers. His father will never complain if Guy's little mother comes off victorious. You don't know what a beautiful little picture you present, when you say, "I have a high chair for him and he sits at the table by me. I feed him from my plate with his little fork, and he drinks nicely from his silver cup. He behaves very well, does not ask for everything &c, but is contented with what I give him." Such pictures are very interesting & pleasant to me. You know I like to have you write in that way and you must not sense if I do not especially answer those portions. I will write about what occurs here and what I am about, for I know you want to know these things the most.

Since I wrote I have had the Ordnance yard ploughed and made a path across it. I have laid it out into Beds in part and planted all sorts of Garden seeds and vegetables. Lt Day who sent Guy those little shells & made him a present of a large one which is here in my new desk, has just come in but, he says write on, I will only rest me. It is a beautiful specimen and Guy will be delighted with it when he gets it.

From your last letter I should say you could'nt help being at Leeds by this time. A good deal can be done in ten days. My Armorer came day before yesterday. Now my compliment is full. One of my men DeWolfe has proved himself rather worthless and I am gong to send him back to his company at Manatee & have another. I hope I will be more fortunate in my next trial. This man loiters about sometimes, leaves his work without permission and nearly all the time has a convenient pain in his stomach. He is better off with his company and I don't want to punish any man for misconduct when I can help it.

Major McKinstry of the Quartermaster's department is to be ordered to Fort Leavenworth and his place here supplied by Capt VanVliet, who has recently been stationed in New York City. I told Mrs McKinstry of the news this morning. She had not heard of it. She looked a little sad at the prospect of such a journey, then she brightened up & asked if it was not quite a place? She said if there were schools she could have her boys with her. I did'nt know she had any boys, except little Guy ,who is now about two years old. Mrs Page & family are quite well, but the young lady, her sister, Miss Duvall is quite ill with the pneumonia. But Major Page, who came up to see me yesterday said he considered her out of danger as not dangerously ill.

You don't think Hellen need be so very sorry for you! That's right, Lizzie. We are learning how to make the most of circumstances & eke happiness out of any thing. I agree with you about going home & coming back. I shall not get a leave unless it be a long one and you could return with me. As the Frenchman said, "we shall see what we shall see."

Another Indian woman and child has been taken and one of the Indians negroes killed. The Indians hold slaves as well as their more civilized compatriots. We have got no important news from Fort Myers yet. Three companies of the 3d Regt of Artillery, that were detained by General Harney, will leave the country for the north in a few days.

I like my present quarters very much. I am glad Mother W is well. She must be delighted to get among old friends. I don't know anything to hinder you from living with mother. She wants you to come & you want to go. It only takes two to make a bargain. Your happiness is near my heart always my own Lizzie. Those colds must be well guarded against.

Your affectionate & faithful husband  
Otis

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720 3/25/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Brother [OO Howard]

OOH-0661

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 25th 1857

Dear Brother

I received yours of the sixth Saturday night. In "manner" & matter it was worthy of your own head & heart than which, in my estimation, there are few better in this bad world. I was glad to see that you were in so good spirits & looked forward so cheerfully & hopefully.

Ella seems to think if we were married, she shouldn't care so much to have me go back to Albany or even to Florida. She don't know does she, the duties & obligations, the new & binding force of conjugal love. The Husband & wife & above all the child & parents might in the course of nature to be together, to separate them is unnatural & hard to bear, but it is an excellent provision in our spiritual constitution, that a sense of duty & the power of will can resist the dictates of our affections & we are enabled to do what is for the "best" in spite of the yearnings of our hearts & our happiness is not thus made entirely dependent on the gratification of our desires. God rewards a sacrifice of this kind with cheerfulness & contentment, but this is not what I took my pen for.

The note "entre nous" took me completely by surprise & I hesitated some time in my own mind whether I ought to take advantage of your generosity. But my "need" was a strong argument & your own present "independence" another. I will take your gift in the spirit you have offered it, Otis, & may God bless & prosper you for it. I am in hopes if He spares my life to be in a few years myself "independent". If I am, you will be repaid, if I am not, I hope neither yourself nor your children will be poorer for this "deed of charity". As you suggest it would be better perhaps on some accounts to say nothing of this at present for obvious reasons.

Father is now very hard pressed for money. He has absolutely no resources except the R.R. Co. & they have paid him but little for the last year & a poor prospect for the year to come. If they would pay him interest, he might meet his engagements, or at least keep his creditors quiet. To secure debts to Roland (1200), A. L. Foss (1000), Lavernia (1400) I Richmond (300) Mrs Lathrop (500) & some others he has mortgaged his Real Estate for something more than it is worth. Mother has the Day Farm, a Mortgage at Gardiner (500) & individual notes to the amt of \$700.00. My note is 350 & Charles has 1000 in Fathers hands for which neither of us have or can have security. (Fathers private note is given to individuals for perhaps \$1200. Roland has a bill of sale of his stocks etc to the amt of (700). Father has R.R. securities to the amt of nearly \$20,000 - viz: Bonds 13,000, mortgage of Engine to Mother (\$7,000) to secure Co. notes running to her. The first of April \$700 interest will be due on the bonds. If the Co. pay - well - if not, there is but little chance to collect & the "boys" will have a hard chance for money. Chas White & Mr Alvin Lane (300 & 200) are anxious for their money by May & interest is constantly accruing on Fathers other liabilities. So you see a great call pretty soon and a small prospect of an answer. I think it best for the present that Charles & I should get all from Father we can towards bearing our expenses. I think we have a greater moral right than many of his Cars. So I shall not disturb your "present" yet for some time if Father can furnish me money.

I think it probably that I shall go to Lewiston & remain till September & then return to Albany or go to Cambridge as it best. My board will be as much at L nearly as at Albany, but I can study as well here as there till the Law School commences & I hate to go so far from Ella until it is necessary.

I have not settled with Lizzie yet. Capt Patten had an attack of "bleeding at the lungs" Sat night last. Mrs P is with her sick daughter in Roxbury & Ella was very much frightened. He has been well this winter but has had such an attack once before. Winter before last, I think. I am always frightened at such a thing, partly on account our own Fathers sickness & death which made such an impression on me when I was small. Capt P was down street Monday however & I do hope it is not serious. He is closing up his business on the wharf - money is "hard". A ship in which he owned an eighth has just been lost & although he don't say anything I think his business troubles him some. His family are very dependent on him & his loss would be the very worst of calamities, but I hope for the best.

Lizzie received yours of the 12th giving an account of the "Engagement" last evening. She mailed a letter for

you Monday morning & probably will send another tomorrow. Guy seems to enjoy his new quarters nicely. I might write many things about him & Lizzie, but they come best from her pen, & her life will now be so monotonous that she will need all the incidents to supply her with subjects for her letters. He is healthy, pleasant & roguish. He will suck his thumb, except when I speak to him, when he feels hungry, sleepy, wet or cross. The calf, horse, sheep, colt, all afford him infinite variety & amusement. The snow hurts his eyes or I would take him out more. As soon as it is gone he ought to go out of doors. What you said in one of your letters about his being "truthful" was good & right to the point. I would rather be harsh to my child, rather have him rough, impolite & saucy, than that he should be a canard & conceal.

Almost all of Capt. Pattens family are often not well behaved (the children I mean) but there is perfect confidence & truth - no concealment in the family at all. I believe I prefer a drunkard to a liar, don't you?

I am glad you wrote to "Jack". If I go to Albany I shall feel much more at home in that office than elsewhere & he will be glad to have "the latest news from the Army from a friend of his, an officer" to tell some of his friends. We expect Dellie in a week. Charles vacation does not come till about May. I found him well when I was at Brunswick. Prof Packard spoke in the very highest terms of his character - "From the very first, your brother has taken a high & manly stand & we respect him very much". I saw Prof P in the cars. I attended one of Prof Cleave's lectures & heard the old jokes. It was the lecture on "light". He inquired for you & grew eloquent over "that cold night" when his "Register Ther." went lower than ever before.

We expect Aunt Martha Jane here this week. They will go to Richmond, Ind. some time in May. Henry has the R.R. Co's notes to the amt of \$6000, Father indorsed. Uncle Ensign says he (Uncle H) is a little "crazy" about it. Father has indorsed about \$10,000 including this, but his property is beyond the reach of attachment - nile supra.

Do you want to know who have little babies. Well, Addison Martin, Jud Lane, D. Francis, Arch Knapp, S. Merrill, Phebe Manwell, A.L. Foss, John Turner, H. Mitchell (the Bean farm) Mrs Lane (M.J. Lathrop) & others too numerous to mention. Amanda is badly pitted by the small pox. Mrs Turner is quite sick. She has a bad cough. Roland's "Johnny" is not pretty, but he seems bright & promising. Guy looks like a giant beside him.

Your present place & duties are matters of great interest to Leeds people judging by the no. of questions I have to answer & the explanations I have to make. Tom Bridgham thinks he will make his fortune by leaving Leeds. I hope so. Aunt Aurelia has now \$600 as interest & can support herself comfortably by her needle. Lloyd will go to the poor farm where Mary Ann & Will now are. I went up & got Laura last night & she is now here. She is well & seems as happy as ever. Uncle Ensign & Aunt Martha have got into their house again as usual. John's family are well. He has the fattest baby ("J.C. Fremont") I ever saw.

Your ideas about my profession are in the main correct. The reasons which seemed to me tho' to unfit me for the "law" I thought were not equally an objection to the "ministry". I still think so. But your other views in regard to the purpose & object of preaching coincide with my own exactly. I am better fitted by nature for a pulpit orator than any other but that in itself is not sufficient to induce me to take such a step. What makes me in love with Theology as a profession is the immense field which it opens both for the intellect & the heart - the reflex influence of such a profession must be great & the "doing good" must guarantee a happy life. I thought proper to canvass the whole question - let me decide as I would. I shall stick to the "law" now except some radical change takes place in my views.

This will do for one letter & I will write some more before long  
Your aff bro  
Rowland

I will write as soon as I receive the "entre nous".

Mother & Laura send their love to Otis.

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721 3/25/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0662

*Source:* Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot,  
Tampa  
Fort Brooke Fla

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Ordnance Depot, Tampa  
Fort Brooke Fla  
March 25th 1857

My dearest wife,

Wednesday & Mail Day! I am already speculating on the probability of getting some letters tonight. Let us see. I can have two from you if the second one makes as quick a trip as your first letter from Auburn did, but I wont be over-exacting. I will not expect but one from you & one from Rowland or Charlie or somebody else.

Lieut Solomon left us on Monday & my man DeWolfe for Manatee. Monday, Tuesday & today I have busied myself in my Garden when my duties proper have not demanded my attention. On Monday I received 225 boxes of ammuniton of different kinds and yesterday we turned over some to be sent to Fort Myers.

I find my little room a very comfortable place to live in. I generally spend a part of the evening with Mr Mack to keep him from being lonesome and then make my way over here through the sand, strike a light and read till bed time, then I take my Bible and read two chapters aloud, ask the blessing of God to rest upon us, and then tuck in my musketo bar all round excepting a place big enough to let me in, extinguish my light and crawl into my nest and go to sleep. The next thing I hear is a rap at the door. "Lieutenant, it is most seven o'clock." It is Peter Kane. I get up and give him the key of the store room, then drench my head and face in cold water.

I keep my wash stand on the porch & my water pail suspended from a strap & hook out there also. It is hung as high as my head. The water is thus protected from the sun during the whole day & keeps clean and cool. My clothes are hung up just at the foot of the bed & protected by a screen. My wardrobe made of a packing box stands in the corner & is covered by a screen of cotton cloth to keep the dust & flies off my linen &c. Right over my desk I have a long box open towards me with twenty pigeon holes, marked Return of detachment, Monthly Return of Hired men, Monthly Receipts & Expenditures &c, &c. One end of this box I left without pigeon holes where my small quantity of books are looking down upon me. On the top of this box I keep wrapping paper, magazines, my Epaulette box &c. When I write I am here at the desk & occupying my arm office chair with its red cushion & when I read I sit in the rocking chair just at the end of the desk. A bachelor could hardly be more comfortably fixed. Lieut Solomon said I had the coolest place on the post.

But I believe you would be homesick in this cozy little corner. There would hardly be room enough for decent sized hoops & I couldnt spare you space enough for you to hang your dresses. You would go without your breakfast, because you had to walk so far for it in the sand & today without your dinner because the sun is so hot. But you would have to work very smartly to keep the flies off of Guy, if it isnt an impossible conception to suppose him here. I have to hold the little broom in my left hand & whip the flies with energy every few minutes.

We have dug a well since yesterday noon just in front of my office & a little to the right. We had to sink it only six feet & found water in plenty. The curb extends from the bottom of the well up as high as my breast. The top of it isnt finished yet. It wont be good water to drink, but will do to wash in & water my plants. It has been some time since we have had any rain and the consequence is everything is drying up. Quite a cool breeze has sprung up & the heat is relieved in a great measure.

It is almost two o'clock & I must get ready for dinner. Lieuts Day & Mack, the four clerks of the Quartermaster, Col Monroe and eight or ten more people are constant boarders at Mr Duke's. It is rather a boarding house, than a hotel. He has no Bar or Bar-room. Mr & Mrs Duke are old people, nearly seventy. The children who come to visit them are as old as forty. One Mr Duke's sons is Captain of a steamer, Gray Cloud, now in the United State's Service. Captain Dukes wife & three little children are now here. I will finish after dinner.

Mr Mack brought me your letter (mailed Monday, March 16, 1857) at the dinner table. The stage came in early. This good letter of eight pages was only nine days on the way & not quite that. The conveyances are improving.

You were going to Leeds the next day after you wrote. You seemed a little down-hearted my darling. I gathered it from the general tone of your letter & not from any part in particular. I do think of you & little boy a good deal. I have'nt much else to do when I am alone.

I am very happy indeed to receive such a letter as the last, giving me an account of everything that is transpiring. I shall be very anxious till all is over. Do be very careful. You will remember premature cold baths, getting about too soon and such things, but you must not be too anxious about Guy, for the good of you both at that time. I shall continue to write that you may see my scrawl when I may not have much to communicate. I know whom you would like to lean on & talk to at this time, but God knows what is for our good. We must trust in him and fear nothing. Courage, my darling wife, a little body may be strong in heart.

Does Mother W go with you to Leeds? You have not told me, but I inferred it from your saying she would go back for your things. I think you are doing well in the financial line. I will inspect your books officially one of these days.

My love to Mothers & all. I told Rowland to give his note to you or me, without interest. I want to help him. The Government helped me to 24 dolls per month while at West Point, else I would have been hard pressed. "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you." I shant do it, but I recognize the rule as a good one & one that produces happiness. Who wants to be rich & miserable. We will be rich & not miserable, trust my word for that. Have I broken a promise to you yet?

God bless you Lizzie. Yr affectionate & faithful husband.  
Otis

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722 3/25/1857 *From:* OO Howard  
2nd Lieut.

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0663

Ord'ce  
Comdg Depot

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Enclosed you will find a rough pen sketch of the military Reserve called Fort Brooke. You can perhaps form an idea of the relative position of things. The town of Tampa commences just to the North of the line fence and extends back in a northerly direction something less than half a mile. The Court House is on the extreme North of the town - a very decent- looking two story, wooden building, and Duke's Hotel where I board is abreast of it on the same East & West street & in the Extreme North East of Tampa. The streets are at right angles & there is a store or shop in nearly every corner.

Every trader keeps everything & nobody keeps anything, is a parody that will apply very well here.

[three pages of sketches]

Sketch of Ord'ce Grounds  
Not for General exhibition  
done in haste & near dark  
OO Howard  
2nd Lieut. Ord'ce  
Comdg Depot

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723 3/26/1857 *From:* R. H. Whiteley

*To:* Lieut. [OO Howard]

OOH-0664

New York Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Arsenal

March 26. 1857

Dear Lieut.

I have been waiting for the printed directions you requested before acknowledging the receipt of your very acceptable private note dated the 4th inst. I received them this morning & herewith enclose you twelve or fifteen copies. I am pleased to hear you are well, have your hands & heart full of business, and as contented as a man well can be separated from his family.

In making requisitions for stores, please be particular to state exactly what you want. The last order from Mack, directed a set of funnels, I did not know whether you wished copper or tin, for powder or fluids, concluded if you desired the former you would have said so and issued the latter. Again on the same order I was directed to send you a lot of boxes for car. boxes & did so. The freight on those large empty boxes must be heavy and would it not be as well to require the stuff for such boxes or to have the material prepared & put together at your Depot?

Excuse these hints.

It is hardly worth the candle to write about increased Army pay, you have felt it in your pocket ere this. Shunk is at Watervliet. Had a letter from him yesterday. He looks for Judd daily & expects Maj. M. early in April. Boggs is at Baton Rouge. We have many rumors of changes afloat. Ralph it is said will take Benton's place in the office. I think this true & a capital selection it will be. Other changes yet in the mist.

Mrs W unites with me in kind regards to you. I hope you hear often from Mrs H & that she bears your absence like a soldier's wife.

Yours Truly  
R. H. Whiteley

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724 3/26/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0665

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 26th 1857

My dear Brother

I received yours of the 15th inst, tonight & the draft enclosed. I wrote you only this morning a pretty long letter & you will not expect much at this time. I am under the greatest obligation, my dear brother for this kindness. You must know how my heart feels & that must suffice for thanks. Lizzie received her letter tonight with a similar enclosure & she will write immediately. She did not write last night as I mentioned in my letter I thought she would.

I have been over to Turner today. I got Mother a girl whom I hope will be contented & stay a long while with her. I have felt badly to see Mother laboring so hard at drudgery at her time of life & with her property & her sons too. I told the girl if she would stay I would see that she was well paid. Father, to be sure, always pays what they ask, but I know a girl would like better stay longer if she could get more here than elsewhere. I would give her enough to make it more rather than Mother should be without again. I shall be quite contented to leave now & shall probably go to Auburn next week to stop. Lizzie & Guy will be just as well off now without or with me.

Friday morn 27th

It is a beautiful morning & the wind & snow drifts are frozen & Lizzie & I are going to Lewiston. She thinks of depositing her money in the L.S. Bank. It will be a good place & I can go with her today & then the interest will commence the 1st of April.

Jimmy Thorn has written me a letter & sent me three newspapers since I have been at home. I am glad to hear from Troy & Albany. After spending so much time there I should think Mr & Mrs Lee would write.

A letter from Ella last night says her Father does not take much notice of his attack but is about his business as usual. Uncle Ensign is busy Rail Roding as usual and with as little prospect of reward. John's office pays him now about 2.00 per day & he wishes to keep it. In order to this he must renominated by the Republicans this fall. His family are well. His little boy is bigger than Guy. His name is J C Fremont. Guy says Papa quite distinct this morning. He wants to wear my hat most of the time. He is now standing at the window watching & commenting (mentally) on the motions of Dellies cosset lamb. Dellie is very well, received your letter just before he left Andover, has brought home lots of his stock in trade & is going out "selling" next Monday. He makes good wages & will write you all about it himself. Mother & Roscoe are going to Wayne today across the pond - "shopping".

Politics are very quiet here. The Republicans exhibit an immense preponderance in all the local elections. Examine the "points" recently decided by the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case & tell me what you think of them. They will constitute a new plank in the Rep. platform. Fred Douglas is about making speeches on this "decision", which pronounces him not a citizen of the U.S. Geary's resignation of the Governorship is a new proof that there was & is something in the Kansas Humbug. He even became a Free State man. I would like to see Mr Lansing

Father cuts wood! Most of the time. Roland seems happier than I have ever seen him before. He is still "odd" but seems kind. Mother feels badly about Fathers business but not so bad as two years ago. So she tells me.

I've no more time to write, so Good Bye.

Your Bro.  
Rowland

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725 3/26/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0666

Leeds. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. Mar. 26.1857.

My dearest Husband,

I have received two letters from you this week, and I was very happy to hear again so soon. The one I got to-day was written on the 15th of the present month. I did not write to you yesterday which was my day for writing. I was not sick but I did not feel able to write a letter, but would have enclosed a note in the one brother Rowland mailed, but I did not know he was writing in season to do so. Now it is about eight o'clock in the evening and I wish to write this and have it ready for to-morrow morning's mail.

I wish most to tell you that your last letter contained a check of \$100.00 and reached my in safety. I had previous to this in purse one hundred and eighty five dollars and eighty cents. Now I have on hand \$285.80. I have been talking with Col Gilmore about some place to deposit money for you, and he thinks the Savings Bank at Lewiston a good place. I may go to Lewiston to-morrow with brother Rowland and I will find out the best place I can.

I have no doubt but that I shall stay here till your return. I forget what I have said about it in my previous letters. Am very glad you have directed all letters to Leeds.

You wrote about the battle that had been fought between the Indians and the companies under Capt Stevenson & Lieut Freeman. I saw the same in the Portland Advertiser the same day I got your letter (Tuesday). I am relieved of much anxiety knowing that you do not have to be exposed in the field as the Officers in the Artillery and Infantry are, my dearest Otis, but I am not entirely selfish. I think of those, but not knowing them as I do my darling Otis, I do not think of them as I would of you, were you in the place of one of them. I presume they have kind and dear friends to think of them and are anxious when they hear unpleasant news and as happy as my self when good news come.

I would indeed like to step into your Office and see how cozy you are living "all alone by yourself." I don't think I would like to spend the coming summer with you in such snug quarters. I fear we would have to have a bed in every corner. As long as you remain at Ft Brooke or Tampa I shall feel that you are at a place that is a little homelike. You spoke of a great number being sick with the measles. I hope you will not catch them.

How much you will miss Lieut Mack, but you must remedy that by visiting more than usual. Go and see Mrs Page and kiss the dear little girl baby. I don't think Guy will ever have a little sister.

Mother's girl, Rosina Gibson, came to-day. I think you saw her at John Harrison's last summer. Guy has taken quite a fancy to her. She seems very pleasant and natural. I shall have Mrs Hinkley, or Mrs Manuel, to stay with me next summer.

Dellie came home in the Cars this afternoon, looking very well, and brought a letter your wrote him this month. You have probably received a letter from him, and another from Mother G long before this time. She has been in my room for the last 15 minutes talking with my mother, and she left Col Gilmore alone in dining-room reading. He just opened the door and asked in his funny way, if we had women in here to spare. I think it is about sleepy time.

I will enclose a list of the articles Mrs Lee purchased of me. Mrs Strickland and the children are at Uncle Ensign's. They will come down here when Mr Strickland comes next week.

Laura spent the day here last Wednesday. I am very glad the girl has come, now our Mothers will not have to work so hard. I ought to make one more resolution, that is not to send you an ill written letter, but somehow I do send them often. You know the heart that is in them and will not as long as I love you, darling, so dearly put this down against me.

Now, good night. The wind is blowing and the blinds rattle. I think it will be quite cold to-morrow, the weather has been quite warm and the snow has melted very fast.

Remember me as your most affectionate little wife  
Lizzie.

I shall go to Lewiston this morning and will mail this on the way. Rowland and I shall come home this afternoon. The cars give me three hours to be there and that is long enough to do all my business.

Yours  
Lizzie

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726 3/29/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0667

Ordnance Depot, Fort  
Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot, Fort Brooke Fla  
March 29 1857  
(Sunday afternoon)

My dearest wife,

I did not get a letter from you yesterday, and I could not reasonably expect one, for your letter by the mail next preceding came through in less than eight days; mailed on the 16th and received on the morning of the 25th. The day you mailed it you were to go to Leeds and would thus be further off. A letter could not get through in eight days unless it made every connection and left the Leeds Depot in just the right time. Our letters do not go by water except between Savannah & Palatka.

I have been engaged this week in making out my Monthly & Quarterly papers. I have finished the Monthly & part of the Quarterly already.

We have had no rain since I planted my Garden, but my tomato plants are in a good condition & the corn is coming up. I work a little in my Garden every day just for the exercise. My grounds are looking very well. Colonel Monroe was here day before yesterday and I saw him smile as he noticed my improvements. I am going to have the office & fence whitewashed - cant afford to have it painted.

Mrs Hazzard had a sister arrive to day by a schooner from New Orleans. Col Waite & wife accompanied her. I was introduced to him but did not ask him if he was any connection of mine. He is Lieut. Colonel of the 5th Infantry. He is from New York & is probably a relation as he spells his name with an "e".

Your last letter was equal to two. I appreciate these letters, my darling Lizzie, but is'nt it too hard work for you? I hope you will be comfortable at Leeds & as contented as may be. I have come to a more decided resolution to have you with me hereafter of late. I can understand your wants and do so many things for you that nobody else can, and I presume you would not be affected more by a change of climate than I am.

I went to Church this morning & heard the presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He gave us an excellent sermon, urging the necessity of Christians joining the Church. I walked home with Mrs Morris & stopped there to dinner. Mr & Mrs Hazzard will move into their house tomorrow. So you see I was precipitate as usual. I might have lived with Mr Mack till this time, but I am glad I have not got to move now, glad that I am so comfortably fixed already.

The Sergeant has moved his desk into the store house, so I am independent in my extensive establishment. My window on the East opens into a large field, that is now fenced in & sown to oats &c.

I spoke of going to Church. We have services in the morning for the white people, in the afternoon for the blacks and in the evening again for the Whites. I have seen Negroes at Church in the evening and presume the Evening services are for both black & white. Slavery here is in a very mild form. You would not know the negroes were slaves unless you were told. White men work with the negroes particularly at any trade. I hired a man to make repairs & he brought two negroes with him, and worked with them all the time.

Mr Duke has a little mulatto boy to wait on the table, by the name of Bachus. He is very bright & smart and I don't know but he is free. He took the measles and was sick a long time. I missed him, for he took a fancy to me & would bring me anything I wanted at the table. His fancy for me began from the time I made him wash his face. He came to my quarters of an errand with a dirty face. I took him into my room, poured some water into my wash-basin and told him to go ahead. He looked like a new boy & I have not seen him have a dirty face since. He is about ten years old. Mr Duke used to send him for bread. He would pay for it & pocket the change. It was some time before he found it out & when he did Bachus took a good whipping.

I am getting quite used to negroes. They always treat me with much respect, very often take off their hats when

they meet me. The Quartermaster hires a good many as teamsters and for policing, working in the Gardens, etc.

How do you find every thing at Leeds? Mother glad to see you? How is father & Mother? Looking about the same? Soon the farming will commence. I expect Guy will go into the fields pretty soon, though I don't suppose he will help Grandpa much this summer. Yes as you say, I expect he will forget father, but he will soon again learn to love him. Is your mother with you? Don't let her get discontented with Leeds. When she does she must go to Lewiston & Turner & make visits & then come back.

Miss Duvall has got well again, and every body is well in the Garrison. Lieut Day don't expect to get well, but he is able to take a ride every day. I often have a talk with him. It is a sad thing to know that you have got the consumption & cant get well. Major Page is in the same condition but he does all his duties. There have been many Invalides here of the same description to pass the winter but the most of them have gone now.

Have you heard from Augusta since you have been in Maine? I have written Charles Mulliken twice since I have been here but mostly on business. We have had no Indian news of late. Genl Harney is expected here very soon. I am slightly homesick occasionally.

Give my love to all. Your loving husband is very anxious for you & trusts that he will continue to hear good tidings.

Mr Thomas, who was formally 1st Lieut in the 2nd Artillery came to see me this morning before Church & hindered me from writing then. I shall expect a letter by the next mail. I expect Laura was right glad to see you & Little Guy. Kiss him for father. I wish I had his Dauguereotype, but himself would be better. Cant you send him by mail? May God bless you & take care of you.

Very affectionately your husband  
Otis

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727 3/29/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0668

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Me. March 29. 1857

My dearest Husband

I am happy when writing day comes. It is now about noon Sunday, and little Guy is having his good sweet nap on my bed in the "north room" you know so well. I am writing by the table under the glass. (This table and glass are those that belonged to Grandmother Otis.) The book-case you made is standing on top the bureau full of books. My trunk behind the door that leads into the front entry; wood box, wash stand and Guy's chair between the bed-room door and fire place, and in the fire place a cheerful fire. I bought at Lewiston a rocking-chair, like the one I had at Augusta from Mrs Murphy. I paid \$3.25 and took it home in the passenger train with us, and week-days I sit in it and bring it just near enough this table to reach my work box &c off the table. On the whole I am very well, and my quarters preferable to yours at present. I would like a visit from you now and then, but as that cannot be, I look forward to the time we hope to have a home together.

Cynthia and Jonnie are here, came some time before I commenced writing. I stayed with them till Guy went to sleep, and then I told her that I always wrote when he was sleeping and I must do so now. Tomorrow Mr and Mrs Strickland and the girls will be here. I do not know how long they will be here, probably a few days. After their visit is made here they are going to Hallowell. He wants three thousand dollars of the money he let the Rail Road company have to take with him out 'West' but I presume he will have to go without it.

I deposited two hundred and fifty dollars in the Savings bank which is connected with the 'Lewiston bank' at Lewiston. Interest commences the first of every month after a deposit is made - pays five per-cent. I shall continue to add to this whenever you send me money. I shall not have occasion to spend much money the next three months.

Afternoon. I did not write all the time Guy was asleep this morning; he turned over and I went to cover him over and fix him comfortable, then sat down in my rocking-chair to take a short rest, and I got to thinking and sat there till he waked. It was then just two o'clock and dinner was ready. I put on Guy's shoes and went out. We both ate a hearty dinner. Cynthia went home just before when Roland called on his way from Mr Bates. He came with her and then called for her.

It is almost night now. Guy has been up stairs (in the boys chamber) with "Uncle" having a fine time. He has had a few of those hickory-nuts you gathered to play with this week, and the other day Mother cracked some for him. He liked the fun of seeing them broken and yesterday when he got his 'hammer' and block to play with he seemed all at once to think what Mother did, and jumped up and came to me and looked on the table and called for "nut" "nut" as plain as I could speak it, and I did not know that he had ever heard them called by name. I showed him your daguerrotype, the large one you brought home to Mother G the first time you came from Watervliet in January, and told him that was 'papa'. He looked at it some time. I think he had some recollection of you, and ever since he likes to see it, and will say 'papa' whenever I take him up to talk with him.

Mrs Col Lothrop called here yesterday. She was spending the day with old Mrs Turner who is not at all well. Mary Jane (who did she marry, I cannot think) has a child four months old. Mr and Mrs Foss spent the day here last Tuesday brought their youngest, a little girl eight months old. Guy liked the looks of her very well, but liked better her "buttons" on the back of her dress. She is a very interesting child. Guy seems to feel very much at home here, loves to look out the window, and see the cows, horses, hens, sheep and with the cat in the house he has enough to amuse himself with. Roscoe will go Lewiston this week. Col Gilmore is to have a boy by the name of <Larabie> to work for him this summer. I have not as yet seen Mrs Hinckley, but presume I shall have seen her before this reaches you. I don't see why I need be sick a long time this summer. I don't think I will. I will think of you and gain every day. It will be warm weather, and we will not be likely to suffer from exposure, and I wont bathe in 'cold water.'

With good wishes to you for health and happiness I remain your little wife,  
Lizzie A. Howard

I must write more to you, my darling Otis, for I think I have not written much on the first sheet, but what shall I tell you. I could sit down closely by you and tell you so many little stories (not wrong stories either) and you would listen so attentively that the hours would pass unheeded were we near enough to do so, but when I come to write everything - I don't like to - and it takes a long time to write and then I cannot tell it all.

I know you think of us very often, my Otis and would like to see us and be with us all the time if I could be well to be so, but as it is, we will make each day pass as pleasantly as we can, and then time will seem the shorter that we will be separated. I am now writing in the evening. Mr Berry saw Guy at tea time, thought him a smart boy. I'll bet he is. He is asleep now, and Mother has gone to bed, but I do not think it is nine o'clock yet. I must go down to see Mrs Turner tomorrow. Lucia has been in to see me, and Florence has made Guy a number of visits. I have not seen the rest of the family.

The snow here is nearly all gone, but the roads are very bad, mud and drifts alternately, but the sun this pleasant weather will soon settle the ground.

Dr Loring went by in his gig, the first wheels that have been used here. Murphy sent Mother Gilmore some crocuses and tulip bulbs. They are in boxes and growing nicely, sent them to Hollowell some time ago. I can hear her going to bed, and now it is bed time for me. I wont say I would like to see you but, I love you more every day, and when the Indians are all out of Florida I will be very glad.

Morning.

I have an opportunity to send this to the P.O. this morning and am glad to do so. We are all very well this pleasant morning. I hope you are.

From your affectionate wife  
Lizzie Howard

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728 4/1/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0669

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
April 1st 1857

My dearest wife,

I didn't get a letter Saturday and now Wednesday has come round. Tonight I will get a letter if there is a mail, but it is time for the mail to fail and I expect about sunset Mr Mack will meet me and say the stage is in but, no mail! I hope not, however, for it is'nt always pleasant to wait till next time.

Colonel & Mrs Waite are still here waiting for a chance to go to Fort Myers. He says his family settled in Connecticut. Originally there came from England four brothers, the places where three of them settled is known but the fourth has not been fixed anywhere. One brother settled in Connecticut & two I think in Massachusetts. Now the family has increased beyond all bounds & we could'nt determine whether you belonged to the lost brother or to one of the others. Colonel Waite is quite an old man, a perfect gentleman, and pleasing in his manners. His wife looks a little thin & care-worn but is sprightly & talkative. Now, with this data your mother can talk this matter over with the friends & relatives & perhaps settle the question whether Colonel Carlos A Waite & myself are relations or not.

Lt Breck of the next class after me now of the First Artillery has been spending the winter at Key West for his health. He came here last night via steamer & is on his way to join his company at Charleston S.C. He says he did have a bad cough & thought his lungs were affected, but he is now completely recovered. Lieut. Day talks of leaving here tomorrow for New Orleans on his way to his home in Tennessee. I shall be sorry to have him go for he has been one of my reliable companions. We have spent a good many hours together since I have been here & I know I shall miss him. I wish indeed he could get well; for he is one of the best of men, a true hearted gentleman.

I spent the evening at Mr. Hazard's yesterday, & found his sister quite a lovely young woman. Mr. H's little family arrangements remind me of mine, when we first went to housekeeping at Watervliet. They talk about the same things are troubled about servants, converse earnestly about their management, &c.

Major Morris has returned from inspecting Volunteers at Forts Kissimme & Capron. He invited me to live with him & keep house for him while he was away after his wife leaves for the north as she intends to do before long. He wants me to sleep down there & thus protect Mrs. M while he is out inspecting also. I don't like to say no, and I would as lief as not, not go. I am quite comfortable here. I have my room all to myself & nobody to disturb me when I choose to be alone, I can read or write or smoke or think to suit my convenience and nobody to constrain me or say boo. You know, my darling, I would readily forego all these bachelor enjoyments if I could go home, but when down here & you are not with me I rather like to live alone.

My dear little Guy. I expect to hear from him to-night - how he has behaved himself at Leeds & how he has been. Whether he loves grandmother G or not. It must seem queer to me to find a little boy in jacket and trousers, after I have been thinking of a little dumpling in short dresses all the time, who looks precisely like the Guy I left at Watervliet. I fear you think too much & maybe wish too much for your health. I want you too, if possible, to be ever so fresh & rosy & healthy, when I come back. Perhaps you will demand the like of me. Oh! I will be tall less than 6 feet & exceedingly portly. You perceive, this climate must have agreed with me, for I have'nt been sick a day since I have been here. We are needing rain more & more every day. I have not seen a drop since I planted my garden & yet my corn is up & some of the other seeds.

You will notice this is the first day of April & perhaps you will be afraid to open this. Lest you should be "made a fool of".

Day was in here this morning with Mr Brock and told a story about a lady whose husband was in California. The Gentleman or man as the case might be, received a letter from his wife, a sentence of which read like this.

"we often hear it said, that absence conquers love. I don't believe it, for the longer you are away, the better I like you." He, foolish man, had it published. Of course his wife meant that time & distance would not diminish her love for her husband. Now if you find any sentence of such double & doubtful meaning as the above quoted you must remember it is April 1st.

I bought some cloth a few days ago & this morning I asked a woman to make me four pillow cases. I have had Magilton's all the time & they have got so many holes in them that they show the ticking below & a feather occasionally scratches. I am in somewhat of a quandary. Magilton's cases had a nice latice work border & how can I get one on the new ones & if I do, it wont have the associations connected with the old (for I suppose nobody would be unwise enough to make such pillow cases except for the honeymoon).

My best love to those at home. I trust you are all well & happy. No Indian news & not likely to be any. My darling wife, I want to see you very much - a thousand kisses - & ever so much love. Tell Guy papa don't want to be forgotten.

Your own husband & true  
Otis

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729 4/1/1857

*From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0670

Leeds Centre. Me.

Ft Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Centre. Me. April 1. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received this afternoon a letter from you, and it was remailed from Auburn. You will soon know that I wish them sent to Leeds. You wrote it on the 18th of March, fourteen days since. If I could not write to you, and receive dear kind letters, I know not what would make the separation endurable.

I am thinking of you constantly while I work, and when my dear little Guy comes to 'ma-ma' to make known his little wants. I take him up and always give him one kiss for dear 'pa-pa', (he speaks it very plain now.) And I think how dear he is, and wish we were all together so he would not forget you, or think you were no dearer than all 'Uncles' as he calls every gentleman. I cannot think he will out grow all recollection of you. Now he understands so well everything I tell him. He went to the cellar door and called for an 'apper' (apple) which pleased his grandmother Gilmore. He likes apples very well and eats one or more every day. Grand-pa takes great pleasure in showing Guy the eggs when he comes from the barn. He will say 'egg' and run about to find his china egg. He gave Guy a cent out the safe one day and since then every time he sees Grand pa there he says "money". I might tell of enough to fill ten sheets all about Guy, but I wont be quite so foolish. I presume it would please you more than a great many things I do write.

When I was reading your letter to-day someone asked if you wrote any news. I said no you did'nt seem to write anything interesting this time or much. Brother Rowland began to tease me immediately. Said I better tell you not to write twice a week if he had nothing interesting to say. I did'nt care for his teasing for he knew I meant when I said so, that the letter was full of interest to myself but no general news of great importance.

Mr & Mrs S and children are now here, came last Monday. We are having a very pleasant visit from them. Mrs S. said when we were at their house, that there had been a great change in Henry. Uncle Ensign's health is very poor. Mr S and Rowland were up there this afternoon and came home by the way of the Post Office. Went in a wagon.

I think my rides are nearly all passed for this spring. I fear to get into a high carriage while the roads are in such a bad condition. Yesterday morning was very pleasant. Rowland carrying Guy, Mrs S, myself went down to see Mrs Turner. She was much pleased to see Guy, and he much pleased to see the dog. She is quite feeble but does not look worse than when well. Mrs Berry still carries the marks of her sickness last summer but it will pass away in time. I must go to see Mrs Turner often, and carry her some little nicety. I know how sick people appreciate attention. I will open a can of pineapple and send her some. Mrs S thinks my ketchup "very nice". I have written fast this evening and nearly covered this sheet in a short time. Now I will leave it till to-morrow.

Thursday afternoon. I have been so busy to-day that I have not thought to finish my letter to my dearest Otis, till Roscoe comes to know if I have any letters to mail.

By the way of Mrs Strickland I learn that Mr Sargent has so much recovered that he some expects to get back to New York in May. I am very glad for him. I will send this time a short letter but you must fill it out with love and best affection and think me a good little wife.

Lizzie Howard

[Written in a different hand - probably Otis]

Recd Ft Brooke Fla

dated Apr 1st 1857

Mrs O. O. Howard

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730 4/3/1857

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0671

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
Apr 3d 1857.

My dear Mother,

I will write you a few lines this morning, as tomorrow is mail day and I do not always have as much time to spare as I anticipate a day before hand. I received a letter from Dellie a week ago, but have not answered it yet, for Rowland wrote me that his vacation occurred very soon. I wrote him a short time since but he had not received my letter, when he wrote his.

The mail failed last Wednesday as I feared, so I have'nt heard from any of you since Lizzie left Lewiston for Leeds. I expect she is with you now and I hope will remain & be as happy as can be till I join her there.

Captain Harcy of the 5th Infantry paid me a visit last night. He said I seemed very comfortably situated. He wished he could be quarantined as good a little cottage as my office, while in Florida. He is on his way to join his company in the Big Cypress Swamp, after having been detached on a General Court Martial in Texas. Several Officers of the same regiment were on this Court & have recently passed through Tampa. Cols Chapman & Waite & Capt Sibley. He said I seemed very comfortably situated. He wished he could be guaranteed as good a little cottage as my office while in Florida. He is on his way to join his company n the Big Cypress Swamp, after having been detached on a General Court Martial in Texas. Several Officers of the same regiment were on this Court & have recently passed through Tampa. Cols. Chapman & Waite & Capt Sibley. We have not heard any very stirring news from the troops in the field of late. These officers who are on the way to their companies are experienced men and will probably put a little life into their troops.

I spend a good deal of my leisure time in improving my grounds & garden. I have had my office white washed and part of the fence. Everything wears a different aspect from what it did when I came.

The most interesting time with us here is mail day. When no letters come we wait for the next time. I wish you would write when you can and tell me how you & little Guy get along and if it makes you too much work to have my little family with you.

I don't believe I will be kept here more than six or seven months. The Campaign will result just like every other in a comparative failure & General Harney will be removed. Then I expect I will be sent elsewhere, as soon as there is nothing else to do here. The only way is to wait patiently & do my duty faithfully.

My health has been excellent. The climate agrees with me. I am never troubled with Dyspepsy or head aches, but am hearty & relish all kinds of food. You can tell Lizzie I have quit chewing, and if she was here perhaps would quit smoking - but I can smoke when I am lonely & she can play with Little Boy. Being so completely my own master down here I fear will render me entirely disinclined to domestic discipline, however wholesome.

I went to two parties in one night, but I did not go before and have not been since. I wanted to show the people, who are a little suspicious of our high feelings, that I could associate with them. I did, thereby, cultivate a friendly feeling in the town, for I made there more acquaintances than I have since. I was introduced to a resident Colonel, like father, a doctor, a Lawyer, and Editor & to nearly all the ladies in town.

I stopped writing to go to dinner. Mr Duke the proprietor of the Hotel where I board is a hardy old man, who drinks a goodly quantity of whiskey every day. He has a round head & a keen eye & is slightly stubborn in his ways & in his knowledge, but is withal & in his own way a kind man. He declares all officers of the army are gentlemen. He likes me because I pay promptly & don't grumble at the food. His wife is a good deal like Aunt Fanny. She looks about as old and has ways like her. Both Mr & Mrs Duke take a good deal of pains to set a fine table, so boarders say. They have everything - venison, wild-turkey, ducks, chickens, eggs, beef, pork,

sweet potatoes & what I like especially syrup or as I am fond of calling it molasses to eat on cakes, bread &c.

It is too dark to see.

(Saturday night, Apr 4 / 57) I received six private letters, from Lizzie two, from Capt Whiteley New York one, from Charlie one, from Little Closson at Fort Dallas Florida one, & from Simon Murphy at Augusta Arsenal one. And besides I received seven public letters - all came by tonight's Mail. Lizzie seems more comfortable & contented with you than she has been before, since she left Troy. I hope you will be very happy together, I shall feel more cheerful & bear my separation better, when I know my little wife is in so good hands. I shall try & answer her letters tomorrow.

Guy seems to run about as if at home and has more play fellows than he did at Troy, viz: cat & kitten, a lamb & Grandfather & Grandmother. Don't you all kill him with kindness, but teach him to be kind & good. I cant help thinking about his eyes. Dellie had first rate eyes when he was little. I know Lizzie will be careful with him, but I hope he will strengthen his eyes without getting near-sighted. But we must do the best we can & trust the rest with Kind Providence.

The musketoes begin to thicken round my head and I must get inside of my musketo bar, for protection.

I went fishing with Major Morris today, but didn't have a bite. I exercise in my Garden for pleasure & for strength. I don't think I ever enjoyed better health than now.

Remember me kindly to the neighbors, when they enquire. You cant well call my place vacant when I have sent you a daughter & a Grandson. I have no Indian news of importance, a large scout is to commence on the 10th inst.

God bless you all. Your affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

When "the mail fails" no mail comes from any place beyond Palatka. It is occasioned by the failure of the Savannah Steamers to reach Palatka in season.

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731 4/5/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0672

Leeds Centre. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Centre. Me. Apr. 5. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received two letters from you last week, as well as the week before. I hope it will be so you can continue to write to me as often all the time you are absent from us. I now tell them I am going to Tampa this fall. All the authority I have for saying so is that you will not come home on a leave unless you get a long one and could take us back with you. And this is just no authority at all, although you may be in Florida long enough to ask for a leave, and if the prospect then should be, that you would be detained there a year longer, I should wish much to return with you. Do not think I have made up my mind that all this will take place, for I have not made up my mind to anything, but to be contented to stay here this summer later than that time I seldom think of.

I seem to get your letters here just as soon as I did at Watervliet, very seldom one is over twelve days on the way, and I have received a few the tenth day after date.

Warren Lothrop was expected home last week - he came last evening. He had at last received his commission dated Mar 3 and expected to go to Florida as his regiment is stationed there - the 4th Artillery. I want to send you something by him - what can I? What do you need? We do not know whether he has received his orders yet or not. I shall see him as soon as possible.

I wrote the above this afternoon as I could find time while Guy was playing. Now it is evening. He is sleeping and I can finish this and have it ready to mail to-morrow morning. I love to write to you, my darling Otis. I sometimes feel when I sit down to write, that I wont write an interesting letter and then I think you of course like to learn any thing about myself and Guy and I know you will be happy to get the letter if it does not seem very interesting to myself. I have as yet mailed two letters to you every week; how I wish you could get them as regularly as I do your dear letters.

You have told me of your new quarters enough but I cannot locate it. In looking at the sketch you sent me of Fort Brooke, I see enclosed a piece of ground that you have named "Ordnance ground"; it contains a magazine, store-house, work shop, and guard box in the south west corner; as you say a sentinal walk past in your yard. I imagine you near there. You must explain to me so I can add so important a building to the drawing.

Mr Strickland left here for Boston last Friday morning. Mrs S. and children are yet here. She is anxious for me to go to Hallowell with her and children. Brother Rowland is to accompany them. I would like much to go, for the sake of going to Augusta. Yesterday we almost concluded to go Monday, but since then Lizzie has come down with the mumps and I don't know when she will be able to go. I wrote a note to Mrs Mulliken Saturday, saying, I might be at her house next week. Guy and I will probably catch the mumps of Lizzie. Carrie had them one week before they left home. I do hope you have not had the measles, and will not either whild away from such a good nurse as I am.

Last week I wrote a letter to Mrs Daniel Williams. I presume you are a little surprised, but I wrote asking her if she would see Mrs Clark for me, and learn if she would come out here and take care of me this summer during the months of June and July. I did not know Mrs Clark's whole, or other name and preferred to writing to Mrs Williams, than anyone else there. I have not yet received an answer. I should prefer her to nurse me than Mrs Hinckley who is so old I should dislike calling on her to do so many things.

I must confess I get a little anxious, when I allow myself to think of my approaching illness in detail, but my courage is good now, and I shall endeavor to continue brave till all is over don't you fear, darling, nor give yourself any uneasyness. I am satisfied in the end, all will be well.

Now I write good night to you, my dear Otis. I may write more in the morning, but that will depend upon the time I mail this. I may go up to Mrs Lothrop's with Rowland to-morrow. It is not very good traveling - the snow is nearly all gone, and the frost just beginning to come out the ground.

From your faithful little wife,  
Lizzie Howard

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732 4/5/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0673

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
Apr 5th 1857.

My dearest Wife,

Last night I received two letters from you mailed on the 17th & 22nd ult., and first rate letters they were. You are at Leeds and comparatively happy. Guy, though he has sore eyes, is doing nicely, playing with the cat & kitten and lamb & learning something new every day. You have a room to yourself and a fire to dream over. I have no place here for a fire and I don't think you would need one if you were in this office.

I am somewhat in a perspiration, for I have been working out the most expeditious method of supplying Forts Capron, Drum, Vinton & Kissimmee with Ordnance Stores. I have written to For Myers, Fort Capron & Fort Myers and assisted in making out a Requisition this morning. Now you will think this is fine work for Sunday. But we will have to bring it all home to the Indians. I am sure I would like to rest today & go to Church with you, mais c'est impossible. I don't think I have much to do but work comes, nobody knows when.

I am sorry to say Day has gone home. He left Friday for New Orleans on his way to Tennessee. He is a very excellent young man and was a good companion for me. I was sorry to see him go. Mr Hazzard asked if I got letters from you yesterday and so did Mrs Morris. Your husband seems to stand pretty well with the garrison & with the officers generally. His rank is'nt high enough to put on airs & swell. I trust it never will be. Young men are apt to be a little important, when they fancy themselves in an important position, but I try not to show it if I feel so. The officers of the line generally are very different from those, who were stationed at West Point when I was there. I have found them very pleasant gentlemen, almost without exception. They are kept in the field & on the frontiers most of the time, which makes them perhaps a little peculiar in their ways, but there is a good deal of refinement amongst them.

I received a letter from Little Closson last night. He is now at Fort Dallas on the South Eastern coast of Florida. He says, "I have almost despaired of ever being allowed by contact with the refined pleasures of society, to fashion my tastes into shapes becoming a Gentleman. After floundering all day through the bottomless pits of Slime, with which this country abounds, I find a ravenous appetite is appeased by the hardest of hard bread & the fattest of fat pork, vulgar though the confession be. I am obliged to cover my nakedness or attempt to do so with non-descript garments no beggar would wear, tattered, faded, dirty remnants of past dandyism. Face, hands & all are dyed with a dingy black that even tinges my paternity with the brownest of doubt. My daily tramps have flattened out my feet into dimensions that even crowd no 9 Soldier's shoes &c. Again: "In my prayers my tongue wanders from "Deliver us from evil" to "deliver us from the Seminoles". Between the Commandments & the mosquitoes I am kept in a state of mental anathema. Dishes of Mule Steak & Horse hash are continually before me. I go furtively stealing through the steaming thickets as though I was an escaped member of Congress with a corruption committee after me. My hand is continually straying from my scalp to my Revolver to see if both are "thar" - " again he said in the face of all this how am I to be a gentleman?"

Mankind are not only Gregarious but apinidarions. Confine a man in a mad house & he will become a maniac - confine him in Florida and he will become a cross between an alligator, a pack-mule and a rattle-snake with a touch of the sand fly & musketo to impart airiness to the monstrous mixture. I am now as ugly as the first & as meek & patently obstinate as the second &c" but I must look out or I will give you Closson's letter instead of my own. He winds up with the conclusion that he must get married now that the pay is increased, in order to "de-Hottentotize" himself. He says "remember me to your wife & brother".

I have got my path sodded on the sides & am having it filled up on the interior with pretty little shells, would'nt Guy have fun playing with them? I don't believe Closson takes the changes of Fortune as coolly as I do. He is in joke & got more than half in earnest. His mother & sister would form all sorts of horrible ideas about his personal appearance & think these hardships unendurable. But the truth is, he don't have to work any harder than I do, and his exercise makes him eat & sleep in good style, but Closson is a "funny" boy & likes to enlarge.

As soon as Major Lennard comes home from paying the troops I shall send you another check for 100 dollars. You havent acknowledged the receipt of the last sent March 15th i.e. I have not got the letter acknowledging it yet.

Simon Murphy writes to inquire after his boy James. I don't think he is in Florida now. John Murphy has a stiff arm according to Simon. Colonel Munroe came in to see me this morning and said as soon as he came in, "I wont visit you if you don't have a spit-box, in fun of course.

I am glad to see my darling little wife appreciate husband so much. I will be home one of these days to love you & yours, if you don't think I can do so properly so far off. I expect you will think of Kennebec very often during the next "twelve weeks". I don't like to have quite so much work cut out. Don't make your back ache. Who said you were growing old? You must have got up the notion yourself. I am going to ask Rowland.

Give my love to all hands, all you can spare. You will all be farming when this gets to Leeds. Guy mus learn to build stone-wall. Tell Laura I wrote her name in your letter & of course remember her very kindly. Who told you the good news about Mrs Sargent. Why didn't they tell me when I was there. There is no comprehending Ladies. Mrs McKinstry is so proud that all her children are boys - that she never says "my children", but "my boys" and I wouldn't wonder if my mother was proud of the same thing, and I know that yours is that her children are all girls. Now I have a bit of philosophy to decline from those observations.

Whatever may be the antecedent wish - her Mother's heart is easily reconciled to boys or girls or a mixture of the two. Good night. God protect, my love.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

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733 4/7/1857

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0674

At home [Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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At home April 7th 1857

My dear Brother

Yesterday was a pouring Rain storm & all last night too the rain fell in torrents as it only does in April. This morning it has cleared up with a cool north west wind & there is but little snow in sight in this vicinity except a patch of an old drift now & then by the fences. I went to Lewiston & back in the rain yesterday to transact some business for Uncle Henry & Father. I sent a large amt. of R.R. Bonds, coupons & a note for \$3000.00 to Portland. I got quite wet thro' coming home but as it was a warm day I don't think I experience any inconvenience from my wetting. Warren met at the Leeds Depot looking out for his "orders" which he now expects every day. He rode down with me thro' the mud & over the Snow-drifts. He said Old Leeds never looked so mean to him before. I thought it would look quite homelike to you even now in its worst aspect. Warren bears his new honors very modestly. He expects to join his Regiment in Florida & is in haste to be gone O fortunate mile! He has no wife & children to leave behind. In another sense he is unfortunate. He can carry no love with him.

Laura Howard said to me the other day. O I wish I had some cures! Sometimes I feel so alone. How true that remark of Bacon - "He who has wife & children has given hostages to fortune". They are golden links of a chain which binds him to humanity. Without them he would be more free, but that freedom would be apt as it often does, to degenerate into license. A wife is so essentially a part of ones self that she is always present in his inner consciousness. Earth has no places so distant, but the human soul easily overleaps them all, whether mountain, ocean & plain - gives & receives influences almost the same as it would if there were no such thing as space. How will it be when both time & space are annihilated? Will the abolition of things so inferior to the Soul sensibly affect its high attributes? Will human affection be ranked among those grosser things which will end with Firma? Or will our Earthy loves take a lower place, but still, a place among our Religious affections - our moral character - & be perpetuated with that thro' eternity? Will husband, wife, father, daughter, Son, mother be names of significance in Heaven? These questions seem to me now less abstract & more practical than they once did & sometimes they come home to me with great force. Some things in the teachings of Christ seem to answer them (the two last) in the negative. On the other hand some analogies & the desire of that "blind guide", the human heart would say - yes.

I have been out splitting logs with Father this morning and succeeded pretty well till I lost a great piece of skin from one of my hands & so I changed my employment for a while.

Aunt Martha Jane & Lizzie Strickland were both taken with the "mumps", Sunday, & so we have given up going to Hallowell & Augusta with them as we proposed. They are not very sick. Guy will have a fat cheek in a fortnight, probably & your Lizzie about the same time. I only fear that Lizzie will get cheated out of her visit to Augusta by these circumstances. Mr E Jones has returned to his family & Mrs Jones says she "feels better." I took Dinner there yesterday. Father is going to meet Uncle Henry in Hallowell tomorrow.

Uncle Johns Estate was priced at \$3500.00 only. The "trust" property is all involved in the same loss, but his bondsmen are liable to pay. They are Charles Vaughan & Mr Spaulding. Aunt M.J has \$6000 & Aunt Ann the same amt. in the "trust". Then Henry has private notes of Uncle's to the am't of 4 or 5000\$. Mother \$2500. Of course the latter will get little or nothing. And the Bondsmen are the only hope of the former (I mean by "former" our Aunts, by "latter" - Henry & Mother). My reason for writing you this as well as what I wrote above - Fathers embarrassment in my letter but one before this - is only to tell "news" & also that you can the better understand any future conversations or explanations about these matters.

The R.R. affairs look a little brighter just now. The Co. are disposing of a new set of Bonds quite favorably for these hard times. If they can sell enough, they will buy iron & lay track to Farmington this Summer. The track once down, Father thinks his securities will be good & if so he will be "independent" again. On any other hypothesis, "I seek not to penetrate the veil"! My impression is that Father & Mother had better each make a will. This would <> Mothers mind & secure to all, their just dues. It will be much easier for them to agree than

for their heirs. I shall try to have something arranged before I leave home again to stay away a long time.

Guy is well, bright & roguish. He has got to that point where our common human nature teaches us all, to do just what we think will not be approved of. There never was a child but that loved what he considered mischief. Guy is no exception. He knows much more "entre nous" than he gets credit for. His ideas are by no means limited by his conversation which is rather circumscribed. If you want a complete account of Guy you must get Mrs Waite to write you.

Dellie is out "peddling" still. He spent the Sabbath in Hallowell & wrote us Sunday (yesterday). He proposes going to Brunswick & Topsham now. I own my "pride" is a little alarmed by his striking into those localities, but I suppose it is foolish to feel so. He is rather sick of the business here in Maine where the labor is harder & the returns less than in Mass. We shall expect him home to prepare to go to Andover by the middle or last of this week.

Charles does not write very often but seems to be as well as usual. Ella writes me every other day. She was to be "examined as a candidate for admission into the Church" Thursday Evening last. I have not heard this week yet, but I presume she was admitted Sunday. At first it was a little hard for me to think of it - it seemed like separation - but I said, "go on & never mind me". God keep me from standing in any path of duty. God will always have to be her chief dependence - I am a poor weak miserable creature, who are unable of my own strength to walk alone. Where could I better commit her whom I love best on Earth than into the arms of her Savior.

Aunt Martha Jane has had a letter from cousin Wm Otis recently. It was a good letter hearty a cheerful, hopeful thankful spirit. He says he feels in better heart & hope than ever before. Aunt Ellen has generously assisted him with money & he seems anxious that his brothers should not grow up as he has done, in ignorance & improvidence. He speaks of his Father affectionately & I know would be glad to hear from you. He is at "Austin", "Texas".

Roscoe Gilman & I tapped 13 trees & have made quite a lot of Sap Syrup. It is nice & Guy don't object to a taste - should you? Mother was very glad to receive her letter from you & will answer it as soon as her multiplied cares will permit. She sends her best love. Also Aunt & your cousins "Lizzie" & "Carrie". They are fine little girls & both loveable if not lovely. They play much with your hopeful Son, Guy. Father has hired George Longley for the season & he is now engaged on the wood pile.

Uncle Ensign has been quite sick for the last ten days but he now seems better & I hope he will be "out" the last of the week. He has a bad cough. I spent Friday with him & we discussed among other things Judge Taney's decision in the Dred Scott case. I can now see no time when there will not be a necessity for a Republican Party. The policy indicated by that decision must be reversed & that will be the work of many years. It wont do for this country to make these unconscious advances against natural liberty. John & his family were well yesterday.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

I received a good long letter of 6 pages from Jimmy Thorn the other day.

Warren Lothrope's commission was dated March 3d & was, of course, by Pierce & Davis at last.

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734 4/7/1857

*From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0675

Leeds. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. April 7. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received another dear letter from you this afternoon, dated Mar 25th, and as I have finished all the work I wished to do today, and Guy is now asleep, I will write to you till my sleepy time. In my last letter to you I asked for a sketch of your new quarters, and when I opened your letter to-day, I was glad I had not to wait three or four weeks before I would see them, as you had anticipated my wishes and enclosed a sketch to me. Your quarters look snug and cozy, but I really don't see where you would put us if we were to make you a visit, and troublesome visitors you would find us. I would of course bring two trunks, and Guy would like to take 'pa-pa' papers that look so pretty up high. I don't see any place, or room for my work-table or rocking-chair and on the whole I think we would quarrel and I would be put in the "six feet well" as that is the nearest like the cooler you used to threaten me with. I should think Lt Mack would have to visit you often rather than you him, to keep him from being lonesome. You seem the most alone away off in that corner far from all the other Officers. (I guess you will take us along next time won't you?)

Mr Shunk sent me a long message by Mr Lee, but as it is in Brother Rowland's letter, I will let him tell you of it. It is very like him. Rowland says he don't believe I write you much that is going on here about us; that if I don't his letters - some of them - will be perfectly blind, as he has merely hinted at many things thinking I have probably told you all about them.

I presume he is half right, for you say, I did not tell you whether Mother was at Leeds with me. You must know she is, for your helpless little wife (some doubt about the little) can scarcely take care of herself much less take care of Guy. Mother has got him to sleep when he is to have his nap during the day for some time, and I have not undressed him for three nights passed. I assure you it is a great sacrifice to give up the care of him to any one else, but as long as he is well, and spared to be such a great comfort as he is, I must not complain.

I am a little bit naughty to-night and have dropped a tear on my letter. I don't do so often, and wont any more. I could'nt help just a little, darling. Now you must'nt be sad, for I have all nicely brightened up and would give you a good kiss if I could; as it is I will give it to Guy, as I do all 'pa-pa' kisses. He has changed his 'ma-ma' to 'mum', and likes so well to go out doors that I shall be very glad when it is dry and warm enough for him to go out every day. Yesterday commenced a dismal rain storm but I have no doubt it will hasten to make good travelling. George goes to the P.O. on horse back. (Rosco went home and George Longley takes his place.) Very little snow to be seen as I look over the hills from my window.

I have received an answer to my letter to Mrs Williams. Mrs Clarke will stay with me this summer. I am really very glad, for she will know just what to do for me. I feel better settled since I have got her engaged, and I know you will be glad to have her with me. I have given up going to Augusta, and shall write to Mrs Mulliken saying so. I shall urge her to come to Leeds later in the summer.

I must go to sleep now, dearest, but first ask our Father in Heaven to bless us, and keep us from harm.

Yours,  
Lizzie

Wednesday afternoon. I have written a note to Mrs Mulliken saying I was not going to Augusta. I came to the conclusion that home was the best place for me. I hope she will come to see me.

Dellie came home this morning. He has been gone all his vacation peddling stationery. He is I think very different from the rest of you, thinks much of more money making.

Warren Lothrop has not received orders yet. He may be home a long time. I think I shall go to Tampa in company with him. Would you not be glad to see us? I guess so, if every thing was arranged for our comfort.

It is much better you are alone now, you can be more comfortable than if you have us to care for. Guy has had his sleep and is now playing on the floor in my room, busy as can be. Every time he goes into the parlor he has to see 'pa-pa' (the Daguerreotype you had taken before we were married and brought home to your Mother.)

I have not felt as lonely as I did last evening for a long time. I asked Guy if he was going to send a kiss to pa-pa. He gave it without getting up. Mrs L is much better of the mumps and <Laura is> quite well, expects to go to Hallowell Saturday. Col Gilmore went this morning to meet Mr Strickland <to-morrow>. Mrs Turner is getting better. I don't feel that this is an interesting letter or that there is much in it, but I must send it, and have not time to add more. So think of me as your affectionate wife who loves you very much.

Lizzie A. Howard

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735 4/8/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0676

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Check \$100.00

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
Apr 8, 1857

My dearest wife,

Here it is ten minutes after five P.M. and I have'nt written you a word. I set apart this afternoon for writing, and lo! the Sergeant brings me a set of papers to examine, and then I have to go with one of my men to the Paymaster to witness his payment, and before I am half aware of it the afternoon has slipped away, but I have an hour and that now a days is time enough to complete a courtship and marriage.

Major Morris left here Monday for Manatee to inspect volunteers and I have, by his invitation, slept in his house to protect Mrs Morris. Night before last she did not give me clothes enough, but last night she asked me if I was comfortable. I told her yes, only I was a little cold toward morning. She was very sorry, and and gave me an extra coverlid, so that I was quite as comfortable as I am here, though I rather prefer spending the night in my own house. To night, she has invited me to tea.

You cant think what a fine looking place I am getting here. I have got the fence, this office & the magazine white-washed. A little ways off every thing looks as if it was painted, it is so clean and white. My diagonal path, sodded on each side & raised above the <surrounding> level, I have paved with large oyster shells, & then covered with a layer of broken ones & afterwards covered with small & beautiful shells. From being the filthiest & worst looking place on the post it has grown to be the neatest & prettiest. I have one or two little trees planted and they are doing well.

My Quarterly papers are not off yet, but I have till the twentieth to get them ready & this is only the eighth. We will have them ready in season. The Sergeant says he never had to make out so many papers before, but he sticks to his work well.

I drew my pay for March yesterday and hence enclose you a check for \$100. in this letter. You must follow the same rule as before, take what you want and send the ballance to be invested for me or to be deposited in a savings bank. I think I have rather more than averaged my fifty dollars per month thus far. I am economical in my expenditures and can send you a pretty good sum. I mean to invest some money in some paper with lines that I can see for it is impossible to follow them on this sheet and this is the best I have.

I am expecting a letter from you tonight, but I was so very fortunate Saturday I ought not to feel very certain of getting a letter. A short time since an Indian Camp of women & children was surprised in the Big Cypress, but all escaped & hid themselves like partridges, none were taken.

It has been very warm today, but occasionally we get a good puff of wind to relieve the temperature. There is a Circuit Court now in session at the Court House in Tampa and we have the Judge & several lawyers at Mr Dukes.

I hope to hear that you are all well in the letter <thats> coming. I am thinking a good deal about you all at home. I have no doubt my name is mentioned often & I am somewhat missed. I know it is hardest for you but you have some comforts that I do not. Oh! how I would like to be with you for the next three months, but perhaps I would tease you & you would cry and then I would run out of doors as I have done. I mean if I had never been called to leave you, now if I should come back everything will be different, we have both found how hard it is to be away from each other and could'nt help striving in all things great & small for each other's good. God knows what is good for us and perhaps this separation is.

Rare comforts are highly valued. I told Mr Mack, that you said you would like to know him & send your

Regards. He seemed pleased. He said one day that Mrs Mack wrote him that I must be a first rate man, whence I inferred that he had given good accounts of me.

I wish now that you had come on with me. There is one objection, almost everybody has had the measles & many have died. It ended in the pneumonia. But all cases have now disappeared. At one time I thought I was going to have the disease (ie the measles) but I could'nt make out to be sick. I have had I think fewer pains & aches since I have been here than ever before in the length of time. All that I had at all was a little of the Old Rheumatism, during the cold & damp weather the last part of January & first of February, but not enough to trouble me any nor so much as I have often had at the north.

A lawyer, by the name of Hart, who has recently come here from Key West, I find a very fine gentleman, upwards of forty yrs of age & I have become quite intimate with him. He lends me books to read.

Well my darling I have scribbled over my sheet, & been thinking of Guy often. What shall I say to him? Has Uncle Dellie got home? Kiss Guy for me & give my love to all.

Hoping you are in the best of health & spirits. I remain your faithful & loving husband,

Otis

I have not received yet the acknowledgment of the last check for 100. dolls. I sent.

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736 4/10/1857 *From:* [Lizzie Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0677

Leeds. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. April 10. 1857

My dearest Husband

I have received my second letter this week. You cannot know how much I do appreciate these letters, and when one reaches me sooner than I anticipate I am always more than happy. I should not be impatient, did I not hear from you but once every week. You frequently do not hear from me oftener than that, but I cannot remedy it, although I should be very glad to do so. I shall endeavor to have two letters mailed to you every week during the summer if I am not able to write them all. I am very happy to learn dearest, that you have come to a decided resolution to have us with you hereafter. There may be times when we may be obliged to be separated, but when such is not the case, I feel that we should be near each other as much as possible. I should not fear change of climate as a general thing for any of us. Every day we are separated I feel it to be a day of happiness lost. I have no doubt that this separation is for our future good - will prove to be so in a number of ways. I don't want you, my dearest, to think I am not now contented here, or wish immediately to go to you. You know I do not think of it for a moment.

Col Gilmore came home from Hallowell this afternoon, called at Mrs Lothrop's to see Warren. He does not think you will have a summer campaign. Of course, it is only his opinion. He has not as yet received orders, possibly he may have a long furlough. I have not seen him.

The travel is very bad - mud feet deep. I would not be tempted to get into a carriage to ride just now merely for pleasure or to visit. Mrs Strickland, the girls and brother Rowland went to Hallowell today in the cars by the way of Yarmouth. She felt as if she must go, she had been here so much longer than she intended. It rained some when they started and has continued to rain steadily all day.

The house seems very quiet to have so many leave at the same time. I have again resumed my sewing post in the retired north room, which I have been relieved from during their stay here.

Time wears away my Otis. It is already near the middle of April, two months later the middle of June will come, and then comes 4th of July. Summer will be all over before we are hardly aware of it. I don't begin to think of the time later than Summer, but hope then will be the "good time coming". I did not know what to do this evening as I did not feel like working. I concluded to scratch a little with my pen, and when I come to write my next letter on Sunday if I think it worth sending I shall enclose what I have been writing this evening.

Now my fire has burnt low, Mother and Guy both in bed, and I will leave my writing, trusting you are well and comfortable to night, and go to sleep.

Saturday evening. I will send this to you, dearest Otis, for I think you like to read whatever I may write. I have accomplished a great deal of my sewing this week, and feel that I am getting it all done in good season. Thursday morning I took some work and went down and sat with Mrs Turner two hours. She seemed much pleased to have me do so. She sits up the greater part of the day.

I think I mentioned to you in a previous letter that Uncle Ensign was sick. We heard to-day that he was better by Dr Loring, whom we saw going past our house this afternoon.

Mother will go to Turner on a visit when the traveling is good enough to ride there, and I have been thinking to myself that I would ask Laura to come and stay with me, while she was gone, and I would let her sew for me. Then I would make her a little present afterwards. I laid down to-day after dinner, and had a short nap. This is the first day I have felt the necessity of doing so. I am quite well as a general thing, but do not feel as able to stand or walk about as I did before the birth of Guy. I was not over strong then as you know. Aunt Martha Jane says, I shall find every child I have that I shall feel less strong during the months. Don't you hope I may not have great experience for the sake of finding out if such is truly the case?

I do nothing but sew, help take care of Guy, and half take of our room. Mother gets up first always and kindles the fire ( has every thing ready over night). Guy and I get up at the same time and Mother dresses him while I am dressing, then we all go to breakfast. Guy sits at the corner from Mother G left hand, I on the side next to him, and my Mother next to me. She has nothing to do about the washing and ironing. Sometimes my Mother irons when Rosa is getting dinner. She is an excellent girl and I do hope will be willing to stay here as long as I am here at least. I don't believe Mother could possibly find one of better disposition, or more willing to do everything. This has been the case so far and I have no doubt will continue to do the same. Guy likes her very much - calls her "Obtie", which pleases her.

Ask Guy how Grand-pa chops wood, and he will straighten his arms and bring them down together regularly about three times. He watched him a long time from the window this morning, and when Grand-pa came in told him. I can hear Gol G walking about and guess it is about nine o'clock, so I will not write more to-night but endeavor to fill another sheet tomorrow.

[No closing]

Recd Ft Brooke Fla.  
Dated Apr 10  
Mrs O. O. Howard

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737 4/12/1857 *From:* Mrs O O Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0678

Leeds. Me.

Fort Brooke

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Me. April. 12. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

This is a very pleasant spring day. It really looks inviting to take a walk, but it is too wet for me or Guy. Mother carried him out before breakfast, and let him walk a few steps on the dry stones towards the barn. He does enjoy going out very much, and when it is warmer weather and the ground dry, I intend to have him out a great deal.

I heard a robin singing this morning for the first time. It begins to seem like spring. Some of Mothers plants are springing up and look glad to unfold themselves. She has some crocus' in a box that have blossomed already. I remember those were the first flowers from our garden at Augusta. Katie brought them in to me after I had moved down stairs, and was getting better of the fever. I frequently think of something that took place when we were at Augusta that I had not thought of since then - little incidents that my present circumstances causes me to recall. I love to dwell on those days for they were happy ones to us both.

I wrote to Mrs Mulliken in my first note that I was quite happy at the idea of seeing her, and in my second that I was provoked with myself for telling her I was coming to see her, as I had now given up all thought of going. I was greatly disappointed for I wished to see her so much, but was not at all particular about her seeing me, because I knew she would laugh at me and tell me I had forgotten the resolutions made at Augusta, but I would'nt laugh with her, for I did'nt think it so funny. I told her this was the latest time I would be able to go to Augusta before Fall, and I urged her to visit me here sometime this Summer. I reckon she will have a good laugh and tell Charlie. I shall expect a letter from her soon.

It does not tire me to write to you, dearest, for I write a little and rest when I don't feel well enough to write steadily and I do not try to have my letters look neatly, that would be the most tiresome - to write slowly and carefully. I write as often as I have and as much as I can every letter, and taking my own way about it I do pretty well, do I not?

You spoke of seeing Col Waite. As he is from New York I think we are from the same family and I have heard Grandmother say the family of "Waite's" in New York were relatives. I shall ask her when I see her to give me the genealogy of our family. I hope she will be able to visit here this summer.

I wonder when we will have any tomatoes. Would'nt you like some from your vines. I forget how early we can buy them, but presume as early as they can get here from the south.

Col Gilmore just passed my window to take some parsnips out the ground for dinner. They are very nice just commenced to use them. He shows in his conversation and treatment of children that he is growing old, and he says so himself - that he cant do business as he could. I heard him talking with Mr Strickland. Henry was to be trustee for his wife, and have Henry Wingate and Col Gilmore his bonds men, but the Judge told Mr. S it seemed entirely against the spirit of the Will to do so, and afterwards told Col G. that he did not want him to petition for Mr S to be trustee. Mrs S wished every thing with regard to her property settled before she left the State, but she left here in the morning and did not see Col. Gilmore who came in the afternoon, as she ought, so we do not know what will be done. Ada Strickland is to be married on their way to Illinois. Mr Skiles will meet them in Buffalo. When they were here, their intention was to make no stay after they left Maine before going west, with the exception of one week in Boston. He is already interested in trade there in company with Mr Skiles and another gentleman. I sincerely hope they will prosper and that he is a better man, as she says he is.

I have now nine shares of "Casco Bank Stock." The interest is now due some interest and will amount \$36.00. I shall have it sent to me (Uncle Edward will send it) and I shall keep it till I have more interest from my property and then add it together for another deposit. If you are willing I should not use it but take for my present use from the money you send me.

Guy is having his second nap today. He got tired playing about and could not keep awake, so I am finishing my letter in the afternoon about five o'clock. Mother G and my Mother have been to see Mrs Turner. She says she is much better. Cynthia and Roland and Jonnie are spending the day at her father's. Dellie returns to his school this week Tuesday, and Charlie comes home the same day. They will miss seeing each other unless Dellie delays one day which he may do. Rowland will go to Bath before his return to Leeds. I do not know that he has decided where to study as yet.

Mr and Mrs Lee answered Rowland's letter to them and among other news told of the birth of Mrs Boggs' little son and Mr Boggs' health is much better. I forget whether I had told you. Alice Sands was married last week to Mr Wing I heard by letter to Rowland from Brunswick, and Miss Hannah Child of Augusta, to Mr Lawrence. Since I have been to Leeds I have told all the news I can think of. So and as my sheet is filled will not write more.

Your affectionate little wife  
Lizzie A. Howard

[written in another hand, possibly Otis']  
Recd Fort Brooke  
dated Apr 12/57  
Mrs O O Howard

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738 4/12/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0679

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla  
April 12th 1857

My dearest Wife,

It is Sunday afternoon. Mr Mack came in with me to have an after dinner smoke & chat, and has just gone home to write to his wife. I invited him to write here, and he said he had'nt the proper references.

I have just read over the two letters I received last Wednesday. Yesterday's mail came but brought me no letters. I received a Catalogue from Charlie and that was all. One of your dear, kind letters enclosed a list of things for Mrs Lee & the other acknowledged the receipt of a draft I sent you. Before I got this letter on Wednesday evening I sent you another draft or check of \$100.00. I think we are doing pretty well to get seven hundred & sixty dollars ahead already don't you.

I should like to test Guy's idea of 'papa' very much. I think he would know me now, but I don't think he will remember me, when I get away from Florida, unless some unexpected good fortune would turn up to help me out.

Your room must be very cheerful as you describe it. I seem to have left my mark there. That book-case is a fair sample of your husband's work, rough & homey in the extreme, but useful I hope. There are more specimens of the same incompleteness on the wall frames. I will have left my mark here also.

I don't believe General Harney would recognize the place now. He will look up here and say, what new buildings are those surrounded by that handsome white fence? Whose Garden is that, who made that long path & that well and repaired that old building in the corner?

You sit in the rocking chair and rest and think! I have got one, too - a cane seat & high back with arms, round uprights & oval top thus: "[a hand-drawn picture of a chair]" on the table at the left there is something of this kind [a hand-drawn picture of a small table with very long pipes] and what think it is? Why don't you suppose I keep a pipe for Lt Mack & Colonel Munroe! I would be inhospitable if I did'nt.

Mrs Lee seems to have taken a good many things of you. I don't know that you ever told me how the Auction succeeded, either how much you sold or how much you realized from it.

I called at Major Morris' house yesterday evening, after the mail came in. The Major & his wife both asked if I had heard from you & that boy. I told them no. The major asked about him, Guy; supposed he must be smart. I told him his mother thought him something more than ordinary, then I told what he said about the 'nuts' with his hammer and blocks. Major asks how old, I told him after reflection. "He must be smart" if he can talk at that age says the Major. Thus you see little boy's reputation has already extended to the southern limit. Nobody knows how long before it may extended to the western limit. I can leave Guy's little sister with Mama & take him along next time. When the good tidings come, darling, I want Rowland to write them to me first. I hope with you with all my heart, you wont be sick long and I know you will have good care, for every body about you is a good friend.

Yes what you say about the officers in the swamps & everglades is true. The most of them have wives, who are watching the mails with all anxiety. I pity the wives more than I do the officers, for their hardships are physical & don't amount to much. I would'nt mind them. All these things seem of much more importance and harder to bear from the paper accounts than they are in reality. I could make myself comparatively comfortable with a company or detachment of men almost anywhere. They generally have good food & clothing and have lost fewer in number by actual death in battle than this little town has lost by the measles. It is bad enough & no very desirable duty, but the hardship, privation & danger are highly exaggerated, even in the rumors & accounts that I rehearse. The Indians are now a good deal disturbed - a scout is now in full operation, by all the troops in

Florida at the same time.

I will get my quarterly papers ready by next Wednesday. We have till the 20th inst to prepare them, but I don't like to be behind hand in these things. My Sergeant isn't a fast man, but he does his work neatly and is generally quite accurate.

I have an invitation to room & mess at the house of Major Morris when his wife goes to the north as she will do in a short time. I think I shall sleep up here though for I don't have half the mosquitoes here that I find down at the Major's quarters already. Mrs Morris is a woman about your height. She doesn't look so old as your mother, but she has a daughter, with two or three grandchildren in New York. She is expecting another & of course is obliged to go to her daughter, Estelle, whom she calls Puss. Major Morris has a bald head, looks as old as father. His wife calls him Willie. She used to call him Birdie. Gen Twiggs heard of it, says, "Pooh! Birdie! Bald Eagle!" These are regimental stories. They talk about each other & fight in regiments as the same kind of human beings do elsewhere.

Kiss little Guy for me & say, love "papa" to him. Give my love to all & take good care of Lizzie for me. It looks a little like rain. I wish we could have a little to lay this sand down for the wind has kept the air full of it all day & it makes the eyes smart. The ground is very dry.

Believe me your own loving husband.  
Otis

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739 4/15/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0680

Leeds. Me.

Ft Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. April. 15. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

It is Wednesday evening now, and I will begin a letter to you hoping to finish it to-morrow. We did not send to the P.O. this afternoon and I am very glad for I would have had no letter ready to mail. I did not feel quite well enough last evening to write, and all day I have been busy making Guy's first drawers. He will be Mother's little man as soon as he begins to wear them.

I sent a letter to the P.O. Monday afternoon by Dellie. He went on horseback up to Uncle Ensign's. He was in the woods - quite well, and Laura was on the "big hill" taking a walk. Do you not remember the first time I went up there - when I ate so many strawberries? I had some boxberry plums the other day, and want some spruce gum.

Yesterday it rained all day very hard, but Col G. went to Lewiston on business, and Charlie came home in the same afternoon train with him. The night before he stayed with Rowland at Bath. He is looking very well but rather thin. I gave him to-day your black figured vest, and brown coat. They were just a fit and he was in need of them. He has just made me a call in my room and made me a present of "Longfellow's poems" in two volumes, a very pretty present and I shall enjoy reading them very much this summer. I have never read only "Evangeline" and "Hiawatha".

I have been to see Mrs Turner this afternoon and Cynthia. Charlie went with me. I carried her a few figs. (Col Gilmore brought me a box from Uncle Hicks yesterday.) and opened my can of pine-apple Monday and sent her some by Florence. She looked much better to-day, and was sewing a little.

I don't go down the hill as often as I would, for it tires me too much to come back again. I take good care of myself, dearest Otis, and presume I shall be very well and healthy when you return to us, but don't tell me Guy will be wearing jacket and trousers when you return. I cant let you stay away so very long as that it would be. I should take my "six children" and go to Florida.

Why does Mrs Morris come North? Does she not dare to stay there during the hot weather? I know you will miss Lieut Day very much if he leaves Tampa. I feel interested in all your friends there and like to hear of them, and the changes that take place.

I will leave my writing now for Mother G has come in and Col G too. Guy is asleep, and I must tell you how he went to sleep. I laid down after tea, and Mother put him on the bed with me. He soon got down and told her he wanted his milk. She went out with him, he drank it and soon wanted to lie down with me again. He talked with me about every thing he could think of and fell asleep when I was talking to him. Then Mother undressed him and he went to bed & did not wake. He is sleeping as sweetly as can be.

Thursday afternoon. I have not time to add more to my letter for Charlie is nearly ready to go to the P.O. I was going to write while little Guy was asleep, but Warren Lothrop came in just then and as I had not seen him, I wished to spend some time with him. We talked about the Army and about going to Florida &c. He has not yet received orders. Then came dinner and I have no more time to write to my dearest Otis. He is going to ride with Charlie to the P.O. from his Mother's. His brother Francis walked up from Greene and was here to dinner also. They have both gone along afoot. Last night it snowed and the ground was white all the morning, but the sun this afternoon has made it disappear fast, since then.

Guy has behaved charmingly all day. He is a dear little boy, writes to "pa pa" nearly every time 'ma-ma' does, with his pencil and paper on the floor. I will mail this if it is not a full letter. All send love to you.

And believe me very affectionately your  
Own little wife

Lizzie Howard

[written in another hand, possibly Otis']

Recd Ft Brooke Fla

dated Apr 15 1857

Mrs OO Howard

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740 4/15/1857 *From:* S. H. Mulliken

*To:* My dear Mrs Howard

OOH-0681

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta April 15th 1857

My dear Mrs Howard

I am very much disappointed in not seeing you, for I had fully made up my mind to and had promised Mrs Gorgas, that we would pass the day with her and they were to take tea with me. I have not seen her since I received your note. I presume she will be very sorry for she can sympathize with you. I do not imagine she is more than two or three months yet every one knows it, for she speaks of it freely. She is so sick, that she hardly dares go out. I pity her very much.

People get caught sometimes in spite of resolutions, they are not to be trusted. Perhaps you are no worse off than I was for Henry was only 22 months when Jonnie was born, But I dont care for that now. I am in hopes I have learned a lesson and shall profit by it.

How hard it is for you to be separated from your husband now. I am glad you are looking forward to meeting him in the fall, and instead of going to Tampa, I hope you will come to Augusta. I think Capt Gorgas will be very glad to go South although they seem to like here yet it is not their home.

I thank you very much for your kind invitation to visit you. I shall be most happy to do so, and if Charley goes to Leeds this Summer, you will certainly see me. The children are well - Jonnie has eight teeth, talks a little but does not go alone. He is a delicate child, and I have not urged him to walk.

I could write a great deal more if the children would keep still. My girl has gone to Church, consequently, I have the whole care of them. Charley hears occasionally from your Husband. Hoping I may hear from you again, and with much love to your Mother, and yourself,

I am yours, truly,  
S. H. Mulliken

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741 4/15/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0682

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
April 15th 1857

My dearest Wife,

The day for writing you has come and I wish I had more recent letters to answer, but, it being Wednesday, I cannot get any till night and must write this today.

We are having rather monotonous times here now. We had a right smart shower Sunday night which gave our gardens a little water that they needed very much. Monday I made a vain attempt to deepen my well in the quick-sand, spent the evening at Major Leonard's and last evening I went with one of the quartermaster's clerks to Mr. Kennedy's. Mrs K has a baby nine months, that is fat & handsome with seven teeth, never cries and is so smart. Well Mrs Kennedy is a nice lady & has reason to be proud of this boy. Mr K says the name was fixed, Amelia something, when lo! they had to change it to Henry. I have not been to see Mrs Page's baby yet, but I kissed Mrs Kennedy's. Wont that do as well? The boy was asleep & I came near waking him. I expect it was because his father don't wear beard.

This morning I have been examining Sergeant Flynn's Return & vouchers. I found a good many mistakes yesterday & some today. I am afraid the 20th will be upon us before we get the papers off.

I have told Major Morris that I will mess with him after Mrs Morris leaves for the North but I had rather live here, that is, I will go to his house to meals & keep my bed &c where it is. He said that would be all right if I would sleep in his house while he is away. Mr Mack has a very poor room, where I lived before I came here, and I am in hopes Major Morris will offer him his spare room. Mack is a very fine man, very even-tempered, always pleasant but rather uncommunicative before strangers. I think sometimes he wishes he had a little boy at home while I wish I had mine & them here. I could then brag over Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Page or Mrs McKinstry.

You say if I am lonely I must visit more. I think I visit altogether too much. I don't read much & I fear this sojourn is getting me far behind the world in common matters. Just think of my surprise & Well! Well! over news that you had forgotten ten days before.

We are expecting Capt Van Vliet, successor to Major McKinstry by the Fashion (Steamer) on her return from New Orleans. She is due already. Major McKinstry will start for the North very soon after he is relieved & Mrs Maj Morris will accompany them. I went in yesterday with Lt Hazzard for a lunch. Mrs Hazzard turned out a pound cake, her first attempt. It was first rate & didn't taste like the cotton wool they keep at Confectionary's. It was a good substantial cake like yours at Watervliet.

I left off writing to go to my dinner. After I came back I went into a store and bought me a pair of every day pants - price four dollars. The other day I was obliged to buy a pair of shoes. The dry weather & sand are death on leather. It cracks & breaks and one soon feels gritty between the toes.

I am afraid you are too economical with yourself to deposit so much money. I approve of the savings bank at Lewiston as a place of deposit. I didnt know there was one there before you wrote. In one of my letters I asked you to deposit what you did not use in some Savings Bank. Do they pay interest Annually or Semi Annually in Lewiston?

I remain perfectly well. The climate on the whole is delightful. It wont do to get up too early in the morning (this would suit you) for the dews are heavy & there is a vapor in the atmosphere. I got up one morning early & went & took a bath in the salt water, but I didnt feel so well for it during the day. I have been up early many times besides and have bathed often but not in the salt water.

Mr Kennedy who is lame, has but one leg, says he should think I might come to see him often. He cannot go

out evenings with his crutches & says he is often lonesome. Deformed & lame as he is he seems to be very happy with his family - two little boys & a little girl of eight or nine years. He calls his wife Ada and they both seem like children with children.

General Harney is expected here every day. I think after the present scout is over we can form some idea of what will be done. The General is an impulsive & changeable man. If the Indians are taken the war will end. If a few are taken it will serve to spur him on to a summer campaign. If none are taken, he will be discouraged and probably give over operations for the present. These are my prognostications. If the General himself leaves the country I could get a month's leave with the privilege of getting it extended. Officers who get away in this manner seldom are allowed to return south till late in the fall. Que pensez vous? There so many ifs & ands that I will not make any decision. I should like to be ordered elsewhere. Then, as soon as possible I should have you with me.

Give my love to all. I hope you are all in the best of health & spirits. Are you as well as when we left Watervliet for Augusta, one year ago last November? I see the sun is getting low.

I have just been to see a kitchen that Wallace is building out of doors. Kitchens here are very often disconnected with the dwelling, particularly where a person has Negro servants.

May Heaven watch over & protect my darling little wife. Just as I was writing the last word Mr Hutton, one of the Qr. Masters Clerks brought me two letters from you - All well. When I read the news that Warren had got a Commission in the 4th Artillery, I jumped up & exclaimed good! good! I am truly glad of it and hope to see him here as soon as possible. He could'nt find a better regiment in the Army. Col Monroe, Major Scott, Major Morris, Lt Mack & Dana all of the 4th Artillery. Warren & I will be close together as our houses are. Who would have thought it.

I wont answer your letters particularly now. Did you go to Augusta.

Your own loving husband  
Otis

Why didnt you let Warren bring you out?

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742 4/16/1857 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0683

Andover

Tampa  
Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Andover April 16th 57

My Dear Brother Otis

I returned today from my vacation and as I received your letter here about ten minutes before I went to the depot to go home I concluded I would answer that now. It is fast day here and there is no school so I don't have anything to do unless I wish to. I have just returned from the club where I had a hard chance to get in as the club was most full and there were but two places left and as the President has not yet come he will occupy one and the Vice President will occupy the other so I guess I must go to another club.

I came in the boat to Boston last night and came from that place here. It was very stormy there all night and as there was head wind most all the time, we did not get into Boston until 20 minutes past 7 this morning, whereas they usually get there about 4 o'clock. I left the folks all well at home. Guy is smart and active. He is the principal man in the house. George Longley who works for us made him a cart a few days ago, and he has any quantity of play things to play with all the time. He still sucks his thumb when he is hungry.

Warren Lothrop feels finely since he received his commission. Mary J. Lane, she that was Mary Jane Lothrop has got a fine baby Mother says, also Warren Mitchell's wife who lives with his father. Thomas Bridgham has sold his farm to Rollin Jennings who is engaged to Harriet Frost. Uncle Henry Strickland was at our house some time with his family, but they have gone to Hallowell now from whence they expect to go to Summerville & Boston and then to Richmond Ill, where he talks of going into farming business quite extensively. Father's prospects in the Rail Road look a great deal more promising than they did some time ago. Uncle Henry got \$327.00 dollars for him as interest money and I got \$237.00 for him yesterday in Portland for interest on the bonds which looks pretty well. He is going to pay the debt he owes Benjamin Richmond as soon as possible.

They have graded the Rail Road all the way to Farmington Falls a distance of 20 miles and have bought the iron to lay the track with and it is nearly all paid for. They are going to commence laying the track by the first of May and expect to lay 1 1/4 miles per week so that they will have it done in a short time. They expect to have the cars going to Farmington Hill by the first of August and then it will pay well as they will not have to buy any more running materials.

Rowland is now down to Bath. Ella has been sick some time though not very sick, but so unwell that Rowland is quite worried about her which is a necessary consequence.

Charles is going to study some this vacation, he say,. Though I guess he will find it rather hard work, as I believe you did.

I was away from home one week and three days last vacation selling Stationery. I made about \$2.00 per day while I was out. I don't like to be away from home so much in vacation.

I have no chum now and I am in hopes that I can go through the whole term without one, but I don't think I can as the commons are pretty near full now and if there are many more I shall have to take one and I don't know but I shall as it is. I shall not sell any papers this term, but am going to study all the harder for it. I shall stand pretty well up in my class <this> term. I guess as most of the best schollars have not come back. Mr Merrill the young man I roomed with last Autumn term has come back here. Charles boarded at their house last winter while he taught school in Falmouth. A young man by the name of <Carl> rooms with him. He went to school to Charles last winter. He said he liked Charles very much as a teacher much better than any other he ever went to. I wish I could have as good a chum again as Merrill was.

Write me all about your business there and all about the Indians, Soldiers &c because I have not yet learned all about it as I did not have chance to do much in such things while I was at home.

Guy has been exposed to catch the mumps but I guess he won't have them hard as little children hardly ever do mother says. Mrs Turner is quite sick but she is much better than she was when I went home.

I am little home sick tonight for the first time in my life but I am in hopes that it will not last long. My room is cold and I have not any wood sawed so I must go without until I can saw up a little. As it is fast day today I cant get into any of the stores and I must go with out light this evening. You may think this is a funny letter to write to a brother 2000 miles off but I am not in the right mood to write good letters. I have not yet looked at one of my lessons. I am going to study this term hard, so that I can stand among the best in the class. I am going to write you letters often this term if you will answer them. I wish I could hear from you as often as the folks at home do but I suppose you write as often as you wish to write to them.

Good bye and remember your affectionate Brother  
R.H. Gilmore  
Andover

[To] Lieut O.O. Howard  
Tampa Fla

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743 4/19/1857 *From:* Lizzie H[oward]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0684

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me April 19 1857

My dearest Husband

Charlie and Col Gilmore only have gone to Church from here today. This is the last Sabbath that Mr Snyder is engaged here, but the traveling is not good yet. The heavy rains we have had lately have left the roads in a very dangerous condition. They will not be good till they have been mended, and I don't think I would feel safe to ride before they are.

The past week has seemed very short to me. I generally have work to employ my attention and do not have to think of the time only. I do not work too much, but I have so few interruptions here, that I can accomplish a great deal in a short time.

I continue very well, and am as happy as I can be separated from you. Sometimes I want to tell my aches and little troubles to somebody, but have to keep them all to myself and when I get to wishing too earnestly for what cannot be granted, I go to playing with little Guy and forget everything else while giving him so much pleasure. Grandpa gave him four round blocks. He sawed off the legs of the wash-bench and Guy thinks they are as pretty as can be. He will stand them up and put a spool on each, then ask "mum" to look at them. He was not long in getting acquainted with Uncle Charlie. Rowland has been gone over a week - went to Bath, then to Hallowell. He is probably looking for a good place to read law. I know he will not stay at Lewiston and I would not advise him to.

Evening. I wrote this about eleven o'clock this morning and have let it remain all day without writing more till now. I have not felt like writing this afternoon. I was quite lazy and restless. Now I feel very well and will like to finish this. Perhaps you are now thinking of and writing to me.

I received my two welcome letters from you this week, and happy am I always to get them. I generally let Guy see them a little while before I open them, and at the same time tell him it is pa-pa's letter, then "let Ma-ma read pa-pa's letter". I open it and take the letter and give him the envelope.

I didn't know Closson was in Florida till I received your last letter. I presume you have no hope of seeing him. I won't care if you do't. When you wish to see any body you must come see me. I fancy we would be the most pleased to see you of any one.

My Mother expects to go to Portland to-morrow, will be gone may be all the week, intends to have some rail-road shares transferred to me. She proposed it herself, and I shall be glad to have it done so. Her health has been remarkably good ever since her sickness just before we left Watervliet.

I would like to hear from Mrs Lee, to know if her back hurts as it did before I came away. I received a very pleasant letter from Mrs Mulliken last week. She says she is very much disappointed in not seeing me for she had made up her mind to, and had promised Mrs Gorgas that we would pass one day with her, and they were to take tea at Mrs M's. Mrs G is in family way - only two or three months, yet she speaks of it freely, is quite sick nearly all the time. I was thinking Henry was older when Jonnie was born, but he was only 22 months. She says, "the children are well. Jonnie has eight teeth, talks a little, but does not go alone. He is a delicate child and I have not urged him to walk. If Charlie goes to Leeds this summer you will certainly see me." I hope to see her here.

Guy had six teeth when we came here and is now cutting the seventh. It is longer getting through the gum than any of the others, but he does not seem to notice it or play the less. I hope we shall this time escape the mumps. I see no sign of them.

Charlie says there were but few at Church to day. Laura he did not see. John and Hellen are at Uncle Ensign's. Three bridges over 'Dead River' were destroyed by the ice week before last; the Rail-Road bridge

only started four inches. I am trying to think how I shall tell you about the Rail-Road running through Leeds. I do not know the whole story, but will tell what I hear Col Gilmore say: the Directors have made arrangements to have the coupons payed. (what that is is more than I know) and he has received two hundred and fifty dollars or about that, at two different times within three weeks. This is all I heard, and I did not like to ask more, fearing they might think I was too much interested.

This will go to the P.O. in the morning so I must finish and close it to-night and help Mother get ready in the morning. I will send paper by the same mail, containing news of Florida. Please tell me about it and also Gen Harney's orders to Kansas. Will you be likey to leave Florida any the sooner by the change? Any prospect of your being ordered to Kansas? Guy is sweetly sleeping, and I guess all have gone to bed early . I can hear Col G snoring. Mother has slept with Rossa in the little bed room this week. Guy and I do not leave room for her in our bed.

God bless you, my dearest Husband, and in good time may you return to your little wife.  
Lizzie H.

[Written in another hand, possibly Otis']  
Recd Ft. Brooke Fla - dated Apr 17 1857  
Mrs. O. O. Howard

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744 4/19/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0685

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
April 19 1857

My dearest wife,

Sunday has again returned and I have seated myself at my desk in my little sanctum to have a chat with you. It may not be possible to write "interesting" letters twice each week, but writing often is no detriment to a correspondence. It is in fact its chief beauty, between near and dear friends such as husband & wife, father & son, brother & brother. You get familiar with the position & employment of the writer from day to day. You get at his inmost thoughts & feelings, if he has any. You find out all that interests him. There is less studied manner about his writing than when he shows his happiest and brightest moods, when he deceives you by assuring that all is sunshine & thus shuts out your heart from the proper sympathy which is the well spring of attention & interest in this interchange of letters. We love everything that is new & entertaining because it is new, but this is not all. A letter from my darling wife that contains only news is not satisfactory, but let the words read as they may, if the warm heart appears to dictate, the reciprocal love & sympathy awakened gives more than an ordinary gist & interest to the recipient. It may not be easy to portray the whole cause & effect of these loved messengers philosophically, but heart answers to heart, and a feeling of quiet happiness succeeds the receipt of each letter, when there is no startling news to disturb one's equanimity.

I fancy you skimming over this lengthy disquisition in search of what is new & unusual. But you look for even bad news with the same instinctive quickness as I have seen you seek for a bug in the bed-stead, but it don't follow that you are not pleased with a disappointment in the one case as in the other. You are glad when you are through & find that there is no bad item of intelligence.

As I meant to say, good news is always welcome. So may be what I will now tell you may be. General Harney is ordered to Fort Leavenworth, and the papers predict a cessation of active operations against the Indians in this quarter. As soon as such operations are completely over your humble servant expects the necessity of his services in the Department of Florida will cease, and the probability is in favor of his being ordered elsewhere: but echo answers, Where! But don't expect me till after l'evenement, for if my hypothesis prove true & my position tenable or untenable, there is much to be done here first. Volunteers to be mustered out, arms & c to be taken care of: returns to be made out for turning over & c & c. I shall then become a candidate for Leavenworth, California, Salt-Lake, St Louis, Washington, Pittsburg & c. Then my going to Leeds, Maine will depend on the wording of the order that relieves me.

I fortify myself thus by considering all the contingencies against any possible disappointment. Let us be prepared for anything, enjoy good fortune with moderation & bear the ill with a good grace. I did want a change at Watervliet though not just then, nor just that. I weary with monotony, and dislike inertness & the retrograde and so do you. We have had change and experience even in this short time, and if we live we will have more of it, but we are every day getting better prepared for it.

Captain Van Vliet came here from New York by the way of New Orleans. He brought his wife & a little boy between three & four years old. Mrs Van Vliet is quite handsome and so is her boy; but he has the whooping cough quite badly. Elle est enceinte aussi quelle une annè,(n'est ce pas) pour notré génération!

Mrs Hazzard too looks forward hopefully. I went in the other day to see Mrs Page's girl baby & gave it a kiss for myself & one for you. Mrs Page said send a kiss to Mrs Howard, Kate. Now Kate being a baby and fortified by your commission I blushingly kissed the young girl. I still cant think girl babies are any better, handsomer or sweeter than their counterparts. But you perceive I prejudice as I never have had any of that sort of my own and in my early days was not even blessed with a sister. You know I like to regard my little wife as the only girl, & the all & in all, of the family.

I didn't get any letters last night and I had'nt any right to expect one from you as I got one in nine days by the last mail. They (the two last) were dated April 3d & Apr 6 respectively. In that of the 6th you said you could not locate my retreat in your sketch of Fort Brooke. I have made another of the yard and enclosed to you. You have probably received this before now. It is the building in the North East corner of the yard.

You may have made a visit to Augusta before this or have got a reply from Mrs Williams. You say in the end all will be well. I think so too my Darling, but I am sorry to be away from you during this trial.

You still give excellent accounts of Guy. He calls all gentlemen "Uncles" and says "papa" quite plainly. Mrs Page discoursed upon the proper conduct towards children before hers. Little Frank's eyes & ears were wide open. It made me think of you and Guy. I hope and trust you have all quit talking about Guy before him. I know it is a hard thing to do, especially for mother, but as she says, make ready for a rainy day. We want him to be an excellent boy, but he need'nt know that we think him the best boy in the world.

I am glad to have you go to see Mrs Turner & carry her things. She is one of my old friends, and she will appreciate such little kindnesses. I shall be glad to see Warren, glad he has got a commission. I should like to present him in full uniform to "Old Rum" Jones. I have knocked some ink over this sheet, but I hav'nt time to copy.

Give my love to all the family. You may see me before many months. May God bless my little family & all the inhabitants of my old home. We are soon to have a shower. I hear it thunder. My corn, potatoes & tomatoes are flourishing but a little rain wont hurt them. Warren must hurry if he would assist in getting the Indians out of Florida. The new Administration are going to get the Indians out by negotiation, while Harney goes to Kansas to keep in check the Black Republicans, so say the papers.

Major McKinstry leaves for N. Orleans in two or three days by the Fashion. Mrs Major Morris goes with them. Again my love to all & especially to Lizzie Howard & her son Guy.

Very affectionately, your husband  
Otis

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745 4/21/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0686

Leeds. Me.

Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. April. 21. 1857

My dearest Husband

Col Gilmore was not intending to send to the Post Office this afternoon as he was there this morning on business (railroad business) but when Rowland came down to tea he said he wanted to see the "Advertiser" and I told him I rather thought I had one letter there. Consequently he put on his hat and over-coat, went out to the barn, got the horse and started - then after six o'clock. At half past seven Guy wanted his milk and I got it ready, undressed him. He drank it and I put him into bed. He was ready to go to sleep. I then gathered up his play things, looked out the window and saw Rowland returning. I knew he would not come directly into the house, so I folded away my work (which I shall not tell you was a tiny frock, so pretty) put another stick of wood on the fire. (I had lighted my light.) then went out, asked if I had a letter. Rowland said, yes, one. I said that was enough, as soon as I saw it was from Tampa, and in your hand-writing.

I hastened back to read it, as I did not like to leave Guy alone, although he was asleep. It is a kind, very affectionate welcome letter. The check enclosed I shall deposit with the other at Lewiston reserving none this time for my own use, as I shall not need more than I had on hand for the next two months. I took my letter out to read to the rest of the family, but Rowland and Charlie were both in their chamber. Col G. very much engaged at his safe, and Mother G engaged reading a letter from Dellie, who returned to his school one week since.

I mentioned the check, the improvement you had made in your grounds, Indian women and children hiding themselves, and said I must go to writing, for it was then quarter past eight. Here I am in the north room, Guy sleeping in the bed, and not a large fire in the hearth because it is not very cold.

Mother went to Portland yesterday (Monday) morning - may be home by Thursday. I am eating boxberry plumbs, while writing. Flora brought me nearly a quart this morning, gathered them in "our pasture" she said. I do love them as well as I once loved Ellen McCarthy's apple pies.

Rowland came home yesterday by way of Winthrop from Augusta, saw 'Charlie', as Mrs Mulliken says, on the street. I have not heard him say much about his visit. He is not quite well. I presume wants rest. He was at Topsham with Ella Thursday. She is now quite well. Her little brother sent Guy ever so many 'pea-nuts', what Mrs Lee calls ground nuts. Came to Hallowell Saturday, and thinks of reading this summer in G. Stinchfields office, who, by the way, has just purchased himself a saddle-horse but does not dare to ride him. I told them about his riding 'Mallach.'" Do you not remember one day you were at Hallowell on horse back?

Charlie asked Laura to come down here this week, but she could not, because Uncle Ensign was to be from home. She is making Charlie a pair of shirts, and is to make some for Rowland.

The morning after you left home, I found a pair of stockings and two shirts that I intended you should have taken. Have you enough, and are they good yet? Both shirts and stockings? Mother G has given me a nice lot of yarn, and when I think you may come home, I will have both ready for you.

Rowland has been in here to inquire after you, and we have been talking over the affairs of Government. Gen Harney's orders to Kansas, the probability of there not deeming it necessary to keep an Ordnance Officer in Florida if the troops should be withdrawn and there is to no active service there during the summer.

I give myself no uneasiness, only would like to know when I am to live with my own husband, and where. I fancy if I was in Mrs Morris' place. I should not go North.

I am quite well to-night, dearest, have written this very rapidly so it is not late, but I will keep good hours and go to sleep with little Guy.

Wednesday morn. I can send this to the P.O. this morning by Rowland, who goes to attend the funeral of she that was Martha Jane Brewster.

Cynthia has come in and I will go to speak with her before I finish. She wished to leave Jonnie here while she went to the funeral, but I told her I thought Guy and I both had got the mumps. He will be all well by the time this reaches you. Mother will be back to-morrow afternoon.

Hoping this will find you perfectly well and happy. I remain your affectionate wife.  
Lizzie Howard

[Written in another hand- possibly OOHoward]  
Recd Fort Brooke  
Fla dated Apr 21 1857  
Mrs OO Howard

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746 4/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0687

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
Apr 22nd 1857

My dearest wife,

The prospect brightens. Major McKinstry's order is countermanded and in the Order the word Department is erased & the word Peninsula inserted, which indicates the breaking up of the Department of Florida. White flags are beginning to be sent out to solicit a consultation. General Harney will be here in a few days, on his way to Kansas. Colonel Loomis the next in command had gone on a leave of absence & had reached Key West. The Steamer, Fashion, has gone after him to bring him back to take the command.

Mrs Van Vliet feels badly to take another journey with her boy sick with the whooping cough to Leavenworth. Mrs McKinstry feels sadly disappointed, not to be able to go North, to join her two boys. Now you may ask how I auger good out of these things. If the Department of Florida is broken up & merged in the Department of the East, the Headquarters will be Troy New York. Active operations will cease, and the necessity for an Ordnance Officer here will be obviated, but we will wait for the result of all these changes.

I have now so much property here, and the volunteers have so much in their hands that I don't think I can settle up & get away very soon, but I do anticipate that I will not be here many months longer at the utmost.

General Scott is now in command in reality & will have every thing in his own way. General Jefferson Davis was the actual commander in chief until the fourth of March. I don't think either the new administration or General Scott care much for the prosecution of this war. They believe Floridians make more ado than there is any need of. But we cannot count upon any policy till it begins to develop itself. The new Administration may desire to concentrate as many troops as possible in the vicinity of Kansas. Major Morris is ordered to repair a road between here and Fort Capron, and he is to have Captain Clark with his company of Artillery to assist him.

The Steamer Gray Cloud, which arrived from Fort Myers this morning will proceed to Manatee for this company, and all the officers propose to go down on an excursion. I shall go at any rate unless something happens to prevent. We leave at eight o'clock tomorrow morning. I think Mrs Morris will start for the North in company with Captain Van Vliet & perhaps Mrs McKinstry will go too.

I should'nt wonder if Warren made his appearance tonight & I am strongly expecting letters from you as I did'nt get any by Saturday's mail. At any rate you will write when I may expect to see Warren with my presents, which will be most acceptable, if it is no more than a piece of cake. I suspect you have begun farming at Leeds, putting up fences & ploughing. Guy must drive the team. You know he can ride the horse to furrow when you get ready to plant corn & potatoes.

I have been moving my blacksmith shop & kitchen (one building) from the place where I put it up. Col Munroe said he wished I would, for he did'nt think it in a good place. Now I am estimating for an extension of the Magazine for my present one will not hold all the ammuniton I have on hand.

I had to fit up a sentry box of large size and make it as tight as possible & put the over-plus of a large quantity just received frm New Orleans therein. But it will be in a "pretty box" when the rainy season comes on. I am afraid I am making myself too useful in this direction to get away easily, but never mind there are worse places to live in than Tampa.

Have you got all that work done that you cut out a month & more ago? Do you sew much in the North room while you are thinking?

Last night I called into Mr McKay's in town. Mr McKay is one of the men of Tampa. He has a store here & another at Fort Myers, owns a steamboat sawmill, several dwelling houses & much land and three sons & a

pretty daughter. When I went in last night there was a young gentleman there who evidently came on a preliminary court visit. He brightened up considerably when I entered and said he was glad I came in for he never could talk with ladies. But I could'nt see why he should have any difficulty, in talking with one alone. Soon Mrs McKay came in (a lady of English extraction) & afterwards her son George. The evening was passed very sociably & I returned to my quarters in quite a cheerful trim, to wait for Wednesday (mail day).

Give papa's love to Guy & tell him papa talks of coming to see him soon. I didnt think of it, but Warren might have brought him along. My bed is big enough. He could play in the dirt all day with the shells. I would give him a cat & a dog. I reckon I should have to bring him his dinner. Who would stay with him while I was gone! Oh! I would build a tent, have a boy to cook for Guy & me & look after him while I was busy. But I suspect Warren has come off without him.

My love to all. I hope you are all in the best of health & Spirits -

Very affectionately your husband  
Otis

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747 4/23/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0688

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr 23d 1857

My dear Brother

For a number of days the desire to write you has been very strong within me, but it has not seemed convenient till now. This letter will much of it be about myself.

I feel in my heart, my dear Brother, that I love my Savior. He wouldn't give me up tho' I was sunk in such a depth of fire & pollution, but continued calling after me. I will not use words of general meaning that may be interpreted various ways but I will tell you a few simple things. I am happier than ever before in my life. I love to read the Bible. I love to pray. I feel kindly & more charitably towards all men. Christians seem like brothers. The words of Christ, Paul, James & Peter all apply to me.

When I ask myself on going to bed - If you should die where would you be found? I can find no fear in my heart. Jesus is in my thoughts most of the time. My heart is full of involuntary prayer. God may do with me as may best glorify Him - "Sweet peace thy promises afford". My heart overflows with gratitude to Christ - verily. He is the way the truth & the light. O my cup runneth over.

If I could see you I know I could tell you how simple & sweet all this is & just how to find this "peace in believing & joy in the Holy Ghost". Stop right shut off believe you are. Don't try to feel or say or do another good thing. Bring all your wickedness to the feet of the Savior. Say to Him - Here, I give it up. Save me, or I am lost. Don't wait for feeling. Don't wait for conviction of Sin. Don't wait for a single emotion or thought that you have thought necessary. Nothing is necessary but simple trust. O God, I knew thou carest. O Father, thou hast promised. Thy power is infinite & thy mercy too. Jesus is ready & willing. Remember the thief on the Cross, the woman taken in Adultery. Christ is not less compassionate than while he lived on the Earth.

If you want religion, Otis, you can have it. If you don't, God have mercy upon you. I can only pray. You have no Sketicism. Your education furnishes your mind with an answer to every honest doubt. O I do hope & pray that ere this, Christ has accepted you. O you, like me, have so often "been almost persuaded to be a Christian".

Forgive me if I seem too zealous. But how I do long to see you truly "happy". It isn't like any other happiness. It is rather a constant peace & contentment. It is the first thing in the morning & the last at night. It arises involuntarily in the mind during the ordinary business of the day. It is like some sweet memory or some joyful anticipation, but it is better than either.

You would like to have me tell you the whole process, how I was translated from Natures darkness into this marvelous light. There was nothing great, nothing powerful. I had for some time been diligent in my prayer, but I was as wicked as at any time, in my life. There was the same pride, ambition, vanity, self-conceit, double-mindedness & lust. And the first thought was, "hadn't I better hope"? "No", replied consciousness. "you are too bad. You have no right to". But Jesus has promised He is worthy. Ought I not to have faith, never doubting that "He is & that He is a reminder of them that diligently seek him"? Then it came in little by little, until if I am not changed, everything else in existence is. The same sins tempt me now, but Christ is my helper. "Has He not laid help on one who is mighty & able to save"?

O, my dear Brother, come to Jesus & taste & see if he isn't good. Look not to any Christian you ever knew. Look to Christ only. His virtues, his life, his sufferings & endurance. His doctrines & death. All are perfect. Read what he says. Pray before, & after & while you read, for help from Above to understand & apply the Truth. Hear Him say "Come & learn of me". O his yoke is easy & his burden is light. It is Sin & temptation that is heavy even to the redeemed Soul. If you hold on to one single reason why you shouldn't be a Christian, you won't be.

May God forgive me that I was a hindrance in your way while we were at Troy. I knew it all the time but Satan & my own proud wicked heart kept me so. I shall not write in this letter on any general subjects, for as you

perceive it has one purpose - to tell you that I hope God has accepted me well as I am and to beseech you fervently to do far better than I in my weakness have done. O the world seems joyous & Eternity beautiful to me. The only bad thing is Sin.

I will write you again soon & tell you "the news". I haven't spoken of these things so often as I ought, nor as I mean to, but I have talked & prayed with Charles & Mother & Ella & I told Mrs Turner this morning how I felt. The tears of joy came in her eyes. O the Brotherhood & Sisterhood of Christians. To Mrs Waite & Lizzie I have said nothing. I believe that the Spirit has striven with Lizzie & O how I hope she will come to her Savior. But her delay is no excuse for you, my Brother. You know all this as well as I, but God knows better than us all.

Good Bye.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

Sat. morn. Good morning Dear Otis. I got up at five this morning & Charles & I have been at work in the Garden. We are to work till 9 o'clock. Mother has quite a lot of flowering plants, but as usual in the Country, the "beet bed" rather impinges. If I were going to be at home, I would have a real pretty "front yard".

I had a letter from Otis last night. He says nothing yet about coming home, but he has not heard the "news" which we saw in the papers of Gen Harney's removal. I still hope we shall see him this Summer, tho I fear not till July.

I shall take this to the Office myself. O must I be a happy boy tonight, when that letter comes. My heart will be especially near yours tonight & tomorrow I fear we shall have no meeting as our minister preached his farewell Sermon last Sunday.

You will see Otis that I have made a mistake, and taken your letter for Ella's which lay beside it but you will excuse me, & not wish me to "copy". I know I received your letter last night and will answer it very soon. Lizzie had one at the same time dated the 12th. She and Guy are nicely this morning.

[Written in another hand - probably Otis']  
Rowland  
Dated April 23d 1857  
The Letter

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748 4/26/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0689

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.  
April 26 1857

My dearest Wife,

I received a nice long letter from you last evening consisting of two sheets well filled. You seemed pretty contented & happy though I fancy, by the way your mind reverts to those days of hopes & fears and comforts, before our little Guy was born, that you sort of long for your husband's presence and support and if I could, consistent with my duty, I would soon appear by your side. Your courage seems good and I am sorry your strength is not as good as it was when you were able to take a journey from Troy to Leeds & thence to Augusta, and after all that, work every day putting down carpets & fixing up the quarters. You are a good wife and deserve every thing at my hands.

Mrs Mulliken knows that rash resolutions are easily broken and they are sometimes too easily made. We must bear as lightly & cheerfully as possible. The burdens that Nature and Providence deem it right to impose, and as I have often said and firmly believe, a rich blessing will in time grow out of what seems most unfavorable for any such fruit. As an instance, my being sent to Augusta at such a time. We had kind friends, a good physician and you had every care & attention you desired. Then again I go to Florida, to get experience, become known in the Army at large, to make valuable accessions to my acquaintance & friendships and gain the confidence of my Colonel & other old & influential officers, by doing an important duty faithfully. You too gain experience, find a pleasure in self-denial even, have got away from Watervliet & many annoyances, will have the proud pleasure of presenting your husband with children in the good old native State. You have something ever before you to hope for, and say to yourself, then I shall be very happy. Whatever other people may think or say, we can bear separation & learn many a useful lesson of the heart therefrom.

On Thursday I went to Manatee in the Grey Cloud (Steamer in U.S. Service). Our party consisted of Major McKinstry, Capt Van Vliet, Mr Hazzard wife & wife's sister, Miss Elden, Mr Clements (chief Qr. Master's Clerk) & Miss Duvall. I went into Kennedy & Darling's store just before I left & Mr K asked me if I would take charge of his wife and children consisting of two, Jenny & baby Henry. He said I had a young wife & little boy way up in Maine, who would like to have somebody take care of them; he was sick & lame & couldn't go, &c. I told him certainly, I would take a fatherly care of them with the greatest pleasure. We left about nine had a pleasant ride down the bay, arrived at the mouth of the Manatee river by noon. We had the Regimental Band of the 4th Artillery along, we went up the Manatee the Band playing. We anchored opposite the little town & went ashore in boats. The ladies staid on board. Captain Clarke got his company ready as quickly as possible & embarked there. He & Lt Solomon accompanied the portion leaving and Lt Follet remained behind with a small detachment. We got ready to start about sunset. The water was very low, it being ebb tide, and I had to wade out to the boats, some ten or twelve rods. I didnt take off my shoes & got my feet pretty wet, but the Steamer Captain's brother on board gave me some dry socks & shoes, so that I did not take cold. We started immediately after the company was on board and reached our wharf about one o'clock that night, but I had gone to sleep and did'nt wake till day light, at six. I accompanied Mrs Kennedy & family to their house in town & then came to my room & slept till nearly eight. Mrs Morris said I looked much better after my trip to Manatee. It is a miserable little town, all the country is covered with the saw palmetto, and nothing is growing. The houses are a great way apart & not more than eight or ten of them. I would as lief live in Botany Bay. After the company of Clarke got up here, Colonel Munroe found that he had been ordered to build a bridge or rather a wharf at Manatee. So Solomon & twenty men were detached to accompany Major Morris to the Kissimmee & Capt Clarke went back this morning to Manatee with the rest of the command. General Harney has'nt arrived yet from Fort Meyers, so I have'nt commenced building a magazine. I shall not be able to draw my month's pay this month. I don't think, for our pay master will have to go to New Orleans to renew his Bonds, & says he cannot pay any till he gets back.

I called at Major Leonard's yesterday evening. I must write to Boggs & congratulate him on his good fortune. This is the first time I have got a word of the news. Is Boggs with his wife or she with him. Did they say? I am

surprised that Warren has'nt been to see you. I wont speak to him if he does'nt go & see you before he leaves for Florida.

There isnt now the least danger of a Summer Campaign &I expect to hear that we shall begin to close up business, by the last of May. However, I am not going to speculate any more but wait for results & orders to settle all questions.

Has Delle grown much? I shall write Rowland & mother before long but not today. I hope that Rail Road will do well by itself this summer, for I should like to see father clear of every embarrassment as age is drawing gradually upon him. I presume you did'nt go out today, but may be writing to me.

You must'nt cry over your own letters, that is'nt the right way. May Heaven bless you, Darling. Guy has not figured much in this letter. I hope he continues to be a good boy & joy to his mother.

Love to Grandmothers, Grandpa & Uncles & all - and remember that you wont have to wait long before you will see your own husband.

Otis

It is a good idea of yours to have Laura come & stay with you while your mother goes to Turner. May & June will soon pass away & I suspect you wish they had already.

I am going to mess with Major Morris as soon as Mrs M leaves. I expect she will go in the Fashion with Genl Harney to New Orleans. I shall still live alone, while the Major is away on duty. Major Morris is about as old as father & looks some like him - only he wears thick grey whiskers & father don't or did'nt when I last saw him.

A sweet kiss to Guy for papa.

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749 4/26/1857 *From:* Lizzie A Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0690

Leeds. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. April. 26. 1857.

My dearest Husband.

I mentioned in my last letter that I thought I had the "mumps". Ever since that day I have suffered intensely with them - had them on both sides of my face - my face is considerably swollen now, but is passing away. Guy had them on one side (the right). He had them quite light - children usually do - and seems to have now gotten over them. I think it is too bad for me to have any extra aches and pains, for I think I have quite enough to bear every day.

Mother came home Thursday as I expected, and I was glad because Guy wanted to be taken care of, and no one else seems to know how, or has time to take care of him as well. She had a very pleasant visit - stayed at Uncle Edward's the most of the time. Lizzie and her husband are there yet. He wants a vessel built that he can go master. She dined one day at Aunt Bonney's. Cousin Callie has got the "dropsy", does not think she can get cured, but is as ever in good spirits. We had never heard of the death of her brother Augustus, which occurred last fall, soon after our return to Watervliet.

Mother did some shopping for me and mine, and had thirty-one shares of the "Atlantic and St Lawrence" Rail Road shares transferred to me while at Portland. She stoped at Lewiston on her way home, brought me some Oysters and smelts (little fish about as large as sardines). It will be very convenient if I want anything this summer to eat that cannot be got here to send to Uncle Hicks, and he will get things for me with pleasure.

The check you sent me last I shall have deposited this week, before the first of next month, that it may begin to draw interest at that time. I think we are fast getting rich and independent. Uncle Edward sent me \$36.00 - interest in bank stock, but I intend to keep it till July, then add it with more Interest to make another deposit.

I have reread the two letters I received from you last week. I frequently give them each more than a second reading, if I do get them often they are none the less appreciated.

Laura came down here last Friday and stayed till Saturday noon. I expect she caught the mumps of me, as she does not know of ever having them. Hellen and the two youngest children came up with John last Saturday week, and went home when Mother went to Portland last Monday. Now "Oli" [Oliver Otis, the son of John Harrison Otis and Hellen Worthing] is at his Grandfather's to stay some time. I did not see any of them. I have not been to ride yet. My visiting ends in going to see Cynthia or Mrs Turner. I sent the later a dozen of my little fishes. I saw her ride past today. I guess it was the first time she had been out to ride since she was sick. I would ride if I thought I needed to, but I feel that I am as well off without, for I would be fearfull and anxious all the time I would be in the carriage. You know it would not be like riding with you to drive, or like our easy carriage. If the weather is very pleasant one day before Charlie goes away, I would take Guy and have a ride. Guy is out whenever it is pleasant and warm enough. He will be able to walk as far as Mrs Turners when we both get entirely over the mumps - so that there will be no danger of our getting cold.

Col Gilmore had some wheat sowed yesterday, the first farming he has done this spring. Rowland and Charlie worked in the flower garden the same day. We have had no very spring-like days yet, but very soon I presume the weather will be as pleasant as we could wish. I don't intend to work much then, but stay out of doors as much as I want to with Guy. My work cut out is all finished now. I do not feel much behind hand now, and it is a very comfortable feeling, not to have work hurrying you.

I am now writing in the evening. Guy is very busy playing, got Grandma to help him, but he is fast getting sleepy. He says or tries to say every thing he hears the rest say.

Mother and Rossa went to walk before dinner and I got him to sleep. He had to tell me every thing he knew before going to sleep after I took him up. I did so much more for him while Mother was away that he thinks it very nice, and continues to ask "Mum" to wait on him. He never has got impatient with his playthings till this

week, and this may be because he has not been as well as usual. I do not think he will have a bad disposition. Whenever I tell him "mama cannot let him have that", he is satisfied, or if he is doing something I rather he would not. I have as yet only had to say, "no, no, naughty to do so." Sometimes I have to repeat it and shake my head but that is enough. He is a good little boy, and I guess I am a good little wife

Lizzie Howard

Monday Morning, April. 27

My dearest Husband

I will add a few lines more to the letter I wrote yesterday. Guy and I are quite well this morning, and presume the mumps will trouble us no more. Rowland goes to Lewiston to-day and I shall send my check to deposit by him. I will not make a drawing of my rocking chair and workbox for fear you would laugh as I did at your drawing. I did not know what could induce Mrs Morris to leave for the north till I received your last letter.

Mother will mail a letter to Mrs Lee this morning. I should presume that Mrs Boggs would be at Baton Rouge by this time. I should like to hear from her, but I do not feel able to open a correspondance with anyone at present.

Charlie has gone with the horse to get Roland's wagon so I must close my letter and have it ready by the time they wish to go to the Depot.

All send love to you and believe me ever your own trusting and affectionate wife.

Lizzie A Howard

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750 4/28/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0691

Leeds

Fort Myers, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 28 1857 Tuesday Evening

My dearest Husband,

It is very seldom that the mail fails to bring me a letter every Tuesday. I received one this afternoon written on the fifteenth of the present month. You mentioned Warren's promotion. You probably learned it from my letters. I expect to find, in every letter I open from you after this, something relating to Gen Harney's orders to leave Florida and proceed to Kansas, but as yet you have said nothing about it. You know of his having received orders I presume by this time, and if he does leave the country you could get a leave you tell me. I don't know whether I wish you to or not. I want to see you and would like to have you here after the middle of June, but I should desire above all and everything else to return with you, wherever you would go - to Tampa even, and I don't know as you could remain north late enough in the season to have it prudent for us all to make a change of climate, and then the troubles there might be nearly ended and, we would have the journey for nothing. May be it would please us better to have you get a leave when you will be ordered elsewhere.

I think there are many ifs and ands on the subject and the more I try to tell what I would like best, the less I am decided. I can be contented here, and will continually make up my mind to be as long as you remain away situated as you now are. I thought I would just say a little in answer to your "Que pensez vous", but you my darling Otis, must do just as you most wish, and I shall think it is right. I did not write much last evening as I left to reckon up Mother's expenses and what she payed out for me while at Portland. It was half past nine before we were aware of it and, then we went to bed immediately. She purchased for me goods to the amount of \$8.16. I have left in my purse one five dollar bill, but that is more than I shall wish to spend for a long time, so do not think it too little to have on hand.

Rowland deposited the check you sent of \$100.00 in the letter written April 8. He explained to me yesterday when he returned that the previous check was given on the Treasury at Washington and that it cost them (the savings bank) 1/4 per cent to get it cashed - what they called exchange. I will get Rowland to explain to you if has time. I presume you thought of it before you sent the last one as this one was right - payable at the office in Boston.

Rowland and Charlie got up very early this morning and have gone to catch some smelts. Mr Warren Moyer was here yesterday and told them he would come down. He would go with them. The brook is three miles below his house. It is now eleven o'clock and they have not yet returned.

Charlie returns to Brunswick this week Friday, and Rowland goes to Hallowell the same time or the first of next week. I shall miss him very much and so will Guy. He thinks Uncle one of his best friends. Rowland said he saw a letter for Warren L. at the P.O. yesterday and thought it might have been from you. He is yet at home waiting orders. Francis Lothrop and family are at Saco. He has recently purchased him a house there and are at house-keeping. Mrs L's father has moved there. I do not know how recently.

We are all quite well here now, except Guy has a slight cold. I do not think that his eyes are naturally weak. It is only when he has a bad cold and at the same time looks out the window when the sun shines brightly. He is now having his nap. He was out in the dining- room with Mother and came in said he wanted Ma-ma to rock him - went up to my chair and patted it and called "Mum". I don't know as I ought to rock him or lift him as I do some times, but I cant help it if I don't feel quite well. He is such a treasure and "ma-ma" loves him so much.

I don't think I am quite as well as when we left Watervliet for Augusta, but I remember I was not as well before we started, as I was after we had made the journey, and I hope in one or two weeks I may feel strong. My face hurts me, and I ache more.

Col Gilmore has commenced his farming, to-day he is ploughing. Cynthia was here the other day looking rather sober for she was weaning Jonnie. Lucia called to see how I was yesterday. I had not seen her since I had the mumps. She and Betsey Bates was in the evening I was the worse, and I did not go out to see them. Every

time I see Mrs Berry I cannot help looking at her and thinking how much like an old maid she does look. I do believe I had rather have three children than none at all. I took up an old paper this afternoon and saw that Miss Hannah Child was married to Mr Henry Severance the seventeenth of last month. Mrs M. did not mention them when she wrote to me.

Yours with best love.

Lizzie.

[Written in another hand, probably Otis']

Recd Ft Myers Fla  
dated Apr 28 & 29 1857  
Mrs OO Howard

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751 4/29/1857 *From:* W.L. Lothrop

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0692

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me  
April 29th /57

Dear Otis

I have just received your note of the 15th inst & was happy to hear from you. Thank you sincerely for your kind congratulations - hope I shall soon see you. I have been here since April 4th, daily expecting orders, but have received none yet. I am in readiness for a start at any moment, & should not much regret to leave, as I am anxious to enter my new field of service, become acquainted with my Co. Officers &c.

I have no news to communicate - of course you receive all through your family. Our friends are all well - saw your wife & child last week. You may well be proud of your boy; he speaks well for the abilities of his father.

If not too much trouble will you please inform me what kind of underclothing is worn in that country - cotton or woolen - can I get a Colts revolver there - what is the prospect of a summer campaign &c &c.

I leave in a few moments for Lewiston.

In haste &  
Truly Yours  
W.L. Lothrop

To: Lieut. O. O. Howard  
Ordnance Corps  
Tampa Bay  
Florida

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752 4/29/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0693

Leeds. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. April. 29, 1857.

My dearest Husband,

We did not get any mail this afternoon, and no letters were sent, and as I don't wish to work I will add more to the letter I had thought finished, but what shall I say to my dearest Otis. I don't think of any thing of importance. Sometimes when I commence to write and have no interesting news to tell I will say to myself, I guess I better not write two letters a week. I cant make them interesting, and don't wish to only say. "I am well, Guy is well, and hope you are well." in a letter to go so far.

I came to the conclusion though that I must write as often as I have for it gives me a great deal of pleasure to write to you, and I know you will permit me to write just a little foolishly if I want to do so. I fancy you are pretty good to let me have my own way when I am with you. I wonder if I shall be naughty when I am with you after this separation. I guess I shall have as much as I can do to keep all my children out of mischief, and my house in good order, and wont have any idle time to quarrel. Is'nt that the only time I quarrel and scold when I am not employed? It would be hard to tell when. I wonder what I would say if you were here to-night. I should be tired, sick all over, or some other ache or pain to complain of.

Mother and Rossa have been to see Mrs Turner, carried her some fish (suckers). They will have a nice breakfast, and we will also.

Rowland and Charlie got home about one o'clock with their fish (smelts and suckers). Warren Lothrop said when he was here he would not wish to be at a better place than Tampa - plenty of hunting and fishing there.

I want your next letter very much. You will answer my questions about your shirts and stockings. If you should come home you must have some ready for you. I shall be out of sewing before a great while, and want some work on hand. Guy is sleeping as sweetly as need be. I put him to bed while Mother was gone.

I must go to sleep to in order to be up in season for breakfast, a la Mrs Lee, going to have something I like.

Your affectionate Wife  
Lizzie A. Howard

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753 4/29/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0694

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
April 29th 1857

My dearest Wife,

The month of April/57 is on the wane - only one day after this. It is to day excessively warm & sultry. I shall expect a letter from you tonight and hope it will come in, in season for me to acknowledge its receipt.

General Harney came in the Fashion early Monday morning from Key West, accompanied by Colonel Loomis. He turned over the Command to the latter and left in the afternoon of the same day for New Orleans. Capt Albert of the Topographical Engineers, Major Leonard & wife of the pay department and Mrs Major Morris left with him; also Capt VanVliet, wife & child. The Fashion was anchored out in the bay. The small Government Steamer Ranger happening to be here, the Officers to depart & those to remain with the band went on board the latter. After putting the General on board the Fashion, the Ranger went round & round the Steamer, the band playing & Guns firing from both sides. We cheered right heartily. General Harney seemed much pleased with the compliments paid him, and we had a very pleasant impromptu excursion. Major Morris left the same afternoon for the Kissimmee and I stepped into his shoes. I found the house in good order, floors carpeted, bedroom nicely fixed up, plenty of eatibles & table furnishing, and a good servant woman. So I am now living quite alone in the western house of that row of four on your sketch, near the shore of the Bay. I shall take care of the Major's things till his return in about three weeks. It is all very nice and there is now room enough for you, provided that Guy would sleep in the Office & take charge there. This morning we heard that Captain Johnson of the Florida Mounted Volunteers had killed three Indians & taken five more in the vicinity of Istopoga Lake, which is some thirty miles to the North of Lake Okee-cho-bee. Capt Sparkman has discovered about a dozen still farther to the North, but we have'nt yet learned what has been his success.

We are expecting by tonight's mail something more definite with regard to operations here. Colonel Loomis is very old, in his dotage really, and totally unfit to have the direction of an active campaign. He is, however, a very good man & pleasant gentleman. I shall commence building a magazine as soon as I can get the lumber together. I shall have to wait till the Paymaster comes back before I transmit any more money. I may however take a different method, if he is'nt here by the close of May. Nous verrons. Mrs Morris has gone to her daughter in New York, the one she calls Estelle. She married a physician, Dr Cormagan, (I believe that's the name). She took down your address & very likely means to write you a letter, telling you secrets about your husband. You musn't give full credit to all she says till you have asked me. I don't mean she would wilfully misrepresent, but you know ladies are full of queer prejudices & eccentric notions. If, for instance, she should tell you I was a very nice young man, ever so good, &c, you must account for it all by my misfortune to resemble her dear son, Will, who is reputed to be a hard case, but by his mother considered a piece of perfection.

Look out how you bring up Guy. Boys & girls in the Army are generally spoiled. I expect their mothers love them too much. After I get my magazine under head way & after Major Morris gets back I expect to visit Fort Myers & Dulany, Key West, & Fort Dallas. During my absence you may not get letters quite so often. I shall not, however, be gone more than two weeks & can mail a letter at Key West, which will go direct by a Mail Steamer to New York.

Does time move slowly with you, darling. You know there is no use in crying. I expect now to see you in the Fall, how early or how late I cannot tell. I am in hopes to do so by means of an order. This is as pleasant a place as need be (if we cannot get away), for us to spend next winter. I could meet you at Key West and stay there till we got a chance to come up. It seems perhaps a hard journey for you, but it would'nt be much after you got to New York. Nous verrons, as I said before. I find it folly to begin too soon to make arrangements.

I don't think Warren will be suffered to remain long at home, unless it is by accident. If it was July instead of May, he would not be likely to be sent here until November. He had better not be in haste about leaving, for if he don't find a worse place in Florida than Leeds, I am mistaken. Mexico must have been a paradise compared

with the greater part of this country.

Wednesday afternoon. I wrote the foregoing this morning, it is now nearly five o'clock and the mail has'nt arrived yet. I guess you wont get an answer to the letter I am to receive tonight till Saturday, for it takes our lazy post master about two hours to open the mail and by that time I must have this in.

The servant woman calls herself Eliza. She insists on my telling what I want for breakfast, dinner & supper and that you know is a hard case. I had some very good soup & beef steak for dinner. We have plenty of vegetables from the post gardens, potatoes, beans, squash &c. It is so hot & sultry I do hope it will rain. My garden needs the rain very much. I shall have lots of mellons by & by. Don't you wish you could have some? I believe you don't like the musk, as much as I do. I used to be the principal eater of them, I think, at Watervliet. Neither C. C. Lee or Jackson have answered my letters yet. I don't like to write quite so well when it is so warm, do you?

Kiss Guy for papa. Perhaps I shall find a way to send him his shell. I wonder if he will have any idea who sent it. What can he be doing now? Give my love to all. Tell Charlie he must write.

your affectionate husband.

O. O. Howard

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754 4/30/1857 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0695

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr. 30th 1857

My dear Brother

This is one of those old fashioned April mornings that you well remember. The surface of the ground being stiffened a little with the frost - the wind blowing fresh & bracing from the North West & the Sun at last compelling the frost & wind to give way to the power of his rays.

Lizzie & Guy were sound asleep when we took our Breakfast at 6 ½ o'clock. But I was down just now & found them enjoying their Breakfast together nicely.

Charles & I got up at half past three yesterday morning and went a fishing way down to Sabatis Pond on our old road to Brunswick. We got five or six quarts of smelts and as many Suckers as we chose. This is the "first run" of the latter and they are very nice. We caught them with our hands under the rocks & logs. It was fun - Mother cooked them nicely & we all remarked how much you would have enjoyed our breakfast with us this morning.

Lizzie wrote you about my going to Lewiston. I had a pay out on that first deposit - including my draft & Lizzies - \$3.56. They were drawn on Washington, & when they were sent to Boston, the Assistant Treasurer there would not accept them. So the Lewiston Bank had to pay "Exchange on Washington" amounting to a little less than one per cent. A draft like your last on Boston is cash, as would one be also on N.Y. in which cities this Bank does business. On \$474.00, I paid \$3.56.

I found John & his family nicely. John says he wants I should tell you that if you could find time among the other calls on your pen to write him - he would be glad to hear from you. I think John knows what it is to be a Christian. He has been kept back from religious duties & from joining the church by a fancied or real opposition on the part of his wife. I had religious conversation with both. I tried to be in the fear of God, faithful to John. I told him to set about it with a bold & resolute heart & all would be well.

O, my Brother, if we do our duty, no unhappiness can result. All we have to do is to set about that with "full purpose of heart", "looking unto Jesus" and God will take care of us, wife, children - all will be happier & in Gods time holier. "He that loveth Father or Mother more than me is not worthy of me". O let us have faith, let us believe, let us relie fully & fairly on the promises, let us take God at his word. O let us "come to Jesus".

I have been reading the life of Capt Vicars of the English Army, who was killed in the trenches before Savastopol. He was a Christian Soldier. The book was given me by a pious friend (Frank Gilman) and you can't conceive in my then state of mind what a help it was to me. I have ordered a copy which I propose sending to you. Read it attentively & prayerfully, my dear Brother, with your bible by your side & a part of the time before your eyes. Examine yourself by it, & I believe God will bless its instruction to your heart as He did to mine.

There are some circumstances in which you can more fully even sympathize than I. You have something of a Soldiers temptations & there will be revealed also his power to do good. When it seems strange to you, Otis, how Vicars could do so much, think "Christ was his Helper". That will explain it, and it is to Him that we must flee. The book has been one of deep interest to me. It has cost me tears but often they were tears of joy. I have marked my copy a good deal. You know I have another close friend who is trying to run the Christian race & it is for her eye & her help & for her sympathy that I have marked it. I read it with a pencil in my hand & stopped often to think & examine myself to read my Bible & to pray.

Perhaps my course would be a good one for you. I couldn't help smiling at your fear that I would "prep" Father. (Excuse the blot) Don't you know me better than that. Things look better now. He has got off those Strickland notes \$6000 & some others. He has got \$600 interest & is paying up his "honest debts". If he can get his dues & the Rail Road is "good". His income must be \$1500 a year and with that he could soon pay his debts, live

comfortably & help us all that we need or Mother desires. His death however would put mother in the most unhappy state. I do wish he would write his will - but I hardly don't mention it to him. Warren has no "orders" yet.

Charles goes to Brunswick tomorrow. He will spend Friday night at Bath, same as I used to Portland you know. I am going to send a very pretty locket to Ella by him. I have decided to go to Hallowell and remain till about Commencement time with Stinchfield. I shall board with Laura Ann, at her request. He (S-) seemed quite desirous to have me come and I can get along cheap there & be near Bath. I propose to return to Albany, when Law School commences the first of Sep & remain two terms [See Note 1] and graduate next Spring & then Westward Ho! If I can find a place where an Covert Christian Lawyer can succeed, I shall settle & come for Ella just as soon as I feel sure of a permanent income.

What you say about "Brothers" was after my own heart. I often think that they are too much like other men to each other. The Pattens are beautiful specimens of real brotherly love & confidence - George & John, Lincoln & David. Their property was never divided. They trust each other perfectly. They are Partners in heart as well as in business & with each other they stand or fall. Isn't it beautiful? Old men as they are, they are real boys with each other.

We shall be in hopes that your duties will render it proper for you to see us all about the middle of June. If Harney goes west then, I should think there would be some great change of the troops in Fla by that time. If the force is much reduced you will not be needed & will be sent elsewhere & then a "furlough" would be very "proper" as well as delightful to us all. I wish those old Sioux Indians would keep quiet, so the Sec. of War could plead no "necessities of the Service". You probably know by this time whether Harneys removal indicates any change of policy or any new dispositions of the troops in the Florida service. We shall expect your opinions soon.

I should very much like to see your "Ordnance Depot" & Garden. We have only begun to work ours now. The frogs singing at night & the birds in the morning are almost our only indications of Summer. The fields still keep their barren November look. But Father has done a portion of his sowing in spite of the frosty nights and an occasional snow squall.

Mrs Turner seems more comfortable & rides out a little. The rest of the neighbors are well. Uncle Ensign & Aunt Martha & Laura ditto. Aunt Martha says she must write you "whether Lewiston has changed her any". O you cant think how happy it seems to make them all - that I have some hope in my Redeemer. I can't get strength to speak with Lizzie yet. It is so hard to get near to her.

Guy has been out to see the horse & colt &c at the farm with his Grandmother this morning. Charles has ridden over to Mr Brewsters. If it isn't too cold I will take Lizzie to ride when he returns. I feel quite easy about leaving her now Mrs Clarke is coming. I spent Sabbath before last in Hallowell. All our friends except Henry Wingate are well. I will write more particularly when I get there. You may direct your next letter to H. Our Father be with you, my dear brother & show you the "love with which Christ has love us".

Mother is well & sends love - ditto Mrs Waite & all the rest.

Your Brother  
Rowland

[Note 1: From this point to the end of the letter was one page (2 sides) that had been sewn to the last page of OOH\_0661, dated 3/25/1857, but moved here.]

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755 5/2/1857

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0696

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Monday. May 2, 1857

My dearest Husband

I fancy you do not have as many rainy days as we do. If you did you would not say your garden needed more rain. I should judge it could rain one week to look out of doors now. Rowland has been working all the morning in Mothers flower garden, and is making it look quite well. She has the ground on each side the path half way to the gate. Col Gilmore at first thought he would not have room for his ruta-bagas if she took so much. I presume Murphy's garden is in fine order by this time.

I remember one year ago last Friday (May Day) you and Rowland went a haying and Mallech ate some of my May flowers. I went to the door when you got home and had on my spring morning dress for the first time. You said, "halloo, that's pretty", and looked as if you would give me a kiss had you not been on horseback. I went to ride last Thursday - up to see Laura, but I shall not go again. I cannot ride. I have not felt as well since. I did not take Guy, and now I am very glad I did not. I shall be glad when the next six weeks have passed if I cannot feel better than I have for the last few days. One good thing I don't feel that I must sew all the time, but only enough to keep from being idle.

Charlie went away last Friday, was to stay that night at Bath. He carried a bag of apples (over half a peck) to Horry Patten from Guy. You remember I told you that he sent Guy some peanuts by Rowland. Rowland will go to Hallowell day after to-morrow, then I shall feel quite alone, and how much Guy will miss him. I expect Grandmother Waite will visit us here soon. Mother has written for Aunt Emily to bring her over. I wonder what she will have to say to Guy. He is now having his nap and I believe he will sleep all the afternoon. It is now quarter past two, and he has been asleep since half past eleven. I laid down with him then and he went to sleep; then I had a short sleep till dinner was ready. I shall try to have our sofa that is with Grand mother now brought here for me to have this summer. I should find it so very comfortable, when it will be too warm to lie down on a bed.

I will not write more this time, or I will not have room for Rowland's note he wished to enclose. Guy has waked and has gone out with Grand-ma to eat his dinner. We have as yet had a fire in our room every day, but it is so warm now that we do not have to keep the bed-room door closed all the time.

Yours ever  
Lizzie

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756 5/3/1857

*From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0697

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May 3. 1857.

My dearest Husband

Sunday evening has arrived and I am just beginning the letter I shall wish to mail to you to-morrow. I wanted to write when Guy was having his nap, but I did not feel nearly as well as I now do, and should have written a gloomy or sad letter. Therefore I let my writing materials remain untouched till now. I received two letters from you this week, dearest, the last one written April 19th and came in eleven days. What would I do without these dear letters. "It may not be easy to portray the whole effect of these love messengers, but a feeling of quiet happiness does succeed the receipt of each letter", and will continue to render to me much happiness as long as you have good health. That is as good news you could write next to saying you were coming to Maine previous to going to some pleasant station where we all would be happy together. You have mentioned Gen Harney's orders, but I don't imagine he will leave Florida for the present, and if he does I know you will have to stay a while longer. No, I shall not begin to look for you home 'till after l'evenement, then the sooner the better, and if I have a sickness I shall get well as fast as possible, that I may be ready for any change that may afterwards take place.

How happy we will be when we are again "comfortably fixed." (I suppose the Major would not allow me to use this phrase). I cannot help looking into the future hopefully, dearest Otis, although we have trials approaching that we must pass through, and know not how or what will be the end, but I hope and trust that all will be well, and that many, very many days of perfect happiness we shall yet pass together.

I believe I have not written much about Guy in my last letters to you, consequently, I will make it all up in this letter. He went to sleep before I commenced this letter. He has grown so smart of late - can call the biddies and scratch like them with his fingers, can 'bah' like Fanny, 'mew' like the kittie, 'ugh' like the very little pigs, 'u-jack' the cows and horse, and tell a great many things he sees Georgie ('dor-die' as he says) do from the window. He will be a regular country boy if he stays here all summer. He has changed his "mum" as he called me a short time, and now calls me as if my name was Mary, "Mamy". Grand-ma is called "ma-ma" and of course I can <not> be the same. He knows too much for that. Grand-pa is called "bum-pa" and you are "pa-pe" and he has to see "pa-pe" often, and writes a great many letters to him. Whenever he gets a piece of paper he comes to me saying 'pa-pe' 'pa-pe'. I will give him a pencil, and say, he wants to write a letter to 'pa-pa'. He will work a short time, then come to have me help him. I will take them and mark, and the same time say, as if I was writing it, "Pa-pa, do come home see Guy, he is mother's little man". He had a nice play out of doors to-day, and went down to Roland's with "Uncle". Did not walk all the way, and when he came home I was at the front door, so Rowland came in the garden, and he had much to tell me. The ground was quite dry and he did enjoy running about the garden walks. I intend to make him a cap bonnet to shade his eyes from the sun, when he is out - a hat would not protect them at all.

The clock has struck nine, and all but myself have gone to bed, except Rowland. I can hear him up stairs. He said he wished to inclose a note in this. Mother G tells me that Ella has made an open profession of religion and was to be received into the church to-day. I am very glad for her, and I hope the day is not far distant when we may with sincerity follow her good example. We have never conversed freely together upon this subject, but I feel differently now, and shall for the future rather desire it. I have for some time thought deeply on the subject, and hope I may not long remain in darkness. If I seek the light properly, I trust I shall obtain it, and be happy.

I must say good night now, my dearest Otis, and write more to-morrow if I can find time. May God watch over and protect us both through this night and I would pray that he may teach me to understand his word, and lead me in the path of the righteous.

Believe me as ever your loving little Wife,  
Lizzie A Howard

[Added by another hand, possibly Otis]  
Recd Fort Brooke Fla  
dated May 3d &4  
Mrs OO Howard

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757 5/3/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0698

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla  
May 3d 1857

My dearest Wife

I received last night two letters from you of the 19th & 21 or 22nd ult., dear affectionate letters they are too. I presume we shall remember the campaign of /57 for many years. Whatever may happen to us or our family these interchanges of feeling & sentiment will remain to us to mark an epoch that has not been without its points of interest & happiness.

An officer of the second Infantry came here by the stage last night, sent from Washington on special duty in the Topographical Corps. He says that operations are to be suspended here very soon. I cannot get away possibly till the volunteers are mustered out. But I expect to be with you early in the Fall. There is no doubt now but Genl Harney is intended for an expedition to the Salt Lake City against the Mormons. I presume you will have seen as much by the papers before this reaches you. I don't know where I shall be sent, but most probably to St. Louis next.

Lieut. Pelange of the 4th Artillery has just got a leave to visit his friends at Philadelphia. He has been stopping with me for a few days past. He was in Mr Boggs' class at West Point, and is a very good friend of mine. A man, Peter Kain, of my command, having served out the term of his enlistment has been discharged and will accompany Mr Pelange. He will proceed to New Burg his home. Kain will take Mr Day's present as far as New York and send it to you by express. You can be looking out for the shell. I wanted to send something and this is all I have.

I am still keeping house. Major Morris sent in a cow & calf, and now I have as much milk as I want.

I told you in my last of the capture of five Indians & of the killing of them. Since then a woman & child has been brought in here taken by Captain Sparkman's command. He was on Friday still in pursuit of quite a number more. No order to cease operations has yet reached us but we are expecting one by every mail. Colonel Loomis is still here. The Indian woman and child (about two yrs old) were a great curiosity. She looked quite smart & accepted presents willingly. She couldn't talk English, but by means of an interpreter considerable information was obtained, if she told the truth. She had a low forehead, thick black hair, but a keen, black eye. Her boy was a fine stout one. Our policy is to treat the prisoners with marked kindness, give them as much liberty as we can and try to get them to emigrate. I wish for their own sakes they would leave this miserable country, where they never will be let alone.

I hope you are well over the mumps by this time. Did Guy have fat cheeks or try to eat, "apper"? I don't need any stockings or shirts at present. The new ones are still good, but the old begin to split a little. I find that you and Rowland speculate on Army matters in very much the same manner as we do here.

We got that General Order & have been ever since considering the contemplated movements. It is'nt generally thought that Kansas will be the theater of operations this summer. I don't know what made Mrs Morris start north so soon, but presume that there is something beside Mrs Cunningham sub-rosa. Mrs Morris is a great campaigner (though a very little woman). She corresponds continually with L. Thomas, Asst Adjt General to General Scott & thus gets ahead of the rest of us. She always knows two mails ahead the Orders that are forthcoming and if my observation serves me right, she often has a positive influence in such matters. She might have supposed that our new head here, would very soon order Major Morris into the field or to some unfavorable post, and she wants to anticipate such changes.

(Afternoon) I have just been out in town with Pelange to find the stage driver to get a chance for a passage to Palatka. I wish I was in search of one for myself, and wonder how long it will be before I can be doing that thing, as bitterly as every body complains of the route between this & Palatka, I should undertake it very

cheerfully. It is quite a different thing to close a journey of two thousand miles by two hundred of staging, and to begin the journey with the staging & it makes a difference whether you are going towards or away from your friends. However, I could not ask for a pleasanter trip than I had down. The dry weather still continues and it is very warm at mid day, about the same as in the summer at Augusta. We have plenty of breezes. The wind is now blowing hard from the south west and the sky looks a little like rain. Warren must hurry on if he desires to wade in swamps & Everglades & assist in catching the Indians. Captain Marcy left a small detachment south of the Big Cypress in charge of some boats, near Palm Hammock. Some of them entered the Hammock we hear, of whom two were killed & three wounded. They went in for water. We have'nt lost an Officer here since I have been in Florida. Some have been sick, but as soon as they get to a good Post they recuperate very fast.

Torbert came back from his trip to New Orleans looking as stout & healthy as a man well could. I never saw so great a change in so short a time before. I have not commenced my trip yet. I may go in a week or two and I may not. I understand Major Page is to visit the different Posts & inspect condemned stores. He may desire me to accompany him.

Give my love to all, I hope those mumps were not serious. I ought to have written Rowland & mother by this Mail. I shall try & do so by the next. Kiss little Guy & tell him Pa Pa sent him a Shell. God bless you my darling wife.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

I think Guy has rather got ahead of Johnny Mulliken. I have not heard from Charlie M for a long time. Remember me to Laura when you see her with my love. Where was Martha J Brewster (that was) when she died. Another of my old companions gone to rest. How does Mrs Lothrop like Warren's going to Florida? How does Mother seem reconciled to my being in the land of Eternal summer? Does Guy want to see his papa? Rowland must not mind if he don't get a letter - he must write me if he can.

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758 5/5/1857

*From:* Charles H Mulliken

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0699

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta May 5th 1857

Tuesday 9 am

Dear Howard

Your letter of March 1st /57 came to hand in due course of mail and it was just such a letter as you only are capable of writing. I felt pleased and delighted to learn you had not forgotten your old friend but remembered him and his who are so far away from you now. Oliver, I think of you often and with feelings of pride that my intimacy commenced in my School days and although I have seen you but a very short time as chance throws us together since then the same good feeling exists with increased strength and confidence as men that was in common as boys. May it never be less.

Your good long letter has been read several times and this being the first opportunity conveniently for me to reply I sit myself down this rainy morning to write you a long uninteresting mess of trash. You will pardon me for inflicting upon you by sending this budget of items when I am not otherwise engaged but really my respected friend it is not possible for me to always answer all letters outside from business when they ought to be. You know I do not willfully neglect you but would like to write you once every week and hear from you as often. However when I do write the substance and length must make up all deficiencies.

My family are well, Wife, Henry & Jonny and are just the same as when you was at my house with the exception that the Boys are growing every day and notwithstanding it is less than a year since you saw them they have grown large and tall - quite like boys much to the trouble of their mother whose time and attention being pretty well taken up in supplying their numerous wants. They, Sarah & the children, wish to be kindly remembered to you. Matters and things about Augusta are nearly the same as they were one year ago. Capt Gorgas & family are well and very frequently enquire for you - we think them nice people and enjoy their society very much. The Capt is very quiet and remains at his quarters - close. I came from Boston with him in the cars a few weeks ago - he had been spending a week with Capt Wainwright at Watertown. AD Brown & family are well and he is the same as when you was here - in the Shovel business with Brooks and think they are doing well. He passed the evening at my house a short time since and amused us with his californian adventures - laughing as much as ever. Doct Briggs & family are "in status quo". Miss Lizzie has been in Boston all winter but is now at home looking as pretty as ever. The Doct told me when next I wrote you to say they all remembered you & yours and should be glad to have you back again in the old quarters at the Kennebec Arsenal.

We think among ourselves that it will eventually be a match between Mr Dana & Lizzie. You recollect Mr D who was stopping with Brown last summer and was here last November about two weeks. They are good friends to say the least.

There are no improvements going on in town to any extent and but few alterations. My Brother George has been gone out west some five or six weeks making discoveries &c. I think he will break up here and move to Chicago this next month although he may not go at all but from his letters I judge he intends to go as he has had very flattering offers in a business way and as he wants a change I shall advise him to go by all means. Since he left his wife has had a Daughter much to the surprise of the whole family who were not expecting any thing of the kind for two or three weeks and also that he would be at home long before this might happen but the affair passed of quietly and safely and she is doing well, has not been very sick yet. He probably will be at home sometime this week.

Mr B. A. G. <Full> is to move out west soon as Treasurer of a land Company at a salary of three thousand per year with a large proportion of his time to practice Law. It is a fine situation and he will do well without doubt.

Miss Susan Robinson is engaged to a Mr Goodwin from York Me, a young Lawyer and will be a good match. Judge Rice's family are all very much pleased and they say he is superior to Mell Fuller who you recollect was quite attentive to Susan at one time. He Fuller is <at> Chicago, firm of Dow & Fuller Lawyers and I hear doing finely. Rufus Child is to be married to Margaret Bridge <in> June Rufus is a nice fellow and Margaret a fine young lady, a capatal match. All the enclosed news you are more or less acquainted with the parties

concerned and you will excuse me for writing you such facts (for I think there is no scandal in here) on this account - as I thought you might like to hear - but enough of this.

My business has not been as good the past year as formerly - it is quite dull at Augusta - still I think not more so than in other places through New England. There seems to be a very genuine complaint that all kinds of business is extremely down every where.

I wrote Mr Hart a few days since about our Hay talk and am daily expecting an answer. I feel as though we might do something together for the mutual advantage of us both and shall be disposed to ship him a small cargo of Hay if he will make me satisfactory arrangements about his money viz have some firm in Boston accept a signed Draft for amount of Invoice the Bill of Lading I will send him on or before the vessel sails. I think I can get a small vessel at Bath now that will go possibly to Palatka at any rate to Jacksonville.

Sarah had a note from Mrs Howard that she should be at Augusta on such a day in about a week. She received another letter saying she should not come for three or four months. We should have been pleased to have seen her at my house and shall be at any time when it is convenient for her to come. Very likely Sarah may go to Leeds during the Summer but her time is all occupied at home - she goes but very little any where. But Oliver I have bored you enough this time.

Remember your friend who thinks of you often and command me at any time when I can be of service to you.

Very Truly Yours  
Charles H Mulliken

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759 5/5/1857

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0700

Leeds. Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May. 5. 1857.

My dearest Otis

I can add another sheet to this letter as I have not mailed it. I am so provoked to think it has not been mailed that I cannot get over it, when there has been an opportunity to do so every day, but I waited for Rowland and he sent his ( I know not to whom) without telling me about the opportunity 'till too late. Now I will not mail it 'till I receive one from you which I presume came to-day or will come to-morrow. This will be the first week that I shall mail but one letter to you. I am writing in the evening, and cannot write much because it is nearly nine o'clock.

Guy had his nap very late today and was awake nearly all the evening, and I don't like to begin to write before he is asleep. If he is not very sleepy he readily sees what is being done in the room, and his attention is on any thing new.

One day this week I got up out of my big rocking chair to comb my hair, and Guy ran and climbed up into it alone and turned himself round and went to rocking as grand as need be. This was the first time he had got into any chair without help, so of course I had to tell him he was very smart. I expect I shall spoil him before he sees his dear papa again. If you were here I should say, "you ought not left us to ourselves", but I don't want to say anything naughty when you are so far away. I shall have to tell you the anecdote, "the longer you are away the better, I love you". I will leave my writing now, retire to rest, praying God to watch over and bless us all forever.

Wednesday Afternoon. I can send this by Col Gilmore if I write but little more, as he will soon go to town-meeting. Rowland brought me your kind letter this morning, in which you say the prospect brightens and you may be home before many months. I shall be glad to see you. I am better to-day and I hope have got over my ride. Guy is asleep but will soon wake to have 'Papa's' kiss.

Warren is yet at home and I don't think will receive orders for some time to come.

Yours Ever  
Lizzie

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760 5/6/1857      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [OO Howard]

OOH-0701

Fort Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Fla.  
May 6th 1857

My dearest wife,

I took a short nap on the floor after dinner, and it being hot and I being lazy, I have commenced my letter here at the house on paper with the lines very far apart, very convenient paper I should think for any body who hadnt got much to write.

I have been thinking about old times today. I have thought of Livermore, where I first saw you as a chubby faced little girl &c. I should like to spend the afternoon & evening with you here, but may be you are looking for the news. I wrote all the news in Rowland's letter this morning, and therein suggested that I might go to Fort Myers with Colonel Loomis tomorrow, but I was thinking I had heard the whistle of the steamer Gray Cloud, from Fort Dallas & Key West & that the Colonel would be able to return in her tomorrow or next day. But she has'nt come yet & Colonel Loomis wont start for Ft Myers till she does come & get ready to start again.

Lt Pelange & my man Kain left for the north by last Sunday stage. Kain took Guy's shell, said he would take care of it and send it by Express from New York.

I presume it is getting to be pleasant in Maine by this time. It is so very warm here that I cant make it seem that you are having anything but summer, but June will soon be upon you, wont it Lizzie? Has Mrs Clark come to Leeds yet? You are having very nice things to eat. Uncle Hicks sends you figs & Florence brings you boxberry plums.

A large mail just came in from Fort Capron & the stupidity of one of the volunteer Captains troubles me a little. I sent him invoices of some stores & blank Receipts which I wanted him to sign. He sends them back to me & says that one of his Lieutenants must sign them. Now Lieutenants of Volunteers are not recognized at the Treasury at Washington, and I have got to write him an explanation & enclose two more blank receipts to him, as he signed these & then scratched his name out. Now you see if I am fortunate enough to get ordered away I will have to delay for such receipts as these & I like to keep my accounts square as I go along. The Volunteers you can get on very well with when you have them close by to explain all matters face to face. We have some very capable men for Captains - Captain Lesley & Captain Sparkman of the Volunteers I like very much. They seem willing & anxious to do their duty & I got on with them officially without any extra words. Captain Moseley was an officer of the regular Army in the Mexican war & is a very capable man but I presume you don't care much about Volunteer Captains.

We are expecting some important news by tonights mail and I will try to keep your letter out of the office till I learn. I spent a very pleasant evening last night at Mr. Hazzard's. He & I have become quite intimate. I think you would like Mrs H very much. She is a very unpretending, modest lady and is according to what I quoted in one of my letters "in a situation", though 'twas Thackery in the Newcomers, & not Dickens that made the remark. I have visited Major Pages lately but didn't see the baby, always asleep.

You said Guy lay down by you & told you all he knew & then he fell asleep. What sort of stories does he tell? I should like to see his trousers. You know I prescribed them some time ago. He would have to wear them here, or the fleas & musketoes would eat him up.

I saw the Sergeant-Majors little girl the other day, with legs beautifully fat & bare and all covered with blotches from this kind of bites. It is cruel to be fashionable in this climate. I wonder what Guy is doing now. Give him a sweet kiss & papa's love.

Now Major Morris is ordered away. I don't know where I shall go to live. I am in hopes Colonel Monroe will take quarters & invite me to mess with him.

My love to our Mothers & brothers & father. Remember me to Mrs Clark when she arrives & may Heaven be with you & protect you & comfort you in every trial.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

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761 5/10/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0702

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May 10. 1857

My dearest Husband

I feel as if I could write you a very long letter today. I am quite well, and the day is very pleasant. Guy has been out of doors a great deal the past week and I never saw a little fellow enjoy being out better than he. When "mamy" is able to accompany him and grand-mother, that is some thing very gratifying. He went to see Mrs Turner with Mother and myself last Thursday for the first time to walk, and it was the first time I had been there since I had the mumps. I think that she now is as well as usual, but she is feeble and I don't think could walk as far as here. They get letters from Charles and wife every mail (once in two weeks) and they seem to afford her a great deal of pleasure and comfort - is always ready to speak of them &c. Florence comes up to play with Guy often.

I am making him a sack to wear this summer. Mother got the materials when she went to Portland. I worked a long time for some unknown, then for myself and now Guy's turn has come, and if you will come home I will be most happy to work for your dear self.

I am not thinking of sending anything to you by Warren. In the first place I don't think he will go there, and in the next place, I don't think he would find you there, because you would be home, or on your way home. He was here yesterday with his brother Francis, on business, enquired after you, and what news you wrote me &c. He has written to you.

I left my writing to eat dinner, and am now writing about 5 o'clock P.M. Mother, Guy and myself have been alone all day. Col G, Mother G and Rossa went to church, and there was a baptism which they attended after services, that made them very late home.

This is the most summer-like day we have had. I have two windows open in my room. Mother and Guy are out in the garden. I want you to come home more to see Guy than any body or anything else. It is too bad you do not know each other better; if he was'nt the best boy I ever knew I would trade him off for another about his size and make you think it was Guy. I reckon you never would be any the wiser. Charlie said he has the same large bright eyes (compliment to his mother) but did not look the same otherwise. I suppose you would look for the crooked toes the first thing.

I will again resume my writing. I sometimes write a whole letter at one sitting, but to-day I do not do so. I talked and watched Guy from my window to see him maneuver, and played with him after he came in. He got sleepy about seven o'clock (little earlier than usual), and after he was undressed I laid down with him a short time. He is now fast asleep.

Col G has gone for, or rather followed, Mother down to Capt Turner's. Cynthia was here yesterday and brought Jonnie. I wish I could like the looks of that child, but I really cannot, and I don't like to see him often. Charlie said he was the homeliest child he ever saw. If he could be washed oftener, and dressed in better taste it would make a difference, but I presume if I had to do as much work as Cynthia, I would not have things in as good shape as she. Mother G says there was a very full church to-day. Laura was there, Aunt Martha and Uncle Ensign, none baptized that I knew. Laura said that Rowland stayed in Lewiston with John Harrison the first night after he went away, which was Thursday. Mr Strickland is not his wife's trustee, but someone who lives near them at Somerville. They were in Boston last week, and I don't know how soon they go West.

Rowland is to board with Mrs Wingate at Hallowell. He asked when I expected Mrs Clark to come to Leeds. I answered about the middle of June. He said if I had got to pay her fare he would get a carriage and bring her himself, but I made no answer for I don't know how I could send such a round about way, and have so many delays as that would make, for when I want her I do want her, and shall send for to come at the time I shall most need her help. I prefer that she should be here some time before the 'evenement than not till after but I could not explain to him.

I am very anxious now to receive letters from you, my dearest. I catch at every favorable word about your soon leaving Florida. I know you will make no unnecessary delay after you learn that your services are no longer required at that place. Rowland says he has been thinking you may be sent back to Watervliet. I do hope you wont, for I had rather go somewhere else next time we keep house. I am glad not to have the care of house keeping at Watervliet now. I do think that Mrs Van Vliet must feel very unpleasant to make two long journeys now and so near to-gether. You think little Wives better stay at home than to be traveling about with their husbands. I suppose I am not going to tell what I think on the subject, for fear we would not be of the same opinion.

Yours Ever  
Lizzie Howard

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762 5/10/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0703

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla  
May 10th 1857

My dearest Wife

I am several at Major Morris' house. He has'nt yet come to relieve me from its charge. I can look out upon the bay from the south folding doors, which are open, and can see a steamer, the Ranger, coming up, gradually getting nearer & nearer with a long streaming cloud left behind. I am expecting that Colonel Loomis with my advice & consent will take me down to Fort Myers in that. I think a trip of this kind will quicken my blood and do me a great deal of good, but I don't like to get away from the regular course of the mail. The Steamer Fashion is due from New Orleans & I may delay and go down in her. If I do I shall probably go to Key West, Fort Dallas, Fort Capron &c & visit Fort Myers & then return to Fort Brooke. I am not certain however. You may continue to direct your letters here, they can be retained or forwarded according to circumstances.

I received a nice long letter from you yesterday evening, but the influence of the two fat checks was perceptible in its general tone. You didnt seem reconciled to so many extra aches & pains. And even the amiable little boy, had got a little peevish over his playthings. Your mother had been gone, and take it all in all you did'nt feel so happy as you do sometimes and yet you are my affectionate little wife.

I received a letter from Rowland just after I mailed one to him on Wednesday last. I am very happy to think he has passed the goal of indifference & moral lukewarmness & experienced so happy a change. It must be delightful to really have that "peace of God", and until one gets it and is fully conscious of it, he is not & cannot be a practical Christian. I want to be a christian & want you to be one, my darling, but I am not. I don't give myself up wholly & unreservedly to Christ. I meant to have written him today, but don't think I will have time.

Warren Lothrop wrote me by the last mail and asked some questions, which I must answer immediately. I wonder at his not getting his Orders. The general Order for promotion has been delayed at Washington, on account of having embraced a mistake with reference to one of the Regiments of Cavalry. The Colonel had appointed a first Lieutenant to the Adjutant of the Regiment. This Lieut declined accepting & a second Lieutenant was subsequently appointed adjutant. Now only a certain number of 1st Lts. are allowed and the adjutant is surplus. The appointment of a 2nd Lt leaves too many 1st Lts in the Regiment. This little thing has delayed the promulgation of the general Order some time. So it is said. Now Warren's Order will be likely to be embraced in this.

Warren speaks in flattering terms of Guy, thinks he does honor to his father &c. I tell you, I should like to see him.

This place is getting very monotonous. It is too warm to study or read comfortably in day time and the musketoos bother at night, I have'nt attempted it much. I read a little of Story Commentaries occasionally, read the newspapers when I can get them, though not so attentively as when I could read a paper every day.

I am thinking now of getting Mr Mack to take my place here, to take care of the three puppies, the mare & colt & the numerous flock of hens & chickens. The Major had a little black colt about as large as a young lamb born the other night; nobody was expecting his ingress; we were all considerably surprised to behold the prodigy.

It will be the middle of May before you get this. You mus'nt be getting discouraged now. Bear up a little longer, my darling, and all pain will be over. You may count upon it, we shall see each other in the Fall. I wonder if Capt Gorgas dont want me to relieve him. Where would you like to go most? I think our chance for St Louis about as good as for any place else. Would you like to go there?

Kiss little Guy. Give love to all & believe me  
Your affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

I sent a paper to Rowland a short time ago, & directed another yesterday. I hope my mother is very well - I should write her personally, but you are all at one place & I have many letters to write after I have closed your letter, & I think you will give my love & tell I am well & the <>. I will now stop to write Warren a few lines. I went to church with Col Loomis this morning. The Colonel is a professing Christian. He & I get on well together.

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763 5/11/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-0704

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May. 11. 1857.

Mr. R. G. Jennings

Sir,

I received Saturday your letter directed to my Husband at West Troy, and conclude that you do not know of his change of post. He is now in Florida, and your letter would not reach him in season to be of any service to yourself. Could he have heard from you, I presume he would have granted the favor you asked most readily. Hoping you may be successful in gaining the position you desire.

I am respectfully yours  
Mrs O. O. Howard

Dearest,

Enclosed you will find a letter that was remailed to me from West Troy. Mother G says that it was written by Rosco Jennings. I send you a copy of the answer I wrote him. I did not like him to have no answer to his letter and it would be very late before you could have written him, if I had sent to you his letter. I hope I have done as you would desire.

I have not answered the letter I received from Mrs Mulliken. I shall do so about the time you receive this. I have wished to write to her many times, but I don't want to do so too soon fearing I would not be as likely to get a reply. I have wanted her to come to see me, but when I write I shall tell her not to come next month for she might come the day of muster. That would be too funny, don't you think so? I wish I could have made a visit at Augusta when I first came to Maine. I presume I should not have taken Guy, but I would not fear to put him by the side of children older than he is. I wonder if he wont always be the smartest of our children?

Evening.

I have been sewing to-day - finished little Guy's sack, and he looks very pretty with it on. I shall not get him a hat 'till we start for our home, unless we remain here much longer than I now anticipate. A little white bonnet will do. You need not fear my making a girl of him, for he is boy all over, and I expect he will be a wild one. He begins to show the rogue that is in him. He is just beginning to try to make sentences, and you could not help laughing at him sometimes.

Mrs Berry came up here this afternoon to get some flower seeds of mother.

It is colder to-day than yesterday, and I have had a fire in my room all day. Do you remember of purchasing some cloth for me a sack when we lived at Augusta - something like Mrs Boggs red sack? I have it made, and frequently put it on when I am a little cold. I have had it on this afternoon.

I shall get a letter to-morrow - the same time George takes this to the P.O. and I hope the prospect of your leaving Florida soon will be very fair. I will be patient till you do come and think of me ever as

Your own loving and trusting little wife.  
Lizzie Howard

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764 5/12/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0705

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
12th May 1857  
(Tuesday ½ past 12 P.M.)

My dearest Wife,

I have a few minutes before the boat leaves to say that I am about to start for Fort Myers. I shall write you from that place & hope your letters will not be much interrupted. But I don't expect to receive yours so regularly till I get back. I trust Heaven will be with you, & protect you, and you will come out bright & happy from all your trials.

I would rather be going Northward, but you must not expect me too soon. You will see me before winter, if God is willing.

You need not be worried for it is not the like of me that is exposed to any imminent or especial danger, though I in my own mind don't regard am under in much more danger than another. It takes so little to sever the vital chord that we are all of us all the time in danger, but I don't like to see a man on that account on the "qui vivre" of apprehension forever. I think it is cowardly.

But I must not discourse at length for I have just time to eat my dinner before the Ranger will be in readiness.

Kiss my little Guy. I would like to see you. My love to all. Again God bless you.

Your loving husband  
O.O. Howard

I expect to be back here in two or three weeks but am not certain.

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765 5/13/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0706

Fort Myers, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Myers, Fla  
May 13th 1857

My dearest Wife,

I will write you a few lines to go by tomorrow's mail. My letter will be remailed at Tampa next Wednesday, so that being at Fort Myers will delay my letter considerably. I left with Colonel Loomis & his Adjutant Mr Lewis on the Ranger as I said on Tuesday afternoon. We had delightful weather & a pleasant trip. We reached Punta Rassa (at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee) by six the next morning, stopped an hour to take on some oats & then came up to Fort Myers, where we arrived by ten o'clock.

There are a good many officers of the 5th Infy here now, Col & Mrs Waite, Mr & Mrs Burns, Capts Marcy & Stephenson and some young officers with whom I was acquainted at West Point. This is decidedly a military post & it does one good to meet officers & mess with them after the West Point style & talk over old times, the service & the prospects for the future. We have no certain information yet as to what will be done. It is thought the 5th Infantry will soon be called out of Florida by those who study the signs of the times. My time will not be likely to close, till operations have entirely ceased.

There is a beautiful band here that are now playing on the parade. Last night the soldiers had a dance & invited the officers to attend. We went in to look at them. They had the store house hung with the U.S. Flag & the Colors of their Regiment. By these flags the building was separated into two rooms, in one was a nice table loaded with delicacies & flowers &c and the other had the Band & the dancers. The soldiers had on their frock coats, & the Camp women were dressed in fine style. I noticed six or seven babies besides other small children two or three girls, quite pretty, of good figures & tastily dressed. Each Company has its women & they are left behind while the men go out on a scout. I had no idea there were so many women here.

The floor was rough, but I have seen a less happy effort at dancing in a more luxurious hall & among those of higher pretention. The indian women & children are quite an interesting institution here. There are six or seven women & as many children. Yesterday their dresses were very meager, but today presents of calico & other useful articles were furnished them. One little boy was stark naked & as smart as he well could be - very straight & well formed. All of them have keen black eyes & straight black hair. They have by nature far better looking countenances than I ever saw any Indians have before.

I have been talking with Captain Stephenson this morning about his scouts. A good many skirmishes have taken place that have not been reported, and the hardships to which the men have been exposed have been much greater than I anticipated. The Cypress is so thick that you can seldom see more than ten feet ahead. The Indians, put up rests & cut notches to rest their rifles in & watch a favorable opportunity to fire. The soldiers pick their way along one after another through these thickets, day after day, often without blankets, for their food is as much as they want to carry, & in their shirt sleeves.

I wish I was back at Tampa to get your letters, but I will be there I think very soon. It may be a week first it may be more, for I am going to Key West & round to Fort Dallas when the Fashion goes.

Love to all & especially to yourself & Guy. I hope you are still pretty well. I shall be quite anxious till I have good news. God grant all be well. I long to see you. I think you will have to take the field next time.

Yr affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

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766 5/13/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0707

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May 13. 1857.

My dearest Husband

I usually begin the letter I mail about the middle of the week Tuesday evening, but as I sent the letter I wrote Monday one day later, I write this later in the week than Tuesday. What is that? Mother G (who is sitting in my room) says, A may basket. She goes to the door in answer to the very short loud rap, and sure enough here is a little box filled with sugar hearts and kisses for 'Guy Howard', but he has gone to sleep and wont know till morning what some little friend has sent him.

I received a letter from you yesterday written April 29th. General Harney left for New Orleans that week on his way to Kansas, and quite a number of the officers and their wives left the same time. You do not say as much about coming away yourself, as in some former letters, and speak of the possibility of our passing next winter there - Tampa. Well, so be it, if you do not receive orders to go elsewhere in the mean-time. I hope by the last of July to be ready and able to take any journey that you may then propose. We shall see what time will bring forth. The sooner I am with you the sooner I shall be happy. You say that you expect to visit Fort Myers, Key West, Fort Dallas &c, after you commence building your magazine, and Major Morris returns. Do you go for pleasure or on business? You did not say.

I imagine this letter will find you still at Tampa and if the trip you anticipate making is only for pleasure, you better not have the pleasure. I fear the Indians might see you, think so? I suppose you fancy you are living in luxury now at Major Morris' quarters. I'll bet I do wish I was there and Guy. I wonder if I would have as many aches and pains as I do here. I guess I would fret sometimes, and threaten to "go home to Portland".

The evenings are very short now - not dark to light the lamps 'till eight o'clock. Now the clock has struck nine, I will go to sleep with Guy. God bless you, dearest, and be with us both during this night.

From your own true wife.

Thursday evening. April 14 [This should have been May 14]

My dearest Husband

I had no opportunity to send this to the P.O. today, and consequently was in no haste to finish it. I will not have much time to write this evening, for since Guy has gone to sleep I have been making a may-basket for George to hang for Jennie. He has now gone with it.

I hope to get another dear good letter, (as all your letters are to me) by the mail to-morrow, but like you I shall send this by George when he goes, and when he returns he will bring the one from you, and I cannot tell you till next time.

Mr Francis Lothrop called to the door yesterday on his way from Lewiston, and said he heard Warren had received orders to go to Florida. You may yet see him there. I imagine he will go by the way of New Orleans, as he said some time since, that he wished to pass one week there.

Mother G and my mother have been to call on Jane B since our tea. It has been a very pleasant day. Guy has been out twice; once with me and once with Grandmother. I sat in the door the last time. I have been pretty well this day, but I do not gain in strength. I know I have your deepest sympathy, and I ask no other, and tell no one else my troubles. What need is there if I can bear them alone. I always desire to write cheerfully to you, but some how a few gloomy sentences will run off my pen sometimes.

Friday.

I intended to write more last evening but Guy waked, and after I got up to see to him I thought I would go to bed,

and not again sit down to writing.

You tell me that Mrs Major Morris took my address. I wonder if she will write me. If she does I hope I will do you credit in the answer.

I cut out of the Portland Advertiser this marriage this <> this piece mentioning the name of Dr Carnochan. You wrote a name so near like it for Mrs Morris' daughter's husband's name, that I did not know but they were one.

Guy has just waked and says he does'nt want any dinner. He does not seem to have a very good apetite any of the time.

Dearest, how badly I have written this letter. I would copy it if I thought I would do better, but I fear I should not, and will not try. I wish I could be able to write all summer. What will I do instead.

Rowland wrote home that he had been to see Mrs Gorgas, had a very pleasant call and is invited to dine with them often this summer. Wrote that Mr Childs and Miss Bridge were to be married and Mr Armitage and Miss Pope, but did not write so I could tell whether Mr Armitage was to marry Miss Pope or not. [Clipping Attached] In Wiscasset 7th inst, Capt. Edwards Scott to Miss Eliza Ann, daughter of Henry Clark, Esq.

Saw Mr Mulliken. They were all well.

Our mothers will go to Lewiston one day next week, in the carriage.

I cannot write more this time, but believe me your affectionate little Wife.  
Lizzie

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767 5/15/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0708

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell May 15, 1857

My dear Brother

I came down here last Saturday. It will be a week tomorrow. I left Lizzie & Guy & all the rest at home well & I have had two business letters from Father since & they contained no ill news.

I staid at Augusta Friday night. I spent the evening at Dea Turners & had a very pleasant religious conversation with him and his family. He seems to live near to God. I saw C.H. Mulliken in the morning & he mentioned having recently "inflicted on you a long letter". He said his family were well.

I called on Mr Gorgas after Breakfast & never had a pleasanter "call" in my life. He made me feel almost as much "at home" as if you were there again. The Capt. mentioned having recvd a note from you lately. I liked them all - Capt & Mrs G, Willie & the baby. Murphy had many inquiries for the "Lieutenant" as also did "Johnny" M, &c. I didn't see McGregor. The grounds look beautifully with the new fresh grass of that peculiar hue which I suppose they don't have "down south". I walked all about. The Capt keeps things in fine order. He is about commencing some repairs & alterations in the Kitchen or Ell-part of the house. They were very cordial to me & full of that pleasant "Southern hospitality". "We dine at two & we shall always be very happy to see you Mr Howard" - was Mrs G's "good-bye". I may avail myself of it by & by a little. I shall enjoy going there, I know. She told me lots of gossip which I have almost forgotten, but there were - Mr Child & Miss Bridge, Miss Pope & Lieut somebody of the Navy, Rev Mr Armitage & a no. of others to be married soon.

I haven't heard from West Troy this long time. Isn't it time for Mr Lee to congratulate himself as a scion to the Lee & Knipp families?

I sent you the book which I mentioned in a former letter & I hope you have received it ere this. If you are not more deeply interested in it, you differ from me. I attend the "Old South" meeting here and am thinking of uniting with that Church. I have formed an acquaintance with & feel a warm Christian fellowship with Mr Simon Page, Mr L. K Gilman & Dr Richardson. Mr G related that story about you & the testament again when I was introduced to him.

Uncle Ensign has stayed with me two nights this week. He gave me an interesting account of their meeting & baptism last Sunday. There were two baptised & it was performed down at the old place - the Mason brook they always used to be. He says the meeting house was about full & a great deal of interest manifested.

I had a letter from Dellie yesterday & I know you will rejoice with me at the contents. I will make some quotations. But I haven't it in my pocket, as I thought but the sum & substance is - "I tried to seek the Saviour with all my heart & I trust that God for Christs sake has pardoned all my sins." He is in attendance on many public & social meetings for prayer & he seems deliberately to have "chosen the good part which shall never be taken from him". Write to him & encourage him to persevere in the Christian race. Join with Charles & I in earnest prayer that his conversion may be complete & enduring, that he may be assisted by the grace of God.

I have not heard from you since I first wrote you about these things & I am anxious to hear. My prayer is for you always. I had a letter from Charles proposing that we should join the Church together this Summer. Perhaps Dellie may be added to the number & shall not Otis? Surely we all want to be in Heaven & spend Eternity together. Why should we not commune together in holy things on Earth. It is no use talking about creeds - it is the thing that is necessary, complete Christian fellowship - a true home-like brotherly feeling is much promoted by uniting with the Church. I write to you as if you could say with Dellie - that God has accepted you. If He hasn't, I know He will. Have faith, think of Christ willing & ready to forgive even the thief on the cross, even the woman in Adultery. He will not refuse you. I had often a most overpowering desire to talk with Lizzie & especially was it so when I looked at little Guy whom I so much love & when I thought of the trial & danger that she was so soon to pass through. O that she might have the blessed bosom of her saviour on which to lean her head is my constant prayer. The reason I did not talk with her - was that her mother was constantly with her

& it seemed as if it wasn't best in her presence. I would have talked freely with either alone, but I well know from experience how the presence of a third person braces us up to resist conviction & to refuse the performance of duty & to help us make "excuses".

O Otis it seems to me more plain every day that the reason why we don't all have religion is that we love the world & the things of it more than we do God & the things of Eternity. You will ask now whether I do not have still more weighty reasons for becoming a minister than ever before? I do, but I will not enter upon them now. I have made up my mind to give it up, but I wish you to treat it now again as an open question. I have not time now to write fully in regard to it, but you may be sure that it is often in my thoughts & prayers.

I board at Laura Anns. Mr Wingates health is quite poor but it seems to be improving.

Aunt Ellen [Ellen (Grant) Otis, the second wife of Uncle John Otis] is full of cares but she and the little ones are well. She comes down with the horse & carriage & we go to ride quite often. We have got to be quite good friends. She tells me freely about her affairs & I do the same about mine (great consequence these last!). I have been up there to dine today. O those children - compared with them, Guy is a "gentleman & a scholar". They don't know anything of government & act as bad as they know how, especially at table. She says she wants me to come always when I feel like it & stay there as much as I wish & make myself perfectly free with the Library.

It is thought that Uncle's Estate will pay nearly 10 cts on a dollar. I filed Mothers claim today of \$2300. I was up to the old place with Aunt yesterday. You can't think how lonely it seemed there. The yard is neglected, the library & furniture all out of the house, & everything speaks of decay, misfortune & death. How powerfully did the worthlessness of "this worlds goods" come home to me while there. Uncle John died unhappy & poor. Debt stared him in the face year after year. She says she "never heard one of his happy laughs for over a year before he died". How could he laugh? Even his good name, his honor is doubted!

O let us have our "names written in the lambs books of Life". Let us lay up our treasure there too & then we can never "fail". We can leave one good legacy to our Children - the best of all - a life devoted to the Service of God.

I am going down to Bath tomorrow. I haven't been for - lets see - it must be five weeks! Haven't I been a "good boy"? Ella joins with me & her other "brothers" in prayer for Otis.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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768 5/16/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0709

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May. 16. 1857.

My dearest Husband

I have received but one letter from you this week and should be very anxious about you, had we not received a paper directed to Rowland from you mailed May 4th. I presume you did not send a letter to me by that mail. My last letter was mailed April 30th. I trust you are not ill, dearest, and next Tuesday I shall expect a letter. I fear time will pass slowly 'till then. Possibly you may have written by the same mail that brought the paper, and it came to-day. Col Gilmore did not have any one to send. George goes home every Saturday night and they did not finish work in season for him to go to the P.O. before he went home. I hope you get letters to-night from me. I am the only one who has written to you from here recently.

Your mother is quite well but in the midst of house-cleaning, and I was saying to my mother that she would have to take her turn at writing to you next month. Next month will last only thirty days and you cannot think I will regret when they are passed. I do hope you, Guy, and Mother will be well all the time, and for myself, I will hope for but little suffering and a short illness. I never felt the misfortune of my situation so much as I did last night, and the desire for your presence and sympathy. Little Guy was sick all night, very ill and vomited three times, seems to be burning with fever. To-day he has been quite well, very much better than I could have thought, but don't eat much - (tasted of some hominy for his breakfast and part of my apple pie for dinner and drank milk is all he has taken today.) He has gone to sleep now and I do hope and pray he may be well. I think it is partly owing to his teeth. The seventh and eight have been forming a long time, but they do not seem large enough for me to cut the gum.

It is past nine o'clock. I am the last one up and will now retire praying God to have us in His keeping through the night.

Sunday Morning eleven o'clock. You will first wish to hear about Guy. He is pretty well - rested quite well last night. I waked but once with him. He has just gone to sleep - having his nap. Mother and Rossa have gone to walk, but I guess they will soon return because it begins to rain. It has been cloudy all the morning. It will do Mothers flower garden much good. Guy and I sat by the window a long time after tea last evening to see the two Grand mothers and Rossa working over the beds. I think her garden will look better than ever before.

Mother received a letter from Mrs Lee last week was very glad to hear from us. They are now having there quarters repaired. Think some of having the little room far back made into a bath room with warm and cold water. Are having a chicken coop made and have sixteen nice fowls - all laying well, and have a cow.

Lieut Todd is there also his brother - a young man. Lieut Shunk had gone on inspecting duty with Col Huger. I presume he will have that duty as Mr Boggs used to and will remain at Watervliet. Miss Delia Thornton will be home all summer on account of her ill health. She tells how beautiful the Arsenal grounds are now looking. I can almost see them my self as I have been there in the spring. They wished to be remembered to you &c &c.

Mother and Rossa came in with a lot of green stuf. They think there will be a great abundance of strawberries this summer as the fields are now white with their blossoms. Wont I have a nice time eating them. I went into the south garden with Guy one day last week and the strawberry-vines growing in rows looked so pretty to him that he had to exclaim and brush each one with his little hand, and coming in he saw so many chips in the yard he did not want to leave them after he had filled both hands. He has sometimes brought a chip or small stick to put on my fire. We have to have an occasional fire in our room yet.

We got letters from Dellie and Rowland Friday. Rowland writes that the more acquainted he gets with Aunt Ellen the better he likes her, was to pass to-day in Bath. He sent Guy a tin trumpet from Lewiston with which he was very much pleased. I shall set another sheet to this to-morrow if I do not mail it in the morning.

With best love I remain your little Wife

Lizzie A. Howard

[Written in another hand]

Mrs Howard

May 16th / 59

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769 5/16/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0710

[Fort Myers]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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16th May /57 [This is a continuation of OOH-0706 written from Fort Myers.]

When I wrote the forgoing yesterday I thought it was Saturday. I lost my reckoning some way. The weather is exceedingly warm, so much so that it is uncomfortably warm with my coat on & I sit in my shirt sleeves.

Fort Myers is a beautiful place at this season. The houses are arranged along the southern bank of the river, with piazzas all around. They are in a line and very near to each other. There are continuous shell walks in front (that is, towards the parade opposite the river) close to the houses & parallel to the fronts & perpendicular walks running from the front doors across a broad front yard to the gate opening on the parade. Then on the edge of the parade ground & parallel to the fronts of the houses runs another shell path. These little shells have been broken into small pieces, and the paths are beautiful, as white as snow.

All along the fence in these yards are Oleander trees from ten to fifteen feet high with broad tops & completely loaded with blossoms as large & very much like the red rose. These large trees, keep in blossom for several weeks, & I don't know but for some months. There is another tree exceedingly beautiful - the sprig & flower I will send you. It is called the Ponciana or Pride of Barbadoes. Some of the trees are covered with a white & some with this red velvety flower. The Palms, Palmettoes, & pine apples have a few representations in the yard.

Now this is a lovely place indeed, but it is rather circumscribed - no inhabitants any where in the vicinity & very far from any settlements. The Caloosahatchie is a mile & a quarter broad at this point. Nature could hardly afford us a more attractive spot or more beautiful surroundings.

But with the flowering trees & luxuriant growth of plants, come the bugs & flies. My room is full now of the largest size horse fly, darting from side to side. Mrs Waite says she has got used to them & don't mind them. I should expect to see you cringing, if you were here for fear of those big flies. The common flies are as thick as need be & the musketoos are beginning to make their appearance. At Cape Sable, the Doctor reports that he killed twenty nine at a blow on his tent wall, that the dogs have fairly pined away & died and the men cant eat or sleep with any comfort. Captain Selden just came from there & says he hasnt been able to put on his boots for a long time - his feet & legs have swollen so from musquito bites. They say the air is completely full of them all the time night & day. I expect the Post will have to be given up just for the musquitoes. They are worse than the Indians.

Do you have any at Leeds? I expect Guy is smart enough to fight them.

I spent the evening yesterday at Mrs Col Waites. She seems a very fine lady indeed. She began to tell some of her experiences in the Army & I told her I believed officers wives the happiest of any women. They did'nt have to stay year after year in the same place, subject to the monotony of City or Country life continuously but could go the world over, see everything & be every where. She says she has now seen enough & would like to remain somewhere for a year or two at least.

My love to our darling. I know who would like a kiss but I will send a flower. Good bye.

Your own affectionate husband

Otis

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770 5/17/1857 *From:* R. B. Rice

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0711

Oak Grove, [Georgia]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Oak Grove May 17th 1857

My Dear Sir

You have perhaps entirely abandoned the idea of ever hearing from me, but be assured that I have not forgotten our conversation on board the Clinch between Sava'h and Brunswick and my promise to write you when I became located. I was disappointed in the object which I had in view on the Palatka and have been sneaking about over the country until the 1st May at which time I came to this place, and expect to remain for the year. I found everything in such confusion that I have not had time to communicate with you sooner. I am now in a position to repeat the invitation which I extended to you when separating and sincerely trust that you can accept and spend a week with me.

You will find me twelve miles above Savannah, on the Georgia side of the River of that name. On the plantation of the late Judge Beroiers.

I will be pleased to hear from you. Write to Savannah Georgia.

Very truly yours  
R. B. Rice

To  
Lieut O. O. Howard

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771 5/19/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0712

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me. May 19. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I wonder if you will transport all the letters you have received from me since you have been in Florida to another 'post' when you do go. I have written you about forty - quite a pile, don't you think so? Those I have received from you, and hope to continue to receive will remain more precious than gold 'till your return; they have contributed more to my happiness than any one thing else. I am happy at the prospect of seeing you or being with you by Fall. All the rest look for you sooner than I do. Rowland says, "I set him 4th of July". Mother G the middle of the month, &c. Whenever it may be, my heart will be full of gladness.

I hope you will receive this letter the same time you will the one I mailed yesterday, because in that I said I received but one letter last week. I have now got it - mailed the same time the paper was to Rowland. I wonder it was so long on the way.

I have got the shell also; it came in a small box and I told Guy, "papa" sent it to Guy, and he watched all the time it was being opened and got his hammer to help and now he says 'papa' sent it, and I do think he still has some recollection of you. He has had those four little shells you sent in a letter to play with lately and I told him at first, "how pretty they are, 'papa' sent them to Guy", and now whenever he sees them 'tis "pa pa". He is quite a talker now. I might tell so many words that he can say, but I better let you be the more surprised when you can hear for yourself, as I hope and pray you may before a long time passes away.

When I got up yesterday morning I felt better and stronger than I have for a long time. I continue to feel quite well to-day, and do hope I shall not suffer as much as I have weeks passed.

I forgot to tell you in my last letter that Warren had started for Florida. He did not come down to see me after he got his orders, and if I should see him I should tell him that was very unofficer like, so you see you cannot have any presents by him. I think he would go by the way of new Orleans. He left here Thursday of last week.

I will leave now and finish to-morrow.

Wednesday Afternoon, May 20.

Dearest, my letter goes to the Post Office this afternoon and I will finish it before I commence my work. I have just eaten my dinner, and don't think it the best time to write a letter.

You have not as yet been to dinner unless you have recently changed the hour - say since you have had the management of a household, what a trouble it must be to order your own dinner. You must learn to love some things better than others, then you wont find it so hard. We had tripe and cold tongue for our dinner, and Guy waked early enough to eat with us. He is now very busy playing with spools and the box his shell came in. His blocks are scattered about the room and the little wagon "dor-gie" made him is filled with a variety of play-things. He seems very happy in the midst of them.

The water came through the aquaduct this morning, and Guy was very much interested in seeing 'bum-pa' try to mend the pump this forenoon.

Yesterday was a very pleasant day, but now we are having another rain. I think we could call this the rainy season here. I don't think our mothers will go to Lewiston this week. I was going to send for some things, and have them come by the Cars, but Mother G proposed that they should go with <the> carriage, as she had some errands that she would like to do.

Very soon I shall have my room fixed nicely for the coming summer, then I will tell you of it and describe it to you.

Georgie is letting the cattle out to drink, and Guy is looking at them from the window. He sees the "moo", "ajack", "dor-gie", "bah", "biddy". It would amuse you to hear him tell things, and try to explain what he sees. I know I shall get a letter to-night, if George goes for the mail and he will if does not rain too hard. I will or ought to say 'Later' as I let this lay some time unfinished to know if we were to have the mail to-night. George goes soon so good bye this time.

Believe me as ever your own true wife.  
Lizzie A. Howard

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772 5/22/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0713

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell May 22d 1857

My dear Brother

I have been thinking much of your situation of late - those mosquitoes & that excessive heat must be very troublesome. I have been hoping to hear that you were relieved. The troubles in Utah now seem to attract the most attention and I didn't know but the troops now in Fla would be concentrated there. Capt Gorgas seemed to think that they would be continued in Fla.

I went down to Bath Saturday as I proposed, and did not return till Wednesday morning. The whole time was a regular 'lovers meeting' and I was as happy as happy could be. Rev Mr Fiske with whom I have become quite intimately acquainted, conversed with me a long time Tuesday on my duty of becoming a minister of the Gospel & I made an appointment to meet him at five o'clock the next morning to renew the subject. We were going to walk but it proved too stormy, but our conversation was just as interesting. I think I have thought deeply & thoroughly on the subject.

Last night I went over & spent a long evening with Henry Emmons who is at the Bangor Seminary pursuing his Theological Studies. He was less confident & suggested many more difficulties & reasons on the other side than Mr Fiske, but I think that his general conclusion, on the statement of my views & feelings, was nearly the same - viz. - that I ought to be a Clergyman.

My motives or rather the one great motive of my life is different now from what it was when I wrote you about this subject before. Time seems less & Eternity more than then. I think God would do more good with me as a Clergyman than as a Lawyer, that I should be better fitted to live, to die, to enjoy Eternity. In short, that for me to continue in the law would be to throw myself into temptation & have it & tempt God. I had rather, yes from the lowest depths of my being I say it. I had rather be a poor minister in a little house, on a meagre Salary, than to be the greatest Lawyer of the Land. As for being an "Orator" for the exercise of the mind, truest, purest noblest kind of eloquence give me the pulpit & especially should I lose that part of a Pastors life which is employed in personal converse & by private means to win Souls to Christ.

I anticipate that your feeling will be that if I am assured that I can serve God better this way than any other, I ought to pursue it. It has not been without a struggle that I have yielded to this admonition of duty. After your letter on the subject & your generous present, I had fully made up my mind to return to Albany in Sep, graduate in April, go west & immediately enter practice. I had no doubt that I should be in a situation to marry by the following Spring. That hope which Ella & I had cherished & which we had warmed into almost certainty, must be cruelly postponed. She feels that deeply. The Seminary course is three years at least. She will then be twenty five & it takes all her Christian fortitude to consent cheerfully to this postponement. I have come to no conclusion as to a Seminary & I have not mentioned the subject to Father or Mother, Charles or Capt Patten, or any who are interested in me.

Laura Ann, Henry & little Josey are all well. I haven't been over to Aunt Ellen's since I returned from Bath but I understand that they are well. I have not heard from you this long time & not directly from home. Stinchfield has a first-rate saddle horse & I enjoy riding him very much. I shall write pretty often.

Your aff Bro  
Rowland

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773 5/23/1857 *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0714

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. May 23, 1857

My dear brother

It is Saturday afternoon and I will commence this early, at half past one o'clock to write you a letter. I should have written before I know, but when I was at home I thought it was not necessary for me to write as you were receiving letters from some of the rest every few days and as I didn't care to spend much time in writing letters when my vacation was only 2 weeks. I can tell you no news from home as I have not heard from them but once since I left & that was by letter from Rowland just before he went to Hallowell. Rowland was down here last Saturday & Sunday & left Bath for Hallowell last Wednesday.

Today is the day for the May Training here & the town made extensive preparation as usual. I shall not train this afternoon I guess. It is a beautiful day. Yesterday was also pleasant but this Spring has been rainy & cold for the most part. The grass has just got started so as to make the fields look beautifully.

There will be about a hundred trainers. We have the Gardner Brass Band for music. But this will suffice for the May Training.

I recited in Surveying to Prof. Smyth this forenoon, in Cicero de Immortalitate this morning. We are yet reading the life of Napoleon in French. We only recite to Prof. Everett four times a week since it comes in the afternoon & we have Friday afternoon to write themes & declaim. I wrote a theme of 5 ½ pages of this paper yesterday. It was quite easy for me to write as the subject was Oliver Goldsmith which you know I wrote on last year. I am to declaim next week. Think I shall declaim the "Dead Christ" of Richter.

Our Elections have just come off in the general Societies. Hill is Pres, Ed. Reed of Bath Orator and Thompson of Brunswick Poet of the Atheneum. My Room-mate Abbott is Pres of Pencinian, <Oculan> Jackson Orator & Henry Savage Poet. Perhaps you are not acquainted with any of these. The excitement this year was not very great because the victorious party was much the stronger.

I am taking lessons in French of a Frenchman now - am to take 24 for which I pay 4 dollars. I recite from 8 to 9 o'clock in the morning. Prayers come at 6. Recitation till 7 then breakfast so I have my time well occupied. It takes me most of the time from 9 to 11 to get the Mathematics. From 1 to 2 P.M. I hear a fellow recite who is to enter the next Freshman Class and it takes all the rest of the afternoon to get my French.

You see about how I am situated & what is going on from day to day. Our Society meetings come Frid. Evenings - Thursday Evenings Class prayer meetings - Monday Eve Secret Society sometimes - Sat Eve Choir meeting. I have the lead of the Baptist Choir so that I have to be present.

During the last week there has been a man here lecturing on Oratory &c & reciting pieces. I went one night to hear him.

I now want to ask you how you are getting along - whether you have got tired of Tampa. I heard from Cary of Freshman Class, that you saw his brother at Tampa this Spring.

I suppose Rowland's letters have reached you written since the Change was wrought in him. I am rejoiced to know he has really found the Savior precious to his soul. I feel confident that it is a thorough conversion. Delle is also rejoicing in the hope of pardoned sin. Probably he has also written you.

Rowland & I enjoyed one another's society very much while we were at home. We prayed with mother the night after Rowland returned from Bath & Hallowell for while he had been absent he got new light & hope.

We have been hoping you would not be late in joining our ranks. Rowland hoped he might be of benefit to you.

Sunday May 24. I did not finish my letter yesterday as I expected to for I went out to see the Training & then

returned & got my Greek lesson for tomorrow. In the evening I went to Choir meeting.

It has been a beautiful day today. We have a minister from Mass. He is what is called an Evangelist - that is, is settled no where but preaches where they are destitute. He is quite a revival preacher but well educated. I liked him much. This forenoon he preached on the text "The love of Christ constraineth us". This afternoon - "Ye must be born again". He is to preach Tuesday & Thursday. He speaks extempore, is a very large man - weighs 275 pounds - has a strong & musical voice. I expect there will be many conversions while he preaches as it has been the case elsewhere. He asks for the prayers of the Church & urges the necessity of their prayers if they would <desire> a blessing.

I had a letter from Ella a day or two ago. She says Rowland has not yet fully decided not to preach the gospel. I have not said much to induce him to be a minister. I have said nothing since his conversion. He would I think do much good as a minister. He at present improves every opportunity of conversing with the unconverted.

I have serious thoughts of uniting with the Congregationalist Church here next Communion, which is the 1st of July. Rowland has spoken of joining the church at Hallowell.

We are now getting pretty well along in the Summer term. The Seniors are talking about leaving & we are looking towards Commencement. The class has a prize declamation but I don't know as I shall be appointed to speak.

I went to prayer meeting this evening down to the Baptist house. They are very cold now at that church but I am in hopes they will get more of the Spirit's influence now that they have a minister & a revival minister too. I am rather sleepy & so think I will close. It is growing late. I heard from you often while at home but since I returned to College have neither heard from you nor from home.

We have Electra of Sophocles tomorrow morn. & I am to get up early & get my lesson.

I pray God that you may be <> to Him and that your very next letter may tell me you are rejoicing in the love of Christ.

Your Affectionate Br.  
C. H. Howard

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774 5/24/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My own dearest wife  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0715

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office  
Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla,

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Office  
Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla, 24 May /57

My own dearest wife

I returned to this place from Fort Myers by the Steamer 'Ranger', arriving just as the sun was going down last night. The Mail was already in and I found two precious letters waiting for me. I received one from Rowland and another from yourself while I was at Fort Myers and I sent one to you by the only boat that left. She was a little sail boat and got upset in a gale and the mail was submerged for two days I think the officers said. Mr Hazzard remembered your address & kindly re-enveloped & addressed Leeds Me. I have thanked him & must send him a Postage stamp. Lt Drake was on board the mail boat and was in the water some two hours. I hav'nt seen him since I came back. That letter & this will reach you at the same time.

We have had some heavy winds of late so that the mail due at Fort Myers did not reach there till Wednesday night and we started the next morning. We passed Punta Rasa before noon & entered Charlotte harbor, but as the wind was fresh from the North and we had the luck to get aground at low tide, we didnt make any effort to go on. I went ashore on an Island with a rifle to hunt wild hogs but didnt have the luck to get any. It was just at night. One of the men with me wounded a Racocon, but even he got away. We returned to the boat & I spent the evening very pleasantly playing games with Colonel Loomis & reading 'Margaret', the book which you have, illustrated.

The next morning we were afloat & went on five or six miles, leaving Charlotte harbor by the Boca Grande. The wind began to increase, and the boat which was never made for the sea began to roll & pitch rather ominously, and so we put about & back into the harbor. Saturday (yesterday) we started again & got into Sarasota Bay without accident, though we had quite a wind from the North & some swell. We were now safe from any high wind but were in danger of getting aground, but we drove on slowly against a head wind & tide up past Egmont light house, through Tampa bay and reached our wharf just as the sun was going down.

On Friday I went ashore again with two or three men to hunt on an Island. This island has several palmetto huts on it occupied by the fishermen in the fishing season. We found in them, benches, tubs, barrels & shells. These houses are framed with small poles withed together & covered with palmetto leaves & branches - on the sides as well as on the top & make very pretty summer houses. I walked along the beach for two or three miles, picked up pretty shells & followed the tracks of hogs & coons, tried a shot or so on the Pelicans as they flew over, but of course did'nt hurt them. I penetrated the woods & thickets, saw the cabbage palmetto, a tree from ten to fifteen feet in height. The trunk has the anomalous structure of growing larger as you ascend and on the top is the cabbage. This is said to make excellent food, especially for the Indians. After I had tired myself out breaking my way through the thick underbrush, neither finding deer, hog or coon I returned to the Ranger and spent the rest of the day in reading, smoking & thinking.

By the last mail Colonel Loomis got orders to continue operations, vigorously. There were a good many disappointed & crestfallen ones the night this order arrived. We had hoped that there was something in the News Paper reports & rumors. We had decided that the 5th Infantry were going out & were waiting anxiously for the mail to bring the good news. When the order came, laying down the posts to be occupied & the (almost) unendurable & impossible things to be done I have given it up. It will be pretty late in the fall before I get out, unless something new turns up. "Nous verrons"! Encore.

I got acquainted with Captains Stephenson & Whitall & Selden. I knew Bvt Major Kapell & Capt Marcy before. Four of these have wives & families, and say they have been away from them "all their lives nearly." They say that an officer of the line ought not to get married.

Capt Selden married when I was on furlough in Vermont. He lost her while his boy was only two or three

months old, and I believe he is now drinking himself to death. His child is still living & about four years old. What breaks one man's heart often burdens another's.

It would be so much better if our love for each other & for our children could be subordinate to the love we yield to Christ. It is then comparatively easy to part for a little while for we would know that we are to meet again. But without this love how can we. Lizzie, there is something in this Love. I believe it will be given us if we ask for it doubting nothing. Go to work & get it my darling, & tell me how you did it. Never mind creeds, never mind doctrines. Let us get this Love first if we can & then all the rest will be plain.

I listened to an excellent sermon this morning - on the text, "If a man serve me him will my Father honor". Oh! He says have faith! Exert your mind to believe that Christ will pardon you, all your wrong doings immediately, just as soon as you believe. I have been on the outskirts of Christianity for a long time. I have't got that faith yet, that sense of Peace & Love that a man has or says he has when Christ takes up his dwelling in the heart. God grant it come into my heart & thine & we my darling wife will then be better prepared to bring up the darling little ones He gives us. It is a solemn thing to attempt to pilot an immortal mind - to guide a little heart so as to steer clear of corruption & sin. We cant do it alone. We cant teach a child to keep the commandments that we are breaking before him, to love the Saviour that we do not love. You think of me & I think of you much, very much - it is because we love each other. This is well, natural, right, but we don't think much about that Saviour who is ever near by to watch us & plead with us to give him our love. But why should we give Him our Love, what is there to Love - a vision, a dream, a spirit that we cant see or feel or touch? It is Greek to me still, Lizzie. You musnt wait for me, but open the door. Let Christ come in & sup with you & you with him.

I will take another sheet.

Let us look at ourselves, closely, carefully & alone. Christ loves a pure heart. Is mine pure? Don't I say things against my neighbors? What makes me. Don't I want power, influence & high station. What makes me want them; is it to do honor to my Creator or to myself?. Don't I deceive, don't I warp the truth? Can I give up 8 dolls per month for Conscience's sake, or must I go on & say I own & keep in service a horse, when I do not? Don't I do things that I know to be wrong to please people, have't I perjured myself to myself? Have't I been hypocritical? Have't people thought I was a Christian, & said he does so & so, & cant I? Have't I been ashamed to own that I am interested in Christ? Have I given even a cup of cold water to any man because he belonged to Christ? What have I done for the honor of my Maker? Let us see what good thing have I done. I have given alms. What for? Was it because of my love for my fellow? I think not. To put the best construction on it I can, it was but a generous impulse.

Let us see.

1. I am the Lord thy God &c.  
have no other Gods before me &c.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain &c.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, &c.
5. Honour thy Father & thy Mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet &c.

Now I cant think of any one of these nine out of the ten commandments that I have not violated, either by actual deed or in my heart. Is my heart pure? Now I know it is not & I cant make it so with all my trying, unless I try in the right way. Christ can make it so - Do I believe that? Do you? What is Christ, where is He? Is he in my heart; is he in yours? Not yet, but he is close by. What fools we are to say that that woman professes to be a Christian & is no better, than you or me.

What means that. If what we say is true all we do really say is, "that woman is not a christian". "Judge not" &c. we may & will do wrong after we love God, but not willingly & wilfully as before. The Question My darling wife is, do we love him & if we don't, is it our privilege? Can we? How can we?

If you are able to write I wish you would open your heart to me & tell me what you think. I am rejoiced at what you wrote for Eternity & God & Christ are often the burden of my thoughts. I love to have you with me - may be, hand in hand & heart in heart, you & I & our children may dwell forever & ever in one of those Heavenly mansions that Christ has prepared for them that love him. Would you; then we must fear God & Love him, as the child fears a good father while he loves him. We must bring up our children in the same fear - plant the

seed, while the soil is fresh. But lest I weary you I will say no more.

God bless you & Guy. God help you in your trials & may we soon meet. My love to Mother, mine & thine. I shall write to Rowland soon. My health is very good. I find Major Morris here. He will leave for Fort Capron tomorrow morning. I shall not leave here very soon again. The Fashion didn't go round to Fort Dallas & Capron, but returned to New Orleans. Warren must have got his orders before this. I expected to see him by the last stage. Remember me to Father kindly & to all my friends. No Indian news at all. The Methodists have had a "Revival" here - some fifteen I understand have joined the Church. The spirit of God is everywhere.

Your own loving husband

Otis

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775 5/25/1857 *From:* Lizzie A Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0716

Leeds. Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May 25. 1857

My dearest Husband,

It is now Monday evening, the clock has struck eight. Guy is asleep, and I am seated to write a letter to mail to you to-morrow, when Col Gilmore goes to town-meeting. This will be the third meeting they have had to see about rebuilding the three bridges across dead river that were carried away in the spring by the freshet. We are now having Summer weather in good earnest, and the mosquitoes have made their appearance quite to my annoyance. I presume there are a dozen in the room now, but I took my musquito bar with me, and Guy is nicely protected by it from them, so I can hear their music quite undisturbed. I never knew what it was to suffer from heat before the present month. I am surprised that Mrs Symington has lived through so many summers.

It will be all over before I receive an answer to this letter, my dearest Otis, and God grant that all may be well is my most earnest prayer, and afterwards that you may return to me in safety and in good health. I dreamed recently that you were ill, and in your last letter you did not say anything about being in good health but that you "thought such a trip as you anticipated taking would quicken your blood and do you a great deal of good". I do hope no unfavorable symptoms caused you to write that sentence.

I have thought much of you of late, and eagerly seized every letter addressed to me from you; the two letters you wrote to Rowland recently we remailed to him yesterday. Mother G opened the first one, because you said in my letter by the same mail, that you wrote all the news in his letter. What you wrote in the last we know nothing of.

Col G and Mother G went to church yesterday. Rossa, Mother, Guy and myself kept house. Roland and Cynthia went also - the first time for a long while. I trust when we are again settled that we shall be more regular in attending divine worship than we have been. I will admit that I have always been the one to take the least interest in doing our duty, but may a new course and better, blot out the errors of the past.

Our mothers went to Lewiston last Saturday. We shall be very busy all this week arranging our things and room for summer. My mother's health does not seem quite as good as I would wish, but I hope it is only over fatigue. Of late she has exercised more every day than I think she ought, and now I am going to have her be very careful.

I am better than I have been, all last week I felt better, but now I can take nothing but bread and coffee for my breakfast. If I do attempt any thing more I suffer for it all day. It is one comfort to think it wont always be so. You cannot imagine how happy I shall be if we are ever again living together.

I will leave the next page to fill in the morning. I have written very rapidly and it is a little past nine o'clock. I hear Col G going to bed and he is the last one up excepting myself. I will be asleep as soon as he.

Dearest, I will finish my letter now but may be I shall not fill the sheet, for I do not feel quite as well as usual. I try to keep very quiet. Mrs Turner is passing the day with us. She seems to be enjoying her visit.

I hope to get another letter from you this afternoon. Guy is as happy as need be to-day, been to walk with Grand-mother, or "nam-ma" as he now calls her. He cannot spend time to sleep to-day and will go to the table with us. He is very seldom up at dinner time. I wont write more dearest this time. Mrs Turner is coming into my room to sit till dinner is ready.

Believe me as ever your own true wife.  
Lizzie A Howard

[Written in another hand]  
Mrs Howard

Tampa - dated  
May 25/57

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776 5/26/1857    *From:* Otis H [OO Howard]    *To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0717

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
May 26th 1857

My dearest wife,

Wednesday afternoon has come & I will write you a few words to report myself still in good health.

On Monday I had some accounts to settle with Major Leonard and while he was writing checks, I paid my respects to the little madam, and teased her about a leave of absence she is expecting her husband to get. I told her she didn't need anything more - she was at a nice home and had her husband with her. On my return to the Garrison I called at Mrs Lancaster's & paid my devoirs to Major Ward, a Gentleman who was on the "Board of Visitors" to West Point in 1853, and with whom I then got quite well acquainted. Judge Lancaster died here just before I came, leaving a wife & two unmarried daughters. The eldest must be over thirty or near thereabouts. The younger Laura is quite good looking and is affianced to Lieut Tom Vincent of the 2nd Artillery, Bogg's classmate. I have not made the acquaintance of these ladies till recently. Maj Ward is a connection. They are highly educated and rather the Bon ton of this place.

Major Morris left here for Fort Capron on Monday & I went back to Mr Duke's hotel to board.

Yesterday we all went on a trip with the Steamer Ranger to Old Tampa Bay. The weather was delightful and the steamer left the wharf at half past nine. There was Mrs Page & her four children, Frank, the six year old boy, full of joy, to whom the pleasure gave such a zest, that he moved about with a perfectly serious face, watching the Band with their instruments, the Howitzer that fired salutes or what ever else he could find that was new. Little Susan with her homely truthful aspect, then <Pasey> the girl faced boy & the baby little Kate that behaved so well that nobody noticed her except Major Page and myself, who crept into a little room, peeped under the Musketo bar & saw three smart ones - asleep Henry Kennedy, Katy Page, & Baby McKay - three little innocent darlings that it did ones heart good to look upon. There was Mrs McKay with six children, Mrs Kennedy with three & Mrs Captain Duke who left hers at home. I played with Tom Kennedy, Frank Page, Jane Kennedy, Tilden McKay & her brother Donald, talked seriously with the ladies & metaphysics with the Gentlemen.

I have spoken to you of Mr Hart the Lawyer from Key West. He has now moved here & brought his wife. She is little like you, looks some older than you did 5 mos. ago, but is quite sprightly & happy with her husband, who is just such a whole souled man as I like. If you ever come to Tampa to join me, you will find in her just such a lady as you will like.

Jim Duke is Captain of the U.S. Steamer Gray Cloud. His wife has three little girls whom she keeps tastily dressed & well-behaved. They look as if they were two, three & four yrs old. Mrs Duke's name was Pool. She has lived in Portland with her father, been to Mr Packard's school & knows a great many people that I know. Mr Mack & she talk about Portland & Portland people, for he was stationed there at the fort for some time & if I understand him aright was almost in love with a young lady there. Well, Maj Ward, Major McKinstry wife & son, Guy, who is the handsomest small boy on this post, the Editor of the newspaper Mr Furman &c &c came there.

We sailed, (if you call it sailing when you move under high pressure) down the Tampa bay, past several points of land & amongst islands covered with green trees, and found ourselves in four hours & a half in "old Tampa Bay". We found but one habitable place & this was deserted - situate on a high bluff. This place was as pretty as any I have seen. Here we found a mound some forty or fifty feet high. The sides of which are completely covered with lime & orange trees. There was one house, where Ian Philippe had lived till he <lost> his wife. Miss Wilson, the school teachers daughter wont have him, because he is a Spaniard & so black & ugly. He wont live down there on a <St> Helena without her. After we had anchored near by this bluff & all gone ashore, & returned and set down to a nice dinner, while the Boat put about & took her homeward way. The ladies kept the Band playing & the children danced & frolicked. When we got near home, we found the channel blocked up

by a schooner. We ran aground, sent the ladies & children ashore. Boats returned & took the gentlemen & the Band playing, at evening, Annie Laurie & other airs so sweet.

I hurried on to Mr Duke's, got my supper & then went to Church. Mr Wells, a Methodist minister, preached just such a sermon as I wanted to hear, an experimental faith - from the text, "I count all things but lust for the excellency of the Knowledge of Christ". There is a revival here now & after his sermon a great deal of excitement was generated. He asked those who meant to or believe they would meet him in Heaven to get up &, then all who desired the prayers of Christian brethren (being sinners) to rise. I got up with the latter. Then commenced shouting & calling of sinners to come forward, many went & kneeled down.

The storm of enthusiasm was increasing & I got up & left the house. I want to be a Christian, but I distrust undue excitement. I love to see men in earnest, but not beyond control. Colonel Loomis, good old man that he is, staid through it all. I waited for him & we walked home together. He talked with me till one o'clock at night, gave me books to read. He has such an earnest Christian faith that it would do your heart good to listen to & converse with him. Such is now the Commander of the Department of Florida. He gave me a book on prayer & a little book of hymns with some tracts.

Everything seems so providential - I was thinking what a moral coward I was, prayed for you & Rowland & Charlie & Mother & all - but coldly. My heart didn't seem to be in it. Then comes Rowlands letter - so unexpected. Then you write me just what I wanted to know that you were willing to converse freely about the most important thing to every man, & then last Sunday, a sermon on the very points that were dark to me, & again last night & the counsel & kind persuasion of Colonel Loomis. If I am not saved wont it be my fault?

Oh, my darling. I wish I could see you, & talk with you, & pray with you tonight. My love to all. Kiss my darling boy. Not time to read over or extend.

Your loving husband  
Otis H

\$180.00 enclosed.

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777 5/28/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0718

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. May 28. 1857

My dearest Husband,

Guy goes to sleep now earlier than he has been in the habit of doing. He is asleep now and I am beginning my letter to you before the lamps are lighted.

I received Tuesday the short letter you wrote just as you were about to start for Ft Myers. I am very glad, dearest, you were so thoughtful as to write and leave the letter to come to me by the mail that would leave Tampa the day after you left. I desire much to write this letter to-night, but I am so uneasy and anxious about you that I can scarcely collect my thoughts.

I expect you would call me a foolish little wife were you near enough to whisper it, but I am not. I am a good little wife, and if you ever know how patiently I put up with and over look annoyances and petty troubles that arise you will give me all credit. I remember in one of your former letters, you wrote that "I must'nt mind little grievances and annoyances that I might be exposed to during my stay in Maine, but rise above them and be generous to all". I have faithfully bore it in mind, and at all times try to act as I think you would prefer I would.

I don't think we shall ever again be separated under the like circumstances, therefore we must live bravely through this separation, with the feeling ever uppermost that it is to be the last. I continue to look into the future hopefully and am as cheerful as can be considering all my circumstances. I have felt much better generally for the past week and a half, and hope to remain as well the next three weeks.

I shall not be looking for you sooner than you will arrive. I now think that there is as much probability of my passing next winter in Florida, as there is of your coming to us soon. Yesterday's paper says, "From a letter from Gov Broome of Florida to Col Houston, it appears that hostilities against the Seminoles are to be prosecuted with unabated vigor, under the command of Col Loomis: the exigencies of the government require the presence of Gen Harney upon another field, but the policy inaugurated by him is to be carried out. The Gov had an interview with the Secretary of War and Gen Scott, and received assurances from them that the war will be prosecuted with the utmost vigor, and no suspension of hostilities were contemplated. He also expresses the belief that Gen Harney will return to Florida, if necessary, after he shall have "tranquilized" Kansas where he has been ordered. I don't know how much the above is worth; it may be true and it may be untrue. If true the prospect of your immediate return is not very bright.

Dearest, if you do get orders I hope you will mention it to me, and not step into the house perfectly unexpected. Of course, I should be truly happy to know you had really come, but my dearest Otis, I might at the time be too weak to hear suddenly such startling good news, and then all pleasure of the surprise would be changed to feelings of anxiety for me.

I write as if I still think you will be here before two month will have passed, but I do not, and cannot guess at what time you will come to us. I know you may come soon and you may not. You are an Army Officer, and do not yourself propose the changes you make. I have been thinking if you should receive 'Orders' to go to another Post before leaving Florida, (and of course you will) would it not be well to call at that Post on your way here, if it should not be a distant station, or out of your way. I don't think it necessary; the idea came into my head and I mention it.

Col Gilmore says he has finished his planting, and next comes mending fences. I shall learn something about farming this summer and perhaps consent to have you purchase a farm some day, and I become a farmer's wife. You need not send in your resignation on the strength of the above.

I just went for a drink of water through the dining room, and it looks like bedtime out there. Your mother setting back chairs and putting the room in order generally. Col G finished his reading and asleep in his chair. I glanced at the clock - it was ten minutes past nine.

My mother has been asleep some time. She is better than she was the first of the week. I do hope she wont get sick but I fear it, because Rossa is going away to stay a week, and she will see your mother working and will work with her more than she is able to do. No one but myself knows how little will make her sick a bed. When she begins to fail, I shall watch over her and caution her. For it is very important now for her to keep well.

I have well filled this sheet and may add more if I do not mail it in the morning. I hope if you are to come north you will be able to come before the weather here begins to be too cold for you to make the change.

Ever your affectionate little wife  
Lizzie A. Howard

Friday Evening

Dearest,

I have been so very busy sewing to-day that I have not taken time to add more to my letter I wrote last evening. I am as well as usual.

Yours ever,  
Lizzie

[Written in another hand]  
Mrs Howard  
May 18th Tampa [Should have been 28th]  
1857

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778 5/31/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0720

Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me. May 31. 1857  
Sunday Morning, Eleven o'clock

My dearest Husband,

I received but one letter from you last week, but do not feel so anxious as I should had you not told me you might not be able to mail letters regularly during your excursion to the southern part of the state. I cannot help thinking your health is not as good as we would wish - or as it was when you first went to Florida, still I hope for the best.

I should judge now, from what I see by the papers, that the prospect of your leaving Florida was not very great, and if the hostilities against the Indians do not cease by the time I am able to make the journey, you must, dearest, make up your mind to have us come to you. I cannot stay here away from you so long, and I know we would be as healthy there as here, and get rid of all anxiety and worrying about each other. You wrote in your next to the last letter, that it would be as pleasant to pass next winter in Florida as any where else. I could say a great deal in favor of so doing, but I know you feel the same about it as I do, and we now can only wait patiently till one or the other can go.

I continue as well as usual, but "am much fatter and consequently more uncomfortable", as Mrs Lee writes. Mother has gone to Turner, went to Esq. Martin's to take the stage from there to Uncle Morse's, who lives one mile south of North Turner Bridge. I do not know how or when she will return. She could not decide before going, but probably some time this week. She will see about sending our sofa over here. It would be of much service to me this summer.

Rowland is at home, came Friday afternoon. Guy was so delighted to see him. He will go back Tuesday next. He rode to Leeds with Mr Martin (Martha Martins father) and that is how Mother happened to go to Turner the way she did. Mr Martin was going to visit his brother, and took her as far as there.

I have said nothing about sending for Mrs Clark yet, but I would like her to come to me about the last of next week. I shall be confined between the twelfth and twenty-fourth of the month most likely and I very much desire that she should be here then.

Evening.

I wrote this morning 'till Guy waked and as I have the care of him alone now Mother is away, I left my letter to finish this evening after he went to sleep.

Col G Rossa Guy and myself have been at home all day. Mother G and Rowland went to Church and have not yet returned and it is past seven o'clock. They spoke of staying to prayer-meeting if it was to be there instead of at the City. William has come to take Georgie's place this week. He brought Guy a tumbler full of boxberry plums.

I walked down to Mrs Turner's yesterday afternoon with Guy. I had not been there for a long time. When he waked from his nap just after our dinner, he began to tell about the "Bow-wow". I got his dinner and he ate it. Then I told him we could go see the bow wow and Flora. Rowland and Mother were going to Uncle Ensign's and were getting ready when we went. Rowland had been making a call there and came out just as we went in. I asked him to come for us when he had harnessed the horse. He did so as Mother was not ready. Guy tells about going 'ajack' with "awummy" and 'Uncle'.

It was as far as I would wish to ride at present. I would like Guy to ride some but I am so nervous I would not dare to trust him to go away with any of them. The horse will go so down-hill only when you drive and the carriage tips and shakes so much, that the anxiety I would feel all the time he would be gone would injure me more than the ride would do him good.

I hope Rowland writes you all the Augusta news. I regret very much to hear that there are stories in circulation about Charles M not being kind and loving his own wife as he ought, for we are apt to think there must be something to make such stories out of. I have not written her yet, but shall soon.

Mr Armitage does not marry Miss Pope but someone in his society. She marries into the Marine Corps.

It is just after nine o'clock and I will go to sleep with Guy as soon as I finish this sheet. I wonder how many more letters I will be able to write to you. I shall want to write when I know I cannot, but you will hear from me for I shall make someone write. I shall look for your kind, sympathizing letters and God grant that you may continue in good health to be able to write them.

Now I will write Good Night and if I can I will write more to-morrow. I have exercised more than usual to-day going from room to room with Guy and attending to his little wants that I am some lame and tired. Mother has taught Guy to throw a kiss to 'papa' and he threw one just as I put him in bed to-night. He does it so nicely. I hope he will know you when he does see you. I am still inclined to think so.

Your affectionate little Wife.  
Lizzie Howard

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779 5/31/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0721

Ord Depot, Fort  
Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ord Depot, Fort Brooke, Fla.  
May 31st 1857

My dearest wife,

I am well aware that now you would like to have me with you & it may be, even a stronger desire will be in your heart when this letter is opened & read. But I have "good tidings" to communicate to you.

I set about seeking Christ, with the full purpose of heart to continue searching till I found Him. I went about it as I have gone about any business of importance. Colonel Loomis kind good old man has assisted me with books & conversations - but it is through the Methodist protracted meeting that I have been enabled to gain assistance & the assistance I needed. I went there one night & listened to a Sermon. It was an excellent one, on experimental i.e. practical Faith. He invited those to rise who expected to meet him in Heaven. I could'nt do it. He then invited those to rise who wished to be prayed for, with a sudden resolution, I got up. Then quite an exciting time not unusual at these revival meetings began, where the Ministers were trying to get members of the congregation to come forward. I found my breast was getting harder & I resisted the inclination to go forward. I didnt partake of the Excitement, though sitting beside Colonel Loomis I got up & left. I waited for him at Duke's hotel. We walked to the Garrison together & he talked to me so fatherly & kindly that it had an effect to make me love a true Christian more than I had done. We talked together till one o'clock, or after. He gave me a beautiful book on prayer & some tracts. I prayed often & asked Christ to forgive me my sins, that I might be saved through Him - but no; there was a pressure at my heart & throat. I was in search of "that peace that passeth understanding" & I did'nt get it.

I got a letter from you & one from Rowland the next night, went to Mr Hazzard's room, read the letter & began reading the papers, thought I would go again to the Church. I took a back seat, listened to a preacher who told truths, but didnt excite me or attract me in the least; but after sermon he asked sinners to come forward to be prayed for if they wished to obtain Religion. I was standing up with others while a hymn was sung. Some went forward, women all of them, some young men were laughing & making sport. I saw them, & saying to myself, "You are a coward", I went forward, more in pride perhaps than in humility. I trembled like a leaf, but my head was clear & I didnt shed tears like the rest, a boy of twelve or fourteen followed me & he was crying. I knelt down & even now didnt get a blessing, though I tried to have strong faith in Christ's power to save me. I wont follow it all through, but I will tell you that after Church last night, after having made up my mind to join the Church & keep trying, I came in here (as at many times before) at about half past nine. I began reading Hedley Vicar's Diary notes, how much like me, full of pride & vanity to be overcome. I read in the Bible a chapter. I knelt down to pray. I remembered Vicars, saw the Expression: "The Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin". I had tried for that joy which Vicars & Rowland got; by believing that Christ was able & willing to pardon me, but it would'nt do.

I then bore that text above in mind, & said in my heart Oh! My Saviour, I know thou canst save me!

I made an effort to fully believe my sins washed in the Blood of the Lamb, that my dear Saviour had actually saved me at that moment, ie had pardoned all my transgressions of the laws of God, & all the wickedness of a corrupt heart. The fullness of the glow of happiness came into my heart, the tugging & burning left me. The choking sensation was gone & for once I enjoyed present happiness. Oh! how sweet & delightful it seemed; then I wondered if it would go away. If it did would it come back. I did'nt sleep much, I was too happy. I was saved through the goodness & mercy of Christ. If I don't pray to Him & ask continually for his blessing, folly & vanity may master me again. If Christ veils his face from me, because of any sin, as he may & probably will do at times, I may go back to darkness & go into the next world unhappy.

But my darling little wife I tell you that my mind is as clear as when making out an Ordnance Return & I am not deceived. "The Blood of Christ does cleanse us from sin". This is done when you throw yourself wholly & unreservedly on his Mercy. This is the Change of heart, this is when the hope commences. If I die at just this moment I go to Heaven, for I am happy now through Christ. Now I have'nt thought of a single creed or doctrine,

except this that there is but one way whereby men can be saved, either in Heaven or among men.

Now my Love, if I was going into a pleasant garden I would love to have you on my arm. If I was going on an excursion to any place where the scenery was beautiful, I should want you to enjoy it with me. Now this peculiar joy in my heart - don't you want it - ask Christ for it nothing doubting & you can have it. I want you to go to Heaven with me and if little Guy should have to be taken from us we would want to go & find him in the Saviours bosom, where he would certainly be for of such little innocents is the Kingdom of Heaven. I cant say I shouldn't be happy if you didnt do so, for I am happy without myself being the cause. It is the Holy Spirt that constraineth me. If you are on a bed of sickness when this come, know that your husbands heart is growing more tender & that his love for you has'nt diminished. Oh! that I might see you & help you go to Christ, where you can get true courage & strength. May God in Heaven bless you. Pray for me, darling. You may already be ahead of me & then this expression will find a deep chord of sympathy to touch.

Tell mother all about it & give my love to all. Tell Mother Waite that never mind if uncle Alden did pray & then break off. God has given me power to make resolutions & carry them out. He will help me to lead from this time hence forth a consistent Christian life. And you must come along with me. You have as much right & interest in Christ as I.

Your affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

[The following statement was written in the margin of the last page.]  
Oh Lizzie darling, this is the kind of property to lay by for a rainy day.

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780 6/1/1857

*From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-0722

Leeds. Me.

Tampa, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. June 1st 1857  
Monday evening ½ past eight

Dearest,

No letter came for me to-night. How much I do hope one will come to-morrow. Then it will be one week since I received the last written just before starting for Fort Myers. I have put my room in good order since Guy went to sleep, and as I am not sleepy will add a little more to what I wrote you last evening.

I hope Mother wont make a long visit at Turner, for I get so tired walking about with Guy, but I assure you he likes "ma-my" to wait on him. He has taken a great fancy to see books lately and will sit a long, long time to have me explain pictures to him. When he sees quite a number of the same things on one page, he will say "many, many" like "many many biddies", "many many uncle" and it is the same with his play things, and to-day he saw the alphabet, and he exclaimed "many many a, b" very wise child that.

I left this to write a letter to Mrs Clark - setting no time for her to come in particular, but I thought I would write to let her know I depended on having her with me.

Tuesday morning. I cannot write much this morning for Guy is full of play, and "ma-my" comes pretty often. I do not expect Mother to return to day because it is not pleasant enough to ride. I hope you are at Tampa by this time, it is three weeks to day since you went away. I imagine you went on duty and not wholly for pleasure, although you do not say so. I look for a letter every mail. Rowland has his letter ready so I will not write more this time.

Yours affectionately,  
Lizzie

[Written in another hand]  
Mrs Howard  
Dated June 1/57  
Recd Tampa Fla

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781 6/1/1857      *From:* Henry Clossen

*To:* My Dear Howard [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0723

Springfield (Vt.)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Springfield (Vt.) June 1 1857

My Dear Howard,

When Henry and I were at your place last Fall, you said you should probably go to Maine this summer and you gave me some encouragement you would come this way and call on us. On my return I told my wife and daughter about it and it has frequently been the subject of conversation in our family since. I now renew that invitation to you and Mrs Howard and such of your family as may accompany you. My wife and daughter are somewhat importunate that I thus write reminding you of your partial engagement and pressing the invitation. If you do come I will write directing the station and route. My wife you know reckons you among her acquaintances and Mrs H also through you, and that acquaintance between us through a tender tie that binds us most dearly to a son and brother. Henry is at Fort Dallas, Florida, and thereabouts. There is the place of his quarters at present. Wife & Emily wish to be commended to Mrs Howard.

Your friends &c  
Henry Clossen

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782 6/3/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My own dearest wife  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0724

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
June 3d 1857

My own dearest wife,

It is after four o'clock I am sorry to say and I have'nt begun or am just beginning to write you. If I thought you would feel better for me to write about the ordinary topics of the day I would willingly do so, and leave alone themes that might not suit you, for I am willing to trust you in God's hands. But out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh, and I shall speak more freely & easily & confidingly & lovingly if I let my mind take its course; and the crisis that draws nigh for my darling wife & may even now be taking place, must be sinking deep into your heart, and you read my most cordial sympathy.

There is now a new well spring within me, a joy, a peace & a trusting spirit that I long for you to partake of. I will not cry out against the past & say I have never been sincere with you, but I will say that present enjoyment tinges all things with brightness. I have had the reward of many a generous impulse, of many a self-sacrificing action, but never equal to this that makes my spirit beam with sweetness. And it is not I, it is not of me. Say not, Oh! How good, but Oh! How good Christ is to give your husband this Light in his heart, that lightens every load, that makes a perpetual smile play on his face & makes him eagerly discern the good of every creature. You love me, you say you desire nothing more than my happiness sometimes, & I do not doubt it, my sweet Lizzie, then you must soon say how kind, how good above all measure is He that will make him so happy, when he is so much alone, when he seeks a lonely pillow far, far away.

When going to breakfast this morning I thought of the prayers that have been uttered for me. How my Mother had plodded along alone & prayed for me again & again & how cold & distant I had been, how my grandmother Otis when last we parted threw her arms around my neck and wept over me & said, Oh! Otis, I wish you loved your saviour. The flood gates were open & I cried, but there was not pain, or grief even then, for I thought how Mother, will rejoice & how the Spirit of her that has gone, if she can see me & had been watching me will rejoice, that I am no longer groping but that all is as light as day. An oath from another wounds me now, a sneer grieves me, but God, who through the Saviour, has put this Spirit of love here in my heart, gives me continually strength to bear.

All this gladness is perfectly inexplicable to one who has'nt had it; it was to me a week ago and had been all my life, and so I thought I would make a trial & see if so many witnesses were lying or were deceived by some delirious fancy. O the great I who have boasted of my practical sense, have got all wrapt up in the "Delusion" and find a beauty & a real comfort in it that will make me hug it to my breast, till the day I die. If I am tempted sorely & lose this light, I shall know that there is such a thing. Provided we were all to be happy after death, of which I don't see sufficient evidence to convince me. This boon of present & continuous enjoyment makes a Heaven on Earth. And you & I my darling wife will, if we get it now, keep growing more & more into it from the period of starting onward, forever. Hence we shall have higher appreciation & warmer love it may be than if we had left undeveloped all the capabilities of the Soul, till very late in life, & if possible according to Scripture, till after death.

I will not tell you anything of doctrines. I don't know myself in these matters, but there are some things plain to me as the light of day. Christ blots out all wrong things done, that have seared the Soul. When I believe it, he does it for me. When Rowland believed it, He did it for him. When you trust Him he does it for you. A little Dove, he will send to take up a continuous residence, if you want it. But I assure you its plumage must be bright to reflect so much light into you & through you so that you cant help crying out. "One thing I do know that whereas I was blind now I see". I couldnt love Christ before, you couldnt; you said as much long ago when you said you were not worthy to join the Church. Now as true as I am Otis Howard & married Lizzie Waite so sure I am that I love Christ, & the Holy Spirit makes me.

I am surprised at the power it gives me. The young men who could floor me in speculation. Christ helps me to

convince them, for God knows I am in earnest.

Rowland understood me well when he wrote that letter, or Christ put that in his heart, that made him touch the right spring. I have often longed to be an honest man & I am now convinced with the Same helper that is here now I can do my fellow men some good. I didn't weep & cry & moan & yet my joy is great. I dont see how I could have been so blind so torpid as not to have yielded to the Beautiful Being that has been beckoning so long. If you don't come on, & hand in hand & heart in heart with the husband you love, give your self up wholly & unreservedly to Christ. Why I should fear our quiet would be broken up, for I shall be pestering you to death. I wont be jealous of Him, for he will make my sweet wife ever lovely. The dew of perpetual youth will be in her soul & exhibit itself in her life. Ponder these things my Lizzie. Remember that we will be held accountable to God for our lovely boy. The present, that you gave me - The 16th Dec / 55 has helped me along - has touched my emotional being & my moral.

O My dear Saviour. Grant thy comfort to Lizzie in her coming & present trial. I do want to see you & mother & Rowland & Charlie & Dellie & father & yr Mother - all - I should like to talk to you & pray with you now. I am not now ashamed of my beloved more than I am of you or Guy. I can take you all into any circle fit for you to go into.

I have so much that I could tell you. How young men have talked with me. How they come to me for comfort, which I myself never could give them. How a mother and the body of her deceased boy, took me by the hand & said in all her anguish of heart - She loves you I know you. You are Lt Howard. He picked you out from all the others. I told her as she burst her heart with out a tear. God is good. Love Christ more & you wont love him less. He has gone & you will surely go to see him. Now think of those things. Isnt God good to me, & to our family?

I hope you will be already able to rejoice with me when this reaches you. God bless my wife & child.  
Otis

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783 6/4/1857 *From:* Peleg [Perley]

*To:* Lieutenant Oliver Otis  
Howard

OOH-0725

Henry, Illinois.

Ordnance Dept.  
West Troy  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Henry, Illinois. June 4th, 1857.

My Dear Old Chum,

Lieutenant Oliver Otis Howard  
Ordnance Dept.  
West Troy  
N.Y.

Greeting, Chum, and know ye, i.e. you & yours, that in about a month from now I expect to be married & to go East.

Now Chum, if you are going to be at home in the early part of July or the first of August & want to see this individual & wife & sister just say so & we'll be pretty sure to call on you one way.

You didn't answer my last letter congratulating you on your paternity but I don't place much significance on this fact, inasmuch as I don't answer some of my letters for a year & I guess it hasn't been quite a year since I wrote you.

According to the best of my recollection I rolled you somewhat but didn't say anything you need have taken in dudgeon from me. I don't believe you are mad with me but if you are just say so & I'll believe so & not till then.

I saw both Jewett & Goodwin last week - both located in Chicago. Saw Ath at Dixon Ills & Stinson in Wis. My sister is teacher in the North Ills Institute here. John A. P. has just gone to Omaha, Nebraska. Blackstone is at Saco in Hardware business & half of Livermore is out here somewhere. It is just getting to be decent weather. It has been very cold & backward, very. She, that was Miss Clark is married to a Mr Scott, a widower of 40 with 2 children & gone on a sea voyage. Had a letter from Jack the other day, from Boothbay. Miss H. M. Knight wrote me some 2 weeks since, from White Springs Florida. Perry flourishes in religious peace & happiness. I wish we could say as much, at Bridgton Me.

Do you know anything about anybody else of '50 or our friends? Where & how is Rowland & how is Oliver & Lizzie and my quondam mother Mrs Waite. Give them all Peleg's love & assure them of his affectionate remembrance. I hope Lizzies & her mother's health is good. Does Mrs W live with you now?

My health is very good & the blues are almost among the things that were with me. I am doing a very good business & lead a very happy life. I saw a man on the cars the other day whom I had to go back to take a nearer view of to see if it was not yourself. I should really like to see you chum & chat with you one day & revive the olden recollections of the days gone by.

I would give a dollar for 2 cigars & a seat on the grass with you for an hour or two this warm June morning. I have several letters more to write before the mail closes & cant enlongate this much more but I believe I have said nearly all that is essential. My regard for you is undiminished & the flight of years & the lapse of time will not dim or diminish it. You will never grow out of my remembrance & regard & no one out of your own family will be more glad of your success than your old chum P.S.P. How long will you probably remain at your present quarters?

Does life go happily with you now? Or do new anxieties gather round the marriage life?

Do you begin to feel anxious for your boy or has not that feeling begun to be cherished? What is his name?

Give my love to Mrs W & believe  
me as ever

Your friend & Chum  
Peleg

[Envelope]  
[Postmark sending city]  
HENRY ILL June 5  
[Postmark receiving city]  
WEST TROY N.Y.  
JUNE 14

Lieutenant Oliver Otis Howard  
Leeds  
Maine

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784 6/4/1857

*From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0726

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. June. 4th. 1857.

My dearest Husband

What shall I say to you to-night, not much I fancy for I hear the clock striking nine. I laid down with Guy, when I put him to bed and did not get up as soon as he went to sleep. I have not yet received a letter from you, but think I must to-morrow when I mail this.

I am getting so down-hearted about myself, dearest Otis, and am losing all my courage, just when I shall most need it. What shall I do? It is no use to wish you were here, or anything else that cannot be. And I do try to reason every way with myself, that all will be well in the end, but it is hard to look bravely at what must take place before I can say all is over. Your letters have been such a comfort to me, and since I have been without them I have lost courage every day. If I could be assured of your good health, it would do me as much good as anything I know of. I dont believe you will the second time say you must go away without your little family, but, dearest, I must not write thus to you so far away, and will leave it till morning. After a good rest I hope to gain fortitude and feel more hopeful.

Friday morning.

Dearest Otis. I could not write last evening for I was very sad, and could see no sunshine in the future for me, so I put up my writing and took my bible, and after reading the Psalms 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, I felt as if I had gained new life and went to sleep feeling very happy. I do not appreciate enough the blessing in having a Father to flee to in time of sorrow and trials.

I am now writing just before dinner. Guy is sleeping on my bed sweetly as if nothing could be troubling his little mind.

Uncle Ensign and Aunt Martha are here spending the day, and I take the time to write while she is helping Mother get dinner, and also be with Guy while he sleeps.

My mother came back from Turner Wednesday in the cars, at half past eleven. She took dinner at Mrs Lothrop and William Henry brought her here about two o'clock in the afternoon. She is not sick, but is not as well as I could wish at this time. I spoke of Mother's getting dinner herself.

Rossa, the girl, went away yesterday and I don't think she will come back here to work. She has not seemed to please mother in doing the work and I guess she was not very well contented. It is very different with girls that one gets in the country to help them. They expect a great deal of attention and think they must do just as their mistress does and work only when they do. But this, Otis, is a hard place for a girl to work. I am sorry to say it, but mother does not do as she did a few years ago, and keeps a girl at work all the afternoon as well as forenoon, and that is what a girl would dislike as much as anything. I regret that we are here to add to the work, for your mother could get along very well alone with only herself, Col G and boy, but when one gets into trouble they (one of my idioms) must get out the best way they can.

I have no one to talk with and therefore keep my own counsel, but as soon as we can I feel that we must go away from here. I should make myself as happy as possible during the time I shall be obliged to remain, and do the best I can every way.

I wish you could see Guy now. He is standing in a chair by the table, and next to the window by my right hand, has my work-basket, and is selecting out my spools to put a pencil in each. He gets a little too near sometimes to see the b's "ma-my" is making. He wants to help write and I keep saying "no, no" and have given him a pencil and paper, but he would prefer mine.

Our friends have gone, and I am about to finish my letter. It is after tea and William goes to the P.O. soon. I have been out walking with Guy this afternoon. I like to go with him when I am able, it pleases him so much.

He will go a short distance by himself and if I do not follow closely, he will call "ma-my" and hold out his hand for me. Would you not like to see him?

Rowland went to Hallowell Wednesday with Mr Martin. I think now I shall write to him to bring Mrs Clark here next week, perhaps not till week after. John Harrison and wife return from China to-morrow, where they have been spending two week.

I have heard good news from Sarah Sargent. She was confined the 6th of May, at Nassau, a son. [Timothy Darling Sargent, born April 8, 1857] (Aunt Ann wrote to Aunt Martha), the latter wished me to give her love to you. We lately received a letter from Mrs Strickland. They are at Richmond, Ind. Adaline was married at Buffalo, on their way to their new residence. Aunt Lucy's health the same as when in vasilect there, and saw the "little wife". Cousin Angelia has two children the oldest Cynthia older than Guy, youngest four months old.

I am to have the sofa sent to me, or rather I am to send a team for it soon.

How much I do hope I shall get a letter to-night, but if it don't come to-night, it may come to-morrow. I certainly shall get one next week, but should be most happy to get one this week.

All send love to you, and believe me as ever

Your own true wife,  
Lizzie

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785 6/7/1857      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My own dearest Wife  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0727

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla  
June 7, 1857.

My own dearest Wife,

I received one single letter by yesterday evenings mail and that was from you. You say by the time you get an answer from me to this letter, it will all be over, and you pray God all will be well. I will now add mine in full earnestness to that prayer, and say, "not as I will but as Thou wilt".

Warren came in by Wednesdays stage and staid here till last night, or rather till this morning for the boat left about day light for Fort Myers via Manatee. Warren has been with me most of the time. God enabled me to tell him of my beautiful experience of his goodness, a few days before, and to reason with him on the subject of experimental religion. He was here one day about 12. My rule is to read & pray at that time. I asked him if he had any objection to my following my rule, he said no, and I read & prayed as earnestly as Christ assisted me to do. We visited all the officers families together, & last night I went with him to see Mr McKay's family in town. He has left many things with me & some money to send to his mother as soon as I can obtain a check, which I shall try to do as soon as Major Leonard returns.

The Fashion came back from New Orleans, arriving yesterday, accompanied by another steamer "the America" I believe. She brought back Mrs Hazzard to her waiting husband & the important news that the 5th Infy would be moved to Jefferson Barracks immediately, all, but Colonel Loomis, who is still in command of the Department of Florida. These troops, so says the order, are to be replaced by Florida Mounted Volunteers.

I cant tell whether I will be kept here or not, but presume I will not get off very soon. It will be some three months before the requisite number of Volunteers can be mustered. I long to visit you now, I want to tell you face to face & heart to heart what my present enjoyment is and how really I sympathize with you.

Warren says Guy was a finer head than his father and don't you hope God has given him many talents and will make him an intelligent instrument to do his will & win many souls into the fold of the Saviour. Oh! My darling, great is the trust imposed in us and faithfully & prayerfully must we carry it out. I have a class at the Sabbath school of intelligent little boys, but today I was asked to hear the Bible Class, and did so. There were but two members of it but we had a pleasant hours conversation on the Scriptures.

Mr Hart has gone to Key West & left his wife, a little woman of about your size. I hope you are not quite so anxious to see your husband back as she. She has no little pledge to love and kiss while her husband is away. They are going to the north soon after his return & some think they shall visit Portland. She was born in New Jersey. I talked with her about those things that are uppermost in my heart this morning, the love I bear my Saviour. She talked freely, seems to be waiting for her husband before she passes "the point".

If there is a little girl at home when this comes, remember that Amy, Margaret or Laura are interesting names.

Warren will go to Fr McCrae via Fort Myers, but his company will not remain there long, since the 5th Infantry are leaving. He is enjoying excellent health and I was happy to compensate him for the past, in however slight a measure. The officers appear to like him much & the ladies must admit he is a fine looking man.

On Thursday evening Mr Mack & Warren were here. I got excused and went to see Capt Lesleys family, who lost their son by being accidentally shot. I succeeded in diverting their minds to other objects & talked with the Captain & Mrs Lesley till quite late. Then they invited me in & asked me to read & pray. I read the last Chapter in Revelations & a portion of a Psalm and then the Holy Spirt helped me to pray for them. They seemed grateful, their grief was subdued & they are looking to a happy meeting above. Mrs Lesley loved to tell me about her dear & beautiful boy. She expects to meet him. Were it not for the Religion of Christ, I believe she would have died in despair, so mighty & sudden was the shock. But Christ has said, "The bruised reed shall he

not break, the smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment to victory.”

I am rejoiced to find that you are reviewing the past, but say not “may a new course & better blot out the errors of the past” for it cannot, no more than soap will take out the blots from this white paper. “The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin.” My dear Saviour, forgives us, as a good father would forgive his son, and we must believe this, else the happy feelings will not come in the former case, more than they would in the latter if the Son persisted in believing that his father had not forgiven him. Christ blots out the past, puts the Holy Spirit in your spirit, which makes you love him. All you have to do is to be sincere, ask Him & believe him implicitly. Don’t think of creeds, or Christians, but get the Holy Spirit in the heart then I can trust you in any part of the Bible. Would God I could press you in my arms & explain it all to you as my dear Saviour helps me explain it to my associates. I hope if God has spared your life & you are able to think, a little prayer will go up to God from your soul, all in earnest. “Oh, my dear Saviour, thou hast forgiven me everything. Give me the Holy Spirit in my heart, to work in there a complete change.” Don’t I love you now? More than I ever could before for I was not half the man, that my Heavenly father is making of me.

Kiss Mama, Guy. Oh! For “the news”. Give my love to all.

Your affectionate husband,  
Otis

I am very anxious to write to mother & thank her for all she has done for me & tell her I shall no longer work against her but with her. Tell her I am engaged in the work of my Heavenly Father. Pray earnestly for the power of Christ to continue with me and strengthen me.

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786 6/7/1857

*From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0728

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. June 7. 1857.

My dearest Husband.

I was very happy last evening to get letters from you. I received the one you wrote while at Fort Myers, and the one written the next day after your return to Tampa. I am very glad you took the trip, now that you have got safely back to the place I feel to be the most home like, and you say your health is very good. I have feared you were not at all well and think I may have written so in former letters.

I have just finished a letter to Mrs Clarke since dinner and shall send William with the horse and wagon for her next Thursday. She wrote me last week to know when I should want her, and so as to be all ready when I sent. I am not well at all to-day, but hope to keep well till she shall get here. I am keeping as quiet as possible to-day and will not try to write you a long letter, although there is much, so much, I would like to tell you and say to you, dearest. I am hopeful now and trust all will be well in the end. My room looks quite like our home since I have got my carpet down. I wanted your mother to take hers up as it was beginning to show the wear and staying in the room and using it as much as we should have done this summer would wear it out a great deal than I would be willing to do when I could just as well have my own on the floor.

Guy's shell "papa" sent him, is on the fire frame, and looks very pretty there. I have had the book-case taken away to give me more room. I keep my writing-desk on the bureau (or rather your rose-wood one) my port-folio lying on top, Guy's box of blocks and games are now on one side and books on the other. If I am well to-morrow I shall have all my things arranged very conveniently. We did not get as much done last week as we wished. We had some company and yesterday I had the sick head-ache, what I used to be troubled with, but I have not had a sick head-ache before for five years. I am always blind and numb at the same time, and I presume why I do not feel well to-day, is the effects of yesterday's head-ache.

Guy has been very happy all day. He, Mother and myself kept house while Col Gilmore and Mother were gone to Church. They returned about half past three o'clock. We had dinner soon after, and I am now writing at half past six. It has been a beautiful day. I sat in the front door while Guy and 'nam-ma' were in the garden this afternoon. Mother heard when she was at Turner that Peleg was soon to be married and coming to New Hampshire to visit her friends, then coming to Maine to visit his Father's family. Eliza Ann is somewhere near him teaching. John has gone to Kansas.

I left my writing to give Guy his supper and now he and Mother have gone to bed. I must go soon for the clock just struck nine.

I feel better than I did this morning and hope to have a good rest. Do not be anxious about me dearest. I have courage. I shall not expect you to come to Maine very soon. I reckon I should first come to you.

Now, good night. God be with us, and bless us. Ever your own true  
wife.  
Lizzie Howard

Monday evening 7 o'clock

I am as well as usual to-day, better than yesterday and Guy is well, and all the rest, but mother is not very well, although she keeps about all the time. John Harrison and wife are at Uncle Ensign's, just returned from China, where they passed the last two weeks. I think of you, dearest, a great deal now, but do not expect to see you as soon as I did some time ago. I must live in your letters awhile longer. As ever yours

Lizzie

Mother has quite a variety of flowers in her garden now.

[Written in another hand]  
Mrs. Howard  
Tampa dated  
June 7/57

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787 6/9/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0729

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
June 9th 1857

My dearest Wife,

You will be reading this letter about the 20th inst and how can I write you with so much uncertainty tugging at my heart. Will a bright smile play over your face & will you say Otis all gently as you seemed to me to do, a week ago last Saturday night, just after I lay my head on a lonely pillow, & not lonely either for my dear Saviour had just before let me know that He too was there. Oh! greet me again that gently, my love. Say, "Otis," "I am safe and I thank my Redeemer for his goodness. My pathway is now truly spread with flowers. Come home, my husband and I will present you with one in the bud, one that will blossom in time & not fade in Eternity."

There is now indeed something to live for, a great work to do, and it is not for a party, a dance, a dress, a frolick, an excursion, but to do the will of Him, who upholdeth the Earth, who is present in every part of the Universe, who maketh the green buds grow, sending us rain & every conceivable blessing. In wickedness, he veileth His face from us, in faith & Love, he comes very near to us and brightens the face of the Earth & sky. He gives the heart joy & peace. He strengthens the wind while he softens the Soul and prepares us for His work here below. Sympathy for suffering comes forth fresh & hearty. You can soothe the passions while you whisper, "God is love". You can break down despair & dissipate gloom by pointing to the Saviour.

Do you think me changed? And wonder if I am absent-minded, somber & cold. Think not so. I am cheerful. I am happy truly happy. My spirits never have had more elasticity, my mind has never had a wider grasp. While, I am humiliated in view of a Being so great, so just & good, I cannot help rejoicing that He has so honored me, that He has granted me such a big boon.

Warren left last Sunday morning. He is stationed at Fort Myers. His company from Fort McRae will join him there. He is much pleased with the kind treatment he received at the hands of the officers. He enclosed a letter to his mother for me to mail tonight. Two Companies of the 5th Infantry have arrived here & will go by the first mail steamer to New Orleans. The rest of the regiment will concentrate at Punta Rassa & take the Steamers Fashion & America for the same destination. Officers & men are glad to go out of Florida, where they think they have very little to compensate them for hard labor. Colonel Loomis told me this morning, that he should take me with him to Fort Myers.

I think I may have to go still farther up the Caloosahatchee to Fort Daynard & inspect some arms & accoutrements there, and if Major Page don't go I shall have to act as Adjutant to the Colonel.

You wish to know about my coming home. By & by when I get my official business in order, I may apply for a leave with permission for an extension. But it will not do to count upon it, for orders & other circumstances upset all arrangements we may make of this kind. I would rather be ordered out than go on a leave for two reasons, one the expense and the other I would rather not have a leave recorded against me, for a stronger necessity for one may arise hereafter and I am disposed to stick to my post and do my duty.

Warren gave me two pictures that he lithographed, one is a view of the Hotel & yard at West Point and the other is a view of the Chapel & Library at the same place. They are to the life & your mind is busy with associations when you look at them.

Guy, my dear boy, I wish I could go & see you, and let you see what your father's face is made of, & learn to love him. Is there another little heart that beats warmly & another pair of eyes, whether blue or black, that close in gentle slumber. Love them dearest, but Love Him who has given & may take away. Love Him who watcheth with sleepless eyes, your little brood and who loves them, better than ever you can. Commit them to His care & protection. Ask Him for the wisdom, He alone can give, that you may rear them, not for wickedness & corruption, but to be His dear children.

Are you too poor & weak. Christ sends His Spirit to strengthen you. May be you will say my dearest husband you do not know me, already have I committed you, by babes & myself wholly to Christ, my Redeemer. Already the Love of his dear name springs up in my heart. Already, I love to read his word or have it read to me. Already, have I passed from darkness, to the bright light of day. I know that He cleanseth me from all sin day by day. If this is so, I am indeed blessed and I can say from my inmost heart, Oh, how Good thou art, my Heavenly Father. I do not deserve this rich cup of blessings. I deserve nothing, for I have constantly turned my face away. But My Saviour had need of me. He plucks my feet from the mire & places them on the rock. I am led on to desire him. I ask and he gives till my happiness is complete. Wont it be sweet to meet you all now. My love for you is purer, better, greater, & God is good. It is strange how it unties the sensibilities and makes the heart expand to admit the Kindly Visitor.

My men have promised to come in for reading & prayers in the morning & seemed glad to do so. I was called upon to speak & pray at the prayer-meeting last night. Colonel Loomis conducted the meeting at the Methodist Church. Don't laugh at any religion, there is but one in reality & that is, faith in Christ. Without Him you are nothing. If you die without Him & don't love Him or trust Him, how can you be happy? I don't know. He don't force you to love Him. However, this may be, it is a duty & a privilege to have Him smile upon you in this life. Once get the Light in your heart & you will not easily let it go.

I want to write to Mother & tell her so much, but I have denied myself this pleasure, to write to Chas Mulliken, Lt Day, Rowland & Dellie. Her turn should have come, but it seemed it was well with her. My love to both mothers, father & all. Tell father I pray for him & he must bow his knee before his God, & thank him for a lifetime of blessings. I shall send Mrs Lothrop her sons money as soon as I can get a check for the gold he gave me.

I wish I could know it was well with you. With my warmest sympathy & my warmest Love, I commit you & the little ones to my beautiful Redeemer.

Your husband  
Otis

I go to Fort Myers tomorrow afternoon, so don't worry if the next letter don't come for a week after this.

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788 6/10/1857 *From:* Peter Hain

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-0730

Newburgh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Newburgh, June the 10 1857

Dear Sir

I have just received yours all corect and I am very much obliged to you for your Kind attetion I have got a home at last. I am living with my Sister and have got a littel Work. I tok the best care of your Shal I could and When I got to Puladephia I Went to the express office and had a box maid for it and Sent it on to mane acording to what you told me. Sir mister Pelouse cused me first rate and When We got to his fathers house I said till the next Day Sir I hope you got the Key of the gate as it Was late Wen I left it with Sentery on Post as I could not see Wilson at the time Sir Would you be Pleased to tell me if you and lutanant mack Paid my Way to Platky as When We got that fair lutanant. Pluse told me that he Would mak me a Presant of the expence that far Sir. I send you with this A nespaper and one for lutanant mack I am living neare magarbains founderaay and if Ever you or lutanant mack comes this Way I <Wish y> Would like to see you Pleas to tell all the old hands that I am Well

Nothing more at Presant but remains  
yours Peter Hain

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789 6/10/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0731

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. June. 10. 1857

My dearest Husband.

I received to-day a good long letter from you, and enclosed was a check for \$180.00. I will deposit before the end of the month about \$150.00 of it. I shall need to use some this month and next, but I cannot tell just how much.

You write you are in good health which I am happy to hear, and gave me a description of your trip in the steamer ranger to Old Tampa Bay, a very pleasant excursion I should judge. I like to have you tell me where you go, and with whom you become acquainted. I think you have some very agreeable acquaintances and have friends about you; that is right get acquainted with all the good people so you can introduce me when I arrive at Tampa. You may think I wont have an opportunity, or anything to call me there, but you will see. I'll bet all the money you have sent me (which I have deposited in my name) that I shall see you there this Fall. Harra for Tampa! But oh me, when I turn from the imagining to the real it does not look so plain. I don't feel much like going to Tampa now, but I would like to be there.

I presume Warren arrives about this time. You must tell me what he has to say about us. His friends here received letters from him, mailed at Charleston and Savannah last Saturday.

Col Gilmore and Mother G went to Livermore in the Cars this afternoon, to visit Mr and Mrs Lothrop, intend to return to-morrow noon. Rossa came back here yesterday. I did not think she would come at all, but am very glad, and hope she will stay as long as we do at least. I don't like to see Mother doing the work alone.

William will go to Augusta to-morrow, by the way of Hallowell, and bring Mrs Clark home with him, I expect in the afternoon. Every letter you get after this I fancy you will tear open in great haste hoping each one will bring the good news. I hope, dearest, we shall have none but good news to write, but I have in mind all the while we are not certain. I can only hope and pray that I may be carried safely through all trials now before me.

Guy is sleeping sweetly now. He has but six teeth as yet, but seems to continue very well, although his gums are much swollen. I walked down to see Mrs Turner this morning thought she would like to know William was going to Augusta. He will mail this as he passes Mr Brewsters.

My mother continues about the same. I am as well as usual, but a little tired from my exercise. I cannot write more this time as it is getting late and wish to mail this to-morrow to let you know the check came safely.

I am your affectionate wife  
Lizzie Howard

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790 6/12/1857 *From:* Rodelphus H  
Gilmore

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-0732

Andover

Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Andover June 12 1857

My Dear Brother

I received a letter from you some time ago but I have not yet been able to answer it. I have to study quite hard in order to get my lessons. I have now to study, "Nepos" to translate "Latin Grammar", "Latin Prose composition", & Ancient History. You see from this that nearly all my time must necessarily be employed and consequently I have but a little time to write. I owe Rowland & Charles each a letter besides this. I do not feel in a writing mood this afternoon and you must excuse me if this letter is not very long. You may say that you should think it would be good enough for you have been long enough writing it.

I have a very good room-mate though he is not pious. His name is Cobune; he lives when at home in Dracut in this state. He being in the English department, I do not enjoy myself near so well as I should if he was in the Classical.

You said in your last letter that you had received the good news of Rowland's conversion and expressed a wish that you might receive some such news from me. I am happy to be able to send you in this letter that intelligence. It will be five weeks tomorrow night since I hope that I began to feel the workings of the Holy Spirit in my heart. And the next day I trust for Christ's Sake God pardoned my many sins. You doubtless heard of this some time ago either through Lizzie, Rowland or Charles. I have enjoyed myself a great deal better than I ever did before, since I made up my mind to follow the Blessed Saviour.

I have a great many privileges here for attending Religious meetings, which you will see from this: Monday evening we have a prayer-meeting in the Commons. Tuesday one in the Academy. Wednesday one in the Commons. Thursday a Religious Society meets at the Academy. Friday we have no religious meeting whatever as our debating Society meets that night. Saturday have a prayer-meeting in the Academy. Sunday, there are two meetings at the Chapel, and we can go immediately after the afternoon meeting to the Episcopal. In the evening there is a meeting in the room over mine for this commons.

You see from this that no one can find an excuse for not knowing the "Way to Salvation" after attending school here. Sunday morning we have a "Biblical Exercise" which I forgot to mention making five religious meetings that I attended last Sunday and mean to do on other occasions.

There has been a great many conversions here in school this term, and I hope there will be still more. I am in hopes that my chum will be among those who will find that they are greatly in need of a Saviour. He has long been under strong convictions but what the reason is why he does not come out I have never been able to understand.

Many are interested and there seems to be a general wish among all that they may come to God soon, but all seem to try to put it off until a more convenient time offers itself. Every one says that he means to be a Christian some time, but he wants to put it off until there is a more convenient season.

Mother's children are now all professed followers of Christ and fathers too except one. Pray Otis for that one. Harder and worse cases than his have been known and have become the most faithful of Christians. Now why is there not a prospect for him. I was as great a sinner as he though perhaps not so long been accustomed to sin as I am not near so old, but if there ever was any ray of hope for me, there is for him.

You, where you are, cannot do much more than to pray sincerely neither can either of us brothers situated as we are, but if we pray in faith our prayers will undoubtedly be answered though it may not come right off yet the answer will surely come. I feel this and I pray every day for Roland Alger.

Rowland writes me that he has given up the Law and is going to study for the ministry. I was some disappointed when I heard that though I suppose it will be all for the best. There cannot be any better

employment than converting souls to God.

It is a very pleasant place here and every thing now looks beautiful. I hope Rowland will come here to study Theology for here is one of the best places that he can possibly go to, and besides I can room with him through the whole course that I stay here and he will be here a year with Charles, that is if Charles comes here and he undoubtedly will if Rowland does. So that he will have one of his brothers for a room-mate all through the course.

I hope you will be ordered north some where soon. I don't like the plan of your staying down there in Florida all summer.

The prayer-bell is now ringing and I must finish this. So good bye and pray for your affectionate brother

Rodelphus H Gilmore.

N.B. Excuse mistakes as I have not time to look it over.

Lt. O.O. Howard  
Tampa Fla.

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791 6/13/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0733

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bath June 13th 1857

Dear Brother

You have given me a world of joy. Your letter was to me literally a "feast". I thank my Lord & Master with my whole heart. O the mercy of God. O the freeness & fullness of Christ. What on Earth so glorious as that "liberty when with Christ shall make us free". O My Brother, to know & feel that you have got out into this "large place"! That Christ is your Saviour, that he was born, was tempted, persecuted, & crucified for you, & O my God, for me & not for me only but for all the world.

When I wrote you first, I had faith that "it" would speedily come to you & then, when I got your reply my spirits drooped. I felt disappointed, but I didn't leave my God. I felt as if He, in his mercy towards me had blighted my expectancy, that I might be more humble & prayerful. But O, I did pray Him in my heart, that he might choose some other way to afflict me & humble me - but that my dear Brother might be counted among the children of God, partakes of His grace.

Ella has been up to Gardiner to see some of her friends & extended her trip to Hallowell to see me & my friends & we were returning yesterday in the cars when I first read your letter - having taken it from the office just before I started. What one knows, the other does & I read it aloud. O my dear Otis, if you ever hear suddenly & unexpectedly of a loved friend who is a Sinner, made a Subject of Gods grace, then will you feel the overpowering emotion that fills our hearts. I went to walk with Rev Mr Fiske in the evening & told him something about it. O you should know him. He is such an enthusiastic Christian. Form is nothing to him. He is full & overflowing with the Spirit of Christ.

When you said, "That night while at prayer "it" came", Ella or I could not restrain our feelings. I closed the letter for a few moments & spent them in silent Prayer. O I have been so happy ever since. When I awoke early this morning it was raining & I feared that Ella & I could not take our proposed ride, but I felt that it would take a great great disappointment indeed, to do away with my joy. O welcome, welcome to the fold of Christ. Resolve to be an uncommon Christian, my dear brother. Let nothing separate you from the love of Christ. Look often into those holy & inspired Epistles & see how clearly & plainly Paul, Peter & John speak to you. They had your very care in view when they wrote. A light from the throne of God seems to illumine every Chapter & Verse & from your heart within shines out a light - ever the light of the "new-birth" which makes all Gods word & works full of praise & love.

"It"! How much to every Christian does that little word reveal. To Ella & to me it was a whole volume. It spoke of a new experience - a new knowledge - a new Life. Emotions never felt before - sweet peace, trust, dependence, joy, treasure, gratitude, "hope" were contained in that little "it". O God be praised for his mercy & his Grace. The foundation is now laid in Zion. The true life has begun. Christ is my "rock". Upon him I take my stand. To Him I look - to Him I flee. O God hear "I will help on One who is mighty & able to race ever to the uttermost". Stick to Him "Cleave unto Him". He won't leave nor forsake you.

I left the letter with Charles at Brunswick. I wanted him to share my joy. This was our Brother "who was dead & is alive, who was lost & is found". I wanted to call on the very trees & stones to rejoice with me. But there was something better, I do believe that dearest Ella is in sympathy with Christ & with me & now, with you. O Him my God has blessed a poor, miserable, stumbling sinner. You are beginning now the hardest but thanks be to God, the most useful & remunerative lesson that you have ever learned. The purpose that the life of Vicars served you was the same that it did me. I found then the same exercises of mind & head that I myself experienced.

It is Saturday afternoon & has cleared off pleasant & Ella & I are to take our ride. I shall write you again as soon as I get back to Hallowell, Sunday. Ella sends her love & I am most lovingly

Your Brother in Christ

Rowland

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792 6/14/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0735

Fort Myers, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Myers, Fla.  
(Sunday) June 14th 57

My dearest wife,

I am again at Ft Myers, as you will notice. We went on board the Ranger in the morning, but as the Captain was afraid of a wind & the Ranger is only a river boat, he thought he had better not go outside. The steamer Fashion was in the Bay, and so the Colonel decided to go down in her. As soon as word enough could be put on board for her to make a trip to Punta Rassa & thence to N. Orleans, we left. It was then about sunset Thursday evening. We had a pleasant night, & arrived in safety the next morning or rather a little after noon Friday.

I did'nt sleep much for the Captain Baker was quite sick & delirious, and I took care of him till towards morning. Poor man I never saw a man in such mental agony before. I kept him on his bed, talked with him, diverted his mind, talked about Heaven, his God & his Saviour and got him to repeat the Lords prayer with me. After a time he got calm, held on to my hand, did'nt want me to leave him and dropped asleep. I slipped away & went to sleep, and had a very good rest. His son was 1st mate. The young man was frightened, his father was so bad. Before we reached Punta Rassa the Captain was able to take charge of his vessel. I do hope he may never have another such an attack, for it will be difficult to hinder him from taking his own life.

How glad I am that my Saviour has visited me & manifested himself to me. How he strengthens me to meet everything and how pleasant it is to do even the saddest offices for others, when you feel that He is helping you. My moments of sadness are those in which I am conscious of having said something about another that I ought'nt to say; or when I get to taking credit to myself instead of giving it to Him who is my helper & my Guide. As Rowland said the only bad thing is sin. Temptations to do wrong, or to leave undone something I ought to do, come in every form & shape.

I find Warren Lothrop here. The officers like him much and he is getting on admirably. He went on as officer of the day yesterday and served on a Board of Survey. Afterwards had to make out the Proceedings. He goes cheerfully about every sort of duty & is delighted with Fort Myers.

The 5th Infantry mostly concentrated here. The Ranger is taking them down to Punta Rassa, where the (Ocean or Sea) Steamers Fashion & America are in waiting to take them to New Orleans. Two Companies were at Tampa when I left, going by the Mail steamer. About three companies left here by the Ranger this morning. The America leaves with her load tonight. The Fashion will take the rest on Tuesday next.

Warren is attached to Capt F. N. Clarke's Co. for the present; which Co. relieves the troops at this post. Warren's Company is now on the way here from Fort McRae. I have met a classmate Stephen D Lee of the 4th Artillery here, and a fine young man he is too. He is own cousin to Lee C.C. of our Department, at Watervliet.

I have seen Mrs Waite & the Colonel. She asked for you. I told her I thought you were pretty well. I wish I knew how you really were. It is almost the middle of June. God will care for you & you will love Him.

I hope your mother wont be sick now, for you are not able to take care of her. You said she was better or quite well again in your last letter.

It is very warm & showery, rather oppressive, the heat is. I am staying at the house of Capt Hancock of the Quartermaster's department, but am now writing in Warren's room. This is the Sabbath, but we have no religious exercises and it seems very little different from any other day.

Kiss little Guy & perhaps – I must try to write a few lines to mother tomorrow morning before the mail leaves. Be patient, my darling wife. I know you have been a noble & good wife. I appreciate you & hope it wont be long before we will be living together again. I will not try to write you more this time. Give my love to all at home.

Your own affectionate husband  
Otis

P.S. We will go back to Tampa soon after the 5th gets out.

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793 6/14/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0736

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. June, 14. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received two letters from you last week, and am very glad that I get them regularly again. I miss them so much when the time goes by that I should receive one and do not. I wish I was able to write you a long letter to-day, this holy sabbath, but I fear I am not. I cannot write much without getting tired now, and it is not to be wondered at. This letter cannot possibly reach you before my confinement, dearest, and I am so happy you wrote me as you did in your last letter dated, May 31. I feel now that should I not recover from my approaching illness - should affliction come upon you, how much better you are prepared to meet it than formerly. You would now in the end see the hand of Providence in any affliction, and must feel to say, "thy will be done". It would be hard to know that we were not again to meet in this world, and it may be you have received strength at the right time, and I know I am better prepared to meet my God than I ever have been, but I hope to be permitted through this wisdom to dwell some years longer in this world to live a Christian's life and take care of my children, who will so much need a mother's care during their tender years. I now more than ever long for the time to come, if so it can be, that we shall be together to share each others joys, sorrows, pains and pleasures. I think if you have to stay in Florida this Winter I had better come to you. I cant feel that I ought to stay here longer than I am able to get away.

Mrs Clark came here last Thursday, and I am very glad that she is here, for Mother is not as well as when I wrote last Wednesday, but I don't think she will be confined to the bed. I remember last year about this time she had an ill turn, and I think she is subject to them as the year comes round.

Evening. I wrote the above at different times during the day, which may account for its being so broken and unconnected. I must write to you as long as I am able to hold a pen for it is one of my chief pleasures.

Mr & Mrs Turner and Lucia have been here since tea. Flora was here yesterday to see Guy. She goes to school now and had not been here for a long time to play with him. He was delighted to see her and spoke about her "bow-wow" and "uncle, ma-my, Guy, ajack" leaving out all small words in the sentence, trying to tell her he remembered his visit up to her house, when we rode home with Rowland. Col G and Mother went to the Church this morning expecting to hear preaching, but by some misunderstanding there was no minister, so they had a prayer meeting and got home about one o'clock. They brought this letter, which I enclose with this. I will write to Peleg to let him know we have left Troy. I presume I shall see them here at Leeds during their stay in Maine. I must tell him I am quite sure you did answer his letter of congratulation &c. Rev Mr Snyder is in town and is to preach at Wayne this summer. Rev Mr Hermitage is soon to be married to Miss Lottie Lambert. I must try to write to Mrs Mulliken this week, and tell her not to come to Leeds till after "muster". Guy has been very happy all day because "Mamy" has played with him a great deal, showing him his books and talking about the pictures, putting his blocks in the box then taking them out to put them in again, sitting beside him on his little bench. He wrote one letter to you to-day when Mother was writing, came for his paper and pencil saying, "pa-pa", and with his motions I understood what he wanted.

Monday Evening

I am in my room, dearest, with dear little Guy asleep on my bed, and waiting for the hour of rest to come, and will fill this sheet while waiting. I am quite well to-night, but how much I do wish I was with you; to be alone, to keep all joys and sorrows to yourself, because none can sympathize with you like ones own husband so good so kind as you are and have ever been. I will get another dear letter from you to-morrow I trust. I have no news to write. I have written a note to Peleg to-day. Mother is about the same, has been lying down most of the day. All the rest are quite well. Ella was visiting Aunt Ellen at Hallowell last Thursday, William informed us when he returned with Mrs Clark. Every letter I now write I think will be the last for the present. I don't want to be separated from you again during my life.

Hoping this separation is nearly ended, I remain your own happy and affectionate little wife,  
Lizzie

Tuesday evening.

I am very well dearest, and shall I hope get a letter from you.

[Written in another hand]

Mrs Howard

June 14/57

Tampa

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794 6/15/1857 *From:* Geo T. Balch

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-0737

Banancas Barracks Fla  
Warrington P.O.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Banancas Barracks Fla  
Warrington P.O. June 15 1857

My dear Howard,

This morning arrived the enclosed letter for you, and directed as I see by our redoubtable friend John Todd, who has lately hung up his hat at Watervliet. So I take the opportunity to send you a remembrance, and let you know that at least one ord officer appreciates your out of the way location. I am sorry this letter did not come on Saturday, as the steamer Atlantic left here on that day for your place, with Lt Stevens of the Engr onboard, whom you may possibly see, as he may go to Tampa, on his way to St Augustine.

Altho I don't doubt it is irksome & trying for you to be separated from yr wife & family so long, still yr experience in Florida cannot but be of great value to you, not only that it throws you with the Army or a portion of it and thus give you some insight into Army life as it really is, but that it throws you on yr own responsibility and creates a field for the exercise of yr judgment, forethought, prudence & skill in the discharge of the more immediate duties of yr corps. I do not doubt you have already been impressed with this, and have profited by it. For myself I live & learn, nearly one year ago I came here to inspect their armament. At that time I had had but little experience in such matters, except perhaps the mechanical part of the duty. I could tell whether a <carriage> was defective, but how much it would cost to repair it, was a difficult thing to get at.

I have been hard at work ever since my arrival here, & have only completed the repairs at one work. Ft. Banams, the repairs at Pickens & McKea are well under weigh and all the ord work in the Harbor will be completed by the middle or last of Sept. I estimated the labor at \$3200. I have already spent \$10,000 & want \$10,000 more to finish, so much for estimates.

I have however collected a mass of information respecting such work, which will be very valuable for future reference and in case you are at any time called upon to make repairs at any of our sea coast forts, drop me a line and I can give you a few hints which will save you not only much trouble, but as it could have done in my own case had I had it, some little mortification.

Our whole system of arming Forts & preserving armaments is a blunder from beginning to end, and the sooner it is reformed the better for all concerned.

When you leave Tampa, let me advise you to come here in the steamer, you can see the works here. Capt Newton the Engr officer here will pay you every attention, and you can then go north via Mobile & the mail route.

I have no particular Army news. Derby (John Phenix) is ordered here to take charge of a new light house, and other works in that Dept on the Alabama coast. He comes down in the fall.

In consequence of the state of my affairs at home, & the illness of one of my sisters, I have applied for a leave this summer, asking that I be relieved from duty here by Brereton, who is in command at <Mt Vernon>. If I get it I shall leave here about the 12 July, if not shall hurry up my business & get off by the last of Aug. I wish much my dear Howard I could meet you, and hope our paths may cross at some future day. I have been under orders for New York for a year past, but lately I have heard that I was to be ordered to Washington. I shall believe it when I get the order.

Take care of yourself this summer, & don't let yellow Jack catch you. Drop me a line if you have time & believe me truly yours  
Geo T. Balch

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795 6/15/1857 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0738

Fort Myers Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Myers Florida  
June 15th 1857

My dear Mother,

I have been thinking about writing you for a long time, but you Lizzie being at the same house, I think you will get all the news from her, but since I started out to acknowledge my Saviour before the world I have often thought how happy you would be to get a letter from me telling you of it, and showing that a fond Mother's prayers are not in vain. God has been very good to us all through life and yet we have not acknowledged it or suffered him to have a place in our affections. But he is of long suffering & tender mercy and at last we are led to place ourselves on the side of his people & commence however poorly in our weakness, to do his will. You can now pray for me with a full heart and you must do so; that I do not yield to the thousand temptations that environ me, that I stand boldly forth to defend the cause of my Lord, that I have more & more of the Holy Spirit to influence me, to lighten up my mind and heart, so as to know better my duty & be enabled to do it.

I came down here with Colonel Loomis last Friday. The 5th Infantry will all be gone by tomorrow night & the Colonel will return in the Steamer "Ranger" to Tampa, but he will section before I return.

You must not worry yourselves any if you do not get a letter for some little time I am now Acting Assistant Adjutant General to the Colonel Commanding the Department; a high sounding name, which means simply that I am aiding him in issuing his Orders to different officers. When I get back to Tampa I will tell you all I have seen & done.

I am very anxious for Lizzie now and wish I could be at Tampa, where I could write her by every mail. I do hope she will be enabled to go through with her coming trials in safety but it won't do to be presumptuous. Our Father knows what is good for his children. He will guard her & protect her and she must learn to love him.

Warren is quite pleased with his post & his duties. He talks with me every day, about the business of Officers and the particular things he will be called on to do. He is temporarily attached to Captain F. N. Clark's company. The Captain told me to day that he should make him his Post Adjutant. He will have considerable to do but this will suit him.

My Christian profession does not lessen the regard that officers seem to have for me. It is just as possible & easy to be a Christian in the Army as elsewhere, and there is a wide field for Christian labor. The Morning before I left Tampa my men came into my little room just after six for morning prayers. They seemed to like it, were respectful. It seemed a mountain to get over before I proposed it but I just asked them (3 of them) and they came. My Saviour has strengthened me to pray with others. I find my pride is a great obstacle to my advancement, and I am often inclined to think I am doing some very good things. If it was not for this I should feel more free to tell what I have been enabled to see & do. The Spirit of my beloved Saviour shows me the way & I must try to walk in it with humility of spirit before him. It is not easy to meet those from whom I have stood aloof in other things on an equal footing in even religious matters - the thought comes: "the soul of that from creation is as important in the sight of God as your own". You can visit the converted, the rich & refined, and can you not speak a word of comfort or encouragement to the ignorant"? It isn't all of a Christian's duty to pray three times a day. He does not do one half his duty when he does his best, but I hope & pray, that I may draw closer & closer to my Saviour, that he may teach me & lead me, that I may commune with him & love him, as he made me do the first time I saw the light.

It won't do yet to ask me of what persuasion I am, for I don't know. I think sometimes I must be a Methodist, then a Presbyterian, but I don't believe the man who really loves his Saviour can easily tell. I wish there was but one Church & that was called "The Church of Christ". This may be wrong for God knows what is good for his Kingdom and He may have adapted these different modes to our different capacities & wants. Still among the true & sincere followers of our Lord, there is a common platform & a common sympathy. If two people love Christ, they must love each other. I have had <> in plenty, but now as a simple child I must commence to learn

the truth that is revealed. I was here yesterday & I regretted being away from my sabbath school class - for the freshness of their minds & the eagerness they exhibit, to catch it or new thoughts please me.

I am thinking a good deal about home: it will be delightful now to visit you. I want to see Lizzie & Guy. I do love them sincerely & lot less, while I love my Saviour more. I want her to love Him more than anything - for he can make her courageous. He can give her strength. I wrote to Lizzie yesterday, but the letter will not go till tomorrow night.

It was so warm & the musketoos were so thick, that I did not finish the last page of her letter. Give my love to all at home. Kiss little boy & all. His papa could show him "a little Indian boy" if he was here. One of the little fellows is quite sick. I had a talk with the Squaws this morning through the interpreter. Remember me to Mrs Lothrop & tell her I believe Warren has got just the position he likes. My love to Laura & Uncle Ensigns family.

I shant speak sharply to you any more & wish I never had <> you. Rowland will be a Clergiman. God be with Him at all times. I wrote to Dellie a short time ago. Shall write to Charlie as soon as I can.

I hope Father continues well.

Yr affectionate son  
OO Howard

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796 6/17/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0739

Fort Myers Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Myers Florida  
June 17 1857

My dearest wife,

I was fortunate enough this morning to get a letter from you dated the 1st of June. Your mother had gone to Turner & Rowland was at home on a short visit. You seemed to be pretty well as you were able to take care of little Guy & visit Mrs Turner. I will thank my Heavenly Father for all his goodness to us, for having preserved & sustained you so well through all your trials, and you must earnestly thank Him for what He has done for me. I don't know that I was ever in better health. I sometimes eat too heartily at night, but I have had no great trouble resulting from even this.

If the time of your visitation has not come already, it will have taken place, when this reaches you. You will be wishing that Otis knew, and anticipating with mingled joy & pride the time when you can present the little bundle to your husband. Happy days are in store my Darling Lizzie. I fear there will be a thousand & one comparisons between Guy & the baby, but the little mother must keep things in her heart & love them equally. Guy must learn from Mama to love the little one.

You shall join me here when the season comes that will do for you here. It is well to come late in the fall, after all danger of contagion has passed by. The winter, spring & early part of the summer fit one for the rest of the year, render one in a measure acclimated. I don't know that I suffer more with the heat than other people, though the Musquitoes make my hands itch a little. It rains regularly every afternoon (or nearly so). Hot in the morning but cool in the evening & night.

The 5th Infantry all departed yesterday. Colonel Loomis has gone back to Tampa, where I will join him after I have performed some official duties in this section. Be not worried for God will take care of me. He knows how long to keep me & what to do for & with me, and will surely save me & you, if we trust in him.

It is very sweet to be a Christian, for then his judgments & his bounties are all blessings. I can now kneel before him and pray for every good thing to come upon my Little Wife. I know He will give good things to them that ask him. But I will wait till I hear from you as to these things, though I know you love me and would not willingly take from you one spark of light, one happy moment, if you could help it.

I hope you will be as delighted to talk of Christ, our Saviour, of God & of Heaven as I am when the Holy Spirit is sent into my heart, but I may by saying too much now puzzle & perplex you and hinder one of the greatest things I desire for your present and future happiness.

The only officers now here are captain F.N. Clark 4th Artillery in command of the Post, Capt Hanebek, Quartermaster Department with whom I am staying, my intimate friend & classmate Stephen D Lee & Warren Lothrop. Lt Wilcox is on his way here with a company. Lieut Solomon who has been on detached service; and Captain Greland & Lieut Hudson with another company. I am waiting for the latter. Warren is now Adjutant of the Post. He is longing for letters from home, said he believed he must get married in order to get letters regularly.

I may get a leave to go for you, but am not so certain. Prepare yourself for Southern society by saying to yourself - was to Leeds & was at Leeds. I am joking, my Darling wife, but I am almost afraid to joke, lest all may not be well.

I do long to get with you again, that we may talk over lots of things, that we may read the Bible together & pray together. My heart is really so different, so free from every load, so much more independent of men but dependent on God, that it seems to me our meeting here will be very full of joy. The bonds of affection are tightening. We are more united in heart & purpose. We have more ties, interests & responsibilities in common than ever before and isnt God who directs all things well very good to us?

What can we have done to deserve it? Oh! Nothing in the wide world, we may have striven to please each other & ourselves, but not him. Yet He is gracious & of tender mercy & draws us unto him, He will not turn away, lest Thou be ashamed of us, who are ashamed to own Thee. Let them read "John" to you, when you are able to listen - all from the beginning to the end. I will be reading it about that time.

The ups & downs of our past life from the commencement of our acquaintance to the present time have recently passed in review with me. I can now trace the Guiding hand of a Great Power, all the time unseen & unknown, through all. He has chastened & has blessed and now if we are willing will save.

Lee & I had a good ride yesterday evening on horseback. He rode a large, fine black horse, and I a light bay. We staid out about an hour and came in much refreshed. I have here a very comfortable little room. Mrs Hancock with her little boy has gone to her home in St Louis to spend the hot weather. The Captain, a man about thirty two, is one of the handsomest & best dispositioned men I ever knew, and I expect he is without any question the best officer in this department. He has to work hard to furnish transportation for troops so scattered, but he does all & wears the same cheerful & happy face at all times. Only one thing is wanting to make him my model of what a man should be, & that is a love for his Saviour.

Give my love to all. Kiss Guy & baby, if there's such a little one. Remember me kindly & affectionately to all my friends who may inquire for me. I think of many I would like to see & by name, but names take up room.

Your ever loving husband  
Otis

Myself & Warren well.

Don't give credit to those stories about Chas M. till you know certain. Many good men have been slandered. I don't believe it is in him, to be unkind & I know he loves his wife & child. They may have had some temporary disagreement for she is quite tempered & sensitive. Be assured that Charles will be far from abusing his wife. I have written him lately, who can have told you such things?

Otis

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797 6/19/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0740

Leeds Me

Tampa, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. June, 19. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I did not receive a letter from you this week till to-day, when I was very happy to get two. Dated June 3 and June 7. It is now Friday evening and I should have written this letter and had it gone to the P.O. yesterday, the day I generally mail letters, but I could not seem to write.

I have to do things as easy as possible. I continue quite well however, as yet. I am so happy you write me as you do, opening your heart to me. I wish so much to be with you dearest, and wish I was able to go to you immediately. I know you will have us come to you as soon as I am able. I guess I would have liked to have gone on with Warren, altho if it had been so arranged, I dare say I should have hesitated to start on so long a journey. His mother received a letter to-day, which I think might have been from you with a check enclosed as you mentioned in my letter. I cannot write more to-night but hope to be able to write much to-morrow.

Saturday evening.

I left off writing last evening because I was too unwell to write and now I am not as well as I was then. Oh, my dearest Otis. I don't know what will become of me. I have no strength, no courage and but little hope for the future. I am rejoiced that you love your Savior, for you will be happy. Let the future be to me as it may. I hope to live, and walk hand in hand with you. I do believe our dear little Guy was given us through the providence of God to open our eyes to our duty - to love and serve Him. I have often thought of the message uncle Ensign sent us in the midst of our rejoicing over his birth. "To stop our rejoicing and consider our responsibility." How differently those words sound to me now than they did then. Have you thought of it?

I have written that my mother was not at all well. I think she is very low now - has not been as well this week, and has not been able to sit up any. I greatly fear the effect it will have on her, should I be taken sick while she is so unwell. I have Mrs. Clark with me and do not know what I could do were I alone with her. And Guy must be taken care of: he has never been neglected, or left to take care of himself as some are obliged to do with their children, and I don't want him to. When he has good care taken of him he is well and hardy, but when I am not particular to watch him and see that he does not eat something I would not approve, or be exposed in any way. I can observe the difference, therefore I think he would soon become a delicate child did he not have the best of care.

Sunday morning.

I shall be obliged to finish this letter in haste that Mother G. Can leave it on the way to church.

Mother is about the same this morning, but is not able to sit up. I wish I had you present to give me courage, but, dearest, I will be so strong and cheerful as I possibly can be under present circumstances. And try to be ever your good, affectionate little wife.

Lizzie Howard

[Written in another hand]

Mrs. Howard

dated June 19

recd Tampa, Fla

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798 6/22/1857 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* OO Howard

OOH-0741

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, June, 22d, 1857.

My Dear Son

This is just to say that Lizzie in bed as comfortable as we could expect. She has a little daughter born fifteen minutes before one to day and now it is nearly four. She has borne it all with uncommon fortitude. Guy is in good health, and all the rest of us. No one could do better than doct Loring has in this case, & said all the rest of us were well. Mrs Waite is having a sick turn, don't get up any. Lizzie has written since the reception of her two last letters.

I am rejoiced to have you in such a state of mind. I hope you will live near to God, and kept from wounding his precious cause.

The Doct is waiting to take these few lines to the office. I will just say you have the best wishes of a mother's heart, ever with you. In haste.

E. Gilmore

We have just weigh'd the little girl. She 9 1/4 pounds is her weight.

OO Howard

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799 6/22/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0742

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell June 22 1857

My dear Brother

I have been putting off writing you since my return from Bath, in hopes that I might have some news from Leeds to communicate. Mother wrote Charles a week ago yesterday & he staid with me here Thursday night & that is the last I have heard. Lizzie was then well but Mrs Waite sick. I suppose Mrs Clark went up Friday week. I went with the "boy" to Augusta for her, but couldn't wait till they got away. I have thought some of going home myself, but I didn't know as I should do any good & I felt as if I should increase the family & wasn't sure that Lizzie would feel any better to have me about.

You will receive news from Leeds directly sooner than you can from me. I write today because I am going to Bath in the morning to spend the week in attendance of the Annual Conference of the Congregational Churches of Maine & the Anniversaries connected therewith. It will continue four days & I know the Spirit of God will be there. There has been unusual religious interest & zeal all over New England this Spring & these meetings furnish its highest & most Spiritual development.

Capt Patten has gone to Philadelphia & I am to act as "host" during his absence. The meetings last four days. Would that you could be there with me & enjoy with me these privileges with the "new light" beaming on them all.

I have pretty nearly decided to go to Bangor. Prof Sheppard preached two of his masterly discourses here yesterday. They were characterized by his usual power & contained literally nothing but the Gospel of Christ. How pleasant would it be if you & Dellie could be baptized with Charles & I the first Sunday in July. Dr Sheppard is to officiate. But you will have reserved to you a still more blessed privilege at some future day - that of going forward with your once dear little wife & children & consecrating all of them to the Service of God. May He grant you that blessed opportunity of taking his vows upon you. I spent last evening with Dr Sheppard. He is in private the same slow heavy thinker & talker that he is in public, but there is a ponderous weight & an outstanding & unmistakable truth in all he grinds out of him.

June 30, 1857

As you see, I did not finish my letter before I went to Bath to the meetings. Friday morning I received Mothers letter of the previous Monday containing the news of your daughter's birth. I should have telegraphed to Savannah, but it was so late before I received Mothers letter that I thought you would hear about as soon by course of mail from Leeds.

O how your heart, as mine did, went out in thankfulness to the Kind & Merciful God. Mrs Waite it seems is very sick. I should have gone home Monday but Mr Stinchfield was going West & wished me to see to some business for him & he has been so kind to me that I did not know how to refuse him. I shall be at Leeds next Thursday if nothing happens & see how they all are. I must return Friday P.M.

Next Sunday Charles & I are to unite with the "Old South" Church by Baptism. There are three other young persons. Before you receive this, I shall have been vowed anew by a solemn Covenant to the Service of God. Pray that I may be entirely set apart for that Service, that I may do nothing but serve my God.

O how much I pray that both Ella & I may be consecrated entirely to God, that we may feel that the world is nothing to us. O I wish you could know her now. You <[TORN PAGE]> love her better.

Poor Lizzie. Ella & I have prayed for her this last week with all our hearts. O may she know this grace of God which will teach her to say, "it is good to have been afflicted".

Charles was at the meeting one day. He is well & as usual in the enjoyment of a good measure of Gods presence. What you said in that blessed letter which bore to me the news of Salvation about my becoming a minister was a little obscure to me. O Otis, how can I be anything else but a minister of God. I knew my

besetting sins - Indolence & Vanity. But I bless God, His grace is sufficient for me.

O Otis, Mrs Waite is dead. I have got the dispatch now. I go right to Leeds. Live to God, dear, dear Brother & to him alone. Lead us all with Him. Leave Lizzie Guy & the little one in the hands of Our blessed Saviour. I will write from Leeds. "She died this morning".

That's all. Godly Bye,  
Rowland

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800 6/24/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0743

Crossing Fish Eating  
Creek

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Crossing Fish Eating Creek  
June 24th 1857

My dearest wife,

We have now only about 40 miles farther to march before we get to Istokpoga Lake, where we are to try to communicate with the Indians.

I am well. The Express is waiting. God bless you. I am having a good time. Love to all.

Your aff husband  
Otis

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801 6/26/1857 *From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* Mrs Lt O. O. Howard

OOH-0744

Watervliet Arsenal  
N. York,

Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N. York,  
June 26th 1857

Mrs Howard;  
Dear Madam;

Two or three persons have visited the Arsenal for the purpose of examining your carriage, but since you left no price at which it might be sold, it still remains on hand. Will you be so kind as to inform me as to what you intend doing with it. I would write to Mr Howard, but I don't know where a letter would find him, and therefore take this more certain way of finding out his wishes in this particular. If you wish it sold will you tell me at what price I may sell it if I receive an offer again.

Remember me kindly to your Mother, and Mr R. How does Guy come on now? I suppose he talks a good-deal before this.

Mr Shunk is at West Point Foundry trying some heavy pieces of Ordnance, & will probably be there for some months yet, says he is wasting powder during the day, and wasting his time at W. Point in the evening with the ladies. Says he is pretty deep in love now, with a fair prospect of sinking much deeper. Mrs Boggs is at Baton Rouge Arsenal La. with her husband, and Shunk says considering they are married they seem to be quite contented.

Where is Mr Howard now? In Florida still? Mrs Lee sends her love to your Mother, Guy & yourself, in which I heartily join. The inhabitants of Watervliet generally ask to be kindly remembered to you and yours.

I remain Madam ever  
Your friend  
Charles C Lee

Mrs Lt O. O. Howard  
Leeds Maine

P.S. Lieut Todd has arrived. He is a bachelor of 27 years. Major Mordecai is at present in Command of this post.

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802 6/27/1857 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

OOH-0745

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 27th 1857

Rowland, my dear,

I wish you to come home. Mrs Waite is panting out, her last day, probably, she will not hold out more than through the night. She has lost the power of speech entirely. Lizzie is as comfortable as we could expect under present circumstances.

I wrote you last Tuesday and directed to Bath, thought probably you would get it the next day. In that I told of Lizzie's confinement and that she had a fine little daughter. The little thing was born the 22nd of this month.

Lizzie is in a trying situation. Your father is old and quite deaf and we need some one in the house more than him. If your calculation are such that you cannot come, if you get this let me know soon of your calculations.

I have talked with Lizzie this afternoon, of this great trial that she is passing through. She says she is prepar'd to meet it. All things are at peace in her heart. She is happy in her affliction although every particle of her frame shook when she was talking. Lizzie was removed into the parlor last Thursday, and has not seen her mother since she says she took leave of her when we moved her. I hope she will not ask to see her again, because she would be so shocked at the change that has taken place in her since she was removed from her.

Guy has been good until to day. He has been rather fractious, perhaps having so many new ways to get use'd to. Lizzie received a letter from Otis the next day after her confinement, she was so feeble that she never open'd until yesterday. It was almost all on the subject of his bright and happy change. Lizzie says she is prepared for any trial but unless a greater power than herself had sustained her she could not have borne up under it.

Mr Hicks and Mr Jones came up from Lewiston yesterday, and left Mrs Jones here, with Mrs Waite. She is now standing over her, fanning her and wetting her lips.

I am writing in the North chamber, where I hear every breath, attended with a groan. I hope you will be able to come home.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Mr Rowland B Howard

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803 6/28/1857 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-0995

Andover, Mass

Tampa, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Andover Mass June 28th '57 [See note 1]

My dear Otis

It was with much pleasure that I read your last letter. You have doubtless received my letter ere this giving you similar information. O dear brother how glad I was to receive such news from you. I have not read a letter with more pleasure than I did that and I was very sorry that it was not longer.

I am not the only one that rejoices that another lamb has been gathered into the fold of Christ, for the Bible says that such beings as angels rejoice. I have listened to two the best reasons today I ever heard; especially this afternoon. Prof Parkes is considered the best sermon writer in New England. I never saw the Saviours love portraided in so vivid colors as to-day. I feel that I cannot repay his love by a service of my whole life. I feel that I have not sufficient love for Christ and I do not have faith enough. I feel that if I had more faith that I should be able to do a great deal more for his kingdom. The way I do now is to talk with the unconverted and try in my poor way to show them how to come to Christ and then I go home and pray for them. I know that it will do some good to talk with the unconverted but it will not do much without sincere prayer to the "Great overruler of all things."

Monday Morning - Last night I went to hear Mr Van Hohe from "Five Points" New York. His lecture was a very good one; he said that we should preach Jesus and that would certainly bring sinners to Christ. The real object of his discourse was for the purpose of getting money, clothing &c for the "Five Points Mission." After he got through there was a collection in which he obtained \$70.00. A hundred was soon after made out. Some of the students went round the commons this morning to obtain such clothes as they could and a person at our club said that they had received in all enough to fill a box 7 feet square and a "hogshead" more. After they had filled the hogshead they received 25 pairs of new shoes besides a lot of other things. I am in hopes he will have as good success in other places as here. Some who could not be persuaded to give a cent for the preaching the Gospel elsewhere gave dollars for this.

After I came from the Lecture I went to the prayer-meeting which is held in the room above mine. I was very much interested in the meeting though I did not take part. After the meeting one of the Theological students came in here and I had a very good talk with him. I wish Rowland was coming here but I don't think he will. I am not getting along quite as well in my studies as I have some time back. I am now much lower than a great part of the class but I mean to study hard now until the end of the term. I have not the advantages of some of the students of getting some one to help them out of bad places, so that where I go into the class I miss on such points as I do not know, but if studying will do any good I am bound to do that let what may happen. It is time now that I was up to that business so excuse me until I can write again.

July 6th

I find that I began a letter to you some time ago but on looking it over I see that what I have written will do about as well as if I should copy it and have another date. I received a letter today from Charles. I was taken greatly by surprise on hearing the death of Mrs Waite as I did not know she was unwell before. I should think Lizzie would feel very bad under this affliction. But Charles wrote me news which nearly counter-balances the other, viz. Lizzie has found a hope in the Saviour. Lizzie, Charles says, hopes that her mother has gone home; What a blessed thought for a Christian. How much help it will be for her to bear the affliction God has sent upon her. She will doubtless feel that God gave her a kind mother and he has a right to take to himself what he has permitted to remain here a few short years. O may we all feel that we are to remain here but a few years ourselves and it is best for us to prepare for that better place where there is no sorrows. What comforts and enjoyments the Christian has which the world knows nothing about. How glad you must feel that your dear little wife has chosen that good part which the world cannot take away. We have great cause to thank God that he has done so much for our family. First fathers two children, Loisa and Huldah were converted then Charles. Arza died in the hope of a Saviour and now in less than two short months Rowland, Rodelphus, Otis & Lizzie have, I trust, taken up the cross of the blessed Savior. There is not a family among a thousand who have been blessed as we have in ours. Only Roland & Cynthia now remain; shall they alone perish? Let us not offer up a single prayer to God unless we have a petition for them to him who is willing and able to save even to the

utmost.

If you were not a Christian I should not have written what I have, but I know that you cannot be otherwise than interested in such things as I have been writing about. Now I cannot write to a brother but what I write to a Christian, how different from what it was at the commencement of this term.

Otis I am well and I hope these few black marks will find you the same. Pray for your affectionate Bro.

R.H. Gilmore  
Andover, Mass

Lt. O.O. Howard  
Tampa, Fla

When this gets to Tampa I shall probably be in Leeds as I leave here the 28th.

[Note 1: This letter was filed with the June 1859 letters, but it should be 1857. This is confirmed by the reference to the death of Mrs Waite, Lizzie's mother who died June 30, 1857. Also it is written to Otis in Tampa Fla. He was in Florida in the first half of 1857.]

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804 6/30/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0746

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 30th  
6 o'clock P.M.

Dear Brother

I didn't know but that the closing part of my letter this morning might occasion you unnecessary alarm, & so I write immediately. Lizzie is calm & comfortable. Yes more, she is happy. You need not be told the source of her joy. She is a child of Jesus. This great joy & peace in the heart has its own legitimate effect & she is full of this Spirit - "Not my will but thine O Lord be done".

When I came she put her feeble arms around my neck & murmured as she kissed me - "O Rowland, I am glad you have come to sympathize & rejoice with us"! There was the sweet beautiful baby by her side & Guy stood beside me as I kneeled & kissed his little sister again & again. "Little innocents" said Lizzie. "They have done much to open our eyes". O, Otis, I felt like Simeon of old. Blessed, blessed moment! Lizzie said "Mother has gone home. She only waited till she saw me fairly through my trouble then departed." "I have been alone so much that I have done much thinking, but of late it came so bright, so beautiful. It has kept growing brighter & brighter all the time. O I can't be sorrowful. Mother is at home, is at rest. Otis & I will come together bye & bye when I get all well & we shall be so happy in our religion & with these little ones".

Do you wonder, my dear Brother, that it seemed more a house of feasting than one of mourning. I can't be unhappy.

Guy has been in my arms ever since I came. I know "Mamma" loves to have him there & feels that he is safe there. O you should see how he rejoices over that sweet little Baby. She has eyes "deeply, darkly beautifully blue" & the noblest forehead. Why Guy looked like a dunce compared to her! Guy says she is "Mamie's baby", & that he is "papas baby". When they ask him where "his nose is broken" he shows us by taking hold of it. O you have reason to thank God for these precious ones lent to you. Lizzie said "God gives them to us".

Mrs Waite is laid out in the North room & Lizzie is sick in the parlor. Everything is quiet & well conducted in the house. She died at 2 o'clock this morning. Mrs Jones was here & her other friends have been to see her since she has been sick. Everything has been done that could be. Her blood was all gone. Dr Loring has been faithful and attentive. I need not tell you how much under God you are to him. He says Mrs Waite couldn't live. She was willing & ready to die. She rejoiced in your change of heart & we have every reason to hope that she has gone to her Saviour. Lizzie believes it, & she knows best. The Dr says Lizzie's case has been perfectly satisfactory from the first, that it has progressed favorably in every particular.

Your letters to her & Mother came tonight. She will not read hers till she is a little stronger. I have told her that it is all good news. There will be a prayer here tomorrow at 8 o'clock & then we shall follow the hearse to North Turner & Mr Bates will attend the funeral tomorrow at 1 o'clock. Father, Mother, Oscar, Rosilla, Dr Loring & I will go. I will stay till Lizzie is better and, in everything she & all that remains of your & her Mother shall be cared for as if you were here. All we need is your constant & effectual payer for us all. Mother is happy. God is here.

Your Brother  
Rowland

Mrs Clark is well and attends to her duties admirably. I shall write again soon. O Lizzie & I seem so near to each other now!

[Written in another hand]  
Rowland  
June 30th / 57



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805 7/4/1857

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0747

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell 4th of July 1857

My dear Brother

I left home about ten o'clock yesterday morning. Lizzie said she felt perfectly well, only weak. She ate a hearty Breakfast, had a cheerful flow of Spirits such as she seldom had before she was sick unless there was some little excitement. I should have staid longer, but my horse was hired & some things seemed to demand my presence here Friday Afternoon & Besides when I proposed to stay till Saturday Dear Lizzie Said "O no you need not stay. I will not feel lonely as long as He is with me". O it was perfectly glorious. Her mind was full of passages of Scripture imbued with the new radiance & even some extracts from a Sermon of Mr Webbs which heard at Augusta.

There is every reason to expect her speedy recovery of health, but Human Nature is such that she will have a bitter grief. As she grows stronger she will think of her Mother more & more, when she sees her clothes, the "north room" & all the little mementos of the lost one, there will be many, many tears. But I bless God that she mourns not as one without hope. But I would love to be with her & lead her mind up gently to the constant contemplation of Heaven & Divine things, but Christ formed within the heart is the best Leader & the best Teacher. I was repeating a passage of Scripture. There are differences of gifts but it is all the same grace. When she broke out, I do believe we must call baby "little Grace". Is it not well thus to commemorate these events of God's Providence, so that the babys name will remind us all how Good God has been to us. Ella & I subscribe most heartily to the name. What says "Papa"? To be sure Grace & Guy will not be very Euphonic, but Grace will have a meaning & significance which will be worth ten times more than Euphony. Lizzie didn't decide. Do you think it will be practical for Lizzie to join you this fall?

I shall probably spend most of the months of September & October at home & will do anything you wish. In the mean time I am going to live with Aunt Ellen, hear her children recite, attend to my religious duties & pleasures, read & study for my new object as much as I can. The Library will give me a good opportunity. She will pay me liberally. I shall not go to Bangor till the last of October.

Monday July 6th 57.

Charles & I were baptized & received into the Church yesterday & for the first time partook of the Lords Supper. It was a most solemn & interesting occasion. The tears I then shed, the vows I then made are gone up before my Father in Heaven & He will help me to make of them a pure offering of the Spirit, acceptable unto God.

Dr Sheppards Sermon was just right. The motives that led me to be a Congregationalist are few. 1st They are the more independent in their government & there is little or no difference in their creed from all Evangelical Churches. Their communion is open, and most of all my intended wife is a Congregationalist. I have joined this Church with Early feelings of attachment towards the Baptist & an admiration for the Social worship of the Methodist. But if I am the Pastor of a Church of this kind & my people agree with me, we can discard those things which we do not like in this & adopt what we do like from other churches. The question of duty did not present itself very strongly to my mind. I wanted to be in a Church of Living God whatever the name. Here I felt I should be more at home. I see evils in this Church & it is now my business to eradicate them - Charles will tell you his own motives. I need not tell you that if you can do so in conscience. Charles, Ella & myself would love to have you with us. Hadn't you rather be in the old fashioned puritanical New England Church? Presbyteria & Congregationalists are the same except in Church Government & Locality. The latter being confined mostly to New England but now spreading into the western States.

I took a bad cold at home & it has settled in my lungs & the labors of yesterday were not calculated to improve it. I taught my S.S. Class in the morning, heard the Sermon & underwent the ordinance of Baptism & partook of the Sacrament in the forenoon, Sang in the Choir in the afternoon. Met some poor, ragged children with Mr Page at 4 o'clock, gave them papers & prayed with them. Charles & I attended a prayer meeting at 5 o'clock in Lindon Hill which I conducted & then in the Evening I spoke in our own "Concert for Missions". I mean to make my Sabbaths all equally busy. People can't spare time to do much week days.

We begin to see drops of mercy here. Here & there are turning to God. The Church was full yesterday & there were few dry eyes. Otis, would to God you were going into this work of the ministry with me! Think all about it dear Brother & pray. Lizzie thinks "anybody could learn easily to be a ministers wife". Ella says now - she "wouldn't be deprived of the privilege for all the world".

Mother is well & happy. I commence my "Tutorship" Wednesday. Pray for me, that I may kept humble

[No closure]

Rowland [written in another hand]

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806 7/8/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0748

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Florida  
July 8th 1857

My dearest Wife,

Who said you might present me with a little daughter? Well, I didnt do as you would have done if it had been another Guy, ie cry like a baby & then laugh, but I was delighted. By some accident your last letter was sent down to Fort Myers (for I had instructed the Sergeant to retain all my letters here till I got back) and I received it as soon as I got that near Tampa. It was a sad one Mother low, & Lizzie without courage, nobody to love Guy or something in that strain. Well, I was anxious indeed. Last Sunday morning one day after I got your letter the Ranger took me from Ft Myers & landed me here Monday evening July 6th I hastened to my room & the Sergeant brought me a bundle of letters. I opened the last one from Mother, & read "a little daughter, 22nd of June, 15 minutes before one. Lizzie as nicely as could be expected." Good for that. Thank God for his goodness & tender mercy! (I was out with a boat party bearing a white flag on Istokpoga lake at that time.) No I find I had just arrived at Fort Deynand & not at Istokpoga on the 22nd.

I trust you will do well, and so will the baby. I shouldnt wonder if you were glad & if you praised your Heavenly Father in your heart. It is now sixteen days since the "muster" as you term it & I hope you are quite well. I will commence and give you an account of my journey and return by giving you a partial transcript from my Diary.

(Sunday June 21) Camp ten miles from Ft Myers on the <[Torn page]> to Deynand. Capt Greland arrived Saturday evening. <Mr> Lee & myself left Fort Myers, about 12 o'clock today in nine wagons, 20 men from Grelands Company, 10 escorts, Capt Clark's for the train on its return, Sampson, the Indian squaws & three children. The train left in good order with advance & rear Guard. Capt Grelands men are tired, have just arrived from a long march, but the rest are in good spirits. Mr Lee & myself mounted on two good horses took the lead. We had moved on about a mile when it was reported the oldest Indian girl Poo-haitee was sick. She seemed to have a touch of the Croup, but as soon as the sides of the wagon were raised & she could get good air she was better and we moved on. Mr Lee & myself chatted together about various things, part of the time of the religion of Christ. We reached the place of Encampment about 3 o'clock P.M. Arranged our tents on a level, open space near good water. One tent for Mr Lee & myself, one for the Interpreter, and three for the Indians & soldiers, & the wagons were parked in military order at a little distance. We had rather a sleepness night, in the woods, many of the men & one of the squaws drunk and the Guard tired. We had some coffee after we got a little settled & made a good supper on dry bread sandwiches & cheeze. I made my bed on three camp stools, sticking up four stakes to support my musquito bar. Little Sally one of the Indian girls (some 8 yrs old) comes running to our tent, when we eat for her lumps of sugar. She is a curious little creature, wears a long dress and a load of beads & dimes attached to her neck by strings; seems as happy as she can be. A corporal fell down about 2 o'clock at night & accidentally discharged his piece. In an instant, almost, Lee & I were in the middle of the parade. We feared some such false alarm and were not taken much by surprise.

Fort Deynand Jun 22nd (Monday evening) This morning we left the encamping ground a little before six and had a very comfortable march, arriving at this place about one o'clock. I didnt wake early enough to read my Chapter before breakfast, but prayed for God's blessing at the table (for we have a camp table that we put together & take apart at will). have written a short letter to my wife. I hope God will protect & bless her, particularly if I should be cut off.

June 23d. Left Fort Deynand at ½ past 7, came into camp after 12 miles on the road to Fort Center at 12 ½ P.M. I had a good sleep in the Adjutant's tent last night. Waked by ½ past 5 the morning. Read a Chapter & prayed for the blessing of God on our undertaking. I hope & trust I may be truthful, and yield to nothing that will deter me from being an active follower of my Saviour. There are now three officers of us, 40 soldiers, 9 teamsters, Sampson, the indians & children. We have a pleasant little encampment 8 wagons & 9 tents. The wagons are covered with white Canvass. After leaving Deynand, we traveled in the woods for five or six miles & then emerged upon an open & very extensive prairie, a decided relief from the pine woods. There are large,

hammocks with Magnolias & live oaks scattered at intervals of three or four miles. The train of wagons as you look at them in the distance appear much elevated, like balloons just after leaving the earth.

Crossing at Fish Eating Creek (Lala-hopka-hatch) June 24 1857

Being officer of the day since 6 P.M. yesterday evening, I have not slept very much - inspecting the sentinels a little after 12, was up by 1/4 before 4 this morning. It rained from a little after midnight till daylight, making it rather wet. We had breakfast before 5 & were ready for a start before 6. Capt Brown, Mr Lee & myself mess together. We have a soldier, Murdock, to cook for us, place a table top on the mess-box, put ham, bread & coffee thereon and sit down with as good appetites as men only can have when campaigning. We reached this place by ten o'clock, making a short march of 11 miles. Found Major Pemberton encamped on the south side & on the bank of the Creek. I went across the Creek at the ford & looked out a place for <> on the opposite bank. I laid out the Camp throwing the officers tents on the Creek & the rest to the north, as Capt Brown desired me. It rained very hard this afternoon & looks as if we might expect more.

June 25th 1857. Good Water Camp 12 miles north of Fish Eating Creek.

We were up preparing for the march before 4 o'clock this morning. Major Pemberton's detachment of 20 men joined us last night. We set out 20 minutes before 6 - Sampson, the Guide, & I took the lead, then came the advance Guard of 7 men in our rear, one of them bearing a white flag. Capt Brown & Lee followed them close, 150 yds to the rear the main body of the command immediately in their rear the 8 wagons (indians in the front one & a white flag flying from the top. In rear of all followed the rear-Guard of 12 men with a non-commissioned officer in charge. (see next sheet)

[See Note]We marched about a mile to the north east on the Old Fort Bassinger road & then turned to our left taking Capt Marcy's return trail, the course being one point to the west of north. We proceeded about three or four miles on the open prairie and then came to pine woods quite open. We kept in these for 5 or 6 miles and then came to an open prairie again, then we entered a beautiful country interspersed with hammocks & baygalls (thickly wooded small swamps) here we crossed a small Creek from which the men filled their Canteens with water. About ten a.m. we reached this place. It began to rain hard & the Captain resolved to encamp. It is a beautiful place. Facing northward we have a high sandy ridge some 100 yds distant - a few lofty pines where we are, a clump of mangroves in blossom on our right and a brook of excellent water nearby. We found a white flag standing here left by Capt Marcy two weeks ago, but undisturbed. No indians had been near it. We delayed putting up our tents in hopes the rain would stop or moderate, but waiting a half hour in vain, we went to work & pitched them in the rain. Fires have sprung up all about the Camp, the indian children have been running about naked in perfectly unconscious innocence, while their clothes were drying. They are not troubled about the morrow. Now our meals do actually taste good after a long march & I believe I am as contented & happy as if I was in a nice house. I trust our Heavenly Father is pleased with our mission. If God is for us who shall be against us? It is desirable to get an early start so as to get into Camp before the rain, but it commenced today earlier than usual, so we got a soaking.

Friday June 26th. Was up at 1/2 past three this morning, breakfasted a little after 4. By 1/2 past 5 the mules were harnessed, the tents & other baggage loaded and we were ready for a start. Sampson (the Negro Guide & interpreter) & myself went ahead of the advanced Guard to look out the route, in order to avoid boggy places &c. After a time I took the white flag & Sampson & I continued on ahead. We marched just about 3 miles & then turned to the North & have continued in this direction ever since. The first few miles was low ground & quite boggy, but the great portion of the country in this vicinity is high sandy ground. We are now encamped near a small pond of water on a high ridge & about 12 miles from the last nights' encampment. I hope & trust we shall be successful in our mission of peace. I pray that God may grant us his blessing if it comports with his will. I have just read four Chapters in St John, am reading the Gospels in course. It wants 1/4 of 5 P.M. & the usual rain begins to fall, but we are now prepared for it. I have dug little trenches to let the water run off from my tent & it is on the southern slope of a ridge. I have checked Sampson in cursing this morning & talked with him about my faith in Christ. And on the same subject I conversed with Capt Brown this evening. I talked a long time with Lee last night after retiring, for we sleep in the same tent. I do hope God will help me to present truth &c.

Good night darling I must close. I didn't begin to write till late. God bless Lizzie & the little ones. My love to all. I will mark the place in my diary where I left off & continue next time. May this find you well & happy.

Your loving husband  
Otis

I have no time to read it over & make the necessary corrections. <[I hope]> your mother is better. <> will forgive me. God bless her too & help her to learn his truth.

I have answered Perley's letter in brief. I don't know that I did answer him. He don't know all the calls upon our care & a Christian for the past year.

Warren L is doing well at Fort Myers. I enclose by this mail the \$200 to Mrs Lothrop.

[Note: The remainder of this letter from this point on was filed with OOH-775, dated 8/12/1857.]

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807 7/11/1857 *From:* O. A. Mack

*To:* Lt. Howard U.S.A.

OOH-0749

Fort Myers, Fla.

Ft. Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Myers, Fla.

July 11th 1857

Dear Howard,

Your note and the valise & contents have been recvd. I am satisfied with the tobacco. I told Howe I would give him some if you will let him have a pound you will oblige me. I wish you would thank him for me for the papers he sent the mail previous to the one for Ranger. I am very glad to hear of the advent of a daughter to your house & now I trust the land of sadness which enveloped you while here has been dissipated by this joyful intelligence.

Although I am childless I can readily conceive how these little "pledges of affection" entwine themselves around the tendrils of the heart. God has been very gracious & merciful unto a sinner and I trust He will yet grant me the longed for boon - an offspring.

I most sincerely hope your wife & little ones will continue in health and that you may soon be found surrounded by them.

With great esteem I remain sincerely your friend.

O. A. Mack [Oscar Addison Mack, USMA Class of 1850]

Lt. Howard U.S.A.

Ft. Brooke, Fla.

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808 7/12/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0750

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.  
July 12th 1857

My darling Wife,

I learned our sad bereavement by Rowland's letter last night. R seems to have written a letter in the morning of the same day which I did not get. You seem so weak & poorly and mother taken away, it would have broken you down had it not been for Our dear & loving Saviour who manifested himself to you, so bright & clear, that you could but love him & trust in him. I am happy indeed & would God I could rejoice more, that you have found "that peace that passeth understanding" to sustain & comfort you now, and may it go with us both to the end of life.

I shall try now to get a leave with the privilege of getting an extension, & go to you. Colonel Loomis says, he will give it to me if he can. He says he is sorry for you, but glad indeed that you have found your Saviour. I feel that I ought to be at home now, that you need me. I want to go & stay till you are able to take the journey with me.

Our dear mother is no more. I can hardly realize it, that she will not meet me again here & welcome me. She really loved us and did all she could for us & we will miss her. But it was Gods will to take her & to afflict us. And He is gracious & merciful to us even while afflicting us. We are having the light of truth & joy dawning in our hearts, and "the little innocents" are boons of his bounty.

I felt a strong desire to keep on in the path of duty & today I have been baptized by the Methodist pastor & joined myself with the Methodists on probation. I did this to identify myself publicly with the people of God & feared I might not have so good an opportunity to be baptized as now. This don't hinder me from uniting with another Church, so soon as I determine what my peculiar tenets may be & with you. I have now started in the Christian course & I hope God will help me to persevere. It isnt so bright & clear all the time as at first, and I want you to pray for me that I may live very near to my Saviour and ever be his humble follower.

My men come into my room for prayers at ½ past six still. I read a Chapter & pray with them. The minister asked me to lead in the prayer meeting & called upon me for the first prayer this morning, also to read & pray in the sabbath school. I have cheerfully performed these things, but I fear he puts me forward too fast. He is a very well-meaning man and does what he thinks will promote God's cause. But what I have most to contend with is my own natural pride of heart. Yet even this don't humble me so much as it did.

But those darling ones - Guy & his little sister. I want to see them & the little mother. Guy's nose then he acknowledges is a little out of joint, but he will have to stick to it that he is papa's baby for consolation, if the little one engrosses his place. I hope he has now got above sucking his thumb. The little one's eyes are "deeply darkly" blue Rowland says.

I have just been looking at Mrs Page's little baby - a fat sprightly blue eyed little thing, that just begins to notice & handle a rattle. Major Page brought it out a day or two ago as I was passing, he said, just to tantalize me. It did make me think and talk of my home far away.

I will not proceed to give you an account of my expedition any further now, for you know I am safely back and you have much else to think of. I trust this will find you quite smart. I know you have had a hard time, but you have a precious blessing, and as soon as you get all well you will have a quiet, subdued & constant happiness. The future on Earth looks bright & God will smooth the pathway to the tomb.

Poor Mother I wish I could have asked her to forgive the very ill-natured things I may have said & the wrong thoughts I have entertained, but she has forgiven me and gone where we will go to her, though she cannot come to us.

Mr Lynde, the preacher, urges me as Rowland has been urged, to become a preacher. I shall study these things & if we can not do the will of God & serve him faithfully in the Army, we will ask his direction & if we can obtain light, be guided thereby. We might live very happy in the service of our Lord & Master, in a single place & with a quiet Church of God's people, but I find a sphere even here beyond my talents, except by the help of the grace & mercy of God.

Give my heartfelt love to Mother & Rowland if he is with you still. I shall not have time to write him tonight. Thank Dr Loring for me and pay him liberally, that he has been kind & good & attentive I doubt not. I shall try to be with you before very long. If I do not get a leave now I shall do so by & by. Remember me to all the friends that call & know me.

Talk often of the goodness & mercy of Christ. It strengthens one & keeps one's light burning. He gives good measure of the Holy spirit to them that ask him in sincerity. Now all things do rebound to our advantage. It is beautiful to think of the darling little mother & more beautiful to think that prayer & praise are on her lips. A Christian mother. I had one to bring me up & so will Guy & the little comer.

I had a letter from Warren a day or two ago. He was very well. How is father? Give him too my love & don't forget Roland G & Cynthia. Dellie asked me to pray for the former. I need the prayers of all. My temptations are subtle & many. They come in the shape of partial infidelity & make me ask if it is all a delusion. Religion is a beautiful delusion (if it is one) & I pray God for more of it.

Kiss both little ones alike the same number of times for father.

Your own loving husband  
Otis

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809 7/15/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0751

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Florida  
July 15th 1857.

My dearest wife,

I have some hopes of getting a leave of absence, though it is still uncertain. Lieut. Abert, some time ago, applied for a leave & was applied for by his Father, Colonel of the Topographical Engineers, under very similar circumstances. He left a bride of 3 weeks, to come here. She has lately lost her father & Colonel Loomis says, she herself is consumptive & wont live long. But notwithstanding these circumstances, the Colonel felt it his duty to refuse him on account of the scarcity of officers in the Department. Now the Colonel would like to let me go & says he thinks he will by & by. What I think is, that in two or three weeks from this time, I will have a leave of 30 days with the privilege of getting a two month's extension from the War Department at Washington.

So you may look for me by the first of August, and if you, my darling, are all well & strong we can set out for this place by the last of October, and be here in time for the fall and winter Campaign. I feel exceedingly anxious about you. The mail comes in tonight and I hope I will get a letter containing none but good news.

You know it was to be easy to give a name to a daughter. What name will the little one have? Isn't she a source of wonderment & interest to Guy? I have missed your letters for two mails back but I don't want you <to> try to write too soon. I have confidence you will keep up good courage now, for you have with you these little comforts, and you know & feel that you have a mighty arm on which to lean. It is Christ alone that giveth joy in the midst of affliction. He knows how to make the stout heart as well as tender.

You must remember me very kindly to Mrs Clark. I am glad she is with you for she has learned your ways and will do well for you. I suppose Mother is delighted with her first actual grand-daughter, as she was with her grandson. Ask Guy if he is going to throw things at his little sister? I imagine him a very good boy and will be delighted to see him and teach him. I expect one of these days he will be papa's companion and assistant, but all things are known to God. If we would be blessed we must ever be the humble followers of our dear Saviour.

Last night Colonel Loomis led at the prayer meeting read from the Bible & made some remarks & prayed. Others prayed & I was called upon. The spirit of Christ seemed to be with us all. I spoke to the people earnestly & God was very near to me. One young lady joined herself to Christians, by coming forward and taking the minister's hand. Colonel Loomis says, ask Mrs Howard to pray for me. I have papered my room with paper stripped up & down and covered the ceiling with cloth, thin cotton stuff. Every thing looks neat here now. I have musquitoe frames in the windows & door besides my bar, but hav'nt been able to drive all the musquitoes out of the room yet. I have got so, I don't mind a few much. They don't leave any swelling on me at all, but they hurt somewhat.

I don't think I would be troubled to light the gas at Watervliet if I could be transported there one of these nights, to kill the little animals. There are very few in town, scarcely one, and when you come I shall get a little cottage where we can live by ourselves & perhaps be able to draw a commutation. You would be a little surprised at my dark complexion, though I think the black is wearing off and by the time I get to you I will be as white as northern people. I look much like a southerner now. I will stop till after dinner.

I will now read the 3d & 4th chapters of Romans and pray to our Father to impart to you his spirit & Love very abundantly. Then I shall go to dinner. Pray with an Earnest heart for your husband, that he may have more & more spiritual strength.

Lieut S.D. Lee, who went with me on the Expedition to Istokponga lake, is now here on special duty as mustering officer. Our friend Lieut Mack is commissary at Fort Myers & Lieut Abert spoken of before has taken Mack's place here. Mr Abert don't know that his wife has got the consumption and Lee & myself have been talking about it since dinner, & Lee has taken it upon himself to break the news to him. We think he ought to

know of it & urge the <Colonel> to give him a leave of Absence. Perhaps Abert & myself will both get leave & go on together. But be not too sanguine about my coming, dearest, for I know I am needed here and the Colonel may think he cannot spare me.

The new Regiment of Volunteers about to be mustered into the United States Service, will have five companies mustered at Tallahassee & the other five at Okala 60 miles this side of Palatka. Lee will go to the latter place, leaving here tomorrow. Lieut Sudor of the 4th Artillery will accompany him leaving his wife here. Sudor was married and left his wife for Florida immediately after. He & Abert have been stationed in that musquito country Cape Sable. Mrs Sudor came on alone & joined her husband at Punta Rossa. Lee says she cries to have Sudor go on this trip without her to Okala. I told Lee, I didnt believe you would care much for such a little separation as that. Lee says it beats all how much these little wives love their husbands.

I am almost afraid of the mail tonight. I do hope it will contain good news for all of us. Take care of the little baby. Will it eat out of a bottle? I suppose Mrs Clark will know.

I have written Warren today and told him I thought I should go north soon. Henry Closson has been ordered to New Port, Rhode Island.

Lots of kisses for the little ones and my love to all. I wrote Rowland yesterday & directed the letter to Hallowell. I must write Charlie a few lines this evening & Dellie as soon as I can. Now farewell my sweet wife. May Heaven grant you the choicest of blessings & soon restore you to good health.

Your most loving husband  
Otis

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810 7/17/1857 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

*To:* My Dear Friend Howard  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0752a

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta July 17th 1857

My Dear Friend Howard

Your kind, friendly and good letter came duly to hand and with deep interest I read the contents. I was astonished I must confess and if your recital came from any other source - should question the soundness very much, but Oliver I do not doubt you in the least from past knowledge and the experience I have had with and of you. I do not believe for a moment but that your feelings arise from a firm conviction of the truth and the worth of what you have taken hold of. Oliver I have always considered you a good friend - true and faithful - and may your generous friendship be met with like feelings. I think I know you well and that I am not deceived but with confidence to go to you even for aid if necessary but at least advice at any time I should need such. I have put confidence in you in many ways and trust if at any time I can render you assistance or comfort you will frankly do the same by me. I have wished myself as good as you many, many times but circumstances from the commencement, difference in dispositions - education - early and late have made us different of course it would naturally be so. Still we can be good friends. An old saying "There are always scabby sheep in every flock" proves true in many cases. I have many things to make me happy and am blessed with comforts more than I deserve. This I feel every day still I keep on doing as I do day after day.

About the middle of May I was taken sick having the same trouble that I have had before and up to within a week have suffered considerably being obliged to neglect my business and remain at home nearly all the time. Perhaps one day in the week go out. Within a week I am better and am in hopes to get well - giving up all the Physicians here, I placed myself under Dr Pudor's care of Portland, a German Physician, and I think he has done for me what ought to have been done in the first instance. I have taken but little medicine and live well, eat anything I wish for, smoke a little &c. It is annoying and very troublesome to be sick and it seems worse with my trouble than almost any thing else. My complaint is with the Liver and the Doc't tells me (although not dangerous) I may be afflicted for a number of years. The change of seasons from cold to warm will bring it on or the reverse likewise. However I hope for the best and bear it as well as I can.

My wife is nicely enjoys good health and the children are both well. Henry is quite a boy. He grows tall fast, although they make lots of work for their mother. Still we love them dearly and they are a source of great comfort to us. Perhaps no more trouble that the average of children with all Mrs M's cares which are not a few. She does not grow old but laughs and talks as much as ever and for all I can see looks as young as when a girl, a little more matronly possibly. We live where we used to, when you was here and everything is just the same - just hold our own in fact there has been but few changes in Augusta since you left.

I believe that Capt Gorgas is making some improvements at the Arsenal. We went over there a few evenings since and passed a pleasant evening. Capt G is building a new L to the House and painting inside - fixing up generally. He has bought him a pair of large Horses nearly as large as Old Ben about the same color, had them of Geo' Robinson the man that bought your Colt and I guess has cheated him some in the sale. So Capt G & lady drive a pair. They are very nice people and think are universally liked. He is a quiet man. I believe he is to relay the wall fronting the river all of it now very soon and make it thicker more substantial.

Affairs about town are very quiet - nothing new. J Rufus Child is married to Miss Margaret Bridge and they are off on their wedding tour now. Were married in church very quietly. Your Brothers called at my house July 4th in the afternoon. From them we learned that you was the Father of a Boy and Girl and that Mrs Howard was very comfortable. Also of the death of Mrs H's mother which was very sudden to us. Was glad to hear your wife passed through the trying ordeal of losing a mother and gaining a daughter with remarkable fortitude and then being [far] from you made the trouble even worse. Your being there would have relieved her mind from a vast deal of care and anxiety but perhaps it was all for the best. I pitied her and thought of you often I can assure you. Doct Briggs' family are well. Brown & family Ditto and both the same as when you was here. Write as often as you have leisure and I will do the same.

With my best wishes, I remain Your Friend

C. H. Mulliken

P.S. I wrote Mr H. L. Hart this AM having received a letter from him May 11th but could not answer it before. He must pardon my negligence but it was unavoidable. Is he doing well now. Mr James L Child has a son at home, just from South America before from California G. H. Child. They have very pleasant letters from Nannie, now Mrs Severance. She is very happy in her new relation.

Friday 11 o'clock July 17th

C. H. Mulliken

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811 7/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My own darling Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0753

Office, On the porch  
Ord. Depot - Tampa, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Office, On the porch  
Ord. Depot - Tampa, Fla  
July 18th 1857

My own darling Lizzie,

I received letters from Rowland and Dellie by last Wednesday's mail, but none from home. I have got none since.

The sun is most down & I must let my pen run. Our Pastor invited me to speak from the Bible to the colored people of this city this afternoon. I told him I wanted to write to my wife & didn't think he expected me but he told me this noon I must come. So I went after dining with Capt Sisley of the volunteers. I addressed them from the 16 verse of Pauls Epistle to Romans 1st Chapter. A Methodist preacher by the name of Brown, helped me by speaking after I was through. Members came forward to be prayed for and the spirit of Christ seemed to be with and I trust many turned to God among them.

I came away before the meeting was over to write you a few lines. Oh! how anxious I am to hear from you again. I have but one objection to the name of Grace. In this country, many negroes are called Grace & our child might not like the association but to me it will make no difference. If you still like the name, I shall like it too. I once knew a smart little girl by that name, Mrs Berard's grandchild. The name will always be a reminder of our duty, of Christ, by whose grace & goodness we have been accepted.

I fear I shall not get a leave. You don't know what a disappointment it is to me, or how much I would rejoice to fold you & the little ones in my arms & dedicate you all to the Saviour. I will go by and by. Get well & strong so that you may be able to take a journey. I shall plead hard for a leave by & by. I want to see mother, & my brothers now, I want to read the Bible at home again and pray for the divine blessing with your hearts united with mine.

Our pastor Mr Lyne says he would like to see you & Mother & wants to be remembered in your prayers I believe. He is a good earnest Christian man and doing all he can for his master.

I don't know but I shall be a minister after all. I want to talk with you about it and on what you think, but I have'nt made up my mind. I can read & pray & study, and work as Hadley Vicars did in the Army, but my field will be different & my opportunities narrowed when we get to some Arsenal. Would you like to be a Minister's wife & what little time God lets us live engage with me in the service of our Master & Lord? I did want to join the Church with you & will not now be hindered from so doing only I have been baptized. If you should get will and think you would not like to wait for my uncertain coming, go up on the Ridge & let our minister of God baptize you.

I have no particular choice as to denomination, so long as we both are united heart & spirit, mind & strength to the people of God, to those who are striving to do God's will. I am rather afraid to unite with Episcopalians, because they are the fashionable people. I would rather seek the meek and lowly. Christ took his disciples from the common people. By the mouth of babes & sucklings, his Gospel was preached. I do mind high things and here is my weakness. We must be willing to sacrifice all things for Christ. We cannot serve God & Mamman. We cannot love position & power & great temporal good & love Him too. If we clog our soul with these things, the Spirit of Grace will have no place in our hearts; instead of being zealous & happy Christians we will be wondering why he does not visit us, why he does not come in & sup with us and we with him. Be not high minded but condescend to people of low estate. Can we not be warm hearted followers of Christ & stay in the Ordnance Corps, yes if we do it for the honor & glory of God & not to please ourselves.

I am aware that I have many talents, lent to me, and ought I not to improve them. But I will jump at nothing and do nothing without consulting with you in this matter. I don't know my Bible yet, I don't know what the Lord would have me do. Pray for enlightenment, pray for your dear husband and when you are able tell him what

you think.

I would delight in joining the same Church as my brothers. At the old South Church I was often found with Aunt Francis. I went to the sabbath school, associations draws me there. The Baptist Church, Mr Cobb my teacher & my mother, and all the old people, who are gone & are going down to the grave, came up before me & draw me there, but I think I differ from them in what they would regard as spiritual truths, I may not. They may not know fully what are their own tenets & I may practically at least be with them. My heart has an honest sympathy for every one who has the love of Christ in his heart. I believe that whosoever will, may come & partake of the waters of life freely, & they do too in practice. Christ constraineth us by the influence of the Holy Spirit. He willeth not the death of any, but he is forced to say - How often would I have gathered you but ye would not. My religion is my Bible and it seems all plain.

Kiss the little ones & my love to all. I have prayed with you before but now we can say, we love the Lord. Sweet little Guy & darling daughter Grace, May Grace, mercy & peace be with you. Pray for the proper humility of spirit, for strong faith & earnest love for us both. Love to mother & father. I miss your letters my Love. Good night it is dark. In great haste. Better letter perhaps next time. God bless you all at home.

Otis.

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812 7/19/1857 *From:* Annie P Lee

*To:* My dear Mr Howard [RB  
Howard]

OOH-0754a

Watervliet

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet July 19th 1857

My dear Mr Howard

I have received your nice and very kind letter some time ago, but is just able to answer it. I thought I would write a few lines to my old friend, altho' he did not answer my last.

I am very sorry to hear of Mrs Wait's death, but the Dr says she had a disease of which she would never get over. I am very glad to hear Mrs Howard has a little daughter, as I have one, born on the first of this month, she is considered a very pretty and excellent baby and the express image of me, has very dark brown hair, dark blue eyes and a fair skin, in all she is the sweetest baby that ever was. Mrs McCarthy has a daughter just one week younger than mine. My Mother, cousin and little brother are with me and will until late in October.

You write word that you are studying for the ministry. Do you think it will be more profitable than Law? I doubt it, unless you are a fine preacher, for the old sign says, "poor preaching, poor pay".

When you write to Mrs H, give my love to her, and believe me ever to be

Yours sincerely  
Annie P Lee

[This letter was enclosed in the next one from Rowland to Lizzie.]

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813 7/19/1857 *From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* Dear Roland [RB  
Howard]

OOH-0755

Watervliet Arsenal N.  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N. York  
July 19th 1857

Dear Roland;

Your very kind letter was received some time since, but I have been pretty busy ever since. I left for New York the same morning I received your letter. I was going there to meet my Mother in law, a Cousin (Miss C. DeGreville) of whom you have heard Annie speak, and my little Brother in law, Jimmie. I thought they would be in the City by the time I got there, but the steamer they sailed in from Charleston was delayed by leakage of her boiler so they did not arrive until near one on that night the 6th. I went to the Wharf to meet them at the proper time, but after waiting two hours or so I concluded that the boat would not come in that night and returning to the hotel, went to bed, expecting to be awaked at daylight next morning, but on getting up in the morning I found it was 8 ½ A.M. I went immediately to the boat but the birds had flown. I then to the principal hotels to look for them, but did not find them for they did not know I was in the City; after looking for some time I concluded that they had taken the cars by themselves so I took the 12 o'clock train and when I reached the Arsenal I found they had been here for an hour or thereabouts, having taken the 9 A.M. train.

On the first of July I was blessed with a little daughter which is doing very well as is also its Mother. Its name is Annie Cornelia, and called after its Mother and Grandmother. She has dark eyes and hair and looks somewhat like me though I think more like Annie, with those exceptions. She is a nice, good little thing and does not wake at night from about 9 till daylight next morning. Crying is almost unknown, yet now and then she does exercise her lungs and from that I feel sure they are strong and sound and quite good.

It grieved me to hear of Mrs Wait's death and must have been a severe stroke to Mrs Howard particularly just then. But though being called away just at that time seemed hard, we must ever recollect that the Ruler of the universe is all-wise and directest everything for our good. I am so glad to hear that Mrs Howard and yourself could look to Heaven for consolation in such bereavements and while your hearts are <wrung> with anguish could say with Job, "the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away blessed be the name of the Lord".

Though I myself have never experienced the state of feeling which causes the "second birth", and have never openly acknowledged him (Christ Jesus) before the World, still I hope that my actions are most of them governed by the principle laid down in his Gospel. I am ready to declare my faith in him openly to the World, but I don't think there is any church (denomination) here that would receive me into its fold for I must say that I differ in a good many points that they consider as essential. I either have never experienced the change, have never known conversion, or else it came over me so gradually that I was unconscious of any change having taken place in my life. I fear I am still in sin, as I know I frequently commit it. I hope some day to hear you preach and, though I like the law, still I was rejoiced to hear that you had abandoned it merely to take up a more noble calling, for I can't help thinking the ministry the most honorable of all the professions.

Mrs Lee wrote you a few lines which I enclose herein, she is nearly quite well again though as yet, she has not been down stairs, but will be tomorrow or next day, if everything goes on right. She asked me to give you her love, and also to the others, in which I most cordially join. All the folks on the Arsenal send their love, and ask to be kindly remembered to you, & Mrs Howard.

With love to all I remain ever  
Your friend  
Charles C Lee

How is Mrs H & baby? & wat's its name?

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814 7/20/1857 *From:* Edw H Day

*To:* [OO] Howard

OOH-0757

Richmond Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Richmond Va

July 20 /57.

Dear Howard,

Yesterday I received your kind letter. It had been some time awaiting my return here from the north. I was much pleased to hear from you and the subject of your letter was particularly agreeable to me. So have no fears about letters on that subject being disagreeable.

It is a subject on which I certainly need much light, and you well know, that your experience on that or any other subject would have as much weight with me, yet more weight than that of almost any other man.

I have been travelling around constantly since I left New Orleans, never stopping longer than five or six days in a place. It is agreeable in some respects, but it consumes a little more than my pay.

I leave to-morrow Tuesday, for the Springs in the Mountains, white & red Sulphur and others. I will remain at them only a few weeks as I wish to visit West Point the last days of August. I go with a large party of my Relatives from this place. They will remain longer than I. I have met many of your friends in my travels, at old Point (Ft Monroe) Ft McHenry & other military Posts. I saw Maj Scott a few days ago. He is promoted to the 3rd Arty and he was looking very well. I don't know of any Army news.

Excuse this short epistle. When I took up the pen, I merely intended writing five or six lines, & to promise you to write fully from some other place.

My regards to Mack & others.

In haste, your friend  
Edw. H. Day

let me hear from you, directed to me here "care of H. Clay Watkins" or to me at "Jackson Tenn."  
E.H.D.

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815 7/21/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-0754b

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[The previous letter from Annie Lee was enclosed in this one from Rowland.]

Hallowell July 21st '57

Dear Sister

Isn't this just like Mrs Lee for all the world? I thought I would send it right up as I didn't know as they had written you yet.

Do you think Mr Lee is "what we feel" a Christian is? I mean to write him, that "if he believes he is saved already". If he doubts he is not.

How "Annie" will love that little one. It will be a great blessing to her I think, making her more of a true woman, & I hope too that this with her Mother's influence, may open her heart to her Saviour.

I rode up to Augusta this afternoon & called to see Mr Webb, but he was not at home. Saw Capt Gorgas riding. Mr Webb spent last Sunday at Capt Pattens & preached for Mr Fiske. How characteristic is that question of Mrs Lee's about "profit".

Love to Mother & Father & kiss the dear babies. Remember me, dear Lizzie, as I do you daily in my prayers.

Your Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Mr Lee says nothing about the Carriage. I will write him before a great while.

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816 7/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0758

Office, Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Office, Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla July 22nd/57

My dearest wife,

I hoped on Saturday to have some message from home, but, as I wrote you on Sunday, I was disappointed. Tonight I shall look strongly for letters. I don't expect quite yet to find a letter directed in your hand, but hope mother may have found time to put down a few lines.

I am afraid that the hardness of your lot, may have occasionally come home to you forcibly, though if you have let the Holy Spirit of God have full sway, it will seem to you all brightness & blessings. I read somewhere, Death is our (minister) Servant, to carry us home, where joy, praise & gladness never end, home to Heaven. You said: "Mother has gone home". Even this affliction to us, the taking from us, one who loved us, one who would always be devoted to our Children, or who was ever eager for our welfare, even this affliction is a blessing for Mother has gone home. She will have no more sorrow, no more trial. Our weaknesses & pride will not afflict her more. It is a blessing to her. We will cherish her kindnesses in the past, keep the memorials of her love for us, [to] remember the pain that we have given, to avoid giving the like to others. These things come home to us & are a blessing. The Mercy & Grace of Christ our Lord, come home to us, to make us receive a good measure of his unsearchable riches.

With two darling little ones & the Saviours love in the Young parents heart, Is there a fulness of blessing? & do we deserve it? As Dellie says, if I didn't think I was writing to a Christian I shouldn't dwell so much on these things, but I think your joy, your hopes of Heaven, your prayers to be kept from sin. & your gratitude to Christ for his Love, mercy & blessings, are coexistent & coextensive with mine. I did intend to continue, copying my journal for your perusal during the remainder of my journey to the vicinity of Istokpoga lake, but I will now wait till I hear from you that all is well.

How does Mrs Clark & Guy get along & the little daughter. I hav'nt got over the surprise that mother's letter gave me. I expected surely. No, I don't know what I was expecting, but I don't believe it was a little daughter. Blue eyes! Does it know anything? Does it cry any? Who wakes up when it cries, Guy? Does Guy say, Mama baby is awake or does he cry too? I must get into the secret of these little domestic scenes. I don't have the privilege even of hearing a baby cry except in meeting sometimes. The negroes carry their little ones to Church in the afternoon for their service, and they occasionally squall very much like other children. Baby does'nt cry? Well, I didn't think she would, only when she wanted something and since her little mother will anticipate her wants, why she wont have a chance to cry.

Colonel Loomis hasn't given me a leave yet, and I don't think I will get one till by & by, say two months hence. I shall push pretty hard for one in October if I cant get one before. I didn't much think my application would be successful under the circumstances, for I will be needed here [til] the new Regiments of Volunteers is armed and equipped.

Has Ella written you & consulted with you about being a ministers wife? Last night I lectured before the people at the prayer meeting, & led in the exercises. Mr Lyne proposed to the Church to give me a license to Exhort. He wants me to give him assistance. I have no objection as I don't have to promise anything. Colonel Loomis says it will strengthen me to work. I want to get acquainted with the members of the church, so that I can know those that I can visit & who will visit me - so as to have sympathizing hearts to commune with.

I never knew till lately the bond of sympathy between one real Christian & another. Mr Lyne says he was among the mines in California, and seeing a miner, he asked him if he could give him aid in establishing a Church. Ah! Says he do you find any body in this wicked place that loves the Lord Jesus Christ? Mr Lyne says it made the tears come into his eyes. They were Christians & consequently friends in a moment. The miner came forth & dined with him; or asked him, (Mr Lyne) to partake of a humble meal. But he said it was sweet to find a true Christian there. It is a pretty good test for Christians. If they love Christ they will love one another.

If you are able or as soon as the Dr says you may, I am very eager for you to write me. But you must not be too smart, you know as you were at Augusta. I want to judge what kind of letters you would like first. I want to hear all about the little new-comer, the little Gift of God's grace & the great one.

I heard from Warren Lothrop today. He has been temporarily attached to Captain McCowan's company and has gone on a scout probably on the coast in boats. His family neednt be uneasy about him, for there is very little danger or hope of finding the indians. They may, but I don't think the indians will show themselves to a party of any size.

You ought to see my office since it has been papered - the windows have musquitoe bars so also the door & the bed is covered with another. I cant keep the musquitoe all out of the room, but they don't trouble me at night. I am getting quite used to them, can bear them in moderate numbers.

Rowland's letter about you was very cheering & he praised the little daughter almost above measure, as I thought rather to the disparagement of "papas baby". Kiss the little darlings and remember it will not be long before I shall see you, read the two last verses of the X4 Chap Isaiah. Wait upon the Lord. Your strength will be renewed. Pray for me, my sweet little wife, pray for more & more of the Christ in my heart. I need wisdom, I need strength, I need to lean continually upon the arm of my Saviour. Give lots of love to mother, tell her to pray for me & write to me when she can. I am grateful to her as the bearer of good tidings. A little daughter, little mother doing well. Thank God for all his mercies. My love to Father & Mrs Clark. Remember me in kindness to the neighbors when they call.

Your affectionate husband,  
Otis

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817 7/26/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0759

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
July 26th 1857

My dearest wife,

Last night I expected a letter from home. Three mails have brought me no letters & the one before brought me one from Hallowell & none from Leeds. The last news dates as far back as the 3d of July. I don't know what to make of it unless it is that there is no good news to be written or else you are expecting me home.

After the new Regiment is mustered in I shall try again to get a leave. Don't count upon it with too much certainty. I mean that we shall be united, if we live, this fall. I will not fill up my letter about the journey for if it is possible I will go to bring you.

With others I have visited a young man sick in the hospital & God helped me to whisper consolation into his ear & pray with him. He told me he was happy. He believed his Saviour would rescue him. Last night at sunset his light went out. He has three brothers who have been with him through his sickness. Those four & one more have all been mustered into the same company & served out the term of six months. They buried one in the Big Cypress and the other is to be laid in the silent Grave this afternoon. I have been invited to perform the funeral ceremony, in case the Baptist minister does not come. Now I hardly go into a house that the family don't request me to lead in reading & in prayer. It shows that Christ is with me.

How is it with my darling wife. Does the brightness grow brighter? Is the hope sure & steadfast an anchor to the Soul with you & in you? This morning my class was increased to five & one absent. They call upon me to lead in the sabbath school to open by prayer & reading. The danger all the time is that I will not give God all the praise. Lieut Magitton, who left here for Melonville six months since, came back last night. This morning, he came in here. I told him to read a Chapter in the Bible & we would pray together for his wife & mine & thank God that he had spared us to meet again, & so we did.

I trust you are almost well at this time and the two precious gifts of God are in health and a great comfort to you. It don't seem to me that you can be ill. This morning I heard a sermon from Mr Lyne in answer to transubstantiation. He made the subject very plain & argued with strength & power against the claims of the Roman Church to which he once belonged. I never have had the opportunity of partaking of the Lord's supper yet. It was intended for today but by some means was forgotten, or the steward whose family was sick forgot to provide for the occasion. I was sorry, but presume it will be provided next sabbath. I do long to go home now, the pleasure of meeting you all would have been great at any time, but you have all been born again.

A daughter, a little daughter is there to be presented to her father. Guy will forget me if I don't go soon. I want to renew our old friendship & see if he knows me. Is he a little pratler now?

Mr Lyne gave me an appointment for me to speak next Sunday night. I think I shall choose the words found in 1st Thessalonians 4 chap, 13 & 14 verses... "that ye sorrow not, even as others, which have no hope" &c. so, my dearest Lizzie, must it be with you, & I know it is, for you said: Mother is gone home". She will come by & by. You do not sorrow as those without hope. Death is losing its terrors for you & you are gaining the victory. Oh! May the star of hope ever shine for you & me as brightly as it does now. If either of us should precede the other to that better land, may the passage through the valley be lightened by that star, & may the one left behind never lose sight of the same star of hope & of promise.

Mother don't write me, is she well & rejoicing, that God is blessing her, above measure. Oh! My darling mother forget not your son at the throne of Divine Grace & Mercy. Pray for a proper contrition of heart & humility of Spirit that he may not love or care for the praise of men, but of God, that he may be strengthened to do his duty boldly & fearlessly in the face of all men, & my wife too mingle her petition for me that I hold on steadfastly to the truth & be found often on my knees. God bless the little ones. In innocence & loneliness they are if such is

the Kingdom of Heaven.

I must soon close my letter for it is after three & I want to prepare for the funeral. Kiss the babes for their father. Keep up good courage. I shant desert you again right away nor you me.

15 Indian women & Children have been taken the past week. The new Regiment will be likely to be here this week & next for arms &c. I have sent for the arms but they have not yet come. I believe Colonel Loomis will let me go after this work is done. Once more I commit you all into the hands of God. Give my love to all. Tell Roland Gilmore & Cynthia that I shall remember them in my prayers & Father too. I want to see him. I trust the next mail will bring good news. I had a note from Warren lately. He was well, sent me a pistol for repairs. I returned it. With much love for you all. I am as ever

Your loving husband

Otis

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818 7/26/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* Otis dearest [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0760

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, July 26. 1857

Otis dearest.

It seems to me that I have not written to you for many months so much have I passed through since during the last five weeks. I cannot now write much for my eyes as yet are not very strong and my arm is weak.

You have received letters, and have been told that dear Mother has passed away, and can be with us no longer. She has gone to a happy home and I cannot wish her back, and dearest, I feel the strength of my Saviour's arm in my affliction, and He softens every tear that falls. Had I loved my Saviour more I could have made her happier during the years she lingered with us, but the past is past, and while God forgives me all, she will. I know God gave me my little daughter to be a comfort to me at this time, and my not wanting her at the first will make her ever dearer to me. I feel that God was watching over us when in sin and was preparing the way to "light".

I have so much to tell you while how can I only write a short letter? Dearest, I am now looking forward to the time when we shall meet, live happily together and walk hand in hand in Christ and doing the will of our Heavenly father.

Rowland has written me two dear brotherly letters, and Ella has sent me a present of a shawl to throw over my shoulders while I am getting better. I sit up most of the day generally have one nap if I can. I think I am pretty well but not quite as strong as when Guy was five weeks old. But that is not to be wondered at. Mrs Clark is still with me, but will leave this week.

I did think of going to Lewiston this week but have now given it up till I am quite well. Charlie will be home in a few days and then I shall ride with the children every day I can. I had my first ride this week Monday.

I am now writing Wednesday afternoon. I have written this at different times since Sunday and shall send it to the post office this afternoon.

I was very anxious about you till I received your letter dated July 8th when I learned of your safe return to Tampa. I did from my heart thank my Heavenly Father for watching over you and protecting you while on your journey. I expect to get a letter to-day giving a description of the rest of the journey. I imagine you could (did) not communicate with the Indians.

Mrs Clark went home yesterday. Mother took her to Winthrop and saw her start on the stage. I gave her twenty five dollars. She was here seven weeks.

Guy is sitting by me writing and turned very quickly and wrote on the top of the page. I presume you can interpret it. He is a pretty good boy, but begins to show what is in him, and needs to be corrected. Baby is just as good as she need to be. Every time I kiss her little velvety cheek I think how glad you would be to see her. She looks like Guy, and as he did at her age, only her features are smaller. I cut a curl for you to see the color of her hair.

I wont try to write more this time, but hope to gain every day and will write again next week.

Your own true wife  
Lizzie Howard

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819 7/29/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0763

Ordnance Depot &c Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot &c Fla  
July 29th 1857

My darling wife,

I dont know hardly what to make of my getting no word from anybody, for so many mails. The last news - 3d of July - long time, when one's wife is sick, but in Rowland's words the "new Radiance" has kept my spirits up, for mind & heart have been kept at work. The whole man has been called into exercise, but if I don't get any news tonight I fear my heart will be a little sorrowful & my evening prayer less gladsome than usual. Dellie's letter will give you all a little notion of what I have been about & as there is plenty of Egotism there for one letter in the same day, let us see if we cant change the Key note and sing in another strain. Speaking of singing, the people have been trying to tune my euphonic ear & tune my musical voice. I have been one night & sang Boylston, "Our days are as the grass & like the morning flower" &c with my usual propensity to forcible utterance.

This is enough about myself. How are you. I don't know how to place you, I hope not still on a sick bed in pain, weakness & fear, but moving about the old house, cheerful & happy, with Guy prattling & little baby fat, hearty & good. I expect little girls will cry. Great ones sometimes do, that's my experience. But you will have this consoling reflection. When boys cry there is something the matter, but girls are curious enigmas, it does them good to cry. Now you know I am more accustomed to grown girls than little ones & as their nature is changeable, they may be remarkably quiet in baby-hood.

The Steamer Gray Cloud has gone on an excursion to day & nearly the whole garrison are away. Colonel Loomis asked me if I would like to go last night & I told him I would not. It is partly to make arrangement for guarding the indians taken, on an Island, & partly for pleasure. I have greater enjoyments at home parks of pleasure, expeditions & balls, have been fully tested. Substantial enjoyment don't come from them does it? When I go anywhere I want to go home. You can hardly tell how much I anticipate in the visit to you all.

My arms &c have come, two companies are on the way from Okala to this place for some. I hav'nt commenced issuing yet. It will be some time before the new Regiment gets equipped. The Captains find it harder than they thought to get men enough to muster in. Lee is at Okala now & will stay there till he gets three companies more. Captain Kilburn is in Tallahassee & is to muster five companies there. I am prepared for them & wish they would come.

After this is done I am going to try the Colonel again for a leave. There is considerable sickness in this place, but mostly billious fever. There are now two or three cases of it at the hospital. The Chronic Diarrhea seems the most fatal. One lady, a young Mrs Clark, is very low. Her father, who has been living at Manatee, has recently moved his family here. His name is Branch, a physican, a christian & a preacher. He gave us an excellent sermon last Sunday from these words which will do us good to repeat. "Let the words of my mouth & the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight O Lord my strength & my Redeemer." You can find them in Psalms.

I have'nt learned whether you approved of my joining the Methodist on probation or not. It has enabled me by the help of God, to work with them, to bring into the social meetings a heart fresh from the fountain of the Saviour's mercy. It has enabled me to find warm welcome among the humble people & much sympathy & spiritual enjoyment. The result has been to strengthen me & fortify me in the love of my God.

As this is mail-day I hope indeed that I shall hear good news. Maybe, you thought from my letters that I might be on my way & it was better not to write. Wont it be delightful to get a letter from you again; how much you must have been treasuring up to tell me. I presume Mrs Clark is still with you. Don't let anything separate you from the love of Christ, till I see you. I want to see you full of that sweet spirit that will make any face beautiful. You musnt lose it afterward either if you are going to be a ministers wife. As I shall not - Yes I will. I was going to say, I shall not write you till after I had preached from the pulpit next Sunday evening. If you get this in time you must pray for me that I be influenced only by the Holy Spirit & that I speak so as to give God the praise. For

if I do poorly & my old friends are ashamed for me, it may be a good lesson to my pride & cause me to humble myself more & more before my Master?

How is Laura during all these times? Do call the baby Grace. It was your first thought & how much good may grow out of it. I am afraid Guy has grown all out of my knowledge. Does he wear jacket & trousers yet? Can he say Tampa? If I bring you here in the fall, I shall hire a small cottage, where we can live comfortably, till ordered to the north. I think all the time, if our father in Heaven, permits if it is his will. The excursion has just returned I hear by the salute, but it is not sunset.

My vines continue to bear melons, and I have nice tomatoes. Don't you want some - I suppose father is cutting hay still. Tell them all, how sweet the cup is that you have drunk of & there is no poison in it. Wait a little longer & I shall see you. You wont be impatient now & be like those who are without hope.

God bless you & the sweet little gifts that you are going to share with me. Think of your responsibility, but don't my darling let it weigh you down, for you will have him to help you, who has given you the burden.

My love to all & kiss the babes. Your own Loving husband  
Otis

Cant stop to reread.

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820 7/30/1857 *From:* B[etsey] Lothrop

*To:* Lt O.O. Howard

OOH-0761

Leeds Me.

Fort Brooks Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me.  
July 30th 1857

Dear Sir,

I have just recd your kind note, with the 200 dollar check inclosed. I was from home on a visit when it arrived, or I should have acknowledged the receipt before this time.

I am happy to learn that Warren has so healthy and comfortable a situation as he has, so much better than I had anticipated. And likewise that you have a fine and healthy location and I earnestly hope that when you have served your country, you may be permitted to return to your anxious friends, with life and health.

I have not seen your family for some weeks, but presume they are all well. I called on the morning that Mrs Wait was buried. Your wife was quite feeble then, and we did not see her but we saw the babe. It was a beautiful and healthy looking child.

Our family are all well and desire their kind regards to you. I am very glad that you and Warren are stationed so near that you can visit, as in sickness of the one, the other would write to the friends as well as other kind offices. That you may remain in health is the sincere wish of your friend.

Very truly yours  
B. Lothrop [Betsey Lane Lothrop, 1794-1879, mother of Warren Lothrop]

Lt O.O. Howard  
Fort Brooks Fla.

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821 8/1/1857

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0762

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Aug 1 1857

My dear Brother

Yours of the 13 & 19th ults have been received - the latter tonight. I should have answered the former before but I didn't know about that "Leave". You wrote so indefinitely as to the time you would come if it was granted that I almost expected to see you immediately. But as this is silent on the subject, I will write & risk it. Not much will be lost anyway.

I supposed you had recd all of my letters when you wrote first. It now appears that you had not. I don't think it is much more than a brotherly yearning towards you & Lizzie that makes me want you with Charles & I, if you feel that you can't - go with Mother. I have attended the Methodist meetings & loved them dearly but I didn't quite feel one of them as they are here, neither can I conceive of your being so, without a slight pang of regret. I don't think it is their social position that occasions this feeling for if I know my own heart & interpret rightly the work of Grace then performed, I would be anything or nothing, so far as this world is concerning. So that I follow Christ & live up to the light of Conscience.

With many sincere, deep, earnest Christians among our Methodist Brethren here, the prevailing love is superficial. To this conclusion I have reluctantly come. Among them, to be true, you may have greater opportunities of doing good, by exemplifying a deeper and more pervading piety. But, there is a general tone & influence to such a large body that overcomes us individuals, like gravity. If you are, among them, perfectly in fellowship and at home, join them & may God bless you & make you useful. The Church that I belong to hold to free & universal grace. Come every one that thirsteth & drink. That is what I shall preach or else hold my tongue.

In Church Government, Methodism is despotic to a degree, Congregationalism, Republican. You will be satisfied of this on investigation. Leave other things, especially their doctrines of the Holy Spirits influence on the preachers & bearers heart, as developed by William Arthur in the "Tongue of Fire", I love. We cannot depend too much on God & too little on Learning, intellect, morals &c - "Except ye repent and become as little children". It is in the most simple, unreasoning, and childlike faith that we find the highest types of Christian character & feel the meek & purest enjoyment in our hearts. "There is the way, walk ye in it."

I sometimes think that Religion is a pyramid whose base is the Church militants & whose apex is the throne of God & that the nearer churches & individual Christians are to the Summit, the nearer they are to each other. When that great company shall stand "on the Right Hand", they won't be in little knots & cliques but like a herd of timorous sheep - all commingled in one glorious exemption & still more glorious hope, they will, as one, watch the eye of their great Shepherd. Have I His mark upon my forehead will be the question? "To seek out the poor and lowly & work for them" is the work - the great indispensable work of every one of Gods ministers. That is to be my work. "Feed my lambs" is the command of Christ. "This is pure religion & undefiled", says Paul "to visit the widow & the fatherless". This is my work. This is Ella's work. O that you & Lizzie might devote your little <short> lives to the same. "He that is greatest among you let him be your minister." I.e. you remain a laborer, a drudge (if I may so say) in Gods earthly vinyard. Enter the Seminary with me this fall. You will be in the "work" very soon. You don't have to wait to "graduate". I won't speak of the life of domestic enjoyment that you will secure. If you can't do it for Christ, don't do it. Where can all my talents, my gifts, my attainments, & my graces be most available under God for good? Thats the question. Worldly poverty has nothing to do with it - if it had, I would have stayed where I could make money - in the "Law". Gods promises are the same to his humble, faithful Children in the 19th Century as in the 1st. We may live the lives of Peter, James, John, & Paul & we shall be fed & supported by the same bountiful hand.

Trust in God for everything - faith, faith, faith, is the summum bonum - the ne plus ultra - the all I constantly feel that it is only considerations for your worldly prosperity that keep me from singing more strongly the claims of the Gospel. Ought such a motive to obtain? Ought it - with me & you? If worldly considerations almost made you leave your profession to become a lawyer should not Heavenly ones make you quite abandon it for that of

a minister?

[Note 1]

If you were in the vineyard - God forbid that you should "speak like a Methodist minister". Let it be like Paul, Peter, Nutley, Whitefield or Payson - "with the Spirit & the Power". The Spirit is the Power. He is weak who refreshes himself not at the Fountain. If spoken or written, meditated or extempore, what matters? If God has breathed upon it, it has life, if not, it is dead. It is easy to tickle the fancy to please the intellect, to soothe or excite the passions, but who can reach the heart. Who can feel that every blow falls upon the mans nature & destiny!

None but he whose weapons are forged in the Heavenly Armory & whose arm is strong in God. "The highest style of man is the Christian". The highest style of the Christian is the most Spiritual. The highest rank of the Spirit is the salvation of souls. O you can't think how I look down upon Alexander, Bonaparte & Wellington, Clay, Webster & Choate. How much better off is a little humble Christian, living by faith & looking to Heaven, & hoping in Christ, than any of these! I am tired now. I will write more tomorrow. Good night my dear brother & may God bless you, for Christ's sake.

Sabbath Morn, Aug 2.

I have got my S. School lesson with Johnny & there is a little time to write. Sam & Mary are going this morning. If they will all stay in the S. School I shall feel as if I had accomplished something by coming here. Aunt Ellen is Unitarian in her views, but loves a Christian & thinks she is one in her way. I doubt it. She can't help seeing the doubt so our conversations are rather constrained. She says other denominations always seem to think that Unitarians are not Christians and she never feels free to talk with any such disbelievers. Both the girls. Yes all three are Methodists. "George", the man, I have had no religious conversation with. I have heard him swear.

Mr Lee wrote me pretty fully the other day in regard to his religious state. He says he "hopes his life is governed by the precepts of Christ" but if he has ever had a "change of heart" it was so gradual as not to be assignable to any point of time. His little daughter was born the 1st ult. Mrs Lee is well & has "Mother & Jimmy" with her & is happy with them & "the sweetest little baby, the very picture of me" as she says in her letter to me. This will make her more of a woman & I am in hopes this & her Mothers influence will open her eyes to the importance of Religion.

Mrs Tripp is a Baptist & a real Christian, I should judge shouldn't you. I believe I told you that my "Class" are 7 young ladies. One a "professor" when I wrote it. One joined the Church with me. One told me last evening that she thought she would go forward at the next Communion - 1st of Sep. One is under deep conviction and I went over & talked & prayed with her last night. She must, before long, be rejoicing in Hope. She is on the right road and only seems to lack that "immediate faith". May God bless our efforts to bring the rest into the fold of Christ.

O I want to tell you so much but I haven't time. I will when I see you.

Albert Rice of Augusta Son of Judge Rice, & Classmate of mine in College & very mild is I am in hopes one of my children, no not mine, but Gods, but we do hold sweet communion together.

Henry Emmons is in his second year now at Bangor. Just begun it. He is at home & a dear fellow he is too! How I love to kneel by his side in Church meeting Friday night & pour out our souls together in prayer. He will preach some this vacation. His father has left them in rather poor circumstances, but Henry is rich in grace & gifts. He often speaks of Otis. He is different from what you knew him.

I am going down to Bath tomorrow & to Commencement with Ella. I have not been "down River" for few weeks. The children like to have a vacation & I am so happy in thinking of being with my Ella that I can hardly keep sober enough for "dignity". We have kneeled down side by side & enjoyed the sweetest communion with Christ. O that you could look right into her heart as she lets me. I know you would love her.

I am in hopes that my testimony may have some effect on my classmates whom I shall meet. O, I pray that everything I shall say may be blessed of God if in accordance with His Spirit.

1 o'clock

My Sunday School was interesting. There was a tear in one <> eye. O God grant that the mark is in that heart.

William Sprague walked home with me. We sing together in the Choir. I have been begging him to take Christ with him, now that he is going west.

My prayer meeting at London Hill is at five o'clock. May God go with. O this wicked vile heart. Herein is the reason that there are no fruits.

I haven't heard from Lizzie for a fortnight. She was then getting on well.. I have written her. Dellie is at home & will have a good time with Guy. I envy him.

Mon. Morn Write definitely if you can what time you will be likely to be at home. It may make some difference in my own arrangements. But as much as I longed to see you, I thought it would be better to put off your coming until Lizzie was entirely well. She wants to go to Fla this fall & if she could go with you, I think she might but that could not be expected till Oct, but may be your "leave", will extend till then.

It seems Charley fell a little short of the prize but it was the opinion of Ella & Mr Fiske (her, I may say, our minister) that he ought to have had one. So he must have done well.

I hardly expect a reply if you get a "Leave" but I don't know. Our family & Laura Anns are well. I am "Papa" & constitute a Court of Appeals in the childrens troubles. I don't think I should ever get my children into such unruly shape - but I am doing as well as I can to bring them under gradually but I find myself too often <> & impatient. Pray for me dear Brother that my "faith" may be kept living.

Our meeting at London Hill was a very Solemn one. I shall begin soon to look for "fruits." I must visit some of those families. A little instance of thoughtfulness & kindness touched me in a tender point last Evening. Julia & Anna Page, young ladies, daughters of Mr. Semian Page, asked me if I would take a bouquet to Bath today for them. They knew I was going. It pleased me so much for a little thing. I do love & care much for any "attention" & "kindness" shown to my Ella than I do for myself. She is so plain & so retiring & especially since she has been "engaged" she has received but little. I think she is happy with & in me. I want her to go up home with me & get better acquainted with Mother & Lizzie when I get through here in Sept. They must love her & you must too.

Your aff Bro  
Rowland

I can't "read over". Will you excuse?

[Possibly written in another hand] Christly, Rowland

[Note 1. The remainder of this letter except for the final sentence was filed with the July 1859 letter [ooh-1003]. The date of July 1859 had been written in pencil, because the opening of the letter to Otis from Rowland was missing. However, the date must be 1857 for the following reasons. It was written when Otis was in Florida and Lizzie was in Leeds. The date Sunday, Aug 2 corresponds to the year 1857. The reference to getting a "leave" also confirms 1857.]

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822 8/2/1857      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0764

Ordnance Depot Fort  
Brooke Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke Fla. August 2d/57

My darling wife,

I will not write you much this evening, for I am to speak before a large assembly extempore, & I want to prepare myself.

I was greatly disappointed last night in not getting a single line from any of you & I can hardly account for it unless you have come to the conclusion that I am on the way home. I hope indeed that all is well. I am almost afraid to wait for the next mail, though I put my trust in God & he will strengthen my heart.

I am going to hear a presbyterian this afternoon, Rev Mr Brown. He came to see me yesterday. I invited him, being a stranger preacher to walk over with me. He was taken sick with the Chills & fever, and lay on my bed nearly the whole day. I opened the sabbath school this morning by reading & prayer, addressed the children for a little while & then heard my class. We had but a few minutes between the Sabbath school & the Morning service, so I didnt get any opportunity to write.

I am still holding on my way rejoicing in the mercy & Strength of my Redeemer. I do many, many wrong things, but unwillingly for I would not for the world lose the love of Christ. I [He] supports me and prepares me beautifully for the vicissitudes of life & we all know that by it we are forgiven & accepted in Heaven.

I am still hoping to get a leave by and by. I have armed one company [&] tomorrow I will equip another, & there are five others already on the way & perhaps more but I expect August will be far spent before I can have any certainty of getting off. Oh! How much good it would do me to see you & our darling little ones - Grace & Guy. Kiss them for papa. Pray for me in all my labors, that I may never forget God, but walk in his way at all times & in all places. I always pray for you & no doubt you do for me. Last night as I felt sad to think I wouldnt get a word or line, I went to see the minister & went with him to the house of a young widow lady, where we found a brother of hers from some other place. We had a pleasant conversation & as usual I was invited to read & pray with them. I am not puffed up by this for it is Christ that has given me so much of his grace, that brethren & sisters in the Lord recognize me as a fellow-worker.

I am in good health & wish I could learn as much from you. My love to my dear Mother & to all at home, & may God bless & protect you.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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823 8/2/1857

*From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0765

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds. Me. Aug. 2. 1857

My dearest Husband

I know you must miss my letters, and I wish I could write more and oftener. When I get ready to write to you I think of so many things that I wish to communicate to you that I am at a loss what to write first. And if I begin to write then in course I forget half before I express one idea. I received two letters from you last Wednesday mailed the 12th and 16th of July, and I got another last Saturday. Now I would like to answer all three at great length, but as I cannot write so much, and mail the letter in any season, I shall be obliged to answer some questions merely and not give all my reasons. I don't like to do so either for you may misunderstand me, if I don't explain.

I love my Saviour and he is particularly near me some days, but I don't feel as you do, to talk with and before so many about the 'love of Christ', and when you speak of the talents God has given you, do not dearest think them greater than they really are. I don't want you to be too fast. You are generally more enthusiastic than I am and come to conclusions sooner, but in a case of so much importance as this we should well consider what we are about to do before we act. I wish you to act there just as you would were you living at any other place, and in any society you have ever known. At church I think you ought to be one of the congregation than otherwise. I am very glad you take part in the Sabbath School. I wish I could do the same, and I would like to attend a female prayer meeting. Do you know that the ladies have one at Tampa?

Rowland asked me if I would like you to become a minister. I told him I feared there would be too many ministers in the family. I hope you do not yet think of it seriously. I don't feel now that I could do my duty as a minister's wife. I can be a good Christian and do all in my power to promote the cause and serve God faithfully and still have you continue in the Army, and "do it for the glory and honor of God and not to please myself".

I shall not be baptized yet. He is just as near and dear to me now, as afterwards, that is only to be known publicly as a Christian. When I have interpreted the Bible to my best ability, then I shall be ready to join with the denomination that is nearest or agrees with my interpretation of it.

I could have waited for you, and am sorry you could not wait for me. I have been looking forward to our joining the Church, and be baptized (for the first time) together, but now half that pleasure is gone. If it is a wrong thought I pray I may get over it. I wish I was with you for I fear I have erroneous ideas and need your advice and counsel. I don't think you will be able to get a leave and if you wish I don't see any objection to my going without you. I could get some one to go with me, as soon as the weather is suitable or rather it is late enough in the season. I should say by the first of October would be late enough.

I could write much about these dear little children, but I will let that be 'till I am stronger. I am quite well though but have to be careful.

Rowland left me a little book "Angels Voice" full of truths. I don't read much. I save my strength to take care of the children, and my eyes to write to you. You don't know how well I get along with them. It is all pleasure to take care of them and no trouble. They are both good children, and the spirit of the Lord is with me always. Baby is my little daughter. I don't know as I shall call her Grace, although it means so much, and speaks to my heart. Guy loves her so much and kisses her often. Does not object to it, when I say "No, I must take little sister."

Ella has not written me yet but Rowland said she intended to do so.

I have become acquainted with Mrs Stinchfield of Calais. I like her much. She attended the convention at Bath, Congregational. I feel the sympathy you speak of existing between Christians. I hope Mrs Lothrop may not be as anxious about Warren as I was about you when I learned you were out to find the Indians. All that time, without knowing why, I prayed "O! Lord be merciful unto me, and send me no greater affliction".

I have written you one letter before this, and mailed one to Aunt Sarah to-day. These are all I have written. She is a good christian and prays earnestly that her husband may see the errors of his ways, so let us help her, and pray for him. We all need to be remembered at the throne of grace. I know you do not forget me and the children, and others,

I must write to Rowland soon. Charlie will be home Saturday and I think some of going to Lewiston next week, but continue to send letters to Leeds. I must make a change in my dress, and must go as soon as I think I can without risk, so I can afterwards go out here. Sad thought, but the "Lords will be done."

I received another letter from you yesterday (Wednesday) mailed 22d. You see I write this letter by a few sentences at a time. Again I will add a few lines with Guy by my side and baby asleep on the bed. I will mail this to-night, but I have not written half I would like to. If I have scolded you too much, and to cause you to feel unpleasant, I shall wish I could look over your shoulder while you read, to kiss away all the unpleasant feeling and tell you not to think me too naughty. I desire to do right, and want you to.

That God may watch over us and direct us in all things is the prayer of your little Wife.

Lizzie Howard

Evening. Dellie has been gone all the week selling stationery, came home tonight, passed the P.O. and brought me another of your most welcome letters, dated July 26th. You seem anxious not to have heard from any of us since July 3d. I think it is too bad to have neglected you so. I wish I had tried to write sooner. Col Gilmore when he heard the letter read said "you ought to have been written to." Every day my desire to be with and work with you grows stronger and stronger. I want to be with you that you may better know me, and these dear children. You know not what two beautiful children we have got.

Mrs. Lee has a daughter, borned the first day of July. Her mother, brother and cousin are with her I hope and presume she will be more of a woman now. Mr. Lee is a good conscientious man and I think not far from his God. He wrote a very good letter to Rowland, which the latter remailed to me.

Saturday afternoon.

Charlie is at home, came yesterday and we are going to visit to the P.O. this afternoon & take the letter. Guy is going with us and baby stay at home. I might have mailed this letter before if I had not been so neglectful. All send love.

Yours as ever  
Lizzie

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824 8/5/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0769

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
August 5th /57

My darling wife,

I have been obliged this afternoon by company to delay writing till this time five o'clock and I am sorry, for I will have hardly time to finish before dark. I have not heard from you yet but I am expecting great things from the mail tonight. I will tell you somewhat of what I have been about since I wrote you. I went to Church at 4 & heard a good sermon from the parable of the ten virgins. In the evening I felt somewhat depressed in spirits. The Church was crowded full. I read, prayed & took my text. The Spirit of God seemed to be with me & I spoke for upwards of an hour I think, freely & earnestly & trust God blessed the effort, if I looked to men for commendation I would be gratified, but I had to struggle to think that I had not & could not accomplish ought except by the help of my Redeemer. I retired to my room wrote my journal, read a chapter, asked for the continued blessing of God & had a pleasant sleep.

On Monday I went with Br. Lyne to visit the sick. First we went to see Mrs Dr Todd, who has a bad fever, was invited to read & pray. She seemed in better spirits when we left. Went then to the house of Mrs Clark. She is about your age & has a little babe. I was invited in, & though I had not seen her before, I could not help talking to her about you. She has been reduced almost to the verge of the grave by the Chronic Diarrhea. We talked about the Saviour, his love & his mercy. She says she delights in talking about such things. O! You should have seen her, how perfectly resigned, how perfectly happy. I did not know how sweet this love of the dear Redeemer could make anybody at such a time. They say she is now convalescing. She invited me to read & pray.

In the evening I went with the minister to a large encampment of volunteers, two miles distant. Capt Hardee, a Christian, had invited Mr Lyne to preach for them & me to go along. The prospect was rather unfavorable, for many volunteers were drunk, but at Capt H's encampment were gathered quite a large company. After Mr Lyne closed his good discourse, I addressed them as a brother soldier & pointed out to them what they must soon encounter & strove to lead them to the Saviour. Some 15 or 20 Christians showed theirs & took the ministers hand & some 30 or 40 who had not known God came forward with tears streaming down their cheeks many of them, seeking for mercy. Last night, I was asked to speak again at the Church, to fill the place of one, whose appointment had been given out but did not get home. I took this passage, "They shall see his face & his name shall be in their forehead." I felt easier in the pulpit this time & earnestly pointed the way as best I could by God's help to Him & to Heaven. This morning I issued arms & accoutrements to another company of volunteers. I have got eight more to supply. I presume you are anxious to see me home & may have thought I was on the way, but you must not expect it right away, too strongly.

Colonel Loomis goes to Fort Myers tomorrow and I shall probably have to wait for his return before I can press my application for a leave. I would not like to be disappointed altogether, but I am in the hands of Providence. Much has been done by my remaining both for the strengthening me in my Christian faith & character, & that others might come out to the house of God & hear somewhat about a Saviour. All things are ordered by the divine will & let what will come we must cheerfully submit. The sinner resists & will not close with the offers of mercy, but God is God over all. I hope you don't think me presumptuous & too forward, for I desire from the bottom of my heart to be just such a Christian as God would have me be.

Pray for me, darling, that Christ may cleanse me, continually from all lurking & besetting sins. I delight in being conscious of fighting in the Army of my Master & Lord. I know I love my Saviour, though my heart is not big enough & I am not half grateful enough for his blessings. It is a continuance in the service of myself that has narrowed the capacity of my soul; but it will grow if I keep close to my saviour, & resist evil constantly.

How are our darling little ones? Would I could see you now. Kiss them for papa. He will see them some day if Heaven permits.

Colonel Belton has come to take command of the 4th Artillery, to which he has been assigned by promotion. He has the reputation of eminent piety I believe. He is a Catholic, talked with me for two or three hours this morning. He said his prayers in my office today noon. I read my chapter aloud & prayed. Capt Harden was here. Colonel Belton is an old man tottering with age or disease, but he has great knowledge & great erudition. I tried hard to avoid controversy, for I would rather talk about the Redeemer & pure religion. The supreme Authority of the visible church is the burden of Col Belton's talk, as it is to a great extent, of the priests of his persuasion. Though he must believe us heretics. Still, my darling, it don't hinder us from the sweet communion with our Lord. Tell me if you love to have me write about these things. My Love to Mother & all. I have had to hasten, but my heart is with you & I am conscious of greater love for my wife now that I am learning to delight in God, My Master & My Redeemer. May he continue to bless you, my sweet wife & our little children.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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825 8/8/1857

*From:* Chas H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0766

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 8th 1857

Dear brother Otis

You see I am at home once more and will take this first opportunity to answer your good letter which I received just before Commencement. I have been in hopes you were coming home but suppose from what Lizzie says that I shall not be throwing a letter away by directing it to Tampa.

You will be glad to hear first that I found your little family & all of our folks in perfect health. I came home last night about 4 ½ o'clock . Lizzie met me in the bed room with a cheerful countenance. Little Guy walked along by his mother & looked a little sober at me at first but seemed to get acquainted very soon when his mother told him it was Uncle Charles. Of course I went right in to the North room to see the little baby. I found her asleep on the bed but she soon opened her bright blue eyes as good naturedly as you could wish. She looks better than Guy used to at her age. She is round favored & must be very beautiful one of these days if she lives & thrives. Lizzie says she is just as pleasant as ever Guy was & never seems to be sick.

Mother is better than usual I think. Father is at work hard every day haying. It seems rather too bad for him to labor so hard now he is so old.

I slept with Rowland Thursday night at Mrs. Frost's in Topsham. He & Ella came up to Brunswick Tuesday & were present during the exercises Commencement day & heard Edward Everett speak Thursday afternoon. The class consisted of 80 - the largest that ever graduated. The speakers did as well as usual. But the Oration of Mr Everett was splendid. It seemed to be the most finished piece of Oratory throughout & was delivered with grace & elegance superior to any thing I ever saw. He occupied about two hours & I sat an hour & a half, waiting for the speaker, yet I never thought of being tired.

I pause for a light.

It is Sat. night, pleasant now but looks like rain. Commencement day was rainy but the other days were pleasant. I attended the concert & enjoyed it much on Tuesday Eve. Perhaps Rowland will tell you about his stay at Brunswick & I had better tell you about home & myself. I was delighted to get that letter from you. I had read some of Rowland's but had not had one of my own since the glorious change. Otis may God bless you & me & all of us with an abundance of grace. Would that the Holy Spirit might take the possession of our hearts & then sin could have no place there.

Lizzie rode up to the Corner's with me about car time this afternoon & called a while at Solomon Lothrop's. Lizzie says she likes Mrs Lothrop & Albina & Willie were delighted to see little Guy who had his whip with him & going up sat between his mother & me as grand as you please. He talks a great deal - his mother always encourages his talking & though he speaks words only & does not attempt to form sentences yet, she understands his meaning. We stayed only a short time at the Corner & when we came back rode up to the door of Mr Foss & saw Caroline & Mrs Lothrop & lots of little ones. One of which wanted the little boy to get out very much & cried when we rode away. They are pretty well there though Mrs L is not perfectly well. They had heard from Warren not long since. Had 5 letters at one time.

We mailed a letter for you today in which I suppose probably Lizzie told you she was going to Lewiston Monday. John H was here tonight. He is very anxious about his office. Davy is trying his best to be Register of deeds for the next 5 years & I shouldn't wonder if he supplanted John. Lizzie will stay a week or so at L. I shall go down with her to help about the Children. She looks handsome as ever & more than that has now a heart right in the sight of God. I wish to be ever near my Savior & will you pray for me to this end?

Your Affec Brother  
Chas H. Howard



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826 8/9/1857

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0768

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.  
August 9th 1857

My dearest wife,

It seems very strange, but I presume you have expected me so strongly of late that you thought it not worthwhile to write, but I thought I told the true state of the case soon after the letter that said, "I thought Colonel Loomis would let me have a leave". I have now looked in vain for a line from home for seven or eight mails. It grieves me a little because you, my darling, were very ill the last letter Rowland wrote me. I don't hear from Mother, Guy, baby or anybody. If this letter gets home do have somebody write a few lines or if you are all well, & can get away from two little ones long enough, say that all is well.

I heard a sermon this morning from Mr Lyne, on this text, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God". Isn't it a glorious & delightful thought that those whom Christ has cleansed shall see him face to face, and wont be ashamed to hold up their heads & take him by the hand, for they are his children. I was requested to close for Mr Lyne, so I made a few remarks & read the hymn & made the last prayer. I wish you could be here or I there with you that we might partake of this great joy together.

When I used to speak for praise you did not think I was of much consequence, but Christ my Saviour is in my heart. He speaks, He urges sinners to flee from "the Wrath of God & the Lamb." He comes to me & helps me. He wants me to speak. I used to love to speak for show, & for the pleasure it afforded me to see upturned, eager listeners, & for the sympathy. Now I cant afford to lose an opportunity to testify to the truth. I love to talk of my Saviour's mercy & love. I love to point to Heaven, and talk about these things, not in a weeping & desponding style but as cheerfully as we ever have talked about our future earthly prospects.

I wish I could hear from you so as to learn if you like to have me write letters all filled up with Religion. You may think I do nothing else but talk & think about this Religion of Jesus Christ. Well in fact, there seems to be the feeling, "God is with you all the time," but it don't hinder me from a clear head in the transaction of business and don't keep me from talking of other things. This is the burden of my thoughts most of the time, when not especially engaged otherwise, for I am but a learner & have now to read & study God's word to find out what my duty is.

Now there are many things you might want me to write upon. I might have given you & Rowland a more faithful history of what has been occupying me everyday since I embraced Religion, but I am afraid of talking so very much about myself & what I have seen & done. I would do all for the honor of Christ & hope my pride may be brought into subjection.

I can hardly imagine you a real "bonafide" Christian, but I thank my Heavenly Father, that he has given you so much grace. I am rejoiced that the new birth came when it did. That you could rejoice even where affliction's hand was upon you. God grant you this true courage from on high always. Whenever any burden is to be borne, any suffering to be endured, "Thy will O! God, & not mine, be done." Our meeting will be delightful, if God spares us till that takes place.

O! The little ones! I took up Mrs Pages little baby this morning, a sweet little thing, just beginning to creep. It reminded me of our little daughter. A little boy at the Hotel two or three months older than Guy, brought him forcibly to mind. I still think I shall go home for you & bring you down. I don't well see how you could manage without me. I shall try for a leave. I will write you so that you can get the news in time, not to be too suddenly surprised, but I don't want you all to stop writing me till I write you that I am surely coming. If I put in an application for a leave it don't make it that I will get it, for it may be as before, that I cannot be spared. I told the Colonel I might be ordered away. He said, he intended to keep me, or "that they had better not do that." I don't like to apply to Washington over his head, but may do so by & by.

I think I shall get through arming the New Regiment this week. I could do it in two days, if the companies were here, but two of them have not yet come. My Quarterly papers for 2nd Quarter ending June 30, go off by this mail. Those we retain & the copies we send to Department head quarters here, are not quite done, & my monthly papers for July are not yet commenced. I now have two clerks, a Master Armorer, & Carpenter (enlisted) and one hired black man. And I assure you, we have had to move pretty rapidly sometimes the past week. One forenoon we armed & equipped some two hundred & fifty men & everything passed through my hands, with a few exceptions. Wasnt I tired though?

Good by my sweet wife & darling babes. God bless you & give you much of his sweet comfort & peace. In his own good time we will join hands & hearts to give Him thanks. My love to Mother & brothers. I wrote to Rowland yesterday. Pray for me, that I be Kept spotless from the World.

Your affectionate & ever loving husband  
Otis

I want to go to Church at 4 o'clock. A presbyterian clergiman preaches. The people seemed to have waked up a good deal lately on the subject of religion. A young friend of mine from Jacksonville, Dr West, heard last night that his brother had been suddenly killed by lightning. Oh! How he did cry at Church today. God bless him. Both brothers were Christians.

Kiss the Children & tell Guy about his papa.

Otis

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827 8/10/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0767

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Aug 10th 1857

My dear Brother

I was very glad to hear from you so soon again. I found your letter here on my return from Bath Saturday night. You will find some allusion to some of the topics you broach in this, in my long letter now on its way to you. Where can I do the most good under God! Is the question. Is it in the Army, like Vicars among your brother officers & soldiers or is it by preaching the word of God? Can you look forward to a life in your present profession as a life of duty & therefore of satisfaction & contentment. I felt that my home was in the pulpit & that I would always feel homesick in the "Law". Where will God be most glorified? Where will your own graces & gifts be most developed & above all where will the most souls be saved. One soul is just as good as another. Where can you gather the most of these jewels for your Master?

Your classmate Sewall preached for us yesterday. He has just entered his last year at Bangor. We had quite a "talk" about you. He was rejoiced to hear of your "change" & will write you just as soon as he can get time. He is to preach some where near Bangor during his Vacation which continues till Oct. He is engaged to Louisa Benson, Louis' daughter. He spoke of your being there with Maria once. She was here with him yesterday.

I don't want you to be precipitate, Otis. Don't act the Yankee nor the "Southerner" now, but the slow calculating, common sense, Christian Englishman. Be careful that your wisdom keeps pace with your zeal. I am glad you hold meetings & have "talks". They must do good. I do it. Let us do it in much humility, <quietness> prayer & dependence on Christ. For your disposition or mine it seems to me that the Methodist school is the worst for our proper discipline. Each processes of teaching & preparing the mind or heart of man for great labors & achievements are usually slow. How slowly do all the true lessons of life work their way into us. Our hastily formed opinions have little permanence. Our oft repeated experiences always teach unmistakable lessons, reliable, trustworthy. Let us try the Spirit & see if it is of God.

Wednesday 12th

Dellie came down Monday night from Leeds and is to return today. Charles went to Lewiston with Lizzie Monday. Dellie says she seems quite well & very cheerful. She is to stay at L a fortnight. Mrs Clarke has gone. It seems almost as if the care of both children was too much for her, but she can get her sewing done at L while she is there. You have heard from her often since she has been so well, & so you will have later news than mine. I hope Dellie will be at home till Sept. Charles vacation is three weeks. Father is coming down next Monday to court & I am in hopes Mother will come with him. He is at work haying rather too hard for so old a man, I fear. I do not know that our conversion has had any effect on Roland or Father. I hope it has made them "think on these things."

If you do propose to preach, you need a theological training - Greek, Hebrew, composition, &c - you ought to understand. You might preach a few good Sermons without but if we would last we must have resources. Then all baptized in the Spirit of Truth & brought into subjection to the will of God make the successful preacher of the word. What say to <tutoring> up my studies with me this fall? I chose Bangor Seminary, in preference to Andover, New York, Princeton or any other, because it is a better place to make a minister & develop & preserve the man. The studies are easy & if you do not study for the first six months you could easily "make up". You might remain in the Service a year & enter a year in advance. Have you & Lizzie, suppose you are willing enough to live on till you are settled. You would be sure to be so three years from this time! The whole of the two first Classes at Bangor are already engaged. Your talents & Scholarship I am sure would place you in the first rank & above all, a deep piety would elevate you far above any earthly estimate. Would not the field that would open upon you after such a preparation, be the best calculated to chase you out & make the most of you in doing Gods work? How happily might you and your family spend two years living quietly & frugally at a new Bangor. All of you trying to please God & not man.

Mr Simeon Page & Mr Gilman often speak of you. Every body here knows you by memory or reputation. This letter is short but I will write again when I have more time.

Your very affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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828 8/12/1857 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0770a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Aug. 12, 1857.

Dear Lizzie

I find a letter here from Otis & will inclose with it this note to tell you about the frames.

I forgot about them when I left you. I want "Dayton" framed so as to correspond with our Fremont.

9 3/4 inches long - 8 inches wide - gilt frame - the gilt 3/4 inch wide.

"Bowd. Coll." is for Dellie & I don't know what kind of frame would look best. Don't believe a gilt one would be so good as wooden. Perhaps a mahogany frame of about the length & breadth of the picture as it is now would be best. Please to use your judgement. It will suit at any rate if framed in something not very costly.

I didn't sell any books to speak of. Stayed at Warren's last night & came home this morning.

Otis wrote an excellent letter to Dellie at the same time, with yours.

He is all engaged in a most glorious cause. You can sympathize & pray with him now. Oh Lizzie I am so glad & will you pray for me - pray that I may be kept very near to Christ with his love to warm & soften my cold & stony heart?

Good Bye dearest Sister - Charles.

P.S. We would like to know whether Otis said anything about a furlough in his letter to you Lizzie. C. H. Howard

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829 8/12/1857 *From:* Rosina

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-0770b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs Howard,

I met with Mrs Berry last night and she said she could do that work you spoke of if you would like to have her as she has got some clothes made in the same way. If you would like to have her make them, will you write a line and tell us where to find them, direct to Mrs Gilmore as I am going away.

Yours in haste  
Rosina

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830 8/12/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My deareast Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0775

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
Aug 12th 1857

My dearest Wife,

I will write you a few lines this evening to let you know of my continued good health. I do hope I may get a letter this evening. I think you will have got rid of the expectation that I shall be home right away, & written. My prospect of going home don't brighten much. I thought when I got the new Regiment armed I might be spared. But there are several companies of independent organization to be mustered out & in again, and I fear that I will be needed all the time. Still I shall try to get off by & by.

Now I wish you were here. I don't know as it would do to come at this time of year, but you can come a little later, the last of October or the 1st of November with safety. I cannot bear the idea of your taking the journey with two children without me along to assist you.

I will give you a few scraps from my Diary since I wrote you.

(Sunday) I heard a sermon tonight from Mr Brown, the presbyterian minister, at the Methodist Church, from the text: "Prepare to <meet> thy God." A very good and impressive sermon. God bless all the means of Grace & Mercy to the saving of souls. I was invited to offer the closing prayer. I read & prayed this evening with Mr Lyne & have since returned to my room from his. Now committing all my cares, dear friends & whatever may burden my little heart, to my Saviour who bears all things for ungrateful me. I will go to my rest.

(Monday Aug 10) I have not smoked today, but I feel that I have not exerted myself much in any direction. My morning exercise was pleasant, and so also the one at noonday. Capt Hardee Mr Lyne & another gentleman were present, but I conducted the exercise. This evening I visited Judge Thurman's, went to Mr Lyne's room, thence, to a sing at the house of Br Drew. After the sing I read a chapter with the family & prayed. I slept a good while this afternoon. I think breaking off smoking is the occasion in great part of my indolent feeling today. I must study God's word more tomorrow.

Tuesday August 11. Had a pleasant morning exercise. Capt Harden & Dr West were in my room this morning. The Dr has lost his brother by stroke of lightning. He loved him dearly and is very deeply afflicted. I talked with him, read to him & some of the life of Capt Vicars. At twelve we had our exercise of reading the Scriptures, & prayers. I trust the Dr went back to Camp blessed from our conversation. I attended the prayer meeting this evening. Colonel Loomis led & his words were very [see Note] impressive both in his speaking and in his prayer. I haven't smoked today but have been little sleepy headed all day.

Now my journal gives you no idea of my every day experience. I don't make it a point to tell of everything bright & joyous. I generally write late, after I get tired & give a brief outline of the day. My conversations here in the office are very pleasant & sometimes very instructive to me. I have talked with quite a number of young men, who are impenitent. The time most always comes as we go on gradually to talk of a saviour's love & mercy, and practical Christianity, that a soldier may possess as well as anybody else. I don't put down all I think & say & pray for. Many a prayer goes up for you & the little ones. After prayer meeting we went home with Colonel Loomis. We prayed together before parting, as we generally do. We prayed earnestly for you & yours. So you are often mentioned away down in Tampa, & may God bless you all. My love, to Father, Mother, Dellie & all. Kiss the little children. Tell them papa loves them.

Pray for your husband often that he be kept humble in spirit & unspotted from the world. My dear Saviour who has cleansed you with his blood will take care of you & yours.

Yr affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

[Note: From this point 2 pages from Otis to Lizzie were moved to OOH-0748, dated 7/8/1857, and replaced with the fragment from Otis to his mother, OOH-626, dated 1/20/1855.]

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831 8/13/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0771

Auburn Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn. Me. Aug. 13. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I fancy you received my first letter by yesterday's mail. I know you will be glad to hear from me, and I wish I could write as often as I did formerly, but one long letter each week is as often as I can send to you, dearest. I wrote in my last letter, that I thought of coming to Lewiston. Charlie came down with me (in the cars) with the children, last Monday. I don't know how long I shall stay, but I wish to be at Leeds the last week of Charlies vacation, as I will not see him at all.

Tuesday I went to the Judge to request to have Col Gilmore appointed Adm'or to our estate. I thought best to have him assist me in preference to any one else.

Yesterday I engaged the Hack, took Guy in the afternoon and called to see Hellen and the children. I found Aunt Martha there, on her way home from Thomaston. Her health is very poor and the Physician advised her to go to the sea shore, but she could not be contented to stay there. She is very nervous and change of scenes, to keep her mind occupied, is what she needs. She does not seem to enjoy anything. I am very sorry for her but I do hope she may get better. A Miss Stackpole was there also. I imagine she is a relative. John seems very kind, has a happy, cheerful countenance every time I see him.

I wrote the above this morning and now it is evening and I will add a little more. I received a note from Charlie enclosing one of your welcome letters. He said he received your letter to Dellie by the same mail. I hope you got my letter yesterday so that all feeling of anxiety for me has passed away and you know me quite well. I should like to have seen Dellie's letter to have known more of yourself. Guy can say papa is at "Tampa" and that he lives in the state of 'Maine' and in the Town of Leeds ("Eeds") and is "two" years old. I am not going to tell you how much he knows - much more than "Frankie" when we saw him.

I hope you will be able to get a leave if you think best, but I tell every body I shall go to you this Fall, if you do not. What do you think of such a decision without consulting you more? But you said we should be together this fall, and, if you cant come for me, I don't see how that can be, unless I go to you.

The children are well as good as they can be. I have very little care of them here, left baby two hours and a quarter yesterday, and she was just as good as a "kitten". After calling at Hellens. I went over the bridge and left Guy with Uncle Hicks while Aunt H and I went into some stores to make some purchases for myself. I do not feel quite as well to-day for being out yesterday.

I hear the nine o'clock bell, and it is time for me to prepare for rest. The Lord be with us all. I wont try, dearest, to write much more this morning but will mail this as it is getting late in the week. The love of Christ is dear to me, and He is always near me, to give me strength.

I had the Dr Oaks call to see me this morning, hoping he can remedy another trouble that has come upon me which will cause weakness rather than strengthen the body. He will help me. I have only been on my feet too much. It is just time for Guy to take his nap, baby is asleep.

Now good bye this time may the Lord be near to us both every day is a part of the prayer of your little affectionate wife  
Lizzie

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832 8/14/1857 *From:* RH Whiteley

*To:* Dear Lieut [OO Howard]

OOH-0772

New York Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Arsenal

Aug 14 1857

Dear Lieut.

Have you long since come to the conclusion I have forgotten you & your long letter of April 20th, which afforded me so much gratification? Not a bit of it.

Not long after your letter, came an order to supply you with certain stores, & I determined to give you many shakes of my pen under cover with the papers connected therewith. This issue however seems to be terrible to make, twice I have had 100 colt's pistols in outside cases, marked with your address, & ready to be invoiced; when instructions from our Chief have sent them elsewhere, and to-day I have for the third time ordered pistols from the factory for issue to you.

You will hardly remain in Florida long enough to receive them, for I hear, unofficially, that McAllister & yourself have been detailed for duty in the Mathematical Dept at West Point. This I hope may be true for your sake, for I know your heart yearns to join that beloved family once more.

I cannot think the weather is as hot with you as with us at present, tho' you have vastly more of it; the sun is right <down> scorching & a little exercise or exposure bathes one in perspiration. We have very little summer thus far in 1857, none till after July 4th and a weekly rain since has kept us comfortable. If the yellow stranger of last year does not visit us, we will not have a single peg to hang a complaint on.

All inventors of broken back guns have a jubilee at West Point next week, every body is invited, and I suppose the contest will be for rapidity of loading & discharge, accuracy, penetration, & range. There is to be a free fight & a selection from the victors for government use. I have not heard the name of the Board, not a single name rumours however reports that officers of every arm of service will be assembled on it.

Have you received any reports from officers on Colt's N.M. rifle? If you have, I will be glad to get copies, to learn their opinion & how the arms acted under difficulties. Do write me all the particulars you may have on this subject. I scarcely dare write you the few changes among our officers, they are so old, and have doubtless all been made known to you by your good wife. Benton you are aware is Ins of Arty at West Point. I suppose he will have charge, so far as our Dept is concerned, of the small arms experiments. Shunk is with Hayes at W.P. Foundry. McAllister is at Richmond, Va. Sill it is said goes to California, but I must stop on the border of conjecture, for speculation is rife in every direction.

I hope you have your health, if you do not leave Fla, do send for Mrs H, she will enjoy that luscious climate so much; but I hope if this sheet does not find you in the land of flowers, it will reach you in the still, quiet happiness of the family either in Maine or at West Point. Mrs W sends kind regards.

Yours truly,  
R.H. Whiteley

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833 8/16/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0773

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.  
August 16th 1857

My darling Wife,

Colonel Loomis has granted me a leave of 30 days, with permission to apply to the War Department, for an extension of two months. I will be ready to start next Thursday morning & may get to you as soon as this letter, but I think not, as I will visit Washington on my way, in order to facilitate the extension.

I will not write much as we soon shall be together. I have been visiting those very low, near their graves lately, trying to cheer them, & had the burial service over a volunteer who died, since I wrote you. This morning I spoke for Br. Lyne from the 12 Chapter 1st & 2nd verses of the Hebrews. I feared I might not do well, for it becomes one to do well in these things, but the Spirit & Grace of God seemed to sustain me. I have promised to speak at the Encampment of Volunteers at 4 o'clock this evening & next Tuesday night at the Church. Since I turned Christian, I seem to have got hold of the hearts of the Christians of Tampa & I am glad.

I don't want to talk much about my leave, but you may be assured I am glad to go; & will, if all is well, soon be on my way to my old home, to my wife & little ones.

It is so warm now here that the perspiration drops off my face while I am writing & my shirt risbands are wet through with the same. So as I shall so soon have the pleasure of talking with you face to face after you get this, if Providence permits, I will not say more now.

My love to all. God is here, & will go with me. May he bless you all. Kiss the boy & girl for yourself now as I am not going to kiss them by proxy much longer.

Very affectionately  
Your loving husband  
Otis

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834 8/17/1857 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Dear Lizzie

OOH-0752b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 17, 1857

Dear Lizzie

We were very glad you wrote but sorry to learn you was not so well for your ride & the exertions of Wednesday. I hope you are well again.

My Term does commence the 26th. I shall return on Friday week from next Friday. Dellie soon after.

Father says he would like to have you write again & tell us after you have made up your mind as to the time of coming so that we may meet you at the Depot.

And I will come down if you want me to in order to come up with you & the children. Father is going to Hallowell today. Will <[last line of page torn]>

Mother was quite unwell Saturday so that she kept her bed but is well again. She had a very severe head ache & back ache & was sick at her stomach she is quite well again now.

I attended little Henry Leadbeter's funeral last Frid. He was 14 years old - perhaps you remember him - Aunt Lucretia's youngest son. All his brothers & sisters were there except my Gould's wife. They mourned him as much as ever I saw a friend mourned.

Aurelia - Mr. Preston's wife bore it with the most resignation & fortitude & cheered them, all. She is the only pious one in the family I believe. She is one of the finest ladies I ever saw. Has returned to <[last line torn off]> is very happy as pastor's wife. Likes the people & the place. Enjoys religion more than ever before. Her husband has \$600 a year at Burbridge Mass.

Aunt Martha is no better in her mind, shows evidences of real insanity since she returned.

Laura feels very badly & says were it not for the comforts of religion she knows not how she could get along.

I saw her yesterday. I have not time to write more for Father's waiting for this letter.

Write us if you can & if not well, please to get Mrs. J. to write a line or two.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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835 8/17/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Sister [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-0774

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Aug. 17. 1857

My dear Sister

I seize a moment this morning before "School" to write you about Otis. If you have heard it will do no harm. Capt Gorgas told me Saturday, that he recv'd a letter from Benton a few days ago saying that Otis has been ordered to West Point. So you must see him before long unless he has to wait to be "relieved". I suppose he must be at the Point the 1st of Sept.

I some expect to see Mother today or tomorrow. I hope she will come. I hope you were able to go to meeting yesterday. I know you would enjoy it so much.

Did the shawl arrive safely. I have never heard from it. If you can get time, I wish you would drop a note to dear Ella. She has long been wanting to write you but has felt sort of "afraid". Sisters in Christ, may the day hasten when you will be sisters in deed. All our friends are well here. Capt & Mrs Gorgas & the children had been down to the mouth of the River & were going up in the boat. Mrs G sent her love & congratulations.

Remember me to your friends and always as

Your very affectionate Bro  
Rowland

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836 8/19/1857

*From:* H. K. Craig  
Col of Ordnance  
Ordnance Office  
Washington

*To:* Lt O. O. Howard

Ordn Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.

OOH-0776

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Office  
Washington, Aug 19th, 1857

Lt O. O. Howard  
Ordn Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla.  
Sir:

Herewith you will receive Special Orders No 107 of 1857 assigning you to duty at the Military Academy, and directing you to proceed to that Post and report to the Superintendent.

In compliance with said order you will turn over to such officer as the Comdg Officer of the Department of Florida may designate for that purpose, the funds, Books, papers & Property in your charge, and, having accomplished this, you will proceed as directed in the order above stated.

Respectfully,  
your obt Svnt  
/s/ H. K. Craig  
Col of Ordnance

[Envelope]  
Ordnance Dept.  
Washington Augt 19 1857  
H. K. Craig  
Col of Ord'ce

Letter

Transmits spec'l orders no. 107 of 1857  
Assigns Lieut O.O. Howard Ord. Dept.  
to duty at the Military Academy

Recd Fort Brooke Fla Aug 26 1857

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837 8/23/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0777

Auburn Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn. Me. Aug. 23 1857

My dearest Husband,

I am quite well to-day and must write you part of a letter at least. I did not write last week, for Guy and I both were sick. Guy had the diarrhea and I was quite worried about him, but he is better now, and the Dr said it was partly caused by his eye and stomach teeth, that he is cutting. I came very near having a fever as before, but fortunately I escaped. Aunt Sarah took the very best care of me and yesterday I had a short ride in the hack. Now I hope to have no more draw-backs.

Rowland wrote me a short note last week saying you were ordered to West Point. I am very glad to go there, and you will have a great deal of time to study and a great deal of time to yourself, and to be with me and the children. Could you have chosen a pleasanter post?

I shall not return to Leeds till September, when Rowland and Ella will make a visit there. I shall enjoy being with them. Charlie called to see me last Friday and I told him I thought I better not try to go to Leeds again so soon, but I would like to have seen more of him, but as I am not going away so far, it will not matter so much, for he can visit us at West Point. How much pleasure and happiness I am looking forward to.

Monday. I wrote the word Monday yesterday but did not have time to write as I intended for baby called. I really do not have time to write you letters worth sending. I take proper care of the children and rest myself and I don't some days do anything else.

Col G and Dellie called to see us to-day. Dellie goes to Andover next Monday, would like to see you as you pass. I took Guy to a ride this afternoon in the hack, gone one hour and baby was good all that time. Col G said that McAllister also is ordered to West Point. The rest are looking for you home right away, but I shall not look but be so happy when you come.

Uncle and Aunt went out this evening, but have not returned. I hear the nine o'clock bell ringing and must now go to rest. May we ever be guided by the influence of the Holy Spirit in all we have to do.

Wednesday. I have just received another letter from Rowland. How kind he is to write to me so often. I must send him a note for I cannot attempt to write a letter. I am gaining every day, but am not very strong. I go to ride nearly every morning from nine to ten o'clock. Guy is not perfectly well, but I will be thankful if he does not get worse. Katie Gilmore is sewing for me yet. I do not try to do anything towards sewing. Do not be anxious about me, but come soon to

your loving Wife  
Lizzie

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838 8/24/1857 *From:* Jno S Sewall

*To:* My dear Classmate [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0778

Brooks, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooks, Maine  
Aug. 24. 1857

My dear Classmate,

I have recently heard such good news of you that I cannot forbear writing to congratulate you. You can now from your own feelings judge how gratifying it is to hear of souls converted, & how peculiarly pleasant it is to hear of friends coming into the Kingdom. My dear Howard, I most heartily congratulate you on having at last "found the pearl of great price" the treasure wh. I have no doubt you have often wished to find all your life.

I had heard the fact a short time before & three wks ago I met your brother Roland in Hallowell & he related to me more fully the circumstances of your present happy situation. I am right glad that you still possess the same bold determined energy you used to have in college (& wh. a military education I imagine has by no means lessened) & tht you have come out fair & square on the Lord's side. I hope & pray tht your labors among the soldiers & blacks may be continued, & be blessed of our great Master. You are in a position wh. opens to you a grand career of usefulness & who knows but tht God has thus given you a vastly higher Commission than you have yet rec'd, or can receive from the War office.

Roland told me you were debating the question whether you should exchange your present employ't for the ministry. I trust God will guide you in the decision. No doubt you w'd be very useful anywhere in the profession, but perhaps God has more & harder work for you to do in the army just, & who told me he remained in the Navy because he tho't there ought to be living working Christians in it, tho' he exceedingly disliked the Service. I doubt not the Army just as much needs Christian officers who shall "witness Christ" among their troops. Perhaps God has just exactly that work for you to do. However, I ought not to influence you one way or the other in your decision, for of course you know your own situation & feelings while I do not. But if you do decide to enter the ministry I can assure you of a hearty welcome from our vacant pulpits & our fasting congregations.

I sh'd be very glad to hear from you. I shall be here some 4 or 5 wks longer. After that time a letter addressed to Winthrop w'd find me. It is now vacation at Bangor Sem. & I am here preaching a few sabbaths under the Me. Miss. Soc. I shall graduate next summer if I live, & hope to be useful in some corner of the Lord's vineyard.

Write me please & tell me abt. yourself, your plans &c & remember me always as your Classmate & friend.

Jno. S. Sewall [John Smith Sewall, Bowdoin 1850]

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839 8/25/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-0779

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Aug. 25th 1857

My dear Lizzie

Charley wrote me yesterday that you had not yet returned from Auburn & that he would forward my other letter to you. He says you have been sick and are now quite feeble. I am very sorry, dear Sister, to hear it & wish I could help you some way. Did I understand him correctly in saying that Mrs Clark is again with you. I hope so & that you will be able to keep her to take care of the children some time yet.

I was at Augusta this morning & saw Capt Gorgas. He says there can be no mistake about Otis "order". Charles said you had some doubt whether "such good news was true." Otis may not get away from Fla soon enough to come to Maine before the "year" commences at West Point & you may not see him for some time yet, but it will seem as if he were at home, wont it. Just think, only two days for letters & you know all about his situation too!

I can't help thinking what an opportunity he will have as a Christian Instructor of doing good among Cadets. There are not many such 2d Lieutenants! Would to God there were more. I wish I knew whether there was any good place for you & the children there, whether you could keep house &c but I suppose you don't know this yourself yet.

Aunt Ellen is going to Newport to see her two Sisters. She will start tomorrow & be gone two weeks or more. I shall be very closely tied here while she is away, as I will be Father, Mother, & everything else to a very large family & I shall feel quite a responsibility. After she gets home, I am in hopes to come out & see you, whether we hear from Otis or not, but I know we shall before then.

I spent last evening & this morning with "my wife"! Capt Patten his wife & "Horace" in one chaise & Ella & Lizzie in another, are on their way to Farmington & staid at Stanley House last night. I "got wind" of it & went up. They started on, at eight this morning & I returned in time for school. I expect to see Father tomorrow & I am in hopes Mother too.

Isn't it sad about Aunt Martha? It makes me feel dreadfully. Poor Uncle Ensign. What will he do? I'm afraid it will kill him. You don't know what a real kind, good, generous man he is & a loving husband. He would do anything for her comfort always. But his own kindness and self sacrifice in past years must be pleasant reminiscences to him now.

O Lizzie, I do not want to look back upon a life misspent or one in which I have done nothing, accomplished nothing for anybody's happiness, as for the Glory of God.

Charles will go to Brunswick Thursday. He has an arrangement there which I am in hopes is nothing worse than a "flirtation", but it looks decidedly more serious. Between us, I don't like it. I know its "none of my business" but I love Charley & if I know my own heart wish everything for his happiness & usefulness in the world. It don't seem to me that either would be promoted at the present time by an engagement to Miss Nettie Merryman. I was rather "officious" in that affair of Miss Hooper at Yarmouth & I feel delicately about saying anything of this to him. I most ardently hope that this affair will be as ephemeral as that, but I fear not.

He seems determined now & he has some of the "Otis' trait" in his will.

I don't write Lizzie, because, in your present state of health I expect an answer, tho' I should love to hear from you but because I thought it would make more of the moments pass more pleasantly to have a letter from

Your own Brother  
Rowland

Ella's most intimate friend a Miss Springer of Topsham, has found a hope in Christ. The "light" first broke in upon her during a ride which they took together last week. Thank our dear Father in Heaven for his Loving kindness & bountiful Mercy. He "would not that any should perish but all learn & live". Remember me dear Sister when you pray.

R

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840 8/29/1857 *From:* S P[erry] Lee

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0780

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Aug't 29th 57

Dear Cousin

I arrived this morning from Boston & Leeds and found that the Goodell was totally wrecked last Tuesday night about 30 miles from here. The materials arrived here to day from her. I got a friend of mine a Capt Babage a competent man to take the vessel to Wilmington for me intending to join her there as soon as I had finished up my business here and the first night he lost her owing to a heavy gale & foggy weather. There is no blame atached to him or any one on board. Mr Bacon has \$2500.00 insured on her outward freight which ought to cover his expences. I do not know how much he has insured on your & Kingsly quarter as he is not down to day and so I have not seen him. I am very sorry about the accident as I had chartered for a good voyage which would have left a handsome balance to the vessels credit.

I was in hopes to have seen you at Leeds but you left the day I arrived. I should have writen you before but was expecting to go to Leeds sooner when I should have seen you.

I received your kind letter as you say dear mother has gone to a happy home. She was very happy in the thought and now is enjoying the fruits of a Christian life. It is hard to part with her but I feel that I could not call her back to this world of suffering & sin if I could.

Silas will be here Thursday morning. I left him, Frank & Sarah at Leeds. They are all well. I saw your mother Friday. She said you left Wednesday. I go tomorrow to the wreck to see if every thing is saved and when I return I will visit you and shall know all about the vessels accounts as by that time Mr Bacon can have them made out.

With much love to Lizzie & children I remain your affectionate cousin

S P Lee

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841 8/30/1857

*From:* John Flynn

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0781

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

Ord. Corps  
Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
Aug't, 30 1857

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that no change has taken place here since you left. Yesterday I received a Requisition from Capt A. Doubleday 1 Arty for 8 Muskets altered for Maynard's primer together with a lot of &c for the same which I put up in about one hour after the receipt of the requisition. They were shipped immediately to Fort Myers. On the same day Recd another for 17 Colt's pistols for Col Dimicks Com'd at Fort Dallas required for Boat parties, pioneers, herdsmen &c, as those on hand were not & could not be put in proper order for issue to Regulars I came to the conclusion you would rather have me not issue them unless to volunteer officers. I therefore informed Col D that those on hand were not fit for issue therefore could not fill his requisition at present.

The papers for that property for Fort Myers only arrived here on last Wednesday. I found all correct, signed & returned the receipts. Same day turned it over to the Qr. Mrs Dept for Fort Myers with the necessary papers to Col F. S. Belton & Major McKinstry. There has been another Independent Mtd Co. raised since you left. The Capt O Hart his Co. together with Carter's is yet to be supplied. I have 45 Rifles, now on hand fit for issue. Some Co's of the Reg't that I thought were completed in arms have since drawn some 6 or 8 each, not as yet necessitated to issue muskets in lieu of rifles.

All our hands seem to be getting along well and handsomely. Ruffo is apparently improving in health. Yearne keeps Stile joggng along. Wallace is making the window sash. Frank is very satisfactory. Mr Crane is rapidly improving. All are kept going, no idle time. All the weeds in front and close to the fence all around are cut down, all the pumpkin & melon vines, corn &c I have removed and put sweet potatoe vines in their place. They are coming up handsomely. As soon as the windows are completed the completion of the magazine will go on.

Lieut Lee is A.A. Adj't Gen'l & mustering officer, which enables Maj Page to breathe more freely. I hope this will find you in the Social happiness which you have so long craved and in the enjoyment of good health as Me and my family are, is the blessing which I wish you and your dear family.

With Much Respect  
I am Sir  
Your obt Servt  
John Flynn

Lieut O. O. Howard  
Ord. Corps  
Leeds  
Maine

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842 9/5/1857

*From:* OO Howard  
1st Lt Ordnance  
Corps  
U.S. Army  
Leeds Maine

*To:* Rev S. H. Taylor

OOH-0782

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Maine  
September 5th 1857

To: The Rev S. H. Taylor

Sir

I am a stranger to you, but take the liberty to write you, in order to make inquiries concerning my half-brother R.H. Gilmore. He does not desire neither do any of his friends ask for his return to Andover. He is a good & pious boy & if I understand him rightly stood fair in point of class rank.

We cannot imagine for what reason you speak in such a manner of "his progress in study & general deportment". It grieves him & his parents to receive such an unflattering epistle concerning him. He is my youngest brother & has been always a good boy & well disposed towards his instructors & now that he can unite with us in love to the Saviour & in strife to do his will it is exceedingly strange that he should have fallen into disrepute with his teacher, who is also a brother in Christ. He has tried to tell us every instance in which he can remember any distinction with reference to duty.

Your letter would imply a dismissal from the Academy on account of bad conduct. It is general in relation to the method though when "an entire change" is required we would look for some specific. I cannot think a boy who loves his God, who at your very institution put in a change of heart, can be deserving of the cold dismissal you have given him.

If you would like to answer me I shall in a few weeks be at West Point N.Y. However if you would direct here it would be forwarded to me.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obdt Srvnt  
OO Howard  
1st Lt Ordnance Corps  
U.S. Army

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843 9/5/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0878

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Sep 4 [1858] [Note 1]

Dear Otis

I don't want to take you away from your wife & children but if you don't get your "Orders", I shall expect to see you by Monday. Come down Sat. & I will send for Charles to spend Sunday with us. I wish you had a good large carriage, so that you could bring your "family", & see your friends here and at Augusta. If you feel rich enough you'd better hire one at Lewiston, while you stay.

I feel dreadfully about Dellie. Send me "Uncle Laws" letter by tomorrows mail. Do.

I want my D'Aubrique - if there is any chance to send it. If it is not on the "what-not" it is in my trunk. It won't hurt it much to break the lock.

O I wish I could get away, but I oughn't to now.

Father is in a great hurry. Love to Mother Lizzie Guy & Grace. O I do hope Guy will get well soon.

Your Brother  
Rowland

P.S.

Let your orders hunt you up. Don't worry a bit. Enjoy this little time & do all the good you can. I hear that you are to assist Mr French the West Point Chaplain. Love to Dellie. I want to see him.

[Note 1. The year, 1858, was added in pencil. It should be 1857 for several reasons. The reference to Dellie fits with the letter Otis wrote to Rev Taylor 9/5/1857. The reference to assisting Mr French is consistent with Otis' new orders assigning him to West Point.]

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844 9/11/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0783

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Sept. 11. 1857

Dear Brother

If you remain next week, I believe I must forego the "expense" & take Ella up to see you & Lizzie before you go away - I want to see Lizzie so much myself too! If Aunt gets home tomorrow or Sunday, I could go to Bath the following day & get up to Leeds towards Evening. If you are not there I don't want to go now. No matter if Lizzie is "getting ready", Ella won't hinder her.

Uncle Ensign will now receive "Association Company" & that will relieve mother, who must have a kiss for Ella when she comes, because she is "afraid" to go, but still wants to dreadfully. If you must go away before Thurs, send me word if you possibly can.

I went with Uncle Ensign to Augusta this morning and we left Aunt Martha very much improved.

Pray God that she may so continue.

Your Brother  
Rowland

P.S. We had a good, good, good Prayer meeting Wednesday night. If Aunt Ellen should'nt come till the first of the week, my leaving would be put off, of course, and you have time to inform me of your whereabouts.

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845 9/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0784

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point  
Sept 22nd /57

Dear Mother

I have but a minute before recitation. We arrived in safety. Got a good girl in Brooklyn, thro' Sarah. Lizzie & children are well, would send love if here.

We left one Band box, either at Leeds or Auburn. Ask Dellie to inquire.

Will write as soon as possible all particulars.

Your very affectionate son.  
Otis

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846 9/22/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother & Sister  
[OO & Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0785

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Sept. 22, 1857

Dear Brother & Sister

I write now because I was afraid that you would forget to drop me a line this week telling me of your arrival at West Point.

I won't trouble you for much but I do feel anxious for just a few words. Speak particularly about Guy. He seemed so different from "Uncles" Guy that I shall feel anxious till I hear.

We had a pleasant ride to Bath Friday & I came up Saturday, attended my meetings Sunday as usual, and am now in my old School duties. I saw Dellie at Auburn & Charles at Brunswick. Have had a letter from Mr Taylor of the same <import> as yours. I have sent it to Dellie via Charles.

I went up to see Aunt Martha yesterday afternoon – found her much as you described at Leeds. She has a room by herself & a person who seems to be a faithful attendant. Uncle Ensign was down to see her Saturday.

Ella was delighted with her visit to Leeds & I think we both shall feel better satisfied now that she has seen my home & family. She found Sat Evening another young friend of hers who is "seeking" & she feels sanguine that she will be enabled to point her to the Lamb of God who taketh away the Sin of the world.

The little girls have the whooping cough badly, but all the rest of our friends here are well. Aunt Ellen got home the same day I came to Leeds.

Kiss the dear babies for me & always remember me in your prayers.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

P.S. I saw Sam Hicks at Lewiston & he seemed much disappointed that you did not stop as did Dellie.

I saw no others of Lizzie's friends.

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847 9/24/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0787

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Sept 24, 1857

Dear Otis

Don't be frightened at my writing so often but Ella sent me the enclosed Rx for Guy & I wanted him to have it right away as I have considerable confidence in "Mamma's" remedies. Ella send a great deal of love to you & Lizzie & the children.

I have not heard from Aunt Martha since I wrote.

Our prayer meeting last evening was deeply interesting. My soul is burdened for this Church & this people among whom, in the Providence of God I have been cast.

I shall go home about the 1st of Oct & stay till I go to Bangor. I have written to Johnathan Adams who is down there to secure me a room in the Sem. Building. I have to furnish my own room, saw & carry up my wood. I hope I may be able to keep warm by that process during Dec & Jan.

I hope there is no trouble about the irregular manner in which you have changed from Tampa to West Point.

A whole bushel of love to Lizzie. Tell her this gives me unspeakable satisfaction "Everything is Providential". We are in the hands of a merciful Father & "He doeth all things well".

I can't bear not to see Guy for so long very well. You must'nt be jealous for he was Uncle's boy a long while.

The "Infant's Progress" was just suited to Ella & I thought Lizzie might feel the same, seeking as she is the same Kingdom with the same childlike spirit & subject to the same temptations.

You did not like the name "<Jubel>" but I think you will recognize the nature & exploits of that individual, as Mr. Sherwood depicts him.

Your aff Bro.  
Rowland



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849 9/27/1857 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-1023

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept 27th 1857

My Dear Son,

We received the few lines you wrote by mail Tue, and was glad to hear of your good fortune in reaching West Point in safety, and that your family were well and hope you are also well. I have written to Rodelphus about the band-box. Two letters came in the mail to you from Florida one of them in Lizzie's hand writing, Mailed at Auburn the 24th of August, the other from Tampa Florida. We opened that one. It proved to be a letter from Maine, and remailed. I read it and it coincides so much with my feelings I could almost say amen to the contents. Lizzie's I will send if you say so. Your father thinks he will not mail it to day.

I have noticed a number of articles that you left. I fear'd you would be sorry not to have, a number of books, Capt. Vicars - L these and some others I can make a package of them, and have them sent to Auburn to go with Lizzie's things when she sends for them. Write to me, as often as you can, so that I can know when (if you do send) you send for your things.

Give my regards to Lizzie, and the Babes. In haste from your ever  
affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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850 9/29/1857 *From:* H. Carter

*To:* Lieut O. Howard

OOH-0788

Bradford

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bradford, Sept 29, 1857

Lieut O. Howard,

Dear Sir:-

Having been favored with a brief but very pleasant acquaintance with you some years ago, I take the liberty of introducing to you my son, Eugene Carter, the bearer of this note, and now one of the West Point "Plebes." Any kindness you may be able to render him, especially by an occasional good word of advice or encouragement, will be gratefully received and <>.

You will remember me as the editor of the Portland Advertiser at the time of your marriage in Portland, in remembrance of which event, the card which you politely sent me on the occasion, is now before me.

I know, dear Sir, the volume of good examples, precepts and associations at West Point. You may be sure, from this note, that in my short acquaintance with you, I received an impression as to your character which makes me desire that my son should profit by your example, and if at the same time, you can, consistently with the position which you now occupy, give him the benefit of an occasional precept, you will very much oblige.

Yours very truly,  
H. Carter

Lieut O. Howard  
West Point  
By Cadet Carter

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851 9/29/1857 *From:* [Henry] Closson

*To:* O.O. [Howard]

OOH-0789a

Fort Adams R.I.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Adams R.I.  
September 29th 1857

My Dear O.O.

“It was in the month of October  
“Of my most immemorial year  
“It was down by the dank tarn of Aubor  
“In the ghoul - haunted woodland of Weir

In other words - I-am-going-to-get-married. The event will transpire on or about the 26th of next month as nearly as by the formulae of matrimonial astronomy it can be calculated when I shall come into the field of view and take my place in the social system somewhat like Saturn with his rings - or like Mars and the Moon.

It is highly desirable that you be present at the initiation of a Brother Benedict. Of course I do not care anything about it but the fair lady herself has singularly enough written me to know where you were and why you could not stand by to receive in your arms the bride or the groom whoever should faint first.

Your first question naturally is “who is she”. Come, my dear fellow and see, from my association this summer it might be inferred that some match-making mother had at last trapped a luckless Lieutenant and paired him off with one of these perpetual belles of the ball room, whose painted breasts have been the foci of hundreds of eyes night after night through season after season. Newport truly was thronged with very many specimens of vivified mummies from Cupid’s museums this summer, during the winter season they will hibernate in the parlors of the Fifth avenue and wait for the warmth and fragrance of June to galvanize them into animation.

As for myself I have made no investments in that kind of stock. I had rather buy the Harlem railroad or the paper of the Ohio Life & Trust Company. In my surfeited itch relative to woman-kind of this sort, drinking champaign at the Tea house with Miss Smith or pouring nonsense by moonlight in the ear of Miss Jones, I did not rush to the other extreme and seek an alliance with the first-blooming fresh milk-maid I saw with the good sense I usually show I sought to combine what then was of good in both antipodes and then marry that. Of my success I have you to judge. Suffice it to say that the worst possible enemy of the future Mrs Closson could only say that we married each other because we had been mutually known long & well.

What her reasons for marrying me are I do not know. They are at least satisfactory to herself. Mine are as numerous as babies in poor families and strong as the most favorite “saur kraut” of Dutch-land. If the popular doctrine of New England is true as I am inclined to believe that in the Hereafter that comes mistily to view down thro’ a long vista of tombs and marble slabs and cypress not only can be seen the glitter of golden harps in angel hands but also lurid gleams from that huge Incubator where the Devil ranges the sinners of earth like eggs in rows and piles the flaming brimstone underneath until he hatches them out into horned and hooped images of his hideous self. If this is so it is high time I had laid an anchor to windward - high time I was forging the links of that chain by which I can hold on fast to Heaven. I know of no better blacksmith for this species of ironmonger than a wife - a droll mixture this, but it is a droll step I am soon to take.

By the way, I had almost forgotten to disclose one aspect of my writing. Would you not be pleased to be present at my wedding with Mrs H. They are very anxious at Home to see you there. Gilman will be married at the same time and Lt. Eddy of this company will attend me. After my marriage I proceed to Gardiner Maine where Gilman loses his individuality also and then we return to Fort Adams. I will send you cards soon.

I congratulate you too on the recent change in your station. How does it please you.

My love to Mrs. Howard

Yrs.  
Closson [Henry W Closson, USMA Class of 1854]



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852 9/29/1857 *From:* JH Gilman

*To:* O.O. [Howard]

OOH-0789b

Fort Adams R.I.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Closson]

[Fort Adams R.I.  
September 29th 1857]

I shall be very happy indeed to see you on a similar occasion in Gardiner Me a few days afterward. I will send you cards &c at the same time Closson does.

My respects to Mrs H - si'l vous plait.

Truly Yrs,  
J. H. Gilman [Jeremiah H Gilman USMA Class of 1856]  
2nd Lt 1st Arty

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853 9/30/1857 *From:* G. Loomis

*To:* Lt. O. O. Howard

OOH-0790

Fort Brooke

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wednesday Morning  
Fort Brooke Sept 30 1857

D'r Lieut.

I think I am beginning to <> this because I do not hear from you. What has become? I knew you had a wife & dear children & friends but I was not prepared to have you forget us in Ft B & Tampa, but not yet one line. Do let us hear from you. Nobody has yet appeared to take your place as Ord. Off. & you know the 4 Arty are ordered out & are gone so I have not one available officer to supply your place. I shall have to tell your chief so.

I am about to leave for Fort Myers & Dallas perhaps. I need footmen to go to the everglades, but have none save the 1st arty - no Regular troops at this Post or Myers or Meade or Kissimmee or Fort Dulaney or any where save Capron, Fort Dallas & Key West. The yellow fever has driven Col Winder & his men to Indian Key. I have ordered 1 Off & 30 men to Fort Myers by the Schooner Washington. I must go & see to all this. I need you.

I was at the prayer meeting last eve, not a full attendance. I trust a true spirit of prayer pervaded the hearts of many. Mr Sine desired to be remembered to you & to hear from you. Do not forget us in your prayers if you do to write to us.

The last time I was at Myers Cap Hardie was mourning the loss of his feelings of joy & rejoicing. Said he did not feel right. Pray for us all. Pray for yourself. I do not expect you have escaped the temptations that the faithful followers of Christ may always expect but I know that Jesus is mighty to save able to save to the uttermost all who come to him. Take all your difficulties, of whatever kind, to Him & tell him here are all these troubles & perplexities. I am encouraged to cast them all upon Thee Blessed God. Do so you will find blessing. Beware of prosperity too. The Robber assaults a man leaving the bank with his pockets filled with money. The devil does not like to see Christians happy & rejoicing.

Please present me kindly & with respect to your dear companion & to all who love our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours truly  
G. Loomis  
Col Infy

Lt. O. O. Howard  
Ord.

Pardon haste & defects for I have not time to read this over.

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854 10/1/1857 *From:* John H Kinsler

*To:* Lieu [OO] Howard

OOH-0791

Columbia S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[No date on letter. Filed in between Sept 30 and Oct 5, 1857. Assume October 1, 1857]

Lieu Howard

My dear Sir:

You cannot imagine the thrill of delight, which shot through my heart, as I read to night in the Southern Christian Advocate, a communication from Rev D B Lyne of Tampa, in which your name was mentioned in a connexion which endears you still more to me. Immediately recured to my mind our meeting on board the old Gen Clinch last winter, and our subsequent intercourse until we parted on the stage road near Ocala. You may perhaps have lost, in the busy scenes of an Indian Campaign, all recollection of myself. But, Sir, your image, features, & all are indelably stamped upon my mind. You gained a place in my esteem, in my affections, long before we parted. You may conceive then my joy to find you entering the ministry of the church, under whose banner I am enlisted as an humble Class leader. Nothing has occurred for years to affect me so much as the announcement in the article refered to above.

How delighted I should be to find you in the South Carolina Conference.

Will you increase my gratification by writing to me? If so, my address is Columbia S.C.,

Permit me to subscribe myself your Brother in Christ.

John H Kinsler

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855 10/5/1857 *From:* R.H.K. Whiteley

*To:* Dear Lieut [OO Howard]

OOH-0792

New York Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Arsenal

Oct 5 1857

Dear Lieut

Please accept my warm thanks for your note of the 29th ult, & the copy of Capt Massy's letter on Colt's Rifles. I was in Hartford last Saturday, showed the letter to Col S. Cooper & to Col Colt, both requested a copy. I have given them, requisitioning on the latter not to publish any part of it without your consent. I am glad to learn you have arrived at West Point, have Mrs H & the babies with you, and do heartily wish you every happiness you may desire. I know of no greater delight to a believing heart than to be engaged in the cause of that precious Saviour who has done so much for us. And I feel you are happy in the religious privileges you enjoy.

The spiritual destruction of this Island is one strong reason urging me to a more congenial spot, & I long to pitch my tent where the lecture & prayer meeting can be reached & enjoyed as well as the preached word. In winter we do not hear more than one sermon in a month, and my children are entirely cut off from Sabbath School. This Island is a very pretty place, but does not suit a Christian desiring to grow in grace & to work in his Master's vineyard.

Please remember Mrs W & myself very kindly to Mrs H. When you visit N.Y. we will be glad to see you, and if I can do any thing for you in the great city, command me. Mrs W sends you her best respects.

Yours truly  
R.H.K. Whiteley

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856 10/7/1857 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0793

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct. 7th 1857

Otis my dear Son,

Your last letter which came in mail Tue, was very happily received, & am glad you are getting along, so happily.

Your father has been to Auburn this week and saw the depot Master. He says your telegraphic dispatch did not reach him in time to send the box that night and he sent it the next morning to Portland. He introduced your father to a man connected with the railroad train and gave him in writing a description of the box you left. He promised to send it to West Point by Express. It will (if found in Portland) soon reach you. I wrote to Dellie on the reception of your first letter but could not describe it. You said so little about it.

I did not think of writing so much when I commenced. My object particularly in writing at this late hour, was to let you know what we have done about the band box. It is now eleven o'clock. Remember me affectionately to you wife and Children. In much haste,

Your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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857 10/7/1857 *From:* Oren Whitman

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-0794

North Turner

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Turner Oct 7, 1857

Dear Sir

I have seen the Administrator of Fathers estate. He says that there only 120\$ after adjusting all demands. There is ten shares to said estate making 12\$ to each share so you or your wife have a just claim on me for that amount. The real estate has not been sold. I own 7/10 of it. I bought all the heirs out except yours, Olive Southerland and Mary H. Timberlake. My object was to save cost and trouble of administration but it was not done.

When your Mother was here last summer we talked the matter over. We thought that Sarah & Novella might get grave stones for mothers grave that we would for Fathers. I had bargained for their price 17\$. Now if you should carry out her plan matters would stand thus between us. I have a claim and a just one too of somewhere between 2 & 3\$ as far back as 1848. I charged your Father with a note I held against a man in Saco of 200.\$ that had been on interest two months making 202.\$. I received 50\$ the latter part of the winter or spring of 1850. The first of May I received 165\$ by Lucretia on her arrival from Biddeford.

I should not neglect these circumstances if I had not dates showing the facts. The cost of digging grave, making box for coffin & satisfying one of the ministers was 3\$. There was not notice enough given for me to satisfy both ministers as they lived in different directions. If we call the sum due from the Saco debt 2\$ and the interest about nine years, would make over 3\$ added to the funeral charges makes 6\$. add one half of 17\$ which is 8.50 making the sum 14.50 against you. Your claim against me is 12\$ leaving a balance in my favor of which I lay no claim nor I am not willing to receive any thing from you.

But on the contrary I am perfectly willing to pay you if you require it. So please write at your earliest convenience & tell how we shall settle it & what the state of your health is & what else you please.

A letter from you'd be gratifying to me at this time as I am in an unusual gloomy state of mind & my health not the best & my nervous sistem very much disordered. Probably it is partly occasioned by a want of sleep. Some nights I have not got any sleep, others but little.

My wife's health is very poor - been worse the whole season than usual. She had 4 physicians within the last six weeks. Appears now some better. Dare not flatter myself with any great degree of permanence about it as she is subject to ups & more especially downs. I think she is getting some what discouraged about herself, has not been able to leave her room or sit up much for several weeks past. Her courage I think has held out wonderfully & indeed I think she is rather a good & wonderful woman, & it would be very strange if eight years of sickness suffering would not discourage even a saint, which in my mind she comes as near to & much nearer than the most of people tho I will acknowledge myself to be inclined to partiality & I will freely admit that I am not as <same> now as I was one year ago. Neither are my phisical powers near as good so if I say foolish things you will excuse me for I feel full yet confidence in your goodness. Perhaps you may think I am trying to flatter for the sake of favor or gain. It is not so. It is a true sentiment if I know my heart. It is free from avaricious desires at this time, but not in former years. So wealth does not make happyness. In my opinion a competency is all that is needed here for comfort & happyness.

So no more at this time. My wife joins with me in messages of love to you & yours.

Oren Whitman

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858 10/14/1857 *From:* Francis N Page

*To:* Lieut OO Howard

OOH-0795

Fort Brooke Florida

West Point  
NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Florida  
October 14 1857

My dear Howard

I received yours of the 21st ult and as there was no other officer in the Department available concluded that I would take charge of the Ordnance Depot myself. I hope that your business will all be arranged to your satisfaction and the necessary papers will be duly transmitted.

I am glad that you are comfortably located and suppose that by this time you are duly initiated in your new calling. We are getting on pretty much as when you left us.

The Colonel has been absent some time on a trip to Fort Dallas. He selected a very bad time to go and I fear he has been weather bound.

Kilburn accompanied him and constituted his factotum in the way of staff.

My health is still poor, but thank God I am the only invalid in my family all having enjoyed good health thus far.

By way of recreation from equations, quadratics & curvatures let me hear from you occasionally.

I had strong hopes of terminating this everlasting Florida war when you left, but now I am doubtful whether we can do any thing with the present force - the loss of the moral effect of Regular troops in the Country is beginning to be felt and the volunteers are fast becoming worthless.

Mrs P and Lizzie desire to be remembered to you.

With the warmest wishes for your health & happiness

I remain

Very truly yours

Francis N Page

Lieut OO Howard  
West Point  
NY

N.B. Please remember me affectionately to my old friend Kendrick.

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859 10/24/1857 *From:* H.K. Craig  
Col of Ordnance  
Ordnance Office  
Washington

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard  
West Point, N.Y.

OOH-0797

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Office  
Washington, Oct'r 24 1857

Lieut O. O. Howard  
West Point, N.Y.

Sir,

Be pleased to forward the cash amount for part of the 3d quarter, which yet remains due from you as disbursing office at Fort Brooke Depot. The amount referred to in your letter of the 8th August, as received from officers under the 1237th part of the Army Regulations, may remain where you placed it, viz: under "Ordnance Services".

Respectfully  
Yr Ob Ser't  
H.K. Craig  
Col of Ordnance

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860 10/26/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-0799

Bangor Theo Seminary

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter has torn pages, resulting in many unknown words and lines. These are indicated by <>.]

Bangor Theo Seminary  
Oct 26, 1857

<[Torn page]> & Sister

Your letter was <> from Hallowell to Leeds <> while Ella Charles & I <> & we were all rejoiced <> so good news from you. <> & Ella returned & I came <> Friday last. All of us <> a week at Leeds. <> mother well, but pretty <> me off & Charles too <> go home again this fall <> school begins at the close <> college Term.

<> glad to hear of Lizzies <> glad too that she found blessed Ordinance, as <> consecration & <> in the Faith once <> to the Saints.

<> not had the children <> yet?

<> so glad that Guy's health is so much <improved of> <> dozzen times for "Uncle" <>, I hope you have <> your house by this time <> go to Troy for your <> to hear all about it. <> baby. I have not <> my room yet. I <> very cheaply but <> comfortable yet so <> with a classmate <> Tuition & Room Rent <> are free. We board <> for less than \$1.75 <> I hope my <exper?> <> light all the time <>.

We had a recitation in the Greek Testament <> like a Bible Class in <> was opened by <> like Every body & <> so far.

The Bible & Religion <> work <> thought! How can <> other wise than <hap?>.

Dr Shepard is <> I attend that I <> up in that S.SA. At <> in a School House <>.

<?kers> are familiar. <> Religion is all their <>

<> me that I may <> how coldness that <> sin of all Christian <> <?ially > of Theological <> may I keep <> always before <> worth of <> in my <> will go with you <> & <> you use <> you go if you live <>

<> very interesting <> the "Ridge" at <> evenings. At the <> were few dry eyes <> that there were <> <affected> hearts.

<> great deal of love to <> - Ella & I were to <> you both together at Leeds <> she employed most of her <> in sewing for her "old <>.

Charles is in love - no <doubt> of that. Whether he will be married immediately or <not> is a question.

I do wish that <> was not so very "blind". <> I remember you both & <the> little ones always in my <>. <Bear> me on both your <> to the throne of grace. When I get settle in <my> room, I will write you <a> more decent letter <> you details of Bangor "Seminary". My own <> &c.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

Address "Bangor Theo. <>

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861 10/26/1857 *From:* DB Syne

*To:* My Dear brother [OO]  
Howard

OOH-0800

Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tampa Fla Oct 26th 1857

My Dear brother Howard

Your welcome precious letter was rec'd saturday week, just on my return from the Country, where I enjoyed a few days recreation; not on the fairy scenes of your City "Common"; but in the wild desolation of Fort Brook reserve. But, then I had the benefit of the exhilarating breezes, on the charming bay: it did me much good. I was highly delighted with your account of your trip, your religious privileges, and above all, "the heart in the right place". May it never be otherwise, and certainly it never will, if you watch and pray as you have set out, and as the blessed Bible teaches. How precious to meet with such a Christian as brother Barry, and in such a place, and how profitable to hear such discourses from the Ministers of the various denominations, as you have described. Your delight in them proves two things 1st the genuineness of your religion 2nd that God is no respecter of persons, so as to allow any one people to monopolize his mercies. How cheering to mix thy prayers and entreaties with those of a brother converted since you last met. And Oh how sublime the privilege of bowing before God in your own home, with your own lovely companion and little ones, and commit them to the keeping of our Father in heaven. Glory to God for his unspeakable mercies, and abundant grace conferred on you and yours.

I am disposed to believe that West Point is the very place for you and believe that Providence has kindly opened your way for usefulness by your call to that important position, where your religion, in "the recitation room" will be made available in promoting his glory as long as you are faithful, mixing religion with your lectures, and letting your light shine before those young men so strangely by God Committed to your care.

The President of any Theological institution, or the Minister of any Church, may well content himself with your opportunity for doing good, in your present blessed employ. I am glad you have the opportunity of improving your talent at the anticipated prayer meeting. Trust in God "who giveth the increase".

I hope you will obtain license to preach as soon as practicable; for then you will feel bound on Sabbath to extend your labours "to the regions beyond" and then enlarge your field of usefulness, as well as your desire for the study of the scriptures and of theology.

Several reasons not necessary to name hindered me from writing sooner. I met the Col often at Church, & in my room he seemed a little jealous that your letter to me was longer than the one written him.

Precious Old man pious, what a treat to have such a friend. He contributed \$20 toward my support and at my collection last night, for the Orphans & Widows of ministers, paid five dollars. The collection amounted to \$68. It will increase to \$75. Would you believe it, Mssrs Clemens & Hahn paid five Dols each, and Mr Hutton contributed also. We had a religious time, and I had great liberty in presenting to the Congregation my theme, Benevolence in the light of a privilege - from Mathew 26.6.13 inclusive. Hon was much overcome with emotion, when he asked me to put him down five &c. This is the work of the Lord & marvelous in our eyes.

We are doing well in this station. They have paid me some \$90, only yet, I am inclined to have a protracted prayer meeting embracing, ninth to the fifteenth of November, at which time bro Cooper will come to his fourth Quarterly meeting. Dear bro will you remember us earnestly then in your prayers.

The Church was glad to hear from you, and Oh how sweetly the Col prayed for you after I informed the brethren of your desire, and good will toward us. I believe I speak truly, when stating the fact, that, the members of our society here love you much.

I very much prize the kind word your lovely wife sent to one personally unknown to her, even to such a one as the humble writer. You remember I once hoped to behold her face but providence has planned better things for her. May God bless her and you & your little cherubin day by day.

Sickness is somewhat abating here. We had several in the community since your departure. Mrs Branch died, I think, since you left. Bro Clark's babe was interred last week, and so was brother Robertson whom you knew. He died in the faith. Capt Daldy died in the Garison, the burial service by Rev Mr. Meredith, Mr. Redbrook. Merchant Married by self to Miss Robertson of sing school memory.

There is scarce any Indian news. The Spaniard from Key West committed to jail here, for the murder of a free negro at Key West, was tried last week and found guilty of manslaughter. The Negro murderer will be tried this week and I suppose cleared, for we have but mock trials, impossible to hang a man in this country .

Write soon and often, direct to Jacksonville as I expect to leave soon for Conference. Please present my kindest regards to you wife, and kiss the children for their unknown friend. Pray for me always, and may the God of love and peace feed you on meat convenient for you & yours and make you abundantly useful & happy.

Yours.

D. B. Lyne

P.S. Capt Hardy has been elected Lt Col of Rogers regiment. Col Roger's wife died. Drake tried to kill his duck through jealousy at a party, they parted for a time. I am religious DBL

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862 11/1/1857 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0804

Auburn  
Danville

West Point N.Y.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Danville Nov 1st 1857

Brother Otis

This is the fourth letter that I have commenced to you and whether I shall finish this or not remains to be seen. I had four pages of "Quarto Post" written when I received your last letter but what I at that time wrote was worth nothing to you when you received the band-box.

I have not heard from home very recently as I have not heard from you. Please write me in what circumstances you are in there at West Point as I know now but little about it. I heard when I was at home in the middle of the term that you had engaged a Cottage but don't know any thing more.

The prospect is now that I shall come back here next term. And I am glad of it as I like the place the best of any I was ever in. We are to have a man by the name of Fuller a graduate of the last class at Bow Coll and also other assistants which will depend on the size of the school.

Rowland has gone to Bangor, which you doubtless knew long ago. I was at Leeds about three weeks ago and found Rowland, Charles & Ella there. Charles & Ella came the same day that I did and we all came without her knowing anything about it. Rowland came the day before. I am now getting along finely in my studies. I read about 100 lines per day in my Virgil and am doing well in my Greek. I shall not board here next term although it is a fine place but I don't like to pay so much for what I eat. I am glad that I did not remain any longer in Andover. If I had come here last spring instead of going there I should have done the best thing possible.

I do not have as good religious privileges here as at Andover but I find that I can serve my God just as well if I only have a heart to do so. There are only two or three pious persons in the school besides myself and I feel as though consequently that I ought to work harder in order to make up the deficiency if possible. Mr Record is a pious man, a thing rarely seen in men of his profession (Law). He is one of the most active men in the Baptist Church on the other side of the river. I like him very much, his wife is also pious; so you see that I have a fine place, but I cannot pay so much for board in any place. I like Mr Parker my teacher very much, he is pious and is at the present time a member of the Theological Seminary at Bangor, where he will go at the end of the term. Mr Luce is a fine man but not a Christian. I wish he was for he has great influence in the Village.

I saw Mrs Jones today and Eva, but did not speak with them. I suppose you heard about that scrape of Mr Jones a few weeks ago and I will not write about it, but if you havn't please write.

How do you enjoy yourself there? Do you have much chance to do anything for our God? How is sister Lizzie? I hope she is getting well. How is the boy Guy and baby? Please write all you can think of, as indeed I have. I never get so hard up for wanting something to write. So good night with my love to "all hands".

Your affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore  
Auburn

Lieut O.O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

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863 11/1/1857 *From:* Blanche Berard

*To:* Lt OO Howard

OOH-0805

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Undated. Assume 11/1/1857]

Dear Mr Howard

I was so much delighted with your article in the Military Gazette that I sat up a full half hour, last night to read it. The highest compliment which I could pay to any production, with my strong morphean proclivities. A writing must interest me exceedingly, if I can enjoy it after tattoo.

I return the other one, & beg you will look at it, to appreciate how sorely puzzled I was to find anything to read in it.

Very hastily & affectionately

Yr friend

Blanche [Berard]

Before breakfast

Lt OO Howard

[Written in another hand]

Miss Berard

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864 11/6/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0801

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Nov'r 6th 1857

My dear Mother

I have much correspondence on my hands & find it hard to get time to write anything. Now that we have got settled & nearly finished returning official & formal visits I think I will have more time to spare.

It is a good deal of work to start out a house-keeping, all new or almost all new. We have now got our chambers carpeted & the little cottage seems very comfortable. The rooms are exceedingly small, but we have a plenty - one for parlor & sitting rooms, one for dining room, one chamber for our sleeping room, one for the girl, a spare room & a room for my books, papers &c, which I shall denominate my study.

Nov. 8.

I will resume my letter again this morning. Twenty seven years have shut down upon me. It hardly seems possible that I am approaching thirty so rapidly. [Otis was born Nov 8, 1830.] During the past year I have been drawn to recognize the gifts & mercies of God & it is therefore a year especially to be remembered by me. How delightful is the service of God & with what abundance of reward for which we can find no offsets in our own doings or deservings.

Last Sunday we took the little children to the chapel at evening prayers ( $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 p.m.). We had to wait some twenty minutes before they were called for. Then we took them forward. Lt Huse, Lizzie & myself were the Sponsors for Guy. Lizzie, Miss Blanch Berard & myself for Grace. We took them to the fount. The Baby was laughing & springing during the whole ceremony. When Mr French with his white robe on took her in his arms, she looked up in his face & smiled. She looked so bright & happy, that she seemed almost a spirit of light. Guy watched the proceeding dubiously, bore the water the first & second times without making any remark, only he would put up his hand to wipe it off. The last time he began to cry & say "no more water". But as soon as it was over & he had regained his feet he kept quiet.

The question might be asked what good it did these children. Water don't wash away sin, but it is the correspondent spiritual cleansing that is needed. We come forward and present our children to the Lord, our Saviour, & take vows upon ourselves to instruct them & if possible bring them early into the church. They are already members of the visible church by Baptism, and if parents, sponsors & Christs people are faithful, they will become lively members of the same, for God Giveth not sparingly good gifts to his children. Men are in the providence of God, restrained, & constrained to close with the offers of mercy, by influences. Our children are consecrated to God by the Ordinance of baptism. Our hearts are earnest for their salvation. Christ will be near us & direct their education, by the influence of his Spirit and they will be saved through his Mercy & love. If they should not so regard things & should desire to be baptized thinking that our renunciation of wickedness & sin in their behalf was insufficient for an accompaniment to the Ordinance of Baptism, they could be rebaptized.

Lizzie is now pretty well, but has had to work too hard. In a few days we will have a girl to assist in taking care of the children.

How much misery there is now in the city of N. York, so many thousands out of employment. I hope something will be done speedily by the Authorities for their relief, else we shall have want, riots, bloodshed & all their concomitant evils.

Mrs Woodman has come out with a statement which shows what a miserable creature, what an unhappy object of pity she has become through her fall. She has been held up before the world in no very desirable manner. Oh! That Oliver had the love of Christ to help him & she too to relieve her from her weight of sin, shame & other wretchedness.

How is Aunt Martha? How is Uncle Ensign? Give my love to father. I write to the boys as often as I can. I

lecture at the little Methodist Church, Wednesday evenings. Lizzie says how can I say anything, when I want to say so much and you come to me for a message. She says give my love to them all. I hope you are very well & enjoying much of the presence & fellowship of the Spirit of Christ.

The children are well. Guy grows heavy & strong, eats, sleeps & plays like a stout boy. He talks much & imitates his father in everything.

Yrs affectionately  
O. O. Howard

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865 11/6/1857 *From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0802

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll.  
Nov. 6, 1857

My dear Brother

I was happy to receive a letter from you at last. It came since I returned from Leeds. I had a very pleasant visit home with Ella. We went up Saturday and came back the Friday following. I went to Bath & stayed till the Monday after. I thought I would go up while Rowland was there in as much as my school for the Winter is in Brunswick and I need not go home at the close of the term.

Mother was very busy getting ready my winter underclothes and fixing up Rowland for Bangor. Ella seemed perfectly at home and enjoyed herself I know. We sang considerably evenings. She could play the Aeolian. On Sunday and Wed Eves we had prayer meetings on the Ridge. Rowland is very interesting in a prayer meeting. Ella fitted a black silk basgar for Mother, sewed for Rowland a good deal & some for me. She and I had just as much honey as we wanted. Father had plenty and was pleased to have the company enjoy it. As when you were there we continued to have prayers each night and a blessing asked at each meal.

I returned nearly two weeks ago. I suppose you have heard from Rowland at Bangor. He says he is every way pleasantly situated. Had a class of 8 when he wrote. Ella was up here at B yesterday but I did not see her. She left a package to be sent by Palmer to R. He has been teaching here in B but is going back into his class at Bangor. Will be one class ahead of R. Was in his class in College. I shall see him tomorrow.

I received a letter from Mother a day or two ago. Mrs James Wing is dead also Charles Lane. John is low - Mary Jane's husband. Mother says he gave no evidence that Religion had gound a place "in his heart".

Our term closes the day before Thanksgiving which is the 19 of this month. 6 Juniors out of my class are to perform at the Senior Exhibition this fall. We are studying Calculus now. I have been poring over it all the Evening. It don't seem any harder than other Mathematics we have had. The German is interesting but we have pretty long lessons. Today we had the Diver of Schiller which you will perhaps remember. We are reviewing Juvenal to Prof Packard.

I was very glad you gave me so particular an account of your present Circumstances - this is what I always like best to have from you. I always like to hear about Lizzie and the little ones. Please give my love to them. I don't see why you need be otherwise than happy now. You have the one thing needful. Don't forget to pray for me - that I may be kept near to Christ. Write me as often as you can, wont your?

Your affectionate Brother  
Charles H Howard

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866 11/23/1857 *From:* Ella [Patten]

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0803

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bath Nov. 23rd 1857.

My dear Otis

I am just going to punish you for neglecting me so long, by answering your letter as soon as it is received, and I am going to write on big pages too, and I know it will take you a long time to read my letter, because I never can write plain.

I expect you'll have another sister to write to soon, for you must know Charlie is very attentive to a certain "Miss Nettie" in Brunswick! I saw Charles, yesterday. I spent the last Sabbath at Topsham, and he came over and went to church with me, in the afternoon. We heard my minister, too.

Rowland is mistaken about my health. I am very well indeed, now, much better than when he was at home, and very happy too. Rowland seems both well and happy, at Bangor. I am glad now, that he did not go to Andover, though I was at first in favor of Andover, because I had been there at school myself, and had acquired too many of the prejudices of the place. But Rowland would never have been so happy there, as at Bangor. The Andover people are too "stiff" and "formal" to suit him. O I'm glad he is going to be a minister! When I hear every body talking of "hard times", and it seems as if money was the all engrossing subject of thought and conversation, I thank my God that money is not every thing, that it is not to be the object for which we live! O it is a glorious work, that of winning souls to Christ!

My brother Albert, who comes next to me in the order of our little family, is going away to sea this week. He had been at Mr Abbott's school, in Farmington, the past year, and only came home a fortnight ago. He doesn't care to go to sea, but there seems nothing else for him to do at present, and Papa won't let him "loaf", neither does he want to. He hopes to find Uncle Lincoln, at New Orleans, and go the rest of the voyage with him. I do hope he will meet him there. I should feel so much better, to have him with Uncle Lincoln. Albert is going from here to New Orleans with Capt Otis, of Brunswick (a relative of yours, I wonder?) I feel a great deal of anxiety for him, as he leaves home for the first time. He will be exposed to many temptations, yet I know God's spirit is on the waters, as well as on the Land, and I will, and do pray to Him, that he will watch over my sailor brother, and make him a christian.

Mr Fiske came in this afternoon, and brought some little books and tracts, for Albert to take to sea with him. I thought it was very kind and thoughtful in him, and he invited me to go over with Albert, and take tea at his house tomorrow evening. I will then deliver your "regards". Mr Fiske has lectures every Tuesday evening, which are exceedingly interesting, but I am sorry they are not more fully attended. One of my young friends, who however is considerably younger than I, has found a hope in Christ lately. I have had a good deal of conversation with her, both before and since she had a hope, and I wish there were many more, as earnest and sincere as she.

Evening. I have just put Horace [Ella's youngest brother, Horace Reed Patton b 1854] in bed, and he is singing to me now. He has a little stack of baby songs, of which "Ding-dong-bell" seems to be the favorite. He's a great fellow for stories, and almost every night, he has to have a story told him. I have told him about Joseph, and his coat of many colors, and he almost always when I put him to bed wants me to "sing him the story about Jovis". He calls it singing. He's the pet of the house, and an awful mischief. Papa says he's afraid he'll be a "spoiled child", but I have more hope of him.

I forgot, when I mentioned spending the Sabbath at Topsham, that you knew Aunt Jane. She is very well, and very smart, sews all her own work, and has one boarder all the time, and a part of the time, two. Her girls have grown to be quite large, and a good deal of help to their Mother. Octavia is almost a young lady. Aunt Jane complains very much of Charles, that he doesn't go to see her any. Charlie's school doesn't commence until next Monday, and he has this week with nothing to do. The lady with whom he has been boarding can't keep him, and he has concluded to board with his school agent. I asked him to come down here, and wanted him to very much, but he didn't seem inclined. I believe he feels the hard times a little, says he has only seventy five

cents in the world! No, in his pocket, I believe it was.

Please remember me with much love to Lizzie, and kiss the little ones for me. You didn't speak of Lizzie's health. I hope it is better than when you were at Leeds.

As I have a knife to take the place of the one you ran away with. I don't think it will be worth while, to send that back. It is not a very valuable one, and I guess it wont "cut friendship", since I didn't give it to you.

I am always glad to hear from you. I do, by the way of Rowland and Charles, quite frequently, but I much prefer a more direct communication.

With much love to yourself and family, I remain

Your friend  
Ella

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867 12/3/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0806

Theo. Sem. Bangor Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Theo. Sem. Bangor Me  
Dec. 3. 1857

My dear Sister Lizzie

I owe Otis a letter but somehow I feel like writing you tonight.

God is very kind & merciful to me & gives me grace every day. O that I might so love him as not to love any shadow of him. At our Class Prayer meeting this evening we finished telling our "experiences" - the dealing of God's Spirit with us. Ten out of twelve of us who are trying to prepare ourselves to be ministers of God, confess to have had our first & strongest impressions of the reality & power of Religion from the prayers, when we were very young, of our Mothers. The majority refer their "hope" directly to a Mothers influence.

Since meeting, as I have been sitting here, thinking of this fact in its various bearings & the lessons which it ought to teach me & lead me to teach, my mind turned involuntarily to your dear little circle. O I can never bless & thank my Heavenly Father sufficiently that the dear Mother of Guy & Gracie has been taught by Him to pray & not to faint.

One said tonight that his Mother told him once that she dedicated him to God, to the Gospel Ministry, before he was born. How blessed the thought. How much consolation it must afford Christian Mother to think amid all her early suffering & later care, that she is Mother of one whom His heavenly Father will own & bless as His child & who may become an honest instrument for the glory & honor of his Maker. Do you recollect that sweet hymn of Mary's Luke 1.47. We have been studying it. Who can wonder that she should break forth in such rapture at meeting her sister in the lord, Elizabeth. Cannot any Mother sympathize with her when she thinks of what God may see fit to perform through her offspring. A Mother's prayers! They are not always upon her knees - nor at stated times. They flow out of her heart as she presses the little ones to her heart, as she attends their wants & stills their cries. They are - "Lord help me to bear my care & vexation cheerfully, I put myself in thy hands, take too these little ones - "while they are yet young", adopt them into Thy family & supply the wants of their undying Souls". How many such involuntary prayers must go up from the heart that trusts in God, and in answer to such, how many Servants of God have been raised up. What happy Mothers!

Yes, my dear Sister, I trust you give up those "little innocents" daily, hourly into the hands of the blessed Savior. Even as you did, when publicly you dedicated them to God. I remember you all constantly in my prayers, but my prayers I feel to be poor things. Kiss each of the dear little ones for Uncle Rowland.

I continue to feel that as far as outward things are concerned that I am in the right place. Means of knowledge of Grace & of Usefulness are abundant here. I have a S. School which I began last Sunday a little out of the City. I have been calling among the people this week. I commenced with 58 & I expect to have double that number. They "try" me & I need your prayers, that I may be patient & persevering.

Tell Otis we don't study doctrines much this year. We study the Bible. This last week we have had "Butler" too & have been having Lectures on Mental & Moral Philosophy.

I suppose you may of heard of the burning of Leeds Poor House & the deaths thereby of Mary Ann Bridgham [d. Nov 25, 1857] & another girl. I have not heard it from home. Mothers last letter was full of love & charity. I loved it so much that I couldn't keep it, but sent it where I want to all things like that I love most - to Ella. So Ella & Otis have revived their correspondence. I am very glad indeed. The life of a minister's wife is especially one for others, and I want my Ella to become free and accessible to others that she may do more good, & especially do I love to have her on terms of intimacy with you & Otis.

Tell Otis I met Rev Mr Lighton here at a meeting the other evening. Our old Leeds minister, and I must say, for a Christian, I never met with a more disagreeable man. He has been in to see me & I was quite disappointed in the good talk I wanted to have. He has been quite prosperous in a worldly way but he seems, somehow, a little

sour & selfish. I have already made a pleasant round of acquaintances here. Among them, a brother of Rev Mr Fiske of Bath. Our preaching is in the genuine, old puritanic style.

I have no more time tonight, but I will write again before long for I have lots to say.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Don't you hear from Watervliet?

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868 12/6/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0807

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
December 6th 1857.

My dear Mother

It is some time since I have written you and as I happened to be thinking of you particularly tonight and as there is no church this evening on account of the rain, I will spend an hour or two in conversing with you by pen & paper. You seem to have "gotten me off your hands" now that I am married & boast of a family of my own and do not think it necessary to write me letters of counsel & direction as of old. I believe I need as much advice & direction now as when I was here before. However at this time I realize the privilege of having a counselor & friend that I did not then in a constant & beneficent Saviour and have the sympathy, love & constant companionship of my darling wife. There is nothing I need to complete my external comforts, and my spiritual enjoyment has no cloud excepting those occasioned by my own short-comings.

I trust you are also in good health in body & spirit, at peace from without & from within. Have I not cause for gratitude to the Giver of all things. How well I have been cared for from my earliest boyhood, what privileges for education, what opportunities for moral culture. How happy in my marriage, in having a wife who understands my circumstances of the past & present and is able to adapt herself to any contingency in life, who loves me & with whom there is a congeniality of temperament that makes the common everyday experience pleasant.

Again, in Guy as he begins to develop I find myself especially blessed. He is a hearty, joyous boy, quick to learn & begins to show a tenacity of memory that beats me. He dont seem to have the slightest maliciousness in his disposition, is generally affectionate to me, his mother & sister, and I think he has the elements of a proper boy, which under careful training will lay the ground work of a proper man. Grace is a very good baby, beautiful, her "mother's little treasure" & her father's pet. She begins to exhibit some of her decided points. She laughs, plays, cries, kicks, wakes by day-light, like other babies, but these things you know are very delightful to her parents. Her health is excellent & she is fat as butter.

I am sorry to say Lizzie is not so well off. She is losing flesh & is by no means strong. But her appetite remains good & she has plenty of nourishment for the baby. We now have the Girl we got at Brooklyn for cook &c & have a young girl to do the chamber work & assist Lizzie in the care of the children.

We breakfast, read in the Bible & have prayers before I start for the Recitation room. I have quite a little walk. You remember Warren's barracks. If you go straight South from them up the hill (if you could do so) till you strike the road that leads to the cemetery, you would come to this cottage.

There are quite a number of young married officers here now. Two are living at the hotel, Lieuts Child & Webb with wives & a baby apiece. Lt Blunt who occupied this house when we were at the hotel married the daughter of Professor Church, and he & his wife live with the professor.

My recitations require a constant exertion of mind for the three hours. The lessons are generally pretty long & mathematical reasoning wants decided attention. It is not proper for an instructor to make mistakes. He must be able to explain any points that are missed. He must keep his temper, do strict justice in marking as well as in the distribution of subjects & questions. It is a harder place than one might imagine at first thought, but it gives me no anxiety, no worrying before or after recitation. When Cadets get vexed I have been able to keep cheerful & I think get on admirably.

I hear Col Hardee's daughters from 12 to one every day except Saturday. They are two <misses> one about 13 & the other a year or more older. I hear them recite in Arithmetic & Grammar for the present. We will add Geography by and by.

On Wednesday evening I lecture to the soldiers & others who meet at a little church not far from Warren's barracks. I am now writing & lecturing on our Lord's prayer. I write a part of the Lecture & fill up the rest

extemporaneously. This meeting is somewhat much like the Sunday service at Leeds. We sing a hymn, read a chapter, pray & then I deliver my lecture, then I call upon one or more for a prayer. This constitutes the generality of my weekly labors, added to which are the things the head of a family must always do – little chores, errands &c, &c.

On this Sunday afternoon I met my Sunday-School. Lt Robert, a young Engineer officer, who has lately joined us, has now a class of five & I had four in my Bible Class. We now have quite a house-full in the school. Miss Blanch Berard deserves the credit of organizing a class in the first instant I believe. She is now one of my best teachers, a really earnest & faithful Christian. I used to think she was homely & not very agreeable, but she is now far ahead of anybody now in this vicinity, a good example of humility & Christian constancy.

I trust my dear Mother you are living up to your Christian privileges, and enjoy the constant presence & blessing of the Saviour, & have much of the fruit of the spirit which is love. I think I shall try to break my afternoons into letter writing & if I can manage to do so, I shall write you more frequently. I feel more like going to sleep just after dinner & find that splitting wood is a good remedy, by & by I will have snow to shovel. We have had one snow storm but the rain is carrying all the snow off. It is raining hard now. You must try to write me if but a few lines. I shall not willingly forego the pleasure of hearing from my mother.

How is father. Give him my love & Dellie if he is at home. Has father settled Lizzie's business yet? How have the hard times operated with him. I should like to hear from Aunt Martha. I must write Uncle Ensign. I have written Oliver Woodman. I presume he is divorced by this time or will be before long. I noticed he had made application for a divorce. I pity him & his poor fallen wife dont you? Remember me to the neighbors. I read the acct in brief of the fire at the poor house. God bless you.

Yr affectionate Son  
Otis

Lizzie says give my love to them all. I had a letter from Charlie a few days ago & have answered his letter & will write Dellie as soon as possible. Aunt Sarah Jones says the trunks have arrived. She did not mention the Band-box. Lizzie says she would like the band-box to be sent if it is not. She has promised little Eva one of the bonnets. Does Mrs Lothrop hear from Warren?

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869 12/8/1857 *From:* Oren Whitman

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-0808

North Turner

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Turner Dec. 8th 1857

Dear Sir,

Yours bearing date of the 12th Oct was received in due course of mail and I was much pleased with the religious sentiment that it contained which you are imbued with it was because it emanated from a pure mind filled with piety and christian love if I am not deceived which I think I can't be. I shall consider you a christian until you prove to the contrary and it is an appellation that I admire altho I am a stranger as it <were> to the fruits of christian religion or were the name I am so sceptical that I think there is but a small chance for me to embrace religion as you would turn it, but I admire to see it in others more especially where it is a reality for it makes the possessor contented and happy and virtuous and even when it's fictitious I think it has a tendency to make and keep any one from <vice> and immoral acts so I go heart and hand for professors whether they are sincere and genuine or otherwise or otherwise believing that it will do them no harm altho I do not mean to justify hypocrisy or any other sinful act and I believe there are many who make a profession of religion who don't possess the least spark of piety which has a bad effect upon the religious community but in my opinion it has a good affect on community at large for it has a tendency to keep them from malicious and evil acts. Therefore it is better for communities to have hypocrits than to have thieves, robbers, and murderers.

I am perfectly satisfied in my own mind that the more professors we have that the less <crime> we shall have so I go for it. I am told by the most of professors who are limitarians (and I think all of them) that it awaits nothing in the celestial world - though he may be a perfect upright and moral man and abide strictly by the golden rule - unless he makes this open profession and is born again of the spirit he can in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven. Such doctrine I cannot believe it too, to me like injustice. I believe if there is a god he is a just one, and who does rule the whole universe impartially so I understand what I said of the character and attributes of Deity and that his tender mercies are over all of his works but I believe the most of us read and understand to prove and accommodate our own selfish views. I have heard ministers of the gospel (as they called themselves) say that there was a local place denominated hell that was ever burning with fire and brimstone where all the people that are on earth or that ever were or ever will be must go and be tormented forever and ever except the few who have met with this miraculous change or been born again as they call it which cannot comprise one fourth part of the creation. The other three fourths or even more must be eternally miserable because they have not done that which in conscience they could not do because they could not believe any doctrine that appeared so erroneous and they do not wish to be hypocrits. Therefore do not embrace any such religious notions because they don't think there is any reality in it.

Now because a portion of the human race and a very large portion too, cannot understand and believe the <Unitarian> doctrine according to their views they must be eternally miserable and <reched>, and I have heard ministers assert that hell is lined with infants not a <span> long but at the present time this point is given up by most all denominations or at least I have not heard such opinions advanced from the pulpit for many years and hope I never shall again for I cannot feel reconciled to any such inconsistent views but those professed christians say they are perfectly happy and enjoy themselves in their troublesome world altho they are conscious that many of their near relatives and dear friends have gone the downward road to destruction ever to be tormented. How any person possessing any philanthropy can be reconciled knowing that their dear ones are in the <keenest> agony and to remain so for ver and be happy is more than I can comprehend. It makes me feel quite nervous to think that any one does possess such notions for christianity. Perhaps you will say I am a natural man therefore cannot discern things as I should but the spiritual man can see them all in perfect harmony and be reconciled and happy in all things. I think one must have an adamant heart and be an admirer of misanthropy to feel reconnected and enjoy such a belief. You may <think> I <cast> for charity and judge hastily without any investigation on the subject. I seek for truth and I think all who are honest in their pretensions do the same but there is so many modes of worship and such vast difference in the forms of many and all of them claim this is the only true and just mode that it confounds many so that they don't know what to believe.

Several of the people at the Bridge are very zealous in what they call the spiritual manifestations. Ulmer Perley and his family are with them have circles as they call them and perform wonders as they tell me ( I never saw

any thing of the kind myself) they hold public meetings have held several at our meeting house. I attended once & heard the speaker through which was about two hours. His name is Ripley from Canton. He was quite flowery & I thought spoke well. He is not a literary man never speaks in public or but little in private except when he is in a trance as they call it. He and some of his spiritual friends spent an evening with us not long since and he spoke on spiritualism about 45 minutes and we think he spoke very well very fast & very correctly but we are not believers in their creeds & probably never shall be but there is some thing misterious in it but what I cant tell. I wish you would.

Dec 18th. We are all in usual health except my wife. She has been quite sick with for 3 or 4 days past took a severe cold & was confined to her bed for a day or two is now up quite bright again. Her health has improved very much since I wrote you and we think the prospect is good for her to recover her health soon so that she may enjoy life as well you for I think she is a christian too and if you will take the trouble to write us I will promise that you shall something from her pen if she continues to improve in health. So I close this scrawl by wishing yourself & family all the happiness this world affords. I feel as tho I ought to make some apologies but I cant see very well & it is almost nine oclock so I will close by subscribing myself.

Yours truly  
Oren Whitman [Uncle to Lizzie Howard]

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870 12/10/1857 *From:* OO Woodman

*To:* My Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0809

New Orleans

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Orleans  
Decr 10th 1857

My Dear Cousin

I received your letter a few days since. It is extremely gratifying to know that I am thought of & sympathized with by my friends and relations during my great affliction. It is difficult to conceive the pain and anxiety I have suffered. My only consolation is that I am at least <conciencusly> having endeavored to perform my duty to my unfortunate wife, who has sinned & suffered so greatly. I must acknowledge that I have not looked or sought to the great & only real source of true happiness.

Having been early thrown on the world to baffle with its cares and troubles, I have not stopped to look to what my judgement and heart prompts me to know is the only true aim of Life.

I have only thought to act justly by all men and to fulfill my duty to myself & man without thinking as I should of my God.

I have to a certain extent prospered in this world affair but have not known what real happiness was. My Maine relations have never been very happy.

I do not believe my wife was ever false to me upon any deliberate design to be so. But she was always very fond of show dress and <momentay> excitement and lived alone for immediate pleasure without having the moral courage either to resist temptation or any fixed <purpos> of moral integrity. She fell and has suffered for her sin as few have done.

There is no doubt but her base <seducer> obtained the money from her as she states though much of it was given voluntarily but much was forced from her as stated. The time and date comports with <> book & the circumstances render the fact morally certain.

I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you often. I am so little in the habit of writing letters of friends hope that I trust you will excuse <> of this. For your kind sympathy please receive my heartfelt thanks.

Very truly your cousin  
O. O. Woodman [Oliver Otis Woodman]

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871 12/22/1857 *From:* Thos R. Tannatt

*To:* Lieut Howard

OOH-0811

West Point NY

US Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point NY Dec 22nd 1857

Sir:

You must pardon me for making bold to write & trouble you with a few questions but a small number of officers can answer.

Has your experience as an army officer shown you any peculiar and unavoidable temptations not met with in all vocations in life?

Will it ever become my duty to resign my appointment in order to live as a professed christian should, at all times?

I consider the duties of an officer & christian compatible: and do not wish to change my calling unless it is plainly my duty so to do.

Some of my friends urge me "not to shut myself up in a profession depriving me of all religious privileges." I reply that God is as able and willing to hear and assist me when alone with no pious friend near me, as when kneeling in home circles.

I am wholly ignorant of the temptations of army life and you must excuse me for seeking the advice of an entire stranger.

You well know how I am situated as a cadet: and can readily see why I come to you. I want to remain in the army & above all I wish to save my own soul and do my duty to God & my fellow-men.

Any assistance you may render me will be received with many prayers for you and yours.

Thos R. Tannatt. [USMA Class of 1858]

To  
Lieut Howard  
US Army

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872 12/23/1857 *From:* Laura [Howard]

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0810

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec 23rd 1857

Dear Cousin

I have just received your kind letter. It is just what I want at this time, for of late I have felt to murmur at my lot; that I could not bear them much longer, that I seemed to be forsaken by all friends, could neither see any one nor hear from those that were away, Oh I shall prize your letter, for I feel that it is sent by my heavenly Father to comfort me at this time, and if my Saviour will give me his spirit to guide and keep me, what do I want more. It is all in all to me and without him I can do nothing. Oh how it rejoices my heart to hear you speak so much of him. I think I can say I love to steal up to my little chamber to read his holy word and ask his holy spirit to dwell in me and keep me from sinning. But Oh I am so prone to wander from my blessed Saviour that evil seems to be present with me, and before I am aware murmuring thoughts will arise in my mind. Oh if there are things I desire above every thing else, it is to feel reconciled to the will of God wether it be joyous or afflictive to say his will be done, reconciled to my <lot> in life. I know his hand is in it and that he doith all things well, but at times this wished heart of mine feels to murmur and say have I got always to live so still as you say. If I have the Saviour for my friend what want I more. It is enough if I could at all times feel his holy presence but sins separate me from my God. I have not faith enough to trust all to my Saviour. Oh pray for me that I may begin anew to serve the Lord, from this hour. Your letter has given new courage. Oh may I receive many more. I now feel as though I had one friend to sympathize with me, one that feels for me, one that has pointed me to that true friend from whence all our comforts flow.

When I received your letter tonight I was all alone with Aunt Martha and feeling very lonely. Uncle Ensign has been gone since Monday. I don't expect him before Saturday. Last week he was gone all the week. I was alone night and day but I told him I could not get along so that I did not know but I should be crazy if I was confined so and had so much care so he got John Leonard to stay nights this week. He has been gone most of the time since Aunt Martha got home. I think I could bear my troubles better if he could be at home to take the care of things. He has just been chosen Director and says that he will have to be away most of the time. Poor man his home has lost its charm.

Aunt Martha is not herself and never will be. She seems to be entirely indifferent to him. I thought when she regained her health her mind would come back but alas it does not. She was quite feeble when she first came home, but has been gaining strength and flesh so that now she looks as well as she did before she was taken sick. Sleeps well, has a good appetite and does some work. Oh it would make your heart ache to hear her call upon God and Jesus to have mercy on her soul that she can't live any longer and keeps taking on from morning till night. At first I thought I could not bear to have her such perfect distress mind. I never saw any one like her. If you can get her attention she seems like herself but she is not inclined to talk any except when you ask her a question, then she answers as regular as ever she did and knows every thing as well as ever she did. It is a great mystery to me what it is ails Aunt Martha when any one calls in she will be quite still while they remain and as soon as they are gone she begins to take on, she does not need but little care now. We wrote to her sister to come and stay this winter but her health was so poor she could not come.

I then went to see Aunt <Bridgham> she has gone to Turner and from there to China. I did not like to have a stranger, so I have got along alone. At first I found it hard, but I get along now well except being so lonesome with no one to speak to from week to week. Aunt Martha retires at 7. These long evenings are very lonely. Tonight is Lyceum evening. It is good sleighing. There is quite a number out, so the girls tell me who have called in Abby Hester <> Victoria Turner. I told them I had just got a letter from you. I read it to them. I have not been able to attend any of them. I feel to regret very much that Mr <> could not stop with us for he is just such a man as we need here. I pray the Lord will send one after his own heart, one that will go from house to house.

Oh I feel that we who are christians here should be up and doing something for christ cause in this place. Oh the precious souls who need to be brought to a Saviour, here we are asleep as it were. Oh may not God visit us according to our deserts but attending to his loving kindness. I feel to say it is good for me to affiliate. I think I have enjoyed more of the presence of my Saviour this past summer and fall although for many years before I

had wandered so far from him it would have been just had God cut me loose as a <> But in mercy he spared me and in his strength I have <> spend the few remaining days I have to stay here in his service. Oh I am so glad you are engaged in the master's work, and my prayer is that you may win many souls to christ. What is this world it is all vanity they <> what is this life compared with a never ending eternity. Oh we are only prepared. The prospect is glorious to be forever with the Lord free from all care and sorrows. I should like to <> letter from Ella. I like her, and wish I could have got more acquainted. I feel very grateful for your kind sympathy. I feel now as though I could commit all my sorrows to my Saviour and say his will be done and not mine.

Mary <> is quite sick with lung fever. John Dyer Millet family are most all sick. We had quite an earth quake to day - shook the house. I never heard one before. John has been up and altered his house. They will move back this winter. I sent your letter to Aunt Martha, asked her if it was not a good letter. She supposed it was. All things are alike to her <> are miserable. She don't want to hear the bible read or prayer or go to meeting. Every thing she once loved she now hates. We cant get her to go out and she had rather not see any one. Says I don't cook any thing fit to eat. She knows that nobody else has to eat such victuals. Runs of a notion that we have not got any thing. It has just struck ten. That is late hour for me to be up you know I hope you will write often.

I remain your true Friend  
Laura [Howard]

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873 12/26/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0815

Theo Sem Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Theo Sem Bangor Dec 26 [year torn off, assume 1857. entire letter - bleed through]

Dear Brother

You will excuse me for imitating you in the use of half-sheets as my paper is getting short. I was very glad to get your letter last Evening. The fault of our little correspondence rests considerably with me I believe. I have not answered your last letter before this tho I did write a little one day to Lizzie if I recollect rightly. I received quite a long letter from Laura night before last. I wrote her in learning from Mother some of her trials & her answer will explain itself as I inclose it. Mother wrote me just a week ago. You must have heard occasionally from her. She speaks of the deaths of our old neighbors James Wing, James Bailey, "Aunt Grace Lane", Peter's widow.

Mother feels to enjoy religion more than for a long time. She is regular & courteous, to her closest & feels a warm interest for souls. Will you unite with me at some convenient time say Sat evenings for four weeks at 6 ½ o'clock. Next Sat and after that as is convenient for you to pray for the outpouring of God's spirit in Leeds. I will write to Chas & Dellie for <> this week. <> is grace & they feel discouraged but still look to God more than of old. It is their <> expect to see a revival. These <> pray in their closets. Mr. Green has <>. Mother says "Everybody seems to be seeking religion".

Charles School comes pretty hard to him <> <> - but his "Nettie" takes up his attention & I guess he isnt lonesome. Mother fears Dellie is not a Christian! What ought we to say & do for him, Otis? He is at Auburn at School. I was glad to hear from cousin Oliver. I had it in my heart once to write him but was want of any acquaintance presented me. Oh that he might have the consolation of the religion of Christ. Give my best love to Aunt Ann if she is still with you. I <intend> write to dear Lizzie again before long. I know how had it is for her to write under all her cares & she needn't trouble herself about answering at all.

My "mission labor" is very interesting. One of the brightest & prettiest of my little girls died last week very suddenly. It was blessed to the whole School Sunday & when I came away I felt as if the spirit of God had been there. His tender hearted little girl and His Trustful Believing and sympathizing. As they were sobbing at this life of their little mate & listening <> of sympathy & <> I could hardly keep from exclaiming "Thank God for little girls"! That reminds me if Gracie had been a boy I

[pages were not transcribed due to difficulty of bleed-through]

[PAGE 5] We are having a very mild winter so far not snow enough here for sleighing, & the thermometer not yet down to zero. This is <> for the poor who have been thrown out of employment by the hard times. I went to call on Betsy Collier Christmas eve but she was away at Mr. Battles the Universalist Clergyman. She lives with a sister Mrs. Grace as also does her sister <>. Betsy is the same living ghost as ever. I wish I could reach her with religious influence. I shall make the attempt as soon as I can see her alone.

My vacation occurs four weeks from today. I will go over to Bath & may go to Leeds but there is only a week to do it in. Ella is very much pleased with your letters & I hope you will write.

We are hearing of Revivals all around. There is a little town below here where 60 are thought to be converted. The most hopeful thing is the churches are praying.

O I wish I was in the midst of it. Pray for me & may God bless you & Lizzie & your little family. If Aunt Ann has time I would like to have her write me. I would like to hear form Sarah & Frank Silas & Perry. Do you hear from Aunt Martha Jane.

Yr aff Bro  
Rowland

[Page 6]

P.S. Aunt Ellen write me that our friends at Hallowell are all well. She had quite a conflict in her own mind about Johnny going to Texas, but his uncle William who is his guardian thought it best. She is very generous to the children. Johnny's outfit cost her over \$200. She mentioned this since it was the reason she had not paid me before.

I do not hear from Henry & Laura Ann.

Rev. H. J. Butterfield of St. Stephens N.B. was "installed" at Hallowell Wednesday evening last. So they have a settled preacher & are looking for a gracious revival there. Henry Emmons & I have a special reason of social prayer meetings for our church.

R.

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874 12/30/1857 *From:* OBH [Olive B  
(Woodman)  
Hazzard]  
East Cambridge

*To:* Dear Aunt [Probably Ann  
Otis Lee]

OOH-0812

*Source:* Bowdoin

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East Cambridge Dec 30th 1857

Dear Aunt [Probably Ann (Otis) Lee]

I received your letter to day dated Dec 28th which relieved me of some little anxiety as I began to feel we might have been remiss in duty in not answering the letter we received from you a few weeks since, saying you intended being here by the 15th of Dec to spend the remainder of the winter as you spoke of doing when here in the fall. We have looked for you daily for two weeks, and we are happy to know it was no fault of ours that prevented you from coming, but because you are passing your time so pleasantly with cousin Otis Howard and wife, to whom please give my best regards, assuring them I should be very happy to have a visit from them. We should have answered your letter, and given you a welcome, but we thought you might miss it, as you did not wish us to send any letters directed to Mr Hazards care, which by the way, he has not as yet had the pleasure of receiving; but if he does he will at once forward them to you as directed.

Mr Strickland is here in Boston, but intends leaving to-morrow. He has been here a week. He expected to have seen you here. He looks well and appears very happy and pleasant. I was in the city most of the day Tuesday shopping with him. He spent the Sabbath with us. I had a letter from Martha Jane by him, said she should write you as soon as she ascertained where you were. She with her children were well. I hear from Hallowell by Vaughn often - all well - nothing new. I have not heard from Leeds for a long time.

I hear from Oliver and Ollie often. Ollie writes in good spirits and is I should judge as happy as could be expected considering the great depression of mind his uncle is suffering under a great part of the time in consequence of the difficult time he has so unjustly and publicly been involved in. I do not wish to speak or write about it. I am so wretched when I think of him. I hope he will have fortitude to sustain him. I fear the result. Do thank cousin Otis for me, for writing him, as I have no doubt it was very acceptable and encouraging to him. He is deserving the sympathy of all his friends as he has in every respect acted honourably, and he needs to know he has the sympathy and approval of his friends in the course he has taken, to strengthen and sustain his mind. I have numberless anxious moments about Ollie and his Uncle. They room together, which is better for them both.

Poor Sarah, she must have had a sad voyage, but if it results in the improvement of Mr Sargents health all the past will soon be forgotten in the bright hope of Mr Sargents health being improved and perhaps restored. I am glad to hear she wrote you in good spirits as it will add so much to your happiness.

I hope we shall have the pleasure of forwarding some good news to you from Perry and Silas. I will send to East Cambridge P O to-morrow morning before closing this.

Thursday eve. Roddie did not find any letters from you. We are happy to say we are all well and living very quietly. We shall all be happy to see you. I saw Mrs Trymen to-day. She enquired for you - seemed pleased that you were coming here. Her son (Henry Trymen) has just gone to New Orleans. She feels quite unreconciled to it. Please give my regards to Mrs Grass and Augusta Grass. I should be happy to see them. Mrs Wunt does not go out much this winter. Mr Hazzard and Roddie wish to be affectionately remembered to you. I have just received a letter from Ollie. He sent his love to you (thinking you might be here). Please except my kindest wishes.

Yours affectionate Niece  
OBH [Olive B (Woodman) Hazard]

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875 12/31/1857 *From:* J.W.T.

*To:* My Dear[OO] Howard

OOH-0814

*Source:* Bowdoin

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My Dear Howard

Mulliken did not pay me. Please pay Webb immediately. I had no right to ask him to give me the money as I could just as well have written to you. We have no news here in any way. There are to be several changes in the spring but I don't know them as yet. I shall leave New York on the 13th of April for Europe. I may run up to the Point before leaving.

Give my regards to Class mates & friends. I hope yourself & wife are having a charming time. Tour season commences now and is unexceptionable until fall.

Very Truly Yours  
J.W.T.

[Assume date is 12/31/1857, which is about where the letter was filed.]

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876 1/7/1858

*From:* Silas J. Lee

*To:* My Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0816

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago January 7th 1858

My Dear Cousin,

Your very kind note of the 31st, with mothers came to me yesterday. I heartily thank you for the interest your letter shews me. You feel for my welfare, temporal and spiritual. That I am a christian is a matter of much doubt even with myself. I do not profess to be a prayer loving, or scripture searching christian. My views of religion differ from yours or my mothers, materially. Mine is a religion of conscience, founded entirely within man himself, and has been fixed in, and proved to me by reading and observation. I cannot comprehend how there can be a future existence, and therefore do not believe there is one. I believe that man receives his full reward or punishment here in the body, his conscience his accuser, and in his conscience he finds his reward or punishment, according as he lives. I believe it acts with man mentally as it does physically. A man eats too much, and he has disobeyed a physical law and suffers accordingly. He drinks too much or otherwise too greatly indulges, he suffers physically, and mentally. So, I believe it is in all matters concerning man, as a man eats and drinks so he is in health or otherwise.

So I believe it is spiritually with him, he sins against his conscience, and how quickly his conscience judges and condemns him. He is honest in all things, and generous and good to all mankind, and his conscience again judges and approves. Then he is happy he feels well towards himself and the World, which is his reward, and is not that reward sufficient? I am satisfied with it, and on the other hand what is more severe than the punishment of the conscience? I believe all that is required of a man, is to live to do all in his power for the good of his fellow man, to live honestly and with a hand ready at all times to assist and willing too. Then he carries with him through life a glad heart and a clear conscience and I think and believe a life so led, is a life of constant prayer, and should there be a future (which I question) is more acceptable than any form of church prayer. Honesty and sincerity is the foundation of all religion, or, of true christianity, and I believe a man who is honest and sincere, to be a true Christian and that he receives his reward.

I look upon the Bible as a history of the creation, & of men and things in the earlier years of the World, but that it is a work of inspiration, I do not believe, any more than Josephus' Works, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress or even the history of more modern times and men. Had the Bible been written by a hand inspired by God, and intended to shew us the way to Heaven, (?) I believe it would have been more plain, not so allegorical, and then again, there are many parts of that great book which are really profane, and totally unfit for many children or even young people to read. I have read the Bible a good deal, and have been unable to find any portions which prove to me anything of an existence after this life. I believe in a God, in this wise, that there is a supreme power which governs and controls us, and produces life, that is incontestible, it shews itself in everything, in the vegetable Kingdom, the mineral and animal, also in the disposition and government of the seasons and the planetary system. That power is called God and as such I accept it by that name, and believe that there is as much consistency in the Indian's addressing their prayers and offerings to the Sun, as in our talking to that power. That power is every where, it is within and around us, is in our thoughts, is allied to our vital parts, and is consequently within us, and if it is conscious, it must know our thoughts and intentions; then why is the use of prayer by word of mouth, of more benefit than correct life and actions? We every day see professors of Christianity & Clergymen, who we know devote stated times each day to long prayers, and loud, yet whose lives are quite the reverse of their professions. Those men think themselves Christians because they have uttered a loud and long prayer on their knees, to that spirit that is giving them life, and in praying they have done all that is required, and go forth among the world, to see where they can take an advantage of another and fill their pockets. Perhaps they do not use profane language, drink or gamble, yet they live a selfish, ungenerous, life, and expect to go to Heaven because they pray. Once in a great while we see a person who we have every reason to believe is sincere and live up to their professions. Truly if there is a future state, this World is in a sad condition! Heaven will not receive a very large delegation from it, but Hell will be filled even to overflowing.

I have been more open and frank to you in regard to my religious opinion than ever before to any of my relations. I have never referred to it to Mother, because I know well what she would think, and had rather she would draw her own conclusions with regard to me and my religion than tell her. I am fully aware of the pain it

would give her and that is my reason for not approaching the subject or evading it when with or writing to her. I believe my mother to be sincere in her belief and that she lives up to it. Therefore I consider her a true Christian. It matters little to me what a person believes, so that they live accordingly. One great reason for my believing as I do, is, seeing so much of believing and professing one thing and living another. There can be but little Christianity in living a lie - but what multitude I see daily who do.

My dear Otis, your letter has carried me way back to days almost gone out of mind, of times when we were little boys, of the old farm, the old School house with its sides stripped of shingles, the old Orchards, with the glorious Apples, and the woods where we have gathered beach nuts and acorns for Winter evenings; and recalls to mind many of our school mates, not thought of for years. How everything is changed, and you and I more than almost any other. Our family, which used to be huddled so closely, is now dreadfully scattered. I, far off in the west, Perry in another part of the World, and Sarah in still another. Not a vestige of any of us is left in Leeds. I sometimes wonder if I shall ever see the old place again. I hope I may, but I intend to get rich first, & then go down there & have a rest from the very toils of this world for a while.

I thank you again for your letter also for your kindness to Mother, and with my love to your Wife and good wishes for the little ones am as ever and always,

Your affectionate cousin  
Silas J. Lee

A happy new year to yourself and family. I am not much of a letter writer, so hope you will criticize sparingly.

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877 1/7/1858

*From:* Ella [Ellen Patten  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0818

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bath Jan 7th 1858  
Thurs Eve.

My dear Otis,

Is it too late to wish you a "Happy New Year"? Indeed I do wish you many happy ones. This last year has been peculiarly blessed to many of us, hasn't it. You and Lizzie, Rowland and I, all hope we have begun to live the Christian life. May each new year see us growing in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, until the end.

I have been in to the Vestry tonight to our Thursday evening meeting. I was very sorry to see Mr Fiske there - sorry, because he is sick, and I think it very imprudent for him to go out this cold night, and sit in that close, badly ventilated Vestry. Mr Fiske has not been well for some weeks. For three Sundays, he has not preached. His lungs are weak, and he has a cough, and is so hoarse that he speaks with difficulty. I am very fearful that it will end in something worse than "Slow Fever" although he has had a little fever with his other troubles. O may his life be spared to us yet many years! Mr Fiske is very much beloved by all his church, and congregation, and he deserves to be, and it seems as if he never was so prized, as now. O he looks so sick!

We younger (female) members of the church have a little weekly meeting, by ourselves. We meet every Saturday evening, from seven to eight at a private house. There have never been more than nine, sometimes less. But I have found it the most precious hour of the week. We each take part - there is no backwardness on the part of any. We feel perfectly free with each other, and try to do each other all the good we can. It has been very profitable to me, and I trust all the others find it so.

Sun. Eve. I thought my letter would have reached you before this, but I was obliged to leave it Thursday night, and I have been so busy, since, that I have found but little time to write. We have been enjoying another lovely Sabbath. Mr Fiske preached this morning, but was not able to speak again this afternoon, so we had no meeting at our church.

I have not been very well for a few days past, and thought I had better spend the afternoon at home, in reading. Hannah Lizzie has been quite lame for some weeks past and does not go out, except to ride. She and Horace were my companions at home this afternoon.

I had a letter from Charles last week. He seems very happy. He says one of his scholars, a young lady is beginning to be interested in religion and he has had a good many conversations with her. What a bond of sympathy exists between a christian and one who is trying to see Jesus!

Rowland is coming to Bath in a fortnight. He has a little vacation then. We hear from Albert often. He is in New Orleans now, on board Uncle Lincoln's ship. I don't know how long they will remain there. They are almost discouraged, themselves, I guess. I don't want you to write me very oftener than is perfectly convenient. I know you have many calls upon your time, and I don't wish you to think that I expect letters often, although I do love very much to hear from you and Lizzie and the children.

With much love, and a kiss all round.

Y'rs truly  
Ella

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878 1/15/1858 *From:* Ann Otis Lee

*To:* Lieut & Mrs O.O. Howard

OOH-0819

Brooklyn

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn Jan 15th 1858

Dear Otis & Lizzie,

I got along nicely the morning I left you . Got to Hastings at one, received a kind and cordial welcome from Mrs Mattison, got nicely rested, and at four P.M her mother Mrs Wolp and her sister Augusta, arrived from Brooklyn. They had a letter from Perry and another from Silas. I spent a pleasant day Friday at their house. It is one of those palace houses overlooking the Hudson. Their grounds are beautifully laid out and their house furnished in elegant stile. Every window from the house presents a fine view of beautiful scenery, but they say I must see Hastings in summer to appreciate its beauty. I left there Saturday, came off from the cars without my trunk having left it with the <Wescat> express man, and it came on to Maine that evening, and then we had a rainy day Monday which prevented me from getting my trunk until Tuesday, and then it was too late to go over to see about the lamp until yesterday (Wednesday). I purchased four copies of Capt Vickers life, five of Clark scripture promises. I had one copy of Capt Vickers sent to Silas (by mail) the other three with Clarks Scripture Promises, I carried, to be sent, to you by the man of whom I was to purchase the lamp as he said he could put the books in the box and it would save expenses. Please to accept the books from me to do with them as you desire.

And now as to the lamp, the clerk at the store said he would write to you & tell you about the lamps. Mrs Mattison has one of those with the glass shade and likes it very much. She has no troubles at all with it. It has a round wick like the old fashioned "asteral" lamp, and she cuts the wick evenly and trims it as we did the "asteral". Lets it burn slowly at first untill the wick is lighted completely. I want you to have the one with the glass shade but did not like to order it until I knew your mind. I hope you will order that. I shall have my old "asteral" lamp prepared for the kerosene oil for I like them so much.

I got a letter from Sarah yesterday. Frank is in tolerable health but does not feel as strong as before he left. They have no plans for the future, but will write me when they decide. Perry was to leave England for Nassau (by way of St Thomas) on the 27th of Nov. His letter to me, was dated the 23rd Nov. Silas letter was written previous to the one I got at West Point. Sarah & the children are well and they seem very happy, say the weather is delightful. Tell my darling Guy Frankie's mother writes to me, "Frankie every evening when he prays his evening prayer asks God to bless is grandmama " - "and writes letters to me every day", and says Dear grandmama, has gone to New York in the steam boat.

Please kiss the dear children for me and accept my thanks for all your kindnesses to me and believe me your  
Affectionate Aunt  
Ann Otis Lee

Mr & Mrs Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Brooklyn N.Y. Jan 14

Lieut O.O. Howard

West Point

N.Y.

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879 1/27/1858 *From:* Wm S Graham

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-0820

West Point N.Y.

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
January 27th / 58

Lieut Howard  
U.S. Army

Sir:

Knowing the deep interest you take in the service of our Lord and Master, I am constrained to let you know how I felt after the interview I had with you.

On my return home, I prayed without ceasing that God, in his mercy, would enable me to profit by what I had heard from you, and I never so fully felt my utterly lost condition, as on that night; even after I had retired to rest, I could not sleep, for that awfull warning - 'this night, thy soul may be required of thee..' - came vividly to my recollection, and I reflected with bitter sorrow on my misspent life, and thought on the fate, that awaited me, if I were called, to render an account of my Stewardship - but when I thought on the blessed promise, held out in Is. 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return, unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

I can scarcely describe the comfort I felt from these words: it seemed as if a heavy load was immediately lifted off my heart; that I had only to cast my doubts, and fears, and Sins, behind me, and enter into a new life, full of hope, in the atoning Blood of my Saviour.

Yet when I reflect on the enormity of my Sins against my God, the remainder of my life, (even if spared to old age) seems far too short, to atone for my manifold transgressions. May God grant me grace to continue in my good resolution, to serve him, and I humbly Pray that his holy spirit may abide with me.

I look forward, with feelings of pleasure and happiness, to the nights of our religious meetings. I wish they were more frequent, and Oh! how sincerely do I wish that one, and all, of my poor misguided companions, might be brought to the foot of the Cross, enquiring, "what they might do to be Saved"?

Oh! Sir, let me beseech you, to persevere, in the good cause you have entered into. You have been the instrument in the hands of God, of awakening me to a sense of my danger.

Do not be discouraged, that more do not respond to your call - the good seed, may even now be springing up in the hearts of many, and you, may yet be gladdened by seeing a glorious harvest in the vineyard of Christ.

(I speak this, because you told me you thought you had labored in vain.)

In reading the life of that good Christian, (Captain Vicars) I was much struck with the similarity of his feelings with mine - Particularly, where he speaks of his mother, I could almost fancy his case my own.

I fervently hope, I may endeavour to imitate his example, by serving faithfully under the banner of him, who died for us.

I earnestly beseech you to remember me in your prayers, that I may hold fast to that which is Gods; and that I may set a good example to my fellow Soldiers, and never cause shame to fall on the holy cause, in which I have enlisted.

May God in his mercy, bless you, and spare you long, to your family and friends, is the prayer of your

humble, friend in Christ  
Wm S Graham



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880 1/30/1858 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0821

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Jany 30 1858

My dear Mother

I am going to write you all I can in an hour. I have been devoting all my leisure time that I can get from my official duties, to the conversion of the soldiers & others with whom I am associated, more or less. I have now two hours (& often two & a half) that I devote to Col Hardin's Children & to a daughter of the sutler Miss Clark. The former I am teaching in the common branches, & the latter in Algebra Moral Science & Grammar. Every day is filled up from seven in the morning till eleven & sometimes twelve at night. Regularly on Wednesday nights for several weeks I have lectured. I have now completed my lectures on the Lords prayer.

I have told you this, to show you, why I have'nt written you. I could often have written a few lines, but I always want to send you a full letter. Since I have told you some of my daily employment & weekly, I will say a little about the apparent fruit. Since I have been here the Sunday School has increased very much. Two Bible Classes have been formed, one for young men & another for young ladies. I hear the former & Lt Roberts a pious young officer the latter. A Cadet who embraced religion (the past year, I believe), Mr Tannatt, has a class of large boys. Miss Blanch Berard has a mixed class of boys & girls. Sergeant Owens with two daughters, Mr Merken, Commissary clerk Miss Clark, Miss Stewart & Miss Turner comprise the rest of my teachers. We have been enabled to purchase a nice melodian. Our first Wednesday evening lecture or prayer meeting was poorly attended, but now the men's side is filled with soldiers & citizens who are employed here in one capacity or another & I think all the protestant wives & other women, excepting the Professors' & officers families attend.

I write an introductory portion of some seven or eight pages & fill out by extemporizing.

The other night (Sunday night), as I was returning home from the Church a man overtook me & told me he would like to have some conversation with me. I walked & talked with him. He was a manly, straight forward soldier of the dragoon detachment. He had been some little time under strong conviction. He said he was a dreadful sinner, utterly unworthy. I talked with him till his "tattoo" which was near at hand when he came to me. He agreed to come to my room on the following day at evening. He did so, told me a little of his life. We read & talked & prayed together. His heart was burdened, but he promised by the help of God to lead a new life. I gave him a little Book containing Clarks Selection of Bible promises & leant him the life of Capt Vicars. He went to his room, & read & prayed & before he went to sleep had found peace. He wrote me a beautiful letter giving me an account of this & urging me to keep on in my work, for he said I had been in the hands of God the means of awakening him. I have reason to thank my Lord & Master for putting it into my heart to work here in his cause & for giving me richly of his grace.

I met six of my Bible class yesterday evening at the Hospital for considering the Scriptures. I think they all knelt at prayer & were exceedingly interested. The young dragoon, whose name is Wm S. Graham was one of the number. He hasn't yet met with us at the Sunday school, but will next Sunday (tomorrow).

Sunday evening. I was called away yesterday immediately after dinner for the examination of a Cadet, who was sick & absent, while his class were being examined. I did not get time to finish my letter.

In the afternoon Lt. Mack, who used to live with me at Tampa & whom I left there visited us yesterday & he & Cadet Carter from Portland took tea with us last evening. I was surprised to meet Lt Mack & very glad to see him. This morning we had a sermon from Mr French that you ought to have heard. It was on St. John 6:56 "Whose eateth my body & drinketh my blood, he dwelleth in me & I in him." He dwelt upon the outward signs & also upon the inward corresponding grace. It was an appropriate & excellent sermon preparatory to the partaking of Our Lord's supper. I think Christians often put the Sacrament of the Lord's supper too much in the back-ground. It is of great benefit to me. Don't you find it so when you go, in faith, putting your whole trust in Christ!

Two of my teachers were absent today & Lizzie went to the Sunday school with me. She taught the young Ladies Bible Class. My Class seemed very glad to meet me & I trust we received mutual profit from our consideration of the Scriptures.

The young Dragoon, Graham, was there. I saw him this morning & advised him to go & hear Mr French. I saw him in the Gallery & was glad for I think, since he was baptized in youth that the sooner he can come to the Lord's table the better for him.

After Lizzie & I got back from Sunday School we thought we would stay at home & not go to prayers from ½ past 3 P.M. till after four. In the evening I go to our Soldiers Church under the <hill> (where we have the S. School) to hear the Methodist Minister Br Edwards. You must pray for us for we are hard at work here. Rowland asked me to pray with him at ½ past 6 on Saturday nights for <Leeds>. I remember you all in my prayers & have particularly done so Saturday's, but through my want of watchfulness, I have'nt thought of it at ½ past six, for that is not our hour of prayer. We have prayers after breakfast, & before retiring besides the asking our father to bless the bounties of his providence to our use & to forgive us our sins, at each meal. In the school, the Lecture, when I meet class & individuals I shall make it a point to ask the blessing & direction of the Holy Spirit.

Guy is a great fat boy full of life & activity he uses quite long sentences & talks pretty well. The baby, Grace, is fat, hearty, pretty & good. She is quite active, springing very much as you hold her & delighted with Guy and his plays.

Lizzie is pretty well, looks well, but is troubled with her aching-back quite often. She says give my love. I think Lizzie rejoices in the Lord. She will get much attached to the Episcopal Church here. Our privileges are great here.

Give my love to Father & Dellie. I presume Dellie & Charlie don't realize that it is excessive labor that keeps me from writing. I want to make my whole time tell by the assistance of the Divine blessing - so I write to others, who are not professing Christians, very much hoping to persuade them to embrace the truth. I have written twice to Silas Lee once recently to Perley. I ought to write to Cousin Oliver again, & I know I should write to my old friends Col Loomis & Mr Lyne at Tampa. Great changes have taken place in Florida since I was there, but Col Loomis still remains in command. Give my best love to Cousin Laura Howard. Tell her not to be sad, there is no cloud on the Saviour's face, if she will always look Northernward.

My love to Cynthia & Rowland & Johnnie. Guy remembers you all. He said Gramma Grandpa & Uncle Rowland Charlie, Dellie, Cattie & Georgie. His memory is excellent.

Your aff. Son  
O.O. Howard

Lizzie says I have forgotten to tell you that Grace says Dah! meaning Guy.

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881 2/5/1858 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-0822

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Feb 5th, 1858

We are all feeling very anxious, my dear Brother, to hear from you, Lizzie & the little ones, as none of us have had a letter this long time. Mother feels especially so, as she wrote you a good long letter & she fancied it would call forth a speedy reply.

I went to Bath a week ago Sat. Ella & I visited Charles & his girl (!) At Brunswick. On my return I stopped & saw Dellie at Lewiston & spent one night with Mother & Father. I wanted to see "Aunt Sarah" at L. But as I only stopped over one train I did not have time to go over the river.

I found all of our friends well. Charles' school comes rather hard to him. He looks thin & is rather hoarse but seems to keep up good courage. Dellie will be only a week longer at Lewiston. He thinks of going to Farmington next Term (in about a fortnight). He will be at home a week. I never went home & found Mother seemingly so contented & happy. It is nothing more or less than the Love of Christ shed abroad in the heart.

Ella seems to be in the same state of mind. I think her overcoming her diffidence (a hard task) & taking part in public duties has poured a great blessing to her. We have long united our prayers for her dear Father & as we pray we hope & tho' her view of him is hardly as <vivid> as I could wish - yet - it is enough to soften the pillow & quiet the pain & rob death of its terrors.

The interest in religion is very general now & we hear of many Revivals all about - nothing very decided has appeared in Bangor yet, but I attended some very interesting meetings in my vacation. I will hold weekly meetings this Term at the School House where I have my Sunday School, & I hope you will pray for me that the Spirit may fill me & I may speak words of wisdom & of power, & that God may bring some poor Sinners home to Him.

Caleb R. Sumner died very suddenly - where is his immortal Soul?

I wish you could see the letter Lieut Lee wrote me just before I went home. He seems honestly seeking Religion. I wrote him as faithfully as I could.

[R.B.H.]

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882 2/5/1858

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0977

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This postscript is filed in the folder for April (maybe May) 1859. The reference to the illness of Aunt Martha Otis dates the letter to be before her death on 18 August 1858. The reference to the sickness of Snell dates the letter to be before 22 April 1858, when a letter from Charles Howard reported that Snell had died 3 or 4 weeks earlier. The references to religious interest and Otis' lack of letter writing fits with Rowland's letter of 2/5/1858, ooh-0822]

P.S. There are no indications of religious interest in Leeds, but I live in hope. Johnathan Adams, who was a Freshman in College when you were Sen, & who is a Sen here, has been home to Deer Isle this vacation. He says there is no house without its inquirer & not many without their new born souls. About 75 have been hopefully converted there within a few weeks. O how I would love to find such a state of things among our old neighbors.

Father has no hay & the family seemed very small at home. He is unable to collect anything of the R.R. Co. & is very short for money just now. Dellie wants & I want, but I can get along well enough for the present - as I have still \$150 to draw upon. I hope Father will be able to supply Dellie some way. Charles will have plenty when he gets thro' his School, but the times are very hard for everybody. But. it does my heart good to see Mother so cheerful & uncomplaining. She seems to feel with me that God will provide for us all some way.

If you are sick, Otis, I do wish to know it, or Lizzie, or either of the little ones. But write to Mother first.

O Helen is so hard. I could have cried that day I was there to hear her speak in that heartless way about Religion. Poor John, I hope he is often in his closet. Helen seems to love me but I can't get her to feel any about her Saviour. O Strange penureness of the natural heart!

The thought of the Missionary work has been much in my mind of late & I have tried to give myself all up anew to go where & do what the Spirit points. I think I know Ella will shrink from nothing that seems to be duty. We have a perfect understanding about it. I do not decide to be a Missionary but I do decide not to resist if God sends me. How can we else be better off, than helpless, truthful, obedient in the hands of a holy, all wise & perfect God. How little life seems! How great Eternity!

Sewall says that your College Classmate Snell lies hopelessly sick of consumption at his Father's in Unity. He is not able to write but can read. S. says he seems to be without hope in Christ, he has written him on the subject. Aunt Martha is no better. Laura, too desponding. John & Helen expect to go to Leeds in a month or so.

A great deal of love to dear Lizzie. I almost always think of her when I pray. Will she remember me? Kiss the little ones for "Uncle" & give me a place, my dear Brother, in your own prayers.

Very affectionately yours  
Rowland

Lieut O.O. Howard

P.S. Our day of Annual Fasting Prayer for Colleges & Literary Institutions occurs the last of this month & I would like to have you prepare a letter similar to that of last year giving some acct. of the religious state, opportunities & wants of the Military Acd. It can but do good, & I give you all this time to prepare it. I would not write more than a sheet of letter paper, but write just as much and as you think best.

Statistics, whole no cadets, Profs of religion, religious meetings, officers, profs of religion, state of religious interest & the means employed to widen it &c. all these would be interesting & would give particularity & point to the prayers offered.

No use will be made of the letter but to read it to the Christians assembled.

I thought you might like to read the enclosed letter from that holy man Rev H.G. Storer, who was at Harpswell awhile with me, & of whom I have written you. Will you please to return the letter? I value it & wish to preserve it.

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883 2/15/1858 *From:* Silas [Lee]

*To:* My Dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0823

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago February 15th 1858

My Dear Otis

Yours of the 13th ult was duly received, and I have twice written in reply but some how they did not please and each time I destroyed my letters. At best I am not a good correspondent, and now, when writing to you of a subject of which I am fully confident I know nothing, it requires more concentrativeness, and patience, than I possess.

You and I differ considerably in our views of, what comes after death, but I propose dropping that subject for the present, or until I am better prepared to [sustain?] my position or have found it untenable and can capitulate to you, or rather your cause. I think I shall study the Bible and sacred writings with more attention than formerly, not that I expect it will change my views, tho I am open to conviction when I find myself wrong. Candor and a straight-forward principle I esteem too much to lose sight of entirely.

I told you honestly what my convictions or belief is in my former letter. You consider me wrong. I shall make it my business to see for myself, and shall always be happy to receive any assistance from you or any suggestions with regard to a course of reading or any hints or propositions you may think proper to make.

I feel that you are conscientious in whatever you say, do, or profess, and know that you are earnest in all your endeavors, when searching for information & knowledge and therefore shall always consider well what you say in relation to spiritual affairs. Then too you are a man of too much understanding, and thought, not to realize the position I am in, when you reflect upon the experience of the last twelve years of my life.

For the last two weeks I have been acting the part of friend and sympathizer, to a very dear lady friend, who is now suffering under the suspense of uncertainty, in regard to where or what has become of her husband. She has need of all her friends to support her in this awful situation. Mr Kellogg, left his home on Monday morning with the usual morning kiss from his wife and returned to dinner in his usual kind good humored manner, and when they had finished their dinner sat together a few moments & he started for his place of business with her kiss still lingering on his lips. At 4 o'ck he left his office, as he said, to do a little private business, and has not since been heard from. Tuesday morning I was sent for, but knew nothing of the reason for so urgent a call at so early an hour, and was of course entirely unprepared for the scene which awaited my arrival. I found the family in tears, and it was some time before any of them could sufficiently command themselves to tell me the cause of their grief, and when I heard all, strong man that I am, and accustomed to seeing grief, it was almost too much for me. I was obliged to stoop to keep from betraying my emotion, and before I could recover myself the family had surrounded me, and Mrs Kellogg had grasped my hand and in fearful suspense, yet, dreading to ask, if I knew anything that could throw any light on the subject <lest> their last hope be lost in my answer. Mrs Kellogg caught the expression of my countenance, and fainted in my arms, but when we succeeded in bringing her out of her swoon, she was calm, and prayed then and there, such a prayer, as I do not remember to have heard since childhood, and it was the first fervent and truly heart-full prayer I have heard since my last visit at home. She arose from her knees and laying her hand on my arm, exclaimed, "Silas, how I wish you were a Christian! that I might know that you would pray for, and with me." Those words touched me to the quick, and I trust there was no sacrilege when I kissed her and exclaimed, God protect and support you in this your great trial! I was sincere, and felt what I said, and received a glorious reward in the expression she gave me as I fixed her in a comfortable position on the sofa, and then too, how soon my thoughts reverted to the suffering of my own dear Mother, through her trials & troubles. Then the first time a realization of her grief burst upon me, and I <was> penitent, and hurrying from that house of grief, to my room I took my pen and asked my mother's forgiveness for the share I have taken in the causes of her many and great sorrows, and felt better. Since then, I find myself more competent to sympathise with and comfort my friends.

I told mother the whole, and asked her to pray for both husband and wife, and I know she will.

This is the most singular affair I have ever heard of. <Young> in the possession of a good business, a happy

home, a young, beautiful, and highly educated, and accomplished and pious wife, all left at a moment, without any apparent cause, and not a trace to be discovered. I have been both searching and enquiring, day and night, up to today, and when I make my daily visit, and am met in the hall by the wife, mother or sister of the absent one, with no news for them my heart nearly fails me, and I think, truly if my poor dear Mother's sufferings were like these, what a wretch have I been! and I know now that they must have been, tho I did not see it all, nor have I ever realized it till now.

I am not going to make any rash vows, to fetter my inclinations, but Otis, I am going to try to live so that I may become a blessing and comfort to her whom I have so outrageously wronged, and hope I may be able to give her some pleasure in me during the remaining years she is to be permitted to remain with us.

You I suppose will think this a queer letter, following so soon and so different from my last to you, but knowing that you are perfectly familiar with my past life, and of my many and repeated departures from the path of rectitude, of my Mothers trials &c and being convinced from your letters that you feel an interest in your wayward cousin, I have written more fully than perhaps I should under any other circumstances. Forgive me for thus wearying you with so much that cannot be of interest to you, but, I felt that I wanted to speak to somebody and give vent to what was pressing to get out.

Give my love to Lizzie, and if you do not consider it too foolish, kiss little "Grace" and "Guy", and believe me with all sincerity your affectionate cousin.

Silas

I yesterday received a good long letter from Mother. She was at Cambridge, was <well>. She spoke of you & your family. I am urging her to submit to an operation now, for the disease spreads and affects her system generally & hope she will see that I am right in my reasons, ie, should examination show that the knife is necessary the earlier it is used the less constitutional danger.

We are just beginning to get a bit of Winter; have had sleighing for three or four days and yesterday the mercury succeeded in getting down to a good old winter point (19° below 0). As I do not keep a horse and cannot afford to hire one, I am obliged to forego the pleasures of a sleigh ride. The only amusement I indulge in, is an evening at the house of some friend at Whist or a game of chess with Mrs Woodworth, on which occasions I not only enjoy the game, but Miss Woodworth usually takes those occasions to amuse herself at the Piano, and as she is a splendid musician & sings beautifully I cannot but be highly edified, and conclude that my enjoyments are quite as satisfactory, as any young man's of my acquaintance.

Silas

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884 2/18/1858 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0824

Theol Sem Bangor Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Theol Sem Bangor Me Feb 18, 1858

Dear Brother

I received your affectionate very welcome letter at last but see no time to reply tonight.

We have a Day of fasting & prayer for Colleges & other literary institutions, in the Congregational & Presbyterian Churches - annually. It occurs next Thurs - 25th.

We write to some Christian Brother in the various institutions, for religious information & it is made known at our meeting & they are remembered in prayer.

Now what I want of you is, to sit down as soon as you receive this if you can, & give us some acct of the cause of Christ in the Mil. Acd. your views of the religious influences at work & the spirit & effect of your pastors preaching, the Bible Class, pious cadets & Officers &c.

This day has often been followed by the outpouring of God's Spirit on these institutions. They are the fountainhead of influence.

I have to write in a hurry for I wish this to go tonight & it was late before I thought of it, but after writing to Bowd, I thought I would write to you. I spoke to some of the Brethren about it & they were anxious that I should write. Even a few words would be acceptable.

Love to Lizzie & the children

Your aff Bro  
Rowland

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885 2/20/1858 *From:* S.G.Jones

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0825

Lewiston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Lewiston Feb 20 1858

My dear Lizzie

The winter has nearly flown away upon the swift wings of time since I have heard from you and I feel I owe you an apology for not writing you before, but time has not only brought with it its changes, but also its cares. How little we know what a year or even a day will bring forth. When you left Auburn last fall I was in health (I called it) and the future before me looked bright, but sorrow came and blasted my prospects.

It has been four months to day since Everett left home. I at times feel a little discouraged. But my sorrows have not been with ought any joys. Myself and children have been blest with health. I have gained ten pounds of flesh this winter. Haven't I done well. <[torn page]> look healthy. I am in hopes you and your family look <[torn page]> the same. I often speak of you, and think of you oftener <> shall not soon forget, the happy hours I passed, when you and your dear babes was at Auburn. I hope you and your better half are enjoying a happy year, and if time has wrought as many changes with you during the <past [Torn left edge]> year as it has with me, I hope they have proved <[Torn left edge]> changes, though I am aware you have not been apart from sorrow, as a beloved mother has been borne from your sight and laid in the tomb. It has been truly said that death loves a shining mark for it often points its fatal arrow to those who are seemingly most needed on earth, but "our ways are not his ways," and it is well that a Being more wise than we, orders, and overrules all events. We know not how soon we shall be called away from lifes scenes, therefore it behooves us to be ready, so that when lifes star shall sink low in its bid, we may go to join that <innumerable> host who have gone before, and have had their robes washed, and made white and clean in the blood of the lamb.

Feb 28. I hear of reformations all through the united <states [Torn right edge]>. One has been converted we little thought of, that was William H. Timberlake, brother Henry brought the news to me. I told him it was the best news I had heard for a long time. <> it had been poor Everett wondered it been happy news <> me and my children. I received a letter from him last night, stating there was a great reformation among the <boys> in Belvedere Village Ill, where he now is a shoemaking. His brother & wife are seven miles from that village, have been there two years. They have known <8> proceedings this winter. I wrote them the way he <managed>. When he left home, he went to Janesville Wis, there stopped four months. He then went to Belvedere where he now is, wants me and <the[Torn right edge of paper]> children to go there. Perhaps, he begins to feel the want <[Torn right edge of paper]> if he is tired of leading the life he has led this winter, <[Torn right edge of paper]> not him, as I know how he has lived this winter, all though write ten or twelve letters to me this winter, I did not put any confidence in what he wrote. But I have a letter from Mr Benton a lawyer of Janesville written to Orson Sawtell. I wrote him for information. He was an acquaintance of his. Mr. B wrote him the 4 of Feb, the letter reads this the Gentleman & Lady you were seeking information about, we here I have seen her this afternoon. He is work for Gros a shoe manufactor (Everett had writen me he was at work for that man) he is known here by the name Howard. He has been living under the Methodist Chappell, but is now boarding up the river in the first ward. He and his lady went to board or <better> they paid one dollar per week for the privalege of house room cooking untentials and keeping their own board, but the woman of the house mistrusted something wrong, she found that the lady was taking medicine. She accused her of it. They then moved their quarters, she weres her glasses <yacht>. I have know doubt that there is positive proof that they lodge together. I dare not investigate the subject any farther untill I hear from you again. I had to impart the secret to one individual, where they were stoping. That is the way Mr Bentons letter read, what I had writen me it <conveyed> well. The next week after he left home he wrote me he was a boarding him self. He paid the woman one dollar per week for a straw bed and not cloths enough on the bed to keep him warm. He bought bakers victuals. It seems he got in with a respectall family. The man has been a teaching school this winter has a wife & two children. It seems she went by her own name. Grant Everetts Sister Noice, wrote him this winter in one of her letters requesting him to tell her if Laice Grant was there with him. He wrote a reply, she was not, much as he wanted to do to surprise his own family he was to stingy to suport other people, it reeding in that way. He has sent the children ten dollars this winter, that is all he has sent home.

Do Lizzie pardon me for trouble you with such stuff. It is trouble to me. Do not let it trouble you. Why I

mentioned it to you, for you & Otis address what to do. Let times it seems more than I can bare. But when I keep my thoughts on good things, as I ought He who has ordered all things well, I get along very well, every Chapter I read it speaks comfort to my soul. Last night I opened to Psalms 71st, To <> Prov 14, how could I lived this four months past had it not been for my bible. I have been over to the shop a helping Nowak a good part of the winter. Chester helping Oren. I can say I am glad the winter is past. Every body is kind to me. N is in her way, she says many things to me I do not want to hear about Everett. Eva has had many a cry what she & Rosie has said to us. I overlook it for they little no how to pity us. Betsey was over here last week and spent they day. She said to me how do you live to hear so much complaining. She told me to see Dr Oaks and ask him if <> would be a benefit to her. I had better not say any more. I have been deprived of my meeting since the 21 of Oct after E went away I wrote Mr Rock a line that I would give up my pew. He came immediately to see me, told me I should have the same pew. Did not wish me to pay any thing. I told him to rent it for I did not think I should be able to go to church this winter. He said he wanted the <children> to go there for he thought Eva was the best girl he knew of and she was called so, he wanted her singing in church. He said if I needed any thing they would all be willing to assist me. I did not feel right for them to give me rent as I was not a member of Mr Dremment church. I think I shall be before long. Eva has done well in her studies this winter & her music. She is called a good player. She is a good girl. I pray she will always remain so. Next week Eva commences another quarter of music. The first lesson, is Oh come this way my father. Mrs Chase says it is a splendid piece. She says Eva voice is the best of any of her schollars. She has a great number. Mrs Dr Wiggin is one of her schollars.

I have filled my sheet. I have not wrot half I want to, if you can read it. I have not time to read it over. I want to see you very much indeed. Like to be situated so I could stop in occasionally and chat a while you and babys but that cannot be, so I must be content with writing. If I could see you I could tell you many things it might interest you, would not be profitable to write. It is bed time.

Please write soon. Yours in love

S.G.Jones

<> She can sing well with Eva when she plays. Crestes is well. What a comfort my children <>

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886 2/23/1858 *From:* Uncle E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0826

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Feby 23d 1858

Lieut O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I have none of your late favors to reply to. We should be very glad to hear from you and your dear Wife and the little ones - is it well with you all. We are all in usual good health and hope you and your little Family are enjoying the same blessing. The winter here has been unusually mild & pleasant & there has recently been quite an interest manifested in our neighbourhood on the Subject of Religion. We have erected a new Meeting House on our St, commenced in September last and finished in Jan'y. The house was dedicated 15th Jan'y, since which time we have held meetings every Sabbath and also two and three times a week in the Evenings. Last Friday afternoon 19th inst we called an Ecclesiastical Council who met at our Meeting House and organized a New Congregational Church composed of Members from different Churches, among our Number is Mr. R. E. Whitman & Wife from the Church in Turner. Our Church now numbers 22 Members, and is called the St Lawrence Street Congregational Church. We hope that ere long others may be added to our Church. We feel that our Heavenly Father has smiled upon our efforts thus far.

May Heavens Blessings be with you and your dear Family. We all send much Love to your Dear good Wife.

From Your Affectionate  
Uncle E. Waite

P.S.

The dividend on Lizzies Rail Road Stock is now due. I will collect it and remit to you if you wish, together with the dividend on Bank Stock which was due Last October.

E.W.

Oh, I like to have forgot a very important item of news. Tell your dear Wife, that our Lizzie has a fine little girl, four months old, and which we all think a great deal of. Capt Garcelon is now on his way from N. Orleans bound to Boston in the Bark Jacob Prentiss. Lizzie talks of going to Europe with him next Summer.

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887 2/25/1858 *From:* H[enry] Carter

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-0827

Haverhill, Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Haverhill, Mass

Feb 25, 1858

Dear Sir:-

Your very kind letter has been received, and I improve the opportunity it affords me to thank you, not only for your thoughtfulness in writing, but also for your uniform kindness to my Son in all your intercourse with him, both officially and personally. He has been in the habit of writing to us every week, and there have been but few of his letters in which you or your wife have not been spoken of, in connection with the pleasant calls he has made at your house. I have esteemed it very fortunate for him that he had found such friends to call on, as supplying or remedying a deficiency which many cadets feel very sensibly, in being deprived almost entirely of social intercourse. He has enjoyed his visits very much, and I have no doubt they have been of great benefit to him in various ways. I know it would have been a pleasant factor in my West Point life, if I could have had a similar privilege.

If I had known when I wrote you, that Eugene would have been in your section I should have felt some delicacy in writing to you as I did, although I am sure that you could not have suffered for a moment that I could have expected or denied any partiality in his favor in your official intercourse. I took occasion, as soon as I knew the fact, to write him on the subject, and to make it an additional incentive for him to so acquit himself as to make it easy for you to do well by him, and to warn him of the embarrassment it might bring upon you if he should do badly. I can only say that he was always not only entirely satisfied, but felt sure of your friendly feeling. I remember that he wrote me in one letter, that he knew it pleased you to have him do well, as on one occasion when another Professor visited their section and questioned him closely, your countenance indicated pleasure at his correct answers.

I sympathize with my son in this "pull back" which he has met with more than I can express, for I know from experience what it is. At my first January examination I went from the second section to the first in Math. Not long after I was taken sick and was at the Hospital about a fortnight. When I came back, it was thought that the easiest way for me would be to go back into the second section, and even then I found it very hard. It was a severe blow to my courage and ambition, for while I was in the first section I thought very seriously of trying hard for some of the first files, but after that bad luck I felt that there was but a poor chance for it. I hope the Professor to whom Eugene now recites will be considerate of his misfortune, and make it as easy for him as possible to recover from this disadvantage. Eugene is somewhat mercurial in his temperament, and is affected very much by the treatment of those who have power over him. I wish to save him from any feeling of discouragement. If he should see that his professor is considerate of him, and is disposed to make it as easy as possible to "study up," he will take courage and I have no doubt will retrieve his loss. But a different treatment might discourage him so as to do him great harm. I feel encouraged to hope for the best, in as much as Eugene has spoken of his present Professor in Math in favorable terms, as he has indeed of all. He was not well fitted for the school, having grown exceedingly rusty in all his studies. His two younger brothers would have gone ahead of him in "Eng." as they were fresh while he had been engaged in the Advertiser office, mailing the papers for several years. He studied Algebra a little after he got his appointment but on the whole, was very rusty, and his mind is anything but a scholarly condition. I feel encouraged therefore, to hope that after he gets into good times, he will find it easier than he has thus far to maintain a fair stand in his class. My wife joins me in sending our best and united regards to your wife and yourself, and we hope sometime to have the pleasure of seeing you and if we have an opportunity of reciprocating your kindness to our son, to thank you in person. With my best love to my son, hoping that he will not be discouraged, but be of good cheer.

I am very truly your friend

H Carter [Henry Carter, entered USMA in 1836]

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888 2/25/1858 *From:* D.B. Lyne

*To:* bro [OO] Howard

OOH-0828

Brunswick Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Ga Feb 25/58

Dear bro Howard

I am anxious you should hear from me as well as to hear from you. I know not whether you have answered my letter, or not. Left Tampa pleasantly in November with good will of the people in the shape of good collections.

Had many pleasant meetings & incidents of travel during some two months, till I reached this appointment, too tedious to name. Wanted to transfer to La Conf, but Bishop Early & others prevailed on me not to do so. Did not like my appointment to this place at first but find it is the very place. We have a pleasant revival going on here at this time and the Church is greatly refreshed & encouraged. I am delighted with the scenery and the facility with which I can make my way off to Savannah, Charleston & all parts of Ga, or any other place. Several most excellent persons have united with the Church since we arrived here and some of the best of the Citizens have been converted hapily.

I enjoyed my time traveling in the winter very much indeed, and gained my usual strength & weight. Oh! how I long to hear from you and yours, want to know all about your religious state and privileges, & prospects for usefulness. Please write soon as I must in course of next month go out to obtain means to build a house of worship here and I want to hear from you before I leave.

You may have written to Jacksonville as I requested in my last but conference was not held there owing to the epidemic & I missed it. I will write to the post office to inquire.

My health is good indeed and my religious enjoyment good indeed. I am more completely lost in the will of God than ever in life before.

My faith is stronger than ever and my entire dependence is on the blood of Jesus, for personal comfort protection and power to become useful. God bless you & yours my very dear bro. You have often comforted me much in your kindness and labours. Yours in Christian love

D.B. Lyne

P.S. Send me anything in the P.O. directed to me. DBL

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889 2/28/1858 *From:* Silas [Lee]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0829

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago Sunday Eve  
Febry 28th 1858,

My Dear Otis,

Your much appreciated letter of the 18th inst I received yesterday morning. I thank you for it.

I have thought that, perhaps a sketch of my social relations and intercourse might not be uninteresting to you, and will try to give you such an one as I can.

It is now nearly a year since I left Buffalo, and I have been here most of the time, some little time was spent among my friends in Canada, and some time was spent in traveling. I visited Kansas, saw a little of Nebraska and passed almost directly through Minnesota, and finally came to a stand here, where I was so lucky as to find quite a number of persons whom I had known in Canada and Buffalo, and concluded to stay a short time, at all events, among the friends I found here, are Mr Earll, Mrs Woodworth & daughter and Mr and Mrs Kellogg, all of whom have done all in their power to make me happy, and now I hardly know where I am most at home at Mr Earll's or at Kelloggs, tho I enjoy myself rather better at the latter place, where I always find the happiest home I ever visited.

Mr Kellog is a man only three years older than myself, a graduate of "Yale" and a man of a good deal of talent. He is connected with the "Tribune" a "Republican" daily, (I don't like his politics) was formerly proprietor of the "Buffalo Republic" and afterwards one of the editors of the Buffalo "Commercial Advertiser" - one of the most influential papers in Western New York - and the leading "Know-Nothing" Journal when that party was in existence. Of Mrs Kellogg, I don't know that I can better describe her than that she is an elegant person, an affectionate, pure, pious and confiding wife. She has been my "Father Confessor" almost since I first became acquainted with her, and has exerted a greater and better influence over me than any other friend I have ever found. She and I were talking only a few days ago of what I was, when she first knew me and what I am now. During the conversation she had been watching me pretty closely for some minutes. (I think mothers last letter was spoken of) and she said, "Silas, I wonder that you are not a Christian, with such a mother, and you tell me that nearly all your relatives are christians, but," she continued, "I have great hopes of you, you are not near as bad as when I first knew you." She and I frequently talk upon those subjects but yet I do not agree with her, her views are the same as yours.

Mrs Woodworth (the mother of Mrs Kellogg) is a very superior person of about forty-five. She is truly a beautiful woman both physically and intellectually. She is by profession a "Unitarian." She is a person for whom I have great respect, and with whom I play at Chess quite frequently. She plays very well, and being very fond of the game, almost always challenges me, tho I always beat her. She has a younger daughter, Miss Fanny, a young lady of twenty, beautiful and accomplished, rather witty & vivacious, and a splendid musician, sings, and plays on the Piano quite as well as any performer I ever heard, any female performer at any rate, - but she is one of the wildest and most hard-hearted flirts I ever knew, - and altogether one of the most bewitching creatures I have seen. (I often wonder that that soft spot in my very susceptible heart has not been touched, long since). We are confidential friends, and more like brother and sister than anything else. She usually of an evening, while her mother & I are at Chess, plays and sings. I never have been able to ascertain whether for our amusement, or because we always chance to begin to play chess just as she feels like practicing. The picture is, myself and Mrs Woodworth, with the chess table between, Fanny at the Piano, and Mrs Kellogg looking over my shoulder watching my play and waiting for her husband's coming home (or reading.)

Our pleasant little "tableaux" were sadly changed at the disappearance of Mr Kellogg, but he is at home again, and we have again got back into old ways, & Mrs Kellogg is the same "happy little wife."

Mr Kellogg has been home a little more than a week. He had been at St Louis, Louisville and Cincinnati, but as he went away while under the influence of Opium, and was quite oblivious nearly all the time he was away, does not know where he was, or rather where he was not. He has been a great lover of DeQuincey's writings, and tells us that sometime last summer he conceived the idea, that he would like to experience some of the

effects that he describes in his "Confessions of an Opium Eater," and that he had continued its use till sometime during his absence, and when it left him he found himself at Cincinnati, from whence he came home, after a wandering of about three weeks. He assures me that for several weeks prior to going away, he has no distinct recollection of anything; tho he attended to his duties as usual, and his appearance was not changed sufficiently to be noted either by myself or the members of his family. He has now discontinued its use, and has substituted Valerian and Quinine to "taper off" with, and has already begun to diminish the quantities and their frequency, and has quite recovered his control over all his faculties. The first thing after he made his appearance Mrs K sent for me, and I think I never saw a better illustration of happiness than I found on arriving at their house. It was beautiful, calm and seemed to be fully realized by all. I was the first, to whom they had made known their grief; and had been called upon to assist them during its continuance; and I should be first to know their joy, so they all said, and I did know it, and feel it too, and I hope I may never forget its effect upon me. It has done me good!

My last letter from Mother, is dated the 13th inst., from Cambridge. She was quite as well as when at West Point. She speaks of you, & of your wife & children most affectionately, and picturing to me a home of such happiness, comfort and love, that it almost makes me envious.

May-be I may some day have a "home" of my own. When I do, I hope when my friends come to see me, they can go away & exclaim, "there's a happy home," but that time is some time into the future yet.

With much love to Lizzie & the little ones I am as ever

Your affectionate cousin  
Silas

Thursday Eve, March 4th. I mislaid this letter and until now thought it had been mailed. I am quite as careless as of old in all my habits - hope I may overcome it by & by, but at present I have so much study & other to keep the "Upper story" balanced - have to read a good deal.

I saw Benj V Page yesterday - some of Simon our old Sunday School Supt. - He is here in business. He gave me a little news about Hallowell people.

Yours, Silas

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890 3/4/1858

*From:* W. S. Graham

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-0830

West Point N.Y.

U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
March 4th 1858

Lieut Howard  
U.S.A.

Sir:

I wished very much to speak to you last night, but could not find an opportunity. I am going to New York for a few days, and during my absence, I wish you to remember me in your prayers, that I may be enabled to resist all temptation.

I know it will be joyfull news to you that, I feel happier every day, in the course I am at present taking. I endeavour as much as in me lies, to abstain from all sinfull thoughts and actions, and with the assistance of Almighty God I hope to continue steadfast unto the end.

I have but a few minutes to spare, and cannot write at length, but I could not go away without expressing my feelings.

Taking into consideration, our relative positions, in Society, perhaps I may take too great a liberty, in thus addressing you, but somehow I feel towards you as I would towards a much loved brother, therefore I beg you to excuse, what might be considered undue familiarity.

Respectfully,  
W. S. Graham

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891 3/6/1858      *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0831

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor March 6th 1858

My dear Brother

I received your letter a day too late for our Annual Fast, but it will serve me a very good purpose. We have in the Seminary a "Soc of Inquiry", whose business it is to obtain & disseminate information of the religious state & needs of the world, portions of which are assigned to each student & he makes a verbal or written report on the part assigned. I will give some account of the religious state of the Army Monday night & read your letter as a part of my statement. You understand the object of this - viz. to enlist the sympathy & prayers of Christian ministers in this particular province of Gods Kingdom. I wish I knew more of the system of Chaplaincy, in the Army, its spirit & effects.

I have been confined to my room by an influenza for week & unable to study for two, but I now feel quite well again & am in hopes that I will be able to perform my Sunday labors for Tomorrow, which I have now missed for two Sabbaths.

Ella wrote me a very sad but by no means desponding letter yesterday. Her Aunt Rachel, Father's sister, whom you may have seen & who seems almost like a Mother to her, having had the care of her while her Mother was at Sea a good deal, lies at the point of death. You would admire the spirit in which Ella wrote. It was "not my will but thine O Lord be done". Aunt Rachel is in joyful expectation of the "rest which remaineth for the people of God" - & our prayer is that this visitation may be blessed to her brother, Ellas Father. We have prayed much for him, & we will continue, abiding Gods own time.

Mother wrote me an excellent letter last Sunday. She speaks of Fathers disappointment & chagrin at my change of profession. I feel so completely in the hands of my Heavenly Father, that those regrets which I often bear, seem to me childish frettings against the immutable will of our great Father. I may have been precipitate in my decision, but God will overrule even that precipitation to His own Glory.

It seems to me now, that with His blessed assistance, I would try to preach His Gospel though every friend opposed.

But blessed be his name, the way has been prepared & the path strewn with roses before me. God did it, Otis, but you & Lizzie, Mother, Ella, Charley & Aunt Rachel, have all bidden me God speed & if I have any fear or any trouble it is that the trials have not sufficiently come to test & make me sure of my faith, my personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have stepped off from the hills of vanity, as it were, on to the mounts of religion, without having sufficiently tried the valley of humiliation & purification. O I long for holiness, self renunciation. It is not much to renounce the world, but it is hard to wholly & always to renounce self & live only for God. When self-love seems least, then will often something occur, some little prick that will make it start up again & then its existence & power in the heart. It is my prayer to have "Christ found within me" to have my life bid with Christ in God.

How I wish you could share my reading & study. The world is full of blessed books besides the glorious word of God. I had known nothing of them & to me, new fields of inquiry, of information & truth are opening up each day & none of them seem trivial or unimportant for they all have to do with the Highest.

In the Gospels we have gone as far as the sending out of the twelve, have advanced a few Chaps in Romans (very hard) & in Hebrews we are just beginning Job. In Theology we have gone through with the "Existence & Unity of God" & are next to have the Evidencies of Christianity. Every step in these studies is big with Eternal interests & my prayer is that the Spirit may guide me into the truth as it is in Jesus. My sickness has put me back some. I would like to speak of some the good books which I have read. Among practical works, I have admired Fenelon, Baxter, Bickersteth & Bonar. You ought to read the "Spiritual Letters" by the first & the "Saints Rest". Here is a thing I have learned my dear brother - impatience for results is wrong - it is distrust of God. We have no right to be impatient at anything but our own faithlessness. We must work steadily inwardly or

outwardly so to be more philosophic, subjectively or objectively, work to fill our own granary or to dispense to others, but in both "God gives the increase" in his own way, at his own time, verily "He doeth all things well."

Monday Evening. I have made my "report" & they all seemed very much interested. [See Note 1] I know your heart would have joined in the closing prayer. It was an earnest supplication for the Army & particularly in answer to the request of your letter for an outpouring of the Spirit upon your Institution.

I have just received a letter from dear Ella telling me of the death of her loved Aunt. She died this morning at two o'clock. She suffered dreadfully till a day since. Since then she has been enjoying "sweet sleeps" & waking every now and then almost surprised that she was not in Heaven. She would say "The Lord calls me". She seemed to bear it distinctly. I wish you could see Ellas letter, but I have not time to write it. She was singularly modest. She requested that she shouldn't be mentioned at her funeral & that they should not change their dresses. Ella says - "She said yesterday. "The Lord called me last night & I thought I was going right off. O I am going, bless the Lord." - continues - "Ever since she said that I have felt an awe upon me, as if Angels were around & as if Jesus himself had come among us. Yes, He is here! & holy angels are waiting to bear the blessed Spirit home. How can any one look with indifference on a death bed like this?"

O my dear Father! I will be the means of bringing him to Christ! O it seems as if it would kill him almost. He'll stay there & watch her & the great tears will roll over his cheeks, dear Papa!" That was written yesterday, & as I said, she entered into her Rest this morning. O our prayer is for him, can't you help us a little Otis? I know you & especially, dear Lizzie, who has just tasted the cup, melt in sympathy with dear Ella. A few words from either or both would be very sweet to her. Blessed be Jesus, she don't need consolation much but she does love sympathy, the communion of the saints.

Yesterday was a sweet Sabbath to me. We had a sweet season at the table of our Lord, & I in my Sunday Schools. My prayers are with you dear Brother & Sister & so, thank God is their precious Saviour.

A kiss for the little ones each & much love from

Your Brother  
Rowland

[Note 1. The remainder of this letter was taken from ooh\_0918, which was missing the opening pages. The reference to the death of Ella's aunt and the report Rowland had delivered make it fit very well to this letter, which was missing the closure.

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892 3/13/1858 *From:* J.S. Sewall

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0832

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor. Mar. 13 1858

My dear Howard

It is a long time since your good letter came & I feel many twinges of conscience when I think I have not yet replied to it. But if you c'd see the vast variety of duties tht press upon me this year you w'd see the reason why I have not written before, & why I must write hastily now.

I read & reread your letter with hearty gratitude to God who has call'd you from darkness to light & has I trust commissioned you to do good in our Army where thou labor is so much needed. I am glad you have decided to remain in your present position instead of leaving it for the perhaps more inviting duties of the ministry, for I do believe that our Saviour wants witnesses there for His cause, & I have a great deal of faith tht He will make you such a witness, a soldier in His ranks as well as in the Army of the country. "A workman tht needeth not to be ashamed." I wish you every facility in carrying on His work, & every success you can desire or He may please.

Oh tht God w'd "leaven the whole lump" with His spirit, by the toil & self denying efforts of His earthly followers! You see by the papers how many places He is visiting in <mercy> - if He w'd only visit all places & never more leave them! I long for the millennium of true holiness & the reign of Immanuel on earth. It seems as if "the mystery of iniquity" had ruled in our hearts & among the nations long enough.

Let us pray tht we may be all delivered from that desperate bondage & brought under the happy & complete sovereignty of our Lord Jesus.

I hear indirectly from Geo. Suell tht he is "almost gone", but, thank God, he hopes "he has found peace in the Saviour". I trust he has. He was always more or less a thinking man, & recently I fully believed has been a sincere inquirer after the way of Salvation. I have written him several times - wrote him this morn'g. Probably he cannot last much longer. His feet may even now be slowly wading the cold waters of that "Jordan" wh. divides the heavenly land from ours. I pray tht the 'shining ones' may meet him on the other bank & lead him safely up the hillside into the Celestial City to the very presence of Him in whom now I trust he has found rest.

I am nearly thro' with my studies. In July our class graduates & we shall be sent out to the work. I hope we shall all find places in our Master's vineyard where our master's smile will reward our labors. Need I say tht it w'd give me sincere pleasure to see you down here at our anniversary? You have a brother here - cant that induce you? I sh'd be heartily glad to grasp your hand once more, & be introduced to the one whose Daguerreotype you once showed me in No 27 M.H. & whose companionship has made you happy since. Wherever my value may be in the future, I trust one of its enjoyments will be visits from you, & you may be sure you will always "find my latch string outside the door", & a seat for you at my table. Will you come?

If ever you see any of our classmates please give them my kindest regards. My best respects to Mrs Howard & so my dear classmate remember me always as your friend.

J.S. Sewall [Bowdoin COLlege class of 1850]

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893 3/17/1858 *From:* Laura [Howard]

*To:* Dear Cousins [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0834

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Mar 17th 1858

Dear Cousins

I have been thinking of writing for some time, now having a favor to ask of you. I received a letter last week from my Cousin Isabella. She thinks of visiting me this summer, in my last letter by her she mentioned that you were coming home on a visit and that if she should come I would try to plan it so she could come in company with you; she wants to know when she shall get ready and before I answer her letter I want to hear from you. I want you to write what you think about it. I don't dare to have her come alone for you know how little she knows of the ways of the world. If it will not be asking too much I should like to have you write to her a week or two before you start naming the day and where she shall meet you in New York.

I do want her to come with you. I shall feel safe knowing she will be well taken care of, but as things are now I fear I cannot make her visit a happy one. I pray God there will be some change for the better before that time. Poor Aunt Martha is growing worse every day so that I cannot manage her alone. It is very difficult to get her to eat or keep her from destroying things. Oh it would make your heart ache to see her; what I have passed through since I saw you, none but my God knows, but blessed be his holy name.

He has ever been round about me for good. I think I have enjoyed more of his presence than for many years past before I was afflicted I went astray. I think sometimes how can I stay here any longer, but when I think how kind they have been to me I will not leave them now in their deep affliction. Poor Uncle Ensign it is wearing him out fast. He never had anything like this. She is much worse than when they carried her to <Bayside> last fall. But we live in hopes there will be some change in her this Spring. April was the time that her health began to fail. Oh pray dear Cousin if it is his holy will she may be restored to her reason and to her family, but we would say not our will but his be done.

Johns family moved yesterday are setting up their things to day. I shall not be quite so lonely now. Uncle E was down to your Mothers last Friday. They are well. Rowland has been sick with a cold but has got better. How I do want to see your dear little children. Tell Lizzie I often think of her. She was an example to me with how much courage and fortitude she bore her troubles last summer. I did feel so glad that she found her Saviour when most she needed his help.

Oh what a blessed thing it is that we have Jesus for our friend that we can go to him and tell all our troubles. Oh we have reason to rejoice to hear such good news from all parts of the Union. Souls are being converted especially in cities. Such times never was known before in this country. We are having revivals all around us. Still we seem to be asleep. Elder Nurttter preaches here now. They talk some of hiring him a year. They are going to have the meeting house repaired this Spring.

Charles Lane has bought the Mitchell farm. They move the first of April. Doctor Loring is going to move in their house.

Give my love to Lizzie. Tell her to write some in your letter. I shall not answer my letter to I till I get one from you. I want to know what time you are coming, what you think about the plan. I feel that it is asking a great deal of you. If you have to go to any extra expense I will pay you for it when I see you. Write soon.

Your true Friend  
Laura [B. Howard]

PS I will give you her address  
Isabella Brewster No 755 fourth St below German

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894 3/17/1858 *From:* Uncle E. Waite

*To:* Lieut OO Howard

OOH-0835

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland March 17 / 58

Lieut OO Howard

Dear Sir

I recvd your esteemed favor of 25th ult by due course of Mail, and should have answered before, but have waited to see if I could get hold of one or two shares of Bank Stock. I have not yet succeeded in getting hold of any, but shall get some in Aprill if not before. Our banks declare their dividends in Aprill, and no one will sell now without they can get as much or more than it will be worth. Then if I can get it right, will buy you two shares.

I consider our Banks here safe & sound - especially the Canal & Casco. Investment in such stock can always be turned into cash when you wish. Shall I take the stock in the name of your wife?

We were glad to learn that your self and family were well and so pleasantly situated. May the best of Heavens Blessings, ever be the portion of your self and dear family.

The subject of religion has been a subject of great interest here for a week or two past. Prayer meetings are being held daily in different parts of the city and it may truly be said as of old, there is great joy in this city. We expect quite a number to be added to our little church on St Lawrence St on the first sabbath in Aprill. Our Meetings are full interest for the Lord, is doing his own work.

May we all be faithfull to do our work that the Lord may still abide with us.

Wife and Lizzie join in sending much love to you all.

Your affectionate Uncle  
E. Waite

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895 3/19/1858 *From:* Ann Otis Lee

*To:* My Dear Otis & Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0836

East Cambridge

*Source:* Bowdoin

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East Cambridge March 19th /58

My Dear Otis & Lizzie,

I have been here 4 weeks and have put off writing to you from time to time, but not because I have not very often spoken and thought of you, and all the kind Christian friends I met at West Point. Yesterday was a day set apart for prayer and conference by the churches here. I attended the meeting in the afternoon and evening. I was reminded of my feelings at West Point in respect to the hope of a revival of religion there. This is a time of the out pouring of the spirit of God upon his people. It is important that the children of God should to the utmost of their ability work - the work of God. It should be the question of every one who has named the name Christ. "What wouldst thou have me to do?" This is a time of refreshing from the presence of God. My heart is drawn towards you. I trust God will make you my Dear Brother in Christ an instrument in turning many to the Saviour's work, while it is called to-day and I rejoice to feel that Lizzie prays with you and is truly a help meet in this good work - write to absent friends be faithful to those at hand. God has called you into his vineyard at a most blessed period, the fields are truly ripe for the harvest. I trust neither you or your fellow labourers are faint or discouraged, "for in due time you shall reap if you faint not".

My letters from Silas give me hope he is truly an awakened sinner. His letters are marked with a spirit of humility and penitence which gives me hope and there have been marked and to me striking providences, which have led him to an examination of himself. He has a pious friend who is deeply interested for his conversion and has long known my desire for his conversion. My dear Otis who can say that my visit to you was not ordered for the express purpose of interesting you in this to me most important work of turning a soul from the errors of its ways and then sending the life of Capt. Vickers to Silas opened the way for an awakening of the past feelings of Mother & son which needs but the blessing of God for the incoming of that holy spirit the comforter to convince him of all his wants and enable him to apply for receiving of the Spirit. Cease not to pray and labour for the conversion of sinners for it is God that worketh in you to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Write to Dear Silas for he says he is convinced of his own inability to save himself. I am sorry he is seeking after doctrines of men, or Looking for the religion of the world, but fear not to warn sinners night and day, for God has much people yet to be converted, and sinners to be blessing the praying souls in all the families of our land. Who knows but he will pour us out a blessing and awaken and convert all and every one who are dear to us.

Write again to our Dear Otis Woodman. God has broken up his strong hold upon earth. He has broken up his heart. Now is the time for oil and wine is not the way open to you & his letter was encouraging <sure> not to warn day & night for the soul is precious remember he that saveth souls shall thrive as the stars of the firmament forever as ever be a co-laborer with the blessed Saviour to turn many to righteousness. Again I say cease not to pray.

One week ago to-day was set by Dr Warren for a surgical operation in the removal of my Tumor in my breast. It has already extended to the armpit and is a dangerous tumor and must be removed by the knife as no medicine can do any good. Erreripeles is prevailing here so the dr advises me to delay the operation a few weeks longer. I am in as good health as when I was at your house & my phisician at Brooklyn said it had increased one half while I was away and he said I must have it removed by the knife. These operations are always attended with danger, more or less. Mine is not more so than any other. I have been in consultations with phisicians for the last month, and have been preparing for the operation. I felt quite allarmed at first but now I am anxious to have it past and was disappointed that it could not have been done the day appointed. I have written to Silas but not to my brother & sisters about this operation. Forget not to pray for me. I need the preparation of the spirit at all times but I am contented.

Charles Sargent [Note 1] went to Maine last week, will go back to New York next week. I may go on with him and return here again before my surgical operation. The furniture will be sold before the first of May. My tumor is quite troublesome about my writing and I am tired. Write to me often and accept my love to both of you

and your dear little ones. With kind regards to any who may remember me at your place. I hear from Frank, Sarah and Perry often. They were all together third of Feb. My last letters all well and in good spirits. Kiss Guy and Grace for Auntie Lee and believe me your affectionately attached aunt.

Ann Otis Lee

[Note 1: Charles Sargent (1835-1916) was the brother of Frank Sargent, Ann's son-in-law.]

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896 3/21/1858 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear Son [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0837

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 21st 1858

My dear Son

It is now just two months since the date of your last letter directed to me, which was received with much pleasure and has been read and reread a number of times, and always with the same comfort to my heart. I have heard from you once through Rowland since. I was happy to hear you say in your letter that Lizzie's health was better and that the little ones were healthy and joyous, and still hope the same blessing attends you.

Your father and myself have had good health as usual through the winter, and our winter has been unusually mild. I have had letters from Rowland until the two weeks past. You probably hear often from him. I had one from Charles one week since, and from Dellie this week. He was confined to his room when he wrote. Had been threatened with a fever.

Warren Mower was here Monday. We had not seen him for nearly five months. Emma Mower has become pious. There have been a great number converted in Green. It is more than five months since the enquiring meetings commenced there, and they have been blest in their efforts. William Longley is one of the converts. I could not tell you anything of the kind in Leeds. I don't know of any established prayer meeting in town but there may be in some parts of it.

I met with Laura last week. She said she had written lately to you, so of course you know how she is situated. Aunt Martha's Malady increases this spring. I have never heard anything from my sister Lee since you went on last fall untill lately. I have heard she was in a hospital some where near Mrs Hazzard's. I should like see her but do not expect I shall. When I have read in the Newspapers of the reformations, in and around Boston I thought Ann would enjoy it, if she was with Mrs Hazzard. But it seem'd sudden to hear that her life is at stake.

I have heard from Ella through Rowland and Charles quite often. She feels it a great affliction the death of dear Aunt Rachael who had car'd for so many years. There are many aching hearts, for lost ones at all time. It is now about a year since Mrs Waite and Lizzie and Guy got here and I hoped were resting them selves but the weather is so mild and the fields so dry you can walk anywhere. It is a year since Henry Striclands family were here. I have been very lonely in respect to my friends through the winter but have had some resources for comfort that were precious. I have felt as though you and Lizzie were blest and happy, and Rowland seem'd happy in pursuit of true knowledge. Mahala has lived with me through the winter. Your father and I have lived alone a week at a time, when Mahala has been home to make a visit. Rowland and family are well. Johnnie is active and strong, but does not articulate any words yet. I hear of late that George Lothrop is rejoicing in hope again. O how much I do hope it will be a lasting joy, one that will accompany him through the journey of life. Seems to me he must retrace his steps a good way back and begin the Christians course anew. God is truly a God of mercy, and his "mercy endureth forever".

Some of our neighbours have been called to be here no more. Caleb Sumner very suddenly with a lung fever. Wilson Gilbert, he had a lingering, and severe sickness but through the Merits of the Savior, he found peace in believing, which greatly soften'd the sting of death. He gave away his two little boys and settled his little worldly affairs as nearly as possible.

Our neighbors are about as usual. The farmers are securing their help for the season and preparing their Wood for the year. Charles Lane (the husband of Sarah Turner that was) has bought Henry Mitcheals farm, and is about moving there. I anticipate a pleasant neighbor.

When I left my letter I expected your father to write immediately. Since I wrote I have heard from Charles and Rowland in health and have heard from Ann that it is a cancer she is about to have operated on. Perhaps you know more about it than I do. Tell Guy his little treasures are all safe. I have just seen them in the north room. Your father is writing about Lizzie's business.

April 3d,  
Eliza Gilmore

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897 3/31/1858 *From:* Rev. D.B. Synde

*To:* My Dear bro [OO]  
Howard

OOH-0838

Brunswick Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Ga, March 31st 1858

My Dear bro Howard

I recd your welcome letter some days since to which I would then reply but as was deeply engaged preparing an article for the press on the subject of Class meetings, it was intended to call the attention of our next Gen Conference to the subject. It spread out before me so much that I had to put it in aphoristic form and adduce no arguments but I defeat my object by having the article unreadably long.

Your letter cheered me much. Providence doubtless has directed your appointment to West Point. You are doing much, very much good. The bread thus cast upon the waters will be gathered up in part sown & largely hereafter.

After reading your letter I went to the throne of grace with your case & for you respecting doubts as to uniting with some Church. I said, on my knees in the fulness of my heart "Lord direct Bro H. to unite with that Church in which he may be most useful and happy. I said Lord I ask not that it may be any in my preference, or in his own even, when thought of, or weighed in, any earthly considerations. Oh God direct him to unite with that church in which he will do the most good and bring most glory to thy name. This I pray again while I am penning these words & will pray continually until God in his wisdom will place you out of reach of this troublesome doubting on this all important question. Bro your eternal interest and happiness depend on your having the mind of the spirit of God in making this decision and should it be contrary to the inclinations of your charming wife, God will overrule it to her personal good.

I think it would be well for you to form a class meeting with the pious of all names in which to talk often our wish and the other about the mercy & goodness of good to your souls.

This is a grand spiritual divining rod, that teaches the depth of the soul, and produces the great good of a name in the book of Gods remembrance. Read Malachias III chapter. It is not necessary that those who meet in said class the numbers of the Methodist or any particular church so that they become members of the class, bound to its rules of piety and attendance once a week. You could be leader, your wife and a few others would doubtless like it. I think it would be well for you to inform her often what peculiar blessings attend your public efforts. To your own soul. Then she would love to promote your interest in continuing those means of your happiness.

I thank her sincerely for the kind word of prayer. Kiss the little ones for me an unknown one to them. God bless you abundantly

Yours in love  
D.B. Lyne

Rev. D.B. Lynde [written in another hand]

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898 4/3/1858 *From:* John Gilmore

*To:* Dear Otis & Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0839

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 3 1858

Dear Otis & Lizzie

As your mother has written you I shall merely write you a few lines on business. I herewith send you a copy of the Inventory on your mothers estate. Is it your wish that any of the notes should be collected. The note against S.S. Whitman does not read on Interest but was appraised as though it were. He will not be obliged to pay Interest unless it is demanded. Shall I make a demand of him or shall I try to collect that or any other notes. I received \$28 for the dividend on Bank shares last October & there will probably be another due the first of this month - also \$93 in February of the <Precursor> of the Atlantic & St Lawrence R R Co.

Yours affectionately  
John Gilmore

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 31 shares in the Atlantic & St<br>Lawrence R R Co at \$70 per share | 2170   |
| 7 Shares Canal Bank   | 700    |
| Note Noth S Perley June 3 /57 \$275.00                              | 282    |
| Note S S Whitman Aug 27 /55 42.42                                   | 48     |
| Note Alden Whitman Sep 9 /55 40.00                                  | 45     |
| Note Everett H Jones Oct 10 /55 308.52                              | 347    |
|   | <hr/>  |
|   | \$3592 |

Dated Nov 9 1857, Appraisers:

Nathan W Coffin  
Melvin Bury  
William Pusser

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899 4/7/1858      *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0840

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
April 7th 1858.

My dear Mother

I could often write you a few lines, but I have been accustomed to write long letters and don't like to sit down unless I see at least one hour before me. I received your affectionate letter today and was glad to hear from you. I have often of late thought of writing, but now will set about it if I do not fill more than a page.

Since I wrote you I have found much to engage my attention. It occurred to me some two weeks ago that I might open a prayer meeting among the Cadets. I started for the Commandant to get a room, but stopped on the way at the Chaplains quarters, to ask his approval. He was in favor of the project, if I could bring it about. Knowing Mr Tannatt & Mr Wright of the first class, I consulted with them (they are teachers in the Sabbath School) and we decided to try. Col. Harder gave me a room which was vacant in the barracks, and we met on the following Thursday evening during the half hour's release from quarters after supper. We had seven at the first meeting all professors of religion, at the next on the following Monday there were three new faces and three more at the last. One young man was seeking religion and came to talk with me. He prayed in the meeting for mercy and on Sunday last sought Mr French to get encouragement. On last Monday evening I noticed that his face was very bright as though joy was in his heart.

The young men who have come, have manifested a good deal of gladness that the meeting was organized and I think many more will come when they learn that it is open to all.

I hope Dellie's fever ended in symptoms. I don't hear a word from Charlie. Is his school done - I presume it is before this time.

Lizzie says tell father that it isn't best to collect or demand Mr Whitman's note nor try to collect any of the others. She wishes him to keep what he has collected, till we go on in the summer.

Why don't the Christians in Leeds emulate their brethren else where? Have'nt you any preaching at Leeds now? It will not be long before we will be on our way to Maine. The Examination commences the first of June & will probably end by the 20th. After that we shall go as soon as possible. Give my love to Rowland & Cynthia, & Johnnie. Lizzie sends her love.

Very affectionately your Son,  
O.O. Howard

Give my love to Uncle Ensign's family. I have been in hopes Aunt Martha would be better this spring. Aunt Ann wrote us that she was having a surgical operation or going to have one to remove the cancer that has been troubling her. I don't think she is in much danger but she may be as it has got to be pretty large. It is rather a large tumor then or cancer. She didn't call it a cancer when here I don't think. I hope she is well through with it by this time. She didn't say anything about going to a Hospital.

I am glad that George Lothrop, Wm Longley & Emma Turner have found peace in the mercy & love of Christ. May God keep them by his Grace.

Sixty-four of the Supper Company to which Warren belonged when you & father were here left for Utah a week ago last Tuesday. I addressed them before they left as well as I could by the help of God & pointed them to Christ. They seemed much interested and I trust many of them will learn to turn directly to Christ the author of Salvation to all that <close> with his offers of mercy.

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900 4/10/1858 *From:* G. T. Bedell

*To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-0841

West Point Hotel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Hotel

April 10 1858

My dear Sir

I had hoped to have had the pleasure of an introduction to you during my visit, but have been disappointed. I will make no apology, for these few lines, accompanying some tracts, feeling that you will appreciate the motive which dictates them.

Your interest in the religious well being of the Cadets & men upon the Point has excited my warmest sympathy; and I cannot but offer to add to the efficient assistance which your faithful & excellent chaplain gives, any aid which my position in the city may enable me to give in furtherance of your plans & efforts. If I can send or procure for you any books, tracts, or information which will be serviceable, I beg you will not hesitate to command me in any way. From frequent visits to the Point, I am impressed both with a sense of the great spiritual need developed here, & of the peculiar obstacles which lie in the path. It needs a vicar. I trust that God has raised you up to imitate that noble man. And if either Mr French or yourself will indicate any method by which an outsider can facilitate your labors, I assure you that nothing will afford me greater pleasure.

Mrs Bedell & I brought up some tracts hoping for an opportunity of distributing them, but it has not occurred. It is possible they may fall in with your plans, and I therefore beg permission to leave them with you. At Mrs French's request part have been placed in her hand.

With paternal regard

Yours

G. T. Bedell

Lieut. Howard

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901 4/12/1858    *From:* Geo. Jas. Campbell    *To:* O.O. Howard Esqr

OOH-0842                      Fort Leavenworth K.T.                      West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Leavenworth K.T.  
April 12th 1858

Lt. Howard  
Dear Sir:

We are now staying at this place patiently awaiting for some further orders. The men of the Co. are all well but very much disgusted with this Post from the fact that one cannot possibly keep clean, this being decidedly the dirtiest spot that ever I saw, both Officers and men that we see here are so different from the neat and cleanly persons that one meets on the Point being always covered with mud from head to foot. The men of the different Corps that are here staying waiting for orders are the most miserable set that I ever saw.

Yesterday being the Sabbath a number of us started to find the Chapel which after some trouble we succeeded in finding it, but also found it closed. We were told by some of Arty. That there would be service at 2 & 6 p.m. but there was none during the day that we could discern. In the evening Artifes, Ayres, Seville, Prescott and a number of the rest of the party enjoyed ourselves in singing Sacred Music. I assure you my dear Mr Howard that more than one of our party miss our Sunday & Wednesday evening services at the point.

On the Boat coming up here from Jefferson City we had service on Board, sermon by the President of Liberty College, but Lt Duane would not allow the men to go up to the Upper Cabin to attend it from the fact that they had a Bar room there and he did not wish to have any of the men drunk on the boat, but I think the precaution was unnecessary for men that wanted to drink I observed done so.

Many of the men have spoken often of you and the address that you delivered to us the evening before we started from the Point.

Seville, Fouse, Slayter, and Fallon join me in their regards to you and best wishes for the welfare and happiness yourself and family, hoping that God may ever bless and protect you, and that you still remember us in your prayers.

I am Sir most repecty  
Your obt  
Geo. Jas. Campbell

O.O. Howard Esqr  
West Point

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902 4/12/1858 *From:* G. Loomis

*To:* O.O Howard

OOH-0843

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

Apr 12, 1858

Dr Lieut

I received your letter of March 7th so long since that I feel a little ashamed that I have not answered it before this, but the fact is I am getting old & have a disinclination to write letters or certainly more than some 20 years ago. It is more of a labor now than then. You may find it so perhaps, if you live to my age. I was born in 1789 Sep 23.

Yesterday was the holy Sabbath. Mr Meredith has closed his labor of preaching in the Court House for us. Yesterday he preached for Mr Timberlake the Methodist pastor & gave us a good sermon. In the evening Mr Timberlake preached from Ruth's words to Naomi "Entreat me not to leave thee" &c. he gave us a very good sermon. I think he is a good man, perhaps I do not think him as spiritual (in the pulpit) as Mr Lind.

Mr T. is perhaps a man of prayer. Has a female class meeting on Thursday afternoon, I believe, a male class meeting on Friday as usual. Is now trying to get the young Gentlemen & Ladies to attend a Bible class. So that he is working silently but perhaps surely for the Lord. The prayer meeting that I attended last Tuesday was but thinly attended. There was a ball at Post which might have drawn away some. I trust the Lord will hear prayer for a revival of his work in this city, Tampa, & this region & country, that his name may be exalted in this sinful place.

Tampa has become a "fast" place. Has a vigilant committee & they have sent away some men & some lewd women I understand & could hardly be persuaded not to hang some of them. This, I have by hearsay, you know.

Col Rector the Sup. Ind. Affairs has requested of me to have the S.B. Gray Cloud at Fort Myers by the 26 Inst in condition to carry the Delegations, & such Seminoles as choose to go, West. He has decided to leave by the 1st May. I have decided to let him have the Boat as far as New Orleans only unless by authority from War Dept. Rector is confident of Billy Bowlegs & many others the prospect looks fair for more than half going. Sam Jones says he wont go. The Tallahasseees have not yet been found so it is uncertain if they go or not. So of the "Boat party".

I pray that they may all be inclined to emigrate peaceably. Will you not join in this prayer? & get your friends & the friends of Christ & the Indians & the Govt., the friends of peace to unite in it also? May God in great mercy hear and send an answer of peace.

May the Lord bless you & yours. May you grow in grace & in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ to Him be glory both now & forever, amen.

Yesterday the portion of scripture read was where Zacheus being desirous of serving Christ did climb up into a tree. Where Christ was at the place he stopt & called to him to come down &c. The thought passed thro' my mind something like this - Christ is now traveling thro' the length & breadth of our land. How many will take such pains to see him as Zacheus did. Have any among you, are there any at West Point who are enquiring being desirous of loving him. Let your souls be bowed in prayer that he will visit West Point in mercy & call sinners to repent. There are many there who feel themselves wise in this world, but, the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. I pray that his name may be exalted thro' out the whole world.

Yours truly  
G. Loomis

O. O. Howard



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903 4/22/1858 *From:* Brother Rowland  
[Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0844

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Apr 22, 1858

Dear Brother

I ought to be writing an Essay "on Miracles" in preference to this but I have got real letter hungry as far as you are concerned and I suppose I won't hear a word unless I stir you up by way of remembrance. I am anxious to hear from you & Lizzie & Guy & Grace - every one. I believe if I should see Guy I would eat him up. Does he grow hourly? I expect that will vex his mother.

Our friends are all well as far as I know. It is some time since I have heard. Do you understand that the operation on Aunt Ann to be a difficult or dangerous one? My vacation is in about four weeks. I am in hopes my health will be better then. My throat troubles me some. During the great revival with which we have been blessed I have spoken almost every day & did with out difficulty - till last Sat. I took cold & when I had got through my Sunday duties & ever since till this morning I have been silent & stayed away from meetings to avoid the temptation to speak.

The revival has been extensive in Bath & many of Ellas friends have found their Saviour. Her father seems to remain among the "almost persuaded" yet, but, He will come. O that I could tell you some of the wonderful answers to prayer that have fallen under my own observation. Albert Rice writes me that there is a glorious work in Augusta. He has found the "pearl of great price".

Do you hear from Charley Mulliken? In Hallowell the work has also been glorious. Many of my last Summer friends have yielded. O that Henry & Laura Ann should still hold out. At Linden Hill Mr Butterfield (the minister) writes me, they go from house to house carrying the ark of God with them. It seems to me that I have offered some prayers of faith for that people. Emma Mower, Laura's eldest daughter, is one of the converts in Greene. Geo. Lathrop has closed his bar, destroyed his liquors & came with tears & confessed his sins. O may this the true conversion.

I have written to Louisa & thro' her to Kenedab to ask them to unite with me in praying for Father. I cannot bear to think that he should live these few years of his old age contented without his Saviour, and at last be lost. O God have mercy & soften his heart. Leeds has not be yet visited by the special influence of the Spirit, but sooner or later it must come & many of our early friends, Father & Roland among the rest will be the fruits. God will answer prayer. I suppose Charles is at home and I will write him & Mother tonight. I usually write her once a fortnight or oftener. Why Otis, the Spirit of the most High is covering over the whole land. I wish I could tell you of some of the cases of conversion in this city. I will not speak of my own efforts but I have felt for two months most of the time better than I did when first converted. It seems as if I had humbled myself before God & whenever I have done so I have been exalted. I have had many distressing moments by reason of my sins, but the greater my sin, the greater seems my blessed Saviour. I haven't written Mr Lee since he wrote me that he had found his Saviour. My mind has been full of those who have not. The wish is very quiet - seems more powerful, constant & effectual among the unconverted than among professors of religion. Nineteen were confirmed at the Episcopal Church by Bishop Burgess the other day. One certainly - James B Fiske, Rev Mr Fisher Bro gave me no evidence that he was a Christian.

It does not seem right to me for one to enter Gods holy <noble> Church with a burden of unforgiven sin, with a proud rebellious heart. What are your ministers <view> "high" or "low"? We take the "Protestant Chur"<claim> & that seems to possess an Evangelical Spirit. On the contrary the "N.Y. Chur<claim>" seems possessed of the Devil.

The Union of all denominations in this area is complete, leaving out Universalist Unitarians (many of those attend and take part in the meetings) & Episcopalians. Between the other denominations all seems harmony & love. O that all who truly love our Lord Jesus Christ could be one Church. But God has caused these divisions for his own good purpose. I have Brock's Life of Havelock & I am a little disappointed in the little I have read. The tone seemed apologetical. As if a man must make an apology for being a whole-souled Christian wherein

he is.

Your classmate Snell died four or five weeks ago. A week before, or at least a short time before he died, he expressed a "hope". O that any should wait so long. <Le?> is away now. There are three daily morning prayer meetings in the City. This is now their fifth week & I enjoyed the <one this> morning as well as ever & I still have faith that we have not seen the best of the work. Indeed my hopes are strong that a permanent & abiding change has come over the whole community & that the present serious attention of all classes to religious subjects is the omen of better times, better years & ages than the world has yet known. In England & Germany it is beginning & it will spread to all the missions, for the multiplication of prayers of faith & deeds of faith will have their reward. How are we blessed to see this day. How blessed am I - a poor unworthy faltering, falling sinner, to work directly in the vineyard of the Lord. Pray for me that God would give me health & grace. With these, it seems as if I must do something for the glory and honor of my divine Master.

Our studies suffer some interruption from our engagement in actual work, but even this is study, humbling and exalting, Elevated & profound. Even the wondrous weeks of God among the children of men.

Father seems to be not overstocked with money but I have got along nicely with what I had in the bank so far. The greatest want I feel is that I cannot buy books. O you don't know what a world of sacred literature is open to the student - precious books - that minister to both moral & intellectual life. But the Bible - O the Bible how sweet it is to my heart. Has your Saviour received <> you of late? How is dear sister Lizzie - her health, her spirits, her faith. O Lizzie, in all your distractions & cares, your perplexities & failures, think a good deal of Jesus. In our own depraved hearts there is little satisfaction, but in the ocean-like fullness of Christs love.

"There is a balm for weary souls". O how miserable we should be without Him, discouraged as we often are with Him.

Don't you love sometimes to think of the saints rest? I do. I often repeat to myself or sing (I'm a famous singer in prayer meeting!)

"O land of rest for which I sigh  
When shall thine exiles come  
When shall I lay my armor by  
And dwell with Christ at home"

but I don't want to shirk. The battle is hard but the victory sure.

"Fight on my soul till death  
We think the victory won  
He'll take thee at thy parting breath  
Up to thy heavenly home."

Kiss the little ones and remember me always as I try to <you> all at the throne of Grace.

Yr Bro Rowland

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904 4/29/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0845

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr 29 1858  
Thurs Eve

My dear brother

I am at length seated to write you a letter. Mother is in front of me reading the Kennebec Journal. Mahala is at my right sewing on my shirt. Father is at my left reading today's Advertiser and we are all in the old dining room with a cheerful fire in the open fire-place and every thing else, as it seems to me, just as it used to be when I was not a visitor, and almost a stranger.

Mother and I returned about 5 o'clock from the Center of the town. Mrs Davie [See Note 1] is dead. She died at about 3 o'clock this morning. For about three weeks she had been sick but not so much so as to alarm any one or lead us to suppose it was her last sickness. Mother did not know but that she was as well as common until last Sabbath. She heard then that she was quite sick, at times in great distress but that she had no new troubles and they were in hopes she would recover from this sickness as she had from many when ill turns of the same kind.

Last night at sunset she was taken much worse and continued in great agony till eleven o'clock. She then went to sleep it seemed, but soon very difficult breathing and expired about 3 o'clock. Uncle Ensign was there most of the night. The Dr. was there. Her last words I think were spoken to Mr Davie and were if I remember rightly "You must think this is death. He replied he thought not, so she would be better. She made great efforts to speak afterwards but could not. These words were spoken the very first of the evening.

Rolla Jennings came down this forenoon and informed us of her death. He lives where Dr Bridgham used to. Mother wished to go up immediately so we got ready as soon as we could, leaving home about 10 o'clock. We stopped at the house till about 12 then went up to Uncle Ensign. Mr Davie was not at home however and so mother called again to speak with him, when we came back. We found Laura & Uncle & a Mrs Warren who takes care of Aunt Martha just finishing their dinner. They seemed glad to see us. I had not spoken with Laura before since I came home. We sat down to dinner in a few minutes. Afterwards Mother went to the other room, the North room, to see Aunt Martha. Laura went up stairs & got your last letter to her, and one of eight pages from Silas Lee. I could hear Aunt Martha crying out while mother was in there. Uncle said she did so about a third of the time and remainder of the time was quiet & slept for the most part.

I read Silas' letter with a good deal of interest. It seems he has been brought to reflect a little at last. The letter was written to John and in it he confessed a life of about 12 years until very lately - within about a year - worse than run to waste.

It seems that a lady acquaintance first checked him in his career. I said he had been brought to reflect, Otis. He does think but still thinks all wrong - takes the wrong side - starts wrong and yet may not go on so entirely on the downward road as he has done. I am in hopes not so ruinously to himself. He studies the Bible Sundays instead of going to Church but yet is quite sure it is a "book of fables." Wants its "contradictions & inconsistencies" cleared up before he can follow any of its directions or put any confidence in its teachings, &c, &c, &c like many, many other young and vain young men of far less exceptionable lives. He said "Otis Howard, Sarah & Mother all wrote him Christian letters but he could give them no "encouragement" as long as "these things" were unexplained satisfactory to his reason. Oh it is strange he cannot see that doing right and doing well and getting his past wickedness which he confesses he is guilty of, forgiven and living a man - a man to please his Maker & God - do good to the world & benefit himself - that all this has nothing to do with satisfying his funny reason about this or that "contradiction" or absurdity of the Bible. If he could look at it in this way and get started, bye & bye, he would I think come out bright and on the right side of the other things. The Spirit of the Lord, however, can move & melt his heart. Nothing else will do.

I came home week ago yesterday (Wednesday). I return to College next week, Thursday. I was back at College 7 weeks after my school closed. In that time I made up the six weeks I was absent excepting a review

of the Analytics which they went over the first of the Term & Prof. Smyth said I might if I pleased have ready for him on his return from Kansas, where he has gone to spend two or three weeks. He has two sons in Kansas & he & his wife went away just at the close of the term to visit them & see the country. I found mother about as well as usual. All are rejoiced to think you & your family will come on here the last of June.

You asked if I was offended at your plainness and manner of writing in the letter this winter. It was the last thing I should have thought. I think you must have forgotten that I answered your letter directly and have been waiting all the spring for another. I should have written many times, however, had not my time been all taken up as you must know by my studies & College affairs.

I see Nettie almost every night, generally right after supper. It was my walk of late & perhaps as good recreation as I could have too. I made it a point to be in my room in time to begin the mornings lesson with the rest as most frequently either I was in the room next to mine or they were in mine getting the mathematical lesson in company. Two young men, brothers by name of Howe & others of my classmates room on the same floor with me & we generally study in company.

We have had prayer-meetings in the Senior Rec. Room from 12 to 12 ½ three times in the week nearly every week since I got back. They have held likewise a union prayer-meeting at the vestry from 1 ¼ P.M. till 1/4 before two - sometimes prolonged. Our class meetings were unusually well attended & interesting. Some have been converted in every class. Moody an intimate friend of mine of my own class. Several will unite with Dr Adams' Church next Sabbath & others in June.

Have you heard anything about the death of Wilbur Savage of the Senior Class? He died with the Consumption during this last term. Left a brother in the same class. They were both always much beloved by Profs & students. I will write much more of them at another time if you like.

I have much very much I would like to write my dear brother but perhaps this is enough for one letter. All have been in bed for half an hour & I have been I find scratching away very fast & perhaps rather blindly for the last page and a half. Don't give up faithful prayers for old Leeds yet or for any one of its good people. The Lord is not afar off. The hearts of Christians are melting again. They are waking up. Mother is in a better state of mind.

I see more reason to respect & love my mother every time I come back to my home. We both went to Methodist class meeting Sat P.M. at 4 o'clock. They have a prayer-meeting at the Center at 9 ½ A.M. Sabbath days. "Hellen is hoping in Christ" ! John told me in a whisper & with joy beaming from his whole countenance as I took my seat beside him Sunday morning. Laura said today, "Hellen is happy." They had gone to Lewiston for Mr. Davie today. Mr D. poor man, refuses to be comforted. How I wish he might go to the right source for comfort. Virgil told me he wanted to be a Christian. God help him. Rowland is not well in body, but in a glorious state of mind. He will be home the last of May & then part of July then to stay till October.

I may add more to this but this will do now. God be with you & yours.

Your very affectionate brother  
Chas. H. Howard

P.S. Mrs Davie's funeral will be Sunday [May 2] at 10 ½ o'clock - sermon by Elder Nutter.

[Note 1. Alice (Stinchfield) Davee died Apr 29, 1858, Aet 54, born Jan 29, 1804. She was a first cousin of Eliza Gilmore. She married Barnabas Davee on Feb 10, 1840. He died in 1877.]

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905 5/9/1858

*From:* F.T. Sargent

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0846

Nassau NP

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Nassau NP May 9th 1858

Dear Otis

I was very glad to hear from you some time ago, and should have long since replied to your letter, but Sarah let Perry have it just before he went to the Isaacs, and I waited for him to bring it back again, and at the time he came back I was very much engaged and have been ever since & particularly so for the last few weeks for I have been making preparations for settling my affairs with Mr Bacon, and since he has been here I have been engaged all the time and am not near through yet.

Poor Perry has met with a double, or rather second disaster, and has each time had a narrow chance of saving his life - truly the Lord has dealt with him in great mercy and kindness, and I trust it may be the means of turning his heart to those "living waters," from which he may drink until his thirsty soul may know the way to everlasting life through the mediation of a crucified Redeemer. I wrote him a few lines on hearing of his disaster, and misfortune, and Sarah is writing him this evening. His loss pecuniarily is rather a heavy one, and he must need soon get into some good employment at once, for he has lost everything he had in the world. But there is one thing about it, he has his health and is able to go to work again.

Poor Mother I fear has before her as much as she can go through with, and I am inclined to think that sooner or later it will cost her, her life. I speak of the cancer or tumor in her breast. We feel anxious to know the result of the operation that is to be performed and hope some of the facts will unto us if she is not able.

Silas, Sarah hears from once in a while, but his letters are most unsatisfactory, pride & vanity, together with absurd stories is about all we get from him; poor mother has had little comfort in him. He has always been an expense to her and even now, he would be glad to spend in idleness all the money he could get from her, thinking or caring little how she fairs. I wish he was more like Perry or Sarah, and hope the time may come when he may feel and act differently, when he may have a more correct idea of moral principle. This will not be until the Lord sees fit to change his heart, which I trust & pray that He may do. I hope your correspondence with him may benefit him, but there is one thing of which he is possessed to a great extent, and of which he must rid himself - reliance upon his own merits. He thinks he is growing better because he has tried to be steadier, in some of his habits.

I rejoice that the work of the Lord is going on so gloriously in our land. It seems to pervade all sections, and affect all classes of men. Truly this must be the genuine work of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of men, and I trust that the work of grace may go on & become a harvest of souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. How refreshing must be the sight in that wicked city. Men of all classes, the moral man, & the most abandoned wretch, going together to the place of prayer, and with united heart & voice calling upon the name of the Lord. How often have I sighed for the privilege & pleasure of being in the midst of this great revival, and to hold some communion with those whose hearts are also to the good work that is going on, and how often I have wished that it might be my privilege to listen to the words of impressive truth from the lips of my own beloved Pastor; how much I have longed for this. But the lord has seen fit to order it otherwise, and cast my lot among this people, and for some wise end, I will not doubt, and whatever he has appointed for me to do I trust I may be willing to embark in it. I feel that I am shut out from a great many privileges here. Our Minister is a very good & also a talented man, but he is behind the age, many years, & has but little idea of spirituality in a church. However he has labored faithfully (in his way) but the fruits have been few, to be sure many have joined the church, but there is a coldness in it all, that chill ones blood.

I am getting to the end of my sheet, and must close, but not without a word regarding self. I am in a grand state of uncertainty at present, but shall probably remain here for some time to come, and try & get a living in some way. Mr Bacon leaves this week and I shall probably come to some conclusion soon after. Sarah is in tolerable health, my own is improved somewhat, & the children are each well. <Gumilla> is still at home. He often speaks of you.

I am glad to know that you are so comfortable at the Point & trust you may find it always pleasant wherever you

may go. Sarah joins in love to you, Lizzie & the chicks & believe me

Yr aff Cuz  
F. T. Sargent

I am going to give a friend of Mr. Darling's, a Presbyterian clergiman in Jamaica, a letter of introduction to you. He goes north on a wedding tour & will no doubt the point, some time in July or August, and I need not ask you to show him any better attention that may be convenient. His name is "Milne".

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906 5/10/1858 *From:* Gidias Thompson

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0847

Fort Independence

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Independence

May 10th, 1858

Many, many times, you have been in my thoughts, my dear friend, & I have almost seated myself to write to you, when I would be called in another direction. You too are anchored in the holy antics of a family and know the many engrossing cares.

Mr Thompson was under the impression that he had written to Mr Howard, acknowledging the receipt of the Indian Pictures &c until I reminded him, & begged that the agreeable task might be mine. Please give our many thanks to your kind husband for his trouble & tell him that the little tract he so kindly enclosed, was appropriately beautiful, and that we appreciate it, and the friendly interest that prompted him to send it. I feel daily a strong & increasing desire for the love of Christ, for I know it is that alone than can sustain us in the trials we must contend with while on earth.

We are perfectly contented in our new home, and have already spoken of the pleasure we will derive from your promised visit. You will not, must not disappoint us.

How are the dear little ones? Fannie has grown astonishingly, all the baby has morpheosed. She is big, fat, Fannie Thompson. I have had her in short dresses some time.

Mrs Arnold arrived to-day, bringing six children. T'will make quite an agreeable change for me, having been so long behind the pleasure of female society. You must let me know about what time you will come, so we will be on the "qui-vive" and meet you on the other side with the boat.

I must say good bye. Mr Thompson joins me in love to yourself & husband & a kiss for babies.

Believe me affectionately

Your friend

Gidias Thompson

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907 5/13/1858 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0848

Nassau NP

West Point  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Nassau NP May 13, 1858

My dear Cousin

I take much pleasure in introducing to you the Rev'd A I Milne of Jamaica, who with his lady contemplates visiting our country and spending a few months in travel, and should they visit your beautiful spot (which I very much hope they will) I commend them to your kind attention, and am sure you will do all you can to make them feel that they are not altogether "strangers in a strange land".

I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr Milne, but know of him through Mr Darling, at whose request I give this letter, and on his account as well as my own, I again take pleasure in introducing him to your kindness and am

Very truly  
Your Cousin,  
F. T. Sargent

Lieut O. O. Howard  
West Point  
New York

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908 5/15/1858 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Friend Oliver [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0849

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta May 15th 1858

Dear Friend Oliver

Your letter of April 17th came duly to hand and with much pleasure I noted contents. Though you have neglected to write me for a long time still judging from your letter I imagine you have had your time well occupied since your removal to West Point and that the occupation has been both pleasant and agreeable to you. Upon receipt of your letter my intention was to have written you at once but many things have taken up my time and attention to the neglect of my friends since then, and as an apology let me say to you I have not forgotten you but on the contrary have wished many times that you was here to talk with me.

I commenced attending the morning prayer meetings this spring and my mind and heart became interested in the subject of religion the more I thought of the matter, the more convinced I became that this Life is but a preparation for a Life to Come and that it was my duty to live differently, that I was young, strong and well with many more blessings than lots of men are enjoying and in the full enjoyment of all these things I felt and did pray to God to pardon all my numerous sins, giving up all to Jesus to take him as my redeemer and Saviour - to bow my stubborn heart and say from this time forward I would do as near as I could what would be pleasing in His sight. I feel happier than ever before in my life and now I think I have more to live for than ever. It seems like commencing anew, but I can and will by the cheering presence of my God who is ever near me and who I feel will give me strength to steadily move forward in the christian course.

Oliver it is very pleasant to gather my family about me morning and evening and quietly sit down to read a chapter in the Bible and then for all to kneel and pray to God to keep me aright from morning till evening and from my lying down until my rising again and feeling sure he will do so. "That all who come in meekness and sincerity he will in no wise cast out." Sarah is very happy to have me do as I do and I think is greatly interested in the subject. Still I am praying daily that she may feel as I do - that she can truly say she loves Christ.

This is what I wish for, but as my time is limited I must hasten to close this. Oliver pray for me and mine and I will tell you more when I see you which I hope to do this summer. You & Mrs Howard & the children my kindest regards to them with love to Mrs H from Sarah. My family are all well and there's but little news to tell you except this. Gap't Gorgas has been ordered to Charleston S.C. and will leave next Wednesday. Lieut Todd from Watervliet relieves him temporarily. Why don't you apply for the position at once. I was talking with Gorgas this morning. He says he thinks you could get the appointment if you applied for it. I wish you might come here again. Mrs Gorgas will probably board at the Stanley House this summer with the children.

Think of it on receipt of this, and write me soon.

Very Truly Yours  
C. H. Mulliken

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909 5/16/1858 *From:* S G Jones

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0850

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn May 16 1858

My dear Lizzie

After returning from prayer meeting this morning, I will spend a few moments in writing you, in answer to your last. I am very happy to hear you are all a coming to Maine so soon. I am anticipating a pleasant time, may it be so.

Sunday May 28. One week has passed away since I commenced this letter. To-day I must finish it so you can know what I can do, in regard to getting you a girl. There is a girl a sewing for Mrs Harriman would like the chance. She is called a very sociable girl. I have seen her more or less four years never <lower> no hint of her, her folks poor, widowed mother, last summer she learnt her trade of Miss Chandler business so dull she cannot have work now, perhaps you have seen her here. Her name is Marthy Nash. I should judge she is 18 or 20. I ask her what would be her price providing you hired her. She said she would work for one dollar fifty per week. I think she will suit you. She loves children. I would write you more particularly if I had time, if you understand what I mean. It will do till I see you. I hope soon, for Lewiston people are enjoying a happy season (those that are in the place). May these times ever last, reach the hearts of those. This passage came to me fret not thy self of evil-doers. How many comments worthy.

There is to be a baptism today the Methodist. Orestes is one of the number. Oh Lizzie I have a great deal to say to you. I must wait until I see you. I never experience such a reborn. Many of our worst men in the place here come out and oh what confessions I have heard. Sheriff Clark is one of them. We have morning prayer meetings, held at Auburn hall. It has been about three months since they commenced. It is called a union meeting. I think you and Otis will enjoy them much, but it is mostly Mr Drumonds church. I only have time to touch on a subject before I leave it.

Delly Gilmore was at Auburn last week thinks of going to school here this term. Something was said about his boarding here. I have had no boarders for the year just myself and children live alone. Novellia & Rose at home, Olive & Oskar over to the shop. Sam pays Olive two dollars per week. She does the waiting and tending. Brother Samuel Whitman and son Orem is here on a visit on the way to Turner. His daughter Jane died last March. Marthy his youngest child is not expected to live long. The girl that Mrs Gilmore had last summer, Lucy Whitman has this season done what Minnie's <>. I rather you would not get her one. Her hat is a good one for this year. Eve & I had new ones last year. They will do well this year. I have bought Orestes a hat & his pants is a pair of Otis old ones.

Adams is a building us a front yard fence. I was happy to see he & his wife to meeting this morning. Minnie is much pleased with her sheet of command. She reads it to all the little girls. You cannot imagine my darlings, when writing to my friends not speaking of poor Everett as I once could, many a time have I shed for him, but that will not save him. There is a chance if his sins are as scarlet. I received a letter from him last night with a ten dollar bill in it. He is in Dubuque Iowa. I have felt as though I would like to have Otis write him, for I know he is capable of writing to a poor wicked man, or father. I shall let you and Otis see the letters he has written me since he left home. <You> can judge for your selves. Whether you think there is a <> in him for the better.

Minnie has written Guy two letters. They are so large I will not send them. I want to see the children very much. Write me soon. Let me know if Marthy will answer. She would like to know this week before she leaves Mrs Herren. She sews for her this week. Her home is seven miles out of the village. I would be glad to write one hour more but I close by wishing you all the blessings this world offers.

S G Jones

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910 5/18/1858 *From:* G. T. Bedell

*To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-0851

61 10th Str New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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61 10th Str New York

May 18 1858

My dear Sir

Your note afforded me great satisfaction. It will be my pleasure to cooperate with you in any possible way for the good of a Point which seems to me, strategically in view of the interests of the church militant, one of the most important. You will oblige me by saying what seems to you ought to be provided in the way of books tracts &c for the Point. I will provide them if I can.

Do not be too modest in your requests; or I shall not know what is really needed. If I can order any thing for you it will give me pleasure so to do. A.D.F. Randolph Bookseller cor Broadway & Amity is one of the best agents for all such purposes.

The publications of the Evangelical Knowledge Society No 11. Bible House, you will find both practical & valuable. I trust you received the packages we sent last week. We shall be very happy to see you, if you have time on any of your visits to New York.

Remember me sincerely to Prof French. Give my kindest regards to my friend Lieut Webb, & tell him he ought to be working with you, hand & heart.

Believe me Yrs truly  
G. T. Bedell

Lieut. Howard

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911 5/20/1858 *From:* Ann Otis Lee

*To:* My dear Otis & Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0852

No. 54 Harrison St  
Brooklyn L.I.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No. 54 Harrison St Brooklyn L.I.  
May 20th 1858

My dear Otis & Lizzie

I have just got a letter from Silas in which he tells me Perry has not written to him and perhaps he has not written to you either, and Silas said he had a letter from you saying you expected Perry at West Point the next week. Perry left here for Boston Monday after you left us, the very day he expected to go to your house. He started off in a hurry to send papers to Nassau by a vessel going from Boston. I had a letter from him yesterday from Leeds. His letter was written on Monday. He had a bad cold and had seen none of our friends except Ensigns family - expected to see your mother that day. He found all his uncles family well except his aunt Martha who is quiet and comfortable but feeble mostly confined to the bed.

Mrs Davie our cousin Alice died suddenly two weeks ago with affections of the heart. She was well in the evening and died before morning.

John Harrison and Hellen are well and happy - have got the dear old mansion "repaired and made comfortable and handsome." How I should like to be there and see the dear old trees put forth their blossoms once more and hear the voices of the dear "Bobolink" in that dear orchard, the trees of which were planted by our good and ever to be revered parents, your dear namesake and grand father. I truly love those rocks and rills and cloud topped hills. When I think of that dear spot, I seem to feel that my mothers' form is before me as she was years ago and fathers too. What tender welcomes we had from those dear united parents spared to us so long - a united head. I am so glad this dear old house is again fitted up and occupied by our own kindred and name. I do hope I shall be spared to go there again.

My dear cousin Alice was a constant and kind friend to me. I feel that I have lost a personal friend in her, and a near relative. She was a member of fathers family for many years before my marriage and I formed a strong attachment for her. She always met me kindly as regards my difference of opinions in my religious views. I have no recollections of her but of the kindest sympathy both in temporal and spiritual converse. Dear friend. She knew from what source I looked for salvation. I trust she was among the redeemed. Tho she believed some doctrines that I cannot think as she did.

My Dr Riesar says he would like to have me go to West Point when the weather is clear a little, only he must see me once a week. When Dear Perry comes I will come too. I am very comfortable.

I went to Greenwood last Thursday. Mary Dwight went with me. Nature is in its beauty, it seemed like enchantment. Every thing seemed too lovely for reality. And my Dear sweet "Etta's" grave! You can not conceive how dear the spot is to me. I had a rose tree set at the head of the grave, Deutzia at the foot and pinks on the earth that covers the coffin that contains those precious remains, to me so very, very precious. Her dear spirit has for some time seemed more dear and warmer to me than any ones. It seems a reality to me that her spirit will meet mine in the spirit world. How unspeakably beautiful the idea. "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Dear Silas speaks of your letter and says "It was a real good letter" and I esteem it very highly. I have not answered it yet, I do not know what to say to him." He then goes on and tells what his difficulties are, in coming to a decision. I do desire to be found in the spirit that I may be able to pray without ceasing and in every thing give thanks. I do yet hope in God, and trust Dear Silas will soon be able to know by experience the hope of a believer.

An interesting lady called to see me yesterday to enquire about Dr Riesar, and she was surprised to find me cheerful and so happy. That lady is seeking to know the Saviour but is in just such a state of mind as Silas.

Dear Otis & Lizzie we do know it must be the Spirit, the gift of Grace. Truly the spirit quickeneth the flesh

proffiteth nothing. Unite with me in prayer that the "Spirit may be quick and powerful as a two edged sword" in the hearts of inquirers - my heart was at once interested for this lady. She is coming to see me to-morrow. How truly we should adorn that Spirit that has given us hearts to believe. Truly God has laid help on one highly able to save. All that come unto Him. But it is the work of the spirit that takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us. And this Spirit is the purpose of our risen Saviour, how Christ who has died that we may live Amen & Amen.

I was able to attend communion at our church last Sunday. It was our communion season (40) forty persons united with us (15) fifteen were baptized. I wish you could have been with us, to see such a company come forward to avow the Lord to be their god. How delightful the thought that all shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest. None shall say to his Neighbour know ye the Lord. O! That all flesh would turn to the Lord and be saved that all would seek to be quickened by the spirit. Let us unite to seek the Lord that the promise of the spirit may be as at the day of Pentecost, when men spoke with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. This is the work from the first. There is no other way whereby we can be saved.

Perry will be back Saturday. I think I will come to West Point next Monday. I go to my Dr Monday and if I can I will come from there direct but don't expect me until you see me. God in his Providence will order it all just right. I do feel entirely his now. I trust he has reviewed his covenant with me, and I am enabled to feel that I am his and he is mine. I do think he enableth me to cease from my own works and enter into his rest - even the rest he has preferred for his own people.

Dear Otis I do rejoice that yourself and your dear dear wife understand by experamental knowledge what I mean when I write to you, from whence all, my happiness for time and eternity springs. I wrote to Dear Maria since you was here and told her you prayed for all of us your kindred in the flesh. Truly God has made us families in the earth he accepts our sanctified, purified affections for those he has united us with in family bonds. I hope and do trust you have made a covenant with him for yourself and your family.

Dear Guy how often I think of him and the sweet beautiful "Grace". I love your children dearly. I had a short letter from Frank dated the 28th of April since you was here. They were all as well as usual. I expect letters by way of Boston soon as there is a vessel in from Nassau. Oliver thinks I did the best thing not to return and have the surgical operation. I am nicely, am quite comfortable. I was able to sit up all day yesterday, and can sew a little. Kiss the dear children for Aunt Lee and accept my love - this is to both of you - Otis & Lizzie. My love to Miss Berard and all friends.

Ann Otis Lee

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912 5/24/1858 *From:* Silas [J Lee]

*To:* My Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0853

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago May 24th 1858.

My Dear Cousin,

Your highly esteemed letter of the 6th inst was duly received. I have penned three letters to you since each of which have not suited me and after carying them in my pocket two or three days have burned them. I had made up my mind that in your many duties you had no time to throw away upon so unprofitable and uninteresting a correspondence as mine, and being rather modest and a little sensitive upon those things the fancy kept me from writing to you, for on several occasions I was on the point of writing, and knowing too that I could give you no encouragement for myself, thought that it was just as well. I am very much obliged to you for the kindness, and concern your letters shew me you feel for my good and wish I was more worthy of your sentiments and esteem.

I am fully aware that I have lived in sin nearly all my days, and am still, yet I hope there may be found some redeeming qualities and acts in my ill spent life. And yet knowing all this I cannot bring myself to look upon things pertaining to the future as you do. I believe that we are placed upon this Earth by a supreme power, for some direct purpose that we are to fulfil that purpose and then return to that state from which man originated, one body to dust, or vegetable matter and our mind (or soul) to nothing or if there is anything more I have always been content to trust all to the disposition of the power which rules our destinies, for if God is just and generous, why need we fear to throw ourselves upon his generosity to do with us as he likes? Which I consider he will do at any rate. I believe that the Bible points out to us the way in which we ought to live, and that by following its teachings we should all be at peace, and universal love would soon follow.

But I cannot see that it points to or refers to an existence or state after the present, or that it was written by divine authority or by divine inspiration. The Old Testament is mostly historical. The new cannot be considered an inspired work more than the sermons and letters of eminent divines of the present day, and the book of Revelations, I consider wholly imaginary.

You sent me some of the "slips" of the "Am Tract Society". I rec'd and read them. I noticed you marked the opinion of John Locke on the Bible. I fully concur with Mr Locke except when he says that the New Testament "has God for its Author." Why it carries a contradiction to that sentiment throughout in itself. It does not pretend to be edited by any but the preachers of the religion which was founded by Jesus Christ, when he lived and for a few years after his crucifixion.

The paper entitled "A Strange Thing", I have no respect at all for. It is the most inconsistent thing I ever saw issued as a religious sentiment. It amounts to nothing but a foolish harangue against Universalism. Did Christ or other of his apostles preach dissensions and discord among their followers? Or did they malign the followers of one another? Does not Christianity consist in sincerity and honesty of purpose, rather than form or opinion? I think it does. Has not such things been the greatest curse which has ever visited mankind? One sect sits itself up against another and where does it end?

I have not heard from Mother for nearly two weeks. The last news was rather cheering and I sincerely hope the next will be as good. I wish I could give my dear Mother that one pleasure she so much desires, but I cannot consistently do so now, for what I don't understand I cannot believe, and I won't profess 'till I do. I have not heard from Perry for a long time, nor have I any recent news from any body.

Give much love to Lizzie and with a kiss to the children, believe me your

affectionate cousin  
Silas

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913 6/8/1858

*From:* O.A. Mack

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0854

Germantown, Phil'a.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Germantown, Phil'a.

June 8th 1858.

Dear Howard:

I write to ask you to do me a favor. I presume you are very busy now, and perhaps I ought not to trouble you at this time. My only excuse is that I presume you will leave the "Point" as soon as the examinations in your department are finished. I wish to know if there is any prospect for me at the Academy during the next academic year?

You may recollect that I was in poor health when I saw you in the winter. I am considerably better now but still unable to do Military Duty. I am improving slowly which is all that can be expected with my disease - chronic diarrhea. I think I shall be able to attend to light duties in two or three months if I have no "draw-backs". It will be imprudent for me to expose myself much to fatigue & inclement weather, and above all to unwholesome diet for several months, but as I dislike to be reporting sick when I think I might be doing something useful for my worthy Uncle, I am anxious to receive some situation adapted to my condition. I believe I could teach Mathematics to the new pledged cadets in a satisfactory manner to Professor Church, or perhaps the course of Ethics prescribed for them. Mathematics I think are more suitable for my mind. If therefore you will speak to Mr Church upon this subject & let me know the result you will much oblige me.

I understand the Professors have experienced some difficulties in obtaining instructors - those for whom they have applied being unwilling to return to the Academy & the War Department unwilling to detail them. I think the latter difficulty will not obtain in my case - the former certainly not.

I have expressed a preference for the Mathematical Department but I am not disposed to reject any position which I can fill with justice to myself & usefulness to the Institution.

I am visiting at my wife's brother's now and I will thank you to address your reply to this to his care - Viz: Rev. A.B. Atkins, Germantown Phil'a Pa.

Please give my kindest regards to your wife, and believe me

Very Truly  
Your friend  
O.A. Mack

To:  
Lt. O. O. Howard Ord. Dpt.  
West Point, New York

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914 6/11/1858 *From:* S. Perry Lee

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0855

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York June 11th 1858

My dear Otis

As the weather has come on very hot mother & myself have decided that she had better accept your kind offer of your house this summer as I feel satisfied that her health will be very much worse if she stops here. You cannot imagine how warm and uncomfortable it is in the City. Mother begins to feel the effects of it already. She was very much worse yesterday - had to keep her bed most of the day.

Will you please write me Monday what arrangements she had better make and when she had better go up and if the girl you have will stay with her. I have given up my visit to Philadelphia - have found several good chances to buy into vessels that will pay well, have written to Stinchfield to see what he will do and when you come down Wednesday I will explain it to you and you can see the vessels.

About mothers going to West Point, I know you will do what you & Lizzie think best. If you can leave the house so mother could go up a day or two after you leave perhaps it would be best. Then you & Lizzie could see her here & explain things to her so she could get along very well. Perhaps I will come up myself and see you about it if you think best.

Please write me as soon as you receive this & Oblige your  
Affectionate Cousin  
S. Perry Lee

Care J. R. Bacon Esq  
No 53 South Street  
N.Y.

Give my love to Lizzie and Kiss the children for Uncle Perry.

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915 6/11/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0856

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor June 11 58

Dear Brother

Having mislaid your last letter I am quite at loss whether you have left West Point yet or not, but it will do no harm to write.

I spent a very happy vacation of over two weeks, and came back here a week ago. Ella was with me most of the time at Bath, Gardiner, Topsham & Leeds.

The only drawback to my enjoyment was Aunt Marthas sad state and the low state of religion in my own town, but, thank God, there are some signs of good there. Helen is on the right road, and her hope needs only the strength that comes from faith, perseverance & prayer. Others are quite serious - Mr Davee & Isachar Lane were mentioned to me. I called on Mr D & did not see him. Mr L I saw but under unfavorable circumstances for religious conversation.

Cynthia seems to feel much, whether from the power of sympathy or from the work of the Holy Spirit is yet to be determined. I wished that I could have spent more time & visited & conversed with & prayed with the people. I hope much from your visit this summer.

Other considerations aside, is it not sufficient compensation for your visit to see if God will honor you by giving you one more Soul as a star in the course of your rejoicing.

I am going to Augusta week after next June 22d to 24th to our State Conferences. I wish that you might be there. Charley Mulliken has "spoken in meeting" but I have not heard whether he has avowed a hope, and O the many new faces of old friends in Bath & Hallowell that I have met! Blessed be the name of God who hath wrought the change!

I had a horse and carriage at Leeds, and I think you'd better have one for your furlough. Our old mare is with foal, & there is no other horse you know to be had. I hope for all your sakes that you will have a good strong, steady horse. I think you could get one for a dollar a day & you might not want him for but a portion of the time. Have you sold your Carriage? Father is thinking of buying one. If yours was there, it would do for him.

O I am almost impatient to see the children! I am full of business, have an essay & anniversary "Part" on my hands besides my ordinary labors. If Lizzie stops in Boston you might drop down in the boat & make me a short visit in the meantime. My Term closes Aug 1st. I will expect to see you before then. Ella is well & happy. Give a bushel of love to Lizzie a dozen kisses to the children.

Your aff. Bro.  
Rowland

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916 6/14/1858 *From:* Annie P. Lee

*To:* My dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-0857

Watervliet Arsenal, NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Arsenal Jun 14th 1858

My dear Mrs Howard,

I will attempt another invitation to you to come up and see us. I would be so glad to see you and dear little Guy. I would come down but can't persuade Mr Lee to let me, he thinks I have two children to carry about and that I better remain at home.

I have adopted a little girl about five years old. She is a very interesting little creature, and I don't like to leave her at home, but really I do want you and Mr Howard to see Annie. She is worth looking at, so every body says; she has no teeth or any idea of walking or creeping but still she tries to talk and can say Papa & Mama, Kitten and other words.

Do come up and see us. Both Mr Lee and myself have given up this vain world and endeavoring to serve him who deserves all praise from us poor sinful creatures. Yes we have <given> ourselves to him, and were buried <> him in Baptism in the Hudson River and now we are going to serve him.

<I> trust that you & Mr Howard will <remember> us in your prayers to God, that we may always prove faithful.

Give my love to Mr Howard also Mrs Lee's.

I remain yours  
sincerely & truly  
Annie P. Lee

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917 6/16/1858 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0858

Brooklyn N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn N.Y.  
June 16th 1858

My dear Mother,

I have got started from West Point with my little family. Lizzie, Miss Brewster & the children are in New York. I left them at a Public House & came here to see Aunt Ann. She don't look quite so cheerful, nor quite so well as when she was at West Point. I will soon see you & tell you how she is.

We will leave New York tomorrow night, but will probably stay over the Sabbath in Boston. Expect us Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

I have just read a letter from Sarah. She writes cheerfully. Aunt sends a great deal of love & says she wishes you would write her. She says it makes her sick to write a letter. Perry is still here.

I hope the love of Christ still has clear manifestations to you. Pray for me, dear Mother, that I may be preserved from coldness. My love to all.

Yr. Affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard

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918 6/26/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0860

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick June 26 1858.

My dear Mother

It has been one week since I received your letter and the money but I have not yet written to acknowledge the receipt of either. I went away Tuesday forenoon to Augusta and returned Thurs evening. Rowland met me at Richmond on another train on his way to Bath. I was disappointed for I had expected to see him and spend Tues night with him. Should not have gone up had I known he was going to Bath. I left the train at Hallowell and went to Aunt Ellen's. She and her family were about as usual. They had just eaten dinner but I was speedily provided for. About 3 o'clock Aunt took me to Augusta in her carriage with the children, Mary and Lizzie.

I found at the Church a good many acquaintances, among others Pike of Mercer with whom I used to study at Kents Hill. He wanted me to go and make my home at his Uncle's - Mr Daniel Pike - but that place had been engaged by the Bangor Theological Students and it was very doubtful whether there was any room. He ascertained however that one of those expected was unwell and would not be there, so I had the place.

It was a very pleasant family and I was acquainted with Robie & Palmer of Rowland's class in College who were there - soon got acquainted also with Shepard - son of Prof Shepard. Tannery another student and with Sewall another from the Seminary who was a member of Otis' class in College. I enjoyed the meetings much.

Wed. forenoon went down to Hallowell - walked with Shepard & others - thought Rowland would be there - returned before dinner. Rowland came up from Gardiner in noon train with Ella. They had come up in the boat.

I heard from Mr Pike & wife that Charlie Mulliken was expecting Lieut. Howard & wife at the meeting. As I was going up to the Church after dinner met John Harrison at the Mansion House on his way to China. He told me Otis had arrived at Leeds & ever after while in Augusta I was expecting to see him. John didn't see Rowland Wed. I soon found him at the Church. Ella went to Gardiner in the evening & Rowland & I spent the night together at Mr Joshua Turner's.

The morning prayer-meetings were very interesting. Mrs Turner went the morning we were at Joshua's - walked over with Rowland. We looked for Otis Thurs all day. Melvin came in the morning & said Otis talked of coming down. There was a greater crowd in town Thurs on account of the Convention.

I was in the Hall & heard Pitt Fessenden speak a few moments but it was too hot to stay there besides I liked the exercises at the church much better. In the afternoon Thurs we listened to one of the best sermons I ever heard from Mr. Storer. Everyone who knows him <calls> him the best of men and surely his <sermon> indicated it. He preaches now in <> Carpenter's church in Portland. We <looked> in vain for Otis. After meeting <repaired to> the depot where was collected more <> twice as many as could be seated <in> the cars. Most of the cars had the <ayles> crowded besides all that could get upon <the plat> forms and two freight cars. It <began> to rain soon after we left Gardiner <where> Rowland & Ella stopped & before we <reached> Richmond it poured down greatly. This <> the crowd in the cars still more intense. <I> had a seat all the way from Hallowell but held a student in my lap most of the way. It ceased raining soon after we <> at Brunswick so I did not get wet. <Nettie> says the children look nicely. You <must> be happy in having Otis and his family with you. I was of a good mind to <go> to Leeds but concluded Otis would come down and see me. Give my love <to> him and to Lizzie. I am glad to <hear> little Guy can talk so fast and <that> little Grace is so pretty a baby. I had been hoping to go to Bangor with Otis but find that the Rhetorical Exhibition in which Rowland has a part is to take place on Monday evening before my examination Tuesday. <> I shall have to forego the pleasure of accompanying Otis and not hearing Rowland's part.

Rowland perhaps will give you some account of the discourses & speaking &c at the meetings. You have probably seen Mrs Turner before this time. I have <> about made up again in these <> days. We have only 3 more lessons <advance> in Calculus. In four weeks more I shall enter upon my last year in College. This time

for the next few weeks will be spent in review for the examination.

I hope to hear from home soon. Perhaps Otis will have an opportunity of writing. I saw Rowlands first Sermon while at Augusta. He is as much engaged as ever so also is Ella. We have daily morning prayer-meetings here in Brunswick but they are not very well attended. They have the best meetings down to Bath. Will Otis come down? I have all day Wednesday to myself each week.

Nettie was much gratified to be remembered by you and she and her mother would like much to have you come down to Commencement. How does the Prayer-meeting on the Ridge flourish? Hope Otis will be able to meet with them there. Give my love to Father & always think of & pray for me.

Your affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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919 6/28/1858 *From:* William C Drew

*To:* Lieutenant O. O. Howard

OOH-0859

Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tampa Fla 1858  
June the 28 1858

Dear sir

Now take my pen in my to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at present. I believe you must write us and we will write to you. There is some of your papers that comes here and if you want them sent to you and I will send them to you. I am staying at the office in the garrison. It is at Major McKinstry's office in the garrison. His office is headquarters now but this fort is breaking up. They are sending Mules of <nau>. The Ranger is just got down with a Boatload of mules and horses. Colonel Loomis is a going to send off all the Mules in and horses there is in the garrison.

Good Bye for this time

William C Drew

To  
Lieutenant O. O. Howard

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920 6/28/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0862

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor June 28th 1858

Dear Brother

[ Page 1 has a lot of bleed through] We looked for you at Augusta Monday a good deal, but after Melvin came we did not expect you so much & it was so hot in the afternoon that it was perhaps as well.

Charles remained in the hope of seeing you & Ella & I left for Gardiner in the same train. We took Tea at Mr Mullikens.

Weds Evening. I wish I felt better about your friend Charley but I had no opportunity of a personal conversation. If his personal consecration in Christ was entire it doesn't seem to me that his wife could resist. I hope much from yours & Lizzie's visit. He is very much engrossed in business.

Ella returned home & I came down here Friday. I did not spend any time <at Hallowell> but stayed <one night in> Augusta & one in Gardiner. We had excellent meetings. The morning prayer meetings at 6 o'clock were very interesting & you would have enjoyed the revival accounts, thanksgivings & prayers very much. At Bath the interest still continues. If you go down to see Charley you can go to see Ella & go into one of their morning meetings. How much you would have enjoyed some meetings there & here! The voice of returning prodigals is sweet to the Christian's ear.

Our Term is about five weeks more and I shall be very busy all this time, having an address for the Rhetorical Soc to prepare in addition to my ordinary duties. I think beside of offering my services to the Kenne. Missionary Soc for my vacation of 8 weeks. If I do I've no idea where they will send me & the most I am afraid of is that I <> no chance to see you <Lizzie and the> dear children. I believe I could have walked to Leeds from Augusta to have seen them if I had not thought my presence was required here. I suppose John & Helen will not be at home till the last of the week. Helen needs to be led. She needs a religion of peace-something which shall soothe her agitation & lead her to a sweet & calm trust in her Saviour.

We had a good meeting this morning but there is a manifest abatement in attendance & interest.

I am not "gumtious" at all today, can't read write or study to any degree of advantage. If I don't feel better I'm afraid I wont get my "part" done at all. I don't want you to come till it is off my mind then I can enjoy your visit.

Charley Mulliken is a little Episcopalianish. I think that in this region serves to cover ones <> of spiritual attainment.

I have met Sam Lunt in the street & he told me of you all. I don't like him & unless I can do him good, shall not be likely to prosecute his acquaintance much.

My S. Schools & meetings were interesting yesterday, but not so much so as they have been at times. If you come over here you must have some "talk" all ready for Christians.

Give my love to Lizzie. I wish she & the children could come down here but I suppose that is impossible. I am in hopes to spend a few days in Leeds about the 1st of Aug & renew my acquaintance with Guy & Grace.

Give much love to Mother & tell her to take things just as coolly as the weather will admit and enjoy just as much as she can.

May God bless you <> to yourselves <>

<> Bro  
Rowland



---

921 7/1/1858      *From:* S Perry Lee

*To:* Dear Cousin Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0863

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

West Point July 1st 1858

Dear Cousin Otis

We arrived here safe on Monday eve and found every thing as comfortable as we could wish. Ellen was at her sisters on the Point and came right to the house so we had no trouble at all. Mother finds it very pleasant. She enjoys it much. The Miss Barards are very kind and call to see mother often. Miss Demot called a day or two ago. I think we could not be pleasanter situated anywhere. I meet Mr Roberts most every day. There is few of the officers here that I met before.

I enclose 2 letters that I found on our arrival here.

Mother's health remains about the same as when you saw her. If any thing she is not quite so strong. I have decided to remain on shore untill her health improves which I fear will never be. I think that she will never recover. I am more convinced than when you saw her in New York.

About business arrangements. I think it quite possible that I may visit Maine sometime this month to see if I can raise one or two thousand dollars to put into a ship. Write me what you think. Do you think any of my friends have got the money to lend me at 7 percent or to invest another on account and if they would do it. About vessels there is a plenty of them for sale in New York cheap.

Give my love to your mother Col Gilmore to Lizzie Roland and all our friends at Leeds. Tell John Harrison that he owes me a letter. When he pays up I will write him again. Kiss the children for me & believe me your affectionate Cousin  
S Perry Lee

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922 7/6/1858

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother Otis  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0864

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick July 6, 1858

My dear brother Otis

I mentioned in mother's letter that I was desirous you should come down & see me. Now I will repeat the same to you. Ella wants you to come & see her very much - wants you to stay two or three days. We would be glad to have you this week or as soon as you can come but want you to make calculations to stay several days for I want you to spend one night if you cant any more with me and she says you must be at Bath so as to attend the morning meeting. Ella would be delighted to have Lizzie come & bring both children. Says Lizzie & Anna Hattie, her sisters, would be so happy to take care of the little ones. I want to see Lizzie very much & the children. Do come either alone or with Lizzie or the whole family.

Nettie went to Bath with me & we had a very pleasant day, but I cannot write more because I want this to go out in todays mail.

If you come this week we shall be ready for you if not hope to have a letter before long.

My love to Father & Mother.

Your Affec. brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Rowland is well & happy.

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923 7/16/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1087

Bangor Theo. Sem.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Theo. Sem. July 16th [1858 see note 1]

Dear Brother

From a note which I had from Charley tonight I think this may probably find you in Augusta tomorrow & that you will go down to see Charles & Ella the first of the week. Ella says she is "all ready" & was in hopes that you would get down this week. I had a letter from her tonight, (even you would say that it is one of the best letters every way. I wish you could see it.) The girls (her sisters) are already quarreling over which shall have Guy & which Gracie! Anna Hattie, the youngest, has set out trying to be a christian this Spring. I have conversed with her & written her quite frequently. She is a real child, but I do think that she has begun to love her Saviour & will be very glad to have you speak some tender & encouraging word. I am in hopes to finish my "Part" tomorrow if I am well. It is a great trouble to me tho' I try to trust everything to God. O that I might have Ellas simplicity of faith - honest, childlike trust in my Saviour all the time, but alas, I am often so double minded!

I do always remember you & Lizzie and the dear children in my poor prayers. If there is no meeting, no preaching I mean, in Leeds appointed for the Sabbath that I will be there, I will "supply" if they wish. I would rather they would not know who will preach but that there will be a meeting that day if it is not Mr - day. Perhaps I will drop a note to John. It might do good, who knows?

I was glad to see Mr Webbs declination of the Boston Call. Besides my wish to have him remain, I am glad to avoid the Scandal that is so apt to follow the acceptance of such an offer & then bring a wound on the Cause of our blessed Master.

Can't you drop a note to me Monday & tell me what your plans are. I am paid I shall have to give up <having> you at our little Pic Nic next Weds but if you go to Portland the last of next week perhaps you might come round in the boat. You might spend the Sab & Monday with me, but, you musn't leave your little family on my acct. If you are not to be at Leeds, week after next, I wish to know it as it will change my plans.

Love to Lizzie & kisses to the little ones.

Yr aff bro.  
Rowland

[Note 1. The year had been omitted by Rowland, and someone had entered 1860 in brackets. It should be 1858. First, Rowland and Ella were married on Aug 16 of 1860 and this letter does not fit with Rowland's frame of mind in that period. The request for Otis to tell him what his plans are and the invitation for Otis to visit him in Bangor, does not fit with the correspondence in 1860. Also, the reference to Otis going down to see Charley and Ella, implies that Charley is in Brunswick (at Bowdoin), where he was in 1858.

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924 7/18/1858 *From:* J.H. Otis

*To:* Dear Cousin Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0865

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 18, 1858 [entire letter very faint]

Dear Cousin Otis

Since you have been in Maine I have not had an opportunity to see you last Thursday but thinking that you might have some spare funds for which you would like to be receiving interest and I being in debt some \$500, which is now due and having no possibility which I can <[many lines too faint]>

when I was disappointed. If you can accommodate me it would be a great favor.

Please write me soon if it is possible for you to help me.

We are all well as usual <> has been unwell but is now better. Mother remains much the same <>.

Hoping to see you here soon to make us a visit and <hoping> you and your family are <enjoying> health and doing good in your <>.

I remain your Aff cousin  
J.H. Otis

---

925 7/19/1858 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0866

Augusta Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Maine  
July 19th 1858

My dear Mother

We came here last Tuesday night, visited Hallowell on Saturday and saw all our friends there, but our visit was marred by Guy becoming quite ill. We came back before it was late Saturday evening, and put Guy to bed and sent for Dr Briggs. Saturday night Guy had a burning fever all night, and all day yesterday the fever continued & last night sometimes it subsides & then comes on again. He is patient and good as he can be. We have every attention, convenience, kindness & medical attendance.

Chas. Mulliken gives every evidence I could ask of "a new heart" - he has his family prayer with his wife & children twice a day, & asks a blessing at the table, and as far as I can see is acting as near as he can by God's help, as his obedient child.

Lizzie continues well. Mrs Mulliken & the old lady wished you had come down to the Association. We were going to Bath this morning at nine o'clock, but Guy's sickness has prevented. Aunt Ellen & Laura Ann inquired for you. They were quite well. Remember us in your prayers. Our plans will be governed by the sickness of Guy. He could not now be moved with safety. On any change for the better or worse I will write you.

My love to Father. Tell Cynthia when you see her I hope she remembers her promise to me - I have not forgotten it.

I have heard from Rowland twice since I have been here. The first time he said he had not been very well but the second letter don't say but that he is well. His "part" was about done.

We are watching for favorable symptoms in Guy's case. I am down street, otherwise Lizzie would send love. Grace is well & I hope Lizzie will continue so. She slept well last night, when she did sleep. Guy wants her to take him up occasionally, & then he says "put me down, mamma." He only remains up a half minute.

Good bye for the present.

Emma Turner has had an attack of bleeding at the lungs, Thursday I believe of last week. She was able to be up yesterday. All the rest of Joshua's family are quite well. He is much engaged in religion.

Affectionately yr Son  
O.O. Howard

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926 7/20/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0861

Theol Sem Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Theol. Sem. Bangor 20th 1858 [Possibly July]

Dear Bro Otis

I was very fortunate when in Leeds to have the reading of your letter to Mother, also Lizzies to Laura. I thanked God for those words in Lizzies about Jesus. Give her my love. O may she be always ready to confess the name of our dear Saviour. I love to hear it so much, especially from his own dear lambs. I was also very much pleased at a sentiment in your letter to Mother like this - "I find that I am too prominent in my work for Christ". O we can never be too humble - too much out of <sight> if the Lord Jesus be but glorified.

O that we might be so swallowed up in him that we may forget self & think alone of Christ. I wish you would read Fenelon's Spiritual letters if you have not. The Christians duty in crucifying self-love is there fully developed.

That Mr Storer who preached for me in Harpswell seems to me purer & holier than any man I ever met. I felt as if I had been with my Saviour after my interviews with him. He is to preach here tomorrow & I hope to see & hear him. He does all things & truly lives by faith on the Son of God. How cheerful he is, how tender, how childlike, how holy!

I came here Tuesday & am pretty well settled & engaged in my studies. I am resting from my intense anxiety & already feel greatly refreshed. I have not been in a religious meeting out of the Sem since I returned. You know Jesus said to his disciples "Let us go aside into a desert place & rest awhile." Last night we had a sweet & refreshing Season in our prayer meeting - <> was the true Spirit of prayer - very few remarks were made.

I hear that the morning prayer meeting in the City is kept up. I believe I will go as soon as I am a little rested. I shall recommence my Sabbath School next Sunday. I am glad to hear that yours still continues with interest & also your Cadet meeting.

I spent four days at Leeds. I attended that no. of evening meetings on the "Ridge", & preached Friday evening. There is still interest there and as the meetings are still continued I am praying & hoping for more good news. I talked & prayed with Roland. He seems "almost persuaded". Cynthia has a hope. Also Thomas Batias, Father's man. William Wing appears well. The other cases, I only met in meeting & could not tell so well about. My preaching was to a full house, but I had no assurance that it went home as I have sometimes in Harpswell, but God knows better than I. All I want to be assured of, in any work of Grace is that it is such a work. In the case of William Wing there seems much to hope.

Ella spent the time with me at Leeds & returned to Bath the day I came to Bangor. She has written me since. She wrote day before yesterday - "I am trying to live by faith today & I have had such a peaceful happy day!" She has had quite an encouraging letter from one of her cousins, in whose conversion we have been interested.

Charles will be at home this week. Dellie came the day I left. I hope they will both get refreshed themselves & be the means of refreshing others. Laura thinks some of breaking up house keeping & going to live with a lady in Wayne this winter. I suppose, in that case Uncle Ensign will go to Johns. The prospect for meetings at the Center seemed poor for this winter. I hope your investment will prove advantageous & that Perry will be successful. O isn't it strange, any one should insist on being lost when the terms of Salvation are so easy & free.

I was much interested in what you wrote about the children. I couldn't help kissing that picture of Guy at Leeds. The Lord bless them both & you & Sister Lizzie. I am glad to hear from Mr & Mrs Lee & Annie. If either of you write, remember me,

Your Aff. Bro.  
Rowland



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927 7/22/1858 *From:* Aunt Ann Otis Lee

*To:* My dear Otis & Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0867

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point July 22nd 1858

My dear Otis & Lizzie,

I have but little strength to write so you will excuse my addressing you together. We are enjoying your Cottage exceedingly the sweet sounds of music from the birds scarcely cease. Still I never enjoyed the pure air of the country as I have & my health seems to improve so much that was it not for this local difficulty I should think myself almost well. I get tired easy. I went to New York & Brooklyn last Monday and returned the same evening and felt quite well the next day. I feel quite free from care. Ellen does every thing so nicely. We have had three bowls of current jelly made. Ellen making all the currents up. The children came in from professor Wears yard and robed the bushes a good deal so we only had nine quarts. We have had so many rasberries we have not used many currents except to mix with rasberries. I want to make some raspberry jam for you but fear I shall miss of it as we have had a heavy shower during the past night.

Michal seems to take good care of every thing. The second week after we came up he picked string beans one day and green peas the next but the bush beans are too large and the others were not large enough and the green peas lasted but a week they were delicious. So have nothing now from the garden but rasberries. Perry has enjoyed picking them very much. All your friends have been very kind and attentive and enquires very affectionately after all of you Mr <Falk's> mother was here when I came. She heard I was here and came with her son to see me. She said she regretted very much she could not see you as her son had written to her so much about Lieutenant Howard and he said he could never express the gratitude he felt to him and said all the sections felt the same and intended to present a sword in token of their affection, but Col Flanders told them they could not make presents. Mr Foster called and I was out. He is in Maine. Mr Carter has called too. His father has been here and wanted to see Lieut Howard. Mr Wright comes to see us often. Mr Roberts & the Barards are exceedingly attentive and kind. Miss Drummit, Mrs Wear, Mrs Church, Mrs French & daughter, Mrs Delfield & daughter, the Miss Thomsons professor French Mr O Marr and his daughter & Miss Clark have called also Miss Caswel. They all enquire so very kindly all about you and speak so affectionately about the Dear children. Mrs Wear spoke Dear Grace's danger at the time she had the marble in her throat. She spoke of her as that dear lamb and that angelick child. I was quite in love with Mrs Wear. I have seen her two or three times and have seen her babies, and Mrs Gilmore has fine babies too. Mrs Gilmore said she was prevented from calling on Mrs Howard before going to Brooklyn and since her return Mrs Howard had not called on her. She is a very pleasant Lady. I have not been to the Sunday school. The weather is so hot that Perry will not want for me to go out at that hour as the hill would be steep for me to return.

We hear from Frank and Sarah often. They are quite well. Perry has had some offers for business but he does not think I better write any thing about business as I am not able to attend to any thing myself and I try not to distress myself about those things I cannot control. I hear from Silas often and also Martha Jane and all friends. I do wish your Mother would write to me. Give a great deal of love to her & Col Gilmore also to Roland Charles & Rodelphus and kiss the dear children for me. Why don't Ensign write to me? Do I owe him a letter. You must tell all my friends I have so many letters to write to my children that I was apt to put off writing to other relatives but I would love to write. Do remember me affectionately all of my relatives and all enquiring friends Ensign and John Harrison, Hellen & their dear children & Laura & Ellen & family.

Good by in haste your affectionate  
Aunt Ann Otis Lee

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928 7/28/1858 *From:* W. L. Lothrop

*To:* 1st Lieut OO Howard

OOH-0868

Fort Kearney N.T..

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Kearney N.T.

July 28, 1858

Dear Otis

In looking over my old letters the other day, I found in one of them that I was indebted to you \$6.75 for ammunition got while in Florida. I recollect of writing to Mother to pay the bill, while you were on furlough, in Maine & I am ashamed that it has not been paid before. I enclose herewith a check for the amount. Since I left you in Florida I am happy to say that I have got along very pleasurably indeed. When I came to this post I was made A.A. of M. A.A.C.S & Post Adjt all of which duties I have just been relieved from, after performing them thus far to the satisfaction of my Commanding Officer, Capt L.P. McCown. Capt McCown left here yesterday & I am in command of the company.

Since I came to this post, I have had fine sport, hunting Buffalo & other wild game - never enjoyed such hunting before.

Col May recently took command of the post, & three companies come here with him so there will be 4 companies here during the coming winter.

Nothing of particular importance has recently been heard from the army in Utah.

Please write to me on the receipt of this & believe me to be

Truly yours  
W. L. Lothrop

To: 1st Lieut OO Howard  
West Point  
N.Y.

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929 7/29/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0881b

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter was glued to the preceeding one written Sept. 10, 1858.]

Bowd. Coll.  
July 29, 1858

My dear Mother

I was glad to get your letter & the money in due season. I meant to have written before but have been quite busy. Otis' letter informed me of Guy's sickness. Ella has also written me about her visit to Augusta. I have no time to write more now mother. I should have been glad to see you & Lizzie here & all my friends at Commencement but am happy to know Rowland & Otis will come if no more. I should be gratified to have them come Monday. But they must meet their own convenience. I want Father to send \$10.00 by them to me. I expected to be obliged to send for this in advance in order to pay the Seniors all I owe them at Commencement.

It is time to mail this & I will close.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

P.S.

Willis Abbot's mother who has been dangerously ill for some time is dead. Abbott you will recollect roomed with me last year. I think Mrs Abbott died yesterday afternoon.

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930 8/1/1858      *From:* SP Lee

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1090

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point August 1st [1860, see note 1]

My dear Cousin

I enclose you what I suppose you will find on opening Mr Grebble & Miss French's cards as Mother & myself had one the same day with an invitation to the wedding which takes place the 4th at Mr Wells chapel at the Falls.

I think Mother's health improves here. She seems stronger than when she first came up here and the doctor says her tumor is better. I begin to feel strong hopes that the treatment that she is pursuing is the only one that will help her and hope & think that she will be quite well by next year.

I hope you are enjoying yourselves this summer and wish I could join you but I do not think it do to leave mother alone.

I have the promise of a ship by the 1st of September providing I will take a small interest in it and I think if you are still willing to let me have 1000\$ that I shall get her. She is owned by Mr Tupper. If you see any one that would like to invest in a ship or if you can benefit me in that way I know you will do it and I shall feel under a great obligation to you as I always shall for your past kindness to myself & mother.

Give my love to Lizzie & the children, also to your mother & all friends at Leeds. Tell John Harrison that he owes me a letter and if he wants me to write him he must answer. Give my love to him & Hellen also to Uncle Ensign.

I am enjoying myself very much here. The Officers & Professors on the Point are as polite as we could wish. Mr Roberts is very attentive. Mr Wright calls often. He still carries on your Sunday School. I have been down once and took a class. I should go often but there is a plenty of teachers.

Miss Emily Berard is to be married to Mr Reed the 1st September.

I do not know of any news so I will close with much love. I remain  
your affectionate cousin  
SP Lee

[Note 1. The year had not been given by the author. The year 1860 had been written by someone else and enclosed in square brackets. But the marriage of John T. Greble to Miss Sarah French, the daughter of the WP Chaplain, John T. French, occurred on August 4, 1858.]

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931 8/3/1858

*From:* Thos R. Tannatt

*To:* Lieut. O. Howard

OOH-0869

Manchester Mass

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Manchester Mass

Aug 3d 1858

My Dear Mr Howard

I know [not] where you are, but I do not forget you and am determined to find you by sending this to Wright.

Last Sabbath I united with Mr Hoppin's church. To me it was a day never to be forgotten. I was alone, the church was very crowded, yet I felt it a blessed privilege thus to acknowledge Christ before men. I think much of you & your dear wife, & pray God you may see it your duty to unite with some church before your return to W.P. God has blessed this section of our country and many are being added to such as shall be saved.

Wright speaks encouragingly of our little school.

My being in the Art is for some good purpose and I will not complain.

I trust Mrs H and your little "trial comforts" are well. My health is poor, my Dr is fearful my pain in the head will result in apoplexy unless I am cautious about all excitement under his instructions. I start for the white hills on Saturday in company with two ministers & two pious companions of my own age. We leave all civilization at Conway and wander along the mountain streams in quest of "Trout." Mother is quite feeble. She will reach NJ with me on the 17th of Sept if possible. You may expect to see me at the Point late in September.

Do not work too hard but recruit all you can. Remember me to Mrs H. I shall return to this place by the 25th inst when I hope to find letters from you.

I would have written but know not where to direct.

Your brother in Christ

Thos R. Tannatt

To:

Lieut. O. Howard

U.S. Army

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932 8/6/1858

*From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0870

West Point N.Y.

Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Aug 6th 58

My worthy Friend

Having a letter from our friend Mr Tannatt, that he wishes me to send to you, I trust you will not think it presumption on my part to enclose a few lines in the same.

Not to weary you with too many words I will simply remark that it would seem that "all was well". The little school progresses as well as could be expected. The children all attend & behave beautifully. I have now Cadet Ramseur to assist me. Miss Sarah French, being no longer "herself" will be absent a few weeks, after which she will resume the charge of her class.

Mrs Lee & family are quite well. I am much indebted to them for their kindness to me this summer.

I heard from you through your Aunt a few days since, & learned from her that you would get Mr Tannatt's letter should I direct it to Leeds, Maine, where I hope it will reach you.

I am sorry, truly, to hear of dear little Guy's sickness, & hope that ere this he has entirely recovered.

I am doing all I can for myself & friends.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs Howard, & accept my best wishes for a "pleasant summer" to you all.

May Heaven's richest blessings be your comfort, ever  
Most truly  
Yr friend,  
M. H. Wright

Lieut O. O. Howard  
Leeds Me.

---

933 8/11/1858 *From:* Mary Unknown

*To:* Mrs Lee

OOH-0871

Red Bank

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Red Bank Aug 11th 1858

Dear Mrs Lee

I cannot resist my longing to write you a few lines, not that I have any thing of special interest for you, but I can talk a little of every-thing. I left home the very day that Julia arrived, and sorry enough was I. I had anticipated so much pleasure meeting her. She too was disappointed it seems from a note I received from her last evening. She found both Libby and I absent, but I shall see her in two or three days so I rest content. I shall be glad enough when you come home for good, which will be pretty soon I imagine.

I am having a very pleasant time with my friend Mary Torrey. We are boarding with very plain country people, who take people for the summer season. We go out to catch crabs quite often. I have been pretty successful - caught six the first time. To day we went out in a sail boat - got caught in a hard shower. I was getting pretty well drenched when I found that Mollie Torrey had crawled into the place under the mast (very small), so I crawled in too, and I can assure you it was a tight squeeze. We had to remain there until we got to land, and from there took a carriage and rode home, thus ended our crabbing adventure.

How is Mr Robert? I have not forgotten his kindness to me while there. I should like right well to see his wife, when he brings her on. He is a good fellow, and consequently ought to have one of the best blessings in life which of course is a good wife. Please remember me to him.

Now as regards the Captain. I understand from Julia that his indignation was aroused when he observed how coolly his name was mentioned in regard to respect &c &c. I suffered extremely when I thought he might never again speak to me, as he threatened, but will mollify him, by sending bushels of love to him this time. 'Tis all I can summon up for the present occasion I present to him. Now I trust peace is restored. I suppose the Hops are drawing nearer, and nearer their end - remarkable speech indeed. The idea that every thing is not drawing near its end. I should have said I presume the Hops are still in existence.

I believe I have straightened that remark, so I will proceed to others. How is Mr Fuller getting along with his lame foot? Please remember me to him also when you chance to see him. I shall never forget that morning we went to the Cascade. The stones that were thrown at me &c&c.

What a beautiful time I had with you Mrs Lee. I can never thank you enough for taking me. Oh dear I am coming to the end of my paper - so with love to all I remain your

Affectionate  
Mary

Please remember me to Ellen.

John Torrey wishes me to send his regards. He enjoyed his visit very much.

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934 8/19/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0872

Harpswell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harpswell Aug 19th 1858

Dear Mother

I sent a letter only yesterday but as Charles returns so soon to College I want to write him about my things. I was very sorry not to see him yesterday. He will have a beautiful day to ride up today. I have moved from Mrs Eatons to the next home, Mr Estes this morning. I shall still take my meals there but her room was not convenient, for me to be in, nor for her to have me in. I have now a good large airy "<study>" with no bed in it & I hope to get along better writing my Sermons. I intend to spend just half the time making calls & attending Social prayer meetings & the rest of the time preparing for the Sabbath. I wish you could come down & spend a week next month. They are all unpretending, country people & you would feel quite at home & would enjoy <here> near the salt water. In one direction [you] can see the broad expanse of the ocean from my windows. But few people get out to the week day meetings yet.

I want Charles to bring down one of my trunks & I can send for it to Brunswick any time. I want my thick Study gown, & whatever shirts may be in repair & convenient to send. Are my wrist buttons at home? If so let Charles put them in his purse & bring them. I shan't want either pair of pants except perhaps a pair of the old black ones to go a fishing in some time. I think I shall buy me an oil cloth, a india rubber coat to protect my clothes. When there is a good wind the water is apt to dash over the boat, as it did yesterday going & returning from the meeting on the island. I want my ink stand & sand box. I guess the little black trunk will be enough. He can tie a rope around it. I need a night shirt if there is one at home. I can't think of anything else now.

I hope Miss Merriman will have a pleasant visit & that Lizzie won't get tired out before she begins her journey. I want you to write when you get time. We had a real good prayer meeting last evening - three expressed a hope in Christ & five rose for prayers. I feel my own weakness & <> more & more. I do believe [the] Holy Spirit is here. O how <> how vain & worthless is man in the presence of God.

Fri morn. I had a letter from Ella this morning. She is very well. She has cut & made me a good long night shirt since I was there & sent it down this morning. She says it is her first one, & she wouldn't ask anybody how but cut it & made it by one of her Fathers. She says if this suits she will make another. So I shall be well supplied.

I must close. Love to all.

Your aff Son  
Rowland

How thankful I am that little Guy is so well again.

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935 8/19/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0873

Bangor Theo. Sem.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Theo. Sem. [Assume Aug 19 1858]

Dear Brother

You ought to be <pretty [corner torn]> well settled in your new quarters by this time, if your own <health> and that of your dear family has been <preserved> & no <untoward> event has occurred.

I am well settled in my new room & comfortably situated. I have bought my wood & have been engaged this forenoon in sawing & splitting it. My room is cold, with a north-west exposure but I am in hopes by a generous use of "lister" & wood I may keep comfortable through the winter. It is not the actual suffering from cold that I fear. That I don't care for, but I don't like to take cold as I have reason to believe that my lungs are, at least, susceptible, & I might easily be unfitted for preaching.

I continue to like everything here. You cannot think how much happier I am than I was last year at this time. The prospect of being the meanest minister has something dearer a <thought> than that of becoming the most distinguished lawyer ever had <> most sanguine moments. <> study is simply God's word.

Our lesson today was "Johns Baptism" <> 8. In hopes to have a letter every day I have not finished my letter. I have been thinking about Guy today, imagining everything good or bad that I could about him. I hope the little fellow is in his usual "health & spirits".

My best love to Lizzie. I often want her with me when I hear a good Sermon, attend a good prayer meeting or am myself visited by a happy thought of God & his blessed Religion. Your classmate Sewall is here, in the Senior Class. You have not answered his letter yet, I think.

I am reading your favorite book Bickersteth on Prayer & am greatly interested &, I trust, benefitted in its perusal. The whole subject is presented in simplicity, beauty & truth. I have "Baxters Saints Rest" from the Library & will read them next.

I have been much recently in prayer but I haven't done much. I think it but little use to pray if we don't attempt to accomplish what we pray for. I can see clouds of theology ahead, but by faith in Christ & a daily communion with the Holy Spirit, I trust I will overcome all difficulties & be enabled to preach truth in its purity,

I spent last evening at Dr Shepards. The Page girls are over from Hallowell. Ben has been burnt out in Chicago & lost everything. I notice Mrs Woodman disclosures in Fridays N.Y. Times "Injured Innocence"!! I hear thro' Chas of the death of James Wing & Chas Lane & Nancy's baby.

Ella writes me the only letters I receive, but they are sufficient! Her health is poor, very poor, at times but she looks forward to the responsibilities of a "ministers wife" with cheerfulness & hope.

I am looking to this winter & spring for a general out pouring of Gods spirit - all over our land.

Our little class prayer meetings & our prayers with each other are manna to the Soul.

Our church prayer meeting is also excellent. My expenses are more than I expected. I have to start entirely anew in the matter of books & Theological books come very high.

Kiss the baby for Uncle Rowland & remember me always in your prayers.

Yr. Aff. Bro.  
Rowland



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936 8/25/1858 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Col Jno. Gilmore

OOH-0874

Portland Me

Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Me  
Aug't 25th / 58

Dear Father,

Please transmit to Uncle Edward Waite a certificate from the Register of Probate that you are Administrator on Mother Waite's Estate. Uncle Edward went to the R.R. Office this morning & was told that he must have evidence that you were Admin'r.

We are here in safety. Lizzie stood the journey well. We kept the children away from her most of the time.

Very Aff. Yr. Son  
O. O. Howard

To/ Col Jno. Gilmore  
Leeds  
Me

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937 8/28/1858 *From:* G.R. Horriz

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-0875

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. August 28th 1858

To Lieut Howard

Dear Sir

Permit me to take the liberty to address a few lines to you.

I received a letter from the Company of Engineers, who are on their rout to Utah that my Nephew William G. Slayter died on the 19th of last July. He had what is called the sage or mountain fever and then died with the apoplexy. As he was a constant attendant at the Church where you take great interest also the sabath school and Bible Class, I though I would ask a favour of you to deliver an address some time on the occasion and it would afford me much happiness. He was presant when you gave the Com a parting address and always spoke highly of you. I enclose the letter I received and after you have red it I wish you to send or hand it to me.

Respectfully  
your Obt Servt  
G.R. Horriz

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938 8/29/1858 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0876

West Point NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point NY  
August 29th 1858

My dear Mother,

It is now quite late Sunday evening, but as I expect to go to the city tomorrow and will not have time to write I will pen you a line to night to let you know of our arrival. I wrote father a note from Mr Waites. We left his house after tea and were soon comfortably established on board The Lewiston for Boston. We had a pleasant passage - no sickness. The children slept well. The next morning we found ourselves in the city when we waked - took a carriage to the United States Hotel, where we remained till ½ past 5 P.M. I went to see Vaughan & Roddie Hazard. We left at ½ past 5 (walked from the Hotel to the depot for Fall River). Then again we had a good night, though we could'nt get a State Room. I took Miss Brewster to the cars for Philadelphia an hour or two after our arrival. We did'nt get in early enough for the 8 o'clock train, so she went in the Eleven o'clock train. We left N. York in the train that starts at ½ past Eleven and arrived here before two P.M.

Lizzie stood the journey well and the children seemed well, but Guy continued to play hard till night, and then complained of being lame in one of his feet. Yesterday & today it has been swollen very much & very sore & painful, but he is now sleeping quite comfortably and I hope will rest well & wake up better in the morning.

We find Aunt Ann pretty well. Two days bad weather gave her some trouble but now it has cleared up, she is quite well. Perry also is here, and has spent a pleasant summer.

I find the church & Sabbath School prospering nicely. I went to the chapel this morning & heard a clergeman from Boston deliver a good practical sermon on the Christian's strength. The little children at the Sunday school seemed glad to see me.

Give love to father & remember me to all at home. Aunt Ann sends love. Lizzie is asleep. Good night, my dear mother. I trust you will draw nigher to Christ every day in Spirit that when he shall call you, you can bear a cheerful answer. I thought I would ask father, if he would'nt read a chapter in the Bible every day. I shall write to Uncle Ensign soon. Remember me to my Christian friends. I hope the Christians on the Ridge will keep up good courage, and put faith in Christ.

Remember me in prayer

Very affectionately your son  
O. O. Howard

I think I shall get my groceries in N. York & am going down tomorrow to make the arrangement.

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939 8/31/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0877

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Aug. 31.'58

My dear Mother

I have but little time just now to write but thinking you would be willing to hear from us by this time, I will scribble a little. I need not say we had a pleasant ride down in the cars, and found Brunswick much as we left it.

Nettie's mother was getting smart and has since been gaining strength quite fast.

My room was in the greatest confusion and I have hardly got done fitting up yet tho' we had no recitation till Monday noon. I got pretty tired every day last week. Sabbath day went to meeting on the Hill in the forenoon - four were admitted to the Church. One was Newman Smith. Dellie is acquainted with him. He is in the Senior Class at Andover & will be in Dellie's class in College.

Rowland was here yesterday. He came up with Mr Eaton, who had business here in town. Arrived about 10 ½ o'clock & stayed till two. We did a little shopping, at the book store though I believe all of it before dinner. Then after dinner made a brief call at Mr Merryman's. Afterwards went to a Milliner's. Old Mrs Gidding's who keeps hats & got quite an assortment.

Nettie has been quite well since she came back & thinks her visit to Leeds did her much good. Says she enjoyed herself more than ever before away from home. Her mother told me that Nettie thought there was no one like yourself.

Has Dellie taken his departure? I hope his health will be good.

I must now close with the promise of a more deliberate letter next time.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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940 9/8/1858

*From:* A.B. Atkins

*To:* Lt [OO] Howard

OOH-0879

Parsonage St Ch  
Germantown Phil

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Parsonage St Ch  
Germantown Phil Sept 8 1858

Lt Howard  
Dr Sir

Your kind note is just received & it gives me pleasure to answer your inquiries concerning my bro in law Mr Mack.

Three or four weeks ago, I was in Oswego N.Y. spending a short time with my sister Mrs Mack. The Lieut had left for Keene N.H. in hopes that a little farm exercise wd. benefit him. He was then about the same without any material improvement.

It was his hope as well as his wife's & mine that he wd be invited to West Point and I feel thankful to hear from you that such an opening has been made.

I will enclose your letter to my sister immediately, & you will doubtless hear in a few days.

I feel very anxious about his health, & it is my fervent prayer that he may be ordered where his duties will favor rather than endanger that health. May West Point be that place.

Thanking you for your attention & kind letter

I am very truly yours  
A.B. Atkins

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941 9/9/1858

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0880

Harpswell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harpswell Sept 9th 1858

Dear Brother

It is late and I have but little time to write but I feel that the best requital I can make for your kindness is to tell you "good news". I received your kind letter & feel under deep obligation for the favor enclosed. O may I in future be enabled to use the means that God gives me more for His Glory than in the past.

Our meetings Sabbath day were very full & solemn - there being over 150 at the third (prayer) meeting, & you know how scattered the people are here.

Tuesday Evening (we have our meetings all in the church now) there were 125 & over 20 came forward for prayers.

But hitherto few have taken part & the burden of the meetings has been heavily upon me. Tonight - thank the Lord - He opened their mouths & nearly 30 took part in the meeting, many of them new converts & Seekers. We gave no invitation to come forward for Prayers tonight but spent a few solemn minutes in Silent Prayer & closed with the Benediction. It was a blessed meeting. The house was nearly full & 200 would be a low estimate of those present. I lectured to a good audience in Orrs Island last evening & I am expecting to see the work extending from the "neck" to all the neighboring islands. There were 20 off in boats tonight. I think that a good indication. It is so hard rowing home & so late when the meetings are through.

I have felt sort of stupid about writing this much & am yet unprepared for Sunday, but with the blessing of God I hope to feel more like writing tomorrow.

My health is pretty good & God is blessing me every way. Pray that I may have humility & heavenly wisdom to guide me in this trying time. Sunday is a pretty hard day for me as I have now a class in S School, besides my three meetings, but I need most that strength that cometh from on high.

Poor little Guy - tell him Uncle Rowland would like to kiss the poor lame foot & cure it. My best love to Lizzie & Grace & May God bless all your efforts to do good.

I send you a tract which has been greatly blessed here. It leads people to do something. One young man read it through three times & all the way to meeting then rose for prayers. I wouldn't sit up too late.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

If you should wish more copies of the tract you can probably obtain them by writing to Mr Fiske & enclosing stamps enough for postage on the bundle. R. John O. Fiske.

Charles, Nettie & Ella are well. Ella says "so give my love to Otis, the dearest brother in the world!"

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942 9/10/1858 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0881a

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll  
Sept 10, 1858

My dear Mother

I was very happy to receive your letter day before yesterday and as I have dignity this afternoon I will answer it.

Nettie seemed equally pleased with myself to hear from you. She will write probably so as to mail it with this. Rowland got your letter before I was down there to the Picnic which was Wednesday & which I think I wrote Dellie about & probably Rowland has mentioned to you. He is laboring hard as every faithful minister must. He however sees fruits of his labor as he hopes. Five offered themselves to the church last week. Treas. McKeen was down to a meeting holden there last night and told Prof. Smyth who told me, that it was an exceedingly interesting one. A young man, son of Dr Lawson who rooms in the same house with Rowland has been and is at work on a house here in the village. He has been very profane & wicked but was at church last Sunday & came up to his work Mond. under deep conviction. I hope to hear today that he has found hope in Christ.

I was very glad you mentioned Otis as I had not heard from him since he left Leeds. You mention Elder Nutter's sermons and it brings to mind with what peculiar interest I listened to every one while I was at home. The people of Leeds without doubt have a jewel in him which they will not get in any one else. His sermons I think also are as likely to awaken sinners as to gratify & edify Professors and others!

Nettie has begun to go to school again & Burleigh is her instructor who graduated in the last class. He is rooming with me at present.

I have taken a scholar again mother. I thought it would tighten up my Latin & Greek which I do not study. Now I fit in better to be a teacher if I should desire it after I leave College. He pays me 50 cts per week & I devote an hour a day to him. Perhaps he will not continue all the term if I get tired of it. I agree that we should dissolve at pleasure. He recites at present at 9 o'clock A.M. I have Upham's Mental Philosophy at 11 Paley's Evidences of Christianity at 5 and in the morning after Prayer at 6 recite to Prof Cleaveland in Astronomy. He is the best teacher I ever recited to without exception. We cannot miss a recitation without losing something which we cannot make up. He conveys much instruction not found in the book. I like the Senior Studies as I knew I should.

The daily prayer meetings continue but as we (5 or 6 of us) had a lesson in Hebrew to day at 2 o'clock was not down.

Nettie & I hope to go to Harpswell to hear Rowland preach next Sabbath day.

Have not engaged a school yet. If I hear from Falmouth favorably today I think I shall go there tomorrow.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

P.S. "Thos. U. Eaton" is the name - named for our venerable Professor Upham.

P.S. I was very much pleased to hear you express the wish you did as to seeing Nettie this vacation but I presume it will be impracticable this Summer.

[The following letter was glued to the one above.]



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943 9/11/1858

*From:* O.A. Mack  
Lieut. U.S.A.  
Oswego N.Y.

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

Ord. Dpt. U.S. Army  
West Point N.Y.

OOH-0882

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Oswego N.Y.  
Sept. 11th 1858.

Dear Howard:

I have this day rc'vd the note you so kindly sent to my brother-in-law on the 6th inst relative to the vacancy likely to occur in Pro. Church's Dpt. at the Mil. Academy. In reply I have to say that although my health is still far from good, yet I think I could discharge the duties that would be required of me by Pro. C. and that I should be pleased to enter upon duty at the Mil. Academy sh'd the proper authorities see fit to detail me.

I have been spending a portion of the summer among the hills of my native state - New Hampshire. I cannot boast of any very great improvement in my health, yet I think I am gaining slowly, & if I can be free from exposures & fatigues for a few months I think I shall be well again. I am very tired of doing nothing and should be glad to be employed on some duty compatible with the state of my health.

I am under obligations to you already for your interest in my behalf. I shall not hesitate however on that account to ask you to write me again in relation to this matter, and to let me know what kind of quarters I would probably be able to secure should I be ordered to your post.

Please give my kind regards to Mrs H. My wife would join me in my good wishes for you & yours were she knowing of this letter, but I am "down town" & shall mail this before going home.

I remain, very truly,  
Your friend  
O. A. Mack  
Lieut. U.S.A.

To  
Lieut O. O. Howard  
Ord. Dpt. U.S. Army  
West Point N.Y.

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944 9/14/1858 *From:* C.H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Friend Oliver [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0883

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Sep't 14th 1858  
Tuesday A.M.

Dear Friend Oliver

Your letter of the 4th inst written about a week after your arrival at home or rather I should say West Point came duly to hand and we were very glad to learn you got back with all your family safely. I sometimes feared that Guy would not be able to stand the trip to New York and many times it occurred to me of the anxiety, and care you must have for your dear little Boy while on the way and that he is spared for some purpose by a kind Heavenly Father "who doeth all things well" for greater trials here on earth or the accomplishment of some design of his own we can but think and feel. Gods goodness and power seems greater to me than ever before. The loss of our Darling little Boy has drawn Him closer to our hearts. "He can give and He can take away" "Blessed be the name of the Lord"

Sarah has asked God's pardon and forgiveness and found comfort and sweet consolation in communion with her Saviour. We both can truly say we love Christ and are endeavoring to live in "The New Life" as becometh those who love our Lord and never have we been so truly happy as now.

Mr Webb has been very kind and done much for our good. We respect him and love him.

For the past week I have been at the House feeling quite sick but hope I shall escape a long sickness and feel as well as I have the past year.

We are having very pleasant weather and although business is very dull still it is quite lively in town owing to the approaching State Fair which is coming off next week.

Todd leaves here soon and is to be sent south. His place is to be filled by a man from Virginia as military storekeeper. Nothing new about town. We are moving along just the same as when you was here in the summer but I will close leaving room for Sarah to add a word. In future will try and not be so negligent but will answer your letters with more promptness.

I remain Very Truly Your Friend  
C.H. Mulliken

Many thanks for your kind remembrance of me. I have enjoyed your gift very much and it is something which will always be interesting. I am very glad to hear of Guy's recovery. With much love to Mrs Howard, I am

yr friend  
S.E. Mulliken

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945 9/16/1858 *From:* Uncle E Waite

*To:* Lieut OO Howard

OOH-0884

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Sept 16th / 58

Lieut OO Howard

Dear Sir

Please find Enclosed Certificate of Atlantic & St Lawrence Rail Road Stock for your good Wife (31) Shares.

I did not receive the Certificate from Mr Gillmore till a few days ago. How does Lizzie and the Children do. I hope this will find you all well. We shall be glad to hear from you often. Hope you will make us a longer visit next Season. We shall come to see you when we visit N. York.

With Much Love

From Your Affectionate  
Uncle E Waite

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946 9/18/1858 *From:* O.A. Mack

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-0885

Oswego N.Y.

Ord. Dpt. U.S. Army  
West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Oswego N.Y.  
Sept. 18th 1858

Dear Howard:

Your letter of the 6th inst, directed to me at this place, I have this day received, through the carelessness of the Post Office clerks it was not put in the box of my brother-in-law, as I have requested my letters to be put, and as they usually are, and this one has been advertised, hence the delay. One week ago today I wrote you in reply to the note you sent to Mr Atkins and which he sent to me. In that reply I signified my desire to go on duty in Mr Church's Dept. and expressed the belief that my health would allow me to discharge the duties that would be required of me. I asked you also to write me again on the subject and inform me what kind of quarters I would be likely to get if I were ordered on duty at your Post. I did not mean by this that my mind was not made up. I am willing to try my hand in Math even if I should have to live at the Hotel.

I have not received a letter from you as I expected this week. I presume Mr Church has applied for some one else before this, but I wish you w'd write to me again and let me know what he has done. I have no doubt you have thought it very strange I did not answer your letter to me. You will of course now see why. I shall feel sorry if I lose the place by that piece of carelessness on the part of P.O. Official.

I feel greatly obliged to you for your kindnesses to me, and sincerely hope I may have an opportunity to testify by my notions my appreciation of your favors.

I remain sincerely your friend  
O. A. Mack

To  
Lt. O.O. Howard  
Ord. Dpt. U.S. Army  
West Point N.Y.

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947 9/21/1858 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0886

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Sept'r 21st 1858

My dear Mother,

It has been three weeks since I wrote you and I wish to write you a long letter but as I have now about 20 minutes before recitation, I will write you a short note and tell you that we are now all pretty well. The children have been troubled with the "Summer complaint", cutting teeth &c, so that we have had to be up with them at night considerably, but Guy is getting quite strong & fleshy. Grace plays around the room & is very active. She has'nt been sick enough at any time to prevent this. Lizzie gets pretty tired at night, but is quite well. I am very well all the time.

I have Wednesday evening lectures. My Sunday School & prayer meeting twice a week with the Cadets, as last year, but as I do not take any private scholars now I have much more time to myself & do not sit up late at night. I go to walk with Lizzie every night nearly after four o'clock, and I do my own chores around the house, so that I get sufficient exercise.

I hope father continues well. I hear from Rowland but not from Chas or Dellie. How do all do. Give my love to Roland & Cynthia. I hope the latter has come up to a goodly share of peace in believing, & God Grant that Roland may turn his mind & heart to seeking the true riches. I remember him morning and evening in my secret prayer. So I did Mrs Mulliken till I heard that she had found the Saviour precious to her soul. Chas M wrote me this.

Good bye. It is time to go to recitation. Love to all.

Yr aff son  
O.O. Howard

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948 9/26/1858 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0887

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Sept 26 1858

My dear Mother

Otis wrote you a very hasty short letter last week and I promised him I would add something before I sent it to the P.O. but I found it was not possible that morning, and as I put it into the envelope I resolved that I would write you before long.

I will begin now having just come down stairs after putting the children to bed. They both go to bed at seven o'clock and we hear nothing from Guy 'till half past six the next morning when he is well. He has gone to bed to night perfectly well. It is the first night I could say it for some time. He has been cutting his second set of double teeth.

We usually have some conversation each day about Grand-pa and Grand-mother Gilmore, and what we suppose you are doing. He remembers distinctly everything that transpired while we were with you. He says "when the snow comes and goes away, then he is going to Maine again."

Grace has grown a great deal since we came home, and says so many words, talks about her "dress", "sack", "boots", the 'kitty' 'biddy,' 'Papa' 'ma-ma' and brother 'dah'. It is very amusing to hear her call for me in the night, and when she makes me hear she repeats in a very happy tone "ma-ma". She is also getting more teeth, has two more to come through, before the Dr thinks it safe to feed her much. I expect it will nearly break her little willful heart when she finds she cannot be indulged in all her fancies.

Otis has gone to meeting under the hill this evening, where he has his Sunday School. We heard to-day, the remainder of the company to which Warren used to belong is to go to Oregon in one week accompanied or under the charge of Lieut Robert who has been stationed here with the company. He has been an active Christian and has helped Otis in his work. We shall miss him.

We have not heard from Aunt Ann or Perry since they left here, the week after our return, 'till to-day, and that indirectly that Aunt is not nearly as well, and that Perry would be at West Point this week Thursday. I want to hear more about her. I always feel how uncertain we are of hearing good news of health recovered. She enjoyed her stay here this summer very much, was cheerful and in good spirits I am told, and also quite hopeful. I have been to New York once since our return. Went down and back the same day, and did not have time to go to Brooklyn.

We have not moved yet, but shall very soon now, have been waiting for the new Quarters to be finished for those Officers highest in rank. We can have a very convenient house below the Cadets Mess Hall but is reported full of Bugs, or half of a double house facing the Plain, between the Superintendents and the Cadets barracks. I like that situation best, but shall look at both to-morrow. Quite a number of visitors at the Hotel yet. West Point was looking beautifully when we got here, and our friends gave us a hearty welcome back.

Lieut Day, whom Otis knew in Florida, took tea with us Friday last. Col Loomis I met a short time since. Gen Scott is still here, had a fall down some stairs but not seriously injured, hurt his back, is now recovering.

My sheet is full and now I will stop. I have been interrupted but once by the baby since I began to write. I have a very good nurse. I let her go out every Sunday evening as I can spare her better than any week day evening. Otis has come and joins with me in sending much love to you all at our good home. Remember us to all friends.

Your daughter  
Lizzie



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949 9/26/1858 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0889

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Sept. 26th 1858

Otis my Dear son,

Yours of the 21, inst I need not tell you was more than welcome. I was anxious to hear from all of you, and especially at this time, knowing as I did how near being an invalid Lizzie was and Guy, too. I suppose Grace is not weaned from the breast yet as you did not mention it. I am truly happy to hear your health is good. Dellie is at home, came yesterday, will return this evening. His health is good, says he attended a wedding a few evenings since, at Mr Stevens. Mr Charles Goff was Married to Miss Stevens of Auburn.

Charles wrote me last week, said nothing of poor health, but Rowland wrote Monday, said Charles was not seeming well. Charles and Nettie were down to Harpswell at meeting through the Sabbath. Charles has taken a school in Falmouth for the winter.

Rowland says he has been wonderfully sustained in spiritual, as well as physical strength. I hope his faith will increase day by day, until he accomplishes his work in his masters vinyard.

Ann has written Ensign a long letter, in answer to one he wrote her inviting her to come and live with him. Her only reason for not coming was her physician. I think he would be much gratified to have her with him while she lives. Ensign is prospering in his railroad beyond expectation.

Your father and I went to Hallowel last Tuesday and stoped untill Thursday P.M. The state Fair was in progress all the week. I went up to Augusta Wednesday P.M. And grattified my eyes with seeing beautiful things of every description of nature and art.

I called at your Aunt Ellen's. It was really a very pleasant call. She gave me a very inteligent idea of the situation of the family. Brother John's family seem to be doing well which is very gratifying to me.

I met Nancy Bartlett and her youngest brother at Henry Wingate's. I made no calls at Augusta. There was such a crowd there I thought it no time to make calls. Mr and Mrs Wingate were feeling badly that you did not visit them while in the State. Laura shed tears when she talked to me about it. Henry was not present but she said he attributed it to your belief in your religious views, differing from his. She said he thought much of you always and of your visits, and could think of nothing else that could keep you from coming. Laura said you and Henry had a talk on the subject of religion last year, and when you parted, you said to Henry, you hoped to be the same friendship between you, and he said certainly, but now said you were the one to neglect them. I did not attempt any appology, because I could not. Henry told me his views on the subject of religion. I think him in error but he is accountable to God not me. I have always considered him a just and honorable man, between man and man and think he has been a friend to my family. Perhaps I had not better mention'd these things to you as Laura only intended them for my ear, but I think she would have been much gratified to have you come to her house with the same freedom you have from boyhood. She spoke of her loneliness being separated from all her family and, I am sure I feel the same myself.

I am glad to hear by your letter that Mrs Mulliken is become a Christian. I hope she will be an engaged Christian and be more and more like her Saviour until she enters the relms of bliss.

Dellie has returned to Auburn. It seemed to revive my spirits much to have him come home. Mr Daniel Foss of Wayne died the past week. Cynthia was able to attend the fair at Augusta. Her family are all with her to day. Her father and mother and sisters arrived while she was gone to the fair. We are all of us, about the same as when you left. Your father's work goes on well, and his lameness is almost well.

From you ever affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver Otis Howard



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950 9/27/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0888

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll.  
Sept. 27, 1858

My dear Mother,

I have not heard from you for a long time but this does not make me any less desirous of a letter. This is one thing which we do not easily get so accustomed to as to disregard from the force of habit. I meant to have sent you a letter Saturday but as I did not get a chance to mail one so you could get it Sat. Night (as they must be mailed before 6 o'clock) I have put off writing til today & you will get this Tues. Night.

I received a letter from Dellie not long ago & he told me about father's being down to see him a day or two before. He seems to be doing well. I wrote to him something about a school in Falmouth. I don't know as there is much prospect of either he or I getting a school for this Winter. I would have kept for 1 dollar a day & boarded myself, I could have had a school of about the right length but I thought I would rather have the time this winter than to keep for that and you know I don't want to be out next Spring on account of Prof Cleaveland who is very particular about it. If we are out we have to recite a lesson in his Study every day till all is made up. Besides his lectures come then & I don't want to miss them. So I didn't want to keep a longer school.

Nettie & I went down & heard Rowland preach in the forenoon a week ago yesterday. Mr McKeen the Treasurer spoke in the afternoon. He volunteered to help Rowland. Rowland preached without a written discourse that forenoon though he usually has a written discourse in the forenoon. We stayed till after the prayer-meeting in the evening then had a pleasant ride home. Went with Mr Merryman's horse & waggon. The interest appears to be very great - more than a dozen rose for prayers. Rowland leads in singing quite frequently & makes the social meetings go off in an interesting manner. But the Spirit of God seems to be with him & he speaks with great freedom & effect.

It seems as though it was at work in the hearts of the people also. Those who have been backward in the performance of religious duty now are at their posts ready to work.

I went over to Rowland's room. It is pleasantly situated facing the east in the second story. He has two rooms occupying the whole front of the house. One had two beds. He wants me to come down & stay a day or two but I cant leave my recitations for that. Nettie & I <went> down again last Thursday Eve. <It> was a beautiful evening, being <clear> & lighted by the moon. The <house> was full it being a social prayer meeting. It seemed good to see so many & the <greater> part seemed to be men. A large no. rose for prayers - among others - men advanced in years. The meeting had begun before we got there & so we sat down in the pew next to the door. R. did not know I was there till near the close of the meeting when I arose & said a few words. He seems to be quite well all engaged in the work.

We stayed long enough for the horse to get some grain, then started for Brunswick. There are three old maid sisters, Misses Eaton, & the old lady & a Son Thos. U. Eaton. He was gone to Portland, Thurs. We had a four wheeled chaise that night. Mr <M.n.> had bought it a day or two before but he has sold it again now. It was a cold night but we had plenty of clothing & the chaise & so kept quite warm.

It has been so cold of late that I have had a fire. Bought a cord of wood which will be well dry for the Spring if I do not use it up this Fall.

They are trying to get a settled preacher at the Baptist Church now. If they succeed in getting Mr P.S. Adams I shall attend church there this year. Yesterday I went in the forenoon to the Methodist & heard an excellent discourse from Mr Morse who is a very devoted man. I heard Dr Adams in Afternoon. After church went down to the Bapt. Church to the Sabbath school. The Supt. was absent & so I took charge of the school.

I do not hear from Otis. If you have heard any thing please to write it. I will now carry this to the office.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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951 9/27/1858 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Guy Howard

OOH-0890

Leeds

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept 28th 1858

My Dear Grandson

I am very glad to hear by your father's letter, that you are growing strong and healthy. It is now just one month since you arrived at West Point cottage, and your grandmother has thought much about you. Sometimes in the nights when lying awake, she would think about Guy, and think about all his features, his size and then about his lame foot, and hope it would get well so that he would help his mother and do little chores for her, and take care of sister Grace, and be happy, a happy little boy, and enjoy all his little playthings, his rocking horse, that must be a great treasure. When your father or mother reads grandmother's letter you must kiss Father , and Mother, and Sister Grace, expressly for Grandmother. When you walk out with your father and mother, and see the bright Autumnal flowers remember Grandmother has many of the same kind. Do you remember the white kittie. She don't play much now that she is alone, and lambie is growing fast. Sometimes when I look out of the window in the night she is busily engaged eating the grass. Can you understand yet, that it is from the wool of such nice lambs as grandmothers of which your winter cloths are made. If my little grandson lives in this great world until he is a man he will have many things to learn and will learn many things.

Now accept my best love,

Your Grandmother  
Eliza Gilmore

Master Guy Howard

[Envelope]  
Master Guy Howard  
West Point

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952 9/29/1858 *From:* S.G. Jones

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0891

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn Sep 29 1858

My dear Lizzie

I received your letter the twelfth of Sept - and I have tried to write you every day since. To- night at 9 o'clock I commenced writing. I have been to work in to the shop the past week (cooking for the fair). I start work next week. This week my business is making five hundred pies. I have got them half done to night.

William & wife left Auburn last Wednesday morning for home in the west. They stopt with me three weeks. I like her much. She was sick two weeks. The first week the Dr visited her three times a day, and I did not get sick! Is there any person that has so many blessings as I have, blessed with health to take care of my children & kind friends. Why should I be so forgetful of him who orders all things well, who has done so much for me.

Thursday eve. This morning I went over to the shop, made 75 pies to-day. After returning home I must finish my sheet. Eva & Minnie have gone to bed. Orestes is over to the shop a helping Oscar. Nora <Nin> is at home now. She seems weller than I have seen her for a long time. We are all well, but a little tired, that is nothing when I do not have the blues.

Eva had a letter from her father last week - no change in him. He was in St Louis. Urlanch was here the 27 of August stopt over Sunday with me. He is the same kind brother that he ever has been. He is about buying the <Albin Leavitt> farm in Turner. Col Morse his youngest son, Sarah & her baby was here, the week after you left here. I sent the minature to grandmother Waite. I am glad Grace was a laughing. It looks so cunning. Minnie says I must kiss her, and she has got Johnny Morrill for Guy's picture.

Oct 24

Lizzie what will you say? My not answer your letter before. I will tell you, after the fair I had to see to my harvesting. It is most done. School commenced the next week after the fair. I let Orestes go to school, and it made it hard for me. The children all go to school. We are having a fine school. Minnie went in to the primary school Dr Oaks is agent Dr Merrill supervisor. They put her in to the select school. When she came home she said the teacher told her she was a good schollar. She would soon go in to the fourth reader. She studies arithmetic. She is a smart girl, but what would she do without a mother. I have thought a great deal about my children this fall, as I feel the change in my general health. I don't know but that I feel as strong as I did last year, at this time. Do not think I am sick for I am not. I know life is uncertain, and I feel responsible for Everetts debts. I want you & beloved <husband> can you tell me how to manage my affairs, for I must give you credit for my getting along so well for the past year.

I told Novellia you had mostly clothed my family for the past year. She says Lizzie and I <> much of every thing we do not prize it so <right> as you do, and I know she does not. For last winter she was the one that had your <> moved <> to the shop when I object she said what do you think I will want of that old fashion things. Since last spring I have it in my care, and Eva had been benefitted by it. She gives you credit for her being advanced as far as she is. She has taken 7 lessons on her <front> quarter, long time you send for it I will sew it. I feel bad to think you had not been paid for the use of it. I feel grieved to think I cannot pay you. I want you to realize how much you have helped me, how I still ask a greater favour. If my children were left without a mother can you see to them. You and brother Orem are all of my own folks, that are able. What I mean by able, in using the best judgment. My brother are all kin to me. Orem was here at the time of the fair. He stopt one night with me. Not but twice in my life did I see him shed tears. That was concerning my own affairs. I think if ever any one has met with a change of heart is is O. I did not mention any thing of the kind to him that I have to you nor any one else.

Lucy is about the same. Louisa Smith is dead. She was buried in Abington. Melissa lives there, in that <place>. Sarah Timberlake is dead. Went to bed well as usual. Next morning found dead. I heard Silas was <active>.

<Alden> has got his patent written. I feel pleased for hm. I received a letter from Everett last week. It is the

only one I have had from him since you left Maine. He is in Missouri town of Hannibal. Quite a number of our Lewiston people there that I know. Mrs Foss for one. Martha sends love, All want to see you. Love to Otis. Write me soon.

S.G. Jones

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953 9/30/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0892

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Sept. 30. 1858.

Dear brother Otis

I fear I shall not get a letter from you till you receive one from me and so the sooner I write the better. I have little more than half an hour at the present time to spend in writing. We have a prayer-meeting today – noon. I have just returned from recitation to Prof Upham – recite this week at 10 1/2 o'clock. It is a remarkably warm & pleasant day for the last day in September.

I have heard from you through mother & Rowland. Have not had a letter from mother for some time. Have written two myself to her since she wrote. Dellie wrote that Father was down to see him the other day & that the folks at Leeds were well and prospering.

Rowland I suppose has written you since I was down to see him. The Sabbath before last Nettie & I spent with him. He preached in the forenoon with only a few notes, on the text, I think, "choose ye this day whom ye will serve, if the Lord be God, serve him in Baal serve him. He told me he had partly written three sermons when Saturday night, it occurred to his mind that he ought to preach on the text mentioned and so he made the attempt. It was a very impressive sermon to the audience, I should judge. Mr McKean preached in the afternoon from "Fear not little flock, it is your father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." We were present at the Sabbath School and at the prayer-meeting and came back to B in the evening. Thursday evening week ago tonight we were down at the Prayer-meeting. Above a dozen rose for prayers and among others I noticed one or two old men. The meeting-house was full at this prayer-meeting. The people don't know what to do or what they shall do when Rowland goes away. They cant consent for him to go a week before his term begins so as to visit Leeds as he would like to.

The moon was up bright & clear both when we went down & when we returned so that we had a very pleasant ride.

The State Fair occurred at Augusta last week. Many Students <went> but I did not go.

Prof. Cleaveland has been quite unwell for a few days so that for two mornings we had no recitation – a thing unprecedented. He now hears us at the irregular hour of 9 o'clock. He looks pale but is just as good a teacher as ever – the best instructor I think that I ever recited to. We learn something at every recitation unconnected with the text book and we have to get our lessons more thoroughly than to any other teacher. He is troubled with the Asthma – a complaint which never troubled him in the least before.

The religious interest in College is not very encouraging. We have this noon a prayer-meeting but it is not very well attended. The meeting down town [see Note 1] which is holden now at quarter past one o'clock instead of the morning hour is very scantily attended. I scarcely ever miss a day but the students do not generally attend. There are not more than half a dozen that ever go. We have had one addition of a pious member to our class, Anderson. He was here when I first entered, a very hard-drinking & bad fellow but he was converted last Winter and is a new creature in Christ.

Another addition is Hall of this town - no great accession mentally or morally. He was in the class that graduated last Commencement.

I went over to Prof Cleaveland's room the other day to be examined on a lesson I lost by going to Falmouth to get a school. After he had attended to his duties he asked me about you, whether you returned to West point.

Ellen Sands has made some inquiries of Nettie. She is an assistant teacher in the high school. Burleigh the principal is Nettie's teacher. He graduated last August - rooms with me this term & boards at our club, where he always did board when in College.

I room in Charlie Hutchins room where Rowland & I roomed my freshman year. It is a very pleasant place & I think I shall be sorry to leave it & go out into the world where I can have no room. It is home to me here. I like Paley very much & so I do all the studies & circumstances of Senior year - the days of leisure included.

I hope I am being nearer to Christ than I have done in time past though I desire to feel more of his presence. Please to give my love to Lizzie and to Guy & Grace and to write me all about them & yourself. Do you lecture Guy as yet?

I must now go to meeting.

Your Affectionate brother  
Chas. H. Howard

[Note 1. At this point there were no more pages. The missing pages were found attached to a letter from Charles dated 11/5/1898, ooh\_0907.]

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954 10/3/1858 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0893

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn Oct 3d 1858

My Dear Brother

I had a letter from you about one year ago and have concluded to write you this hoping to get an answer which I did not get when I wrote you last. I am attending school here this term & am doing nicely. I am reading Cicero for Latin & Xenophons Anabase's for Greek. I have already read Three Orations in Cicero & expect to read at least four more this term.

Some how I do not seem to progress very fast in my Greek but I find that I am gaining now every day. I like it much better than I did last term however. I think Cicero is the best Latin I ever had anything to do with. It is very beautiful & studying it is nothing more than a recreation. I can read a page without looking out more than a half dozen words, very frequently.

I have been thinking about going down to Brunswick & Harpswell next week I hardly yet know whether it is best to go. I think I should be the gainer by it. I think that all the school I should loose would be compensated by the renewed strength that I should gain. I know that when I have been away from my books for a few days that when I get back I can study much harder so that in a few days it is all made up.

I was at Leeds last Sabbath. Mother was well and all the family as far as I could see. I did not stay long. I read a letter from you while there & also one from Rowland. We get very cheering news from him, in respect to his labors there. I hope that many souls will be converted there.

Our morning prayer meetings have been discontinued. They were stoped while I was at home in vacation. Had I been here I should have done all I could to have had them go on but now they are stoped all but the one sabbath morning. This morning I went down to the church & found only two men, but we had a prayer-meeting. Others who heard how it was this morning said they would go next Sabbath so that our having such a small number this morning may induce many to go in order that we may keep up a meeting of a respectable character. The meeting this morning was a very good one & we felt that we did not in the least go there to be heard of men but there we were before God & we offered up our petitions to Him alone. I succeeded in getting a prayer meeting started in the Academy for both young ladies & gentlemen. It was supposed that we should be able to get together, about eight or ten but we were joyfully disappointed when we saw about 25 come in the first evening. We thought that we would rather by a great deal have a large number as we should have the power of doing good in a larger circle.

I feel the presence of God this term more than I ever did before. I feel like saying for him more than ever. The Saviour's cause is much nearer to me, yet I find that I am doing but little for him. I think I should exert my whole energies in his cause. Pray for me in your closet that I may always do my duty to my God regardless of the opinion of the world.

I likw the school this term much better than I ever have before. Mr Carlton seems to desire that I should know something and labors hard for me. He is a good man and a whole souled Christian. Mr Pulsifer, a graduate of Bowd at the last Commencement is his assistant. I do not recite to him in any of my lessons as Mr Carlton hears all the Classical department. Mr Pulsifer teaches Mathematics & Modern Languages. It is said that he is liked very much better than Mr Carlton, but as a man I think he is far inferior. Mr. P. Is a Universalist and he does not fail to expound his doctrine whenever an opportunity presents itself; but otherwise I like him very much. He boards here with us only across the hall & he & I very frequently get into a religious debate. He commenced to read the Bible the first of this term, how long he will read it I do not know, but he says he will read it through & I hope he will for it cannot fail to do him some good.

I wish you would pray for him. He has the ability to do a great deal of injury or a great deal of good & I hope he will lend his influence in the right way.

Another young man and myself started an elocutionary club in the Academy for the purpose of improving in declaiming. We had about five or six the first time but now we have the whole school. We go in twice each week, have a critic appointed & then declaim all round. I went into the Literary Adelphi for the second time this term last night & found that I was on debate and chairman of a committee to draft a new Constitution & By-Laws. Just the moment they can find me they must have something for me to do. I told you a lot about this society when you was here. I shall have as little to do with it as I can, for just as soon as I do anything they want me to do more, and it takes a great deal of my time which I would like to spend in some other way.

I hope you will write me soon as I am anxious to hear from you, and I would like you to write all about Lizzie & the children. Give my love to them and remember me as your affectionate brother.

R.H. Gilmore

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955 10/4/1858 *From:* L. H. Devore

*To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-0894

Cherokee Baptist  
College,  
Cassville, Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Cherokee Baptist College,  
Cassville, Ga.  
Oct 4th 1858

Lieut. Howard,

Dear Sir,

Please pardon me for the liberty I take in asking a favor of you. I have lately been troubled with a Problem in Davies' Legendre - the 15th Prob. In Application of Algebra to Geometry. Will you be so kind as to work it out and send me the formula? I have allowed a class to omit it with the promise to explain it to them in review.

Very Respectfully Yours  
S. H. Devore

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956 10/5/1858 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O.O Howard

OOH-0895

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Octr 5th 1858

Lieut O.O Howard

Dear Sir

Your favor of 2d inst was recvd last evening - we were pleased to hear from you and to learn that yourself & dear Wife & Children were all well & that you recvd the Certificate of R.R. Stock all safe.

In answer to your enquiry as to the best way to invest a thousand dollars in Portland at present I can only say that if I were a going to invest a \$1000 for myself, at present it would be in Bank Stock, where it could always be made available when wanted. The Banks here have just declared their dividends - of 4 per ct for last Six Mos.

Do you wish me to collect the dividend on Lizzies Stock and forward it.

With much Love,  
Your Affectionate Uncle  
E. Waite

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957 10/6/1858 *From:* S. P. Lee

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0896

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Oct 6th /58

Dear Otis

I telegraphed to you last night to come down to day with Kingsley to close about the vessel as there is several persons trying to get her and I have got the refusal of her untill tomorrow noon. She is what I represented her to you, a good and cheep vessel. Mr Bacon stands my security for a quarter and Mr Hall takes the other quarter so that if you will come down I can close the bargain at once and get business for her. If you did not get my telegraph and have not left please come down as quick as you can, say as early tomorrow as you can.

Mother is comfortable and I think improving in health.

Mr Robert leaves tomorrow in the St Louis. The Moses Taylor broke down yesterday before she left the Dock.

With love to the Children & Lizzie, I remain your

Affectionate Cousin

S. P. Lee

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958 10/15/1858 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut. O.O. Howard

OOH-0897

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Oct 15th/58

Lieut. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

I recvd your letter of 12th by due course of mail.

Agreeable to your request I have collected the dividend on Lizzie's Bank Stock \$72 - and herewith enclose the same to you which I hope will arrive safe.

With much love to yourself and Dear Wife & Children,

I remain

Your Affectionate

Uncle

E. Waite

P.S.

I hope that your new investment will turn out to be a good and profitable concern.

E.W.

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959 10/16/1858 *From:* John R. Bacon

*To:* Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-0898

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York

Oct 16/58

My dear Mr Howard

I don't know if Perry has written you and he is not in to ask. So, I write to apprise you that the good Bark D.S. Goodell is now loading under charter to St Iago Cuba, & back, with privilege of Gibara, for \$2600 and port charges paid, and 48 lay days at all ports. This is a very good charter and ought to pay \$800 to \$1000 clear, and completed in 90 days. I hope there will be passage money sufficient to pay her victualling bill. I have insured Mr Halls quarter at 12¢, and shall get the other three quarters done next week, probably in the city.

Pray say to Mr Kinsley as much of this as may interest him, and with kind regards to Mrs Howard

believe me

Truly yours

John R. Bacon

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960 10/16/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0899

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Oct. 16. 1858

My dear Mother

I believe I have not had the pleasure of a letter from you this term but still have no thoughts of waiting. I was at Harpswell Sunday with Ella. Rowland said he had had a letter and that you was unwell. I was very sorry to have this news from you. I hope you are well before this time.

You will have seen by the papers before this reaches you that Prof Cleaveland is dead. It was a very unexpected event though he had been unwell for a week or two. He heard us recite two mornings before and was intending to meet us that morning at 9 o'clock. He had been obliged to ride over for some time past, ever since an ill turn he had since which he has heard us at 9 instead of 6 as was his custom before. The Physician, Dr Lincoln, has said for some time however that the old man was liable to go at any minute.

It was a great blow to the College. He was the best teacher I ever had as I think I wrote to you before. We never came out of the recitation without knowing more than when we went in. He stated to us that this was the principle he acted upon. He seemed to be the "main stay" of the College - made out all the term bills - not a cent of money was paid out of the Treasury without his approval. He had the best discipline in his classes of any of the instructors. If any one was absent he was obliged to go over to his house & be examined on the whole lesson. He never allowed the word "unprepared" to be used in the recitation room. No one ever thought of going in without a knowledge of his lesson. Still he was very kind & accommodating, & never severe in questioning. If he found that one of us could not answer his question he would ask it in different ways so that we could hardly help knowing.

The faculty seem to lament the loss more than you would think. When his death was announced to Prof Packard he dropped his hat which he held in his hand & the tears ran down his cheeks. He immediately remarked - "Prof Cleaveland is connected my earliest remembrance of College." You know Prof P. is quite an old man. The President felt his loss more deeply than any of the rest. They were always particular friends. In his prayer last night he alluded to him as "the pillar of strength". Dr. Packard's prayer this morning was wholly made up of allusions to the <sorry> event. One of my class came in a <little> after eight o'clock & said Prof C was dying. I was expecting to meet him <for> recitation at 9. I was hearing my <boy> recite. He comes from 8 to 9. The bell immediately began to toll both at the chapel & at the Church. They tolled away <> & solemnly for an hour. Then the students met in the Chapel & decided to drape the Chapel & other College buildings & to wear crape & the Senior Class chose a Committee to make arrangements about attending the funeral. This will take place next Tuesday. We shall have no recitations till then. We had none yesterday. Nothing was said about it but by universal consent all books were laid aside & studies.

It is as though the head of the family were taken away for he was a father to the College.

He leaves a very helpless family - a son, non compos, & two daughters who have depended upon him wholly & will be almost entirely incapable of taking care of themselves, another son almost equally dependant who lives nearby his fathers house & always asked his advice in all matters.

I know not yet what course will be taken to fill his place in the Professorship. My class will be a great loser.

I called on Lucy Ann Crows last night. She seems as well as usual. I did not see the old lady who was at her son Joseph's.

I spent most of the evening with Nettie. She inquired if I had not yet heard from you. Fears I will not want her to write again if it is her letter that make you wait so long. I had a letter from Otis not long ago in answer to one I wrote to him. He continues it seems his Wed. Night lectures.

Dellie seemed to have a real good time down here & I was very glad he came. He came down in the Stage

Coach & it only cost him 2.25 to come down & go back. So you see he did not lose anything by coming down as he saved a week's board amounting I suppose to \$2.50.

I have pretty much determined to live at home this winter & if I do Dellie will stay at home too & recite to me. In this way he will save 50 dollars & I shall feel better satisfied to have saved that am't for him even though I earn nothing myself. "No great loss without some small gain." I should have earned \$50 in two months, teaching but if I have good lot of time to study & read & write this winter & more than all this - get very well & strong - get perfect health as I hope to, I shall be glad I did not teach. I hope to hear from you very soon. Give my love to all the family to Cynthia & Roland. How does Cynthia enjoy her <>. Have you conversed with her on the subject lately? Have you a teacher engaged for our school yet? Do you see Uncle Ensign ever?

Your affectionate son  
Chas. H. Howard

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961 10/17/1858 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0900

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, Oct. 17, 1858.

My dearest Otis

We are all very well but I know you would like to hear from us to relieve you from all anxiety. You left us in the cars - we did not get a seat all to ourselves till we arrived at Poker's. Guy had a sleep in Susan's arms and waked when we arrived there, seemed very well. Grace was just as good as need be and went to sleep soon after that, with me, then I gave her to Susan and she had quite a long nap. They were both just as good as they could be, and asked for nothing they could not have.

When we got to Albany Grace saw so many get out, that she got uneasy and wanted to get out also. I stood by the door with her till we started, then fed her and she was good till we arrived at Troy. I saw Mr Lee standing in the Depot when the Cars stoped and spoke to him from the window. He came in and helped us out very kindly, took us to a carriage and we were soon off for the Arsenal. It was then getting dark some of the stores lighted so I saw little of Troy, but recognized the old Ferry landing. We arrived at Mr Lee's house well, children both happy, and delighted with the dog, rabbit, and baby, they found here ready to bid them welcome.

You really have no idea how pleasant it does seem here. I walked up to our old quarters this afternoon. They looked very pleasant, but it made me feel a little sad as old reminiscences came to mind, associations with the house, the changes, separations, and the happy reunions, all were remembered for the moment, but soon vanished when I thought of God's mercy to us in sparing our lives, and accepting us through Christ his son our saviour. And what are we that He is mindful of us? I believe I grow more and more humbled before Him, and love him better. How little grateful I am for the abundant blessing, I receive every day. I know it and feel it, but He asks nothing in return for His love, but obedience and will we not obey so kind and loving a master? I trust so and pray he will keep me, knowing my inability to keep myself.

I find Mr and Mrs Lee very earnest active Christians. I went to Church with them this morning and heard an excellent extempore discourse addressed to Sabbath school teachers. I like Mr Fairchild very much and was struck with his beauty of language in explaining the scriptures. I hope you will be here next Sunday. I know you would enjoy all the exercises. I want to see you, and if you get lonely and want me to come home before Saturday, you must send for me, or come for me earlier.

The young ladies were in to see me last evening, and Major and Mrs M. this afternoon, she a remarkably pleasant lady and we know him to be as before. I hope you are very well and happy. Write when you get this, and if the money has come you may send me ten dollars, but need not borrow to do so.

I remain your affectionate wife  
Lizzie Howard

Excuse misspelt words and bad writing. Both children asleep nearly nine o'clock finish writing.

In haste  
Lizzie

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962 10/17/1858 *From:* O. O. Woodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0901

New Orleans

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Orleans  
Oct 17 1858

Dear Cousin

I am months since I recd your kind letter which I neglected to answer and as it is misplaced I cannot answer it in detail. My neglect is only the natural consequence of that state of almost indifference which one will sometimes acquire from the force of circumstances & the climate here in the summer has a remarkable effect particularly in the midst of an epidemic which has traversed our city with unusual violence. It can truly be said this summer "in the midst of life we are surrounded with death". Out of a population of perhaps one hundred & fifty residents not more than 25000 are unacclimated from this number as 5000 have passed into eternity during the last two months. Though I had the Yellow Fever in 1841 at Vicksburg I have not felt myself perfectly secure, this being the first summer I have ever remained here in New Orleans. The fever this year has been unusually fatal. About 1/4 of all who are attacked die. It is equivalent to an army of twenty thousan going into battle & 1/4 left on the field dead. What a sencatin that would produce yet we take but little notice of sure and quiet way which these epidemics carry off its <>. It is seldom a subject of conversation every day we hear of some friend or perhaps someone in our own house having died before we knew he was sick. The different caretaker society have regular community nurses and physicians who go from house to house among those who are liable to the disease & take charge of the sick. Some tiny whole family are swept away in a few days or perhaps only leaves one or two orphan children who are taken charge of by strangers.

I never enjoyed such perfect health as during this summer. Have actually gained twelve in weight since last winter. But it is sad when I allow myself to think of the distress and death by which I am surrounded. All who are acclimated give their money freely & plenty of good nurses can be had for good pay. They perform their duties mechanically without any apparent thought beyond such is life. But what is death? I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you next summer.

<Truly>  
O. O. Woodman

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963 10/18/1858 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0902

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct 18th 1858

My dearest Wife,

How are you all. I want to hear how Guy stood the journey.

Perry's Charter is for 90 days at \$2600. Mr Bacon writes that the vessel will be likely to clear from \$800 to \$1000 this trip.

I was invited to tea at Mrs Child, the night you left. Ed Clark spent the evening with me. Breakfasted at home Sunday morning, dined at Mr Bratts, accepted the Falls invitation and delivered a lecture there in the evening. Went to see Mr Kingsley this morning - did not find him at home. He overtook me returning - came here & took dinner with me.

You see I have been busy & have not had time to be lonely. We have'nt yet put down any carpets. The money has not yet come.

Give my love to Mr & Mrs Lee & baby. Kiss Guy & Grace for papa.

Affectionately, your husband  
O.O. Howard

P.S. I remember you & you must me in Prayer

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964 10/19/1858 *From:* S Perry Lee

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0796

Port Ewen N Y

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Port Ewen N Y Oct 19th 1858

Dear Otis

I have not written you before as I expected to have seen you before this but I have been so busy I could not leave New York. I have got the Bay Bell Flower a fine vessel of 400 tons a large carrier & fast sailer. Am loading coals here for Aspenwall. I passed West Point last night on my way here with the vessel and shall return to New York Saturday night or Monday & sail for Aspenwall about next Wednesday.

Mr Bacon said he wrote you all about the Bark offers and as you left it with him to settle with you he did not tell me how you came out in his accounts. The vessel was 155\$ in debt for each share. The outfit not being covered by insurance made the loss. I feel very sorry that you should have lost by the operation as you done it for my interest and I shall always feel that I am in debt to you for the amount of your loss and shall pay you if I am able as I consider it the same as your lending me so much money. How much did you lose & has Mr Bacon settled up with you & Kingsley. Let me know before I leave. Write me to the care of Trask & Dearbourn 62 South Street New York.

I have bought a small part of this vessel and had just money enough left to pay down so now I have <no> commission or interest to pay and hope to make some money this <month>.

With love to Lizzie & the children, I remain your affectionate cousin,  
S Perry Lee

Frank & Sarah will be in New York the first of next week & return to Nassau the 15th November.

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965 10/19/1858 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0903

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Oct 19th 1858

My dearest Wife

I got your letter this evening. I was very glad to hear from you, though I interpreted silence as good news. I am happy that you are having a pleasant visit. Alexander took tea with me last night, & tonight I went to Professor Church's to tea & have spent a very pleasant evening with them. Tell Lee that Mr Church has an offer of a professorship or a principal-ship in an institution in Tennessee for some officer, giving 1200 dollars a year & a house. He offered it to me & asked if Mr Lee would'nt prefer it to his present offer in N. Carolina.

The Kitchen floor is done. I put the carpet down this morning in our sleeping room with Ellens help. She washed the spots, but did not succeed so well as with the little piece. I made her try again, but the yellow had faded & would'nt come yellow again. However, the room looks as neat as a pin. The money \$72 came today with a note from Uncle Edward. No news. I would rather you would stay till I come next Saturday if you and the children are well and can agree with Mrs Lee. You know she wouldnt stay down here.

Give much love to all. I miss my little pratters under my feet when I am writing. My kisses are not. But you know one don't appreciate luxuries when his table is loaded with them every day. I spent last evening at Mr Huses'. He wants to sell a good cow, and I have a good mind to buy her, but will wait till I see you & talk it over. On my way home from Mr H's, McCook & I met and I went into his room and we had a long set-down together. He asked me about my Christian experience, and rough as he is was much interested. Said he had thought he would become a Christian if he got married - more than half in earnest. He told me about the dissipation of Chaplain's on the frontier - about one at Fort Leavenworth whom he found mixing liquor for such men as Old Col Bell. He spoke also of the entire distribution of religion in New Mexico, how they gambled on the Sabbath &c. Some very gloomy pictures to one who really believes in the immortality of the Soul.

I should think old associations would crowd upon you at Troy, where we commenced Lifes pilgrimage together in good earnest. Without being aware of it we have both learned many useful lessons since we started there. Experiences have commenced that will never cease their influence.

Kiss Guy. Tell him his rocking horse stands quietly behind me at the side door. I have sawed off a little from the legs of his crib so that he can get out on the floor I think. Ellen keeps everything tidy & nice, and on the whole I have a much better bachelor fare than in Florida. Such will do for a week or so, but I prefer the family, even if I do sleep with my eyes open almost sometimes.

Mrs Church inquires pleasantly from you & other friends. Kelton has prevailed & got the quarters. Greble holds on to Gibbon's old. I had a pleasant visit to old Mr Warner, the grandfather of the "Wide Wide World" Saturday.

Your Loving Husband  
Otis.

Kiss Grace. Tell her papa thinks of her bright eyes & plump cheeks.

My Love to Mr & Mrs Lee. He was good to meet you. I enclose ten dollars.

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966 10/25/1858 *From:* Perry [Lee]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0798

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Oct 25th/58

Dear Otis

Your note of the 19th was duly received. I should have gone up to spend the Sunday with you but you said in your letter that you was going to Troy after Lizzie & the children. Uncle Ensign is here. He will remain a couple or 3 days. He went to Peekskill yesterday and came down this morning. He would have spent the sabbath with you if you had been at West Point and perhaps he will go up with me and stop a night if he can leave his business. He is getting some Rail road Iron and is very busy.

I chartered the vessel the day after we bought her for a voyage to St lago de Cuba and back to New York. Get 26.00\$ charterers paying rest charges in Cuba. It is a good business and if I am fortunate and make a good voyage it will leave after paying for her sails outfits &c&c about 800\$. It will take 3 months to make the voyage from the 14th inst the time the charter commenced. I like the vessel very much. She is good and I hope to make money in her. I think the freight will be better when I return and if they are I can clear 400\$ a month easy enough, if I do not have any accident.

About the boy you wrote about, I do not think I can take him to pay him wages as he will not be any use the first voyage, but I will come up and see you before I sail perhaps this week and I will see him and see what I can do.

Give my love to Lizzie and the children. Tell Robt Wier I want to hear from him. Tell him to write me if he is going with me.

Mother remains as comfortable as when you was here. She sends love to you & Lizzie. Mr Bacon wants to be remembered to you. Remember me to Mr Kingsley. Tell him he had better go this voyage to Cuba with me. I think it would be pleasant for him. Urge him to go.

Yours truly  
Perry [Lee]

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967 10/28/1858 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0904

Bowd. College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. College  
Oct 28, 1858

My dear Mother

I was unexpectedly rejoiced at receiving a letter from you last night. I took it from the office immediately after supper and as usual walked over to Mr Merryman's and sitting down in his sitting-room read the letter. Nettie was there and seemed pleased to hear from you. She is quite hoarse and her throat is soar, but I am in hopes she will soon recover from it.

At 7 o'clock I had to be at the College to attend a Match Debate between the two Societies the Atheneum and Pencinian. Two Seniors & two Juniors were chosen. It fell upon me to open the debate upon the affirmative of the Question - Is the Gov. of England better than that of U.S. I had as you will readily see the hardest side of the question. We had half an hour to speak but I did not say nearly half I had to offer, in that time. It was decided by a Committee on the merits of the arguments, against us by 3 to 1.

We have no morning rec. so I have plenty of leisure now. I have been reading on that Question for about two weeks. I am appointed on another debate to take place in the Athenaeum tomorrow night. On the Question Would the Extinction of the Ottoman Empire be beneficial to Europe?

Rowland came up to Funeral as you supposed he would. He bro't his trunks but after talking with Prof Packard & others here he concluded to return as they assured him that he need have no thought about preaching Sundays as they would see to that. But after he went to Bath & staid till Thursday he learned from Mr McKeen that Mr Storer who has preached some in Portland & whose home is in Scarboro and who is a most excellent man and just such a one as he wanted to come there, that he would come & preach two Sabbaths, & so he came last Friday. I hope to go down next Sunday. If Mr S can be persuaded to come & stay, Rowland will leave for Bangor next week. He intended to visit Leeds with Ella but I doubt if he does so now. The Mond before he came up here there were present at the inquiry meeting 75 though not all seekers after Christ yet. This will give you an idea of the great interest there is down there.

You wrote me considerable news for which I am very grateful. I sent one of those papers containing an account of Prof Cleaveland's death to Uncle Henry Strickland.

Dellie chose of his own accord to come home this winter and recite to me. I shall have to study somewhat to hear him in Greek as he is reading a book of Greek which I never read. I can get it perfect though & hear him recite. My pupil comes daily at 9 o'clock now & stays with me usually an hour. I am greatly rejoiced to hear some effort is being made on the Ridge - for an awakening in Religion. I am happy also that in accordance with all my prayers you are in the enjoyment of your mind. Does Father want the burden of two big boys at home this winter. Perhaps he may think the burden is heavier to have them away from home. It is now almost Prayers. The bell rings.

Your Affectionate Son.  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Your former letter was duly received & but for the press of that discussion would have been answered ere now.

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968 11/1/1858 *From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* [OO] Howard

OOH-0905

Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. Nov 1st 1858

Dear Howard;

“Grace be unto you & peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Did you ever notice that St Paul commences everyone of the epistles, except the one to the Hebrews, in these very words, or words of the same import? And I think these are the first thoughts which would enter the christian’s heart in reference to a brother christian, but they are too much neglected in these modern times. In commencing our discussions, we will ever remember that all our wisdom must come from God, as “He is the source and giver of every good and perfect gift;” hence we will frequently ask his guidance and direction. Let us recollect too, that we are seeking for truth, for the truth’s sake, and not for the argument’s sake, therefore all must be done in brotherly love and kindness. In what I may offer as arguments, I do not pretend to anything like originality, for there is nothing new to offer, but ‘tis quite possible you may not have had them presented to you before; so you need not consider these arguments as mine, farther than that I endorse them. In making quotations, I shall make the references so clearly that you can refer at once to the very place if you desire.

“The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture, it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.” - Westminster confession of Faith.”

I think the above is the true rule. Perhaps it would be well, first to state as clearly as possible the difference in our belief, so that we may agree as to what we are arguing.

1st of God

Trinitarian Doctrine: There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power & glory. Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Unitarian Doctrine: Jehovah, our God, is one Jehovah. Moses & Christ, Deut. 6.5; Mark 12-29. To us there is but one God the Father. St. Paul 1 Cor VII.6.

2d of Christ

Trinitarian Doctrine: The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who being the eternal Son of God, became man; and so was & continueth to be God & man in two distinct natures and one person forever. As above

Unitarian Doctrine: We believe in the unity of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is one mind, one soul, one being; as truly one as we are and equally distinct from the one God. Dr Channing’s Works, vol 1 p. 538.

3d of the Holy Spirit

Trinitarian Doctrine: The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty & glory, with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God. 39 Arts of Religion. Art. 5.

Unitarian Doctrine: In the New testament, the prevailing sense of the phrase Spirit, is communicated of light and power from on high. Like the Spirit of God, it is sometimes, simply God himself. Newcombe Cappe: Crit. remarks, vol 1 pp 58, 59.

Examination of the alleged Scripture evidence for the doctrine of a plurality of persons in the Godhead.

1. Gen 1.1 - “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
2. Deut VI.5 - “Hear, Oh Israel! Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.”

3. Josh. XXIV.19 - "And Joshua said unto the people, ye cannot serve Jehova; for he is a holy God"

4. See Gen. XX.19 - XXXV.7 - Deut IV.7 - 1 Sam XVII.26 - 2 Sam VII.23 - Job XXXV.10 - Pz Iviii.ii = cxlix.2 - Prov IX.10 - XXX.3 - Ecc XII.1 - Isa. LIV.5 - Jer X.10 - Dan VII.18.22.24.27 - Hos XI.12 - Mal I.6. In these passages the word for God in the Hebrew is in the plural form.

Trinitarian Argument: [this paragraph very weak] "What can we say upon this consideration with plural attributions? It is this which points the great peculiarities of our question: <> which the chief stress of the argument is laid for an allusion or implication in favor of the doctrine of a divine plurality." Dr. I. P. Smith: Scrip. Testimony to the Messiah Vol 1 p 479.

You think that these names being plural, indicate a plurality, and therefore trinity of persons in the Godhead; but in Hebrew many words of plural form have sing. Import, nor is this idiom peculiar to the Hebrew; vide Greek, Latin, French, Eng. & probably most other languages. This form generally used to indicate greatness in the subjects or qualities mentioned, as Gen 1.1 (heavens) - heaven, Gen 1.2 (Faces) - face - Gen XIX.11 (Blindnesses) - total blindness - Num XIII.32 (Statures) - great stature - Ps. liii.6 (Salvations) salvation - Ps XC.10 (Strengths) great strength, and so also in the following passages, among others [long list of Bible passages]. Individuals of eminence are often spoken of in the plural, being called gods, lords or masters & vide [long list of references to Bible passages]. In the following passages the words translated, owners, lords, masters is in the original ([Hebrew word]) gods. [List of Bible passages] Trinitarian commentators (even) allow that both Jesus Christ Ps XIV.6 and the Father Ps XIV.7 are singly addressed by the plural (in Hebrew) for gods. Now if Moses, Abraham, Solomon &c can be addressed in the plural, and yet were but one person each, why may not the same form of language be employed in speaking of God. Hebrew grammarians have usually acknowledged this, vide Prof. Stewarts: Gram. Of the Heb. Law, p. 180 § 437(2). The Jews never regard these plural names as indicating, but one person in the Godhead, and the Trinity is an invincible impediment to the conversion. But not only Unitarians think these plural names indicate oneness, vide, the following eminent Trinitarians - Fostat - Cajetan - Calvin - Castela - Mercer - Lambert = Daneau - Pereira - Bellarmine - Drusiere - David - Pareces - Sixtinus Arrama - the Buxtorfs - F. Spanheim - Rivet - Petavius - Bythner - Seraden - Goodwin - Imborch - Le Clerc - Masclef - Guarin - Simon & Eichhorn - Calmet - J.D. Michaelis - Bishop Patrick - Campbell - Geddes - Schroeder - Storr - E.F.C. Rosenmull - Gibbs - Profs. Wilson, Bush, Lee, and many others. Surely then these texts, and the like don't prove a plurality of persons in the Godhead.

5) Gen. 1.26 - "And God said let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the pick of the rest"

6) Gen XI.6.7 - "And Jehovah said - Go to, let us go down &c"

7) Jo VI.8 - Whom shall I send, and who will go for us."

Trinitarian Argument - "I must maintain that a look <too faint> reside every approach to idolatry <entire paragraph too faint>

You think that the above passages, indicate the three persons of the Trinity, holding communion with one another about the formation of man &c. We generally (I mean Unitarians) think the Deity is simply deliberating on the formation of man &c, and makes use of the solemn style of earthly sovereigns. In all nations, men of high authority, use the plural pronouns in reference to themselves and the same is found, not uncommonly, in scripture by kings vide 2 Sam XVI.20 - 1 Ki XII.6-9 - Ez. IV.11 -18 - 2 Sam XXIV.14 - by Jesus Christ - In. III, 11.12 - Mark IV.30 compare Lu XIII.18 - by St. Paul vide - 1 Thes. II.18 - 1 Cor. II, 12.13 - IV.8-12 - 2 Cor X 1-15 - by other individuals - Gen XXIX.27 - XXXIX.14, 17 - Job XVIII 2.3 - Ps. XX 6.7 - XL.1-5 - XLIV 4-8 - IX 9, 10 - Can. I 4.11 - VIII.8 - Dan II.36 - John III.2 -

In this great drama of the creation, Moses makes use of the highest style of language which is consistent with our imperfect understandings. But see the following Trinitarian writers, Tostak, Mercer - Grotius - Schulz - Geddes - Storr -

8) Gen. III.22 - "And Jehovah, God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now" &c

Trinitarian Argument "Certainly a very remarkable phraseology and not to be accounted for but on the presumption that there is a plurality of persons subsiding in the Godhead." Dr Hanker: Sermons on the Divinity of Christ pp 268-69.

You generally regard this as a strong proof of the existence of a Triune-God; but we think one of us refers to

those superior intelligences called in the Bible gods or anglis, as Gen III.5 - 2 Sam XIV 17-20 - Ps VIII.5 - Job XXXVIII 7-

Besides the Hebrew particle translated one of us, may not mean one of us at all, since it is rendered of it from other places in the same chapter in the 3d 5th 11th & 17th verses, and by adopting the same meaning here, it may read, "Behold the man has (by its means from it) attained to know good and evil. See the following Trinitarian writers - Tostak - Calvin - Mercer - Rivet and others who do not regard this as a solid proof of a plurality of persons in the Godhead.

I have offered these as the best arguments I can advance at present, on these points, and I really think they are pretty conclusive. When you were here I neglected to ask you anything about it do you know where it is situated? What school it is? Of what character, military or not? On what its support is based? Do you know anything of the security for its maintenance? Anything of the Trustees or faculty? What denomination it bears, College, High School, or what? Whether or not 'tis under any particular religious denomination? In what branch would they desire my services, if at all? And what is meant by a house furnished? What security would I have for the salary promised? Is it entirely independent of the State? Or in some way connected with it? Be so kind as to tell me anything you may know on these points; and from whom I could obtain more information, if I desired?

Mrs Lee has a little stiff neck which troubles her some, in other respects we are quite well. Maj Mordecai, his wife and Miss Laura left here this morning for Philadelphia where Miss Laura will remain through the Winter. The Maj is on duty, and on his return will stop at West Point to try some gun, probably on Thursday 4th inst. Give our love to Mrs Howard, the little ones and remember us to any enquiring friends.

I remain Dear Howard  
Your Brother in Christ  
Charles C Lee

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969 11/3/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0906

Harpswell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harpswell Nov 3d 1858

Dear Brother

I was right glad to hear at last from you & such good news from yourself Lizzie & the dear children. Give my love to her & kiss Guy & Grace.

I was interested in all of your short letter. O Otis, study the character of Jesus & you will love him more & more every day. I started for Bangor three weeks ago but came back because I thought God sent me back. I will probably remain here three Sabbaths more. 12 have united with this Church & I am expecting about 10 more in two weeks. The original no of the church was but 40. Perhaps these 22 are not more than one third of those who have expressed a hope. Some will unite with other Churches Baptist & Methodist & some also will sink away again into their old state of indifference.

The work of Grace has been silent, solemn & gradual & till tonights meeting there have been no indication of its abatement. I have passed the happiest weeks of my life, have conducted meetings almost every evening & preached the greater part of the time on the Sabbath. God has helped me.

Charles, Ella & Nettie have all been here. I think I feel more fully elevated to my Masters Service than ever & tho I am beset with unbelief & sin I can but rejoice from day to day in the goodness & mercy of God. My health has at times almost given out. But God has supported me & I feel willing to now to die young. If it were not for Ella, I should feel more so. I do not say this despondingly but cheerfully. Rev H.G. Storer of Scarboro has preached for me two Sabbaths & if there is one holy man on Earth - one like unto Jesus - it is he. I love my Saviour better - have better conceptions of his character now that I have known Mr Storer. Like most saints, he has been subdued & purified by suffering.

Dellie has visited me & I like his state better than ever. I thank you from my heart for praying for Capt Patten. His conversion has long been near my heart. O Otis I wish you had my present views of Gods Sovereign grace. You can't think the Sweet comfort I derive from the thought that all is fore ordained. God knows so much better than poor I. I love to leave it all with Him. My day is perfectly plain & that is all I need look to. I have two Sermons to prepare before Sabbath day. All my hope that I can do it is in God. Blessed be his great & holy name.

Good night now. It is getting late. May God bless you & yours. I am glad very glad to hear from you & will write when I can.

Your Bro  
Rowland

I feel greatly obliged for your suggestion about Ella's coming to see you, but Summer is so much pleasanter at West Point.

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970 11/5/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0907

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Nov 5, 1858

My dear brother:

I received your brief but welcome letter in good season but confess a delinquency in answering it. I was glad to hear you were still engaged in your Divine Masters work. I didn't know as you would resume the lectures - they make it so hard for you. I hope you are daily comforted & assisted by divine grace.

Rowland wants to hear from you but has no time to write himself. I see him quite frequently. Have been down three different Sabbaths. His Term begins the 23d of October and at the time of Prof. Cleavelands death he came up expecting to go from here home then to Bangor but he couldn't make up his mind to leave there. There seemed to be an increasing interest at that time so he returned with his baggage, Prof Packard having assured him that he should be supplied on the Sabbath with a preacher if he would labor the other days of the week. Mr Storer came that week Friday and stayed two Sabbaths. He brought him up last Monday. He thinks Mr Storer has more of the Spirit of the Lord Jesus than any one else he has ever met with. Several have united with the Church and many more have expressed a hope in Christ. 75 were present at an inquiry meeting. On Monday aft. he returned again to Harpswell & told me that he was unable to say how long he should stay. The great difficulty is his ill health. There was about a week that he could not write at all on account of dizziness in his head. I fear he will not live a long useful life if he is not extremely careful now.

The death of Prof Cleaveland was a great blow to us. We have had no recitation in the morning since. It seems as if a vacancy has been made which can never be filled. He was liked very much by my class. I think I never recited to a teacher so well calculated to gain the good will of his pupils. We constantly felt his competency to instruct us in every respect. The Presidents address was excellent. The Chapel still remains hung with drapery. Neither the drapery nor the mottoes in black & white one at the head the other at the entrance of the Chapel will be removed this term.

Prof. Chadbourne of Williams College will lecture to us next Spring and will probably be chosen to the vacant Professorship. The sad event of Prof. Cleaveland's death seemed to effect all hearts but we have seen no beneficial results therefrom.

You have seen the error of their ways and turned to the Lord in true penitence & faith. We prayed that it might be so - we still pray.

I have lately heard from Mother & Dellie. The one writes good news from home - that all are well - that her mind is at peace with God & in the enjoyment of Religion. Dellie seems to be having a pleasant time at Lewiston Falls but I fear not so profitable as it might be. He says however that he got on well in his studies but I think he is copying after his brother Charles' inattention & superficiality. He is somewhat occupied with going to walks & parties with young ladies & attending to debates &c of the society & is now getting ready for an exhibition.

I wish he could receive some impulse which would set him into a course of unintermitting application to study. If he only had the power of cleaving to his books that some in my class have, he would be a very superior scholar.

I am going home in about two weeks & am to spend my vacation there. Dellie is to recite to me. Perhaps if you could get time to write to him your experience with regard to success in your studies, that is making plain what it depended it would incite him to greater diligence & perseverance. He is too apt to give up when he gets to a hard place. If you should mention this subject in a letter to him it would be better not to let him know that I knew anything about it or suggested anything of the kind.

Our Thanksgiving comes the 25 of this month. My term will close the Sat before.

We have had remarkably warm and pleasant weather this Fall. It has been rather rainy for a few days, but as yet no signs of winter.

I have a forensic to write this afternoon for Prof Upham. Have been to dinner since I began this letter. Mrs Wool gave me the direction of her son - James L Wool, Penola, Penola Co. Miss.

I hope to get a letter from you before many days. My love to Lizzie and tell little Guy & Grace that Uncle Charlie sends a kiss for them & wants "father" to give it to them for him & wants them not to forget him.

Your Affectionate brother  
Chas. H. Howard

[Note: This letter was attached to the ending pages of another letter written by Charles on Sept 30, 1858 (OOH-892).]

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971 11/8/1858 *From:* S.P. Lee

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0908

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Novr 8th [1858]

Dear Otis

I should have been up & see you before this if it had been pleasant weather, and I may yet go up and spend one night with you before I sail which will be Saturday.

This rainy weather has put me back a week as I could not load. Every thing goes on satisfactorily. My bills for outfits &c will not be so large as I at first anticipated.

Mothers health remains about the same. She is very comfortable and her doctor says she is improving.

Uncle Ensign went home last week. He was so busy he could not go up to see you. He came on Rail Road business and was in a hurry to get home again.

Give my love to Lizzie & all the rest of my friends & believe me your affectionate

Cousin

S. P. Lee

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972 11/8/1858 *From:* James Thompson

*To:* Lt O. O. Howard, U.S.A.

OOH-0909

Newport Kentucky

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Newport Kentucky  
8th Nov. 1858

Dear Howard,

Your kind letter of the 9th ult deserved an answer more prompt than this but I was very busy & somewhat ill, and we were preparing to go South in search of health.

In regard to the business part - the contents of your note in this respect were communicated to Mrs Parker who has made arrangements to send you the money in a day or two. Should she fail to do so I will forward you a portion of it myself & see that the whole amount is paid very soon.

Mrs Thompson & Fannie are well & send much love to you all. Fannie don't say so in words but I'm sure she would had she the necessary age & power of speech. I have no desire to return to West Point, & if I made any remark calculated to convey that impression it was made when there & while we had an unfavorable idea of Boston Harbor. I remember no other.

We are sorry you have no better quarters & we sometimes wonder that you suffer good quarters at some of these Arsenals to remain unoccupied.

We often speak of your visit and hoped to see you on your return - especially did we expect to hear from you and we were speaking of you a few moments before your letter came. We had some fears that you did not find the pleasure in our society you had anticipated we - or rather I - have the consolation of feeling that if I have not attained the same happy state of mind & excellence you both have, nevertheless each year finds me nearer it & my desire to eradicate the evil, stronger & more determined. My prayer is that we may yet meet when we shall find that sweet pleasure in each others society which pertains only to the good & pure in spirit.

Please present our kind regards to all our friends - & accept our kind & heartfelt wishes for your welfare & happiness - adieu.

Yours very truly  
James Thompson

Lt O. O. Howard, U.S.A.  
West Point  
N.Y.

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973 11/9/1858 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-0910

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 9th 1858

Lizzie my Dear Daughter,

I see by re-perusing your letter it is many weeks since a letter has passed between us either way. I often find myself thinking about Otis and his family, and the children's pleasant ways, and more particularly at this time, it being the time of year of his birth, this day makes him twenty eight years old. His whole life lays before me this day in fancy, although a small part of it has been passed with me, he has share'd largely in my fancy, or my anxious care, but I have been bless'd, with my heart's being drawn to the Throne of grace, where I could ask God's protecting care for him.

You will wonder dear Lizzie if you live to my age that I have ben sustained as well as I have. I have a very sensitive mind. I have passed many a strait place, but I verily believe & know God has been my helper and protector, and I have a confidence he will carry me through, and take me to himself. Otis has no doubt, thought how could Mother see, us go on, in sin, and not try to show us our danger, but I have sometimes had such perfect views of God's protecting care of my children, that I trusted the warning voice would reach them.

I was dreaming of Otis in my sleep last night. It did not seem a satisfactory dream. I seem'd to be in his house. It seemed to be in much confusion, hired maids fretting about. I thought he did not seem of much account there, which made me awake unhappy, not being near enough to you to know your little trials. I am happier to imagin you going on smoothly than otherwise.

I saw brother Ensign two days since, and heard a little from you. He would have come up to West Point had he not heard of your being gone to Troy. I think Troy would seem very near to you, many dear remembrances. Is Mr and Mrs Lee still there? Ensign told much about Ann, how she is encumber'd with that heavy hard cancer but says she is still cheerful. I fear she will feel the loss of Perry's company severely. I suppose he has sail'd ere this. Ensign was about there ten days. He went to Peekskill.

I saw Laura Saturday. She had lately received a letter from Bell, said she was well. Laura's Aunt Aurelia lives with her.

We are having a series of meetings on the ridge. It is three weeks since they began. There is quite an interest. About twenty have ask prayrs, and a number have obtain'd a hope. Mrs Wadsworth is one, William Wind and wife, John Keene and wife, Mr Sanford Gilbert's son in law married I think since you left. Salmon Wing has shown much feeling on the subject, but whether he feels the Saviour precious to his soul I cant say. Thomas our hired man, and Abbie Rose our girl are quite interested in the meetings. Cynthia seems very much tryed, as Roland opposes her. I told her I was writing to you this evening. She said give my love to them, and how much I wish I could see Otis and converse with him. Roland is quite disturbed about the meetings, and I hope that restless spirit will produce a good one.

We have had a town fair. The first day the people went out with their horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, &c. The next day their vegetables fruit butter Cheese and their domestic work. That day the committees on the stock, horses, &c and domestic work made their reports in the meeting house. The house was crowded full. I saw people there I had not seen before for many years.

I hope Guy is in health and will receive a kiss from Mother for grandmother and Grace kiss her for me. Have you wean'd her and how did she bear it.

You and Otis accept my love. Affectionately your mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard



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974 11/11/1858 *From:* Perry [Lee]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0911

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York 11th Nov /58

Dear Otis

I sail Saturday about noon and shall not be able to visit you before I sail. Your note was secured yesterday. Tell Kingsley to come down if he wants to go with me. He had better come down tomorrow eve as I should have to get the Spanish Consul to endorse all Passengers.

Mothers health remains about the same. She is comfortable but will feel very lonesome when I am gone.

Give my kind regards to all friends at the Point and kind love to Lizzie & the children. A kiss for each. Tell Lizzie I will not forget her Fruit.

With love I remain your  
Affectionate Cousin  
Perry

P.S.

Mother has not changed her Doctor but will keep him. I think it is the only chance for her. He says she is getting on well and that her symptoms are very favorable. I have great hopes in him myself and mothers confidence in him is good. I will send you my address at St Iago before I sail and hope to hear from you then. I will write you myself on my arrival. Mr Bacon wishes to be remembered to you.

Perry

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975 11/20/1858 *From:* [RH Gilmore]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0912

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 20 1858

My dear Brother

I received your good kind letter in due time and should have answered it immediately but I have had just as much to attend to as I could and I have had time to write letters to no one except very short ones and those of the most urgent character.

School is closed. Exhibition, with all the anxiety & excitement usually attending one, has passed and here I am in a quiet room in our own neat cottage in Leeds writing a letter to my brother. Charles comes home next Tuesday and on Thursday is thanksgiving day. I wish you and Rowland could be here but I suppose it is an impossible thing. I remember the last thanksgiving day that were all here was at the close of that term of mine at Monmouth when you came after me and found me with Mr Norcross in "Academy Hall". You was then under orders to go to Kennebec Arsenal.

What a change has taken place in us all since that time, not only in regard to a worldly position but also spiritual. God has truly blessed the children of a praying mother. How few mothers there are that can look upon children like hers and say they are all followers of Christ. This is on account of no merits of our own but simply a blessing of God and how thankful we should be.

I came home here to Leeds and find myself in the very midst of an enlivening and soul stiring revival. There are meetings every evening in the week and we see continually many souls coming to the saviour and obliging his friendly call. Rowland left here last Tuesday, the same day that I came. I saw him about half a minute while changing cars at Leeds Junction. I wish I could have seen him longer but it was impossible to do so. Ella was here with him but she went away in the train previous to my leaving Lewiston so I did not see her.

We had a very good exhibition on Monday evening; it was a perfect success. Every one was very much pleased with it. I was entirely satisfied. I will send you a copy of the Democratic Advocate as soon as I can get one. You will see a very favorable account there. We did not hardly say enough about some things, but you can read it. We had numerous invitations to repeat it but I was very much opposed to it and they finally gave up the idea. I started the plan of having an exhibition and exerted all my energies to bring about such a result.

I am going to remain at home this winter and study Latin and Greek & recite to Charles who also is intending to remain at home. I anticipate a very good time all alone with him in the old North room. Mother has fixed it up for our use and every thing is all nice.

Before I came from Lewiston I had an invitation from the President of the Lewiston Falls Temperance Association to deliver an address on Monday evening next, but concluded not to do so as I hardly was prepared to show my ignorance before so large an assembly of people especially as I shall probably go back to school there in the spring. Mr Carlton our worthy and I will say truly beloved teacher has left and the school is now in charge of Mr Pulsifer who has been an [Note 1] assistant during this term. He graduated at Bowdoin last Commencement. He is a very good scholar and a thorough teacher but a young man of rather coarse habits and I think hardly fit to take charge of a school like that. His conduct during the last term has been perfectly proper however.

I have roomed in the same house with him and have eaten at the same board. I like him very much as a man and I think they all like him as a teacher.

I have four orations more of Cicero to read in Latin and then I have finished my preparatory course as far as Latin is concerned but I have an enormous amount of Greek yet to read and I must study very hard in order to do it in good shape and to enter College with a

[Missing Page]

[Rodelphus Gilmore]

[Note 1: A page attached to OOH-1044 was inserted here.]

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976 11/21/1858 *From:* Ann Otis Lee

*To:* My Dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0913

No. 54 Harrison St  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No. 54 Harrison St Brooklyn  
November 21st 1858

My Dear Otis

Miss Berard has called to see me twice and I was out taking my walk both times. The second time she called she left the No. in Flerry st, where she was staying but said she should be away yesterday so I have not seen her yet, and to-day is a severe storm. I fear the weather will not be such to-morrow morning as will permit me to go and see her.

I want to send you some Oranges for yourself & Lizzie and some Flynn Books for your Sunday school, and also your umbrella. The Books are a present from Miss Julia Dwight. The Oranges are some that Frank sent to me. They are nice and fresh and I hope Miss Berard will not think it too much trouble to take them. Miss Dwight told her I wished to send and she left word that she would take a parcel.

Perry did not sail until Wednesday morning. I hope he is out of the way of this storm and have no doubt he is, if he has had no mishap. Miss B told Miss Dwight Lizzie was in New York last week but did not say what day. We were sorry to hear Lieut Robberts was sick.

Your uncle Ensign thought you was away the Sunday he was here or I think he would have gone to West Point. He spent the day at Peekskill. He was quite busily engaged all the days buying Iron &c, but he was with me evenings. He stoped with us so that I saw a good deal of him. He feels very lonely. I wanted very much to go home with him.

My health is quite good now. I am better than I was during the month of September. How are the children? How is Lizzie? And all friends at West Point. Please remember me kindly to all friends and acquaintances. My last letters from Sarah and Frank were dated the 30th of October. They were all as well as usual and desire love to their friends.

With much love to yourself, Lizzie and the dear children. I am very truly  
your affectionate Aunt  
Ann Otis Lee

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977 11/22/1858 *From:* TR Tannatt

*To:* Lt [OO] Howard

OOH-0914

Fort Monroe Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Monroe Va  
November 22nd /58

Lt Howard  
Dear Sir

You must not feel that I write to you as a last resort when I inform you that of 5 letters written to persons once my friends at WP not one has been deemed worthy of notice. I sent write some books by mail and after a long time wrote to see (or rather learn) if they were rec'd. I have written to Mrs French and no answer.

I wish you to pardon my sensitiveness and plainly inform me wherein I have merited the disregard of those once my friends: if in the greatest of errors I need in justice a knowledge of my fault.

I often think of you and your theater of action in the school, & prayer-meeting. I wish duty for me could run into that channel.

I am not only doing nothing for the souls of others, but I am so often clouded in by doubts & fears. I long and pray for that clear and warming faith the simple round of earnest working in the cause of Christ.

Not only am I alone here but I am deserted by former christian friends. I say alone, yet not alone never has Christ seemed more worthy of my love and prayer so refreshing.

I wish you would drop me a line and let me know the truth.

Remember me to Mrs Howard, you are not forgotten, & this night one feeble earnest prayer shall rise for your & yours, may God receive & bless it.

Your brother in Christ  
TR Tannatt  
3 Arty

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978 11/23/1858 *From:* S G Jones

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0915

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn Nov 23 1858

Dear Lizzie

I received your letter last night, glad to hear from you, and to hear that you are all well, but sorry to hear of Grace having so hard a time. Do you feel so bad for her. You did not think to mention Guys name in your letter. I always want to hear from him, and Minnie feels as though you slight him if you do not mention something about him. He is to smart a boy not to speak of. We all know it. They are two active children, as I ever saw, but I do not think too much of them. This is the third letter I have commenced in weeks to you. The first one I got it ready to send to the office. It laid on the shelf one week. Last Sunday night after my children & Samuell Whitman had gone to meeting, I commenced another sheet.

Samuell came to Auburn last August, been here ever since. He has made it his home with me. He talks of going home next week. I shall miss him. He would come Saturday nights and stop until Monday. His son Orem was married this month to Rosa Gibson. Samuell feels bad about it, thinks the acquaintance to short. They board with Angelia. Orem works a shoe-making with Algernon Davie. Brother Orem has a felon on his thumb, has suffered very much, is better the last I heard from him. Lucy about the same. Camellia the same good girl. Mrs Young died last week. Her remains was carried to Turner, buried last Sunday. The two last wives was buried on Sunday. The first one I cannot remember, whether she was buried Saturday or Sunday. She was a complaining 6 mos. Her child was born the day before she died.

Alden has moved home as Betsy calls it Adams & wife after the same way. Adams is now a having one of his cheerful spells. He told me one time this fall there was no comfort in this world. I told him I could not agree with him. He said he was glad if there was one person that ever took comfort. I told him there was comfort for me now. He could not see it. Thursday is Thanksgiving Day here. I have thought shall I be any more thankful on that day than any other day. I have tried for the few past years to feel thankful every day. What blessings I have received, blessed with health, to take care of my children. This week I work to the shop. Uncle Hicks pays me two dollars. To-night he is to have a <> supper. Olive & myself do the cooking. I am a little tired. It came on so stormy it does not come off to-night. He thinks to-morrow night, so it leaves me a little time to write to night, but not much of a mind you will see.

Did you ever arive at that. When the body tired, the mind the same. I see my own weakness. At times, I feel I must sink. I will then rouse up, and think how much the Lord has done for me, and my children. He orders all things well. All of his works look butiful, and I love to meditate upon them.

Your letter afforded me much comfort although there was sorrow connected with it. Those years that are past when you & your mother used to visit Auburn, I dropt a tear now and then at the recollection of them. I have witnessed the solemn scene. Friend after friend passing away and that is not the greatest. I try not to punch on that, but to press forward, and will I try to teach my children something that they will remember.

Orlando & family came up to day. Mr Fulsom tunes the Piano to day. I write you next time Eva proceeding in music I like it much. All I will say we have a good minister. We seem to have peoples sympathy. I have not heard from Everett but once since you left Auburn. Every time I think, perhaps it is the last you want to know if Ev sends money no more but I get along comfortable. Do you know Eva is a <> girl. She said to me I can wear the same cloths I wore last year. I have fixed them for winter. I paid 50 cts for a blue feather to put on Eva bonnet. Minnie I bought a frame and covered it with her old <> one.

Write me a long letter as often as you can. Speak of the children. Guy Minnie is a smart schollar. Vacation two weeks.

I remain the same  
S G Jones



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979 11/26/1858 *From:* Ensign Otis

*To:* My Dear Nephew &  
Niece [OO & Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-0916a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 26th 1858

My Dear Nephew & Niece

Lizzies kind letter to Laura & your last to your mother reminded me of writing you. Yesterday was thanks giving. We that is my household Laura & your Aunt Bridgham dined with John & Hellen. At evening Laura went with me to your mothers & spent the night. Charles & Rodelphus was at home. It was a visit of melancholly interest as I had always before been with our dear departed Martha. We called to mind many of the interesting scenes of past year & departed friends.

You expressed surprise & regret that while in N.Y. I did not visit you. If you had known the circumstances you would not have judge it from want of interest or an under desire to spend a few days in your family & in reviewing the scenery & the secluded nitches that have been retained in pleasant memory more than forty years. The two days spent at Peekskill was intended for you, your family & place. I cannot regret that, as I could not visit but one it should be Peekskill. Circumstances<[Torn page]> could not have been chosen to <[Torn Page]> upon my mind the <[Torn Page]> life & worldly prosperity than <[Torn Page]> the life & death of more than<[Torn Page]> persons with whom I had associated & retained memory while only six remained there to tell the story of the others. The scenery the places of interest & even the rocks & trees were familiar & but little changed by time but man. How frail in body & mind as related by the few inteligent biographers, and other impression on our minds who survive. Tho grace & mercy to us why were we spared? Has His Grace & Truth been manifested in us? My visit there was I hope not only a social but a moral lesson that I shall prize while memory & affection hold them <sweet>.

As it now appears I might have remained three or four days longer & spent them mostly with you but that I could not foresee. I had a trust of some \$17000 to 18000 on which 10s of thousands of persons were interested & it was necessary to give all diligence. If we would have an influence for good we must not only have an affectionate regard for men but we must make ourselve useful to them. Such I esteem the law of mind as implanted by our Creator.

I have spent this week in town & mostly at home. A painful sadness often rushes on me a dark cloud which I cannot penetrate. The home of my <[Torn Page]> has gone. I am loth to give up my <[Torn Page]> house & its contents yet there seems to be <[Torn Page]> of providence we have not <[Torn Page]> but Laura seems inclined to spend <[Torn Page]> your mother & other friends.

Your Aunt Bridgham expects to leave Monday to live with Everett. She has already stayed a week longer than she intended.

We have a minister with us doing as I trust a good work visiting from house to house & holding social meetings in which he is gifted & a good & clear expounder of the word of God. If my circumstance would admit I would have him make his home with me this winter. I hoped when I left for N.Y. that Ann would make her home with me. We should then have an object in continuing to keep house but I found she had hopes that her physician could effect a cure & I could not discourage it.

Roland & Miss Patten spent a few days here. I was away & did not see them but a short time. We were much gratified with Lizzie's letter. Issabell occasionally writes a cheerful letter. Laura proposes to write to Liza & will give all the news. John & Helen & the little folks are getting on pleasantly. Sleighing has been good three days & is improved by constant riding.

<> love to Guy & Grace.

Most affectionately

Yours  
Ensign Otis

[Continued on the next letter from Laura B Howard]

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980 11/26/1858 *From:* Laura B Howard

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0916b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Ensign Otis]

[Nov 26, 1858]

Dear Lizzie

I received your very kind letter though I should answer it long before this. I have quite a number of cares; was waiting to get paper. I should like to just sit in your little cottage and see you all, those dear little children. How I do want to see them. I felt to regret very much that I was so situated that I could not see you more when you was at Leeds but am in hopes if we both live to another summer we shall enjoy each others society and go to comencment.

I do feel lonely sometimes. I have reason to bless God daily for the many mercies he bestows upon me. When your letter came I was feeling lonely. It did me good. How pleasant it is to hear from a friend. It came so unexpected. I should like to hear from you often. I do from Bell. She is well sends her love to you.

Rowland and Ella were here and made me a visit. Rowland seemed like one that had over tuned his mind and body. He has been doing a good work. God has blest his feeble means in the conversion many souls.

Aunt Barny health is very poor, the heart disease. Your mother and I was up to see her last Sabbath. Harriet is quite unwell too. Johns family are well, were here to tea this afternoon. If I do not board the minister we think some of breaking up for a while & go and stay at your mothers. She read Otis letter to me. I hope he will write some in your next.

Mr Otis is gone most of the time. I shall be quite lonely. Aunt B leaves tomorrow. I think some of having a Raglin cloak & should like to see yours.

I hope you will both write me soon. Kiss those dear little children.

Yours in love  
Laura B Howard

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981 11/30/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0917

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Nov 30 1858

Dear Brother

We had a good tho small morning prayer meeting this morning. Gen Stevens inquired with much interest for you - whether you were still actuated by the same love for Souls that you manifested when here. He wishes to be kindly remembered.

I passed a very pleasant Thanksgiving at Prof Shepards where you recollect taking Tea. I have had two letters from Thomas Eaton - excellent letters. By some misunderstanding, Egbert Smyth disappointed them in their meeting - baptism & communion Sunday week. It was a deep disappointment to them & to me, but God will overrule all for the best. I suppose Egbert went last Sabbath and that the deprived ordinances were observed, but I have not heard. This was to be received with the Church.

O Otis Eternity can only reveal the blessings that God hath bestowed on me & them this fall. They are now destitute of a Shepherd. Pray for them. I write particularly this time to call your attention to a blessed book that I have just read & which I am anxious for you to procure. It is called "The Higher Christian Life" by Rev. W.E. Boardman, published by Dea Henry Hoyt of Boston. I think he (the Author) is an Episcopal Clergyman of Philadelphia, but whoever he is he has written a book that will send joy to many a Christians heart & be the exponent of many a Christians experience.

His point is - Jesus Our Sanctifier - as well as Our Justifier. I.E. We are to live hourly, daily, yearly, always, by faith on the love of God, in the same way that we rest on Him our hope of final Salvation. He believes in a second conversion - an entire consecration & illustrates its reality by sketches from life &, as it seems to me, points out clearly the mode of the Spirits operation in leading us to experience it. This new experience he would not call "perfection", an entire freedom from Sin, but "full faith & full Salvation". Entire submission of all things to the will of God & a cheerful childlike affectionate trust in Jesus, in everything is the truth inculcated & illustrated. To this you may have already attained, if so you will recognize the truths of this volume as old familiar, beloved friends - if not, you will rejoice in the deliverance it foreshadows.

I would send the book but the postage is high & you can order it from Boston or N.Y. Do it immediately & will you & dear Lizzie read it carefully & prayerfully & be led to by Gods Spirit to see how blessed it is to belong wholly to the Lord Jesus. I will send it to Charles & then Dellie & Mother can read it. My marked copy of course goes to my own Ella.

O Heavenly Father grant that all my dear ones may come into the sweet & confiding trust of loving & obedient children of Jesus.

Dellie wrote last week that all were well at home, & the interest still continuing in Leeds. I have tried to be faithful to Dellie. May the Lord add his blessing.

Kiss the little ones for me & don't either of you fear to drop me a few lines if you can't stop to write much.

Affectionately  
Rowland

Our cousin Lydia (Martin) Parker now lives in this City. I have taken Tea there. He is a queer & a pleasant unenergetic man. They have four children - the eldest 12. She & her husband are Methodists & seem to be happy, trustful Christians. She wished to be remembered.

What is the name of your Bark?



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982 12/2/1858 *From:* Charles C. Lee *To:* [OO] Howard

OOH-0919 Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. Dec 2d 1858

Dear Howard;

Your kind note was received a few days ago. Was a good while on the way. Please thank Capt. Benton for me. Same offer I had before from Maj. D.H.H. I am glad the fringe suited so well. Write when you have time, and don't forget to tell me about the prayer-meetings among the Cadets.

Lieut Saunders has just arrived here. He is stationed here. I am glad we do not differ so much as I thought on those texts which I quoted, and perhaps as we advance we will find that we agree on many points con, which we imagined we widely differed. I hope it may be so, and that we may have the enlightening influences of God's Spirit.

I shall write again when I have time, and take up the subject, "Alleged Scripture Evidence for the doctrine of a Triune God." What I wrote before was an examination of all the texts generally advanced to prove a plurality of persons in the Godhead.

Give our love to all the family.

I remain Your Brother in Jesus  
Charles C. Lee

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983 12/3/1858 *From:* Silas J. Lee

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0929

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago, Dec 3rd 1858

My dear Cousin,

Your very kind letter of the 27th ult arrived yesterday morning. I am really glad to have again the pleasure of your correspondence. I do owe you an answer to one of yours somewhere about the first of June: an answer to which was written but having neglected to mail it for some time it was destroyed & I intended to write again but a little of everything & nothing in particular put it off 'till it was - like many other of my duties - never done.

On my return home and alone in my own room I read the tract Lizzie was so kind as to mark noting the marked passages particularly. I am really obliged to her for this manifestation of her interest in my future good & well being. I did not as you requested, read it prayerfully - tho I read it attentively, and thought of it & tried to find its particular application to me, but failed to find what I most want - to remove my doubts and show me the necessity of following its direction. I have considered those same things a thousand times and the more they recur to me the less I feel their weight. Now you will say that the spirit of Satan is at the back of all this. It may be so but when my thoughts revert to that subject it is in my most tranquil and happy hours, and I try to keep off every influence & look at them as a duty. Yet the solution of these reflections are always the same. I always end where I started & find that I am no nearer out of the circle than before. Could I but partly convince myself, then my course would be taken were it only to make the last of my dear mothers life happy. On her account more than my own do I wish I could solve the problem of the future state. I hope soon to be able to treat myself to a copy of Spurgeons Sermons. Sarah writes me that "they would clear away the mist from before my eyes and that I should then see clearly; and fully understand what our Creator would have me do for my happiness."

Today I have received three letters & in each I have the assurance of daily prayers offered for me to God. One I hardly need tell you was from Mother. One from a much valued (married) lady friend at Buffalo & the other from Mr Hoyt who is almost a neighbor to you. He lives at Brewster's, Putnam County, just over the river from you. He was one of my Buffalo friends but now resides with his father who being old requires his assistance at home. He is teaching their district school this winter, & writes that he opens & closes it with prayer, & hopes to be the means of doing some good among his scholars. Mr Hoyt and myself have had many disputes on religious subjects, & he knows my position perfectly. My course of reading has been considerably broken up all the summer and fall, but I have not entirely neglected them, and hope to do considerable during the long evenings which is all the time I now have that I can call mine.

Since my last to you I have made the acquaintance of Mr Thomas P. Robb, formerly from Leeds & who I find is well acquainted with your family & who frequently speaks of you. He & his mother Mrs Mitchell desire me to make them a visit, but as they live just far enough out of town to make it inconvenient, and the traveling being in a very bad state, I have not yet been able to get out to them. I saw Mr Robb today. He asked when I might be expected as his mother - who was an intimate friend of my mother - seems impatient to have me come.

Mother writes that she suffers considerably from her disease. I suppose she misses Perry and allows her anxiety for him, to a degree, to effect her. She did not complain of severe pain before he left. I hoped that the cold weather would be beneficial but fear it is not. She is losing faith in her treatment I think from her manner, tho she does not say so to me.

I suppose Perry is at the end of his voyage & hope he is safely in port, & that he may have a prosperous passage home.

With much love to Lizzie & the members of your family I am as ever your affectionate  
Cousin  
Silas J. Lee

Is Roland at Bangor yet? & is Charles at Brunswick. I have heard of mother for a very long time.

Yours,  
Silas

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984 12/9/1858 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear [Charles C Lee

OOH-0920

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This is a copy, written on paper which causes the ink to bleed.]

West Point, N.Y.  
December 9th 1858

Dear Lee,

I write you these few lines, to inquire through you of Major Mordecai, if he will be able to enlist the young man whose letter is herewith enclosed. He told me that he might be able to do so, but could not then tell. I send the enclosed to show his hand as a lord of advertisement & recommendation.

Please find enclosed the sum of sixteen dollars and forty six cents.

I trust you are all well. Give much love to Mrs Lee & same from Mrs Howard <>. Mrs H says she made some excellent grape-jelly of the grapes, they wouldn't keep long enough to be eaten up. She also adds that she is just <> <Green's clock> and wants to know why you have not said when you are coming here. The prayer meeting room was well filled last Monday evening. Much attention & interest exists. I am hoping that God will especially bless us here. Please return the enclosed letter after reading it in your next.

With much love I remain your brother in the Lord  
O.O. Howard

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985 12/14/1858 *From:* Ann Otis Lee

*To:* My Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0921

No 54 Harrison St  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No 54 Harrison St Brooklyn  
Dec 14th 1858

My Dear Lizzie,

I went to Miss Moon Thursday. She said your furs had not come in (as she put them out to make), but they would be in that evening. She said she had furs to send to Pokipsy, and her husband would be going to Westcotts express office Friday morning and would take your furs and she would send me the express ticket to send to you with the receipt she gave to me for \$8.00 I paid her for making the furs. I have not received the express ticket and am beginning to feel a little uneasy about the furs. I will inclose you the receipt of Miss Moon for the making. I hope you got the furs safely.

I was sorry I let you go home Saturday morning for before I got out of Harrison St on my way to Atlantic St Maria Tupper called to see you. She overtook me and went to Atlantic St with Mary and me. And Marie said she wanted you to spend the sabbath with her and I told her she might possibly meet you at the Depot if she went directly over and if you found any one going up to W Point so you could send word perhaps you would come back again or appoint a time to come down again so she and Mary Dwight started off to meet you at Chambers St but got there a "minute" too late.

So you must consider yourself invited to spend a Sunday with Maria sometime your husband too of course and Mrs Heeton expected to see you again. She is expecting you to spend Christmas with them. The tree is to be Friday evening. Guy is expected and I will add an invite for Miss Grace Howard. They want you to spend the sabbath. You could go and hear Dr Lewis Saturday and Sunday go and hear Dr Spear.

Now if you accept this invite or not please let us know and also tell about Marias visit. You would enjoy a visit at Maria's. I do hope you got home safely and did not get wet, and add to your cold. Every body I am acquainted with are having influenza are really quite sick. We have had a succession of storms the last month. I hope the last week will be pleasant.

I got a letter from Sarah Saturday dated the 26 of Nov. She says they are all enjoying excellent health just now for which she is very thankful. I think you would enjoy the Christmas visit here. I hope you will conclude to come, but you will write to us and let Mrs Heeton know.

I am suffering very much this wet weather. I sleep very little. I went to see Dr Kinsay Thursday. He said I was not worse but better. I wish I could think I was better. I have not been down stairs since Sunday evening. I was not dressed yesterday.

We are having a foggy wet & dark day but I hope by to-morrow we shall have a pleasant day. I do dread storms and wet weather.

With love to your self husband and babies and kind regards to all enquiring friends. I am as ever your affectionate aunt  
Ann Otis Lee

Mrs Lizzie Howard

P.S. Sarah sent her love to Otis and Lizzie.

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986 12/22/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0922

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec 22, 1858

My dear brother,

I am in Leeds Depot waiting for Father & Mother to return from Livermore Falls. Have been here three hours. It is now past 2 o'clock & the train should have been here at 11. It is a very blustering day and the snow would have hindered them somewhat, not however till this time. Besides a snow plow & engine have been past since we have been waiting here. Father & Mother went up day before yesterday to Milton where there was a directors meeting. Mother went to see some of her old friends. Dellie & I went up to East Milton to the Stockholders meeting yesterday. Saw Father there & coming back in the evening saw Mother who got on board the train & came from Milton to Livermore Falls. I might have written a dozen letters since I have been waiting here but you know how it is - that one is always expecting the train.

Dellie is at home studying Cicero this afternoon & was occupied with Greek this forenoon. I have been at home 4 weeks today. He has got a lesson every day till yesterday - commencing the Mond. after I came home.

Mother has been in good health & in good Spirits this winter. Father has had a bad cold but kept about all the time. We had a letter from Rowland but a day or two ago. Sent him thirty dollars yesterday which he needed. He has probably written to you about the book "The Higher Life". He sent it home & I have also purchased one. I read it with great interest but think I am lacking in the experience which it is intended to promote. Have felt for some time that I did not experience nor enjoy so much of the presence of Christ as was my privilege.

I have accomplished little that I can point at as work done & well done since I came home but I think my health is better. I came here to the depot twice a week always & usually more. Hear Wm Henry Lothrop recite in Algebra & Latin those two days, and as father takes the Daily Advertiser, some one has to come to the office nearly every day. So you see I have plenty of riding. I go to Hill sometimes & have been to Lewiston twice. Have had 4 front teeth filled. Have read all the papers, my Independent especially. Have read a book Hugh Miller's first impressions of England with good interest. Have read some in a History of the Popes. Intend to read "D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation now. I have letters from Nettie quite often but I heard by a short note last night that she was threatened with the fever. I fear she will have a fit of sickness. I return to Brunswick in 4 weeks more. Prof Chadbourne will be our instructor in Chemistry.

Perhaps it will be interesting to you to know in what company I am actuated while writing. I can hardly keep my mind on my letter there is so much jabbering & talk here. There are two young ladies desirous of going to Lewiston. The father of one of them Mr. Phillips - Miss Emma Boothby is the other. Cyrus Lane - Gidding's son is here & a young man, Dudley, who wants to go to the Junction & I don't know where after that. Willard Lothrop is here. He bro't down some dinner for the Ladies but poor gent's had to wash their tongues &c.

I fear some sad accident but still cannot feel much anxiety in so much uncertainty.

Mother has asked me to write to Otis several times & I meant to have done so before because I want to hear from you myself & from your family. My hand is rather cold & shivering don't agree with making well-formed letters so my letter looks shakingly & reads I suppose worse than that.

They have tried singing & every sort of way to amuse themselves here today & now talk of leaving. They the cars must however come soon. Shall we have a letter soon? The interest in religion that has been prevalent at South Leeds continues in some measure but there have been no recent conversions. So much my dear brother for a depot letter. Did you know that a Mr Fulton was preaching here - an Englishman. He came to town before Rowland was at home. I will I think keep this letter till the train arrives in fear you may be anxious.

From -

Your Affectionate brother

Chas. H. Howard

By the returning engine from Junction we have learned that the snow prevented the train & it will not come tonight. The uptrain is coming soon & I am going home.

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987 12/23/1858 *From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0923

Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. Dec 23d 1858

Dear Howard,

Peace and happiness be with you & yours. We will now examine the evidence alleged for the doctrine of a triune God.

(1) Ps XXXiii-6 "By the word of Jehovah were the heavens make, and at the host of them by the breath of his mouth."

Trinitarian Argument - [paragraph very faint] "The breath, or spirit of the Lord's <> does undoubtedly mean the third person of the Trinity, the whole Trinity, therefore, created the world; yet this <> but one Lord" Jones' Catholic doctrine of a Trinity, ch iii §11 & ch iv

The psalmist says nothing of a Trinity, but the two phrases of the sentence are synonymous as explained in ninth verse. See for illustrations Gen I.3 - Job XXVI.13 - XXXIII, 4 - IsaXI.4 - 2 Thes11.8

(2) Num. VI.2.4-2.6 (3) Is VI.3 and Rev IV.8 - Trinitarian Argument "Surely such passages as these where in the 1st a blessing is thrice repeated, and in the other the word holy thrice repeated, has a <> upon to the Trinity. Dr Waidlaw, Discourses on the Socinian Controversy. P 35.

Certainly there is no allusion to the Trinity in such passages but 'tis simply repeated for the sake of emphasis. Repetition is the language of emotion, the vehicle of simplicity, of passion, and even of sublimity. It is frequent in Holy Writ (as 2 Sam XVII) Math XXIII,37 - XXVII, 46 - Ex II.24,25 - III, 4-6 - Ps XXIX, 1-11 - Pros XX.14 - Is XX<> XXIV, 16 - XXV,9 - XXXVIII,19 - XL, 1 - LI, 17, LVII, 19 - Jer IV,19 - Sam I.16 - III, 48, 49 - Ex VII,2 - XXI, 28 - Iocl III, 15 - &c) and often in a threefold manner (as in Jer XXII, 29 - Ezek XXI, 27 - Rev VIII, 13 - Gen XXIX, 10 - Io VIII, 9 - LI, 9 - LXVI <> as a most triumphant argument for the doctrine of a Trinity; yet every Hebrew scholar will allow that the repetition of an adjective only has the effect of increase intensity. Means the same as thrice holy - See Isa XXI <> there but two mystical substances in that devoted city. <Very> many trinitarians think there is not argument to <be drawn> from such passages.

Isa XXXIV.16 - "Seek ye out of the book of Jehovah, and read; ... my mouth hath commanded, and his Spirit it hath gather them"<> Bible 1607; Noyes the mouth of Jehovah - Bishop South, Dodson, <Bates> <> Divine mouth - Henderson

Trinitarian Argument - In these words there is one person <> of the spirit of another person so that the whole Trinity is here <>. Jones, Catholic doctrine of a Trinity. Ch. III § 13.

In the first place I think the common translation unauthorized by the original; but even were it right it would simply <prove> the existence of three distinct agents, but it does not assume or imply that each of these is God. But if as I think <> reading ought to be, his mouth then the phrases are synonymous <with the> spirit of a person is frequently put for the person <himself>, as 1 Cor XVI, 17, 18 - Gal VI, 18 (compare 1 Cor XVI, 23) 1 Ki XXI, 5 - Job X, 12, 13 - XXI, 4 - Ps XXXI, 5 - CVI, 33 - Lu I, 46, 47 - In. XI, 33 (compare verse 38) 2 Tim IV, 22 - Phi - Isa XLVIII, 16 - Come ye near &c—; and now the Lord God, and his spirit, hath sent and now the Lord Jehovah hath sent me & his Spirit and now hath the Lord Jehovah sent me with his Spirit <> - Bishop South, A. Clark & Henderson, thus <> Dodson, supported, by Tech VII, 12

Unitarian Argument - The latter part of this verse is uttered by one who be <> part uses the language of Jehovah, Wardlaw ps 47 & 48.

There is no reason for thinking that Isa was not himself speaking here, if time <> what mean Job XXXVI, 22, 23 - Isa XL, 13 <> the prophet is announcing the word of Jehovah, he introduces his own sentiments without any distinction as Isa LXIII, 6, 7, 1, 3, 4 -

This passage will not validly support the mystery of the Trinity - Luther - Many apply it to Christ, but they are not supported by the language of the <preceding> portion of the verse is the language of Isaiah Tostat - See Muscular, Le Clerc - Gataher - Doederlein - E.F.C. Rosenmuller - Boothroyd &c - (6) Math III, 16, 17 "And, lo, the heavens &c" Mark I, 10, 11 - Lu III, 22 -

Trinitarian Argument - This is clear evidence for three divine persons; God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For the voice of God the Father was heard from heaven, giving testimony to the Son. The Son in assumed <flesh> <> in the river Jordan; and the Holy Spirit descended on the <> of a dove. Piscator on Math III, 16.

This was once considered a strong argument for the Trinity <> we see the Trinity at the Jordan? no - but "one God and Father <> the well-beloved Son - and the holy spirit that was so largely <> on him, to qualify him to be the Teacher and Saviour <> the world - Eph IV.6 - John III, 34 - Acts X, 38 - see Acts II, 33, 34 - Heb I, 9. <> see these things, but no three co-eternal, co-equal persons; in <> we are here told what the holy Ghost is, that tis not a person that it is not a numerical distinction of the Godhead; but <> Spirit of God, and accordingly as God is a Spirit is often used <> God himself, though not always. The Scriptures nowhere <> the spirit of God as more distinct from God, than the spirit <> man is from man.

Math XXVIII, 19 "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" <> the name - by Hammond - Tillotson - Swight Boothroyd - <> - Carpenter - Belsham - Yates - E. Taylor - S. Sharp &c

<Unitarian> Argument - "When here we find Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, <> in the same worship, we have reason to take them <for> the same God." Walls - Letters on the Trinity. pp 87, 88; P.S. to letter III

This has been regarded as a great bulwark of trinitarianism, and yet there is not evidence of such a doctrine here, as three coequal, coeternal persons in the Godhead. It is thought that the order of baptism involves an act of religious worship, and therefore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit must be coequal &c for t'would be worse to unite the name of created beings thus with that of the Creator. Baptism is not an act of religious worship; it is a simple <> expressive mercy of belief of his divine mission; followers of John were baptized into his baptism ie they professed to be his disciples. Acts XIX, 2,3 - They did not worship <> or John. Where St Paul thanked God that he had baptized <> 1 Cor I, 13, 15 - he was not afraid of being worshiped, but of <> thought he was assuming undue authority in the Church <> VI, 3, 4 don't mean the death of Christ was an object of religious adoration, but simply of belief. The name of a person or <> often used to denote the person or thing itself in scripture. <> XX, 1 - Jer XXXIII, 9 - See Math I, 21 - VI, 9 - Acts III, 16 - rev XI, 13 (original) &c to be baptized into the name of a person is therefore to be baptized into the person himself, that is into a profession of belief and obedience to him <> the New Testament being baptized into Christ and into his name as convertible expressions. Acts II, 38 - VIII, 16 - X, 48 - XIX, 5 - Gal III, 27 - Rom <>. The names coming together does not teach their equality or what do the following passages mean Ex XIV, 31 - Num XXI, 5-7 - 1 Chron XXIX, 20 - <[torn page at bottom]>. For these reasons I think there is no allusion to the trinity in our Saviour's words, and this opinion is corroborated by the fact that the apostles did not always use this form exactly Acts II, 38 - VIII, 16 - X, 48 - XIX, 5 - Gal III, 27 - Rom VI, 3 -

(9) 2 Cor XIII, 14 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, (be) with you all."

Trinitarian Argument - In this passage St Paul has joint the three persons together in such a manner as seems to intended to convey a <repetition> of the equality of their rank. Principal Hill - Lectures in Divinity vols <>. The reasons generally assigned for this argument are 1st the <> of the names, 2d the priority of Christ's name, 3d the benediction <itself is> supposed to contain a prayer to each. Paul calls but one God, <> never intimates that the others are. The 1st reason is void as <> have seen in article (7). If the 2d reason proved anything it proved too much for see Acts VI, 11 was Moses equal to God? - Gen XIV, 19, 20 was Abraham equal to God? 1 Thes 1, 6 - II, 10 - &c - 3d. If the benediction warrants prayer to Christ and the Holy Spirit, will not St John's Rev I, 4,5 authorize prayer <to> the seven spirits also. The Holy Spirit is never mentioned by St Paul in any other of his forms of benediction Rom I, 7 - XVI, 20-24 - 1 Cor I, 3 - XVI, 23 - <> Cor I,2 - Gal I, 3 - VI, 18 - Eph I,2 - VI, 23 - Phil I,2 - IV, 23 - Col I, 2 - 1 Thes I,1 - verse 28 - 2 Thes I,2 - <>, 18 - 1 Tim I,2 - 2 Tim I,3 - Tit I,4 - Phelem verse 3 - St Paul means simply to say <> all the benefits and consolations of christianity attend you; the <> and protection of God; and that particular manifestation of his love <> participation of his Holy Spirit."

<> 1 John V, 7,8 For there are three that bear record (in heaven; the Father, the <Son> <> the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there <> witness in earth; <> the water <> agree in one."

Trinitarian Argument - These three who's are one what. They are one thing, one substance, one God. Dr John

Wallis. Letters on the trinity, Let III, p 39. This text is almost universally acknowledged to be spurious for the following reasons 1st 'tis not in any greek manuscript earlier than the 15th century. 2d nor any latin one earlier than the 9th, 3d 'tis not found in any of the ancient versions. 4th Not quoted by greek fathers though they have used the words before and after to endeavor to prove the Trinity. 5th Nor by the latin writers - 6th first cited by Vigilius Tapsensis, in the end of 5th century. 7th Has been omitted <> many editions of New Testament since Reformation Erasmus - <> - Colineus - Zwintelius - Griesbach - Matthaei - Lachmann - Scholz - and Boothroyd - Regarded as spurious by Grotius - Le Clerc - Father Simon - <> Michaelis - Vater - J.G. Rosenmuller - Lucke - Bentley - Porson - S.J. Coleridge - <> Lowth, Tomline, and Marsh - Burton - Adam Clack - J.P. Smith - <Ward>. <> omitted by Luthur in his German version. In old English bibles <> of Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Elizabeth was printed in small type <> brackets till about 1570. Yet were the passage genuine, it <could> not prove unity of essence, but the context would rather incline us to believe with Calvin - Beza - Macknight - Bishop Burgess &c. <at> St John refers to unity of testimony. The word one is frequently used to denote unity of design, affection, will &c as John XVII, 11, 20-23 - <> II, 24 - Acts IV, 32 - Rom XII, 5 - 1 Cor III, 8 - VI, 16, 17 - X, 17 - Gal III, 28 - Eph II, 14, 15 - Thus most of the evidence brought to bear on this point has been summed up, and as I think found to have no bearing in that <>, but generally in the opposite toward Unitarianism. I shall next consider the evidence for the Deity of Christ from the supposed application of the name Jehovah to him.

I remain your Brother in Christ  
Charles C Lee

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988 12/28/1858 *From:* W.W. Chapman

*To:* Lieut Oliver O. Howard  
U.S. Army

OOH-0924

No. 6 State Street  
New York

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No. 6 State Street  
New York, Dec 28, 1858

My dear Sir:

We have just received a letter from our son informing us that he has a severe influenza, and as this complaint is very prevalent this winter and frequently terminates in congestion of the lungs and pneumonia, we are exceedingly anxious about him. The interest you have so kindly manifested in my son, induces me to ask of you the favor of writing to me, should it become worse - in which case Mrs Chapman and myself will go at once to West Point. If it should not be necessary for us to go up, I shall be greatly obliged if you will advise him relative to his health and studies - the same as I would do, if I were present.

I enclose you his letter written in pencil, as it will show you his anxious desire to do his best, and his great regret at the loss of several recitations.

He has such a great dislike of going on the sick report, that I fear he may carry it too far. This is, I believe, the first time he has asked to be excused from any duty.

Should you think it advisable, for any reason, you are at liberty to show Willie's letter to my good friends Kendrick and Hardee - in which case I desire that you will also show them this.

Regretting the trouble I have given you in this matter, which, of course, is one of deep interest to us, I remain

Most sincerely your friend  
W.W. Chapman

Lieut Oliver O. Howard  
U.S. Army  
West Point  
N.Y.

[The following paragraph was written by Oliver Otis Howard.]  
Maj Chapman - he committed suicide at O.P. Comfort Va in the fall of 1859. O.O.H.

[Enclosure]  
West Point Dec. 26th 1858

Dear Father:

Why do not one of you write to me. I have eagerly looked for a letter these three or four days back. I write but a line on account of my eyes. I would have written before but have not been able to. A sorry Christmas it has been to me. The first part of the week I did well. Recited Monday and Tuesday. Tuesday my cold commenced, and could not study that night, but hoped to study the next morning. Next morning could not study felt so miserably face, nose, and lips were swelled. My lips, and nose were slightly sore before. Didn't want to wheaten it that morning before breakfast for you know I don't like to. Made a poor recitation that day.

(Wednesday) Wednesday night had a bad head-ache and bad cold nose. Nose all stopped up, neck sore, but no sore throat. So had to wheaten it from reciting at recitation, for Mr Howard told me that I did injustice to myself in not getting excused on Wednesday. Wheatened it on Friday also. Have had no appetite. Saturday was Christmas, and I staid in my room all day, and lay on the bed or sat by the heater to keep warm for on cold days our room is cold. Was excused from inspection this morning, but wouldn't excuse me from church, though I was hardly able to go. Have felt miserably, and have not even been able to write you a line, which I would

have done if possible. I suppose I took cold by taking exercise in all weathers. Have been around Flirtation walk whatever the walking might be.

O dear what a loss, I needed to learn what we were learning when I was excused. It will lessen my chances at Examination. Felt a little better to night, and thought I would study if possible, but it hurt my eyes, so thought I would write a line.

Yours affectionately  
W.B. Chapman

Did not go to Dinner on Christmas day, have lived on bread, and rice.

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989 12/28/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0925

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Dec. 28, 1858

My dear Brother

I wish you & Lizzie & Guy & Grace all a very Happy New Year!

I can't account for your silence anyway. I do hope that you are all well & I wish you would drop me a line if no more when you receive this. I sent Guy a "Mother Goose" in hieroglyphics by todays mail. It amused me & I guess father & mother will puzzle some over it, if they don't refer to the "key". I wrote something on the fly leaf - but as the P.M. told me that it would subject it to letter postage I tore it out & enclose it. You can reinsert it with a little mucilage.

Capt Lunt died on his passage from Jamaica to Philadelphia. He was delirious most of the time after his attack, had no Physician & no Christian friend to converse with him & bring his last words to his Mother & Betrothed. The mate writes a very few words to the "owners" & that is all they know, but we all hope, from his earlier rather his later experience, that poor Law has gone to the better Land.

From your conversations with him did you feel assured that he had "passed from death unto life"? His mother would be glad to hear of any such thing. She is a Christian. O I hope & pray that it will lead Perry to think. Has he returned to N.Y. yet?

I hope that you have obtained that blessed book, Boardmans "Higher Christian Life", that I recommended, tho' doubtless you would, after your experience, find less that was new than I. Yet It could not be but stimulating & strengthening to your & Lizzies faith. Ella is well. I think this book has had a marked effect on her & indeed, wherever I have sent it, God has granted some good fruits.

I am deep in Theology, but as usual find considerable time, more than I improve, for direct religious effect. My Mission S. School averages about 60 & I enclose you an acct. of our S. School at the Church. I had a letter from Thos. Eaton last night. Two Sea Captains, whose families were interested last fall while they were at Sea, have within a week found "peace in believing".

My vacation (only a week) is in about four weeks & I expect to spend one or two Sabbaths in Harpswell. Pray that the Lord may go with me. I have endeavored to reach some of the people thro' the mail & I am anxious to see, converse, & pray with them.

Charles wrote last week that they were all well at home. The good work don't seem to go on there as in other places. I try to pray still for Roland & Father. Chas don't feel quite satisfied with Dellie.

I suppose your examination is about coming on, but you can find time for a word or two. Love to Sister Lizzie & kisses to the dear children.

Yr aff. Bro.  
Rowland

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990 12/30/1858 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

OOH-0926

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[the paper in this letter allows the ink to bleed]  
West Point N.Y.  
December 30 1858

My dear Brother,

I think I must come to the practice of writing short letters and more of them, for it is a sorry fact that the fewer letters I write the fewer I get.

I am under the greatest of obligations to you for "The Higher Life" for I think it set me straight in some matters and has enabled me to plead with others to seek higher consecration. I wrote in my notebook soon after finishing reading the first few chapters. Lizzie and I have been reading it (the book) attentively and thoughtfully. It has indeed sent a thrill of joy into my heart and have the means of something much <> within me. Saturday night at our evening prayer after spending a portion of the evening upon the subject of "a sacred conversion" or a full salvation, my heart became full of great gladness and the peculiar peace was more than usual." Upon reading a lecture that I wrote about a year ago, I find that I appreciated the way at that time of obtaining a higher degree of holiness of heart than comes as the immediate point of justification. However I did not justly see before what was meant by the "righteousness of God" & Christ our God over our Righteousness. Now I perceive <that> His righteousness is a clothing that God gives to the human knowing.

I have so many things to write that I have <> to send off a few words. I received your letters & Guy's <> present, yesterday. Guy is delighted.

I have resolved at last to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. I am not & have not been in "good & regular standing" <> Christian Church. And though my affections more than incline me to the methodists, it is much the other way with Lizzie. In point of doctrine I had no objection to the Episcopal Church, and with regard to Episcopacy itself I begin to think many of my objections were not valid. The Episcopal Church is a branch of the Church of Christ, and if I do not believe in the absolute necessity of an <> succession outwardly in the Christian ministry. I find that there is no organization against which theory or practice I cannot find some objections & so I will say no more, but for the sake of knowing in my family that my irregularity being some reproach before the ministry of that denomination. Have my self where it now <> my duty to go: not thinking to <> my bread, but to go now as Christ shall but sure to work in his cause, as I <> been doing.. Every christian heart embraced by some resolution bigotry, will ever bid some God speed in every good work if this should not be the same, all you & I need, my brother is Christ. I mostly now go to <Church>. I hope you will feel in no way disappointed as to my decision, for I have done my best to do my best in this matter, and do not take, when I have teaching others, myself to be found halting between two opinions.

We had a good sermon on the subject of duty suggested by the retrospect of another year closed. Text, Ecclesiastes - "<> his commandments, &c." I hope some hearts were reached. Mr French is fortified in proclaiming the truth. The prayer meeting with the cadets continue twice a week. I feel conscious that God has not blessed me in my work as he has you, but I am not conscious of my feelings but those of humiliation & thanksgiving. I am humbled in view of my mistakes & failure but thankful as far as I myself am concerned that such things are the means of strengthening my understanding and leading me to an unfeigned & unreserved trust in Jesus. I told Mr French that I was still looking to the ministry and desired to have my studies tend in that direction. I don't think I will be fully at home till my whole business is to work in the vinyard of the Lord. If you think this desire proceeds from vanity on my part or from an over-estimate of my abilities or from an erroneous view of my duty as a disciple of Christ, I wish you would tell me so as a faithful Brother.

(Monday 3d Jany) it is clear at night. I shall be on the examination tomorrow & want you to hear from us, so I will close up what I have written. I went to the Falls & heard a minister from Poughkeepsy. It was an excellent discourse.

Lizzies here. She enjoyed the higher life much.

Mr Luntz talked with me as a christian, though I think he was regretting his luke warm <was> when I saw him. He treated me with great kindness and he and I never knew ought against his <eternal> life. I heard read a part of a letter, he wrote to Perry and I noticed then, though I had not then seen him, a tone of friendliness & a purity, that I did not anticipate in a letter from the <> of vessel. I did not know that Luntz had become a Captain & gone to sea again. If you see his mother give her my warm Christian sympathy. Tell her I hope we shall meet him in the better Land.

Wishing you the best of God's blessings I am your own brother,  
O.O. Howard

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991 12/30/1858 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* James S Spole

OOH-0927

West Point N.Y.

Punta Garda <>

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[the paper in this letter allows the ink to bleed]

West Point N.Y.  
December 30th 1858

My dear Spole

I think I received a letter from you once when I was a Cadet, and then being puffed up with conceit or vanity I don't think I wrote you such a reply as I ought to have done. You may call to mind something of the kind if you do please forgive. This letter has for its object to fulfill a promise I made to your mother last summer. I had been to a prayer-meeting and told what a blessed Saviour had done for me & my family (at Brunswick). As I was leaving your dear mother spoke to me in the <> and said you were everything to her but a Christian, and asked me if I would not write you, I told her I would, but I forgot the names of your place, till I had written to ascertain. Now my friend of past years I will say to you as my brother wrote to me, "if you want religion you can have it. It <has> been two years, since I found peace & substantial comfort in porsent, living, personal saviour. Go to him without waiting, submitting all you have & are to his control, and you will receive just the help you need. God grant that your Mother's prayers may have been answered before this I would <> you, since already the same <> & abundant light of <truth> upon your heart as has been my blessed <>. If you would like to communicate with <> on this subject, please write <>. I am stationed at West Point as an instructor in the Academy, & have been since a year ago last September. I was in Florida before starting for a <>. I have a wife & two children.

May God bless you & guard you through <> and Lord take the trouble.

Very affectionately yours  
O.O. Howard  
<>

To  
James S Spole  
Punta Garda <>

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992 12/30/1858 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear General [Stevens]

OOH-0928

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[the paper in this letter allows the ink to bleed]

West Point N.Y.  
December 30th 1858

Dear General [Stevens],

I put your name on my list and intended to have written you before but have allowed other letters to displace yours, as they seemed to me to demand a more immediate attention, but with yourself <> your wife, <> your natural, kindly hospitality have been possible.

Every thing has progressed with me. Since after I left you, I returned to the scene of my duties after a few days we commenced our prayer-meeting with the cadets & have continued them twice a week ever since. There is a fuller attendance than last year & much interest manifested for this place. I generally have selections from different books, beside the Scriptures. I have also continued the Sunday school & lectures with the soldiers & citizens and their families at a new Chapel near the Commissary Store. We are still hoping for a more manifest <> of <> Grace in our midst. The Christian life, I think grows upon me, and everyday I have to be more thoughtful for God's inexpressible love, to me & mine. Pray for me that my sins may all be forgiven daily & that I may live by faith on Christ, the Son of God.

My Love to Mrs S.  
Affectionately yours  
O. O. Howard

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993 1/7/1859

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0930

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Jan 7, 1859

Dear Brother

Your very welcome letter came to hand last night. I have tried to write to you just about as often as I should did you take more notice of my Epistles. I believe it took three letters of mine to elicit this of yours & I would willingly write even more. Next to receiving a letter from those I love, it is my greatest pleasure to write them. I am thankful to hear that you are all so well. Give my love to Lizzie & the little ones.

To attain to the Higher Life is a great thing tho the process be simple & easily understood. But I rejoice to believe that such a life is attainable & by the Grace of God, I hope one day to reach it even on Earth. But the test of our maturity in the divine life is not a peculiar state of feeling at a particular point of time, but it is the habitual, felt & observed tenor of our life. This must be meek, submissive, patient, uncomplaining - yes more than that - cheerful, peaceful, even - happy! In one word Christlike. God generally leads his children up to these heights thro afflictions. You & I may attain to them without these, but I feel in my heart that something must dethrone the least & last remains of pride there in my heart before "full trust" will be a constant quest - before Christ will abide in me.

O for a "full consecration" a "full trust" - if thus I can best glorify my master!

I have been confined to my room for nearly a week with a severe cold & influenza. My cough & chest difficulty have so much abated today & my appetite is so good that I hope I am permanently better. God has been very merciful to me in sending me the kindest care from my fellow students & He will reward them for their labors of love. I cannot. I hope to be out by the first of the week. These frequently recurring chest difficulties warn me that I may some day have to give up my chosen work. But He has promised "As thy day thy strength shall be". O may I always be meek & submissive &

"Joy to find in every station"

"Something still to do & hear"

Mon. Jan. 16

I did not think to be still confined to my room, but so it is. Tho' I am slowly improving under the kind care & nursing of my fellow Students. In regards to your decision about joining a church Otis, I can but think it wisely made. It cannot make much difference in your growth in Grace, if you will continue Earnest & faithful. I confess that I have cherished the hope that you & Lizzie might yet conscientiously find a home in the church of Our Pilgrim Fathers, but God seems to order it otherwise & I have no doubt that He has a mission for you to fulfill in the station towards which his Providence seems leading you. May you be led every step by the Holy Spirt - is my prayer.

In regard to the ministry - I have no doubt of your "gifts". The only question is - can you serve God better there than in your present station? If I were well, I would go more fully into the development of my views than I can at present. Indeed I fear that what I have already written may prove unintelligible, but I will ask one question - "On which side is the self denial?" to continue in Service, or to leave it? If you became a Clergyman would there be any probability of your continuing in the Service as Chaplain?

But I find that my head will not let me write more now. Ella is well. She sent me a nice large comforter for a New Years present, which she knit herself.

Gen Stevens was in Sat night and spoke of the letter which he had recently received from you - his purpose of answering it - Mrs S has been sick with the influenza much as I have.

I hope the children continue well. Ask Lizzie which one she is going to give the "Parson" when he is "settled"?

Is there any prospect that you will change your place very soon, do you think?

If I am well, I expect to preach in Harpswell week from Sunday, D.V.

I hope to hear from you before then & that you will have made out this Scrawl. I haven't heard from home lately.

Your affectionate Bro  
Rowland

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994 1/8/1859

*From:* Ann Otis Lee

*To:* Mrs E. W. Howard

OOH-0817

No 54 Harrison St  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No 54 Harrison St Brooklyn  
Jan 8th 1859

My Dear Lizzie

You have not answered my last letter to you, or at least I have not received an answer. I got a letter from Silas yesterday written New Years, and he said he wrote to me a Merry Christmas. I did not get his Christmas letter, and I have been thinking perhaps you have written and the letter has not reached me. I have been expecting a long letter from Perry as in his last he wrote a short letter and said he should write me a long letter soon. Since I know Silas' letter is delayed, I am thinking more are in the same delay.

I read your note to Mrs Dwight who said she would go and see Mrs Moor and see what could be done, but the storm prevented Mrs Dwight from going and Sarah Dwight went. Mrs Moor was sorry your furs did not suit you but was confident they could not be done better by any one, but she would make any alterations you might wish. I have been to see her and she said she would write you and send her note to me to inclose to you. I have been expecting her written note to you, in which she will say what ever she wishes to say. I think you would do better to write to her yourself and then you could say any thing you think proper. I sent you her receipt for the \$8 (dollars) I paid her for the making the furs. Did you get the receipt? She said she could not refund any part of the money as her work people would not refund their wages and she had to pay her people very high wages. Her sister was one they had employed a long time and no complaint was ever made before. They work for wholesale stores in New York and they have very nice furs to make from Brooklyn people.

Cornelia Clark said you was expecting a letter from me. I wrote you a letter before I was able to see Mrs Moor, but after the weather became warmer I went to her myself and requested her to write to you. She said she would go to the work room and see if she could find any pieces of fur among the sweepings of the room. I told you would like to have her send any pieces there might be left, but she said the under part of the rabbit was used and nothing would be left but the trimmings which could not be of the value of a <sixpece>. I told you would like to have all the pieces sent, however small.

Mr Kinsbury called New Years but as Mrs Moor had not sent her letter to you I thought I would not send the letter I had written but write another and now an entire week has passed.

I am suffering very much from my tumor the heat and pain is all I can bear. I saw Maria Tupper a few days ago. She asked me when you would make her a visit. Did you get my letter in which she invited you to come and spend a Sunday with them. Mr Kingsly offered to take my message or letter to you. I had a letter but thought I should write in a day or two.

Perry in his last letter expected to sail for N York about Christmas and expected be here from the 10th to the 15 of this month. I shall begin to look for him next week. I had a letter from Mrs Hazard last week. All friends are well at the east. I hear from Sarah often. All her family are well.

With much love to yourself and Otis and kisses to the children. I am as ever your affectionate Aunt  
Ann Otis Lee

Mrs E. W. Howard

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995 1/10/1859 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear brother, Otis  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0931

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Jan 10, 1859

My dear brother, Otis

We have long been anxious to hear from you but wait and wait in vain. I have been at home 7 weeks and Dellie 8. During all this time not a syllable has come from you either directly or indirectly. He has written one letter since he got home and I have sent one. We hope for the best but fears of something ill will come up and especially to trouble mother. She speaks of you every day & a good many times some days. Rowland cannot imagine why you don't write. Among the conceivable reasons suggested by mother the most satisfactory one had to be that "the vessel" has not yet arrived and gave hope to hear something from that and from Perry before you write. But mother says it is a comfort to sympathize with one's friends even in misfortune. We would like to share your anxiety if you have any. Your family must be well for you would certainly inform us of any illness with them. We shall continue to hope that you also are in good health and performing your ordinary duties with the comfort of mind of an unwavering faith in the lord Jesus.

It is Monday morning as you might notice at least as far as the Mond by the date of this. You would hardly be aware however that it is "before Breakfast." Dellie & I sit in the North room. Here we have been much of the time these three months. He sits opposite of the table which stands in front of a hot fire. The bedstead is "turned up" & has a white curtain hanging round it. I have been in the habit of getting up at 6 o'clock this winter & kindling the fire here, Dellie having brought in the wood the night before. He then gets up & studies Greek, usually recites his lesson in Xenophon's Anabasis about 11 ½ o'clock A.M. He's got for a lesson in P.M. 2 pages of Cicero but finished that Sat. Emma (Rose) calls us to Breakfast & so I will make a pause in my letter.

Since I left my letter I have "done my chores". Went to the Sheep-barn immediately after Breakfast. It is a very cold morning. The Thermometer says 26 below Zero. It never was colder than this here except Winter before last when one morning it was 27 below. I was almost frozen in going to the Sheep barn tho' I called in at Rolands & got warm as I was going & coming. Father got up at 3 o'clock & built a fire but yet the earth in some of mother's plants was frozen. I shall return to Brunswick in a week from Wed. Dellie will go to Auburn at same time. He is going to review Virgil this week & keep along his Greek.

The Ladies Social Circle of God meets here next Wed. Night. It is quite a popular affair. I have attended one night & joined. About 75 members now. All pay a little initiation fee & also a little sum every fortnight when they meet & have a social time. The proceeds are to be used in repairing the meeting-house. First meeting was at John Harrison's. I saw Uncle Ensign & Laura & Hellen at Church yesterday. John took care of the children. Mother went with me tho' it was very cold. But we have a nice stove through the efforts of John H in getting subscription &c and this made the house very comfortable. There was no meeting in this part of the town. Dellie & I attended the prayer-meeting here last evening.

Salmon Wing has at last started to serve the Lord. He spoke in the class meeting week ago Sat. Wm seems to enjoy his religion & is active in the meetings.

I must close this letter now & write to Rowland. We have read the book "Higher Christian Life" with great interest & I hope with profit. Rowland sent it home. Mother is very anxious about you. She said to me yesterday, "You don't know how much I think about Otis". Give my love to Lizzie & the little ones.

From Yr Affectionate Br  
Charles

P.S. Do you have an opportunity of seeing the N.Y. Independent? If so I would like you to read two articles on Dr Alexander's Sermons in papers dated Dec. 30 & Jan 6. They give a view of the old & new school.



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996 1/11/1859 *From:* M.A. Calle

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-0933

Harlem

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harlem Jan 11th /59

Lieut Howard

Dear Sir

Your letter written some time ago was received and should have been replied to before now, but Thomas kept hoping he would soon be able to write himself. He left here New Year's day in company with a friend for Salem. I have heard from him three times since he thinks he is improving slowly. In the letter I received yesterday he wished me to write and thank you for your kind christian sympathy and as soon as he could use his eyes he would write you himself.

We all feel much anxiety at having him East but he was very nervous and had so few acquaintances here time seemed longer to him. We thought the change might be a benefit certainly afford him temporary relief.

The right eye has improved so he can see to go about and within a few days he has been able to discern light, with the left one. He suffers severely from pain in his head, particularly nights rendering it impossible for him to sleep.

His physicians think he requires to take a long time to recruit and make a permanent cure of his eyesight. I fear he will return to duty before he ought and bring on a relapse and if he should the probabilities would be against his ever seeing again.

Mother is with me this winter, her health is much better than it was last summer. If you would like to write to Thomas, address him at Salem, Mass. He wished to be remembered to all his friends at West Point.

Give my kind regards to Mrs Howard.

Truly yours,  
M.A. Calle

Lieut. Howard

[Written in another hand.]  
<Lt. Tannathy> Sister.

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997 1/17/1859 *From:* Henry M Robert

*To:* Mr O.O. Howard

OOH-0934

Fort Cascades W.T.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Cascades W.T.

Jany 17th 1859

Dear Mr Howard

I write this as a check upon my other letter which I have just finished. It contains a check

"No 907, Fort Vancouver, W.T. 15 Dec 1858

Assistant Treasurer, N.Y. New York

Pay to William D Walsh or order Three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350)"

signed Benjm Alvord Paymaster endorsed

"Pay to Lt O.O. Howard or order (signed) William D Walsh U.S.A.

If that letter is not received, then please stop payment on the check & inform me and oblige your true friend.

Henry M Robert

I will enclose this to the Misses Berard for additional safety & send it by <Teknanteper> the other going by Panama.

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998 1/17/1859 *From:* Henry M Robert

*To:* LT O.O. Howard

OOH-0935

Fort Cascades W.T.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Cascades, W.T. Jan 17th 1859

Dear Friend,

I hereby write you a hasty note to ask you to do me a favor. I enclose a check upon the Ast Treasurer at N.Y. drawn by Major Alvord payable to Corpl Walsh & endorsed by him payable to your order. The Amt. \$350 I want to have it given to the wives of the following men in my detachment, Sgt Wheeler (\$100) one hundred dollars, Corpl McEnaney (\$70) seventy Artfrs Thompson (\$55) fifty five; Shirts (\$50) fifty; Kendall (\$30) thirty & Pvt Prior (\$45) forty five.  $100+70+55+50+30+45=350$ . The men have been depositing money with me for safe keeping & these wanted the amts sent to their families. I can not get checks for the amts except by paying 3 pr ct, which they do not feel like paying so I have taken the liberty of sending this check to you knowing that you take interest in the men and would be willing to assist them in this way. To Mrs Wheeler will be sent a check for \$20 as soon as I can get one, besides the amt, mentioned.

We are getting along finely here and expect to leave in two or three months for Fort Benton on the Missouri with Gen'l Harney and the 4th Infantry. We will build a road from Wallawalla to Benton 800 miles though all is passable but 120 miles across the Rocky Mountains. It will take us two seasons so that we will get back to the States in the winter of 1860. Nothing is positively known about it yet.

I suppose you have heard of our trip through the Misses Berard. The other evening Mr Harker who has been staying with me a week, & I attended an Indian Dance which was quite a novelty to us. They had kept it up for one week & were pretty tired. Every other day I ride through this village of Klickitats on my way from the Lower Cascades to the Upper where the men are and where I am at this moment.

Remember me to all my friends and believe me your sincere friend.

Henry M Robert

To  
Lt Howard

I will send you another letter by another route so that you may stop payment on the check if lost.  
HMR

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999 1/20/1859 *From:* Aunt Ann [Lee]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0936

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn Jan 20th /59

My dear Lizzie

I have written you twice since you wrote to me. At least two letters are unanswered. I got one note from you written after you received your furs, but before you got my note inclosing your receipt. Did you get that, and a note written after I went to see Mrs Moor, who promised to write to you. Did you get my last note and has Mrs Moor written to you?

One of Silas letters has miscarried and I have been thinking you may have written and the letter has been lost. I send this note by Cornelia Clark. If you have written and directed to the house and I have missed the letter direct the next to the care of Mr Bacon and he will send it over to me. His direction is 59 South St. N.Y.

I had a letter from Sarah [Sargent] dated the 30th Dec. They are all well, had a letter <Mother Jeans> a day or two ago. They are all well - i.e. their families are well. My own health is about as when you was here. My tumor increases fast. I suffer very much.

Please write me as soon as you get or tell Otis to write for I want to hear from you.

In great haste.

I am your affec  
Aunt Ann [Lee]

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1000 1/21/1859    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0932

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jany 21, 1859

My dear Mother,

I will direct this letter to you, for the boys may both be gone before this gets home. I received Charles' last letter nearly a week since, but as he wrote on the outside of the one directed to me that mine to him had just arrived I did not think it best to reply immediately.

I am sorry that you had anxiety on account of me. I have been very actively engaged all the time and really was not aware that so many weeks had slipped by between my two last letters home. We have been generally in good health. Guy & Lizzie have had pretty bad colds, but I think we are all quite well now. I have not been expecting Perry till since the 15th inst with any anxiety. I don't feel any with reference to the property. God will take care of us. He giveth and He taketh away, and we must rejoice for He doeth all things well.

I have been to Mr Gray's (presbyterian) Church at "the falls" considerably evenings. I have delivered three formal lectures there and spoken informally at other times. He, Mr Gray, has had a protracted meeting for three weeks and quite a revival. The Rev Mr Hawley of Peekskill (at first I heard he was from Poughkeepsy) initiated the good work. Some of our soldiers are interested. I saw one who used to attend my Bible class rise for prayers Tuesday night last. He has been serious a good while but being of the Unitarian stamp he never has learned to put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have one private scholar now, a son of the leader of the Band, Mr Apeles. The prayer meetings with the Cadets are still kept up twice a week, on Monday and Thursday evening. We generally have a chapter read, sing a hymn, unite in repeating the Lords prayer and then have one or two extempore prayers. Then I read some selection that I think will give interest and be of some use.

The Wednesday evening meeting with the soldiers &c continues well attended. The Methodist Minister will not come now but half of the time on Sunday evenings so that I shall read some discourse or deliver one of my own on Sunday night also when Mr Edwards does not come.

The examination lasted three weeks. My Sections got off pretty well. Two members of the lower one were found deficient. These failed on what I gave them.

Grace waked this morning at five but she has now gone to sleep again (7). Guy has come down and is being dressed. He says he was sick in the night, but God made him well. Guy is a very good boy. He learns his letters by himself from my news-paper, and is getting to be quite an intelligent lad. Grace talks all the time. She is our sunbeam. She looks at your picture and calls it "Damma" and said last night, I think it was, "Damma mum to tea" i.e. Gramma come to tea.

Love from Lizzie to all. Remember me to the neighbors, and give much love to Father. Lizzie has written to Cynthia. Love to Uncle Ensign's family. May the best blessings be yours.

Affectionately yours  
O.O. Howard

"Who writing to papa?" Grandma "Send a Kiss" and to Uncle Charlie & Uncle Rowland & Uncle Dellie and Grandpa."

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1001 1/29/1859 *From:* Jno R Bacon

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-0937

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York  
Jany 29/59

Dear Sir,

Yrs at hand. The ltr from Nassau is just in and I have only time to say that it is all right about the \$25 - pay it when it suits you. I hope to see the Goodell here before Monday. There is \$1200 yet uninsured on the half owned by Mr K & yourself but I have today written to Boston to try & get it done there. The application to Hamburg failed.

With kind regards, I am

Yrs Truly  
Jno R Bacon

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1002 1/30/1859    *From:* Sarah [Jones]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0938

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn Jan 30 1859

My dear Lizzie,

What shall I first say. I thank you for your kind and affectionate letters, and many of its suggestion are in strict accordance with my own feelings. The last letter in particular, and those little books are beautiful, may my family receive much good from them. You may ask why do I say family - I have nothing but my dear children. Yes I have a husband. He is with us once more. He says never to leave me, untill death. He came home three weeks ago last night. I had not heard from him but once after you left me, untill the day he came. I felt the prediction he was not a living. The last letter denoted how great change in him. Now if he is a changed man, I think I shall be the first one, that knows it.

One week has past since I commenced this sheet. I had to leave on the account of sick headache, today not much better. I ask myself, What are my sufferings compared to our blessed Saviour. I am happier now what I have past through, then I once was. When every thing looked bright to the world. I wish all of my friends could feel the happiness which I now enjoy in Christ Jesus. He has done much for me. I have done nothing in return. I have promise myself this forty fourth year of my age shall be more given to his service. My house shall be a house of prayer, if some of the inmates are not. Let us pray they may be before to late.

Mary Noyes & her children board with us. You can see I have something to do, but nothing to what I have done for the year past. I hope my friends will never know. I hope not but one change more, and may that be the happiest one in my whole life. I would like to see the conversion of my whole family. May this year be a year of interest in the lord.

It is a getting dark. I cannot write much more. You will excuse me when I see you. You mentioned about coming to Auburn before this. I am in hope you will. I imagine I see the children now. Grace with her nightgown pinned up as she sometimes had it before going to bed. Is she as butiful as ever. Do not think to much of them. Did you ever think there never was two such children. I never see them Christmas eve. <Printice> brought me a letter from you with a one dollar bill in it. I took the bill and divided it equal among my children. They knew where the money came from.

The children learn the best this winter, they ever have. We are a having a good school. I can see Crestes has improved this winter.

Novillia is over to the shop this winter. Oscar & Olive with them. I have not write much of interest this time. I will try to write you more next time. We were expecting a new meeting house next summer. I think (Mr Adams) our minister is a fine man, and every body I am acquainted with is good.

My love to Otis. Kiss the children for me. In haste

Sarah [Jones]

Monday morning. Everett gone to work in the shoe shop for Mr Rock. The children to school. Mary a washing her cloths, I have wash mine. Lucretia has been to Auburn and spent one week. I did not see her.

Otis & Lizzie did I do wrong in receiving my husband. He came to me a <fortnight> said he would be true to me. Did I do right by some I have been blamed, but if I do right I shall not suffer by it. He seems changed. I feel that Otis letter had a good effect upon him. Lizzie do you think there ever was a family had so much done for them as you have done for mine and still I ask for more if they are left without a mother. One of these little books has <reminded> me about those <>. How comforting. My health is the same as last summer. Write me soon if convenient. I will answer it soon.

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1003 1/31/1859    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0939

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Jan 31, 1859

My dear brother

My last letter to you was written just about the time of the one I received from you a day or two afterwards. I was glad to learn you were enjoying your ordinary prosperity and that mother's fears were not realized. I have been in Brunswick almost two weeks. Found my room as I left it and soon had a comfortable fire from the wood I had stored in the Fall.

For the first two nights however I did not stop in College. We met Prof. Chadbourne in the old Laboratory on Friday morning & have since had a lesson every morning. I like him much for a teacher of Chemistry. He makes the recitation interesting. Gets quite enthusiastic on different subjects as they are brought up in the lesson. He will lecture next month.

We have now Upham on the Sensibilities and are just beginning Butler, which requires of me considerable study.

Nettie is well and is now attending school. She gets thro' the High School in two weeks. She & I went to Lewiston last week on Thursday. It was a beautiful day & the sleighing was good so that we could not fail of having a pleasant ride. Found Dellie in good condition boarding with Mrs Herrick who is a daughter of Mr Thomas Little. It is a new place but he likes much. We spent the night there. The house is situated opposite the Academy on Auburn side. We went in the evening to hear a Lyceum Lecture by Mr Eddie of Boston. We went up mostly on account of this lecture. The subject of it was the True & the False. He treated it as regards manhood - patriotism - philanthropy - religion.

Our return on Friday was not so pleasant as it began to snow in the night & we had a storm to ride in. We had a good horse & sleigh & robes however so we did not mind the snow much.

Rowland came from Bangor Sat. week ago. He had been intending to spend the following Sabbath in Harpswell but found his health would not permit. He went to Bath after stopping an hour with me & did not return till last Sat. Said he had been gaining every day but still feared he would not be able to preach at H. yesterday. He rode down there Sat afternoon - will return tomorrow. Ella came up with him from Bath but I did not see her. I forgot to say they came up Frid. & spent the night at Mrs Frost's. I did not see him till Sat. when he came to my room.

I heard from home while at Auburn. Father had been down to Court two days before. Dellie will go home in two weeks. He came down to Auburn when I came along to Brunswick but the term was then almost done. He had kept along his studies while at home with me.

I was glad you wrote as you did to him in my letter. He thinks too much of worldly vanities ever to attain to eminent piety. His mind is all absorbed in subjects which he imagines connected with his intended profession. Fear he would as soon or almost as soon omit reading his chapter in the Bible as the daily newspaper.

I do not feel like dwelling upon his religious languor however as long as my own heart is so out of place as I know it to be. I do not enjoy that daily communion with Jesus that I ought to have. I desire a deeper work of grace. Pray that I may have it Otis.

You ought to read Mr Storer's letter to Rowland in answer to one written him about the "Higher Life". He had not read the book but would do so at the first opportunity. He believes in the "Second Conversion" & thinks the Christian life should be a "constant series of Conversions" he "would not be back where he was before his second change" for a thousand worlds - would "not remain where he was for a million worlds!" He believes "knees well-caloused with prayer" the best preparation for a minister.

Cyrus Carleton of Rowland's class came to town a day or two ago. He was in my room this forenoon. I saw him at Mrs Grows' last evening before meeting. He has been a year & a half at Newton. Thinks of preaching for a few weeks - perhaps in Brunswick as they are destitute. There has been some interest at the lower part of the town this winter & considerable in Topsham with the Free-will Baptists.

You inquire about Roland A. He has been quite steady of late. Appeared very kind to me while I was at home. I was often in there. One evening Dellie & I were invited there to tea. Dellie did not spend all the evening but went home to study. Before going home I read a chapter & tried to pray. They both seemed very glad to have me do so tho' they did not request it. This was but a few days before I left home. I think I wrote you of Salmon Wing. I have not heard from him since I left.

The interest at the lower part of this town is tho't I believe to have been awakened in connection with the preaching of a Mr Philips of the Junior class. He preached with great acceptance to quite a full audience at the Poor House last term. Mr Penney of the Junior Class also preaches occasionally in the Free-will house at Grows Town - West Brunswick. Mr Harris of my own class preached at the Baptist here in town during the Winter. He was teaching at the same time.

I do not feel as tho' it would be my place to preach now & I don't know as I ever shall. I am thinking somewhat of teaching a year after leaving College. Father has hard work to furnish me the means to pay my expenses just now. I don't know how it will be next October. Rowland is a little troubled to get means. Father has let him have money once this winter.

I was particularly pleased to hear about Guy & Grace. Always tell me about them, wont you? Hope you & Lizzie will find your connection with the Episcopal Church conducive to abundant growth in grace. I must now take [leave] my Brother

Hope you will write me oftener this term if you can spare the time. I remain

Affectionately Yours  
C.H. Howard

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1004 2/2/1859

*From:* Thomas Edwards

*To:* Lieut O. [O.] Howard

OOH-0940

Cold Spring

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Cold Spring, Feb. 2d '59.

Lieut O. Howard

Dear Sir.

We intend with permission of Providence to commence a meeting at the Falls next Sab consequently I shall be there in the Aft & Evening. Will you supply at the Point? If you cannot please have the appointment recall'd. I would be pleas'd to have you speak to us some evening next week at the Falls if you can do so. Come if possible Tuesday evening. Let me know on Sab. day.

Yours truly  
Thomas Edwards

N.B. Give us your prayers that God may bless the effort

P.S. I shall depend on you for the Point every Sab evening during the meeting at the Falls, as it will be necessary for me to continue there nearly all the time until the close.

T.E.

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1005 2/4/1859

*From:* A. Mordecai

*To:* Lt. [OO] Howard

OOH-0941

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal

Feb 4 / 59

Dear Sir

A discharged soldier named Henry Geary presented himself this morning as a candidate for enlistment in my detachment. He says he was a hospital attendant at Tampa when you were there, & he thinks you will remember him & will give him a good character. If you do recollect him, please let me know what sort of a man he is; whether sober & well disposed.

I have not forgotten the man at Governor's Isld whom you spoke to me about, & shall be glad to see him when his time there expires, if he is a single man.

Yrs truly

A. Mordecai

Lt. Howard

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1006 2/7/1859

*From:* RB Howard

*To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-0942

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Feb 7, 1859

Dear Brother

I found yours of the 29th ult on my table when I returned Sat night. I was well enough to go over to Bath two weeks ago last Sat. My hoarseness kept me from preaching the following Sabbath but a week ago yesterday (Sunday) I spent in Harpswell. I did not go home at all, but saw Charles a no. of times in Brunswick. I think my health improved every day while I was gone & I hope that I will be able now to go to work. I found Ella well, & we were very happy together - of course.

Charles recv'd a letter from Mother while I was there & I was very much pleased with its spirit of cheerfulness & faith. She has prayers in the family every evening. Dellie is at home now, & he will help her. Charles does not enjoy very good health & sometimes I fear he never will, but if he can have more active habits & out-door exercise he will be much better, I think. Nettie seems to have improved.

I found things very encouraging, on the whole in Harpswell. The Young Converts generally appeared well, & gave signs of growth & expansion in the Christian life, but alas, there were some exceptions. There have been two or three new cases very lately, & I felt a great desire to stay longer & would if I could. All gave me a most hearty & cordial greeting & many made me little presents of small sums of money & other things which I value far beyond their intrinsic worth.

I got stuck in a snow drift on the K. & P. R.R. on my return so as not to make the connection to Bangor & went into Portland & staid all night with Frank. I called to see Capt Edw Waite & family. I found them mourning Lizzie's probable loss but they seemed very submissive to the will of God. Susan was at home & seems like a lovely girl. I never saw her before.

I was rejoiced to hear of the good work at the "Falls" & only pray that it may extend to the "Point" & the Academy. Of course, you love your Saviour - nobody ever truly saw him & felt him without loving Him - & to you He seems to have revealed himself with more clearness than to many & I can no more conceive of your love's abating towards him than I can towards your wife. We would never think it necessary to say much about that to prove that it existed in our hearts. So our love for Jesus is our second nature - more permanent & abiding than earthly love as it is the work of God in the higher & holier compartment of our Soul.

Both loves are the works of God. The one of providence & the other of Grace. O how we ought always to be full of thanksgiving & praise for that [See Note] great mercy that chose us to serve Him on Earth & in Heaven. Blessed work! Glorious occupation! O that I might forget myself in my Saviour & his work.

I am glad to hear that you are all recovering from your colds. Always say something about Guy & Grace. Uncle Rowland loves them. Ella sends her love to you & Lizzie. She is thinking of going to N.Y. City in the Spring ( I don't know what time) & also of going to a wedding somewhere in the Center of N.Y. State. A cousin of hers is to be married, I believe. I should be delighted & I know she would to visit you then.

I have grown somewhat familiar with the Episcopalian arguments, but I have not informed myself sufficiently to reply to them. All matters of Church Government belong to our next year & my time is now fully occupied in doctrinal & exegetical studies. We have just finished the perplexing subject of the will, but owing to my Sickness I have not done it half justice. I found my little S. School flourishing on my return to it yesterday.

There is a revival in progress in the next town above here - Vezie. Gen Stevens inquired for you this morning.

Love to Lizzie & the children.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

Lieut. O. O. Howard

[Note: The remainder of this letter was filed at the end of another letter from Rowland to Otis, dated 4/30/1859.]

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1007 2/8/1859

*From:* E Waite

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0943

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Feby 8 1859

Lieut O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

This to inform you that the interest on the A St L R.R. is now due. Shall I collect and forward you the amt due on your Wife's Shares.

Your Brother made us a friendly call last Saturday on his way from Harpswell to Bangor.

We are all quite well at home, hope you and your dear family are all enjoying the same blessing.

We have heard nothing from our dear Lizzie & Husband since they sailed from England. We fear they are all lost. May the Lord give us Grace to be resigned to his will.

From your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

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1008 2/8/1859

*From:* Joseph C. Stevens

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-0944

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Feby 8, 1859

My Dear Sir,

I was very happy to receive your letter a short time since, and learn of your prosperity temporal and spiritual. It seemed to me upon the perusal of its contents, that God has raised you up to be the honored instrument in his hands for great good at W.P. Oh my dear Sir, just think for a moment that if the officers in the Army could only become Christians, what heralds of salvation would they prove to the benighted portions of our Country, as they unfurled the banner of the cross? Persevere my dear brother, and may God in his infinite may strengthen you for the glorious work, and may you have the happiness of seeing that "you are not laboring in vain, or spending your strength for nought" but rather may the good seed you are now sowing, "take root and bear fruit, one hundred fold." And is there not much satisfaction to be desired in the reflection that should God be pleased to accept our services and pardon our sins for Christs sake, we may hereafter be permitted while standing upon the battlements of that glorious City in company with other redeemed spirits to point down and in the contemplation of reminiscences say then and there God enabled me to present the truth to such and such redeemed souls, there I suffered such and such conflicts, but God in his great mercy sustained me and has brought me safely home?

Think what is going on in our Navy, the daily prayer meeting, on board the missionary ship N. Carolina at Brooklyn shipyard, and the constant concessions among ten to twelve hundred men who must all be more or less affected by such views, and think that these men are being distributed on board of our several ships of war destined to all parts of the world, and many to meet their own nation and kin. What efficient missionaries is God preparing to convert the world, and how puny will all the efforts heretofore put forth by more officers. Truly it may be said as in the day of Pentecost "How hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians and Medes, and Elamites and the dwellers in Mesopotamia" &c &c. There the daily prayer meetings established on board of the U.S. Ship & this with some sixty or seventy converts, the Wabash with about as many more, the St Louis just sailed with one hundred and fifty men taken from the North Carolina some twelve or fifteen of whom are recent converts, and pledged to continue the daily prayer meetings. Is not God truly preparing the world for some new, and yet more glorious display of his sovereign grace? It really seems to me so. And who would wish to be a silent observer of such scenes? Or rather may I not ask, who would not wish to be a humble coworker in such astounding exhibitions of Gods mercy, and the fulfillment of his worded prophecy? We continue our 8 ock daily am prayer meeting, and recently a daily four oclk P.M. prayer meeting has been established, each of which are pretty well attended, and we hope and trust, that more religious interest is now being felt.

I see your brother frequently, he is quite well, and we are anticipating the pleasure of seeing Mrs H with yourself and family, at our house. When you visit our City again come directly to our home. Let my name be upon your list of correspondents, and write me at your convenience, and when you bow at the throne of grace do not forget me my dear brother. Oh how much I need your prayer that God will strengthen and establish me in my good word and work. My kindest regards to Mrs H in which request Mrs S sincerely unites.

May God preserve you and make you eminently useful in winning souls, and at last arrive you in his heavenly Kingdom, will be the prayer of

Your sincere friend

Joseph C. Stevens

To

Lt. O.O. Howard

U.S.A.

West Point

N. York

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1009 2/10/1859

*From:* Wm. C. Mayer  
Compy "B" 1st  
Artillery  
Fort Columbus, N.Y.C.

*To:* 1st Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0945

Ordnance Dept.  
West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Columbus, N.Y.C. Febr 10, 1859

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your worthy communication of the 20th Decbr 1858 and tell you my heartfelt thanks for the kindness you showed to me.

Lieut Ingraham, who arrived yesterday at this post from West Point informs me that Major Mordecai requested him to tell me that there is vacancy for me at Watervliet Arsenal. I should be greatly obliged to you, if you would please to find out from Lieut Lee, in what capacity I will be employed and in what grade likely I will be mustered and inform me of it.

If Major Mordecai should need my services soon, I could be easily transferred from the Artillery to the Ordnance Dept.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,  
Your Obedt. Servt.  
Wm. C. Mayer  
Compy "B" 1st Artillery

1st Lieut O.O. Howard  
Ordnance Dept.  
West Point, N.Y.

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1010 2/12/1859 *From:* S.P. Lee

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0946

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Feby 12th 1859

Dear Otis

I sent you yesterday a Box of Oranges by Express. I have had them ready to send the last week but could not get an expressman to come after them and I sent them up by a car man to the express office. I wrote you last week acquainting you of my safe arrival &c &c, and have been trying to get a chance to run up and stop one night with you but am afraid I shall not have time now as I shall sail next Wednesday again for Cumberland harbour, the same port I came from. Tell Mr Kingsley if he is going to come down Tuesday that he need not bring any thing with him but what he wants to wear or if he likes a few apples would be very good and exceptable so he might buy a few.

I got Miss Jennys letter yesterday about that boy. I should like very much to take him but I shipped a boy a few days ago and I do not know how I can take another as they are very little use on short voyages. When I come back I will take him if he wants to go then.

Mothers health is failing fast she is not near as well as when I left her last voyage. If it is possible for you to come down I should like to see you before I sail as I shall not have time to go up to the Point.

I am in a great hurry to day so I will close and will write you again fully before I sail. This voyage is not yet settled up and cannot be for some time as my Charter have failed and it will be some time before we get the whole amt of charter although I have got most of it.

With much love to Lizzie & the children and all friends, I remain your affectionate Cousin,  
S.P. Lee

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1011 2/14/1859 *From:* Dudley T. Morton

*To:* Otis Howard Esqr

OOH-0947

Baltimore

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Baltimore Febry 14 1859

Otis Howard Esqr  
West Point

Dear Sir

Allow me the pleasure of introducing to your favorable notice my friend J. Henry Counselman [USMA class of 1863] who will present this and who intends going through the course of studies at your Institution. He is a very worthy young man and one whom we esteem, and any kindnesses you may show him will be duly appreciated by your old schoolmate.

Dudley T. Morton  
formerly of Hallowell Me

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1012 2/16/1859      *From:* [Charles C Lee]      *To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0948      Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. Feb 16th, 1859

Dear Howard,

Peace be to you & yours. I am sorry your time is so very much occupied that you are unable to enter into the discussion which we were to have carried on, and I am still more sorry that you acknowledge you can't prove that which you state you most surely believe for St Paul says "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good" 1 Thes V.21; and St Peter, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness & fear." 1 Pe.iii-15 if the doctrine of the Trinity is the doctrine of the Bible, then most certainly you have all the data to substantiate that doctrine in that book itself. I feel that the Bible contains enough to enable me to maintain my position, and I thank God that his word is as clear as it is, and that we can fully understand all our duties to our Maker and our fellow-men. On points, where we cannot agree, we will agree to differ in christian love and brotherhood. I am glad you are enabled to accomplish some good at West Point, and I desire that a great door and effectual may be opened unto you, and that you may soon see of the fruit of your labor in that place.

If the fact that the blind, lame, dumb, &c asked and received blessings of the Savior would justify us in prayer to him, then the same proof would give us the right to pray to the apostles of our Lord, to Moses &, to many of the prophets who existed in Old-Testament times, which would at once take us further than the Catholics have ever gone, who pray to the apostles. I do not say, that there are near so many examples of requests answered by any other finite being, as by the Savior, but I say that the argument is just as conclusive in the one case as in the other. I cannot think there is an authenticated instance of prayer to the Savior in the Bible.

You state that you are rooted & grounded in Christ Jesus - so am I. I believe that Jesus is the mediator between God & men, and how can one of the parties to a difference be the mediator between those parties? As Christ must be if your belief is founded on truth. I think there is no third person ever spoken of in the Bible.

You say that the great portion of the Christian world in ancient as well as modern times accepted the Trinity on faith. Now, while I do not in matters of faith, regard numbers as of any authority, still I think your remark unjust, for Athanasius, the great explainer of your faith was banished by a council of 90 bishops in the year 341 at Antioch for holding false views; afterwards recalled 349, but again banished by two councils held 353 and 355 at Arles and Milan. Thus you see, there was no very great majority in ancient times held the doctrine as you hold it. I do not mean to say that Arius held the doctrine just as I do, but that he did not believe in the Trinity as you and the majority of Christians hold it. We do not desire to replace that theory, but we think it endeavoring to substitute itself, for the simplicity of the Bible.

We should not take anything on faith because the great majority of christians do, if this were the proper method we would all be Roman Catholics; for when Luther separated himself from the Roman Catholic Church were not 99/100 believers in all its dogmas? The theory of the Trinity, has nothing to do with the atonement, with an all-sufficient sacrifice for sin; and so far from its giving the sinner anything sure to go to, it tends to destroy all

[missing closure]

[From Charles C. Lee]

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1013 2/25/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0949

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Feb 25, 1859

My Dear Brother

I did not receive the letter which I was in hopes to from you, but Gen Stevens, in the Fast Day Meeting, which occurred yesterday, alluded to West Point & your labors & requested prayer, & Dr Shepard offered a prayer. When he came to mention "that instructor who is trying to teach the knowledge of Jesus Christ," I could not restrain my tears. It seemed so good to have all those hearts going up in prayer for one I love! & I felt then that the prayer would be answered & now I expect it.

I write today while this impression is vivid on my mind.

Mrs Stevens has a son in Bowd. Coll. who joined the Church last Summer, but from what Charles says, I fear that he is falling into bad company. He has some false "liberal" notions which will be in danger of shipwrecking his hope in Christ. I have tried to converse with him & pray for him & have talked with some of the faculty about him. I pity his mother. I will expect to hear of some good effects following this Concert of Prayer for Colleges.

I notice in the papers two marriages in Leeds - B. Dane to Hannah Knapp, & Judson Foss (Walter's Son) to Theresa Howard (Uncle Franks oldest daughter) [Benjamin Franklin Howard]. By the way I met that last named fat, comfortable looking individual down street here the other day. He is driving about with his own horse as usual. Was in Leeds three weeks ago & left Laura, Aunt Lucretia & family all well. I was real glad to meet the old fellow & I wish that I could make a better man of him. If I could have seen him long enough, I would have introduced the subject of religion.

Feb 25th.

I conducted a prayer meeting this evening & introduced the subject of praying for old friends & acquaintances, who are impenitent. We had a real good meeting & a no. of earnest prayers. I wish you could have our prayer meetings at West Point.

Ella writes me that Mr Merriman (Nettie's father) is said to have "failed". I do pity them, if this is so. Her engagement to Charles has I fear led them to struggle too much for a 'position &c' but I don't know positively that such is the fact, but that home he built was too big for his means. Still he must have been unfortunate some other way. I will ask Charles about it. Nettie has just graduated very creditably to herself at the Bruns. High School.

Charles wrote me an excellent letter the other day full of good sense & deep piety. I hope his health will permit him to study for the ministry. I think he hesitates now on that & other accts about entering it. Pray for him.

Love to Lizzie & the children.

Egbert Smyth was to go to Harpswell next Sabbath to administer the Lords Supper & receive four into the Church. I correspond with Thos Eaton, when I told him what you said about being a minister. He said, "he'll make a good one".

Your aff Bro  
Rowland

I have recently read the Biographies of Bishop Leighton & R.M. McCague. You can't afford to live without reading them. What a blessed thing is Christian Biography!

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1014 2/28/1859    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0950

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
February 28th 1859

My dear Mother

It is so tempting to sit down of an evening when one gets the leisure & spend the time in reading, that I keep putting off a letter from day to day, till a month or more has gone by without my writing even to my dearest friends. This evening is most gone for it is already nearly ½ past nine. I have just come in from making a couple of calls; I go immediately to my desk, & say to Lizzie who is making a Lounge-cover to whom shall I write first? She says to you.

We went to New York last week. Lizzie went in company of Lt Reed's young widow who went to make her first sorrowful visit to Governor's Island where she & her husband spent the few months of their married life. Lizzie went on Wednesday with her & her friends, and I followed early Thursday morning.

We found Aunt Ann Lee suffering pains of the most excruciating nature - not every day. She says she has her bad days & her well days. Her breast is more than double its natural size & a portion of the cancer near her arm protrudes & is much discolored. She says the pain is like living fire bound up in her flesh & that it sometimes makes her faint. She expects this soon to open & become an offensive sore. Her appetite is still good, as is her general health. She goes out to ride, & to walk often; but she cannot live long. She may die suddenly if the cancer does not open, & if it does her life cannot be prolonged I fear, for any great length of time. She thinks she had better stay where she is, where she has so many privileges for one in such a terrible condition. None of her friends can have much hope of her ultimate recovery, though all things are possible with God. Her mind is calm & cheerful & she loves to hear about Heaven & wonders if it is really possible that so much joy is in store for her. I read a little to her Thursday & Friday morning. She was able to sit up while I read 2 chapters in the Bible & knelt with us in prayer.

Perry has gone to the same harbor again. St Iago de Cuba. He had some difficulty in getting the proceeds of his first voyage but finally got the most of it. I hope the next Charter is safer. He was sick while away & quite unwell while at home. He could hardly tear himself from his mother, but believed it his duty to go. I had no particular anxiety about the vessel while it was away. I put my interest into the Hands of God. He doeth all things well.

We returned from N. York Friday evening, but as we took a train that stopped only at Cold Spring in this vicinity & as the River was full of ice we did not get home till Saturday morning when we found the children well & happy waiting for their parents. Guy is fleshy & hearty. He has learned all his letters himself, delights in listening to stories, says he loves the Saviour now, and asks if God will let him gather roses in Heaven. He learns with great readiness. I do not push him at all. Grace is very interesting in her little ways. She too is fat & hearty. She talks everything & so that we understand her. Her temper is excessive, but when good she is as affectionate as you would wish. She runs & puts up her little mouth for a kiss when I leave the house. You would rejoice to see her dear shining little face & big wide awake eyes. I hope God will enable Lizzie & me to discharge our duty faithfully in bringing up these little charges.

Lizzie is the same good & affectionate wife & affectionate & faithful mother as ever. Truly God has ever greatly blessed me. I hope the boys are well. Much love to Father.

Affectionately your Son  
O.O. Howard

Lizzie sends love to all & says, ask Cynthia to answer my letter. We have quite a revival near us at the Falls. I conducted the meeting there one week ago for the Rev Mr Gray who was ill, & last Sunday I lectured in the evening. I continue to lecture & the prayer meetings with the cadets are kept up twice a week. I shall be glad of the Summer's rest from active duty.

Dellie must be at home. My love to him. Tell him I would like to hear from him.

Remember me affectionately to the neighbors.

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1015 3/2/1859

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [RB Howard]

OOH-0951

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. March 2 1859 [entire letter has ink bleeding]

My dear Brother

I believe on the slate I am owing you a letter, not having written you since you enclosed one of the Gen Mrs. Steven's letters. I was very glad to read that letter because Charles had spoken of it and you also had spoken of him. I know very little of the experience of men who have endured much mental or physical suffering. All real trials are in the <future> for me. Heretofore, before I knew much of the Grace & Mercy of God, I magnified my trials & causes of complaining, but, God has never ceased to deal bountifully with me. Now my prevailing temper is peace, peace of mind. I have read a little of <Thomas & Kenigeis> in Latin. But now I have no English editions. I have

[many lines too difficult to read]

For three successive secondary evenings I have lectured there on the <ten> commandments, and have engaged to continue till I have finished a <> next Sunday evening. He engaged to preach here a sermon for each lecture. In this way I am saved thru labor of preparation - you <may> think this of doubtful utility but the trouble is, though in good health I <am unable to do unreasonable> duty beyond the official requirement. I am not very strong. I keep thin in flesh and with nervous <> elasticity of mind & body. I myself think the best thing for me is no proper regulation of my exercise and diet. What an excellent thing if my practice would comport better with my theories. I have mislaid your last letter and do not remember when you wished me to give you the information you desired. I will <> write a few words on the subject, if it is not too late, well. Lizzie has found the letter and I find I allowed the time to pass without complying with your request.

Lieutenant Reed's sickness & death occurred about the time of the receipt of your letter. I watched with him & spent much time with him and spoke with the family after his death.

Lizzie & I visited Aunt Ann last week. Her cancer is enormous and dreadfully painful; like coals of fire, she says. She is very cheerful and looks above for comfort. She will soon be there.

Lizzie has written to Ella & is exceeding anxious to have a visit from her. It is already too good a thing to expect, but I tell you we will give her a hearty welcome if she does come. Guy is a strapping boy. He says "obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." "Suffer little child in the <>" Thou God <> me". He knows also the Lords prayer. I had some stories about Jesus as a little <> and child. These he listens to with undivided attention. He said the other day, after I had told him of Jesus giving a sketch of <him> from his birth to his ascension. Papa will Guy go to Heaven. Yes if you love Jesus & obey Him. Papa, mumma, Grace & yourself will go to Heaven if Guy will love Jesus & do as He says. I asked him if he remember about Johnny Mulliken's little brother. "Yes He has gone to Heaven." He meditated a few minutes, & his little lips quivered as he sad, "papa Guy don't want to go to Heaven". Why not my son. It is a better place than this is. It is a beautiful & lovely place. Can Guy gather roses there, will God let Guy go out & get roses" Yes I think so. I hope we will all go there. "I do want to go to Heaven pa-pa." I give you the substance of our conversation.

He converses with remarkable intelligence about all these things & has quite a clear perception of right & wrong in many things. "Guy will be good to little sister, he will give her all his blocks. Guy will not fret at Grace, he will give her every thing." His enunciation is clear and he pronounces every word, with one or two exceptions, distinctly. He knows all his letters, learned them by asking or getting me to make them on pieces of paper. He reads all the stories in the book you sent him quite alone by means of the pictures. The truth is he knows all such ones by heart. He is a bright spirited, active gentle boy, and I have thought lately that his father could'nt give him up with out a struggle should Jesus call him home, but the Saviour never <leaves> one in times of trial.

Grace is full of life and sometimes, she talks much, gets into a terrible passion now and then but her prevailing temper is happy. She has a joyous laugh, & big wide open eyes and seems to partial parents a sunbeam to

their home. As we sat tonight at tea, I was struck with the picture of beauty before me. Her white clothes the pretty tassel, the happy laughing wife opposite, Guy with his fat fony cheek and clear speaking eye on my left, and little Grace in her high chair with her golden locks, pretty smiling little face on the right. She says "Sing to us, <> papa blessen as bessen". I told her to tell Guy not to speak while papa asked a blessing - knowing she would hafter that feel called upon to set him an example. God has truly blessed me in my family as well as in all other things and to his name be the praise.

It is now Thursday evening Mar 3rd. I read the <Doryman> daughter's last night to the people at our Camptown Chapel instead of a lecture; and a portion of the sermon at our Cadet's prayer meeting last Monday & this evening. I did not see much point of labor except in the good will of the people to me. The revival at the Falls is right progressing. I heard <> that one young man, who had been in the habit of swearing & after my lecture at Mr Gray's on that subject; had been much troubled and had expressed a determination never to swear again. I hope he will get <> for strength, else his resolution may fail him. Lizzie says she has nothing to say & then adds give my love to Rowland & tell him he may come & visit us too, if he wills.

Peace be with you in Christ.

Affectionately your brother  
Otis

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1016 3/5/1859

*From:* R.D. Lynde  
Asst. Surg. U.S.A.  
Camp Hudson, Tex.

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1047a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Ord. Dept. U.S.A.  
A. Asst. Prof. Math.  
Military Academy  
West Point

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Camp Hudson, Tex.  
March 5th, 1859.

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of introducing to you Jacob H. Counselman, a connection of mine, who has recently been appointed a Cadet, and hope you will extend to him the good office of adviser upon his entering on his new life.

I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken upon a few hours' acquaintance in the wilds of Florida.

The young man is of excellent habits, and very apt in his studies, &, unless led off by bad associations, will prove a credit to himself & all connected with him.

Hoping I have not taken too great a liberty.

I remain, Sir,  
Very Sincerely Yours  
R.D. Lynde  
Asst. Surg. U.S.A.

Lt. O.O. Howard  
Ord. Dept. U.S.A.  
A. Asst. Prof. Math.  
Military Academy  
West Point

[The following letter from Wesley Owens was appended to this letter.]

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1017 3/5/1859

*From:* Wesley Owens

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1047b

Camp Hudson, Tex.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Appended to the previous letter from R.D. Lynde]

Camp Hudson, Tex.  
March 5th, 1859.

Dear Howard,

I hope you hav'ent forgotten me, at all events, I take this opportunity to bring myself to mind. As the Doctor endorsed his young friend, I take great pleasure in endorsing him, & your recollection & kindness to him will be reciprocated by

Yours very truly  
Wesley Owens [USMA Class of 1856]

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1018 3/7/1859

*From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut. O.O. Howard

OOH-0952

North Yarmouth Acad.  
Yarmouth, Me

West Point N.Y.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

North Yarmouth Acad.  
Yarmouth March 7, 1859

My Dear Brother:-

I think you are my debtor in regard to letters but I would like to hear from you so I thought I would remind you that I was in the land of the living. You may be some surprised to know that I am here, if you have not already learned that fact.

I came here last Monday and have had a week of pretty hard study. Mr Randall gives me long lessons and is continually talking about getting every thing well so that I shall not be obliged to go over it again before I go to College. He likes to have me read my lessons over perhaps a dozen times after I have translated it once. I like his way of teaching very much but I can't say I like him as a man very well. Perhaps I may like him better after I get acquainted with him more. He has many very accentric ways that do not please me at first. The scholars all like him who have been here before.

Why I came from Lewiston Falls Acad. was because there will be no school there in the summer term & as I would like to go to one school all the time before I go to Bowdoin, I have concluded that this was the place to go. I am very glad I have come here as I shall get a much better "fit" than I should have done if I had remained under the tuition of Mr Pulsifer. Mr Carlton left the Academy at the end of the Fall term. We were all very sorry to have him go, as he had made us all like him. He was a very good man, I think. He went to Bangor to study for the ministry. I think he would do more good teaching than he would preaching as he is a very poor speaker.

We had a good prayer meeting all the time he was there, especially during the fall term. They all attended the prayer meeting regularly, and most of them seemed to take quite an interest in them.

You have not written me, or I you, for so long I hardly know what you know of my affairs & I do not know what to write that would be of interest.

Charles, probably, has written you what a pleasant time he & I had at home this winter. After Charles went to Brunswick I continued my studies till the end of the term at L.F. Academy. The three weeks previous to last week I spent at Leeds & I had the most agreeable time during the vacation I ever had in Leeds with-out a single exception. My vacation was a long one (three weeks) and I had a chance to do a great deal except studying. But I have my share of the latter now.

I rise at six or a little before that time, & study till after ten in the evening all the time except an hour about supper time & a little time at noon. I have as yet become acquainted with but a very few of the students and as I am only in at recitations, I think I shall be long in becoming acquainted.

The other day the members of the Philologian society had a meeting & among other things they did was to choose your humble servant President for the term. I though it very peculiar that they should do so as only about half a dozen know me, & I was not present either. I don't think I shall retain it as I hardly like the idea very much, being so unacquainted with the customs of the society.

I have not heard from Rowland for two or three months. I don't know but he has let me slip his memory; if that is the case I think I shall be reminding him before long that his brothers are all in existence including my humble self. I do not feel myself very highly flattered by these neglects of my two older brothers. Charles, however, answers my letters & I don't know but he does more than that. I think he keeps himself my creditor a great deal of the time.

Mr Allen my boarding master is a Christian and I should judge a very fine man. He is one of the leading members of the church in this place. He has prayer in his family every morning & evening. He has two daughters here at home - one about 20 & the other, perhaps 12. The youngest one is a very fine little girl.

Yesterday was "communion." Mr Aikin I like very much. I think him a very fine preacher. We have now no prayer meetings in the Academy, but I am in hopes that one may be commenced here soon. I shall endeavor to do some thing about it immediately. While Charles was here they had quite a revival among the students. I wish it could be so again. The Saviours cause is just as dear now as then and souls are just as valuable and it is just as important that each one of those who entertain a "hope" should act now as it was then. The state of morals here are not upon so high a standard as they are in Lewiston but I think that does not effectually oppose the work of Grace in a place. It is a draw back to commence with, but at Farmington last spring it was those who were called the worst citizens of the place that were among the first to come out openly and acknowledge the Saviour.

Mr Randall is a pious man, but does not belong to any church. He has prayers in the Academy morning and evening. He seems to be a pretty good man, but I cannot say I like his eccentricities. But I don't know but he is calculated to do much good. He says he was in College two years while you were there, and that he was some acquainted with you at that time. He knows Rowland & Charles. Rowland does not like him very much. He belonged to the XΨ society while in College, perhaps that may have some thing to do with it. I think he would lend his aid to any thing that might be commenced to have a prayer meeting, in the Academy. I think that is some thing that has not been in the Academy since Charles was here. I do wish that I might see my schoolmates here as at Farmington & Auburn coming to Christ. O that God's Holy Spirit might be poured out here. But I think it may be ere long. Dear Otis pray for the members of the Acad. & for me individually that I may do my duty here & that nothing may be untried which will conduce to spreading the Gospel here.

Give my love to Lizzie & Guy & kiss little Grace for me. I am well and happy and I think I shall study hard this & next term that I may get a good "fit" for College. Please write soon. I am anxious to hear from you & your family.

Your very affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore  
Yarmouth, Me

Lieut. O.O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

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1019 3/11/1859 *From:* L. Deane

*To:* [OO] Howard

OOH-0953

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland March 11 1859

My dear Howard,

I want to find the whereabouts of a man by name of George Marchant, who is, or was, as I am informed, an officer in the service; and to the end that I may be put in the way of finding him, or his family or him, I solicit your friendly help.

This Marchant was stationed here some twenty years ago, more or less. I am not able by any means at hand to get the information above asked of you, and really don't know from what source to seek information. If in your power, without much trouble to yourself, will you answer my inquiries, or can you tell me the proper place to seek for information.

Bill Packard was just in to see me. He has this morning arrived here in the steamer from England, after an absence of some two years in Germany. He goes to Brunswick to assume the duties of Prof of Modern Languages &c.

Our common friends & acquaintances in this vicinity, Jackson, Fessenden, Hobson, &c are all in health & comfort, daily increasing in substance, reputation & children - as to the last item you must allow a little scope for the figure, or imagination, and understand me to say, that their families are regularly growing larger & larger.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs Howard.

And believe me  
very truly yours  
L. Deane

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1020 3/11/1859     *From:* Silas J Lee

*To:* My Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0954

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago March 11th 1859

My Dear Cousin

Your very kind letter of the 4th inst has just reached me. What you tell me about mother, is what I have suspected for some time, tho her letters are written rather encouragingly than otherwise, I fear that anxiety for us tends to increase her disease or the intensity of her suffering. I had intended visiting her early this spring & to have spent some time with her, but as my arrangements have all been changed very recently, it is at present impossible for me to say what I can do, or when I can visit her. I shall, however, try & make such arrangements as will allow me to go on as early as possible, for a short time. Just now I am placed in a difficult position. Some of my friends here, have helped me to go into business, and having placed myself under very great obligations to them, I am of course obliged to be governed somewhat by their feelings, tho I do not suppose they would object to my leaving my business upon such an errand. Yet as I shall be obliged to borrow the money to defray my expenses, they may think I might have put off my visit 'till I could afford it better. I have bought a Drug Store, & borrowed of my friends \$900, to assist in the purchase besides getting them to endorse my notes for several hundred more, all of which is to be paid by the 1st of March 1860, and as it is a stand which altho good, has been badly managed it will require my constant personal attention to fulfil these engagements.

I want to go & see mother & feel it my duty to do so, & shall do so at whatever sacrifice it may require, as soon as possible. You probably understand how I am situated. It is a confliction of duty, with duty. I know she cannot live many months in so great suffering, but I had hoped - from her letters - that with the opening of the Spring she might revive somewhat & that her system would strengthen sufficiently to keep back the disease till another winter perhaps. Yet, I know that the slightest cause may at any day produce a speedy & fatal termination. Now, from what you tell me, I am certain that her disease has increased far more rapidly than she allowed me to believe, and that I must hasten my preparations, or never again see my mother. It is terrible to think upon, and almost impossible to realize. I grieve to think that I cannot conscientiously give her what to her would be the greatest of all consolation - that I was such a Christian & accepted the Bible as she does - but I cannot honestly do so, & will not deceive her. I have sought, but not found "the pearl of great price." Perhaps I did not seek in the right spirit, but I can safely say that I was sincere, candid & tried to allow no prejudices to influence my mind on the other side.

I am very glad that Sarah will so soon be on. Her coming will be a great relief to mother, & will comfort her more than the presence of either Perry or myself tho it would be a great comfort to have us all aroving her, in her great trials.

With much love to Lizzie & the children  
believe me very affectionately your cousin  
Silas J Lee

My health is not very good - not having entirely recovered from a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs. I am daily looking for Uncle Henry. I last night wrote to Oliver Woodman. Mr Robb frequently inquires about you. He makes my place his headquarters when in town. Last week I had the pleasure of seeing Mrs Robb & find her an excellent person.

Silas

March 22d

Dear Otis.

Looking through my pockets just now I found this letter which I thought had been mailed 11 days. I enclose my card & with an apology (understood) & love to Lizzie & the children.

I am still your afft coz  
Silas

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1021 3/11/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0955

Bangor Theol. Sem'ry

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Theol. Sem'ry  
March 11 1859

My dear Brother

I take 3/4ths of an hour before prayers to reply to your delightful letter which I received in due time. All the details about Guy & Grace were exceedingly pleasant to me. So also the sweet little lock. It was like "Mamma" to send that. I will preserve it carefully. I thank you too most cordially for the other remembrances - how can I ever repay your kindness. My dear Brother & Sister - May God bless & repay you ten thousand times.

My books are the most expensive. Religious works come high, but I must have them. Mr Fiske of Bath said the way he got his library was by postponing getting married awhile! He did not advise that in my case however - seeming to think that it was a peculiar one. I am in hopes to accumulate some useful books during the next year & a half tho' I often wish I could visit, as you can, the 2d hand bookstores of New York &, when I feel the need of a book, secure it at a reasonable rate. I shan't care to buy hardly any miscellaneous books, but I do want the lives & works of all the more distinguished divines. Christian Biography & the Earnest writings of good men are only additional pages to that history of the triumphs of Peace which the Bible began.

What is Aunt Anns address? I will try to write her. O her condition would be deplorable indeed if it were not for the Grace - the sustaining & comforting grace of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Is she able to write?

Dellie went to Yarmouth the 1st inst & I have not heard from him since. I feel great anxiety that he should be fully given up to Christ as I fear he is not. I lately received a long & excellent letter from Charles the other day. If God will grant him physical strength he will be an able & useful minister of the New Testament & if not, it will be eight - blessed be his name who doeth all things well.

I had also a letter from Mother this week (how much I have been blest this week!). She is well & seems anxiously waiting for the coming of a good work in Leeds. May God grant it.

Yesterday was the Anniversary of starting the Union prayer meetings, in this City of last year - by whose means apparently nearly 400 have been bro't into the visible Church of Christ. A meeting of blessed reminiscences & thanksgiving was held - a delightful meeting - where God's Spirit was. When we came <> a man came to me & called me by name & inquired for you. He said that your relation of your experience the last summer was greatly blessed to him. He remembers all you said. He is a business man & his name is Willey. Gen. Stevens says he never can be on his knees without remembering you, & he expects a revival at West Point. O how it would shake down the barriers of Society's exclusiveness & Church formalism & make you feel free in Christ.

I had another dear letter from M. Storer last evening. I can't be too thankful that God has given me such a friend & counselor. He is the ripest <Clergy> I ever knew. Our morning meetings have lately doubled in size. I conducted this morning & we had a pleasant & refreshing Season. My own soul has been nurtured this week & I feel like doing anything for Him - my Lord & Master.

It is now time for our general prayer meeting & I must close.

Give very great care to Sister Lizzie (I'm glad she looked so sweet, pretty "smiling" across the table that day!) & kisses for the dear children.

When God plucks them, whether as buds or flowers, or as old ripe fruit, may it be to place them in the paradise above - transplanted into a more grateful Soil in a sweeter vineyard - Jesus the Master & joy the portion of us all.

Yours in Love forever  
Rowland



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1022 3/11/1859      *From:* C.H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Oliver [OO Howard]

OOH-0956

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta March 11th 1859

Dear Oliver

Your letter of the 4th inst came duly to hand and was very glad to hear from you and of your family that you all were well and happy. My impression is that this letter was my due justly still I am not positive and it would not make the slightest difference to me with you which way the balance was.

My health has been good all winter and is now. I have been in prime condition for business since early in the fall, but it is dull - there is no extension of business of any description and but little speculation except in merchandise sound - staple - goods - so that things go on their real merits more than formerly and as long as things continue as they are now every body moves cautiously and prudently as the inevitable result of this course but little can or will be done. I am rather blue at times and having met with some losses feel as though I would like to give up business at Augusta and go away and probably shall whenever a favorable opportunity occurs but this is a matter which I tell you but not to go farther as I make no talk here with any one outside of my family. I have had a vague idea of going to Boston - yes in fact have talked considerably of it, but as yet nothing definite has taken place and there may not. It is quite an undertaking situated as I am, however I am good for a big load and have always drawn it all alone.

Aside from my business I am very happy never more so. God has been very kind and gracious towards me and my faith and love for Christ daily increases & I feel how dependent I am upon him and in our family prayers I derive renewed strength and hope to go on. I feel that prayer does me more good and opens my eyes to the truth more than any thing I do. Mrs M, Henry & Jonny are very well and have been all winter and we have passed the happiest winter I ever did. They all send their kindest regards to you and yours. Guy & Grace are both remembered by our little Boys and occasionally spoken of by them.

We attend the Wednesday evening meeting in our Vestry very regularly and my wife feels deeply interested in them. Mr Webb the first of the Winter commenced explaining Romans beginning at the first chapter and I have derived much information of Paul and his ideas of living the life of the Christian. Mr Webb is very plain - he preaches now and has for several weeks (on the Sabbath) from the commandments. I delivered your message to him and he wished me to ask you if you had received a Book which he sent you some time ago - that one which you expressed a desire to see on Congregationalism I believe. Mr W and family are well. It has been quite gay here this winter a number of parties, Dances &c but I nor Sarah have not been to any thing of this sort not once and we feel happier for it. I usually read evenings and I enjoy it much, so does Sarah.

A Mr Baldwin is Military Store Keeper at the Arsenal. He succeeded Todd. I do not know Baldwin but just enough to speak, but he is spoken of very well where he is known. He goes in for using all the appropriations. He keeps Bachelor quarters and has sold all three of the Horses on the post and bought a new one.

My Brother George is in Texas and it is to be his home for the future. His family will join him this spring or next fall. His health is good. My mother's health is poor. She is suffering with her Teeth, and almost loss of speech. She is very miserable. My sister can understand her quite well but a stranger could not at all. I can with considerable difficulty only. All of my Fathers family are well beside. Every thing about Town has not changed in the least with few exceptions.

The morning prayer meetings commenced again yesterday morning down street in Darby Hall. When I go to New York you may be sure I shall come to West Point but there's no prospect at present. I am not sufficiently settled to visit except for business.

Brown and family are well and the same as ever. Doct Briggs and family are well. Write soon, and I will try not to have such a blank space again.

Truly your friend  
C.H. Mulliken



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1023 3/13/1859     *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0958

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 13, 1859

My dear Children, & grandchildren for as such I feel, to address you, your's of the first Inst, was duely received, and a grateful heart, in your mother it met. I am happy to hear that your health's is so good. I am particularly happy when you tell me of Guy, and Grace, and their preciously interesting ways. I have long thought, that the developments of nature in our little, (if our hearts are right) ones gave us true pleasure, that nothing in this world can compare.

Then again where our warmest affections are, there can be our keenest afflictions. I feel Ann's situation very keenly. I have read her letters to Ensign, Laura, and John Otis, the past winter, and sometimes have thought I would write her and have even taken my pen up to write, but I would lay it down again, and take a second view of her and myself and conclude not to call up her thoughts to a letter of mine.

You are deceived if you are thinking that I have any particular anxiety about property. I have none. I make it my daily practice to do all I can to earn my living and that is all that I can do.

The evening I received your last letter one came from Charles and one from Rodelphus. Charles had just heard from Rowland by letter, and I was much gratified, not because I am over anxious about any of you in any way, but neither am I any way wean'd from my son,. But I have been enabl'd by their grace to commit my all, all that in any way concerns me, into the Hands of God, and in thus doing there is peace.

I visited John Otis's last week for the first time. His family were well. There I read a letter from Mrs Frank Sargent. It was an able letter, written to Ensign. She will sail for Newyork as soon as her children recover from the whooping cough, and her husband is well of a severe cough similar to her children's. She says she shall never leave her Mother again, while she lives. Hellen said John had lately received a letter from William Otis, from Austin, Texas, where he has been a long time and in the same business and John was with him. Said John was a noble fellow. He was very proud of him. I was truly happy to hear such good news from them.

Your father has just said that he talk'd with Mr Spalding about Addison who told him A. Was in Sacramento and, has another daughter perhaps I am writing nothing new to you, but it is news to me.

Our Meetings continue on the ridge. I have not attended them constantly, but a good degree of religious feeling prevails with those who have been engaged in the work. Salmon Wing is one of the converts. He set up prayers in his family New years day, 1859. I am looking forward to him as an example to others in the religious walk of life. I attended a Class meeting not long ago. Mr S Gilbert enquired after you and ask your address. Said he intended to write you. If he has, he has told you about the state of religion on the ridge. We have had good preaching at the Centre through the winter and I have had the privilege of attending. A fine understanding man, by the name of Fulton, a man that has had great advantages, in fiting and in fitness for standing up for Jesus. I trust it has not been lost on me. I know that I felt an increase of faith, a more fervent leaning on Jesus than formerly. He is now gone and we are without any preaching there now. We have had a circle, a Ladies circle, in town, throughout it has taken well. It has promoted social feelings and gathered a small sum of money for benevolent purposes. I hope we shall see good result from this source. Hellen and Laura have seemed to enjoy it much.

Mr Benson Caswell has had two daughters die, one 18, and the other 20 years and a son eight years within a few weeks. Otherwise Leeds has been healthy. My health never was better. My sheet is full. From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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1024 3/13/1859 *From:* John Gilmore

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0959

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 13, 1859

Dear Otis,

As your mother has written you a long letter I shall write you or Lizzie a few lines on business. I called a while since on Mr Alden Whitman about the note you hold against him. (by the way I cannot find it. I suppose you never gave it back to me.) In the first place he plead poverty & when I spoke about having it changed to run to Lizzie he said that Mrs Waite made a receipt for forty Dollars in full of all demands in his favor & left it with Everett Jones which Jones was to deliver to him if Lizzie was willing. I afterwards saw him in the street. He shew me a receipt made to him for forty Dollars in full of all demands, signed Lucretia S Waite, dated October 10 1856.

You <named> that you thought there was a Mortgage to secure the note you hold against Mr Jones. I examined the Records. I found that Everett H Jones conveyed to Lucretia S Waite Jany 6 1856 the house & lot where your Aunt lives & that in July 16 1856 your Mother conveyed to Sarah G Jones the same premises by a Warrantee deed - consideration "in cash deed" \$1000. I understood that Mr Jones was at Auburn when I was there about the first of Feby but I did not see him. I shall take such course with the notes that I have here as you may direct. I cannot find the note against you. Uncle Alden thinks you did not leave it with me.

We have had good sleighing all winter, snow about level with the fences in the roads & nowhere less than about three feet in the roads or elsewhere.

Your affectionate father  
John Gilmore

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1025 3/19/1859    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0960

[West Point]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Evening 19 March 1859

Dear Mother,

I have written a letter to Father and will add a few words to you. I have not heard a word from Aunt Ann since I last wrote. The people where she boards promised to write me and Mr Bacon said he would let me know if there was anything unusual or any particular immediate danger. I wrote Silas a true account of her state & danger, but whether he can come now I do not know. Silas is doing well at Chicago, I think, trying hard to establish him and regain amongst his friends the confidence he has lost. We have not heard from Perry since he sailed. His voyage this time, if nothing hinders, will be only two months. He has a good charter and I hope will clear a handsome amount this time.

We have been thinking of getting a dining room carpet, but if we leave this house we will not want it after June and we shall undoubtedly move from here after our return from Maine. Lizzie proposes to make you a present of one for the North room. We will buy one and use it this Spring and bring it to you when we go. We first wish to know if you have a new one already, next what is the size of the room on the floor in feet & inches and then if the present would be acceptable.

Our Minister Professor French is quite unwell and unable to perform his duties of Chaplain, but we have had prayers every day this week (it being lent) by the clergyman from the parish below. We have recently lost a good Christian woman after a short & painful illness - her name was Mrs Morrison, the wife of the tailor. She was buried yesterday. I have visited her & prayed with her often during her sickness. She gave the clearest testimonials of an undoubting faith in Jesus. I wish Sanford would write me. I am glad to hear that Salmon Wing perseveres. If the Spirit of God is with them, they will bear fruit.

Remember me kindly to them all on the ridge. I hope there will be many accessions to the house-hold of Faith before I get there again. It will do me good to shake forgiven Sinners by the hand.

Lizzie joins with me in love to you all. We are to have gas put in the house, and as soon as it is done we wish to put down the carpet. Please write the dimensions of the room &c just as soon as you get this.. We will delay buying till we hear from you. I have lately heard from & written to the boys. Remember us affectionately Rolands family.

Yr affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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1026 3/19/1859    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Father [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0961

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Mar 19, '59

Dear Father,

We received Mother's good long letter accompanied by a note from you on business day before yesterday. I find that I recorded in pencil on an invoice that you gave me of notes &c, that Alden Whitman's note was left in your hands and also entered the same on my Cash Book. So I think you must have it as I cannot find it here. Lizzie says she did not know that her mother had left a receipt for forty dollars in full of all demands in the hands of Everett Jones for her Uncle Alden & that she did not & does not authorize such a receipt being given without payment. Lizzie says, the mortgage was given a short time after her father's death. She does not know anything about the conveyance of the property to her mother in January 6, 1856 nor of the reconveyance by Warrantee deed to Everett Jones, July 16th 1856. Lizzie's Mother's papers are in a chest at her Aunt's & she thinks the Mortgage must be there. She says a man bought a portion of the land & a house north of Aunt Sarah's. This man came to Portland after he had purchased to get the mortgage off the part he had bought, for he had been assured that there was no incumbrance on it. She released that portion but retained her claim on the rest.

Everett Jones had purchased considerably more than his present house & lot with an old house on the same. He built one house & sold that with a part of the land & afterwards built the present house on the rest of the land. I hav'nt much confidence in his former maneuvering, receipts &c. That 1856 business may have been a contrivance on his part to get his property into his wife's hands. If those deeds are genuine does it not make Mother Waite assume all incumbrances on that property? Would her deed be good for anything (except given as administratrix) to relieve that property from the mortgage in question?

Lizzie says you need not be at the trouble of doing anything with them till we go down in June. She prefers to overhaul her mother's papers herself. She thought she had taken all the important ones with her. The debts of E.H. Jones & Alden Whitman are not very reliable. I want to keep clear of every entanglement.

I am very glad to learn that Mother's health is so good and particularly glad that she feels so free from the burdens of care. I hope God will preserve to her, peace of mind, during the rest of her pilgrimage, and I hope too, dear Father, that in your heart of hearts the prayer of the Psalmist finds a place, as "Let the words of my master & the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer." You are on the downward declivity of life and before many years will try the unknown world. So I hope & pray, that you may go hence clothed in the righteousness of Christ. How is Uncle Ensign? I have not heard about the Rail-Road lately. Does it prosper? We have no sign of snow & have had spring weather for a week. The birds sing, the frogs croak, the grass is quite green in spots & some shrubs are budding. We are all quite well. Guy remembers all about Grandpa's & Johnny's.

Your Affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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1027 3/21/1859

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* Lieut Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0962

No 11 Tompkins Place  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No 11 Tompkins Place Brooklyn  
Monday evening - March 21st 1859

Lieut Oliver O. Howard

Dr. Sir -

Your Aunt Mrs Lee desires me to write you for her - informing you of her removal from Harrison St to Mrs Lyman's cor. Of Clinton and Warren sts. where she has taken the parlor floor, and is very pleasantly situated. I am happy to tell you, she has a very excellent servant. Mrs Lee would be very much pleased to see Mrs Howard, and yourself at any time.

Mrs Lee has been suffering exceedingly since Thursday, especially yesterday and today. I have been with her much of the time during the last three weeks, and feel convinced, though very reluctant to inform you, that your Aunt is failing very rapidly. She has had frequent turns of bleeding during the last month occurring very profusely three times today previous to four o'clock P.M.

Mrs Sargent is expected this week. Capt Lee has not been heard from yet, his Mother is expecting tidings every day.

Mrs Lee sends to you all her warmest love, trusting soon to see you.

Very respectfully,  
Thomasine M. Kearny

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1028 3/21/1859 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0963

N.Y.C. Academy  
Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N.Y.C. Academy  
Yarmouth Mar. 21 1859

My Dear Brother:-

I was very much pleased to get that good letter from you last Monday after so long a silence. I had a letter from Rowland last week, also. So I have heard from both of you, the first letters for over six months.

I attended Church yesterday. Mr. Aiken was absent. He preaches for the last time next Sunday. The church holds a council this week Wednesday & I suppose Mr. Aiken will go. Some of them hate to have him go and others will rejoice to see him go. Mr. Aiken is a fine speaker and an engaged Christian. The man who preached yesterday was a good preacher. I wish such a man could come here to take Mr Aiken's place when he goes.

Some one was talking about sending for Rowland the other day. Many of the people here heard of his success at Harpswell last year. I wish Rowland would come here. The church is in a bad condition and I think Rowland is especially calculated to restore peace here and I think that if he could come immediately he might hold the church together.

We are going to have a prayer meeting here in the Academy every Saturday evening. I find there will be about six or eight who may take an active part. That is enough to commence with. I think by the aid of this Holy Spirit that a great work might be begun here.

The churches here have begun to hold union prayer meetings and you know that is a great thing to commence a revival of Gods work in a place. Those union meetings were of great benefit last year and I think it may be the case this. When Christians are united in this, there cannot but be a good success. For God has promised that where there is a union of prayer He will answer. Such was the result at Farmington & at Auburn.

I had a letter from mother a few days ago. All well at Leeds. Charles writes me often & I suppose you hear from him as equally often.

We are having a fine school here. Mr Randall is liked very much indeed by the whole school. I like him much better than at first, if possible. I shall finish reviewing Virgil in a short time. My lessons now are six lines of Virgil, two pages of Cicero, & a page and a half in Greek, besides a lesson in Latin & Greek grammar. The school now numbers nearly sixty and they are constantly coming in from all parts of the state.

Some of the trustees of the Academy are Democrats and they are now making a great fuss because Mr Randall voted the Republican ticket this year. Mr R. says that he shall ask no man how to vote. There is quite a stir about it now, so that with the church quarrel we are in a continual broil.

Give my love to Lizzie & the children and remember me as your very aff. brother.

R. H. Gilmore

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1029 3/25/1859    *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0964

*Source:* Bowdoin

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March 25th 1859

Otis my dear son,

I am just as happy as I ever was at the reception of your last letter of the 12th inst. It came into the office the 23d and we received it, but yesterday I could not write.

I will first write about the carpet. I have not bought one, and on your account I was thinking of buying one, as my old one is so much worn and faded. If you think best to buy one, I will accept of it as a present or pay you for it. I shall need it. You will be likely to buy a better one for the same money than I should. The size of the room is fourteen feet and a half from the Chimney to the north wall of the house, and from the west to the east side of the room is fifteen feet and a half. I have thus written the size of the room in words, because my figures are so bad. I bought a new set of curtains for the windows last fall, oil cloth ones.

Your Uncle Ensign's general health is good and Laura's health is good. She is keeping house for Ensign, has boarded the Mr Fulton a baptist minister who has preached at the Centre the past winter, but is gone home now.

I think I wrote you all the news in last letter. Victorie Turner is about being married to Steven K Dean. You recollect when you was a boy attending his school at the brick school house. He is now a widower of 42 years of age, with two daughters, the oldest 14 years, the other 6 years of age. He must be a gentleman of rare engaging qualities to be accepted by one so young and engaging as Victorie.

Roland's family remain the same, as when I wrote last. Jonnie is delighted with the steers and calls them his. Your father has let a good part of the farm to Thomas Boobier and his brother-in-law Mr <Krab> who was here last year in haying. They will live in the back part of Roland's house. The cars run to East Wilton, a few miles from the end of it the winter came on so early they the directors thought best to leave it until spring. Our Engineer was scalded so that he died in a few hours a month or two since. In examining the machinery of the locomotive he accidentally moved a screw, which caused the steam to force out so suddenly he inhaled it which caused his death. It is universally acknowledged, by all who knew him, that his place cannot be easily filled.

I regret not hearing from Ann. Ensign may have heard. I have not seen him for some time. I have heard from each one of the boys within a short time. They seemed to be prospering in their studies. I am glad to hear Silas is in a good way. I hope he is satisfied that he has made some mistakes in what make the true gentleman. I truly hope he will commit his all to God and love and fear Him. Charlie says Nettie is preparing to visit <home town> in Connecticut. I think Charlie thinks very much of her, and I presume he has reason so to do. I am glad she has done going to school. She will have better health now. Leeds never was in a better state of health than now. More than four months the ground has been covered with snow, and some part of the time the walls and fences were entirely covered. Yesterday your father and I were invited to Augustus Foss's to dine. We rode to Mr Brewsters Store to buy some articles of household needs and called to see Lavernia. She has a fine babe, and then proceeded to Mr Foss's. We found a large partie of Cousins of my husband's and Augustus's. It seemed so social to meet so many acquaintances. The only indications of spring which strongly present themselves to us, is a few robbins have been seen and two flocks of wild geese have passed over, to the north. To day is a snow-storm. I suppose Guy will have a new suit of different garments from what he wore when he was here. Kiss him for me and tell him kiss Grace for Grandmother. Remember me in much affection to Lizzie, and accept much love yourself.

Your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

Your father has found the note he missed in another note.  
E. Gilmore



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1030 3/28/1859

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-0965

No 11 Tompkins Place

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No 11 Tompkins Place [Brooklyn]  
Monday March 28th 1859

Mr Howard

Mrs Lee asked me to write to you again - to inform that Mrs Sargent did not come by the Karnark which arrived on Saturday; she received letters however, and Mrs Sargent writes she will leave there by the last of April. She says nothing in regard to why she did not come. Mr Sargent, and the children were "recovering rapidly" from their colds - Mrs Sargent writes "it is an impossibility for him to come", but if possible will do so in the Fall, altho' as he wisely says "it is too far off to lay plans for."

Mrs Lee appeared quite bright yesterday. I saw after Sabbath School, in the afternoon. She was resting on the sofa, dressed. She is much more disappointed at Mrs Sargent's non-arrival, I think, than she is willing to express, for she was very, very certain that she would come. Saturday morning she suffered very much before and after both hemorages, but towards noon as the weather brightened she felt much better, and was able to dictate a letter to Dr Lee. Mrs Lee sends her love to you all, and was very glad to receive your note, and the tracts.

I believe, Mr. Howard, I have fulfilled all my promise to your Aunt, therefore if I may be excused for trespassing upon your time, I would like to ask a few moments attention to a subject very near my heart.

When I saw you in Brooklyn the other day, you said that "you thought Nelie leaned toward the Episcopal church". Let me quote her own written words for you. They are these - "I could not go openly and join the church, it would be different I suppose if we had a church that we could call ours. It is not from fear of ridicule keeps me back, but Tommie. I have never felt like joining the Episcopal Church, nor the Presbyterian. I like your church (Dutch Reformed) perhaps it is wrong to hesitate, I know it is, but can't I love God without joining the church?" Such are her own words copied from a letter of December last. We have been in the habit of keeping a weekly journal, for each other, and I am therefore acquainted with almost every action, almost every thought - but of course, the months I am absent I will not hear so frequently - and before I can answer the feelings, thoughts, and actions will have been forgotten, and my remarks will awaken little if any feeling - but you will be near her, and I would ask you to counsel and pray for her. Mr Howard I cannot feel I am taking a liberty in writing to you in this way - if you consider it so may it be pardoned.

Respectfully  
Thomasine M. Kearny

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1031 3/28/1859     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0966

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor March 28, '59

My dear Brother

I was in at Gen Stevens Friday evening & was pleased to read your letter to him. May God assist you in all your labors of love. I have written a short letter to Aunt Ann which I enclose to you to send to her, in one of yours, as I do not know her address. Is Perry sick? Is Aunt able to sit up? Or to write? I know so little of the particulars of her situation that I had to write in the dark. I guessed that she was with Frank & Sarah though.

We are having a beautiful day. All the snow now on the ground here fell last week & we are anticipating an early Spring. The streets are now in their worst state - I hope.

I wish Ella could go on earlier, but her engagements - work &c are such that she can't get away before the first of May.

Give my love to Lizzie. I suppose she only meant to tantalize me by that permission (?) to visit her, but I wish I could - don't I.

John Harrison has been reading my copy of the "Higher Life" & it seems to have stirred him up some. He writes me quite a long letter, attempting to contravert some of its doctrines but evidently stimulated by its illustration & enforcement of faith.

They are all well. I wish that Uncle Ensign would make up his mind that he does not enjoy all the life of Christ that it is his duty to do.

At a recent revival in the town of China, Thos. Bridghams wife, Hellen's sister, is said to have been converted - God grant it.

I have established a Tues. Evening prayer meeting in "my neighborhood" lately - similar to that wh. you & I attended there. We have good meetings. One Methodist Brother, a Sea Capt. by name of Cooper, is rather noisy for a small room tho'. I hope you have read "Pentecost" a Revival Scene in Philadelphia. It is a blessed account of a glorious work of God.

I was glad to see in the "N.Y. Observer" that West Point was mentioned & prayer offered in the Fulton St. Meeting the other day. Prayers offered by those hearts are generally answered I believe. Why don't you correspond with Bishop <McShane> & get some acct. of the revival in his day. It would be interesting & encouraging to your cadet prayer meeting. I would give some money for an autograph letter of the Authoress of Vicars Life, & more to see her. I'd rather see her now than Queen Vic.

Do you hear anything from Lieut Lee, wife & "little Annie"? There's where I'll love to go with Ella. I saw that Mrs Ida set out to walk into the Hudson the other day.

When I began I didn't expect to write a page. Excuse my <> manner.

Give my love to Grace & Guy. (I was touched by what Guy said of God & Heaven & flowers) & believe me, as Mr Storer says

"Yours forever"  
Rowland

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1032 3/30/1859     *From:* Silas [J Lee]

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0967

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago Mch 30th 1859  
Wednesday Evening

My dear Cousin,

Yours of the 24th was received last evening. I thank you sincerely for your kind attention to my dear mother, & for your interest in myself. Your former letter prepared me for almost any news from Mother tho I confess I had hardly imagined the awful extent of her sufferings, her letters rather encourage me to the hope that she might get along for some time without these terrible agonies, & until the last two they have led me to believe that Doctor had her disease under control to quite an extent. These hemorages are very alarming, and prove beyond a doubt not only that the disease has & is progressing with terrible rapidity, but that she is likely at any hour to be taken forever from us. I feel so certain of it that I shall try and make such arrangements as will permit me to visit her very soon. I must, if possible see my mother once more, if for only a few days.

I received a long letter from her this morning. From its tenor I think she does not fully realize how very little would snap the threads of life. She wrote that Dr Waylie told her that he had "no fears of an immediate termination tho he thinks she cannot live until it assumes a positively cancerous state." Taking that opinion; with your description of the appearance of the tumors, & the hemorage, it can be hardly possible for her to live through the Summer, & yet she says she is cheerful.

I have tried to think what would be my feelings under such trials with the evidences of a final dissolution so fast & surely approaching - & compare them with hers. I have satisfied myself that she possesses the only true philosophy for such emergencies, and am obliged to admit that the philosophy of religion and the consciousness of having endured to live by its teachings is the only power which will sustain us thro' the last trial. I know my mother to have been a sincere Christian & would that I was, & yet I have many doubts which altho I know how much pleasure & comfort it would give her, hold me back keeping me in a perpetual state of agitation & wavering.

You know how I am situated & how many, & unkindly, circumstances are keeping me away, & I hope you do not think unkindly of me.

With much love to Lizzie and kind regards to Miss Tupper, I am

Very Affectionately your  
Cousin Silas

P.S. Since writing the above, I am in receipt of a letter from Dr Cathers in answer to my second. He thinks he can do mother no good, but promised to call & see her before he sailed, & as the steamer he intends going on, sails tomorrow noon, he has undoubtedly seen her.

I am disapointed to see that Sarah's name does not appear among the passengers of the "Karnak". I hope she is on the way, & by some conveyance which will soon land her safely in New York. Her presence will be a very great comfort to Mother tho I fear the shock of meeting will be very hard upon her. On that account I almost dread going on. It is so very long since she has seen me that I fear even her determination will not be sufficient for it.

Affectionately your cousin  
Silas

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1033 4/3/1859

*From:* Laura [B Howard]

*To:* My Dear Cousin Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-0968

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr 3 1859

My Dear Cousin Lizzie

I received your very kind letter last week. How glad I am you are going to spend the summer here. What good times we shall have if no sorrow befalls us. How glad I am that Ella is going to visit you. I know she will have a pleasant time - wish I was going too. But if we are all spared, I shall go to commencement with you.

Dear Lizzie you will be surprised to hear me say that I am going to be married next month to Mr Otis. I have prayed that I may be directed in the right way. I feel that he has done every thing for me now. He has offered me a good home and I am very happy in it. He thought Ann and Sarah were coming on here this summer, that I had better take the head of the family. But what Otis wrote his Mother it is quite doubtful if they come. I do pity her. She wrote me a beautiful letter, and if she gets able to come I will try to do all I can for her. Sarah wrote that she was very anxious her Mother should come to Leeds and spend the summer with her here but would not be able to start from Nassau, till April as her children were both having the whooping cough. This letter was written some four weeks ago. We have not heard from Ann since Otis wrote. We are feeling quite anxious about her. We did not realize her situation before. Oh what a blessing is health. How little I prize it.

I have spent a very happy winter, boarded the Minister and a very good man he was. I miss him. They talk now of trying to get Elder Gurney of Auburn, the one that preached here two years ago. Oh I hope the Lord will incline his heart to settle amongst us. Our circle have seemed to wake the folks up. I am in hopes we are going to see better times. At their society meeting there were fourteen young men joined, and they agreed to raise \$280 dollars towards fixing the church. That with what the ladies have raised at the circle will make quite a different looking house of it. It met here week before last. Although the going was very bad there were 75. They adjourned it till the second Wednesday in May.

Then I attended singing school two evenings. That with the social parties has made the winter pass very pleasantly. Oh how different from last. Then I see nothing but trouble and sorrow.

It has been some time since I saw your mother. We have no meetings. The traveling so bad I cant get there. None of our friends here know that we are going to be married. Perhaps you and Otis will not approve, but just as I am situated I think it for the best. He could not bear to break up house. I could not leave him in his deep trouble. I know there were many kind friends that offered me a home. Still I could not bear to leave this. Now I feel as though I had a good home and a friend that has always been very kind to me.

I do look forward to this summer that I shall enjoy you and Otis society here. You stay part of the time with me. It will be so pleasant. I have written to my folks. They are pleased that I am going to have a home of my own.

Victoria Turner is married tonight to Steven Dean who is just as old again. She is 21. I was over Thursday to see her, showed me all her wedding fix which was very nice. Amanda, Seth wife, is just ready to be confined. Sturge Jennings wife has got another girl. Both of their other babies are the same age of your little girl.

Kiss the little children for me, Otis too. Uncle E sends his love. John, Hellen they are well. I am boiling down sap. Have made 3 gallons of syrup.

Your affectionate cousin  
Laura

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1034 4/9/1859

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard and wife

OOH-0969

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 9th 1859

My dear son and daughter

I hope this will find you all well and happy. I have been to Rolands just now. They have a daughter 9 days old - a fine healthy babe [Lizzie Gilmore, b. 1 April 1859]. I think they are very much pleas'd with it. Cynthia does not gain much yet, but I hope she will this week.

I have not seen any of Uncle Ensign's folks for a long time but presume they are in general health. I have not heard from Ann since you wrote. I had a letter from R.B.H. written the sixth of Apr, says his health is good, says he has writen a letter to poor suffering Aunt Ann. His whole letter breaths of the right spirit. Says Lydia Parker has been up to see him not long since. A letter of date 7th Apr from Dellie says he is well, and that he went to Brunswick and stopt over the sabbath of the 3rd of Apr, found Charles and Nettie both well.

Your father says I have written to you since he found Mr Whitmans note wrapt in another but I do not recollect that I have written you since the reception of your last letter of March 19th, is it so? Have I written a letter and forgotten it. I do not hear anything from Lizzie's relation this spring.

There has been some effort put forth to repair our meeting house, and get a minister, which seems more spirited than I have known for some time. I hope the people of Leeds will get waked up to their duty some way.

Cynthia feels rather lonely as none of her family have been able to come to her yet, the traveling is so bad. Those who have been obliged to go out say it is awful. The large snow banks are sloping toward the center of the road and other side made so the horse ball up with mud and snow and travels on the sides a slope and falls.

Laura was so kind as to send your letter to me. When I read from your own hand your expectations in looking forward to the time when we shall be together again, I almost felt that you are here already. Your father has obtained money on his bonds since the first of Apr sufficient to pay up the boys bills, and I have written a letter to R.B.H. and one to Charles to enclose money to them the first mail.

I have not attended meeting much of late, but I have felt as though it would be a privileg to meet with a dear Christian and tell them my joys but I can tell them to my God and Saviour.

It is about sunset and I will draw to a close. Now I do recollect writing to tell you about the size of the Carpet. This is a curious letter you must think so, but I thought you would like to hear from Cynthia why I wrote you to day.

Yours etc  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard and wife

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1035 4/9/1859

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0970

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College  
Apr 9, 1859

My dear Brother

It has been some time since I received your letter - much more than I intended should elapse before answering it. I had waited a good while and I fear had got into the habit of not expecting a letter but I did not want you to do so. My part has been pressing me lately and this will pass for a better excuse with you who know by experience the situation. I have just got the first copy done ready to hand in to the Prof. I could not seem to write till last Wed. And that was a week or two behind the proper time. I am not intending to perform so it will make little difference. My subject is Elements of Strength of Romanism. Not an extraordinary good subject to write upon. I don't like it - suppose it is because I have done so poorly.

Since I rec'd your letter there has been quite a stirring movement here in the temperance cause. In this of course I have been actively engaged - 112 have signed the pledge, many of them hard-drinkers. It is during the College Course. We have had a lecture from Prof. Chamberlain on Temperance. We have one, week from tonight, from Mr Webb of Augusta. Pres Woods is going to deliver one the first of next Term.

We have been found (?) with a good deal of rain this spring. It has certainly done one good thing that is the reverse of the heap of snow with which we were almost buried down here in Maine. We have been having cold weather since the beginning of April. Today it is warm & pleasant. I suppose very likely the grass has begun to start with you.

I was pleased to hear about the little man (as it seems Guy is getting to be such very fast) and sweet little Grace. Hope to see them before many weeks. You mention that you expected a visit from Ella. It was news to me but I have seen Mrs Patten since at Topsham & she told me about it. I had a letter from Ella Monday and shall go down to Bath to spend the Sabbath week from tomorrow. Ella seems to be in a very good state of mind religiously. She is striving & praying for higher attainments in grace now - seeking the second change. She had been reading the life of Hester Rogers who was the wife of a Methodist Preacher. Rowland wrote me not long since. Ella expects he will come to Bath before the first of May. She expects Albert home then and cannot start for N.Y. till after that.

You wrote that you would like to have me spend the Winter with you at West Point. I should enjoy doing so much I know. Hope it will be so that I can. I need to have my body strengthened as you say. If we adopt this plan I would do my best as a traveling Companion to Lizzie. If I do go to N.Y. I think I better teach a school this Fall to earn some money. This article is not very plenty down here. Father don't seem to have an abundance. I haven't paid this terms bill yet at the <Trumer's>. Rowland speaks favorably of my going to West Point if you are desirous to have me.

Dellie was here at B. & spent last Sabbath with me. He likes Yarmouth very much. Thinks Mr Randall is a first rate man & a thorough teacher. He is all interested in the Philologian of which he is president. Think he enjoys greater degree of interest in religion than he has done for some time past. We spent Sat. evening with Nettie. Stephen Young a classmate whom you perhaps will remember as a sort of brother-in-law of Gilman - (you talked with him a little) was with us and as he is a beautiful player we had plenty of music. Dellie stayed with Nettie Sabbath afternoon as it rained so she could not go to meeting. I went to hear Mr Morse preach. He was earnest as usual.

I received a letter from Mother a day or two ago. It bro't the news of the gift of a little girl to Roland & Cynthia - born April 1. Cynthia was quite feeble.

Mr Holt the Methodist minister who has been laboring there has moved into the neighborhood - into Mr Bishop's house, I believe.

It seems you are still occupying your time & talents in special labor in the Lord's vineyard. God will give the increase in his own good season. I am glad you are so engaged & I trust you will not feel discouraged for want of visible fruits.

There are indications of Gods presence with us here in College. One of my Class has been quickened & in a measure restored. He had fallen away. We have dismissed two from the Circle, one of them Prof Chamberlains's brother. He had acquired the habit of drinking. We have a meeting in the Senior Rec room Thursday noons.

Fuller a classmate of mine a very fine young man from Jay has lost his mother. He went home week ago Monday & will not return this term. He & I room side by side & have been together a great deal this year. He is president of the praying-circle. He reached home before his mother was gone. She died in the Lord & seemed happy in view of the change which she knew was close at hand for some days.

Give my love to Lizzie & to Master Guy & to little Grace. I do not think of or pray for you less for not having written. Pray for me that I may live nearer to Jesus & enjoy his presence more constantly.

Your Affectionate Brother  
C.H. Howard

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1036 4/13/1859

*From:* H. Tupper

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-0971

152 Maiden Lane  
New York

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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152 Maiden Lane  
New York Apr 13, 1859

Lt. O.O. Howard  
West Point  
N.Y.

My dear friend,

Your favour of 11th inst is recd with the enclosure. I am happy to learn that Mrs H got home safely & well, and that she is to have the benefit of a better light in her house. We were all much pleased to have her make the visit and only had to regret that it could not be a longer one.

We have not heard from your Aunt Lee since she went to Port Charter. Her care is in the hands of Him who does all things for good to his disciples; and those who come from great tribulations are finally highly exalted - and we must be reconciled his will.

We all unite in rejoicing that the work of the Lord is prospering with you, and we also pray that a great blessing may attend your labors of Love.

We shall always be glad to see you and Mrs H or either at our house.

Make our best regards to Mrs H.

Remaining as ever, dear Brother

Yours faithfully  
H. Tupper

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1037 4/17/1859 *From:* G. Blocker

*To:* Professor [OO] Howard

OOH-0972

*Source:* Bowdoin

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April 17th 1859

Professor Howard,

Sir,

I suppose you will be surprised to receive a letter from me, but as I am very anxious about the health of my son, that will be the only apology. You must make an excuse for a Mothers affection for a child. Johnny writes to me rather desponding, says his health is not very good and appears low spirited about his health and his studies for fear he will not be able to keep up with his class.

Now I wish you to write to me definitely whether you think it anything serious or not. You could consult a physician and let me know what he thinks about him. If his health prevents his studying would he be allowed a furlghlow to recruit his health.

I wish you to write to me and let me know, but not let him know that I wrote to you. Let me thank you for your attention to him, since he has been at West Point and any kindness shown by you will be gratefully received by me. I remain your friend.

G. Blocker

P.S. Do you think that Johnny will be able to pass at the examination. Direct your letter to Mrs. D. Blocker, Lowndes Co. Alabama where I am now on a visit.

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1038 4/25/1859    *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0973

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds  
Apr 26, 1859

Dear Brother

We are waiting for a letter from you. I have been at home almost a week - found Mother as well as usual, and seeming to enjoy life more than at sometimes. She will not have to work so hard now that they have "let out" the farm. Father met me at the depot Wed. The roads were very bad then but have improved somewhat.

I spent Tuesday night with Dellie in Yarmouth. He is doing pretty well in his studies I should judge. Mr Randall is a good teacher. But Dellie don't "stick to his books" as he ought to I fear. He attends to Philo. meetings & making calls. Is saving his eyes & his oil by not studying evenings, so I am inclined to think he will not make a scholar. I talked to him about getting his lessons more thoroughly. His religion seems to be a good deal on the outside. And yet perhaps I judge too much by appearances. And as to his piety I cannot with any consistency judge him with regard to it because my own heart & life is so far out of the way.

Next day after I came home was fast day but we did not know of any meeting till Warren Mower came down in afternoon & said there was a Prayer meeting on the Ridge in the forenoon. Mother & I walked up to meeting Sabbath day & heard Old Elder Prescott of Monmouth preach. It didn't seem much like preaching, but yet he said some things profitable for me to hear & remember. It was such bad traveling few were out to meeting. Mr Holt is expected to move into Mr Bailey's house soon. He will preach half the time here this Summer. They are repairing the house at the Center & will have no preaching for several months at least.

Warren told us Louisa was not so well as usual on acct of a cold. He brought up "Pentecost" which I have since read & found very interesting & encouraging. Rowland sent it home to mother. R preaches in Harpswell next Sabbath I expect. He will return immediately to Bangor & about the 20th has a vacation of about a week when there is some chance of his coming home, tho' he may preach in Oldtown or not far from B & not come here at all. I go back week from next Friday.

Nettie thinks of teaching this Summer but I am rather in hopes she will not get a school near home. If not she will not teach. I fear she is hardly strong enough for teaching now. She was going to see about a school yesterday & if she don't get that i.e. if it is engaged perhaps she will not look for any more.

I spent the Sabbath with Ella before I came home. She is anticipating a good time in N.Y. She expects to start by the middle of May I believe if not before. She is waiting for her brother Albert to come home.

Cynthia is getting well rather slowly. Has a fine little girl mother says. I am no judge, of one so young at any rate. John H. was down here Sat & bought father's oxen. He agreed to meet father at the depot yesterday to give him some R.R. bonds as security with his note, but father was there & looked in vain for John. Guess he couldn't find the bonds. Mother thinks & says a good deal about you & your family & often speaks about Aunt Ann. She wonders you do not write. Tell us what you know of Aunt.

My pen is rather poor & my hand trembles today but I trust you will be able to make out what I have written & hope to have a letter from you very soon.

Give my love to Lizzie & the little ones. I hope to see them all in June.

Yr. Affect Brother  
Charles

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1039 4/27/1859 *From:* S.P. Lee

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0974

New York

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York April 27th /59

Dear Otis

Your note was just received for which please accept my kind thanks. I have been very successfull this voyage and am chartered to return to the same Port and shall sail the last of next week. I will go up to see you tomorrow night and spend the night with you.

Please see Mr Wier son and tell him I want him to go with me.

Mother is quite comfortable at Port Chester but I have no hopes of her recovering. She may remain comfortable for a few months.

Sarah & Children arrived last week. She is quite well.

With much love I remain your affectionate cousin  
S.P. Lee

Lieut O.O. Howard  
West Point

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1040 4/27/1859    *From:* J.C. Stevens

*To:* My Dear Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0975

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Apr 27, 1859

My Dear Friend,

I have been intending to write you for several days but one thing after another has prevented to the present moment when I have resolved to clear the pigeon hole. I trust I need not tell you how much good your last letter did me, breathing as it does such a spirit of confidence and perseverance in that Master and cause me profess to love. I am very glad to hear that the life of Capt Vicars is to be circulated among the Cadets. I trust it may be the means of doing much good.

I see that the Fulton St meeting have the subject of the Military Academy before them. This is a very encouraging feature, the answer to those prayers have been truly astonishing. Our daily morning meetings are continued and very interesting. A few evenings since your brother read to me a letter from you wherein you speak of the hopeful conversion of a cadet. May we not hope and pray that this is but the commencement of a glorious display of gods power in your midst? After some remarks in our meeting this morning respecting the encouraging indications in our Navy I felt that I must request the prayers of our meeting for the Army and especially for West Point and all the efforts being made by you for the accomplishment of such glorious purposes. Let us have faith my dear brother great faith in prayers, believing that if we pray right God will answer our prayers and pour us out a blessing. Yes let us "pray without ceasing".

Your brother has left the City to be absent about a week. I think over at Harpswell where the good work is in progress and where you may know that he spent some time last season with much success. What encouragement for perseverance when we have such promises that "in due time we shall reap if we faint not". Let us give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" let us believe that if, we are the means God will glorify himself in the result. "He that goeth forth and reapeth, leaving precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him".

I hope my dear brother that you will keep me informed of what God is doing in your midst, that I may rejoice in your prosperity," knowing that you have not labored in vain nor spent your strength for naught."

Remember me very kindly to Mrs Howard, and let me hear from you at your convenience. Mrs Stevens would join with me in sincere regards if present. I trust we are not forgotten in your prayers.

Very sincerely yours my dear brother in bonds I trust never to be broken.

J.C. Stevens

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1041 4/30/1859     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-0976

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Apr 30 1859

My dear Brother

I received your very welcome letter last Friday week just as I was starting for "the Kennebec" as they say here. I returned Wednesday, but have had no good time to write till now. Thank you from the heart for the bill & may God assist me to use it right.

I preached in Harpswell two Sermons - addressed the S. School & attended a prayer meeting. It was a precious visit to me & I humbly hope not without profit to them. Ten new ones are propounded to the Church & I hope ten more will be. If so the increase of that church will be 37 - nearly doubling it since my first visit - & quite a no of the hopeful converts have found homes in the Baptist & Methodist Churches. Some, alas, that promised will have fallen away, but numbers exhibit it seems to me, beautiful evidence of the seed & fruit of Jesus Christ. The growth of a soul is a less striking event than its birth, but to me it is as sweet & precious an evidence of the love & power of Jesus. If such as I feel so deeply the apostacy of some who promised well, how Jesus must feel when his own children forget, disbelieve & disobey Him. O my awful responsibility! "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel!"

I went on & stayed with Ella till Weds morn. Her health is very poor & she is so driven with work for herself & especially with that of a society of misses who are at work for our chapel here & who are to hold a "fair" May 4th, that I fear she will be fairly sick by the time she starts on her journey. The girls of the Soc are so young that all the care & a good deal of the work of the Soc. falls on her. This with the dispepsia &c is about as much as the poor girl can bear. She expects to leave Bath in the Boston boat Thurs next, May 5th. She will go by one of the Sound boats & arrive in N.Y. Sat. Morn. She goes with a cousin of hers a Mr Stinson & will go with him directly to a Sister of his - a Mrs Elwell in Brooklyn, unless she sees or hears from you. She would like to make Mrs Elwell & Mary Sprague, who lives with her, a little visit some time, but she will go up to West Point just when you think best & she can come down again some time. She will hardly get thro' her visits in time to return with you & Lizzie, I fear. She says it is a good way & she don't know as she will ever go again if we settle in Maine & she wants to "do it all up" now. I enclose Mr E's address as near as I could get it. Probably Ella would get a note directed to his care in N.Y. He is a commission merchant in the City somewhere.

I would like to have Ella go up the river some pleasant morning in a steamer, as Lizzie & I once did. The scenery is so magnificent, but she had better take the cars if more convenient. If you don't all learn to love each other dearly from this closer acquaintance, you are not like me! My best love to Sister Lizzie & the children. Don't "trouble" any on Ellas acct, dear Lizzie, but treat his little wife just as you would

your own affectionate bro  
Rowland

I will not close my letter, Otis, without expressing my heartfelt satisfaction at what you wrote of that Cadet convert. O that we might hear of more!

Miss Marsh has done more to reconcile me to Episcopacy than all the learned arguments in the world could. Were I to visit England, I should esteem her acquaintance more desirable than that of the Queen! She must, from the spirit displayed in her books, be a truly lovely character. One of those "temples of the holy ghost" which are the most beautiful & worshipful of any on Earth - the clearest manifestations which we have of Christ Himself.

The details of your visits & conversations with the sick are also grateful to me. The General & Mrs Stevens & also Dr. S (your West Pt acquaintance was at home) wish to be affectionately remembered. Gen. S. has written lately. He is very constant at the morning prayer meetings & is evidently being led by the Spirit of God.

I heard at Harpswell from Mr Meriam a baptist minister, living in the town of China, Me, that Aunt Aurelia,

Everett & his wife have lately been hopefully converted! Blessed news! He spoke of the cares of the women as being very encouraging & said they were soon to be baptised. How much longer will our Father & Ellas hold out? O God send down thy converting grace upon them. Capt P seems often "almost persuaded."

Poor Aunt Ann! I can only pray for her. I can never have any hope for Silas till he a new heart. O that his mothers prayers might be answered in his behalf.

A lady who has been a frequent subject of prayer in our meetings has died this week sweetly triumphing in redeeming Love. Just before she died she sang in a sweet clear voice the following words - Ella will sing you the tune, if you think of it.

"Come Sing to me of Heaven  
When I'm about to die  
Sing songs of sweetest ecstasy  
To waft my soul on high."

Chorus

"There'll be no more Sorrow there!  
There'll be no more Sorrow there!

In Heaven above where all is love  
There'll be no more sorrow there."

When her voice ceased from weakness her lips moved & whispers of the other verses came feebly out till there was silence, on earth, & one more voice in the Heavenly Choir.

Charles is at home for two weeks vacation. He writes that Mother seems very well & Cynthia improves slowly. He seems to incline to teach this fall & then to spend the winter with you rather than me. If his health was firm, I should think the sooner he was here, the better, but, as it is, perhaps our life is too sedentary for him at present.

I shall hear from you often & all about you when Ella gets there. She is a splendid letter writer!!! (Of course my opinion is disinterested.)

This is a long postscript & written in a hurry & it is now time to close. So overlook the imperfections & believe me always

Yr Aff. Bro.

Rowland

[Note: Two pages filed at the end of this letter were moved to OOH-0942, dated 2/7/1859.

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1042 5/1/1859

*From:* Henry M Robert

*To:* Dear friend [OO Howard]

OOH-0979

Fort Cascades, W.T.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Cascades, W.T. May 1st '59

Dear friend,

'Tis Sunday afternoon but here all days are alike observed, & the nearest church that I know of is the Block House at Ft Vancouver, fifty miles off. But God in his providence chooses means that we would not think of to accomplish his ends. Removed from all society, at the very moment that I was reveling in all its dissipations & one week before I would have left W.P. for the purpose of being married & my employment being purely physical, I had plenty of time to think.

For four months I have been thinking mostly of the all important thing to which I have paid no attention for eight years. I began to inquire the real source of all the happiness I had enjoyed; I noticed that by the time I was sixteen all ambition for the applause of others had been destroyed & which had been great till its object was attained. Then my enjoyment was of the intellectual order; for four years I shunned society & reveled in the delights of Chemistry & the Mathematical Sciences & Poetry & resolved never to have anything to do with Love. I felt a commiseration for the poor fools that place their happiness in such unsafe vessels that were liable to be broken at any moment.

I think during this time, my cadetship I enjoyed myself as much as any member of the corps. Then began the attack upon my favorite notion of the supremacy of the intellect over the affections which ended of course in my yielding my false ground.

Well all through my life I have found great pleasure in making others happy & it was this together with the hope that something might happen to awaken me to a sense of my condition, & also for the examples sake & a feeling of duty that I assisted at the Sunday School at W.P. I have thought you would regard it as inconsistent in my not joining you in your prayer meetings. I would have delighted to have gone if I could have heard all without being seen.

My pride is my ruination. You recollect I went once & you asked me to pray which I could not do so I staid away. I think eight years ago I was truly converted, but immediately removing to a strange place where there were no young Christians. Worldly ambition soon got the better of my good intentions & with one exception from that time to this, I have never allowed solemn thoughts to enter my mind. I was baptized at that time. Not considering myself a Christian, I never to my knowledge gave anyone a right to presume that I was, though I always tried to do what was right, but depending solely upon myself; a poor support.

However I think that it was the impression that I was, & I never contradicted it because I did not want any one to think I was ashamed to be a Christian when really of all things in the world I would have preferred to have been one.

The last year I had put off the thought intending as soon as I was married to change my course & try to lead a better life. Well I found that my whole life, the real principles of enjoyment in it & the very reasons that had made me adopt my kind of life which one person at least I know used to think terribly queer, would lead directly to the Savior, & show conclusively that earthly happiness where there was no hope of Heaven was a humbug.

It seems to me if God would only receive me & give me his peace, that I would laugh at worldly honors as not worthy a sensible man's notice.

Tuesday afternoon, May 3rd. I have been skirmishing the detachment over the hills at the upper cascades for three hours besides the ride there & back, nine miles. Next Monday Houston will be back with the pontons & we will see how to cross rivers. Two companies of Dragoons, one of Infantry & our Detachment leave the Dalles on the 1st of June for a four months tramp through the Snake country & then to Utah to open a route for Emigrants & back again, though I am in hopes that we may receive orders to go on home from Utah which will just suit this specimen of humanity. But everything is uncertain & though I always hope for the best yet I think we don't know what is the best for us ourselves & we ought never to grumble at the acts of providence which

are all intended for our good. But when I do get back, as soon as I can get some civil employment my commission may go to the winds. I like independence, & am too fond of home for the Army. I would prefer teaching but there is no telling but that I may yet be forced to stay in the Army for want of other occupation.

You want to know if a certain young lady wont get tired waiting. Well I think we both are rather tired now of waiting but as we cant help it we must endure it & learn patience. Her lesson in Army life commences before she has entered it & if anything of this kind is liable to occur again she is for leaving it.

Remember me to the Misses Berard, Miss Blunt & Misses Helen Bratt & Jennie Grey & friends general. My love to Mrs H, & Guy & Grace. I am glad to hear that there was a revival at Mr G's church, & that your prayer meetings & lectures are well attended. The men are all very much obliged to you for your kindness to them. I have a few books which they have been reading but their time has been very much occupied. I would be glad to hear from you. Please direct to the care of Lt A C Wildrick, Camp Floyd Utah. Remember me in your prayers.

Your sincere friend,  
Henry R. [Henry M Robert, USMA Class of 1857]

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1043 5/2/1859

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0980

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
May 2nd 1859

My dear Mother

I received Charles' letter last Friday. I had been waiting sometime to hear something definite about Aunt Ann. Perry came up Thursday evening & returned to N.Y. Friday morning. He said his mother had found considerable relief at the place where she had gone, at Port Chester. The pain is more intense when the plaster is first applied, but after a little while she gets relief. This is far better than that series of paroxysms of suffering which seemed to have no intermission, which was upon her when I was down. Perry had a good voyage & has a good Charter to the same Port for which he will leave this week. Sarah is with her mother, came on with her children by the last steamer.

Lizzie says she wants you to give the measure of the north room more exactly - stating the length & breadth & also the width & length of the fireplace & hearth as well as its distance from either wall, even to within a half inch; for she wishes to cut the carpet, which is already purchased & have it for temporary use here before we go, on our parlor floor. Write as soon as you can.

The children are well. Lizzie pretty well & I am always well.

Love to all. Everything goes on about as usual. Mr French gave us one of the most effective sermons I ever heard from him yesterday. I hope it reached some hearts. My Sunday School is prosperous. I lectured last night at our Soldier's Chapel - had a good attendance - also last Wednesday evening I delivered one on Grace & had a fair attendance. Generally have 12 or 14 at the Cadet prayer meetings - very little apparent fruit.

The house is open, doors &c - no fires, birds singing, garden planted, trees leaved & cherry trees in blossom.

I heard from Bangor today. Rowland had gone to Harpswell on Wednesday the 27th ult.

We are hoping to have a good long visit from Ella. Give love to all the home family. How is the farm "let out"? To whom & how long? Remember us affectionately to Uncle E, Laura, John, Hellen & the children. Glad to hear that Cynthia has a fine little girl.

I hope the snow banks are all melted now & the roads getting good & that you have preaching at the center.

Guy talks considerably about going down to Maine this summer, & Grace begins to say she is "doing down Maine". She is very strong & active & happy, when she doesn't get her temper up. Guy keeps out of doors nearly all the time. He says, "Guy would like to have Johnny come & see Guy." "Guy is going - I am going to see Johnny next summer." He is trying to substitute I, mine & me for Guy in his phraseology. Tell Chas if he has plenty of leisure I shall be glad to hear from him.

May God continue his choice blessings to you, Dear Mother.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

"Give my love to grandmother & grandpa & Uncle Rowland & Uncle Charlie & Uncle Dellie" Guy

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1044 5/3/1859

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0981

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor May 3d 1859

My dear Brother

After I mailed my letter the other night I found that I was like a boy who had walked five miles & forgotten his errand.

I now enclose the address that I overlooked before. We are having beautiful weather & the trees are budding & the grass springing fast. I have got one of my Harpswell friends with me tonight. He is on his way to the Arroostook to settle & thank God, he carries Christ with him into that new country.

We had a crowded prayer meeting in my neighborhood tonight & some seemed to be somewhat melted down. God grant that it is the beginning of better times there.

O Lord "increase my faith." Our Lectures of a day or two have been on faith & Prof Harris takes the same ground that Boardman does - much to my delight. He is such a safe, careful & conscientious thinker & reasoner that I feel great confidence in his opinions.

But I must close & with Love to Lizzie & the babies, I remain,

Your aff. Bro,  
Rowland

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1045 5/3/1859

*From:* S.P. Lee

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0982

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York May 3d 1859

Dear Otis

I send you the Power of Atty and if you will sign it before a Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds, & send it down so I can have it Friday, I can if I have a good offer sell the Bark. Of course I should not sell without I could make something handsome for you and the rest of the owners.

I sail Saturday or Monday. Tell Robert Ware [Weir?] I will give him 25\$ per month to go out 2d mate with me and if he will accept to let me know by Thursday at 1 o'clock so I can get another man if he does not.

Mother is still quite comfortable. <[torn page]> I hope may be better. She is in good spirits. If you can come down do so before I sail and we can go to Port Chester and spend one night with mother. Sarah & the children are well but she is in a delicate situation and could not stand the fatigue of going to West Point for 2 or 3 months.

I have not seen Mr Kinsley, should like to get his power of Attorney to sell the Bark if I get an offer of \$10,000. If he is at home, please tell him about it.

With much love to Lizzie & the children and all friends, I remain your affectionate cousin

S.P. Lee

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1046 5/9/1859

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0983

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College  
May 9, 1859

My dear brother

My letter from Leeds was more than usually poor. I did not feel well the day I wrote. But on the whole I never spent a pleasanter vacation than the one just past. It was quiet at home and mother seemed well and happy. Father is not driven either by work or business. He is now engaged in gardening and he has done the sowing for the men who took the farm. He has his sheep & in fact almost everything to "look after" as usual. He has been occupied with the men & Warren Mower to assist & what little I could do one or two days, in setting out apple trees - transplanting them from the nursery to the field South of the Sheep-barn.

I left home Friday. Father took me to Curtis Corner. Mother was well. Joan Gilbert was there sewing. Charlie Gilmore is there. He is a very good boy. I brought down in my hands some (2) plants for Nettie. Mrs John Stanchfield was on board the train with her children - a little boy & girl, going to Gorham where they are going to school. The mother boards and rooms with them and studies she says considerably herself. She seems to be a lady of much refinement.

I met Dellie at Yarmouth Junction. Spent about ½ hour with him. He is going home next week to stay only one week. I pity Dellie a good deal. He seems to have a desire to do just what is right. But he has so much apparent self-confidence and assurance and so little sympathy for others that he does not get along very well anywhere. Is not liked. He has evidently considerable ability as a writer & speaker and yet those traits of his character are so prominent that at present he cannot influence others. In the performance of religious duties these same peculiarities are a great injury to him. He has little depth of feeling apparently and speaks rather loud & long in social meetings. I am thinking a more thorough work of Grace wold make him seem much different in meetings for social worship.

I found some of my class at the Junction as usual on my return. The Howes were there. They have about concluded to go to Bangor tho' they are Free-will-Baptists.

I found Nettie waiting for me and looking quite well and happy. So she has seemed ever since. She is intending to teach this Summer a small school about 3 ½ miles from here. At first I feared she would not be well enough but now am in hopes the duties will agree with her since she has engaged so easy a school. Nettie seems to be more engaged in Our Master's service than usual. I wrote you I think that they had been having a series of meetings at the Baptist here. Mr Burnham was here three weeks and preached a good many sermons. He left the first of last week and Friday Mr Adams came who used to preach here, when this church was first started say in 1840. He preached two excellent discourses Sabbath day. I have not often heard a minister I liked so well. He has a pleasing delivery and writes forcible & well finished sermons. They hope to settle him here. He will come if they can support his family which consists of six children one of whom is a boy of 15 who wishes to enter College this Fall.

I have just returned from my after-breakfast walk. Went down on the R.R. with the Howes & Anderson. Oh I should enjoy much being in the class with these & 5 or 6 others of my College Class at Bangor. I suppose, however, that I shall not go this Fall.

It has been raining during the night. Before yesterday we have had pleasant days for a fortnight - beautiful weather but the ground had become very dry & the rain will be particularly welcome to the farmers.

I am really glad your family are coming on to spend the Summer. Lizzie spoke to me as tho' she should not come home with you this Summer. I think she will enjoy her visit better this Season. Little Guy & Grace must be kept well if possible & if Lizzie herself is only well, may be her visit will be more pleasant. There will not be so large a family at home and this will be as favorable to a good time for her as anything, I suppose. If I do not change my mind I shall not be at home till November if I am then.

My duties this term will not be very arduous I judge. Prof Chadbourne is gone & so we have no morning recitations. We expect, however, to read more Chaucer to Prof. Chamberlain one of these days. He is also to give us 8 lectures upon Rhetoric. I have my Commencement part to write if I perform. I have no subject in view. Wont you suggest some or one for me. I believe you did do so but I have forgotten it now. Hope you will find time to write me before you come away.

I had almost forgotten to mention Ella. I am in hopes she is with you before this time. Probably you are enjoying her company today. What can give more pleasure than the society of those we love? I don't believe but that Ella will have a good time while she is away. I had a letter from Rowland just before I left home. He seems to have many & good opportunities of proclaiming the truth of Christ to dying men. May the Lord bless his labors.

The indications with regard to the prosperity of Zion in South Leeds are very good now I think. The Conference year has just begun with the Methodists & Mr Holt has been sent to Leeds. Three pious families have moved into our part of the town. The weekly prayer-meeting Thursday Evening was quite interesting when I was at home. Hope you will be able to see Salmon & Wm Wing & talk with them while at home. If they do not let their farms & work take up too much time, they will spend this Summer much more happily than any previous one.

If Ella is now with you, will you give her my love - also to Lizzie & the dear little ones?

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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1047 5/10/1859      *From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0984

Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. May 10th 1859

To:  
Lieut O. O. Howard,

Dear Howard,

I received your letter a short time after my return from the South as Annie has probably informed you. She returned safely on yesterday's train and arrived here about 11.15 A.M. I wanted to come down on Saturday, but I had some leveling to do and did not observe how rapidly time was passing, until it became too late for me to take the train at 3.45 for W. Point.

You say that with my belief I cannot hold to all the word of God, viz., John 1.1 &c or words to that effect. In this you are mistaken, for there is no part of the Bible to which I do not hold as firmly as anyone, though it is true I do not understand it in the same sense that you do, for I do not see that the meaning requires such an interpretation, and I give it an interpretation perfectly sanctioned by the original, and as I think much more in accordance with the general tenor of the Scriptures, viz. "In the beginning was wisdom, and wisdom was with God, and wisdom was God" inherently subsisting in him as the Great First Cause; but in 14 verse "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" in Christ in whom the wisdom and power of God were the evidences of his mission.

Read verse 18; did they not see Christ when he was on earth? I won't now say any more of this text, but give some remarks of Dr Adam Clark whom you know to be a distinguished Trinitarian; but first I will say, if the Savior did not possess all the attributes of Deity he can not be God. "Here I trust I may be permitted to say, with all due respect for those who differ from me, that the doctrine of the eternal Sonship of Christ is, in my opinion antisciptural and highly dangerous. This doctrine I reject for the following reasons: 1. I have not been able to find any express declaration in the Scriptures concerning it. 2. If Christ be the Son of God as to his divine nature, then he cannot be eternal; for "son" implies a father, and "father" implies in reference to son, precedency in time, if not in nature too. "Father and son" imply the idea of generation, and "generation" implies a time in which it was effected, and time also antecedent to such generation. 3. If Christ be son of God as to his divine nature, then the Father is of necessity prior, consequently superior to him. 4. Again, if this divine nature were begotten of the Father, then it must be in time; that is there was a period when it did not exist. This destroys the eternity of our blessed Lord, and robs him at once of his Godhead. 5. To say that he was begotten from all eternity is, in my opinion absurd; and the phrase "eternal son" is a positive self-contradiction. "Eternity" is that which has had no beginning, nor stands in any reference to time. "Son" supposes time, generation, & father and time also antecedent to such generation. Therefore the conjunction of these two terms, "Son" and "eternity", is absolutely impossible, as they imply essentially different and opposite ideas" Dr Adam Clark on Luke 1.35

You say you are sorry that I have Channing's Works. Why? It cannot be because I seek to find in his eloquent writings, and think I do find, the spirit of Jesus more fully revealed, than in the writings of almost any other person. Because I there find what I think best accords with truth. Ought I not to read those books which I think most nearly allied to truth? I suppose you mean, rather, not that you are sorry I am seeking truth from his great mind, but that my principles are such as to cause me to seek fellowship and communion with those views of liberal Christianity which he professed. But if there is danger to be apprehended from the reading of such books, that my views of Christianity will be too broad and enlarged; what must be said of the works of Wesley, Knox, Robt. Hall, Isaac Taylor, W.R. Williams, Leicester A. Sawyer, Dr. Robt. Balmer, John Angell James, Dr. Ralf Waidlaw, Richard Baxter, William Orme, Dr. Sam Parr, Dr. Thos Arnold, Dr. Gavin Struthers & a great many more equally as great, who at times are as liberal as ever Dr. Channing is or could be.

Listen. "Let a man, no matter what his sectarian distinctions, and natural or social disadvantages, or what his discrepancies in the minor views and practices of religion, give but evidence of love to Christ, and to his word, and holliness and he is my brother. Be he Arminian or Calvinist, Episcopalian or Congregationalist, let him be Baptist or Pedobaptist, let him have all worldly disadvantages of education and station and taste, let him be

Greek or Barbarian, bond or free, - if I love Christ, I love that disciple of Christ. Under every variety of costume, and dispensation and dialect and race, the tenant of a Caffie Kraal or of the Greenlanders snow-hut, nay, let him mutter this prayer as his Pater Noster in an unknown tongue; if I find, in all his superstitions, and disguises of hereditary prejudice and error, the love of my Christ and the likeness of my Lord, can I - dare I - disavow the brotherhood?" William R Williams: Lectures on the Lord's Prayer, pp 12-13.

I do not hope to find in Dr. Channing's Works views more enlarged than these, for they are broad, deep, truthful, glorious. Many others hold views as liberal as those expressed by Mr. Williams, and I am now reading a book filled with (composed of) extracts similar to the one I have just quoted, some more, some less beautiful but all tending strongly towards liberality, and thy are all by Trinitarian writers, gems, christallyzed due drops which shine forth resplendently in their writings. Am I in danger from them? If there is a word here which seems in the slightest degree unkind, pardon it, 'twas unintentional. Humanium est errare.

I shall continue the subject regularly in my next.

Love to all, and "peace from God our Father & the Lord Jesus Christ"  
Charles C. Lee

P.S. I do not recollect the other texts you quoted, and by some accident your letter was lost; but I shall take them all up in turn. In my next I shall enter upon the subject of the Deity of Christ from the supposed application to him of the name Jehovah.

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1048 5/10/1859 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear Son [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0985

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 10th 1859

My dear Son,

I shall make no apology for not answering my letter from you as it would be of no use. Your father has fixed a plan on paper that will answer every purpose I hope.

Charles has gone to Brunswick. We are in good health. Ensign is married to Cousin Laura Howard. They came here on the sabbath and attended meeting on the ridge with me. Getting married to Ensign and Laura makes no changes outwardly. I am constantly thinking about Aunt Ann. I hope to hear from her soon. Mr Davie is married to Hannah Knapp. This year take up the odds and ends.

Love to Lizzie, Guy and Grace, and good large share yourself. I am working in the Garden, and Cleaning house alternately for ten days. Everything in nature has put on a new appearance. I hear that Ella Patten is gone to Newyork

Yours in haste  
Eliza Gilmore

[The second page is a diagram of the floor plan of the north bedroom. The overall dimensions are approximately 14'4" by 15'4".]

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1049 5/17/1859     *From:* Rodelphus Gilmore

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0986

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 17. 1859.

My Dear Brother:-

After giving up all hopes of getting a letter from you unless I remind you of it I have concluded to try my hand at it and see how well I shall succeed.

I came home yesterday from Yarmouth and am going back in one short week. It seems only an aggravation to be at home only one week but I suppose I ought to be contented that I have a chance to come home at all. You do not come at all in reality compared with myself. But I suppose your home is where you are and where your family is. But for me my home is where my mother is.

I found father & mother quite well and seemed to be glad to see me. Father was at the depot when I came. He does not have to work as hard as he did when he carried on the farm himself, yet he is doing something all the time. He is now at work in the garden, having little Charley Gilmore [Charles H Gilmore, b. about 1851, son of Arza and Laverna Gilmore.] as assistant - a chore boy. Charley seems to be a good boy and is very willing and ready to do little jobs such as fall within his strength. Roland is getting along finely. Cynthia has a fine little girl. She looks healthy and strong and has not such a horrible shaped head as Jonney had when he was of her age. She is getting along finely and I think is gaining fast. She will perhaps have better health now than she did after the birth of the first one.

Nearly every one about here of our old friends are getting married and having children and seem to be happy.

We have no preaching at the meeting house yet. They have made definite arrangements about having the meeting house newly painted and fixed up in a becoming manner. The old building will look quite respectable when they have made all the repairs in contemplation. Uncle Ensign has taken the job and I fear that it will not progress very fast, but I will hope for the best. Since Uncle has got married and has a good wife, he may have more time to attend to things around home and let R.R. alone for a few days.

I am going up to John's & Uncle's this P.M. when I come from the P.O. Things are looking finely about home and around in Leeds.

I came from Yarmouth yesterday morning and stopped in Auburn over one train. I have gone over once my whole college preparation course and now have some hard studying to do to review a part of it next term. I have reviewed Virgil and the most of Cicero and have only Sallust of my Latin to review, but I have all of the Greek to go over again before I go to Bowdoin. I've got a time of hard study before me and I think I shall have no difficulty in doing all [See Note 1] up before next August. Mr Randall thinks I shall have the best "fit" of any one in the school that is going next Aug. I hardly think I shall have any thing in Greek that I shall be proud of. But I will do my best and trust to good luck & common sense for the rest. We have had a pleasant time; the most so of any I have ever attended since I began to go away to school.

We have had a good and largely attended prayer meeting all the term. I do not know that it has resulted in any manifest good yet I hope it has, at least I think it has done no injury. Most of those who took an active part seemed to be actuated by the spirit of God. I know I have received a great amount of good by them. God seemed to be present with us most of the time and I think that by trusting in Him always and remembering that we are weak in our selves great results may be expected. We shall continue the "Young Folks Prayer Meeting" next time as there seem to be a large number that are very much interested. The division of the church at that place has not conspired to advance the cause of religion a great deal, but on the contrary. I think I wrote you about the church troubles at Yarmouth in my last. But if I did not I don't suppose it will be of sufficient interest to relate here as you was at Y so long ago.

There are yet some people at Yarmouth who remember you and speak in the manner about you that would be expected not having seen you for so long a time. Mr Randall knows all about your history from the time of your

entering College down to the present time. I have heard him speak particularly of some of your gymnastic performances while at College. He was a Sophomore when you graduated.

I would write more but it is time to go to the cars. I was intending to speak of religious matters here in town and some other things but let me go. No more today.

My love to Lizzie. Kiss Guy and Grace for me. Your own brother.

R.H. Gilmore

A letter will be expected immediately upon my arrival at Yarmouth next Monday.

I have not time to read my letter over and correct it so pardon <>

[Note 1: The remainder of this letter was filed with letters from Sept, 1859. However it fits with the letter from Dellie to Otis on 5/17/1859, OOH-0986. This letter fragment was stamped with Bowdoin #260.

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1050 5/18/1859 *From:* John R. Bacon

*To:* Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-0987

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York  
May 18 / 59

My dear Mr Howard

I have not been able to effect insurance on the \$1200 uninsured portion of yours & Mr Kingsley interest in the Goodell, \$600 each, for this voyage, but shall try & cover it as freight if I can. The last voyage it was covered. I insured for Kingsley & yourself \$2000 for 12 months, which leaves you \$600 each not covered. I have written to Providence about it, but my friends there could not manage it. Perhaps as the risk is not much you would prefer to take it yourself, that is to let it remain as now, uninsured. Please confer with Mr Kingsley, state these facts to him, & let me know.

Perry got to sea last Friday & I hope will have a prosperous voyage. The war will have a favorable effect, I think, on shipping - a frightful road to receive a benefit is it not?

Mrs Lee is much the same. Sarah wrote me a line yesterday saying so. Make my compliments to Mrs Howard, and believe me

Yrs Truly  
John R. Bacon

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1051 5/21/1859 *From:* S.G. Jones

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0988

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn May 21 1859

Dear Lizzie

I received your letter May the 5. The day before I received it, thought I would write you the first opportunity. Today, Mr Adams our minister being absent we have no meeting. It's very rainy, so I take this time to write, to let you know I remain at my home in Auburn. So long as I think it best I shall remain here. I wish to do justice to my husband, my self, & children. At times I find it rather hard, but it's all right.

Now for me to do right, is what I desire. Now for me or any one else to say we do not know the difference between right and wrong, I do not believe it, for there is no man or woman but that knows, when they do right or wrong. Right actions leads to happiness, wrong actions to wickedness degradation & sin. I have witnessed both, and it looks strange to me that people do not want to be happy. Salvation is free for all.

There is no excuse for any one to preach up ignorance, for there is no one so ignorant that I know, that can not read their bible. That will teach them the road to happiness. In neglecting it, we are led on to all kinds of wickedness. Our bible is our only guide, director & supporter. It is my all. When our earthly friends forsake us, we turn to him who never will forsake us. I feel that my friends must know and enjoy what I do. I see they do not in my own family. How can any one enjoy that. They do not seek to enjoy. If we seek we shall find. We shall find comfort under great affliction.

I want my friends to know I have enjoyment on every day, not only one day but every day. In my sorrow there has been a good share of happiness. I never can tell you what the Lord has done for me. He has done so much and I feel have done nothing in return. After I have past away, I want my friends to say I found happiness under the greatest affliction I ever saw.

It is time for Crestes & Eva to be at home. The rest of us stay at home to day. We are all well. I shall not write you a long letter at this time for I am in hopes to see you soon. I am in hopes to see you a looking better than you did last season. Guy, Minnie say she is a great big girl. She is now six years old. The girls go to school. Crestes works in <> the shop with his father. Samuel Whitman is to <hark> for Uncle D Gorham. His two youngest daughters are to work over to the shop Olive & Oscar.

Yours truly  
S.G. Jones

Write me and tell me when you're a coming.

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1052 5/23/1859     *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0989

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y.  
May 23d 1859

My dear Mother,

Rowland left us for Maine this morning. Ella accompanied him as far as Brooklyn. Lizzie sent the Carpet, by R. and gave suggestions about cutting it which she says were entirely wrong. On looking over the plan which father sent she says the way to make the carpet match & hold out is - to have the breadths run East & West, and cut four breadths, each 15 ft 6 inches in length. This will bring the last one (the fourth) up over the zinc an inch or two. The rest will be easily matched & give you upwards of a yard for remnant.

Lizzie says the best way is not to bind the carpet but to "latch stitch" it down or hem it. The binding sent the sellers "gave in" & will do for the remnant for a mat. The length of the room from East to West you will notice is 15-4, but you will have to make the cut 15-6 in order to make the carpet match & cut without waste.

So much for business.

We have had a nice visit from Rowland. He spoke Sunday evening a week ago at the Camp Town Chapel, and made some remarks on Wednesday evening, went over to my prayer-meeting, and yesterday all day he officiated for Rev Mr Gray, the Presbyterian minister, at "the Falls", and attended as the pastor at a funeral a mile & a half below the Falls. His discourses were very good & I trust left a deep impression on many of the hearers.

In public Rowland seems possessed of a most excellent spirit and wins by the kindness & gentleness of his manner. I hope God will continue to bless & prosper him.

Before he left this morning I had an attack of Rheumatism in my knee, but it has all left me now. I got my feet damp & the weather changed suddenly. This I think occasioned the trouble.

I am sorry to hear that Charles is not better in health. Give my love to Father, & congratulate Laura & Uncle for me. I think their marriage all right & hope Leeds people feel disposed to agree thereto. Lizzie inquires for Cynthia & sends love to all. It will not be long before we shall be with you. We are talking of going by the way of Niagara & Montreal. The children are pretty well. Grace has a bad cold & some cough, but it doesn't hinder her from playing.

A few here are manifesting an interest in Religion & but not many I fear. You can't think how delightful West Point is now on a pleasant day & how rich the scenery, unless your memory is vivid. Good night, with much affection.

From your Son  
O.O. Howard

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1053 5/26/1859

*From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0990

Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. May 26th 1859

Dear Howard,

Peace be to you all. We will in this letter examine the Scripture evidence for the Deity of Jesus Christ, drawn from the supposed application to him of the name Jehovah. I suppose I need say nothing of Gen IV.1 sometimes aduced for this purpose & then translated; "I have gotten a man Jehovah", but the great mass of Trinitarian critics agree that Eve had no allusion to Jesus. Please look next at Gen XIX.24 and Hos I.7 where trinitarians think there are two Jehovahs named, one the Father & the other the Son. The Jehovah of the Jews cannot have been Jesus Christ for see Neh IX.6, 37 also Acts III.13, In.VIII.54; Acts V.30; Heb I.1,2. The repetition of a substantive instead of using a pronoun is an idiom of the Hebrew; see Gen XVII.23; Gen II.20; IV.23; XVI.16, XVIII.17-19; XXXVII.23; Ex XXXIV.35; Josh IX.21; 1 Ki.II.19; XIII.2; 2Ki XVI.12; Esth VIII.8 &c &c and also of the Greek of the New Testament and Apocrypha, see Lu III.19; XI.17; (comp. Math XII.25) Ju IV.1; Rom I.28; 2 Ti I.18; 1 Ju IV.7-9; 1 Maccabees VII.8. If this repetition prove two Jehovahs, what does 1 Ki X.13 prove? "The repetition is emphatical &c" Calvin. "No efficacious argument can be taken from this passage" &c Rivet op. Theol. tom II, p 511. Jer XXIII.5,6 is also quoted & 'tis said the name Jehovah is there applied to Christ, but is it also applied to Jerusalem in Jer XXXIII.15,16? If the first proves Christ to be God the second proves the same of Jerusalem. But it could not originally have applied to Christ, for see whole chapter, and comp. Math XVII.24; XXII.17; Lu II.1-5; III.1;&c.

Has the prophetic description been fulfilled under Messiah? Math XXIII.34-39; XXIV.1-29 - again do the various hebrew names when translated tell who the persons were? Jehovah jireh - Jehovah will see gen XXII.14; Jehovah nissi - Jehovah my banner Ex XVII.15; Ahiah - Brother of Jehovah, 1 Sam XIV.3; Adonijah - My Lord Jehovah, 2 Sam III.4; Elijah - My God Jehovah, 1 Ki XVII.1; &c. Dr A. Clarke, Dr Blayney, & many other Trinitarians, acknowledge the passage does not prove anything of the Deity of Christ.

Next see Zach II.8-11. Are there two Jehovahs mentioned there. If this proves that Christ is Jehovah what does Deut XXIX.2-6 prove of Moses & Is L.3,4 of the prophet? See also Ex VII.17; XV.25, 26; Deut XI.13-15; XXXI.22,23; Jer IV.17; VI.22-30; IX.1-3 &c. If this proves two Jehovahs, what does Zac XIV.9 <?>

See next Math III.3; Mark I.3; Lu III.4,5; Ju 1.23; Math <>.10; Mark I.2; Lu VII.27; Mal III.1; Lu I.16,17,76; Ju III.28. In these passages John the Baptist is said to be sent before God, and also before Christ, therefore, say some, Christ is God. I need not dwell on such an argument.

I have now examined most of the passages in which the name Jehovah has been thought to be applied to Christ, and I think, really, they prove nothing of the doctrine we are now considering, do you?

We will next consider the term God as applied to Christ. See Is VII.14 comp Math I.22,23; Does the name Immanuel show Christ to be God? Read the chapter and you will see the prophecy was not primarily of Jesus v 15, 16. Who the virgin was I cannot say but see 2 Ki XIX.21; Is XXXVII.22; Ju XIV.17; Mic IV.8 &c; but before the virgin could conceive and bare a son & he should grow old enough to &c v.15,16. He means to tell Ahaz in how short a time God would overthrow his enemies and that it would be before a virgin could (marry) conceive & bare &c. But if the name Immanuel proves Jesus, or the person spoken of to be God, what do the names Ithiel, (God with me) Lemuel (God with them) Abiel (God my Father) Hiel (the Living God) &c prove of the persons bearing those names?

Is IX.6. I don't think this shows Christ to be the mighty God in the highest sense of the term, for 1st it is never quoted in the N. Tes. which the apostles would certainly have done did they believe it proved such a doctrine as the Deity of the Savior whom they delighted to honor. 2d This part of Isaah is acknowledged to be exceedingly obscure by eminent men of every persuasion, and has been very variously interpreted, the septuagint varies from the Hebrew and therefore, the passage being doubtful ought not to be quoted; 3d the person was inferior to God for Is IX.7 last clause. 4th the word mighty is applied to heroes Gen X.8; Josh I.14; 1 Sam XVII.51, and the words mighty-God is in the plural number applied to potentates or heroes Ez XXXII.2. 5th If the name (Al-Gbur) translated, mighty God proves the person to be Jehovah; what does the same Hebrew title for Gabriel,

prove of him? Besides to be called by a name and to be what the name signifies are two very different things. Jesus has been called by all these names. For John I see my last letter.

Next see Jn X.33, "makest thyself (a) God" "poieis oeauton Θεον." I don't know whether the Jews meant to charge Jesus with calling himself (a) god, or simply for arrogating Godlike authority Jn X.24-29 but we are not to found our judgement on the charge brought against him by his enemies, surely. If it is any authority then did Jesus also break the Sabbath? Jn IX.16; Lu XII.15; Jn V.18-VII.23. Was he a Samaritan? And had he a demon? Jn VIII.48. Even if they charged him with (being) saying he was God, we are rather certainly to believe his own words Jn X.34-36.

Next see Jn XX.28 the exclamation of Thomas, who would not believe the rest, who asserted that Christ had risen from the dead Jn XX.24,25, Jesus then gave him irresistible evidence of the fact v.26,27 and Thomas struck with astonishment crys out "my Lord and my God" agreeably of the Eastern custom even to this day. See a parallel passage 1 Sam XX.12,13.

Next see Acts XX.28 "feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood". Suppose this reading right, are we to understand it literally then also Ex XXIV.10; Num XIV.14; Ps XXXIII.6; Prov XV.3; Is I.14; Is LIX.1; Lu XI.20. Do we not call our children our own flesh & blood, even so here God's blood means his son. The best critics however read "to feed the church of the Lord, which &c", thus doing away with all difficulty in the passage, Harwood, Griesbach, Lachmann, Dr. S. Clark, Michaelis, Grotius, Le Clerc, J.G. Rosenmuller, Kuinoel, Dr. J.P. Smith &c.

Next see Rom IX.5 " Χριστός το κατά σαρκά ὡν ἐπα παντῶν Θεὸς ἐνλοῦπος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα" Here the doctrine is based upon the punctuation, when as is well known the original manuscripts had none. Place a stop after παντῶν and the meaning is, "as concerning the flesh Christ came who is over all. God be blessed forever." I do not mean to say the punctuation should be thus but think it accords better with the

[Missing closure from Charles C Lee]

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1054 5/30/1859     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0719

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 30, 1859

My dear Brother

You will hear from Ella (if she will tell) all about my movements & you had better consult her before you read this letter & it will be more intelligible perhaps. Father & Mother are well - no one here but little Charley Gilmore & he is going away tomorrow. I expect to go to Bangor today.

I had a good meeting for Leeds yesterday. There was not that air of docility - or rather teachableness that I found at Harpswell & "The Falls" - but it was more like West Point. Uncle Ensign told me that they had never had so direct Sermons here as mine. The fact is the preachers have kept truth at quite a distance from these poor souls & they have slept on years without apparently having "heard whether there be any Holy Ghost". Pray with me that God may let home the truth spoken yesterday so that they can't dodge it, shirk it off, as their manner indicated that they would like to do. I wish you could have been there & seen the puzzled, uneasy, astonished look with which some home truth were received. This was the case with the young men. The young women seem anxious to hear & profit by what they heard. They have had no preaching since February. Mr Parker of Hebron formerly of Wayne, I hope will pay them a missionary visit soon. They will not get into the M. H. till about July. Laura is very happy indeed. Enjoys religion & everything else! She says John & Helen - all well.

Laura & I rode up to see Uncle Barney. It would have pleased you to hear the old people expatiate on your visit last summer. Lizzie would have laughed to hear Uncle Barney say - "She was a very nice, modest, pretty little woman, & they brought there little boy just for us to see him"! I fear you will not see Aunt Ann again if you are confined at West Point till the Examination. I found not suffering so much as she had - cheerful, resigned, full of hope & faith in the promises of the Lord Jesus. I thank God that he sent me there. Poor Sarah! May God bless her & provide her with friends & sympathy in her emergency.

Uncle Ensign says Perry wrote him that he wanted to raise some money & wanted him to help him & now Uncle is waiting for you to come to do something. Dear Otis, do not let anything tempt you to part with your little means, in such a way. I feel very grateful for the assistance that you have rendered me, my dear Brother, & God will bless you for it. My visit to N.Y. was perhaps ill-advised but it was a very happy one to me - very. I feel under the deepest obligations to you & Lizzie both for all your kindness. You know Ella & I are one - every way.

Father is now all out of money - Charles & Dellie both needy. Charles is sick, so that his expenses will be likely to increase & if God gives you anything beyond the immediate needs of your own dear little family, do keep it, for them, or in case an emergency should arise among us. It seems to me that this is the dictate of the purest benevolence.

I have unrolled the carpet & it looks beautifully & will match without difficulty. We got your letter Sat night. I enclose an acct of the melancholy suicide at Bruns. It will interest Ella very much.

Love to Lizzie & the little ones. I sent Ella a letter today. I shall be interested to hear from all the friends I made at West Point.

May God bless your efforts put forth for the conversion of souls.

Your aff brother  
Rowland

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1055 6/3/1859

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0991

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor June 3d 1859

My dear Brother

You & West Point were very earnestly remembered in prayer in our morning meeting the morning of my return. My visit has deepened my interest in your work very much and it is often in my thoughts & especially when I am on my knees.

On reflection I see that I treated poor Harvill too abruptly, but I thought he had been drinking too freely & I dreaded drunken familiarity in the presence of a lady. If I had been alone, I would have felt & acted differently. May God bless him & lead him to the truth as it is in Jesus.

I hear from Portland that Father has received some money from the R.R. & I hope matters will go on smoothly now.

I have written Laura about Aunt Aurelia, in hopes that she may be prevailed upon to join the church soon. Gen. & Mrs Stevens are well. I haven't seen "Old Chez". Mother is very much troubled to obtain "help". I received a more cheerful letter from Charles night before last. He is badly afflicted still with the piles & is undecided about his "part". You will now be very busy & if you don't get time to write you must tell Ella what you would like to have me know. You must inquire of her every single morning, if she hasn't a letter to send! I feel about her as I should think a man might in regard to a hand affected with some nervous disease so as to make its movements spasmodic & involuntary - i.e. I am "unconscious what a part of me is a doin of" & like to keep up the connection & observation as nearly as possible.

Our Lectures now are on Baptism. I very much regret losing those on "the Church", for Prof Harris must have demolished those "church humbugs" I think. I must get them to read. I wish you were a good "Orthodox minister" today! The people are hungry for preaching & pastoral labor & Lizzie would be just the happiest little ministers wife in the world - were she once fairly in for it.

Love to her & the little ones.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

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1056 6/7/1859

*From:* G. Blocker

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-0992

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Jun 7th 1859

My Dear Sir.

I received your very kind letter and should have answered it but I have not been very well since.

I thank you very kindly for your attention to my son in visiting him &c. I hope you will continue to do so and advise with him. I hope and trust in God that he will pass his examination. I hope you will do all you can for him, and all I have to offer is the prayer of the widow.

Yours very respectfully  
G. Blocker

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1057 6/17/1859 *From:* J.E.B. Stuart

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0993

Old Point Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Old Point Va  
June 17th 1859

My Dear Howard:

I met with Jms Reed here from whom I was gratified to learn that you were accomplishing so much good in a Christian's sphere at West Point. I wish you from my heart God Speed. I devoutly trust that we both may in our day & generation be instruments of good. I have for some time been desirous of being on duty at West Point in the Cav'y Dept, though I have not made any official application for it, nor do I like to do so, till a vacancy in that Dept is likely to occur. I presume it is a place much sought for, and not knowing Col Hardee beyond a casual introduction my chances are perhaps not so good, as others better known.

I would like to take with you some of those rambles we once took around Flirtation. My time has been spent entirely on the Frontier since we parted, and I have heard very little of you, but have neglected no opportunity to inquire how & where you were.

Poor Emily! How Sad! how desolate! She says you have become dreadfully (?) good, I trust you will be the means of making her equally so.

Do write to me "Wytheville Va" what the chances are for a vacancy in the Cav'y Dept. & who is likely to fill it. I have been recommended to Hardee by such as Lee Emory Hooke. Tell me all about yrself.

With high regard  
Yours Truly  
J.E.B. Stuart [USMA Class of 1854]

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1058 6/30/1859 *From:* J. C. Stevens

*To:* My dear Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0996

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor June 30 1859

My dear Friend,

I was very happy to receive your letter a short time since, and to learn that your love is growing warmer and warmer; your hopes brighter and brighter, your faith stronger and stronger. May it so continue unto the eternal day.

This I believe to be the privilege of a child of God, and yet how few of us realize this blessing. I rejoice to know that the Cadet prayer-meeting has so much increased and continues to grow. God grant that it may yet include every member of the Academy, yes every immortal soul upon West Point.

I think my dear friend you have great reason for encouragement. It really seems to me that your labors have been blessed of God. It must as you say be a very interesting sight to see that number of Cadets all bowing before God in prayer and supplicating his blessings upon themselves and their Companions. I think that you have great reasons to feel encouraged with regard to the Soldiers, the work has commenced in the right direction to exert an influence that might not other ways be obtained over that class.

I am glad to hear that your brother is laboring with you. "Let us not be weary for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Our morning meetings are continued with much the same interest as when you were present. We feel very much to desire the prayers of christians that God would receive his wish.

I am happy to know that Mrs H enjoyed her short visit at our house, and in hope that it may be repeated next season.

I see your brother Rowland frequently. He is well and keeps busy doing all the good he can, I hope. Our winter has been unusually severe thus far, two or three feet of snow upon the ground at this time with a fair prospect of more.

I see that the Pret seems well satisfied with the result of Genl Scotts mission & so does the Genl probably.

With regard to the John Brown affair to which you refer, it seems to me that Congress is really making quite too serious a matter of that quixotic expedition unbecoming grave Senators, and yet it looks very much as though this topic might be one of the prominent subjects of debate in both branches, should an entire organization be accomplished.

I have great faith the believer that God will prosper your labors yet more abundantly. The position you occupy is one of uncommon responsibility and influence. The eyes of many are upon you.

May God sustain you, increase your wisdom & grace, will ever be the prayer of <>.

J. C. Stevens

Mrs S joins in love to Mrs H & the little ones.  
J.C.S.

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1059 7/7/1859

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0997

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll.  
July 7, 1859

My dear brother

I was very happy to get even so brief a letter from you & one so full of sympathy & interest in my well being. When I see you I can talk the matter over. It has been for 6 years a subject of my thought & attention & inquiry so I ought to know something of its nature & my own wants - and yet I am no nearer a cure today than I was 6 years ago, as far as I can see & I am very glad to have any suggestions from you. I am accustomed to eat heartily of all kinds of wholesome food. Have eaten no warm bread for a year. Drink tea morning & night. I have followed this course not as much because I thought it the way to get well as from necessity. Enough of this for today.

I am trying to write my part tho' I have not a word of it written yet. Had a very pleasant visit at Bangor - the strawberry festival in the new Chapel came the night I was there - Thursday night. I had a beautiful sail down the river and along the coast to Portland on Friday. Rowland came in to the cars Saturday & went to Cumberland. He returned Mond. Tomorrow to Bath. Nettie & I went down at 1 o'clock & he came at 2. He stayed all night returning to Bangor Tuesday. He stoppe an hour here on his way back. Nettie & I returned to Brunswick Monday Evening in the train which was very crowded. I went out to her schoolwith her the next morning.

I cannot write much more today but must mail this & try & do something on my part this afternoon. I want to come home & stay & work after Commencement before I go to W.P. I shall want to stay there 3 months. It will cost me at least 75 dollars. I wonder if father thinks it best for me to go.

I want to see mother a little while at least & I think I may need to have my clothes repaired a little.

Rowland asked if mother was really coming to Com. He feared she wouldn't come. I'm sure I didn't think she ever entertained an idea of staying at home. Mrs M would be very much disappointed. She is expecting Father & Mother as a matter of course.

How does Lizzie do & how are the little ones? I hoped you would come down & see me. Ella is all rested & seemed to be happy. Told me a good deal about her excursion in returning to Maine.

Give my love to Mother, Lizzie & the rest. Please not read to others the first of this letter.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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1060 7/7/1859

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0998

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor July 7, 1859 [Thursday]

My dear Brother

I received your note enclosing the \$10- last evening. It came very opportunely & I thank you from my heart.

I preached in Cumberland last Sabbath - went over Sat, to Bath Monday - & home yesterday. They are a pleasant farming community, a church of 150, a good parish & a congregation of about 300. They proposed for me to spend my vacation with them & would give me \$10- per Sabbath & board me, but I do not see that it is my duty to go yet. If we should mutually agree they would like to wait till I am thru' the Semr'y & then "Settle" me.

They want me to come to Harpswell, & I must give a final ans to both places this week. These things have occasioned me no little anxiety - for I do not know what duty is. I have tried to lay the matter before God & have about decided to decline both invitations.

Dr Tappan, who is Sec. of the Me. Missionary Society wishes me to go as missionary to Aroostook. It seems to me that my best & most unselfish feelings incline me to go, to labor in the town of Patten & vicinity. The Soc. Pay but \$8.- per Sabbath.

The region is comparatively destitute. They need preaching & God's blessing on three months labor might result in planting a Church in the wilderness, wh. when the region becomes populous should be the seed of a great & abiding influence for Christ there.

Ella feels badly of course about my going so far and would prefer any of the other places (it has been intimated to me that they would like to have me at Winthrop, Orland & Unity) but if God has given me peculiar talents to labor among the poor & ignorant in a new Country there is where He points me. If I only felt sure I wouldn't hesitate a moment. Pray for me, that I may do just right.

Gen Stevens sends a very cordial invitation to you & your family to come to his house our Anniversary week. He & Mrs S are very desirous that you should comply.

Have you decided to unite with the Church this Summer? Would Lizzie go with you? If so, or if you alone are to do so perhaps it might be done as conveniently here as elsewhere. To observe the ferries require <[ Right side of page 4 cut off]> would take from one Saturday till a week from the next <> as the "proper ending" is a week before the admission, & both are on the Sabbath.

If another course seems <better> do not, I pray you let my <feelings> influence you. If you should decide as above, Dr Shepard would receive you most cordially & your Church fellowship would be complete - to be transferred elsewhere or, as not, in future circumstances & duty might seem to require.

I found Ella, Dellie & Charles all well. Chas spent the 4th with Nettie at Bath. Ella expects you at Commencement. She thinks she must see the Children before they go back too. Whether I can go home at all is uncertain.

If I go East, I will probably start the week following Com week. I would like to preach the two Sabbaths between our Anniversary <> that time some where not <far> from Brunswick. I will probably have an opportunity. <I may> be at Harpswell, one of <them>, if I can get time to write a Sermon.

I think that Charles' best <course> will be to go to Hill N.H. to the Establishment there. <The> beneficial effects experienced, by those troubled like him, there seem to be reliable. His case is urgent & if now remedied will tell greatly on his future usefulness & length of life. If benefitted by a three months <stay>, he will then be able to teach <&> earn money, wh. he is not now. He proposes to spend a week at home after Com.

Love to Lizzie & the little ones. Love to Mother. I hope she will be able to go to Commencement. She & Father too.

We are examined by the County Association of Ministers next Tuesday for License.

Ella was delighted with her journey. She manifests a warm affection for her brother & sister, nephew & niece. She has told me many incidents of the journey & I feel under deep obligations to you & Lizzie for the kindness that you have shown her, tho' I do feel that "her own sake" is reason enough to love & care for her.

Good Bye  
Your Brother  
Rowland

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1061 7/9/1859

*From:* Peleg S. Perley

*To:* Lieutenant O.O. Howard

OOH-0999

Henry Illinois

West Point, New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Henry, Illinois, May 15th 1859

July 9th 1859

Lieutenant O.O. Howard

West Point, New York

My Dear Chum,

Thus far and thus far only did I progress in a letter to you a good while ago, but now I am going to write you a short letter anyhow. Yours was received and I was very much pleased with it, very much. I am as wicked as ever but much happier than I used to be. I have worked harder since last Oct, than ever before in my life. At the Jan'y Term last I had over fifty causes in court, some paying me a 100\$ and some less than 10\$ and averaging twenty dollars or more; and last May term I had over 30 cases, and in the interim between Circuit Court in Oct, Jany and May I frequently have 5\$ justice suits as high as 4 a week. I am city Atty and make about 300\$ a year in insurance Agency and you may easily conceive I have to work. I have worked this winter all night frequently and Sundays too; have had to.

I don't work Sunday except as a necessity and never did and never mean to.

You know Chum, that I am not given to over rote what I do and that what I tell you is not above the reality. There is a great amount of law business here and no mistake. The J.P. Esq Arnold who has an office with me has had more than 1200 suits before him this year past - has jurisdiction to 100\$ and it is my opinion has done more Judicial business than all the J.P.s in Ill in that period.

My wife and boy who will be a year old Aug. 8th next are on their way East, at Niagara now. Sam has gone too, and John and I are going soon to Me. We shall go by Albany and Worcester. I want to see you very much but hardly know how to do it. I have so many places to go to and so short a time to stay. I cant be gone but about 4 weeks and unless you are going down to Me in August I don't believe I can come where you are.

I have got to go to Conn. to see if I cant get the agency of loaning 25000\$ and my next Court business I must be back here to get in order.

Write me to Livermore the latter part of this month and tell me whether you will be anywhere in August where I can see you.

Give my love to your wife and believe me as ever  
your

P.S.P. [Peleg S. Perley]

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1062 7/12/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1000

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor July 12, '59

Dear Brother

I recv'd yours in good time. I passed my examination for License today very well. I wish I knew as much as it indicated. The "Secy of War" is at Anniversary time, when Prof Keane's asks questions & not the ordinary ministers.

We had a very good Class prayer meeting to night, may God help me always to give up all for Christ.

I have about decided to go to the Aroostook. I will leave the week following Commencement week.

I have prayerfully tried to consider the whole case & concluded that there is my place unless Providence forbids. I have declined the Cumberland & Harpswell invitations. I preach in Winthrop next Sunday. I feel very much afraid but God will help me - pray for me.

Ella is anxious to hear from you & Lizzie & the children. Did you receive the \$7-?

I enclose an acct of Anniversary & I want you & Lizzie to come the Friday before, that is a week from next Friday. We have a S.S. Pic Nic & I will postpone it till Sat if you will come. Write by return mail if you can. You will have a pleasant visit here - religiously & Socially. We can leave Thursday morning the 28th.

I have felt today full of possibilities for Christ. O that this feeling might continue.

Love to Lizzie & Mother. I wish the children could come but they would tire Lizzie & make expense.

We are busy <buying> - I am "Forage Master" this year!

Father expected some money in July. Can he let me have the \$25.00. Please to ask him. My board bill is all that I care about.

I shall get to Winthrop at 12 Saturday & leave about 3 P.M. Monday.

If you had a good horse idle, I would ask you to ride out Sat or Mon.

Ella feels badly about my going so far as Patten, which will be my headquarters in vacation. It is some miles from any other town.

My health is better away from the Sea.

But if God sends a Revival & expect he will I will have to work, that I like to do, if I am well.

Love to Father. In haste

Your aff Bro  
Rowland

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1063 7/13/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1001

Bangor Theo Sem.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Theo Sem. July 13th 1859 [The year was added in pencil]

Dear Brother

I was glad to receive your letter from Auburn & it contained much that was interesting. I wish Dellie had let me know that he was about joining the Church - I might have made some suggestions to him of value. My faith for him increases.

I was very glad to hear from Ella that you & Lizzie would probably visit her. They will be very glad to see you all and you will enjoy your visit very much. My most earnest prayer will go with you. I do so hope & pray that something may happen to make Ellas Father yield. He is very tender & sensitive in his feelings but has a strong will and often says things much harder things than he feels. I think there has not a day passed since my own conversion but that I have prayed for him at times with "strong cryings & tears", for I love him, & his conversion would seem to open the way for all the rest of the family. His morality is without a stain & this is his dependence. Ella & I whether he yields or not with God's assistance will not cease to pray. God's Spirit can alone reach him.

The little mission S. School of which I am Sup is to have a pic nic a week from next Wednesday. It would be very interesting for me & them for you to be here then. Our Anniversary is the 28th of July. My "address" is the Mon. Evening preceding. I would like much to have you spend that Sabbath (before) with me, but you must do as is most convenient, most pleasant & least expensive. I shall probably be at home at Leeds (if you & Lizzie & Grace & Guy are there) the next day after Anniversary & stay in Leeds over Sabbath, and then go to Commencement. I have spoken to <> Maine Missionary Soc. and they will probably send me to spend this vacation in some destitute portion of the State.

Ella is going to Andover Mass (for a short visit) the next day after Commencement, & I shall probably start for my mission field so as to preach the following Sabbath. Speak of these things that you must regulate your movements accordingly.

O I am so anxious to see Lizzie and the dear children! Give my respects to Mr & Mrs Mulliken. Ella & I had a very pleasant time there & feel greatly obliged for their kindness. Don't <> Augusta people in running it <and> <> Webb will you? There may be a good reason some times why a minister should leave his people without being "turned out"?

All want you to know Fred Sewall, Geo. Richardson & a no. of other men convert at Bath. These two were Bowdoin boys (graduated before you). Fred was in my room this afternoon. and wants you to be sure to call on him. Capt Patten will introduce you. William Putnam is in the same office - you know him.

Give a great deal of love to Sister Lizzie & many kisses to the little ones. I hope Lizzie will feel at home & get rested at Augusta. Ella says she will expect you next week.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

P.S.

Drop me a note from Augusta if you get time, & tell me your plans. You will find many friends of mine in Hallowell. Remember me to our relatives. Albert Rice is a friend of mine in Augusta. He would be glad to see you, and also Mr Webb. Ella & I feel pretty well acquainted with him. I have been half sick for a week & don't get along at all with my "part". It is just nothing but a "bore".

R.

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1064 7/19/1859 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0756

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor July 19, '59 [See Note 1]

My Dear Brother

I passed a very pleasant Sabbath in Winthrop, stopped at Mrs Burgess'. Mr B met me at the cars and they were very kind & did everything any one could . They send their regards to you & Lizzie & hope you will be able to call & see them if nothing more.

I preached the same Sermons that I did at "Buttermilk". Our 3d Service was a Union S.S. Concert at the Methodist Chapel. It seemed too much like an entertainment & I couldn't help thinking that it was calculated to dissipate the impressions of the Sermons if they made any.

I dined with Everett Webb. It seems to me that he is not far from the Kingdom of Heaven. If you meet him during your furlough you will find him glad to converse on the subject of religion. His Mother long ago consecrated him to the ministry & still continues to pray & believe that he will come. She is now aged & infirm. I had a pleasant call on Wings Mother & Sister. They are both lovely Christians. May the prayer we offered for him be answered.

Capt Peleg Benson was one of the best Christians - seemingly - that I met. His heart is warm & earnest. He knew our Father very well & his wife knew Mother. Sam P talks well & the Maj looks well & that is all, I fear, in either case.

I was in hopes you would ride out Monday, but it was very hot & dusty. I have engaged to be in Harpswell the 1st Sab in Aug. I want you & Lizzie to go down & take a little Sea air! So make your calculations not to go early to Commencement but to stop the Sabbath after, if you can. It will be a little awkward going from Bath to Bruns often, so I guess we'd better make the visit to Bath pretty late in the week, but we will talk that over.

Cousin Laura sent her love to Mother. She says she wants to be a Christian.

Our SS Pic Nic will be this week Thurs. Capt & Mrs Edwd Waite came down here yesterday. She will stop till after the Anniversary but he will return tomorrow. He spoke in the morning meeting this morn.

We will expect you Mon Eve. I am Pres of the Rhetorical Soc & will be engaged at the Church at the Anniversary where the Students speak as you did last year, but if the Gen doesn't meet you at the cars you can take a carriage & ride up to his house, take tea & then ride over to the Church if you are not too tired.

I want you to bring my black pants - mended if possible. Everybody says that it is not ministerial to preach in these Summer ones.

I don't know as I will go home with you. It will depend somewhat on these. I preach the 31st, if at all. Mrs Stevens invited Ella down, but as she was a stranger, she thought she would decline & come next year. I needn't say that I would like to have her here.

My love to Mother & Father & the little ones.

Your aff. Bro  
Rowland

I heard from Chas yesterday that he was well & had handed in his Part. Ella also wrote & sends much love.

[Note 1: The year could have been read as 1857 or 1859. It was filed with the 1857 papers, but the content looks more like 1859. First, Rowland is at Bangor and is preaching. Second, Otis is not in Florida, as he was in July 1857, but in Maine on furlough with "Lizzie and his little ones" as he did during the summer while teaching

at West Point. Finally, Charles graduated from Bowdoin in 1859, which is also consistent with the reference to "handing in his part".]

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1065 7/22/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1002

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor July 22d Thurs. Eve [1859 written in pencil]

Dear Brother

Mr Fiske didn't come up till this afternoon with your welcome note, & I was so glad to hear that dear little Guy is better, so thankful to God, as I hope. O I was fearful that I would never hear the dear little fellow say "Uncle" again! The night I received your other letter, I didn't weep. I could feel the tears burning there every time I thought of him though. Mrs Emmons wrote Henry that Lizzie did not look well. I try to pray for you all, that is all I can do.

I want you to come over Monday, if you can leave & Guy is not so that you will all leave Augusta for home. You will get in here Monday at 7 P.M., hear me speak, & I will return with you just as soon as you have to go, but I would like to have you stay till Thursday morning, but as to that, hear to Lizzies wants rather than mine.

I rejected the "Part" that I had almost finished - have taken an old one for a base, rewritten it & read it to Prof Shepard today. It is rather hard for me to memorize - that is the worst of it.

Our Pic Nic passed off splendidly & you would have enjoyed it very much - the children were so happy - I devoted the whole day to it. The glen, the stream, the table & the children were beautiful & the speaking, singing & recreations all passed off well. We were about 200.

Drop me a note Sat. forenoon, if you think you will come. I am in hopes Ella was up to see you yesterday. She expected to be in Gardiner. She "never felt a disappointment so in her life" than that you shouldn't go to Bath, & that more for the cause than the fact.

I am glad to hear so good news from Mr M. Remember me to him & Mrs M. O I hope Mr Webb must get found. All his temptations seem to lie in that direction. I take it Mr Armatage is a more agreeable man in private. I hope you will make no decisions till we talk it over.

Love to Lizzie & kisses to the little ones.

Yr Bro.  
Rowland

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1066 8/6/1859

*From:* Stephen D. Lee

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-1004

Fort Randall N.T.

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Randall N.T.  
August 6th, 1859

My Dear Howard

Allow me to introduce to your favorable notice 1st Sgt. H. Jackson of the 4th Artillery who is to appear before the Examining Board for promotion to a commission in the Army.

Sgt. Jackson stands high in the Regiment as a soldier & man of intelligence, and so far as is known, his character is unexceptionable. He was highly recommended by the Regimental Board before which he appeared. Any assistance to the Sergeant, in the shape of advice, books, or in any other way that might suggest itself to you will be considered by me in the shape of a personal favor. Please bring him to the favorable notice of the Board if you think proper.

Yours truly  
Stephen D. Lee

To  
Lieut O.O. Howard  
West Point  
N.Y.

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1067 8/12/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1005

Mattawamkeag

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mattawamkeag  
Aug 12, 1859

Dear Brother

I write this as much for mothers sake as your own - of course all will read it. I arrived here from Bangor at 7 last evening after the hot & dusty ride of 60 miles. The boats run to a place but two miles below here in the Spring & Fall, when the water is high, & I hope to go back by them. There is no stage to Patten till tomorrow, & then we ride in an open waggon over a rough road 35 miles - 20 of which is an unbroken forest. The Country between here & Bangor is a natural waste, most of the way, very few farms and only one thrifty village (Lincoln) on the route. It is a flat sandy or boggy country with a growth of low firs & spruces, as dismal & uninteresting in the way of scenery as any you have seen. The Penobscott has low banks & looks as if it were made merely for a lumbering stream. From Lincoln to this point (13 miles) things look a little better - there are islands in the river & some respectable looking farm houses. There are a great many mean rum taverns on the route.

This is a very respectable house & in a pretty place, not big enough to be called a village tho. There is a great deal of traid here, but it is of the lowest kind. I never heard so much profanity in so short a time in my life before. I asked two men to have mercy on me yesterday aboard the coach & they kindly stopped.

I left Harpswell Tuesday night. Mr Lands had been to carry some people to the Mansion House & he gave Ella & me a ride up. We staid at Aunt Janes & Weds. forenoon rode down to Pennels Wharf to see a cousin of E's. Mon. night in Harpswell we had a delightful little prayer meeting on Birch Island. Ella Mr & Mrs Beaker Thos & a few others went over. We had it at the house of an old lame gentleman who has not been off the island for many years.

On Tuesday I visited Orrs Island & called on 7 families. I took the cars Weds at 2 ½ P.M. Then Fri took Ella to Bath with the horse. You see that I spent only one night in Bangor. I called on Mrs Stevens & Mrs Shepard & found both families well. Elias Whittier helped me pack my trunks and I was off at 6 the next morn.

There is no fishing here & I have kept pretty quiet today, getting rested for tomorrow & the Sabbath. Pray for me that God will enable me to encounter & overcome the difficulties before me & to advance the cause of our Redeemer.

Love to all the family. Will you not write me soon at Patten.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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1068 8/16/1859 *From:* Samuel Hicks

*To:* O.O Howard

OOH-1007

Lewiston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Lewiston August 16, 59

Friend Howard

Dear Sir

Yours of the 15th is at hand & I was glad to have a line from you & Lizzie, it being the first that I ever had from you. Novellia is quite sick with the Summer complaint - not so but what she does her work.

I have seen Mr Smith. He will be up with those grave stones Saturday if it does not rain. He will come up with a part of it Friday. Sarah is at the shop yet. She says that she will give you as much for that Slab as Mr Smith will.

We have a Pic Nic here from Winthrop tomorow you - and I had better come down. Novellia & Nora send their love to all. I am in the Shop again. S. will send the Trunk tomorow afternoon.

From your Humble Servant  
Sam'l Hicks

Lewiston August 15th 59  
Received of O.O. Howard  
Thirty five dollars in full up to this date  
Sam'l Hicks

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1069 8/22/1859 *From:* M. N. Williams

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1006

New Burgh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Burgh, Aug 22d/59

Lieut Howard,

Dear Sir,

Having seen you, & heard much of you from friends, I take the liberty of intruding upon your time, hoping you will be at the "Point" in Season to speak an encouraging word to a Sergeant of my husband's company (L 4th Artillery) who is to appear before the board of examiners, on the 1st Monday in Sept. We feel very much interested in Sergeant Jackson & wish him success, but his opportunities for acquiring military knowledge have been so limited for several years, he may not be fully prepared. May I ask, then, in the sergeants behalf, that you will befriend him? If you can give him an insight into the subjects upon which he will be examined, it may be the means of promoting his advancement - & you will greatly oblige my husband & myself.

I hope your wife & children are well, & that you have spent a pleasant summer among friends - & feel in health & spirits for the duties of the coming winter. My Cousins (the Misses Phillips) wish to be kindly remembered. We would like much to know if you have returned to the 'Point'.

With cousinly regards to your wife & self. Believe me,

Your sincere friend,  
M. N. Williams

Lieut O.O. Howard  
West Point  
N.Y.

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1070 8/22/1859     *From:* M.H. Wright

*To:* Chauncy Reese

OOH-1008

Huntingdon, Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Huntingdon, Tenn. Aug. 22. 1859

Dear Chauncy: [Chauncey B Reese, USMA Class of 1859]

I am exceedingly obliged to you for your kindness, in attending so promptly to the little affair concerning which I wrote, & for the Pay Accts. I trust you have not concluded, that it was rather a bore, to have such a correspondent - always asking little favors &c. Of one thing you may rest assured - & that is you have the most hearty thanks of your unworthy friend, & shall ever have a claim upon his gratitude. I mention the matter to you, not doubting in the least your perfect willingness to do any one such a favor but because I know that there are those, so selfish & unfeeling, & dead to every friendly impulse as to sneer at another for being so obliging as you have been to me. Some such, no doubt, we have all seen. I trust that I may be able, at some time, to repay the favor - though I would never wish you to be placed in a similar "fix".

As yet, I have heard nothing from my box, but hope to learn something of its whereabouts, in a great while. As for the Agent at West Pont &c, it is all clear of them. I took it myself to New York; & there I got another recpt from the Express Office, in person. However I shall not trouble myself much more about it. I have written to all the Stations around me - to St. Louis, Louisville &c &c.

I feel quite sure that you all will have to remain some time yet, for reasons you stated, & that was the main reason why I objected to staying back, not wanting to remain so long from home, & disliking the responsibility. Though I may be flattering myself to think of such a thing. I know that you must be enjoying yourselves very much, & will regret it a little, upon leaving. Really I feel very much attached to the place, & the good people of its vicinity, at whose hands I recd so much kindness. I never shall forget them I trust. The young Ladies, of whom you spoke, are well worthy of the good opinions of all. I would gladly have you remember me kindly to them all.

Present my kindest regards to the Misses Hardee & Miss Dumit (?) who were so kind as to have you remember them to me. What a glorious time you must have with them all at the "Hops"& at their homes & around generally. After all, Reese, what is this life without the good feelings of all our friends, & the friendship of all around? A few selfish souls may spurn such an idea, but those prompted by the ordinary feelings of humanity will ever cherish & cultivate the friendship of honest men & women.

I can fully appreciate the change from a Cadet to something else - kind of a transitory state of being. Some thing like a human voice; changing from boyhood to manhood. I will hardly say that I feel like a "gosling" though the term might be appropriately applied.

I hope the matinee, of which you spoke, turned out better than was anticipated. Wheeler wrote to me from Georgia a few days since. I heard from Lockett too. You can tell Miss C if she has not heard, that he is still living. Remember me to Charles, Morrill & Cully - to Burtwell &c.

I hope that we may yet have the pleasure of meeting again - talking over "old times". With my kindest wishes for your success & happiness, I am, as ever

Yr. Affectionate classmate,  
M.H. Wright [Moses H Wright, USMA, Class of 1859]

Reese, I'm a little puzzled to know who on earth could have wanted my Photographs. I can account for only 4 - Misses D & C, Burt & Dod. I had 10. I guess folks will think me quite vain, to be distributing my "Pho'g" about so extensively.

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1071 8/26/1859      *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1009

N. York City (Mr  
Bacons office)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N. York City (Mr Bacons office)  
August 26th 1859

My dear Mother,

I will begin and give a brief account of our journey thus far, as doubtless it will be interesting to you. We went on very pleasantly from Mr Brewsters. Guy fell asleep in my arms just below Leeds junction and slept till we got to Yarmouth. Aunt Sarah Jones came aboard at Lewiston & went over with us to Auburn, so Lizzie had time enough to talk with her. After considerable search, I found a sophomoric student, a pleasant young man, by the name of Verrill, who kindly consented to deliver the package with which I was intrusted to Dellie. After we got to Portland I sent the family to Mr Waite's in a carriage and went myself to look after the baggage & secure a stateroom &c and then walked up. We had a lunch there & stopped to tea, started in good season & all walked to the boat, but Grace who rode in "Pudies" & papa's arms by turns. We were on board "the Montreal" some time before the boat left (some 15 minutes).

We were just leaving, when who should we find but Peleg Perley & his family. There was considerable swell & the boat began to rise & fall & rock sensibly. Mrs Perley felt sick, then Lizzie hastened to her room, soon Susan was taken & Guy declared there was something in his throat. But Guy & Grace were soon in bed & asleep & shewed no more signs of Sickness. Lizzie & Susan, however, differing from Charlie, were sick enough to do them some good. To add to the discomfort, it was quite foggy and an intermittent whistle kept the surrounding waters informed of our whereabouts. I was kindly offered a berth in a room nearly opposite Lizzie's, and after going in about ten & finding them all quiet, I went to my room & slept till morning.

We arrived in Boston very late somewhere about 8 a.m. and went with Perley under a heavy rain to the Unites States Hotel. Here we sat down for the day. I went to find Chas Mulliken, & with him went to his house in Ashland place. Mrs Mulliken then accompanied us to see Lizzie. We had a room for the day & the children got rested & refreshed before evening. Mr Perley went at 3 P.M. via Springfield. He said he had a "free pass" from Springfield home for himself & wife. It continued to rain all day. I purchased my tickets in the morning, but was told in the afternoon I had better go by another route (not the Fall River) on account of the storm, but I thought I would risk it - as I had got my tickets already. It cleared up & the sun came out just as we started and we had a delightful ride to Fall River.

We left Boston at the usual time 5 & ½ P.M. & were at Fall River by 7. We found Professor Bartlett of West Point on the cars. He told us of some of the changes at West Point. Lieutenants Baird, Slimmer and Blunt of the Mathematical Department have been ordered away and several officers of the other Departments, so much so that West Point will wear quite a new face socially, whether improved or not remains to be determined. We went on board the Empire State, got two rooms adjoining as I didnt like to leave my family, if it was going to be rough. Grace & Susan had a wide berth. They with Lizzie occupied one room & Guy & I the other. We went to bed before 9 & contrary to expectation had a smooth & pleasant night - all slept comfortably till morning. We got to the wharf near the Battery by 8 o'clock - then after sending my baggage to the boat "Thos. Powell" for West Point we walked across the Battery Park to the Brooklyn ferry. The children saw a Military Company with a band, all on horseback; just as we were crossing the street, they passed along playing.

We crossed to Brooklyn & went on up to Maria Tupper's, where Miss Maria gave us all a breakfast which was by this time particularly relished by the children. I have left them there, & am here looking after the vessel.

Perry & Silas have gone to Maine. Aunt had a portion of her cancer, or rather one of her cancer's removed. I have learned no further particulars about her than what we already know.

We shall go to West Point by the Thomas Powell this evening leaving the foot of Jay St at 3.45 P.M.

There is a small prospect of my being made Professor Church's first assistant. It will depend on the new officers ordered there, if either of them rank me I cannot obtain the place, if they do not I think Professor Church

will gladly give it to me. The advantage of being 1st assistant is that I will have ten dollars additional pay. Whatever may turn up I will have a new course of Mathematics to teach & will have to study more than heretofore.

As I am away from Lizzie & the children, they can send no message by this letter. I hope this will find you well & happy. God give you strength to pray for us for many years. I hope, my dear mother, you will remember me personally in your prayers, that I may not fall into temptation & that I may do my duty faithfully in the fear of God. Give my regards to all inquiring friends.

Very affectionately your son  
O.O. Howard

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1072 8/29/1859     *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* R.B. Howard

OOH-1010

Bowd. Coll.

Patten

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Aug. 29. 1859.

My Dear Brother:

I am now in college and what to say about it I hardly know. I like what I have seen of college life well - much better than I had any hopes of when I was here at Commencement. I came here on Tuesday and on Wednesday morning I went to work as fast as I could to fix up my room. There were not more than 20 students here then. I got all settled before Friday night and was very glad that I came so early. Many of the boys have not got half of their things fixed yet. We commenced reciting this morning.

Our class is the largest that has ever entered at this season in the term. It numbers fifty five. Tutor Tucker thinks that there will be nearly seventy in all before the end of the Sophomore year. The sophomore class have had ten or twelve added to their class - most of them from Waterville College.

I went down to Bath on Saturday to see Ella having got the impression that she was going to Roxbury today and I thought I would like to see her before she went. I found that she started the day before. I came back as I intended in the evening train. I had a pleasant visit. I like Capt. Patten very much. I have never seen him before.

They are progressing finely with their house. It is now almost finished. Everything looks new and nice about it.

I made Mrs Frost a call on Friday evening. She said "give my regards to Rowland when you write him" and I suppose you have it. I like the fellows in my "end" very much. Many of them are juniors much more pleasant than it would have been had they been all Sophomore the way they are in the other end.

Nettie has gone to Portland to make a visit. I have not yet seen her. She will not teach this fall, as it was supposed a short time ago. Mrs Meryman frequently speaks of you. She inquired when you would again come this way on your way to Bath. Said she supposed you would stop there (at their house) if you could get time.

I went to the college prayer-meeting yesterday forenoon. It was very interesting. The number of students present about forty. They seemed to be all very much engaged. We shall probably have a class prayer meeting in our class. The number of Christians in our class I fear is small. I have been making some inquiries. All of the fellows on this story of this end are pious fellows, so we don't have much noise. I think I have got into a good neighborhood.

I read your letter at home. I should think that you had got into a rather hard place or else you was a little home sick when you wrote last to mother. I must study. Write me soon.

As ever your aff. Brother  
R.H. Gilmore

R.B. Howard  
Patten

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1073 9/2/1859

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1011

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Sept 2nd 1859

Dear Mother,

After I wrote you in New York, I went to the "Thomas Powell" where Lizzie with Susan & the children met me. We had a pleasant passage up the river reaching here just at dusk. We soon got the keys & opened the house, found wood enough to build a fire & have a cup of tea. Our beds were all ready. Guy was a little man & slept in a room by himself, where he has continued.

The next day we found a fine garden, with corn, lettuce, potatoes, ochre, beans, beets, tomatoes & parsnips all in good order. Every thing looks quite inviting here. Some ten officers are ordered away & their places, filled by new ones. I have the 1st & 2nd Sections of the new Class, & am Librarian, which gives me ten dollars per month more pay. So that this year my pay is 19 dollars per month better than last.

A young officer travelling through Virginia (I think) met Mr Hazard, who was returning from the Black & White Sulphur Springs Virginia. Mr Hazard told him that Cousin O.O. Woodman had had another attack of paralysis and could not live but a few days. He wasn't expected to live from day to day. Poor Oliver, I hope he has found peace in believing before this.

I hav'nt heard from any of you directly since we left. Perry wrote that he saw you.

I have written to Rowland & Charlie, and sent a Cadet Register to Dellie as he desired - shall write him soon.

Lizzie joins me in love to all.

Affectionately your Son  
O. O. Howard

Cousin O.O. Woodman is at the Black & White Sulphur Springs in Virginia where Mr Hazard had been to see him.

"Diamond" had grown to be quite a sizable dog & the children have a fine playmate in him.

O.O.H.

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1074 9/2/1859

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1012

Harpswell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harpswell Sep 2nd 1859

My dear Brother

There are times when I feel too stupid to study or write on a Sermon when a few moments spent in writing a letter not only rests me but "gets my hand in" & I can go on better afterwards. So it is this morning. I had a letter from Mother written Sabbath day & was very glad to hear that Lizzie was a little better at Portland. I shall feel anxious for her until I hear again.

Charles & Nettie rode down yesterday afternoon. Our S.S. had a Pic Nic in a grove by the shore. There were over 200 & all seemed to enjoy themselves in a quiet, cheerful way. Mr McKeen, J.S.C. Abbott, a Rev Mr Dunham (Baptist) Charles & I spoke to the children & people from a temporary Stage. The object of the meeting was to give a new stimulus to the Sabbath School & I hope it has succeeded. Our prayer meetings are still crowded but still something seems to hold the people back. Last Sabbath Mr Kellogg preached two excellent Sermons & I conducted the 3d meeting. The attendance, attention & tears of many indicate feeling, but O for more deeper, more pungent, & heartfelt conviction & livelier faith. Some times I am a good deal weighed down by the thought that this Revival, or my own efforts may be a favor of death unto death - for if these anxious souls now refuse, when can we hope again!

Thomas is a doubting, hesitating character. O that he might see Jesus & touch him as did the apostle & be constrained to cry out "my Lord & my God"!

I shall preach all day next Sunday. Pray for me. I have formed a new class of young men in the S.S. I did not feel that I could teach them & attend to three Services but I could not bear to see them sitting in the back part of the house & doing nothing. I am still less pleased with Nettie, but I have still hopes that her mind & heart are much better than her manner. I must say that that often seems to me supremely silly, & poor Charles is catching a little of it I fear. But I should'nt wonder if Ella & I used to act about so.

"O wad some Power the giftie gie us  
To see oursels as ithers see us!" [Poem of Robert Burns]

They had a nice time. I went to sail with them after the exercises. There are two or three things that I wish you to write me about. I want only your opinions in that as to the religious impressions of Seth Howard, Aunt Lucretia & any others that you saw & conversed with whom I may be able to reach in some way. If Aunt Ann is with you give her my love & tender to her my warmest sympathy in her affliction. I can but hope that she may be spared to us, but let it turn as it may. I pray that she may put a cheerful trust in that Saviour who is able to save unto the uttermost. I should think that the no. here who have asked prayers is about 20.

Ella don't seem to be very well in body, but in heart, her letters are a constant encouragement & stimulus to me - full of love to the Saviour & always pointing me to Him & not myself for strength & wisdom.

I received your letter from Leeds in due time. Miss Mason was down with Charles yesterday, & I ought to have conversed with her but I let my Harpswell affairs & my slavish fear of man, keep me from it. Mother writes well. Her hand she complains of, but her heart seems to be getting nearer & nearer where we would have it. She seems greatly pleased with Nettie.

Best love to Sister Lizzie & the little ones. I pray for Lizzie that she feel less care & throw more of it on him who has said "come unto me all ye that are weary & heavy laden & I will give you rest". Remember Lizzie, that our Saviour is a present help in every time of need, that he sees all our secret cares & troubles & sympathizes in all our little feelings from <hand> to <hand>, & it is there that we must cast as a burden upon him. Yes, Christ can come nearer into our heart, than the dearest friend on Earth - yes, may be "found within us".

Charles presented me with ten vol's of Sermons which I have been wishing to own. How about Perry? & John

Harrison? How did you find all your friends in West Point? Your little prayer meeting &c.

Your Brother  
Rowland

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1075 9/5/1859

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-1013

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Sept 4th 1859

Otis, my dear Son,

You will perceive by my date, that this is the Sabbath and is now even in the morning. I think I have been led by the spirit of God in prayer more the week past than usual. After placing my materials for writing on the table my desire was to read a portion of Scripture, and then ask aid and benediction from above in forming my thoughts in this letter. When I took your letter in my hand to read, I said to myself how good Otis is to write so soon, and let me know of their health and how they went through their journey. I am glad you met Peleg on your journey, because it enlivened your feelings. I was sensible from appearances that you had a foggy night. We had a heavy fall of rain Thursday here commencing early in the morning.

I hope ere this you are comfortably settled for the ensuing year and all in good health.

We heard of the going to pieces of the vessel in which you are a part owner before your letter came, leaving no doubt but it was then a trial on your mind. It is all past now and cannot be recal'd. but I have been led particularly in prayer to God in your behalf that this trial, might through yo be the means of uniting your spirit more closely than ever with the spirit of Jesus. The portion of scripture, which I read at the commencement of this letter was the 144th Psalm. It struck me as peculiarly adaped to your connexion with Perry's to hope you will close up with him now. Although I am not informed how it stands with you as to the vessel, yet I cannot but think that Perry's best principles are the present except that they are no deeper rooted than for the present purpose. I think from what I can learn, that it makes no difference how much he makes. It all goes like the wind, and that he does not stop to see the consequence. I have learn'd through his own family that he has been to Boston and back to New York three times since his vessel came into Port. He was here at John Otis' making presents to Susan Jane Tole and the like, when Mr Sargent read the news of the disaster of his vessel. I called at Ensign's, and Johns Friday evening, and saw Perry a few minutes. Silas called here and took tea Wednesday evening before he left the next day. Mr Vaughn pays them sixteen hundred dollars each. Mr Sargent and wife and one of the children called last evening and took tea with us. They are to come next Tuesday to stop a few days with us. We do not go to Massachusetts until 15th.

Last night and night before (although I had endeavrd to give to God in faith all my interest and affection after lying down a shudder of fear could pass over me with regard to you and I did feel dear to Jesus, and ask his help, and now tell me how it stands with you in regard to the vessel. I suppose you have lost all because Henry Wingate said you told him you had no insureance on it, but don't suppose that your mother has not strength of mind enough to help bear affliction with you as well as rejoice with you in prosperity. If your heath is good, and your dear wife and babes are in health, and you love your dear Lord and Savior, and feel in faith that he does all things well in all this let us rejoice. I can rejoice with you. We have good laws given us and we have good common sense given us to use and let us rejoice in this.

Henry Wingate and wife and son called round and made us all a visit. I will tell you what I know of Oliver O. Woodman's death (perhaps you know already). He started from New Orleans with some friends to come to the North. When at the hot springs in Virginia, a telegraphic dispatch came to Mr Hazzard, to tell him Oliver was dying. He went to Virginia and found him still living. Vaughn Otis telegraph'd to Leeds that the funeral of Oliver O. Woodman would take place yesterday at Cambridge. I am glad that his remains can be laid at Mount Auburn, as it will be so gratifying to Mr Hazzard. It was ten days from the time of the first dispatch before the funeral. This is all I know concerning his death. Surely we can say of him and of his accumulations of wealth. All is vanity. He was Born [7] Oct 1816.

I have received a good, and long letter from Rowland B. He says if the Holy spirit is only with him tis enough. He says How sublime and beautiful to be traveling under those majestic old trees that have stood the test of time. The day you left here he walked seven miles on his way to visit the Pioneers, that are cutting down the forest in a new township and camping out. He said he was going in there again. I have sent his letter to Charles, as he directed and a letter from Charles came soon after you left full of encouragement concerning his health. Dellie has written that he has furnished his room comfortably and is now underway in good earnest. Do

remember him in <fasting> at the throne of grace, Otis. You will know more of the temptations of College than those who have not been there. He mention'd receiving the package you entrusted to Mr Merrill. I shall write to him to day.

I walked up to Class meeting Wednesday at five o'clock and enjoy'd it very much. I felt that I had Christian sympathy and felt the need of it. I look back with pleasure to the time that you were with us. Lizzie has my best of wishes, and dear Guy I hope is well and happy, and Grace dear Child, what a treasure she is. I hope she is happy and chatty as ever. Kiss them both for me. Give my love to Susan. Now I think she is happy. She has accomplish'd her journey and return'd to West Point.

Henry Brewster is married to Angelia Bishop, Lavernia's sister [see Note 1] and your father has accepted the nomination of the republican party to run for the representative. The 12th of Sept is election day. The democrats have not nominated a candidate yet.

I found Elder Holt, on Wednesday getting a tent covering done, one made by the ladies the day I went to Class meeting. He intends having a tent in the Camp meeting at Poland. Hannah, poor child, has been trying to write a letter to her sister and has brought it to me to read. I feel almost indignant to think such a bright little girl should be kept in such ignorance, where there are such excellent schools as at Winthrop. O what a terable thing it is to let him rule a whole family.

Every thing remains about the same as usual with us. Cynthia has been to see Doct <Garcelon>. He has cut Johnnys tongue and given Cynthia some medicine. He don't there is any deformity in her stomach or shoulder, but gave her strengthening medicine.

from  
Your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver Otis Howard

[Note 1: Lavernia was the widow of Arza Gilmore. In 1857 she married Salmon Bishop, who was the father of Henry Bishop.]

[Note 2: Attached to this letter from Eliza is the ending of a letter from Dellie to Otis, OOH-0957, dated 3/12/1857.]

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1076 9/5/1859

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1015

Hill N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hill N.H. Sept 5 '59

My dear brother

I was made happy by receiving a letter from you and one from Mother enclosing Rowland's last Friday night. I thought I would write you just as soon as you got to West Point but I was exceedingly glad to find you did not need a letter to remind you of me. Good fortune seems to attend you on the one hand & miss Fortune on the other. Mother wrote that your ship had been wrecked. It is all the Providence of God and I doubt not will result in your best good.

Seems to me it is a privilege to be Librarian & have an increased salary and the highest divisions to instruct.

You wrote for me to hurry & get well & come to you. If I wait till I am perfectly well it will take some time. I was pleased to learn that you had something for me to do. The use of my muscles will do me as much good as anything. I am busy most of the day here. I work 3, 4 & 5 hours a day - mostly choring - have just been shelling beans & a little while was hoeing currant bushes. I had gained 5 lbs at the end of a fortnight & I am otherwise better than I was. My greatest difficulty will need a long & persevering struggle to be overcome but the secondary one is fast disappearing.

Do you want me to come on to you, Otis, at the end of 6 weeks from the time I came here, say the 2d week in Oct, or the 1st?

If you want me to & I can carry out the treatment I receive here I think I will come. I should only want your assistance at the 1st bath in the morning at 5 ½ or 6 o'clock to throw a couple of pails of water upon me. I should want a chance to heat a little water then & at 10 ½ & at 1 P.M. & at 7 P.M. o'clock. And could I take two meals a day 1st at 7 ½ the other at 2 ½?

I want you to answer me these things & I want to tell you all the trouble I should make in order that you may answer me understandingly. I have a good appetite. Can make a good meal of potatoes & Graham bread (warm or cold) without butter or salt. But I could not eat any of the pies or cakes or bread that you ordinarily have so it would be considerable work to get my meals. Have you a cook? I can get a cook-book of such things as I can eat. We have black berries every meal here & have had ever since I came & I eat a good many with milk & sugar. We may eat milk moderately. We have ripe apples on the table. Have beans which I now relish without any butter or salt. Of course cooked separate from meat - green corn - beets &c. If I can have good Graham bread & vegetables & fruits there will be need of little else.

You see that I shall have to have a dish of my own &, if these are not your hours, a meal-time of my own & then the morning both requiring your assistance & besides perhaps twice a week a "pack" sometime towards the middle of the day. Now, my dear brother, I want you to consider whether I better come & write me now. 6 weeks is half a course & my money will hold out till then.

I have thought somewhat of going to Maine before I go to N.Y. if I do go. There are several inducements - to settle with father & get the \$500 put aright is perhaps the greatest. Might I not leave at home my hot comfortables & the blankets? Or should I need them to take my packs in. One blanket gets wet in taking a pack but it is not next to my body & so can be used again without washing. My two sheets I will take. I might get my boots to work in & a pair of pants & coat as the ones I wear here to work in will begin to be shabby. I might also see the "Great Eastern" as she will be in Portland by that time if nothing befalls her in the passage. I think Nettie would meet me in P. and go to Leeds & make Mother a visit as Mother wants her to this Fall. But then it will cost me 6 dollars to go to Maine & back from Boston & I shall be delayed a week in going down. This will do to consider after I hear from you whether taking all things into consideration you think it advisable for me to come to West Point.

I found a letter here from Rowland when I returned from New Hampton yesterday morning. I went up there to

visit Albert Howe who is there studying Theology. George has not yet gone up.

There have been a good many in College who fitted there of my acquaintances & I was desirous also of seeing the place. It is about 11 miles up there 6 of which I travelled by cars & the other 5 by stage. It is rough & <hardy> getting there as it is all about here in N.H. but the Village is quite level & pretty. One street runs parallel with the river, has some ornamental trees & good looking cottage houses for the most part. There are a few large houses & stores. The new Seminary is a very handsome building & there is a brick building of 3 stories & 3 entrances on the side, for rooms. One end is occupied by the Theological students. Albert seemed very glad to see me. Said he was lonely since he left College. Their father is recovering from his sickness.

Sabbath afternoon we had Communion service & it was conducted in a very interesting manner by Prof Fullerton & the minister Rev. Mr. Stuart. I walked with Albert & Prescott (an old schoolmate of mine who is there studying for the ministry) about two miles to a school-house & attended a Sabbath-school & Prayer-meeting towards evening.

Rowland seems to be in a good spirit & deeply engaged in his work. He has probably written you about going to Presque Isle to the Conference next Thursday. He wrote he had appointed an inquiry meeting but no body came. There has some other than the Spirit of Jesus crept into even that little Church at Patten it seems, & they have been quarrelling for years with one another. The Grace of God alone can overcome their divisions & their bitterness towards each other. It seems that time will not do it.

Mother wrote that Henry Wingate & Laura Ann had been there.

We have started a young folks prayer-meeting here. Had 14 last Wednesday - the 1st Eve. Hope to see more next Wed. Could you pray that the young, may not only flock to our meeting but be gathered into the fold of Christ.

I shall rejoice to keep little Guy company if I come to West Point tho' I may want a harder bed than he at night. One room is enough for two or three such peaceable young people as we. Have you Irving's life of Washington in the library? I have it in Maine & want to read it now. I read scarcely any. Think it best to be out "stirring" most of the time. I have the Melodian which belongs in the Church. I sing & so they give me the use of it. I feel in some degree thankful that my health seems to be amending. I hope my spiritual strength may be greatly increased too. Pray for me.

Give my love to Lizzie & to each of the little ones. I never saw children I liked so well. Write me soon.

Affectionately Yours  
Charles

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1077 9/10/1859    *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1016

Patten

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Patten Sept. 10, 1859

My dear Brother

I was very glad to hear from you & your dear family by your N.Y. letter. I do certainly pray that the changes that have taken place at W.Pt. "may not interfere with your usefulness" & may all redound to the glory of God, which is after all the End to be subserved by Everything.

You will never know till all the accts. have been rendered up how much God has seen fit to bless your labors on furlough. It may be greater, it may be less, than you anticipate, but it is now with Him - there we leave - we trust it, we pray for it.

I have had letters from both Charles & Dellie. I presume I can tell you no news of either. I suppose Ella got home from Brookline Mass today. She was there a fortnight mostly among gay & irreligious people. Otherwise she enjoyed her visit, going into Boston almost every day, & even the worldliness of her friends, she says, fairly shove her to Christ for help & strength.

God has granted me some very refreshing seasons since I wrote but he still seems to withhold his converting grace from this people. Our prayer meetings are not very full, but our meetings on the Sabbath are, tho' that I fear may be accounted for by the "new brooms sweeping clean". I have not studied or written at all hardly. I have made about 50 pastoral "calls", conversing, reading & praying as I go among all sorts of people, chiefly irreligious, now & then my soul is refreshed by meeting a Soul that loves Jesus & our prayers go up together. I need as much Grace in these "calls" as in the pulpit. Today a woman called to see me who lives 15 miles from here & 5 miles from any other family & she is the only "professor" in her own. She was greatly pleased to have me read & pray with her & give her some tracts. Such cases are frequent. The stories of longings after christian conversation & sympathy are heart moving. How thankful ought a wife or husband to be that God has not left them divided.

I have no difficulty in pleasing men, or at least I need have none if I can conscientiously use the means, but O to make them pleased with my master, to preach Christ plainly, to declare against Sin haltingly, to preach repentance & faith simply, as the means of quickening & saving. This is hard, and is uninteresting to the Sinner. I do not wonder that so many ministers have been led to preach on morals & reforms, manners & politics, when the hearts of all are so encased in Sin as to shed the truths of the Gospel as an Oiled cloth sheds rain. But if God prepares the heart, how sweet, how precious is his truth!

Mother has not yet written me. I see that Mrs E. Everett came on to Carrols ordination in Bangor, was taken sick with lung fever & died there. Would to God that her son would preach Christ. I notice the marriage of Lizzie Biggs of Augusta to a Mr Dana of Cal.

At Island Falls where I am half the time, the community is quite primitive - only 7 families, but a good many "camps" in the woods of recent emigrants. 60 attend Sabbath meetings there & 30 prayer meetings & there is a better state of feeling there than here (Patten). You would enjoy a week there very much not less on acct. of the Sociality & hospitality of the new Settlers, many of young men from Portland & Boston thrown out of Employment by the late reverses in business than because of the excellent "fishing". I have succeeded finely both times I have tried it, but shall reserve my great "Trout Story" till next time I go in. The only way I can "get at" the people is to share in their pursuits.

It looks like rain tomorrow (Sabbath). That will be a "trial" - But

"Trials make the promise sweet  
Trials give new life to prayer  
Trials bring me to Thy feet  
Lay me low & keep me there."

If God will be more glorified by my preaching to a few than to many, He will so order it.

I start on my Journey to Presque Isle to attend our Conference next Thurs. & expect to be gone a week - two days each way on the road (100 miles). Mr Haynes, with

[ missing ending]

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1078 9/10/1859 *From:* W H Timberlake

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1017

Corydon Indiana

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Corydon [Indiana] Sept 10th 1859

Dear Sir -

Your welcome communication was duly received and I embrace this early opportunity to reply. Both Amelia and myself recovering from an attack of the intermittent fever, outside of this one affliction we have enjoyed good health since we were in Maine one year ago, at which time, as you probably have learned my wife was very ill. That sickness of hers was the reason of our not returning by West Point on our way home, as we had intended, the physicians thinking it would be prudent in her to seek a southern climate without any delay.

As for the profession in which I have engaged, I must say, I admire it very much, although it must be considered that my experience has been limited.

I think in time I will make, what I am aspiring to make, - a good country editor; it is all I can aspire to here on account of my location.

Do you take much interest in politics? If so, I suppose our convictions upon national affairs would not conflict much although I never heard you express an opinion relating to the subject in the remotest manner possible in our conversations, simply proving my Yankee origin by "guessing".

I can think of nothing that would interest you except that there has been large revivals in this section of Ind - during last Winter, Spring and Summer, the prospect does not look auspicious at present. The shepherds are becoming to laggard or in other words lazy and of course the sheep wander far and wide. I have not been happy in my metaphor but excuse it.

Amelia sends her love with my own and says she should esteem it a great pleasure to receive any communication from Lizzie and believe me I can say the same to you.

Yours truly  
W H Timberlake

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1079 9/19/1859     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1018

Hill [NH]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hill [NH] Sept 19 1859

My dear brother

I was happy to receive your letter last Friday night. I expected you would tell me to come & I hope you will enjoy my visit as much as I anticipate I shall. If I was not a "patient" it would be much pleasanter for all parties. We must not complain however, I suppose. I still believe you do not realize half the trouble I am going to make if I keep up my treatment or else knowing it you are too kind.

I thought I should hear from home or I should have written the next day after getting yours and so on Sat. I received a letter from Mother written in Portland depot, & mailed in Boston the 17th - same day I rec'd it. She & Father were on their way to Easton. They will be in Boston on their return next Thurs., & mother wrote that if I thought best they would be glad to have me meet & go home with them. If I had gone to Maine Nettie would have gone up to Leeds & stayed while I was there but I believe, God willing, I will start for West Point week from next Wed. morning. Believe I will go to Boston & Fall River, arriving in New York week from next Thursday morn. I wish you had some business to take you to N.Y. that day but your business rather confines you at home than sends you away.

Mother wrote that father had been elected to the legislature by 36 maj. I heard from Nettie & she from Dellie that mother had adopted a girl by the name of Gould. Mother did not allude to it & this is all I know about it.

Dellie has had the class prayer meetings in his room. Nettie says he don't like the  $\Psi$ 's very well. If this is the case I fear they don't fancy him. I am sorry & yet it may be the better for him in the end. If the students don't "make much" of him his self-satisfaction will not be increased. There is a little danger of discontent & discouragement however. I hope he will now give himself up more entirely to Christ & that his life & conduct may be regulated by His Spirit. I have tried humbly to pray for him & I hope with some degree of faith of late. I much rather (infinitely more would I prefer) to see him zealous for the Lord Jesus & his Cause than for any society. I fear the energy of Christians in College is too often spent in the advancement of purely worldly concerns to the neglect of that which is higher & nobler.

I have not heard from Rowland since he went to Presque Isle to the Conference.

I am getting along very well now & I almost dread to leave. I work so as to earn \$1.50 per week 4 & 5 hours per day. Have 50 cts per wk for hearing Dresser recite in Latin. This leaves me \$3.00 per week to pay & more than this till lately. If it was not so expensive & I had not so great a desire to come & see you I think I should be contented to stay. Part of the day I have been digging clay, part carrying water to the garden, shelling beans, spent an hour "in pack" the first I have taken. I was very comfortable & felt the better for it. We have plenty of tomatoes & apples now but Frost has come & the former will soon be gone. We have had blackberries till within a week. I never saw so many before. The Dr. had them by bushels. After dinner I read daily Capt Vicars' life aloud to Merrill & Dresser for 30 min. I have just been reading Memoir of Adelaide Newton, mentioned in the "Higher Life". Hope you have it.

Mother wrote that Sarah & husband had spent some time with them just before they left & would not return to Nassau till Nov.

If I hear from you again I will write again & perhaps so if I do not. I expect I better go up the river in a steam boat - had I not? I shall enjoy those Wed. eve lectures & the Sab. School I am very sure.

Give my love to little Grace & Guy & ask them if they want to see me. I enjoyed meeting Lizzie in her home at Augusta & long ago in Portland very much. I pray that we may be soon together a happy family in Christ.

Affectionately  
C. H. Howard



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1080 9/20/1859    *From:* Charles [C.H.  
Howard]

*To:* dear brother [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1019

Hill [NH]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hill [NH] Sept 20 1859  
Tuesday Afternoon

I wrote you one of these little sheets full yesterday, dear brother, but missed of getting it into the mail in season - this morning. I thought at first I would throw that away & write another letter but my letters are neither so frequent nor so full to you as to hinder my writing another sheet full in addition to that.

I rec'd a letter from Ella last week. She has not been returned from Brookline long. Found their house & her room greatly changed for the better. Her father has her old room at the head of the stairs for an office. She now has one at the left of the stairs facing a window opening out into the yard towards Dr. Putnam's. But probably she writes to you so I will not repeat her letter.

Since dinner & since reading my Chap. in Cap Vicars I have been out, shoveling for an hour. We are digging clay to put upon the sandy land & improve the soil. Julius (Dresser) was at work with me. I should have been lonely up here, I think, if I had not had good Companions. Julius & Melville are devoted Christians, compared with the greater part I have met. Our young people's prayer-meeting had 14 present last Wed. night. Vail, of whom I think I have written you & who is still teaching tho' with very few scholars - is a graduate of Union College & a native of Goshen Orange Co. New York - attends & takes part with us & there is one young man in the place like ancient Lot, who prays with us. Two young ladies sometimes offer prayers.

It is too dry. We need a shower of divine Grace. The Catholic young man, who has now been two weeks here in our hill with us attended prayer-meeting last Sunday night with us for the first time in his life. He was praying & laboring perhaps rather unadvisedly for his conversion. I have talked with the <> so little of late about their eternal interest, that I am very awkward. May the Lord put words in my mouth & thoughts in my heart & may He touch the poor boy's heart with the influences of his Spirit. He is Irish. His parents are not living. During the past season he has been in the worst of places - the bar-room of a watering-place hotel - Chelsea beach not far from Boston. He is not very communicative but is very good-natured & kind I think. His business was to pour out liquor - Brandy, Whiskey & Gin at 10 cts a glass. They used to pour in there on Sunday afternoons he says. He was quite willing to go to prayer-meeting when I told him all he was required to do was to sit & listen. He came into the room, while the Dr. was praying yesterday morning & seeing us kneeling - took his place by our side upon his knees. He is used to the former. I pray he may have the spirit.

One of my jobs of work is to attend & prepare the 3 baths except the morning. So you see I am getting practice, & today I noted down the manner of making the different kinds of bread without using <Saloratus> &c. the Dr's "Chemical white bread is a new idea to me & I think a most excellent one as we get a first rate bread. I was occupied about an hour in making a stick for a curtain this forenoon. All sorts of business you observe.

It has been warm yesterday & today & now looks like rain but we have had real cold weather for the week previous.

I seem to fill the sheet, without writing much that is worth the reading. If I had any one to visit or to show me round I would like to stop a day in New York, as it is I shall get transferred to the boat & from the boat & keep on my way till I reach you some time on Thursday 29th.

Till then I bid you adieu.  
Charles

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1081 9/25/1859 *From:* M. N. Williams

*To:* Dear Friends [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1020

New Burgh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Burgh, Sep. 25th 1859

Dear Friends

Allow me to present to you the Rev. C. C. Townsend, missionary, who will tell his own story, which I know you will listen to with Christian interest. You will gratify me, by extending politeness to him for the short time he will be with you. Cousins desire to be kindly remembered; we hope you reached home safely.

Yours very truly,  
M. N. Williams

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1082 9/25/1859    *From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-1021

New York

U.S.A.  
West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York  
Sep 25th, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

I am truly grateful to you & your kind Lady for the interest & pleasure manifested, upon my being so successful in my appointment. I pray that I may so live that the good will of such friends may ever be with me, and so discharge my duties through life as to savor our Master in Heaven in all that may be done.

I was glad to learn that you enjoyed your trip & were safely returned to your field of labor.

Your kind favor was duly recd & would have been answered ere this, had it not been that I was on the eve of starting for my post.

I hope to see you soon, & will not weary you with this.

I expect to be at the Point Tuesday Evening.

I hope that Mrs Howard & you all are well, & how is Miss Temmil?

My Compliments to all,

Yr. Sincere friend  
M. H. Wright

Lieut. O. O. Howard  
U.S.A.  
West Point

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1083 9/26/1859    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1022

Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hill Sept 26. 1859

My dear brother

Dr Vail made a proposition to me Sat. night when I went to consult & settle for the last time which causes me to write to know if you have any special reason why you desire I should come to you now. He is very anxious I should stay another fortnight & invited me to stay entirely free of expense. I shall even be earning 50 cts a week by the recitation I hear. The Dr. thinks I shall improve more these two weeks. There is still great need of it with regard to my primal difficulty. I can hardly make up my mind not to be in the bosom of my brother's family before next Thursday night & now if you have any special reason for my coming & think I had better I will do so with the greatest pleasure.

One thing which has made the idea of staying another fortnight less obnoxious, is that we seem to be on the eve of a revival of God's work. There was a very full & interesting prayer-meeting last night. There is one young man here with whom God gave me an opportunity & boldness to converse on the interests of his soul last night, as he seems to be almost persuaded if not quite. The Catholic boy, Edward, who shares our hall with us has exhibited no personal interest further than attending Church all day yesterday which he has not done before. There was deep feeling manifest at our Young people's prayer-meeting & I trust the Spirit was with us. Sat. night at the prayer-meeting in a neighbor's house there was a very full attendance & some of us felt a freedom which we trust came from on High.

These things make me more contented to stay & thinking it will be better to have the Dr to consult with a while longer & to use a surgical instrument a few times more & for me to continue the diet & treatment unchanged. I shall I doubt not overcome for the present the disagreeable feelings which always follow giving up a favorite idea or a sudden disappointment - or as is perhaps equally true & more poetical "hope deferred", if I hear from you by an early letter, that it is your pleasure for me to wait two weeks more or one. It is now my breakfast time & I must close this very hastily written letter - with a request that you would continue to remember me at the throne of Grace.

Your unworthy but affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Getting into a hurrying mood, I continued it at Breakfast and as I made most of mine upon rye pudding with milk & sugar & stewed apples with some Indian bread (easily masticated) I am "through" in time to add a word before the mail goes. I am to work all I feel like doing if I remain the same as I have done. Mother sent me a letter from Boston on her way home from Easton. You have probably heard that father was chosen Representative by 36 maj. over Stillman L. Howard. I have not heard from R since he went to Presque Isle. Nettie has a fine situation to teach in the new school-house in the Village - boarding at home. She is also taking French lessons of M. Leon. She has studied French a little before. She has the lower room of the Primary School with an assistant teacher who also assists in the room above. Have not heard from Dellie very lately. My time is fully up. Shall I have a letter very soon? James Abast Howe preached here yesterday afternoon. Nettie wished me to send her love.  
C.H.H.

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1084 10/11/1859 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1024

Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hill Oct 11, 1859

My dear brother

The time draws near when I am to start for West Point. I propose to leave Hill Wed. morning but as Mrs. Hazard wanted mother to invite me to stop a day or two with her I think I will not go on to N.Y. till Thurs. afternoon, taking the boat as I before anticipated at Fall River, if it is pleasant on Thursday. If not pleasant, starting in season to reach West Point the same night by the cars. Your letter will be of great assistance to me.

I do not hear from Mother nor from Rowland. I think it very strange I have not heard from Rowland for so long a time. Fear something is the matter. Nettie gives me frequent news from Dellie & he wrote not long ago. His school continues 6 weeks longer when he has a vacation of a fortnight. He has contemplated spending this with mother. Dellie writes that he does not stand quite so well relatively as he did when the "picking" was going on. From this I should conclude that the best scholars in his class were troubled with "being picked" for secret societies.

It is a very cold morning here. The ground at 7 o'clock is covered with white frost. This night must cut a period to all growing in the vegetable world.

I am going to write to renew my subscription & have the Independent go to West Point, but no, I guess I'll wait till I see what papers you have to read as the subscription is not <out> till the 15th I believe.

Expect me then this week on Thurs. Or Friday - probably the latter.

I am about the same as 2 weeks ago - not much sensible difference. Have more enjoyment of Christ's presence - I <must> - Desire much more faith & consecration. One young man here is still seeking the Lord. It has been above a week since he began. He lacks faith. Pray for me as ever. I want the Lord to put words in my mouth & thoughts in my heart to converse with this young man & others.

With much affection for you & for each member of your precious family, I remain  
Your brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Tell Guy that Uncle Charley couldn't come before but hopes to see Guy & his dear little sister next Friday.  
C.H.H.

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**1085** 10/11/1859 *From:* John Gray

*To:* Lieu [OO] Howard

OOH-1025

Buttermilk Falls

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Buttermilk Falls Oct 11th 1859

Lieu Howard

Dr Bro.

I have to attend a meeting of our Synod next week in Stamford Conn. It holds over the Sabbath.

Will you oblige me & gratify my people by preaching to them a week from next Sab morning & evening? Please reply by return of mail - so I can announce it on the Sabbath.

Mrs Gray & Jennie have not returned from Poughkeepsie.

My Regards to Mrs Howard.

Fraternally Yours.

John Gray

Lieu Howard  
West Point

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**1086** 10/11/1859 *From:* J. Thompson

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1026

Newport Ky

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Newport Ky

Oct 11 [1859, written in pencil]

Dear Howard

Enclosed please find a check for four hundred (\$400) dollars, the amount of your note. Mrs Parker would have sent the money sooner had she known where & the exact address. We think you are entitled to interest, & if you will send a balance sheet it shall be honored.

Yours truly

J.A. Thompson

All send love to Mrs H & babies. Mrs T & Fannie well.

(Please enclose the note on receipt.)

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1087 10/18/1859 *From:* Maria Tupper

*To:* My dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-1027

113 Clinton St  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn Oct 18th 1859  
113 Clinton St

My dear Mrs Howard,

I ought to have answered your kind note yesterday but did not. I am very much obliged to you for your invitation to West Point, extended to Cousin Lydia and myself. We are much disappointed that we cannot accept it at present. My cousin has a very severe cold, and Cordelia has a little son born last Friday night. Lydia Tupper will stay with her for a week, and I must not leave home while she is away. Cordelia is very well, and has a fine child which they have named Charles Homes Lloyd. Charles for the English grandpapa and Homes for our father.

We have had our hall painted and parlors painted and papered. They look very clean, and are much improved, I think you will say.

I was very sorry to find another bundle, besides Mr Howard's coat after you left. Shall I send them by express, or in what way? William thinks he would enjoy spending a day, with you very much. He is not busy now, and could go one day, and return the next, very well, but he seems to feel a little diffident about intruding. He says Mrs Howard did not invite him. Lydia Crabtree will not leave for Florida, till the middle of November, and perhaps we may be able to visit you before that time. We wish very much to do so but I fear we may not.

I hope you are very quietly and comfortably settled by this time in your new quarters. I fear you must have been much fatigued after the excitement and trouble of moving.

I hope you are all well. Remember that our house is open and a welcome ready, for any of your family at all times.

We all wish to be remembered to "Mr Howard & family". Cousin Lydia thanks you particularly for your kind invitation to her.

I have written you quite a letter - so will immediately conclude by assuring you, that I am

Very sincerely yours,  
Maria Tupper

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1088 10/22/1859 *From:* Chas. C. Townsend *To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1028

Richmond, Va,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Richmond, Va. Octo 22d '59

My Dear Sir,

Your Letter, enclosing \$3. - \$2.50 the contribution of Mrs Greble, and the balance added by yourself. I would thank you to present to Mrs G. my warmest thanks - and accept the renewal of the same for yourself.

Enclosed, please find my new Circular - printed here with a view to obtain the signatures of our Bishops & Delegations here assembled, and to be used in families and Sunday schools. Of signatures, I have obtained many - with some contributions: - and hope to realize something in the shape of family contributions. In proposing the gift of a dime it puts it in the power of children in families & S.S. Classes to become patrons of our work: - friends to our children: - and recipients of the blessings promised to those who water others - with "a cup of cold water only."

Should you meet with any youthful contributors, please send me their names on the Circular.

When you have leisure, please give me some of the details of your good work amongst the Cadets. Facts are the food that the Missionary spirit feeds upon. Did time now permit me, I would tell you something of the Convention, especially of our early meetings for prayer &c. We have had two Irish Missionaries who have entertained and strengthened us with reports from the mountains & caves of Ireland.

The Convention will probably adjourn tonight - and tomorrow - one or two Missionary Bishops are to be consecrated. Rev Dr. Lay of Alabama as Miss. Bp. of the So. West, and Rev Dr. Talbot of Indiana is elected for the N. West, not yet accepted. I send herewith, a report of the proceedings - which I witnessed at the Alex'a Seminary.

It will afford me pleasure to hear from you - "Care of Rev F.D. Harriman, No 762 Broadway N.Y." I hope to leave that city for home near Nov. 1st.

With many thanks for Mrs Greble - and kind regards to Mrs Howard.

I remain,  
Truly Yours.  
Chas. C. Townsend  
Missionary

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**1089** 10/25/1859 *From:* Wm. V. Tupper

*To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-1029

152 Maiden Lane  
New York

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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152 Maiden Lane  
New York, Oct. 25th 1859

Lieut. O. O. Howard,  
West Point

Dear Sir,

I owe you an apology for not having before this thanked you for your kind invitation to West Point.

I have delayed writing in the hope that I might be able to accept, but find it inconvenient at this time.

Enclosed you will find a receipt for your bundle which presuming to be of value I forward to you. Present my respects to Mrs Howard & believe me,

Yours very truly  
Wm. V. Tupper

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1090 10/28/1859 *From:* John R Bacon

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard.

OOH-1030

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York  
Oct 28, 59

My Dear Howard.

About the sewing machines. They are to be had (Wheeler & Wilson) from 50 to 70 dollars, according to finish of machinery, and if Mrs Howard desires me to see about the purchase of one I will with great pleasure do so, and as I am personally known to the manager, I might aid in getting her one at the lowest figure.

We shall be happy to visit you at some convenient time, and hope you will bring Ms Howard to our small retreat at Tarrytown. It will give Mrs Bacon & myself great pleasure to welcome you both. Give our united kind regards to Mrs Howard & believe me to be

Truly Yrs  
John R Bacon

Have heard nothing yet from Kinsley. Have not determined what to advise regarding the investment.

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1091 10/31/1859 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1031

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Oct 31, 1859

Dear Otis

We left Leeds a week ago last Friday, and arrived here last Tuesday morning, - have been talking ever since about going up to West Point, but it has thus far been all talk, and I very much fear it will be, for our time is narrowed down so now, and we have so much to do that we cannot see how to get away, and yet I don't feel like leaving without seeing you, and if Sarah cannot go with me I must try and steal away for a day. Mr Bacon wants us to go to Tarrytown & we would like to go there & to Philadelphia but I do not think now we shall go to either place, it is getting too cold to travel about with the children.

Do you think of coming down soon? Or is Charles? How is his health now? I was in hopes to have heard from brother Daniel at Inagua [Bahamas] before this respecting Charles' prospect there, but he had not rec'd my letter the middle of September.

We think of taking passage on the "Karnak", about the 11th for Nassau and as the weather is getting so very cold, begin to feel a desire to get off - Are stopping at Mrs Lymans in Brooklyn, corner Warren & Clinton, but shall go out to Capt Tuckers on Thursday next, where we shall remain until we leave.

Sarah joins in love to you all.

Yr aff Cousin  
F. T. Sargent

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1092 11/5/1859

*From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* Lt. O. O. Howard

OOH-1032

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y.

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Nov. 5th. 1859.

My Dear Friend:

Having become pretty well settled, & learned some little of the "Management of the Ropes &c" I begin to feel a little at home, & will now try & let you know how I am situated & how pleased.

Lieut Sill & I occupy the North Bank Barracks, & have Mrs McCarthy (alias Ellen) to attend to things for us. No doubt you have some remembrance of Ellen, & could wish always to have such a woman to manage affairs about the house. I am up stairs, & have the back room. Sill occupies the small room down stairs, adjoining "our Parlor". So we have 3 Rooms "furnished", of course you will not ask us how? However we are comfortable, & support a "carpet" for each room.

Lt Balch who now messes with us, marries next Tuesday 11.20 A.M. Miss H. Cushman, & will occupy the South Side of the Qrs, up by the Bridge.

Strong occupies the North half.

I find the Situation very pleasant, in many respects. Major Mordecai & Family are very kind & agreeable. The Young Ladies very interesting and intelligent of course. I mean not to criticise, at all.

The duties I need not mention. I've only had two or three drawings to do. Have, I fear, however, a plenty in Contemplation.

I have not yet decided where to attend Church. I've been to the Episcopal & Dutch Reform, on this side, & once to Troy. I find no church of our (mine) Denomination here, I mean the C.P. Church. I would of course, prefer attending it, were there one here; not that I am peculiarly Sectarian on the subject, but I think one should always pay that respect to his own church. If not, why join it? True it matters little where we go, for we should go, not for the Sermon, but to worship. As to the forms of worship, it matters little, their differences, provided they conform with Christian usages.

The Episcopal is most convenient, but you know, although I'm much attached to their customs, that it is not my preference. The Dutch Reform is next at hand, but I am not so well pleased there as I should like. Think I will try it again, though.

The Presbyterian in E. Troy, Dr Bunan (?), I've not seen. I heard an excellent sermon in the Unitarian Church in Troy, last Sabbath. Text - "The answer of a clear conscience to God".

My desire is to go where I may be of most service. Not that I would put myself up as an example &c, but that I would gladly lend a helping hand towards enlightening any poor soul on the subject of Jesus & Him Crucified.

I must say that I almost wish to be a Cadet again, just to enjoy those Sunday afternoon labors, fruitless as they may have been.

I cannot make any promises about how I may do. I will only say, I will try & do right, by the help of Divine Grace. I sometimes, nay too often, feel very sad. I know I am a great sinner, & do not my work faithfully, as I ought. I feel that I need much help, nay all, from above. My poor weak self, is often sorely tempted. I wish you to ever pray for me.

I often think of the remark you made to me, as I was about leaving - viz: that I was in great danger, from flattery, or Praise. I humbly thank you for it. It has done me, I trust no little good. It has ever been ringing in my ears, & I could always keep before me the word, beware: of growing pride. Visiting my numerous friends at home, who I know loved me, & fully appreciated me, I had often to bring to mind your words. For you know how ones

friends looks upon a boy, as I was rightly considered by them all. They think they can say any thing to him, & are often guilty of stirring up his vanity, when they would only express their love & feelings. I mean not to boast of being highly esteemed, I speak as to a kindred soul, and you know the advantage of confessing our sins one to another.

I trust my Dear Friend Mrs Howard, is well & those dear little cherubs. How happy to have the guidance & holy instructions, of such Dear children. What a charge it is - & how great the responsibility. May the Lord bless you & them. I will be happy at any time see you, & shall certainly expect to hear from you often.

Give my love to Mrs Howard & kiss the children. I pray that the Prayer Meeting may still be blessed, & that the Sabbath School may progress well.

With my best love to all,

I am most truly,  
yr. friend  
M. H. Wright

Lt. O. O. Howard  
U.S. Army

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1093 11/8/1859 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1033

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Nov 8, 1859

Dear Otis

I was glad to get your note a few days ago and have tried to find time to get up & see you, and had Sarah not been ill last Saturday, I think I should have gone up, but it is now out of the question, for I have a matter on my hands that keeps me here every day and I fear now I shall not get through with it. It is in relation to the titles of my house. Sarah & I regret very much not being able to see you all, and that our children could not have met & known each other, but it seems that it is not to be so this time.

We expect to leave on Friday next in the Steamer, and in five days thereafter hope to be in Nassau.

I am very glad to hear that your meetings are larger and more interesting, and trust that the Lord will smile graciously upon the efforts that are being made for the bringing in of Souls into His Kingdom. I have been traveling about so much that I have enjoyed to a very limited degree the means of Grace. We had no preaching at Leeds, and but little any where else. I heard from Uncle Ensign yesterday. The folks are all well there. They have a minister settled (Mr Chapin) and I sold them a bell for their meeting house. I hope their minister will do them good, and preach nothing but Christ.

Sarah joins in regrets that we are not going to see you, and in love to you. We are very glad that Charles is so much improved, but should he have a recurrence of his troubles and want to go south I think I can get him a good position at Inagua. Remember me to him and believe me

Yr aff Cousin  
F. T. Sargent

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1094 11/11/1859 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-1034

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Nov 11th 1859

Lieut O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I wrote you on the 27 Ult and enclosed \$72- in Bills on Canl Bank, as follows \$50 bill No 137, \$20 bill No 913, \$2 bill Atlantic Bank Boston. I have not heard whether you recvd it. I also made some allusion to A&S L Rail Road Stock. It is thought by some who pretend to see ahead, that this Stock will not always pay 6 per ct.

Yours Truly  
E. Waite

P.S. Novm'r 29th

I laid this aside for a day or two after it was written and had forgotten it until to day. All well.

E.W.

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1095 11/13/1859 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-1035

Bowd. Coll  
Brunswick

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll Nov. 13, 1859.

My Dear Brother:

I received your & Charles letter last evening. I carried Charles letter to Nettie immediately. She didn't seem to like the idea of Charles writing her through me as she got a short letter thereby.

I think you grossly mistook my idea of secret societies in my letter to Charles. There is no one that dislikes some of the evils of secret societies more than I do and as for debating while I am a Freshman, I don't care to do that but I like to attend literary meetings and listen to Literary exercises of every kind. In college we are now enjoying the excitement attendant upon making alliances for the next Freshman election and next spring term is as likely to witness as hard a <torn corner> has been seen in the election <[torn corner]> parties are very equally divided, there being 22 votes considered sure on one side and nineteen upon the other with 21 doubtful votes, from which must come the material to decide the contest. I am on the side that can count upon 22. The ΔKE & ΨΥ composing the alliance with me as the only "ouden". All the other "oudens" go with the ΧΦ, ΘΔΧ, & ΑΔΦ alliance.

I write this partly for you and partly for Charles benefit as he probably is much more interested in these things than you are.

The prospects now are decidedly against us. Our men are lazy, i.e. they don't think it is best to do anything till next spring, while the other side are now sending men all over the state in order to get voters pledged. I don't care which way it goes, although I shall be Historian if our side carries the day.

Nettie is well and sends her <[torn corner]> Otis & Lizzie and kisses for <>. She doesn't send her love to Charles. Perhaps she thinks it needless to have it go through more than one channel.

The religious interest in college is, I am pained to say, at a rather low ebb. The prayer meetings are thinly attended and by professors of piety alone. Our prayer meeting of the Freshman class seems to be best attended, for we usually get about ten or a dozen while in the other class prayer meetings they have six or eight. The Thursday noon meeting is thinly attended and the meeting of the Praying Circle on Sabbath morning does not seem to create a great deal of interest. As for the prayer meetings in town, those only are well attended which are held on Sunday evening. The week day meetings are so thinly attended that it really seems discouraging and it also makes us feel that many attend on <> evening for other than religious <> Pray for us. We need the prayers of every earnest christian man, with the decline of that interest in religion & the desire to increase the interest in Temperance.

Intemperance and those other vices peculiar to college life are visibly increasing. During the first eight weeks of the term it is said that not one "hard drunk" had taken place either in this or the other end of North College but within the last four weeks they have taken place a number of times. "Roasts" are frequent and the robbing of hen roosts more so. I am sorry to record all these things but I thought it necessary in order to direct your special attention to the subject, so that you and all with whom you have an influence will pray more earnestly for us. I am glad to be able to state that these evils exist to a less extent in my own than in any other class in College. There are only two in the class that have the <> of having taken any <> and they have now both signed the Temperance pledge. But I am told that students don't usually commence drinking during the first term of their Freshman year but as most of those who are now in College of our class have signed the pledge I am in hopes that we shall have quite an exemplary class in that respect.

I had a letter from mother not long since. She talks seriously of going to Augusta this winter and staying with father, but what are their arrangements more than that I am unable to ascertain as mother don't seem to be very communicative on the subject, perhaps not knowing exactly what to do herself.

I shall spend Thanksgiving day at Bath if nothing "turns up" unforeseen to prevent. My school will commence at Falmouth on Monday after Thanksgiving day. How I shall succeed, the result only will show.

I have been to hear the Unitarian minister this p.m. I like Mr Wheeler very much. The sermon was delivered for a funeral sermon - Miss Sarah Thompson's brother died of the Yellow Fever in Havana. Charles knows Miss Thompson. I had heard that she was one of his old "flames" and it is for his benefit that this is written.

I shall write him and you often. You will remember when I commence my school at Falmouth, so that my letters may go there instead of Brunswick.

Give my love to Lizzie, Charles & the children. Charles will hear from me ere long. Pray for me always.

Your very affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore  
Brunswick

Lieut O. O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

<[Torn page]>

I saw Rowland when he was here last Saturday and also on Tuesday and Wednesday. He seemed to be enjoying good health and generally in good spirits.

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1096 11/25/1859 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1036

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Nov 25th 1859

Dear Bro Otis

As I wrote Charles last, this shall be to you. In spite of the rumor wh. we all rev'd via West Pt, & which on some accts. I would like to have been true.

I did not go to Bath Thanksgiving & never intended to or hinted that I might. I don't go there now-a-days unless by going in the vicinity to preach in the Sabbath. I can save half my R. R. fare. Ella forwarded yours & Charles letters & I was just as glad to read them in Leeds. I came here Wednesday & found all well.

I preach in Winthrop next Sabbath & so came home to Thanksgiving & will return to Bangor Monday. Please don't take any trouble to "keep the run" of me but write to Bangor as often as convenient. I intend to be there all the time except Sundays. We had a pleasant Thanksgiving. Mother staid at home but father & I went to meeting. He is very lame with Rheumatism today - can hardly rise from his chair without assistance.

They have a real good Methodist like minister. He is 35, has a wife & no child & has been but two years out of the Semry. He will labor for a Revival & let us pray for his success. The M. H. is improved, but not so much as the same money & good workmen & good taste might have improved it. The bell is a fine one & the pulpit convenient. Warren & Louisa, Roland & Cynthia & their families & Georgie Gilmore were here yesterday. Warren & I prayed & sang before we separated in the evening. You & Charles would have enjoyed it greatly. He is very earnest & fervent.

It is excellent sleighing & I have been up & dined with Laura & called on John & the minister, Mr Chapin. Laura boards the School master & would be quite happy if Helen would forgive her for marrying Uncle & would treat her kindly. I don't dare to say much lest I should widen the breach. All the Leeds people are proud of their M.H. & bell & my prayer & hope is that - by looking at the cross on which he is hung they may catch a view of brazen Serpent. O that the hearts of this selfish mean - penurious people could be turned into their God.

Two weeks ago tomorrow I rode down to see Vaughan Otis & staid an hour. He appears like a confirmed consumptive. He is well cared for in body, but I fear he will not recover. He speaks in a whisper & does not go out. He is too weak to go to Texas or Nassau. He has had two or three bad bleedings at the lungs. Aunt Martha Jane has written Mother a good long letter about her new baby &c. I hope you & Charles will write Vaughan. I did not speak to him this time about his Soul, because I could not see him away from his family.

Ella seems to have enjoyed her Thanksgiving. She attended the wedding of one of her cousins - gives a glowing acct. of the silver plate & says she hopes the custom of giving will hold out till we are married!

Mother thinks now they (father & herself) will board at Laura Anns. I hope they will. Mother has been so long accustomed to the narrow circle of home that it will be quite a change to her to receive & give "calls" to "dress" in the afternoon &c. but her good sense will secure respect anyhow.

It bids fair for a storm to go to Winthrop in, but what are outward difficulties compared with these inward struggles & failings. The church in Winthrop is very cold & dead generally & sometimes it seems like mockery to preach to such a people as if they were alive, but Jesus preached just so to everybody.

I hope you have been to see Tuthill as you proposed. I know he will be glad to see you. Tell Lizzie I hope she will use her sewing machine more than Ella does hers. Tell Guy those kisses that he has sent were rather dry before they got to Maine.

Charles rather hints in his letter to Mother that some do not "love & respect" Nettie as much as they ought. If he thinks that of Ella I want to disabuse his mind. I am the greatest enemy Nettie has in the family & how much of a one I am, let my future acts testify. Words, after all, are but of small account.

Mother says she would like very much to write Otis. I hope my writing will not discourage her. Tell Charles I don't want Mr Wells to make an Episcopalian of him & I wish that effort at Buttermilk was for Mr. Greys church, altho' the Methodist Minister that visited Aunt Ann seemed like a very good man.

I enjoyed last Sabbath at "Upper Stillwater" very much - had a good attentive audience with some marks of penitence in the congregation. The meetings were never so full at the Center as now. They hope that a brighter day has dawned for the Railroad but there are some rather dangerous contingencies yet.

Speaking of Thanksgiving I have the most to be thankful to God for, & the most wicked & ungrateful heart of all. Albert Patten is at Sea with a Capt. Drummond. His uncle is at home. Hannah Lizzies flow of animal spirits has been almost uninterrupted in spite of her troubles. If they would sadden, it seems as if they might benefit her but who could wish her to be less cheerful. Mother sends love.

Yr. Aff. Brother  
Rowland

It seems to me that the excitement of preaching will be bad for Charles at present & he had better avoid it experiments will prove.

Tell Gracie, Uncle Rowland wishes to see her doll.

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1097 12/4/1859 *From:* T. J. Wright

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-1037

Fort Walla Walla W. T.

USA

West Point N.Y.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Fort Walla Walla W. T.  
December 4th 1859

Dear Howard

After some little delay I have just determined to redeem my promise and give you a little sketch of things seen en route from West Point N.Y. to these parts.

We had a short and pleasant trip arriving at this place six weeks from the day on which we sailed from New York. The steamer Star of the West sailed from the latter port at 2 P.M. September 20th having on board the Commander in Chief and staff, the undersigned, and Seven hundred and fifty other persons, whose names have escaped my memory, but they were male & females, white and black, good, bad and indifferent of all the tribes and nations of the earth. The number of people who assembled to bid adieu to the Great Pacificator was immense and the display was very gratifying to the poor old man. I fear his reception will be less warm should the news of his action in the San Juan case reach home before he does.

The English as usual have humbugged us again and without the shadow of a claim to the Island have gained joint occupation with us, and the acknowledged right to argue the point. I do not know what the feeling will be in the Eastern States but on this Coast General Scott is as much condemned now, as General Harney was before - the former for giving - the latter for taking.

We left New York just after the storm, and the effects were still visible for a day or two upon the troubled face of Great Waters. Before reaching Hatteras however they became smooth and the remainder of the trip was made over as calm a sea as any landsman would desire. On Sunday night, the fourth day out, while creeping along the coast of Florida, we ran high and dry upon a reef known as "Double headed shot". After the usual exertion, and eight or ten hours detention we at last succeeded in backing off, leaving only a little copper for change and damage. On Tuesday we ran into Key West and coaled, then sailed for Aspinwall which port we made on Sunday evening, the twelfth day from New York. Here we remained one night and the next morning at daylight took the cars for Panama, from which place we sailed in the evening. The next Sunday we were in the harbor of Acapulco, and the next San Francisco which port we entered amid a demonstration which far exceeded that which took place on leaving New York. The crowd which assembled to welcome the General was considerable for a "ten year old" city. I remained in San Francisco two days during which I saw every thing, under the guidance of Chandler, who met me on our arrival. I was perfectly delighted and only wish that I could have remained longer.

We had a pleasant run up to Vancouver, where I took the river boat for the Dalles. Here I remained about a week. An opportunity soon offered to come up here by land, and after a hard ride of one hundred and seventy five miles over the most desolate country I ever saw, with out wood and but little water. On the fourth day arrived at home, after an almost uninterrupted absence of eleven years. Nobody knew me of course, except some of my old acquaintances at the Point.

I am now with Capt Kirkham in the Qrmaster Dept at this Post. As soon as the spring opens I shall go to the Depot on Snake River as his agent.

I am very pleasantly situated here. Many of my old friends and class mates are stationed here, and all my difficulties have been happily settled. I am consequently in a much happier state of mind than when I saw you last.

I have not been able to deliver your letter to Robert as I cannot learn his exact locality, but will do so as soon as possible.

Having given you an account of myself, I shall await a letter from you with impatience.

And now, Dear Howard, let me thank you again for your kindness and politeness to me while I had the pleasure

of being with you. Remember me to Mrs Howard most kindly, to Guy and the little one. My respects to all my friends who are almost too numerous to mention - not forgetting Mrs Gray & Miss Jennie.

Let me know how Cadet Wright is conducting himself and give me some news for we never get any here.

Yours truly,  
T. J. Wright [Thomas J Wright USMA Class of 1854]

Lieut O.O. Howard  
USA  
West Point N.Y.

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1098 12/4/1859     *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-1038

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec. 4th 1859

My Dear Son,

Your and Charles letter intended for our thanksgiving reading was gratefully received by me. I had the pleasure of Rowlands company through our thanksgiving, and Warren Mower's family and Roland A. Gilmore's family. In all we counted 13. George A. Gilmore and little girl I had to help me a few days.

We have our meeting house very comfortable and good preaching in it and a bell which we hear distinctly at this place. All these things I hope will be blest to us, in time to come.

I am happy to hear that Charles is doing so well in his health, and to hear from Lizzie, that her health is so good, and the children. Charles always speaks of them as in good health, full of joyous ways. I always think of them with a thrill of delight, thinking of them as always happy. I hope my son you will not overtax your natural strength so as to injure your health and of course your usefulness. It is not often that anxiety gets very strong hold of me at the present day. I am for the most part striving to give all to God in spirit, and do all my hands find to do, in my power.

I expect to leave my home for Augusta in a month to be with your father, through the session of the Legislator. Henry Wingate has been out to Leeds and invited us to board with him while we are there and we shall go there at first and try it, and if your father does not have the Rheumatism or anything of the kind we may stay there untill the time we return.

Dellie has taught a week of his school. I have not heard from him. We did not get our mail last night. We are having a severe North East storm. When it is over and our roads are open'd I shall expect to hear from him. Your father passed through Falmouth since Dellie has been there and took an over coat to the Depot and a letter but we do not even know what part of Falmouth his school was in.

Charles spoke of your house being lighted with Gas and his fears for your eyes. Cannot you shade your light so that you can favor your eyes. I recollect how much I suffer'd with my eyes when at your age, and despair'd of ever having good eye sight, and now my eyes are better than most other peoples at my age.

I never knew whether you saw Mr Sargent and family. I talked with him several times with regard to Charles going out to the Bahamas. I perfectly understood how and where it was, that it was where his brother Daniel lived and owned his salt works. He wanted a teacher for his family and a few others, and I thought if it would answer the double purpose of restoring Charles to health and earning something he would like to go. But I could not be a very good or perfect judge. Neither could I know what effect a warm climate would have on his troubles, but I understand they do not suffer with extreme heat in Summer but have an even temperature.

We have bought us a nice karacene lamp and like it very much. We set it in the middle of the table, and all of us see by it, even your father sits without a candle between his Newspaper and his eyes. The oil is slightly color'd with a yellowish hew. Katie is here sewing for me. Cynthia's health is some better. She walked up here a few days since. Her babe is pined away to almost nothing with teething and has been sick having a great heat in her head and sick at the stomach. I at one time fear'd she might have water on the brain. She is not as heavy as she was last summer. All the rest of our friends are well in Leeds.

Our Circle is still popular. Mrs Berry is the president. Her husband says he shall carry her to all of them when the traveling is such that he can possibly get there. I think Rosilla is missed in her family very much. Lucia seems very <slag'd> her child weighs some twenty pounds and she makes hard work of house keeping. Lizzie has done trying to write any of us. She has my best of wishes, at all times.

Give guy a kiss and remind Grace of me, and kiss her for grandma. I have received a letter from Martha Jane Strickland. She has another daughter. I have not written her since last Christmas. Her family are all well. Mrs Strickland, Henrys Mother in law is with her.

Yours &c  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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1099 12/7/1859    *From:* O.O.H.

*To:* [Editor  
NY Times]

OOH-1039

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
December 7th 1859

Dear Sir,

Under the heading, "cutting a hard knot," in your paper of today, I notice Mr G.G. Poindexter spoken of, as "past middle life" - not under the influence of youthful "fire". This suggested to me the idea of sending you for publication, an article that is taken from the Brunswick Telegraph, a paper edited in the place where he was at College.

I was a classmate of Poindexter, and remember him as being particularly modest in his demeanor, and amiable in social life. He had the reputation of being the best writer in his class & a fair scholar. He was generally beloved in College & will be recalled with much affection & sorrow by numerous friends here at the North. Please insert this brief tribute of a friend to the memory of one, who seemed so short a time ago all that was gentle & kind, though now his name is notorious from his melancholy death.

Respectfully yours  
O.O.H.

[Note: This draft letter was published in the New York Times December 10, 1859. It was in reference to the murder of George Gilmer Poindexter in Nashville TN on November 18, 1859. He was the editor of the Nashville Union and American and was killed by Allen A. Hall, the editor of the Daily News.]

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1100 12/7/1859    *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1040

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Decmr 7th 1859

Mrs Lizzie Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter of 1st saying the dividnd on Bank Stock came safe. I did not receive the letter which your Husband wrote.

In relation to changing Rail Road Stock for Bonds secured by Mortgage, an opportunity offered to day to make such exchange for the difference of \$10 50/100 pr share which was better than I did with mine. This order came from St Johns. If you conclude to exchange send certificate of Stock with your Signature for transfer, and write me what you wish me to do. I hear that most of the Portland Stock holders have disposed of their Stock. It seems to be the impression that sooner or later a stop must come. In case the managers should be obliged to stop payment of interest on Stock the Shares would not be worth much. The interest on five million of dollars together with Salaries and repairs &c is enormous. The road I think will continue to pay so long as they possibly can but if they are obliged to stop the Shares will be worthless.

From Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

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1101 12/11/1859 *From:* Aunt Sarah Jones

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1041

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Dec 11 1859

Dear Lizzie

I will make one more attempt to write you. I have completed one letter I wrote you, but it was an old date before I got ready to send it to the office, so I did not send it.

When you left Maine I was at the Shop & thought I should go home the next week, but I found I could not make my children so comfortable at home, so I staid as long as I could stand it. That was a short time before I came to Portland. You may think strange my coming to P, but if you knew my mind it might not look so to you. I did not come here because I wanted to. I felt it my duty to make one more attempt, perhaps the last one, in trying to live with him who is so wicked.

I can say that with safety, he refused to furnish any thing for his family, so long as I lived in Auburn, but if I would come here, he would stop this and so, but if I did not come here, he should go South this winter.

Lizzie, I feel you would not blame me, if you knew my feelings, towards him, a last one. I could not endure the thought his taking another so wicked a tramp. I felt if I could bear with him (I would try it this winter) there was a chance for him to pay his honest debts. If he did not the great debts he owes, I am satisfied, he never will repent so long as he pursues the course he is pursuing. I ask myself how long can I bear with him when weak in faith I feel not long. He never talked so hard as he now talks to me. I ask him why he talks so to me. I came here for him to come up in the work if he wish but he said he did not want to. He was just as high as he wish to stand.

Brother Oren the way he talked to me he did not consider it safe for me to live with him. Alden ask me last fall if I was afraid of him. I told him I was not, but I will not attempt to write you what he has said to me since I have been here. Orlando says confinement is all that will bring him to himself. If that is the christians way, may it be so. Oh with what pity I look upon him, in his wickedness.

Lizzie I feel the need of one of your letters. I have been here five weeks. I never spent five just such weeks before. I sometimes think when E- is talking to me, is it reality. Yes I know it to be, for I feel it, as when I am left alone, I ask God to forgive him for he knows not what he says. He knows nothing of God, for he has turned from him.

This forenoon he went with me to the second Baptist church, his text John eight chapter thirty six verse. It seems as though it was written on purpose for him. He pointed out the ways they could get back, the yoke would be easy and the burden light. Coming home I ask him how he like the sermon. He said he did not notice it. He was thinking about something else. I told him it was one of the best sermons I ever heard.

Monday Dec 26. My letter is a getting to be another old date. I will try to finish it to night, although I did not close my eyes last night till after two oclock this morning. I generally rest well nights, how after entering all my complaints may I not be forgetful of Him who gives me all I need. One of the greatest blessings, health, to take care of children, such kind friends. The children are a going to school. The schools are better here than in Auburn. We live at the west end of the city on Salem St, very comfortable, & warm. Took what thing I needed this winter. There will be a change between now & Spring. I went out Saturday to see if I could not get an instrument for Eva to practice on. I found a piano 37c per quarter. I did not take it that night.

Minnie received the paper you sent her. She read it thoroughly the first night. She say tell Guy she goes to school. Her studies are Geography arithmetic reading <>.

I must close by wishing you & yours see the happiness this world affords. Write me when convenient, for I want to hear from you. Everett takes no interest in my letters so I have them to myself. Is Mrs Lee a living.

In your prayers remember <we> sinful ones.

SGJ

[Written in another hand]  
Aunt Sarah [Jones]

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1102 12/13/1859 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-1042

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Decmr 13 1859

Lieut O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

I recvd your letter with the Rail Road Certificates yesterday afternoon. I have exchanged a part of them for Mortgaged Bonds which I now enclose to you. The balance I have not been able to exchange yet but am in hopes of finding an opportunity to do so, very soon.

I think Lizzie may now consider her stock perfectly safe and secure. I am glad she concluded to do so, for I think the Shares may drop before a great while, and then, it would be too late to sell or exchange. I presume you can collect the coupons as they become due, in N.York, if not, you can send them to me by letter. The Banks are glad to pay the money for them here. No cash is required in making the exchanges. I could done a little better last week in buying Mortgage Bonds. I got these for \$11 difference and hope to do as well with the others.

Your Affectionate Uncle  
E. Waite

P.S.

Should I not find bonds at a fair price shall I invest any portion in Bank Stock or otherwise.

E.W.

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1103 12/17/1859 *From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1043

Watervliet Arsenal

U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
Dec 17th 1859

My Dear Mr Howard:

The approaching close of another year, cannot fail to teach us all, most effectually, the lesson of our mortality.

Deeply impressed, as may have been this solemn truth, on all our hearts 'tis none the less our duty to be gently reminded of the Same, to our fellow mortals: & allow the example of nature to have a full sway over us - as the workings of an Allwise Providence. Were we to content ourselves with the fact, that all, in a christian Land, must know that they must die, & rise again at the last day, the blessed of Heaven, or the doomed of Eternal woe, & fail to constantly point them to the Bleeding Saviour, & declare in words of Simple Faith, that their Redeemer liveth, how poorly would our duty be performed? How unthankful would we be, for the unknown blessings of redeemed Souls, that await the blest beyond the skies?

A most sad accident occurred in our vicinity a day or two since, which but more clearly declared to us, "that, in the midst of life, we are in death". You may have noticed in the Times, that Mrs Capt Shriver(?) was killed in Troy on the 15. She had just been calling on Mrs Cramer, in 3d St & leaving the house, got into a Cutter, to drive home. The horse being a little cold, began to prance a little, which frightened her, (she being very timid indeed, I understand) contrary to all persuasion from the Driver, she attempted to jump from the Cutter - her feet became entangled in the Robes, & from the motion of the sleigh in connection with her attempt to jump out, her ankle was broken, short off, & she was whisked around & falling on her back, the whole of the back of her head was broken in - she died in 5 minutes. Mrs Cramer, standing at her window, saw the sleigh pass, but did not know it was her late visitor. She saw the Lady jump fall - went immediately to her aid, & had taken off her bonnet, robe & furs, before she recognized her dear friend, who had only left her house 5 minutes before. Knowing as you must, her extensive acquaintance & connection, you can judge of the general gloom which pervades Troy. How happy to think that she was such an excellent, good Christian. I hear that she was a most charitable & lovely lady. May this sad accident & misfortune, not fail to produce a salutary effect on all around, & may her example be not only held up, but cherished & followed by a deeply affected community.

I am exceedingly grateful for your letter to Rev. Dr. Gregory, but have not presented it, in as much as I had already concluded to attend the church below the Arsenal - the Rev. Dr. Roof. Also, I've concluded to unite, with no church here, as yet, so to keep up a correspondence with my Pastor at home. At the same time, to present my certificate here, & thus enjoy all the privileges of a member. I <like> the minister very much. There is a <good> Sabbath School of some 120-150 scholars.

The church is convenient to the Arsenal. I can always attend. A great many of the men attend there. Mr Lansing, also <> he kindly tendered me a seat - as did <> Master <Workinan>, Mr Snyder.

I will see you, I hope, soon, & then I will talk it over. I have a book I intend lending you, to read at the Prayer-meeting, if thought to be of service. The simple truths, plainly told, with such abstinence of every-thing like sectarianism, I prize very much, & think admirably inclined to instruct & advise young converts. It is entitled, "Convert's Manual, or Pastor Gift"; except in reverse order.

We have started a Soldier's School, at the Barracks. We instruct them 4 nights in the week, all four of the Lieutenants, assisting. We can claim nothing for it, as we were so inactive as to wait until the men made the request. However I trust that much good may be done.

I trust that the Prayer-meetings are in good earnest, & hope that the coming holidays may be no check <upon> the ardour of its friends among the cadets, & humbly pray, that, with the new-year may come an abundant out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's Church & throughout the Land, & that many young men at the Academy may be constrained by love to God, to espouse his cause.

We are pretty comfortably situated, have pretty cold weather, River closed up &c.

All are quite well. Sill desires to be most kindly remembered.

My love to that excellent Lady, my friend Mrs H. Kiss those little cherubs for me, & while they are your hearts delights, may they learn to be God's own.

In much love,  
Yr. Aff. Friend,  
M. H. Wright [Moses H Wright, USMA Class of 1859]

Lt. O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.

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1104 12/17/1859 *From:* Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1044

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec. 17. 1859.

Otis, my Dear Son,

Yours of the 14 written on the same sheet with Charles' was duly received, and it gave me great pleasure to hear that you are in so good circumstances. I have this day attended the funeral of Uncle Barney Howard. He died on Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock [See Note 1] and to day [Saturday] his remains were committed to the grave, his last resting place. Mr Chapin our minister at the Centre, preached a fine discourse on the occasion. His text was, "let me die the death of the righteous, let my last end be like his". Mr Chapin said it was the last words he (uncle Barney) ever said and his friends desired him to preach from that portion of Scripture. I felt while looking at his remains, as though I would never tire at looking at him, his countenance was so peaceful. He took a violent cold, and lived six days.

Aunt Howard has been sick had partially recovered when Uncle Barney was taken sick, which has prostrated her again. Harriet and her daughter set a little apart from the other mourners. Harriet had a calm and desolate look. My feelings were carried back many years when I had almost daily intercourse with the family, and now, what a remnant they are. Death has nearly completed his work on the family. The same aunt in her bed. She was in tears bright and sensible, said she should soon be with him.

I follow'd with the mourners to the grave where I have seen the grave open'd so many times to receive those I loved and those I esteem'd. On my return through the fields what a beautiful scene in that view: the mountains though covered with snow were gilded with the brightness of the sun and together with the pure sky and calm air, was more delightful than ever. Although uncle will never meet me again at that door and shake hands with me, nor enquire with so much interest after you. "I want to know about that boy" has often been the commencement of a series of inquiries when I have met him, and there is a lonely news in the thought that he will never be seen on Earth again. I feel a sincere faith that he is gone where his savior has prepare a place for him.

Your Uncle Stillman had a fall a week or two since in his wood house, and injured his shoulder. He has suffered some considerable with it, and has come to the conclusion that a bone is broken. I enquired of Stillman L. Howard today. How he was. He said he was comfortable unless something jam'd upon his arm. The rest of our friends are well in Leeds.

I have received a letter from Sarah Sargent since arrival at Nassau in which she wrote me that Perry was ship wrecked. The Brigg is a complete wreck. O is not that too bad says Sarah. Poor Perry, he will be entirely discouraged. That is all she said about him.

Tell Guy that Grandpa Gilmore intends planting him a garden in the Spring for him to take care of it when he gets here. Warren Millet Mr Seth Millets son, died last week. He was a member of the Baptist church, so that two of our members are gone home to their God. I hope you and Charlie will still supplicate the throne of Grace in our behalf of us as a church, that God will Bless us that his divine spirit may rest upon us.

We are having a close winter. The snow is deep and the weather in general has been severe. Your father has had all his butchering done the past week which has kept me quite busy and will some time longer.

Tell Guy and Grace grandmother always thinks of them with pleasure. They can receive a good sweet kiss from papa in grandmother's name untill she sees them again. Love to Lizzie and yourself.

From your affectionate  
Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

[Note 1: Barnabas Howard (b. Aug. 11, 1777, d. Dec 14, 1859) was the uncle of Eliza's first husband Rowland

B. Howard.]

[Note 2: A page attached to this letter was moved to one written by Rodelphus Gilmore on 11/20/1958, OOH-0912.]

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1105 12/21/1859 *From:* J.R. Bacon

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1045

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Decr 21/59

My dear Howard

Pray forgive my long silence, but I have so often intended to write you that I began to think that I had done so - much like a man telling a "yarn" so often as to believe it himself at last.

First as to business - I enclose a certificate for \$400, or 4 shares of the Washington Ins Co, which will be duly recognized & entitle you to a certificate of the same number of shares so soon as the books &c are opened which will be between this and the first proximo. If you are coming down about that time bring the enclosed with you & have it exchanged for the stock certificate, or send it to me and I will duly attend to having it done.

As to Fire stock, I don't know what to say. The secretary of a Fire Company told me the other day not to buy any fire stock now, the losses are & have been lately quite heavy, and, I am advised that in the Spring is the best time to buy fire stock as it is generally cheaper then. I enclose a circular of the Republic. Your money is on interest with me, and will be until you make some other disposition of it.

You have heard of course <of> Perry's disaster. He had his part of the vessel insured, but he must make a loss of clothes instruments &c. Poor fellow he seems to be unfortunate.

Accept my wishes for a merry Xmass & a happy New Year and with kind regards to Mrs Howard, believe me

Sincerely Yrs  
J.R. Bacon

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1106 12/29/1859 *From:* T. R. Tannatt  
Lieut 4th Arty

*To:* Lt M H Wright

OOH-1046

Harlem N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harlem N.Y. Dec 29, 1859

Dear Moses,

Your very kind letter forwarded from Governors Island, found me in a very poor state from which it has pleased God to restore me in part. My object in going to Fort Columbus was to perform such duty as I could and remain under the treatment of oculists in N.Y. until spring when I felt confident I would be able to join my company. Col Cooper advised me to remain on leave as did my friends & physicians, but I thought I would feel better doing paid duty, not having any place to call home or any diversion. I presumed, but God executed, by prostrating me on a sick bed from which <I> got up to find my entire left side affected by a shock of paralysis, and a cough which but for good care would have soon told upon me, and from which I am not wholly free at present.

Your letter came as a kind friend, and did me good, for which you place me under renewed obligations to you.

I am indebted to Mrs French & Clara for most excellent letters as yet unanswered, and I want to write to Lieut Howard but my eyes are under a medical supervision and I am very anxious to get well again by spring, and join my company or throw up my commission.

I do not see through the cloud that has lowered upon my path since graduating, but could I do so I would no doubt see the hand of God controlling all. I try to spurn the nature of my last attack, and live in a realm of hope, although poor White is ever in my mind, coupled with a remark Mrs French once made to me. God brought all this upon me to show me my own nothingness. I would run up to the Point to see Mrs F and also to Troy but Dr's C & W say I must not expose my lungs at present, but can in a few months, if nothing happens. I hope to see you before going to Randall in the spring. I am in good spirits and feel that all will yet be well. You must write to me here although I am off in a few days, your letters will reach me. You may enclose this to our friend Howard if you wish or tell him to write to me, and I will answer at such time as I can. I wish I could transfer into your corps. Think I shall write to White about it. Remember me in your prayers.

Yours very truly  
T. R. Tannatt [USMA, Class of 1858]  
Lieut 4th Arty

Lt M H Wright [Moses H Wright, USMA Class of 1859]  
U.S. Ordnance

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1107 1/4/1860

*From:* C. H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Oliver [OO Howard]

OOH-1048

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Boston Jan'y 4th 1860

Dear Oliver

Your ever welcome letter of the 16th of Dec'br came duly to hand and was right glad to learn yourself and family were well and still at West Point. I have expected to hear from you as settled in some other locality for it seems a long time you have remained at one post.

To commence with answering you enquiries I will say we have another Boy! A New Year's Present!! born last Sunday morning at (9) nine o'clock perfect in all respects and weighed (9 ½) nine & one half pounds. Sarah is very comfortable and had no difficulty being sick from 5 a.m. till 9 a.m. The Physician coming and leaving within this period as she has her former nurse (Mrs Leman) we feel as though we might get along nicely and trust we shall. Our wish was for a little girl but as it is we can only be too thankful to Him "who doeth all things well" for the preservation of both Mother & Child to utter a murmur or complaint. To think we have four little boys - three here and one in Heaven - seems hardly possible but so it is. Hen & Jonny are delighted with the Baby. Jonny says "is this our other little Brother come back to us" even he has not forgotten our dear little Charlie that has gone never to return and I sincerely hope he never will forget him.

I am well and have been all winter and my Business is prospering beyond my expectations even. I do not mean by this that I am making a large sum this year or have made a fortune not by any means but I think our business bids fair to increase and grow into something satisfactory ere long our business is exclusively "Texas Commission Business" principally Hides & Wool but some Lead Cotton Rags &c &c all from Texas - thus far about half our goods come into New York but eventually all will come here direct.

If nothing happens, and I have my health all will come out right. We are living in a very pleasant neighborhood at the South End and all of us are very happy & contented in fact we like here very much. You & Yours are often mentioned by us and when we were all at Augusta is looked back upon with pleasure for we really enjoyed each other's company much and all our associations were pleasant. Sarah Hen & Jonny send love & kisses to Mrs H, Guy & Grace.

As for news - anything here would not be of great interest to you and at Augusta very likely you are posted as well as I am as I generally hear from Father every week and all Gossip is excluded in his communications. Aside from this I know nothing of matters there. You may not have heard of the death of my mother which occurred Dec'br 17th Saturday at 12 m. she had suffered very much for several months past - more than she even mentioned but ever since the trouble with her Teeth commenced she has gradually failed. She was conscious to the last and my Sister who has devoted herself to my mother's comfort day & night ever since she has had this trouble says "she perfectly understood all that was said" recognized them all "but could not utter a word". As soon as I heard of the attack I hastened home but not in season to see her alive - her death was quite sudden. She went to Church one half day (rode both ways) the Sunday previous and although sick and confined to her bed after Monday, still Doct Hill said Thursday evening "she was better and might be as well as she had been" but Friday they were satisfied she was worse and sent for me. Although I disliked to leave Sarah at that time still I hastened at once to my Fathers only to find my poor mother in that sleep that "Knows no waking". I had not seen her since I left Augusta last April, but she looked so perfectly natural I could but believe she would still speak to me. Alas! Only the perishable was left. My poor Dear Mother she is in Heaven and at rest. Father's house seemed lonesome and very sad, but "God's ways are not our ways". He knows best and will provide for all.

With kindest regards to you all  
I remain your friend  
C. H. Mulliken

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1108 1/11/1860    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1049

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Jan 11, 1860

My dear bro. Otis

Having completed letters to Dellie & Mother I will drop a line to you. My correspondence with Charles has rather broken up ours, but as he is getting negligent - I hope not sick - I will return to you again. Tell Charles that Fullers offer of rooming with him is an advantageous one every way. The room is one of the best. I believe I wrote Charles about my Christmas. I have been here steadily since attending my two Lectures a day & a part of the time taking care of a sick classmate who has now recovered. "The General" was very kind to him in his sickness bringing me something two or three times in a day.

Ella & I can hardly conceive of you in your new house, but we talk it over & try to as well as we can. I will greatly rejoice when the time comes around that I can see you & Lizzie & the dear children again. Does the new year add anything to your penitence & faith. Does it affect your meetings any? O that this year the Lord might favor you more than ever. Accts from the Old world & from Philadelphia seem very favorable. Our Annual Fast was a good meeting but Religion is very low in Bangor - the morning prayer meeting thinly attended &c. I preach in Brewer next Sabbath. If you get this Sat. Night, I know you will pray that God may help me. I am coming up into high & holy responsibilities. I tremble at the prospect & feel to say "who is sufficient for these things"?

My health is fair - at least I am as fleshy as ever - but sometimes I feel disposed to seek a Western or Californian field on acct of my hoarseness. Then I think - If God wished me to go there He would "call" me. The Abolition question distracts some of our churches. O I pray to God that he may stop politicians from agitating it & solve it Himself. Yet these deprecated means may be just the ones He has ordained for its final solution. I preach a good part of the time. Sometimes I am paid, sometimes not.

Dellie does not write me. Mother wrote me yesterday. She is now pretty well settled at Henry Wingate's & the Hallowell people seem to be paying her a great deal of attention. Vaughan is no better. I hope Mother will rest & read & attend meetings a good deal this winter, but the walks to meeting are rather long for her. Hadn't you & Charles better write Vaughan. He must be quite lonely there at home, tho' Ellie Dwight, to whom he is partial, is quite attentive. O I wish he would think about his soul. He assents to truth, but will do nothing.

Love to Charles Lizzie & the Children.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

Oscar Turner called on me today! He reports all well at Leeds.

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1109 1/11/1860 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1050

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Jany 11 1860

Lieut O O Howard

Dear Sir

I now Enclose (\$3500) of Mortgage Bond on Atlantic & St Lawrence Rail Road. Three of \$1000 each & one of \$500. They have been articles difficult to obtain. I got the last one yesterday of 1000. I was in hopes to get 500 more which would have about equall to the 6300 of RR shares. Expect to be able to get it soon - otherwise I will invest the Balance in Bank Stock - if to be had - which I should have done before could I have found any for Sale. Shall do the Best I can.

We are all quite well. Hope this will find you and family enjoying the Same blessing. Susie [Susan M Waite] was married on 28th Dec to our good Minister, Edw'd Payson Thwing. They are now attending the Conference at Jonesport.

With our kind regards to yourself and dear Wife & Children, wishing you all a happy New Year,

I Remain Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

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1110 1/20/1860 *From:* J. H. Otis

*To:* Dear Cousin Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1051

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Jan 20. 1860

Dear Cousin Otis

I have just returned from Lewiston. Mr Strout (the man who I am owing) has given me 10 days to get him \$400.00 or 350.00 would answer. I have about concluded a bargain with Mr Issachar Lane for a portion of the wood lot if he can raise me the money I can get it squared with Mr S but he cannot at present and if you could let me have \$400 I will secure you on the place in thirty days the time Mr Lane wants to raise the money. Your letter dd not arrive until Tuesday last, or I should have written before.

Please write me soon.

Your <aff.>

J. H. Otis [John Harrison Otis]

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1111 1/23/1860     *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1052

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Jan 23d 1860

Dear Bro. Otis

Your letter & Charles' really did me much good. If there were not one exception to make I should say that it was the richest Epistolary that I have had for a long. But Ella has been getting what she calls "sweet glimpses of the Saviour" very often of late and her letters are full of what she sees in Him & what He is doing in her. More of this anon. I gave Ella a synopsis of Charles' & sent her yours & treated mother conversely. "Lodiana" is in the no. of India", tell Charles. Whenever you buy a new book, get Newcombs Cyclopedia of Missions. It is indispensible. I send you a book that has done me good. It is the cheapest way I could impart my own tho'ts to Lizzie & you all. Read it & may God bless it to all of you as He is doing to many. Tell Charles that Ella will give it to Nettie by & by but he must "keep dark" & it will be no present at all.

I have read a "Report" on the Island of Ceylon tonight before our Soc. of Inquiry into Missions. I have been quite interested in reading for & writing it. I preached at Brewer Village Sunday & truly Enjoyed it - a thing of rare occurrence with me. Glad Charles is going to see Tuthill. I want him to write all about his mother & home to me. I did not mean Aroostook for "next Summer" as Charles seems to think, but as a final field of labor.

Frank Gilman has written & offered me \$10 from L. Parish in Portland to use for miss purposes. He is afflicted in the insanity of his Sister Ellen. Hattie lives with & takes care of her in Boston. It was caused by a nervous disease & he fears that it is permanent.

But I must now bid you good night.

Tues Evning. If I should have a call to the West or California I should interpret it very favorably. I could not live long laboring in a New E. Climate I am convinced.

But I was going to tell you some things Ella has said. "Do pray that I may be so hid in Christ as to forget self. There is great danger to me when I am happy in Christ, for I am so apt to feel satisfied, that Satan is constantly making evil suggestions. That is one reason why I don't like to lead so much in our (female) meetings - the feeling of being looked up to & depended on, makes me too self-righteous. O I am so miserable, & Jesus is so gracious! I love him all the time lately! When I am alone, I am quite overwhelmed sometimes with thoughts of his condescending love to me! But pray that I may be kept from self-complacency". The underlining is hers. In a letter the day before she says, "I have not told you lately all I have been thinking and feeling because I didn't know how, but I have had such longing for Jesus sometimes! Two or three times within a fortnight I have lain awake at night & it seemed as if I wanted to stretch out my arms & grasp something which I could not reach. I could see my Saviour "afar off" but could not get near. Now He seems to be coming nearer, & at times, my Soul is filled with love & longing. It is not ever present, but I am longing for holiness. I began to have these recurring desires about a fortnight ago. I remembered how when I first read the "Higher Life" I could feel what lively faith was, & I began to think how far I was from "living by faith" & then I prayed for Faith & it was that that I tried to grasp at night. I couldn't get it. The way seemed dark as at first, but it has been growing brighter every day & I begin to feel its sweet influence in my heart already. This memoir (Miss Newton) has helped me much, and the Bible is clearer to me than it used to be. Even those old Testament Chaps, that you & I read daily look in a different light. O how cold I have been! How little my heart has responded to a Saviours love. God grant that I may be "kept" in future!

In another place she says, "I sometimes feel very sad, very. I can't always quite tell the cause, but (she speaks of several causes & then continues). I say they make me feel sad, sick sometimes. I felt so today, and I had to come up stairs in the dark & pray it away, & thank God. He took it away & gave me "trust" instead, and my prayer is that I may never lose sight of his hand in this trial but that I may by it learn to bear meekly & submissively the cross wh. My Father places upon me".

I have written these, to me, very sacred things, Otis, not for my own, nor Ellas, but for your's & Christs sake. It

is very instructive & stimulating to see how He leads the lambs of his flock. Next in interest & importance, as parts of Christian Experience, to Conversion are the stirrings of the Spirit - these revealings of his counte-  
[ Missing page]

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1112 1/24/1860 *From:* John R. Bacon

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1053

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York  
Jany 24 / 60

My dear Howard

I owe you an apology for not before replying to yr note, - but being busy I forgot it.

The balance is of course in my hands. If I were in yr place I think I would put it into Gas stock of the Brooklyn new company. I think you will be sure of 10% there & probably more, but there is no haste to invest it for two months yet as the stock is not yet put out except to get funds to carry on the works. I know all about this company and think it a most excellent investment.

I send you the certificate of yr Insurance stock.

Heard from Nassau recently. All well there.

Make my kind regards to Mrs Howard & believe me

Yrs Truly  
John R. Bacon

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1113 1/28/1860    *From:* O.O. Howard  
1st Lt. Ordnance  
OOH-1054                      West Point, N.Y.

*To:* Judge [Nahum] Morrill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Ink has bled in the paper and is very difficult to read.]

West Point N.Y./ Jan 28 1860

Dear Cousin

I received your letter yesterday and now I am writing what I would do for you in the power less state of my <>. I would now be willing to forward you <> while it <> I don't think it would be so well for you and what I propose for I am in hope with what new terms I offer you may be able in 30 days I wish a final settlement. <>

(Copy)  
West Point, N.Y.  
Jan 28 1860

Judge [Nahum] Morrill  
Dear Sir,

Mr J. H. Otis of Leeds, Me, desires a loan from me of three hundred and fifty dollars in part payment of a debt of his to a Mr Strout of your place. I wish you would do the business for me. I am not willing to let Mr Otis have the money till the present incumbrances on his estate are removed. If Mr Strout will wait till Mr Otis effects the sale of a wood lot (which he contemplates doing as soon as possible), I will then loan Mr Otis the 350 dollars, provided it can be secured by a first mortgage on his real estate. With this understanding if any arrangement can be effected with Mr Strout I will forward you the money, which money I desire you to retain till you have received Mr Otis' note on interest & payable in one year from its date & secured by a first mortgage on his real estate.

I understand that Mr Strout has promised to wait a few days (10 days) to let Mr Otis raise the 350 dollars and that Mr Otis expects the money from his sale in 30 days from the 20th inst so that if Mr Strout will wait the 30 days I should think the matter would be completely adjusted.

Very truly yrs  
O.O. Howard  
1st Lt. Ordnance

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1114 1/31/1860 *From:* N. Morrill

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1055

Lewiston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Lewiston Jany 31 1860

My Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 28th inst is rec'd and contents noticed. I have written to Mr Otis, notifying him of your willingness to loan him the sum of money you name, & requesting him to come here and make such arrangements as will be necessary for your security in case he has the money. As soon as I see Mr Otis, I will confer with Capt Strout also and will endeavor to protect your interests.

I am very much rejoiced to learn of your success in maintaining the prayer meetings you told me about. I think you will find great satisfaction and reward in the efforts you are making for the conversion of the Cadets. I have very often thought of your labors, and I believe they will be owned & blessed by our blessed Master.

I know of no position in which there is a greater demand for persevering christian effort than the one you occupy and I earnestly pray that you may have grace & strength to perform the duties you have assumed. I feel assured you will be doubly blessed. Blessed in giving & receiving. What is sweeter than the calm & holy communion of Christian friends? And what affords no greater and more abundant satisfaction than the faithful performance of Christian duty?

The Young Mens Christian Association in this place has not flourished so well as I had hoped, but still we have had some delightful seasons of prayer, and I think there is a very deep religious feeling in our society & village, and our Sabbath school has increased very much this winter and we hope, when we get into our new church, & have conveniences for social meetings, we shall see a revival of religious interest.

I shall be very glad to hear from you at any time, & shall be happy to communicate such matters of a religious nature as may come to my knowledge. My own soul has been greatly refreshed by Christian intercourse, & I remember with much pleasure our former intercourse, & hope we shall meet again to renew our Christian fellowship.

Be good enough to remember me to Mrs Howard.

I remain very truly & sincerely  
your obliged friend

N. Morrill [Nahum Morrill]

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1115 2/1/1860      *From:* Unknown

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1063

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Feb 1, 1860 written in another hand]

Lieut Howard

Sir

Excuse the liberty which I, a stranger to you, now take in thus addressing you.

Having been told by the wife of our beloved Assistant Bishop Bedell that you were a devoted follower of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ I desire to ask you to unite daily with me in claiming the promise , recorded in Matt 18:19 and plead it in imploring an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the inhabitants of West Point especially the cadets, that they may become soldiers of the cross be strengthened with might in the inner man to fight the good fight of faith.

As a follower of Jesus and surrounded by immortal souls and they removed from under parental care I trust you will unite with me in this petition and present them impertunately and faithfully before a prayer hearing God.

I have a son among the cadets and as a christian mother my heart yearns for his spiritual well-being.

Excuse the liberty I have taken I beseech you and believe me

Very Respectfully yrs  
in the bonds of Christ

[Missing signature]

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1116 2/7/1860

*From:* E Waite

*To:* Lieut. O O Howard

OOH-1062

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Feby 7 1860

Lieut. O O Howard

Dear Sir

Your favor of 15th ult. acknowledging recpt of Bonds was duly recvd. I have since invested the balance \$400 in Bank Stock - Certificate to be given in April. By so doing I get Stock at par - in the International Bank. The Canal & Casco Shares are worth \$6 to 7 dollars premium. Your account is as follows viz,

63 Shares R.R. Stock @ 75	\$4725
50 Bonds @ 86 50/100	4325
4 Shares Bank Stock	400
	4725

I am glad you made the Exchange. I think the Bonds will gradually advance, while the unsecured Stock must depreciate.

Our kind regards to your dear wife and children from

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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1117 2/8/1860

*From:* A.S. Gardiner

*To:* O.O. Howard Esq

OOH-1061

Cold Spring

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Cold Spring, Feby 8th 1860

O.O. Howard Esq  
Dear Friend

Your note reached me yesterday. I am much obliged to you for writing to me concerning poor Lyons. I will take the very earliest opportunity and go down to see him. Meantime should you see him please tell him this.

We held our meetings for prayer agreeably to the plan I mentioned to you and had a most delightful week. And I am glad to say that the meetings have been continued up to this time, not indeed for the world so much as for ourselves. This is now the fifth week since the services commenced and I am pleased to say that they have been greatly blessed. The church has been revived and many have been hopefully converted. Mr Weekes, sh'd you see him, would be able to give you the details.

Your letter reached me yesterday, and it is an interesting fact that your request for prayer had been anticipated. On Sunday a friend handed me a Baptist paper called the "Examiner", which contained an account of the transactions of the Fulton St Prayer Meet'g. Amongst other things there was notice taken of the remarks and prayer made by some gentlemen from the Military Academy at W. Pt. In the remks. Reference was made to the company of cadets, about forty in number, who hold under the conduct of one of their teachers a semi weekly prayer meet'g. This notice I read on Sabbath ev'g to my people and commended your interests to their prayers. I intend to read to them tonight a part of your letter of yesterday and to renew my appeal to them in your behalf. For the prayer of even one righteous man or woman availeth much.

Please remember me kindly to the members of your prayer meeting and ask for my people and myself an interest in their prayers. May the Spirit of the Lord descend ere long upon your entire post and make you all soldiers of Cht.

I should be very glad to see you here. Can you not come over some ev'g while the moonlight continues & share in our exercises?

Yours very truly  
A.S. Gardiner

P.S. Send herewith a half dozen copies of a sermon recently printed, to be disposed of as you may think best. Perhaps the young men of the prayer meet'g could induce their companions to read it.

I send also one copy of a discourse delivered on the last sab. Afternoon of Dec'r last, printed in the "Herald of Youth". I have only one copy left or I wo'd send you more.

May the Lord bless them wherever read.  
ASG

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1118 2/20/1860 *From:* O. Whitman

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1060

North Turner

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Turner Feb. 20. 1860

Dear Sir

I hope you will excuse my remissness in not writing to you before. The stone that I agreed with you for was not put in the grave yard until late last fall or the first of the present winter, don't recollect which. I designed to write you immediately after receiving the stone but it slipped my mind until last night. Probably I should have been more punctual had the money been coming to me rather than going. You should have kept the pay when it was in your hands, as I proposed. I recv'd 20\$ soon after you left rather unexpectedly for I designed to pay you out of it.

It is a general time of health with us and my wife still improves - grows stronger physically and mentally so it raised my courage some to think that she is improving altho very slow does some light work and goes out occasionally a visiting. Last fall she went to Portland and made a visit and returned in good health and spirits.

Feb 26. As I was called off before I finished my letter last Monday and lost the opportunity of sending to the office that morning my wife and I went off on a visiting tour and were caught in a storm of rain that made the road impassable for a few days but at length began enjoying usual health. We had a fine visit, met with an old acquaintance from Minisota Silas Haines and he gave us some wonderful accounts of Spiritual manifestations which I could not credit if I did not know him to be a very honest and intelligent man. I am almost inclined to believe that is something real in the matter. Will you please give me your views on the subject.

It is most time for me to prepare for meeting, so I close. Wife desires to be remembered in love to yourself and family. I enclose fifteen dollars.

Yours Truly

O. Whitman [Oren Benton Whitman, Lizzie's first cousin]

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1119 2/21/1860 *From:* S Perry Lee

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1059

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York 21st February 1860

Dear Otis

I have been thinking every day that I would go up & see you but something in the way of business has detained me so that I can not say positively when I can go. I am thinking of takeing a vessel for the Nassau trade which will be very pleasant as I shall be half the time with Sarah & Frank and I think the business will pay better than any thing else as freight now stand, although shipping business is beginning to improve a little. I feel very unsettled now and shall untill I decide on something to do which I hope will be in a day or two when I will see you at West Point.

I hope Charles got home safe and that his health is no worse from his visit to New York. How is the crossing at West Point. I have not heard any thing from Maine since my return. What news from Leeds. Have you heard anything from Vaughan.

With much love to Lizzie & the children & Charles.

I remain as ever your affectionate Cousin  
S Perry Lee

Tell Charles to write me at Washington Hotel, New York.

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1120 2/26/1860     *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1058

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Feby 26. 1860

My dear brother:

I commenced and even finished a letter to you nearly two weeks ago but I neglected to cary it to the P.O. until it got to be so old that I gave it up. But I will try to answering your letter now and will write Charles ere long. I was glad to get your letter after so long a silence but on that account I suppose it was the more welcome. Much of my spare time is now taken up by the Freshman election which takes place next week. We are pretty sure to get beaten this time as they according to one best counting have a number of men more than we can muster, so we have about concluded to abandon the contest and let them have it. This course will save us much money, time, trouble and bad feeling.

Father is going to Portland next Thursday in company with the other members of the Legislature to visit the "natural seaport of the Canadas" by the special invitation of the city government of Portland. Mother has long been talking of coming down here and make Nettie and Ella a visit and go and see other of our friends in the town.

I called at Mr Sand's a few days since and learned for the first time that Miss Helen was in N.Y. I called at Mrs Gross' a day or two after and Lucy Ann was "out making calls" and Mrs Gross was quite unwell so that I was unable to see her. I saw Mrs Frost a day or two ago. She inquired about you, Lizzie & the children and Charley. Mrs Frost has got over calling me Delli.

The railroad movement has ceased to be talked of so much now as the bill has got through the Legislature in good shape.

You seemed to think it very strange that I do not go to hear Dr. Adams in preference to any one else. I have a great many reasons why I like to go somewhere else and I think it is no wrong if I obey those promptings which my feelings dictate. The first reason is that I don't like to hear Dr Adams preach. His sermons are good but his delivery is hard and uninteresting. I have great difficulty in following the points of his discourse. Frequently, last fall, I have found myself thinking of everything except Dr Adams. The benches are very hard and the Sophomores have stolen all the Freshmen's cushions so that it is hard and tiresome to sit still on them for an hour and a half or longer. The meeting house is a poor one to speak in as the sound is not reflected by the roof. The "sounding board" does those no good who sit in the gallery of the So. Transept as the gallery is nearly as high as the board. The students are usually whispering, laughing and reading up there, which constantly takes one's mind from the preacher, even if he should be a very eloquent man.

I have leave to go to the Baptist, but as there is no meeting at the Baptist and has been none regularly since I had permission to go there, I go over the river to the Cong. Church to hear Mr. Potter whom I like very much, whom I consider very eloquent, and decidedly a devoted Christian man. There we have good seats and the preacher is talking to us not to someone else. Dr. Adams has a congregation whom he preaches to and whom he looks at when he is talking. We in the galery are mere spectators and lookers on. None of it is intended especially for us, as we are not of his congregation. But at other churches the students mingle with and form part of the congregation and feel as if the remarks were intended for us. I never can listen attentively to any man when he is talking back or side toward me in a public speaker or otherwise. I like to have a person look me in the face and then I can pay attention to his remarks.

You wanted to know why I did not go to hear Dr. A. and I have stated a number of reasons - I might more but think I have said enough.

Last Thursday afternoon and evening we had the college fast. The meeting in the vestry was very interesting and there was much interest apparent in the minds of those present. We certainly felt as if the Holy Spirit was truly present there. The meeting was well attended by the students - more than half I should judge were present. On Friday p.m. Dr Anderson, the first Secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, addressed

the pious students of the college in the Senior recitation room upon the subject of Foreign Missions. This morning the meeting of the Praying Circle was very interesting and it seemed as if the Spirit of God was present during the whole time. The meeting was unusually full, there being as many as seventy present. Prof. W. Smyth lectured last evening. It seems as if God was present in all our meetings and we feel very much encouraged.

Fred. Kendall, whom Charles knows, of the Senior class, the "hardest" drinker and it seemed the worst man in college, was converted during vacation & he comes back a reformed man. Fred. Kendall of last fall, poor and lank, looking as if his health was entirely dissipated away is now one of the finest looking men in the Senior class. He has taken a firm stand in the Temperance Society and has infused new energy into its declining and uninteresting meetings. The Temperance men are waking up! This will be good news to Charles. The Freshman election is the only draw back apparently upon the progress of the Spirit of God in our midst. But as our side have about concluded to withdraw from the contest we are in hopes that the excitement which usually attends an election of that character will be avoided.

Nettie has commenced her school with twenty five or thirty scholars and they will pay her well. It is a private school and it will be easier and more lucrative than a town school.

Give my love to Lizzie and the Children. Tell Charles that I will write him as soon as I can. Give my love to him. Write me as soon as you can make it convenient. Pray for me and the college.

Your very affectionate bro,  
R.H. Gilmore

Tuesday morning [Feb 28]. I find my letter still in the drawer but will send it today. Tell Charles that I am thankful for the papers. Our alliance voted last night to give up the election silently and let the other side bring on their men. (The above is for Charles benefit). I will write Charles in regard to the fun we are having in anticipation when it takes place. I may write him before next Saturday when we have our election. I had a letter from Mother last night - no news of general interest. Mother is coming down here next Thursday.

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1121 2/28/1860     *From:* Sarah E. Sargent

*To:* Dear Cousins Otis and  
Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1056

Nassau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Nassau Feb 28th 1860

Dear Cousins Otis and Lizzie

The Alma leaves for N. York in the morning and I shall only have time to write you a hurried note. I have been intending to write you a long letter, ever since our arrival here, but the multiplicity of family cares, prevents my attending to many duties, as I should like to do, and I find it a difficult thing to sit down, and collect any ideas sufficiently for writing until my 3 babies are fast asleep, for like all boys they like to play horsey, and make a great noise.

We were very much disappointed in not being able to visit you before leaving N. York, but we staid so long "down East", that it gave us very little time, and Frank had business to attend to, that could not be neglected. I wanted very much to go to Philadelphia, but we were obliged to forego the pleasure of seeing our friends there too.

We had a delightful visit at Leeds, and I think it seems more like home to me than any other place. Your Mother, & Uncle Ensign were particularly kind to us all, and Mr Sargent became very much attached to them. This was his first acquaintance with them. Your Mother told Frankie so much of Guy & Grace that they have not yet forgotten them, and Frankie often speaks of them, and asks when we are going to see them. I hope they will see each other some time.

I wrote to Charles by the Steamer, last week, and could tell him nothing definite about coming out here. Since then, we have had letters from Inagua, and they want him to come out at once, and certainly insure him \$500 five hundred dollars and may be able to raise more for him, and they will do all they can, to make him comfortable and happy, while he remains among them. It is a very healthy place, and a more pleasant climate than this, as it is never so hot, as here. They are in the direct line of the "trade winds", and always have a good breeze. Mr <Sturnbern>, the Episcopal Clergyman, opened a School, but finds that he cannot attend to so many duties, and has given it up, and they will be very much disappointed if Charles does not come out. I hope he will find the change beneficial. There are not many Scholars, and the school will be an easy one for him, and will not be a very great tax upon his strength. If a vessel should be leaving New York for Inagua direct, it would be the cheapest way for him to go. The passage is \$30.00 in a sailing vessel. It is the same to this place, and we should be very glad to have him come this way, and make us a little visit. Vessels are frequently going from here to Inagua, and the fare is only \$5.00, I think. It is 300 miles from here.

The "Alma", which takes this letter, is the best vessel running between here & N. York and if Charles thinks best to come, it will be a good opportunity for him to return in her. She will remain 10 days or a fortnight in N.Y. She is consigned to Mr Bacon, and he will give you any information you wish.

I suppose you have seen Perry. Poor fellow, he has been so unfortunate. He seemed quite discouraged when he left here. I am afraid it will be a long time before he gets another vessel. I wish he might find some good business on shore to do.

Mr Sargent intended to have written to you today, but he is so full of business that he has not time. They have the cargoes of 4 wrecked vessels to attend to all at once, and he has been half sick for the last fortnight. I am afraid before he gets through with them all, he will be quite sick. He joins me in much love to you both, and kisses for little Guy & Grace. Give our love to Charles, and please tell him the contents of this letter. I thought as you were all together, one letter would answer. I hope he got my letter by the Steamer.

Dear Lizzie I wish you would find time to write to me occasionally. It is such a treat in this far off Island to get letters from friends at home. You cannot tell how I miss my dear Mothers long letters. I miss her much more every day. We have an excellent Photograph of her.

Give much love to all friends at Leeds, and take much love to yourselves. Believe me affectionately your Cousin

Sarah E. Sargent

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1122 2/28/1860     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1057

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
February 28th 1860

Dear Mother,

I was going to write you on the day Charles wrote his last letter, but as he got the start of me, I concluded to put off writing for a few days so that you might not have so many letters at the same time & then have wait long for another batch. The Library gives me some additional duties & thus absorbs some of my time, but I now feel quite free, for I have finished the article on a Military Subject that I had so long in contemplation, and have long ago got through with the lecture on Ambition which I was to deliver at the "Falls".

Chas. just said you had gone to Montville and that you had not returned when his last news left Brunswick and maybe you will not be in Hallowell when this reaches there. You must tell me all about your visit - how is Aunt Fanny & Uncle B [See Note 1], and when did they hear from the Children, if large sized men & women can be called children? I hope you have enjoyed your stay at Hallowell very much & that it has been mutually pleasant for Cousin Henry, Laura & Josie and yourself. I noticed by the paper that Father's boarding place is the Central House Augusta. From this, I suppose he takes his dinner up there.

Charles has been to New York now twice. You probably have had an account of his first visit. He went last Thursday to go & hear the Rev. H. Grattan Guinness preach & to accompany miss Maria Tupper up here. He went, heard Mr G, went to the Opera, attended the Fulton St Prayer Meeting, but brought up Perry Lee instead of Miss Tupper.

Rather fortunately for us, for Guy was taken with his old fashioned intermittent fever while he (Chas.) was gone. This has caused us considerable uneasiness & anxiety, but he is now almost well again. He is running about at play, looks pale & a little reduced in flesh. We think he took a sudden cold & that a derangement of the bowells at the same time helped on the fever. We have reason to be very thankful to God that we have been blessed with health & so many of his bounties & that He has so cared for us as to raise up our little boy again. May we never forget to recognize this hand in such benefits & blessings.

I must tell you something about a transaction of mine with John Otis. I fear you & Father will hardly approve of it. John wrote me that in a few days he should lose his farm & everything, for he could not raise the wherewithal to meet his obligation at Auburn, and said he applied to me as a last resort. After some correspondence with John on the subject, I wrote to Judge Morrill and asked him to do the business for me, told him I would let J.H. Otis have 350 dollars, provided he gave me his note due in one year, secured by a first mortgage on his real estate. This would necessitate John to raise money enough besides mine to clear his estate from mortgages before he could execute one in my favor. He has not yet done so, but I heard from Judge M the other day that he told Judge Morrill he should be able to give me the desired mortgage in a few days.

We have changed all our Atlantic Stock into Bonds & Bank Stock and I feel a little safer in that quarter than I did. Tell father I am very glad to see the A.R.R. having such fine prospects, from Gardiner & Bath & not the least desirable part is to be free from the pestering of the other road. I hope father is very well & endures the honor of office without detriment to peace & comfort.

The children count much on their visit & talk of Grandma & Grandpa much. Give my love to all. I hope Vaughan is better. Tell him to brace up cheerfully & look to God for help.

Good by. This must go to the office.

Affectly your son  
Otis

Father's paper came today. Chas is quite well.

[Note 1. This is probably a reference to Eliza Otis Gilmore's sister, Fanny Otis and her second husband, Jonathan Bartlett.]

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1123 3/13/1860     *From:* M.H. Wright

*To:* My Dear Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1064

Saint Louis Arsenal  
Saint Louis, Mo.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Saint Louis Arsenal  
Saint Louis, Mo.  
Mch. 13, 1860

My Dear Friend:

I will not fill this page with gloomy sayings, nor portray a dark future for myself, saddened as has been my heart, since last I met you, in the full enjoyment of the blessings of this Life, & gladdened by pleasant anticipations of the future.

I will only mention, with a grieved Spirit, that the heaviest of afflictions has fallen upon me, & my Dear Brother & Sister. The Loss of a devoted, loving, Christian Father, can only be fully appreciated, by those, whose lot it has been, to realize the Same misfortune. In earlier days, our Sainted Mother was called to her long home, away from the sorrows & sin of this world below, to a Heaven beyond the Skies. Now, at a later day, our Dear Father has been taken.

That both died in the full triumphs of a saving faith, is such consolation as if offered by a happy reliance a blessed Redeemer & such as would bid us, wipe away the tear of sorrow. But we would not forget their sweet names, nor cease to cherish the warmest love & affection for their holy characters. We would not be heedless of their kind remonstrances, nor forget their tender watchings over us, all through our lives. We would listen to their gentle callings, & give ear to their wise counsels.

But can we, can we, feel otherwise, than sad & lonely? We would cheerfully say - "all is well". "All that Thou doest, is for our good." But we hear not the kind morning Salutation, nor receive the happy "good-night". "The Lord bless you" - as we leave the family room, to seek rest for our weary bodies. At morn, the eye is bedimmed with tears. At night, no gleeful laugh betokens the gladness of our hearts. But we will not murmur, for we do have a hope in Christ. We know that our Redeemer liveth, & that our Dear Parents, are happy with Him in Heaven.

You may have noticed my transfer, to this Station. Having been here but a short time, I cannot say, how I will be pleased. I find the Place a very handsome one, & very pleasantly situated on the Mississippi River. I expect I'll find it quite lonesome, there being no young officer here with me. Maj. Bell has been very kind to me.

I inclose herewith, a letter from Tannatt, which I should have done, previous to leaving Troy, but, as it came only a day or two previous to the sad news which summoned me home, I neglected it.

I hope to hear from you often, though I fear I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you as I had anticipated, while at Troy.

Give my love to Mrs H & to yr Bro & kiss dear little Guy & Gracy. I hope they have not forgotten me. Remember me to Sockett & wife, Prof F & f, &c &c.

May the Lord keep you all fr. every harm.

Most truly,  
M.H. Wright

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1124 3/16/1860 *From:* E.D.G. Prime

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1065

N.Y. Observer Office

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N.Y. Observer Office March 16 1860

My dear Sir,

Your notes were both duly received. The article which you enclosed has not altogether declined but laid aside owing to the press of matter which we had on hand requiring more immediate insertion. On looking it over again I find it to have more exclusively local interest in the Western Coast than I supposed & as few of our papers reach there I conclude to return it to you with our thanks for your kindness in forwarding it.

Presuming upon the interest in the cause of religion especially in the army which your letters express I take the liberty of saying to you that we received a few days since a communication from a correspondent at the South stating that in a circle with which he was connected there had been a discussion of the influence of a military education upon the religious character & making inquiry whether any revival had ever occurred at any of our Military Academies & whether any of the graduates of the institutions had entered the gospel ministry. I know that while the present excellent Bishop McIlvaine of Ohio was Chaplain at West Point there was some very special religious interest among the cadets & several hopeful conversions.

I know too that several eminent & excellent ministers were formerly connected with the Academy but I have not the means of giving specific information. If it is in your power to gather any facts of such interest in connection with Bishop McIlvaines Chaplaincy or in any other connection & which would interest those connected with the army as well as all others who love the cause of Christ I should be obliged to you if you would communicate them to me for publication if consistent with your convenience & your own feelings.

Very truly & respectfully yours  
E.D.G. Prime [Edward Dorr Griffin Prime]  
Ed. N.Y. Observer

I have prefaced a short editorial article giving the substance of the letter from your friend in the Pacific Christian Advocate & making an extract from his letter which will be in the next Observer.

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1125 3/17/1860    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1066

Skowhegan

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Skowhegan Mch 17 '60

My dear Brother

Charles must wait his turn. His letter came last & I will write him next.

I preach here tomorrow & return to Bangor Monday. I was away Tues. Wed. & Thurs. on a visit to Bath & Hallowell. My Audience here was small last Sabbath but the notice was imperfect. The hall will be full tomorrow & may the Lord help me to declare his truth with faithfulness. I am going around among the people some, but I don't want them to set their hearts upon me as Providence seems to forbid my coming here. This is one of the beautiful & picturesque villages I ever saw & the terminus of the R.R. & a very thriving place.

We have a little church here who are very poor generally but good. I have a nice boarding place at Hon. Dea. Esq. Judge Bells. He is by no means so formidable a man as his title would indicate - being a little good natured inoffensive Lawyer. The family are all pious.

I found Ella at home & in better health than usual. Albert had just returned from Sea. He had a terrible passage from Liverpool to Philadelphia. He starts for his ship at P again Monday. He is a stout, stern looking fellow, but has very affectionate & tender feelings. The mate died the last voyage & he is now 1st mate of the "Roswell Sprague". Lizzie is still in Portland at the U.S. Hotel, trying to be tortured into health by Dr Fitch. Ella is going Monday to stay a week with her. She has been alone for some time.

I found Mother at Laura Anns. She (Mother) is not very well this winter. They expect to get home next week. She is in hopes to obtain the girl from N.Y. who was with Mrs Sargent last Summer & has written her. Henry & Father are as hard towards religion as ever & Laura as kind & thoughtful. Mother enjoyed her visit to Bath & Brunswick very much. Vaughan is quite feeble. I drove him out to Augusta & back. He is willing to listen & to talk about his Soul & a future State, but laments his indifference in view of the truth. Let us pray for the Spirit. That alone can show him his need of Christ. I said all I could. He seems to hope that there is no Hell.

Mr Stinchfield is very attentive to Aunt Ellen. Will Grant has an appointment at Sutter to some posts in Arizonia, & as the troops are concentrating there he hopes to make money. He thinks of <leaving> Maine for good.

At Bath I gave a Lecture for Mr Fiske who was unwell & at H. Enjoyed one of our old prayer meetings in the old place very much. I wish that John (Otis) <could> have complied with your terms. You are certainly under obligation to your family to demand good Security. I think he had better sell his farm, & if his <health> is sufficient, take up one in Aroostook. It would be hard for Helen, but for her good perhaps. I do wish poor Laura could be left in peace & the Enjoyment of her own simple pleasures & pursuits.

Bangor Mch. 20th

I have not seen an opportunity till now to finish my letter. I returned Mon. Night. I enjoyed unusual "liberty" Sunday Afternoon & there is manifest a tender & prayerful spirit in the little Church to wh. I have been ministering. Gen. Stevens has just been in & inquired for you kindly. Mr Maltby is sick & he wishes me to preach for them some. I may when my present engagements are closed. I have already preached there - (Hammond St.) twice.

Intimations had been given me that they would like to have me in Brewer, but nothing official. It would be pleasant to be so near Bangor on Charles' acct. I hope however that he wont mention it so as to reach Maine, as no one in the Seminary knows of the talk yet. I preach at Lincoln next Sabbath, supplying Island Falls by exchange. The next three Sabbaths I expect to spend at St. Stephens N.B. unless I can get released from an engagement wh. a classmate made there for me.

I am always interested to hear of your experience & of your meetings. The Supt. does not know how much you

have "accomplished."

The Day of Judgment will reveal it all. God sees all & never forgets. I want to ask you a question. Should you be soon Ordered away from West Point, would that be any inducement to you to resign? Charles speaks as if he would stay till your furlough. It would be a great comfort for Mother to have him, but his own highest good is to be consulted first of course. Tell Guy that Uncle Rowland is very sorry to hear that he was sick. He would like to see those "tools" he hears so much about. Give him a kiss & ask him if he would be willing to come & live a while with Uncle R & Auntie Ella, by & by.

Rev Dr Tappan & Mr Webb inquired particularly for you when I was at Augusta. Mrs Blaine has her third child, a few days old. Cousin Lydia is still quite unwell. They are to move to Milford - 14 miles above as soon as she is able.

The A.R.R. is more embarrassed than ever. The Bath movement has aroused the Portland people & the present management is bankrupt, & the "coupons" unpaid. It may soon pass into the hands of the Bondholders. Anyway, Father gets nothing.

Give my best love to the ladies of the family Mrs Lizzie & Miss Grace & you & Charles may take all thats left over.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Direct to Bangor as usual. Chas' classmate Sam King is teaching at Kendalls Mills - Assistant in a boarding School. I saw Dellie at Bruns. He looks pretty thin & pale but said he was well.

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1126 3/24/1860     *From:* [Thomas] Tannatt     *To:* Dear Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-1067

Manchester Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Manchester Mass

March 24, 1860

Dear Friend Howard

Your most excellent letter reached me yesterday. Your kindness is apparent in every line, and I know you will be glad to hear that my health is so much restored that I will apply for orders to join my company the 1st of next month when I intend returning to N.Y. and if possible I shall spend the following Sabbath at West Point being most anxious to see you all before going to Randall. I regret to hear that any of our dear friends are under affliction.

At times I get discouraged but how much should I rejoice for renewed vigor of body, & I pray the love of Christ may grow in me with returning health.

Your labors in the little prayer meeting must yet result in adding stars to your crown of rejoicing, the promises of God being ever sure. Poor Wright has severely felt his Saviors hand in the removal of his loving pious parent, yet I fear not for him when he can see the hand that dealt the blow.

You know my ideas of army life and nothing now keeps me where I am but a sense of indebtedness to the government, although my heart shrinks from the prospect before me. My health, promotion and all seem to say "you are out of the path of duty", yet I am unwilling to leave with my health impaired and will go to my company and do my best.

You must remember me to Mr & Mrs F. & Clara with an assurance of my love and esteem. You shall see me & then we will commune as of old. I need and desire your prayers so weak am I in the power of Christs love.

May God bless you Howard, in answer to my poor cold petitions.

Yours in the Saviour

Tannatt [Thomas R Tannatt, USMA Class of 1858]

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1127 3/27/1860     *From:* O.A. Mack

*To:* Dear Friend [OO Howard]

OOH-1068

Clifton Springs,  
Ontario Co. N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Clifton Springs,  
Ontario Co. N.Y.  
March 27th 1860.

My Dear Friend:

Without apology or circumlocution I proceed to open the way for a correspondence which I fully believe may, thro' God's assistance, prove mutually instructive & strengthening to us in running th race that is set before us. You have for some years been fighting under the banner of the Lord Jesus - you are now in the midst of the enemy's camp, where you have had to combat single handed, and perhaps still do. You have stood up for Jesus among scoffers and the ungodly, have endured neglect & reproach for his sake - now I want to know how it is with you today - if God has blessed your endeavors, strengthened your hands, and made bold your heart?

Since I saw you in the fall of 1858, when you told me of your labors at West Point, and of their then apparent unfruitfulness, I have often conversed about you, & the glorious cause in which you are engaged, with my wife, and she has taken a deep interest in your welfare, and often expressed a desire to hear how you prospered. There are so very few officers of the army who labor openly for our Blessed Saviour that she thinks they need the special interest & prayers of their friends in Christ to sustain & encourage them in the good work. She has read of Vicars, & Hammond, & Havelock in the English Service, and the knowledge of their eminent piety & large spheres of usefulness has convinced her that there are really no insuperable obstacles in the profession of arms to a truly Christian life, and has encouraged her to hope that our own Service may be adorned with bright & shining lights in the Christian cause.

You know I was anxious to be placed on duty at the Mil. Academy at the time I saw you last. I have had occasion to thank God since, that I was not for, besides the feebleness of my health which I soon afterwards found would not have permitted me to follow that kind of life, I was placed in a sphere of duty & surrounded by influences of such a nature that I was speedily brought to a closer contemplation of the Divine Goodness and Wisdom and Mercy, and to feel a deeper love myself for my Redeemer, and a stronger desire to lay hold of his precious promises and make my calling & election sure. I had already been confirmed in the Epis. Church. I took charge of a class of young men in the Sunday School of my church and very soon became very much interested in their welfare & spiritual progress. We had a large & intelligent Bible Class in our Church also, and I became an active member of it, and devoted much time to the study of the Scriptures. These duties seemed to increase my knowledge of the Bible, and, almost as a natural consequence, to increase my faith & zeal in the doctrines of the Christian religion.

In the spring of last year my health was so poor that I was induced to try the Water Cure treatment as practiced at this Institution. There is at this place a strong religious influence, and while I have been benefitted my bodily infirmities, I feel that I have also grown in the knowledge & the love of God. I have met some lovely Christian characters during my sojourn here, and I have deemed it a rare & special privilege to enjoy their society.

My health is now so much improved that I feel justified in rejoining my Regiment soon. I think now that I shall start for my post, Fort Randall, Nebraska, sometime in May. I feel that I am going where my Christianity will be tried, where I will receive rebuffs instead of encouragements, temptations instead of examples, and a total absence of religious influences instead of the holy associations I have enjoyed so long. May I therefore ask you, my friend, to write to me & give me your experience, and such suggestions as you may deem suitable to my situation & prospects.

I need not assure you that both my wife and my self count largely upon your words to comfort & strengthen us, and that we earnestly pray that you may long be spared to labor effectively in the Lord's vineyard.

Give my kind regards to your wife, and believe me your sincere friend.  
O.A. Mack



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1128 3/30/1860 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-1069

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland March 30 1860

Lieut O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

Your favor of 27 enclosing coupons for interest on Rail Road Bonds, is recvd. I will attend to collecting and forward the amt also dividend on Bank Stock all of which will be due next week. Shall then also get certificate of four shares Bank Stock. I am aware that Rail Road Stock give more interest at present than Bonds, but Shares are precarious & may fail, while the Bonds in a few years will be worth par value.

On the Subject of Religion there is no new interest with us, but good attention is still manifested on the subject.

We are all enjoying comfortable health. Susie & her husband are with us. All join in sending much love to yourself & family.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

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1129 3/31/1860

*From:* Charles C Lee

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1070

N. C. Mil. Institute  
Charlotte, N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N. C. Mil. Institute  
Charlotte, N.C. March 31st 1860

Dear Howard:

Your kind letter was received some time ago, and one thing and another has caused me to put off replying to it until the present time. We are all quite well, and send our love to you, and yours. Little Annie is getting to be quite a large girl now, and her Sister Eula is progressing quite rapidly.

I have not written to Lieut. Roberts for the Board of Directors have not given me any specific directions to write, and I am waiting to hear from them. The two vacant chairs of which I spoke, have been filled, but next October in all probability we shall want another to fill the chair of Engineering, and for this Lieut. Roberts is most eminently fitted, having filled such a place as an Engineer officer in the U.S. service for three years.

I like my post very well, though as Commandant I have rather more to do than most, and some of the discipline is unpleasant at times. Everything for the last two months has gone on quite smoothly, and I hope and believe we are succeeding to raise the moral tone of the Corps much higher than it usually is even in Military Institutions, and therefore we hope we shall have little difficulty in the future; but as the Maj. (Maj. Hill) says, "boys are the most uncertain things in the world", and there is no telling how long we may remain successful.

Give our love to Mrs. H & children.

Charlotte is quite pleasantly situated, though the want of a stream of any size near at hand seems like a defect in the original selection of the site. We have now about 130 Cadets, of whom 105 are boarders in the Institute, the rest day schollars. All are subject to Mil. Discipline.

Excuse more as 'tis just parade time.

Your friend  
Charles C Lee

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1130 3/31/1860    *From:* Blanche Berard

*To:* My dear friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1071

1433 Filbert St  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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1433 Filbert St  
Philadelphia  
Sat. Evening, March 31st 1860

My dear friend

I intend sending you with this note a pamphlet containing an account of The Work of God in Phil'ia. I am sure it will interest you deeply and when you have done all the good you wish with it at West Point will you be so kind as to send it to Mr Robert. I dare say, if you have not his address, my Mother or Sisters can give it you. It is the most interesting account I ever met with, concerning any work of this nature.

I have not yet procured a copy of BJ Potter's Drinking Usages of Society but will try to remember to do so.

If you have time will your write me a little about Nancy J Rose's death. Dear child! It was a sad and sudden piece of intelligence to me. If, as I fondly trust, she fell asleep in Jesus it will be no longer sad. Was she able to speak with you? And did she give any evidence of love to the Savior? She was a dear attentive child in her class and perhaps, having a retiring reserved disposition may have had a deeper <strain> experience than we know of. Will you express to Mrs Rose my sympathy and tell her I earnestly pray that God may bless and sanctify this affliction to her own spiritual good.

Have you been to N.Y. and heard Mr Guinness? I often think of you when attending the various means of grace with which this City is blessed.

I intend in the course of three weeks to send you two capital articles by Dr V, on the "Lay Ministry of the Word." They will I am sure encourage your heart. Meanwhile be strong in the Lord & in the power of His might. God bless you, Mrs Howard, and the dear children. To all I send love.

Ever yr attached friend  
Blanche Berard

Maria and her lovely little family are all well.

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1131 4/3/1860

*From:* EDG Prime

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1072

N.Y. Observer Office

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N.Y. Observer Office

April 3d 1860

My dear Sir

Please accept my thanks (& you will certainly have those of our readers) for your very interesting & valuable letter which will appear in this weeks Observer. It contains a great amount of information which will encourage the hearts of Christians & which I trust will lead to more earnest prayer on behalf of those who are called to bear arms in defence of our common country. The information too relates to a class of which little is known of a religious character among christians generally.

As you did not expressly authorize the publication of your letter in full I have omitted the initials but published the letter entire.

I will forward you several copies.

Yours very truly

EDG Prime

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1132 4/6/1860

*From:* E Waite

*To:* Lieut OO Howard

OOH-1073

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland April 6 1860

Lieut OO Howard

Dear Sir

I now enclose you the Cashiers Check of Canal Bank on the Bank of New York for two hundred twenty two dollars being Amt. of dividend, due your good Wife on Rail Road Bonds and Bank Stock. I expected to have Sent you with this the Certificate of 4 shares of Bank Stock, which I purchased long ago as I before advised you, but the Cashier being unwell and not at the Bank, the certificates were not ready to day, but they will draw interest all the Same. Shall undoubtedly get the certificate to forward you 1st of the week perhaps tomorrow.

Love to all

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

Bonds 150

Casco 44

Canal 28

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\$222

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1133 4/7/1860

*From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1074a

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland April 7 1860

Lieut O O Howard

Dear Sir

I wrote you yesterday enclosing Check on Bank of New York for \$222. I was not then sure of getting the Certificate of Stock which I now enclose. I paid for this long time ago so as get it at original cost. I could not get it in Casco or Canal at any price. Should you prefer the Cash I think it will readily Sell at a small advance. I have taken some stock in the same Bank and consider it as Good as any Bank in the City.

Please acknowledge Recpt and Oblige

Love to all from

Your Affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

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1134 4/21/1860    *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1074b

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Aprill 21/60

Lieut O O Howard

Dear Sir

On the 6 inst I enclosed a Check for 222 on the bank of New York, directed to you. Also on 7th I enclosed certificates for 4 Shares Bank Stock.

Please inform me if the Same have been recvd.

In haste

Yours truly  
E Waite

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1135 4/21/1860 *From:* Perry [Lee]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1075

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York April 21 [1860]

Dear Otis

I received your Card on my return to New York and was sorry not to have seen you or Lizzie but I did not get back as soon as I expected and since then have been very busy getting the Lucy-Darling ready for sea or I should have been up to see you. I go this evening to Boston and shall be back Tuesday morning and shall sail about the 1st of May for Nassau. I should like much to have Charles go out with me but think with you it is rather late in the season for him to enjoy the trip or to benefit his health as it will be very warm in Nassau when I am there.

I got a letter from Sarah yesterday. She said she hoped Charles would come out and visit them but thought they would not want a teacher at Inagua for less than a year.

With much love to Lizzie and the children and Charles, I remain your affectionate Cousin  
Perry

PS tell Miss Gray I will not be able to make that visit to Pokepsie this trip but I will try and spend one night with you before I sail.

Perry

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1136 4/30/1860     *From:* O.B. Hazard

*To:* Dear Cousin Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1076

East Cambridge

*Source:* Bowdoin

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East Cambridge Apl 30th [1860]

Dear Cousin Otis

I hope you will excuse me for this intrusion when I say to you I have been thinking for some time writing you and enquiring for your brother Charles Henry who I suppose has been spending the winter with you, (but do not know certainly) and desire you to give him my respects and say to him when he returns to Maine I wish him to come and spend some time with me on his return, which would give him an opportunity of seeing and hearing whatever might be of interest to him. How is his health? I have not had a word from your Mother or Uncle Ensign for a long time.

Please write me all you may know of our Maine friends. I have written Laura Ann [See Note 1] but have had no answer. I have had a letter recently from Martha Jane, Fenderson, Warren and Martha Martin, also one from Perry Lee, Addison Martin and Mr Sargent and Sarah. All of the above mentioned were well together with their families. Perry Lee was here to see us a week since. He appeared courageous and energetic notwithstanding his ill fortune.

My family are all well. Oliver remains in the same drug store where he has been for so long a time. Rodman with his Father, Lester goes to school &c [See Note 2]. I suppose Guy has got to be quite big in size and mind for I hear you are a model Father. No doubt you have more time to devote to the interest of your children than most of Parents. Your little girl I have never seen but hope when you visit Maine with your family you will take the trouble to come and spend some time with me. I should enjoy a visit from you and would endeavour to do all in my power to make it agreeable to yourself and wife to whom give my best respects and kiss the children for me. ( I would like to do it better myself however.)

Now to come to the point. I have moved, a short distance from where I lived when you were here. We have a large convenient and airy house, plenty of room to make you and all your family comfortable without inconvenience if you will take the trouble to come and see us.

I will give you directions that you may have no trouble in finding us upon your arrival in Boston. Take a carriage to the Revere house from which the cars start every ten minutes for East Cambridge. Get into the cars and say to the conductor where you wish to stop and he will leave you at our door, it being the second Brick house from the Cor. of Otis and Third Sts. Our name is on the door. You cannot have any trouble in finding us. Leave your Baggage left at the Revere house and we can send for it.

Remember me affectionately to Charles if he is with you and if not with you when you write him, please forward my wishes and also my directions and oblige

Yours affectionately

O.B. Hazard [Olive B. (Woodman) Hazard]

PS we have a fine play-ground for children in front of the house.

[Note 1. These are all relatives. Cousin Laura Ann (Leadbetter) Wingate. Aunt Martha Jane (Otis) Strickland. Brothers Ivory Fenderson and Col. Ephraim Warren Woodman. Cousins Martha and Addison Martin. Cousins Perry Lee, Sarah (Lee) Sargent and Mr Frank Sargent.]

[Note 2. Olive and her husband Samuel had three sons, Oliver Woodman (b. Jan. 10, 1841), Thomas Rodman (b. Apr, 1843) and Samuel Lester Jr. (b Sep. 23, 1854).]

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1137 5/14/1860 *From:* O.A. Mack

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1078

Oswego N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Oswego N.Y.  
May 14th 1860

Dear Howard:

Your letter of April 2nd reached me at Clifton on the 6th of that month. The perusal of that letter afforded me a great deal of comfort. I felt sure, all along, that you were growing in grace & still striving to redeem souls from the bondage of sin - yet it was a great satisfaction to read from your own pen, your testimony of the graciousness & loving kindness of the Lord Jesus, and of the triumphs made in his cause through your instrumentality. And there is one good work begun & continued under your endeavors which rejoices me very, very, much, and which I pray may long be kept up. I mean the social prayer meetings you have organized & conducted among the Cadets.

How vivid is my recollection of the total absence of religious sentiment, or influence, in the Corps of Cadets during the whole of my tour at the Mil. Academy or the levity with which religious topics were always discussed - of the cruel criticisms to which all Christians were subjected who had any thing to do with the Cadets, and of the gross profanity & vulgarity & dissipation which prevailed almost universally throughout the Corps. It has often occupied my thoughts, since I have been led to contemplate the sinfulness of my own life & the great need I have of an Advocate with the Father, how those young men - those cadets who many of them come from pious families & who are religiously inclined, and some already open professors of Christ, are to be preserved from contamination, and kept from being drawn into the terrible vortex of Sin which is yearly burying so many young men of otherwise fair promise.

I have felt that the efforts of the Chaplain, as exerted in my time, were futile & vain - his most touching appeals being turned into ridicule - and his weaknesses as a man being placed as offsets to the piety of his heart - and that some other channel of communication with the hearts of the Cadets must be opened before any progress could be made in the right direction. That channel, I am sure, is the one you have opened - is the prayer meetings you now hold with the young men. God will bless you in this work - and you will have the assistance of the prayers of many friends interceding Him to pour his Holy Spirit upon you, and make you an instrument in his hands of carrying the conviction of sin and the way of deliverance therefrom into the hearts of these young men. I pray God to raise up some worthy disciple to take your place during your summer furlough, that the fire which you have kindled may not be allowed to die out, but go on burning brighter & brighter & shedding its blessed light further & further into the moral darkness which surrounds it.

The Christian sympathy which you extend to me is, my dear friend, most gratefully received, and I trust I may continue to receive advice & encouragement from you. I am very glad to find that Mr Tannatt is to be at my post. I trust we shall be found fellow workers in our common Master's cause. I shall endeavor to see Lt. Wright, if I make any stop in St Louis. I desire to make the acquaintance of officers of the army who are earnest working Christians. There are many professors of religion, but few working Christians. I want to be one of the latter. I can be one any where, but where I am going, I think I shall have a wide field to work in, and if I am only faithful I shall, I know, do good, but I am weak - I lack moral courage - I need your prayers - I need strength from above. I have thought over the matter prayerfully. I am convinced every thing depends almost, upon the way I start out. If I take a right stand at first I shall get along, but if I knuckle to sin, hesitate to show my colors, and thereby deny my Lord & Master - why my influence for good is gone and my profession of religion will only bring reproach upon the cause of Christ. O, my dear friend, pray for me, that I may be delivered from this fate - pray that I may have faith to rely implicitly on the promises of the Blessed Jesus and place my whole trust & confidence in his Mercy.

I expect to start for my post on the 22nd. My address will be Fort Randall N. T. Via Sioux City Iowa.

My wife joins me in the kindest regards for yourself, family and you are ever remembered in our prayers.

Yours Sincerely,  
O.A. Mack



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1138 5/14/1860    *From:* Edw. Y. Buchanan    *To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-1079

Oxford Church  
Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Oxford Church  
Phila, May 14 '60

My Dear Sir,

From a letter, lately rec'd from my son Edward at West Point, I perceive that he is under considerable apprehension that he may be found deficient in Mathematics at the approaching examination. And he writes as if his apprehensions had arisen, in part, from some thing which had been said to him by one of his Instructors; though he does not say which of them. Will you do me the favor of informing me candidly whether, in your opinion, there is much, if any, danger of his not passing the examination?

I take the liberty of writing to you for this information, on account of your name having been more than once mentioned by Edward as a person who seemed to be interested in him; a fact for which I am very grateful.

Very Respectfully & Truly Yours,  
Edw. Y. Buchanan

Lieut. Howard

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1139 5/15/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1077

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor May 15, 1860

My dear Brother Otis

I received your & Chas' letters with the acct. of your Philadelphia visit the last of last week. You had a delightful time & I would have enjoyed being with you very much. The good news from Dr Wheaton & Lt Mack cheered me exceedingly. We are here having a great drouth in both the natural & spiritual world & a single drop refreshes my thirsty soul.

My own mind is occupied a good deal with the question of where I ought to settle. Pray for me that I may decide this unselfishly. Our long engagement seems to me to make it my duty to Ella, as well as for other reasons, that we should be married before long & that question is <involved> in the one where I ought to go. I have been invited into a promising Aroostook field, to Turner & to Brewer, and it has been intimated to me that they would like me at the new Ch. In Yarmouth, where I have preached two Sabbaths & also in Skowhegan & next Sab. I expect to go to Farmington, to preach as a candidate. The two first fields I have declined chiefly on acct. of my wife. Brewer, I expect to decline when visited upon this evening by a Com. As I understand they cannot raise but 700 Salary & I don't believe I could keep out of debt with that there, tho' I might in many other places. The natural beauty & healthiness of Farmington attract me, but the Church is small & their means limited. At Yarmouth they would pay 9 or 1000 but you know the place somewhat. May the Lord guide me in these things.

As I came home from Y. Last Monday, I took a freight train & so had a few hours to spend with Ella. She was well, but Lizzie is at home from Portland, no better after all Dr Fitch's tortures & Mrs Patten was sick with a lame back.

I saw Dellie Sat. He is well, but feels as if the religious interest in Coll. Had somewhat subsided. Dellie tries me a little by his disposition to "swell" & "talk large" about his brothers, especially in regard to my place of labor. I have coaxed & scolded & prayed for him till I am pretty much in despair about him & must let "nature work". The Leopard does not change his spots & there's no use talking & writing to Dellie. He will look at things in false colors & feel & speak in a manner unbecoming a humble follower of Jesus.

Thurs. May 17.

Mr Maltby, Pastor of Hammond St. Church, whom you remember died very suddenly in Worcester Mass. He had been away from Bangor a little over a week. He was one of the hardest laborers in the Vineyard that I ever knew. I could see him "a ripening" ever since I've known him. His Church over wh. He has been over 25 years mourn for him sincerely. They had a solemn meeting last night - may be in his death <they> more than in his life.

Capt Lincoln Patten, wife & one child have gone a 10 mos. Voyage round Cape Horn. Ella's brother Albert is mate of the Ship (Washington).

I hope to get a glimpse of Father at the Depot in Leeds next Sat. I called on Gen & Mrs Stevens yesterday & gave them your message. Gen S. was much interested in your Phil. Letter.

What do you mean by "the fund". Is it that wh. You set apart for charitable purposes? If so I feel guilty of robbing Gods Treasury. I expected to pay you the debt during the first year of my settlement, & while I feel under deep obligation to you & Lizzie in this matter I would a little rather pay it, than that it should be cancelled as above.

Tell Charles I saw his friend Dresser in the cars. He seems well & was glad to hear from C. I read him his last letter. Quite a no. of Chas' old acquaintances in Yarmouth inquire for him - Mrs True, Mr Humphrey, Alf Mitchell & others. The last mentioned has become an "Adventist". I had no conversation with him, but he only came to hear me once. My spirit is generally refreshed & strengthened by my Sabbath labors, but Monday is always a

day temptation, as it is of relaxation.

I saw Henry Emmons & heard from Vaughan. They think him failing gradually. I am very glad that Maria can come to see him once more.

I called a few moments on Helen Lands but hadn't time to visit Nettie. Helen said every moment was happily passed at West Pt.

The three places run in my mind are Yarmouth & Skowhegan & Farmington. But please do not write this to Maine. I may not receive a "call" from the 1st & last & if I do from the last, they may not be able to make out an adequate support. But I try & mostly succeed in leaving all these things to an Overruling Providence.

Sometimes between two lines of duty the case seems evenly balanced. I will be glad to see Lizzie at Bangor. Love to her & Guy & Grace & Charles.

Yr. Aff. Bro.  
Rowland

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1140 6/4/1860

*From:* William H Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1083

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Phila June 4 / 60

My dear Otis

Your kind note is just at hand and I hasten to apprise you of our movements. The original programme as to W.P. will be adhered to, and your cordial invitation thankfully accepted. The only change from our original plan is that I have decided to go on all the way with Maria and I am (which will enable us to pay Wm Vaughan a visit at Cambridge) and to remain at Hallowell while Maria is there. - in plain English cut the "shop" for a month - a thing I have not done but once since I was married and that was 4 years ago.

As to that letter, I am partly to blame & owe an apology therefore. Maria did look in her pockets for it the day after you left but, not finding it supposed you had received it. When it was found it remained buried in the depths of my pocket, for several days before discovered. I hope there was no harm done.

With respects to your wife I am  
Yrs Very Truly  
WHM [William H Merrick]

I have my letter signed &c & don't know after all whether you are any the wiser there for.

Know then that DV, we will start on Saturday next, at 9oc & go up to W.P. in the 3oc Boat, remain with you until Wednesday or Thursday & go on to Boston & out to Cambridge to spend the next Saturday.

Yr W

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1141 6/6/1860

*From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* My Dear Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1081

Saint Louis Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Saint Louis Arsenal  
June 6 1860

My Dear Friend:

Your kind letter, & the papers sent also, have been duly recd. I regret to say that your favor addressed to me at Huntingdon, never reached its proper destination.

I am rejoiced to see that your part in the Lord's cause has not diminished, & that you still find the service of Christ so pleasant & delightful.

Would that I could have that entire devotion to my Savior & His will, that I know characterises you, & enables you to stand so steadfast, against every obstacle, maintaining & defending the Christian's hope. The more I contemplate & realize the goodness of God, His great mercy & long forbearance, the more I feel my utter unworthiness - the more I appreciate the total depravity of the human heart.

May the Lord give us that grace which is sufficient unto all things. May a simple & childlike faith lead us ever to look to Him & Him alone for aid & succor. May we grow in grace & the knowledge of the Saviour, & may we dedicate ourselves anew to His cause daily, & consecrate our lives for the attainment of the chief object of life.

I had not the pleasure of seeing the gentleman to whom you alluded - nor have I noticed his arrival at any of the Hotels. As I am not much at town, it would be very natural for him to escape me, unless he should call at the Arsenal.

I have just united with the Church at this Place, by <letter>. Although my stay may be very short, I thought it best so to do. Knowing my own weakness, I felt certain that I dare not have a single cord unstrung, that would tend to preserve me from temptation, & from falling into sin. I pray that God may sustain me, & that nought but pure motives may influence my actions.

I do not know how matters will yet be arranged. You may have noticed the Bill for removing this Arsenal. Well as it stands, it virtually does away with it, in as much as no provisions are made for any new structures. The provisions made by the 2d Sec. of 1st bill, for a National Armory &c, at Jif. Bar'ks, having been struck out.

I was pained at the news with regard to certain friends who once associated so pleasantly with us in the prayer meeting, & humbly pray, that yet they may see the error of their ways, & turn to Jesus, & follow Him, in deed & in truth.

Soon you will leave the Point for a Season. May Heaven's blessings attend you & yours, as you sojourn among old & familiar friends & relations at home, & may I request to be remembered in the prayers of your family. I need much help. I'm very weak. Oh may God, give me strength. I shall hope to hear from you during your leave. Give my love to Mrs Howard, & to the children. I wish I could "come & see little Guy & Grace".

Sincerely,  
M. H. Wright

Please remember me kindly to Miss Durnit & the Col's (H.) family, Prof. French & F. & Miss <David>.

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1142 6/7/1860

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1082

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Jun 7, 1860

Dear Bro Otis

It is late tonight & I can write but a few words. I was glad to hear from you thro Mr & Mrs Abbott, & to receive the paper containing the Essay or Lecture. Your sentiment in regard to the desireableness of piety in the Army are not to be sure those of the Times, but thank God, they are those of the Ages of Eternity. One might feel diffident in speaking them before an Audience like yours, but they will stand the test of the judgment, I do believe.

I have been at Farmington three Sabbaths & they have invited me to become their Pastor for one year at a Salary of \$800. I will accept the call next week. If God permits, & prospers us, Ella & I propose to be married just before your return to Wet Point.

My engagement at F. will not commence till Oct 1st & if we are married the 22d, or thereabout, of Aug, it will give us five weeks before we enter upon our field of labor.

Would a, will it, be convenient for us to spend a portion of that time with you at West Point? You know we will wish to go some where, we are too poor to travel, or to go to the Sea-Shore &c, & the time will hardly be spent as desirably at Leeds as we will settle so near & have so good opportunity to visit there hereafter. We could take the boat on the Portland & N.Y. Line & go to West Pt. with comparatively small expense & could spend the time delightfully with you, if it will be perfectly convenient.

Ella wished me to mention it before you left West Point, so that we might all know what plans to make. I suppose I might preach on the Sabbaths in the neighborhood of N.Y or West Pt. perhaps.

I go to Yarmouth again tomorrow. O may the Lord go with me.

I saw Sam Hicks at Lewiston last Tuesday. He says that his family are well, but had not heard from Mrs Jones lately.

I have talked with Mr & Mrs Patten about our marriage. He is unusually embarrassed for money now & says he can do nothing for us this year, but seems quite willing that we should marry & run the risk, tho at first he mentioned waiting a year till I had something. But we want to commence our work together & live within our means.

This letter is confidential & I would prefer that its contents would not be made known in Maine at present. I have conversed with Mother all about it.

Love to Charles & Lizzie & Guy & Grace. Your loving Brother  
Rowland

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1143 6/14/1860 *From:* Lydia C. Tupper

*To:* Mrs. [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1080

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn June 14 1860

Dear Mrs. Howard,

Maria is still so low that she does not move herself at all, nor see any one. I thought your kind invitation would only excite her and make her feel her confinement more than she now does. She has had four relapses and the doctor says every thing depends on her being kept perfectly quiet. She is still under the charge of nurse and doctor. So I considered it best not to tell her of your letter, but to tell you how matters stand my self.

The baby is quite well. Mr Lloyd has had quite a serious fit of sickness.

I hope you will all enjoy your pleasant times as much as Maria would were she with you. When there is any decided change for the better I will write you.

Cordelia unites with me in much love to you, Mr Howard and all our friends.

Affly your friend,  
Lydia C. Tupper

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1144 7/3/1860

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1084

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor July 3d 1860

My dear Brother

I was very glad to have you write. I have been postponing writing you till I could be sure what day I would go to the Kennebec. I believe your plan is best, & I will deny myself & not go home till Monday. I have many things as you may guess to consult you & Lizzie about. A part of my object in going to Farmington now is to secure a boarding place & get the measure of a room that Ella proposes to furnish. She will go to Boston for a few days week after next to make some purchases. Lizzie's letter to Ella is very kind indeed. She forwarded it of course! I have proposed to take one of the Portland Steamers to N.Y. on acct. of the cheapness, but we will talk that over. You know Ella is a "deep-water sailor". It is necessary for me to have the money at the time specified in my letter to Mother & I hope Father will have it for me. May God bless your labors in Leeds. We need always to remember that "the kingdom of God cometh not with observation." I am daily impressed with the thought that I need more trust, confidence, strength & joy in God, & less in myself & my fellow men. Why should we doubt the promises - why should we let Sight or the want of it, take the place of our Faith. "Christ will see if the travail of his Soul & be satisfied." Blessed be God for that, tho I utterly fail of any good.

We had delightful meetings of the State Conference last week. Capt Edw Waite told me about meeting you in the cars. I also met Mr & Mrs Thwing frequently. But in these great meetings there is too much of the "observation" element before mentioned. I don't know what you told Mrs Hazzard, but I have \$12 in Farmington & 15 in Yarmouth per Sab. & in cities they usually pay \$20. If we can make it convenient perhaps I had better spend a Sab. there, tho I can't quite understand her authority to write me! Those things are managed by Committees appointed for the purpose, but I notice that that it is a small church & perhaps they don't observe the "forms".

I am sorry to hear that Charles' health does not improve, but I don't think it was to be expected. I will talk with you both about Anniversary & the Sem'ry when I come. I had a letter from Henry Wing last night. I think if you could read it & his previous one you would write him some time this Summer. He is more miserable than ever with dispepsia.

Ella wrote yesterday that she was well & that Dellie was down Saturday. I am very busy this week, with my Sermons, "Part", Seminary exercises, & hazing, so you will excuse a short letter. I will go to F. Sat. next via Leeds Junction D.V. & whether I can stop one night at home will depend on my duties here. I hope to meet you Monday if I don't get a glimpse of you Sat. Why not come down to the Junction & dine with me Sat.?

Love to all & kisses for the children. Your aff Bro  
Rowland

If Charles & the rest of you have not read the book I send him I think it will give you a laugh.

Hope you will be able to get some better ink than that I left at home next time!

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1145 7/5/1860

*From:* Augustus A. Waite

*To:* Dear friend [OO Howard]

OOH-1085

Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Livermore, July 5th 1860

Dear friend:

Having just received a book from you I take this method both to inform you of its safe arrival at my hands, and that I wish you to receive my humble thanks for it. Father, and mother, wish me to express for them, their thanks also for it. Father, and mother, went to Paris yesterday and have just got home, Not Paris in France but Paris in Maine where Grandfather and Grandmother live. We are all well, and we should be very happy if you would come and make us a visit, and stay a good long while.

From your humble servant  
Augustus A. Waite

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1146 7/16/1860     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1086

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor July 16 1860

My dear Sister Lizzie

Need I tell you how sorry I was to hear that dear Otis was sick & of the fears that I have that you may overwork yourself & have an attack of the same kind.

May the good God keep & bless you & overrule all this for the best, is my daily prayer. Chas must write me as often as he can consistently, & Otis when he gets well enough. Meekness, quietness, submission, & cheerfulness, under fever & pain, are hard to learn, but God sends sickness to teach just these lessons.

I mentioned, just before I left, the sleeve buttons that your dear Mother gave me & wh. I feared were stolen. I have thought much about them as the only keepsakes that I had from her, who was always so kind & good to me, & felt grieved at their loss, & I would not part with them again only for this purpose, that they might go with the hands of one who loved her better than any but a daughter could. Will you accept them, Dear Lizzie, from me, & while you wear them, associate us together in your love?

Ella writes today that she will go to Boston in the boat tonight. I fear it will be rather tempestuous, but it is a sweet thought. Her "times are in His hands". God will take care of her & all mine. They are all his.

We have not heard anything definite about our boarding place & she will do nothing about the chamber set now, but get it in Portland by & by. She says, "Lizzie must come that week she proposed if she possibly can. It will be perfectly convenient & delightful to have her with me." If Otis recovers favorably & no others are sick I hope the project will succeed.

I will probably leave Bangor a week from next Friday. You can go to Bath with me from Leeds on Sab, & stay as long into the next week as you please. Or it may be you can go before I preach at Harpswell a week from next Sab. I think Ella & I had better go the outside route to N.Y. on acct. of its cheapness, but I don't want you & the children to go that way & be sick. Perhaps it will be just as well to divide. You know newly married people are apt to be "silly" & appear more so to the eyes of their own family than to strangers, at first, & you'll get enough of it at West Point!

Love to Otis & the dear children, & all the rest. "I thank God that I make mention of you daily in my prayers". I had a beautiful Sab. in Hampden, 15 miles below, yesterday. The meetings were still & solemn.

God will see that the word is not spoken in vain. We are busy now preparing for examination. Burleigh inquired particularly for Charles.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

I saw Prentiss Whitman not long since. Rev Mr Sleeper got quite in love with Otis, & seemed quite enlivened by his conversation aboard the "Secor". He has gone into my old "field".

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1147 7/21/1860     *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-1088

Bowd College

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College

July 21, 1860

My dear Brother:

I was very glad to get your letter which was received this p.m. with \$40 enclosed. I have been busy part of the p.m. paying up my bills. I find that it is better to pay up at once and then you will have no opportunities to loan it or rather give it to other students. We have only one day more to remain in the Freshman class as Students - Our last recitation comes on Monday. We are examined on Thursday. I think I shall be hardly able to go home before a week from next Thursday, although I should be glad to and will try to make arrangements to that effect if I can. I have bought furniture of some of the Seniors which I cannot take <[torn corner]> of till after commencement. I lost many things last year because I did not take sufficient care of them and I prefer to look after them as I have some pretty good things which the "Yagers" could easily walk off with if they so pleased and could get in.

I would like to be here at commencement so I think I had better remain. I could go away before commencement and could get some one to take care of my things, yet I don't think of any one now that would not have as much as he will want to do with his own things. I should not know how, or where every thing would be. I hope that you will be here as it is your "Decennial". I suppose that many more of your class will be here than at any other Commencement since you received your A.M. Degree. The exercises of the week will probably not be any thing very extensive besides the exercises of Commencement day. The class is composed of very many smart men and their parts will be good.

The interest in Religion in college is, I am very sorry to say, at a very low ebb. The prayer meetings are very thinly attended even by professing Christians. The young peoples prayer meeting down town now excites much attention from any except those who go there to take part. I am in hopes that it will be differently next term. At the beginning of a new year we are apt to feel more invigorated and more like taking hold of any work than at the close of a term like this. It is especially so in regard to religious matters.

It is said that there will be many changes in the studies of the students at the next meeting of the Trustees & Observers. The two Tutors who are now in the college will probably be succeeded by others which will be something good for the next Freshman Class. There will be a new Prof. Of Modern Languages - probably Dr Solges. He once refused to take it, but I now understand that he has concluded to take it. In case he should come he will be a good addition to the college. We are now sadly in want of just such a man as Dr Solges has the reputation of being.

I hope that none of the other members of the family will have your disease. Nettie told me that you were sick and also the disease. My love to Lizzie & the children, also to father, mother & Charles.

Your aff. Bro.  
R.H. Gilmore

O.O. Howard  
Leeds

I heard a rumor through some Harpswell people, that Rowland was quite sick. Is it so?

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1148 7/31/1860    *From:* J.R. Bacon

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1089

Long Branch

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Long Branch

July 31, 1860

My dear Howard,

You will think me strangely neglectful, for not sooner replying to your note of June 22d, but after I was well enough to come to my office, on the 17th of this month, I was driven hard all the time with work, and in fact, for a man in my weak state I worked, and am working too hard. I am thank God gaining health & strength every day, and since we came here last week my wife has improved very much and I hope soon to see her in her usual health.

God afflicted us very heavily, and for a little while it appeared so dark but He was faithful to His promises, and sustained us most wonderfully and graciously. I was so ill for a day that my medical attendant, and all my friends, but my dear wife, gave me up as past recovery. Oh if I could tell you how my God and Savior came to me then. The fear of death has always been a great fear & terror indeed, to me, but He took all fear away, and I was permitted then to give my feeble testimony to the truth of His promises. May I never forget that, and when troubles & trials come, as come they must, I do hope & pray that the sweet consolation of that hour, may never be forgotten. Then I felt truly thankful that my little ones had been taken to Heaven. They were my treasures, which God, in wonderful answer to my often prayer, had permitted me to lay up in Heaven.

It is quite true that the heart mourns, for the blow it has received is a severe one, and it is a sorrowing time for us, but I can thank God for all. We mourn not for them (for they are so happy now) but for ourselves who are left behind. God in His infinite mercy bring us at last to those mansions which He has prepared for his children. "Oh where can rest be found,"  
"Rest for the weary soul."

I hope we shall see Mrs Howard and yourself on your return to the Point, and that we may all be spared to meet in health, and with hearts filled with gratitude to our Heavenly Parent, for all His mercies. When you have a leisure hour let me hear from you, and with our very kind regards to your wife, believe me to be

Sincerely yrs  
J.R. Bacon

P.S. I am perplexed to know what to do with your money. I cant make up my mind for another as I could for myself. When you come this way it had better be definitely settled, meanwhile I allow you 7% interest. Your Insurance stock is entitled to 3% dividend of interest to July 1st.  
J.R.B.

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1149 8/7/1860

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1091

Harpswell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harpswell August 7th 1860

Dear Bro Otis

Will you please to apply to the Town Clerk for a certificate of intention to Marry & bring it with you when you come. You need not mention it to any one else & Town Clerks can keep mum. Be careful about the names - mine is Rowland Bailey &c & my intended was christened Mary Ellen. I am sorry to say. As this matter is essential, I hope it will come out right. I heard from Ella yesterday. She complains of Dispepsia & her Mother of Summer complaint, but I hope their troubles are temporary. I will go over to Bath the first of the week. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I will give notice that you will address the people here a week from next Sabbath.

I had a good Sabbath, think I will exchange next Sab.

Have just returned from visiting some families on Orrs Island where I staid last night. Can't you come down Friday. Write when you will come & we will try to meet you at Brunswick.

Dr Quimby caused Lizzie Patten to have one good nights rest & Ella thinks she will go & spend some time with him in Sept.

Everybody wants you to preach here & everybody enjoyed the prayer meeting.

No new indications of interest. I am trying to get a Deacon chosen & a good subscription made for a regular minister. Pray for me. Give my Love to Lizzie, Mother, Father, Charles, Dellie & the dear children. I will expect to see them all at Bath the 21st. Del & Charles could come to Brunswick Monday & go down Tuesday morn.

Father & Mother can go directly to Capt Pattens. So Lizzie & the children. They will expect all & I hope Lizzie will get there before even. She would be at home on such an occasion.

Man proposes God disposes. I try to leave all with him & prepare not to be disappointed, if He should hinder & thwart my poor plans. I would like to have one of yr Discourses directed to young converts, & one to the "dead in trespasses & sins".

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

The "Certificate" is given after five days notice. I will hand you the fee - 50 cts. R.

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1150 8/7/1860

*From:* Ella [Patten]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1092

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bath Aug. 7th 1860

Dear Otis,

I received your note this afternoon, and went down directly, and bought the silk. Will send it by Express tomorrow, unless I can think of some other better way to send it.

$2 \frac{1}{2}$  yds at \$1.15 a yd = \$2.87  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

$\$3.00 - \$2.87 \frac{1}{2} = .12 \frac{1}{2}$

which I will send you with the silk, if it doesn't go by express. If it does, why that will just pay for it, and we shall be square.

If you go out to Harpswell, a week from next Sunday, why wont Lizzie and the children come here & stay the remaining time? We would like to have them very much, and it will not be inconvenient at all. Please tell your father & mother, and the rest, that we can accommodate them all, the night before the grand affair, but they will have to be packed pretty closely! And so will you all. We expect them all to come here.

I am glad Grace is so well. I hope all the sickness is fairly over, now. Papa has gone to Portland, to the Bell & Everett Convention! I don't know what's come over Papa, I'm sure.

Goodnight with Love to Lizzie, Charles & all.

Ella

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1151 8/13/1860    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1093

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bath Aug 13, 1860

Dear Brother

I preached in Topsham on exchange yesterday & came down here this morn. Am glad you can be in Harpswell next Sabbath. I wish you would write if you have not already when you will come. If I do not hear from you, you must look out for a passage down Sat. P.M. Perhaps Thos. Eaton will be up. I hope Lizzie & the children will come to Brunswick. Helen is very desirous to see the children. Guy particularly. Mary Russell (Mrs Pattens girl) is sick with a sore hand. This rather disables them. Sorry to hear that Dellie is unwell. I shall be disappointed if all my Brothers are not at our Wedding. I suppose Dellie will stay down, as the Term will commence so soon. Perhaps he & Chas had better come to Bruns. Monday & come down to Bath Tues morn. Give my love to Nettie. She will find a note Enclosed.

Love to Mother. If she & Father come by cars to Brunswick, we can meet them there Monday. Please see that Uncle Ensign looks nicely if you can. Hope there is no mistake about the certificate. You did not mention receiving my letter about it. I will return to Harpswell by the middle of the week. Ella sends love to all. She is not very well.

Your aff. Bro.  
Rowland

Ella did not know that Nettie was at Leeds or her invitation would have gone in the package.

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1152 8/16/1860    *From:* WH Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1094

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Aug 16 / 60

My dear Otis

I have kept my weather eye open for an investment for your money and now have one which promises well - so send on the money as soon as you like. It is in a suburban Passenger R. way which I think will pay well.

I hope you will let us hear from you before long. Maria was well frightened when she heard what was the matter with you and I feel very thankful that no evil resulted from the vicinity of such a disagreeable disease.

I wrote to Rowland a few days since inviting him & wife to pay us a visit when they are on their wedding tour. Maria called on Mrs Winthrop Tappan after she got home. Mrs T said she intended inviting them to pay her a visit so between the two houses I hope Rowland will find sufficient inducement to try the experiment. We hear from Hallowell that Grandfather arrived safely, but is failing. My impression is that he will not get to Phila again. I saw him for a moment on my return trip, while at Cambridge. I suppose you have heard that we encountered Fenderson & Warren Woodman on board the Portland boat. Uncle Ensign was with them and recognized me, otherwise I presume we should not have become known to each other as Maria has grown so much since they saw her last.

Give my love to Mrs H and the little ones whom I hope are all well.

We are flourishing like green bay trees. Maria had a touch of dysentery for a day or so but is mending rapidly.

Let me hear from you soon and tell us how the Grebles are. Mrs G was just on the point of returning to WP when Maria called there, her children a being sick.

Yr Very Truly & Affy  
WH Merrick

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1153 8/27/1860    *From:* F.T. Sargent

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1095

Nassau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Nassau Aug 27, 1860

Dear Otis

I am so full of business (Mr Darling being absent) that I have no time to write you a letter just now, but as I have just given a letter of introduction to Lieut Col Bouchier (we pronounce it Bowcher) C.V. Royal Engineers, I thought I would drop you a line so that you might know of his coming. He has been here as Colonel of the Engineer department for about three years, and we all regret his departure very much. He has won many medals in the Crimean War, but is one of the most unassuming men you ever met, and I hope he will pay West Point a visit, and if so that he will receive that attention from the officers there, that his rank & bravery ought to command. It will be particularly gratifying to me if he does, as he is a man of very liberal ideas and would highly appreciate attention from our American officers.

I am very busy, having four or five wrecks on my hands and about all the work to attend to. I have recently been admitted into the firm of J Darling & Co and since then have had all that I could attend to. Mr Darling will be out in the next steamer & then I shall be relieved of some of my responsibility.

I suppose you have been at Leeds this Summer and had a good rest. I enjoyed our visit there last summer very much, and hope some day or another to see them all again. Our Summer has been very hot, but not unhealthy - the children are troubled with "prickly heat" a great deal, & poor baby has been a perfect Job all summer, but is now getting rid of his ampules. Sarah has been very well except her troublesome head aches, and as for myself I am better than I was three months ago, and able to undergo quite an amount of labor. I think if all goes well with us we shall go north next summer for a while, but that is so far ahead that I do not look forward to it with any degree of certainty.

Perry left here a few days ago for Matanzas with a cargo of salt and from there will no doubt go to New York. He has a good vessel, and I hope will make some money this time. I rather think Bacon was the only one who made anything out of the Bark - his commissions &c paid him well.

Sarah joins me in love to you all. Brother Charles came out in this Steamer, and will remain until the next. We are glad to have him with us.

Your Aff Cuz  
F.T. Sargent

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1154 9/2/1860

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
West Philadelphia

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1096

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Philadelphia Sept 2d '60

Dear Otis,

I don't believe I can do anything better than write you some acct. of our journey & stay here so far. We had a most beautiful day, as you know, & a delightful trip down the Hudson & across N.Y. Bay. We took a Lunch at Taylors & passed some time pleasantly in the coolness and stillness of Trinity Church in N.Y. Wm met us at the Ferry, so our trouble was at an end. We found our friends well, received a very cordial welcome, & are very much at home.

Our only draw back, has been the fact that our trunk was not delivered in time for the Phil. Boat by the express man on the Thomas Powell to whom I committed it. The consequence is that I am decked in borrowed plumes & poor Ella, being so much slighter than Maria is left to her solitary "water proof" for comfort & beauty. But I am rather glad we left it (the trunk) for it has revealed a new phase of Ellas character. When I broke the news to her on the boat with much delay & trembling, she received it as cheerfully as she would an unexpected streak of good fortune! And we were merry over it all the rest of the afternoon. But yesterday, it seemed hard to leave her at home alone all day, but she bore it so cheerfully tho' she was so much disappointed, that I could but love her better & better. My wife will be more tried in the matter of enduring patiently deprivations & disappointments than in any other way. May God give her strength to endure them.

But to my Sabbath, as you may suppose, I started on my walk to Mr Barne's Church with no very lively feelings. I got there just at the right time & heard him preach an excellent (not "great") extempore Sermon - the first since an absence - on "I was glad when they Laid unto me let us go unto the House of the Lord". Here is a slight synopsis

I Objects of public worship

II The way to secure such objects.

I. Objects - Treated under 4 heads as follows. 1st worship itself. 2dly Salvation of our Souls. 3dly Cultivation of right affections. He feels this more & more as he grows older. The Sanctuary is for the cultivation & stimulation of the highest & best affections of the Soul. 4thly Incidental blessings connected with Sab. worship. Such as (a) Rest of body & mind. (B) the diffusion of knowledge on religious topics. (c) Influence on families, on morals, on community at large, awakening them to a just humanity.

II Ways to secure these blessings - (1) things in the arrangement itself essentially adapted to this end. (2) arrangements dependant on ourselves, in order to secure these blessings (3) Those dependant upon God. By this you will get no idea of the Sermon I fear. It was plain, simple affectionate, fatherly & spiritual - No great Rhetoric or Logic in it, no display of learning, but eminently quiet Christian & instructive in its tone. I enjoyed the Service very much, was melted somewhat in new Gods blessings to me & mine. The walk home seemed very short & almost everybody looked like Christians as I came along. In the Evening I heard Mr Wise & liked him. He seems to be a good earnest Christian, as unchurchy in his style as possible. He will do good here & hold up the cross of Christ.

This morn Maria & Sam have been walking with us in "Woodlands" (Cemetery) Alexander Hamiltons old Seat - a beautiful spot. Wm is in town & we will be pretty quiet today looking for the trunk tonight by the express train.

I hardly think this worth three cents but I will send it tonight after I have asked "Will" about your money.

Evening. "Will" ways that those Railway Shares are payable in installments, & that he can draw on Bacon for them as they become due. None have been called for yet, but the first one will be, in a week or two. It will be about (\$140.00). If you are writing Bacon, perhaps you had better mention that Wm will draw on him as above. The trunk is here & Ella is "dressed" & waiting a call from her cousin Mrs Tappan.

Love to Lizzie & the children. Ella joins in it & Sam has given a large no. of kisses for each of you.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

If I have any letter from Farmington, Please send it to Brooklyn Friday care of Geo. Elwell, NY City. We will go to Bkln on Sat & will not be back to West Pt before Tuesday of next week.

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1155 9/6/1860

*From:* J. R. Bacon

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1098

Tarrytown

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tarrytown Sept 6/60

My dear Howard,

Yours of 5th at hand to day. I have written Merrick to draw as instalments become due.

All well with us. Am too much engaged to visit you now, hope to see you here with Mrs Howard this fall. Mrs Bacon joins me in affectionate regards to Mrs Howard & yourself & I am in haste,

Truly Yrs  
J. R. Bacon

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1156 9/15/1860     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1100

Holden

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Holden Sept 15 1860

My dear Mother

With great regret I learned from a letter received from Dellie yesterday that you have been suffering severely from Erysipelas or a disease of that nature. I was somewhat relieved to find that you considered the worst part gone through with & seemed to be getting well again. I had had some misgivings & fears that you might be ill. How thankful I ought to be to Our Heavenly Father that He has spared you a longer suffering & has or is bringing this to so happy an issue. It seems hard for you to be without a child & to be sick but you have the daily prayers, I trust, of us all. I know very little about your condition & if you are not able I hope father will write me. I shall be very anxious to know how you are. Dellie told me what father wrote him I suppose. I had not had a letter from him till yesterday. He wants me to get him a school & I suppose I can do so here.

My own school is very flourishing - 46 scholars - and all seem interested in their studies except two little boys who have been absent a week sick.

Rev. Mr. Southworth has gone away, & expects me to read two of Bushnel's discourses to the people week from tomorrow. A man from Bangor supplies tomorrow. I thought I would not take my own sermons. He did not know I had written any & so asked me to read those or write some of my own if I would but he supposed I would not have time to do that. Rev. Mr. S. originated in Winthrop, married his wife there. He lost his wife last winter & now lives all alone in his house, taking his meals at deacon Fisher's about 1/4 mile away. It seems rather a lonely way of living especially nights. He has a little girl living at her grand-parents in Winthrop.

Last night I rode out to Bangor with Mr. Newcombe (with whom I board) & witnessed a grand triumphal procession - torch-light. We got home about 10 o'clock. I had some books to get for my school. I study all the time nearly between schools. Have been hearing two scholars out of school. One began the study of French & has overtaken the class - with the intention of <[ sheet 4 (pages 4&5) glued together]> into school week from next after her folks return from a visit to Dartmouth Mass. The other did not conclude to <study French till recently & her <and her I have been> helping to overtake the class. I always hear two classes after school, taking me till 5 my regular day's work. My health is good - not so tired this week as last. During the recess have found time to go out & play ball & pitch quoites with the boys occasionally - which is much better than puzzling over some mathematical questions. Our meeting last Thursday Eve of <> I had the charge - was larger & <> was taken up by more speakers than either of the previous ones. I hope to see a work of Grace especially <> my scholars. If you are enabled <to> work, you will perhaps have some time to reflect & pray & I wish very much that you will spend some moments in prayer for us here & for the object I have mentioned. Think how responsible a place I am in - kneeling daily in prayer before a family, who exercise no faith in Christ. Standing hourly before young men & women with souls to <save> - Calling upon God in their <presence> daily. How much I need Divine Grace to help me to live consistently every moment & to pray in faith & fervency.

Do you see much of Rev. Mr. Chapin. My regards to him. I hope his labors were blessed. How much I pray that Father may decide to throw all his influence upon the side of Christ.

I studied part of the forenoon then went down in the field & dug potatoes ½ hour, then returned to study & to write this letter.

There were at Bangor besides squads from each of the Wards, companies from Orono, Dedham, Holden & Brewer - wide <wake with their torches of all colors, a band of music in the Center. Just below here, some men were thrown from a carriage & three of them severely injured - one dislocated his shoulder last night after we got home. The harness broke right opposite our house & the horse ran & kicked. They <stopped> at the next house below & were taken home to Buxport this morn.

Our life hangs upon a slender thread. Let us Commend ourselves often to the mercy of God thro' Christ our Lord.

No more today but let me hear soon. Your affectionate son  
C.H. Howard

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1157 9/16/1860 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1097

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York  
Sept 10th 1860

My dear Mother

I was shocked to learn of your sudden illness this morning. Rowland & Ella had gone to Philadelphia & were to be in New York yesterday. As soon as I got Uncle Ensign & Laura's letter, I hastened to New York to find Rowland to let him know. I must go back without seeing him as I shall have duty tomorrow morning. He is in the city & will go up to West Point tomorrow and if tomorrow don't bring us good news I shall encourage him to start for home immediately.

I do hope & pray that God will spare you to us a little longer, that we may see you again. Lizzie was very anxious when I got home to day & said we had a letter from Leeds with bad news.

Major Ramsay who came with me from West Point, says a Cranberry poultice has invariably proved a sure remedy for your disease when it has not struck a vital part.

With much love I am your  
affectionate Son, Otis

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1158 9/22/1860     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1099

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Sept 22nd 1860

My dear Mother,

Rowland & Ella left us yesterday morning. After they had gone the letter that I was expecting from Father came. I had let him have the thirty dollars & did as he desired me - opened Father's letter, took the \$30 enclosed, & sent him the letter to E. Cambridge. I was glad to find you had improved so much and sorry to think how sick you still were, but I should thank our Heavenly Father for his goodness in sparing you to us & moreover in answering our prayers to give you a cheerful dependence on His will. How truly kind your neighbors have been to you in sickness. May their works of love be restored to them four fold. What a different, what a delightful society we should have, if men loved God with all their hearts & their neighbors as themselves.

I was all prepared for bed tonight, but could'nt have a peaceful prayer till I had fulfilled my promise to you, so I slipped on my clothes & came to my desk to write you. I have a good many calls upon me and am apt to put off, what comes irregularly before me, for instance letter writing, but I ought to have some system in this as in other things. Since I wrote you, we have been obliged to move into another house. We are now in a house with another family - that of Mr Carroll occupies the lower half. It is not quite so convenient as an independent establishment, but we hope to get on very pleasantly.

Alice Sands or rather Mrs Alice Wing has been with us for some time - her husband joined her this evening. George Wing has been 1st mate of ship Niagara. He has just changed to another vessel. He met Rowland in New York who told him that Alice was with us. Returns are pleasant, but I think these long absences where the months, days & hours are counted must be tedious.

This year I have a Section in the 5th & another in the fourth Class, so that I have a different Mathematical course to teach this year from that I had last year with one class. It don't take a great deal of time to get my lessons. I usually get them in the morning before breakfast.

I am sorry to hear of Nelson Gilberts death. But I didn't much expect to see him again in this world. He said he should'nt see me again. God grant that his Christian example during the last hours of his life may be followed by his children & that his prayers for them be answered. It is unwise to put off what will make us truly at peace. Sickness & misery of Soul don't go well together, they aggravate each other, and yet how many begin to seek God the moment disease begins to prey upon them, having altogether neglected to seek him in health.

I hope you will find much comfort from communing with your blessed Saviour while you are suffering. In this way bodily ills can be counted only as blessings, if they induce self-consecration to Christ.

Tomorrow is the Sabbath. I hope we shall all enjoy it. I presume Rowland has written you all his plans. The children & Lizzie are asleep & I must send love from them without the verbal endorsement. Love to Father & kind regards to Isabella & all the neighbors.

Your aff son.  
Otis

How do Mr & Mrs Chapin come on in their good work?

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1159 9/24/1860    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1101

East Cambridge

*Source:* Bowdoin

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East Cambridge Sept 24 1860

Dear Brother Otis

I received Mothers & Mr Sitcombs letters this A.M. They were very welcome I tell you. I do hope that that ulcer is not going to continue long to afflict her. We found Mr & Mrs Godfrey at the U.S. Hotel in Portland & they together with Alfred Patten, her brother, came on to Boston with us. We had to come by the Norwich route to get rooms & had to rise at 1 A.M. - a very disagreeable operation wasn't it Lizzie?

Ella & I walked in to hear Dr Kirk yesterday (Tell Mrs Gray). You must never spend a Sab. in Boston without hearing him. He is most profoundly Spiritual. I was affected to tears while listening to him. In the P.M., I went with Mrs Hazard. In the Evening, I went to Dr Kirks prayer meeting & a Baptist one afterward near by. Both were blessed meetings. I asked them to pray for you & your meeting & a Clergyman put up an earnest prayer.

We go out to Harvard Coll. this A.M. & to Brookline to a friend of Ellas to Tea. We go to Bath tomorrow night in the boat.

I miss my sleeve buttons. If they "turn up" please send them in a letter. I just spoke with Geo. Wing in N.Y. & presume he is with Alice by this time. Give Ellas & my love to her, to Lizzie & lots of kisses to the children.

I felt very much like writing you my feelings yesterday, but have no time today. O that Christ would come into this household. All Olives family are well & Lester talks about Guy, Grace & Diamond!

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

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1160 9/27/1860 *From:* Sarah E. Sargent

*To:* Dear Cousin Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1102

Nassau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Nassau Sept 27th 1860

Dear Cousin Otis,

It is with a breaking heart I write you these few lines to apprise you of the dreadful intelligence that my dearest Husband is in the Tomb. He died very suddenly on the morning of the 21st at 5 o'clock. He had had an attack of Hemorrhage from the Lungs two weeks before, from which he was recovering and the day before his death he sat up in a chair 3 hours, but an abscess (of which I was ignorant) broke very suddenly upon his Lungs, and he died in half an hour, and was not able to even speak to us. He strangled to death, as he had not the strength to raise it.

His Faith in his Redeemer was strong, and feel that it is well with him. He is at rest in his Father's bosom. But the affliction is greater than I can bear. It seems to me he was so affectionate, and devoted, as a Husband, & Father and these dear Babes that are left without a Fathers care. May God have mercy upon them and upon me, for in 7 months another poor orphan will be added to them, which adds tenfold to my great affliction. The ways of God are so mysterious.

I feel that the hand of God has been most heavily laid upon me, and I feel so totally incompetent for this great responsibility which has been thrown upon me. Pray for me dear Otis, & Lizzie. My only relief is in prayer. May Grace & Wisdom be given me. But my utter, utter, loneliness if I could flee from myself. Why should one so much needed, be taken so soon from these dear Innocent Babes. I may deserve it for my great sinfulness, but these dear Children. Oh! May God who has sent this affliction have mercy upon us.

Will you write to Leeds and tell them these dreadful tidings. I have not the heart nor strength to write to them now.

Your affectionate & broken hearted Cousin  
Sarah E. Sargent

by his own request some time ago, Frank's remains will be taken to Greenwood [Brooklyn, NY]. I expect Perry [Lee] will be here in about 6 weeks.

Sarah

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1161 9/27/1860    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1103

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept. 27. 1860

Dear Otis

I found Mother yesterday very much better than I anticipated & I hasten to inform you. Your letter came last evening by the same train that I did. I left Ella at Bath & came on in the 12 ½ train.

Mother seems not quite so well this morn. She thinks she has taken some cold. Tell Guy & Grace that I saw their picture in the parlor & wanted to kiss it but couldn't reach! Mother walks from one room to the other, looks pale, but has not lost much flesh & is cheerful. Her ulcer is gradually healing. She has Elizabeth Bates, a girl from Greene. I hope she will stay as she appears to be a good girl. Elizabeth More was here last week & they have had 5 girls, 4 days each, \$1.00 apiece!

Ella is well. Saw Dellie yesterday. He is ditto. I go to Farmington today to arrange for board, ordination &c, & will return to Bath Sat., & probably attend Mr Fisks meeting in Bath next Sab with Ella.

Much love to all your dear ones in which Mother joins. She will write soon. Hopes to ride out before long.

Your Brother  
Rowland

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1162 9/29/1860     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1104

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. September 29 1860

My dear Mother,

Saturday night has come round again, and I wish to write you a few lines before I retire. I received a letter from Rowland today enclosing one of Charlie's. I am glad you are as well as you are and hope the ulcer will soon disappear and leave no ill effects upon your system. I think we are very comfortable in our new house.

Lt. Carroll's family are pleasant and I don't know why we may not be as happy here as elsewhere. It is hard to get used to having another independent family in the same house, but doubtless there is a Providence in this as in other things reaching forth into eternity. Rowland's visit to you was a short one, but I presume you were glad enough to see him. With the rail road between you, you & Rowland don't seem now to be far apart. If you are well you can easily run up to see him & Ella, & vice versa.

Mr Carroll has a horse & carriage. He took or sent out the children to ride this afternoon. They went about five miles & back and didn't get in till it began to grow dark. Guy said when he got home, that if any one should ask him to go to ride again, he should not go - he was so cold & tired. The weather is quite cold so that we have fire in two rooms.

The children, Lizzie & myself, are in our bed-room. Lizzie is white for bed combing her hair & quoting 'Burns' just now. Grace taking long breaths in her crib & Guy, sleeping quietly in his bed in the corner. They look very pretty when they are asleep. I think they are good children. Grace obeys me now with alacrity & cheerfulness. She saw somebody yesterday while we were riding that she said was grandmother. I expect it would be pleasant to you to have her playing around while you are confined to your chair & Bed.

Mrs Wing (i.e. Alice Sands) & her husband have gone to New York. They went last Tuesday. We shall expect her back when her husband again goes to sea & I hope she will stay with us some time, for I have to be away from Lizzie so much I think it will be pleasant for her to have a companion.

Tomorrow I have engaged to speak for Mr Gray the Presbyterian Minister at "the Falls" so that I have had to employ much of my leisure this week in preparing a discourse, and as a consequence my private theological studies have not advanced much. I have many drawbacks & many misgivings about the will of God concerning me, but I have confidence in Him, that He will direct me aright.

My love to Father & kind remembrances to the neighbors. Lizzie sends her love to you. I hope the colt is doing well. I shall send her oat-money if I conclude to draw forage for her. Write when you are able & pray for me that I may do my duty.

Your Aff. Son  
Otis

P.S. Monday Oct 1st

I spoke for Mr. Gray yesterday in the morning & afternoon. <[hole in the middle of the paper]> went through with my usual S.S. duties. Mr. <> invited me to be present at the meeting of <> class at 4 P.M. Sundays which I did <> knowing I received a Kennebec <> Father with the election <> Frye is a representative from <> Republicans have swept the state <> . I hope you are gaining. God bless you, & restore you to complete health.

Otis

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1163 10/4/1860     *From:* J.R. Bacon

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1105

Tarrytown

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tarrytown Oct 4 /60 P.M.

My dear Howard

The Karnak arrived to day with letters for me containing sad news. Thinking you might not have recd any letter by her, I deem it my sad duty to communicate the mournful intelligence of the death of my very dear friend, Frank Sargent. I need not say how shocked & grieved I am at this but I have learned to bow to Gods will, convinced that what He does is "well". Poor Sarah is struck down with the blow, for her husbands death was unexpected & sudden, and she was tenderly attached to him. Poor heart, how terrible the affliction, and yet, God has promised to be with her to sustain and comfort her.

Hetty Johnson [Henrietta Louisa (Sargent) Johnson died 29 September 1860, was Frank's sister] was just breathing her last, as the str sailed - brother & sister so soon to be reunited in that other & better land. Frank died Friday 21st at 5 a.m. Hettie was even thought to be passing away on the 28th when the str sailed.

Darling writes that he stopped on his way home, on landing from the str on Thursday PM and saw Frank for a few moments, but never saw him alive again. The immediate cause of death was the sudden breaking of an abscess on the left lung, producing strangulation. He was thought out of danger & doing very well, up to a half hour of his death. Oh God, prepare us for all the eventful changes of this life not only, but for a happy eternity beyond. Death has been busy in my family and among friends; who shall be called next? This is a serious question, and to be answered by no man, but, if we heed the admonition "be ye also ready," we shall not fear the summons, but, aside from the sad sundering of earthly ties, we shall be glad to be with our Saviour, "which is far better."

The battle of life is a wearisome struggle, the toils, the trials, the temptations, and most of all the doing, and the leaving undone, saddens and wearies me, and yet it must be fought out. Gird on, the Armor which Christ has prepared for us, and "quit ye like men," is what we must do. "The battle you shall win" is a "true saying," and I pray God for strength to do all my duty to His honor & glory.

Mrs Bacon desires her love to Mrs Howard, and with my kindest regards to you both,

I am faithfully yr friend,  
J.R. Bacon

Darling writes that Sarah will remain with them this winter, and come home in the spring.

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1164 10/7/1860

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* Lieut. O.O. Howard

OOH-1106

No. 11 Tompkins Place  
[Brooklyn]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No. 11 Tompkins Place [Brooklyn]  
Sabbath Afternoon, Oct 7th /60

Lieut. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

We received the sad news of Mr. Sargent's death by the "Karnack" on Friday. I thought very possibly you might not have heard of it, (as the death has not been published in any of the papers), and that I would write and give you the few particulars, we have received.

He died on the 20th of September. An abscess had formed on the lungs, which burst, occasioning speedy death. Mr Darling, (who had been in the United States during the two months previously) arrived at home, an hour before he died. Mr. Sargent's sister, Mrs Johnson was dying when the Steamer left. Her disease was also consumption.

Capt Lee was not there. He had sailed some time before, and is now on his way home from Matanzas. He is making a long passage, this being his twenty-fourth day. This is sad news to meet him.

We cannot sorrow for Mr. Sargent - we feel confident "our loss is his gain" - but poor Mrs. Sargent, my sympathy for her is too deep for expression. Her entire dependance upon him, in all things, makes him an almost irreparable loss. She certainly has been severely afflicted, by the death of her dear Mother, and at this time, but may God grant that she may be enabled to see His Hand in these afflictions, and to say "it is all right."

Yesterday I went board the "Alabama" to see Nelie, and Mr. Sackett, once more and to say "good bye". Oh! Mr. Howard, I can part with her now with different, lighter feelings than when last I wrote you, for I have reason to believe she loves, and trusts our God, as a Father and a Friend.

With kind regards to Mrs Howard, and yourself, I am very respectfully,

Yours &c  
Thomasine M. Kearny

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1165 10/8/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1107

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct. 8, 1860

Dear Otis

I'm going to keep writing you letters till your conscience compels you to answer! Mother is still improving, tho she does not go out yet & walks quite lame. Ella says her girl is "an old poke" & I fear that it is so, but she is better than none.

Edw. Gore of Bath came from Nassau last Friday & bro't the sad news of Franks death, two weeks before. He was sick but three weeks - one of his old attacks. I suppose Sarah may have written you. Frank had an Insurance of \$5000, on his life. Sarah was very much cast down. She hoped till half an hour before he died that he would recover, but an abscess broke, & proved fatal. After it was certain that he would die, he was unable to converse. I heard of no "words" that he left. I hope Perry will hurry back to Sarah as she will need him greatly.

Mr Gore is a good Christian fellow & watched with Frank during one of his last nights. He goes to N.Y. next week to return with Perry, & you may hear of him, if you are down from Bacon. He would like to see you & may be up to the Point some day.

We go to Farmington tomorrow & my Ordination is to take place Thursday. I will send you a paper containing an acct. of it. I wish that you could be there. Mother wishes very much to go but will not be able. Laura & Aunt Aurelia will go.

Ella is nicely - is mending my pants! Sends a great deal of love to you all.

I saw Dellie Sab. He is well, but has no school secured yet. Chas has not written since the letter I sent you. I spent last week in Bath "getting ready" - have two Sermons to prepare before next Sab. Father very kind & thoughtful for our comfort, & we had quite a talk this morn in regard to 13th Of March. I preached all day for Mr Chapin yesterday, had rather a thin house, but enjoyed the day pretty well. I paid a minister \$12 to go to Farmington for me yesterday.

All our friends are well. Oscar was in last night & mentioned having a letter from you. We are in the "North Room", where Lizzie has been so much. It always reminds me of her. Tell Grace we are very glad to hear that she is so good. Hope Guy won't ride too much! Ella & Mother both send a great deal of love to you & Lizzie, with many kisses to the dear children.

Rowland

P.S. N.B.!? There is a rumor that Laura [torn page]

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1166 10/9/1860 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1108

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Oct 9 1860

Lieut O O Howard

Dear Sir

I have been looking for a letter from you for some time - have been anxious to know how you all do. We regret that you and Lizzie did not make us a call while in Maine. We are not always overrunning full of Company as at the time yourself called for a moment & could not be entertained for a night. We are not often put to such straits. Do not fail to come and see.

Give much love to your good wife & dear children. Tell Lizzie her dividends are due and I will collect and forward the same if she wishes.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

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1167 10/10/1860 *From:* S.P. Lee

*To:* Dear Cousin Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1109

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Oct 10th 1860

Dear Cousin Otis

I arrived her Monday and found letters from Sarah giving me the particulars of Franks death. What a shock to poor Sarah it is. Poor Frank when I left Nassau 6 weeks ago was quite well but a few days after had an attack of Hemorrhages which confined him to the house for some time. When on the morning of the 21st ult as the morning gun fired at 5 o'clock he started out of his sleep & an abscess broke, which suffocated him in half an hour. He never spoke after, but went quietly to his God whose child he was in every respect. I have lost a dear dear Brother and poor Sarah an affectionate and kind good husband and adviser. She was <thoroughly> dependent on him for every thing. How I do want to be with her now in her sorrows, but I fear I can never be so great a comforter as I ought.

Sarah will probably remain in Nassau this winter and come on here next spring.

I have not heard from any of our Eastern friends for a long time. Please write me how is your mother and Roland and Charles and how is Vaughan Otis. Do let me hear from you. I go to Guilford tomorrow and shall return here Monday or Tuesday morning and if I can, I will spend one night with you before I sail which will be the last of next week. I go to Nassau again.

Give much love to Lizzie and the children and with much for yourself.

I remain your affectionate cousin,  
S.P. Lee

P.S. If you see Jennie Grey, tell her I have got her shell wreath and will send it to her tomorrow if I have time before I go East. Excuse this as I am writing it with a miserable pen at the Hotell.

Perry

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1168 10/11/1860 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Lieut OO Howard

OOH-1110

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Oct 11 1860

Lieut OO Howard

Dear Sir

Your letter of 8th is recvd with the enclosed coupons, all right, which together with the Bank dividends will more than pay for two Shares of Bank Stock. Our Bank Stock here is much sought after. None now offering in the market.

I have made enquiry and have got the promise of two Shares for Lizzie at \$104 per share. Think I can collect of International without Order.

The Cashier says there is no need to send the Certificate. It is perfectly good.

Your affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

all well, with much love. Are looking for a great rush here next week to see the Prince and the British fleet.

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1169 10/15/1860 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Lieut OO Howard

OOH-1111

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Oct 15 1860

Lieut OO Howard

Dear Sir

I enclose certificate for two Shares Bank Stock <[torn page]> \$208 - also Cash \$28 - amt 236.00

Recvd for dividend on Bonds 150

do " Canal Bank 28

do " Casco Bank 44

International Bank 14

---- 236.00

The International divide 3 ½ per cent.

Please acknowledge Recpt and Oblige.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

P.S. The British Fleet have just arrived.

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1170 10/16/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1112

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. 16th Oct 1860

My dear Mother

The prince has now gone and I can write you a letter. Saturday evening I went to call on Bishop [Charles Pettit] McIlvaine, the Chaplain of West Point 33 years ago, found him a genial, warmhearted, aged Christian. On Sunday he preached for Mr French to the Cadets & referred to his early experience in a very touching manner. The Post was given over to infidelity, not one Christian man any where & only three Christian ladies. He spoke of the revival that took place then. In the evening he went into our Cadet prayer meeting & told there also much of his early experience. I am in hopes his visit will be greatly blessed to us, though I fear the subsequent visit of the Prince of Wales has absorbed all the attention of the young men.

The prince came yesterday about 2 P.M. in the str Harriet Lane with his Suite of 8 or 10 gentlemen. We had a large crowd of people, but all were very orderly except some who crossed into places where they were not invited. The prince is a good looking young man of 19 rather small of stature, modest & gentlemanly in his bearing. He seemed to take much interest in everything here. He visited nearly all our buildings - received military honors on the plain - partook of a collation at Col. Delafield's - visited Fort Putnam on horseback & then went to Cozzens Hotel to spend the night. This morning he visited the recitation rooms. He staid in mine long enough to hear one recitation from Cadet Burnham. All his suite of gentlemen were with him. He don't seem anymore of a Prince than Francis Orman Turner. He looks & appears very much like him.

I hope you are now quite well. I am anxious to get a letter from you. I received one from Rowland while he was at home. I had written to him directing to Bath and presume you got my letter announcing the death of Frank the next day after Rowland wrote. I have heard from Perry & some expect him up tonight.

The Children & Lizzie are pretty well. Guy has a cold. Gracie says: send my love & my kiss. Love from all.

Affectionately, your son  
O.O. Howard

Lizzie Howard, Uncle Wards daughter & Miss Arvilla Phillips spent last night with us. L is on a visit at Newburg

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1171 10/18/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1113

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Oct. 18th 1860

Dear Otis

I received your letter in regard to Franks death just after I had written you. I wrote Sarah yesterday. You will receive a "Chronicle" giving some little acct. of my Ordination. It was a solemn & interesting day to me. I only preached half of last Sab. Mr Whitten being with me & occupying the Afternoon. Our boarding place is all we could ask or desire, except I feel the want of a more retired study. I would give money for your room in the Barracks.

Ella is well, happy & contented. We have no vestry and our Wednesday Evening prayer meetings are held at private house. We had a very small but good meeting last night. Today I have been very idle intellectually. Ella & I went into the woods & upon Powder House Hill this morning & this afternoon. One of the most beautiful of Indian Summer days. Mr Goodenow sent us his horse & carriage & we rode down to "the falls" & called on Bro. Rogers who is now preaching there. Ella is now calling at Mrs Burnhams. She enjoys being a "ministers wife" so far very much, but it has all been Sunny Side as yet.

Mother did not come to Ordination. Mrs Patten, Uncle Ensign & Laura were here. I wish you & Lizzie could come & see us, & O how I long to see dear little Guy & Grace. Tell Guy, Miss Abbott, with whom we board has a little black dog not half as big as Diamond. He is black as a shiny boot. His ears are short & his tail (!) is very slender & pointed & he is very playful and his name is Garibaldi, but we call him "Garry" for short! Before Aunt Ella was up this morn he had some fun with me on the hearth rug (we have an old fashioned fire frame) & went to kiss me & kissed so hard as to jam my lip between his teeth & mine & hurt me & I set out to bite him!

We had quite a shock of an earthquake yesterday morn at 6 ½ o'clock. The whole house shook & trembled like a steamboat on the waves & the crockery rattled.

We are having a no. of cases of Diptheria & I have a proposition to submit to you on that acct. As Mr Gray has been so successful in the treatment of it will not please to ask him to write out what he considers the proper symptoms & treatment of the disease that you may send it to me. Ella has so much confidence in his treatment, & I too, that we would like to have his opinion, for our own private resource if either of us, or the family we are with should be attacked. This is asking a good deal of Mr. G., but I know you have placed him under some obligation & I feel less delicacy on that acct. Give Ellas & my love to Mrs. G. & Jeanie if you see them.

I suppose Charles has written you of the religious interest in his School. Two or three conversions & a general & pervading Seriousness & inquiring spirit is what he speaks of to me. May the Lord continue his work, uphold, strengthen & direct our dear Brother & give him many souls.

I brought away the first vol. of your Stevens Hist. of Methodism. Lizzie will say "it is just like him"!

But I am very sorry. I will read it & you shall have it next Summer. I found the <sleeve> buttons. I miss my "Pastors Hand book", wh. Tells how to marry & bury people. Have you seen it?

Mrs Patten gave us a nice Lounge covered with Enameled leather & a Spring Study chair - ditto - & a nice hair mattress. These with our pictures make us feel that we are at home. Ella says "tell Lizzie, we have got the machine up but have not tried it yet, as I have had so many little jobs to do". Give my congratulations to Lt Carroll. Katie must rejoice in her little Brother. Grace, have you ever seen the baby?

We have our fares on the A.R.R. charged to Father!

In great haste  
Your aff; Bro.  
Rowland

P.S.

Ella sends love to Brother Otis, Sister Lizzie, Guy & Grace. Tell Guy we want to know all about the Prince. We see the N.Y. Times. I take the Boston Daily Journal. Did you see the Prince?

Please always mention the prayer meeting when you write. I often think of it & try to pray for it.

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1172 10/20/1860 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1114

Holden

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Holden Oct 20, 1860

My dear brother

Your turn has at length come for a letter. I need not say I was very glad to get yours above a week ago. It bro't the 1st news of Mr. Sargent's death. Rowland has since mentioned it. It seems that Sarah will be comfortably off in this world's goods. Have you seen or heard anything of Perry since your return? I remember with great pleasure my Cadet friends. Am sorry I was not more efficient as a Christian and rejoice that you still have the heart to labor for our divine Master & that he gives you opportunity to do some thing for him. There you are in the house with Mr. Carrol. May the Lord give you faith to pray & to labor for his Salvation as your heart seems to be prompted now.

You will be glad to know that the Lord hath been pleased to show us something of His salvation here where I am situated. Mrs. Newcombe, the lady where I board, after some struggles & some unhappy days, has found peace in believing & has consecrated her life to the service of Christ. Three of my scholars have, one after another, found the Christian's hope. Another who has gone away to teach & for whom God I humbly hope gave me Grace to pray hath found joy in the Holy Ghost. And still another who came into our family for a few days upon a visit & decided here that she would seek the Lord, has written me of the happiness she found in the love of her Savior.

These great blessings, have I hope greatly humbled me, bro't me to view my own unworthiness & the glory of Christ more nearly in their true light. And, Otis, the Lord seems so gracious & good to me & to all that sometimes my heart is very full. I have felt like spending some time in trying to praise & humbly thank Him.

To have others inquire of me what they ought to do to be saved, makes me realize to the fullest extent my dependence upon the Lord, as I cast myself upon his mercy & look to Him for help. He is pleased to let me know something of faith. I begin to perceive more fully its meaning as read so frequently in Scripture.

It is a great favor to let me know something of my own weakness & sinfulness, & something of the depth of His goodness.

I wish that Johnny Weir - yes I wish that Guy who have not - might be present when the Lord is carrying on a work - a special work of Grace. Yet one place is as good as another & the Lord will bless the use of His means in His own good time.

We have had no unusual meetings & even our prayer-meetings have not until the very last begun to be enlivened. The church is cold but some members are alive. Only 3 weeks more. Many scholars still out of the way of Life.

You do not escape my memory in prayer & I trust your supplications have had something to do with the wonderful results in this Community. Pray that I put no dependence in self - all in Christ - & that His name may still be glorified, & mine & the failings of Christians over-ruled. Mrs. N. is praying for her husband now. Would that I might do my whole duty while I stay.

My regards to Johnny Weir. I have not heard from him. My kind regards to Mrs & Miss Jeanie Grey. I wish I could see these three & your own dear family today. Wish I could bow at the family altar with you again. It seems to me now that my heart would be in more complete sympathy with yours. West Point (physically) seems like a Paradise in my memory. The Lord grant it may be so spiritually to you & others,

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

My love to Guy. Will his father kiss him & little darling Grace for me? Tell Grace I heard she was going to forget

me. Does she believe she will? Guy must help her to remember me. What does he say to that?

Remember me to Miss Blanche & others who may inquire.

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1173 10/20/1860 *From:* B. D. Critchlow

*To:* Lieutenant [OO] Howard

OOH-1115

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Oct 20th [1860]

Lieutenant Howard  
Esteemed & Respected Friend

In accordance with your desire expressed to me to know something about the early history of my place of residence, the religious influences by which I was surrounded and my subsequent connection with the church of God, I now with pleasure take this opportunity to comply with your desire.

My birth place was in the town of New Brighton a small but beautiful place of about twenty two hundred inhabitants surrounded on all sides by the most attractive scenery, in the western part of Pennsylvania. It is the favorite resort of a great many city people during the hot summer months. During the early history of the state a block house was established there and it was there also that Brady performed some of his most daring adventures. Half a mile from my fathers house the spot is still pointed where Brady made that celebrated leap when pursued by the Indians. Scattered around among the woods are still to be seen graves of the Indians and arrowheads are still picked up in the woods and on the hills round the town. The Block house was still standing until about a year or eighteen months ago, when it was torn down.

The first church was organized some twenty five or thirty years ago. The first pastor was Dr. Aaron Williams a cousin of my father's who preached for seven or eight years when he received a call from a congregation in New York. When my father who was then through his Theological studies at the Seminary took charge of the congregation at their request and has been its pastor ever since.

My father is an Old School Presbyterian and has been preaching now twenty three years. He is now in his fifty third year. My mother is also a member of the same church. I was early taught to go to church and Sabbath school and every Sabbath afternoon my mother gathered us all about her and had us recite the catechism repeat hymns and verses from the Bible. She would also talk to us about God and heaven and the importance of loving him and giving our hearts to him. She never allowed an opportunity to go unimproved. A death or accident was always improved to draw our attention the necessity of preparing for death and judgment. She was a truly pious woman and to her prayers under Gods providence I owe my conversion. She was very intelligent and pleasant, and the confidant of all her children who went to her with all their troubles and difficulties.

My ancestors were all respectable industrious and intelligent people, and the line can be traced back to the blood of kings. I do not say this in a boasting spirit however. Far from it, but only to give you a correct idea of my family.

As we grew older my father would question us on the sermon to see how much we remembered of it. This was always the custom except when there was company. For sometime before I thought of coming here, and before I left home it was our habit to have all my brothers and sisters meet and sing while my oldest sister would accompany them on the melodeon. I often think of those Sabbath afternoon meetings as the pleasantest of my life. I often find myself wishing I was at home with them again and Sabbath day is the day I feel most homesick and lonely. It was my delight to attend the Sabbath school and I never missed a Sabbath unless prevented by sickness or some other cause equally as good. I have not attended Sabbath school since I left home nor do I know whether it will be my privilege to do so again until I return.

As far back as I can remember I do not know of my ever using an oath or ever being concerned in anything that was disreputable or that would cause my father pain. When my brother and I went out in the evening we always were required to let our parents know where we were going and to get their consent to our going. In this way a love of home was raised in our hearts which would not have been the case had we been allowed to wander around the streets as we pleased. I have six sisters and one brother. We are twins. Three of my sisters are members of the church. My brother is not a member of any church, but it is my earnest prayer, as well as the earnest prayer of as good a father and mother as ever lived, that he will soon come out on the Lords side.

It was during the great revival of '58 that I was first seriously impressed. I had often thought I would like to be a good man and always said that I would be one some day but I still put it off until at last it came to the point that I must become a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ then or be lost entirely. I resolved to seek the Lord. There was a young minister by the name of Findley preaching for my father, and it was under his preaching that I first received my religious impressions. My father talked and prayed with me and the minister of whom I spoke did the same. I also talked with my oldest sister in whom I placed great confidence and for a long time I did not know what to do but at last I found as I hope "peace in believing".

During this revival great interest was manifested in all the surrounding country and in the different families. Men that were never known to call upon the name of the Lord except in blasphemy were found seeking for pardon at the foot of the cross. There was no noise of any kind but all was still and the Spirit of God silently worked at the hearts of all people. There was nothing thought of for a long time except the revival. It was the sole subject of conversation. There was meeting every night and after it was over an invitation was given to those who were seeking the Saviour to remain for conversation and prayer, and every evening there was about ten or a dozen stayed. At one communion thirty two stood up before the congregation and professed their faith in the Saviour and their determination to renounce the "world with its affections and lusts". It was on this occasion that I joined the church. The next communion season there were fifteen or twenty more joined the church. And every communion one or two more would come forward. This happened for a long time until at last all the interest died, or seemed to die, away. Never had there been for years before such an outpouring of the Spirit and the principal part of the converts were the young people of the town.

I was nearly fifteen years of age when I joined the church and I am now nearly seventeen, which will be next February. I have never since regretted the step I then took and it is my earnest prayer to God that I never shall. I thank God that he gave me the parents that he did. Words can not express the love I bear them and also to my brother and sisters. To them next to God I owe all the comforts and privileges which I have enjoyed, and my prayer is that God will shower down his richest blessings upon them and that I may continue to feel towards them the love that I now feel.

I have endeavored to give you a distinct account of all you desire & but whether it is what you wished I will leave you to determine. You can look this over and see if it is what you wished if it is not I will be most happy to give you all this <> in my power. Wishing you the Richest blessings of God's grace.

I have the pleasure to remain your friend.

B. D. Critchlow [Benjamin D Critchlow, USMA Class of 1865]

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1174 10/21/1860 *From:* E. Kirby

*To:* Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-1116

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.

Oct 21st 1860

My Dear Mr Howard,

Since you requested of me an account of the circumstances connected with my profession of religion, I take pleasure in giving them to you.

While I was very young (about eight years old) I had the reputation of being one of the worst boys in my native town. If there was any mischief or anything unusual happened, I was sure to be pointed out as having something to do with it, and the respect that the townspeople had for my parents only prevented exposure. I continued this kind of life until I was about twelve years old. I had always been obliged from childhood to attend Sunday school and although without any apparent effect yet when I was about twelve years old I commenced to think seriously about my course of life. The influence of my home having a tendency in this direction - my sisters, I had six at the time five of whom were Christians, exerted a great influence over me.

At this time I was in that state which all of us must experience. I was on the brink of high precipice and a single push would have sent me to judgement, but the hand a kind friend sent it would almost seem by Divine Providence came to my aid and I was saved. A gentleman settled near my home about this time. He was a most devout Christian, and strange as it may seem took a strong fancy to me, and his was the hand that guided me from the precipice - to life. If a person of different character had formed an attachment for me who can tell what would have been the result.

My first step towards leading a new life was to take a pledge with my friend to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks. This was the commencement of my new life. In August 1854 I was confirmed. I was at that time fourteen years of age. I joined the Episcopal Church and have remained of that faith ever since.

These are the principal events connected with my early life. I owe it to Divine Providence who sent a guiding hand at the critical moment of life together with the influence of a mother who is as near a Christian as any person I have ever known. I pray God that I may continue to lead a Christian life, and improve in godly ways.

I am ever your sincere friend.

E. Kirby [Edmund Kirby, USMA Class of 1861]

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1175 10/21/1860 *From:* Emory Upton

*To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-1117

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct. 1860 [Assume 21st]

Lieut. Howard:

I was born in Batavia N.Y. in Aug. 1839. My father is a farmer. With the exception of an attendance of six months at a High School, my education was limited to that of a common district school. My parents have long professed religion, and are both members of the Methodist Protestant Church. This church differs from the Methodist Episcopal simply in discipline. Their greatest solicitude has always been to give us religious instruction. There were originally thirteen children - eleven of whom are still living. Of the thirteen ten have professed religion, the remaining three are remembered in our prayers. Morning and evening prayers are always observed, and at meals a blessing is asked. This religious training has had a beneficial effect. None of the family are profane, or intemperate. I never heard an oath uttered in my fathers presence, by any person, without eliciting his reproof.

I came to West Point in June 1856. The family circle was then complete. About the middle of June of that year, a sister, who had long been in feeble health was taken very ill, and after a weeks sickness death ensued. She had not openly professed religion before her illness, but upon her death-bed she gave every evidence of having found peace with God.

Although I was then a stranger to God, I remember what relief I experienced, when in reading the letter informing me of her death, I came to the passage stating that she had put her trust in Jesus. Her death produced a deep impression upon me for a time: I realized my condition but deferred making my peace with God until a more "convenient season". Having always remained at home, with the exception of the period previously mentioned, I had heard but little profanity before I came here, and on my arrival, I was shocked to hear not only the name of God taken so often in vain, but also to witness the efforts which many made to utter horrid oaths. I had not been in the habit of reading the Bible much; but now I took to reading it instinctively.

This was my condition until furlough. On furlough I was enabled to resist the temptations, which were thrown in my way. My moral character was strengthened, but as yet I had not sought God. Another affliction was necessary. My youngest brother, who when I left was apparently in perfect health, was taken sick in Dec. 1858. It was soon evident that his disease must prove fatal, and again was God's goodness manifested unto us by his repentance and forgiveness. He lingered until March 11th when he died, glorifying God. He took great interest in religion, and after he had told my mother that his hands were cold, and that he was dying, he would not relinquish the hand of a neighbor (who had been sent for to go after a sister) until he had promised to meet him in Heaven. His charge to me was that I should delay no longer my preparation for eternity. I was permitted to return home, and attend his funeral. Again I realized the necessity of preparing to meet God, but made no effort until after my return. I read the Bible more attentively and then resorted to prayer. I continued my efforts until I experienced relief. About this time I commenced attending the Prayer Meeting.

As to subsequent experience: at certain times I feel much nearer to God than at others. These seasons occur after the performance of any service or duty, which tends to draw off my mind from worldly things. Particularly on Sunday evenings, and also after attendance at the Prayer Meeting; I feel a closer communion with God. Then I enjoy prayer. I feel then the presence of God's Holy Spirit, & that there is a reality in religion. During these moments I resolve to look back upon them; when I find myself wandering away from God, and their recurrence always increases my faith. I look forward to the time when I can show forth my faith more in works. In whatever capacity I may serve I hope to do good, and to advance the cause of Christ.

I have endeavored to give an accurate statement of my experience. Sometimes I am in doubt. Sometimes I am discouraged, but these happy moments with God illumine my path, and dispel my doubt. I believe in God, I believe in Christ, and I pray for the time when I shall know no doubt, and when I shall have a steadfast faith in all of God's promises.

I ask your prayers that I may continue faithful unto the end, and that I may ever remain a true and humble follower of Christ.

Emory Upton [USMA Class of 1861]

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1176 10/23/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1118

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct. 23. 1860

My dear Mother,

I received a letter from Rowland yesterday & a paper. He said you were not present at his ordination. I am sorry, if the reason of your not being there was that you had not sufficiently recovered from your attack.

Everything moves on with regularity & considerable monotony here. Our most marked events during the term from examination to examination are the changes that frequently occur in the officers of the Post. Col. [Wm. J.] Hardee our Commandant of Cadets left last Monday, & his family follows him tomorrow. I feel quite an interest in this family. I had the two eldest daughters for pupils for some time. Their aunt, who has the care of them (for they have no mother) has been for some time past a teacher in our Sunday school, and the two younger children Bettie & Millie, scholars in the same. The Col has been uniformly kind to me and I wish he was as good a Christian as he knows he ought to be." Colonel [John F.] Reynolds replaces Col Hardee. We like him much. I think he is a good man. The Superintendent Col [Richard] Delafield still remains, though he has already served out his period of four years. Lizzie & I went to bid good-bye to the Col Hardees family this evening. This afternoon I started to visit the parents of my Sunday school scholars & the children themselves. You should have seen the crowd of children following me at the Band barracks. Their faces were not all clean, but they looked happy. I found one of my scholars sick with the Dyptheria -, the poor little boy was suffering a great deal & had been for some time - and I heard of another scholar, very sick, though away on a visit.

Almost all the people I visited today are Germans. Last night I held a prayer meeting with the Cadets. I proposed to many of them to give me an account of their religious life in the form of a letter. I have received already several very interesting letters & am hoping that much good will grow out of the exercise.

The Children are sound asleep & Lizzie has gone to her room if not to bed. Guy has quite a cold & Lizzie soaked his feet tonight in hot water. He is in a good perspiration & I hope his cough will be looser tomorrow. Grace seems perfectly well & is generally very sweet tempered & happy. I find I set a good store by my children. I am praying that God will make of them instruments of blessing to us & to the world. Guy has a "prince of Wales hat" - a drab, round topped felt hat, with a button on the top, long drab pants coming down to his shoes & his usual socks, over which he puts his coat on cold days & damp weather. Grace has a <rumning> sack, that she puts on to go out, gathered a little at the waist. Lizzie made it out of something of Guys. She has made me a dressing gown too which I could not describe to you - red predominates.

I must retire for I have to begin to study early in the morning. I hope father is well.

With much love to him, kind regards to my friends & my earnest prayers for you all, I am

your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

I am glad to hear such good news from Charles, then Rowland.

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1177 10/29/1860 *From:* Helen B. Chapman

*To:* Lieut. O.O. Howard

OOH-1119

Westfield Mass

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Lieut. O.O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

Westfield Mass, Oct 29 60

My dear Sir,

Your very kind letter of Oct 22 was duly received and would have been answered at once, but I was then, and am still suffering from the influence of this New England climate.

You discharged a painful duty with delicacy and kindness, and I believe it will give you pleasure to know that the task was really a less painful one, than you had imagined. I have long been prepared for such a result, and my last interview with my son in August, fully impressed me with the idea, that it could not be long delayed.

I did not consider it advisable in me however to check any voluntary effort to succeed, and from my knowledge of his peculiarities of temperament and character, I felt the necessity of leaving his fate entirely in his own hands. He is well aware that he has no severity of censure to dread on my part - in the contrary I am sensible of too strong a tendency to regard him as unfortunate rather than blamable.

By the kindness of a Providence that has mingled many mercies with much trial, he does not leave West Point either friendless or destitute, and (mortifying and humiliating as these two years must seem to those in whom the pride of life is yet unsubdued), I feel certain they have exercised a most beneficial influence in his character and habits. This cannot seem a strange idea to one with whom all things are subordinate to a Christian life, and you will not be surprised that I can feel, even that this very humiliation so torturing to such morbid sensitiveness, may be a lesson that will impress his memory forever.

For all your care my dear Sir, in striving to lead him, and all his companions, to the only true source of strength and refuge from temptation, I am deeply grateful, and I trust your earnest labor, will not seem wholly in vain. They cannot be fruitless, the seed thus sown will spring up and be as abundant harvest, but you may never know in this life the good you have accomplished. Is it not something to have the grateful wishes and fervent prayers of so many anxious and sorrowing mothers.

I may never see you or have occasion to address you again, and at a moment when from my own sorrow I can now keenly appreciate the trials of others, I cannot refrain from a suggestion with regard to Kirby Russel. In his success his widowed mother has every thing at stake; and I fervently trust you may never have occasion to address such a letter to her. You of all others need not be told how to write on such an occasion, but I have known Mrs. Russel since her son was a very little child. I know her to be a noble-hearted woman chastened and purified by suffering, but she belongs to a proud ambitious family, and Edmund's failure would be attended by many trials that only her very intimate friends can realise.

If, as I have heard it said, he really wants natural ability to go through such a severe course of study, I would suggest, in the spirit of doing unto others as I would be done by, that you clearly enlighten his mother on this point. No agony seems to me unendurable but that of self reproach: and I would be grateful to any one who at the risk of humiliating my pride, would save me from the far greater sorrow of unjust severity to an unfortunate child. I understand he is doing well and I fervently trust he will continue to improve, but if such a painful necessity should occur, I know that Edmund will receive from you all the consolation it is in your power to give.

With my best wishes for your health, and long continued usefulness I remain,

very truly and respectfully yours  
Helen B. Chapman

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1178 11/2/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1120

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Nov 2, 1860

My dear Mother,

All have gone to bed and my eyes feel a little tired of Hebrew so I will write you a few lines. I hav'nt heard from you for so long a time, that I fear a relapse or else you are too busy to write. I think we are all pretty well, though each one of the family has a cold, which causes quite a concert of coughing in the morning. Everything goes on about as usual with us, there being very little to vary the ordinary routine. We get up between six & 7 a.m. I get my lessons, go to recitation, return between 11 & 12, find Lizzie sewing & the children at play out of doors or within. I look over my newspaper, read my letters if I have any, sometimes study till 2 p.m. though almost every day calls me off to do something else, then we sit down to dine. After dinner I generally ride or walk for an hour or two, though of late I have been fixing a stall & flooring for the cow in which operation the children have been too much interested to keep out of the dirt.

Lt. Carroll has gone away for a couple of weeks and I am to exercise his horse for him till he returns. So I have the opportunity of taking Lizzie & the children to ride. Two afternoons in the week I go to Rev. Mr Wells, just opposite Cozzen's Hotel to recite in Hebrew & two other evenings we have the Cadets prayer meetings.

The Sunday's exercises only, vary the routine of duty & exercise. We rise & breakfast a little later. I often visit the hospital before Church - almost always the Soldiers Hospital - though last Sunday I stopped at the Cadets' as it is near by & I had no time to go to the other. Here I leave tracts & sometimes read a chapter & have prayer. Services at the Chapel are then from ½ past ten till after twelve. We dine at one, go to Sunday school at 2. I go to Mr French's Bible class at ½ past 3. Evening Service at 4, and usually go to the Methodist meeting from 7 to 9. Last Sunday night I went to "Fort Montgomery" some 5 miles below to address the children at a missionary concert, & I have been once before.

I do not do a great deal of work this year but do not often feel refreshed & vigorous as I would like. My appetite is good and if anything is wrong I am apt to eat too much, but I am thankful for the great blessings I have, in the constant care & love of God, in my dear wife & happy children with all the attendant circumstances. God is indeed good to me, and I think I enjoy much real peace of mind, though I break up the tenor of this peace by my irregularities - my yieldings to temptation.

Alice Wing (Alice Sands formerly) is with us now. All would send love to you if awake. Guy had a high time with Diamond tonight before he went to bed. Sometimes Guy would be down & sometimes the dog. It has been very rainy & muddy for a few days past & Grace has come out in an old pair of boots of Guys. She makes them fly without regard to mud. As we passed the coast battery tonight while riding, Grace said she thought the last time she was there she was with Uncle Rowland.

Good night. Much love to Father & kind regards to the neighbors & a hope for a great spiritual blessing at Leeds to refresh you all.

Affectionately your son  
O.O. Howard

Tell father I have made arrangements to have a horse here, for which I draw forage in Hay & oats & have him to use. I could'nt quite consider the colt in my service while I am here & he is at Leeds.

We have good news from Charles. I sent a letter to Dellie this morning.

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1179 11/2/1860    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1121

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Nov 2d 1860

Dear Bro. Otis

I have found all lost property except my Greek testament. If that is at West Point I beg hereby to present it to you with much love. I had supposed that Mrs Wing had left you but Mother tells me she will stop all winter. Give her my love & Ellas. We have been thinking how much we would like to see her when she returns to Bruns.

Dellie is to teach in Holden a small, Short School of 8 weeks. He will commence right after Thanksgiving (Nov 29th). Ella & I went down to Leeds & dined with Mother yesterday returning in the P.M. train. That gives us about 3 ½ hour at home. Mother was very much better. So much so that she returned as far as Livermore Falls with us. Father came up on business & they were to stop with Geo. & Huldah [George and Huldah (Gilmore) Lothrop] over night.

We had one of the warmest & most beautiful days of this beautiful Season (Indian Summer). I don't know but that I told you that we had made an arrangement whereby our fares on the A.R.R. are ch'g'd to Fathers acct!

I have thought since I was at West Pt. of a hand book of theology just such as you need. "Knapps Theology". It is in one vol. & not very expensive. I would certainly have it, as it is full & generally reliable - as much so as any. I saw none of the Leeds people but our own yesterday.

Mother had had a very interesting letter from Chas. but had sent it down to Louisa. I have been making pastoral calls somewhat this week. There were 30 at our Wednes. Evening meeting tho a dark night. Our Sab. meetings are quite full but no other signs of special interest. I exchange with Bro. Morrill next Sab. A.M. & we have our first communion as Pastor & people in the P.M. May the Lord show himself at his own table.

Tell Guy that Frank Gilman sent me a picture of the prince. I suppose he (Guy) must look very much like him with that hat on. I want a picture of Guy very much. May not we have one? When you go down to Buttermilk, do some day have one taken & send us.

Ella is nicely & sends her love to you, Lizzie, the children & Mrs W. She is mourning over going out to Tea this P.M. I am excused on acct a little ague in the face. Was glad to get yr. letter about the Prince & the Bishop. We bro't a three gal. keg of new Cider from home yesterday. Don't you want some?

Yours affly  
Rowland

Did you mention that matter to Mr. Grey?

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1180 11/2/1860     *From:* J.A. Smith

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-1122

U.S.M.A. West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Sir,

In compliance with your request I give you the following account of my religious experience.

My ancestors were Puritans, and they all, of whom I have a knowledge, were Christian members of different churches. My parents were both devoted Christians, and always strove by both precept and example, to lead their children to a Savior.

Many times during my youth did a remark or prayer of some Christian person, affect me deeply, and often at such times have I turned away where none but God could see, and tried to pray. Then a dread of the remarks or scorn of companions would creep over me and I would grieve away the Holy Spirit. Thus my time passed until the winter of 1857&8. A great revival of religion was then in progress and many of my companions were hopefully converted. I was somewhat affected, so much so that I arose in the prayer meeting, as a request for prayers.

During the winter my father was taken sick, and after a protracted illness, he died rejoicing in his Savior. His last wishes for his children were that they might be Christians, and live to do good in the cause of Christ. My father's death made a deep and lasting impression on me, and I inwardly resolved to find a Savior who could make so peaceful a dying bed. I studied my Bible and became convinced of my sinfulness in the sight of God. I felt that something must be done. I took my Bible and went into the wood and there prayed earnestly that I might be led aright. I was greatly impressed by the Scripture, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men to be seen of them;" &c. Matthew 6.-1. So I kept my feelings pent up in my own bosom for several days, until I happened one day in the shop of a young man who was a Deacon of the church. He knew nothing of my mind, but like a Christian he spoke to me of my eternal welfare. I unbosomed to him my whole heart, and was kindly advised to press on and do my duty. From time to time for a few weeks afterward I made known my feelings in public, and as I was then about to start for West Point I was advised by my friends to join some church as a safeguard to keep me while away.

At this time the Church to which my parents had always belonged, was without a Pastor, but the church met at my mother's house on the evening previous to my departure, and I there became a member of the Congregational Church of New Sharon Maine, and took the vows of God upon me. Thus I went from my friends in my early Christian life and entered upon a life surrounded with temptations, but I have not ceased to hope and pray that I may be kept from the evil in the world, and that I may lead the life of a Christian.

My experience in my present situation is perhaps already known to you. I have times when I lack the interest I ought to maintain, but at other times I think I can truly feel the joy arising from the love of God, and it is my prayer that I may ever be a disciple of Christ.

Hoping that I may be remembered in your prayers, I am Sir,

Respectfully yours,  
J.A. Smith [Jared A Smith, USMA Class of 1862]

Lieut O. O. Howard

Perhaps it may be well to state aside from the above that the Church referred to is the "Second Congregational Church of New Sharon; also that Rev. Johnathan E. Adams has since been installed as its pastor.  
J.A.S.

U.S.M.A. West Point N.Y.  
Nov. 2nd 1860.

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1181 11/4/1860 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-1123

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Nov. 4th 1860

My Dear Son Otis

It is a long time since I have written you. I cannot tell you how long but one thing I know I am very happy when I receive yours, and every one is a treasure to my heart, and you could not devote a few minutes to any one that would appreciate them as I do, and I have the pleasure of feeling that my sons love each other. Your letters have come in good time.

I have been feeble indeed for two months. Last Saturday we took a letter from the office directed to Rodelphus at Leeds mailed at West Point. I took a mothers privilege and opened it, and found it one of your kind letters, to Dellie directed to Leeds thro' mistake. I regreted the mistake on Dellie's account. It would have been so pleasant for him to have met your handwriting at the Post Office Sat. Eve, after his weeks labour was over. I have written him to day, and will have them mailed to Brunswick tomorrow.

I am very sorry to hear Lizzie is sick with the Neuralgy again, (as she told me she had an attack of it last winter). I hope ere this she is fully recovered from it. I think of her and even dream of her some times, hope and trust she leans, earnestly on her redeemer. Tell Guy Grandmother thinks of him every day and goes into the parlor sometimes on purpose to look at his and Grace's picture. I recall that Guy had no present when in Maine from Grandmother but still look forward to a time when an opportunity will offer that I can do differently. Dear Grace Grandmother thinks of her with pleasure always hope her Childhood is gay and lively like the sweet little birds in summer. She is a darling little girl. Hope she will long have both of her parents to love and bless her.

Only think of Sarah's dear ones. One year ago I was witness of the carresses of their dear father that is gone from them forever. They have lost the teachings of a pious father. I hope Sarah will continue those teachings, but it is a dark day to her now. I received a letter from her soon after you did, and have written her in return, and hope my letters will be some comfort to her, but sometimes the heart is so full that it seems almost like mockery to tender our cold sympathies. I hope she will live near to God and whatever befalls her, in a worldly sense of view she will ever be found at the feet of Jesus. It is truly a bereavement to lose such a husband as Sarah has, and in looking over the world to think no one in whom she can put much confidence, and in her trying situation the sympathys of a kind husband is a great relief to her.

I saw Ensign and Laura yesterday at Conference, and had a little talk with them. They told me John Otis had received a letter from Sarah's father saying she would come on with Perry in Nov. Have you heard anything of the kind? Said Lee wrote from Boston.

Last Thursday the Rev. RB Howard and Lady, that is our Rowland and Ella, came down in the morning train and returning in afternoon making a short visit carrying his keg full of new cider, you remember the maple cyrip, a present from Arroostook. He brought an emty trunk so he could smuggle his cider into Farmington, but some such things are justifiable are they not? R.B. looked up all of your letters and read them with eagerness, read Sarah's and sister Martha Jane's and seemed in very good spirits scarcely siting down while at home. Ella was in fine spirits, was glad to get where she could be called Ella again as it is all Mrs Howard at F... They like full better than they expected and seemed in pretty good health. R has lost flesh since went there. I think he feels the responsibility of the place he is in. He preaches Thanksgiving day. There is a great deal expected of a Minister. I hope God will be his friend. The day they were here was a bright sunny day. They gathered a fine bouquet from the garden, and took with them, in the cars. On their return your father and I went with them as far as Livermore falls and returned the next morning.

I am geting quite strong again. I did not bear my tour to Livermore without fatigue, but became rested after a good nights sleep in my own bed. Our apples are very nice this year. I wish you could have a barrel or two set into your closet for the children to eat. Your father has picked them all himself and had the small ones made into cider. I have boiled one barrel into ten gallons, and shall hold a barrel for an experiment to see if it can be kept sweet. We have rainy and foggy weather all the time. The only exception was the first day of November.

The fog came off in the morning and we had a beautiful day all through.

Otis I think I can sympathize with you in regard to your children. Never was a mother more closely attached to their children than yours, and in time more closely into all their feeling with a jealous care, and I trust they have obtained the Pearl of great price, that money cannot buy.

Charles writes as though the love of God had magnified his soul. If I had his letter here I would copy his words, but I let Warren carry it home. I thought Louisa would enjoy reading it so much, but it was a most satisfactory letter to me. I felt truly that the goodness of God followed me all my days. Yesterday I was led to see the value of religion while at our conference. Mr Chapin seems to enter fully into his work. His faithfulness must be a blessing somewhere. Seems to me he enters into our necessities perfectly. He is now preaching a course of sermons showing the necessity that the Church should work and where the probable failer is.

Laura's health is poor, and I am rather anxious about her. She was out to Conference, but her limbs are bloated unnaturally and her feet are badly swollen, so that she wore some big over shoes. Her Aunt Aurelia is with her, but I fear she will not be able to do for her all she needs. She has lost her boy, while she was gone to Rowland's ordination. His mother packed up and went off. Laura went to see her but could get no satisfaction from her. It is great grief to L. since her health has failed. I hope she will think it is all for the best, as she said she hoped it was at first. Laura took back some of the clothing she had been preparing him. The presents Lizzie gave her for him. I pity her. She is so disappointed. I think she has injured her health taking care of him. I intend seeing her again this week and know more about her infirmities, for I think she feels a want of sympathy. She spoke in our conference as though she had communion of spirit with her God and saviour, but I think there is bodily suffering for her in the immediate future.

It is now past nine o'clock. Good night.  
Eliza Gilmore

It is now evening again and we have had a fine sunny day which seems to have changed every thing for the better. There has been no particular Change at our place since you left.

Oliver Gilbert has bought William Wings' farm - will not probably move there until spring. Elder Holt is holding a series of meetings at Keens corner, and I understand there has been several conversions. Yesterday being stormy day got no news from any quarter. Hope you do not over fatigue your nervous system. It will tell on you in after years, more seriously, than now. I suppose Dellie will go to Holden to teach this winter. Give my regards to Mrs Wing and much love to Lizzie always accepting a big share yourself. I hope to continue to receive your kind letters, as punctual as ever. I suppose we must expect cold weather soon. Three days will complete 30 years of your life. [Otis was born Nov 8 1830.]

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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1182 11/10/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1124a

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Nov. 10th '60

Dear Bro. Otis

I have been unwell & kept the house for a week, but feel very thankful tonight for the very delightful convalescent consciousness that I have. I have been quite feverish tho' not quite a fever. I was "supplied" last Sab. by "Father Rogers" & will be tomorrow by some Baptist brethren. I only wish that you & Charles were in this vicinity. My Sickness has been a blessing to me in a no. of ways - not least in teaching me the intrinsic value of my wife. I am to ride out a little way to attend a funeral tomorrow, the daughter of two members of our Church. Hers was a disease of the throat and may have been Diphtheria of wh. the Physicians here seem profoundly ignorant. I must renew my request in regard to Mr Grey's treatment. I will pay him for the time he may spend in writing what I desired. If there is a secret not to be divulged, I will say no more about it.

Rev. Mr. Southworth of Holden writes me this week as follows, "Your Bro. Has been a rich treasure to us - to me especially. We will miss him very much when he leaves this week. I thank the Lord very much for sending him here". So I suppose Charles is in Bangor tonight. Dellie goes to Holden after Thanksgiving.

We all rejoice in the Election of Mr Lincoln. If I only felt that he had grace in his heart I should have no fears for the Spirit & tone of his Administration.

My nerves are still quite weak & you must excuse a longer letter.

I suppose you saw the "Telegraph" containing the notice of Amanda Knight. Did you also see that of Mrs Everett? Perhaps Ella will write some. Love to all.

Your aff. Bro.  
Rowland

[The following note from Ella, was attached to this letter.]

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1183 11/10/1860 *From:* Ella [Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1124b

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[The preceding letter from Rowland, was attached to this letter.]

[Farmington Nov. 10th '60]

Dear Otis.

It is pretty late at night, but not too late to write a few lines to you, I think. I wish you could come in & see our cozy little home. I guess you'll want to stop! Rowland has been right down sick, for over a week - hasn't yet been out of doors, but is so nearly well, that we consider him quite so, I'm afraid. I begin to feel quite like 'the minister's wife' - not like "a minister's wife", as I have always imagined them, though. I am very happy here - wouldn't change places with anybody! The people are very kind, and I love them. Tell Lizzie she mustn't ever dread your being a minister. Give my best love, & lots of it, to Lizzie & the children and also to Alice, if she is with you. I had a pleasant visit at Leeds, last week.

With love,  
Ella

Do write as often as you can.

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1184 11/10/1860 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1125

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll.  
Nov. 10, 1860

My dear brother:-

Your kind letter was received after having paid its visit to Leeds where it was directed. Mother attributed the directing of your letter to Leeds to your great number of cares and increased nervousness which must necessarily follow overtaxing the brain. But let the cause be what it may I will here state that in future my place of residence will be Brunswick Maine except when I happen to be else where, which always happens when I am not in Brunswick. For instance, during next winter I shall be in Holden Me, teaching school at which time nothing but my ghost will be in Brunswick.

Nov. 14. Wednesday. I had a letter from home yesterday. Mother is getting along nicely. Rowland has had an attack of the fever and has not been able to do much for some time but it seems that he is now improving and will be able to resume his duties immediately. Charles has now finished his school and will go to Bangor as soon as he can. Nettie closes her school this week.

My term will end in two weeks from yesterday at which time I shall go home to spend Thanksgiving day. I think I shall be the only one of mothers children at home upon that day. You have not spent Thanksgiving at home for a long time. I wish we could all be at home once at that time and then we could give thanks with thankful hearts.

Afer thanksgiving, the next day, I shall go to Bangor, from thence to my place of business in Holden. I shall teach in the same house that Charles has taken charge of this fall. He got the school for me.

Our R.R. is progressing nicely. Already over seven miles are graded and many more miles are in process of being finished in as short a time as possible. Mr. Sands is building the road from the river to the K. & P. RR. I saw him this morning "putting into it" like any of his men. He has graded two thirds of his part.

We have been having some of the finest autumn weather I ever knew. I have not seen a bit of frost this fall and it is now in the middle of Nov. as you see. The leaves have long since left the trees and the College grounds begin to assume a very nude and bare appearance. The treasurer has been setting out a few hundred trees in the College yard this fall and we are in hopes that in a few years we shall have a fine set of grounds. Next spring, as early as the ground will permit the "delta" will be made into the grounds of a medical building, which is to be one hundred feet long and of the same height as the other college buildings but containing only three stories. The sum of \$10000 has been appropriated for that purpose.

The political condition of the country seems to be the theme which absorbs a large share of the public attention of our little world of College. Most all other subjects seem to be absorbed by that. To-night the students and people of the town have a grand ovation to celebrate the election of "old Abe".

The cause of Religion like everything else seems to be absorbed in this great political movement. The prayer meetings are thinly attended & are for the most part cold and stiff affairs. There seems to be but little freedom, among those who do attend. Every little thing that comes up takes the place of the meeting and the students go to that rather than the prayer meetings.

My love to Lizzie and the children.

Your very aff bro.  
R.H. Gilmore

I am much obliged to you for the register which you sent me and I will send you a Bowdoin Bugle when they come out.



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1185 11/11/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1126

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
November 11th 1860

My dear Mother

I have come from my room to the prayer-meeting room at the Cadet Barracks and finding that the Cadets supper had been delayed till a later hour than it was at our last meeting, I have concluded to spend the half hour, while waiting for them, in writing you.

Last week passed without furnishing you a letter from me. The Rev. Mr Gray Presbyterian Clergyman at "the Falls" was taken very ill with an attack on the brain a little more than a week ago, and not having a clergyman to call to the post he asked me to officiate for him, so that I was trying the latter part of last week to prepare myself by husbanding my strength. I delivered a discourse of my own in the morning & read a Sermon of a Scottish Divine in the evening. I rode down on horseback in the morning, returned to dinner, went to the Sunday school, & to Mr French's Bible Class & Evening Service at the Chapel and after tea rode again to the Falls & got home a little before nine pretty well tired out.

The mistake was riding on horseback, for I had not been on a horse for some time, and it only served to tire me; but the weather was rainy & the roads very muddy.

I took Lizzie out to ride this evening. She did not suffer any with neuralgy at the time I wrote you. Her tooth plagued her a little & does so occasionally. Today she was not feeling very well. I am sorry Laura feels so poorly. She must take courage for she will soon be strong & well. Remember me kindly & affectionately to them at Uncles & Johns. Has Aunt Aurelia yet united with the Church? I hope she has not put it off.

Guy & Grace are both very well. They were much delighted to see a beautiful rainbow tonight. I gave them a short ride before I took Lizzie out, which they enjoyed as they always do. Alice is still with us. I don't know how long she will stay, perhaps till spring. The children have a school with her nearly every day in the little dining room. Guy always loves a book. I hope he will not be less inclined to books when he gets big enough to study them. He has heard me say over the Hebrew letters & from this has learned quite a number of them. Grace is very happy & talkative. Her eyes are bright, her countenance animated & her tongue moving the greater part of the time while she is awake.

I will cease now in order to find my hymn & Chapter for the prayer-meeting.

Political excitement has made some inroads upon us & I could feel its influence in a dry meeting the last time we met. I hope we will have a better one tonight. If I could send this to you by telegraph I would ask you to pray that we might truly pray tonight.

(1/2 past 10 P.M.) We did have a good meeting. The room was well filled. We had a part of a chapter in John read & then a hymn and then repeated together the Lords prayer. Afterwards three young men followed each other in earnest supplication at the throne of Grace. From the time we commence our praying till all have done we do not generally rise from our knees. After this I talked to the young men tonight urging upon those who had made no profession the necessity of acting. When I had finished my remarks there was only time to read a few words from the "Still Hour" when the bugle for "call to quarters" brought our meeting to a close. Some young men lingered to get tracts & some to talk with me. One told me he desired to be baptized. I came home then to take tea & have prayers with Lizzie & Alice. The latter always kneels with us in prayer, though she has never united with any Church. God grant that she may have His lasting peace in her own heart.

This evening I went to call upon our new tactic officer, who has just come, Lt Forney [John H Forney, USMA class of 1852]. He was one year with me as a Cadet - my first year & his last. No, I believe two years. He has become quite bald & looks old.

It hardly seems possible that I am thirty. I got your kind letter on my birth day and it was a very acceptable birth day present. I hope you will continue well & father too. How does he do this fall? I presume he is <poing>! at disunion. I have no idea what the result of the movement would be, but I cant help almost wishing that South Carolina will execute her threat & be able to go out of the Union. It would be a good lesson to her people to stand alone for a few years. I am glad to hear that Mr Chapin is hard at work & I hope other Christians will be hard at work for their master at Leeds. It will be encouraging to Charles to have had such a good result of labor just before commencing his theological studies.

It is now 11, so good night. Love to father & kind regards to the neighbors. I hope & will try to pray that the cause of Christ may prosper in individual hearts & in the town at large.

Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

P.S. I will not stop to read over tonight.

I have heard that poor Warren Lothrop has been sick with inflammatory rheumatism in N. York City. I have only lately heard so & that he is now better & will have a "sick leave".

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1186 11/12/1860 *From:* M.H. Wright

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1127

Saint Louis Arsenal

West Point  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Saint Louis Arsenal  
Nov. 12. 1860

My Very Dear Friend:

Though I've not had the pleasure of hearing from you since the expiration of your Summer's "leave of absence", I suppose that you are still at the Point, engaged in your usual labors, and I must confess, that I have waited a long time to make this indirect inquiry as to your whereabouts, & to ask after the welfare of your kind family.

Though I've not written to you & expressed my interest in you & yours, & your success, in your generous labors to advance the Cause of Our Lord and Master, you may be assured that my heart has ever been with you, and that you all have been & are most kindly remembered.

Often, often have I endeavored to thank the Giver of all good things, for the many kind friends I had at the Point - for their goodness to me - their encouragement & support, among the many trials & temptations common to the young man, when thrown far away from the gentle influence of home, & among so many of his own age & inexperience. To them I feel much indebted, seeing in all the healthful influences of their teachings & society, the kind providence of our Heavenly Father. Would that I could influence every young man that goes to the Academy to go to them for counsel, & especially would I have every young Christian that may enter there, commence at once to engage actively in the labors of the gospel, with them. Declare themselves on the Lord's side before all, & taking a part in the Prayer-Meeting, the Bible-class & the Sunday School, show that [they] feel an interest in, & are determined to work, for the cause of Christ, for the salvation of souls. You will know the dangers of waiting - too often alas! is the delay fatal.

I was much gratified to learn from Mr. Hamilton of the success of the Prayer-meeting, though the information of its neglect on the part of some, for whom I entertain much regard, caused some sad feelings & forebodings. May they be constrained, by the grace of God, & the strongest ties of love of our gracious Lord, to return again & to realize rich blessings therefrom.

I find in the Pastor of our church, a most worthy Christian & a devoted friend. His sincerity & earnestness in his labors, bind all to him with the sacred ties of love & friendship. Oh indeed it is encouraging & reviving to hear him talk of his faith in Jesus, & tell us that in Christ alone is our Salvation. He is plain & bold in his teachings - simple & unostentatious - & while all love him, we are not led to look so much to the man, per se, but to his plain, holy teachings - to the goodness of God.

A most affecting incident occurred in connection with our Sabbath School, a few weeks since. A lively interest being felt in the School, & general good feeling so pervading as to make all, young & old, feel as though their special services were needed, & that all could do some good. It was proposed as another inducement still, to the scholars, to offer a reward to the one bringing in the most, or the greatest number rather, of new scholars, to become permanent members, within a certain time. The effect was good. Many little ones before neglected (so common in our large cities) were visited & urged to come. One Dear Scholar, a little girl about 12 years old, went to a house on Saturday, & found three children who were not attached to any S.S. They welcomed her, gladly, joyfully. Their hearts leaped for joy at being offered a place in the S.S. & oh what a kind good girl, to come after us, they said. Yes, & she will come & go with us to-morrow, not leave us alone, to go & meet so many strangers, & be coldly treated, perhaps. No, she will be good to us, & take us. Yes, she was to come by their house next morning & take them to the S.S.

Sunday came - a bright, glorious day. At early dawn the little girl was up, & soon was ready for S.S. She left her mother, & went for the little ones she had found the day before. She entered the house, & what did she behold - bright & joyous hearts? Ah no - gloomy sadness reigned within. The Angel of death had visited the house & carried off one of those dear little children - both the others were on their death beds. Yes before another Sabbath they too, were called to their long home.

Oh how sad to think that they had been neglected so long. All three of these poor little ones are now at their

eternal homes. Oh who can say where they are. We humbly pray that it may have pleased the Lord to take them unto Himself.

This is no fiction - it is truth, & occurred in our own S.S. I have a class there , & find much comfort in attending it, & may the lord bless all our efforts.

No doubt you feel some little anxiety about the result of the recent election, for surely every good man must love his country & would pray ever, that it might be under the special charge of an Allwise God. And our country, towards which the eyes of all Christendom are turned, upon which the advancement of the Gospel would appear, in the Providence of Heaven, so much depends. Oh who can contemplate its destruction, without feelings of the deepest sadness & sorrow?

I must confess that I fear, the consequences. I see no just cause for secession, nor for any trouble, but sad to say, the bad passions of wicked men being aroused & excited, may lead to much evil. There will be secession, of some of the States, mark my words. Let others laugh at the idea as they may, I believe it. What it may lead to, who can tell?

But I'm running on here too far. I would desire my love to your kind Lady, & to those dear little ones - Guy & Grace. I earnestly hope, that I may yet, again be blessed with the Society of your dear family. You will present my kindest regards to Mrs. French & family, to all of them. Oh never can I forget those good people, ever so kind & good to me. I have commenced two or three letters to Mrs. F. but could never seem to finish them.

Remember me to Prof. Kendrick most kindly. To Symonds & all my friends. Present my kind regards to Miss Laurie Gray & her Mother.

May the Lord bless you & yours, according to His own goodness.

Your aff. Friend,  
M.H. Wright

Lt. O.O. Howard  
West Point,  
N.Y.

Do write to me. I would like so much to talk a great deal to you.  
M.H.W.

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1187 11/16/1860 *From:* J.F. Weir

*To:* Dear Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-1128

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Nov 16th [1860]

Friday morn'g

Dear Mr Howard -

After so long a delay I have at last been able to complete your picture, wh I now send, trusting you will receive it safely. I hope it may please you, but don't scruple to let me know if it should not.

I have been writing a long letter to Charles, trying to make amends for my neglect, but will not close it 'till I shall have seen you.

Yours very respectfully

J.F. Weir

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1188 11/17/1860 *From:* H. Tupper

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1129

152 Maiden Lane  
New York

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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152 Maiden Lane  
New York Nov 17 1860

My dear Sir,

Your kind favour of 9th inst was duly rec'd. I thank you and your excellent wife for your kind sympathies. To part with children is a severe trial but to be resigned to the will of our Maker is our duty. There was a great preparation on the part of my daughter for the event and we have confidence that the change is for the better with her, so we mourn not as we would if the case was less hopeful.

I am gratified to learn that you continue the good work among those with whom you dwell, may God bless your efforts in his cause. It would at all times give us pleasure to see you and your lady at our house, which, although not quite so cheerful as when Maria was present, is not made gloomy by the event of her removal.

My Mother in Law Mrs Crabtree from Savannah & my son and daughter, Mr & Mrs Lloyd are with us, but still we have plenty of room and not only happy but desirous of having the visits of our old friends when convenient for them to come & see us.

Remaining as ever,

Your assured friend  
H. Tupper

Lieut O O Howard  
West Point

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1189 11/18/1860 *From:* R. M. Nelson

*To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-1130

West Point N York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N York  
Nov. 18th 1860

Mr Howard:

dear sir:

in compliance with the request you made of me, to write to you some account of the manner in which it pleased God to touch my heart and make me sensible of my duty to him, I now pen this.

During the great outpouring of the Spirit in 1858, there was a considerable awakening in the town in which I reside. Old Professors of Religion had their hearts warmed, and strove vigorously for the Salvation of their impenitent friends. In this way, and by various other means was I brought to examine myself. But a habit which I had formed of avoiding religious persons, because I feared they would converse with me upon religious topics, and of driving away serious thoughts whenever they would arise, made this self-examination of no avail. No avail, I said. It should have been no saving avail.

For from what then was worked in my heart, I broke off the use of profane language, to which I had hitherto been dangerously addicted. Some few months after a friend obtained for me the situation of Asst. Instructor in a high school, the Principal of which was Rev L. H. Shuck, son of Rev. J. L. Shuck former Missionary to China. A few weeks after entering upon the discharge of my duties as a teacher, God in his infinite goodness saw fit to revive His work in the town in which I was residing. For nearly a week, this awakening seemed to extend no farther than to the hearts of professing Christians, and one or two Sinners who were asking what they should do to be saved. On Friday Evening of the week it was evidenced that the earnest prayers had not been in vain. Some seven or eight young men had presented themselves to be prayed for. Dr. Foy, whom I never shall forget, was sitting by me. He whispered to me that then was the accepted time, and asked if I would not seek Jesus too. I had been seriously reflecting upon my lost condition for two or three days. And shame was the only thing which had restrained me from presenting myself for prayer. I left my seat and proceeded to the front seats which, those who desired that prayer should be offered for them, had been requested to take. After the close of the service, I went home with Dr. Foy. He conversed with me and pointed out to me the way to the Saviour. I knelt with him in prayer, and he earnestly supplicated God in my behalf. He then retired to bed.

Having passed a very restless night, I arose early the next morning and went to my room. I took my Bible and read the promises Christ had made to all who would come to him aright. I prayed that he would receive me as his own. I read and prayed. Upon my knees and with the Bible in my hand, I made the resolution, that let others do as they might, for one I would strive to serve God for the rest of my life. From the moment of making this resolution I felt a joyful calmness, such as I had never felt before. I wished to be with Christians and to talk of our Master. A few mornings after, at one of our sunrise prayer-meetings I was asked to lead in prayer. I took an active part as a Christian, striving to do what I considered my duty. But strive as I might still I did many things which were inconsistent with my profession.

If I had not come to the Academy, I should have studied with the Ministerial Profession in view. If it is the will of my Master, that I graduate here, so soon as I shall have served three years, it is my intention to resign and enter the Ministry. And may He fit me for this great work! Will you vouchsafe to me your prayers to this end? From fear of wearying I have abridged very much. I close remaining

Yours in Christian Fellowship,  
R. M. Nelson

To  
Lieut. Howard

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1190 11/19/1860 *From:* T. R. Tannatt  
Lieut 4th Arty  
OOH-1131 Fort Randall K.T.

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Randall K.T.  
November 19, 1860

Friend Howard,

Your silence does not preclude the possibility of my writing to you and to prevent any accusation of neglect from you I am determined to write for the next mail.

Well Howard, to commence at home, I am greatly blessed, with a good Christian wife, and almost perfect health. My cup seems filled to the brim with God's mercies.

You may expect me (as a newly married man) to enter into a graphic description of Mrs T; to you I need only say, she is from a good New England family, with the culture attending and above all an earnest Christian.

My home is a cheerful happy one, my circumstances easy, and all goes well in the temporal world.

You would ask what are you doing for Christ? And I must answer nothing.

You could not conceive a more desolate place than Randall, no church, no Sabbath, no religion. The officers are either avowed atheists, catholics or universalists, excepting Lieut Mack. My own company commander told me he thought "a soldier had no business with religion and he did not want any one giving them tracts and bibles", the Lieut in the company was once a communicant but now says he considers the bible "a pack of lies from beginning to end." You can judge how unpleasantly I am situated spiritually, and how much I must find precious in my wife and the religion of my fireside.

I am writing to you in confidence and must say I am disappointed in the officers of the army. I formed my ideal from those I met as a Cadet. I find religion not respected and even ladies are bantered about their religious feelings, billiards rooms open during the Sabbath, and the fear of God far from their minds. I am not prepared to leave the army at present, but I shall soon do so, unless some change takes place. I do not feel it my duty to remain where all is opposed to the chief aim of life. My wife came into the army full of love for the work of Christ, fresh from the teachers seat, and the bedside of the sick and needy. She spent stated times in reading and praying with three old ladies over ninety and thought in the army she could do a good work, but she finds her hands not only tied, but she is cut off from all religious privilege and converse.

My health demanded or I should not have joined my company here, I hope we will yet meet. I want my wife should see you & above all she should know Mrs H Mrs French and a few others who are, bound with her in Christ. I am not complaining Howard, but I long for the society of a few warm, active souls. I feel I am growing cold and very careless, a more than lukewarm spirit is upon me. I am cold! cold! I do not find that support in prayer. God has not changed, it is my own heart. I know it well, a friend of Jesus must work. His soul must be kept alive by mingling with kindred souls.

I have written the dictates of my heart, unreservedly. Let all rest with you and in your prayers remember him who writes. We need your prayers, and I feel you will not withhold them.

I write to Mrs French by this mail. Remember me to all.

May God bless you and yours.

Your friend in Christ  
T. R. Tannatt  
Lieut 4th Arty

Lieut O.O. Howard

U.S.A.

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1191 11/22/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1132

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
November 22nd 1860

My dear Mother,

Before retiring tonight I will spend a few moments in writing you. Time passes very rapidly with us. It is like a large prairie here with regard to time. There where nothing obstructs the view you cannot easily estimate distances. So here the routine is so smooth & regular that we have scarcely any landmarks. Week after week go by with the same round of duties without any variation. We are having beautiful weather now, clear & cold. In the morning when I first enter our front room which overlooks the Hudson & takes in the Eastern horizon I feel grateful to God that he has planted my feet in such pleasant places. How beautiful is this earth & its surroundings! How rich the provisions God has made for his children! How much of comforts & blessing I am permitted to have and yet it is only now & then, that a grateful impulse springs from my heart to the Great Giver; and moreover we find that even our gratitude when we have it is the offspring of the Holy Spirit, or at least induced in us by the effect of His blessed presence. Still if we can, let us enjoy every blessing of Divine Providence, looking at it as a <faint> type of a blessing in Heaven. Last Sunday, one Cadet went forward in Baptism - Cadet Andrus. The prayer-meeting of tonight was a good one. Some of the prayers were, more than usually, earnest. And we may yet have an answer far beyond our expectations.

I expect there is some political excitement existing amongst the young men. The South Carolina delegation have just published in the Herald, the result of a meeting amongst themselves. You would judge them filled with State patriotism & think they had made a great sacrifice in leaving. Five of them at least (& I don't think there are more than seven in all) are either completely deficient or stand a fair chance of being pronounced so at the next examination. It is very valorous in them to retire at this juncture. If South Carolina's going out don't hurt the Country more than the resignation of deficient Cadets hurts West Point, the rupture so much talked of will be a blessing, unless other states get crazy too & follow her suicidal policy. Whatever is in store for us God watches over rulers & countries & in the end will cause all counsels to rebound to his Glory. If I did not have this confidence, I should be filled with fear at the ominous forecasting of coming events. Civil war, heated controversy, lawless conduct, a shattered confederacy grouping in fragments around different centers. I suspect we shall exchange peace & comfort & innumerable blessings for nobody knows what.

The foolish State or States which senselessly create the disturbance will suffer the most & lose in the very thing most desired, i.e. "the extension of slavery" for they wont have anywhere to extend except perchance over the barren wilds of New Mexico. But as I said the Lord holds the Storm in his own hands & can dispel or curb the madness of foolish men.

We are quite well. The children happy & growing. I do hope Leeds will have a refreshing season from the Lord this winter. Continue to pray for me dear Mother.

I hav'nt had a letter from Chas. for some time. Dellie & Rowland have written lately. The family all abed. Love to father.

Affectionately Your Son  
O.O. Howard

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1192 11/26/1860 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1133

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Nov 26, 1860

My dear brother

I have been expecting a letter from you but think I have waited long enough. Rowland has written very often since I came here & mentioned hearing from you not long since. A letter from Johnny Weir came Sat night & he spoke of having met you not long ago. It seems you have a painting for a memorial of him. From Brunswick I learned that Mrs Wing still remains with you. These accounts furnish rather a dim outline, however, of your present life. You know well I suppose that you could not write one sentence about yourself & family at West Point, which would be devoid of interest for me.

I came here two weeks ago yesterday. We have had lectures in the forenoon by Prof. Pond upon Mental & Moral Philosophy. He is closing up the course now with two or three upon Phrenology which he not only demolishes (apparently) by argument but plies unsparingly with ridicule. Hebrew will take the place of these after Thanksgiving.

In the P.M we have an exercise in Greek. The Harmony of the New Testament. Prof Smith conducts this. He opens with a brief but fervent prayer & questions & enlarges upon the meaning in the manner of a Bible Class of a Sabbath school. You would enjoy this exceedingly.

My room in the chapel is very high with three immense windows. My room-mate is the young man of my acquaintance that I would have chosen could I have had the privilege of selection, with the exception of my brothers. Our room is upon the South Eastern Corner, so we have the sun all day.

Yesterday & today have been clear & cold - like winter but we have had only a sprinkling of snow - a few moments yesterday. The boat, Daniel Webster, starts upon its last trip for the season today. I noticed by this morning's paper that Dan. C. Ingraham of your class died at Augusta last Friday. He has been declining some time I believe. One young man here has bled at the lungs & been reduced very low since I have been here. He seems to be recovering. My class number 17 & Ladd of Farmington Academy - my classmate in College - will be here today. Webster also of my College class is here.

Dr. Lincoln, the Dentist, has moved to Bangor in order to study Theology & joins the Senior Class. He seems to be an earnest Christian, a worker & one who has much experience of Grace. He spoke of you with interest. He has been filling some of my teeth - 5 & is not done yet. He is at his office Afternoons. Intends to spend three years here & would have taken the whole in course, but by inverting it he can better attend to his business & he hopes to be able to study all the time the 3d year. Then he will probably take up Hebrew.

How do you come on in the study of Hebrew? Do you recite to any one? We make use of Commentaries largely in getting our Harmony lesson. I sat with Gen. Stephens yesterday & heard Rev. Mr. Storr in P.M. I attend the Central usually where I have a S.S. class of young ladies. How you would enjoy the sermons & meetings we have here! Wish you could have attended the Missionary meetings addressed by Dr. Hamlin of Constantinople & Rev. Mr. Lindley of South Africa held here the first of last week. I can give you so slight an idea of the discourse that I will not attempt it in a letter.

Mr & Mrs Dennet mentioned having met with you. I sit with them at Church. Mrs D came from Bath, a distant relation of Ella's.

Dellie will be at home Thanksgiving & here the next day on his way to Holden. I am very anxious for him to exert a wholesome religious influence there both in the family where he is to board & in his school.

There is danger of my doing little for Christ here. Pray that I may have the heart which will enable me to perceive opportunities & embrace them with a will.

My love to your family. Is Lt. Carroll a believer yet? How does my little man Guy spend his time & how is Grace as sweet & happy as possible I suppose. Does she have a Susan to love? Do you have many rides? Johnny spoke of a new horse & carriage. How is that? Tell me of the Cadets & of the meetings. My regards to Miss Blanche, also to other friends, you know whose names I would wish if I had time. Tell Clia I wish I were there with her as I was with Helen - a momentary wish however - for I trust I am in the place the Lord would have me be in. I felt sorry to hear what you wrote of your Bible Class. If I had known I had so much that must be said I would have taken another sheet.

Hoping to hear from you soon if it be but a word, I remain  
Affectionately Your Bro.  
C.H. Howard

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1193 11/29/1860 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* My dear brother [OO Howard]

OOH-1134 Farmington Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Me.  
Thanksgiving Day  
Nov. 29 / 1860

My dear Brother

Rev. Mr. Fuller formally of Wayne, is our Methodist minister here & preached the Sermon today - all denominations uniting on such occasions. I know you will recall his manner & tones. He gave us a very good Sermon - rather dodging the controverted topics of the day. A boy (nephew) just came & offered Mrs Cutler a ride, but as she was busy, Ella took her place. Our sleighing is two days old & quite good. One of my parishioners who has been sick two years gives very conclusive evidence of a change of heart. She is very happy & prays & converses with all who visit her. I attended her Grandmothers funeral at the same house last Tuesday.

I declined Mothers invitation to go home today as I wished to be with my people. Dellie is at home but is to go to Holden this week I believe. I suppose Mother has written you of Lauras misfortune. Her babe was not alive. She was better and recovering, herself. How delightful it would have been for their old age if god would have continued the life of their child. But He had some better purpose.

You need not be afraid of my overworking. The danger is the other way - the temptations of my beautiful home are very great. I am too little at my table (study) & too little among my people, many of whom are sick.

If Mr. Greys health is sufficiently recovered I hope you will get his statement & prescription. I am daily visiting those sick with Diptheria & the only remedy of the Dr's here is burning, & if I take the disease, and do not hear from you, I must submit to that.

No one has greater reason to praise God today than I have - no one! Our subject in meeting last Evening was the duty of praise. It seemed to be blest to us.

Mr & Mrs Abbott called last Evening & I gave them your kind regards. They are just home from Boston. We were indebted to them for celery & cranberries for Thanksgiving dinner. Mr Lee is in Leeds - very kind to all his relatives. How much I fear that poor Sarah will now fall into his & her mothers hands. Do you hear from her?

Tell Guy, we have a pond & he might skate if he would come to Farmington. Ella & I have got our skates out but have not been on the ice yet. We are to have quite a company to Tea tonight. I expect a missionary to preach half a day next Sab for me, and, on Tuesday we are to have a Miss. Convention at wh. A no. of returned missionaries will be.

Everybody here is strong in the faith that the "Union must & will be preserved". If So. Carolina refuses to allow customs to be collected, she must be made to submit. Even at the cost of blood, as much as that is to be deplored. I am greatly in favor of a stronger central government. So. Ca. might go, joyfully would we bid her do it. A precedent would not be ruinous.

Tell Guy & Grace that just across the street from us, a gentleman (Mr Abbott) has got a great black bear. He has a house for himself. He is asleep now and will not awake till spring. Then he has a RR. For his boys to slide down on in the Summer. But they wont need it now.

I think you have got along well in Hebrew - wish we could study it together some Eve day. What a good time we will have, God willing when you all come to see us next summer. Ella is still out or she would have a message to send. God bless you all & give you <hearts> overflowing with thanksgiving & praise.

How swiftly the sleighs glide by. Good Dea <Cutter> is sick of Diptheria.

Lovingly  
Rowland

Remember us very

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1194 12/1/1860    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1135

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
December 1st 1860

My dear Mother,

I feel slightly tired tonight and will only write you a few lines to tell you that Lizzie presented me with another little boy [James Waite Howard] this afternoon, about ten minutes past one. She labored hard but everything was favorable. Her first pains began a little after four, but were not severe till after eight. She is doing well. The boy weighed 11 3/4 lbs by my scales, pretty large, though he don't look so.

Guy & Grace are delighted. Guy wants to know if he did'nt come in thro the door or thro the window or thro some back door.

Lizzie sent to Newburg for a nurse. She was to come down today, but the baby was born & dressed before she got here. Mrs Simpson, a colored woman, who sells candy & cake to the Cadets acted as nurse. Dr McDougal, an aged Surgeon, was kind patient and attentive. Our Heavenly Father has indeed blessed us. It is thus He accumulates his mercies upon us. May he fit this child for his own service & with him glorify His Holy Name. One of my cherished hopes is that my children may be faithful servants of God.

Give my love to Laura & tell her she is bigger & stouter than Lizzie, also to Uncle & John & his family. My kind regards to the neighbors. Love to father.

Affectionately Your Son  
O.O. Howard



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1196 12/5/1860 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1137

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Thursday Dec 5th 1860

My dear Mother,

Lizzie & the baby have had no draw-backs. She has a good appetite, looks cheerful & happy. Tuesday we had a light fall of snow. I gave the children a sleigh-ride yesterday - Guy & Grace & Katy Carroll are having a nice time sliding this morning.

Lizzie was very sorry for Laura. How is she now. Give her much love & Sympathy.

The baby's corrected weight was 8 ½ lbs the 3d day.

Much love to Father. We are expecting secession & are anxious for the result.

Aff. Yr. Son  
Otis

The baby is well & sends a lock of his hair to Grandmother - What name?

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1197 12/7/1860     *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1138

Holden

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Holden Dec 7 1860

My dear brother:

Your letter of the 1st inst came to hand last night and I hasten to write you in time. I have a very pleasant school in a pleasant neighborhood. My school is not large being only about 30 in all and the average attendance is not more than 25. Most of them are very obedient, but I have some roguish boys who are continually getting into mischief. As yet I have used no stick or ruler in the way of corporal punishment but I think I shall be under the necessity of doing so ere long. My boarding place is quite pleasant. I have the same that Charles had. Mr. Newcomb is a very queer man and has a great many queer ways and sayings. Mrs Newcomb has recently obtained a "hope" that she is a child of God. She is quite a pleasant woman and trys to do what she can to make my stay here pleasant. Mr Southworth the Congregationalist Clergyman I find to be a very pleasant man. I like him very much. He was in my school this morning in the capacity of visiting Committee. He seemed to be very much pleased with my course of instructing.

I hardly know what to say in regard to the communication of the tidings of the birth of another son. That is the reason why I have not said anything about it before. I suppose I ought to make some observation concerning so important an event, but as I never had occasion to make any remarks in regard to such an affair I believe I will let the matter slide after assuring you that I will do as you requested.

I left home a week ago today. Mother was much better than she had been for weeks before. The cavity on her limb had been decreasing in size for a long time so that it is only about the size of a thimble now. The rest of the folks are nicely. We had a small Thanksgiving i.e. the number at the table was small. I was the only one of mother's children present and Roland Gilmore was the only one of fathers children there besides me. We have been having quite a snow storm in these parts so that we now have good sleighing. Charles sent me a letter yesterday and enclosed in his was one from you. I have received numerous invitations to call at the various houses in my neighborhood. I shall make one to night after I have finished this.

Give my love to Lizzie and a kiss for Guy, Grace & ---- (the little one). Perhaps you would like some advice in regard to the naming of the new comer from the various uncles. My remark is don't name him Rodelphus. "A word to the wise is sufficient." Please write me often and it will give me much pleasure to answer

Your very aff. Bro.  
R.H. Gilmore

Lt. O.O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

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1198 12/17/1860 *From:* Charles [H Howard]

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1139

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Dec 17, 1860

My dear brother

It may seem rather late for me to congratulate you & Lizzie on the happiness of having another of those gifts from Heaven which bring joy also to all your friends and we expect will be a blessing to the world. My feelings however have not grown less ardent nor my prayers less frequent in behalf of you all & especially Lizzie, altho' I have delayed writing. I find a great deal to occupy my time as it seems you do as usual. There is something almost every evening - tonight I debated whether it was not my duty to attend the "Society of Inquiry" which meets in the room beneath ours. It is for the promotion of the Missionary Cause - meets once in two weeks, alternating with the Rhetorical Soc. After a half hour in devotional exercises, we have two reports with regard to different quarters of the world by two members appointed for the purpose at a previous meeting. The world is divided into the 5 grand div. & each div. is assigned to an extensive Committee. So certain one of these Committees report at each meeting and have it for their duty to collect all they can of interest with regard to their particular field.

Tues. Eve - our class prayer meeting takes an hour & sometimes the <Corbonette> meets which being for the benefit of the Seminary we are expected to attend when invited.

Wed. comes the regular Church prayer-meeting which I find it advantageous to attend. Thurs. nothing regular but always something. Last week there was a social gathering of the Sabbath School & "opening of the boxes" containing the contributions of each class. I went to get acquainted with my class, most of whom were present. It consists of 7 young ladies 16 or 18 years of age. The boxes contained this year \$275.00

We had a little practice at singing before & during the counting of the money a social season. Then being seated we were furnished with a treat of apples, nuts, raisins &c. The latter in little packages for each scholar & teacher. After one more sing, Prof. Harris offered a few remarks & closed with prayer. This was at a vestry designed on purpose for such occasions.

Friday eve. Immediately after tea, which is at 6, we have a general prayer-meeting of the students, then there is a Sabbath School teachers' 'meeting' at the Vestry which I would by no means miss. We discuss there the lesson for the next Sab. Students take turns in presiding. There are 6 of us in the school - 3 of my class & 3 of the middle. 3 of my Sat. Eves. I have made calls - once upon Mrs Dennet, at Gen. Stephens week ago & at Prof. Shepards last Sat. Gen. S & wife invariably inquire about & express great interest in you. They hope you will spend a year or two here. I let the Gen. read your next the last letter.

When I got your letter we were just beginning Hebrew. Isn't it hard. We have an excellent teacher in Prof Smith & now we are having 2 lessons a day being tutored by Rev. Mr. Perkins in the forenoon. He drills us on the verbs while Prof. S. lectures upon the same occupying about 3/4 hour in thus giving out a lesson for next day & 1/4 in having us pronounce or read (It seems more like spelling out) the Hebrew of the 1st part of the Bible. We shall battle Lat & Greek soon. I couldn't think of translating - seems to me you have got on admirably.

I was gratified to hear Alice as well as Miss Benet & Holabird were in your S. School. All you wrote was of interest but requires no special answer I believe. I fear my letter to Johnny was either too long or too prosy as it brings no return. I feel anxious to know how Lizzie gets on & the little one with the "dark hair" - from Mother via Farmington. Did you mean to give away your painting. Oh I wish you would keep it. It would remind your great grandchildren how their ancestor spent many years at West Point. It won't fade you know.

I would gladly extend this letter another sheet but think I ought to draw it to a close & go into the meeting. Our P.O. is in that room. The students carry the Sem. mail taking turns each week. You perceive how conveniently situated I am. Prayers, Rec. Library & Reading room in same building. Our wood is in the cellar. How much I should enjoy having you here while I am. Last Sabbath while listening to Prof. Harris I longed to have you there. It is like a feast - this preaching - only it is all temperate, nothing unhealthy.

We are all watching the daily news from Washington & the South with intensest interest, but probably no more so than you. Tomorrow or perhaps this beautiful moonlight night, when the stars are shining so clear & bright out of the depth of blue as tho' nothing unusual were transpiring below, South Carolina makes her exit from the Union.

I am disposed as yet to use no phraseology which may imply that our glorious "United States", as a government, is near its end. I hope the Pres. with Gen Scott to back him will vindicate our federal rights. What are the prevailing opinions & feelings at West Point? Any Cadets seceded?

Tell Johnny Weir I have joined the Gymnasium Association of the city & spend about an hour in gymnastics daily. They allow about 50 of us students to attend a year for \$60. The usual price is from 5 to 10 dollars apiece.

Expect Mother will visit Rowland tomorrow on the occasion of stockholders meeting. Some cases of Diptheria in Farmington. Is Mr Grey fully recovered? How much I would enjoy spending a few days with you now & calling to see my friends there - especially Mrs. G. & Miss Jennie & Johnny Weir. Where is Miss Blanche? Tell her I felt the need of her history in my school last Fall. I thought of trying to introduce it. But I must close abruptly at last. Do let me hear soon.

Your Affectionate Bro.  
Charles

P.S. Dellie has taught two weeks. He is tried somewhat like all "school-masters" but I hope will get along successfully.

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1199 12/17/1860 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1140

West Pont N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Pont N.Y.  
Dec 17th 1860

Dear Mother,

I am getting anxious about you. After such a memorable event as the birth of another grandson, I did expect to get a line from you, but perhaps you have been too busy to write. I hope you & father are well. We have had the good providence of God with us all the time. Lizzie has steadily gained strength & the baby has done well. Lizzie says he is a hearty & strong child.

Grace has had a cold a good while, which gives us some anxiety because it has affected her hearing, so much so that she asks you over again when you say anything to her in the ordinary tone. The Dr says it will soon pass away. Guy is rosy & robust. He delights in sliding. He was 5 yrs old yesterday, when he got five slaps on the back and a present of a case containing five books called Willie books.

We have not named the baby yet. What shall we call him? Does not Father think the political sky is rather squally at this time?

I hope we shall get a letter soon. I have heard from the boys since I wrote last. How is Laura? I hope she is able to "dwell in the secret place of the Most, though abiding under the shadow of the Almighty." I hope my dear Mother, that your own heart is filled with peace. Love to Father & kind remembrances for the neighbors.

Aff. Yr Son  
Otis

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1200 12/23/1860 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My Dear Son [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1141

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, December 23, 1860

My Dear Son,

With a cheerful heart and I hope a thankful one, I commence writing you this Sabbath evening. The sun is now sinking out of sight, and leaves a golden hue far up before it reaches the red and blue stripes but the whole aspect rather bespeaks a blustering night. We had several inches of light snow fell yesterday, and last night which will probably pile up tonight.

Your last letter was rather a reproof but as I am doing my work alone and cannot at all times command my time. The privilege of writing has been lost some times. My health is good. I believe I can say my limb is healed.

I was very happy to hear, in each one of your letters that Lizzie was so comfortable and hope nothing will befall her, and ere the warm weather comes she will recover her full strength. Baby must have a name, and it belongs to his parents to name him. I always liked your father's name and would perpetuate it in this little son of yours if agreeable to his parents.

I am glad to hear that Guy is so healthy. I thought of him his birth day. It was on the Sabbath, the same as his first birth day. I am sorry to hear that Grace has such a bad cold, so early in the winter. I fear she may not recover from it until warm weather.

Grandmother often finds her thoughts wandering away to West Point, imagining how each individually is employed, still hoping all is well. The disease of the throat, that has cut off so many children in Auburn and Lewiston the month past does not prevail at West Point.

Your letters are very precious to me, more so than ever since I am so much confined and alone. Tell Grace the white kitten is grown to be a cat, and stays in the house with me the most of the time. She is now sitting in the same chair that I do. As I lean forward to write, puss creeps in behind me and there she is now.

Your father is very sore on politics. He says many rash sayings about the President and secessionist. I cannot think that any one of our united states will ever think they can sustain a government alone. There are so many connecting ties to be rent on sunder it seems to me that every Christian in these United States must pray earnestly to God to guide all things in his righteous way. I cannot think that the people of these United States will ever spill each others blood. I recollect your Grandfather Howard once said to me, some think the curse of slavery will be the means of destroying the United States. I may live to see the saying verified, but I cannot but have a cheering hope that all will yet be amicably settled. I hope there will as powerful a peacemaker arise as I think Henry Clay was, in Mr Calhoun's time.

I have received a News paper from Nassau containing a portion of the sermon preached on the death of Mr F Sargent and his Sister, a beautiful sermon for the occasion.

Our neighbors and friends are in good health at this time. I saw Laura's babe. It was a beautiful babe. I went there not knowing anything about it. I felt as though Laura was an object of sympathy with us all. The babe had been there two days. It was a daughter. The marks of death were on the head that showed what saved the mothers life, 30 hours of agony previous to taking the life of the child, and L.'s life was at stake. Her strength was fast leaving her. I have not been there since, but I saw L. at church last sabbath. She staid one half the day.

We had a shock of an earthquake in the midst of the service. It was the most distinct I ever heard and made a solemn impression on me for one. Mr Chapin had exchanged with Mr Smith from Wayne. He stoped entirely in his sermon and when he resumed his speaking he refered very solemnly to it as from God.

Since my long silence I have thought of many things that I wished to say to you but do not now think what they were. Ella is gone to Bath to stay till after New Years.

I have filled my sheet. Give much love to Lizzie and all the rest.  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O.Howard

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1201 12/25/1860 *From:* M.H. Wright

*To:* Lt. O. O. Howard

OOH-1142

Saint Louis Arsenal

U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Saint Louis Arsenal  
Dec 25, 1860

My very Dear Friend:

Being prevented from leaving my Room to-day, owing to a very severe cold & sore-throat, I thought I could not better occupy a few moments of my time, than in writing to you - acknowledging the recpt of your kind favor, which came to hand in due time.

I have been suffering since Saturday with my throat, & I must say, I find it very trying to have to stay in doors for now these few days. I am getting better now, & hope soon to be all right.

Well my letter, most certainly, would fail to be an "exponent" of the present state of my feelings, were I to neglect speaking of the crisis, which now occupies the thoughts, not only of Politicians & partizan leaders, but of the entire people, & unfortunately has intruded to a dangerous extent, upon the pious thoughts of our Clergy, & the Church. Not that they are freed from all care concerning our government, but that the excitement has led to so sad a pervasion of the rights of the sacred desk. Politics, are preached from the pulpit of the most degrading nature. The basest passions seem to have gained the upper hand, & instead of conciliatory, forgiving, friendly & <cadid> measures being urged, we hear only bitter invectives on the adverse political organization. No brotherly love is preached, but bitter hatred & "war to the knife". To gain popularity with the states, seems to be the ruling passion in some sects. When we see religious bodies passing resolutions for Secession &c, to what other conclusion can we come. But we, of course, are not prepared to judge.

It is needless for me to speak to you, of the suffering among the poor, in our city. Persons familiar with such things, can fully appreciate what must be the extremity to which all are driven.

What think the "Knowing Ones" in your past, of the signs of the times. All in these regions have abandoned their claims to prophetic knowledge, & say "cant tell", "cant tell". Truly are we being severely scourged, & brought low, on account of our iniquities. The Great Ruler of all things, knoweth what is best for us, & indeed, His ways are unknown to us.

I am gratified to know that the 4th January will be very generally observed in this City, as a day of fasting & prayer. Let the inconsiderate sneer & laugh as they may, well may we humble ourselves before an offended God, & implore His blessings & protection. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked".

Should our worst fears not be realized & should all things work together harmoniously, I assure you, that nothing would please me so well, as to have you & your Good Lady come to St. Louis. Room in abundance. Mr & Mrs. Benet, can tell you that, & if they tell you what a set of quarters they occupied here, you can form some idea of my loneliness, when I tell you that I live in them alone. We are very busy in the shops now - repairing & altering some 5000 Muskets & Rifles for Ky.

Give my love to Mrs. Howard & to the children. Merry Christmas & happy New Year to all. Rembr me to my friends.

Yr dear friend  
M.H. Wright

Lt. O. O. Howard  
U.S.A.

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1202 12/27/1860 *From:* W.H. Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1143

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Dec 27 / 60

My dear Otis

I do not know whether you have been aware that Fanny [Francis Vaughan Otis b. Sep. 25, 1845] has for the past two weeks been so sick that her life has been despaired of. She has been troubled with a cough since August last but about two weeks ago she began to fail very rapidly. Mrs Otis [Ellen Grant Otis, Congressman John Otis' second wife] informed Maria how sick she was and I brought her on to H. on Saturday. Yesterday at a quarter after three her soul took its flight as quietly & gently as a little child falling asleep. Her mind has been at rest as to her future since she was made aware of her true condition. Mr Brooks the Episcopal Clergyman has been very kind and attentive to her, coming to see her every day. He says he has never known such entire peacefulness in the hour of death in anyone - she did not seem to have a single doubt and talked of her approaching end as quietly as you or I would talk of any ordinary subject. Hers was the "peace of God which passeth understanding". Her funeral is to be on Saturday.

Maria & all the others are well. We left [Benjamin] Vaughan Otis & Anna Goodwin to keep house for us in W.P.

Yrs very truly  
W.H. Merrick

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1203 12/31/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1144

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Dec 31st 1860

My dear Mother,

The old year is just closing and I don't know that I can do better than spend a few moments in writing you. The past year I have had a good many thoughts, said a good many words & done many acts. They are all pastorall. Some I have passed over as if little moment may have been most weighty & some I have thought important may be without significance before God. We have not a very just appreciation of what is useful & what is not, but this much is true that the past rests with God - it cannot be mended. Tonight I would confess my shortcomings and my other sins & renew my covenant with God to renounce Sin & strengthen my purpose to do His will.

The State of the country is alarming in the extreme. It is arming arming everywhere. Passion & prejudice has gone so far, that I expect civil war before any settlement is had. Cass resigned, South Carolina Seceded. The president timid. Cobb upsetting the Treasury. Baily & Russell robbing the Government. The Sec. Of War - (sending heavy guns from Pittsburg south to Forts whose foundations are hardly laid, then getting angry because Maj Anderson neither acted as a fool nor a coward) has tendered his resignation. South Carolina exhibits a hostile front, takes Fort Moultrie & Castle Pinkney & the Charleston Arsenal, & also a United States vessel &c. How rapidly events succeed each other.

A civil war is by far the most horrible for the officers of the Army. Associated together by education & so many social ties, they will either shrink away into some other profession or have to meet each other in deadly affray. Very few Cadets have yet left except those who were worthless. Two very fine young men left a day or two ago, Alabamians I believe.

The causes of our troubles cannot be easily traced. Slavery is not the sole cause. Good men have shrunk from offices of public trust. Infidelity, licentiousness & all sorts of wickedness have prevailed amongst our public men, & this of itself shews somewhat of the Character of our people. Some portions have been grossly wicked, and other portions have allowed business & private interests to absorb them, & been sadly negligent of the public weal.

Who has not sinned against God. How much then it becomes every soul at the close of this year to humble himself before Almighty God & implore his forgiveness & his direction. I hope the national fast, will not be in vain. If all would pause for the little space of one day & turn their thoughts to God, the result may be happy, for He is able & willing to bless.

Guy found his pants filled with presents Christmas morning & so did Grace. They went to a Christmas tree Christmas eve at the Chapel where I have my S. School. The next night Mr Carroll had a tree below & on the next night, I took the Children to Professor Bartlett's to another tree. Grace is still a little deaf. The baby [James Waite Howard, b Dec 1 1860] is well & grows & Lizzie has been about the house for quite a long time. We kept the nurse three weeks. Lizzie has great reason for thankfulness & not less so have we all at the great mercy of the Lord. Poor Laura I am sorry for her - hope she will soon be well. Give my love to Father & kind regards to the neighbors. I had a letter from Rowland today. A merry Christmas & a happy new year to you & Father.

Affectionately Your Son  
O.O. Howard

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1204 1/1/1861      *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1145                      [Farmington]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[ca Jan. 1861] [Farmington] [See Note 1]

Dear Otis,

Ella has given a little outline of our family. I wonder if I can add any touches while she is going to bed. Our room is entirely away from the rest of the family, it being formally an office, & was finished off lately by Jacob A. We had red drapes - very elegant - two bright winter pictures belonging to the house & quite a no. of pictures of our own. Ours is a fireplace 2/3 the size of the north room one in Leeds. It troubles me to study with Ella in the room, but I hope to form the habit.

Mrs Cutler keeps but one girl regularly, but the girls sister of 11 is here most of the time & a French washer-woman comes Fridays, & we put our washing out seldom costing us more than 33 cts per week, generally 25. Miss Abbot's pursuits are entirely literary - she does nothing about the house & both the sisters are in rather feeble health. The house is full of the Abbott books. Guy would have a fine time looking at the pictures & hearing the stories.

Mrs Cutler is 51 & Aunt Sallucia a little more, both thin. Mrs C has one eye a little turned round. She is the widow of Rev. E.G. Cutler, who was settled three years in Belfast, Me., went to Reading Penn. for his health & died there in 1843, away from his wife. Thus has the place of our room been purified by affliction and I learned the great lesson of Christ - "He came not to be ministered unto but to minister". My heart has often been filled with grief of late that I am so unlike him, & her, & all the good in this.

Mr. A.H. Abbotts School is just opposite us. Sam Otis has been there, but is now at home for a vacation of three weeks. No change in Vaughan that I can hear.

[Missing closure]

[A floor plan was drawn on the back of this letter. The handwriting could be that of Ella's.]

[Note 1. This letter was undated and could have been attached to another letter. It was filed between letters written 12/31/1860 and 1/2/1861, so I assume 1/1/1861. It is after the marriage of Ella and Rowland, which occurred on 8/14/1860. The letter is presumably written by Rowland, who is describing the rooms they are renting in Farmington and indicated in the attached floor plan. The Abbott school was in Farmington, which supports the location.]

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1205 1/2/1861

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1146

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Jan 2d 1860 [1861?] [See Note 1]

My dear brother

I have been expecting a letter from you for some time but conclude the best way to secure one speedily is to write again. How do West Point people regard the Secession? I noticed by the papers that three Cadets had gone home to South Carolina. I perceived also by the Register that two of them were found deficient last June & turned back. What do you think of Maj. Anderson? Don't you think he ought to be reinforced? Where was he stationed before going to Ft Moultrie? I believe I saw him while at W.P.

I thought of you often yesterday. Did not get so tired as on last New Years. Did you visit & "receive" this year? I was in hopes Lizzie would be well enough by this time.

Those books I sent to Guy & Grace I thought you would not consider very elegant, for New Year's gifts but I knew how pleased Guy seemed to be last year with his new Primer & thought he would be reminded how he began to read Jan 1st with me last year. Tell him & Grace that I saw a picture of 3 children upon the outside Grace's & upon the inside of Guy's. I was very sure one was Grace & one was Guy but what the other little boy's name was I couldn't tell. Perhaps they can send me word in your letter who the other little boy is. Guy will have to read Grace's book to her I suppose so that she may know about the pictures. I wonder if his old book got removed to the new house with you. Have you a cow now? I have often thought & with some pain of the expression upon Guy's Countenance when he saw the man come for his calf.

Dellie spent New Year's with me & has gone home today. He closed his school three weeks earlier than he anticipated by advice of the Com, whom he had called upon to expel a couple of young men from school. He felt very badly & dreaded going home to Leeds but we could devise no other course.

Week ago Sabbath I preached at Holden, three old discourses, having revised one of them. Dellie came for me Sat & they bro't me back Sat eve. Last Sabbath I heard the most eloquent & interesting Sermon I ever listened to I think, from Prof. Harris. It had a bearing on our National affairs. How much I wish you could have been there. He will repeat it as nearly as possible (for it was not a written discourse) Friday night next - the Fast day, in accord with a request from those who heard it. We begin to translate Hebrew today. The first 3 verses of Genesis. We also are to conjugate the 2d word - a Hebrew word which I think you learned in College. <We> are to decline all the nouns &c.

The gymnasium agrees with me. I am better than I have <been> since my school closed. Our recess comes the 2d week of Feb.

What is Johnny Weir doing? I've <a> great mind to write him a second <time>. He will be saved any annoyance of <the> kind by just forwarding a request <>.

My love to Lizzie & a New Year's kiss <to> Guy & for Grace & thro the latter a <> sweet one for the little boy of the dark hair. I hope you are all in the best of health.

You have probably heard of Fannie Otis' death. Mother gave me the news last night. How thankful we ought to be that she was prepared for the great change. How fortunate that Maria could see her sister once again in this world. It must be so hard to come hastening home a long distance in anxiety & dread to see a loved one upon the dying bed & find him lost & gone. Mother seemed deeply affected by Fannie's death. It brought up the many griefs of our family which have rent her heart. But she had at length, it seemed, obtained more than usual peace by trusting in her Saviour.

Rowland seems not in remarkably good Spirits probably owing to some measure to Ella's absence.

It snowed here part of the day yesterday. The latter part of the Eve. I was at an annual meeting of the Ladies'

Society in the Vestry - a kind of Social Celebration. It is a charitable association.

We often hear the wish that Gen. Scott was at the head of affair now. We should probably have Military work of it in such a case. I don't like the dallying policy of the President. I expect Lincoln is unquestionably a man of energy.

How do your meetings prosper? How is Mr. Grey? Wish you would give me the detail of one day at W.P.

My lesson calls me & I will close.

Affectionately,  
C.H. Howard

[Note 1: Someone had written in the date 1861? in square brackets. I agree with this date. The question of secession was being discussed in the winter 1860/1861 and not a year earlier. Also Fannie Otis died 26 Dec 1860.]

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1206 1/6/1861

*From:* Dell [RH Gilmore]

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1502

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[179]

Leeds Jan. 6, 1862 [1861. See note 1.]

My dear brother:

I came away from my school last week. I had a set of bachanains to deal with and finding I was making sorry work I concluded to give it up and come home. In a word I made a perfect failure. I had a much different set of boys from those whom Charles taught. I had something such a school as your friend Mr. Townsend had in one school house, some years ago. I did not leave however, till I had tried the virtue of the beach wood which grew in the rear of the school house.

I found Charles at Bangor enjoying his course of study hugely and in better health than he had been before for years. He is getting strong and vigorous, a perfect Samson in his way. He lifted some 500 pounds the day I spent with him. He attends the Gymnasium regularly and I found he was one of "the strong men" of the establishment. I began to feel very proud of my brothers physical powers. I hope he may not do too much. I think that he is very careful however.

Father met me at the depot. He is now quite lame, having had a slip on the ice. His lower limbs are rather stiff and he goes about with much difficulty. He is, however, improving. I can see that he has gained since I came home. Mother is quite well - much more so than she was when I was at home at Thanksgiving time. The cavity upon her limb has healed over and she experiences but a very little inconvenience from it. She and father went to church today and I remained at home to keep house and keep the fires going.

Matters in Leeds as far as Religion is concerned are in a most deplorable condition. Some difficulty is found in collecting the money due the minister and bell-ringer. Some of the most wealthy men do not do anything for the support of preaching, while others pay but a small amount. Some men of money pay one dollar each as I learn from Mr. Berry, one of the committee who has just gone from here. Mr. Chapin has agreed to live on \$250 per annum and I fear he may not get all that. Mother admires Mr. C. very much and I think that the people generally like him pretty well, yet some feel disposed to find some fault. I should fear, that if a man suited every one in Leeds he did not do his duty to them or heaven.

The people here are very much interested in the political matters of the day, especially the doings of the Pres. & South Carolina. The action of Maj. Anderson in the Charleston Forts meets with the warmest commendation from all.

Warren Lothrop is spending his winter in Maine. He recently sent his order for his pay and it was sent back unpaid, with the answer that there was no money in the Treasury. I suppose you are in the same situation.

Roland's family appear to be well. Lara & Uncle Ensign have lost their adopted son, by its mother getting married and walking off with it. Aunt Laura was at meeting today as mother says. She is now getting quite smart. What have you named the little one? Please let us know, we are getting quite anxious. My love to Lizzie and Guy. A kiss for Grace and the baby.

Please try to write me ere long. Your last letter was received at home with much pleasure a day or two since.

Affectionately your bro  
Dell

Mother sends love to all

[Note 1. The year should have been 1861. The date looks like 1862 and the letter was filed in the January, 1862 folder, however it could simply have been a flourish in the year. There are three references that support

this change. First, Charles was at the Bangor Theological Seminary in January 1861, whereas he was with Otis in January 1862 in Washington. Second, Otis' third child James Waite, was born December 1, 1860 at West Point. Third, Maj. Anderson moved all his troops from Ft. Moultrie to Ft Sumter on Dec 26, 1860, six days after South Carolina seceded from the Union.]

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1207 1/12/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1147

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 12 1861

Dear Mother,

You ought to have had a letter this week, but I have got so much interested in politics lately that I could hardly keep from spending half of my time over the news paper. However I have had other important concerns. I have now finished examining both of my Classes & commenced again the regular routine of duty. This week I have met the prayer meeting Cadets every evening, to observe this time as that set apart for the prayers of all Christians of every land for the revival of God's work among his children, & for the conversion of Sinners. Almost every one prays for reconciliation between the different sections of our Government country. I clip a piece from my paper containing an account of the taking of Mt Vernon Arsenal. You will recognize the name of Danville Leadbetter. I am sorry to see him among the enemies of his country.

I received Dellies letter in good time, & am sorry he did not succeed more to his satisfaction with his school. But he must'nt be discouraged. Unruly boys can cause a good deal of trouble.

I did not speak of little Fanny's death as I meant to, in my last letter. I intended to have sent you Maria's letter. I then thought it was William Merrick's & was'nt it? I sent it to Rowland or Chas and asked him to forward it to you. William has since written me & said that I must have received Maria's letter, containing an account of Fanny's death. I am glad she was so ready to go. Vaughan it seems is in Philadelphia. He must have improved in health since I saw him.

I hope father has quite recovered from his lame back. The rail road report looks well. Have they resumed paying their Coupons? I should'nt wonder if Uncle Ensign realized his twenty thousand dollars yet. Dellie seems to think the people at home are not very liberal towards Mr Chapin in the payment of his salary.

I am almost out of money & have not received an answer to my last accounts that I forwarded to the paymaster, but I think there is plenty of money in the treasury, & we shall get some soon.

I know Major Anderson very well. He was here on a Court Martial when Chas. was here & was on the commission sent here last summer on the course of study. He is a Christian & a fine gentleman. His trust is in God & God will direct him. His poor wife has suffered much with a spinal disease & only lately has she been able to walk about, but I have heard she was much better. Maj Anderson was stationed near Portland for some time at Fort Preble. Two of our Cadets (rather deficient ones, both I believe having been ones so pronounced by the Academic board) are in Fort Moultrie - Cadets Blocker & Reynolds. They left here some little time ago, & are now lieutenants in the S.C. Army. Not many officers have yet resigned. As a general thing they are strong for the Union. Some resign almost against their will, through apprehension I presume of civil war or of final disunion, when they would be aloof without a means of livelihood.

I hope you will continue well. The baby we shall call James Waite. I would rather not call him Rowland. I should prefer perpetuating Father's name in my grandchildren.

Love to all. Aff. Your Son  
Otis

Lizzie is quite well & sends love. Grace is still a little deaf, but I think will soon be over it.

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1208 1/13/1861

*From:* H. G. Townsend

*To:* Lieut O. Howard

OOH-1148

Barrack of U.S. Corps  
Cadets;  
West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Barrack of U.S. Corps Cadets;  
West Point, N.Y. Jan'y 13th 1861.

My Dear Sir;

In compliance with your request, I take great pleasure in giving you a brief account of my religious experience.

At the time of the great revival of the winter of 1855 & 1856, my father was pastor of a ch'h, in central New York. From my earliest youth I had been blessed with the religious instructions of a godly father, and a pious mother; I had been accustomed to hear the word faithfully preached every Sabbath, & had frequently seen both old & young gathered into the fold. For these, & other reasons, I was little affected, at first, by the work of the spirit; but before the revival had ceased, I felt that I had given myself to my Maker, & with an only brother & only sister, in company with about 50 others, took my stand before the world, as a christian, and first partook of the Sacrament by the hand of my father.

Till the late mighty revival I lived far from my heavenly Father. When the work referred to was in the height of its glory, I was so tempted, that my determination was almost made, to dissolve my connection with the ch'h. This critical period of my life ended by a fuller consecration of myself to the service of my Redeemer.

As a christian, I am, perhaps, more in the shade than in the sunlight; doubts of my sincerity often overwhelm me; but these doubts, I think, teach me to rely more truthfully on the right arm of Him who hath died for us, and lead me to resolve anew, that, with the help of God, I will lead the life of a christian man. Sometimes the light of God's countenance seems to shine upon me, and these happy seasons are oases in the desert of a sinful life.

Allow me to say, sir, that I feel that I have grown much grace under the influence of our little prayer-meeting, and your own counsels.

That God will abundantly bless you on earth, for your laborious efforts for the good of the Corps of Cadets; and that He will reward you a thousand-fold in Heaven, is the prayer and belief of,

Your Affectionate & Respectful Friend,  
H. G. Townsend [Hubert G. Townsend, USMA Class of 1863]

To Lieut O. Howard



Rowland is settled so near her. I am glad you are at West P as I hope you will not be ordered South.

From your affectionate  
Aunt Martha Jane [(Otis) Strickland]

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1210 1/14/1861 *From:* O.A. Mack

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1149

Fort Randall N.T.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Randall N.T.

Jan'y 14th 1861

Dear Howard:

Your letter of Dec. 10th came to hand on the 27th Ult. I have long been looking for a letter from you in response to the one I wrote you just before leaving Oswego. Upon my arrival at this post in June last I found a paper to my address containing your remarks on Military Subordination delivered before the Napoleon Club last winter. And I will add in this place, that these remarks have been read by several officers at this post, and, so far as I have heard, highly approved: Capt. Brown particularly commended them. But neither the letter, or paper, upon the religious history of West Point which you mention at having sent me, has been received.

I was greatly rejoiced to hear of your continued labors in Our Blessed Master's cause. I had, indeed, no doubts of your relinquishing the works of love so successfully prosecuted, while your physical strength permitted you to continue them. But I had heard that you were overtaking your strength, & would break down, if you did not favor yourself more. And this is the reason why I have not written to you since my arrival here. I did not wish to add to your mental burdens by obliging you to write to me. I felt that my letters could do you no good, and that although yours might be of great service to me, yet, under the circumstances, I had no right to impose the tax upon you.

I really hope you are not neglecting yourself in your desire to benefit others: - by preserving your health you prolong your period of usefulness. Then, too, you know you have a duty to discharge to your own family. I speak this in genuine kindness, and hope you will take it so, and think of yourself. I know from sad experience that ill health diminishes ones capacity for usefulness as well as for enjoyment.

In regard to my position at this place, I am compelled to confess that it is not one to command admiration or excite pity. I have not the moral courage to stand up boldly and proclaim the glad tidings of salvation to sinful men. Therefore I have signally failed to enlist any souls in the cause of Christ. Neither has my life been of such a character as to attract others to me, but, on the contrary, as I have discountenanced some things which others look upon as innocent, or, at least, harmless at this out-of-the-world place, I have estranged my friends from me, although I do not know that I have failed to command their respect as a general thing.

It is a difficult thing to begin a Christian work here. I do not think it is impossible. On the contrary, I think a man of the right stamp might make progress even here - doubtless there are many hearts that could be touched if properly approached. I think I might follow the lead of such a person as yourself and do some good for I doubt not were you here that you would soon find a way of breaking ground & planting <> true seed.

I do not by any means despair or despond. I shall not turn back. I am far from being a true christian, yet I have felt enough to convince me that all the honors & pleasures <of> this world are not worthy to be compared with the joys that <await> those who inherit the promises and even in this world the joys <of> the christian far outweigh in reality, all the boasted pleasures of the worldly. I am so steady and common place, that I am likened to a cart horse, but I suspect I <> <ferver. tedious moments than <> other officers here. I have certainly never enjoyed myself better <any> where else, nor have ever seen the time fly faster, had I more religious society & privileges, and a good <woman> in hand, I should be very willing to remain here another year, at least.

I have greatly improved in health, which in itself would have contented me to remain here, then I have had command of a splendid company and the charge of quite a little <favor>. All of which has been very pleasing to me, giving me occupation for body & mind, with freedom from troubles or fatigues. I have certainly a great reason to be thankful for the great mercies showered upon me, and I hope I am so. I pray for courage & strength to overcome my own weaknesses & shortcomings and labor henceforth in My Master's Vineyard. I have not the gift of expressing myself well in conversation, or the tack of interesting persons by my manners. These are great drawbacks to my success as a teacher of the Gospel to those who are cold & indifferent. I am chilled by coldness, and need sympathy to bring out the depths of my feelings, but God is able to make <even> of me an effectual instrument of salvation to others. Do pray for me, dear Howard, that I may conquer the

warring elements of sin, and finally stand forth in the glorious liberty of the Gospel of Christ.

I am very glad to hear of your domesticated happiness. I hope the little ones God has given you may grow up to honor you & their Heavenly Father. Mrs M joins me in the best wishes for your wife's health & happiness. She feels that you are both old acquaintances, although she has never seen either of you. I hope she will yet have the opportunity of meeting you both.

I regret to say that Mrs. M's health is not good this winter. She has been quite sick, and that, too, when our doctor was too drunk (for days) to attend to any-body. She is better now and we have a citizen Dr. employed in place of the Army, so we feel easier.

Secession is very popular here among the officers. I stand alone as a Black Republican, and that, too, tends to diminish my popularity & influence. But "I still live", and believing that the North is right, and that god will maintain the right, I am willing to suffer contumely, physical hardship and pecuniary embarrassment and, if it need be, to sacrifice life itself, before succumbing to the Slave Power, or relinquishing the Union.

Yours Sincerely,  
O.A. Mack

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1211 1/17/1861 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1151

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Jan 17, 1861

My dear brother

Your letter gave me great pleasure. The wish often comes up that I could have been nearer your age so as to have known Grandfather & Grandmother & Aunt Fanny as you did & above all our own father. But it is best as it is. Mother spoke as tho' old wounds were opened afresh for a little while after hearing of Cousin Fanny's death. But the Christian's faith & hope came to her relief.

You were in the midst of Examination when you wrote. How did it pass off. How many were "found"?

But the prospect of your joining me here in Bangor which you opened up to my wondering thoughts was delightful for me to contemplate.

There is still so much uncertainty however that I have tried to refrain from all anticipation. I know you would enjoy this place much & it seems to me there could hardly be a better for the study of Theology & preparation for the ministry. I like the Church much - the Central of which Profs Harris & Shepard are pastors & have some thoughts of transferring my connection from Hallowell to this.

I talked with Mr & Mrs Stephens about rent. Gen. S. thought such a house as you would like would be \$100 per year. A neat convenient Cottage. Prices range from 100 to 300. Doct. Lincoln & family board at present but will probably keep house this Spring. He has two Children 4 & 6 years old. I tho't it could possibly do no harm to mention what I did to Mr. & Mrs. S. I told them there was still so much uncertainty about it that you preferred not to have it mentioned. They both take a great interest in you & your family & are very desirous to have you come. Mrs. S. mentioned a house belonging to Mr. Mills ( I believe was the name) who married a sister (she tho't) of Capt Waite of Portland which is not far from here - very pleasant & convenient & has been let for \$100 to a Lawyer but might perhaps be engaged if spoken for in season.

Gen. S. knew of many cases of "leaves" for 6 months & over where the intention was to resign. I do not think it wrong to take such for you may determine before the end of that time, not to leave the Army or you might be directed by some unmistakable Providence to return to your present occupation. Did you mean 6 months from June or did you intend to apply for this leave in the summer during your furlough?

Gen. S. hoped you would visit Bangor in June or July & look about for yourself & then obtain the leave & begin next year with us.

I have often prayed Our Heavenly Father that he would direct you by His providence & His Spirit. I should delight <to> have you here, & Lizzie too. I [think] she would like the Bangor people & their Society, they seem so cordial & <kind> & simple in their manners,<and> how much I would like to have <your> darling children where I could see <them> often.

Rowland hasn't been <very> well of late but I hope is <convalescing> rapidly now from a letter from Ella night <before> last. Tell me whether Lieut <Hall> who is at Ft Sumpter is one I used <to> hear Miss Jennie speak of. Don't <you> wish you were stationed in S. Carolina. Maj. A. I see is put in a category with Washington & Garibaldi!! What is Johnny Weir doing now? What <thinks> he <of> secession. Wasn't Seward's speech good? Did you preach for Mr Grey <as expected>? And how is he now?

I felt like sitting down & writing <back> immediately on the receipt of your last but I delayed to make inquiries. What pleased me greatly was what you said of Lizzie's willingness to accede to the idea of coming <on> for if she was not desirous of <doing> so of course you would not <consent> to come. Do you visit the <soldier's> families as you used to? I think you were about our Master's work far more than I & was in its spirit far more while I was with you. Seems as tho' sometimes now that I would be more heartily with you <but> may be my heart deceives me for <it> is wicked & I find not always to be trusted some in regard to good desires.

I really hope Mr. Grey is not <so> run down in Constitution tho' I feared it might be so from his manner of life when I was there.

You speak of not feeling fit for the Pastor's duties now. I hope it is only that sense of unworthiness which constitutes the greatest fitness & will lead you to seek grace from the source you know so well.

This subject - a sense of unfitness for the ministry came up in our last class prayer-meeting & the remarks made & texts quoted were very interesting tho' brief. It came up in connection with the experience of him in whose room we met. We have the Relig. experience of one of the class related each night & they make our meetings the best I have ever attended.

Dellie writes that Leeds people are all absorbed in politics & that Religion is at a low ebb. My recess comes the 2d week in Feb Sat. before the 2d Mond. My love to Lizzie & Guy & Grace. I want to know what the other little one talks about. Can't Guy send me some word about his brother. Good night.

Your affectionate brother.  
Chas. H. Howard

P.S. Will Lockett resign in case a war against secession & Alabama? [See Note 1]

We begin the 2nd Chap of Gen. tomorrow in Heb. Have also the Harmony of the Gospels now in P.M. A weekly exercise in Isaiah & one in Romans.

[Note 1. This is probably a reference to Samuel H. Lockett, USMA class of 1859, who was an Assistant Professor of Spanish Language in 1860 at West Point. He was from Alabama, and did resign from the U.S. Army on Feb 1, 1861, serving in the C.S.A. during the war.]

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1212 1/20/1861      *From:* Rowland [B Howard]      *To:* My dear Brother [OO Howard]

OOH-1153                      Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Jan 20/61

My dear Brother

This Sab. like my last is spent in my room. I have had the Diphtheria, as I have expected since I came to F. But I had a light attack & am now quite convalescent & will be out of doors tomorrow or next day. Tho everybody warns me to be cautious lest I have a recurrence of the disease. Perhaps our Dr (Alexander) is as successful, as Mr Grey in his treatment. He did not apply the caustic to my throat & only made two applications of iodine with a brush. Ella says you must get Mr Grey's prescription before she "comes down". I hope she will not have it at all. She has had really a harder time in my sickness than I have myself I think, but has been unusually well.

I was taken a week ago Friday. I hoped to have had a "supply" today but the disarrangement of our mail on acct. of a heavy storm, prevented it, & Mr Goodenow has read Bushnells Sermons both Sabs. I wish that I had some one as convenient as Mr. Grey. It has been quite a "trial" to me to sit here & feel that my congregation were staying at home & scattering, my prayer meetings thinning out & the work of God apparently going back, so that it will take some time to get matters as well as before.

But God knows best what is for his glory. This is the 2d time I have been sick and my people must think they have a poor stick of a minister. One case of hopeful conversion has been like a ray of light amid the general gloom. Only two I hear were at the last Wednes. Eve. prayer meeting.

I think we will go down to Leeds & stay one night this week and I hope to write a Sermon & get around among the people Somewhat.

I have had a letter from Sarah wh. I answered, inquiring about Farmington as a place of residence. I wrote her what information I could. It seems to me that she cannot find a pleasanter place to live economically & bring up her children. In Summer, it is unsurpassed, but our winters, as you know, are very severe. She could live on her income (\$500.00) I think here. If, in the Providence of God, you have to separate from your family I hope they too would come <here>. We will be as remote from the War if it comes, as almost any place & yet our daily mail brings us into easy communication with the rest of the world.

I suppose you decided right about the baby's name. I should not have written as I did about mine, but at Mothers suggestion, and I suppose her desire was prompted by the wish to perpetuate the name of our Father. Ella & I have occasionally talks about "Jimmy". I can't get up any love for him like that for Guy & Grace, but I've no doubt he is just as lovely & we have only to get better acquainted to think well of each other. Ask Guy for me whether the baby coasts any with him? Tell the children that our S.S. Scholars recite verses & I wish they would come & help.

Dellie had some trouble in his School & is now at home helping the Leeds people settle the affairs of the country, if he has not left for Brunswick.

I take the Boston Daily Journal. A drifting snow storm deprived us of a mail three days this last week, but I couldn't see but that the country got along just as well as if I had moved about it every evening as usual!

I want to be President terribly - sometimes! I wouldn't invade any part of the South - would not "coerce". But if they stole forts & supplies &c I would drive the thieves out and shoot if I couldn't hang them. I would do with my own land, houses & fortifications, what I chose. At least put them in order & arm & equip them. If attacked I would defend them forever. Gods Law has its penalties. So does common law and why not national law? Whoever doubted it before now. Penalty is in the very idea of law - without it there is no law - all is liberty or license. When the laws of the Land are violated, let the transgressors feel that the penalty is as sure as the pain that follows putting the hand in the fire. If the Laws are wrong, repeal them - if the Constitution unjust, alter it - but if we are to leave our children anything but anarchy, let us, for Heavens sake, maintain the supremacy of law. The civil arm fails, then the military must do it. If Traitors are not hung, the Government will fall into

contempt & New York will <swarm> with them as much as So. Carolina. Property, Life & real liberty will be jeopardized, if not ruined. I have read with interest the appeal of Dr. Spring & others to their brother Clergymen at the South. It seems to me to lack definiteness. Dr. Palmers Sermon was a new evidence of the degrading power of Slavery on the pulpit of Christ. "When iniquity abounds the love of many waxes cold" & then they are left to speak & act richly.

Ella joins me with love to you all. Some time I get to thinking about Guy & Grace & can hardly restrain my impatience at not seeing them, particularly Guy, whom I love best of any little boy & for whom I pray that he may be good always.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

P.S. O, we have a piece of news wh. indeed may have reached you thro another channel. Lizzie Patten is engaged! The lucky gentleman is a Mr Chas Rogers of Portland, son of an old friend of her fathers. Lizzie may know something about him. He is an invalid on acct. of a lame knee and so he fell in love with one some like himself. He belongs to a Unitarian family, is 35, has traveled, is wealthy & an only Son. She is but 17. He is a man of the world, has been rather gay & we have all been dreading the "offer", but I believe Mr & Mrs Patten have now withdrawn all opposition & the course of true love promises now to run smoothly. They seem to be passionately in love. He as fully as she. If he were only a Christian man, who now will have so much influence in forming her unformed character, it would seem better.

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1213 1/29/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1523

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[29]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade Jan. 29, 1862

Dearest Lizzie

I think you ought to have a letter tonight. Today I have had two Brigade drills. One this forenoon of a little more than two hours and ditto this afternoon. I think I have the Brigade pretty well in hand now. The mud is only two or three inches deep on our high ground & in some parts even less than that. This is surely a muddy country – fair days are much inclined to be foggy, and the rainy are very frequent. I never feel like complaining of the weather however as you know, for the simple reason that it is wrong.

Charlie has now a fair prospect of a commission from Governor Morgan. A letter from the Adjutant General as much as said that it should be granted upon the first vacancy. That vacancy has now occurred, & Col Cone says he has forwarded the recommendation I proposed to retain Charles at all hazard, but it is much more satisfactory to him & me for him to have a commission.

I have learned that Burnside after some hard weather had got into Pamlico Sound. [North Carolina] We may expect to hear of lively work in that direction soon. G.W. Smith, we have heard has replaced Beauregard in the command of the Rebels at Manassas & Centerville & B – gone to Kentucky. A little party from my Brigade went the other day within the enemy's lines in the night, picked up a man supposed to be a spy & brought him back. This was near Fairfax Court House. They got fired on but nobody was hurt. The 3d Maine made a three ration march to the Accotink river or run today. They took no baggage or tents, except what each man carries.

I hope you do not feel anxious about us. The chances of moving during such weather & in such depth of mud are pretty small.

I long very much to go home sometimes. I wonder when it will all be over & we will be reunited –north to south & you to me or I to you.

What does Guy do every day, work with his tools or play in the snow? How does Gracie pass the days, running about, playing with her doll & that chubby boy Jamie – I wish I could have all your photographs. Cant you get them taken – just firsts with light ground, and send them in a letter. It would be a great joy to me to open a letter & find it containing such treasures. You know I cant tell how Jamie looks.

I must bid you good night, darling. The Lord keep you all & bless you. Kind regards to Aunt Sarah, Fanny, & all the friends.

Affectionately  
Otis

Give my hearty love to Guy, Grace & Jamie. They must never forget Papa.

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1214 1/30/1861     *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1154

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Jan'y 30th 1861

My dear Mother,

I have a few minutes before breakfast this morning and will just write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well. I want to write Dellie & will as soon as I can get an opportunity. I hope you & he & father are quite well. I had news from Rowland that he had been laid up with that terrible Dyphtheria. I hope he is recovered completely before this time. We have changed Superintendents & then changed back again. Major Beauregard, I think intends to resign when he gets back to New Orleans, & Colonel Delafield will remain here. Floyd's orders are apt to be countermanded, fortunately for the good of the country.

Grace has recovered from her partial deafness. Guy has grown & is so stout you would hardly recognize him. Lizzie is partly well, gets very tired every day & has Jamie to disturb her at night, but she is in good flesh & has a good appetite. Mrs. Wing is still with us. I have had a letter from Aunt Martha Jane. She says all her family are well. She seems anxious about the state of the country. I am giving private lessons to Prof Mahan's son in Algebra & continue the study of Hebrew. The Methodists are having quite a revival at the Falls - many have been converted. I have been to some of their meetings.

Everything continues "in Status quo" here now. <Our> Artillery company, which is <held> in readiness for Washington has not left yet.

My love to all.

Aff. Your Son  
O.O. Howard

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1215 2/11/1861     *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1155

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Feb 11th 1861

Dear Mother

I will just write you a few lines tonight to let you know that we are all quite well. All are in bed but Lizzie & me & she is just retiring. I think the baby is a little more troublesome than either Guy or Grace. Lizzie sometimes gets very, very tired as she is tonight, but we ought to be thankful indeed for so many & so great blessings.

My Sunday school has increased lately. Some of the Professors children attend & the Cadets prayer-meeting continues its interest. A great revival is in progress at Buttermilk Falls at present. As many as fifty I understand have made profession of religion. I have been down quite often to attend the meetings and have the happy assurance from some converts that I was instrumental in pointing them to Christ.

The wife of the Presbyterian minister, Mrs Gray is very low. She has had a severe hemorrhage of the lungs. You may remember Dr Cuyler, who took such good care of me when I was sick as a Cadet here. His son James Cuyler, a member of my mathematical class, is quite ill with typhus fever, just hanging between life & death. His father & mother are here with him.

My love to Dellie & father.

I am glad Virginia & Tennessee have gone for the Union. We can do without the Gulf States. We will hardly miss them, if we don't have war. Oh, that we may not be called to spill each others blood! I hope the hearts of the people of Leeds wont grow cold at this time. Now we need the care & protection of our Heavenly Father, if we ever did, & I hope many will turn their faces Heavenward & beseech mercy & guidance at this crisis.

Susan has just come in to fix the fire for morning. I thought she was abed. She says send my love to her & so does Lizzie though she is so sleepy that she drawls her words.

Good night. I hope Rowland is well. Remember me to the neighbors & to Uncle Ensigns & Johns. Has Aunt Aurelia joined the Church yet? My love to her if you see her. I hope she will join.

Affectionately your son  
O.O. Howard

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1216 2/13/1861 *From:* Henry N. Rothery

*To:* Lieut O. Howard

OOH-1157

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C. Feb. 13th 1861

Lieut O. Howard  
Respected Sir

Allow me to thank you and your lady for the kind manner in which you have and your wife have treated my wife and little ones since I left my home. I do not know how we will ever repay you for your many kindnesses to us but God will reward you. Our officers are very kind to us and we are as comfortable as can be expected. Please remember me to Mr. Wells. I remain with respect

Your Obedt. Servt.  
Henry N. Rothery

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1217 2/13/1861     *From:* [CH Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1158

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Feb. 13. 1861

Dear Brother

You perceive I am at home. It is evening. Mother sits near me knitting. Father is reading. We got our mail tonight which has been very irregular of late. In fact until yesterday morning (Tues) we had rec'd no mail since Thurs. The cars got detained at No. Leeds on their way up & no train passed over the road till yesterday. They were compelled to shovel away the snow by hand.

A letter from Rowland tonight written Sab. Eve. informs us that Ella has been quite sick during the week past. She had many symptoms similar to his but did not have the Diptheria. She seems to be getting better. Another little boy of his S. School is gone. His funeral was to be last Monday. There was one the Sunday after I was there.

I have not written you since I was with Rowland two weeks ago last Sab. I was at home time enough to take dinner & see mother a little while on my return. Father met me at Leeds Center & then took me to Monmouth. I went up to relieve Rowland before he was able to preach. For two Sabbaths he has been able to conduct the services himself. He has been Ella's nurse during her illness. Says she has been at the table with the family for two days now.

I came home last Saturday. After the storm of Thursday night the train did not get thro' to Waterville from Bangor till Sat. Friday was terribly cold. Thermometer gave the record of 30° below zero at the Seminary and 35 downtown. It was 32 & 33 here in Leeds. I froze one of my ears Sat. Morn. going to the depot. We learned on the train, that the Androscoggin R.R. had not got thro', so several who were going to Farmington, took the stage at Readfield. I got out of the train at Monmouth, with the expectation of walking home but found a Mr. Wheeler there who bro't me almost to Curtis' Corner.

I first called on the minister Mr. Loring & got some dinner. I had called there before & had become acquainted with Mrs. Loring's folks in Holden which was her native place. I found mother quite well tho' she had been having a cold. Mahala is with her now. Father is well. I got cold about the time of leaving Bangor so I have been rather heavy headed. I ought not to complain for this is the only cold I have had this winter I believe & this is not very severe.

Rev. Mr. Chapin was expecting me to take his place ½ day last sab. & as I found him almost sick I preached for him twice. He got sick by walking down upon the Plains that stormy Thursday to attend the funeral of Miss Molson a member of his Church. Very few were out at Church Sabbath-day tho' the weather was favorable. Mother says the people have got in the habit of staying at home. But they seem to have attended the Circle in good numbers & there is no lack of interest in a Lyceum at the Otis school-house. Rev. Mr. Chapin seemed almost discouraged. The people give him a donation tomorrow. Father sent up beforehand today 2 bush oats ditto of potatoes, of apples & of other vegetables. Melvin carried them up together with some contribution of his own.

Your letter to Dellie came Tuesday. The mail was sent up from the Junction Mond. P.M. by a private conveyance. We opened the letter. It was exceedingly interesting to me - the acct of those troops leaving W.P. especially. I remailed it to Dellie today. I had a letter from Johnny Weir just after returning from Farmington. I did not know he had been away at Washington. Has Rev. Mr. Grey got well again?

I have been reading several of your recent letters to mother. The good long one you wrote me deserved a more speedy reply. It was just what I wanted - almost equal to a visit to W.P. I read it to Rowland at F. & to mother when at home before. Tell Guy I was highly pleased with his letter & will answer it - perhaps to accompany this. Uncle Rowland & Ella, Grandfather & Grandmother thought they must see that letter, so they read it for themselves. Have there been any more resignations among Cadets or any recent ones among officers?

I did not feel like writing tonight Otis but I wanted to have this taken to the P.O. tomorrow as we go to the donation. I know it will partake of my dullness. I called down at Roland's the first of the <eve>. Cynthia looks in the best health I have seen her enjoy since her marriage. The children also look nicely. Roland talks intelligently upon national affairs. Is not radical. Cynthia told me Sabbath-day as we rode to Church, that he was quite skeptical upon the subject of experimental religion. Believes he is just as well off without it as with it. She still clings to her hope.

Joshua Turner & wife had been here about a week but returned Monday. It was a very pleasant day. I rode to the Junction for my baggage & took mother to Mr. Brewster's. Lavernia's boy has the Bishop complexion & yellow hair - looks smart & healthy.

Yesterday it rained hard all day. I was intending to go to Br'k but the rain put a period to all my plans. It did not freeze hard enough last night for me to go today & now it is too late as I return to Bangor Sab. from here.

It seems to be the general opinion that James W. is hardly equal to Grace & Guy as a name. But intrinsically I can't perceive much difference. As the two latter names have acquired a great charm for me by their association with two lovely little beings, so I anticipate I shall soon begin to think James one of the most beautiful of names.

Father is reading aloud & as I am not in a state to conduct more than one train of thought with accuracy I will hasten to close. I find I have filled out quite an extensive letter. Since I began I paused to attend to family prayers. Mahala is now a Professor of religion. I am glad to have her with mother. She is good help. Betsy Bates was taken very sick Sab. Morning. She has sometimes 10 fainting fits in the course of a day. I was in to see her this P.M. Jane Bates has been sick but I found her quite well today. Oliver has bo't the "James Wing" farm. Wm Wing takes that of Mr. Parker (Simeon Tunney). Mr. P. Goes to Keene's Corner. Father has hired Thos. Brebiar for 8 months & will board

[missing page & closure]

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1218 2/17/1861     *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-1159

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Feb 17, 1861

Otis my dear son,

Yours of the 11th inst, was duly received and with much pleasure. The general tone of the letter was calculated to satisfy a Christian mother's desires, and all your letters are a great treasure to me. Oliver Gilbert was in this morning and said that your uncle Stillman Howard was dead, died yesterday P.M. died in an instant without apparent suffering. He was as well as usual up to the time of his death. I think he has not been from home this winter. I saw Aunt Lydia at Church a month or two since, and ask after her husband in particular. She said he was feeble. The funeral is next Tuesday.

Charlie has spent the past week with us, which was a pleasant week to me. He wrote to all of his brothers while here. The state of our Country seems to be the all absorbing feeling of every one, but I trust we have those amongst us who have an interest at the throne of grace, who make it a daily duty to ask our Heavenly fathers blessing on our union. When we ask for blessings how very ignorant we are of what we ask. "God works in his own misterious way his wonders to perform." We must therefore submit ourselves to his providences in humility.

Rowland and Ella have had quite a portion of poor health I suppose. Farmington is a cold place. Dellie says it is. I have not seen them since the first day of Nov. I have expected them several times . Sickness, or death in the parish has prevented them from coming and I am a little timid about leaving my own bed a night.

I like the name of your babe, very well. Give him Grandmothers kiss. Lizzie has always my best of wishes. Kiss Guy and Grace for me. My regards to Mrs Wing, and Susan.

Susan Ames, your father's niece was married New Years day (to a Boston Merchant of some great firm). His name is Henry French.

I saw your Aunt Aurelia at a donation party, not long since. She had visited your Aunt Lucretia a short time previous and found them all well. Mrs. Bridgham has had several attacks of severe palpitation of the heart. I think she will leave us in the same way that her brother has. Cynthia has just gone out, sends love to you and Lizzie, and Johnny sends love. He improves in talking. I can understand him now quite well. I am sorry for Mrs Gray. I have heard of the family so much I feel almost acquainted with them. I cannot sympathize with such extreme agony at the death of my friends, although every new stroke of the grim messenger on our family ties leaves me more sorrowful, (notwithstanding my poor sinful heart). I have been enabled to look beyond the grave, in my bereavements, and not dwell on the poor tenement that holds the immortal spirit. I think that I have been wonderfully blessed in having a calm, and leaning spirit on my divine master. I feel at this moment a fullness of gratitude towards my heavenly father, for his sustaining hand in all my undeservings.

Your father's health is good as usual. Capt Turner's health is feeble. The winter is trying to old age. Oliver has been in and says the funeral of esquire Howard is at 10 o'clock Tuesday. What a blessing in this dying . Would to live with an affectionate husband 55 or six years, to see ones children and grandchildren with the same interests.

Oliver brought in our mail, which contained a letter from Rowland and one from Rodelphus. Rowland says he and Ella will come to Leeds Monday if nothing in providence prevents. I wish Charles could be here to go for them. The traveling is awful. We had a quite deep snow fell in the night, followed by rain this morning. Dellie writes in good spirits, was delighted to receive a letter from you accompanied by one from Charles. He has few letters. We are fully expecting the restoration of our union.

From you affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard



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1219 2/21/1861      *From:* Rowland [B Howard]      *To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1160

East Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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East Livermore Feb 21, 1861

Dear Brother Otis

My letter bears the above date because in our passage from Leeds to Farmington, the snow accumulated on the track & finally about 7 ½ P.M. the Engine gave out & I found a place of entertainment for Ella & myself at a Mr Lovejoys. (He keeps the P.O. & knew you as a Schoolmaster.) We have comfortable quarters & must stay till the state of the R.R. allows us to go on & I have nothing to do better than to write letters. This family are Universalists & say nothing about prayers & Grace before meals.

Ella is pretty well & pretty patient. Yesterday was very stormy but father was certain that we should get through. We left mother very well, with a good girl.

We attended Uncle Stillmans funeral on Tuesday. I rode over to the house with Oscar. Aunt Lydia [Lydia (Lothrop) Howard] is deeply afflicted. She feels alone. Uncle S. expressed willingness to die & a 'hope', but gave no definite evidence of love & trust. (I protest against this ink). The Funeral was at the M.H. & called out a large congregation & a large number of relative. I saw Aunts Lucretia [Lucretia (Howard) Leadbetter] & Aurelia [Aurelia (Howard) Leadbetter] & Uncle Frank [Benjamin Franklin Howard]. Uncle Ensign & Laura rode home with us. They have been on a visit to Montville of three weeks.

In the evening, Mr Chapin & wife came down and we had a very solemn prayer meeting at Capt. Turners. A great deal of interest was manifested. 28 were present & Mrs Nath. Coffin requested prayers & seemed deeply affected. Betsey Bates who is quite sick at home and manifests an excellent spirit, such as gave me reason to hope that she is a Christian. She expressed herself very much gratified at Charles' visits.

While I was praying with her, her mother crept into the room & near me and seemed very attentive. I can't help thinking that there is a good spirit at work in our neighborhood. Mother is more than usually engaged.

I read your last letter home & am glad to hear of the work at the Falls. I do wish that the human instrumentalities may be humble cautious discreet & prayerful. The Methodists are very apt to begin to <shout> before the victory is won. Then I always distrust the thoroughness & utility of those revivals in which they are engaged.

Ella & I are quite well now & send our love to you, Lizzie, Mrs Wing & all the children.

Rowland

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1220 2/23/1861     *From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1161

Saint Louis Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Saint Louis Arsenal  
Feby. 23, 1861

My Dear Howard:

Amidst the great excitement caused by the unfortunate state of our political affairs & the many perplexities of life at best, your kind communication, recd. a few days since, was a most welcome Visitor, & had been look for, a long time.

With the gratification of learning that you were all well, that of knowing that you had been again blessed by an Indulgent & Gracious God, gave additional pleasure.

Truly are we all blessed, & oh that we could be more grateful to Our Father in Heaven. Oh that our eyes may be turned away from beholding vanity, & that we may be quickened in His way.

I am happy to hear of the prosperity of the cause of Christ in your vicinity, & pray that the fruit of your labors may be made manifest to all, that others may take courage to fight in the same Good Cause, & not grow weary. I trust that Prayer-meeting may become a permanent & fixed institution in the Corps, never to be forgotten nor neglected.

As regards the action of my state, I can but feel proud of the good sons of Tennessee, who have so nobly stood beside the Stars & Stripes - not forgetting the purity of the cause for which our Fathers battled, their wounds & Bloodshed & the overshadowing Providence of Heaven, through so many long years. Oh that the hearts of men may be brought to a sense of the debt of gratitude they owe to God, & learn that the ways of God are full of mystery, & thus be brought to rely solely upon Him for all aid.

The action of the Seceding States I consider unjustifiable, under any pretense, selfish and ungenerous. They treated, some of them, the border slave states unkindly, refusing to take or ask council with them. Although I believe heartily, that the Abolitionists North are much to blame, that they have desired to wrong the South, I cannot justify the course that the Cotton states have adopted.

I go on the principle that we the Southern People, have equal rights with the North, in the Union & that it will never do to throw away those rights in order to secure them. The blessings <of> the Union are not to be compared to the sufferings (<fancied>) of which we hear so much.

I say if the North persist in infringing upon our rights, <take> the constitutional means of remedying the Evil, & if any go, we are right in adhering to the constitution, force the ultras <out>.

It would be good if Massachusetts & South Carolina could be tied together for awhile. These two would find out more about <the> other, & no doubt, be surprised to <learn> that one was no worse than the other. But I must not <discuss> politics any further.

We have now quite a Garrison at the Arsenal. All told, we number about 488 - rank & file, & Capt. Tother brings 83 to-day making a total then, of 571. Maj. Hagner is in command, Major Bell having been removed, without any cause having been assigned for it. He is still here. Capt Lyon, 2d Inf., Capt. Tracy 10 Inf, Lieut. Saxton 4th Arty, Lieut. Lee 2d Inf, Lieut. Sweeny 2d Inf., Lieut Thompson of Cavalry, Dr. Bouver (Surgeon), Todd & myself of the Ordnance are here. All mess with me, & stop in my quarters. Gen Scott, I presume is at the bottom of it all. We don't know how long things will remain as they now are. Capt. Totten was down last evening. Quite a military looking place. No danger of an attack now apprehended. Though there can be no doubt of an attack having been contemplated.

You may easily imagine how busy I am, when I tell you that I am Quartermaster, A.A.C.S. & Post Adjutant, under the new state of affairs. So many new arrangements, quarters, clothing, eating &c.

The Arsenal is in as good a state of or for defense as it can be put. Guns mounted & placed in position &c.

The Paymaster relieved us a little to-day by paying us one month's pay. As I've had none since November, it came very opportunely.

I have my Brother here with me - reading Medicine. He is a most excellent Boy & great Company for me, when we are in ordinary circumstances; now there is company "en abundance".

As regards the Question you asked of me, in your letter, I feel deeply grateful for the kindness manifested towards me, in the expression of confidence you would seem to place in me, but feel conscious of my unworthiness of any such regard. I really would feel most deplorably incapacitated to undertake to carry on the good work you have begun & so satisfactorily carried on at the Point. It would do my heart good now to aid in the cause of our Heavenly Master, but there is a sphere & situation for which each one is suited, & in no other can he do much good. I fear much, that I am not the man for the place you would seem to wish to have me occupy. And right here, my pride rebels, & warns me of my unfitness for the religious duties that would devolve upon me there. It says, I can not solicit such a place. I could never get my consent to ask of Prof. Church the situation, for I should dislike so much to be refused, & I could never be happy in a place where I thought I was not wanted.

As for my being able to do the duty of Instructor, I have always thought it a bad place for Young Officers to go back to West Point, though I might possibly have but little to do with any of men with whom I'm acquainted. I look upon the position as one that would be highly creditable to me, if I were selected by the Professor, but to get there as some do, I would <never>.

The position is a very responsible one. I am young - would be thrown with men of learning & ability, the advantages on that score, to me, would be great. But am I, or would I be suitable for the place?

You can understand my feelings, & know how I write to you. I am desirous of doing what I feel to be my duty, in every sense, but I wish to be prepared for it & suited to it. I can look to & depend upon you for advice. But I wish you to understand distinctly, that I would not under any conditions go unless Prof. Church prefers & desires it.

I would prefer to hear from you again. I really fear that I am not a suitable one for an Instructor.

All this I write in confidence to you.

I heartily sympathize with Miss Jeannie & her family. Remember me kindly to her. Rem'br me to my Friends. Tannatt has not written for a long time.

As I am Offr. Day I write this about 4 & 5 A.M.

Give my Love to Mrs. H., & Guy & Gracy.

May the Lord bless you all.

Yr. aff. Friend  
M. H. Wright

To,  
Lt. O. O. Howard  
U. S. Army

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1221 2/23/1861

*From:* C. P. Kingsbury

*To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-1162

Washington, D.C.

West Point N.Y

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington, D.C.

23d Feb. 1861

Dear Sir:

It has occurred to me that in consequence of the disturbed condition of the country, and the threatening aspect of the future, you like many other army officers, may be reconsidering your notions of resigning, and if this should be so, I desire to call your attention again to that South Carolina Professorship of which we have heretofore spoken.

I have just received a letter from the President of the College asking me to recommend a suitable person for the chair of Natural Philosophy, which was vacated a few months since, and there is no one among my acquaintances, whom I could so heartily commend, as yourself. The salary I believe is \$1500 per year with a house. The neighborhood is a pleasant one, and the present President, recently elected, a most estimable and accomplished Christian gentleman.

I believe that I mentioned to you, that the Professor must be a member of the Presbyterian Church, which I understand was not inconsistent with your ecclesiastical preferences.

As an officer of the Army, I presume of course that you entertain no views on the "peculiar institution" which would be objectionable to a southern community.

Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience, and believe me

Truly your friend,  
C. P. Kingsbury [Charles P Kingsbury, USMA Class of 1840]

Lieut. O. O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

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1222 2/28/1861 *From:* C. P. Kingsbury

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1163

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington, D.C. 28th Feb. 1861.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 26th, I have this moment received. I have not a word to say, except by way of encouragement, in relation to your purpose to devote yourself to the ministry of Christ. I pray that you may prove, and by His blessing you will prove, a workman worthy of the Master. But I write mainly to suggest that at Davidson College you would enjoy excellent facilities for theological studies, and that I do not believe the Philosophic course would interfere with a successful prosecution of them. That you may be guided in this and in all other things by that wisdom, which cometh from above, and at last receive the crown of life, is the prayer of your sincere friend.

C.P. Kingsbury

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1223 2/28/1861     *From:* Eben. E. Waite

*To:* My friend Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1164

Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Livermore Feb 28th 1861

My friend Otice  
Dear Sir:

It is my humble prayer that you, & yours are all well, & long may continue so. The last that we have heard from you was when you left us, at our place. Then you was not well, & how long you continued unwell we never have heard, but have hoped all the time that it was not long. You may think with propriety, perhaps, that if we had felt very anxious for your welfare that we might have written to you before, but that is not the reason by any means not at all, no sir, but shall I say what it is. You will say perhaps, that is a very poor excuse. Well I admit it is, but it is this. I have thought, & think so now, that my scribbling, in my poor unlearned, & broaken manner would not be at all interesting to you, & that has kept me from writing to you before this.

But now I have begun I might as well tell the whole cause that Stimulated me to write at this time, how we are & how the people are generally, as far as I know. We are all well at our place. You probably have heard before this, of Emaly's children's death (Eliza & Emma) in the fall, while I was at Portland at work. They died with what some call the putrid sore throat. Ten days betwixt their deaths, I am told. What disorder has prevailed to a grate extent their way round in different parts of the country, & continues to, I hear, considerably yet. Some families it has taken away all its members. We have escaped as yet, & I feel thankful for it, & I hope we shall not be afflicted with it at all. We have a heigh school here this spring, it commenced yesterday.

But to the other part of the situation, I want to hire some money. Now I will tell you why, & all about it. You know without my telling you, perhaps, if you don't know, others do, that it has been rather dull times for the last 3 or 4 years & there has not been much doing at my trade, calking, & consequently I have not earned much, that is, I have not had a chance to git much money any more that get a living, & I built a stable, & had to get in debt, some by the means of it. That is, I got some Lumber & some other things of Mr. Nathaniel Perley, which amounts to about 100 doll. not quite in all & it ought to be paid. I felt in hopes that I was going to git some money this last fall on a job of calking that I did at Portland, but it cost me so much to git my tools made & filed up to commence anew again (I have been out of the business so long & I had to do the work so cheap in order to git started again.) that I did not have but a very little left out of all the expences which I had to be to. Now I have got my tools in good shape again, so that when there is any calking to be done, I am ready, & shall not have to be to the expense of buying tools, & therefore am in hopes that I can have money left to pay wat I owe when I take any other job. Those men that I worked for, are Messrs Wm Merrill, David Wyman, & Smith Barber, all Master Ship builders, & good men & what is more, I gave them perfect satisfaction, & they told me if they ever built any more vessels they should give me the first call <surely>.

Now what I thought was this. If I could hire the money of you (\$100.) untill I can pay you at six percent interest annualy, I should like to do so. If you will let me the money pleas drop a line first, & I will send you a Note.

Respectfully Yours &c  
Eben. E. Waite

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1224 3/1/1861

*From:* H.W. Carroll

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1463

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[479]

[ca. December, 1861] [The date was written by someone other than the author, and was probably written when Lizzie was still at West Point, perhaps March 1, 1861.]

My dear Mrs Howard,

I am going to New York in the even'g, and have nothing to wear but a <flemcea> & <> & it is too nice & too long, and my <muslins> are lain as too warm. If you have an old suit skirt that you dont mind be <dusted> & can lend me for the occasion, you will greatly oblige

Yrs Truly Sincerely  
H. W. Carroll

P.S. <> thinks me impertinent.

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1225 3/4/1861

*From:* W M Beebe

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1165

Syracuse

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Syracuse Monday 4 Mar 2 P.M. [1861]

Dear Sir

Yesterday I wrote Mrs Gray informing her that Mr Gray has grown very much worse since he left home, & that I had but little hope that he could survive many days. At least I think she would infer that from what I did write.

Directly after our arrival here, he relapsed into a state of utter helplessness & imbecility, tho quite restless, but since last evening he has been in a stupor, from which it is impossible to arouse him but for a moment, & never, apparently, to even partial consciousness..

As soon as I discovered the change, I called Dr Shipman of this city, by advice of our friend Judge Pratt. He prescribed but held out no hope that he will ever be better.

I address you as the friend of the family hoping that you will break this sad intelligence to Mrs Gray & Jenny as only a friend can do.

I do not expect that he can live, at longest, more than a day or two, & should not be surprised if he does not that many hours. I will Telegraph to you, the time of his demise if I am with him as I expect to be, with the hope that his friends may be ready to receive his remains, & have arrangements made in advance of arrival for his burial.

In thus writing you I am preparing for the worst. God alone is able to raise him, & perchance he has still further work for him to do & may exercise his miraculous power to save him, but nothing less can do.

Since writing the foregoing, the Dr has been in & says that altho he seems to be very near his end, still it is possible for him to linger longer than seems now probable, that he will.

Very truly yours  
W M Beebe

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1226 3/6/1861

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1166

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
March 6th 1861

Dear Mother,

I hope you are still well. I last heard from you through Rowland at East Livermore where he was blocked in with snow. Everything moves on here about as usual. I am glad the 4th of March is past & that we have a new Administration. I think the country will soon get settled except the Cotton States. I hope it will be managed to give them their walking papers, since they so much desire to leave us. I don't believe any good can come out of war & I hope & pray it may be avoided, & I think it may with an honest president & a wise secretary like Seward to lead off in the execution of the laws. So much for politics.

The S. School & the prayer-meeting remain about as usual. I have the promise of a Christian officer to take my place, i.e. Professor Church wants him & will try for him & he is willing to come, if our new Secretary of War will order him.

I have thought today, what does Mother think about my leaving the Army for the ministry should I do so. I should like to have you pray over it & tell me then what you think - whether it would give you joy or anxiety.

Lizzie is quite well & sends her love. Guy is very busy. We attended a Concert the other night for the first time. I waked him up to go. I noticed him with a make-believe trombone playing in imitation of a member of the Band. He has a wheelbarrow that he & I & his mother made by successive additions, which he now thinks much of.

All send love. Baby well.

My kind regards to the neighbors, hope Betsey Bates is better. Remember me to Uncle Ensigns. Love to Father.

Very affectionately your son  
O.O. Howard

Guy & Grace both send home a kiss to Grandmother.

Mrs Wing sends love.

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1227 3/8/1861

*From:* Rowland [B Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1167

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Mch. 8. 1861

My dear Brother

Your letter came the same night that I mailed mine. I did not mean by any remarks that I made that you should "keep your own counsel", but that you should be governed by your own convictions, & not mine. I love to have you free & preach with me.

Now if you have decided to resign this fall & spend a year in the Seminary, will you allow me to make one or two suggestions? There will be plenty of time to consider their wisdom. It seems to me that you had better, for the sake of your own future influence, not preach much more with out a License, wh. here is simply the approval of an association of Congregational Clergymen. So I hope that your first endeavor on Furlough will be to thus start right with the ministers. In order to a license, you must be a member of a Church & be able to undergo a satisfactory examination as to your religious experience & doctrinal views.

Many enter the Seminary for a year, already licensed, & then they can preach occasionally while there without being thought "forward" & thus do good & perhaps receive remuneration.

At what time did you propose to resign? I hope you will be able to spend a good deal of time with us this Summer. Our house is large, so that we could study without interference from the noise of the family. The fishing above here is good, & I may have a horse, as one is offered to me for \$75, that suits me very well. If I do, we should enjoy going about if we find a "Rackaway" large enough to hold all.

Ella returned Sat. night. She is very well indeed, thinks the house is an old miserable thing &c (of course). She joins me in great love to you, sister Lizzie, the children & Mrs Wing. Remember us too to Susan. Do you think she will remain with you when you leave West Point? Give our best love & warmest sympathy to Mrs Grey & Miss Jeannie. Ella feels very much for Jeannie & says she would write, did she not know how very inadequate everything she could say, would be. Did not Mrs Greys brother leave her anything?

I had a pretty good Sab. yesterday, in many respects. It was a beautiful day & my audience was good. I am to preach Thurs, Fast Day. I have not begun my preparation yet. I feel too tired today, but I hope to be ready by divine assistance, if well, tomorrow & next day.

Yr. Aff. Bro.  
Rowland

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1228 3/13/1861     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1168

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Mar. 13, 1861

My dear Brother

The contents of your last letter was all intensely interesting to me. It seems like another of the free bounties of God to me that you have the purpose of coming here. Sometimes His goodness seems almost overwhelming and then again much of the time I fail to consider it. The sufferings of Mrs. Grey & Miss Jeannie have been much in my mind. How wretched they must have been and yet I know that in these greatest of earthly afflictions is not found of necessity the greatest misery. I hope that Christ has been very near to them & that their hearts have been comforted in the consciousness of his love. How have they seemed? It has been very natural for me to take them to the throne of Grace with me. I trust that they are brought into closer union with the Lord & more complete harmony with his blessed will by each additional trial. I wished to write them a letter when I first heard of their affliction but feared it would do no good. You must tell me how the sad news you carried to them was received. Did you preach at their Church last Sabbath?

I saw an account of the burning of Cozzen's Hotel quite full & explicit, in the N.Y. Post - also mention of a new Supt. I suppose Mr Webb's father is to have an office - Naval Officer of N.Y. - is it so?

I was very much rejoiced to know Mr. Wright was to succeed you. And what glorious news of the Revival. I would like to be there with you. I should think the S.S. would become more interesting. Who has the class that Willie Shoudell is in now?

I was in at Gen. Stephens last night. Mrs. S. only was at home. She took great interest in portions of your letter which I read to her. Gen. S. spoke to a Mr. Mills about a house for you which he liked much but Dr. Lincoln is going to have it. He will begin house-keeping immediately. His wife is now at Saco at the death-bed of a younger brother, a member of the Sophomore class in Bowdoin.

Have you heard of Dellie's difficulty - something in connection with the Freshman election. I heard he was suspended but not from himself nor from Nettie. Think I'll have a letter from one or both of them tonight with the particulars. Suppose there is no doubt but that he is suspended for 4 months, but the letter I saw from a classmate said Dell. was less to blame than many others who didn't get caught, if that is any consolation.

I tho't a great deal of Mr Denton's conversion. How does he seem. He will be likely to be the means of great good to the people at the Falls.

It is time for our Wed. Eve. prayer-meeting. How much I hope you will be suffered to attend these & all our meetings & enjoy them with me. If you unite with the Central Church I have now thought of uniting with you as now I do not go to Hallowell any & Mr. Bathfield has left. He has gone to Gr't Falls - preached here 3 months. Rev. Mr. Storer is here for the present at the Hammond St.

I have a bad cold in my head but think it passing off. Think I will close this now so yo may get it Sat. Night. I do hope there may be some special religious interest with the Cadets. We have just started a young peoples prayer-meeting which seems to promise well.

Dr. Lincoln is a lovely Christian and very efficient in his labors for Christ. Several of his S.S. class have been awakened.

I have heard from Rowland recently & he was not long ago at home but he will tell you of himself.

Affectionately,  
C.H. Howard

My love to Lizzie & to Guy & Grace. Kind regards to Mrs. Wing if she is with you.

Thursday P.M.

Dear Otis - The mail-man missed my letter last night so I have opened it to add a few words more. We have a lecture from Prof. Harris upon theology every Monday morning now. Have had 3. They are very interesting. He names the books we are to consult so we study the subject during the week. Good many of the Middle Class attend, so that next year if you are here you can hear the same. We are just beginning to read some Hebrew extracts from Exodus.

Mr. Perkins seemed greatly rejoiced at the prospect of your coming here. He knew you in College. Geo. is his first name. He will not probably teach us much longer. As I was returning from Mission Sabbath School last Sabbath I met Mr. Everett. He always enquires about you. He says "Tell him to come by all means".

Hope you will tell me about Jamie's Baptism if it has taken place. How did you like the Inaugural. It is highly spoken of by all parties here I believe except a few unreasonable Buchananites - such as the editor of the Bangor Union. He called it "weak & trashy" &c.

Dr. Stevens has recently come home from Miss. He is a secessionist I believe. He has a tremendous cloud of whiskers - black & threatening. When in company he is in the habit of stroking them quite complacently. Did you ever meet him? He was once at W.P. Mil. Acad. The eldest I think of Gen. Steven's sons.

Does the Revival progress? Where is Mr. Clarke's family & Lockett? You have not alluded to them recently. Rowland will give you an account of the Revival at Winthrop. At our meeting for Prayer for Colleges a union meeting at the 1st Parish Church, I mentioned West Point Mil. Acad. & a prayer was put up specially remembering that institution. The vestry was full & we had a good meeting that day. No word from Dell yet.

Yr. Affec. Br.  
Charles

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1229 3/15/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0833

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
15 March [1861 see note 1]

My dear Mother,

I have often spoken of Mr Gray's family in my letters & Rowland, Ella & Charles know them. Since I wrote Mr Gray has died & left them in great affliction. Yesterday, I received news by telegraph from Syracuse that he was dead & then I went on the sad mission to the Falls of imparting the message to Mrs Gray & her daughter. Mrs Gray is weak & sick & this new grief seemed almost to take her life, but I think she has found strength in God. The worst trial is perhaps to come when they bring his body home tomorrow to be buried. I have been supplying Mr Gray's pulpit for some time. The people are so poor that I don't know where they will get a clergiman. Mr Gray worked himself to death, by doing the duties of his office & undertaking to practice medicine among his people at the same time.

Guy has had an attack of influenza or Quinzy. He has'nt been sick abed but his breathing has been so bad that it has occasioned us some anxiety. He seems better this morning. I think he will soon be completely well if he does'nt take fresh cold. We had a snow storm yesterday, so that winter seems to return upon us. Lizzie is pretty well but takes too little rest & I am afraid is working too hard. My own health is good.

Mrs Wing is under great anxiety on account of her husband. He arrived in New Orleans long enough ago, so that she could have heard from him by mail twice, & she has'nt heard a word. She says he always writes immediately. She feels a dreadful anxiety, worse I believe than if she knew he was sick.

We had another cadet baptized last Sunday, and more people still of our post have become followers of Christ. Mr Irving, our Architect, Mr Stewart & his daughter & the man that drives his omnibusses & another member of our Sunday school. The Officers seem unaware of the work the Lord is doing around them, & the Cadets generally manifest no special interest. Thus we see, that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" ... "That no flesh should glory in his presence." I hear good news of the City of Newburg of this kind, that men are turning to the Lord. I hope we may see a great in-gathering here before I leave, but the will of God be done.

Grace is well & happy & Jamie [James Waite Howard was born 12/1/1860] is a little treasure which we will shew you next summer, God permitting.

I hope father is well. Lizzie sends love & Guy wants to send a Kiss, which he has just presented in favor. Grace is in some other room playing. Remember me affectionately to all our friends & neighbors. I hope Mr Chapin's labors will be blessed, but he must remember that one soweth & another reapeth often.

Very affectionately yr son  
Otis

[Note 1. The year was omitted and is filed with the 1858 letters. However, the reference to Jamie is probably referring to James Waite Howard who was born December 1, 1860. Also Mr. Grey had been ill for some months but died soon after a letter written March 4, 1861 and before one written on March 30, 1861. Thus, this letter must have been written between these dates, which is consistent with it being March 15, 1861.]

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1230 3/19/1861

*From:* T.R. Tannatt  
Lt 4th Arty.  
Fort Randall K.T.

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1169

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Randall K.T. [Kansas Territory. Fort Randall was in what is now South Dakota.]  
March 17, 1861

Dear Howard,

The present time is favorable to my writing and I will improve it.

Lt Mack has told me of your contemplated change of profession, and I have thought of it much of the time. You have in God's hand been the instrument of much good, in the army, yet I do rejoice that you can see duty in seeking a new field of labor, where your harvest will become greater.

I pray you may be blessed with health, to work vigorously in the cause you love so well.

You have so long weighed the matter, I have no fears as to your spiritual & temporal prosperity. I often view my own feelings and conduct in contrast with the lives of other christian officers, and see little to encourage me; indeed I at times fear the love of God is not in my heart as it dwells in you, to make me fearless and active, in the cause of Christ. I enjoy my hours of prayer and find comfort therein, yet in all I am weak in Christ.

Here we are completely outside the religious world, and my feelings are pent up, to be known only to my wife. We often converse upon this subject and she too feels that her faith in Christ remains strong, although dead to good works; we lament our situation, and pray that we may be quickened anew, neither service nor a prayer meeting for nearly a year, and scarcely a quiet Sabbath.

My situation is made more unpleasant by my Capt, who is generally stupid with whiskey by noon, and always selects Sunday for the examination of company papers.

I cannot conceive of a more demoralizing place than this, we have two billiard rooms and a theatre open on Sunday for games and rehearsals. You know my views of the army as a place for religious culture, and I must say I do desire a new calling.

I picture to myself a quiet home, my seat in the church, my class in the Sabbath School, the weekly prayer meeting, and a circle of religious friends, and ask myself, if I would not be a better christian and better do my masters will.

God cut short my earthly plans by taking from me my sight, and he has a good in making it my present duty to remain in the army.

I was talking with Mack upon this subject, he counsels me to mention my object to you, and ask you to mention my name should you see a fit place for me at West Point.

When my eyes began to trouble me I was making arrangements to enter another profession.

I am now in perfect health and could I be stationed favorably for two years I could gain my end. I would prize West Point for its many religious privileges and the excellent society my wife would find among the families.

I should resign this spring did I not feel it would be wrong when every officer may be needed. I can easily get an appointment through friends at Washington, but I am not willing to force myself upon a Professor who may not consider me competent for the place.

I will not write of political matters, but simply say secession finds no friend in me, and that I deeply regret the ground exists upon which to found a charge of disloyalty in the army. My wife joins me in love to you & yours.

May God bless you in all your ways.

Your friend in Christ.  
T.R. Tannatt  
Lt 4th Arty.

Lieut. Howard

P.S. Please remember me to Mr French & family, Mr & Mrs Church, Mrs Reed and all my kind friends.  
T.R.T.

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1231 3/20/1861 *From:* L. P. Ledoux

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1170

Cornwall, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Cornwall, N.Y. Mar. 20, 1861

Lieut Howard,  
Dear Sir:

In thinking further upon the matter of my visiting the Buttermilk Falls Church a week from next Sabbath, I have concluded to write you this line advising that the service be given out for ½ past three, instead of three o'clock as we talked about. Hoping that you will get this and appoint the time accordingly, I will make my plans for a 3 ½ o'clock service.

I hope there will be a number to unite with the now afflicted church.

You, sir, have the gratitude of that people and, doubtless the favor of God, for your interest in, and labors among them.

Yours, in love and work of Jesus,  
L. P. Ledoux

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1232 3/30/1861     *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1171

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Mar 30, 1861

My dear Mother

I believe I let last week pass by without writing you. Yesterday I sent a letter to Rowland and I am in hopes to hear from both you & him every day. I want to write Dellie. If he is at home, give him my love & tell him to write me without waiting for me, for my hindrances with my duties & my family are many more than his.

I hope father is well. I often think of him & pray for him, & wonder if he has grown much older in looks during the past year. I presume the state of the country must be an all absorbing topic with him. I am glad of Lincoln's peace policy. If Mr Buchanan had crushed the rebellion in its incipency, force could have been used to advantage, but since Lincoln has come in war would only make matters worse. An immense amount of treasure & blood would be wasted on both sides & irremediable hostility be established and unless we completely subjugated the South we would be no nearer a settlement than now. This is the aspect of politics to me.

In religion I don't know that we have had an increase in the number of converts since I wrote you. I think over a hundred have joined the Methodist Church, a few will join the presbyterian Church next Sunday.

Mrs Gray & Miss Jeannie are in great affliction & in rather poor circumstances, since the sudden removal of Mr Gray. His Church too is poor scarcely able to pay up what is due on his salary & almost despairing of another Minister. If people would only consider that the support of their minister & church is of an equal if not a superior consideration to that of their families, then could they give less grudgingly, & the poor churches would not suffer as they do & the poor Clergy would be freer from worldly anxieties.

We are all well - Guy, Grace, Jamie, Lizzie, Alice, Susan & Catharine. I hope the same for you. I must stop now as the time for morning family prayer has come.

Affectionately Your Son  
O.O. Howard

Love from all

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1233 4/2/1861

*From:* Rowland [B Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1172

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Apr 2d 1861

Dear Brother Otis

I am getting very hungry for a letter from you & news from your dear family. I will begin by sending my most sincere love to my little nephew Guy. Tell him just as soon as he can read writing I shall write him letters. I often think of him & pray that God may help him to be a good boy & an energetic one too. Otis, you may smile, but I begin to look to the children, the boys particularly, to take my place in the world. My great hope is that in the years of my ministry, even if they be few, I may leave behind some humbler earnest worker in my place.

"Many little children have gone to Heaven to live" from among our dear people this winter. We have been drawn together & taught to love each other by these things. But the Sickness has now wholly left us. I have not heard of a new case for a fortnight.

Ella has been away at Bath now three weeks but I hope to see her again before the close of this week. I have been unusually well & preached the last three Sabs, with only half a days exchange with Bro. Morrill.

Give my best love to little Grace too. I can almost hear her saying "bad Uncle Rowland". Jamie I don't know, but if father & mother & brother & sister love him, why, I must! Has he shown any signs of will yet? Much love too to Sister Lizzie.

You don't know how much pleasure I anticipate from having you all with us a part of your furlough. We have engaged a nice large house with plenty of room & we will try to have enough to eat & plenty of Christian love & merry thoughts. Our house belongs to Dea. Cutler whom you met at Harpswell. He is just moving out to live with his aged father. It is on the hill, N.E. of the village, quite overlooking it & a long quarter of a mile from the Church. This last is the greatest objection, for our view in Summer will be splendid, but the hill is hard for Ella to climb & the winter seems colder up there. But Providence has supplied us with it at a reasonable rent & we hope to get settled by the 1st of May.

Capt. Patten will buy & send the heavy articles of furniture, the rest we must get as our means permit. Yesterday was Quarter Day. Our Treas. is very prompt, but after paying bills I believe I have but a little over \$30 to commence housekeeping with! But that will do nicely. Two of our brethren are grocers & will gladly supply us till the next Quarter comes around.

Our meetings are well attended on the Sab. but we still look in vain for any special interest, tho' there is evidently an improved feeling on the part of the Church. God is blessing me abundantly. O may my heart respond most gratefully & dutifully.

Our snow still remains to the depth of a foot. The crust these mornings makes beautiful walking. I must preach a Fast Day Sermon next week & I am dreading it exceedingly. We have a Union meeting on that day. The people will feel disappointed if my Sermon is exclusively religious, but I don't see how I can conscientiously make it otherwise.

Dellie got involved in an unfortunate brawl with the Freshmen at Coll. & is suspended. He is studying at Yarmouth. I went down to see the Faculty & I hope they will commute his punishment at the beginning of the Summer Term, i.e. if the ends of punishment, making him more careful & conscientious in future shall have been subserved.

I have not heard from our other friends for some time. Do you hear from Cousin Sarah? I wrote her last month in reply to her letter about coming to Farmington to live, & would like to hear from her again. If she is coming I think I can now secure her a snug little house, but how long I can do it I cannot tell.

I was so busy with the Faculty when in B. that I called on no one but Nettie. I regretted not having time to call at

Mr Sands, but Ella was in Topsham & I had to walk some distance to meet my engagements with the Coll. Officers.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs Wing. Ella would join me in all these kind wishes were she here. Do write soon.

Your aff Brother  
Rowland

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1234 4/2/1861      *From:* E Waite

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1173                      Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Aprill 2d 1861

Lieut O O Howard  
Dear Sir

Your note with Coupons & Order was received Last Evening. I have to day collected the dividends as below

Say on Coupons	150.00	
Canal Stock	28.00	
Casco “	44.00	
International “	21.00	
		<hr/>
		\$243.

Cash Enclosed	100	
Deposited Subject to your Order	143	
		<hr/>
		\$243

Don't forget to make us a call on your way East. Should be glad to know at what time we may expect you.

With much love to your good Wife & Children

From Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

---

1235 4/10/1861     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1174

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Apr 10th 1861

My dear Brother

I have been hoping to get a letter from you for some time but have not had as much leisure for writing of late as usual.

I had a dissertation as also did all of my class to be read before Prof Harris last Monday. I had for my subject "Summary of Prof. Agassiz' argument". It is found in the 1st Vol, 1st Chap. of his Contributions to Nat. Hist. which I believe you have in the W.P. Library. A short time ago I had a dissertation before the Rhetorical Soc. but I made over an old "part". Soon I have an original Declamation before Prof. Shepard & the Students. You see I have considerable extra labor. We are reading some of Isaiah in Hebrew now. This is more difficult than what we have been reading which was much easier from the help of the Chrestomathy.

I have been thinking a great deal about West Point of late. I was gathering Epigaea at this Season a year ago & wandering over the hills about West Point. I wonder how it is with poor Mr. Gray. I've tho't that perhaps you were occupied in preaching for his people. I have felt much anxiety to hear about Mrs Gray & Miss Jeannie. Sometimes have thought of writing to them. Johnny has not written for some time. How much I would like to have him for a companion in some of my spring walks as I did last year. The ground is getting to be dry enough so that I have taken one stroll & intend to follow that with many more in quick succession.

I am living in great hopes that you will come to share these & all my pleasures with me. Shall I expect you in June? Dr. Lincoln has gone to keeping house in a very pleasant cottage on Cedar St. I took tea with him a few nights ago. I saw him at the prayer-meeting this evening. He took part in a very interesting & <> manner as he always does. He is very single in his purpose & spiritual in experience I think. I have seen Gen. Stevens several times of late. He & Mrs. S. Were greatly rejoiced at the news of your last letter both as to your coming & also the Revival. Hope you will tell me further about the work in the S. School. Gen. S. wanted me to invite you from him to attend the Hammond St. Church. They seem quite anxious to have you go there. A Mrs. Drummond & Mrs Woodhull whom I met at Dr Pond's last evening also expressed the same. A daughter of Mrs. Woodhull Mrs. Pickard said she has met you & I think Lizzie too at Auburn. She hopes to see you when you should come.

Is Mrs. Wing still with you? I would so much enjoy being there. I want to see the children very much. Tell Guy that I have requested his father to give him one of his best kisses for me & another of the same sort to Grace & if Guy think James likes to be kissed he may give him one too. I hear from Rowland often, but not from Dellie or Mother. As to the Churches, I prefer the Central but you will of course suit yourself. I shall certainly want you to hear some of the sermons I do if not all.

It is now time for bed. The ice left the river today. It has been delightfully pleasant for a week.

Affectionately Yrs  
C.H. Howard

P.S. You will find a cordial reception from either Church. I didn't know but you might desire to unite with one & that I would do the same. I notice that Capt. Gorgas has resigned. Dr. Stephens spoke of you today. What is to become of our Government?

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1236 4/11/1861    *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1175

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Thursday Apr. 11th 1861 Fast-Day

My dear Brother

I have just returned from the funeral of Rev. Mr. Smith of Brewer Village. He died very suddenly last Sab. night. He has had a disease of the heart for some time but was about as he had been all Winter. He leaves a wife & two children. Several of my class accompanied me. We crossed the river in the ferry & walked down about 2 miles. Prof. Harris preached a very excellent discourse & gave a brief sketch of Mr. Smith's life. He has been settled there ever since the church was formed, 15 years. Prof. H. had a good deal to say in commendation of him. His home was originally in Litchfield. He became fitted for College by his own exertions & graduated at Bowdoin & then here at this Sem.

Rowland was to exchange with him a while ago but on acct of sickness Mr. S. failed to preach for him. He has been upon an agency for the Seminary in hopes it would be beneficial to his health as well as serve a benevolent purpose.

This forenoon I heard a somewhat political sermon from Rev. Mr. Gilman of the 1st Parish. Do you think many more officers will resign if there is a war? Dr Stevens expressed that opinion. I met him in the Gymnasium yesterday. He was a spectator, remarking that it was rather too much exertion for him to do anything there. He has that appearance. Many very heavy whiskers.

Where is Jack Wilson now? Do you expect Mr. Wright to take your place? Let me hear soon if but a word.

Yr. Affect bro.  
Charles

---

1237 4/13/1861

*From:* John P. Roe

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1176

Auburn Theo. Sem.  
Auburn  
Cayuga Co.  
N.Y.

U.S.A.  
West Point

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Auburn Theo. Sem. April 13 /61

Leut Howard U.S.A.  
West Point

My Friend

Expecting soon to see you face to face I will not write much at present. I trust that the acquaintance made under such pleasant circumstances may ripen into a firm friendship, esp. since we have aims & tastes so much in common. I believe, me in taking the pos. which I feel to be very trying for a young man & a mere student of Theol., I will lean much on your assistance & You shall have full credit both for past, & future. Your aid, counsel, & sympathy will be of great value to me & I look forward to some happy hours that we may be permitted to spend together.

You are doubtless aware (since it was owing more to your influence than my preaching) that I have received & accepted a call to the Ch. of the Falls for the Summer, & I look forward to four busy mos. I shall give myself up to the Ministry of the word & I hope & pray that the Great Head of the Ch. will bless my labors & continue His favors to that people & Ch.

It will be necessary for me to find a boarding place for the Summer & after enquiry & advice I think that, if found convenient by the family, I had better board with Mrs. Gray it being more convenient for me to the Ch. than elsewhere & also I understand that there was a stipulation in the sale of parsonage that either it should be used by a ministers family, or if unmarried he must board there. If otherwise used the property reverts to original holders.

I understand that the family would have no objections to such an arrangement & I shall endeavor to give them as little trouble as possible. There are reasons why I should like to board elsewhere but on the whole I am satisfied that this will be for the best.

I enclose with this a note to Mrs Gray which you will be so kind as to deliver to her at your convenience. Also to Mr Eberard who was delegate to Presbytery. I send along with this a Cat. of our Sem. Please remember me to <Coy> George Williams, & Lady also <Coy> Harry Hasbrouce & Esp. to your Lady.

Your friend  
John P. Roe  
Auburn  
Cayuga Co.  
N.Y.

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1238 4/15/1861 *From:* S.P. Lee

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1177

Washington Hotell  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York April 15th 1861

My dear Cousin

I arrived here last Tuesday. Have been intending to write you every day but put it off from time to time thinking I should run up and spend a night with you. Sarah was quite sick when I left. She had a Boy born the 20th March and had a hard time of it but was out of danger when I left. She thinks of going to Farmington to live, but I think I shall write her to remain in Nassau another year on account of the trouble here as we can not tell where this Civil War will end and she has many friends there that would like to have her stay and it would be better for the children's health to stop another year there.

Every thing here is in great excitement on account of the news of Major Anderson's surrender. What do you think of it. I feel that if there is going to be a war I would like to have a hand in it if I could get in the Navy and I should think officers would now be wanted.

Please write me of our Eastern friends. Are they all well. I have been away so long that I have not heard any news of them for some months.

Remember me to Lizzie and the children. Tell Miss Jeannie Gray that I have just received her letter written two months ago. If I go out to Nassau again I should be happy to have her father go with me but I do not think I shall go in the Brig again.

With love I remain  
Your affectionate cousin  
S.P. Lee

Write me for a week to the Washington Hotell N.Y. as I have lost several letters that have been sent to Mr Ensas office.

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1239 4/17/1861 *From:* Anson P. Morrill

*To:* Dr Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1178

Readfield

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Readfield Apr 17 1861

Dr Sir

Your favor is rec'd. It is now impossible to tell what may come out of the present state things. I think however that no <retreating> from this state to any amount will be done. Volunteers will be had by asking. If any chance occurs to which you allude I will be glad to aid you.

Very truly  
Anson P. Morrill

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1240 4/20/1861

*From:* O.O. Howard  
1st Lt. Ordnance  
A.A.P. Math's  
West Point N.Y.

*To:* S. B. Holabird  
1st Lt. 1st Infantry

OOH-1179

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Apr. 20 1861

Sir,

I have the honor to request a leave from 7 A.M. Monday till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 P.M. of the same day.

Respectfully submitted  
O.O. Howard  
1st Lt. Ordnance  
A.A.P. Math's [Acting Assistant Professor of Mathematics]

To:  
S. B. Holabird [Samuel B. Holabird, Adjutant of the Military Staff]  
1st Lt. 1st Infantry

Approved. The sections will be heard by myself, or some other officer of the Dept.  
A. E. Church [Prof Albert E. Church, L.L.D.]  
Prof Math

[On reverse side of page]  
West Point N.Y.  
Apr 20 1861  
OO Howard  
1st Lt. Ord'ce

Leave  
Approved  
A.H.B. [Col. Alexander H Bowman, Superintendent USMA and Commandant of the Post]  
Col & Sup

---

1241 4/21/1861     *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1180

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 21, 1861

Otis, my dear son,

After saying to you that your father and I are in our usual health, I ask, how is it with you? It is now 3 weeks, since you wrote. It seems a long time since, because I have been in daily expectation of one from you. Your last letter gave me the blessed intelligence that the gospel was not preached in vain in all places. When ever I meet with christians in conversation there seems to be a healthy state of feeling towards their Saviour, but no further, we do not progress, apparently in the great work of salvation. Mr Chapin seems always to be a teacher, and affectionate Christian and has a ready helper in his companion. Our subscription is filling out better than here-to-fore. Nearly all who have subscribed have added to their sum of last year. All these things are favorable and we have reason to thank God for them. We have a comfortable place of worship and a minister of Christ to preach to us. To day is Mr Holts last day on the ridge. There will be a thin congregation, I think, as no one goes from here, neither from the other house, and Capt Turner's family will not probably attend. Those who do attend, must walk as we are having our worst traveling now. The frost is coming out of the ground, which makes it dangerous traveling about here.

We have had sickness in the neighbourhood for a number of months. The most of the sick ones are gaining. Jason Bates walked down here Friday. He has been suffering severely from a scrofula abscess for a month past, had it lanced a number of times. His looks bespeaks him soon for the grave. Betsey Bates is recovering from a severe sickness. She walks about the house. Capt Turner has got his clothes on again though feeble and Mrs Turner goes from one room to the other but is very feeble. Joshua's wife has been here two weeks with them. She came to Leeds in the public conveyance, which makes her quite an invalid. Charles Lane's wife has been sick six or eight weeks with an inflammation of the lungs. I understand she is recovering. John Turners wife has been confined to her room all winter. Beside all these almost every family has been afflicted with hooping cough, so that much of the conversation when we meet is about the sick. I have had a Rheumatic attack in March, but am nearly recovered from it. I walked to Capt Turner's last evening and back.

Thomas Bubier and wife are established here for the season, to do our work. They are hired. They have lost their infant of five months old with the hooping cough. The little creature was buried the 2 day of April, which delayed his engagement to your father a week. Abby his wife has been here four days. She seems enfeebled by long confinement to her sick babe, but seems quite reasonable in her grief. She thinks she shall be able to do my work through the Summer.

The snow is nearly gone, except patches of drifts over the fields. Your father sowed some early Peas yesterday, but we do not call it early spring. The weather is cold. The farmers are repairing their fences and packing their wood into their wood sheds. Thomas has drawn some dressing from the barn, on to the corn land, and I begin to look over the garden, to see what the cold of winter has left us to cultivate this year.

All these views of spring remind me that the time is approaching when we shall welcome you and Lizzie and Guy, and Grace, and the sweet little Jamie to our humble but quiet home. I am often reminded of Guy as I go about. His rake and hoe are here. I intend to have a blade put on his hoe soon as the traveling will do and I can ride up to Mr Lamb's shop.

I received a letter from sister Martha J Strickland a few days since. It was a pleasant happy letter and I prized it very highly, because I do not deserve it. I have not written her since last Sept, her birth day. She said it was just four years since she was here. Then you were in Florida and Mrs Waite, Lizzie, and Guy were inmates of our family. Many changes since that time.

Rowland and Ella have not written me for a long time. I wrote them last. I shall write and enquire into their case soon. I suppose they are about going to housekeeping, as he wrote me in his last letter he had obtained a house. Charles has not written for a long time but a Newspaper from him a few days since told me he was still in the land of the living. I got a letter from Dellie a few days since. He says he is doing well in his studies, but never had so little time to write as at this time. He got behind his class by having a felon on his thumb and is

now making up.

Your father has awakened from a long sleep in his chair, and asks if I am writing to Otis, and to ask him what he thinks of the war. I never expected to live to see such a state of affairs as this. I think it calls upon every Christian to seek to know the most pure spiritual manner the Sovereign God can be approached and to supplicate his divine assistance in our Country's behalf. I have thought of you much since the state of our country has looked so warlike, whether it would effect your calculations or not. The last evening's papers seemed dreadful to me. Their account of Lieut Jones' manner of leaving Harper's Ferry, has come very near my feelings, as it is but a few years since you were filling a similar station, and then the treatment the Massachusetts regiments received at Baltimore and the Philadelphia troops. It shocked me to think there were those so near us, who could desire Jefferson Davis to march to the Capital of the United States.

I see by the last Kenebec Journal that there will be a change at the Arsenal at Augusta as Maj Baldwin has resigned his command at that place to accept an office in the state of Virginia offered him by the governor in the Military department, to take charge of the Ordnance, of that state. Now that Arsenal is open for a new commander. If you were to remain in the army another year, or years, it would seem desirable to me, for you to have that station. But I do not wish to choose for you. My desire is to be submissive to the will of our Heavenly master.

I do not hear much from Hallowel since Fanny's death. I heard through Rowland that Ellen did not take her little girls to Philadelphia with her.

Your father went to Augusta in March, alone, but I was prostrated with an attack of Rheumatism. We have had a very severe winter which has kept me very close at home. Martha J writes, all her family are well and ever have been since they have lived at Richmond. She mentions writing to you and Lizzie this present winter and your answering her. She says the state of the country makes her heart sick to think of it, but not so with your Mother. I feel drawn in prayer to the great Ruler of all things to ask Him not to leave us to ourselves, but to take us into his especial care, direct us in all things whatsoever we should do, and I hope all will be for his Glory and our best good.

Give my love to Lizzie. Tell her I think of her much in her care of love in her little family, and hope her strength will hold out to bring up her dear one. I have thought of late that she was sick or some other ones of your family and you did not wish me to know it, because of the anxiety it would give me. Remember me with much love to Guy. Tell him Johnny was in here to day, talking in his funny way, but he has improved some in speaking his words. Give my love to Grace. I suppose she has grown perceptibly since I saw her. Grandmother looks forward with some degree of pleasure to the time when we shall all meet again in this house. Kiss the little one for me. I hope he remains healthy. Remember my regards to Mrs Wing if she is with you, and Susan, much love to her.

Your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Lieut O O Howard

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1242 4/25/1861      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1181

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Apr. 25 1861

My dear Mother,

I received your letter today & think you ought to have received one from me before you sent this.

We have been sick, that is Grace & Guy & the baby. Grace & Guy were quite sick. This, with the sickness of Mr Carroll's children & the death of his little boy, has caused us much anxiety & watchings. Mr Carroll's mother came on to the funeral and we gave her a part of our house while she staid. Dr Hammond was exceedingly kind & attentive during the illness of the children. They had catarrh & fever. They are now all well and we must thank God for his divine goodness & sparing mercy. I realize that He doeth all things well.

I am glad to hear that all is well with you. I have been thinking how father was off for money - if the rail-road paid him anything now. I am really sorry to hear that our neighbors are so unwell. I didn't know before that Capt. & Mrs Turner had been sick. You must give them my love & sympathy. I can think how sore must be the trial to Mrs Bubier in the loss of her little one. God alone can bind up broken hearts. Happy is the afflicted soul that already is united to him in faith & love.

Father inquires about the war; it is with me war! war! I read of it, I think of it, I pray about it & dream of war. I don't seem to be much excited. When in New York Monday, I felt abashed for my lukewarmness, when talking with an enthusiastic clerk who was soon to start for the defense of his country. I am in principle strong for the government. I do not feel that I can leave the Army now, while there is as great a call for my services & when our own people would suspect me if I tendered my resignation. I doubt if my resignation would be accepted now. So many officers have been taken from here, that Prof. Church says I shall soon have to take a whole class instead of two sections as I now have. I shall probably be kept here. Lt. Warren, the 1st Assistant in Mathematics, has been requested to become Lieutenant Colonel of a Volunteer Regiment. Cadet [Adelbert] Ames of the 1st Class has been asked to become Lt. Colonel of one of the Regiments from Maine. The Officers continue the same rank in the regular Army, while serving in a high place in the Militia if the Government allows them to do so. In this way regiments of new men get disciplined officers to instruct them.

I hear from private authority that Jeff. Davis is at Richmond Va. & has been ever since the Virginia vote of secession. As soon as Maryland declares herself free from the Union, Washington will be attacked. Our troops at Washington are surrounded by enemies, and there are still plenty of lukewarm friends in the District of Columbia. The defense will be vigorous & probably Baltimore & other obstructions will be cleared away, but I think between enemies & friends our beloved Capital will be destroyed.

Judge & Mrs Carroll have returned to Washington from here. We shall soon get reliable news from them. The papers cannot be relied on - they have got the war fever themselves.

Dr Hammond & Lieut Kelton were ordered to Washington yesterday, & left this morning. Large numbers of Southern cadets have gone - very few of them now remain. Our Cadets of the 1st & 2nd Classes have applied for duty to Washington. They will probably be graduated immediately if needed.

Perry was here night before last. He wants to go into the navy. I gave him letters to Judge [William Thomas] Carroll, Ck. Of Supreme Court of U. States, & to Col [Henry Knox] Craig, Colonel of Ordnance, & Cadet [William D] Fuller recommended him to his father one of the Auditors of the Treasury. He probably left N. York for Washington today. Perry is now very strong for the Union. He says he has hoisted the old flag too often to disown it now.

The flower of New York, the young men of every class rich & poor have gone to fight for their country. The enthusiasm has been beyond description. When I was in N. York Monday, the streets were waving with flags: the eaves, the windows, the doors, the carriages, the horses & the people had flags or badges of Union. Susan

heard her brother was going in a regiment. With tears she hastened off to stop him as he was a slender lad. He enlisted but his employer hindered his going. Susan returned to us tonight.

The Government would not let me go to Augusta now. Maj Baldwin was a military storekeeper - his Major comes from some Militia appointment. All the Commissioned Officers are needed now, for a host of Southern Officers have gone. Colonel Robert Lee, my old Superintendent here, has gone. Col Harden you have doubtless noticed & Maj Beauregard. Many of my classmates & friends are in array against us.

God is indeed allowing us to be scourged for our sins. My trust is in His arms. Jesus can say Peace, be still & we may behold a great calm. But, let us keep our hearts & watch for his coming. Nobody but me to send love - all abed.

Affectionately yr son.  
Otis

Do not count too sanguinely on my coming home this summer. I do not much think I shall have that privilege. I may. If ordered away I shall probably take or send Lizzie & the little ones to make you a visit.

I hope Warren Lothrop is well. He must seek a high position in some Militia regiment, if he gets permission from Washington - it will not prejudice his line rank. Promotion is rapid now. Tell him this if he is at Leeds & able to do duty.

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1243 4/25/1861      *From:* Chas. C. Townsend,      *To:* Lieut O. O. Howard  
Missionary  
OOH-1182      “Orphan’s House of  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Industry”  
Iowa City, Iowa,

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“Orphans’ Home of Industry”  
Iowa City, Iowa, April 25th 1861

Lieut O. O. Howard

My Dear Sir,

Your very welcome Letter dated March 9th was duly, and thankfully, received, - and the enclosed contribution of \$15.00 came safely to hand, - and, in a very acceptable time, and I owe you an apology for this seeming neglect - and real delay. It is not that I have been unmindful of you and of those associated with you in the timely offering, or of the donation itself, but since its reception, I have had so much to occupy my time, in the daily routine of “the Home of Industry”, as to give me little leisure for writing Letters, - and, therefore, I have before me a file of unanswered Letters, aid-bearing, similar to your own, which I have not been able to acknowledge. You will, I am convinced, congratulate me on the reception of more Letters from the friends of our cause than I am able to answer. My appeal for relief has been most promptly and liberally responded to, and, by God’s blessing, we have passed the long winter very comfortably, and paid up most of the small debts contracted by my managers in my absence, last summer. Since my sickness began, I have found good homes for some 25 boys and girls in this State, and demands are made for children almost daily.

My health is not yet quite restored, or I should go again, at once, to the East for more money and children. I would thank you to accept, for yourself, and express to the Cadets whose names you have favored me with, my heartfelt gratitude for your sympathy and christian kindness and theirs. It is my earnest prayer that “God, ever our own God, would give you His blessing”, and, return your generous offerings, in spiritual blessings, in good measure, and running over, into your own bosoms.

I still remember, with pleasure, the hour of prayer spent with you, and, as I suppose some, if not all of the Cadets who have joined their offerings to yours, in this token of sympathy in our cause, and it gives additional value to the contribution to believe that it came from that circle of prayer. May the blessing of God rest upon them all. The Christian Patriot and soldier will need unwavering confidence in God in such perilous times as these. Possibly this long delayed acknowledgment of your gifts may come too late to find any or all of you at West Point. The Call of the Country is loud and imperative. You may all have gone to the defense of its outraged flag, or, if not, you will doubtless go, and the trial must come - not merely of your steel and skill - but, of your faith in God. Those who have daily passed the evening hour with you in reading the word of God and prayer, will not forget you, and the holy lessons you have taught them, on the field of battle. How precious are the thoughts of God in the time of danger! I would thank you to say to each of the donors, if you have the opportunity, that our prayers and our gratitude will follow them wherever they go.

Many an earnest prayer has been offered that the God of peace, would dispose the hearts North and South to pacific measures, and make them to dwell together in harmony and unity; but, as the war is already begun, we must pray that the blessing of the Lord of Hosts will rest upon those whose cause is righteous.

“Thrice is he armed, who has his quarrel just.”

The patriotic feeling runs high in our vicinity. The Eastern papers are in great demand. The Enlistment goes rapidly on, and already our county has enrolled three times the number demanded. One of our young men has enlisted in his country’s service, and I hope he will be as faithful in that service in the field, as he has been in ours at the Home. I would gladly furnish more; and, if possible, go myself to the defence of my country, but, but my duties are here, and many; and we propose to aid, as far as we can from our farm the families of the volunteers.

We can also offer our prayers for the success of our flag, and defend our own homes, when the war is brought to our doors. We are now very busy in farming. I have bought another farm, and, with a view to feed more of the hungry next winter, we are farming on a larger scale, and hope next fall to have enough and to spare.

I have recently received a Letter and contribution from Miss Biddle, living near Philadelphia who visited you last fall. She speaks in terms of heartfelt gratitude of the kind attention she received from yourself and Mrs Howard, and, as she called upon you at my suggestion, you will please accept my thanks for the same.

Col. Dellafield sent me \$25. through Bp. Lee, and I addressed my acknowledgment to Col. D. Please remember me, with much gratitude, to Mrs Howard, and the Cadets you name, and may your hearts and minds be kept in the knowledge and love of God.

I am, gratefully & Truly Yours,  
Chas. C. Townsend,  
Missionary,

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1244 4/27/1861    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [RB  
Howard]

OOH-1183

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y.  
Apr 27th 1861

My dear brother

I received your kind letter in answer to mine. My plan was to go to Bangor & unite with one of the churches there with my wife & not to preach without a license. But the state of the country is such that I feel hindered from consummating my purpose at present. If I should tender my resignation I doubt if it would be accepted now. And if it should be, the general impression would be that I favored secession. I do not feel that it is a proper time to change my profession for the cause of Christ and I am willing to do all I can to strengthen the hands of the Government.

Perry Lee is seeking a place in the navy. I gave him letters to prominent men in Washington. I presume he is there now tendering his services.

Isn't the union of Northern men wonderful. The line is so distinctly drawn now that I can see nothing but war & ultimate division. Still God can do all things. Over a hundred cadets I believe have left. Many of our officers have been asked to join volunteer troops in the capacity of Cols., Lt. Cols. & Majors. Cadet Ames has been chosen Lt. Col. of a Maine Regiment. If they get permission from Washington they will accept these places & still retain their rank in the regular Army.

Our children have all been sick with Catarrh & fever. Grace & Guy were quite sick in succession. So was Katy Carroll & the little boy. The latter died. He was a beautiful boy - nothing could exceed his beauty as I saw him in his little coffin, with his cheek tinged & the indescribable peace appearing in every feature. Carroll prayed, but I fear he has not yet given his heart to God.

Give much love to our dear Sister. We are all well. The state of the country is awful, but we think Washington is safe, though surrounded by enemies to the government. Let us commit everything into the hands of God while we do what we can.

Affectionately yours  
O.O. Howard

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1245 4/27/1861 *From:* J. F. Hammond

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1184

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C. 27th April 1861

My Dear Sir,

We arrived in New York about 9 o'clock a.m. Thursday, and ascertaining that the Q. M. Depot there knew nothing whatever of the route and means of getting to this place, we left at 2 o'clock for Philadelphia. We learned from Gen'l Patterson, in command there, that a train would leave the next morning at 11.30 for Perryville, communicating with a steam transport for Annapolis. We accordingly made ourselves comfortable until that hour.

Leaving at that time we struck the first sentinels about a mile east of Elkton. They belonged to Sherman's battery, which we found encamped at Elkton, in command of Ransom - Hill having resigned, and Sherman being about. We reached Perryville at 3 P.M. and having had our orders vised by a Col. Comdg there, were shipped, bag and baggage, on board of an iron steam transport for Annapolis. A filthier craft I never saw, and one half of the deck was occupied by a number of horses, and the balance by an armed and loaded guard of twenty five men and a second Lieut, dressed in as many different uniforms, and representing almost as many nationalities.

We arrived at Annapolis at 9 P.M. The Naval School was occupied by troops, the Midshipmen having all dispersed the day before, and the Professors were awaiting instructions from the Govt. We could not judge of the number of troops there, because it was at night. There were certainly hundreds, and may have been thousands. I found Schuyler Hamilton there, a private of the "7th Regt" - detained by Gen'l Butler who was in command there. The Gen'l gave us papers for Washington, and at 9 o'clock this morning we left on the cars for the junction toward this City.

There were one or two companies placed on the cars as a guard. The road to the junction was lined with soldiers. At the junction we took on perhaps a thousand soldiers, and arrived here about 5 o'clock P.M. The R.R. from Annapolis to Washington is in charge of the Govt. Lieut. Smead commanded the train from the junction to Washington. We have not paid transportation since we left Perryville.

I am told that there are several thousand troops here, and that they are constantly arriving. The first object is to protect the City, and what then, no one knows. The City is perfectly quiet, the people are under no apprehensions, and comparatively few soldiers are seen in the streets.

Mr. Lincoln will issue a proclamation next Monday, blockading the ports of Virginia and North Carolina. Virginia has not only seceded but has joined the Southern Confederacy, and placed every thing in the hands of Jeff. Davis. North Carolina has as yet done nothing but siezed two Forts &c. in her territory. Maryland not yet out.

I would write you more in detail but am so sleepy that I can scarcely keep awake. Will write again in a day or two. My kindest regards to all, please.

Yours Sincerely,  
J. F. Hammond

1246 5/1/1861

*From:* J.F.Hammond

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1185

Washington Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington Arsenal, 1st May 1861

My Dear Sir

I am stationed at this point. Major Ramsay is in command, and Lts. McLean, 2d Infty, Shunk, Ordnance, and Throckmorton 4th Arty, are on duty here, with one company of Artillery, and the Ordnance men - in all less than 150 men. Symonds with a section of the W.P. light battery is here on guard for the night.

The secession of Virginia gave a shock which almost paralyzed military affairs, at least, in this district. Even until now this point which is more important from the amount of arms here than the Capitol and the white House both together, is left so exposed that, until the recent accession of troops in the troops, it might have been captured at any time by a force of three hundred men. Within three or four days this Dist. Has been formed into the Department of Washington, and Col. Mansfield placed in command, and day before yesterday Mr. Lincoln came down in person to inspect, so that it is believed that there will be a larger force here before long. It is designed to place all the troops in encampments at various points in the neighborhood of the City, before many days. One will probably be near here. The heights commanding this, in the neighborhood of the U.S. Asylum, are entirely unoccupied.

The secession of Va, the resignation of her Army Officers, and the closure of the route by Baltimore threw the inhabitants of Washington into a frightful panic. When we came in with a thousand soldiers, the women about the Depot welcomed the soldiers by conduct which showed that they were almost frantic with joy. If you should ask any one now in the City, how many soldiers there are there, they will tell you 20,000! It is difficult to ascertain any where the true number, but I doubt if there are more than 6,000.

Do tell Carroll that I was at his Fathers night before last, and saw Mr. Carroll, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. <Murser>, and Miss Carrie. Miss Sallie was well, but about, and they were all quite well. Mr. Carroll had just returned from Frederick, Md., and said that there was great probability that Maryland will not secede from the Union.

We are in absolute ignorance of movements south of the Potomac. The newspaper accounts are all fudge. Mr. Stevens was in Richmond, and it is believed that there are some S.C. troops there, but nothing more definite is known.

If any letters have arrived or should arrive - I do not expect that any have - I will be obliged if you will re-envelope them, and forward them to me in Washington City.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs. Howard, Mrs Wing, Mrs. Carroll, to Carroll, and to my lady, and kiss the children for me.

Yours truly,

J.F.Hammond

P.S. The Rhode Island is certainly not surpassed in any respect by any troops here. Please tell Haight, if it is not too much trouble, to send me another pair of boots, just like the last pair to this place as soon as he can make them.

J.F.H.

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1247 5/1/1861

*From:* S. P. Lee

*To:* Cousin [OO Howard]

OOH-1186

286 F St north  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Washington] May 1st 1861 [A section of the letter was cut out.]

<> Cousin

I arrived here Saturday eve in company with Lieut Robert & Dr Hammond. Could not have got here if I had not been with Mr Robert as I passed under his pass. We had a hard tedious time getting through but I was glad to get here under any circumstances.

I presented my letters to Mr Fuller and Judge Carrol and have seen them often. They are doing all they can for me.

I spent last eve with Mrs Carrol <[Torn page]> with them <> any one <received to Mr <Carrol> yesterday to <> of the Navy, who will do all in his power for me. Mr Fuller presented me to Commodore Smith who seems pleased to do all he can and has advised me what to do.

I had a letter also to Mr Welles Sec of the Navy which I presented to him but have had no audience with him yet but have sent in my application and shall have to wait patiently for what will turn up. Commander <Smith> thinks my services will be required and I had better wait for a while. If I could get letters from the Senators from Maine they would be of great service to me. I have thought of writing to Stinchfield to see if he could get any for me. I know the Washburns very well and think they would send me letters. What do you think of it?

I am Boarding at a private boarding house that Mrs Fuller recommended me to at 7 dollars a week so it is as cheap for me to remain here as it would be in New York, so I shall remain here a week or so and see what turns up. I will write you how I succeed from time to time.

With many thanks my dear cousin for your kindness, I remain yours truly.

S. P. Lee

write me at 286 F St north, care of Mrs Nesbet.  
Perry

every thing is quiet here.

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1248 5/9/1861

*From:* J. G. Benton

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1187

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C.

May 9/61

My Dear Howard

I have just communicated the substance of your letter to Col. Ripley (he had not time to read it) and he desires me to say that he does not see any impropriety in the course you intend to pursue. I must say that I do not myself. I would be careful to state the objects of my resignation or <> what course I intended to pursue in entering into the volunteer service.

This is the course which McCook has taken, & I hear no blame cast upon him for so doing.

Kindest regards to Mrs Howard, and in a great hurry I remain

Your friend,  
J. G. Benton

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1249 5/9/1861

*From:* A. Piper

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1188

Washington City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington City

May 9 1861

Dear Howard

Your letter inquiring about my quarters was received last week. I must apologize for not having answered it sooner, but the fact is there is so much confusion in the city that one forgets everything except his meals. I have no objection to your occupying my quarters for the present - provided of course you give them up when I want them. I have very little idea now of returning to the Point, but should I do so I will probably want the same quarters I occupied before. The only furniture I possessed was in the back room second floor. You can use it if you wish; it would be kept in better order by use than by packing up. The Cadets have just arrived - nothing new - yours &c.

A. Piper

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1250 5/10/1861      *From:* Charles [H. Howard]      *To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1189

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor May 10th 1861

My dear brother

Nothing could have given me more pleasure than did the sight of a letter from you last evening. But you communicated a good deal of startling news. I am becoming accustomed to startling news but it usually comes in the Papers. I like the idea of you offering your services to Gov. Washburn. Every body who knows you has been inquiring what you were going to do. I felt confident you would not be wanting whenever duty might call and now we so much need good & experienced officers for our raw recruits. I saw enough of the military last year to be a good deal shocked at the conduct & appearance of volunteers. There will be a sad lack of discipline.

I was awaked or at least aroused from reverie this morning by the morning gun at the Arsenal grounds - the first of the kind I have heard since at West Point. They have one regiment up there. It is in sight of the Sem. They have selected their own officers I believe. Chas Roberts who was I think in College with you in a lower class is Lieut Col. They are forming another reg. here in fact I think they have companies enough in the vicinity for another. I should think the Kennebec cos would think of you but I suppose there are many men ambitious to take the offices and without some previous intimation from you hardly any one would have thought of your leaving the reg. army. I was pleased to see Maj Anderson was at the head of a Brigade of <Ratk. Particularly pleased this morning also to see that Col Mansfield (whom I knew at W.P. & better from your own account of him than from any acquaintance of mine) was made Bvt. Brig. Gen. Has Maj Mordecai of Watervliet seceded? And where is his son.

I was greatly surprised to hear that John Weir & those other young men, belonged to the 7th Reg. Have they just gone in a company which left N.Y. yesterday, or did they go with the main body of the Reg. some time ago? Wish Johnny would write. I should like to have been with you at this time when the 1st Class were leaving.

How can the 2d class graduate before next July? Benjamin will be a solid man for the times & many of that class will make noble officers - will they not? How much I could wish that the other 37 might become Christians. Have many of the 2d Class seceded? Where is Batill? Is he a Christian - think you? You have never mentioned Lockett. I would like much to know where he is. The report last night that Beauregard was dead created quite a stir. I was glad that you made some mention of Mrs. Grey & Miss Jeannie. How long will they remain at Buttermilk? It seems to me Otis that these times have led men of true piety every where to new consecration, a deeper sense of God's presence & a more complete trust in Him and I hope it has led all Christians to come so near to Christ as to be more thoroughly under the control of his blessed Spirit & thus to redouble their zeal for his cause. Oh that such glorious results might be attained. I expect to preach next Sabbath at West Hamden as I have been urged to do so & I know not as there is any valid objection.

I should like much to be with that 7th Reg. I expressed the same to my room-mate night before last - then I did not know that I had any friends there. In fact I would gladly go to the war in any capacity if it was my duty.

The wish has often been expressed that you were here at the Sem. to drill a company of students. Doct Stephens consented to do so when we were thinking of forming a company but he is a secessionist. We thought it would be a fine thing to extract from him a little service for his country. Gen. S. I think is all right for the Union. I saw Mrs S. down at the City Hall where the ladies were making uniforms &c for the soldiers but a lame hand prevented her from assisting.

Where are Jack & Thos Wilson? I heard a sermon up at the Arsenal in the open air from Mr. Everett last sabbath, pious, eloquent, touching, elevating discourse. "Be <angry> & <> not". He would not say a word to increase their excitement, nor a word to allay their enthusiasm, but would gladly stomp upon their glowing hearts the cross of Christ. I do not give you the exact words. There was a great throng there. Evidently the sermon was written & memorized. When I met him the other day, he says, "now your brother will not come -

war was the condition I believe." I told him it was extremely doubtful for the present. I hoped the war would soon be over. But I do not think it will be. There must be hard fighting & the flow of blood. I trust God will cleanse us as a nation & we will be established finally upon a more solid basis. Most Christian men in these parts feel that God has stretched forth his arm & that a reckoning is come - that the relic of past barbarisms which like an iceberg set loose in the North & floated down into the Torrid Zone has found its freezing way down into the middle of the 19th Century - that this incongruous & unsupportable remnant of another age must be melted away & perish forever.

I don't think we have a lack of wisdom or of true courage & decision in our execution at Washington & we have the best man for the place in the state for our Governor. With the Cloud of fervent, faithful prayers which are going up the right the cause of humanity, of religion, of Christ shall prevail. I will stay at home & pray or go when Providence dictates & there pray & do with the help of my Savior what my hands find to do.

Prof. Russell is here at present giving us elocution lessons. I have often wished you could share these lessons. They would do you great good as well as be very entertaining. He is a white-haired man & may never come again but we hope to have him next year. He nobly recited an extract from one of Webster's speeches on Union the other eve & was heartily cheered, I assure you. He has often heard Daniel Webster. Have you read some of the great sermons which have been called out by these times? I think we are living in an age long to be remembered - how contemptible the man who shrinks from the post of duty now.

I believe I will add more some time today. It is a charming morning. I sent Rowland your previous letter. Have not heard from him very recently. I will close I think so as to mail this tonight <> writes upon flag-embellished paper-war!

Affectionately Yr Br  
Charles.

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1251 5/12/1861 *From:* A. Ames

*To:* Mr. [OO] Howard

OOH-1191

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C.

May 12th 1861

Mr. Howard:

Dear Sir:

Upon my arrival in New York city I telegraphed and wrote to those who control the regiment under our consideration. I referred them to you.

The day of my arrival I saw Capt. Benton and gave him your letter; also Lieut. Piper who said he would write the same evening. When I told him I would write you the information wanted he made the above statement which stopped any further questions on my part. Being ignorant of the subject matter of course I could not enlighten you. Capt Lee I did not see. He had gone to Boston to join a ship going into immediate service.

Dr. Hammond I saw at the President's reception of army and navy officers. Your message was delivered. I saw him again to-day when he informed me he was soon to start for Tortugas - (excuse spelling).

Last eve I was at the camp of the seventh regiment. I saw Johnny Wier walking past a sentinel.

The city is considered perfectly safe. We have at least not less than thirty thousand troops here. The volunteers are all intelligent looking men. In fact I never saw finer looking men taken in a body than they are.

The Rhode Island regiment pleases every one. Their gentlemanly bearing, for they are all gentleman, the happy adaptation of dress to service, their intelligence, for they are of the first society in the New England states, strike the beholder at once and he feels he is not in the presence of ordinary troops. I gave up my chances in the ordnance and took the artillery. I am sixth from foot of the 2d Lieutenants in the 2d Art. I shall apply for a commission in the fifth Artillery of which Major Anderson is to be or is Col.

At present all of us are attached to volunteer Companies. I have a Co. of the 12th N.Y.S.M. We have entire control of them - commissioned officers and all.

Of our class the first three went into the Eng. Nine in the Topog'l Eng. And two in the ordnance. Nineteen in the artillery. Two in the Eng. are the only Brvts.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Howard.

I am boarding at Mrs. Bryants No. 303 G. St.

Your friend

A. Ames [Adelbert Ames, USMA Class of 1861]

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1252 5/13/1861     *From:* S. P. Lee

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1192

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York May 13th 1861

My dear Cousin

I returned from Washington a week ago and have been making a visit to Milford for a few days, was in Boston a few hours and saw Olive [cousin Olive (Woodman) Hazard] . All friends there well.

I found my appointment on my return here as Master Mate in the Navy and of course accepted it. I shall be appointed to one of the steamers on the blockading fleet. Do not yet know which one and shall be Acting Lieut or 2d do. I got acquainted with Cmdrs Paulding and Smith and they will do all they can for my promotion if I desire it and I shall do all I can to do so.

Mr. Carrol was very kind to me and done all he could. He was much pleased to have you call on him for any favors and says he hopes you will always do it as it gives him much pleasure.

I expect to get away this week. Have to report myself to the Navy Yard every morning and shall soon be off.

My dear Cousin, I shall always feel under great obligation to you for your kindness to me, and hope it may be in my power to reciprocate. I would run up & see you but do not feel that my time is my own as I may get orders any moment to join some vessel.

Give my love to Lizzie and the children also. Remember me to Mr Fuller.

It is a good thing that I went to Washington as I got acquainted with the needs of the Navy department and think they feel much interest in me.

No news from Sarah since I saw you with her. I am

Your Affectionate Cousin  
S. P. Lee

I am stoping at the Washington Hotell here.

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1253 5/13/1861 *From:* Henry N. Rostary

*To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-1193

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C. May 13th, 1861

Lieut. O. O. Howard

Respected Sir:

I have presumed to have a check for (\$15.00) fifteen dollars drawn up in your favor by Lt. Symonds.

I hope that you will excuse the liberty that I have taken for there appears to be no other reliable way of sending money to my family. I have an opportunity of attending church every Sunday. I saw Mr. Benjamin there last he also stayed to communion. He is attached to our Co. I have written to my wife about the money and she will call on you. My thanks to yourself and Mrs Howard that myself and family have experienced at your experienced [sic] at your hands.

Your Obedt Servant  
Henry <N. Rostary>

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1254 5/13/1861     *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1194

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington May 13, 1861

Dear Bro. Otis

We have now been housekeeping two weeks & we both enjoy it very much. It is but half past five in the morning but Ella is up at the wash tub! She has only a little girl of 14, "Mary" & she begins to attend School this week. She has come to live with us for board, clothing at School. She is very smart a great deal of help. Mrs Patten staid a week & fairly started us. Then Mother came up & staid two days. Mother does not seem well at all. She still feels the effect of her last falls sickness. Yesterday we had our S.S. Concert in the P.M. & in the evening Ella & I rode out a mile & a half & we had a little prayer meeting at the house of a sick member of our church.

Farmington just begins to look lovely. The grass is wonderfully green. I have a nice little horse "Charley" whom I know you would like very much. Ella can drive him. I have hired an old waggon for the Summer for \$5.00 & a chance to pasture my horse was included in my rent. We have a nice garden, if I succeed in cultivating it & a good little orchard which in a good year will afford us plenty of apples.

Ellas sister Lizzie is here & will probably stay some time & I suppose we will have a visit from her "intended" by & by.

Three young ladies united with our church by profession last Sab. but our religious interest is very low.

The war excitement is not nearly so great here as in some places in the vicinity, but a number have volunteered.

I have preached a Sermon on the Subject - It seems to me a good plan to send the 1st Class to Washington. The great want of these Volunteers is good drill officers. Every body is anxious to have the war prosecuted with vigor & brought to a speedy termination, but I suppose that Gen Scott feels that these new troops have hardly ability according to their zeal & so keeps them back till they are better prepared.

I do hope you will get your usual leave. One of the pleasantest things connected with our housekeeping has been the thought that you & your family would spend some time with us this Summer. How much we should enjoy studying, attending meetings, & fishing together. We are just as much in the "Country" as they are at Leeds & the children would have a nice play ground in the lane & Orchard.

I heard from Charles thro' a Bangor Student Sat. He is as well as usual. Dellie is still at Yarmouth, but I think will get back to Coll. at the last of the term now commencing.

With a great deal of love from myself & Ella to you all.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

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1255 5/15/1861     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1195

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
May 15th 1861

My dear Mother,

There is some prospect of our coming home this summer as you may have heard. I have been desired to say if I would accept the Colonelcy of the Kennebec Regiment and have received letters from Mr Blaine & Governor Washburn relative thereto. I don't know which will be best for me. I shall expect much hard work & no little annoyance with the volunteers, whereas here I am quiet & untroubled, but if I can do more to advance the right & put down rebellion by changing I am ready to do so. It was with this view that I wrote to Governor Washburn tendering my services. I have felt great doubt & perplexity as to my line of duty in this crisis.

I have just got a letter from Perry Lee stating that he had already received an appointment in the Navy, and that he is in New York awaiting Orders. His appointment is not a high one, but the chances of promotion are good.

I am looking for a collision of troops, every day. I just got a letter from Washington, which speaks of the good looks & good condition of our troops there. The Rhode Island regiment is said to be composed mainly of gentlemen.

Give much love to Uncle E & Laura & to John & family. Remember me to the neighbors. Love to Father. I hope you are well. We are. Jamie has a sore still on the top of his head.. He is a happy & good baby. I do hope you will have the pleasure of making his acquaintance this coming June. I hav'nt heard from Dellie since I wrote him. I had a good letter from Charles a day or two ago. He says he is glad I offered my services to the Governor. I would prefer a three years regiment for I mean to stay in the Army till the war is over if the Lord permits.

Is Warren Lothrop still at home? If so how is his health?

I spoke last Sunday for the Methodist Minister, he being absent. My prayer-meeting is now small since the premature departure of the 1st Class. Everything you can get the time to write me is interesting. I hope you are well & happy in the Lord.

Your aff. Son  
Otis

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1256 5/15/1861 *From:* J. C. Stevens

*To:* Lt. O. O. Howard

OOH-1196

Bangor

West Point  
N York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD] [An image of the U.S. flag with the motto: "STAND BY THE FLAG"]

Bangor May 15 1861

My dear friend -

On my return home last Saturday after ten days absence, I met your brother who informed me that you would like to take the command of the Kennebec Regt. now being raised, and I assured him that it would afford me great pleasure to do all in my power to realize your wishes, and from the last account that I hear now to day from there I have but little doubt that you will receive the votes for that office.

I will say to you in strict confidence that I have reason to suppose that I may be offered the command of the first Brigade - in which event I had you in my mind for Inspector. But perhaps the other position would be more desirable - <you> please not speak of this, as I suppose the Gov has many patriotic friends about him at this time, and as I am no office seeker and I believe never been classed in that category. I have no wish to enter my <scrub> now with politicians for office.

Should you accept the position of Colonel, my third son who resides in Boston, I think would like the place of Qr. Master, and is qualified to discharge the appropriate duty, and I trust is a Christian man.

I shall be pleased to hear from you upon receipt of this.

It is a singular coincidence that about two weeks since on my way to Portland in the cars, I was solicited, while a moment at the Depot in Waterville, to be a candidate for the command of the Kennebec Regt. But having had some previous conversation with the Gov, and others, I did not feel at liberty to accept the honor, and now I have the best reason for saying no and urging your election with all my heart.

With kindest regards to Mrs H & family, and my sincere prayer that God will direct you, and make you more & more efficient in promoting his glory.

I am very truly  
J. C. Stevens

Lt. O. O. Howard  
West Point  
N York

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1257 5/16/1861     *From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1197

Nashville, Tenn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Nashville, Tenn  
May 16, 1861

My Beloved friend -

I almost fear, in these times of espionage & scrutiny, to even write you a sad, sad, parting good-bye, for in severing my connection with the Federal Army, I feel that I am separating from many true & devoted friends.

I fear to write, as stated, lest I should compromise you, one whom I so much love & revere, as holding communication with a traitor, as will no doubt be my title at the North, but the Lord only, can decide that.

In taking the course I have, I have one consolation which affords me great comfort - viz: of having been sincere in my action, & performed what I believed to be my conscientious duty - & having reduced it that, I feel that it is alone between my God & me - as stated in my letter, forwarding my resignation.

Dear Howard, to what are we coming? Are we all to be butchered? Have the people North & south forgotten God, in their madness, & has He made them mad that they might destroy themselves? God forbid, but surely it looks very much that way.

As for the administration, I am convinced that it intends war against the South, & for what? To gratify the ambition of Lincoln's advisers - not for love of the Union - because he could have said that long since. So long as I could hope that Lincoln only intended to sustain the Capital off on all invasion of Federal Rights, I remained in the Army, but when I became convinced that he intended invading the South, I left. I cannot help sustain that Government which in cold blood murders my Brothers, Sisters & Mothers, that it may be sustained. Such a Government is not worthy of preservation - (i.e.) such leaders are not worthy to be sustained.

It is no love for the Union that actuates such a course - tis only for gain of name & power & wealth. The <Power> is the strong bond.

But you must understand me. I do not include the entire North, nor all of L's supporters, in the number which I blame for all our troubles. You know my views. I am strictly conservative in my views - do not sustain the hasty action of some of the Southern states - but have determined to die if need be, in the defense of the soil of Tennessee, & her sister states.

We can muster 150000 fighting men in Tennessee, & volunteers are pouring in daily.

My dear, dear friend - be the end what it may, let us pray for induction for our people - our country - & ask God to stay the hand of blood. Should we never meet again on Earth, may we be united in Heaven.

My best love to Mrs. H & the children.

Sincerely yr. Friend  
M. H. Wright

Lt. O.O. Howard

Please write to me, if you can. But if you feel that it is not right I will feel that you are actuated by pure motives.

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1258 5/18/1861     *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [RB  
Howard]

OOH-1198

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
May 18th 1861

My dear brother,

I received your kind letter day before yesterday and was glad to hear from you & sister Ella indeed. You had not heard it seems of my offer of my services to the Governor of Maine and that I had been telegraphed to, asking if I would take the Colonelcy of the Kennebec regiment now being raised, and that I had consented conditionally - provided I could remain till after the examinations & the President would permit. The former condition I did not make absolute & I learn that my resignation will probably be accepted at Washington, so that if I am elected I shall pull up stakes & soon be amongst you. I received a letter from Gen. Stevens of Bangor, today. He says I am or shall be chosen, he has little doubt of it from his advisers.

I am not very anxious to leave here. I am now 1st assistant. We have a house to ourselves, the next one north of the Carroll house - have just got comfortably moved - but I think I can do more good in a military point of view in the volunteers than here, but perhaps not. I would'nt like to stir a step unless I felt that it was God's will that I should do so.

We have a young minister from Auburn Seminary at Mr Gray's. He boards with Mrs Gray. I was at his prayer meeting last night. He seems to have a warm Christian heart. I trust God will bless him in his work. When the first class left it carried away from us eight communicants and has diminished the attendants at the prayer-meeting. However, Thursday evening we had a good one. The members of the 1st class are distributed amongst the volunteer companies to drill them. A good move indeed.

I think secession begins to abate particularly in Virginia. Union fever will start up like magic soon.

We are all well, mean to come & see you if possible. If I stay in the army, I don't expect I can go to Maine. It would not do to have idlers.

I am glad to see your ch. membership is increasing. May God give you a rich harvest. Love from us all. I am very sorry Mother is so poorly in health.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

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1259 5/21/1861 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1199

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth May 21 1861

My dear brother:

Your letter of the 6th inst came to hand this afternoon and I hasten to reply as quickly as possible. I was very glad to hear from you and am sorry your letter did not reach me before. Mother is not quite so prompt in sending letters &c to me which go to Leeds as my impatience seems to desire. Your letter went to Brunswick & Leeds you see ere it reached me.

Mother stated in her letter that you had had some correspondence in regard to the Colonelcy of the Kennebec Regiment, and I see by the Boston Journal of today, which I send by today's mail to you, that Professor Howard of West Point is mentioned among the prominent candidates.

I saw a friend today in the cars from Augusta who seemed to think that Prof. Howard of West point would be the man. He did not know that you were a brother of mine till I told him.

I have not been home for nine weeks so I have only reports from home to tell you. Mother is comparatively quite well. Father appeared as young and well when I was at home as he has for a number of years. You know he is farming with the aid of Thomas Buvier. I have not heard from Rowland or Charles for some time, but I am in hopes to have a letter from each very soon. I have been very negligent of all of my correspondents for a long time so I ought not to complain.

As you see I am still at Yarmouth. I expected to go to Brunswick ere this but have not been able to do so. Went down there last week by permission of the Pres. And I saw the President while there. He said I should go back to College as soon as he could get me there, but couldn't say what action the Faculty would take on the matter. He agreed to lay the matter before the meeting last night and I expect a letter in regard to the matter immediately, by tomorrow morning. I will not mail this to go in the first train so that you may be able to tell where to send the answer to this letter which I hope to have very soon.

I am very anxious to know what you are likely to do in the present "crisis". All eyes seem now to be "turned to ward the Army and the eyes of our family are particularly directed upon you. As you were designing to leave the army next fall, I am in hopes you may be able to get the position of Colonel of the Kennebec Regiment. It is said to be a very fine body of men. You remember that Major Lally's men did good Service in Mexico. Most of those came from the same section of country as these.

The war spirit here in Yarmouth don't run very high, as we have as many <owners> in shipping which they think will be more secure if the war should cease. We have, even two or three secessionists in town, but they don't care much about making much noise.

Mother is much concerned in regard to matters, but I think the fact that you are in the army makes her a little anxious. I haven't yet volunteered. I believe my eyes are so bad that I could not be reconed an able bodied man. I would like to go as a clerk in a regiment or in some such capacity if it was convenient.

My love to Lizzie and the Children. I am in hopes to see you all by the middle of June.

Your very aff bro  
R. H. Gilmore

[The following was from OOH-1464.]

Friday morning.

Have not heard word from College. Don't know what to make of it. Please direct your next letter here.

I notice by yesterdays Advertiser and also by the Boston Journal that you are to have the Colonelcy of the 3d (Kennebec) Regiment. If you could let me know when you pass here I should like to see you.

Write soon.  
R.H.G.

[ca December, 1861] [This estimate of the date was not written by the author. The Bowdoin number is 480. It belongs to OOH-1199 dated 5/21/1861.]

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1260 5/22/1861     *From:* J.F. Hammond

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1200

Havana, Cuba

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Havana, Cuba  
22d May 1861

My Dear Sir,

We sailed in the *Bunville* from New York at 4 P.M. the 17th and arrived here this afternoon about 5:30. Of all the descriptions of this place, none gave me any idea of it. The harbor is in the shape of a much curved cow's horn, the city being on the concave side. The convex side is covered by a system of fortifications commencing at the shore which stands upon the angle at the north side of the mouth of the harbor, and running along the elevated ground which bands the north side of the harbor. Fortifications extend along the concave side of the harbor also, from its mouth. The harbor is three or four miles long, and for some distance from its mouth is not over five hundred yards wide. Ships pass so near the shore that they are hailed from the castle, and made to tell where they are from. I should say that those fortifications cannot be passed by ships, without their consent.

It was a clear afternoon and the sun was behind us as we came in, giving us the best light in which to see every thing. The first impression on me were recollections of descriptions of Venice, and the next was that I was gazing at a panorama. The City is built compactly, the houses all have flat roofs, and are painted in every color. And Palaces, Prisons, Theaters, Churches, Fortifications, Ships and residences of private persons seemed mixed promiscuously together. I saw - pointed out to me - as we passed along, besides the fortifications, all of which are named - the Cathedral in which repose the ashes of Christopher Columbus, the Palace of the Captain General of Cuba; the Tacon Theatre, the Tacon Prison, and the Palace in which <Enthendon> was imprisoned and where he was shot. We have not been ashore. And for fear of the night air - which is soft and balmy on deck - I confine myself to the Cabin. It is said to be perfectly healthy in town. But we hear such various accounts that we saw no risks. The *Niagra* sailed out for Key West as we sailed in. We hope to get off tomorrow. There is no report here now for either Key West or Tortugas.

I went to see Haight about the boots the morning I left West Point, but he had not opened his shop. I left word for him to send me the boots to Tortugas if he had finished or commenced them, and if he had not commenced them not to make them. I will write to him when I get to Tortugas and tell him how to send them.

Please present my regards to Mrs. Howard, and to Mrs. Wing when you write, and to Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, and to the children, and to every body at West Point.

I hope you have made up your mind to remain quietly at West Point.

Sincerely Yours,  
J.F. Hammond

P.S. Please remember me very especially to Miss Jeanie and Mrs. Gray.  
J.F.H.

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1261 5/23/1861

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1201

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington May 23/61

Dear Brother

Your letter was full of news to me. At first thought I was very much delighted that you proposed to the war with a Me. Regiment & thus make your military knowledge available to our dear Country in this her hour of need. But as I notice in the papers (one of wh. I send you) that there are competitors for the Colonelcy of the Kennebec Regiment, & that it is quite uncertain whether the Gov. will require them & that they have got your kind of "Small Pox" and then have considered how necessary your religious influence is at W.P. & how much your family need you, & that there will probably soon be a chance of promotion in the regular Service, & that you will soon, if not now have hard work enough at the Point & that your health is not very firm. (I have been suffering from a lame back & can sympathize). I have concluded that I will not be disappointed if your Resignation is not accepted. I often long to be in a position where I can render more immediate Service to the Country & its Soldiery.

New Eng. is sending very many conscientious Christian men to this war. The Richmond Yo. Mens Ch. Association have spoken some very Christian & kindly words to their brethren, but they leave out of sight the fact that the South have acted like thieves. Let them restore the stolen property & then we will <treat> for Separation.

I don't see how Lizzie lives thro so many moves. One like to have killed us.

Ella sends much love. So does Sister Lizzie Patten.

Yr aff Bro  
Rowland

Tell Guy that we have a little dog, named Gypsy who stays here most of the time, & he would laugh to see such a funny little thing. How is Diamond?

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1262 5/23/1861 *From:* T. J. Treadwell

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1203

Frankford Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Frankford Arsenal

May 23rd 1861

My Dear Howard

I am very much obliged to you for your good wishes and am <> to the dorsal bone. Ah! Comes the morrow thereof.

In reference to the Equipment you wish, we have no supply in hand at all just now, though I am daily in expectation of receipts from the constructors. The equipment we order is intended for the services and cost \$35 per set. It is very good indeed, and consists of saddle complete, Bridle (riding & watering), Halter, Lariat, rope & pickel pins. <Has trunk and> <>. My idea is that you would like a more finished set and would not want the lariat rope & pins or watering bridle. Would you require the Shabrack, just drop me a note stating explicitly what you want, and I will order you a set immediately from one of our constructors, or I will send you one of our service sets if you think it will answer. I think some of the last issued to the Military Academy are of the same pattern, and you can look at them and see how you like them.

I am very busy and must ask you to excuse this hastily written note. I have had the whole <Philaon> <Rgts>and surely also the Parade Troops to outfit, and have been alone for the last three weeks.

My regards to all at the Point, who care enough to inquire for me, especially my regard and those of <> Miss French.

In high-<> hasty

Your friend

<T. J. Treadwell> [USMA Class of 1854]

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1263 5/25/1861

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1202

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington May 25/61

Dear Brother

I enclose the notes that you will find. I spent two Sabs & the intervening week at Judge Bells in Skowhegan when in the Semr'y & received many kindnesses at the hands of himself & family. He is poor & his Son has been educated by his Grandfather Gen Bachelder of Readfield. I do not know the young man personally as he was in Europe when I was there. His advantages have been excellent. I wish you could have discreet Christian men on yr Staff for associates & advisers.

Just drop a line if no more when it is decided that you will come. In haste,

Yr. Aff. Bro.  
Rowland

May you have the Guidance of the Holy Spirit at every step.

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1264 5/27/1861 *From:* A. Ames

*To:* Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1205

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C.

May 27th 1861

Lieut Howard:

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter was duly received. Allow me to congratulate you on your good fortune - a Colonelcy or Assistant Professor - both so good that you appeared to wish to keep both.

In fact I believe if one was presented to you only you would feel happier with less responsibility resting on your own shoulders than you do now. Still it is a question to be decided by yourself for you only know yourself well enough to be a judge.

I was elected Lieut. Col., but had to resign my position. Col. A. McD. McCook arrived here a few days ago. He informed me he made a conditional resignation which they might accept or not; he was to stick by his regiment. I am connected with Capt. Griffin West Point light Artillery battery. Lieut Simms has been made a Capt. in the Commissary department. Besides Capt. G. the officers are (according to rank) Lieuts Piper, Hines, Benjamin and Hasbrouck.

During the excitement consequent upon the occupation of the Sacred Soil of Virginia in this vicinity I had command of a section of our battery at the Georgetown aqueduct bridge for some two days and one night. We were ordered to be ready at any moment but were not called on. The remainder went across long bridge where they were about as useful as I was. We hope we may do better the next time - (if necessary.)

I am getting on well, learning something of regular service. My time is fully occupied or nearly so. I have not had an opportunity to see Johnny Wier as you requested. Benjamin has just been interrupting me. We live here together. I told him of your remarks and knowledge of his doings and whereabouts which much puzzled him. He now sends his kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Howard. He also wishes me to say that one of our battery, Robinson, was out with him the other day and asked particularly about you, expressing much interest in your welfare. Robinson was in your Sunday school. He is now the clerk in the battery.

To-day I was at the arsenal getting a battery wagon, harnesses, saddles, &c &c for our battery.

It is now eleven o'clock P.M. I am officer of the day and must inspect my guard after twelve. Benjamin is getting up a running discussion on the symptoms of being "head (over and) heels" in love. It distracts me much.

I hope I may hear from you. I live at No. 434 6th St.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Howard and request her to remember me to Mrs. Wing when she writes her.

Your friend

A. Ames [Adelbert Ames, USMA class of 1861.]

P.S. As for news my time is so much occupied that I look to the New York papers for it. So excuse me for not writing any. A.

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1265 5/28/1861 *From:* Eliza G[ilmore]

*To:* Oliver O. Howard

OOH-1204

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 28th 1861 [Tuesday]

My Dear Son, Otis,

Yours of the 15th, was duly received and gave me a hope that you would be with us in June. I looked for further news, last evening but none came. Your name has been before the public (but not as decided as I could wish) as the one who would probably take the command of the Kenebec Regiment in a card in the Kenebec Journal, and another in the Portland Advertiser. One thing is certain, I should be glad to meet you and your family once more at my home, although I know the journey is fatiguing to Lizzie and all the rest of you.

I heard from Rowland, last Monday. His family were well. He is housekeeping. I have been to visit him and stopt three nights. Ella is very anxious to be a good housekeeper. Rowland has taken a good house and Ella has furnished it. I hope they will have their health. Rowland has quite a large garden and I am in hopes the care of it will make him healthy. I have heard from Charles, and Rodelphus the same time I did from you. Write soon and tell us what is your decision about your change of place and what you know about Perry Lee, and if you know anything of Sarah Sargent. I had a letter from Laura at Wingate a few days since, in which she said she heard through Mrs Hazzard that she would sail from Nassau in May, and I am thinking she may be with Perry in New York at this time.

Monday P.M. [June 3]

I dated my letter last evening nothing more, and at another evening am feeling a new stimulus from receiving a package of letters from Rowland containing yours three days later date than mine, and one, from Charles, late May 20th, and one from Mrs Sarah Sargent written May the 11th. She is communicating with Rowland with regard to a house for her own use at Farmington. She says she has another son born the 22nd of March. She has already paid her passage in the Steamer to New York to sail the 10th of June. Poor Sarah. How will she ever get to New York with them all? But the great God, I trust, will help her.

Charles says General Stevens is in earnest to have you come to Maine, but your Mother has but one place to commit all things, and particularly at this time, when our once boasted, and beloved Country, is flying to Arms, and destroying each other, (as far as human eye can see without any just cause.) Oh! What a terrible trial war is, especially a civil war. How much destruction of life and property is destroyed, and to think of our people, of our United States battering down their own improvements, and burning and pillaging their own property. Oh! I will stop, let us pray for help, at the Throne of Grace.

Seems to me there never was a time, when every Christian should unite so fervently as now, and say in our hearts, oh! "God in thy wrath, remember mercy". I have been to see Aunt Howard and Harriet, and called on all the neighbors about there. I enjoyed much, went to Mr Lanes, walked over grounds that your own father cultivated, through the whole I enjoyed a happy frame of mind. No regrets haunted me as I looked about over <> trees he transplanted and other improvements he made. But a train of thought seemed to pervade me, that he enjoyed all his improvements. I stoped at Aunts, one night and one night with Laura, and Ensign's and filled up the time in making calls. Laura is expecting one of her cousins from Philadelphia to come here to live with her. And ask me particularly to write to you on the subject. Said she did not wish you to have any trouble with her, only to write her, that is Laura's cousin, to let her know the time you will be in New York so that she can meet you there and come on in company with you. I do not even know her name only Miss Brewster. I am anxious to hear more from you as to your destination.

My health is much better than for some time past. I have good help. Thomas Bubier and wife are our Help. Your father says he is very well now entirely recovered from the lameness he has had the past winter occasion'd by two falls the first of the winter.

Uncle Barney's widdow Aunt [Mary] Howard in a poor state of health. She does not sit up much, but is dress'd every day and lies down, and gets up herself without help. Warren [Deacon Warren Howard] has sold his farm to Alvin Foss [see Note], and he is already settled there. I took tea there and Alvin and wife took me to Esq. Francis' to call, and from there to Mr Ramsdels, Warren's son-in-law who swap'd farms with John Otis. There I

found Warren living for the present and his family. Alvin said he was in at Hickses a few days since, and that his brother in law Orren Sawtell was there on Saturday. He praised him as a smart man. Alvin is already contemplating building a new home and all other necessary building near the road <>

Wednesday morning has found your father and I in our usual health. I hope the same for you and Lizzie and the little ones. Kiss Guy, Grace, and babe. Love to Susan. You will of course write to tell us of your destination when it is decided what it is. I hope now is a day of rest to Lizzie, to prepare her for her journey. Rowland wrote he had cut his foot with an axe. I hope he will be careful and not get cold in it.

From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza G.

Oliver O. Howard

[Note: Alvin Foss (1816-1862) was married to Cornelia Bradford Howard (1820-1904) a daughter of Barnabas Howard and brother-in-law to Deacon Warren Howard (1805-1876).]

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1266 5/28/1861    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1206

N. York  
5th Ave. Hotel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N. York  
5th Ave. Hotel 28 May 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I have telegraphed but have not yet got an answer, but I see by the Boston papers of yesterday that I am to be appointed by the Governor. Also I met Lieutenant Gilman at the 27th St. Depot waiting for his wife to come by the train. He said Hamlin told him I was to have the Regiment. I think I will go on in the 8 P.M. train. It has a sleeping car attached & I will have a good nights rest. You & the children must have prayers tomorrow morning. They must always pray for papa while he is away. I will write to Treadwell from Augusta.

God bless you.

Affectionately,  
Otis

My love to Prof. Church. Tell him I went on.

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1267 5/28/1861

*From:* O.O. Howard  
1st Lt. Ordnance  
A. Prof. Math's  
West Point N.Y.

*To:* H. Biggs  
Lieut & Adjt.  
Mill. Acad'y

OOH-1207

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
May 28th 1861

Sir

I have the honor to request a leave of absence of seven days from 8 a.m. tomorrow

Very Respectfully  
Yr. Obt. Servt.  
O.O. Howard  
1st Lt. Ordnance  
A. Prof. Math's

To  
H. Biggs  
Lieut & Adjt.  
Mill. Acad'y

[Written in a different hand]

The absence of Lieut Howard at the present time will be inconvenient, but if the interests of the public service require it, I will interpose no objection and provide for the hearing of the lectures in the best way possible.

A.E. Church  
Prof. Math

West Point N.Y.  
May 28  
Application for  
Leave of Absence  
O O Howard  
1st Lt Ord'ce  
A. P. <Mallet>

Approved  
A.H.B. [Alexander H. Bowman, Superintendent & Commandant]  
Col. & Sup. M.A.

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1268 5/29/1861

*From:* J. F. Hammond

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1208

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Army  
Fort Jefferson,  
Tortugas,  
Florida

Care of the U.S. Consul  
Havana,  
Cuba

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Fort Jefferson, Florida, 29 May, 1861

My Dear Sir,

I sailed from Havana the 20th in the "Non Pariel" - the fastest steamer in these waters. Heavy sea, sick. Breakfasted next day in Key West. All well there. Quite hot. The Wyandot and Crusader were there, and the celebrated schooner Wanderer. Sailed from there in the "Tortugas". The Engineer schooner reached here 28 hours in advance of her. Left her eight miles out swinging in a calm.

This is a remarkable place: hues from the depths of the waters like a queen of the seas. In an octagonal fortification area thirteen acres covers the whole island, which is enveloped by a mesh of reefs. It is an island of crusted shells on a coral reef. There is no silicon here. There is no soil appreciable, yet there are some small trees, a few cocoanuts, grass, and thus vegetation.

At present it is quite healthy, but there is some dysentery, intermittent fever and jaundice. We live very comfortably - Turtle, fish, fresh beef, can meats and vegetables, and milk, ice water, Cystem water only, very excellent and a years supply. We have sun enough, and light breezes, and delightful sea bathing. Since I have been here it has been nearly a dead calm. Yet, the St. Louis sailed out this morning. The weather is clear, and the nights are cool. A strict quarantine is enforced.

I found in Havana one of the prettiest girls that was at West Point last summer. I was delighted to see her. She has left there by this time for the summer, and will probably visit West Point. There are numbers of pretty girls at Key West, and two or three here who can be visited.

We have no news from Pickens except that it is <trust thy might>, and that they would [commence the bombardment [this was crossed out]] open their guns on the vols the next day. I do not believe the latter. They are working hard there, and here.

Lt. Mullin is sitting by me waiting for a dose of medicine. He sends his regards to you.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs. Howard, and Mr. And Mrs. Carroll, and the children, and to every body there. God bless them all, and believe me

Truly Yours,  
J.F. Hammond

P.S. In great haste. The mail about to leave. That is, the report about to sail. L.F.H.

Address:  
Dr. J. F. Hammond, U.S. Army  
Fort Jefferson, Tortugas,  
Florida

Care of the U.S. Consul  
Havana,  
Cuba



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1269 5/29/1861 *From:* [James G] Blaine

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1209

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta  
29 May 1861

My Dear Howard

You were chosen to the command of Third Regiment yesterday & public opinion is entirely unanimous in favor of having you accept the position.

You will be at once notified of your election officially. The Regiment is enlisted for three years & will be called into service at once. You must hold yourself ready to come at a moments notice.

I understand the Lt Col. (Kelsey) is an admirable Military man - one that will be both efficient & agreeable.

Truly Yours,  
in grt haste  
Blaine [James G. Blaine, Speaker of the Maine legislature in 1861]

I sent yr telegram yesterday pm.

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1270 5/29/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1211

[Boston]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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On train, Boston & Maine. 25 m after 9 am  
29th May [1861] [The year was written by someone else.]

Dearest -

I had a good sleep in sleeping car - arrived in Boston about six - started from Boston 7 ½ after walking to & breakfasting at the Revere House. Met Prof. Egbert Smyth in cars. Am sitting by him. Hope Guy & Grace are happy, & Jamie & Susan entertaining. Don't work too hard. Will be at Augusta about 4 P.M. today. Tell John to ask Mangler to ride the horse up to the house for you to see him once in a while.

God bless you - remember me always in prayer.

Aff. Yr. Husband  
Otis

I was elected as you see by enclosed. Saw Maj. <H?> at 5th Avenue Hotel.

[Envelope]  
Mrs. Lt. Howard  
West Point, N.Y.

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1271 5/29/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [OO Howard]

OOH-1304

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[322]

Bangor [May, see note] 29, 1861

Dear Brother

It is 10 o'clock but I think I will write you a brief letter tonight. I have just been in at Gen. Stevens. He was at Augusta yesterday. There was considerable excitement with regard to the Colonelcy of that 3d Reg. Good many strenuous candidates. The Gen. recounted to me various conversations he had with the officers of the several Co's. The great objection to you was that they had never seen you. And that Seargent Major - who wants to be Maj in the Reg. told them by all means not to elect an Army officer. The Gen. said & did what he could I've no doubt. He spoke of meeting a whole room full of officers & connecting with them. Some had the idea that being an Army officer you would not allow them to "come within 10 ft of you" using their expression. Gen. S. told them you were a Christian - that you would lead them as near the enemy as them would wish to go &c.

He says it is a superior Reg. above all the others he has seen. One Co from Winthrop - I fear the difficulty will be in bringing them (the Reg.) into any kind of decent discipline. These troops at Camp Washburn have been sadly deficient in this respect. I'm glad the 2d had to delay in N.Y. for the drill was needed. I see by tonights paper that they have gone forward.

Gen. Stevens has been appointed Commandant of the Battalion here at Camp Washburn - 6 Co's - 4 Co's at Eastport make up the Reg. Gen. S. thought you would wish to come on immediately. I don't know whether the 3d will be mustered into the general service next after the 1st now at Portland or some other. I don't know why not the 3d unless it be that the 4th was ready first. You will have (as undoubtedly you fully appreciate - better than I can possibly do) a very responsible & a trying situation.

How was Col. Ellsworth's conduct & death regarded in Army circles? It is called glorious but many sober men think he was rash to expose himself as he did - a man so prominent & promising to be so efficient in the service. He has probably purchased earthly immortality. Do you suppose he was a Christian? Some sentiments uttered to his mother - & to his father in that last letter look that way.

I almost wished I had gone on at the beginning of this our Recp & so come on with you thinking I might have been of service in your leaving & journey & thus get another look at W.P. If I could do you any great service - anything worth while - I would be willing to go on now. But I suppose you will hardly need me. Hope you will drop a line telling me with regard to your resignation & when you will come if no more. One of your Co's is composed quite largely of Waterville students many of them pious men. The Capt. (Hazeltine) a member of the Junior class - a Christian originally of Bangor. The Gen. spoke of rebuking one or two officers for having cards on their tables - at least he asked them in rather a surprised manner if they played.

I have no special news from home or from Rowland & Dellie. We have been watching to see whether you would be appointed to the Reg. A Gentleman told me that if you had not been elected up at Aug. you would have been here for the 6th.

May the Lord endow you with all the requisite grace & wisdom for the new position.

Yr Affectionate Br  
C.H. Howard

Gen. & Mrs. Stevens send their regards.

[Note: The month was left off. It was filed in the August, 1861 folder at Bowdoin. But it was written while Charles was still in Bangor at the Bangor Theological Seminary, and Otis had not yet been appointed (or perhaps accepted) the Colonelcy of the 3d Maine Regiment. In May, Otis had offered his services to the Governor of Maine, Israel Washburn, Jr. On May 28, Otis was chosen unofficially to be the Colonel of the 3d Regiment, but as he was in transit from West Point to Maine, probably didn't get the telegram notification.

Therefore, this letter which reflects the uncertainty, was probably written May 29.]

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1272 5/31/1861

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1210

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington May 31/61

Dear Bro Otis

We are anxiously awaiting your fate - supposing that yr acceptance of the Colonelcy must depend on the Pres. acceptance of your resignation. I have since learned that Dr. Bell is an Homeopathist & has not succeeded very well as a Physician. I tell you this for what it is worth.

Lizzie Patten caught a fall from our horse & injured her knee Tuesday & is "laid up". We are very anxious about her on acct. of her previous troubles. She has been with us three weeks.

Mother writes me one of her most cheerful letters. I send you the names of your Lt. Col. & Major. I don't know either of them. I do hope you can have some Christian men about you.

Sarah writes that she will be in N.Y. with her four boys by the 15th of June.

I am trying to decide on a house so as to write her the dimensions. Would Lizzie like to come here & keep house as Sarah does if you go South with your Regiment. We should enjoy having her & the children near us very much & this is one of the cheapest places to live in & in easy communication with Leeds, Portland, Lewiston, Bath & the rest of the world. We now pay 8 cts per doz. for eggs, 15 cts per lb for Butter; 33 for potatoes per Bush, 75 cts per barrel for apples. Flour is more & groceries about the same as in Portland. The Society is good & the Schools ditto. Rent \$100 per year, & now a very pretty cottage house & lo - can be bought for \$1500. Objections - a long cold winter, &c.

But good bye. Do drop a line when your decision is made. Love to Sister L & little ones.

Yr aff. Brother  
Rowland

P.S. We have had a pleasant little visit from Laura. She is looking for her cousin from Philadelphia this Summer. Uncle Ensign is here often.

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1273 5/31/1861     *From:* W. H. Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1212

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Phila May 31/61

My dear Otis

I shall probably go on to New York next week and propose spending the night with you provided I can get up to W.P. after having placed Vaughan on the Fall River boat, and provided also a civilian can get inside the sacred enclosure of W.P. during war times. Please write and let me know whether or no I shall be in the way.

V. is not so well as when he came on the cold & wet weather of March having had a very bad effect. During the past few days he has improved somewhat and I think will be able to move during next week. He is anxious to get home as he there has a horse and wagon at his service and here he has not.

Maria and the young ones well. The former not quite so much so as I would like to see her, but still she cannot be called sick.

Allow me to congratulate you on your promotion to a Colonelcy. Do you accept or not.

I am getting to think that the traitors wont stand up and take an honest thrashing.

Yrs very affy  
W. H. Merrick

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1274 6/3/1861

*From:* Mother Eliza  
Gilmore  
Hallowell

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1214

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, June 3'd 1861

My dear daughter,

I have come from my home to see Otis, arrived here yesterday, after learning that he would not be able to come out there. I determined to come here, and shall remain here until after the regiment move. I saw Otis at the time of service yesterday P.M. and at nine last evening he rode down here to Mr. W's to see us and stopt through the night. Last night he made out a list to you, of what he wished you to do and I enclose the list to you. Charles is to come to you at the time the regiment move on to Washington. You have received my last letter to Otis ere this. I came to Hallowel with a full determination not to give way to any of a mother's weakness but to ask for strength where there is perfect strength. I hope you

I intended to have written messages to the Children but the time is nearly expired for the letter to go. Kiss them for me. If nothing in Providence prevents not many weeks will pass ere we shall see you at our house.

With much respect and love I subscribe myself your affectionate

Mother Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

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1275 6/3/1861

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1215

Augusta, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta, Me  
June 3d 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I send this by Mr. E. K. Osgood Esq of Gardiner. Please ask him to stay over night with you & come down Wednesday in the boat & stop at the Astor House with Susan & the children - this things I have named in mother's letter. We leave 5 a.m. Wednesday morning. Will arrive in N.Y. Thursday by Fall river. Charles will accompany me. Think if you would like to have Capt Popes cottage now entirely - near the Arsenal gate Murphy wants to do all he can - bringing mails &c. They seem to love their Colonel. It is hard work. The last camp came in Friday. Gross without smile - but fine looking men. I have a fine staff.

Affectionately your husband  
O.O. Howard

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1276 6/5/1861

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1462

Willards Hotel  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[478]

[ca Dec, 1861] [Written by someone other than the author. Date was more likely to be about 6/5/1861, when Otis went from Maine to Washington after being appointed Colonel of a Regiment. In April there had been a disturbance in Baltimore.]

Willards Hotel  
Washington D.C.

Dearest,

You will probably have seen our arrival in this city noticed in the papers before the receipt of this letter but lest it should not be published I hasten to tell you that fact. Crowds met us & went with us thro. Baltimore but the people seemed very cheerful & hardly disposed though I saw no U.S. flag on any of their public buildings. I did ride after all, but my toe was'nt well enough to allow me to walk so far. I rode a white horse & nobody fired a gun. I cant keep awake. Love to Guy & Grace & Jamie. I am too sleepy. Remember me to the people who inquire.

Aff.  
Otis

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1277 6/5/1861

*From:* M.F. Mahan

*To:* Col. [OO] Howard

OOH-1877

[West Point NY]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[368]

Col. Howard,

Dear Sir,

Mr Mahan requested me to write a note to you, just before he went to the city on Monday, to express to you our thanks for what you have done for Freddy, and our regret that he can no longer enjoy the benefit of your instruction. I have been so much occupied since Mr Mahan left that I have omitted this pleasant duty. Please to accept the united expression of our regard for you and yours and our regrets at your removal from the Post.

Will you be kind enough at your leisure to let me know our pecuniary indebtedness to you, which is the only part we can now repay, though I am sure Mr Mahan will always be happy to be of any service to you in the future.

Yours very truly  
M.H. Mahan

Wednesday June 5th [1863] [See Note]

[Note. The year 1863 had been written in pencil. I believe the year should be 1861. First, it was addressed to Col [OO] Howard, which was his rank soon after his separation from the USMA in 1861. He was appointed Brig. Gen. in Oct. 1861. Secondly, there was a reference to Otis' tutoring of Freddy, which he did when he was at West Point, and since he resigned to become Colonel of a Volunteer Regiment in May, 1861, he would no longer be able to do that. Dennis H. Mahan was a Professor of Military and Civil Engineering at the USMA. Finally, Wednesday June 5th occurred in 1861, not 1863.]

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1278 6/7/1861

*From:* Daniel F. Potter

*To:* Col. [O.O.] Howard

OOH-1216

Topsham (Me)

3d Maine Regt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham (Me) June 7, '61

Dear Sir,

Excuse the liberty I take in troubling you with this note. In your regiment is a friend of mine - a brother of my wife, who recently enlisted in the Augusta Co. Capt. <Backeldate> Benjamin Crane of Readfield. We feel much solicitude on his account - knowing the temptations of a soldier's life; & knowing too, his disposition to yield to the circumstances about him. He has been tenderly cared for at home, & has been till a very recent period a clerk in Boston, where being exposed to the influence of intemperate associates, he contracted a fondness for drink - which unless checked, may prove his ruin. It is with very great pleasure we hear of your determination to discourage the use of intoxicating liquors in your regiment & we know in this you will be sustained by every man whose desire is to give efficiency to the army. So far, Sir, as your duties allow, any word, or watchfulness exercised by you in behalf of Mr Crane, will be gratefully appreciated. If you shld have occasion to address me, please direct, Rev. Daniel F. Potter, Topsham. That you may be honored of God in doing much for our country at this crisis is my sincere prayer.

Daniel F. Potter

(Col. Howard, 3d Maine Regt)

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1279 6/7/1861

*From:* G.P. Putnam

*To:* Col. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-1217

*Source:* Bowdoin

Publication Office of  
Irving's Works; and  
Commission Agency  
532 Broadway  
New York

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[Letterhead]

G.P. Putnam

Publication Office of Irving's Works; and Commission Agency

532 Broadway, (Opposite the Prescott House)

New York, [end of letterhead] June 7, 1861

Col. Oliver O. Howard

My dear Sir

To contribute a little to your state of news & relieve the monotony of the Camp, I have directed the publisher of the World to send you 10 copies of that paper daily to your address for the use of yourself and officers, and the men also, as far as they are available. I also send copies of the Rebellion Record (which I am publishing) for yourself, Lt. Col. And major Staples, with whom I had a pleasant word at the Astor yesterday. I send also the Commercial & have other papers, noticing transit of your Double regt through our city yesterday.

The rain yesterday was a great drawback on the comfort of your men and on our satisfaction, but it was an occasion of peculiar interest, nevertheless, and we Maine boys felt proud to see our native state so ably represented.

It will give me great pleasure if I can in any way promote event to the least extent the pleasure & comfort of your officers & men. If Major Staples or yourself shd find a leisure moment to drop me a line at any time suggesting any little matter that would be acceptable, I shd be really glad to do all that is possible to counteract the dullness & discomfort which must attend a great part of your life at the seat of war. It is inspiring to us to know that our soldiers are commanded by men who fear God and who take an interest in the welfare & health of their men.

Very truly yours

G. P. Putnam

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1280 6/7/1861

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1218

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point June 7, 1861

Sunday Evening, alone with the children, up stairs

My dearest Otis

Prof. Church has just been in to see if I had anything to send you by him. I wish I had something useful for you. We are all very well. I had a visit from Mr French after evening prayers. He came to inquire how you were. He found me at tea with Guy, Grace and Jamie (for a wonder) at the table. Guy in your place, and Jamie in his high chair. I invited him right out to see my little family, he sat down by Jamie, said grace, and took a cup of tea and talked a while, then left, wishing to be remembered very affectionately to you.

Mrs Smith is here. I shall go to see her tomorrow if possible.

I sent a bundle to you by Mr Kinsley, which I presume you have by this time. I don't think you can put on the thick colored flannels at present. I wish you would get you some thin drawers (woolen merino) like the white shirts. I have plenty of money. I am going to send you what gold I have. I payed Susan, Catherine, and John yesterday. I handed Mr Denton \$50.00 the day I walked to the Falls with John and Guy (met Mr Blaine on the way down). Mr Blaine did not come here on his return. My expenses are not very great now.

I assure I was very happy to get your last letter Saturday morning. Thursday's World had you in the immediate vicinity of Fairfax Court House. I know you must move soon. I shall not how, or where to direct letters hereafter. I am glad to send this by Prof Church. I want Charlie to write me oftener. Did you find the stamps in the trunk I took to you? They were in the top, in the little pocket. I don't know what other name to give it.

I think now I shall go to Farmington some time in August. May stop on our way there at Leeds, Portland or somewhere but would like to be with Ella there in August if I could. Mr Bacon sent me two hundred dollars. I can have more when I wish, and I have some on deposit. More will be due in August or Oct. I have forgotten I can look at the papers.

I will enclose mothers letter to me. I don't think it will be much trouble to move. Travel to N.Y. by the Orange ounty (because less than by sloop) then by steamboat to Portland then Cars to Farmington. Everybody is ready to me a favor. I don't feel alone here or that I had no friends. I am thankful to be as well off as I am.

Guy was in bed before I began to write, but was not sleepy, and has been up. Seemed much interested in this letter to Papa. Returned to bed before I asked for a message.

Prof Church will tell you what Col Bowman said about going from here. Take my own time & God will be with you wherever you may go.

Much love  
Lizzie

Guy and I are to take this to meet Prof Church on his way to the Boat in the morning. "and Grace too" if she gets up early enough" as Guy said, when I proposed it to him. He said I could wake him if he was not awake in time.  
Lizzie

Don't say I am a goose for sending money. I would not like to hear that.

---

1281 6/10/1861      *From:* John A Vaughan      *To:* Col. O. O. Howard  
OOH-1219                      1433 Filbert St.                      3d Reg. Maine  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      Philadelphia

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Col. O. O. Howard  
3d Reg. Maine

My dear Christian friend-

Be assured of a prayerful interest in you and your command felt by many friends. We have deeply sympathized with yourself and Regt & had we supposed you would have remained till morning I should have seen you at the Depot in this city.

Are you provided with the Hovelock caps for the Regt. If not I think the ladies here would help you. Please write at once and if wishing them state the kind of caps the soldiers have.

We are preparing a Soldiers Prayerbook from the Epis. prayerbook with additions. It has a short service very simple chiefly collects in unusual order then several collect suited any one of which may be introduced in place then instead of the Psalter & selections from the Psalms suitable each about 25 verses - then 40 Hymns all familiar half from the prayerbook half from other Sources. The whole being the size of McDuff's Soldiers text book or Dulles' Soldiers friend (half the thickness of the latter) or 4 ½ x 3 inches & less than 1/4 in thick. All that perplexes or is local to the Episcopal Ch. is left out and the hymns make a beautiful collection. I think our Maine friends here will send you for your Regt 1000 copies if acceptable. The advantage over all other little manuals for this occasion is that while others are for private use this may also be used for a Regimental Service by minister of lay reader.

Please advise they can be sent week after next, say on Monday.

I enclose a good letter from a father in this city to his son private but now printed. If you need any tracts please advise.

Pray tender to your brave Regiment the kind wishes and a "God bless you" from their friends in Philadelphia and assure them of remembrance in prayer by a Maine man.

Affectionately yours  
John A Vaughan  
June 10 1861  
1433 Filbert St. Philadelphia

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1282 6/10/1861 *From:* O. W. Hazard

*To:* Dear Cousin [O.O. Howard]

OOH-1220

31 State St.  
Boston.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Boston June 10th 1861

Dear Cousin,

I hope you will excuse me if I intrude on your time which I am well aware requires all of your attention, but I have received some information since I last saw you which leads me to address you at the present time.

I have been out of business now about two months and naturally enough have used every effort to secure a situation of some kind but as yet have not met with much success. Having been connected with a military company I gave a good deal of attention to that, and was very successful in obtaining a situation on the staff of a volunteer regiment of this city recently quartered at Long Island under command of Col Rice formerly engaged in the manufacture of Oil cloth carpets at Hallowell Me but more recently was Consul at Japan.

A day or two after you left here three of our companies were drafted into another regiment in order to fill it up to the required number of a thousand, and ten men, according to the last order from Headquarters, and on Friday last two more companies were taken from us, and the balance of the regiment notified that they would not be wanted, and we received an honorable discharge.

This morning I met a friend who is going out in the Navy as Paymasters Clerk. He told me in the course of our conversation that if I could obtain some influence through some military officer or friend he had no doubt but that I could obtain a similar situation. I told him of the position I had held here, and all, that I had plenty of friends in the Volunteer Militia of this state, but that I knew of no one but you in the regular service.

He assured me that if I could get you to apply for the situation forms, or use some influence in my behalf, he did not doubt but that I would get it. I have therefore addressed this to you to ask if you would be willing to aid me in getting a situation similar to the above either in the Army or Navy. I have consulted mother with regard to this, and it is with her approval that I written you.

She was very much set against my going as a private in my company and to please her I left although I was almost the only one to leave. Mother has never objected to my going as an officer, and therefore I shall endeavour to get a commission as an officer of some kind if possible. I am not acquainted with any politicians of any note with the exception of the Hon Anson Burlingame [U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts and in 1861, Minister to China] and as he is not here now I can not bring any political influence to bear in my behalf. I have permission from Col Davis Quartermaster of the first division Mass Volunteer Militia (whom you may remember was imprisoned at Baltimore at the breaking out of these troubles soon after the Sixth regiment was assaulted) so refer to him in case you wish an reference, and if necessary he will use any influence which may required here. Do not feel that in asking this favor of you that I shall be offended if you do not see fit to do anything with regard to it, as I know that your time is very valuable, and must be devoted, the greater part , to your command.

As I have no one else connected with the Army whom I could address in regard to the situation, and being ambitious to secure employment, I resolved to try, and see if there were a prospect of a situation's being had; you will readily see that I could not obtain any influence or information without addressing you.

If cousin and the children go to Maine this summer Mother would be very much pleased to have them spend a few days here, and make us a visit. We are all well. Mother desires to be remembered to you. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your Cousin

O. W. Hazard [Oliver Woodman Howard (1841-1929), son of Samuel Lester and Olive B (Woodman) Hazard]

P.S. Please direct your letter to care of Saml L Hazard, 31 State St. Boston.

We expect to see Cousin Sarah Sargent about the eighteenth of this month. She leaves Nassau the tenth (today).

Yours in haste  
O.W.H.

[Written in another hand on the back] Olly Hazard. Needs no answer.

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1283 6/11/1861 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1221

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C. June 11 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

Mrs Carroll & daughter found their way only to our Camp this evening & after evening parade invited me to accompany them home. As I had set apart a portion of the evening to go there, I concluded to accept the kind invitation. Mrs Carroll wants you & the children to come & make her a visit & stay just as long as you can. I told her it was almost too tempting an offer. Poor John Greble's death struck me like a thunder bolt this afternoon. It seems to have been a disastrous fight under incompetent leaders. His parents, his wife & the Frenches - what sorrow for all. I remember now the relation I have assumed of godfather to little Clara. I recall the walks & talks, that Johnny & I have had together & sorrow fills my heart. "Be ye also ready" sounds plainly for you & me - darling. God must comfort them. I shall write Mrs Greble as soon as I can have heart to do it.

I hear also that Warren is slain. I hope it is a mistake.

To night my band came to my tent & played a piece in honor of Lieut Greble & the Soldiers crowded around & heard what I said of him in great sorrow. The Regiment is encamped just north of the 1st Maine Regt on Meridian Hill about a mile & a half from Washington.

I served on a Genl Court Martial today for the trial of Lt. Col. Brady of 3d Conn. Regt. & will have to go again tomorrow.

I can see Guy's little serious face while listening to papa's letter & Gracie, how papa would like to kiss her cheek & Jamie boy. My eyes sometimes fill with tears when I think of them & yourself. I hope you are very happy.

Our mess is just organized. The Chaplain, surgeon, adjutant, Qr-Master, Charlie & myself mess together. We have a colored man for cook. My <knee> is almost well. I have a slight cold, but not one that will do harm.

Give my love to my respected professor, to Mr & Mrs Carroll & Katy. I <cannot> write you my heart at all, but want you to pray for me. I have one graduate Lt. McQuesten & will have another tomorrow, to help me drill the companies.

Affectionately yr husband  
Otis

---

1284 6/12/1861 *From:* Lizzie H. [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis

OOH-1222

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y. June 12, 1861

My dearest Otis

I mean to keep a sort of journal for you, of what we do, "little things at home", which are almost always forgotten in letter writing. Jamie was my companion at the table when I finished my first and only scrawl to you. (I hope it is destroyed.) I shall be so very glad to receive your first letter, or Charlie's if you don't get time. He can write all about you. I have treasured everything in the papers with regard to you and the regiment.

Saturday morning Mr Henry Weir came to drill with you more. I had a very pleasant visit and conversation with him. His is a big, noble heart like his father's. Mr Prangell moves on the plain, Mrs Casey taken his house. Lieut C. left the day after you for Wash. Everybody days stay to me, plenty of houses. I might want to stay till Sept. when I would than Jamie if I could go to you for a little time. You must not think I am gloomy. I am not. You are just where you ought to be, I've no doubt, but I am not prepared to say. I will sacrifice my beloved, freely. I regret I have been too long in finding out, that I have so noble a husband. I thank God he is prepared for life or death.

Guy remembers (and I wish to impress upon him) that you said as you went, your wanted him to "grow up a good boy." Dr P. came in the same (Saturday) morning, enquired about baby's head (merely an excuse). I was apparently cheerful, but I could see his heart was full. I believe he was much attached to you. He now full surgeon, will be away soon. A very young man newly admitted is here to fill his place. Blanch came to see me also says tell Mr Howard we miss him every where and at S. School. The Misses Warner are coming over to the school. I saw Cadet Smith the first Sunday, told him you were away, got him to take charge. He did, and some Cadet will every Sunday. He hanged the prayer-meeting to Sunday evening. Miss Wheaton sent you a little book written by 'H Grattan Guinness', advice to a christian brother, or duty of &c. will send it to you when I get it rom Mr Smith.

Sunday went to Church, sat with Mrs Bretts. Cheerful, best sermon, text Luke 11, 34, 35. single eye to duty. Likened the graduates to a vessel - man of war - ready for duty and service. The candidates as the shipyard with all the drawing, models, timber-ready. Remembered those who have been here now gone laden "good scholars, good soldiers, and good Christians. God bless them" but how sad the family now the death of Mr Greble and the regret it might not have been. This is but the beginning. I want to go to Washington can I? May I? I am like Guy, I want to kiss papa good bye again."

Mrs Church was in after prayers. Alone the rest of the day, reading to the children teaching Guy.

Monday, busy sewing. Want to go to Washington. Mr Carroll wants me to keep the children clean, is anxious to have me keep up the respectability of the family in your absence.

Tuesday, all well. Jamie as sweet as possible. Grace wishes papa was at West Point with his graduate (meaning regiment) instead of at Ratie's Washington then we could see him. Guy to me Neddie Greble's papa was shot, with his little hand moving up and down his elastic. I told him it might not be true, but if it was it saved somebody else. Tried to explain it to his little mind. I did not know then it was by accident. God grant I may live for my dear children and not for myself and do all my duty faithfully towards them.

Saw your arrival in Sat. morning paper. Received your short but precious letter. You were a naughty boy to ride that way. I hope your foot is better. I wish it was well. I greatly fear it will trouble you some time. I am so glad Mrs Sampson is along as I see female nurses are to be employed. Grace comes running up stairs for something out of the plaything drawer. Says tell papa I am happy (she cried yesterday and I tried to shame her out of it and she remembers) and sends a kiss.

How is Charlie. He ought to have uniform (!)

Guy has gone to Newburgh with Susan. She wished to take him and he is to make Jonny and <Dottie>

Williams a visit. Mr Banks was here a week ago Saturday. Guess he had a pleasant day.

I can't write fast enough. I think of so many things to say all at the same time, and I write "between times" as Susan is away today.

Mrs Blunt was in again yesterday, sat and talked a long time together. We came to the conclusion that we had a great deal to be thankful for yet. She and Mrs Church both stopped a moment this morning as they were drawing the baby past. Mrs Rothery is sewing in my room. She wants some things. I would give them to her but she rather sew for them. So I will give her some and let her pay little.

I had not seen Mr Blaine till this evening. He thinks you will stay in Washington till the fall. People tell such big lies to comfort you. I rather look at things in every light. I have become so much attached to your Regiment. My kind remembrances to all I saw. I think some that I may visit when the companies were formed before I am settled at housekeeping. I would like to do any I can for them or theirs.

I do not think you are suitably clothed you should be covered with flannel. I presume you have received the note I mailed last Friday. What can I send you or make for you?

Mr Carroll said Mr Osgood would make a good commissary, or quarter master sergeant. He lacked a little bustle and show.

I must finish my letter before I have my late dinner. God bless you one and all. I may have little Jamie baptized next Sunday if I can see John Weir before love to Charlie, Mrs Sampson. Mrs Gray & Jeannie called while you were at Augusta. Shall return the books, no objection I found a list of them. I shall need some of the accounts may be that you have but I don't want to trouble you at all. If you don't need the book mail it, or express it to me. I don't want money.

I could write all day but affectionately  
Good Bye, your own  
Lizzie H.

[written in another hand on the back]  
Lizzie

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1285 6/12/1861    *From:* John R Bacon

*To:* My dear Madam [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1223

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York  
June 12 /61

My dear Madam

I have been dilatory about sending you the money, but I have been so worried with other matters that I trust you will excuse me.

I hardly know how best to send as you have no bank and my check would not I suppose be of much use to you. I send by express (\$200.-) two hundred dollars which I hope you will receive in safety. If, you don't want any more to use at the Point it is best it should remain with me until your are ready to go and I then will furnish you with a check on Boston, or if you prefer I send the money please let me know.

I hope you have good accounts from the Col. He has a good regiment, and with such a leader they must do well. I pray for his save return.

With Mrs Bacon's love I am

Very Sincerely yrs  
John R Bacon

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1286 6/13/1861    *From:* [Israel] Washburn Jr.    *To:* Col. [O.O.] Howard

OOH-1224

Augusta

3d Reg. M. V.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta June 13, 1861

Col. Howard,  
3d Reg. M. V.

My dear Sir,

I hear complaints of the knapsacks furnished your Reg. & the 2d and I will thank you to write me in respect to them, & particularly whether those of either or both, are defective beyond alteration & improvement. I wold like to know what kind of knapsack you would recommend me to buy in future.

I am glad to hear good accounts of your, & the other Maine Regiments. The Secy of War commends them highly, including their outfits.

An early answer will oblige

Yours truly  
[Israel] Washburn Jr.

How do you like the tents?

[written in another hand on the back]  
Letter from I. Washburn  
Needs no answer

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1287 6/15/1861     *From:* A. Full [Americus  
Fuller, Bowdoin  
Class of 1859]  
Bangor

*To:* My dear Chum [C.H.  
Howard]

OOH-1225

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor, June 15, 1861

My dear Chum

I need not tell you yt we are all very much surprised to hear from you from Washington & in army too but for one I am glad you have done as you have for I cannot but think you may have a chance of doins a great deal of good & I shall pray for you often yt you may be kept & guided by yt some unseen Hand wh I have no doubt has led you thus far to some good work. Certainly ys war is terrible enough w. all christian influences yt can be thrown into or around it.

O how I do wish our officers could more of you feel yt yre is a God of battles, & yt he is not such a God as to overlook sins of men & yt we have no right to look for victory from him while we are in rebellion against his lawful government & provoking his wrath by open blasphemy & vice.

I am sure your brother deserves grateful thanks & fervent prayers of all christian patriots for noble stand he has taken in 'discipline of his regiment'. Thanks for men he will save from ruin & service he will yt do his country & prayers yt he may be sustained & kept & divinely guided to know clearly what is right. I am glad yt you are w. him to help him. I hear your chaplain well spoken of - hope you will find him right man for place. I was glad to hear yt word from young Hormon. He wrote his brother yt he felt very lonesome sometimes & only wished christian company or even a chance to attend service. I am afraid Col. Jameson does not encourage religious services much in his camp. I hope you may have a chance to encourage Harmon once in a while. I have just been reading World's account of yt Great Bethel affair & I feel thoroughly indignant yt lives of our troops should be through away in such a basteless affair - of course it is hard to say just who is at fault but you must certainly have been gross blundering somewhere.

We just begin to feel sure yt Harpers Ferry is really evacuated & are looking anxiously to Alexandria & Washington - but I need not write ys to you. I have not had chance to attend to all matters of wh you wrote me but will do so immediately.

Monday morning - Your class are in great tribulation over their loss & charge me to remember you to your <[torn piece missing]> yt they will not give you <> & yt you must come back so Misses Ella & Kittie were especially troubled at 'state of' case very <pained> & still very sorry. I wish you could have been by & seen 'group as they came crowding around me to learn "news". Yesterday was very rainy so yt our school at Beecroft was <rained> thru. I shall try & get Douglass <to be> superintendent yt school. Your <thoughts> shall be very well welcome to <their> old quarters indeed yre are <many> of you yt I cannot well do without.

Your white vests are in a drawer all right as you suggest & I have been doubting whether to send them to you or no but perhaps you will have other things to order so I will wait further directions. Your class at sem all send their regards as indeed every body else whom I have heard speak of you wh is almost everybody of our old friends I have seen <> result of logrolling packing & yt it will gain little support among people but I am inclined to believe yt Dona's note yt fall will be larger yt Jameson's. I was surprised to find how many people in our part of state were talking of <this> war as an abolition movement &c &c - however such men evidently feel very mean when you speak of it. Yy were busy enlisting men for eighth regt while I was at ome. One company goes from Wilton & Jay & a good company it will be too & one from Livermore.

I don't know but I ought to have enlisted w. you. I have thought all along yt I was willing to go if duty called. Am I waiting too long. Is it my place now to enlist. 3 years a a common soldier? I don't know tell me wh you think & pray yt G. will guide me.

Prof. Chamberlain came on w. me in cars. He is really talking of going, says he thinks he could do service yt might be valuable. By 'way you are perhaps aware yt he has been transferred to 'chair of modern languages. He is to go to Europe when he chooses, have his expenses paid & his salary continued & 500 bonus. Not a

bad offer yt. Says he intends to go as soon as war is over.

I have just begun to write a sermon on invitations of gospel. My text is Rev 22:17. It is an interesting subject. Would could write as I ought. Wilson is here now. Has accepted a call from ch at Winterport. He is at present suffering <under> quite a severe attack of paralysis affecting whole left side of his face.

Dr Pond say Waal Hope he'll do a great deal of good & be abundantly bless. Miss Anna Shepard is at home. Sam wishes to be specially remembered we shall remember you in our little prayer meeting, & hope you will think of us once in a while - had a nice time down river tho' it was very rainy.

Please write me as often as you can make it convenient.

Very Truly yours in Christ

A. Full [Americus Fuller, Bowdoin Class of 1859]

I will give you an account of your affairs soon.

Sam is at Norridgewock or about - gone is going to Boston sometime ys fall to have his eye operated upon.

Please write me soon & I will not neglect writing so long next time - please tell how matters of yt Brigadier Generalship stand. I am very truly your friend & <brother>.

A. Fuller

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1288 6/17/1861

*From:* I. Washburn <Jr>

*To:* Col. [O.O.] Howard

OOH-1227

State of Maine  
Executive Department,  
Augusta

3d Reg. Me Vol.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[Letterhead]

State of Maine

Executive Department,

Augusta [End of Letterhead] June 17 1861.

Col. Howard

3d Reg. Me Vol.

Dear Sir,

I send by the 4th Reg which left Rockland this morning, one additional tent for each company in you Reg. & which I presume you will receive by the time you do this letter.

I regret that the Knapsacks are not liked, & will thank you tell me what changes in future you would recommend.

The Council adj'd last Thursday till the last of June - it being the first vacation they have had since the middle of April. In their absence I have no power over the funds of the State.

I will see Capt. Gardina tomorrow, & learn from him whether he has any U.S. funds which he will turn over on your receipt, & inform you what he says.

Of course our good State don't intend that her sons shall suffer while in so noble a service. I am rejoice to hear such flattering accounts as I do on all hands from our Maine troops.

The loss of your gallant friend Lieut Greble is sincerely regretted by the Country, for it is understood that he was a good man & a brave Soldier.

Very truly yours,  
I. Washburn <Jr>

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1289 6/18/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1228

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point June 18, 1861

My dearest Otis,

I received Charlie's letter this morning, and one from you last Saturday. I have written three to you dearest, before this one. I directed two of them Washington D.C. and the third to "3 Regiment, &c. We are all well, and have been all the time. I wouldn't go to Washington if there was any danger of an attack, but if there is not I can see not objection to boarding there while the Regiment remains. I would want to go the last of next week. I wrote all about it in my last which I hope you will get. You will remain there 2 or three weeks. I hope Charlie will write often for he writes little things you do and say. John Weir wants much to join your regiment, anything above a private. Have you any vacancy? (Paymaster would be a good position. I suppose you have seen the recent promotions. I shall write to Rowland, as soon as I know if I do not go to Washington, to get me a house there. I wish him to be with Guy. Do try to get my other letters. I did not intend to write to day but since dinner thought I would send a line. Every body is very kind to me. I am only sewing, not packing yet. I think of you dearest morning noon and night. I cannot help praying for your safe return, not now, but when it is best.

<From you> own true wife  
Lizzie

[Written in another hand on the back]  
Lizzie  
Unanswered

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1290 6/19/1861     *From:* Otis [O.O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1229a

Head Quarters 3d  
Regt. Me. Vols.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters 3d Regt. Me. Vols.  
Washington D.C. June 19th 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I received your letter last night the third you have written, but the first I have received from you. I don't see what has become of the other two. I wrote you Mrs Carroll's invitation but I feel very sorry I did not name my serious objections till my wife & darling children had got so strong an expectation raised in their minds. Gen Tyler & also Gen McDowell have expressed a wish for my regiment on the Virginia shore. I expect to march tomorrow. I could hardly get a chance to see you if you were here. It would take up my attention & my <heart>. I find it difficult to keep off the summer complaint from myself & my men. You know the strong proclivities of this region to chills & fever. The families that are acclimated usually leave for the North in the summer. The expense is not a small item. I owe already nearly two hundred dollars in Augusta, and I must pay. The expense of living in Washington now is double that of any other place.

I could cry rather than disappoint you & my dear little boy, but my judgment is against your coming now. You get the news sooner than we do. We have to get ours from the N. York papers.

I should like to have John Weir come to us. We could make him a corporal & as soon as possible a sergeant. Chas. is to be a Sergeant, & detailed as my office clerk. Chas. made a visit to Alexandria yesterday with Major Staples. He saw Everett Jones there. He said Everett Jones came to see me & paid me a visit of half an hour. He was quite gentlemanly in his bearing, but I half suspected him as a spy. He told me he was on his way to Illinois to his brother, but the next day was seen in Alexandria. I think if he comes in my way again, I will have him searched.

Is Mr Blaine still at West Point. If so give him my love & thanks for all his kindness.

Oh, how much I should be delighted to take Jamie in my arms & hug & kiss him. Are Guy & Grace happy & yourself. You did not mention John Greble. Much love to Johnny Wier. We would be too much delighted to have him with us.

I cannot write more for business presses - pray for me & tell me if your judgment does not coincide with mine.

Very affectionately,  
Your own husband  
Otis

[The following note from Charles H. Howard was written at the bottom of the page.]

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1291 6/19/1861     *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1229b

Head Quarters 3d  
Regt. Me. Vols.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This note from Charles was written at the bottom of a letter from Otis. Not dated - assume same as Otis' 6/19/1861.]

My dear Lizzie

Capt. Sampson of Co. D says that Johnny Weir shall fill a vacancy of Corporal on his Co. if he will come - so it is sure so far. We have a Commissary now & no Regimental Paymaster is allowed that I know of. How glad I would be to have Johnny come if he could be contented. We were told yesterday that we would be ordered to Alexandria today. Wish we were sure of staying here a few weeks, so as to see you & the little ones.

C. H. Howard

---

1292 6/24/1861     *From:* Rowland [R.B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1230

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, June 24, 1861

Dear Sister Lizzie

We all think a great deal about you & I hope remember you in our prayers. We feel disappointed that we do not hear a word from you & the children. Charles writes from Washington the 18th inst but does not mention you. We are anxious to know whether you will remain at West Point a while or come East. We heard a rumor that you were coming on with Mr. Blaine. Otis seemed to think you would like to live in August. I expressed to him the language of my heart at parting with him in Portland in saying "I will most willingly do any-thing I can for Lizzie & the dear little ones." If you would be happy in Farmington, it would give Ella & me great pleasure to have you so near, where I might be of service to you, such as a brother only can be. Ella & I are now on our way to Bath with our own horse. We will be away from Farmington a week. Our State Conference is at Brunswick, which I shall attend. Mother & our friends here are well. Laura's cousin (Miss Brewster) came on alone. Sarah writes from N.Y. that she will be on early in July. I have not got a house to suit her yet, on acct. of severe sickness in the one that I expected to have. Farmington is beautiful now but there are some lingering cases of diptheria in the vicinity, but perhaps no more than in very many places. Ella gets along well doing her own work with Marys help before & after School. Chas. has written but once & Otis not at all since they arrived at Washington. Charles enlists & is detailed for the Col's service, it seems. I hope he an come on with you & the children as he first intended. Tell Guy that Mother has got a great ugly yellow <puppy> called "Lion", and a little wild duck & 17 little turkeys. Mary (our girl) <&> I have been strawberrying. I never saw them more plenty. Hope you have them now-a-days. Ella would write but her ride of 35 miles has tired her somewhat. She is very well indeed, but we shan't be surprised at sickness the last of Aug or thereabouts. [David Patten Howard was born 10 Aug 1861.]

With very much love to Guy & Gracie & baby & kind remembrance to Susan.

Yr. Aff. Brother  
Rowland

Ella & Mother send a great deal of love. Do write me just a line at F. if no more. They are quite anxious to hear from you. I <> on Mrs. Jones. She is living with Mrs. Hicks. Both families are as well as usual.

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1293 6/26/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [O.O. Howard]

OOH-1231

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point June 26, 1861

My dearest Otis,

I wish I knew just what to write you, and just how to word my letters so that they would give you no anxiety or pain. Let me tell you first, I am not wretched or gloomy, but I am very lonely. I am trying to live for these your blessed children, and to do my every duty towards them. God grant I may do just as you would do were you with them. Since you went away I feel a deeper interest in all your past labours here. The Sunday School, may it prosper. I want to look after it. Mr Smith said, that Mr Murry & Hamilton all going down as teachers this summer and also many Christian spirits among the new comers. My own short comings I see more and more every day, like Mrs Chapman "the agony of self reproach." I wish I could have been in Washington a few days with you, but looking at it every way, I agree with you, it is better not. I hear Mrs Benton's little girl is very ill and she has got to leave with her. I would not wish to expose these children. Mr Blaine left here Monday last for Washington, said he should go to see you, but Mr Carter fears he will be too lazy. I am not packing yet, had two boxes cleaned yesterday, (the two to put chairs in) I have returned borrowed books, given blank those for the Sunday School, assorted the papers that were in your desk. Guy's little heart has been fixed on Washington, but I am gradually getting him to look with pleasure on our going to Farmington. Dear little fellow, I wish I could shield him from all sin and wrong. I don't mind myself at all, and of myself I am nothing but I have a mother's duties to perform, and with God's help I shall be enabled to do so. Trust in the Lord, have confidence in God, was the substance of our sermon last Sunday. Mr French remembers you as kindly, spoke of you at the Cadets bible class. I hear that your regiment repeat the Lord's prayer at reveille.

I wish Charlie would write me all those things in detail. I have had no letter since the one which Charlie (Sergeant Howard) added a note at the bottom saying you might move the next day.

Mrs Greble was expected tonight. I met Mr French and Clara. She told me everything was very satisfactory with regard to Mr Greble. An officer went to see him the evening before he went out (I think it was Mr Kinsbury) and found him reading his bible &c. Mrs Greble bears her affliction wonderfully. She knows in whom to put her trust.

I wish you could get my first two letters. This is the fifth to you. I wish I could hear from you oftener, but not if it would take your time from more important duties.

Col. Reynolds left yesterday to take his new position. Mr Williams (on the rock) a Captaincy acting Com't for the present, of Cadets. Mr Blunt also Capt but your probably know all of this about the new regiments. Mrs Blunt thinks her husband will be here in six weeks, then going to Fort Hamilton to recruit. I have written to Rowland, and enclose Charlie's letter for him to send to Mother. I do not know where Sarah is. Perry is on board the Freeborn.

Thursday Morning. No letter from you this morning but a paper from Charlie. I was very glad to get it. I heard from you through the Carrolls, shall hear all about you to-morrow when Mr C. gets home. The first class have not gone yet. I want to send some things to you by Mr Carter. Prof. Church will go to Washington in a week or ten days (they are now in Conn). Will you tell me what I may send you? You must put on flannel. I think of getting the gray instead of white. Don't Charlie want something, paper collars send his measure, as soon as you get this. Tell Charlie what I may send you and he will write for your. I know you need many things and I have no sewing to do now. (for a wonder you may say). Do you want any of straight shoes. I know Everett Jones is a spy, that is just his character. He is too lazy to work, likes to act the gentleman, and is too big a coward to fight. All he wants is money to spend. Aunt [Note 1] is in Lewiston.

Rowland's letter this morning says all well at Leeds, where he wrote his letter. They are on their way to Bath with their own horse, will not get my letter before his return, so I will be delayed a few days longer here by it. Will be gone one week from Far'n.

Many here remember you very kindly. Mrs Blunt sends love by my permission. Don't forget or neglect a day to say what you need, and what I may send you. I can do nothing when I get away down East.

One tear, kisses, love, prayers for you.

Your <>

Lizzie

I will send some small works, tracts &c.

Charlie, write what I may do for Otis.

[Note 1. This is probably Lizzie's Aunt Sarah [Whitman] Jones, the wife of Everett Jones.

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1294 6/29/1861     *From:* [C.H. Howard]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1232

Camp Morrill  
Washington DC.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Camp Morrill  
Washington DC. June 29th 1861

My dear Lizzie,

You have probably heard from Vincent that Otis & I met him Thursday night at Willard's. Otis has had an attack of Cholera-morbus since then. He is doing well this P.M. sleeping now. He was taken about 3 A.M. after we got back from the hotel. Yesterday he vomited a good deal & had the cramp in his limbs but today he has not vomited & has taken some nourishment such as <Beef> tea - arrowroot gruel. We have ice for him. Our Surgeon is here partly much all the time. He is a very fine man - of good deal of experience & I doubt not will adopt the very best course as he seems to have done thus far. Mrs. Sampson is one of the best women for the sick-room I ever saw. At a house near by she makes the cots &c. She provided sheets, two nice pillows in addition to the one you gave us.

As to clothing, Lizzie, I know Otis needs another undershirt. He has only two. He has Collars. I have sent for some things to Maine. You know they have good chances to send from there now. So many are coming on.

Otis could not be made more comfortable. I read your letters to him. The last part of it little while ago & he seemed to wish you to know just how he was. A little girl - very nice pretty little girl came in with Mrs. Sampson little while ago & Otis asked her to come & kiss him which she did.

The Lieut. Col. is here now but the men don't seem to have very great respect & confidence in regard to him. Every time I show my head and the men come up to ask how is the Col.

Two refused to take the oath night before last but they had no ill will towards Col. H. It did not absolve them from anything as they had been mustered. Capt. Hight should have sworn them in. I mean the whole Command but he forgot it.

We had a good deal of excitement the night of taking the oath 5 or 6 refused at first, but after a few words of explanation they <walked> under the Colors at Command of Col. Howard.

Otis just expressed himself as being more comfortable than he had been today & gave him more arrowroot gruel - as I called it. He said as I supposed, humourously, it was not gruel but tea! After I read letters, Otis said to Dr Palmer, "a wife & family are a very good blessing."

I thank you for those tracts & I know Otis always likes to see such things. We also had a letter from Rowland written from Leeds. Johnny Weir won't come will he? I am not a Sergt but 1st Principal Musician acting as Secretary for the Colonel, but I don't care about publishing my rank, however. I come to serve my country, to aid my brother & do the will of my Maker. I have been very glad to be with him the last two days.

[Unsigned, but from C.H. Howard]

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1295 6/30/1861    *From:* Otis [O.O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1233

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Me 30th June [1861]

My dearest Lizzie

I found hosts of friends & hosts of inquiries for you.

The Regiment as fine a set of men physically as I have ever seen. The Captains intelligent men. The Lieut Colonel on whom I depended to take the Regt. On resigned or rather declined. Another however has been elected, who can I think take the Regiment creditably. I sent my resignation to West Point to be forwarded to Washington to take effect on the 15th June or as soon after as possible, but I think the governor has asked for y immediate services. I have appointed -

Mr Church, Chaplain

Surgeon, Dr. Palmer of Gardiner

Adjutant-Ordnance Sergt Burt, if the government will discharge him - an invaluable assistant.

Mr Haley of Bath, a Bowd graduate, Qr Master

Mr Smith of Bath, a brother of Tom of my class, as Qr. Master-Sergt

Dr. Havos of Hallowell, Hospital Steward, &c

You can't think what a pile of letters lie before me reminding me of old ties in younger days. If I do get an immediate reception of my resignation, still if possible I will fulfill my promise to Professor Church - I shall know better tomorrow.

I spent a part of this evening with Blaine. This is the first private house I have entered in Augusta except on business. Mrs Mulliken is here but I have not seen her.

Kiss all my darlings. How is pony?

I shall be at West Point probably Tuesday night. Col - Col - Col - astounds one. May God help me to take care of these lives & these souls.

Affectionately

Yr Husband

Otis

The Governor wants to move the Regiment Wednesday next. I don't think he can get it ready quite so soon - though he may do so.

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1296 6/30/1861 *From:* Olive B Spear

*To:* Col [O.O.] Howard

OOH-1234

Bowdoinham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoinham June 30 1861

Col Howard

Dear Sir

I received a letter from my son the 29 of June saying that he was sick & had been for some days & he feels that he cannot endure the fatigue & hardships of a soldiers life as he is under age & has no Father.

I am his guardian. I write you to now if you will give him permission to leave & come home as soon as he is able to come. He says the Capt has been very kind to him for which I am very thankful. I feel that he can be of no use to his Country as he is sic & it will be a great relief to my anxious mind to see him once more. His name is George Littlefield, Capt Hazeltine's Co.

Yours Respectfully  
Olive B Spear

I enclose this note in a letter to my Son. "May the Lord be your shield in the day of battle."

[On the back]  
Col. Howard

[Written in another hand]  
Letter from Mrs. Spear.

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1297 7/1/1861

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My little daughter [Grace  
Ellen Howard]

OOH-1236

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade Camp  
Manassas

---

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade Camp Manassas  
[July 1, 1861]

My little daughter,

Papa has just finished a letter to Guy and he thinks Gracie will want a letter of her own; so papa swept a place big enough to sit down and began this while uncle Charlie wet the broom and finished sweeping the room. Papa's house has but one room in it, about as large as Aunt Sarah's kitchen. The chimney is built right out of doors on the end of the house, with a very large fire place opening into it from the inside of the house, thus: [picture of a fireplace and a stool in front]. Papa has a long table, thus: [picture of a table with an inkwell and other materials on the table] and Capt. Sewall a desk thus: [picture of a writing desk with a cabinet on top]. Out of doors at the corner of the house is a flag: [picture of the U.S. flag] which shows all the Regiments where your papa is to be found. Papa has three horses now. Uncle Charlie claims one for his. [picture of a horse and a rider, with C. S. on the front]. This is the picture of a horse belonging to the Rebel Government. Mr. Miles found him. Papa has given him to Abram to take care of. Now Gracie darling papa feels tired and it is getting near night, so if you will excuse him he will rest. Papa would like to be with you tonight so that he could talk with you all & get some sweet kisses, and he would like to go to church tomorrow. He would like to see Gracie and Guy at Sunday school. Poor Guy was not very well when Mamma wrote - papa hopes he is well now. Be a good little girl Gracie, love and obey Mamma, be loving & kind to brother Guy and to little Jamie. Much love from papa to cousins Minnie & Eva and to Aunt Sarah. Papa don't forget Orestes; if he is with you tell him so.

Good night and God bless my little daughter.

Your loving Father  
O. O. Howard

[Note: There was no date. Someone had written Jul, 1861 in blue pencil. The reference to Aunt Sarah is to Sarah (Whitman) Jones and her children Orestes, Eva and Minnie.]

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1298 7/2/1861

*From:* Otis [O.O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1237

Mrs Carrolls  
Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs Carrolls  
Washington DC  
July 2 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I am sorry you heard I was ill. Increase distance may <infer> everything so much. I staid here last night. Yesterday evening I went to Secretary Seward's dinner at 7 P.M. Returned to Mrs Carrolls & staid the night. Today I am quite well, only a little stiff in the joints. We had a cold, wet night at camp, last night.

Several kisses to the Children, love to Susan. Is Catherine with you. Mr Carroll sends kindest regards. Mrs Carroll much love & their warmest remembrance to Sprigg & family.

Aff.  
Otis

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1299 7/4/1861

*From:* Otis [O.O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1238

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C. July 4th 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I though I would write you a few lines this morning, to let you know how I am &c. I received thro Mr Carter the package with its acceptable contents. The <Aeid> will be useful to me, so the pen wipe which is very pretty. I feel better this morning than I have for a week, am decidedly well. I have gone to Camp for the day & returned to Judge Carrolls in th evening. Mrs Carroll just came to Camp & took me in charge & really I have mended rapidly. I had the cramp pretty badly with the Cholera Morbus & was reduced in strength very fast. We are still at Meridian Hill. But <Oh> Judge Carroll is so sick with his old attacks that he suffers excruciating pains. I think my coming in has been a comfort to him & I believe I have been able to do one or two important errands, but I can do nothing Lizzie to repay the kind attention of Mrs Carroll to me. I shall try to stay out at Camp tonight. Everything goes better wh I am there. I do think of you & Guy & Grace <&> that little unconscious cherub Jamie. I think of you separately & together & pray for you. I seem so broken up in my old habits that I hardly know how to do. As to the Brig. Genl. I am as high as I deserve & feel that I am completely unequal to the position. What could I effect in a higher <one>. I don't think there is any danger at present of taking on from the Regiment.

Give much love to all. Kiss the children & tell them papa catches up little children when he can & kisses them. God bless & keep you darling ever in his love & <no fear>. Tell me about your money how it holds out. I cant get any pay & I hope Bacon has paid over to you all that is due me.

In much love  
Otis

---

1300 7/4/1861

*From:* Enoch Pond

*To:* Dear Sir [O.O. Howard]

OOH-1239

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor July 4, 1861

Dear Sir,

I drop you a line in behalf of my son-in-law, Mr George Blodgett of Bucksport. He is a pious, young man, of <> moral & Christian character, a graduate of Williamstown College. I think your brother knows him. He has been in commercial business with his brothers at Bucksport, but the <distress> of the times has broken them up, & he is now out of employment. He would like some situation in the army; to be an assistant or private secretary to some officer, as your brother Charles is to you. Can you procure any such situation for him, and what would be his compensation? Would you advise him to enter into any such situation? He is well acquainted with Maj. Pierce from Bucksport. He is a very pleasant young man, active, industrious, & entirely trust-worthy.

Just let me hear from you on the subject.

Kind regards to your brother Charles.

Yours very sincerely,  
Enoch Pond.

[written in another hand]  
Dr. Pond  
Clerkship for son-in-law

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1301 7/7/1861

*From:* [O.O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1240

Alexandria Virginia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Alexandria Virginia July 7 1861

My dearest Lizzie

We are fairly across the Potomac. Yesterday we had Reveille at daylight, and loaded our own wagons & waited for transportation till after ten o'clock, when we marched through Washington & took the boat at the port of Sixth Street for Alexandria. The March was about five miles on the other side. After crossing we marched below Alexandria between two & three miles. This morning soon after sunrise I came in from Camp, breakfasted here & visited Col Heintzelman's Hd. Quarters. I had a dispatch last night from the War department asking me to select three Regiments besides my own & take charge of the Brigade. I am not to be Brig. Gen'l but only acting for the present, but I will have to be detached from my Regiment.

I am waiting here for Charles to send me some clothes from Camp & then I shall go over to Washington to make arrangements.

I hope I shall have a chance to go to Church a part of the day at least. Oh, Lizzie I should like to be home today where there is a different aspect of things from what we find here. This city is gloomy indeed - nearly all the houses shut up - beautiful residences deserted, no business transacted, except what an Army carries with it.

Soldiers at the best are like locusts - fences, & trees are consumed and private property generally is much infringed upon.

I received the package from Mr Custer & also another from Mr Kinsley. The things are very acceptable darling. You need not care for my clothing. In service we do not mind much what we wear. I had got flannel drawers from the State Supply of much the same kind as those you sent. How is little Guy this morning. Does he still love his saviour? Papa would like a little chat with him - papa has a little softening about the heart when he thinks of him. Gracie, happy & sprightly little bird how much papa would like a kiss - & Jamie, bless his little heart his mother can tell him about papa. I know God will bless my wife & children & I trust he will direct me in all my paths.

Remember me very affectionately to the Carrolls. I am going over to Mr Carrolls this morning. He was much better the last time I heard from him, but he has suffered dreadfully. How kind they have been to me & how little return I can make. Has Charlie Carroll got his appointment yet? How is Mrs. Greble, Neddie & my little god-daughter? I wrote Mrs Greble soon after poor John's death but don't know that she got my letter. She has my heart felt sympathies. I clapt from the paper the other day some of John's last loving words, just before he left for the fatal field. They made my cry. Mr French's friends regretted to lose us from their vicinage.

My boy has come with my clothes so Good bye. I wanted to mention Professor Church & Mrs C. I presume I may expect him tomorrow.

Bear a cheerful heart Lizzie. When you want money don't conceal it from me - though I have none now.

Very lovingly, Your own husband

Otis

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1302 7/10/1861

*From:* Chauncey  
McKeever  
Hd Qr 2nd Division  
Alexandria

*To:* Col. [OO] Howard

OOH-1241

Comdg 3rd Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd Qr 2nd Division  
Alexandria July 10th 1861

Col. Howard  
Comdg 3rd Brigade

Sir

The bearer of this note, R. F. Roberts, states that privates of the 4th & 5th Maine Regts have been committing depredations on his property, stealing potatoes &c. The Colonel Commanding wishes you to investigate the matter and put a stop at once to all such proceedings. If the men can be identified, punish them severely.

Very Respectfully &c  
Chauncey McKeever  
A. Adjt. Gen'l

P.S. Can you send in your Brigade return this morning?

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1303 7/13/1861    *From:* Chas. M. Morse

*To:* My Dear Mrs [Martha  
Jane] Strickland

OOH-1242

Waterville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Waterville July 13th, 1861

My Dear Mrs [Martha Jane] Strickland,

We learn from Mrs Additon, who came to see us yesterday, that you are at Leeds. We shall be very happy to see you and hope you will not return without making us a visit. If you could come as early as the middle of next week you would probably find Mrs Additon here, but suit your convenience about the time - only do not disappoint us.

Pardon us for enclosing a ticket for you to use from Leeds to Waterville.

My office is in the Station and the Conductor will assist you in finding me.

In behalf of Elizabeth and the children,

I am very truly yours  
Chas. M. Morse

P.S. Bring the children also - for Mr Barrell informs me that they were with you.

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1304 7/15/1861     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1243

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd Qrs 3d Brigade  
3d Divn Clermont  
Fairfax Co Va

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Hd Qrs 3d Brigade  
3d Divn Clermont  
Fairfax Co Va  
July 15 1861

My dearest Wife,

I have taken my pen to write you and have been interrupted already several times. This commanding 3000 men is some work, particularly in the enemy's country, but I have got along without much difficulty thus far. Mordecai is my actg. Asst. Lt Buel is my aide. Lieut Burt Quartermaster. Charles is our clerk. We are in a room in Commodore Forrest's house. It is a lovely location some five or six miles out of Alexandria. If we were to remain here you couldn't have a better place to spend the summer, but we don't remain long in a place. We took three armed men day before yesterday, two from an Alabama Regiment - one a young lawyer quite intelligent.

I am now very well indeed. Not till day before yesterday did I get a letter from you, the one you sent by Professor Church. We kept missing each other till then. I went to Alexandria & crossed in a steam ferry boat to Washington - had a few minutes to stay - found Professor Church & Maj Kendrick at Willards. Perry Lee came over to see us yesterday. He has lost his place in the Navy. I don't know the cause of it. He went to Washington today & will return tonight to stop with us a few days.

But how are you? I wish I could just drop in. I am sorry you sent me the money you did, for I fear you must need it. I shall be paid in a few days & then, darling, I will refund. Does Guy continue to learn & think. Give him a sweet kiss from papa. Has Grace forgotten papa yet. Just think, daughter, how happy papa will be to clasp you in his arms & have one of those good hugs & kisses. Poor little Jamie, he don't know me at all but you can kiss him several times for me.

My kindest regards to Carroll & fam. I wanted somebody with experience so much that I ventured to ask him if he would accept the apt adjutant Gen'l position. Now I have to be wide awake & clearheaded whether or no.

Yesterday I preached to the 3d Regt. Their Chaplain has resigned & gone home & afterwards addressed the 5th Maine Regt. May God prosper & bless you & the children is my daily prayer.

Aff. Your own  
Otis

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1305 7/15/1861 *From:* Samuel Harris

*To:* Col. [O. O.] Howard

OOH-1244

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor, July 15, 1861.

Col. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

It is the expectation here that you will be appointed Brig. Gen. - an expectation founded, I suppose, on the obvious fitness of the appointment & confirmed by your present temporary appointment to act in that capacity. If thus appointed, I suppose a Brigade Surgeon will be one of your staff. On this subject, I take the liberty to address you. Dr. McKuen of this city has been approved by the Medical Board & very probably will be appointed. He is at the head of the profession in this region, & is eminent as a surgeon, being professionally all that could be desired. He is also of pure & high toned moral character, of refined & delicate feelings, of gentlemanly bearing, & high general intellectual culture. I am sure he is such a man as would be agreeable to you in this relating.

On speaking of the subject this afternoon he mentioned the probability of your promotion & said that it would be a great inducement to accept such an appointment if he could be under you as General. This preference he expressed on the ground of what he knew of your character. As he is my family physician & I am strongly attached to him, I determined immediately to presume on the slight acquaintance I have had with you, & to address you on the subject.

Providence has thrown you into a very different position from that which you were anticipating - in usefulness & honor of the highest importance. May God keep you & bless you.

Please give my regards to your brother, & accept my best wishes.

Yours Truly,  
Samuel Harris

P.S. Dr. McK. Will make a decided pecuniary sacrifice if he accepts this appointment. He is actuated I believe by disinterested patriotism, by the benevolent disposition of a high minded physician to do all the good he can by his professional [CHECK ORIGINAL - missing page?]

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1306 7/16/1861

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1245

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington July 16, 1861

Dear Sister Lizzie

I write because I think you would like to hear from us. Sarah [Sargent] came last Fri. night with her little family & a girl. She staid with us till Monday & is now at a Mr Hardy's - boarding. He takes them for \$5\_ per week! The girl is working for her board. Sarah thinks she is saving money very fast will remain till she gets her house ready for occupancy. They are all well. Most of the people here had rather sell than rent houses & they are so low now & the place is filling up so much that I think a house costing \$1600 would be a good investment.

I wrote Charles that if Otis would buy a house for you, I would guarenty a good rent for it when you get thro' with it. There is a cottage that I think would just suit you and if you choose not to buy, I shall try to persuade the man to rent it to you. His wife is now sick, & unable to move, but he thinks she will be before a great while. He is very desirous of selling & the house could be bought much below the cost & it is quite new.

Our friends at Leeds are well. Aunt Martha, Fred & Carrie [Strickland] are visiting there now. I saw Vaughan Otis a fortnight since & he cannot continue thro' the summer it seems to me.

Charles wrote Mother & she sent me the letter the 3d of July. I have not heard from them since except thro' the papers. Otis does not write at all. We have heard thro' the Soldiers that he has quite recovered from his illness & is acting as Brig. Gen. I am so glad that Charles can be with him if he is sick &c.

How are all your little ones? Sarahs train pretty well & yet I think they are as good as children generally. Chas wrote that you could keep your house at West Pt. I hope you will be able to, until I can get one to suit you here & then you will have one move only. I wish I could come on for you. Will Susan come with you? I did not know but that Otis could detail Charles to come to Maine with you.

The Diptheria still prevails to some extent in this region. Would you fear it more here than at places where there are fewer cases? Some one or two are sick in the town with it all the time.

Ella is pretty well tho troubled some with a swelling of her feet & ankles. Her sister Hattie & a cousin of the same age from Bath are visiting us now. Saw Alice & Helen in Bruns. & they said they would write you.

Love to the dear children from Uncle.

Rowland

Ella sends a great deal of love.

---

1307 7/17/1861     *From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

*To:* My very kind Friend  
[O.O. Howard]

OOH-1246

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point July 17th 1861

My very kind Friend

I have allowed a whole month to roll rapidly by without sending one line to thank you for the sweet little words of comfort you sent me but believe me I felt them deeply. You are now truly the God Father of our little baby daughter - little Clara is a perfect treasure and the greatest comfort for me. I know you pray for her. I can scarcely tell you how much responsibility I feel it is to have to bring up my two little ones without a Father's care.

Edwin is thoroughly a head strong willful boy, if I can only, with God's assistance, bring him up well he will make the better man. Your dear little brave wife came to see me a few days since. We spoke of these bright memories we have of these two dear cottages where we were all so very happy. I feel daily thankful you are our little ones spiritual father. I heard a very sad piece of news today that Smead (Abner) [USMA Class of 1854] I mean is now in an Insane Retreat. I feel sorry that so many of your class should have left our ranks. Mr Webb [USMA class of 1954] has returned from Pickens. <Wade Whalen> and Randall have been ordered from here for the present. It must be a comfort to have your brother so closely associated with you.

I am most thankful that you as an intelligent well instructed soldier, and soldier of the Cross should have so important a command that Our Heavenly Father may give you strength wisdom and courage to do that which is best for our poor Country is the prayers of many hearts for you. We all miss you from West Point they say tis sadly changed but to me with all its sweet memories of our happy <lives days under> those first two years of happy wedded life and our little having been given to us. Here will always be the dearest spot on earth - excepting one which holds all that held all which was nearest and dearest to me on earth - that is at Woodlands near Philadelphia. I am so thankful I feel his soul is with our kind Saviour, - for he was truly and consistently an upright good man.

Many thanks for that walk and talk you took with my dear Husband. He often spoke of it with pleasure. He said his prayers always nightly and read his Bible faithfully - & relied upon God and asked him for Grace to act rightly. I tell you this because I know you will be glad to know how he stood in the eyes of God who seeth the heart but I am trespassing too much upon you time.

With every wish for your success in all you undertake and safe return to us believe me

Ever your true friend  
Sarah B. F. Greble

There is a strong movement being made to displace Father - his disloyalty to the Union is the point on which they hope to effect it I suppose. Father says he will <know> his principles fearlessly, but will not raise his finger, to hold this position. He did not seek it. It was pressed upon him. He I know is one of strongest understandingly true Union men and has always taught us that love of Country was next to love of God.

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1308 7/18/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1247

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, July 18, 1861

My dearest Otis

I have finished reading the morning papers. Fairfax Court House has been reached and you continue to advance. May God direct and protect you. I wrote you a long letter last week and Guy also wrote, directed it to Alexandria. I got a letter from Charlie Tuesday. I am very glad he is so ready to write to me for you. He said direct as before. Mrs. Greble has sent a note to be enclosed to you. Do give my kind regards to Mrs Sampson. I am very glad she is with you. I wrote to Ella this week.

It seems to be the impression now that the rebels will make no stand this side of Richmond and after you reach Manassas Junction Gen Scott will take his own time to advance, perhaps September. Would you leave at all were such the case, and we were here? I think I have as much fear of your being sick as from being injured by the rebels. I hope you will be careful of yourself, of your own health as you are of your men.

Dr. McDougall has been away nearly two months on the medical Examination Board. He was home last Sunday week asked when I had heard from my good husband. His son-in-law Capt Adams has resigned and the family are very much agrieved by it. He was from Tennessee and will not join the southern army. He has nothing and his wife and four children are expected here. Lieut Wheeler gone to Old Point. West Point is very quiet. Mrs Vincent is still here. I wish we could keep her north. I don't know what her feelings are now. Mr Buck is going to house keeping.

I don't think I will have much to do myself when I move. Mr Carroll is exceedingly kind. He said Saturday he would send Haller to me, and I must tell him just what I wanted. Mr Newland says anything we can do for you, you must say so. I am happy here, and I shall be when I am in Farmington, and I don't think the move and journey will be any trouble really. We know the route perfectly. I write as if was about to start, but I write because I thought of the subject just now.

It is Mrs Blunt's straw carriage I have for the baby. We all, Guy, Grace, Jamie, Katie Carroll, Harry Duane, and myself went to walk yesterday, down the road towards the Falls. Katie generally breakfasts with us, her message is, "Mama says so if the children will come over to lunch." After is in to prayers. Jamie is very well, fat as need be, always happy. Guy just came up stairs. I asked if he had any message to Papa. He said send papa a kiss and ask him to answer my letter quick, then runs down stairs, "hep, hep, hep".

You have never mentioned your horse. Mangler said he saw an indication to stumble once when slowly trotting, but Mr Carter said he should'nt think he was a stumbling horse.

I called to see Mrs Mahan (Prof M by the way is in Washington) Mrs Douglas, day before yesterday, met at the latter place Mrs Cranghill and Mrs Wheeler. Prof Church wrote home he met you on horseback, and was going to see you next day.

I send this to-day to Washington and my next, unless I hear from you, to Alexandria. Love to Charlie. I don't hear from Maine often. I wrote Aunt Sarah in answer to her letter a few days ago.

With much love and earnest prayers from your  
own wife Lizzie

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1309 7/18/1861 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1248

Sangster

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Sangster July 18th 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

You can see where we are now a few miles in advance of Fairfax Station. The Station has been taken, also the Fairfax Court house. Thus far the rebel troops have retired as we advanced. We encamped the first night on the ground just across the stream <Poilse> [Pohick?]. After marching till very late at night. The one hour's sleep I got was very refreshing. Last night I had a good sleep for the whole night.

Two serious accidents have occurred in my Brigade. Two men have carelessly shot themselves. One by the name of Barker and the other by name of McLellan, both in the 5th Maine regts. I am not sure where we shall move (nor just when) from this place.

Tell Guy papa read his letter with much delight. A Brigadier General, is a man who commands four Regiments, tell Guy. Sometimes he commands only two or three.

We expected a battle yesterday but the enemy ran. I wish we had men, who had more regard for the Lord. We might then expect his blessing.

Gracie & Jamie must be good children. Much love & many kisses. You must stay at West Point as long as you think is advisable. I am afraid you have shortened your allowance of money too much. With much love for my darling wife & children.

O. O. Howard

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1310 7/18/1861     *From:* I. Washburn Jr

*To:* Col. O. O. Howard

OOH-1249

Augusta

Act'g Br. Gen'l  
Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta July 18, 1861

My dear Col.

I rec'd but yesterday your letter in reference to paying for the instruments furnished the Band of your Reg't.

There is no doubt I think that the State will provide for paying your acceptance. Before it can do this you should make out duplicate bills of the instruments & prices ag't the State, & receipt them. Send an order to the party holding your acceptance to receive of Nathan Dane, Treasurer, the amount of the warrant drawn in your favor for musical instruments.

The Hotel bills in W. have been paid.

We are honored by the distinction you have rec'd & gratified.

Yours truly,  
I. Washburn Jr

Col. O. O. Howard  
Act'g Br. Gen'l  
Va.

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1311 7/19/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1250

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. July 19, 1861  
Friday Evening 10 o'clock

My dearest Otis

It is almost too late to think of writing a letter to night, but Mr Kinsley has been to see me, and has told me a great many things which were full of interest to me. He told me when and where he saw you every time. I told him I would report him favorably to you. He wished to be remembered. I don't expect you to write as much as he could tell me.

If Cousin Perry comes to New York I would like him to come to West Point very much. Sarah is now at Farmington boarding at present, likes very well indeed. I take it from Rowland's letter of to-day. Rowland said he had written something about your purchasing a house in Farmington. I wouldn't have you for anything and I don't think you would wish it. I rather not go there if I would have to do that and shall write to him that I have no desire to do so. Guy will be very happy to now you got his letter as Mr Kinsley said you had. I have mailed a letter to Washington since.

Sunday Afternoon 4 o'clock. Dearest, I feel unsettled, anxious, too restless to do anything and perhaps too much so to write. Guy has gone to Sunday School. He was very anxious to go last Sunday although it looked like a shower. I taught him his lesson and he started, it began to rain before the School finished, but he went to camp and sat in the "Reception tent" with Mr Smith, for an hour or more afterwards, when Mr Smith borrowed an umbrella of a Lady there and walked down with him. To day he spoke of going when at dinner, and I reminded him when it was time to dress, taught him his lesson and he went alone, with his book in his hand, very happy.

Jamie waked just now. He will no longer stay in ones lap. He creeps, has done so two days much to the delight of Grace, only when she and Katie are having a tea party, then she calls him a rogue very pleasantly, and begs Susan to take him. Grace is down stairs talking very earnestly to Catherine. Susan is out and Jamie is my dear little charge to-day. I took Grace to church with me this morning. She was a little restless but kept still, that is, did not talk. Guy looked very happy when I told him of Mr Kinsley's visit, and that you had received his letter, and sent him more. It was as he said about a Gen'l. He expects a letter soon.

I was too much amused when he said I guess papa didn't read about "going to Washington" because he didn't say anything about it. Guy returned from S School and an hour passed very rapidly while engaged reading and talking with him. He is as thoughtful as ever. The three are now asleep and talked I heard a short time ago. I don't feel that I have anything to write but I am thinking of you. I would like to be told it is well with thee to-night every way, but I must wait and trust.

Monday morning. I have read the papers this morning. Everything looks so uncertain. I shall look at the evening papers. I received your letter, dearest, written on the 18th at Sangsters, this morning. We are all perfectly well. Love to Charlie. Mr Carroll sent a man to take the measure of things for boxes. Guy says send a kiss to Papa. I shall be here if nothing happens and God willing, about a month longer.

May you be protected from harm, and come back to us, if it is the will of God.

Ever you own Lizzie

I enclosed in my last a note from Mrs Greble and sent to Washington. Please tell me where to direct letters.

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1312 7/20/1861    *From:* Otis [O.O. Howard]    *To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1251

Hd Qrs 3d Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd Qrs 3d Brigade  
July 20 1861

Dearest Lizzie

I am well & so is Charles. We are near Centreville. We haven't yet been in battle. The Lord will take care of us. I feel <we're> not so wicked. He would not bring such disasters upon us as Tyler's defeat. Give papa's love & kisses to Guy & Grace & Jamie. Much regard to Susan & Catherine & John. Remember me to the Church & the French's, but above all remember me continually at the throne of Grace.

Affectionately your own husband  
Otis

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1313 7/22/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1252

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y. July 22, 1861 [CHECK ORIGINAL - page 1 out of focus]

My dearest Otis

I have been looking at my paper for about three minutes not knowing what to write first. This morning the papers were all hope, and this evening filled with the like none before - the terrible loss - a mourning country indeed - indescribable seems almost lost in the great calamity, but every individual can mourn over it as we look at it, although it may be best, and the Lord <> it to our future good. You passed through <>. I am thankful, and feel to throw myself at the foot of Jesus, and say, they are indeed <> I don't want to be selfish about it. I think I feel humbled before God by it. Mrs Lyon, Mrs Wall, Mrs Battery. I feel for them. The poor Mr Griffin was <> he thought so much of his battery. Mr Manwell is sick in bed I hear. Col. Bowman <> this afternoon, long before the morning papers came. He was very much affected by the report. <> my first news was [page 2] Mr Newland passing, remarked to someone coming, "They say we are whipped". I caught the whole truth in an instant, and soon ventured to ask Mr Carroll when he returned to dinner. I could scarcely believe we had met with so great a loss, and retreated. I went to ride with Mr and Mrs Carroll this evening, got the evening paper then, found Mr Smith here when I returned, to pass the evening. This class say they cannot remain here, are to petition to go away immediately.

It was very thoughtful in you and Charlie to telegraph to me, or him only. Outwardly I feel the same, but that was a beam of sunshine that went directly to my heart. I have written you twice since Guy's letter, both sent to Washington. I shall expect a letter from you next Thursday. I don't feel greatly disappointed when I get no letter for I know you have not much time to yourself and the papers are next to Charlie's letter. I am so glad Charlie is with you.

Morning. The exaggerated accounts we received last evening were terrific. I find it not nearly so great a loss and disaster. In the language of war, I feel this will be avenged. It seems to be stirring all to more nearly a united feeling and action.

We are all well here. A report that Major Bowman is called into active service.

Our mail now leaves at 12 o'clock so I don't have much time to write after reading the paper. I hope you can write soon. I feel that you are in the hands of God. I can trust you in his care.

Your dear Lizzie

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1314 7/24/1861     *From:* Otis [O.O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1253

City Hotel Alexandria Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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City Hotel Alexandria Va  
July 24th 1861

My dearest wife

On my arrival after our wearisome retreat at this place I was cheered by an affectionate letter from you enclosing one from my poor friend Mrs Greble. Since then I have been hard at work organizing, feeding & quartering troops. Our battle was planned so as to break God's holy day. Charlie & I were under fire & know what it is to hear balls whistle. My horse had a ball put thro his gambrel [gambrel] & is very lame. After we had reached Fairfax C.H. somebody stole him from me, but I recovered him.

The battle was about ten miles beyond Centreville by the road we took. We were halted by Gen McDowell some six or seven miles this side of the field, & then were ordered to hasten on, & when about half way the order came to move at double quick, which we tried to do under a hot sun. The men were many of them exhausted when we came into sight of the battle.

We passed the wounded for a while before we got into the open plain. We then marched about a mile under fire from heavy guns, formed two lines, one of the 2nd Vt. Regt Col Whiting & the 4th Maine - Col Berry. The other of the 3d & 5th Maine. I marched up the first line & got them well at work & then returned to the valley below for the other line. I brought that up also.. We ascended a hill through a piece of brush wood and then emerged into an open space and it was a warm place indeed. A battery on our right & another on our left were pouring the shot upon us & the musketry from the front. I felt in no way unpleasant on the field. I kept sending Chas. Off on duty. No balls touched any of us. Mordecjai & Lt Buel were much exposed but a Good Providence or rather a Good Lord protected us. We retreated when ordered to do so at a walk, but all the troops were mixed up - till we got to Centreville. Then we organized & marched back after an hour's sleep to Fairfax Court House - slept till daylight on the ground & then retired in order to Clermont. The cars came to take the troops to town - where I got quarters for them & here we are, all but my own Regiment which I sent to Clermont yesterday. I am going out there tonight.

Much love to the children. I shall write Guy just as soon as I can. Keep up a good heart darling. We have met with a sad reverse. Our baggage nearly all cut off. I lost all my papers some clothes & your miniature

Aff. Your husband  
Otis

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1315 7/25/1861     *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard C H Howard

OOH-1254

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, July 25th 1861.

My Dear Sons, Otis and Charles,

Knowing in a general way all that has befallen you, I will not refer to it in particular. I have received Otis letter written 14th inst. for which I am greatly obliged and I think some what thankful, Charles' of the 18th, 20th and Mrs Sampson's of 22nd, all of which I fear I do not deserve. God has kept me in "a way I know not" after our first shock. In our suspense I felt to rely on my heavenly father. When I felt to rely on my heavenly father then I was at rest. I hope our people will not have sickness to encounter in this hour of trial.

Henry Turner's father and Sanford Gilbert have been here a number of evenings the past week hoping to get some news of Henry and John Keene. Up to the last evening they had heard nothing. They desired me to say so, in my letter, so if you had it, in your power you would mention them to me. How very kind every body is to me.

Friday Rowland wrote me a long letter, enclosed Otis last to Lizzie and a short one from Lizzie to him. I have never said much to Lizzie on the subject of coming to Maine, but always feel (when the subject is approached) that she belongs to me, that is Lizzie and the Children. Our family consists of your father and I, Thomas and Abbie, his wife. We are a long distance from Church, and not much refined society about us, but if Lizzie after her arrival here, feels contented to stay with us, we are happy to have her do so. Somehow it seems to me quite an undertaking for her to begin housekeeping with her three little ones, but she can do what she thinks best after she gets here. All her baggage will have to be changed at Leeds Junction so it need not be forwarded to Farming. until she needs it there. These are only suggestions of mine.

I went to Farmington last week with my sister M.J. Strickland and Fred, and Carrie. Saw Sarah and her four little ones. They were boarding at the time, and I do not know how long she will continue to do so. We brought Frank and Tim down to Ensigns to stop a while. Sister Martha and F, C left here for Hallowel, by the way of Waterville to stop at that place, two nights. I expect to hear from her at Hallowel.

Everything seems to me of minor importance accept our National trouble. Everybody in good state of health (as far as I know) in town. If either of you can drop a few lines to me occasionally it will gratify me very much. I am extremely obliged to Mrs Sampson for her kind letters to me, and hope in providence, some day, to make her acquaintance in person, and thank her with my own mouth.

We have had a smart rain to day, which has kept us from Church. It is now nearly night. Everything is beautiful about here. Your father has been getting hay two weeks, and has been very successful. Thomas and one other man has made our gang for hay making. Your father oversee's the work and helps when he can do the most good.

You are at all times accompanied with your mother hopes, and fears, and prayers.

Eliza Gilmore

O O Howard C H Howard

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1316 7/25/1861    *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My darling Boy [Guy  
Howard]

OOH-1255

Head Quarters 3d  
Brigade  
Bush Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters 3d Brigade  
Bush Hill July 25, 1861

My darling Boy

After the battle that papa wrote about in his last letter - papa went back with all his men to Alexandria. Now he has sent two Regiments back to their old encampment four miles out of town near Clermont. Papa has come to live a little beyond Clermont at Bush Hill. It is a nice farm, a big house on a hill, with a beautiful garden. Mrs Scott lives here with four little children - one little boy, Frank, another Marshall & a little girl called "Cony". The fourth child I have not seen. Mrs Scott is just about as big as Mamma. She asked your papa to conduct prayers this morning. The little ones repeated the Lord's prayer after me as you & Gracie do, & it makes papa cry to think of it. O, Guy, my son, do love God & serve him. I cant write more now. Sweet kiss to dear mama, my lovely daughter Gracie, & precious baby Jamie. May God bless & keep you all for Christ's sake. Uncle Charlie sends love to all.

Very affectionately & tenderly your papa  
O. O. Howard

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1317 7/26/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [O.O.  
Howard]

OOH-1256

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point July 26 1861  
Friday Evening

My dearest Otis

I was very much gratified to get a letter from Mrs Sampson late last evening (we had two mails per day). I wish you would remember me very kindly to her. I will write her soon.

I saw Lieut Owens [Wesley Owens, USMA Class of 1856] at the Carrolls evening before last. He was expecting to go to Washington the next morning. He said he had no authority to go into active service, but had obtained a leave, and was going to do something. Wanted first to get on Col Heintzelman's staff. Then you were entitled to two "aids". There might be a place for him, and if he could do nothing more, he should go to McCook and tell him to give him a place and something to eat. It does my heart good to find a man decided. About ten o'clock that same night he got orders to go to Buffalo, to muster in troops. Lieut Comstock [Cyrus B Comstock, USMA class of 1855] leaves tomorrow for Washington with the "Suppers" late returned from Oregon. Prof. Mahan returned to instruct the present first class in engineering. Mr Smith says they will be away in three weeks. He has or will write you. He would like to be connected with one of the Maine Regiments.

I want to communicate a lamentable fact. There are Cadets here who openly rejoice at the defeat, retreat, or by what unfortunate name you may call it of the Union troops. I say they ought to go, no, be arrested. I hope they will have a stronger oath of allegiance than the last class, one they can't get around, and not be allowed to receive a Diploma. There is one in contemplation by a portion of the Class.

What a terrible sad affair of Col Miles. He is from Maryland. Shall we prosper if we are not purer. Mr Smith is here this morning Saturday I am going to Newburgh. God still have you in his care. All quite well.

Your own Lizzie

Sunday evening. My dearest Otis. In my haste to go to Newburgh last Saturday I neglected to put a stamp on my letter and Mrs B very foolishly kept it at the Post Office. Otherwise you would now have had it.

We, Mr Smith, Guy, Grace and myself, had a very pleasant call at the Phillips saw Mrs Williams and children. All inquired very affectionately about you. They heard of you through a Mr Post of Newburgh. We left her at ten o'clock and came back to dear little Jamie at one o'clock.

I went without seeing the mail, and was very happy to find a good letter from you and also Guy's on my return. He thought a great deal of his letter, says he must write another letter to Papa. I had a good long cry over it alone and then read it very cheerfully to dear Guy, but I think I am pretty brave, darling.

I now to say to you some things were necessary to a certain extent, but now I don't think so. I see that "but one thing is needful" and so far as this world goes, it doesn't much matter. This is not our home, and I only ask that I may do my duty while here.

I received a letter from Mrs Merrick last week written the 8 of July, when Vaughan went home. She thought I would be at Augusta. "William has written you and so has Uncle John Vaughan" but had not answer them at that time. William has lost his younger brother, died after his return from Cuba (of yellow fever I heard through Blanche), sent much love to you. I got another letter from Ella. Rowland has not got a house for me yet, but says I better stay here till the last of August, then go to Leeds. And as I can go back and forth between those two places conveniently I can see the houses myself before he decides.

Sarah will buy one, but she wishes a permanent home. I may not and yet I may, the Lord knows and He knows best. I think I would prefer to do this way, as Rowland says. I think our good mother might think it not just right to take the children passed Leeds and not stop. Mr Smith thinks his brother (elder) will come to West Point

when he is about to leave, and that would be just the thing to please me. I will go on with him. It has always been my fortune to fall into good hands and I presume I always shall, so do not be at all anxious about us. We Ladies meet next Tuesday to sew or see what we can sew for the Wounded. About the battle and you being exposed I don't now what to say. If it was for me to say, come back now. I don't now as I could say it, because I fear it would'nt be doing right, but may God watch over you and bring you back in his own good time. I hav'nt heard anything from Mr Benjamin, but have heard of all other friends.

Mrs Vincent joins her husband this week. Mr Douglas takes her. I could send you anything every time, if you would say what you would like. And what you have lost that you need. That miniature is a great run-away. You may have another look after it.

Saturday morning. Grace sends her love to Papa, and says she is happy. I tell her not to cry sometimes because I always like her to be happy so I can tell Papa and that is what she means. Guy is out playing. Jamie is asleep. I am very well.

Give much love to Charlie. I enclosed your last letter to Mother this morning.

Your own Lizzie

Lieut Williams has written to Washington about those Cadets.

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1318 7/29/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1258

Head Quarters 3d  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters 3d Brigade  
July 29th 1861

My dear Mother,

Charles says, Mother says I have not written her a letter since I have been here. It seems hardly possible. I thought I had written two. But I remember now that I began a letter to you which I did not finish. Already since I began this I have been interrupted several times.

Since our return from Bull's Run the men have been very much disheartened & hundreds of cases of sickness occur. Everybody wants to get discharged & go home. The Colonels of the regiment are discouraged, but I am in hopes things will brighten soon. I do not lose heart. I try to rely upon the Giver of strength.

War in earnest is a dreadful thing and has a dreadfully demoralizing influence upon all of us. I try to pray & to love Christ & to do my Master's will, but I cant help longing for peace, when we can live in our own homes & not destroy the crops & gardens of other people. The real sickness of our own people, is profaning the name of God & in taking the property of quiet citizens has sickened me to the heart. But I am in hopes God will not remember our offences against us to destroy us, though I fear we deserve the severest chastening.

I am always rejoiced to hear from you my dear mother, and think now I shall have more time to write you.

Governor Washburn was here today & made us a little visit. He is looking out for our interest.

Charles is a great comfort to me, sleeps with me. He seldom leaves me. I give him a horse & he rides by my side.

My little horse was shot through the leg, but is getting well. Charlie went from me on the battle field to bring up the ambulances & to get instructions & then returned to me. I was afraid he might get hurt but neither himself nor his horse was hurt. It was a pretty hot place - the air seemed full of whistling bullets but generally I had too much to do to stop & think much about them. However in the midst of danger I felt at peace in my heart. You would think that a battle would be horrible & sickening, but the sense of personal danger & the effort necessary to meet it, makes one feel very differently from what he would anticipate.

I should like to see Lizzie & the children. I only hear good accounts from them. I am afraid Lizzie will wear herself out with her care & anxiety combined. I don't believe I shall cry for someone when peace comes. How is Father?

Perhaps you would like to know our companions. My Brigade Quartermaster is Lt Burt, Asst Adjt General Lt. Mordecai. Commissary Lt Smith of Bath. I have just got Perry Lee an appointment as 1st Lieutenant in the Hallowell Company.

Give love to Father & my good friends near home. Love from Charles.

Affectionately your son,  
Otis

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1319 7/30/1861     *From:* Ella [Howard]

*To:* My dear brother Charles  
[Howard]

OOH-1257a

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington July 30th 1861

My dear brother Charles,

Rowland has gone to our Wednesday evening meeting & left me at house, because it is rainy, & too far to walk.

We received your letter just as we were at tea, and it was read, before we got through our supper. You may be sure your letters are looked for, & received very eagerly. I told Rowland two or three days ago, that I guessed I should write you, but somehow since you've go to be a "soger boy", it seems as if you were not exactly the same Charles you used to be. And so I am a little puzzled how to write!

You can imagine how very thankful we were to hear of your safety, after that awful battle. O it is awful to have friends in such danger! I believe I love my friends better than I do my country! But we have been very thankful that Otis could have you with him - especially in his sickness. There's one thing I want to now about, that people never tell, & I never find except in novels, I believe - & that is, how one feels - how you felt for instance, that Sat. night before the battle - when you didn't know but that night would be the last to you on earth. What you thought most about & how everything seemed to you then. The world & its pleasures must have looked very small - very mean to you - but did you have any fear? Fear of death. I mean particularly. I have tried many times to imagine a person's feelings at such times - and I would really like to now from one who has experienced them.

We realize very little of the horrors of this war, except as you are connected with it. We are so far away from every thing in any way war like that we should almost forget all about it if we hadn't a daily paper & two brothers in the army. We haven't even a telegraph here. We wished we had, for a few days after the battle, I assure you.

Some of the ladies - old and young - have started a Society, which they call the "Soldiers' Aid Society" & in which they intend to work for our soldiers - especially for sick, & wounded. The Ladies have been somewhat troubled, as to what to make. I believe Rowland has mentioned it to you once, but you have <[CHECK ORIGINAL - glued edge of page 4 ]> assisted us any as yet! Can you give us a few hints, as to what articles would be most useful, that we could make, & send on? There are many things I suppose which Government doesn't furnish that would add very much to the comforts of sick men.

If you can help us any, we would be very grateful to you. I thought I would write to Mrs Sampson as she would be most likely to know, but I don't know as that is necessary. The Soc met here this afternoon. It is the first <time I> have been at one of the meetings. <There> were quite a no. here though <> being so unpleasant. They were mostly from among our own people - & we don't wish it to be a sectarian affair at all.

If it is pleasant tomorrow, our S.S. is to have a little pic nic <> here by our house - but I <> as it will not be a very favorable day. I wish you could come!

It seems so strange to think that you have never seen us housekeeping. We have got a comfortable house, nicely furnished with everything convenient and comfortable, and many things even more than that. Our location is the pleasantest in the pleasant village of Farmington. We have everything to be thankful for, and everything to make us happy. And I've learned to made good bread!! You don't appreciate that as you would if you had been living with us these three months past. Bread has been my one great trouble - I have wasted more flour, & patience, than you would believe, if you hadn't been here to see. But the last two times, my bread has been good. Poor Rowland has been a perfect martyr to bad bread, & he has borne it heroically, I assure you. I have been obliged to give him several doses of thoroughwort, to remove the effects of it, but the treatment has proved so successful, each time, that I have never yet been quite discouraged!

But as I told you, better things seem to be in store for us, in this line of our daily affairs. We have had company all the time. Sometimes half a dozen at a time. We have Anna <Fatrie> now, & she is the only one, at present. Your Mother has been up twice only. I hope she will come up soon, & your father with her, & make us a longer

visit.

Sarah Sargent & her little family are boarding, at present. I think they may board through the winter. Frank & Timmie are at Uncle Ensign's at Leeds making a visit.

I have had a letter from Lizzie (Howard) lately & have written here a very long one, in reply. I shall be glad to see her & the children, when they come.

Rowland has just come in, and I believe I will leave what little room there remains, for him, if he wishes it. Good night, with heaps of love to both my brothers & may God be very near you always.

Ella

[The following note was added at the bottom of the page by Rowland.]

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1320 7/30/1861    *From:* [R. B. Howard]

*To:* [C.H.Howard]

OOH-1257b

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[The following note from Rowland to Charles was added at the bottom of the previous letter from Ella.]

[Farmington July 30th 1861

My dear brother Charles,]

I like your letters in the Boston Journal very much. The last one came last night & I sent it to mother. Yrs. Of the 27th came tonight & will go to Leeds tomorrow. I don't understand, to whom you "gave up your bounty". Ella inquires how you felt before the battle. I want to know how you felt & what you were going the night after. O that must have been horrible! We try to pray for you & the army. Hardly a prayer is offered in my hearing but the Soldier is remembered. Do you know McClellan? Will Otis be superceded? But good night. With Gods blessing.

[See note]

July 31.

We all have our discouragements . Mine are sometimes very great. Yours with those wicked & undisciplined men must be so also - but if you & Otis can have patience, you will be an improvement. Is not Gen McLellan a christian! Give Otis a brothers love & assure of him of our constant prayers. Tell him I wish he would act less from generous impulses & more from a settled principle. How he can reconcile paying those damages with a sense of justice to himself & family, I do not see.

We hope to go down to Leeds next week & spend a night with Mother. Yesterday was Anniversary at Bangor & next week is Com. At Bowdoin, but I don't see my way clear to go. Is Ed. Thompson dissatisfied with Otis?

Ella & I are going out to make calls this morn. & to stop the pic nic wh. Is postponed till next week on acct. of the dampness of the ground. One of our neighbors just brought us in some nice peas. My Garden yields nice white raspberries - cucumbers - beans &c but it gets neglected some what.

We will not expect sickness before the 1st of Sept. - then I suppose my cares will be increased & Sermon-writing comes still harder. I can take a vacation, of 4 Sabs when I choose - if it were not for money perhaps you would see me at the Head Quarters of the 3d Reg. If we make both ends meet this year we will do well.

The completion of the R.R. will not mend fathers circumstances so long as the war continues & business at Bath & Lewiston is suspended.

Many Christians think that our reverse at Bulls Run was because we attacked them Sabbath Day. But we all say go through now – tho. Two thirds of the property & many lives be sacrificed. May God defend the right.

Yr aff. Bro  
Rowland

[Note. The letter from this point to the end was found attached to OOH-1335 from Charles to Otis dated 9/4/1861.]

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1321 8/1/1861

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My precious wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1272

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 3d  
Brigade  
Bush Hill

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[0277]

Head Quarters 3d Brigade  
Bush Hill August 1st 1861

My precious wife

Mr Mordecai wonders how I can be so completely engrossed with my official duties & say so little about my family particularly when I have so interesting a family. I told him it was because I exercised faith in God, who is able to protect & care for them, & is willing to do so. I do pray to him constantly for you & Guy & Grace & little Jamie. I do regard you all as my sacred treasures, that will be kept in store for me while I am trying to do my duty to my Country.

There are untold trials after a defeat. Everybody is sick in body or in heart. Applications for a leave, resignations & discharges have been the order of the day for the last week. Grumbling, fault finding and charges against my officers come to me from every quarter, but thus far my heart has been light. I try to do my duty as I have done heretofore & don't worry. It is a comfort to have Charles near me.

We are still at Mrs Scotts house and are well. Thus far I have found an effectual remedy for the summer complaint in something that the Doctors laugh at. I take the white of an egg without the yolk & stir it in a tumbler of water & drink it. I think this has cured me twice. At any rate I have gotten well.

My horse is getting well gradually. Lieut Griffin has made me a present of another horse, a nice one. I have been into Washington once since the defeat on business - Chas. Was with me. We visited at Mr Carrolls. He was getting better. He rode out the day I was there. I was surprised to find him so weak. Mrs Carroll was as kind & attentive as usual. Mr Carroll pays me a great deal of attention & treats me as if he was my father. I don't know how I can repay them for their kindness.

You spoke of Mr Benjamin. I saw him during the retreat. He was in the action on the 18th & fired the first gun and I believe he protected our retreat after the battle of Bull Run. I found Kirby in rather a critical place with one caisson that day. His face was covered with blood but not his own. Somebody had fired a ball through his poor horses' nose & spattered him.

I think of Mrs Greble & her dear little children often & try to remember them in prayers. I fear I shall poorly fulfill my duties as "God-father" to little Clara.

I know Guy is a good boy. I wish I could look in upon him sleeping in his little bed tonight. & Gracie I think she does'nt cry much. I think she must have a cheerful countenance - and Jamie doubtless has his times of crying. Suppose he would know me? Well, Lizzie, times will change. I may be home before a long time.

There seems to me to be a great want of principle & true patriotism among our friends. I don't know what we will come to. I have Green's battery attached to my Brigade. Their officers are Cushing Harris & Butler - a Company of Cavalry - Lieuts Drummond & Custer.

My kind regards to my friends at West Point. I am happy to hear you say "but one thing is needful". Many kisses to each one of the children from papa.

Mr Mordecai sends his love to you. He is a good friend. I shall want Smith when he comes - wish he was here now.

Your own Otis

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1322 8/5/1861

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1259

Bush Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Enclosed \$50.00

Bush Hill Aug 5th 1861

Dear Lizzie

Mr Mordecai goes to Washing & Otis gives him fifty dollars to be changed to a check & enclosed to you.

We are all very well. Going to leave our comfortable quarters here for a tent more in the rear of our forces tomorrow. Much disappointed this morning in having the cavalry & artillery removed from our Brigade.

Letter from Rowland & Ella last night - all well & happy. Will be very glad to see you & the children. Mother would like much to have you stop with her at least for a while. More like Sabbath yesterday than usual. Otis spoke to the Cavalry soldiers at 6 ½ P.M. held a religious service. Gov'r Morrill & Gancel Stinchfield of Hallowell here yesterday.

Yr. Affectionate Brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Mr. Mordecai cannot go now & I will add more.

Perry returned from Washington yesterday & goes back this morning. He is trying to get reinstated in the Navy but will then resign since he is chosen Lt. In the Hallowell Co 3d Regt.

Mordecai wants to get into the ordnance & I fear will leave us soon. Buell is gone for good. Good many vacancies occurring from Resignations in the 3d Maine. Wonder whether Johnny Weir would like a Lt's commission there. Fear he would get as disgusted with Volunteers as Mr Buell.

I attended services yesterday P.M. up at the Alex. Theol. Sem. About 3 miles from Alex. & 4 from here. The 15th Regt N.Y. is quartered there & so they use the chapel for services. It seemed more like a church & I enjoyed it much.

Rowland can have 4 weeks vacation anytime he chooses to take it but thinks he will not be able to visit us for want of money. We got a letter from Mother a short time ago. Her family is small. Haying is almost over. Father has not worked very hard.

Otis & I heard the Universalist preacher lately come to the 3d Maine yesterday forenoon. All he said was very wholesome & good & we were not dissatisfied. He is a genial man. It is a charming morning.

How much I would like to look in upon you at W.P. & kiss each of the children not to mention my sister Lizzie. Please kiss the children for me & charge to my acct. We are both very happy that the Lord has given you such a spirit of resignation to his blessed will.

As ever  
C.H.H.

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1323 8/5/1861

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1262

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Aug 5 1861.

My dearest Otis

I got a nice long letter from Charlie last, with your nice little money message at the bottom of one page. I can pay Mr Fuller as well as not. If he is in Washington I will send to you, if at Augusta I will get Uncle Edward to do it for me taking some of the money on deposit. Which Mr Fuller is it? And did you give your note? You just write me how it is, and I will explain to Uncle. I have only drawn the two hundred I mentioned to you before from Mr Bacon. Will you send an order for the money due on what you own in the Insurance company and then I will write to Mr Bacon. I shall have to have some more to settle up here before I leave, but I know not just the amount. There is \$143.00 on deposit in the Bank in Uncle's care, \$100.00 to Mr Fuller and the rest to take me home with what I shall have left. I shall find out how much I need to pay the bills here and write to Mr Bacon for the amount, and what is left with him I can leave or take as you think best. I shall have a great deal Interest after I get to Maine.

I shall have my boxes in a few days and as soon as they come I shall begin to pack, Piano first, Chairs and books next. I shall not work hard, and shall not hasten. I am very sorry you lost so many of your things, but am thankful you got off as you did. I can make you and Charlie as many shirts as you say now. I really have no sewing to do only my weekly mending and now and then a small garment for one of the children. This is the first time since our marriage that I can say - I have finished my sewing. Now if you wish me to do anything for you just tell me so, before I begin to pack, that (the packing) could be delayed a week.

The ladies here are making shirts, plain, dressing-gowns, bed-gowns, handkerchiefs, &c &c for the wounded. We meet every Tuesday and Friday from 9 to 12 am. Will send a box to Washington as soon as we get enough ready. I just thought you might come on to see us a day or two before we go to Maine would it be best? I don't above all things wish it, but thought perhaps you might.

The small-pox is really raging in Buttermilk-falls. All communication between here and that place cut off. Not even Mr Denton's wagon or the milk wagon allowed to come up.

I have just received a letter from you, Dearest. It is yours written Aug. 1 last Thursday. I hope Mr Mordecai will remain with you. I hear from Charlie that Mr Buel has left in disgust. He always looked as if he would be very easily disgusted, and I wish he was not so attentive to Miss Jasie McDougall. I heard of Mr Mordecai's father's family in Phila through Miss Fanny McD. who has been visiting in that city - and Baltimore. I shall ask Maria to call on them. I will write her soon.

Mrs Williams, Johnnie, Mottie and Miss Pamella Phillips spent last Thursday with me. We called to see Mrs Greble. I had a good long talk with Mr French. He wished to be remembered with much love to you, expressed thankfulness that so much grace was given me.

The order for the first class to graduate has been countermanded. Would John Weir be a good assistant? I know he went to New York to join the seventh. Again, when we expected they would be called out, a few days after the retreat. If everybody else is lazy and indolent, you do your duty, but don't kill yourself with work.

I will look at the paper (news paper) a moment then finish writing. I don't find much in the paper this morning. Yesterday a quiet Sunday in Washington. You know, do you not, that Gen McLellan's wife is Capt Marcy's daughter. We saw her here and called on herself and Mother at the Hotel I have no news to write and hav'nt written much of a letter. All quite well.

From your own  
Lizzie



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1324 8/5/1861

*From:* W. H. Owens

*To:* Col. O. O. Howard

OOH-1263

Brooklyn, New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn, New York

Aug 5, 1861

Col. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir:

You will probably recollect me as a member of the class below you at Bowdoin.

I am seeking a commission in the Army (regular or volunteers) & I write to solicit your influence & kind offices in my behalf.

I will state briefly the history of my life since I graduated that you may see how far I am fitted for the position I seek.

I went South immediately after graduation & taught school there, in Northern Miss & Southwestern Tennessee, two years, meanwhile studying Law a little. At the expiration of that time by the solicitation of an intimate friend, P.A. Engr. of the Memphis & Charleston R.R., I abandoned the idea of studying law & joined his Corps of Engineers. From that time for four years I was an assistant engineer on the M. & C. R.R. of the East Tennessee & Georgia R.R. I then went to Minnesota where during two years I was City Engr of the City of Stillwater, meanwhile having a contract for surveying Public Lands in executing which I had three months of very severe & trying experience of frontier camp life.

Two years since, the business of Surveying & Engineering in common with almost every other, having become nearly worthless, I returned home & resumed the study of law, entering the Columbia Coll Law School from which I graduated in May last. Soon afterwards I entered the "Sickles Brigade" as Qr. Master of one of its regiments, but yielded the place after serving a week, on the promise of Gen. Sickles of a 1st Lieutenancy in the Engineer Corps which he proposed to organize, meanwhile to hold the position of 1st Lieut. in the line. The matter has been in status quo ever since. Three regts of the "Brigade" have gone to Washington. Gen. Sickles is not a Brigadier, & probably never will be & the project of the Corps of engineers is of course abandoned.

Meanwhile I have acted as 1st Lieut "in attached" & waiting for something "to turn up" like Micawber. I have been assured all along by Sickles & the Col. of the regt. to which I was assigned that, if the first project failed I should have a 1st Lieutcy in the line.

The regt however, being now merged in what is called the 2d Regt Firemen Zouaves, is, I think, rapidly becoming disorganized & I think will go to the dogs altogether. It is a concern, too, with which on many accounts I am utterly disgusted, & nothing but a strong desire to go & a dislike to "back down" prevents me from abandoning the whole business at once. Even if the regt is completed I think that it will be impossible for the Col. to fulfil his promise, company officers in his regt being elected & the result would probably be that after waiting a month or two longer, I should be thrown out at last.

I write to you not with any great expectation that you will be able to do anything for me, but still hoping.

I desire if possible a 1st or 2d Lieut'cy in the Eng'r Corps or some kindred department. Of course the regular army would be preferable, but I suppose it would be very difficult to get a commission there - especially in the Engineers. Next to that I would prefer the position of Qr. Master.

Previously to this war I have had but little experience in military affairs; have belonged to two militia companies but not for any great length of time. During the last two months I have been continuously in camp, have attended the regular drills & have studied the books pretty assiduously. I think I am competent to fill the position of 1st Lieut in the line - at all events would be willing to stand the examination.

If, in the midst of your multitudinous & engrossing duties you can find time to give the matter a little attention, & will do so, you will greatly oblige me. From my knowledge of you & what I hear of your regt I should like very much to be with you. If that is impossible will you take the trouble to make enquiries & use your influence elsewhere. I can furnish all necessary testimonials as to character capacity &c, from Maine, N. York, & other states where I have lived. Should it not be possible for you to obtain anything for me at present, will you bear the matter in mind, for some future opportunity. A letter directed to 209 Henry St. Brooklyn, N.Y. (or simply to Brooklyn N.Y. will always reach me. Hoping soon to hear from you, I am

Very truly yours

W. H. Owens [William Henry Owens, Bowdoin Class of 1851. He received a commission as a Lt. in the 3rd Maine Volunteers in 1861.]

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1325 8/6/1861

*From:* Julia Buxton

*To:* Col [OO] Howard

OOH-1264

Warren Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0281]

Warren Maine August 6th 61

Col Howard

Will you pardon my taking the liberty of addressing you, and inform me if there has been or will be any measures taken for the release of one of your Surgeons Dr. B F Buxton who is a prisoner in The Southern Army. I have been told that there will be an exchange of prisoners. Do you think it is true? If so when will it take place and by whom will it be done. Can any one going from here have any influence or help it along in any way? Can a letter be sent by any means to the Dr? I see by this mornings paper that exertions are being made in favor of Mr Ely of the House but no mention made of other prisoners and also that Dr Williams who was reported to have been taken prisoner when Dr was, has returned home to Portland. How was he released?

By answering my enquiry as soon as possible you will very much oblige.

Julia Buxton

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1326 8/8/1861

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1260

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Aug 8 1861.

My dearest Otis

I have regretted ever since I wrote my last letter that I said anything about your coming to see us. I had rather you would do as you think best without my suggesting.

I send this little extract from the paper as the only thing I have seen about Mr Lee's 'Institute'. Aunt Martha Jane, Carrie and Freddie were at Leeds, and in company with Mother visited Ella and Rowland. They took Sarah's two eldest boys home with them to stay a while with Laura.

This is the first rainy day we have had for a long time. I have the children with me up stairs. Guy is very busy with his tools taking the hook and hinges off his broken toolbox "to take them to Maine to put on some other box." Grace has her Dr Hammonds baby, asleep now, but wishes me to tell her when I hear her cry. Jamie is creeping about throwing down towers that are built of blocks for him, and I am waiting for John to bring me the paper.

5 minutes later. He has come and brought me a welcome letter from Charlie a \$50. check enclosed. I fear you need the money more than I. It keeps the other longer though on interest.

I have not time to send to Johny Wier this morning and get an answer, but I have written him a note about it.

How would it do to write to Rowland to come on for me, and not take a girl. I would have to pay somebody's fare on and back, and if he would like to see you and visit you, if you are not here to see us! He could go on from here to you. I shall leave here this month. You write your answer to me, and I to Rowland when I learn what day I can leave if you cannot come to us, if you think it best. You can tell me what you think would be best. Mr Ware has taken Mr Pipers furniture so I can use it after I have packed as he will not move it till I leave.

Charlie says you are to leave your comfortable quarters, for a tent more in the rear of your forces. I guess I'll say I am glad of the latter.

I see by the morning paper Mr Mordecai's name attached to the 'Topogs' as second Lieut. I am sorry he is to leave you. I think you can make a place for John Weir if he will go and you would like him. I fear you work too hard. No news here and it is most mail time so no more at present.

Much love, many kisses, and earnest prayers of your own wife  
Lizzie

I direct all letters to Washington. Is that best?

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1327 8/8/1861

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1261

Hd Quarters 3d Brigade  
3d Divn  
Bush Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd Quarters 3d Brigade 3d Divn  
Bush Hill August 8th 1861

My dearest wife,

I received your good letter dated August 5th yesterday and presume as you did not say anything about the matter, that you & Guy & Grace & Jamie are well. The millers are as thick & troublesome that I can scarcely write. Gen'l McDowell with Prince Napoleon came into our vicinity this morning. The Prince passed on towards Richmond with a flag of truce accompanied by an escort. Gen'l McDowell stayed and reviewed all the troops in our immediate vicinity. He first reviewed Gen'l Kearney's brigade & then mine.

I heard yesterday from Senator Morrill that my name was put in first on the list of recommendations for the Brigadier Gen'l's commission, but so late that the appointment could not be made before the adjournment of Congress. Today I heard that my Brigade had been distributed. But McDowell says, Colonel, that action is not final. You shall not suffer, nor lose your Brigade or something of that kind. How it will be I don't know.

If John Wier would only come on I feel sure I can get him a lieutenancy in one of these Regiments. If I return to mine it shall be there. Perry Lee is Lieut in one of the Companies.

There are over an hundred sick in each regiment of this Brigade on an average. They are quite well cared for, though it is rather sickening to go through Clermont house where there are so many poor fellows together. I visited nearly every room last Sunday morning and tried to say a word for My Saviour to them. Charles thinks we fall far short of living such a life as Vicars & Havelock did.

I borrowed the \$100 of B.A.G. Fuller Esq of Augusta Me, but I think I was to pay the amount at the Augusta Bank at the end of 30 days. I have written to see if some arrangement cannot be made to allow me to pay it at the close of this present month. I also owe a bill for clothing that I should pay at the end of this month at Augusta. I sent you fifty dollars which I hope reached you in safety. I don't know as there is anything coming to me on the insurance stock. I have forgotten the name of the Company and have lost my Black book containing it, but I will write you the order & you can get some man to fill in the name from the Certificate of Stock in your possession.

I am sorry the Small Pox is so near you. Are Mrs Gray & Jennie at B. Falls still? & Mrs Roe? You must give my love to Mr French & thank him for his kind words & also remember me most affectionately to his family. If the bugs & flies & millers would keep off, I would write more. I wish I could look in upon the children tonight & yourself. Don't make Chas & me (us) anything to send here darling, for we don't want anything to lose. May God bless you all. Kiss the children for papa. Remember me to Susan & Catherine. Remember me affectionately to the Carrolls.

Your affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

Love to Mr Church & family & John Wier & to all the rest (Otis).

1328 8/8/1861

*From:* J.C. Hovey

*To:* O.O. Howard, Col.  
Commanding

OOH-1265

Augusta Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

[0286]

Augusta Maine August 8, 1861

To O.O. Howard, Col. Commanding

Dr Sir,

I recd your dispatch & in Ans will Say, your note is in the State Bank in this city for safe keeping & it will be better & more safe for you to Send the draft to the Cashier of said Bank. Then you will be perfectly sure of your paper or if you prefer you may send it to me. Either way will be safe & I will attend to it promptly.

We are greatly obliged to you for your promptness. I send the bill for insts. I have forgotten the price of one of the instruments but have got the aggregate amount all right. It would not be right for me to send a bill receipted so I am informed by those who pretend to know. I will do so if you wish it. The brass inst prices as follows viz:

To 2 Eb Cornets Brass \$30.00 each	60.00
" 2 Bb Do " \$32.00 "	64.00
" 2 Eb Altoes " \$40.00 "	80.00
" 2 Bb Tenors " \$42.50 "	95.00
" 1 Bb Basso " 70.00	70.00
" 2 Eb Bassos " 80.00	160.00
	<hr/>
	529.00
Manufacturers discount \$10 perct	52.90
	<hr/>
	476.10
One Bass Drum	28.00
" Ab, Basso & expense	45.90
" Ab Tenor	25.40
" pr. Symballs	15.00
" Eb Copper Cornet silver trimmed	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$630.40

the amount of your note is just six hundred & thirty dollars 40/100. If you find any thing wrong in the above Please inform me & I will make all right if possible

Your note is not in the Bank for collection only for safe keeping. I have purchased a set of inst on the strength of your note.

Our Band boys, send there love to our land boys, now in your command.

Please accept our best wishes for you all & may Gods blessings attend you all

Yours Respectfully  
In haste  
J.C. Hovey clerk of Band

To Col. O.O. Howard

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1329 8/8/1861

*From:* I. Washburn Jr

*To:* Col. O.O. Howard

OOH-1266

Augusta

3d Regt Me Vol.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0234]

Augusta Aug. 8. 1861

Dear Col.

I have your telegram in reference to commissioned officers & recruits.

Please inform me what vacancies exist in the companies, & who are designated to fill them, that we may know who to issue commissions to.

I shall soon commence recruiting for the Reg. till after haying is fairly over it will be rather hard work.

I have forwarded by Paymaster Robie some sheets & knives & forks for the 3d Reg. - & some things for the others.

I have seen Capt Savage & recd 22\$ bounty of John Tantish which I will forward to you, with his explanation in regard to Liunell & Macey. He says he has a furlough to Oct 6. I hope you will get rid of the poor timber among the officers as speedily as possible.

I enclose copies of petitions sent to me for members of four of your companies which would so far dishonor the State if I should make them public that I cannot do so. The men may be discouraged by reason of absence or inefficiency of their co-officers, but the idea of such large numbers of men who have enlisted for 3 years & recd their bounty & clothing asking to be discharged at the very commencement of their service is a most unpleasant one. Out of charity to them & respect for our noble State I have not published their request, & only persons in the office know of it.

You will make such judicious use of the facts I give you as you think fit. It would perhaps be well that the soldiers should understand their petition cannot be granted, that they may cease hoping for a discharge.

Yours truly,  
I. Washburn Jr

Col. O.O. Howard  
3d Regt Me Vol.

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1330 8/9/1861

*From:* A. W. Wilder

*To:* Col O.O. Howard

OOH-1267

Augusta Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[BOW - 0237]  
Augusta Maine  
Aug 9th, 1861

Col O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

I find that the people of Skowhegan & of Somerset County feel vexed & outraged, by the course which Capt Savage is pursuing remaining at home, at ease, while his company is exposed in the field. I found also during my visits at Washington that the members of his company were anxious for his discharge, & I doubt not that it would tend to restore confidence & be a source of great satisfaction (not only to his company) but to their friends at home if this could be accomplished. I learn that Capt. Savage is not intending to join his company before October & is comforting himself with the idea, that he can remain at home & draw his pay on an extended furlough. My own impression is that he never intends to rejoin his company, but holds on & draw pay to the last moment then resign. Cannot something be done? For really Capt S is a disgrace to his company & to this state. I write by order of the Governor.

Yours very truly  
A. W. Wilder (signed)  
ASC

[Written in another hand]  
Letter of A W Wilder  
respecting Capt Savage  
of August 9th 1861

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1331 8/10/1861 *From:* A. Wagg

*To:* Col. [OO] Howard

OOH-1268

Sangerville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Sangerville Aug. 10, 61

Dear Sir

I have a son in company I of the 3 Regiment by the name of C.W. Wagg, who is a minor and who enlisted and left the state without my knowledge or consent.

He was from home, about seventy miles at the time of enlistment, and I knew nothing of the matter until he informed me of the fact from Washington. His health was not good, and I should not have consented to his enlistment. I write to procure his discharge, and earnestly request you to render what assistance you can in accomplishing that object.

Were he in the enjoyment of sound health I should not ask that he be discharged from the service, but as it is, I feel it to be my duty to act differently.

I have petitioned the war Department for his discharge, and cannot doubt that when the case is rightly understood, my petition will meet a favorable answer.

The young man is not twenty years old.

Very Truly Yours

A. Wag

Col. Howard

[Written in another hand on the back]

A. Wagg

Aug 10 '61

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1332 8/10/1861     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1269

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[BOW - 299]

Farmington Aug. 10, 1861

Dear Bro. Otis

We have a little Son born about 8 ½ o'clock this a.m [David Patten Howard]. The little stranger took us quite by surprise, no one here but Sarah. Ella is so well that I feel as if I never had such cause for gratitude to God as I now have. No Dr. & no nurse when he was born, & Ella & I out calling last Evening! A Dr. Dr was here in about 15 mins.

Prof Harris preaches for me tomorrow. He was here at the crisis! Pray for me & my little one. We are drawn closer together by this new tie of sympathy.

Your letter was a dear welcome one. So was Charles'. We want to hear from you about the things to be made & forwarded for the Soldiers. Chas. Can consult Mrs Sampson & write us.

Love to Charles & Perry. I will write you more at length soon. We feel with your discouragements & afflictions & try to carry you daily before the throne of grace. Ella & I have tried to consecrate our little one to God in prayer.

Yr loving Brother  
Rowland

Tell C. Fuller called. He had received his letter.

Mon Morn

Ella is very nicely. Nurse came yesterday. Baby is little but good!

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1333 8/10/1861    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1270

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[BOW - 0289]  
Farmington Aug. 10, 1861

Dear Lizzie

God in mercy has given us a little son & dear Ella is quite nicely. He was born at 8 this a.m. We were alone except Sarah. The Dr. was not here till 15 mins after the child was born. I could not leave Ella & our girl could not find a Dr. But, thank God, He did better for us than we could have desired. Won't you join us in praising his mercy. Tell Guy & Grace & Jamie they have a little cousin.

Otis wrote me a good long letter, (his first) on the 4 inst.

Prof Harris preaches for me tomorrow. With a bushel of love to the dear children. In haste

Yr aff. Bro  
Rowland

Will you send Guys pony down East? When will you start from West Point? No house yet certain.

Mon. Morn:  
Ella is very nicely. Baby is little but very good!

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1334 8/10/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1271

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[BOW - 0291]  
West Point, Aug 10, 1861

My dearest Otis

I have written a note to Mr Bacon this evening to send Monday morning. I have so little time to write when I try to write in the morning. I want to get the mail before I begin and that is ten o'clock, and all letters must be at the Post Office by twelve o'clock. I was very happy to get a letter from you this evening. We have an evening mail from Washington, and as it was Saturday evening Mr Berard brought me my letter. It was written the 8th with the order enclosed. I received the check and acknowledged it in my last letter. If there is a Brigadier Gen'l made from our state I think, and so do others, that you ought to have it. If you do return to your regiment I shall insist that you come to see us before we go to Maine, providing we are here long enough for you to know what you are going to do.

In my last letter I wrote about Rowland's coming on to take me to Maine. I am anxious to know what you think is best. I don't think he would leave Ella alone the first of next month and would want to get back before the 28th of this month. I would't like to remain here after the 28th of this month, and would like to get away a few days before. I fear you have not enough clothing to make yourself comfortable. Are the sick provided with anything. I am thinking that when I get to Maine I shall get a contribution, and form a society, purchase cloth and make shirts (plain, bed-gowns, dressing-gowns (cabin double), handkerchief lint, linen (old), and send to you for your sick. I would like to do it, and there are enough who would like to help me. Will you tell me what you think of it? We are doing the same here now. Do not forget to tell me. You may suggest something better or something else to do. Have you sheets, pillow cases? I know you are provided with certain things, and we, or I, wish to send what would be useful that you could not get for the men otherwise.

I suppose you lost your dressing case. I am sorry you met with any loss, but such little things don't trouble me now. I do believe your absence was just the thing for my best good. I take it you do not wish me to pay Mr Fuller of Augusta at present.

Communication is opened between here and B. Falls. All cases of small pox are taken to Cox's house on the Eagle Valley road, or "up in the mountain". If you go to your regiment you will not have to work so hard.

Mr Carroll received a letter directed to Capt L.L. Carroll from the Treasury Dept, but has not officially received his promotion. He got a letter directed to Capt Carroll from Capt Griffin. I don't care much for promotion, rank &c. I will try to do my duty, and don't care much whether I get any credit or no. Charlie Carroll a Lieut in the 5th Artillery. When you see him you must ask him to tell you the Wine story including Mr Carter and myself. Guy went to ride with the Carrolls and we had supper little later, so your letter came as the children were finishing their evening prayers. I read it aloud to them, and when we came to Papa kisses we had quite a round of kisses, and Jamie his share.

Charlie said you were about to leave Bush Hill or rather Mrs Scott's house. I feel very much interested in her and her children, and my heart is filled with gratitude for her kindness to you. Have any of the officers I knew resigned from the 3d Regiment. I have never written to Mrs Sampson. I must try and do so. I presume she could tell me what would be acceptable to the sick men. Please remember me very kindly to her. My boxes I hear are all ready for me. I have done nothing about going away yet. Could you be appointed Brigadier Gen'l without its being confirmed by Congress? I wonder what other names were sent in with yours. Do you know? Is't the State entitled to a Brigadier Gen'l.

I seem to have left my letter Saturday evening, Dearest, with a few ambitious sentences it would seem. I got no letters this Monday morning. We are all very well this morning. I want to know if I may expect to see you before I go away. You must tell me plainly what you think, and I will not be disappointed if you say me nay. You will know best what to do. I do hope you do not preserve my letters after you have once read them, they are written in great haste and I would like them not thrown down but destroyed. Will you do so. No more this time. I hear

the Cadets firing big guns. I might imagine a battle taking place, but I wont. The children are all (<Katie>) playing in the back hall and as I am up stairs I will close without their messages.

Your own Lizzie

Mrs Gray and Jennie at the Falls, and Mr Roe as yet.

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1335 8/12/1861 *From:* E.G. Savage

*To:* Col O O. Howard

OOH-1273

Solon

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0301]

Solon Aug 12th 1861

Col O O. Howard

Dear Sir

I have recovered my health so as to ride out in fair weather think I shall be able try one <cad> the present weak; the bounty for Tantish I passed to Department of State suppose it is sent you for him before this. I am 40 lbs lighter than when I started for Washington the 5th of June.

I would like to know if there is <men> wanted to take the place of those discharged in 3rd Reg - if so how they are to be got to Washington. I think there is enough in this vicinity that would like to go when I Return.

Please write

Respectfully & Truly Yours  
E.G. Savage

[written in another hand on the back page]  
Capt Savage

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1336 8/13/1861 *From:* John R. Bacon

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1274

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0252]  
New York  
Aug 13 / 61

Dear Mrs Howard

I recv'd your note with the enclosed order for interest on stock. The only insurance stock of Col Howard that I know any thing of is in the Washington Marine Ins Co. and tomorrow I will go there & draw the interest.

I am very sorry to hear that your husband lost his papers - such a loss it is hard to replace.

When will he be coming this way again? May the good Lord spare him and bring him back again to his loved & loving ones.

Why cant you come & make us a visit? My wife would be so glad to have you, and the children could roam about with mine, to their hearts content.

Your draft for money shall be honored when presented.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you at our place, but if you cannot give us a visit let me know when you pass through the city, so that I may call upon you, and if I can be of any service in shopping or any other way don't hesitate to command me, for it would give me great pleasure to serve you for the sake of your noble husband whom I love & honor so much.

I shall expect to hear from you if there is any thing I can do for you

& I am, Yrs very sincerely  
John R. Bacon

Aug 14  
I enclose you 2 checks for interest on Insurance stock to date.

I wish I had persuaded the Col to put more money into that company for he has received so far for 1 ½ years 13 ½ percent interest.

J.R.B.

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1337 8/14/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My precious Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1275

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0293]

West Point Aug 14, 1861 Wednesday Eve

My precious Otis

I must write you part of a letter this evening for I have good news to communicate and quite a number of messages. I got a short letter from Rowland this morning. Ella has a son. I suppose Rowland would come for me the last of the month. Mrs Gray and Jeanie walked up here this afternoon, wished to be remembered to you, and also Mr Beebe sent a long, affectionate message to you. It is very pleasant to me to have people remember, and speak of you so kindly. Mr Roe has gone to Mrs Berard's (Roberts) to board. The Grays are to go away before the first of Sept. I see our Mr Bigelow is Consul to Paris. I got a reply to my letter to Mr Bacon and will you believe it forty dollars \$40.00 interest on stock up to date Aug 14th. I will send you his letter.

This being "Hop" night Cadet Smith came to see me, and brought me some of his pictures to take to his Mother. He will not ask his brother to come here, as he is not to graduate at present. I would not have troubled you with anything about my getting home, if Charlie had not said that Rowland was entitled to a vacation, but thought he could not go to see you and him for want of funds. I thought I could as well pay his fare as anybody's else. I am waiting to learn what you will say.

I sent Mr Denton your \$50.00 fifty dollar check or rather check of fifty dollars to pay his bill of \$43.00 forty three dollars.

I left my letter to take, and rock dear little Jamie to sleep just now. I know you would like to kiss his little velvety cheek to-night and take a look at us all. I will finish this some other time. Hope to hear from you again very soon and from Charlie.

Friday Morning

Dearest. I hoped to get a letter from you this morning, but it seems I did not. I don't believe you can leave to visit us. There may be someone from where you are, going to Maine the last of this month. Don't think because I say so much about it that am worried about getting home.

I feel a little disgusted with the world this morning. I have been reading different reports of the battle at Bull's Run. This one calling the attention to someone who was very active, another who rendered efficient service to another for coolness, as if no body else did anything. Every body should have done what they could, and they would only have done their duty. I am like Mr Shunk, a Brevet for doing one's duty is absurd.

I hope you are as well as we are this morning. It is a delightfully cool morning. I have seen no report from you. I am going to the Academic Building to sew for the soldiers as soon as I finish this. I hope I can make something of service to you and your sick when I get home. Children out playing. Much love to Charlie.

Wholly your own

Lizzie

I cannot visit Mr Bacon but will see him before I go away.

I will want very little money from him. I sold the sofa, parlor table, your desk, to Mr Denton. I had to drop two tears when the latter went yesterday. I have very little left to sell.

Lizzie

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1338 8/15/1861 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro Charles  
[Howard]

OOH-1276

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0200]

Farmington Aug 15, 1861

Dear Bro. Charles

I have not succeeded in getting answers to two questions that I have asked a no. of times. One is - "do you want any of the newspapers that I have"? I will send any of them if you desire it - if not - most of them are valuable to keep. I send the "Mirror", of this week, containing a very well written acct. of Commencement &c. The other question is whether the ladies of this town can add anything to your Hospital stores, & if so, what? One other thing. I promised our washer woman to inquire for her son Alsbury Luce, private in Scowhegan Co of 3d Reg. She thinks he may be in the Hospital with measles. Can you not see him & give her some information? Tell him she & her family (I saw her at a Ladies aid meeting yesterday) are well now. Ella & the little one are nicely. Mrs Patten came Tues. evening & will stay some time. We propose to call him David Patten now.

We had an excellent prayer meeting last evening. Jacob Abbott Lane (Rev) Lyman & Edw. & Geo. Perkins were there & took part. Rev. A. Morrill sends his love to Otis. His 2d little girl is about a week old. Col Illsly of the 5th is his cousin.

Dellie's declamation is highly commended in the papers. He is at home now & wrote me a singular letter about the baby.

Dr Harris preached two excellent Sermons for us last Sab. In the P.M. on the text "This is your hour & the power of darkness" - he discussed the principle that Satan is always active when Christ is. Without alluding directly to passing events, he thoroughly treated the whole subject of the war & its causes. The only question of final success seems to me to be, will the people - on whom rests this Republican Government have sufficient self-denial & pluck - to carry it through? Will they endure taxes, disappointments, defeats - will they be willing to suffer terribly in all ways to sustain our Government? At present, indications are favorable, the people do better than their leaders - but my hope is in Him who turneth their hearts as the rivers of water are turned. If He has thus undertaken to deal with a gigantic moral wrong & social Sin - He will provide the means. It will not do to announce that the logical result of this terrible conflict is the abolition of Slavery & temporary material ruin to this Country because - you thus drive off those who are willing to wage the war for other ends - but my mind is settled on this as the great moral end to be approached, if not arrived at in this contest. And this is not an interested but a merely philosophical view of the whole matter. We as a nation are having a cancer drain out, that is seated on our very vitals. We may die in the process, but God's will be done. I would prosecute the war till the Gov. is acknowledged throughout the nation. Between this & that, there are years of sorrow & blood. God give us strength to do our little part in His great work! I feel in my Soul that every reverse will only make me more determined & I sometimes feel as if I would speak words of encouragement & truth - words calculated to make men cheerfully suffer - into the <Ears> of this whole nation. God has plan for each of us. Do you remember Bushnell's Sermon?

Do you know anything of McLellans Religious character? Will Otis be com. As Brig. Gen? We hear our del. In Congress recommended him - with others. If God puts him forward in place & influence, he must be more constant in prayer. He must guard against impulse & try to act more & more on a system & in accordance with principle. I hope his frankness, generosity & entirely democratic feeling - may still give him influence, & not detract from the Service & duty his country expects of him.

Dellie & mother wrote Monday & Tuesday. They are well. Ella sends her love to each of you. We will look for Lizzie now before long.

Fri. Morn: All well this morn. Letter from home last night. Same there. It seems we are having trouble in Missouri.

But Good Bye. God bless you both.

Yr aff Bro  
Rowland

Love to Perry. Sarah & family are well.

[Written in another hand]  
R. B. Howard  
Aug 15th '61

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1339 8/15/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1277

Hd. Quarters 8th  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0294]

Hd. Quarters 8th Brigade  
August 15, 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I find it is now eleven o'clock P.M. but as I am on a General Court Martial tomorrow and will have little time to write I will just write you darling, a few lines on business.

1st. I have got the payment of Mr Fuller of Augusta put off till I can pay him at the end of this month. 2nd. I could'nt think of going home as delightful as it would be even if I could get a leave after having refused so many poor soldiers.

I think your plan for the sick a good one - but don't work, Lizzie, too hard for you have a precious & absorbing charge in those little ones, "olive branches" around you.

You will notice that we have been differently brigaded. I am the ranking Colonel & am still in command, but Colonel Sedgewick is assigned to this brigade as actg. Brigadier-General. I understand that he don't want to come and will try to effect a change. I made up my mind that I was to go back to my Regiment. The Regiment is in a bad condition, sadly demoralized. They lack clothing & shoes - half of them sick & nearly all crying to go home. McLellan's inspector today found the Arms in a wretched condition.

I learned tonight that some of the officers, those that I thought much of, had been robbing Clermont after the Command left. I shall investigate the matter tomorrow. Bishop Johns' fence has been used for tent floorings. Corn & potatoes & vegetables are used without asking. Now I don't allow these things - and they keep me in much trouble. Even if we are prayed for we keep growing worse & worse. How can the Lord bless such troops.

Poor Charlie is quite ill & gets poor care from me. He has considerable fever. He is always a great comfort & help to me. You must change my direction to 8th Brigade. I should be very glad if Rowland would come & take you to Maine, if he could do so.

You ask if I could be appointed Brigadier General without the approval of Congress. Yes, to be confirmed when Congress met. The other names sent in with mine are Col Jameson of the 2nd Maine & Major Prince, paymaster of the Army. If any influential man should solicit my appointment I might get it, but I have nothing to say.

Charlie takes care of your letters for me. I hope Charlie will not have a long time of illness. It is not best for me to leave now, Lizzie. Mr Mordecai thinks I have sweet little children & so do I. God bless them & help them to grow up to do his will. Good night, my precious wife. My kindest regards to the Carrolls, Frenchs, Churchs & Wiers & all friends. Many kisses to Guy & Grace & Jamie.

Very affectionately your husband,  
Otis

I am two miles nearer Alexandria than when I wrote last.

How is Miss Blanch & the Sunday School? My kindest remembrances.

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1340 8/15/1861

*From:* John L. Hodsdon  
Adj. Genl

*To:* Col O. O. Howard

OOH-1278

State of Maine  
HEAD QUARTERS  
Adjutant General's  
Office,  
Augusta

Comg Brigade 3

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[0296]

[Letterhead]

State of Maine

HEAD QUARTERS

Adjutant General's Office,

Augusta

[End of Letterhead]

Augt. 15 1861

Dear Col. -

Private

Allen Partridge Compy B, 3d Regt, is quite out of health & his friends are anxious that he should have a furlough for 2 months. If your duties will permit you to enquire of the Surgeon relative to his condition, I think you will find his case one deserving consideration & you can safely recommend to Gen Mansfield that leave be granted him.

Yrs truly

John L. Hudson

Adgt. Genl

Col O. O. Howard

Comg Brigade 3

[Written in another hand]

Col O.O.H

Dear Sir

Allen Partridge is very poorly & I fear he will never be able to do the duties of a soldier.

Maj Belpet, G. S. Palmer

[written in another hand, OOH]

Gen'l Hodsdon

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1341 8/16/1861      *From:* Aunt Ann Otis Lee      *To:* Lizzie & Otis [Howard]

OOH-1279                      West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point August 16 [1861]

My Dear Lizzie & Otis

I was glad to hear you were all of you quite well again by Mr Wrights letter, and that you are enjoying your summer so well on the whole you had rather have been at Augusta while Guy was sick on account of the phisitions, there. We are enjoying West-Point - the birds are not quite as merry as when I first came but this is a delightful place and I shall never be able to thank you enough for letting us come. Perry will have been so much happier here than at board in the city. His health has been as much benefitted as mine.

I went to New York the 11th inst - and returned the 12th. Dr Riesar says there is not quite as decided improvement - as he had hoped but the disease is arrested and I am comfortable - and can enjoy every thing about me. Every one here is kind to me. Mrs Delfield [Delafield] enquired if I had vegetables in the garden and seemed very kind and neighbourly & Mrs Wear [Weir] too has been very kind and the Berards too. Blanch Berard has written from England, she is having a delightful summer there and thinks of spending a year if her mother can spare her.

Lieut Grebble went off finely. They were married in the little church. She had verry fine wedding presents a great deal of silver plate - of every useful article from a tea service to salt spoons every thing one could desire. They are at Niagara. We sent their cards to you did you receive them. Mr & Mrs Milne were quite charmed with West Point are going to return here in Sept. They are gone to Canada. Perry met them in the cars the day they arrived. Mrs Milne is an old friend of his. She passed a day with me while her husband went down to New York for their luggage. Mr & Mrs Bacon were at West Point the day I was at New York so I missed of seeing them.

We had letters from Frank and Sarah last week. Frank is quite well. They write in good spirits. Sarah says she likes the quiet of Nassau and is happy. The children are well. Grenville is coming on soon. Harriet & Edwin are in Maine. I was at the Chappel yesterday morning. We had a fine sermon from Rev. Mr Burr - of Boston. I only go out once a day. Lieut Roberts took dinner with us & Mr Wright spent the evening. Every one here seems so kind and affectionate to you that I do wish you were going to be here for life. But I suppose there are other places in the army where you are pleasantly scituated - but every thing here is charming and I do feel that God has blessed your labours here & enabled you to honour his name and cause. Those who do not profess religion themselves, do <seem> to honour an earnest Christian. We have letters from Silas often. He writes good and kind letters. All send love to you. Give my love to Roland & Charles. Tell them I wish they would write to me. It would be so pleasant to get letters from them. Where is Rodelphus. Are you all at home together and are Roland & Ella with you at Leeds. Some of you must write to me just a line or two.

I have written this since the sunrise gun was fired and the breakfast is just ready. Ellen is an invaluable girl. She takes all the care upon herself so that I quite feel as if I was her guest. Mary Ann has not got a place. She is [here] quite often. Give a great deal of love to your Mother and Col. Gilmore to Ensign and family John Harrison - and all enquiring friends. Kiss the dear children for me. And with much love to yourselves from Perry and myself. I am as ever your affectionate

Aunt Ann Otis Lee

P.S. Perry has some prospect of getting a vessel from Mr. Tupper. I do hope he will as Mr Tupper is a good man & a christian.

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1342 8/17/1861     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1281

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0257]

Farmington Aug 17, 1861

Dear Bro. Otis

I have had a call this morn. From Rev. Mssrs Fiske, Webb, & Whittlesey who are on a horseback excursion. I read them your last letter & we talked much about you & Charles. Mr W. says give them my love & tell them, my heart is with them & my prayer is that God may shield them in the hour of battle. Mr W said will you not tell him as coming from one who loves him, that men say that he is more observant of moral then military delinquencies. i.e. you take more notice of drinking & swearing than you do of violations of military law. If you would maintain your influence as an officer & thus do your military duty, would it not be well to carefully consider your course in this respect? Your power to do the men & officers good morally will depend much on their respect for you as a disciplinarian. Do you not need to screw yourself up to more sternness & severity, if needs be, in discipline. Do try not to worry yourself in regard to immoralities wh. You can not help. I cannot think it much use on the whole for you to "preach" to the men. Let the Chaplain do that - a few words from you in favor of Religion at the proper time - backed up by a devout life will do more than arguments or appeals from you. Your position will secure you respectful attention at the time - but results will show that you will lose influence - & that your officers & men will not respect & obey you so well - as they would if you kept them more at arms length.

Let Charles read this letter & talk with him privately about my views. I have the good of my brothers - the good of my Country & the good of Christ's cause at heart - & if I err - it will be for want of sound judgment. O that God would give you wisdom & discretion as well as faith & zeal. Not that you do not possess these but how much you need the divine supply in your place.

Ella & baby are nicely today. Mrs Patten has been here since Tues night. Rev Lyman Abbott preaches for me half a day tomorrow. We have cool, beautiful weather & I wish you could be here to enjoy it.

Sab. Morn. [8/18] Ella & the little one still continue to thrive. We have a beautiful Sabbath. I wish you & Charles could be here to enjoy it with us. We try to remember you before God, where you are. Mr Goff said that father & mother came up to Livermore Falls with him last night to spend the Sab. With Geo. Lothrop I presume. No meeting at Leeds, Mr Chapin being away on his vacation. I enclose a letter from Warren L. written, I presume before the late battle, when Gen Lyon was killed.

3 P.M. We had two excellent Sermons from Mr Abbott today. He is settled at Terre Haute Ind. And is a very earnest & good preacher. This morn. The subject was the uses of affliction. This P.M. Work out your own Salvation &c. His style is very much like Beechers. After the Services or rather at their close, I married a couple. It was my first wedding, but I got thro! Without blundering, & felt as if the ceremony had taken nothing from the solemnity of the Sermon.

Three Sons of Jacob Abbott are here & I do not feel so alone in view of our prayer meeting this Eve. As I sometimes do. Lyman (Rev.) Austin- (Lawyer & Dea. In N.Y.) & Edward, in Theol. Semry. At Andover. It is a truly godly family.

Mr Whittlesey is candidate for the Prof. of Rhetoric at Bowdoin. Sarah & family are well except that the children - especially Timmy - have had colds. If it were not for these terrible colds & sore throats, I would urge Lizzie's coming much more strongly. But if she gets a good warm house & plenty of wood convenient, she will be comfortable. Will Guy bring his pony? Dr Garcelon has written us about the Hospital supplies & we will get a box off this week, I hope. Some are joining the 7th Reg. from this place. I wish I knew whether that will be in your Brigade. Do you think you will be com. As Brig Gen soon.

Your loving Brother,  
Rowland

Give much love to Chas & Perry.

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1343 8/18/1861 *From:* Mrs Haskell

*To:* Col. [O.O.] Howard

OOH-1280

Readfield

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0298]

Readfield, Aug 18 61

Col. Howard,

Feeling as I now do, I cannot resist the inclination of writing you and freeing my mind in regard to some certain things, which concern yourself as well as me. When we intrusted those many loved ones and noble brothers under the care and protection of Col. Howard, how thankfull many a throbbing heart felt, to think the dear ones had so kind hearted and so good a comander - and how thankful we were to our Heavenly Father in giving you to them as thair leader. But how that confidence has been misplaced and abused - you must know as well as do we all. It was and is yet hard to believe that you are not what you seemed to be - for we not only know by public letters but by private ones - how sadly neglected our brave soldiers are. And we well know that it is through your mismanagement negligence and unfeelingness that has caused this shameful neglect. There are provisions anough in store all ready - and good wholesome food provided by the government for our soldiers. I don't mean mouldy wormy hard bread and tainted meats such as they are now having - that is not the kind of food that government has provided for her army. But that, that is wholesome and good and it is your duty to see that they have such food. Col. Howard I was uterly astonished when I was obliged to believe that such was your conduct and neglect. You who profess to be a christan man - one who pertends to do your duty to God and your fillowmen to so abuse that profession. But God is your judge - not me - and remember He will judge you by your acts - not by your words and pretensions. Remember how many souls are trusted in your care, you to guide and give them examples of nobleness - and with how much more willingness they would follow those examples if they were pure and true than they will now do - knowing that the one who gives them now is doing it under false colors. I have referance to your christan influence. Every man has a little ambition about him and love the praise of the worlds many tongues and I doubt not but that you are possessed with a little of those feelings - and in order to gain the good opinion of the world, you must do your duty - and diferantly from what you have done - for public opinion is getting against you fast. I tell you this to warn you of a danger ahead - larger perhaps than you now think.

You are now placed in a position where you can do a great deal of good , or much evil - and if you try to do right and your duty - you will accomplish a noble work with God your helper. But if you neglect that duty, I don't envy you your future. If you think this rather plain and palpable - my reasons are because I have loved ones under your protiction - and am interested in thair welfare.

From one who knows

Aug. 18, 1861 Mrs. Haskell

Answered

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1344 8/19/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1282

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[290]

West Point N.Y. Aug 19, 1861

Monday Evening 8 o'clock

My dearest Otis

I did not hear at all from you last week. I wanted a letter very much Saturday evening. One came but John did not bring it over till Sunday morning careless boy that he is. I wish you would write ten words, and send often. I trust you will do so after I leave here. I shall want to hear oftener there as I shall have no other way of hearing of you. I shall not have the Army news that I do here.

I am not disappointed that you are not coming to see us. I didn't much expect you could. I have written to ask Rowland if he will come for us. I shall pay his fare but I much rather you would not give him any money. I shall have considerable money coming from this furniture &c. Before I begin working for your sick I shall write to Mrs Sampson, I trust she is with you yet, and have her suggest to me what I had better do for them. I will not work too hard or neglect these dear little ones.

Grace is beginning to be thoughtful like Guy. I am very glad. All asleep now. Guy was the last awake and gave me a kiss to send papa, and said he would write another letter after Papa wrote him again. He took so much pains with that letter of his to you, if one letter did not look to suit him, I had to rub it out and he would try till it was right. I sat by him all the time ready to do so, and to direct him.

Who is Col Sedgwick? And what business has Major Price to have the rank of Brig Gen? I see the 'Herald' gives you a slight puff. Can't your regiment draw clothing and shoes. Write me about the robbery of Clermont house will you. There are a great many questions I think I might ask then I can conclude not to trouble you with them for nothing will be lost if I go without knowing.

I passed John Weir, told him I had a message that "you said if he wanted a Lieutenancy to go on". I am sorry if it is time that General Officers of Volunteers will not be permitted to select their aides-de-camp from the officers of the regular Army. I think the papers to-day make one feel a little down hearted if the rebels are to try to invade Maryland. Many are thinking Secretary Emerson more loyal to his pocket than to the Government. There is indeed great lack of loyalty everywhere. Men are not up and doing, as they ought to be.

Mr Roe came to say good bye this afternoon. He will not remain longer at the Falls. Wished me to give kindest remembrances to you. I wrote to Rowland that I should be ready to leave here any time after the first of next week, but could remain comfortably one week or more. Mr Ward will not disturb Mr Piper's room until I have gone. Blanch was in this afternoon says the Sunday School moves on steadily. She instructs her girls every Friday evening. Mr Smith has the charge. Mr Murray and Hamilton I think are in the school also. They were going and I have not asked since. Mr Burrows and family are here. He has preached two Sundays, better sermons than last year. He saw and recognized you from the sidewalk when you went through Boston with the Regiment.

I regret to hear of Charlie's being sick. I do hope he is better by this time. I shall miss his letters if he is long sick.

Morning. I do not expect letters this morning so I will not wait for the mail. We are all well and I do hope you both are. I am going to the sewing room.

Your own Lizzie

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1345 8/19/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dear Sister Ella  
[Howard]

OOH-1283a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[300]

19th Aug. [1861]

My dear Sister Ella

I ought to have written immediately after the receipt of Rowland's letter to congratulate you on the birth of that dear little babe, but last week was a very busy one for me, and I had'nt much time to myself. I have sold most of my furniture, and this week I shall pack everything and shall be ready to leave here any time after the 26th of this month, but could remain in the house one week or more comfortably as there is one bedroom furnished and it is not to be removed 'till after I leave. Charlie wrote that Rowland could have a furlough (was entitled to one) but thought he could not visit them for want of funds. Could you let him come on to visit them and take us home? I would pay his travelling expenses both ways, providing he would like to come, and you would want him to leave you. If he comes I shall take no girl on with me. It would cost no more for him than for a girl and I can get none to remain that I would like.

The idea occurred to me after what Charlie wrote. He can do as he thinks best. I do not insist upon it, but if he prefers to come I would like him to. I would not have him put himself or you to any inconvenience. I wrote to Otis to ask him and he answered that, he would like Rowland to if he could do so, and that is all was said about it. Otis' letters are very short, and never many sentences on the same subject.

Charlie was quite ill when he wrote last Thursday, but hoped he would not be long. He had considerable fever. Otis says he is a great comfort and help to him. Senator Morrill told him that his name was sent in for Brigadier Gen's commission first on the list, the other names were Col Jameson (and the papers yesterday said he had resigned and gone home, because he expected and did not get promotion) and Major Prince paymaster of the Army. He says "if any influential man should solicit my appointment I might get it but I have nothing to say". He is the ranking Colonel, and still in command. His Regiment is in a bad condition, sadly demoralized - they need clothing and shoes, half of them sick, and nearly all crying to go home. Poor things I do pity them. I asked Otis to come to West Point before we left, but he said "I could'nt think of going home as delightful as it would be even if I could get a leave after having refused so many poor soldiers." I did'nt much think he could. He did not keep Guy's pony. It did not prove as good a one as we wished. He is to have one though, but not just now.

But how are you Ella dear. I do so much want to see that little fellow. I told Guy and Grace and she exclaimed breathless, "and what is his name?" I do hope you are doing well and gaining every day. I fear, as usual, in the country, everybody will want to see you too soon. You ought not to see anybody till baby is three weeks old, if you gain as fast as possible. I do know it is better to keep quiet. You will be surprised at Jamie, he is so immense. Baby [David Patten Howard was born 10 Aug 1861.] is nine days old but I hope you have not been up yet, and will not till this letter reaches you. One has to exercise a great patience but so much depends on a good getting up.

Charlie writes that I must stop at Leeds. I presume I shall do so, and get to house-keeping afterward. Rowland might not want to come during the warm weather, but I must leave now. I prefer to that is. He could see Otis and Charlie more when they are not moving, and they are near Washington. I want to hear from Rowland immediately, this week, telling me yes or no.

Much love to you all and kisses to the little one.

I remain yours affectionately  
Lizzie

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1346 8/19/1861 *From:* E. G. Savage

*To:* Col. O.O. Howard

OOH-1284

Solon, [Maine]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[332]

Solon Aug 19th 1861

Col. O.O. Howard

Sir

I Recd a note from you dated Aug 8 1861 asking me to Resign that there might be officers in my company.

I must say that I was surprised at Receiving such an invitation, and entirely unable to account for it. I think you must recollect the Request of Gov Washburn & Adjetant Gen Hodsden to you & your Request asking a furlough for me for four months, to close up my Business in Court - a part of said furlough has been granted, with the Right of asking an extension, which I have asked; will you write and explain as I wish to do right. I have fulfilled my part of the contract to the letter, as it was understood that I was to have the time above stated to close up my court business, and I desire the arrangement should be carried out on the other side; if it is, you will find me at my post prompt at the time and ready for duty, if God gives me health and strength. I await an answer.

Respectfully yours

E. G. Savage

PS I hope my health will be suffeshently recovered that I may be able to Return to Washington in fifteen or twenty days.

E.G.Savage

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1347 8/19/1861    *From:* J.S. Houghton, M.D.    *To:* Col. O.O. Howard

OOH-1285

Solon Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[303]

Solon Maine

Aug. 19th, 1861.

Col. O.O. Howard

Sir,

Cap E.G. Savage of your Rig. Has been quite sick with fever since he came from the army, and he has not as yet fully recovered from that sickness. It certainly would not be prudent for him to return now, his health is not sufficient for the journey. I have been his physician during his sickness, and simply give you a plain statement of his case.

Very rspt yours,  
J.S. Houghton, M.D.

[Written on the back, probably by OO Howard]

Capt Savage

Aug 19th 1861

It does'nt need an answer.

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1348 8/21/1861     *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1286

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[307]

Leeds, Aug 21, 1861 -

My dear Brother: [Charles Howard]

We received your letter tonight. Mother will probably send you or Otis a package by the 7th Reg. which goes on Friday of this week. There are a number from Leeds in that Reg. The Second Lieut. Of the Monmouth Co. is from Leeds and many of the men from N. Leeds. Warren Woodman is Captain of the Wilton Com. To be in the 7th or 8th Regs - the 8th goes next week as early as they can be got ready. The 9th will be formed immediately after as a reserve corps. The 1st are making arrangements to go and it is said will soon be reorganized and start for the war.

On Saturday p.m. Father, Mother and I went up to Livermore Falls, where we remained till Monday. We found Geo & Huldah [Lothrop. Huldah was Col. Gilmore's daughter and Dellie's half-sister.] and the girls nicely. I had a pleasant time. Father & Mother returned on Monday morning, but I went to Farmington. Rowland met me at the depot. He was very well in appearance. Ella is getting well fast. She was sitting up when I reached there and sat up about half the time while I was there. The little one, alias, David Patten Howard doesn't seem much like a human being. He is a little bunch, which sleeps nearly all the time and very rarely makes much noise in the way of crying. I expect he will look much different when I see him again, if he and I live until next Spring.

Sarah [Sargent] is looking nicely and her children appear very healthy. She is very patriotic and an enthusiastic Republican. She gets very much excited over every newspaper, which contains news from the seat of war. She had a letter from Perry [Lee - Sarah's brother] last night written at Flagg Hill. Is that the place of your present residence?

Mrs. Patten, Anna Hattie, Horace Mrs. Hinckley of Leeds, and Mary Avery constitute the appendages to Rowland's regular family at this time.

Rowland has a splendid situation on a hill north east of the village which is overlooked by it. Trees are growing all about the yard and the view through them is beautiful. The house is almost elegantly furnished. The parlor is very nice and the study is all that he could desire. The people are very kind to him and Ella, furnishing them with the nice things from their gardens.

I am going back to Brunswick in a week from today to commence my Junior Year. Notwithstanding my suspension I am half through College.

The Androscoggin R.R. is nearly completed. It is finished to Lewiston from Brunswick and graded to Leeds Junction and the track is laid to within about seven miles of the Junction. I fill my letter mostly with matters of news, supposing that such will be most interesting. Oscar said that Mr. Walton, M.C. from Auburn told him Otis was appointed Brig. Gen., but the papers tonight say that Prince is appointed. The New York Herald has a eulogy on Otis and says that Gov. Washburn was the cause of his not being appointed. It seems that in the Cong. Delegation Otis had most votes and Prince only one. How is it? We are anxious to know the facts.

Please write me at Brunswick, for I shall be there ere your next letter reaches me. Mother sends four prs. Socks for Otis and 3 prs. For you - also two undershirts for Charles. If there is anything mother can do for you please write immediately before the 8th Reg. goes. There is for John Keene a bundle sent by Josie & Mrs Gilbert with much love.

Your aff. Bro.  
R. H. Gilmore

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1349 8/21/1861     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1287

Alexandria Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[178]

Alexandria Va. August 21, 1861

My dear Mother,

I am here in Alexandria sitting on a Court Martial. This is the fourth day. Poor Charlie has been sick, but is now so much better that he is going out today. My heart aches that I have been able to give him so little care & time. He had a slow fever, and was quite bilious. He has had a house to be in & Mrs Sampson has done many things for him. I shall return to my regiment today and I hope to be more at leisure; at any rate I shall have less responsibility and that is a great deal in an enemies' country. Charlie has been of great service to me - he has been with me all the time and it is hard to get on without him. I think he is going through a process of acclimation and will be the better for his temporary illness. We have had several days of rainy weather.

Friday - I resume my letter this morning at the Court room.

Col. Sedgwick has taken command of our new Brigade and seems to be an excellent officer. I understand today that he is to be a Brigadier General. I do not think I desire the promotion, certainly not for itself, but I do not like any implied dereliction of duty, nor incapacity. I would rather it would be openly stated what my faults are. But, I do not think any officer over me would willingly imply any military delinquency. So when a new division is made and a Brigade does not fall to me, I go to my Regiment and try to do my duty. It is spiritually healthy to be disappointed once in a while when you find your heart beginning to desire worldly distinction for its own sake. I am afraid I have not done much good during this campaign, but I have tried to do right and have no business with the results, only to learn wisdom from them for future use.

I hear you have been up to see "George & Huldah" at Livermore Falls. Oh, I have not spoken of the accession to the ranks of your grandchildren & my nephews - another little "olive branch". I must answer Rowland's last letter as soon as possible. I have already congratulated him. I hope it is the will of God to raise up one born in these troublous times for his own honor & Glory.

How is father. Give him my love - tell him there are now about 30,000 troops on this side of the Potomac - that our Brigade consists of the 3d & 4th Maine, the 38th New York & the Mozart Regiment, that we are the advance troops on the Leesburg turnpike, though Gen'l Kearny is in advance of our left with his Brigade. We are just getting our clothing. Clean shirts & new shoes go a long way towards making poor fellows contented away from home.

I don't know exactly when nor with whom Lizzie will go on. I was in hopes Rowland would have had a recess & take the journey to West Point and if possible have extended it to Virginia.

I hope Dellie is well. Charles is quite smart today.

Very Affectionately

Your Son

Otis

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1350 8/22/1861    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1283b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Written at the bottom of the preceding letter from Lizzie to Ella dated 8/19/1861.]

Farmington Aug. 22, 1861

Dear Otis

In accordance with Lizzies kind proposal I will leave here Monday Morn & hope to reach West Point Wednesday & Washington as soon as possible thereafter. I will find Mr Farwell, if I can, & find out some way to reach you. I feel anxious for Charles - there is so little vigor in his constitution. Give him my deepest love & tell him to constantly look to Jesus.

Your loving Bro.  
Rowland

---

1351 8/22/1861     *From:* [Americus Fuller]

*To:* My Dear Charles [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1288

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[306]

Bangor Aug 22 1861

My Dear Charles:

I am sorry I have neglected so long to answer your last letter, but I have been so much upon move of late yt I have found no time to do anything properly. As you see I am back at Bangor again & propose to spend vacation here either studying & writing or engaged on a catalogue of library probably former.

My visit home was a very pleasant one - found all my friends well as I expected & had a rare chance for fishing hunting blueberrig &c &c. Preached twice while I was gone - once at Wilton & once at Lewiston (F Baptist ch) - enjoyed both days very much. I felt badly about preaching at Wilton for it seemed to me yt ' people would all come to see wh ' boy could do rather yt to hear ' gospel. But ' Lord strengthened me so yt yse feelings did n. trouble me after I got into ' pulpit. Was out to Farmington one day & saw Roland & his wife yy were quite well & were expecting Prof. Harris yre. Yt. Night. He preached at F. one day. I think yy. Have a very nice place yre ' now - have you been yre' since yy' moved?

Have n' yet seen many of ' town people since my return - none of our friends I believe. I suppose you have seen in ' papers ' account of ' cleaning out of ' "Democrat office in ys city". It was done during my absence, but as I now learn in a very quiet & orderly manner. Eming himself was taken under ' wing of ' mayor & safely escorted to his lodgings & ' office left to its fate. ' only "trouble" yt occurred was w ' little barber Jones. He heard one Wyman a cashier in one of ' banks who happened to be standing near him looking on while ' mob were burning some of ' old papers in ' street, make ' remark yt "Eming ought to be thrown top of ' pile". He very quietly touched his shoulder & asked him to step up to his office wh. He at once did suspecting nothing of what was in store for him. When Jones got him up yre he locked his door put ' key in his pocket, took off his coat & at once dealt him a furious blow on ' head, but as chance would have it Jones had waked up ' wrong passenger for Wyman was by far ' larger, stouter & better man & on recovering his surprise a little proceeded to give ' <[CHECK ORIGINAL - rt side tape, sheet 1, page 4]> a severe punishing. Meanwhile ' crowd heard ' row & broke in ' door & learning ' state of ' <[CHECK ORIGINAL - rt side tape, sheet 1, page 4]> pitched ' barber out of ' window & most of his furniture after him. Some of ' citizens picked Jones up before ' crowd got hold of him again & put him into a wagon & drove off w. h him & I hear yt he left town immediately.

A riot was feared by some on ' day yt ' "secession convention" was to meet but yy very thoughtfully held only a private meeting at ' Bangor House as ' papers say & ratified ' proceedings of ' convention at Augusta so ' day passed off quietly.

As to yt convention at Augusta we were all surprised at ' result & many now profess to believe yt it was [Missing Closing.]

Have you ever Recd yt clothing yet. Mr Stephens says it was safely put in ' box & ought to have gone all right.

---

1352 8/22/1861

*From:* Thomas Edwards

*To:* Col'l O. Howard

OOH-1289

Northeast Center  
Dutchess Co.  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[0307]

Northeast Center  
Aug. 22. '61.

Col'l O. Howard  
Dear Sir, -

Having been informed a short time ago by my friend Morrison at West Point that you were at the seat of War, I felt a desire to drop you a line supposing that among the multitudinous cares of your present position a fragment of time might be left you for reading it.

I was glad to find that as an Officer you had no misgivings as to your professional duty in the War that has been forc'd upon our Country, & Knowing your earnest desire to do good to all & especially to Soldiers I rejoic'd that in the Providence of God you were plac'd in a position both to serve your Country in the time of its greatest peril as well as to be made a blessing to those under your Command.

My dear Sir be assur'd that you are not forgotten in our prayers. Many I have reason to believe very many earnest prayers go up to God daily, for the Government, Army, & Navy; - full of hope that God will grant to pervade the two last with healthful moral & religious principles.  
It is now I think generally believed that the better the man the better the soldier.

We cannot have too many men in the Service imbued with the principles cherish'd by Capt Vicars, Gen Havelock & others whose names & deeds are as ointment pour'd forth.

How often & with what solicitude I have thought of you, & others whom I have seen or known at different times at West Point. Capt. Thomas now General I believe; - Capt Keyes now General, & whom I shall not forget because he was kind to me, assisting me very much in my work; - Capt McDowal now General; - Lieut Alexander, now Capt. - and other names not necessary to mention.

My dear Sir it is my prayer that God will be with you, & our entire Army, crown the Arms of the Government with success & restore peace to our Country.

Truly your friend  
Thomas Edwards

P.S. If you can consistently without embarrassment drop me a letter I shall receive it with much pleasure.

Address  
Northeast Center  
Dutchess Co  
N.Y.

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1353 8/22/1861    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1290

Head Quarters 3d  
Regt. Maine Vols

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[305]

Head Quarters 3d  
Regt. Maine Vols  
Aug 22nd 1861

My dear Mother,

I will just write you a few lines and say that Charlie is getting on well. He had a kind of slow fever, & machier of the liver, but has gotten over the fever & is able to walk about. I have gone back to my Regiment.

I wrote you a letter two days ago which I left at the Court Martial room in Alexandria. I have been on a Court for several days. This with my other duties has taken me much from Charlie. Mrs Sampson has been very kind. Charles has a room near the encampment & in the quarters of our new Brigade Commander Col Sedgwick. I think he will be entirely well in two or three days.

My own health is good. I am a little disappointed to go back to my regiment now as I had reason to expect a Brigade, but I think it will do me good.

Love to Father, & may the blessing of God rest upon you.

Chas sends much love.

Affectionately,  
your son,  
Otis

7 A.M. Aug 23d. Chas continues to improve, had a good sleep last night. Otis

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1354 8/22/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1291

Hd Quarters 3d regt.  
Bellevue, near  
Alexandria

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[308]

Hd Quarters 3d regt.  
Bellevue, near Alexandria  
Aug 22 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I have answered an abundance of letters tonight before yours. I should like to have spent the evening in writing to you, but I had had a bundle of unanswered letters in my pocket for some time, and thought though tired I would make a strong effort & get them off my hands. Not very flattering terms you think for correspondents. Well. They all want to get their sons & husbands out of service by hook or by crook. If the ladies get unpatriotic we shall go down.

Charlie is getting better fast. He has a room close by the regiment in Col. Sedgwick's house. You perceive I have returned to the Regiment. I have felt a little disappointed & then I am less popular with the regiment than I was before so many of its members got lawless, but I think I will straighten everything pretty soon.

I wish I could just peep in upon you tonight. How will you move? Guy is a great boy & doubtless spends much of his time in helping Mamma and how much she can do with a smiling face & her little happy heart to make the days light. If you lack anything do let me know.

I have been on a Court Martial for several days at Alexandria on Col McCunn's case. I see the Herald has already prejudged his case. Some malicious scamp has put the article in the paper. We havent completed his trial. Today the Court was adjourned for Gen'l McLellan to review our Brigade.

Col. Sedgwick is an old Army officer & just the man to command us. I will put my regiment in as good order as I can & try to make it do good service.

How is every body at West Point. Mendell is judge advocate of the Court. I have seen a good deal of him. He is the same thorough man here as at West Point. Jenkins I meet daily.

Happy <dreams> darling - good night - many kisses to the children when they wake. A large dog is barking - it sounds dismal anywhere particularly so in an enemy's country. Mr Mordecai continues with Col Sedgwick. Lieut Owen, my old college mate & Mrs Smith's brother ditto.

Rowland in letter of today whips me a little for not being strict enough in military matters. What don't the Soldiers write home? Remember most tenderly to Mrs Greble & her precious charge. I try to remember them in my daily prayer.

Most lovingly your own  
Otis

---

1355 8/22/1861      *From:* Americus Fuller

*To:* My Dear Charles  
[Howard]

OOH-1309

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[306]

Bangor Aug. 22 1861

My Dear Charles:

I am sorry I have neglected so long to answer your last letter, but I have been so much upon more of late yt I have found no time to do any thing properly. As you see I am back at Bangor again & propose to spend ' vacation here wither studying & writing or engaged on a catalogue of ' library probably ' former.

My visit home was a very pleasant one - found all my friends well as I expect had a rare chance for fishing hunting blueberring &c &c.

Preached twice while I was gone once at Wilton & once at Lewiston (F Baptis ch) enjoyed both days very much. I felt badly about preaching at Wilton for it seemed to me yt ' people would all come to see wh boy could do rather yn to hear ' gospel. But ' Lord strengthened me so yt yse feelings did n trouble me after I got into ' pulpit. Was out to Farmington one day & saw Roland [Rowland] & his wife yy were quite well & were expecting Prof. Harris yre yt night. He preached at F. one day. I think yy have a very nice place yre now - have you been yre since yy moved? Have n yet seen many of ' town people since my return - none of our friends I believe.

I suppose you have seen in ' papers ' account of ' cleaning out of ' Democrat office in ys city. It was done during my absence, but as I now learn in a very quiet & orderly manner. Eming himself was taken under ' wing of ' mayor & safely escorted to his lodgings ' office left to its fate. ' only "trouble" yt occurred was w. ' little barber Jones. He heard one Wyman a cashier in one of ' banks who happened to be standing near him looking on while ' mob were burning some of ' old papers in ' street, make ' remark yt "Eming ought to be thrown top of ' pile". He very quietly touched his shoulder & asked him to step up to his office wh. He at once did suspecting nothing of what ws in store for him. When Jones got him up yre he locked his door put ' key in his pocket, took off his coat & at once dealt him a furious blow on ' head, but as chance would have it Jones had waked up ' wrong passenger for Wyman was by far ' larger, stouter & better man & on recovering his surprise a little proceeded to give ' <boy> a severe punishing. Meanwhile ' crowd heard ' row & broke in ' door & learning ' state of ' <case> pitched ' barber out of ' window & most of his furniture after him. Some of ' citizens picked Jones up before ' crowd got hold of him again & put him into a wagon & drove off w. him & I hear yt he left town immediately.

A riot ws feared by some and ' day yt ' secession convention was to meet but yy very thoughtfully held only a private meeting at ' Bangor House as ' papers say & ratified ' proceedings of ' convention at Augusta so ' day passed off quietly.

As to yt convention at Augusta we were all surprised at ' result & many now profess to believe yt it was  
[MISSING PAGE & CLOSING]

[Americus Fuller]

Have you ever Recd yt clothing yet. Mr Stephens says it was put in a box & ought to have come all right.

[Note: There are a number of shorthand marks and abbreviations. An apostrophe ' seems to mean "the" and the letter y before another letter such as y or t, as in yy or yt, seems to mean they or that.]

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1356 8/23/1861     *From:* H. G. Berry Col     *To:* Col. O. O. Howard  
OOH-1292                      Head Quarters 4th                      3d Reg.  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      Reg. Maine Vol

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[310]  
Head Quarters 4th Reg. Maine Vol  
Aug 23 1861

Sir

The bearer of this Emery J Hilton is Corporal in my Regiment. The same that carried my Flag on Battle Field of Bulls run & was wounded is desirous of visiting his home. He is not nor will he be able to attend to duty for some time. If you will give him the necessary information concerning hay rations &c you will confer favor on a deserving man.

H. G. Berry Col [Hiram G. Berry]

Col. O. O. Howard  
3d Reg.

[Written on the back in OO Howard's hand:]  
Col. Berry  
4th Me  
Aug 23 1861

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1357 8/23/1861

*From:* I. Washburn, Jr

*To:* Col. O.O. Howard

OOH-1293

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

3d Reg. Me Vol.

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[311]  
[Letterhead]  
State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

Aug 23, 1861

Dear Col,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 18th.

I hardly know how to get along with Capt Savage's case. He has been mustered into the service of the U.S. & is, I suppose beyond my reach. I will forward the Sec'y of War a statement of your request & endorse it.

I supposed from what I learnt when I was at the camps in Va. That with the exception of a few articles which one or two Cols spoke about, that the U.S. would furnish immediately, & sooner than the State could, all articles needed by the Regiments, & I have been greatly pained to learn that it has not been done, & that the soldier's have been in absolute want of necessary clothing &c.

I have sent on by 7th Reg, which left Augusta to-day, a quantity of clothing, shoes &c to be distributed among the Reg'ts according to their wants. These with what Govt provides will, I hope ,make the men comfortable - if not, I will send more.

I regret that you should have supposed for a single moment that any thing was believed in Maine implying want of courage, skill, prudence or good soldiership on your part. Dismiss at once & to the smallest fibre all fear & doubt on this subject.

It is believed here, so far as I know, without exception or qualification, that your Brigade was admirably commanded at the battle of Bull Run - none better - indeed, it is understood that it was brought off the field in better order than any other. I say not these things to flatter you, but simply because they are true, you seem to think that very wrong impressions have obtained here.

In regard to your Reg. it has been said that it would undoubtedly be better off with its quota of field officers at this time - but that you have neglected it or overlooked its wants, or have ceased to give it all the care that other duties permitted, no one I am sure believes.

Long ago, before the battle, I recommended Maj. Prince for Brig. General, believing that while his appointment would take no good Col. From his Reg. it would secure a good officer to the service. But after yourself & Col. Jameson [2nd Maine Vols.] were <tendered> as candidates, I wrote a letter to the Sec'y of War doing justice to all, making no preference, but simply referring to my former letter. No one of all your friends would be more gratified than myself at your appointment.

Pray make my regards to your Brother & Mr Leonard, & other friends.

Very truly Yours,  
I. Washburn, Jr

Col. O.O. Howard  
3d Reg. Me Vol.

[Written by Otis]  
Gov Washburn  
Aug. 23. 1861

answered

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1358 8/23/1861

*From:* I. Washburn

*To:* Hon. S. Cameron

OOH-1294

State of Maine  
Exec. Dept  
Augusta

Sec. Of War

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[301]

State of Maine  
Exec. Dept  
Augusta August 23d 1861

Sir

Col Howard has requested me to ask for the discharge of Capt. Savage of "F" Company, 3d Regt. Maine Volunteers. He says "I recommended his immediate discharge to Head Quarters but have not yet received a reply with regard to him. Cannot the Governor withdraw his Commission for the following reasons.

1st. That his Company needs a Captain with it. Lieut. Stearns is an excellent officer but he has been afflicted with lameness, and he does not think it right to do the duty of Captain, through the Campaign & receive only the pay & emoluments of a Lieutenant.

2nd. If Capt. Savage is still sick, what guaranty has his Company, or the Government, that he will ever resume his duties? If he was in the Army for life, a furlough of several months would not be minded in time of peace; but in time of war every man is needed & in his place.

3d. His conduct with regard to bounties does not seem to be strictly honorable. At any rate he has witholden from three poor boys a bounty they were entitled to, and only at last paid John Tantish his, on solicitation.

4th. When with the Company, he was as I learn, utterly inefficient. I would respectfully recommend, at least, that the Governor ask his discharge of the War Department, that his place may be filled."

For the reasons assigned by Col Howard, I would recommend the discharge of Capt savage

Very resp'y  
Your Obdt Servt  
I. Washburn (signed)

Hon. S. Cameron [Simon Cameron]  
Sec. Of War

[Written on the back of the letter.]  
Gov. Washburn's letter to the Sec of War dated Aug. 23d 1861

[Note: This letter appears to have been a copy, written in the hand of Otis.]

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1359 8/24/1861

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Haskell

Col

OOH-1295

Hd. Qrs. 3d Regt. Me.  
Vols

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[312]

Hd. Qrs. 3d Regt. Me. Vols  
August 24 1861

Dear Madam

I thank you for writing me just as you believe and felt. You have made accusations against me which would not only destroy my reputation at home if true, but, when complained of any officer, could be Court Marshaled & dishonorably discharged the service. Permit me to say you are entirely misinformed with regard to me by some one. Let me state to you a few simple facts for the truth of which I appeal to your husband (for you regard me as a hypocrite of the meanest sort & could not believe me. First: The next day after reaching Virginia, I was ordered by Gen'l McDowell away from my Regiment and have only been permitted to return to it within the last week. I had no promotion which I could decline, but did the duty of Brig Gen'l for these 4 Regts the 3d, 4th & 5th Maine & the 2nd Vermont. Major Staples has had the immediate command. Before the battle of Bulls run, there was no destitution & very little sickness.

After that battle, the men had thrown away everything they had, the Qr Masters had lost their wagons, the Guards were away & left the depots of clothing, so that we lost all the (or the greater part of the) knapsacks that were on deposit. I clung to my Brigade while many officers left and spent their time in Washington. I led them from Centerville to Clermont. From Clermont I accompanied them to Alexandria. A heavy rain was falling. The Comdg Off could give me no quarters. I went & opened empty houses & put the men in & before night I believe every man had bread to eat and not mouldy hard bread. Back again we went to Clermont. The Quarter masters were struggling to get clothing. The Commissary provided food.

From the 4th Reg. I heard complaints & had my Brigade Quartermaster examined by a Court of Inquiry and did all that was in my power for the Soldiers. In the 5th Regiment there was a mutiny and the men shewed me mouldy & wormy hard bread, that had been issued to them. At once I called their officers to account & told them distinctly none were to receive such stuff. No complaint came from the 3d Regt of this description.

One night I heard a man say that miserable hard bread was issued to them. I went and inspected the entire camp and I found good bread (soft) in plenty and a very little poor hard bread laid aside & not to be used in our company.

Madam, in one single company a captain sold for the benefit of his men yesterday 3 Barrels of nice beef, which they had been able to save from their rations, this gives them I understand 191.12 dollars to purchase vegetables with.

I have asked many men since your letter came, if for any length of time they have had bad food, and they say no no. Your husband says for two or three weeks at Clermont the hard bread was bad. Madam, if this was really so, no word of complaint came to me. It was the simple duty of the Captain of a company not to allow it to be issued to his men. I shall, dear Madam take the greatest pains to do my duty and as you say, "God is my judge", I ask no better. I have worked for my command early & late. I have been without proper food & sleep at times, & sometimes I am weary; and then I am misrepresented & misunderstood. Still I believe the Soldiers love me & respect me and know that I have left no stone unturned to get them their dues. I am truly sorry for the unpopularity that awaits me in your section, but I have been unpopular before. The thing that I want is to see the men provided for contented & happy and ready for duty.

Lay aside anger & prejudice and be pleased to accept my explanation. My religion consists in striving to do my duty.

Very truly yours,  
O O Howard  
Col 3d Me Vols

To:  
Mrs Haskell  
Please write in your own name

[Written sideways on the last page]  
Reply to Mrs Haskell  
Aug 24 1861

[Note: I presume this is a copy that Otis wrote, having mailed the original.]

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1360 8/24/1861

*From:* I. Washburn, Jr.

*To:* Col. O.O. Howard

OOH-1296

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

Commanding 8th Brigade

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[313]

[Letterhead]

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

Aug. 24. 1861

Col. O.O. Howard

Commanding 8th Brigade

Dear Sir,

I herewith return the Bill for the Band, which was received yesterday. Please specify the instruments or items, that the State may know precisely what the Bill covers. This is necessary. Please verify the Bill.

Very truly yours  
I. Washburn, Jr.

Per. W.R.D.

Col. Howard

Dear Sir,

Has anything been heard of my brother Charles of Capt. Batchelder's Co 3d Reg. since the Bull Run fight? We are very anxious to know.

Respectfully,  
Wm. P. Drew

[Written on the back by Otis.]

Gov Washburn  
Aug 24, 1861  
Answered

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1361 8/24/1861      *From:* Isaac N. Goodhue      *To:* Colonel [OO Howard]  
OOH-1297                      Lowell                                      3d reg. Maine V. M.  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[314]  
Lowell Aug 24, 1861

Colonel of 3d reg. Maine V. M.  
Sir

The certificate inclosed sufficiently shows its purpose, yet the undersigned would add in behalf of the applicant, that she is an old lady and has so long ruminated upon the fact that she is left alone without the presence of one of her four sons to console her, she has become nervous and has become considerably impaired as to her strength and health.

The application is committed to you as the officer most likely to give it his personal attention even though some other authority than yours may be requisite to grant its request; and presuming that you will, if not authorized to grant the request, refer the matter to the authorities who have the power.

I am very respectfully yours

Isaac N. Goodhue

[Written by Otis:]  
Goodhue  
has been forwarded to McClellan

---

1362 8/25/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1298

Hd Quarters 3d Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[315]

Hd Quarters 3d Regiment  
Aug 25th 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I feel as though I ought to write you oftener, and I will try so to do. I have been on a Court-Martial as I told you in my last letter. The Court still continues. You know how examinations tire the professors; so it is with these Courts-martial. We are now trying Lt. Colonel O'Keef on some six or seven charges. I hear there are two or three more cases to come before us.

I get a little time with the regiment in the morning and a little time in the evening. The regiment has still nearly two hundred reported sick, but it is improving in appearance daily. The rusty arms & the irregular & careless movements of Howard's regiment when he was acting Brigadier general are disappearing. Some of the men have no jackets yet - & some no shoes. There are now enough at Washington and tomorrow we expect to get our supply.

You asked about robbing Clermont. The Hospital department of my regiment without my knowledge or consent took all the bedding, some divans, and I think crockery & cooking utensils, and I learn that plate has been taken & that the house has been completely rifled. The defence is that it belongs to secessionists; this is true but we do not allow people to steal even secession property. I have tried to fight this propensity to steal ever since I have been here.

Nothing will be safe in Maine when we get home. Charlie is quite comfortable today. He went out to Services this morning & also to Camp this afternoon.

Mr Leonard the Universalist Chaplain is a really good man. He has so much cheerfulness & is so hearty in every thing he says & does that it has done us much good. His words are full of encouragement. We had two orthodox Chaplains present with us today, who both spoke after Mr Leonard closed. They too spoke well, with regard to having oil in our lamps. This evening I had a prayer-meeting in my tent where the Chaplains presided. We had a good meeting. Some of them spoke so feelingly & shewed so intimate a knowledge of a Saviour's love that it strengthened me in my faith. I wish I could live nearer to Christ. Oh, that I might.

Poor little Guy - if papa was'nt so tired he would write him a letter to go along with this and Gracie has got to be thoughtful. Bless her heart she cant help thinking. Does she love to learn verses from the Bible as Guy & I used to. For instance, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the council of the ungodly, &c" Guy can give the rest. And Jamie what part does he have. He does all his thinking close to the floor? I feel a little weary about the head sometimes as though it would'nt hurt me to have three or four days to myself - but I think, when Charlie gets smart & the Court gets thro and I get my Regiment well clothed &c I shall feel decidedly better.

Major Prince is the officer that Gov. Washburn recommended for the Brigadier's post. The Governor may be dissatisfied with my management. After I left the regiment, any quantity of stories were told and letters written home to my hurt. Now that I have come back the hearts of the men are coming back to me. The poor men suffered privations & thought it all my fault. They can understand no explanation short of a permission to go home. I promised them faithfully they should not go home & showed them they were holden beyond three months, for which many idle, cowardly fellows cordially hate me. I am afraid you will hear too much of this when you get to Maine for many half-sick, discontented men have got discharged through the medical department. If we can get good recruits, we will soon come up & in about a year it will be as fine a regiment as you should wish to see.

Many kisses to the loved ones. God bless & keep them & you darling.  
Otis

You may be just starting when you get this.

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1363 8/25/1861 *From:* E.J. Gilbert

*To:* Mr. O Howard

OOH-1299

Vassalboro Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[316]

Vassalboro Me August 25, 1861

Mr. Howard

I am vary sorry to lern from our souldres in the 3 Regiment Me that grate Disefecttion is in the camps on the acont of thir food tha write that the bread is wormey & meat rotten or vary bad this state of thing is of a var grave nature it should be seen to immediatly for meny reasons firt that mutiney is feard & dreded. Second. This being the cas we cannot git men to enlist if the blame is on the Capt of companes let them be reminded of their duty to soldres at once I lern that this is felt in Captin Haseltyne Compney Waterville I have a son in the 7 me Regimt he was advis not to inlist for the vary reison as above stated see that youre men are treated well wharevr your lot may fall that they may learn to love & obay.

Far Well god bless you & preserve you thru the Nation grate struggle

Youres With Respte  
E.J. Gilbert

[Written in Otis' hand]  
Aug 25 1861  
Answered

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1364 8/26/1861      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1300

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[317]

West Point, Aug. 26, 1861

My dearest Otis

I am very happy to inform you that I had Jamie baptized yesterday. I think you will be glad that Johny Weir is his God-father. Mr Casey, now Capt Casey, is recruiting in Portland. Mrs Casey is going there to be with him. He will come for her or John will take her on. They expect to go this week and as I am not ready I cannot go with them and besides I have not heard from Rowland. I thought he would write me last week. I shall look for a letter every day.

Don't be at all troubled about my getting home. If Rowland cant come I shall think it is for the best. I don't get disappointed now a days. Mrs Casey may not go yet. I shall go see her to-morrow. I am sure something to my advantage will turn up. No officers sent here as Instructors yet. A rumor that Mr Mendall, Wheeler are coming back, and some of the Officers on Parole to be sent here, and some Cadets detailed. It has been intimated that as there are more regiments going from the state that you will be made Brigadier Genl eventually. If you are to be with the regiment I shall feel more interested in it, and more anxious to do what I can for its welfare.

I fancy you would like to know just how we look here. I have sold everything even the cooking-stove not to be taken till I go. We sleep in the up stairs back room. (Mr Ward takes this furniture after we leave). All other rooms empty. Down stairs carpet on dining room and hall. Parlor filled with boxes all packed four of them and two more to fill up. Piano-box on the stoop. I am to send them by the sloop next Monday. Mrs Carroll took me over to the dock in her carriage to see about it, this morning. Mr Carroll will have the boxes marked and directed and taken to the sloop. You see how nicely I get along.

I felt that I must have Mr French baptize little Jamie and O. dearest I did not have him named James Otis. Mrs Williams said don't name him for his papa unless you give him the whole name, and every body would think I named him for the great-man, which I would very much dislike. And I do not think you preferred to have him named for you. He is dear little Jamie any how.

I went to Newburgh last Friday to get Guy some pants and Jamie a hat. I called to see Mrs Williams and the Misses Phillips. They all wish to be remembered very kindly to you, and they will always be interested to hear from us all. John Weir came in this morning to say that a letter came to his brother Henry from you. As his brother is at <Harford> Ferry he took the liberty to open it. It seemed to be in answer to one Henry had written you before about a Lieutenancy.

There was a young man up here from New York last Thursday in company with <> Weir, who wished to join a regiment as second Lieut. And would give from five to ten thousand dollars towards equipping the regiment, or would equip his comp but the Col must be a West Point graduate. Prof Weir took him around <to> see Prof Church. They mentioned you, but I guess thought you were not permanent. Prof Weir told me this at the Dock while waiting for the 10 o'clock boat. The young man <[CHECK ORIGINAL right edge page 4 glued]> <[CHECK ORIGINAL left edge page 5 glued]> in the early boat, Thomas Powell, would let the men eat as much corn, <potatoes> and vegetables as they could send <> tent floors besides if they wanted <> are put to better use as tent flooring <> to stand and be worn out by the <> such times as these. Do you remember the piece of chalk you and Charlie had the argument about? It is I think about the same with the <> men, they wont fare too well any how.

I am very glad Mr Mordecai is near <> you must'nt let him flatter you about your family though. Give my kind regards to him and through him to his sisters. I regret my invitation for him to make me a visit before being <> was given too late, but before I <> expecting I might leave any day. I <> had no idea of remaining here this length of time. I have had a very pleasant stay here, but don't desire to remain. I only dread and regret having to say good bye to Blanche, Mrs Church Mrs Blunt and a few others.

Eve Wed.

I find this unfinished letter, Dearest, and will add a few words and mail it to-morrow but you will have seen Rowland and Guy long before this reaches you.

Thursday.

I didn't write much last evening to you, my dearest Otis because Mr Smith came in and as it was "Hop" night he remained 'till ten o'clock. I wish to send this and must finish in haste somewhat for the men are coming to pack my Piano and then all boxes ready to be nailed up and directed.

I shall have quite a resting time 'till Guy and Rowland return. I shall not and do not at all expect to see you, my own Otis, with them. I have been reading the 'paper' and things look a little as if you would be soon called into active service again. God watches over you there as elsewhere, and He knows best when to take any of us home to Himself. I pray we may all glorify him while we do live. I rather Guy would visit you than myself if but one could go. I miss him very much and shall be very glad to see him coming in when he gets back to West Point. Tell him not to be a volunteer I could'nt do without him, at present, while papa is away.

May God watch over you bless you and keep you and in his own, good time bring you back to us again.

Your own Lizzie

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1365 8/28/1861 *From:* W.H. Duncan, 2nd

*To:* My Dear Col [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1301

Bath, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[320]

Bath, August 28 / 61

My Dear Col,

I will hope your kind attention on this occasion for a few brief questions to this prospect. I have just returned from Augusta to see the Gov. of our State for the purpose of getting some thing to do in third Maine Reg't in Hospital or anything that I may be of service. I was a member of Co A until the 15 of July and was discharged for disability, and now I have returned to Bath. I am actually lonesome and Homesick to get back again. I enjoyed myself in your Reg't and under your Command and wish my disability would allow me to take my place again in the Ranks. I feel sure I could be of service with my sick fellow soldiers and would be happy to come out and be serviceable. The Gov. told me that I would have to apply to you or which ever Col that I chose. I beg pardon if this appears a nuisance to you.

I am sir your most Obnt servant

W.H. Duncan, 2nd  
Bath, Maine

P.S. I hear the Colombian College are full of sick and wounded and then perhaps you would'nt permit me to take hold there and help all in my power.

Res'y  
W.H. Duncan

Duncan of Bath  
Answered

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1366 8/28/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1302

Hd Qrs 3d Regt Camp  
Fessenden

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[319]

Hd Qrs 3d Regt Camp  
Fessenden Aug. 28. 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I had a letter from Rowland yesterday stating that he should be at West Point today and that he proposed to extend his journey on here. If I could ably tell what time he would appear in Washington I would meet him there. I am half a mind to telegraph him to bring Guy. I would if I felt sure that nothing would happen to the little fellow. I expect you would like to take the journey too, darling, but I had much rather go the other way to meet you. When peace comes, I should like to take you through this part of Virginia.

I have gotten through with the Court-martial for the present & will have the pleasure of staying with my regiment today. Chas. Seems quite well. He got a heartier breakfast than I this morning. I have slept in quarters in his room ever since I returned to the Regiment. Today we are to fix a mess. I think Mrs Sampson will take charge of it.

Mendell starts for West Point today, and Jenkins thinks he can get a short respite & visit his wife & probably call at West Point. They both came for messages to you. Mendell is a most excellent man - I love him.

Chas says he shall enjoy visiting Farmington doubly now - if you go there. Charles thinks your letters the greatest treat we have here. Poor little Gracie, papa would like to see her, but thinks she could'nt come to this war-like country with or without Mama now.

The Post boy is coming. Kiss the chubby boy Jamie for papa. I wish Guy had his pony at Farmington. When papa comes home he shall have another.

Remember me affectionately to Mr & Mrs French, Mr & Mrs Church, Mrs Mendell, Mrs Blunt, Mrs Greble, the Weirs, the Penards, particularly Miss Blanch. God will bless her in all her good works.

Be the Lord's & He will continue to comfort you & be your partner forever.

Affectionately in haste  
Otis

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1367 8/28/1861    *From:* Henry T. Waite

*To:* Col. O.O. Howard

OOH-1303

Dedham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[321]

Dedham Aug 28, 1861

Col. O.O. Howard

Dr Sir

Excuse the liberty I take in writing you these lines, but I do not desire to enlist in a "Mass-Regiment" as a private, therefore I wish to ask of you if there is any situation or position I could hold in your Regt. If there is, would you bestow it upon me, if I made a report to you in person at "Washington" or your encampment where ere it may be.

My Wife is sick with Consumption. I am out of work and will have to remain so all winter. I am not able to swing it. Necessity compells me to do that which first comes to hand. You may not remember me from the signature, but Lizzie your wife will know me well, as well dose she knows my family. I care not what position I hold (have you it to give me). I will endeavour to fill it with satisfaction.

Hoping this elect a satisfactory reply, I remain

Yours Truly

Henry S. Waite

P.S. You will probably remember me from the fact of my being appointed to "West Point" by McDonald and afterwards I was withdraun to make room for a nephew of his, who went & remained a year, and then disgraced himself as well as the state by leaving.

H.S.W.

[Written on the back of the letter by Otis:]

Henry S. Waite wants a place in this Regiment.

Answered

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1368 8/29/1861      *From:* [Gov] I. Washburn Jr      *To:* Col. O. O. Howard

OOH-1305

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

3d Reg. Me Vol.

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[328?]  
[Letterhead]  
State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

Aug. 29. 1861

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 26 is before me.

I will speak to the Adj't General to have the musicians issued as you desire.

I am gratified & rejoiced to learn the daily improvement of your troops. We send by the 8th Reg. which goes in a few days rubber blankets for all our Regts.

Shoes, socks, shirts &c & rifles in two companies have already been forwarded.

There is no objection to the correction in Mr Owens Commission.

In haste very truly yours  
I. Washburn Jr

Col. O. O. Howard  
3d Reg. Me Vol.

[Written on the back by Otis:]  
Gov. Washburn  
Aug 29 '61  
Answered

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1369 8/29/1861

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1306

No 222 Willards  
[Washington DC]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[324]

No 222 Willards

(last story)

Aug 29, 2 1/4 P.M.

Dear Bro Otis

I arrived here at 11 ½ A.M. - have seen my friend Farwell - but was too late to get a pass today & the Cl'k (Provost Marshalls office) expressed doubt about my getting one tomorrow - but I will if I can. Perhaps call at Judge Carrolls this PM.

Left Lizzie at 12 ½ yesterday well - Children ditto - and anxious to hear again from Charles. Guy is with me.

Write a line if I do not appear by noon tomorrow. Do not come over if there is any prospect of an action as people here fear.

O may the good & blessed Lord bless you & dear Charley. If he were well - I should feel at ease and I might as well as it is!

I stopped here because I could find places better expecting to go over the River this P.M.

All well at Farmington Mon. Morn.

With a Brother's Love  
Rowland

[Written by Otis:]

R.B. Howard

Aug. 27

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1370 8/30/1861

*From:* John L. Hodsdon  
Adj. Genl

*To:* Col O.O. Howard

OOH-1307

*Source:* Bowdoin

State of Maine  
HEAD QUARTERS  
Adjutant General's  
Office.  
Augusta

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[011]

[Letterhead]

State of Maine  
HEAD QUARTERS  
Adjutant General's Office.  
Augusta

August 30 1861

Col O.O. Howard  
Dr Sir,

Geo E Ford enlisted in Co "G" 3d Regt. Deserted from Meridian Hill - joined Co "I" 7th Regt. Which recently left here and recd pay & bounty from the State the 2d time - and is now doing duty with his Co. at Baltimore if he has not redeserted. You can take such measures as you think proper in relatein thereto. Have written Maj. Hyde Com'g 7th Regt concerning the facts.

Yours very truly &c  
John L. Hodsdon  
Adj. Genl  
by C. L. P.

[Written by Otis:]  
John L. Hodsdon  
Aug 30 '61

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1371 8/31/1861 *From:* J.R. Bacon

*To:* Madam [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1308

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[325]  
New York  
Aug 31 / 61

Dear Madam,

I neglected to write you yesterday, but now enclose a check for \$75.

I shall meet you D.V. [Deo Volente - God willing] on yr way through this city & shall be very glad to do so & hope you may hear good news from your dear husband. Joined by Mrs Bacon in kind regards. I am

Yrs very Truly  
J. R. Bacon

---

1372 9/1/1861

*From:* Mrs. C. B. Haskell

*To:* Col. [OO] Howard

OOH-1331

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[327]

Kents Hill Sep 1st 1861.

Col. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Last Friday I received a letter from my husband, together with one from you, in answer to the one I wrote you a few days since. And I may well say it was read with mingled feelings of anxiety, pleasure & self-reproach. The pleasure was derived from the fact that you took my rather plain & open sentiments kindly & as I ment them. My motives were good & true. I did not intend to injure you or anyone by any act of mine whatever. The one I thought blameable I wrote too. Thinking if I did no good it would do no hurt & if I had got a wrong impression of you in regard to your character & your duties it would be the best way of getting the truth - for if the reports which I had read were false, I thought of course you would hastily correct them.

The lack of interest in the welfare of our soldiers was laid to the mismanagement & unfeelingness of the head officers - & of course I naturally thought you <were> of them & could not resist the inclination of <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> as I did - for the thoughts of their suffering from [Page 2 right edge glued] neglect <is> so unbearable. I own we get exaggerated accounts of our National affairs & I ought to learn not to rely to much in the reports I read, but I am so interested for my Countrys welfare & her noble sons who are so bravely sacrificing most every comfort, in order to free her from the hand of tyranny, that I am not considerate enough in my conclusions which I draw from the many reports which I hear & read over to hasty & to apt to believe before I stop to consider, and therefore reproach myself in acousing you wrongfully but as I then suposed justly, and humbly ask your forgiveness in whatever I said that was wrong & in judging you so hastily.

Remember you were & are still a stranger to me, but I have seen you & my first impressions (which I believe are the true ones) of you were plesant. I thought you good and true & felt thankful as I said before, to our Father in Heaven in giving you to our noble brothers as their leader. And you being a christian man - one who seemed <> to God as well as to your Country - Still added to those first impressions - for I heard with a heart nearly full to bursting, with mingled emotions of the sorrows of parting & anxiety for my country, your remarks on that memorable Sabbath, on the State grounds at Augusta. And I thought with how much more willingness I could let my darling go to be under the protection of a man who loved God & would therefore do his duty twards those who so gallantly followed him wherever he would lead.

And I can now say that I am only to thankful that, that confidences which I nearly lost in you, has now returned as I now believe you true. And I once more ask you to forgive me in believing as I did. You know as well as do we all how heavy the cloud which now hangs over our beloved Nation - hiding everything good & true in its almost pitchy blackness - we know not who to rely in - or who to trust from the reasons that there has been so many foul trations in our very midst.

But we trust in God & hope this darkness will soon pass over. His Power is Almighty & the cloud that hangs so heavily upon us - has its own beautiful "linning of silver" although invisible now as it slowly rolls over. Yet with that mighty Arm it will soon become disernable to us made more brilliantly beautiful by the glorious light of Liberty. I firmly believe that victory is ours - although we gain it by sacrificing many a noble one - but we know they could not die a nobler death. May the God of Battles bless you one & all, our brave our noble soldiers.

Remember you have the anxious heartfelt prayers of as true a daughter to the "Stars & Stripes" as there is in our beautiful New England - although hasty to jump at conclusions on account of over anxious feelings for our loved flag & the dear ones who are trying to save it.

Yours truly  
Mrs. C. B. Haskell



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1373 9/1/1861

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1332

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[328]

West Point, Sept 1, 1861

My dearest Otis

It is now evening (Sunday) and about eight o'clock. Grace, Jamie and myself up stairs in the back room. They are asleep, and I have just come up stairs, having been down to see Mr Hunter who came to say "good bye" to me. I told him to be a good boy, and do well, because he came from Maine.

I went over to visit the Sunday School to-day. There were not as many children as usual but the number is less in summer always. I said "good bye" to those little girls I knew and some of Charlies boys, Otto for one, and Luis Hathaway. I don't know the other names. A new teacher, Mr Beach of Troy, a fourth class man. He is also Mr Smith's room mate, and a very pleasant fellow. I must not forget to ask Mr Smith about the prayer meeting, he was going to organize it again. I told him about the table that I could not sell it, and did not want it, and would leave it for them.

I do miss that dear boy Guy very much indeed. I dressed him for Camp life, and hope he has been with you, and not at the Carrolls in such coarse clothes. I was happy to hear Charlie was so well. I don't think you can work as hard now you have only the Regiment to look out for. Am glad to hear you mention Mrs Sampson. I feared she might not still be with you. I hope she will be able to remain. I know that she can make herself usefull. I have seen Mr Mendell but not long though. I was out with Grace the day the tents came down.

I must tell you the furlough class came back in very good shape, none drunk & very, very few been drinking. Is it not a good thing. The Cadets say they are a disgrace to the Institution for returning so well. What don't they say. I presume I shall not hear any of the reports about yourself when I get home, they will trouble me very little. I know you will do right and that is enough. Now is Charlie going to visit Farmington when I am there? Wont he stay with you all the time? My last Sunday at West Point I presume this is, and I have received very many blessings this day. Was also communion day. I took Grace to church and a better girl I never saw, and there so long.

Your next letter after receiving this will be directed to Leeds of course. Do write often to me dearest hereafter I shall be so much alone. If you cant write more than half a page do send it. I feared last evening I would not enjoy to-day having been packing, and other things on my mind, but I am happy to say I have almost entirely been enabled to keep my mind confined to the day, and its enjoyments.

I think of Guy so much. I do hope he is not sick. I shall look for them little to-morrow evening. I trust they had no trouble finding you, perhaps you met them, but I will know when they come.

I must visit some to-morrow. My goods are all ready for transportation and they start in very good shape, well packed, and well done up. I have eight boxes, set of chamber furniture, dining-table, bathing tub, rocking horse, and mattresses with one carpet rolled. We take with us four trunks, one valise and lunch basket, no bundles, shawls, umbrellas, birds, pillow or plants, but instead three children. D.V. [Deo Volente - God Willing]

I sent for and received seventy-five dollars of Mr. Bacon. I shall see him in N.Y. and shall ask him to fix up your act. With himself at his leisure and let me know how it stands.

I may not get time to write any in the morning. I got your letter of the 28th last Friday.

Today's paper says that the Federal troops have taken Fort Hatteras, and prisoners. The rebels hardly expected that.

Good night now. May God have you and all in his keeping.

Lizzie

Morning. ½ past eleven.

Goods all gone. We are all well. Mrs. Douglas came to say good bye.

Your own Lizzie.

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1374 9/1/1861

*From:* John L Hodsdon

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

Ad. Gen.

OOH-1685

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

[LETTERHEAD]

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

Sept 1 1861

Genl Howard

My dear Sir

There are numerous members of 3d Regt, about home with furlough's telling all manner of lies about their food & thus retarding & injuring the enlistment of men for our Regiments & to fill up yours.

Unless a stop is put to granting leave of absence to such men it will soon be difficult obtaining the requisite number of men for the wants of the service. As it is the recruiting business is greatly delayed embarrassed && and and more expensive on acct of it.

Yrs Truly

John L Hodsdon

Ad. Gen.

[Written on the back page]

J. L. Hodgdon

Sept 1 61

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1375 9/3/1861

*From:* Thomas W. Hyde  
Major, 7th Regiment

*To:* Col O.O. Howard

OOH-1333

Head Quarters 7th  
Maine  
Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[329]

Head Quarters 7th Maine  
Baltimore Sept 3rd / 61

Col O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I have rec'd a communication from Gen. Hodgdon respecting Geo. E. Ford - a deserter from company G, 3rd Reg. He is at present, sergeant in company E. As far as I can find out, it is in your option to take him & retain his pay till his second bounty & what pay he has rec'd, amounting to \$26.76 is made up, or to let us retain him & do the same thing. I would wish you to act your pleasure about it. I have a number of commissions for officers of the third, which I will either send by mail or wait till we come to Washington and deliver them in person, as you may direct.

Your Obedient Servant  
Thomas W. Hyde  
Major, 7th Regiment.

[written on the back] Answered

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1376 9/3/1861

*From:* Simon Cameron  
Secretary of War

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
U.S. Volunteers

OOH-1334

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[013]

[Form Letter except for handwritten parts which are set off by pairs of /w/]

WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, /w/ September 3d, 1861 /w/

Sir:

You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you /w/ Brigadier General of Volunteers, /w/ in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the /w/ third /w/ day of /w/ September /w/, one thousand eight hundred and /w/ sixty-one. /w/ should the Senate, at their next session, advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

Immediately on receipt hereof, please to communicate to this Department, through the Adjutant General's Office, your acceptance or non-acceptance of said appointment; and, with your letter of acceptance, return to the Adjutant General of the Army the OATH herewith enclosed, properly filled up, SUBSCRIBED and ATTESTED, reporting at the same time your AGE, RESIDENCE when appointed, and the STATE in which you were BORN.

Should you accept, you will at once report, by letter, for orders, to /w/ the General-in-Chief.

Simon Cameron /w/  
Secretary of War

/w/ Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
U.S. Volunteers /w/

[written on the back]

Acceptance  
appointment of Brig. Gen'l  
Sept 3d 1861

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1377 9/4/1861

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1335

National Hotel  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[313]

National Hotel  
Washington D.C.  
Sept. 4th, 1861  
11 ½ A.M.

Dear Brother,

Maj. Staples has just returned from Gen. McClellan's & has Free Passes to Maine for himself, Mr. Wiggin & two privates - but if I [don't] pay my own fare I cannot accompany Rowland & Lizzie. I could not get away 1st train this morning because we did not arrive in season yesterday P.M to see McClellan or Williams. Maj has instructions in writing - all expenses paid except for food. We are to get money of Hight down in Maine.

I stayed at Judge Carroll's last night - went to bed early, spent the evening up here - expected John for the horse till dark. Kept him in the stable near Judge C's. I hear John has come. I left word for him to meet me here.

I suppose I better not pay my own fare for the sake of going with Lizzie, as Rowland will take good care.

Your appointment was in last night's paper (Star).

I've been thinking that unless something peremptory assigns you that it would be better not to have the 3d Regt. In your Brigade. Much less faultfinding - more deference from strangers. The officers themselves I think would be better suited - at least those I have talked with feel so. Some of your warmest friends I think would feel differently. There would be no chance to accuse you of favoritism or of slights to avoid the reproach of favoritism.

Maine troops I think have a high respect for you and yet all agree that it is better not to have all from the same state. Col. Marshall has been offered the Colonelcy of the 7th - Caron having refused to come. I fear he would be too tame & I don't like men educated in Col. Berry's school.

What I said of the 3d I desire should set you thinking a little more in that direction, not really to influence your decision for I am not fully decided what is best myself.

You will hear about Capt Griffin's being ordered across the river last night. He was with one of the Carroll's & wrote them a letter this morning saying they were undisturbed but did not sleep. They were ordered to take 1 day's rations & have 3 sent afterwards but took none in their hurry.

McClellan was there - near the Chain Bridge & told Capt. G he could return to the city today, but I understood that his battery would remain. I was glad to know that McClellan was right on the ground & Griffin arrived the first of those sent to help Gen'l Smith. Wagons rattling here all night & at the Carrolls they expected Capt. G. would be fighting before morning & some of the young ladies could not go to bed.

I am sorry that we 4 must stick so close together going home,

What will the 3d do without Maj. Staples gone now, if you go away? Hope you did not need your horse - as it proved it was no saving of money but it saved me yesterday & today many hard walks. My health is good. I will see Rowland & Lizzie in N.Y & if they really need me will go on the boat tomorrow night - a much more agreeable way to Me.

Those things to come by the 7th - will have a care to <[CHECK ORIGINAL-glued right edge]> - I think they will get with D Fuller's depot by some means or other.

I bade them adieu at the Carroll's this morning. Mrs. C. was abed sick - did not see her. She had a bad head ache last night when I went to bed. I wish I could have had some instructions or some book. Maj. Staples is a good hand to find out every thing one wants to know.

My rations must be <coming> of course & perhaps I can get 4 months committed at the same time. I got the \$42 thro Maj. Robie from Farwell. This will pay my expenses.

Write me to Leeds when you can.

Yr Affectionate Br.  
Charles

Shall I go to Bath to see Maj Sewall & tell him to get him Com. In a new Regt.

We go at 2 ½ P.M. today.

My mess accts I left with Mrs. Sampson.

Some letters of yours to be answered I left in the (small) drawer of the Bureau. They may have got into the black valise.

C.H.H.

[Written on the 4th page]

C.H. Howard

Sept 4 '61

[Note. Attached to this letter were two pages of a letter from Rowland to Charles dated July 31. It was moved to OOH-1257b.]

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1378 9/4/1861

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1336

Hd Qrs 3d Regt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[331]

Hd Qrs 3d Regt

Sept .4th 1861

Dearest,

Rowland & Chas. & Guy have gone and I feel somewhat lonely. I am very anxious about Guy. He was sick after I left him that night at Mrs Carrolls. I had to leave the little fellow & go back to Camp. The darling little boy, papa hopes he is well & got home in safety.

I have been appointed Brigadier Gen'l. I hesitate now whether it is better for the country the cause of Christ & for my poor self to take or decline the position. I shall send these few lines to Leeds. Much love to Mother, Rowland, Charles, and not least my little darling children. Pray God direct us all in the way he would have us walk.

Very truly & lovingly your own husband.

Otis

I don't forget Father much love

Do tell me all about the journey!

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1379 9/5/1861

*From:* O. O. Howard  
Col 3d. Me. Vols.

*To:* Richard B Irwin  
Capt & A.d.C.

OOH-1337

Hd Qrs 3d Regt Me Vols

Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[332]

Hd Qrs 3d Regt Me Vols  
Sept 5th 1861

Sir,

In answer to your inquiry as to the full name of Capt. Savage; it is Elbridge G. Savage, Comp "F" 3d Me. Vols. I think I was mistaken with regard to Capt Savage at the time I applied for his discharge. He had not then overstaid his leave, but he has now and whether it has been extended by proper authority or not I do not know. His Company needs a Captain

Very respectfully  
Yr. Obedt. Srvt  
O. O. Howard  
Col 3d. Me. Vols.

To:  
Richard B Irwin  
Capt & A.d.C.  
Washington  
D.C.

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1380 9/6/1861

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1338

Hd. Qrs. 3d Me Vols

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[194]

Hd. Qrs. 3d Me. Vols

Sept 6th 1861

My dearest Wife,

I am very anxious to hear from Guy & from you all now that you have started. I do hope darling that you are all well. I have accepted the position of Brig. Gen'l of Vols. and shall await orders here.

We are to keep two days cooked rations ahead. I do not much anticipate be action. I do not surmise where I shall be sent. Much love to Mother, Father & my little travelers or our little travelers.

God bless & keep you.

Affectionately your  
own Otis

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1381 9/7/1861

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1339

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[333]

Leeds, Maine, Sept 7, 1861

Saturday Eve ½ past 7 o'clock

My dearest Otis

I have borrowed paper of Col Gilmore to write part of a letter this evening.

Jamie went to sleep, then I undressed Guy and Grace. Now I will tell you about our journey. We left West Point Thursday morning, after the great trial of parting and leaving my pleasant home and friends. Rowland and Guy arrived the evening before in the "Thomas Powell" both were very well and I was happy to see dear little Guy back again in health. We missed Charlie in New York by half an hour. He left in the Cars at twelve o'clock, also, we arrived in Boston at half past six from Fall river and Charlie left in the seven o'clock train for Portland having stayed the night before at Mrs Hazards. He got here from Augusta a few minutes before Col Gilmore started for the Depot to meet us. Charlie "has'nt got his beard off" as your old friend said to you, and it makes him look too much like you. I am glad to meet him here and yet I don't like him to leave you a day.

I am very glad Maj. Staples is coming to see Charlie here next Tuesday. I shall have the pleasure of seeing him. I am going to have such a capital girl - Isabella. We spent the day Friday with Mrs Hazard, did not see Mr H. or Oli. Roddie is to go with Mr or now Capt Warren Woodman. Lee Strickland has been chosen Col. of the Regiment. We got into Portland quite early this morning, but the children did not wake for a long time and it was past eight o'clock when we walked to the Depot to get breakfast.

A little later we took a carriage and rode to uncle Edwards. Little Jamie went to sleep. I left him there while I rode with Guy and Grace to do a little shopping then returned there and took dinner and came out here in the afternoon train.

Mother looks quite well, and also Col Gilmore. Thomas and his wife Abby are the help. Col Gilmore has sent for my four trunks. They came through in safety. The children have been very good on the journey, very little trouble, and I am not tired or worn out at all. I feel very well to-night.

A short but welcome letter came to me in the same train from you, dearest, written after Rowland, Guy, and Charlie had gone.

Charlie is talking very fast with quite a number of friends who have come in to hear from friends in the regiment. I am in the famous North room. You can almost see me can you not?

I do not write very fast because I want to listen to Charlie. I will delay writing more to-night for little Jamie will soon wake and I have been writing an hour.

May God direct and keep you, and in his own good time bring you back to us is my prayer.

Lizzie

Sunday Evening. Six o'clock. I was obliged to stay at home to-day, dearest, with little Jamie who feels that he has lost all his friends, but Mama. Guy went to Church with Uncle Charlie, and he and Grace are very happy to meet Isabella who returned after church to-day. Mother and I are thinking of going to Farmington one day next week to see Ella and the baby, and also look at houses. I can leave Guy and Grace with Isabella so you see I am all ready provided with help. I presume I shall get along about as well with every thing else, and meet with as good success.

My friends at West Point congratulated you on your promotion. It was in the "World" Wednesday the day I made my good bye visits. I am glad it was given you on merit not politically. Mr Casy, I hear, said "He deserves

it." The 'sappers' from West Point, were ordered to Portland and a Mr or now Capt Casy, I imagine to finish the new fort if they are really there, this I heard the day before I left and I had too much else on my mind to remember well.

Mr Burgess [Note 1] your cousin's husband is very sick with consumption. Mother saw Laura & Aunt Lydia at church to-day. Cousin William H Timberlake and wife came to Maine few months ago. He has now joined the eighth Regiment as 2d Lieut. I shall write his wife to make me a visit this winter and if Grandmother is able I shall want her to come and see me. I shall get to house keeping as soon as I can.

I wish you would tell me if you and Rowland had conversations on any particular subjects connected with business or ourselves myself and children. I am exceedingly sorry to hear Rowland talk about money matters. I don't want my friends in high position for the pay. If he had not taken Guy to see you, I should say, I wish he had not gone to Washington. I hope you wont have Charlie Carroll on your staff, but I suppose you cannot get Officers of the Regular army. I hope you may be able to though. Charlie Fitzhugh left West Point the day I did, he had been promised a Lieutenancy in the regular army.

Monday morning. We are all well this morning. Most mail time. Charlie will wait by the same mail.

Your own Lizzie

Guy and Grace were undecided how many kisses they would send Papa, but concluded to send 12 and 4 each.

Lizzie

[Note 1: Thomas J Burgess died September 12, 1861 at age 51. He was the husband of Laura Leadbetter, daughter of Jabez Leadbetter and Lucretia Howard and was a first cousin of Otis.]

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1382 9/7/1861

*From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Col. O.O. Howard

OOH-1340

Bath Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[334]

Bath Me. Sep. 7, 1861

Col. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

At the request of Mr Fogg, whose Son Wm H. Fogg is a member of Co. A. 3rd Regt, I venture to ask you to do what lies in your power to secure for the young man a discharge or a furlough. He is now in the Hospital (at Columbia College Washington) & much Shattered in health. I feel a deep interest in him as a member of my church, & will do all I can to encourage his early return to duty when through the care of friends at home, his strength shall be regained.

I rejoice to hear of your well-earned promotion, & pray daily that the Lord of hosts may bless you.

With much respect

Yours truly,

E. Whittlesey

[written on the back of the letter]

Rev. E. Whittlesey

Sept. 7th 1861

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1383 9/7/1861

*From:* Robinson Fogg

*To:* Col Oliver O. Howard

OOH-1341

Bath Maine

3d Maine Reg't

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[335]

Bath Maine Sept 7th 1861

Col Oliver O. Howard 3d Maine Reg't

Dear Sir

I learn that my son Thos H. Fogg of Co A. 3d Maine Reg't is sick at the general Hospital in Washington. He left Augusta in your special service and as I am unable to learn his military status at the present time being removed from the Reg't to Washington I wish you would have the kindness to inform me as to the probability of his recovery, if he is not a going to be able to return to duty to render him what assistance to obtain his discharge that you can, or if he cannot be discharged to grant him a furlough so that he may return that I may see to him to regain his health if possible by your early attendance to this matter you will oblige me much as I feel very anxious as to the conditions of my sons health, on answer to this as soon as your duties will permit will be a great relief to me.

Yours truly

Robinson Fogg

To Col O O Howard

3d Maine Reg't

[Written on the last page by Otis]

Robinson Rogg

Sept 7 '61

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1384 9/9/1861

*From:* W,M. Beebe

*To:* Brig'r O O Howard

OOH-1342

Hudson Summit Co O

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[336]

Hudson Summit Co O

Sep 9, 1861

Dear Sir

I perceive by the announcements of promotions, that you are included among the Brigadiers. I am glad to see it not only on your account, but for the country's sake. I should not have ventured to congratulate you however, but for a request I have to make.

I did not succeed in getting my son appointed to a cadetship notwithstanding a vacancy has occurred in our district by the resignation of Cadet Wetmore. He had passed the age which by law he could have been admitted. I now want to ask the favor for him of a place in your staff, if your appointments are not made already. He is a young man possessing all the qualities needed to commend him to Such a man as I know you to be. He is naturally bright, quick & correct in judgement, thoughtful, brave & courteous, sufficiently educated in general science & Literature for usefulness, as brave as man & yet as gentle as a woman.

He has been under the military training of a competent officer Since the fall of Sumpter & evinces a high degree of military taste & genius. He is ambitious to be in the service but his friends are unwilling to let him enter without position, especially his mother. He would long since have done so, but for such restraints.

I could present you the testimonials of our college faculty & all others acquainted with him as to his fitness if needed. If consistent with your various & responsible duties please let me hear from you.

I rec'd a letter a few days since from Mme Gray. She & Jennie were well.

Respectfully &c  
W.M. Beebe

Brig'r O O Howard

My sons name is W.M.B. Jr

I ought to have said that Wm is about 5 feet 9 in. in height, well formed for muscular activity & endurance, & as active, physically as a deer. He is a communicant in the Episcopal church & strictly correct in all his habits, between twenty one & two years of age.

B.

M.W.Beebe  
Sept 4th '61

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1385 9/9/1861

*From:* Geo. W. Raymond

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-1343

Wayne Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[337]

Wayne Maine

Sept the 9 - 1861

Sir

I take this opportunity to inform you of my health it is very poor now but is better than it was a while ago but is not good enough to do a soldier's duty yet. I have a writing from Dr Barker of Wayne and from Dr Ellis of Augusta and I could send them to you but I would like to keep them myself I will send you one from Dr Marston that was given in Aug he thinks now that I never will be able to go back again. I have been bleeding to the lungs

I want you to send me some money you receive for it and when I receive it I will receive for the same and send it to you my pay is due from the 4th of June I ask for a new furlough

please write as soon as you receive this

Your truly

Geo. W. Raymond, soldier for. Co. H. Maine 3d. Regiment

direct your letter to Wayne Me

Geo W Raymond

Sept 9 '61

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1386 9/9/1861

*From:* John Hillhouse

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-1344

Syracuse

Brig.Gen'l U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[338]

Syracuse Sept 9, 1861

O.O. Howard

Brig.Gen'l U.S.A.

My Dear Howard

Your telegraphic despatch, informing me that Gen'l Thomas had promised my appointment, reached me this day, but unfortunately for my feelings and wishes, I received a communication on Saturday last from Gen'l Martindale requesting me to come on without delay and assure the same position on his staff, which of course settles the question of duty, as I intimated in my letter to you, written on the supposition that he had made another appointment.

I need not assure you how much pleasure it would have afforded me to renew even in the midst of warlike scenes, the friendly intercourse begun in old Watervliet, and had I been earlier advised of your appointment, my application to you should have anticipated all others; as it is, I can only thank you for your favorable regard, and hope that we may ere long meet to rejoice over our beloved country once more restored to peace, and the exercise of its authority unimpaired over all its parts.

Meanwhile believe me

Very truly yours

John Hillhouse

[Witten on back]

John Hillhouse

Sept. 9, '61

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1387 9/9/1861

*From:* Fred. D. Sewall

*To:* Dear [CH] Howard

OOH-1345

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[301]

Bath Sept 9th 1861

Dear Howard

By Mr. Watson I heard of your return to the state, and desire very much to see you, but hardly know where a letter will reach you. Will you not come to Bath and visit me at an early day. I would gladly meet you at my home, and I wish an early interview with you.

Yours very truly  
Fred. D. Sewall

[Note: This may have been written to Charles, as he had recently returned to Maine for a recruiting trip, whereas Otis was still in Washington.]

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1388 9/10/1861 *From:* Anson P. Morrill

*To:* General O.O. Howard

OOH-1330

Readfield Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[326]

Readfield Me Sept 1861

General O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

Permit me, to introduce to your favorable notice the bearer Mr H. N. Morten of Augusta who desires a place in one of our Maine regiments as Quarter Master or commissary. He will present ample testimonials of his suitable qualifications, & believing as I do that he would discharge the duties of the place he seeks with ability I should be glad to have him succeed.

If in your power to aid him I hope you will do so. I am not ignorant of the many calls you must have for similar favors.

Very truly yours  
Anson P. Morrill

Anson P. Morrill [Written by Otis on back]

Sept 1861

[Note: The day of the month was not written. Because the salutation is written to "General" Howard, it must have been written after his appointment, which was made on 9/3/1861, but wasn't popularly used until 9/9, so assume this is 9/10.]

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1389 9/11/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1346

Hd. Quarters 3d Regt  
Me Vols

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[339]

Hd. Quarters 3d Regt  
Me Vols Sept 11th 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I put off writing you last night till this morning and now the wind blows so hard that I can hardly write in Camp. I am very anxious to get a word from you to say that Guy is well. Also yourself - Grace & Jamie and landed safely at Fathers. Guy must have much to tell you. I didn't have much time to take him on my knee & talk with him when he was here. He found a great deal that was new & attractive to him in Camp. I hope he didn't take cold or become sick. You have to wait & wait, but you have those blessed "little comforts" about you.

My mind is generally filled with my duties but I am much less occupied now than I was. I have to be up early, & keep my eyes open. I never saw the regiment in better shape than it now is. At reveille nearly every officer reports to me on the color line. The grounds then are thoroughly policed. We have a good many sick yet & a good many playing sick, so as to shirk their work & get home.

I wish I could look in upon you this morning and just play with the children a little while. I think Jamie & I would have a fine time.

I have'nt heard form John Hillhouse yet since his application, nor from Colonel Staples. I should be glad to know if they received my dispatches.

Tell father there is not much hope of an attack from the enemy. We now have a complete line of fortifications and are prepared for anything. Gen'l McClellan will have every thing in readiness before he moves. He has my old friend Capt Marcy now Colonel Marcy as Chief of Staff. Seth Williams for Adjutant Gen'l. Kingsbury chief of ordnance. Ingalls was Chief of Qr Master's dept, now Van Vliet. Gen'l Mengs is always a good friend to me. He congratulated me heartily the other day on my promotion. Some of the officers seemed a little "grouty" I thought - Baird & Col Cullum for example. They complain of the number of Brigadiers. That is all right there are too many but it was'nt in good taste to tell me so.

I feel as though I ought to do something for the Carrolls but I cant. Charles Carroll is not the kind of man I want except as an additional aid for he has no experience & my habits would not be very acceptable to him & I fear his would not be so to me.

Much love & many kisses to the children. Much love to father & mother. P.[Post] Boy waiting. Good by darling. Your Otis

P.S. Perry is well, sends love to all.

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1390 9/12/1861 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1347

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[310]

Portland Sept 12 1861

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter this morning was glad to hear that you and Children arrived safe and all well. I called twice at the Office of Lawyer Williams but he was not in. I will see him and Enquire about the Execution and let you know.

I enclose a fifty Dollar Bill Canal Bank - the amt you request - hoping to hear from you often I remain

Your Affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

with kind regards to all you friends

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1391 9/12/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1348

Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[341]

Leeds Me. Sept. 12, 1861

My own dearest Otis

Charlie got a long letter from you to-day. I care not to whom you write if we can only hear from you often, and know that you are in good health. I ought to have written you the night before we left West Point,, and should have done so had I known that Guy was sick the night you left him in Washington. I did not know it - till we were on our journey. He was well when he reached home. He says now that he is going back with Uncle Charlie, and with a great deal of earnestness says, that he will volunteer when he is a little larger. I am very thankful that he is as good a boy as he is.

I shall rejoice exceedingly if you can have Mr Hillhouse. I think he has lately been connected with Gov. Morgan, in some way, of N.Y. State. If Charlie must leave you he must, you know best. You probably will have Maj. Fred Sewall on your staff. Maj. Staples and Miss Clark of Winthrop were here yesterday. Charlie was at Uncle Ensign's when they came. We sent for him immediately. They were here three hours from twelve 'till three o'clock. Mr and Mrs Mulliken sent love to me by him. I almost have a wish to go to Augusta if they are to be there this winter. I am not going to do much about getting to house keeping while Charlie is home. I wish to do something for you, such as making shirts &c, see him as much as I can, and help Mother what I can.

Dear little Jamie has become so well acquainted with Isabella that he puts out his little hands to go to her already. I am going to Auburn to see Aunt Sarah this week, and not to Farmington just now. Mother proposed that I should remain here while Charlie was home. I do feel a little dependent and like a straw the wind can blow in any direction. I am not unhappy, but try to be both cheerful and happy.

If I was at West Point now I should see you. I know you would go that far to see us, but I cant expect you to come on here. Maj Staples does not wish to return 'till Col Tucker is removed. I hope the 3d Regiment may pass directly from your care to his. I expect to hear very soon of your having a Brigade assigned you.

I am writing in the evening as usual. I have had the tooth ache nearly all the time since the day before I left West Point, but I am quite sure the tooth will be out before you receive this letter. I left my writing to read Charlie's account of the battle, and now it is too late to write more this evening. I hope you are to have a quiet, refreshing sleep this night. We are all very well.

Friday morning. This must go to the P.O. by Charlie when he goes on his tour recruiting. I intend to go to Auburn to-morrow. I would like to be there on Sunday as I cannot go to Church here on account of leaving Jamie so long. The weather seems much colder here than in New York and I must be getting the children ready for winter. They want the snow to come now. I must get them each a sleigh. I feel that I can get along very nicely. I wish you would write to us oftener. Guy and Grace are out at play with Johny. I hear them very happy. Isabella will prove an excellent girl. My kindest regards to the Carrolls, Mr Hillhouse, and all other friends.

Your own Lizzie

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1392 9/13/1861     *From:* Edwin H. Darling

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1349

146 Broadway  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[342]

[Letterhead]

Doolittle & Crittenden

Attorneys & Counsellors at Law

146 Broadway

(Corner of Liberty Street, over Atlantic Bank)

New York

Edwin A. Doolittle

Edward W. Crittenden

September 13, 1861

My dear Sir,

You doubtless remember me as poor Frank's [Frank Sargent] nephew, and as the young man who once spent a day or two with you at West Point. Ever since the war commenced, I have been exceedingly anxious to go, and nothing but the opposition of my father has prevented my being in Washington a private soldier to-day. I could very easily have procured a commission in the regular army two months ago, but now that my father's views are somewhat modified, find it impossible to do so. I see by the papers that you have recently been made a Brigadier-General, and not knowing but that you might be able to do something for me, have taken this liberty. If you can spare time from your military avocations, please address me as above, & believe me,

Yours very respectfully,

Edwin H. Darling

[Note. Edwin was the son of Timothy and Lucy (Sargent) Darling. Lucy was the sister of Francis Taft Sargent, who married Otis' cousin Sarah Lee.]

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1393 9/13/1861 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1350

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[343]  
Frid. Morn.  
Sept. 13, 1861

Dear Otis

Maj. Sewall has written me twice to come to Bath. He is very desirous of a place on your staff. Please write if you want him & I will go to the Gov. & see what can be done for him. What is the rank of Inspector Gen.? The sooner Sewall is informed the better if you want him because he must arrange his business. Perhaps you have written about this & as soon as I get your reply I will go to Augusta - then to Bath.

I am troubled about the recruiting. Have received no instructions & have no papers. If I could only have papers to enlist I could get many more - but having to send them to Augusta & there being an uncertainty about their expenses being paid going there & whether any one or any place is ready for them there, I am completely crippled. I have been all over this town with no success tho' some might be persuaded to go had I the enlisting paper so that their wages should commence immediately.

Sargt. Lothrop Co. K. discharged on acct of a wound - is recruiting a co. for himself for the 9th Regt. He has been all over my ground. I wait for further instructions. I cannot hire a horse because I don't know as my expenses will be paid. Capt. Hight could not inform us because he had rec'd no money or instructions. I am going to Greene & Monmouth today.

Will try & get names at any rate because I cant be still - using father's horse. Your letter last night did us all much good.

You had not got mine to answer.

Your affectionate Br  
Charles

[Written by Otis at the bottom]  
Sept. 13 1861  
C.H. Howard  
answered

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1394 9/15/1861      *From:* Your Otis [OO  
Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-1351

Hd Qrs 3d Me Vols

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[345]

Hd Qrs 3d Me Vols Sept 15th 1861

My dearest Wife

I hav'nt yet left my regiment as you see by the heading.

(Monday morning)

After I wrote the above line I was employed all day without intermission. The men are bringing me their money to send by express to their friends and it has made me a good deal of extra work. I am going to Washington this morning to send the money & make other arrangements.

I am disappointed in Maj Staples not returning before this. It will make me behind every body in the choice of my brigade. I should not have gone to West Point if you had been there now darling, for I shall not show myself at the north under reverse if I can help it. It is no time to bark one's command now. Political Generals may do it but Army Gen'ls had better keep the field & keep their eyes open - not for credit - but for the salvation of the country. We have had glory enough, now is the time for work.

I am glad Guy got out of the Spring as I got out of the battle. Was he under the birch tree next to the pasture?

I send you enclosed one hundred dollars - I have sent to Mr Fuller \$100. & \$84.50 to Mr Augusta Tucker. I wish you would give me a detailed account of your possessions & your wants. How much you have on hand &c.

I could'nt understand what you said about Rowland & his journey. We had no conversation that amounted to anything touching money matters. Those things you & I can take care of. His visit was pleasant to me & to the Command. He was perhaps a little too ambitious for me & I fear I have been more under that spirit than I ought to be. Did Rowland draw heavily on you darling, for expenses? Tell me the whole just as it is.

I am glad Jamie takes to Isabella. How did Susan feel on leave taking? I should think Guy & Grace would miss her. I am afraid I have not sent you money enough.

I believe I have regained the love & confidence of my old Regiment. When I had the brigade, every sort of representation was made but now it is all right. I have lost Jake Hillhouse to my regret. I think I shall take Mr Fred D. Sewall of Bath for Asst Adj't Gen'l. He wants the rank of Major, but he cant have that rank from the Gen'l Government & I think he wont mind that as he is a true man. Gen'l Martindale had the refusal of Hillhouse before he wrote me. A great many applications have come to me for positions on my staff. I should like to do something to show a kindly disposition towards the Carrolls if I could. I feel under obligation and I don't like to do so but Charles C is not just the man, unless I can have a surplus Aid. I am not allowed Army officers. This will be likely to cut him off.

Give lots of love to Mother. She has hardly had her share of my letters but she is like yourself - probably if word only comes often that all is well it is satisfactory.

I have not written to Mr Sewall because I was entirely uncertain what position I could give him.

I feel glad Guy has been to see me. How much does he remember of Camp life & of his journey. He is a darling little boy & papa would like to have him here, but there are reasons why a Camp is a bad place for a little boy. I should just like to take a look at Grace. She must be changing. She wont get too big to kiss papa will she? And Jamie he is too large for I hear his mother is thin. She doesn't eat & sleep as well as she used to does she? There is nothing like those two requisites eating & sleep remember.

Mrs Sampson is very kind & John is quite attentive but I can take care of myself pretty well. It is'nt so much work to parade the Reg't now as it was. We are much like old Soldiers. The officers come up to duty "like a

book”.

We never had a better prayer meeting than last night. A sing with our three ladies to help preceded the prayer meeting at my tent.

Much love to all. Kisses for the children. I think if we have a successful campaign this time I wont be ashamed to show my self in Maine soon.

May God bless you & keep your heart & bless mother & make her happy. I shall write Chas right away.

Your Otis.

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1395 9/15/1861     *From:* Sade Sampson

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1352

Camp Fessenden

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[344]

Camp Fessenden  
Evening of Sept 15th 1861

My dear Lizzie,

You'll excuse my familiarity, I know, when I tell you, I hear the Col and Charlie so often speak of you, and they seem so much like brothers to me, that I cannot think of you as a stranger, especially tonight when I am in such a "melting mood."

I have just returned from a singing & prayer-meeting at the Col's tent; the exercise was very interesting but the thoughts that he will so soon to leave us, took away all my pleasure. Charlie I suppose will leave with him. They have both been very kind to me and I am sure I shall be lost without them. I am at these thoughts, but tis all for the best, no doubt, though I fear for our Regiment when we lose our Col. Every-body will mourn none more than my husband and self.

Charlie said you wanted to know what you could do for the Col, and though he insists upon it, that he is in need of nothing, I am happy to tell you there is one thing you can send him, that he will appreciate beyond measure, and be very useful. It is a flannel dressing-gown or wrapper, to sleep in nights, and slip on day times, when he wants to rest. If I should propose this to him he would say he did not want it, but I know when once he has it, he would not do without it, for he has slept cold for several nights. I would make both outside & lining of flannel, and make it long. He would find it very useful too, should he ever be sick in cold weather.

I wish I could always look out for his things, but Charlie will be with him, and he takes very good care of him, unless he should be sick himself, but they are both so good, they will find friends every-where. You have nothing to fear.

Please say to Charlie, the Capt has pitched a tent for me next his, and I am very cozyly situated, wonder if he will ever visit me here? Another order from Col. Sedgwick was read tonight, to keep three days rations cooked. We hear from Lt. Wiggin that he is not very successful in raising recruits in Bath & vicinity.

Say to my darling little Guy, that the Sunday after he left, I picked a leaf during service for him & pressed it in my hymn-book - but have left it at the other tent tonight, will send it him, next time.

I will try and write to your mother very soon - with much love to her, and you all I am very affectionately yrs -

Sade Sampson

A few more hdkfs. wd. not come amiss to the Col. But I think there is really nothing else he needs.

I will Charlie a paper tomorrow with Dr. Palmer's letter in it - tis just published with editorial remarks.

Monday Mrning

This slip of English-ivy grew over the door of the church in Alexandria where Gen Washington used to worship. I gathered it myself yester-afternoon on my way out. I think you may be able to root it.

Six of us went down to church. Sermon by Chaplain of N.Y. text 6 psalm 4th verse.

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1396 9/16/1861

*From:* Joseph R. Hall

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1353

State of Maine  
Office of Secretary of  
State  
Augusta

Washington D.C.

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[Letterhead]

State of Maine  
Office of Secretary of State  
Augusta

Sept 16, 1861

Sir -

Mr. H. W. Morton of this city desires a place in the US Army, either in the Quarter Master or Commissary Departments and I have much pleasure in assuring you that he is a man whose honesty and integrity is unquestioned here, and whose business capacity and habits well qualify him for the position he desires.

Any assistance you can render him will be duly appreciated and will gratify his numerous friends here and elsewhere.

I have the honor to be sir  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Joseph R. Hall

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

---

1397 9/16/1861

*From:* Lewis D. Moore  
Dep Secy of State,  
State of Maine  
Office of Secretary of  
State  
Augusta

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1354

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[016]  
[Letterhead]  
State of Maine  
Office of Secretary of State  
Augusta

Sept 16, 1861

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

Dr Sir -

Permit me to introduce to your favorable consideration H. W. Morton Esq of this city, who is desirous of obtaining a situation in connection with the Army. Any aid you may be pleased to render him in his desired object, will be duly appreciated by myself, and I have no doubt by his many friends in this vicinity.

I am Very Respectfully  
Your Ob Servant  
Lewis D. Moore  
Dep Secy of State

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1398 9/16/1861 *From:* Cyrus Yanny

*To:* Dear Gen. [O.O. Howard]

OOH-1355

Calais

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[346]

Calais Sept 16th 1861

Dear Gen.

In consequence of an incidental remark, in a letter from my Son to his sister, I think it my duty to ask you if the Conv. officers have been faithfully, thoroughly and impartially examined as to their courage and fitness for the station they occupy?

I infer, from the remark alluded to, that there is a general dissatisfaction among the members of Co G. 3d reg. Maine Voll in regard to their Capt.; neither just or unjust I have no means of judging. I deem it of the highest importance that the officers should possess the entire confidence of their men; and it more better that one man should be sacrificed, than that a whole Co. should be rendered inefficient through a want of confidence in its Commander. I trust you will make such enquiries as will satisfy yourself as to the merit or demerits of the case and initiate such proceedings as the best interests of our Country demand. I should be sorry to have my son brought into any personal difficulty, this, of course you will avoid. I will add, I do not believe him capable of casting an unjust aspersion upon any one.

Your's Patriotically  
Cyrus Yanny

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1399 9/17/1861

*From:* [Senator] Lot M  
Morrill

*To:* Brig. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1356

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[347]

Augusta Sept 17 '61

Dear General

Allow me to introduce the bearer Mr Morton of this city, who visits Washington in the hope of obtaining employment.

He is a man of intelligence, capacity & of much business experience. I shall be glad if you can in any way advance his interest.

Very Truly Yours  
[Senator] Lot M Morrill

Brig. Genl Howard

[Written on back]  
Lot M. Morrill  
Sept. 17 '61

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1400 9/18/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1357

Head Qrs 3d Me Vols

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[348]

Head Qrs 3d Me Vols

Sept 18 1861

My dearest Wife

I am going to write you just a few words & enclose my self for your consideration.

Major Staples report is quite satisfactory. He says you look just as you did when he saw you at New York. I asked him if you were very thin & growing old & he positively declared no. I have gained 15 lbs since I left West Point. I notice by the papers that John Hillhouse has been appointed on my staff; but he had written me before that Gen'l Martindale had the claim on him. Major says Guy talks of volunteering. I don't hear much of Gracie. I expect she plays every day & is as happy as her little heart will let her be & that she does not cease to love papa. But Jamie I believe don't know me.

Much love to Mother & Father - am very sorry that father is deaf. If Chas. don't get a commission I must have him with me if he comes back to the wars. I miss him. Colonel Staples is not well. He is billious, had too many new things, since he has been gone. I was at judge Carrolls day before yesterday. He wants to be remembered; also Fitzhugh who is now apt. adjt Gen'l to Gen Bird. Mrs Carroll & the young ladies have gone to West Point.

Mrs Sampson has been quite attentive to me & my wants. A Wrentham lady Miss Bradley wanted a lock of my hair. I sent word that she must get your sanction.

Give love to Charlie. I shall write him soon.

There has been another rebellion in the 4th Maine. One whole company & more. The trouble is their Company officers don't know anything.

God bless you & the little ones

Very lovingly

Otis

P.S. My officers got these pictures out of me - it is not altogether my vanity

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1401 9/19/1861    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1358

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[349]

Farmington Sept. 19. 1861

Dear Sister Lizzie

I find on reviewing my figures that I made a mistake of \$11.00 in my own favor by making a blunder in subtracting. I believe the Acct. is now correct. If it is not perfectly satisfactory to you, do please say so frankly. I find the incidental expenses of the journey were larger than I anticipated - these I have not generally included in the acct.

You have given me opportunity of enjoying one of the most pleasant & profitable journeys of my life & I hope what I have learned may not be entirely useless to those whom I can benefit. I thank you from my heart for your great kindness, the more so since my own circumstances would have quite put it out of my power to go.

You overpaid me \$2.03 which I enclose herewith.

Our family & housekeeping never appeared so poorly as during this little flying visit, but the causes were apparent and you know it was no lack of disposition on our part. You are always welcome to come & go & remain here with your family when you will. Ella & I have often spoken of this - & nothing would make us happier than to serve you & the children as we can. As Ella's health returns & when Abby comes we can make our home much more regular & agreeable than it now is. Never since we have been housekeeping have we omitted family prayer till this morning & it will not occur again.

I will write you just as soon as anything shall transpire in regard to a house. I send Guys papers. I want him to come up - Monday with Mr Goff & spend a day with me if his mother can spare him. Please write, if he can come.

Yr. Aff. Bro:  
Rowland

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1402 9/19/1861    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1359

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[350]

Farmington, Me. Sept, 19, 1861.

My dearest Otis

I am writing before breakfast and am at Rowland's as you see by date. Col Gilmore, Mother, myself and Jamie came yesterday, and go down this morning in the train. No house here as yet that I am sure of getting. I expect to go with Rowland and look at some this morning. Shall see Sarah before I go.

I regret to hear that you are not to have Mr Hillhouse. Where is Tom Wright? (Genial Tom) as you say. I hope you can get a good staff. Has'nt Charlie learned so that he could be of service to you? I know I would like him to be with you.

My goods are at Leeds Junction at present. I found Charlie here, and was glad. When I go to any new place I feel a little lonely and that is why I was glad. Ella's is a nice baby, but smaller than Guy or Jamie was. He looks very well but not strong.

Charlie has finished writing so I must. May God protect you .

Your own Lizzie.

I paid Rowland this morning. I can pay your clothing bill at Augusta.

---

1403 9/19/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1360

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[349]

Farmington Sept. 19, 1861

Dear Brother

Lizzie, father & mother came up last night but failed to bring your letters, one to me and one to Lizzie. I have been waiting anxiously for answers to some questions but Lizzie remembered and told me your replies for the most part.

I expect to go to Augusta tomorrow. Have not received a word of instruction since I came home. Don't know whether any office has been established or whether my expenses will be paid and that of the transportation of recruits to Augusta.

I have only two signers to my paper but there are a good many in this vicinity whom I could enlist had I the proper papers & authority. We had a meeting & I addressed the people an hour - was then followed by Rowland with a very eloquent speech of about an hour, & others.

I wish I knew what to do about Maj. Sewall. I question his fitness for the Adj. Gen'l'cy.

Do you want me on your staff?

We could not positively decide whether you could appoint your aid & Inspector Gen'l. You said that Adj. Gen'l said you could have one - say Hillhouse - and no other but must take such as the department may send you. I take it that in this latter he only referred to Qr. Master & Commissary. Is that right? You intimated something of this kind. Cant you have Owen if he wants to come?

Lizzie inquired where Tom Wright is. Maj. Sewall would like for some one to apply to the Gov. for him but if you want me it will perhaps be asking all we ought to for him to grant me a commission. There were 21 applicants for the Chaplaincy of the 8th Regt. so I have no hopes of such a situation. If you want me for aid I wish you would send some letter to that effect to the Gov. either by mail or by me.

Capt Woodman would be completely ignorant & so I think not fit for Adj. Gen'l. He tho't Strickland would not make a very good Col. Lacks dignity to command respect.

I must close. Do write immediately.

I think I can recruit as well as any one but it goes slowly.

Yr. Affec. Bro.  
C.H. Howard

[Written on back]  
Sept. 19, 1861

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1404 9/20/1861 *From:* Hannah Carver

*To:* Col. [OO] Howard

OOH-1361

North Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[351]

North Leeds

Sept. 20th / 61

Col. Howard, Sir

You must excuse my freedom in writing to you. I wish you to write to me how Jason Carver is, whether he is so that you think he can be brought home or not. If so one of his brothers will come and get him and see him home.

I wish you to answer this as soon as you receive it so that we may know whether to come after him or not.

Direct to North Leeds to his mother.

Hannah Carver

Yours with much respect

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1405 9/20/1861

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1362

Hd Qrs 3d Regt  
Camp Fessenden

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[352]

Hd Qrs 3d Regt  
Camp Fessenden  
Sept 20, 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I will just drop you a line to say that I am well, have moved into Gen Sedgewicks Quarters to wait for orders. I expected them yesterday but they did not come, & New Brigade is to be sent over here & I suspect I may have it. It will be pushed forward between Gen Kearny's & Gen Slocum's. Charlie will explain.

Very nearly on our old ground only a little retired. I have had a good rest & feel much refreshed. Maj. Fred D. Sewall of Bath has been commissioned as Adjutant Gen'l. Gen. Martindale was not disposed to give up Hillhouse unless Hillhouse particularly desired it. I went day before yesterday to the Adjutant Gen'l's office and put forward Sewall & yesterday his appointment was announced. Tell every body that the 3d Maine is the most respectable & best behaved regiment of all & that men had better go therein without bounty than in many others with.

I feel as though I am a great Sinner Lizzie, during these days of comparative leisure. I seem to have lost the power of reflecting before each action in its inception, and sometimes it seems like duty to read in my testament. My mind wanders away upon business.

How little sympathy I have had with men whose minds are loaded with care for earthly things. You must pray for me in these days when I am abounded against so many hard substances. God bless you & the children every day & mother. How is she? Col Staples said she looked cheerful and that he had a very pleasant visit. I should have written her this letter, but as I had so little time before the mail boy left I thought would not like to send her a careless letter as I had not written for some time. Given the duty I will try to write her.

Love to Father & Charlie. I do hope the children & you are well. I have'nt had a letter for two days from any body.

Good bye - Pray for me.

Yr. Aff. Husband  
O.O. Howard

No attack & not much prospect of a battle – O.O.H.

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1406 9/21/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1363

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[353]

Augusta Sept. 21, 1861

Dear Brother

I find that you have appointed Maj. Sewall as Adj. Gen'l. I don't know but that he may do well. I should like to see some stronger man at the place. At first the papers had it Inspector Gen'l which suited me quite well.

Now is there no such place as Inspector Gen'l. If there is why might not I have it unless you have some one else in mind?

Drew spoke of seeing a letter from you with regard to my being Chaplain. There is such a scramble for the place that I dislike to have anything to do with it - not being very old & not having been ordained they would surely complain of favoritism.

I am going to be in Leeds Monday & Tuesday & you may direct all my letters there till week after next when I expect to be at Farmington. I have now got regular enlisting papers but cannot promise bounty. They are not able to pay any more bounty & I must retract what I have already done on this account.

I don't believe you will care much to have that unmanageable Cavalry. Goddard is to be Col. - consist of 970 men.

If Lothrop could be an officer in Co. K. - (He was discharged on acct of a wound at Bull Run & is well & has enlisted a Co but too late for the 9th) he would come back & we could have several of his men. I have telegraphed to Staples.

Lizzie returned to Leeds - Thurs morning. The baby - I mean Jamie - was very good natured & let me hold him a good deal.

My health is very good. Lt. Stearns - the Missouri man recently from the 3d Maine - says he thinks more of you than of any other man in Va.

Hight will pay some of my expenses. He has now some money. I hope the Lord will grant you in your selections & will bring you into a place where you may do good service to our Cause & Country.

Your affectionate Brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S.

The Gov. seems to think you can have men commissioned at Washington if you appoint them on your staff. He has no authority to commission but will do so if the authority is granted him as it was in the case of Quarter Masters of Regts & Adjutants notwithstanding - there was no such authority from the Gen'l order.

I see no way of getting a commission in any of the Regts raising if engaged in this duty for the 3d Maine or in any way if I am to leave them. They may not agree to it.

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1407 9/22/1861

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Sister Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1364

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[354]

Farmington Sept. 22/61

Dear Sister Lizzie

Ella is going to Bath Wednesday & I will come as far as Leeds with her returning here the same night.

I hope Guy will come up Monday. I will go to the Depot for him. If he is put particularly in the care of Mr. Goff & Guy understands it it will be just as well as if you or I were with him.

Our meetings have not been as full as usual today on acct. of muddy traveling I suppose.

Charles went Friday morning at 6 o'clock in the Stage. We have no later news from Otis except Fred Sewalls appointment. I think the President must have commissioned him. I do hope Charles will have a place - if no better fitted man can be found. He & Otis both need the pay. A Recruit came to inquire for C. today. He goes to Augusta tomorrow to enlist.

I am pretty tired after my three Services. With love to all.

Good Night  
Rowland

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1408 9/22/1861      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1365

Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[355]

Leeds Maine Sept 22 / 1861

My dearest Otis

I have received letters from you so often since I have been here that I cannot be otherwise than happy. Grace has'nt been quite well, but I think her change of dirt the cause.

I have just finished reading two Sunday School papers that Rowland sent the children yesterday. Now they are playing, Guy with chairs, Grace with "bunnie". Jamie is with Isabella. Col Gilmore and Mother gone to church. Charlie is in Augusta, Cynthia and I are going to Monmouth to take him home from there to-morrow I expect. I shall be sorry if he returns with a commission if that cuts him off from being with you. I may go with him to Livermore (to muster) Tuesday next, but I hardly think I shall. I don't want to go at present.

I am making you some shirts; dressing case if finished and furnished I wish you had it now. I received a long pleasant letter from Mrs Sampson last week. I wish you would remember me to her very kindly, and tell her I would like to answer her immediately if only to thank her for her suggestions. I have 6 handkerchiefs all hemmed for you.

What did you send me so much money for. I had one hundred and fifty about on deposit in Casco bank. Uncle Edward sent me, at my request, fifty dollars of that. I have had no more since the seventy five from Mr Bacon before I left West Point two thirds of that settled my bills. I had the remainder and, twenty six of the forty dollars interest on your Insurance Co. in New York. To Rowland I gave \$26 and finished paying him when at Farmington out of the fifty from Uncle. I bought a piece of cloth for your shirts and for myself. I have two pairs of half thick drawers for you and you must tell me that you will put them on as soon as you get them unless you are already wearing thicker ones. Will you? I don't know how much I have in my purse. I have ten dollars or more of New Jersey money I will send you by Charlie. It is no use to me here and is discounted also. Expenses.

I gave Rowland some money before he went to Washington and told him I did'nt want him to ask you for any. I was talking with him an evening before about everything - Mr Bacon and Mr Merrick having some of your money and your owning in an Insurance Co in the City &c - and he remarked that he was going to talk with you about these things, and it grieved me very much, but I don't think he saw it or found it out. As if it was important for him to know your property and where it was situated. It seemed too much, dearest, like going to take your deposition (if it is the word) and like a last final visit to you. And I didn't want him even to mention the subject to you. I feared it might trouble you, and I don't want you troubled with anything you don't have to know, that is just the long and short of it. You have enough to do anyway. I would'nt have told you this much if you had not asked me.

I willingly paid Rowland's expenses, and including to Washington and back, because he took Guy to visit you, and that is very gratifying to me. I left West Point more willingly on that account. Everything included, it cost me about fifty dollars. Interest on the Bonds will be due the first of next month. I have no particular want of money here as I have no way to spend it.

Mother wishes me to stay here until Charlie returns to Va. Then I will get to house-keeping, if Rowland gets me a house before that time. My goods are in a car at Leeds Junction. I may have the house that Rev John S. C. Abbott occupied when we were at Farmington. Mr Dana Goff has been living there, but has recently purchased a house. I would board in Farmington if I cant find a pleasant place for the winter.

I don't think the children miss Susan because they like Isabella so very much, and she is very kind to them.

The papers say you have Major F. D. Sewall for Asst. Adj. Gen. but they say most anything and I don't know as it is so.

Guy frequently breaks out with something to tell me that he saw. I shall soon learn every thing he saw. I am

getting it little by little as it is suggested to him. Grace wanted to look at the paper and see where the kiss was, when you asked if she would be too large to kiss papa. She has just given me three kisses for papa. I called to Guy to know if he had anything to send to papa. He came toward me saying, 'I will send all the kisses I can get' and began giving them to me to transfer to you.

He is very well now, but had intermittent fever nearly a week after he fell into the spring. It was the spring under the birch tree, and he could not walk to the house for want of strength. He got out and then sent Johnnie for someone, while he sat on the grass and I think took cold in that way.

I believe I have answered all questions in your next to the last letter, and now to the last. I am so glad you have had Photographs taken. I have wanted it for a long time. I like the side view best, if I have a choice, the other is very good, but the whiskers need trimming with the scissors or were you thinking of and trying to resemble our friend you came near having with you? That is the first think I thought of when you mentioned him first. I am sorry you lost him.

I am very much obliged to Maj Staples for giving a good report of us. Charlie writes in detail. I think he must have said I was thin or perhaps Rowland. I am very happy to learn that you have gained so much and your picture looks pretty well. Is your hair more gray? Miss B. can have a lock of it, for Mrs Sampson says that she was informed, by the same, that a light always disturbed her after she had gone to bed.

When I opened my paper I found your certificate of stock of four shares in the "Insurance Co". I thought I had'nt it when I wrote to Mr Bacon.

Mother has returned from Church says Ella and baby are going to Bath next Wednesday. Rowland comes as far as here, then Uncle Ensign takes her the rest of the way. She will remain till some time in Oct. when Abby, Mrs Patten's seamstress, (you saw her at the time of the wedding) will return and spend the winter with Ella. It is hard work to know how to get along with the first baby (between you and I). Mother is resting on the lounge behind me, thinks Miss Bradley is making hair flowers to want your grey hair. I shall send you a pair of pants by Charlie, and I was going to pay your tailor's bill at Augusta. Charlie is getting pants there.

There is one thing I would like to caution you. I don't want you to try to help Perry, for I do not think it would do any good. I told Charlie he'd better keep the coat that looked so much like you, dearest. I changed the buttons for him. He is wearing it now recruiting.

I shall do the best I can with what I have to live on, but if you have any money to lend or not wish to use I rather you would send it to me for the children, unless you can find a better use for it than I can think of.

Evening. Half past seven o'clock.

I do wonder, dearest where you are just now. At a prayer meeting in your tent perhaps and may be not in that vicinity, but you are under God's protecting care wherever you are.

I feel a little restless, lonely, and don't know what to do with my self to-night. Your photograph is before me stuck in one side of the mirror which I see when I look up, but it cant speak to me. Children all asleep and they are pretty well. I ought to be and am thankful that they are. I have a great many blessings, and am naughty to sit and think and wish for something I cannot have.

Cynthia sends me word to be ready at nine o'clock in the morning to start for Monmouth, therefore I must finish my letter to-night, all but sealing for Charlie may wish to add a word before I mail it at Monmouth. Come to think of it he wont have time before the cars leave, he will only have time to get out before they will be gone. I don't feel sad now, but I was a while ago, dearest, just a little. I seem to have written all my trials and troubles in this letter. I was going to have my tooth out at Lewiston as I told you but I forgot it as it did'nt ache, and it has not ached since but it must come out. Laura has her married cousin with her from Philada. They were here one day to see me. Do not forget to write often will you, when you can. Give my kind regards and good wishes to Perry.

Your own Lizzie

Mother sends love and to Perry

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1409 9/24/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1367

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[357]

Washington D.C.

Sept 24 1861

My darling wife

It is really too bad that have been off duty so long & have not been able to see you & the children. Could I have known it I think I should have tried to give you a secret visit (in cognito).

I have been in town for a few days stopping with Mr Farwell of Farmington Me. I hope you saw his wife. He is a nice gentleman & good friend. I have become quite attached to him. Judge Carroll is quite ill again with the gout. <He> [has] terrible & prolonged <> sufferings. Mrs Carroll & the young ladies were all at West Point.

How does Guy do this morning. Papa is writing before breakfast thinks Guy must have had his breakfast before this time. Papa has'nt got any regiment now. Miss Bradley & Miss Graves are in his tent & Mrs Sampson has got a new one close by Capt Sampson. How is that little rabbit & how is the Spring? Does Guy take off his clothes now when he goes in bathing? How is Gracie this morning, fresh & bright as a lark? I expect she would like to kiss papa & tell him what she is doing every day. And Jamie. I expect he continues to mind his own business & has become quite attached to Isabella.

I think Charles had better have a commission in the Cavalry, get a good horse & fixings & be my aid. I shall try for it. I don't want him to strike higher than Lieut, for then I cannot get him.

You cant think how much in demand the graduates of West Point are now? People are begging for them for Adjutants & for Colonelcys of Regiments. "Bob Williams" is going to take the Massachusetts <> Cavalry & Lieut Gregg <> R Island. The Government refuses to let any more [in] so that we cannot get Wesley Owen's for ours as we hoped. All my classmates who left the service are back in it again. Tom <Ruger> has a regiment. O'Connor also, both of Wisconsin. I meet any number of officers at the Hotel, daily arriving. We have now more than three times as much artillery as we had before & as much more Cavalry. I find Warren Woodman a good Captain & the 8th a fine regiment but Col Strickland is no commander. He will have to be examined before the Army board I am sure. His General told him he would give him four days to prepare [- a] <rather> short time.

[Give] much love to mother & father [and] to the children. I went to Church Sunday. I am trying to draw nigh my Saviour. Am praying for him to keep me.

God bless you all.

Otis

[Note. The bottom corner of each page in the letter was torn and missing. The brackets are my attempt to fill in the missing information. Angle brackets <> indicate a word is not completely there, whereas [] indicates the word is missing.]

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1410 9/24/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1368

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[356]

Leeds Sept 24, 1861

My dearest Otis,

I have a package to send you by Mr Sewall, and will write a short note to accompany it. I want to make you a flannel wrapper (or dressing gown) to sleep in if you suffer with the cold, and to wear if you should be sick this winter, which I do hope will not be the case. But I cannot get the materials here.

Mother and Charlie have gone to Livermore she to visit Mrs Perley and he to "muster". I hope he will get some recruits there but may not because one company of the 8th Maine was formed there.

I wish you could see Cousin William Henry Timberlake. He is a Lieut. in that Regt. If I get to house-keeping I want his wife to make me a long visit this winter. I shall hear from Grand-mother when Mother returns.

I mailed a very long letter to you yesterday. I wrote in that a little of everything, and found fault with everything and everybody. I will say as Grace does to me "I'll try not trouble you again."

We are all very fond of the rabbit, but little Jamie will dance him by his ears once in a while. Jamie is a real go ahead boy, not like Guy at his age. He creeps in all sorts of mischief. When we have no fire in the dining-room he is getting into the ashes, and when there is, his head is generally on a line with the andirons (nearly) at the same time resting on his hands watching it most intently.

Wednesday Sept 25.

I will add a few more lines to my note while Charlie is writing to send you a letter this morning. Mother and he returned quite late last evening, did not see Grand-mother. She is at Uncle Stephen Morse's. I don't think I ever told you that both of their daughters died a few months ago. It may be it was before you went away. I send you a dressing-case made in great haste. I know you must have lost the other one. Charlie brought me a letter from you last evening, dated Sept 20. Letters are always most welcome as you must know.

Guy and Grace are out playing. I am writing in the dining-room and as Jamie is asleep I do not dare to leave him alone long for fear he will creep off the bed, so I will write no more at present.

With much love from  
your own wife  
Lizzie

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1411 9/25/1861

*From:* I. Washburn Jr

*To:* Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-1366

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[307]

[Letterhead]

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta,

Sept 25, 1861

Gen'l Howard,  
Dear Sir,

On receiving your telegram this morning, I did not hesitate to appoint Capt. Heath Lt Colonel of the 5th Regt.

I did not doubt the qualifications of Capt Heath, but as Col. Jackson & his Adj & Q. Master were taken from without the Regt, I felt a very strong inclination to appoint the other officers from the Regt. But when I learnt from you that a majority of the officers of the 5th favored Capt Heath, I was glad to appoint him.

It pains me to say that since the appointment, I have rec'd a letter from Mr Leonard containing some most unhandsome & ungenerous insinuations which I had trusted he was incapable of making.

Very truly yours,  
I. Washburn Jr

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1412 9/25/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1369

Bellevue Va. Hd Qrs  
8th Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[358]

Bellevue Va. Hd Qrs 8th  
Brigade Sept 25th 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I received your letter, the first you wrote me after your return from Farmington, a good long letter, and a welcome one. I have been waiting two or three days for assignment to duty. I cant help feeling restless & a little homesick because I have nothing in the way of duty to do; but doubtless before this reaches you everything will be settled.

I see one of my old enemies around in Washington, and I perceive a difference in demeanor towards me on the part of McClellan's staff. I went to his head quarters yesterday morning and asked to see him & was told he was at breakfast. I went into the anteroom to wait & staid till he came from breakfast & took his place in another room separated from mine by folding doors. I saw thro. a side door others who came after me go in & come out, who had no more title than I; so I arose & came off passing one of his aides & bidding him good morning as I came out. I came back to Camp last night. Today McClellan had a grand review here of three Brigades. I attended it and feel a little as though I am in disgrace at Head Quarters. The same old enemy was there & I could'nt help feeling as though he had been at work, but maybe not.

I came back to my room & remembered that I got up this morning & dressed & went directly to morning prayers in Camp & had omitted to read & pray by myself. I read & tried to pray & lay down on my Camp bedstead to read a book. This evening I visited Lt Beaumonts wife a young bride that he has just brought here. He told me today aside, she was just such a one as I would like, for she was a real christian and he wanted me to come & see her. To night I got your letter & went to camp to give your messages to Mrs Sampson & listen to singing & playing on a guitar at her husband's tent of a Lieutenant & finally a general sing, by a number gathered there. All these things have cheered me up.

You thought I sent you quite a little money at the beginning of your letter, but warned me at the close not to lend but to send it to you for the children. Rowland once said in a former letter, he wished I would act less from impulse & more from principles. He had reference to my giving to a man whose poor mother had been robbed of her <purse>. I feel, darling, a "little bit" sensitive. I will surely send you all I can. You had special reference to Perry. I have refused always to lend him money & shall because I believe that is best for him & me.

Do not be in the least degree unhappy over this reference to one single remark in your letter. I don't think I give from impulse simply in any case. I hope not. God has turned back into my hand always more than has gone out of it, at least more of real substance. You must give & lend & teach the little ones to do so as they grow up if God should see fit to separate us. Would you not love to tell them that their father was generous?

Then my precious wife let us look directly to God who giveth to us so abundantly, that we are apt to forget Him while looking at his gifts. I hesitate about sending you this letter, for fear of touching your loving heart with pain, but it is perhaps better that I should open my own. I find that my Heavenly Father doeth all things well.

I was a little disappointed to return to my regiment, now I see clearly how much better for it & for me. I am impatient at waiting for assignment & get a little offended at Slights. It is all needed to bring me to Christ. I, at least can be no general without Him, with Him no enemy can stand before me. This I know & were I not a Christian I should tremble at the responsibility of my position, but thanks be to Him who has taken me in his hands & can mould me like the Clay. He can raise me up or cast me down. I heard of one young man who used to lead in the prayer meeting at West Point on his way north after the battle of Bull's run. He was using grossly profane language & shewed great egotism. A gentleman a Mr Howe of Boston took him down a little by telling him he would modify his opinions somewhat when he got older & had had more experience & told a little of his own experience on the plains of Greece many years ago. These young men are apt to fall into sin. Bad association, ambition & drink destroy them.

I have seen Thompson (James) of the Artillery. He had a chill the last I heard from him. I see Robert of the Engineers frequently. He is unchanged. Benjamin I met yesterday. He always seems glad to see me. Lts. Stoughton, Vinton, Torbert, Ruger & O'Connor are Colonel's of Regiments.

I called to see Casey's father yesterday & told him I knew his son quite well. He was glad to see me. I saw Shunk at the Arsenal. He inquired about you I believe. He seems quite natural, full of his peculiar fun. I visited the 8th Regiment, saw Warren, reviewed their parade & addressed their officers. They are more than dissatisfied with their Colonel Strickland. Their Lieut Colonel & their Quartermaster. Their Major Rice is begging to be restored. He was left behind at New York for drunkenness. I got his solemn pledge not to drink & have transmitted it to his Brig. Gen'l Viele with a request that he have a new trial. Perhaps Strickland & son may be added soon to the list of my enemies, for I have done my best to get them to appear before the Examining board just in Session at Washington.

Poor Perry has had a dreadful throat, is getting a little better by dint of "Spunging". He sent Sarah \$20 dollars last month after his debts were paid. He has given or lent me his Sea Glass & it is a fine one. I lost my reconnoitering glass at B.R. because I did not have it with me as I ought.

Perry stands ready as my friend in the third Maine against all opposers whatsoever. I think he will send money to Sarah every month. I think I can get Charles just as well if he is a Lieutenant as now. Sewall is the best man I could think of for Adjutant after losing Hillhouse. I saw him (Hillhouse) yesterday just as gentlemanly, a little thinner, a little paler. He seemed sorry indeed that he could'nt go with me. Col Berry now reverts to old times & wants me back to have this Brigade. I shall write Charles tomorrow.

I am glad to hear Mother is well. Many kisses to the children. Hope Gracie is quite well as also my darling wife. Mrs Platt was over at the review today & spoke of you & if you were not coming to Washington. Officers are bringing their wives to Washington, but I think they had better not quite yet. Give the babies good warm clothes Lizzie, & they will thrive. Good night and may God bless you & keep you.

Aff Yr husband  
Otis

Much love to mother & Father.

If Father wants to know what we are doing all time a building <stands> to run into if whipped & to run out of to stop <them>.

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1413 9/25/1861

*From:* F.M. De Cover

*To:* Brig Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-1370

Head Quarters  
Army of the Potomac  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[359]

Head Quarters  
Army of the Potomac  
Washington Sept 25th 1861

Brig Gen'l O.O. Howard  
Comdg &c.  
General

I learn from Captain Kingsbury, that it is your wish to get a smart active man to take command of a Regiment of Cavalry from Maine. I should like to know immediately if this regiment is now organized, and in the field, or if it is yet to be organized.

I have a friend now serving the country who would take the Colonelcy of said regiment, and who is in every way competent for such Command. He has seen active service and was in the engagement at Bulls run, and proved himself worthy of his command as all of his officers of the Brooklyn 14th will testify.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
F.M. De Cover  
Head Quarters  
Army of the Potomac

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1414 9/25/1861     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1371

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[360]

Leeds Sept 25 1861

My dear brother

Mother & I were at muster at Breton's Mills yesterday. She went to visit Mrs. Perley, I to enlist recruits. I got 3 names - nice young men from our town. I do wish they could always have good company - Dexter Howard, Walter Boothby, Ruggles Keay - nephew of Mrs. Francis Lothrop - then at night after we got home Henry Fabyan. The parents & friends of some of them except the last were willing.

I expected to get more - Could have got some drunken men but preferred not to enlist men in that state. One of them I would have taken could I have found the Dr to give him first a thorough examination.

Saw Perley is at home & Eliza. Peleg has an abscess near his spine which probably will never be well. He has suffered much.

I had a letter from Maj. Sewall & he will start for Washington tomorrow. Ella is going down today & Rowland will come to stop till next train. I go to Skowhegan tonight - to spend 3 days there. I would like to keep tomorrow as a Fast. Mention to John that I am going to Sk. Will he stay with you?

I was glad to know certainly that my commission if I have any must come from the Gov. of Maine. He seemed to think it might be obtained in some other way.

Wish I knew now whether if I got commissioned in a Company and were appointed on your staff the vacancy so occurring could be filled by another officer - elected & commissioned as usual.

Please answer - would a real vacancy occur by such an appointment on your staff?

Of course I would like to be a Major of Cavalry & be on your staff but tell me whether it would not be contrary to that article of Regulations about staff appointments which says an officer of a Mounted Corps shall not be separated from his Regt except on duty connected with his particular assn.

I am sorry to trouble you so much about my wants but not knowing what else to do I keep writing.

I suppose the Cavalry appts come from Washington but probably at the recommendation of Gov. Washburn. Goddard is the Col. A rough old fellow - very energetic & enthusiastic - swearing, teasing man.

If you think it possible for me to have it, wish you would write the Gov. if you had as lief do it as not that you think me competent for a Major of Cavalry & desire that I should have it or if that is impracticable & the vacancy can be filled please write him to that effect & ask that I be commissioned in some Company of Infantry.

When I heard there were 25 or 30 ministers striving like so many politicians for the Chaplaincies, I felt sure that was not the place for me unless I should receive the election on acct of what has already been said to the Gov. & some of his council. This will not be so if you want me I desire you should signify it to the proper authorities & I will do all that proper modesty will allow to secure the position.

It would be grand to belong to the Cavalry & thus get well equipped before I see you with horse &c.

If you have one to spare please send home one of those orders for the organization of Volunteers.

Joshua Turner & wife came up yesterday. Capt. Hesseltine reported that he was to get recruits - <you say> on furlough. Is he to interfere with me? I have just got the authority to enlist regularly. I will expect an immediate answer - and that Cavalry will be all organized in 3 weeks - so I will have to be ready - on hand. Col. Rich

Turner says is called a good officer. The 9th left yesterday morning. They were mustered Sunday & had no Services.

I was at Hallowell. Vaughan is very low & but in a good state of mind. O that true & faithful prayers may ascend on the morrow. [Their cousin, Benjamin Vaughan Otis died on September 23, 1861.]

Affectionately Yr. Br.  
C.H. Howard

I am by no means positive that Capt. Hesseltine is not a good man.

Other ways failing I tho't I might he put in Lt. in Capt Heath's Company if he is made Lt. Col. of the 5th.

Next week I expect to be at Farmington, where you may direct your next letter if you please.

Wm Turner will be very grateful. He wants an officer in Cavalry.

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1415 9/26/1861     *From:* Wm. C. Barnard

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1372

Cadet U.S.M.A.  
West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[361]

West Point N.Y.

Sep. 26th 1861

Sir,

You will doubtless be surprised at receiving a communication from me at the present time.

I will briefly state that my object in addressing you is to ascertain if you can give me a position on your staff, that of Aid is the one I most desire. I need not offer any recommendations as to character &c, for you are acquainted with my antecedents, and must know that I shall always do my duty conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

I have sent in my resignation and am determined to go into active service. If you can give me a position, will you inform me as soon as possible? I am afraid that I am too late, for it is more than probable that you have chosen your staff before this, but still I hope that you can do something for me.

I am very respectfully

your Obt. Servt.

Wm. C. Barnard

Cadet U.S.M.A. [Class of 1862, but did not graduate.]

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

Depart. of the Potomac

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1416 9/29/1861     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1373

Mr Carroll's  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[362]

Mr Carroll's  
Washington D.C.  
Sept. 29 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I have taken my seat to write you a few lines. I came over to the city yesterday morning and not having been assigned yet to active duty, I thought I would stop till evening & perhaps over the Sabbath. I did however start to go back last night but found the bridge was broken & came back. This morning I went to hear Dr Sampson a baptist clergyman. I did not enjoy my Sabbath very well. I am going this evening to a presbyterian meeting with Mrs Hardy.

This afternoon I rode out with Judge Carroll to the plain beyond the Capitol where the 8th & 9th Me Regiments are encamped. I saw Warren Woodman & found him quite well. I saw also Col Rich of the 9th & liked his looks & the appearance of his camp very much.

Mrs Carroll & the young ladies have not yet returned home yet.

This was a summer time that Guy had, than I had thought. Did he plunge in head foremost? I hope Grace is entirely recovered & that you are quite well.

I made an official application yesterday for active duty. Gen Jameson & I are neither of us assigned to duty. I think the reason is that older Army officers than I are daily getting promoted & McClellan likes to give them a place. We have 8 Regiments in the field and I think should be placed on duty. The pickets of the enemy are being withdrawn, & our troops are advancing gradually. I think the enemy is trying to cross into Maryland below. I don't think he will succeed. If he does what will become of us? Why. We must do what we can to defend Washington, but if he can cross a river three miles wide he can advance.

It is too dark to see. Much love to the children, mother & all.

Aff. Yr.  
Otis

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1417 9/29/1861     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1374

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[364]

Leeds Sept. 29, 1861

My dearest Otis

I have received your letter written in Washington while at the house of Mr Farwell. I hav'nt been in Farmington long enough to see any of the people yet and therefore have not met his wife. Sarah has got nicely fixed at house-keeping. I told Rowland I would board a while if he could find me a pleasant boarding place. He told me when here (the day Ella went to Bath) that I could board with a Mrs Norton - have three rooms at seven dollars per week. I am thinking of doing so. There is really no house vacant now that I would like, quite a number of parts of houses but that would'nt do. Soon, or by spring I may be able to get just such a house as I would like.

I don't want to go to Rowland to stay at all, because they have just commenced, and he finds it costs more to live than he thought of, and he thinks of little things now that he wont in a few years. I rather be independent so long as I can, and be no burden to anyone. Mother says I am welcome to stay here as long as I will, but I think it is best to go and come with the children than to remain any great length of time. Then she will have rest from their noise when we are away. They do not seem to trouble her, and she is not irritable or nervous, but she is not able to be working for us all the time. Mother does'nt do much house-work. Abby does a great deal more than she ought to just now, and Isabella helps whenever there is anything to be done. She does nearly all the washing.

Col Gilmore has grown old fast the last year, but he does'nt have to work hard now. Thomas is an excellent man. He has quite an inclination to enlist.

I wrote to Uncle Edward today to collect the coupons and Interest on Bank stock and as I did not need it, as I had received money from you, I thought better invest it if I could in the Bank stock or if there was enough three hundred or more in the Government loan if it was best. He will write me about it.

Tuesday evening. This letter was left on my table all day yesterday without my adding one word to it. I wish I could write a great deal to you dearest, to-night. I received another letter from you to-day, came last night. I do hope and pray that no one will be permitted to do you any injury whatever. It would be on false grounds I know. I am glad you wrote me very frankly your own heart. I did not feel sad at the reference to what I said in a former letter. I know you do not act from impulse. We (two or three) had a conversation about Perry after I commenced my letter before I finished it and probably the effect of the conversation caused me to write as I did. I will not say more about it because I can trust in your judgment.

It seems to me that Rowland is ambitious and I regret it. Charlie went away last week. I think he will be here next Saturday. Two letters came to him to-night, one from you. We will send them to him to-morrow. He went to Scowhegan, then to other places and is now probably in Farmington. You must write definitely when you write to Charlie on military matters. I know from what you had written, that your staff was to be organized just as you have now written it, but he was not quite sure. I wish Charlie was with you now. I should not think any lady with children would like to go to Washington yet. I would have no wish to be there now that I would not be very happy to be with you. It now seems to me that if God brings you back to us I never can be otherwise than most cheerful and happy. This separation has been a good school for me.

Col. Gilmore expects to go to Portland to-morrow to attend a Rail Road meeting (Bond holders) the rail road is finished to Bath.

Mother had been in my room. I read most of my letter to her leaving out what I thought might worry her. I am very anxious to get your next letter. May God direct you in all things, take care of you and be with you always.

Your own  
Lizzie



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1418 9/30/1861

*From:* EH [Edwin Harris]

*To:* [OO Howard]

Darling

OOH-1375

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[365]

New York

Sept 30th 1861

My dear Sir,

I have just rec'd your kind letter, for which accept my thanks. The regiments here are in a very bad condition, there being about four officers to every man, and their principal duty is strutting up and down Broadway in their showy uniform. There are the skeletons of some thirty or forty regiments, and when consolidated will make perhaps three full regiments. For these reasons I have not connected myself with any of the regiments. I think I shall succeed in getting a place in some of the new regiments (regular) now being raised by government. I can bring pretty strong recommendations I think, and trust they will prevail with the "powers that be." After I get all my papers together I shall probably come on to Washington and hope to have the pleasure of seeing you. I wrote you last Saturday before receiving your letter. Please present my regards to your wife when you write and also to Perry Lee who is with you I believe. In haste,

Yours very respectfully

EH Darling [Edwin Harris Darling]

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1419 10/1/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1376

Washington DC  
Room in 376 "H" St

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[366]

Washington DC  
Room in 376 "H" St  
Oct 1st 1861

Dearest

I will write you a few lines tonight just to let you know where I am. I came over last Saturday to the city & as I started to return I found the bridge had been broken down, so I came back and as you know by a special invitation staid the night - at Mr Carrolls.

Sunday evening I went to hear Mr Sunderland, Presbyterian. He shewed us that the wicked & impenitent were the actual rebels. I found Monday that our 8th Brigade was to move south of Alexandria & that there was no place for me there so I sent John over for my things.

Have taken a room in the house of a gentleman from Maine, where I am now very pleasantly situated. I shall stay here till Gen McClellan gets ready to use me in the field. On this street & the next "I" nearly all the Army men who live here may be found. Vincent is close by & Webb is'nt far off. Did you know Mrs Webb had a babe only 3 weeks old? She is here now. I have promised to go & see her, think I shall tomorrow.

This evening I went to a prayer-meeting at Dr Sunderland's church. I have'nt had a letter from you for several days, but got one from Mr Sewall tonight, who says he has a bundle from you & that he will probably be here tomorrow. I have slept with Mr Blaine for the last two nights. We have read & prayed together & talked of our wives & children. He will have the happiness of seeing his in a day or two & I wish I could have the same. I have seen you in somebody else's shoes two or three times lately. But on a closer scrutiny it did'nt prove to be yourself.

Tell Charles I have recommended him to the Governor for a Commission in the Cavalry regiment now raising. If Hight goes on a pledge & takes the Lt. colonelcy, as I hear he will, I am glad. He used to be very capable. Tell Charlie the enemy have fallen back all along the lines - perhaps their eye is now on Kentucky. McClellan is too busy to assign Jameson & me to duty. All this is providential. The Lord doeth all things well.

I had a new impulse given me tonight by the words read. "My Soul wait only on the Lord &c." I must learn to wait on the Lord. My mind & heart need setting in order. There is a chance now to think. God bless you & the children. My warmest love to Mother & Father. A Kiss for Guy & Grace & Jamie. I want Guy to have a great deal & never be selfish.

Most affectionately  
Otis

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1420 10/2/1861 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1377

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[367]

Portland Oct 2d 1861

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I now write to inform you that you need not send the Coupons of Rail Road Bonds at present. I applied yesterday for my own and found they were not prepared to pay.

I was told that probably some arrangement would be made to pay but they could not tell when.

I hope this will find you and children all well.

From Your Affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

P.S. I sent you \$50 Sept 12th which I trust you recvd.

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1421 10/3/1861    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1378A

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[368]  
Farmington Oct 3 / 61

Dear Otis

I have lost my most valuable brother in the Church - John Titcomb. We buried him today. God is afflicting us very much.

Recvd your letter with Sarahs. She is well & pretty much settled in her new house.

Charles has been here since Tuesday - has got two men. Enlisting is hard work for an old Reg. with no bounty & no humbug. I do hope that Charles may have a place on your Staff & that you ought to request his commission when the proper time comes. His position in the 3d would be an unpleasant one now.

Hope you will do Bro. Farwell good. He needs a positive uncompromising, dutiful element to his piety. Do encourage him to hold on & hold out even in Washington. I fear for the poor fellow.

Your want of employment must be a great trial - but God will do some good by it. Remember, do, that you have not only yr. private state to maintain - but a prominent place & influence as a decided, spiritually-minded Army Christian. God give you grace to honor Him every day.

C. will go to Leeds Sat. We have not heard from there since last week, when I was down. All well then. Lizzie talks of coming when C. goes away.

Two are to unite with our Church by profession next Sab. Their "hopes" are dated back some time. Our prayer meetings continue as usual - except that our constant, beloved Bro: Titcomb has gone! O how we miss him at every step. C& I joined in prayer especially remembering you tonight.

Good night  
Rowland

P.S. Ella & baby are still in Bath & well.

[The following letter from Charles to Otis was written at the bottom of this letter]

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1422 10/3/1861

*From:* E. Burt  
Maj 3d Maine Regt  
Camp Howard Va

*To:* Brig. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C

OOH-1379

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[369]

Camp Howard Va  
Oct 3 1861

Brig. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Sir,

Having received letters from several army officers who offer to assist me in obtaining a Commission in the regular army, and as I have served under you for some time (long enough for you to know my qualifications as to fitness as a tactician and my general habits) I respectfully request you will assist me with your recommendation. Believing that my exertions in the regiment while under your Command, was such as to meet your approval I hope you will be disposed to assist me with a good recommendation.

The position I now hold is much better than I can hope to get in the army. But my anxiety to serve my Country has led me to throw a position of inactivity for one of real service, and I feel entitled to some favor, for long and faithful Services.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Srvt  
E. Burt  
Maj 3d Maine Regt

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1423 10/3/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1380

Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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370]

Leeds Me. Oct 3 1861

My dearest Otis

I was very glad this evening to get your letter written at Judge Carrolls.

Col Gilmore returned from Portland to-day. He understood that they did not pay the coupons on the A & St. L. Bonds. I know that the Interest on the stock had not been paid for some time. If you could only have know that you were to have had this long leisure, how glad we all would have been to have seen you here; but it would be a great trial to part from you again just now.

I should feel so sad for Guy and Grace both. Once in a while as she is going to bed, or I am doing something for her, she will say "I am thinking about papa." She thinks your picture cant be papa really because "Papa don't wear that kind of a coat" (two rows of buttons) but Guy can explain.

Aunt Sarah wrote me last week to come to Auburn and make her a visit, but I have not yet got enough thick clothing for the children to take the journey and stay any time. I may go from here there, and from there to Farmington because that would save two journeys to the Leeds depot. I was going, at the time I finally went for the day, and take the children but Mother did not want me to take them away so soon and I gave it up. Uncle Oren and Aunt Lucy are with her now. I shall not go to Turner or Livermore this Fall.

You have never known being at the Camp of the 8th Maine Regt and seeing Warren, but I want you to see cousin William Henry. Give my love to him, and tell him I shall try to meet his wife, and also tell him I am glad he is there! I would send all the rest if I could.

Charlie comes home to-morrow by way of Wayne.

You do not know how much pleasure you give me by writing as often as you do. Do not hesitate to write me everything and anything that is in your mind or heard, dearest.

Mr. Blaine has been to Washington and there is a report that 'bounty' will be paid. Do you not keep John with you? Can he leave the regiment.

I have not written you much of a letter this time, but I will send it as Col. Gilmore is going to the depot. Grace gives me two kisses for you, and wants me to tell papa she is making pictures on her paper.

May we do God's holy will and walk in his ways at all times.

Your own Wife  
Lizzie

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1424 10/4/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1378B

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter was appended to the preceding letter from Rowland to Otis.]

Frid. Morning [Oct 4, 1861]

Dear Otis

I got both your letters, the one direct the other thro' Lizzie, the same night. I now understand matters of your staff. All I can do is to wait as you are doing.

Capt. Hight is Lt. Col. Maine Cavalry. Maj. Eastman supercedes him as Disbursing officer. I have to pay out my own money & stand a doubtful chance of getting it refunded.

I spent the Fast at Skowhegan. A crowded house today an excellent practical sermon in the morning & at the prayer-meeting P.M. I tried to present the spiritual need of our officers & soldiers to the meeting having been called upon to speak - that they might pray for their souls, as well as the success of their arm.

Spent the Sabbath at Norridgewick. It was refreshing to listen to the two sermons from Bro. <Topperman> on what it is to be "poor in spirit". I took tea with him. He, (& I think nearly all are best Christians here) have the warmest sympathy for you. You were spoken of & prayed for in the prayer-meeting.

Judge Tenney complimented you highly when he called upon me to speak at a citizen's meeting Monday night. He wished me on leaving to give you his respects when I see you.

I too need to get nearer to my Saviour. May the Lord give us the grace we so much need.

Affectionately,  
C.H. Howard

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1425 10/4/1861      *From:* G.M. Lawrence      *To:* Brig. Gen. OO Howard

OOH-1381      Camp Howard Fairfax  
Co. Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[371]

Camp Howard Fairfax Co. Va  
Oct 4th 1861

To Brig. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir:

I beg your pardon for thus forcing myself upon your notice but judging you to be always ready to assist one who has tried hard to help himself: I take the liberty of addressing you.

I was at the expence of nearly \$200 in recruiting my company and after it was disbanded by order of the Gov. I wasn't able to recruit another. Having a taste for Military I learned very fast during the month I was with the company and I think now I could manoeuvre a company as well as most of the Captains I have noticed here.

My friends advised me to apply for a commission in the Regular Army so I took a letter from Hon. Lot M. Morrill, endorsed by His Excellency the Gov. and one also from the Mayor of the city of Gardiner.

After trying about a week at Washington with the assistance of Hon. E.B. French, I gave it up. I was advised to visit the Maine Regiments as there were many vacancies in some of the Regts but my friends not having much influence I have not been successful.

I made up my mind to serve my country and I am resolved to do so in some capacity and I would not hesitate now to enlist as a private did I have money sufficient to pay for what I expended for my company, that I must earn or distress one who is very near to me.

Col Wilds told me before I came here that you wanted a private Sec. but it seems you did not. You have an opportunity of knowing if there are vacancies which I could fill.

General, if you will assist a poor young man to help himself you will confer lasting obligations on

Yours Respectfully  
C.M. Lawrence

To Oliver O. Howard  
Brig. Gen. U.S.<A.> M.

P.S. I am stoping with Co "C" 3rd Reg.

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1426 10/4/1861 *From:* I. Washburn, Jr

*To:* Brig. Gen'l. [OO] Howard

OOH-1382

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[019]

Augusta Oct. 4, 1861

Brig. Gen'l Howard

My dear Sir,

Enclosed is a letter for Lieut Hurth, which you will please hand him. I hope it may be of service to him as I like to see the promotion of our worthy officers, & I want - let me add in passing - to see the discharge of all unworthy & unfit men.

I will very gladly appoint your brother if I find a place where I can place him, consistently with the reasonable expectations of others. Where men have raised companions who are active, able, fit, I cannot well pass them by unless by officers of experience.

Yours truly,

I. Washburn, Jr

Who is Mr Mie of West Point?

[Written by Otis on the back.]

Gov. Washburn

Oct. 4

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1427 10/4/1861 *From:* S.S. Stearns

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1383

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[372]

Augusta, Oct. 4th 1861

Gen. O.O. Howard;  
Dear Sir:

I wish to hear a word from you, if you will write me.

Since I left your command I have been in Augusta.

I have offered my services to Gov. Washburn and he told me he would find a position for me as soon as possible.

The Hons. Ex. Governors Morrill have written some very ergent letters to him asking my appointment, also the Hon. <>, C.W. Walton and J.H. Rice members of Congress. His Excellency the Gov. is well disposed towards me and will give me a good situation. McVey, was captured at the fall of Lexington Mo. (Col. Peabody's) and I am all the one left.

As to my pay, I went to the War Department and they paid me for all the time since I have been in the servis, which was very pleasant.

I wish, Gen. that you would give me a letter for the Gov. of Maine, stating my deportment while under your command. I know that I shall not be affraid to have the Gov. know how I conducted myself while attached to your reg.

Ex. Gov. A.P. Morrill expresses himself highly pleased with you, and sends his compliments to you by me. I am happy to state that all here have the greatest confidence in your ability. I have seen your brother Charlie since I have returned; I also heard the Gov. speak of him today.

The 10th reg. leaves Portland tomorrow. The 11th is now here and coming here. The Cavalry is comin in also.

I hope Gen. you will pardon me for this and write me soon.

Hoping soon to hear of the success of our arms.

I remain Yours truly  
S.S. Stearns

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written by Otis on the back.]  
Lieut. S.S. Stearns  
Oct. 4 1861

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1428 10/4/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1384

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[373]

Washington D.C.

Oct. 4th 1861

My dearest wife

I have not written you a word since the arrival of Capt. Sewall. You should have seen me overhauling the bundle you sent me. I thank you & would kiss you if I could for all these things. Specially for the dressing case containing thread, needles, pins, cushions, scissors, nail brush, tooth brush, &c. &c.

Capt Sewall arrived the day I took the room 376 "H" St. & we occupy it together. John has had a bed in the corner, but I have moved him out till the neighboring room is rented into that. I think we will keep this room all the time, so that we can have a depot for trunks & valuables when we are in the field.

I forget whether I told you that I had been ordered to serve on a "board for the examination of incompetent officers" at Arlington. Yesterday Capt Sewall & I went there, but found the Board had adjourned, then we proceeded to the South of Alexandria, where the Maine 3d is now encamped, not far from where we were when we first entered Virginia. All seem to want me to take that Brigade. When you see the names of all the fortifications that have been built or are building you will see what McClellan has been doing. He will soon organize all his forces into regular brigades. I think then I will have one. Fry told me today I would'nt be long off active duty. I am not very particular so long as nothing wrong is intended.

Capt Sewall is great company to me unites with me in morning & evening readings & prayers. Loves to talk about home & the dear ones he has left. Mrs Sewall says you bargained for a soldier when you married but she did'nt. She married a lawyer. Her arguments against his going reminds me of what trials you must have darling. But I feel as though you are, with the help of God, equal to them all. I trust He will make all easy & happy for you till He permits me to return. I saw Judge Carroll who inquired for you & wished to be remembered. Col Staples is with me tonight & wants to be remembered to you.

I suppose you got the letter with the draft for two hundred dollars, did you not? You did not mention it but did mention things I believe I have written since I sent the money.

I went to Arlington today & returned. Monday we will commence the said examination.

Guy & Grace & Jamie must all be asleep now if they are well (Friday evening 10.55 P.M.). They must have many sweet kisses when this letter arrives. Tell Guy Capt Sewall has got a little boy almost two years older than he is. His name is Joseph. He has'nt got twelve brothers but only one & that's a sister (come to think of it). He wants his father to bring home a horse. Tonight Capt Sewall & papa went & bought a fine horse, just the color of papa's "Chestnut". How is the rabbit does Jamie pull his ears & stand him up? What can papa send Gracie? He'll try tomorrow to find something.

Love to Mother & Father. The R.R. must be a good one, finished Sunday thro necessity! They seem to be good warriors on that route. Chas. has taken all the rest recruiting I learn.

Good night darling & God bless & keep you

Otis

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1429 10/5/1861

*From:* Thos. R. Tannatt  
1st Lieut

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard  
2nd Regt Maine  
Volunteers

OOH-1386

4th Arty  
Comdg Post  
Fort Randall D.T.

Washington DT.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[375]

Fort Randall D.T. [Dakota Territory]  
October 5th 1861

Dear Howard,

I regret that I must date my letter from a post so inactive when every true man must desire a part in crushing out rebellion. In my last written when all was peace I told you of my plans as fixed for resigning, the outbreak at once decided me, and I am now left here alone, in command of two companies, my own A.A.G.M A.A.C.S. &c.

Even here I am not left free from troubles that now seem destined to drive me in disgust from under the folds of our flag.

At this post the place of Sutler has been nominally held by one J.B.S. Todd, recently elected delegate to congress. He is a poor inebriated, dishonest man, a near relative of Mr Lincoln.

Prior to his election I had three contracts in the market that Todd wished me to give out so as to assist him, making me proffers &c. I believe you know me to be an honest man and as such, I would not listen to his intrigues. He then threatened me with his power & told me he would have the contracts given over my head &c. I replied "if I am so used when honestly doing my duty the government will either have to accept my resignation or drop me from the rolls."

Immediate upon this the Sutlers Store was closed, by the owners of the goods, personal altercations ensued, and I was obliged to put a guard over the buildings.

Before I had time to inform J.B.S. Todd of my action, he came to my rooms partially drunk and in the presence of Dr Swift, abused me in every way possible. I endeavored to reason with him but to no avail. I then ordered him to his quarters in arrest. He refused to obey it. I laid before him the "Art's of War", he threw them aside and said, "I don't care a d-n for them I don't regard them Sir." I then told him he could leave my house.

The next day he wrote me asking "what restrictions I should place upon his person and liberty," but at once deserted by a by-way and hastened to Washington saying en route that I should lose my commission &c reporting me as disloyal, dishonest &c &c. I immediately sent a candid statement of the matter to Washington with full charges from which I have received no reply.

I now understand that Todd is returning to this fort released from arrest, and that he has deposited several forged affidavits against me. To be thus set aside without investigation through the trickery of a poor drunken man who has never been respected by any officer at the post, is too hard an injustice.

Dr Swift and all my command fully support me in my course.

You know me Howard, too well to suppose I can now lay aside my commission without most bitter moments of anguish, yet I feel it must be done, if my personal sacrifices to duty are to be thus rewarded.

I have done my duty fearlessly, prayerfully, and I feel faithfully. I have remained at my post to see nearly every fellow officer desert his country, and have worked, very hard to uproot the bad seed sown in the command by disloyal officers. I am assured of the full confidence of my men and I know full well that if I am forced to resign by the villainy of such a man as Todd, my command will be at once disorganized. I wish you who know me to assist me in averting this blow, to leave my country's flag in this hour of trial will be to destroy my highest hopes, my happiness, and perchance my usefulness. Yet it must be done if I am called to bear such injustice when doing my duty. My position would not repay me for stooping to the dishonor I now suffer for spurning.

Can you not secure me an impartial investigation - I ask no more. I am rejoiced to see that you [CHECK ORIGINAL - Page 4 left edge glued] battle with your religious armour on, ever continue steadfast in the Lord is <> your better weapon.

I have lately thought it may be well <to> have me driven more closely to God for support, and after returning to my home in Massachusetts, I shall live to be rightly judged <by> my God despite mans devices.

Should my action pass unnoticed until the middle of this month, I must pen <the> bitter words of my resignation, and then faithfully perform present duty until I am relieved and my name stricken from the rolls. It will be no disgrace Howard, although <some> one who in this time breathe with the pulse of my country, and when the <> of honorable action is closed under <the> flag, will ever turn to it with a prayer <for> its success, and will never, never, be <found> its enemy. Please write me at once giving <me> your counsels, and do for me what you can <in> strict conformity to your duty. Above all pray for

Your Brother in Christ & arms  
Thos. R. Tannatt  
1st Lieut 4th Arty  
Comdg Post

<Genl> O.O. Howard  
2nd Regt Maine Volunteers  
Washington DT.

My wife has been in Boston since early in May.

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1430 10/6/1861    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dear husband [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1156b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Attached to a letter from Lizzie probably written on Aug 1, 1856.]

Sunday Evening [See Note 1]

Dearest

I neglected to mail my letter written Friday evening. I will add a few lines this evening and mail it tomorrow. We have had another pleasant Sabbath. I read a very interesting book to the children this afternoon about a little girl who tried to do right, and the consequence is, it has called forth this letter to you from Grace. She knows that she troubles me sometimes as you know her disposition is not always even and pleasant. Her heart is very tender when I talk to her. The children are quite well now. We are very well for which I try to be thankful. Much love to Charlie. Tell him I want one of his good, full letters. Very thoughtful in you, to ask Mr Carswell to have some wood ready for use, but you must not try to take great care of us. Let me look out for my self, while you have so much to do.

I have taken Jamie up some this evening and have not so much time to write as I wish. I have some sewing to do to-morrow morning and cannot write then. I do want you to write to me very often. I have'nt written you as often lately as I ought. I will write more as soon as I get over my sewing chores.

I have the children now quite well prepared for the cold weather, and the next thing is to work for myself, for if the Gen should come home, I must look very ----- comfortable. I don't much expect I will see him though this winter. No more to-night. Take care of yourself.

From,  
Lizzie

[Note 1: This second short letter is written after the birth of Jamie (James Waite Howard) on Dec 1, 1860. Otis and Lizzie are separated and Lizzie is preparing for the upcoming winter. This is probably after the start of the Civil War after Charles has joined Otis. The reference to the Gen. coming home is probably referring to his promotion to Brig. Gen., on Sep 3, 1861. Assume then that the date is Sunday, October 6, 1861.]

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1431 10/6/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1387

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[378]

Leeds Me Oct 6 1861

My dearest Otis

This is a rainy day but Mother and Charlie have gone to Church. I have not been since I came here. I shall get to be quite heathenish if I remain here long. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Washington with all its privileges. I thought Mr Blaine came home before this. I should think you would feel quite lost without being near or having something to do with the 3d Maine. I hope you can keep John. Charlie visited his fathers family when at Skowhegan, saw his mother and two sisters. Charlie says he has made a great many pleasant acquaintances since he has been travelling about. I do wish I knew if his engagement with Nettie was ended. Mother is telling me that something had been said about it. I do really hope it is. I know he has'nt been to Brunswick. Nettie keeps up and always has, her acquaintance with students, and her interest in them more than she ought. This is between you and I and as your dear precious letters are common property here don't write about it please. I don't mean to you understand that I object to your letters being written to us all. We all want to hear from you often.

I mailed a letter to you last Friday but did not send it to the 3d Maine. I sent it to Gen. Howard Washington merely. I suppose this will go directly to your room. The last letter I sent to the Regiment was the one in answer to yours of the 25th ult in which you spoke of your fear that someone was working against you. It was mailed Wednesday of last week.

I will enclose a note to Mrs Webb. I brought away her stair rods, and I do not want you to neglect to pay her. They were put in by mistake the last day of closing up the boxes. I don't know how much they will be, probably three or four dollars may be more. Her babe is nearly three months old, instead of three weeks.

I don't think I will say anything about the big check in my letter from you when at the Carrolls.(?) I do think I have written about more things to trouble you the short time I have been here, than all the previous time together. I am not going to do so any more.

The children are quite well now. Jamie is getting more teeth which troubles him some. There is to be a "muster" in Farmington next Wednesday. Guy is to go up Tuesday, and I in an early train the next day, leaving Grace with Isabella, if I think it best, when the time comes. I am working on your shirts - hope to finish them this week. I don't think I shall have anything to send after that, unless you will suggest something you need.

I have made up my mind to board a while in Farmington. I can be very comfortable with three pleasant rooms. I hope you will try to get my last letter before this. Did you see that G.W. Smith has (so the report) taken a Maj. Gen's commission in the rebel army? His native state Kentucky.

Guy has commenced reading every day. And also Grace. I take first one and then the other in the morning. Charlie will send you a paper with this letter.

Uncle Edward writes me that he was told that some arrangement would probably be made to pay the coupons on the A and S Lawrence RR soon.

Morning.

Charlie wishes me to say to you the Cavalry Regiment is pretty well filled and nearly all the companies are already at Augusta. He is going to Augusta one day this week. Capt Hight is the Lieut. Col. William Turner was thrown from his rig and hurt his eye, but it may not hinder him from going with his company if he can. He will not command a company I believe.

Grand mother is holding Jamie while I finish my letter. This morning Mother seems pretty well, gets a little confused when company comes in sometimes at the table. Sends love to you. Guy sends four kisses. Grace

is with Isabella. I read a beautiful Christian letter from Isabella's brother to her. She is a Christian and her influence will be good over the children. Vaughan died the 25 [Note] of Sept. and a Christian. The Lord was merciful to keep him here till he gave Him his heart. May He ever give you His blessing.

Yours  
Lizzie

[Note: Otis' cousin Benjamin Vaughan Otis died 24 Sept 1861 at the age of 21.]

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1432 10/7/1861 *From:* M.J. Strickland

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1385

Richmond

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[374]

Richmond Oct 7th [1861]

My dear Otis

Mrs Birdland, a particular friend of mine, and her husband Henry's partner, in the flour business will probably give you this letter, as she has promised to find you if she can, and if possible her husband will see you. Any attention either you or Charles could pay them we should be very glad of.

I heard of the death of Vaughan Otis. He died the 24th of Sept. You doubtless know of my visit East. Had I known Lizzie and the children were at West Point when I went on, I should have tried to have seen them, but I had heard they were at Augusta. I suppose they are at Leeds but have not heard. Your Mother does not write as often as she used to. I was with her when the news of that fight [Bull Run] came. She was very brave I thought. I wish you or Charles would write, and tell us of yourselves and Perry Lee. I hope this war will soon terminate, but everything is uncertain.

Lizzie [Strickland] is at Cincinnati, at school. She has been away four weeks. Fred is at home but very anxious to go into the Army. I had rather he would not, but shall not forbid it. It looks now, as though the West and Kentucky would be the fighting ground. You may come West. Carrie is a large girl, and our little Anna is a great pet.

I was glad to find Rowland so pleasantly situated. You must feel very lonely away from your home and little ones.

Mrs B will put this letter into the office, if she can find your directions. I hope sometime to see you all, but everything in this world is uncertain. Adda's husband, Mr Skiles, died two weeks ago. She and her infant, six weeks old are with us. She has not decided where she shall remain.

Remember me affectionately to your wife and little ones also your Mother, when you write.

Warren Woodman is in the Army also Roddy Hazard. This letter is for you and Charles, as I have not time to write to both of you. May God keep you both in safety.

Your affectionate Aunt

M.J. Strickland [Martha Jane (Otis) Strickland, the younger sister of Otis' mother Eliza.]

Mrs. Martha J. Strickland

Oct. 7 1861

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1433 10/7/1861

*From:* C. H. Strickland

*To:* Gen OO Howard

OOH-1388

Richmond

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[379]

Richmond Oct 7 1861

Gen OO Howard,

Dr Sir

The bearer Mr Bridgland is my Partner in business, & lately appointed Colonel of a Regiment of Cavalry in this State. He visits Washington on business for our State. Any attention you may show him I will appreciate as a favor to myself. Our families are very intimate.

We are very much pleased to hear of your promotion, & hope that your army will give us a good acct of the enemy, when next they meet.

Mrs. Strickland has written you all the news. I have but a moment for writing this, and the pen is terrible. I should be much pleased to hear from you occasionally, as we are all very much interested in the efforts of our Eastern Army. Our State is doing its duty fully, but we shall need aid in Kentucky. I feel a little that the Government is neglecting the West, in its exceeding care for Washington.

Our whole family unite in sending you our kindest regards & you have our best wishes for your entire success.

Truly yours

C.H. Strickland [Charles Henry Strickland, husband of Otis' aunt Martha Jane (Otis) Strickland.]

[Written by Otis on the back page]

C.H. Strickland

Richmond, Ind.

Oct 7, 1861

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1434 10/7/1861 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1391

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[389]

Portland Oct 7 1861

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter of 3d enclosing the Coupons for dividend on Rail Road Bonds. I wrote you on the 1st directed to Farmington informing you that the Coupons would not be paid at present. Mr Barret the treasurer told me that he thought some arrangments would be made to pay but he could not tell when.

I will collect the dividend on Bank Stock and invest as you may direct. I think the Government loan is as good as any thing now offered.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

(All well)

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1435 10/8/1861     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1389

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[382]

Farmington Oct. 8. 1861

Dear Brother

I've been thinking that by depending on each other to do it, none of our friends have written you of Cousin Vaughans death. He died, I think, on Tues 26th ult. [Benjamin Vaughan Otis died Sept 24, 1861.] I had a note from his mother the next day. She said he was happy & said the Lord was with him & requested that some favorite hymns should be read to him. We have reason to hope that he is in the better land.

I had a letter Sat. last from a Bro. of Capt. Aaron Daggett of the 5th Me. Reg. requesting me to use my influence with you to get Capt. D. - now at home in Greene on leave - an appointment as Major in one of the new Reg's now being raised here. Daggett went out as 2d Lt. & has risen to Capt. - & from what I have known of him, I have no doubt that he is a worthy & efficient young man. He wishes to leave the 5th but does not give me his reasons. I knew his Bro. in Sem. at Bangor & met Capt. D. there before the war.

Have not heard from Charles since he went to Leeds last Sat. Our new R.R. is to be run to Bath regularly next Monday & I may run down & see Ella & Davie. I am in hopes now that a house suitable for Lizzie will soon be vacated here. She seems to be contented at Leeds. If she chooses she can board here a while before keeping house - or visit us in the mean time wh. we will enjoy best.

Two young ladies were added to our Church last Sab. We had a Solemn Communion - made so particularly by the recent loss of our most active & efficient Brother - John Titcomb - in the church. Our people feel a little discouraged about raising my Salary owing to the hard times. I may have to subscribe to it myself.

We are having a long cold Autumnal rain-storm & soon our severe winter will be upon us. I have been getting in my apples & the products of my Garden.

If you see Perry give him my love - & ask him to send me - or Sarah for me one of his Photographs. I want you to send yours also. Haven't you one in wh. the eyes do not turn up in that Praise-God-Barebones style?

Sarah & children are well. Her house is now pleasantly furnished & I think she will enjoy housekeeping if her father & Silas will let her alone altogether & Perry will do his duty in regard to money matters. Mr Lee keeps up a correspondence with her & sends her little presents. He is a dangerous man.

One of our Congregation - not church - Mr A.B. Carwell, left for Washington this morn. (I suppose) on P.O. business. He is an uncle of Mr Farwell & I hope you will meet him in W.

With kind regards to Judge Carroll & family & Mr Farwell if you see them.

Affly  
Rowland

Charles writes me that Lizzie & Guy will be up to see me today (Wednesday Oct. 9). We have a militia muster. Glad you have applied for a com. for Charles.

Wouldn't it help the matter for Perry to get a recommendation from Col. Staples & the officers of the Reg.?

[Written in another hand]  
RB Howard  
Oct 8, 1861



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1436 10/8/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1390

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[383]

Leeds Oct. 8 1861

Dear Otis

I came down from Farmington Saturday. Intended to go to Wayne but owing to the rain came to the Center & waited for father to come for the mail. Took mother to Church Sunday. It was cloudy but did not rain till evening. Lizzie & the children are well. I brought a letter from you Sat. Evening. I helped Mr. Chapin a little Sabbath P.M.

Yesterday morning (Monday) it was very pleasant & I started for Wayne soon after Breakfast. I found that Mr Sewall had been there a week raising a Co. for the 12th Regt. Two young men had enlisted who said they would have gone with me had I come before. I saw one of them at the Muster & he said he would go if I could get his parents consent. Yesterday I got none but talked with a good many who will go either with Mr. S. or me. I don't care much as long as they enter the service. Those that Mr. S. has got are anxious that the rest should go with them. I could have enlisted Nelke & should have done so could I have got another man - his brother-in-law to sign with him as he expected he would. But Mr. Sewall promised Nelke a Sergeantry & I did not like to urge him to go with me to his own hurt unless he could get some one else. His brother-in-law could not conclude to sign yesterday so I got no one. Nelke finally enlisted with Sewall & I was not sorry he did not go with me for another reason - that I fear his health would not be firmer. He thinks very highly of you & desired me to give you his respects. He would not go any where else on any acct if we were going to be with the Regt.

I took tea with Mr. Sampson. They expressed the same regard for you as ever. Mr. S. said he tho't some of coming down to Augusta when you are there to get some place to accompany you either "to hold your horse or something of the kind."

Dexter Howard went with me & assisted at recruiting. He is an excellent young man & I hope will have as good a situation as he deserves. He would have enlisted in the Cavalry which he preferred had it not been for getting Walter Boothby to sign with him & Walter preferred Infantry. Walter's father is terribly opposed to his going - says he will pay \$200 to have him released and he has been "sick abed" on acct of it.

I feel somewhat uncertain about my chance in the Cavalry. If I had no other business & could assist at recruiting for that Regt I should stand a better chance.

It will all come out right. Perhaps if I got a commission then I could not go upon your staff.

I am not sorry that Hight is Lt. Col. He is very kind to me & perhaps may assist a little if I ask it a getting me a place or a getting me transferred if you call for me. And I think you will like the Cavalry in your Brigade better for his being in it - a well-trained officer.

You would not like Goddard very well. I am going to Augusta to-day to see Maj. Eastman who now takes charge of the Recruiting Service.

No provision has been made for Rendezvousing yet - or for getting uniformed here in the state.

None of the other 3 officers had got any recruits at last accts. I have 10 names.

Mrs. Sampson, I must not forget, sent her love so did Mary & Mr. S.

Guy is going to Farmington tonight. Muster there tomorrow. Lizzie is going up - will stop with Laverna [See note] tonight so as to take the 6 ½ A.M. <train> extra. She will not probably return till next day. I come back tomorrow & go to Livermore Falls for the remainder of the week unless Maj. Eastman changes my plans. I expect also to be in Augusta next week. If you don't write before next Sat. to me please send to Augusta.

Affectionately yr Br

C.H. Howard

P.S. Lizzie & Guy on the lounge, the latter reading. Jamie on the rug very happy as usual. Grace busy about her play near the Secretary

We always remember you at our family prayers. I hope you also pray for me. I do little for souls.

[Note: Laverna is probably Laverna (Bishop) Brewster. She was the wife of Arza Gilmore until he died in 1855.]

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1437 10/8/1861      *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My darling boy [Guy  
Howard]

OOH-1392

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[384]

Washington D.C.

October 8th 1861

My darling boy

I got up quite early this morning wrote a letter to uncle Rowland, took a hasty breakfast and then rode to Arlington on Captain Sewall's horse. The horse is one that Captain Sewall has just bought, and he wanted papa to try him. I came back to Washington about 12 o'clock.

I went over on a curious ferry at Georgetown. There is a large rope stretched across the river from shore to shore and there are two posts on the boat with pulleys in them & [Sketch of the ferry] two on the shore, to which the rope is fastened; 5 or 6 men take hold of the rope and pull the boat along.

When I got back I thought I would go into the street & get something for my little children. I got a paper for you Guy with pictures of the different Generals. Your father is not amongst them because he was not appointed by the president soon enough: I think so. Well, what for my precious daughter. I found a picture of a mother & a little girl playing with a kitten; that will suit Gracie! I saw another of a lady feeding some rabbits; thats for Jamie: let us see if he will take them up by the ears.

I went to church last Sunday. It was communion Sabbath and all the grown people were seated in the body pews. I came in and sat down in a front body pew; I looked towards my right and saw in the corner pews several children. While the minister was talking I heard a little boy laughing aloud. By & by I heard him again. Then an old gentleman arose and went to the front of the little boy's pew, and took him by both his arms and lifted him into another pew. The little boy did not cry as I feared he would, but looked somewhat frightened. After this he behaved well. He was a bright looking boy & made me think of mine. I wonder if my little boy would laugh aloud in the house of God when the minister is talking about our blessed Saviour.

Captain Sewall is your father's adjutant called his Assistant Adjutant General. He lives in Bath in the state of Maine. He says tell Guy to tell his mother she must get into those cars & go to Bath & take Guy to see his little boy Josie. I think a great deal of Josie's papa & think Josie must be a good boy.

When is uncle Charlie coming back again? Papa is not in camp now, but lives in Washington, number on the door post is 376. My room is in the 3d story.

Give my love to Grandmother and ask her if she is well & how she can "stand" so many grandchildren. Don't they almost fill up the house? And Jamie such a big-boy? Does Mamma try to carry him much? You cannot be too kind to your darling mamma Guy. You must give her a good kiss for papa. Let Gracie look at your paper & read her your letter. I hope you love your sister very much. Papa loves her. She must be always kind, little girls are not worth much, when they are fretty. Does Jamie ever cry? How he will watch his little brother & try to do like him.

I heard a sermon last Sunday evening to parents which made me think of you. Do you think Guy that you truly love your Saviour? He was willing to die for you & such as you.

John has come to take this letter to the office. Love to Grandpa & Isabella and many kisses to Gracie and Jamie. May God bless you all.

Your loving father  
O. O. Howard

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1438 10/9/1861

*From:* Frank W. Haskell

*To:* Brig General Howard

OOH-1393

Head Quarters 3d Me.  
Regt.  
Camp Howard, Va

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[385]

Head Quarters 3d Me. Regt.  
Camp Howard, Va  
October 9th 1861

Brig General Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
Sir:

Learning, as I fear correctly, that it will be impossible for me to accompany you, as I had hoped to do, I have the honor to submit this note to your kind consideration. I would not intrude upon your time, Sir, but your previous encouragement to me is my reason for so doing.

When I enlisted, General, I had much to gain - principally however "a good character" which I am compelled to state I did not possess & the inestimable value of which, I am fully sensible. I have tried very hard, alone, to make myself an honorable name and to that end, my acts subservient to principle - and I hope my efforts are, in a measure, successful. I am ambitious, Sir, I freely acknowledge and am confident that could I have been permitted to come under your notice that by energy and continued application I should receive promotion in accordance with my capabilities. You have seen my mother's letters, the tone of which (if you remember General) will convince you that for her sake I would be faithful to my duty in any capacity. If, Sir, you consider me fitted for any capacity or worthy of promotion in this Reg't. I would respectfully ask your favor, knowing that it would be powerful as a recommendation and which I could not prize too highly. "A boy can grow into manliness instead of growing to be like men" and such is and has been my aim. It will ever be my constant endeavor to excel in any position I may occupy. Since your departure I have been, and now am, acting as Serg't Major of this Reg't.

If I could receive a Commission as 2nd Lieut it would enable me to do much for my mother's happiness, prove my earnest desire to promote the glorious cause we all advocate and one more happy man could prove by future acts his gratitude it would be impossible to express in words. In case of such an event if agreeable to you, Sir, I might be transferred into your Command.

Your past generosity to me, General, has prompted this application to yourself and if I might hope that it would recommend me to your favorable notice, to say nothing of your regard - it is all I would ask.

Very respectfully  
Your obt Servt  
Frank W. Haskell

[Written on the last page.]  
J.L. Haskell  
Oct. 4th

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1439 10/10/1861 *From:* O.O.H. [OO Howard] *To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1394

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[336]

Washington D.C.

Oct. 10 1861

My dearest wife,

I resolved this morning to get up early enough to write you before breakfast & I am doing so. You spoke of getting the letter I sent you with the check but did not speak of receiving the check for two hundred dollars. I presume you did. I go daily to Arlington to examine officers. I have much of the questioning to do as Gen'l Martindale has been some time out of service. Gen'l Blenker is a German & Col Stahel also. I feel a little worried about not having been assigned to a command, especially as General Jameson has been, but I can trust in the Lord & in his dealings with me; all will be for the best.

A rumor reached me that I was to go with Gen'l Sherman on the Secret Expedition but nothing definite came of it. I went to see Col. Townsend of Gen'l Scott's staff the Author of that Bible Class Question Book called "the Pentateuch" which I used with the large boys at West Point. He appears like a simple hearted Christian, and I felt much drawn towards him. He talked with Dr Mercer & me a great deal about the Bible. My breakfast bell has rung.

Give love to all & many kisses to the Children. Papa prays for you & them constantly. Always pray God to give me wisdom & strength of purpose

Very lovingly yr husband  
O.O.H.

When is Charlie to turn homeward?

It was only the first Bell so I can fill up. I find Cap. Sewall just such a man as I ought to have with me both for companionship, Christian communion & counsel.

I feel very sorry about the coupons. Will the rail road (A & St. Lawrence) go into the Bond holders hands? It is really providential for us to have made the exchange. Has the war diminished the paying freight on that road, ask father? I should have tho't that it would have increased.

How do you & Jamie get along? Does he pull you down much in flesh & spirits. He must have changed so much that I would'nt know him. Think I would Guy? I am glad Gracie thinks about papa & prays for him. I should be delighted to have the childrens photographs - Cant I by & by?

Much love to Father & Mother & Charlie

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1440 10/10/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-1395

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[387]

Farmington Oct. 10, 1861

Dear Sister

Guy arrived safely last night. I met him at the Depot & we took Tea at Sarahs. From what Chas wrote the evening before we were expecting you. Sarah is now nicely settled & wants you to come & stop with her.

Ella does not expect to be back till week after next. She does not get strong & as she does not expect to bring Mary back she is waiting till Abby Abel can come. I will board at a Mr Hopkins most of the time.

Guy gave me the note after he got home & I will go to the Depot for the things this a.m. Mr Caswell goes to Washington today. Guy came home with me after meeting & we slept nicely. He thinks I can cook as well as a woman! Says "Mamma can't cook a thing!" He is very well indeed. Franky & Timmy [see Note] are just up to see him. I want Guy to stay till Monday. I may go to Bath then. He can go to School with the boys.

There is nothing new about a house yet, tho' one will be vacant next week probably. I don't think your things will be harmed at the Depot.

Guy didn't say whether you would come tonight. Will be glad to see you anytime & Sarah expects you soon.

Affy-  
Rowland

[Note: Franky and Timmy are sons of Rowland's cousin, Sarah (Lee) Sargent - Francis Taft Sargent (b 1855) and Timothy Darling Sargent (b 1857).]

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1441 10/10/1861 *From:* E. W. Woodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1396

Annapolis

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[388?]

Annapolis Oct 10. 1861

Dear Cousin,

Your note & the one enclosed from Col Tanney was recd & duly read to the officers of the Regt. but it was not recd untill after Gen Beale had their friends prepared to vote for Mr Lynn Catlin of New York, (not present). He was elected - that was a week ago, & it is not yet known whether we can have him. Col. Stricklan at once notified the Governor & the only reply yet received is a despatch yesterday that I am appointed Major.

I now need your advise & if we leave this week, need to know how I can be ready with uniform &c and horses. If you can come on here & assist or advise me - at once - I will pay you - that is by & by. I did not come with money for this emergency & have not time to send for it.

You know about these matters, & whether you can conveniently come on here. If not able to come, be sure & write at once. Can I get a horse of the government, must I take a horse with me on this expedition. I understand that we will leave here in few days - but do not know that my information is correct.

Col S- has not been examined, but 19 out of 29 officers have respectfully & in writing asked him to resign - no go.

Write me frankly what you think about my accepting this office. I cannot understand why Gov Washburn should appoint me & without my asking, unless he felt that my course at the field Election in Augusta entitled me to it. If I do not accept, I shall ever feel gratified.

Your Cousin truly

E. W. Woodman [Ephraim Warren Woodman]

[Written in another hand]

E.W. Woodman

Major 8th Me

Oct 10 1861

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1442 10/11/1861 *From:* Frank W. Haskell

*To:* Brig. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-1397

Hd. Qrs. 3d Maine Regt  
Camp Howard, Virginia

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[389]

Hd. Qrs. 3d Maine Regt  
Camp Howard, Virginia  
October 11th 1861

To: Brig. Genl. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to reply to your note of the 10th inst. On receipt of your note I placed it in the hands of Major Burt for advice. At his instance I showed it to Colonel Staples who at once gave me the assurance that he had specially noticed me, and that, as there was to be a vacancy in a few days - perhaps in a week - he would then appoint me a Lieutenant in this Regiment.

I have only to state, Sir, that my good fortune thus far has been wholly owing to your encouragement and that I am dissappointed, in view of such promotion, that I am obliged to ask a release from my appointment in your Brigade. In all cases, and in whatever positions I may hereafter be placed, I shall ever remember my duty to my God, my Country, and to you - my benefactor - and Sir I hope, if Commissioned before your departure from Washington, that I may be able to thank you personally for your kindness to me. With the highest respect, I remain

Very Truly  
Your Obt Servt  
Frank W. Haskell

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1443 10/11/1861 *From:* E.W. Woodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1398

Annapolis

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[390]

Annapolis Oct 11th 1861

Dear Cousin,

The bearer Mr Clark has offered to take this note to you. I presume you are acquainted with him. I wrote you about being appointed Major of this Regt & of hesitancy about accepting, but have now concluded to accept. I need a saddle & bridle &c. - not an expensive one, - and want you to get one for me on credit until I can draw pay. This is an unexpected call on me for money or I would not trouble you.

Hope I shall get a letter or see you today & learn what you think about the matter.

Mr Clark is a friend & would get what I want, but I had rather trouble you.

He says if you are absent he will send the things forward. If I cannot do better, I can buy a horse of Stricklan. Could I obtain a Government horse?

Yours truly  
E.W. Woodman

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1444 10/11/1861 *From:* E.W. Woodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1399

Annapolis

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[391]

Annapolis Oct 11, 1861

Dear Cousin,

I wrote you by hand of Mr Clark this morning in regard to saddle &c for horse, but forgot to mention that I would need a pr legings, as I cannot get long boots here! Please send me a pair of large size. My leg is large. I conclude to accept the office after consulting with the Officers of the Regt. I am really sorry to be obliged to trouble you.

Yours truly

E.W. Woodman

[Written in another hand on the back of the page]

E. W. Woodman

Maj 8. Me

Oct 11, 1861

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1445 10/12/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1400

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[392]

Washington D.C.

Oct 12, 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I think I have gotten all your letters and it gives me no little pleasure to receive them, but I am afraid with your charge of three little ones, it is too much to expect you to write so often. I should like my cape, when Charlie comes he must bring it.

I felt considerably disappointed today when I got a letter from Charlie & learned that he had but ten names from all the towns he has visited. Mr Caswell is here from Farmington & says that the enlistment of 50 men is due to Charles from that section, but he did not get them because they prefer the new regiments.

I went to Webb's last night; saw Mrs Webb; babies all asleep; staid to take a cup of tea. She gets scared at every prospect of advance. I felt the advantages of having my precious family in Maine, though at first thought it seemed pleasant to have such a luxury as Webb has. Neither Mrs nor Major Webb could be prevailed on to take anything for the stair rods. At last he promised he would let me know when he found out how much they are worth.

I did see Wm Henry Timberlake. I sent word to him to come & see me if he could. He has gone to Annapolis with his regiment. If possible I will go up there before the regiment leaves.

Mr Farwell says tell Mrs Howard she could'nt find a better boarding place than the one she named. He says he will let us have his house for a year for a hundred dollars, commencing I think in December. I am not certain about the month. He is a pleasant friend.

The Examining board on which I have been serving is to be broken up & Division boards formed for the same purpose. I shall probably be relieved from this duty & be assigned to a command, though it is uncertain for I have not been able yet satisfactorily to account for the delay in my case. Charity makes me impute a good motive & suspicion a bad one. Time will show.

You spoke of the check - did you get it safely? I feel sorry about the coupons. The bond-holders are doubtless safe but it would be satisfactory for them to pay the interest. I wish you had a safer investment & a better provision, darling, but I cant help saying to myself "Jehovah jireh."

This evening I visited Mr Fuller's - saw Mr & Mrs Fuller. I saw their son yesterday at "Halls Hill" & told him I would go & see his parents. His father is no longer Auditor of the Treasury but still lives here. Ames has a battery & has the promise of commanding it for the war. He desires to get young Fuller with him. I expect to keep John with me. I have never asked for him but just let him stay.

How many teeth has Jamie got? Bless his little heart he wont know papa from any other father.

I saw G.W. Smith's desertion of his flag. I did not expect anything different. I only wondered he did not go before.

I am glad Guy & Gracie read every day. Kiss them all lovingly for papa. Did they get the pictures? Much love to mother. I am glad she is well & happy. My love to Father. I fear age is creeping upon him. Life is fleeting, but Heaven is permanent.

Capt. Sewall is such a faithful Christian, that I think he will do me much good. I went to see Hillhouse yesterday near "Hulls Hill". The poor fellow has had the dysentery badly but he says he has written his wife every day without alluding to it. He is mainly well now. I tried to get him come in and stay with me, till well, but he thought

he had better try & stick to the field. He is a most excellent man.

Nothing new. Good night my love,  
Otis

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1446 10/12/1861 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1401

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[393]

Portland Octr 12 1861

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I am glad now to inform you that the Coupons for Rail Road bonds are paid.

I have just collected those you sent to me - amt \$150 also dividend on the Bank Stock - Casco \$44 - Canal \$28 - International \$18 - Balance on deposit before \$143 - in all \$383. Cash sent you by letter 50 - Balance now on deposit \$333.

If you wish me to invest it for you I will do so as you may direct. I think the Gov. Stock is as good as anything offered.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

all well

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1447 10/13/1861 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs Elizabeth A. Howard

OOH-1402

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[394]

Portland Octr 18 1861

Mrs Elizabeth A. Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter with the draft \$72 - will procure for you a Govt Certificate for \$400. They have sold to the Amt of about \$50,000 at the Canal Bank - and are daily expecting more Certificates.

I am glad to hear that you are willing to trust your Dear Good Husband in the hands of Our heavenly Father. I pray that he may be preserved through all the dangers which he may pass and again returned to you in safety.

With much love to yourself and all the Children with your friends

Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

---

1448 10/13/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1403

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[396]

Leeds, Oct 13. 1861  
Sunday Evening

My dearest Otis

We had a prayer-meeting here last Wednesday evening and I must say that I enjoyed it very much. This was the first one and there were twelve present. Mr Gilbert continued to have the same warm christian heart.

John Keen's father-in-law & Guy went to Farmington that day to visit Rowland. Ella and baby are in Bath. Mother and I took Guy to the Depot and put him in the care of Mr Goff. When he went I thought I should go up one day to see Sarah, but it has not been convenient or good weather. He will return to-morrow morning wh Brother Rowland who will be on his way to Bath. Charlie is also going to Augusta the same train by the way of Brunswick on the new rail road, and I want to go to Lewiston to-morrow. I wish to take Grace with me, and have Guy join us at the Depot and all return in the afternoon train.

I let Jamie eat quite a great deal during the day. He comes to me so sweetly when I have been from him some time. He has never made a stranger of Charlie all owing to the buttons though I suppose.

I am glad Capt Sewall is with you for company. I think of Mrs Sewall often. She is going through my experience and I can appreciate her trials. I am also very glad you can have John to take care of you. I hope he will remain with you and continue to take good care of you for my sake.

Charlie was at Livermore Falls four days last week or since Wednesday. I would have the company of them both as far as Lewiston if I should go to-morrow. I will mail this letter there if I do go, so you will know, but if you do as I do throw away the envelope in my haste to get at the inside and read down half a page before I think of looking at the date - never should look at it till I had read the whole letter if Mother did'nt ask me "what day my letter was written," while reading.

I saw a notice in the Daily Advertiser that the coupons &c I mentioned before are to be paid, and since then I have received a letter from Uncle Edward saying he had collected them, and also dividends on all Bank stock, so that now I have on deposit \$333.00 besides that I have your draft \$200.00. I intend to make up four hundred and get Uncle to invest it in the Gov' loan he thinks that as good anything now offered. If you have objections please write me.

Col Gilmore asked me the other day if I would like to take one of the Bath Bonds (\$100.00) and let him have the money for it as he was nearly out and would like some to use by and by. I did so very willingly to oblige him, but I don't care to keep it although it is good, and will sell if anybody should want it. I payed it in your treasury notes. I felt sure you would have done the same and I like to do as I think you would in everything. I have Thirteen dollars of New Jersey money I cannot use here. I will enclose it to you. I wish to make up to them the expenses of our stay here, and shall in some way, but not directly money. Mother will want a winter bonnet, and now and then something useful. Guy and Grace eat a great deal of cracker and milk. I can get a half barrel crackers for general use at Lewiston and a few other things. I miss Guy very much. You did not tell me you were on "that board" till your last letter. Who are the others?

[See Note 1.]

Your cousin Howland Howard is in active service in Kentucky. His mother visited me one day since I came. Mr Francis Lothrop and wife called one evening about two weeks since. I have been <> where since I arrived here. (I mean <visiting> in town). The "order of the evening" <> now is "cutting apples and husking corn". Thomas, Isabella, Abby, and all the boys and girls in the family assist but <not your> humble correspondent. I got a note from Rowland last Friday saying <Guy> arrived in safety. He met him at <the> Depot. When they are at home, Rowland <cooks>, as he is left alone for Ella took the girl with her, and Guy tells him that he "can cook as well as a woman." "<> Mama can't cook a thing." Ella does not intend to return till next week I wish to

spend one day with Sarah soon, and also to make arrangements for a boarding place. I think I will board this winter with Mrs Norton. May not though.

I am writing in the "north room". I don't see but it looks about the same as it always has. There is a little stove and not the open fire, not so pleasant, but more convenient and warmer with less building fires. I got Guy's good long letter from you last evening with paper and pictures. I presume he will be able to read a great deal of it.

I think you ought to write to Mother. Grace went to Church with them to-day and to Sunday school. She was very happy when she got back. Said she saw her cousins and another little girl she didn't know (mind you she never saw her cousins before) and that they had a concert up high. She meant the choir. She is very happy "down to Maine". Jamie went to sleep first last evening. I took her up to talk with a while. She told me many things to tell papa when I wrote but I do not remember all, but I was to tell that we had a great many nice things - then naming them - pump kin-pie, apples &c.

Morning.

I am going to Lewiston because my tooth troubles me again. I shall have it out. I put morphine in my tooth last night, and I feel strangely stupid this morning. Better now than when I got up. All send love to you.

From your loving  
Lizzie

[Note 1 The remaining part of this letter was attached to OOH-1485, dated 12/22/1861. The edges were glued and the text was unreadable there. CHECK ORIGINAL]

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1449 10/13/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1404

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[395]

Farmington Oct. 13/61

Dear Brother

I received your last - last evening. Guy has been put to bed and is now asleep. He is very good to say his prayers with me & always adds - "bless Papa" &c. He is a dear little fellow & I love him, it seems to me now quite as much as my own little Davie. He has been at meeting all day.

Mr Rogers preached for me this A.M. Guy preferred coming home with me to staying at S.S. & I did not insist. He had rather be with me than at Sarahs where he spent yesterday & last night.

I am going to run down to Bath over the new R.R. tomorrow & will take Guy as far as Leeds or farther if his mother thinks best. My horse, whom he feeds, affords him some amusement - ditto my cooking.

I preached on Eph. 114 - "our L.J. Christ for whom the whole family in Earth & Heaven are named" - this P.M. Our little "family" has been sadly broken by Bro. John Titcombs death. How blessed to be so much missed by the Church of Christ! Will it be so when you & I go?

Our prayer meeting was small this Eve. on acct. of the rain. I married Mr. Wm Gay & Miss Hunter just before meeting (tell Mr Farwell). Guy went with me and on acct. of the "fineness of the people" was uncertain whether it was a wedding or not even after the knot was tied!

Hope that old Rheumatism has left you. Washington life is not so good for you as the Camp, is it? Ella is getting nervous over some fault-finding reports that she hears upon the Kennebec - & fears Mr Scott is a Spy! Have you been there any since your com. as Gen?

I have written a note to Maj. Staples in ans. to one of his to Chas sent here. You had stockings & underclothes addressed to you sent in Bbls from Farmington for the 3d Maine. Ditto Charles. Ditto F.C. Davis of F. of Youngs Ken. Cavalry. Now in the Seminary Hospital. Can't you find out what became of those 3 Bbls? We are about sending a package of Socks & blankets to the Dept.

Charles works like a good fellow in recruiting & if he does not succeed in getting many men it is not his fault. He ought to have a Commission.

With Brotherly love,  
Rowland

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1450 10/14/1861 *From:* Jas. B. Shield  
Lieut C Co 1st Regt  
A J V  
OOH-1405 Camp ? Johns ?

*To:* General [OO] Howard

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[306]  
Camp <> Johns <>  
Oct 14 / 61

To  
General Howard  
Respected Sir

The reason of my not being punctual at the time appointed for the examination of Officers was caused by not being able to procure any conveyance to Arlington House.

Trusting you will not think for a moment, that I failed to obey orders.

I Remain  
Yours Very Respectfully  
Jas. B. Shield  
Lieut C Co 1st Regt  
NJ V

---

1451 10/14/1861 *From:* Henry C. Thomas

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1406

Hd. Qrs. 3d Regt

*Source:* Bowdoin

M.V.M.

Camp Howard

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[397]

Hd. Qrs. 3d Regt M.V.M.  
Camp Howard Oct. 14. 1861

Gen'l Howard:-

Dear Sir

I was sitting here in my tent to-day not having much to do & I thought I would sit down and write you a few lines to let you know matters & things went in your Old Regt. There is nothing of noteworthy occurrence transpired here during the last few days, with the exception that last night we were ordered to have two days rations cooked & were supplied with 40 rounds of cartridges a piece, and were informed that the rebels were advancing upon us - that idea seemed to enliven the boys and the universal wish was that they might come on - & I think that the (Third Regt) will do itself honor if it has not already. Col Staples gets along finely. Quarter master Tallman is under arrest for some misconduct, and Lieut Elliot is actg as Qur. Capt Jarvis is going home I understand. I know of nothing more in respect to the Regt.

My chief purpose in writing this letter was merely to ask you a question, if you will be so obliging as to ans it for, your humble servant & that is this. If I can be transfered into the regular service of the U.S. for a term of 5 years if I wish. You may think strange in such an idea in me, but I will tell you my reasons.

First I like the life of a soldier and think I shall reenlist if I can not get transfered. But why I do it now is because I think a person stands a better chance for promotion with strangers than here as there they will promote men for their good merits, while here if a person does not do anything but lay around the camp, if he is only on good terms with the officers he can get any chance he wants. However if I could have remained with you, you would have done well by me, but I understand you are to go to Baltimore, and therefore there will be no probability of your having this Regt in your Brigade.

From your Humble Servant  
Henry C. Thomas

If you will tell me in reply to this if I could be transfered, I will do anything in return for you I can.

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1452 10/16/1861 *From:* John Campbell

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1407

Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[398]

Livermore Oct 16th / 61

Genl Howard

Dear Sir

Will you have the goodness to inform me what you know of my Son John W Campbell. He belonged to Co H of the third Me Regiment. I want to know if he was a good soldier while in health and what he said in his last sickness, if he said anything about his friends or if he said any thing relative to his future state or any information about him would be gratefully Received by his afflicted family.

If you will be kind enough to write please direct, John Campbell, No. Turner Bridge.

[Written on the back of the page in another hand]

John Campbell

Oct 14th 1861.

"Inquiring for his son."

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1453 10/16/1861 *From:* T. O'Maher

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1408

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[399]

West Point N.Y. 16 Octr 1861

My Dear General,

I could not close the envelope without offering you my Congratulations on your important command. Indeed I feel assured that you will do honor to yourself & to your Country, for it is a glorious cause, that you have to fight for, & it is the opinion of this Institution Professors, Officers &c, that you will crown your command with success, and may the Almighty, strengthen both your mind & Body on this brilliant occasion is the sincere offering of your old &

Esteemed friend,  
T. O'Maher [See Note]

My kind regards to your dear Lady & the little ones.

Capt Gillmore is gone on the 14th inst. The governor of Ohio was anxious that he should receive a Brigd-ship. If you would, when it is your convenience only give me a line I will esteem it a great favor.

[Written on the back side]  
Letter of congratulations from Mr. O'Maher  
recd. 18th Oct. 1861

Capt Gillmore is gone on the 14th inst. The Governor of Ohio was anxious that he should receive a Brigr-Ship. If you would, when it is your convenience, only give me a line I will esteem it a great favor.

[Written on the back of the page in another hand]  
Letter of congratulations from Mr O'Maher  
recd 18th Oct. 1861

[Note: Timothy O'Maher, Clerk of the Superintendent of the USMA, and father-in-law of Captain Quincy Adams Gillmore.]

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1454 10/17/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1409

Washington D.C.  
376 "H" St.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[400]

Washington D.C.  
376 "H" St. Oct. 17 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I was in hopes to have found a letter from you, here last night, but I got none from anybody. Yesterday morning, I went to the vicinity of Alexandria, to attend a Court Martial as a witness & returned at evening to the city. Capt Sewall accompanied me, though he had a touch of the rheumatism, poor fellow, which made it hard for him to ride.

When we got to this house, we found Mr Hillhouse who had come in from Camp as I had suggested & urged, in order to get well of a severe attack of dysentery. He has'nt let his wife know about it yet. He is afraid she could'nt eat or sleep, so with his usual self-denying spirit, he manages to write her every day.

I have been with Capt Sewall & had a better picture taken for my friends than the last. Rowland called that "PraiseGodbarebones" style because the artist caused me to look up. Today he told me to look up as before, but I kept looking at the place I had selected. I shall send these photographs by Mr Caswell to Farmington to Rowland. One is for you, one for Mother, one for Ella & one for Laura.

I was turned over by Genl McClellan to the War Department to be sent to Annapolis for that escort expedition, but Genl Wright made objection to sending me, as I ranked him, after he had been so long engaged in getting up the expedition. Old Army officers are a little sensitive about serving under those, who have been their juniors in time past. I don't wonder. I have assurance from Genl Marcy that there is no feud between me & General McClellan. I would not have objected to serve under Genl Wright, but for the precedent & the feeling that prevails that an officer is acknowledging incompetency if he serves under his junior in rank. Col Townsend advised me not to do it. Col Townsend is the Christian officer here. We have heard of him before. You will remember from Mrs Carroll. Dr Marcer went with me one evening to call upon him. I feel quite drawn towards him.

I spoke of Hillhouse he occupies the next room & is very sociable & quite comfortable. He sends his remembrances to you.

It is quite uncertain what will be done with me, but all will be directed for the best by Him who doeth all things well. What did Guy think of his letter & could he read it? I want to fill up but John has come for the letter to take to the office. I am in excellent health. I hope you & the children are well. Love to mother & father & many kisses to the little ones. I trust you are in the hands of God.

Affectionately,  
Otis

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1455 10/17/1861 *From:* Jefferson Savage  
2nd Lieut Co F 3rd  
Maine  
OOH-1410 Camp Howard

*To:* Brig. Gen O O Howard

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[401]

Camp Howard  
October 17th 1861

My Dear General,

It is with feelings of pain that I address you this morning in relation to our company affairs.

Col. Staples has detailed one Morgan to take command of our company after the protest of Lieut Stearns & myself against him. Mr. Morgan has been here acting as clerk for the Colonel for two weeks. Col. Staples sent for his commission before he came here and it has not come, to my knowledge at least. Can not you give me some information in regard to the legality of Morgan's appointment. In doing so you will confer a great favor on the company and save any trouble in regard to the detail as the men have perfect confidence in you.

Respectfully Yours  
Jefferson Savage  
2nd Lieut Co F 3rd Maine

Brig. Gen O O Howard

[Written on the back of the page in another hand]  
Lieut J. Savage  
letter respecting - Company "F" 3 Me vols

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1456 10/17/1861 *From:* James Q. Gilmore

*To:* Brig Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1411

143 Commercial St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[402]

Boston Oct 17 1861

Brig Genl Howard

Dear Sir

It may seem strange to you that I should address as I do but I don't know who else to address. As a Christian man I write to you to find out the state of religious interest in the Army.

The question is often asked in our meetings as to the interest for Christ in the Army and no one can answer. Prayers are offered for our soldiers that they may become soldiers of the cross but we do not hear from them. I fear your time is so engaged that you [can't] answer this but if so wont you hand it to some one who will so that from time to time we can hear how you are getting along and whether there is an increase of interest or not and any thing that may be of interest. I for one dread the return of 500,000 ungodly young men who have been learning in the Camp the attendant vices and my prayer is that Christ may change their hearts and that they may become Christians.

There is more than usual religious interest here and we soon hope for a copious outpouring of Gods spirit.

Pardon me for this for I did not know who to write to and I knew you were a Christian.

Respectively yours  
James Q. Gilmore  
142 Commercial St.  
Boston

[Written on the back page in a different hand]

Jas. Q. Gilmore  
Friday 15 Oct 1861  
Religious inquiry

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1457 10/17/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [CH Howard]

OOH-1425a

Washington D.C.

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[450]

Washington D.C.  
Oct. 27th 1861

My dear Brother

I shall direct this to Leeds. I am assigned to the 1st Brigade Genl Casey's Division - a Christian Commander - a first rate Brigade & everything just as I could wish except as to yourself. I went to ask your transfer. Genl Williams said in answer if the Governor of Maine will only give him a commission it can easily be arranged so that he can be on your staff. You can try for a commission from him in any new Regiment, but don't worry if you cant get one, but come back & I will try for you in one of the Regiments of my Brigade.

I will have you somehow

Direct: Brig. Genl O.O.H.  
Comdg. 1st Brigade  
Genl Casey's Divn  
Washington

I shall occupy two posts one at Bladenburg & the other at Goodhope. My head qrs. will probably be at Goodhope on the Potomac south east of Washington. That point is not decided, will depend on orders.

I want to go to Church today; shall try to do so to Dr Gurley's. Am trying hard to get Owen for Quartermaster, think I shall succeed. O.O. Howard, C.H. Howard, Sewall, Owen & Dr Palmer will make five graduates of Bowdoin on my staff.

Kiss the children for me. Much love to Father & Mother. Tell Lizzie that I rejoice for her sake that I did not go on that expedition from Annapolis. My Brigade too is more satisfactory and also my position.

Capt Sewall sends his regards. He wants you to come very soon he says.

Very affectionately  
Your brother  
Otis

[The following letter from Lizzie to Charles was written in the blank space of Otis' letter of Oct 27.]

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1458 10/18/1861 *From:* Mrs C.A.S.  
Sampson  
OOH-1412 Camp Howard

*To:* Genl [OO Howard]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[404]

Camp Howard  
Morning of Oct. 18th 1861

Dear Genl:

Mr Winslow Chadie's Cook has been called home; will leave us Monday and I write to ask if George is still engaged to you, and you are not going to house-keeping immediately; if he would not like to come and stay with us until you want his services? If not perhaps he would come for a few days until we can get some one else.

A note from your brother Rowland a few days since states three Bbls of things for our Hospital is on the way from Farmington; with packages for you and Charlie. As soon as they arrive I will forward them to you. How shall I direct?

I made a nice pie for you Saturday and fried doughnuts for the Maj, and then you disappointed me in not coming.

Send word when you will come, and I will try it again.

We have four cases of Typhoid-fever, lost one patient yesterday, shall lose another today, if he has not already gone.

Hastily & Respectfully yrs –  
Mrs C.A.S. Sampson

[Written in another hand on the back of the letter]  
Letter of Mrs Sampson recd & answered - 19th Oct 1861

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1459 10/18/1861 *From:* James H. Plaisted  
Serg't Major

*To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1413

Camp Howard  
3rd Me. Regt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[403]

Camp Howard  
3rd Me. Regt Oct 18/61

Sir,

I propose applying to the governor of Maine for a position as Adjutant in one of the new regiments now forming there, and should you think proper to give me a letter of recommendation to him I should be under many obligations.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
James H. Plaisted  
Serg't Major

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1460 10/19/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1414

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[405]

Leeds, Me. Oct 19, 1861

My dearest Otis,

I am feeling very anxious to-night that you should get another letter from us before you leave Annapolis. You must be going with some fleet I am sure, and I wont hear from you for a long time. I don't believe, until within two weeks, that I have ever thought you might leave Washington and vicinity. You mentioned "a rumor but nothing came of it" that put the thought into my mind. I am happy you did, for I am better prepared for the event. I have been thinking of it every day since. I dont know what to think or what to write. I can only lift my heart-prayer to God and say "Thy will be done." If he will only continue to take care of and direct us, it will be well. We cannot foresee results but all is right when the Lord directs.

Wednesday Oct 23. I send the above, dearest, but it seems very foolish though, as you are not to join the fleet. I am so glad you are not.

I think it is too bad that you have got no letter from me for so long. I have written a number of letters but not to you. I hear Dr Palmer is home. I hope to send your shirts by him, three are all done the other three nearly finished. I will send your cape if it is not too much to ask him to do.

I cannot agree with Mr Hillhouse in not letting his wife know of his illness. I don't want you ever to do so. I shall be happy to get your new pictures. Guy was at Farmington when his letter came. I have'nt much doubt but that I shall be exceedingly thankful to have Mr Farwells house. It is a very pleasant, inviting looking place, and near Sarah's. To-day is a rainy day. I have a nice pleasant fire in the fire-place. Jamie and Grace are perfectly well and having a nice play creeping on the floor. He can almost get up himself and walk. Guy and I have sore throats. He is arranging to keep store, but I feel sure they will be no worse. Mine wont but you know Guy takes colds so easily that I should have to be more than careful. I took cold getting up in the night to see to Guy. Rowland was here yesterday, and returned in the evening. We did expect Charlie to-day but as it rains I presume he will not come till to-morrow.

A letter here from Bath to Charlie I presume from Lieut Wiggins says he has ten men enlisted, and some one else has two. Every body seems to prefer a new regiment Charlie will "scare up" quite a number but they will join finally some other Regiment.

Grace came to the table. I asked her if she would like to write a letter to papa. She said yes and was quite delighted. I enclose it. She did this alone with the exception of the straight mark of the P. and when she got to C, "Oh, how shall I make C a dot first." She is not writing another.

John Harrison's health is not very good. He has just got employment at Farmington in connection with the Rail Road - \$400.00 a year. I expect they will move there. He owns no property in Leeds. I will not write more at present. Mother has just come into my room with her work, is seated by the same table with me, sends love to you and is happy to express the sentiment you do in your letters and that your dependence is in the right source. All the children want something and I must close.

Your own  
Lizzie

I hate to send this so badly written.

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1461 10/19/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1415

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[406]

Augusta Oct. 19, 1861

Dear Brother

I have been waiting some days for a letter from you before I should write. Rowland wrote that Perry had written to Sarah that you have a Brigade at Annapolis. I feared my letter might not reach you.

I came here last Tuesday, taking the new route to Brunswick when I met Dellie, & Rowland who had gone to Bath the day before in the first regular train & was returning. We had about an hour there. I called at Mr Meryman's the first time since I came home. They seemed glad to see me and appeared as usual with the exception of considerable reserve on the part of Nettie & some coldness & embarrassment on the part of Mrs. Meryman.

Rowland said Ella was not well & strong as he hoped to see her.

I had the Jaundice come upon me at a terrible rate the day or two before & was rather sick at the Stomach then as I have been since. My skin & eyes are yellow.

As soon as I arrived in Augusta I called upon Dr. Briggs who has given me medicine which seems to have benefitted me. I think I am getting better of the disease but if I had not felt compelled to I would not have attempted to do business for a few days. I had advertized to be here. Got an office over Deering & Turner. Got a flag &c. There are two other offices. Lt. Moorhead has been here six months recruiting for the Regular Army and got only 15, same no. as I have now. His office is on this St. just above. A few doors above him is an office for the 11th Regt. They have got about 70 & begun not far from the time I did but they send men about the Country.

Maj. Eastman now in charge Recruiting Service here told me last week he would like to have me come to Augusta & assemble my men so as to establish a Rendezvous. Said he would have them provided for but I find he went away that day & has not been back to stay since. When 4 of my men came yesterday I had to make provision for their subsistence & lodging myself.

I have paid all my expenses ever since I came home & nothing refunded but I expect to get most of my transportation bills. Not being a commissioned officer I do not get <commutation> of food & quarters you know.

I have been boarding at the Mansion House. Col. Goddard boards there so that I have become well acquainted with him. He tells me he wants me to go with him & says he will speak to the Gov. about it. But when he finds that it is to be only temporary & that I am to go on your staff he may change his mind. I hardly want to have a commission to go in the Cavalry except for the sake of joining you. I was almost afraid I would get the appointment & then not be able to be with you. By accident yesterday morning Col. Goddard was prevented from speaking to the Gov. about it, & perhaps it was Providential, for the Col. has gone to Bangor & will not be back till Monday. He seems to like me & I think will ask that I may have a Lt's Commission but do you think I can go with you if I get one or had I better look for some vacancy in your Brigade. We do not know what troops you have but saw by the papers that the 2d Brigade at Annapolis contained the 10th & the 3d the 9th Maine. I thought likely you had one of these two. If I am going in the Cavalry & shall be compelled to remain with them I had better know it so as to learn the drill &c. I feel very reluctant to go away from you.

I saw Charlie Mulliken yesterday. He has the Chronic Diarrhea & looks rather poorly. Is writing for Mr Baker now.

Oscar Turner came down yesterday & brought Dexter Howard who will help me some by staying in the office. I hope to get a chance to ride home tonight. Dr Palmer is at Gardiner. Wouldn't you like him for your Surgeon? I

see he is appointed Brigade Surgeon. Wiggin has 5 men. Wadsworth ditto.

I enjoyed attending prayer meeting with Joshua the other night. I was not well & tho't I wouldn't go at first but felt the better for it. Rev. Mr. Haines their Pastor somewhat expects the Chaplaincy of the Cavalry Regt. All the officers are obliged to sign the pledge before being commissioned. Goddard began it. He is up & on the ground at 4 ½ o'clock, caught a sentinel asleep by a manger the other day, said he should punish him severely.

People speak very highly of you in Augusta.

I hope the Lord is with you & that His Providence will soon bring us together, tho' I do not know precisely how it is to be done. Col. Goddard has not much refinement stirring, willful & somewhat boastful. Thinks he can do any thing he undertakes. Gets put out with the Gov. when he cant have his way.

My kindest regards to Capt Sewall.

Your affectionate Brother,  
C.H. Howard

A letter or dispatch will reach me here.

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1462 10/19/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1416

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[326]

Washington, D.C.  
Oct 19th, 1861

My dearest Mother

I have been writing all the time to Lizzie since she has been with you, but it is not fair for her to receive all the letters, nor is it quite the same thing to read a letter written to some one else, though it may contain precisely the same things. And again I do not get any letters from you, as I would like to do, when you have time to write. Lizzie spoke of a prayer-meeting at our house. Are you going to have them there or round about from house to house? I am glad Lizzie had the privilege of attending, for she don't have an abundance of religious privileges while Jamie keeps her so close. Last Wednesday evening I called with Llewellyn Dean, on Mrs Genl Franklin & afterwards on Miss Paris, the daughter of Albion K. Paris, formerly Governor of Maine. She is a lady between forty & fifty yrs and much interested in religion. She keeps a store of tracts & books; very much, tell Lizzie, after the style of Miss Blanche Berard. She was formerly an Episcopalian, but has lately joined with the presbyterians at Dr Gurley's church. She invited me to attend the Thursday evening lecture & I did so & was introduced to the minister afterwards. I like his simplicity of style, & his faithfulness so much that I think I shall attend there when in Washington often, if not habitually. Last night Col Kingsbury, late Capt Kingsbury of the Ordnance, came for me to go to a prayer-meeting at the same church. We went but I did not enjoy it so well as I sometimes do. The remarks, however & the prayers offered were very good.

I am not assigned to duty but I have plenty to do in answering letters & in preparing myself for future duty. Capt Hillhouse is still with us. He is very weak & quite poorly today. Oh' he is one of the truest & best of men. With him & Capt Sewall for associates, I ought to do my Christian duty well. I hear that there are some cases of the Typhoid fever in the 3d Regt. Day before yesterday there was one death, (but I don't know whose) from that fever. I have got all Lizzie's letters I believe, the last mailed the 15th. Everything is pretty quiet over the river. The Generals are playing checkers. As Johnston withdraws, McClellan moves up & intrenches. The latter moves with caution & so as not to move back. I am sorry at the impatience of politicians. They want to drive & seem to feast on horrors. It is of the utmost importance to us, to lose no important battle in this vicinity.

Give much love to Father & the rest. I shall be glad to see Charlie, but don't yet know how I am to get him. I shall write to Dellie today.

Affectionately yr son  
Otis

How do you & Gracie get on. Is she a good little girl? Guy is so big now that he can hardly help being a good & sensible boy. He must be kind & loving to Grandmother & be a better boy than his father was when he used to eat and play in Grandmother's house. God grant you His grace.

Yr affectionate son,  
Otis

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1463 10/20/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1417

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[408]

Farmington Oct. 20 / 61

My dear Brother

Perry wrote Sarah that your Brigade was assigned & that you had gone to Annapolis, but a letter from Mr Farwell dated afterward - the 16th - mentions you & Warren [Ephraim Warren Woodman] & says nothing of Annapolis. So, I conclude that Perry was mistaken.

I took Guy to Leeds last Monday & Lizzie & Grace came on to the cars & went as far as Lewiston with us. Lizzie was on her way to a Dentist to get relief from the toothache. She is not quite ready to come up here yet. The children were well - Jamie left at home for 5 or 6 hours. I went to Bath & found Ella & baby well. They come tomorrow & Abby Abel with them. Charles went to Augusta Tues. I saw him & Dellie in Brunswick. Charles was perfectly yellow with jaundice. He went to Dr. Briggs for medicine as soon as he got to A. He spoke to Col. Goddard about going in his Reg. & he said he would like to have him. All the methodist ministers & temperance Lecturers are trying to raise a Reg. for Neal Dow & I guess they will succeed in getting a Co. here. New Regiments are more popular than old. Shepley is recruiting pretty fast.

I will now give you some acct. of my Sab. I had about 180 hearers today - the roads are very bad from the frequent rains. My usual no. is over 200. I preached a.m. on Rom. 13-12, "So then every one of us shall give acct. of himself unto God." Individual accountability to God. In P.M. on Jer VIII-20 "The Harvest is past &c" & tried to <draw> some lessons from the closing autumn to awaken some Souls to a sense of their danger & to save them. I noticed also how similar the state of the Jews was to ours as a nation. O we are weary of waiting, waiting, with nothing to break the monotony but occasional disasters. I have stood by the Gov't, praised & excused it, but I am finally sick of its inefficiency & so are the people. We feel that our leaders are not the men for the crisis. O may God give us such soon! Our meetings were solemn today. This Eve. was S.S. Concert. We always have a bouquet of flowers in our Church & I talked to the children about the flowers in Christ's Garden above, one little one having been recently transplanted. We had a good, full interesting S.S. Concert. O that God would convert souls among us. Some seem seriously inclined. Charles enlisted a boy of 17, who very near, if not quite in the Kingdom.

Our winds are growing wintry, the leaves are almost all fallen & quite carpet over side walks, the grass is crisp & frost-bitten & November in Maine is at hand. Our frost held off wonderfully, till last week. John H. Otis is coming here to work in the Depot at \$350 per year. I think he does not intend to bring his family, indeed they could hardly live on that Salary. The war changes nothing here & were it not for the newspapers & an occasional sour & grumbly Democrat, we should hardly know that it exists. We are making up a package of Socks & blankets for the Soldiers, to be sent to the Sanitary Com! Sarah & her family are well. She has you & Perry on her parlor mantle piece. Remember me most kindly to Warren. Everybody rejoices in his promotion & hopes he will accept it. If his wife returns to Wilton she must come up & make us & Sarah a visit. We should enjoy it very much indeed, & she could get plenty of war news &c out of us who keep pretty well 'posted'. Do you want me to send you any religious papers?

Drop a line as soon as you have a Brigade or are ordered on duty. Need I say, Be careful of your Spirit, the good Spirit is easily grieved & when once gone, it is terribly hard to recover his sensible presence.

If you see Mr. Farwell, remember me to him & tell him I will write in a few days.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Rowland

Gen. O.O. Howard



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1464 10/21/1861 *From:* O.O. Howard  
Brig. Genl. Vols.  
Washington D.C.

*To:* Brig. Genl. Williams  
Asst. Adjct. Genl.  
Army of the Potomac

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[409]

Washington D.C.  
Oct 21st 1861

Sir

In my letter to Capt J.B. Frye Asst. Adjct. Genl. Of August 14th 1861, Head Qrs. near Alexandria, I used the words, "he has gotten his leave extended without my recommendation or approval." These words convey a wrong impression. I did sign a request for a four months leave for Capt Savage in June last, but he obtained upon that request with others a leave of but two months, and as I now know with permission to apply for an extension. With regard to that extension I made no request.

In the letter of Gov. Washburn dated Aug. 23d 1861 to the Secretary of War I am quoted to say "His (meaning Capt. Savage) conduct with regard to bounties, does not seem to be strictly honorable." Upon the proof presented to me - I am happy to retract the charge. A statement in writing from the principal claimant, exonerates Capt. Savage completely.

As I feel that I have inadvertently done Capt. Savage injustice, I cheerfully recommend a reconsideration of his case.

Very respectfully Your  
Obt. Servt.  
Signed O.O. Howard  
Brig. Genl. Vols.

To: Brig. Genl. Williams  
Asst. Adjct. Genl.  
Army of the Potomac

[Written on the last page]  
Copy of Genl Howard's letter to Genl Williams  
(Savage's matter)

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1465 10/22/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1419

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[412]

Washington D.C.  
Oct 22nd 1861

My dearest wife,

Capt Hillhouse & Sewall talk to me about not writing oftener to my wife. They write every day. I don't think it best to write every day, though I do like to get letters from you every day. I am still at 376 "H" St. but do not think I will remain idle long. The Board of Examination has given away to Subordinate or Division boards. The officers on the Board at Arlington were Gen Blenker (German) President, Genl Martindale Graduate of West Point & Capt Hillhouse's Brigadier-Colonel now I believe Actg Brigadier Genl Stakel & Colonel Murphy, N. York 15th and your husband. Genl Martindale was exchanged for Genl King of Wisconsin, also an old graduate of West Point. This war brings out everybody who ever had any pretention to a military education. This morning we have the sad news of Genl Baker's death and the fear that we have met with a defeat again in the vicinity of Leesburg. The enemy manage in every encounter to outnumber us. God has not yet seen fit to withhold his hand from humbling us. Neither will He I fear till we learn to acknowledge him. "The battle is not always to the strong." Genl Baker is the Senator from Oregon. You will see all this before my letter gets to you.

I am glad you took father's bond for father's sake. I do not mind taking an interest in the Government loan. I think the very debt that is accumulating will cement us unless there comes a general break up which nobody can account for.

General Jameson just came in & hindered me just long enough to delay your letter another day.

Last night Capt Sewall & I went to a meeting of the Christian Young Men's Association to consider what could be done for the religious wants of the Soldier. The Secretary of the Boston Tract Society Mr Alvord was there & spoke enthusiastically of the evident manifestation of the presence of God's Spirit in the different regiments gathered about us.

This morning he came to me & I accompanied him to the "War Department building". I met the Prince de Joinville and exchanged a word with him about Genl Baker's death. He says "he died a Soldiers death fighting for his country." I think he must have been a little rusty in exposing himself and I feel especially to regret that one of our first men shot be sacrificed to so little purpose. After I passed De Joinville, I met Mr Blaine, who to my surprise turns up again in Washington. He said he saw Charlie, just before he left Augusta.

Tho I am unassigned I find enough to do. I ought to look upon my past privileges as mercies. During this <cold> rainy weather, I am under cover & I needed the religious training & <[CHECK ORIGINAL-glued right edge page 3]> I am getting. But it seems as tho if I am to bear no action <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> further than I have the last month, I might as well be at my darling wife & children.

I enjoy exceedingly everything you say about them. Gracie, bless her little heart, I wish she would often get up onto Gramma's lap & send messages to papa. Papa loves her very much and the more loving & good she is, the more he loves to think about her. Guy is so much of a man that he can go to Farmington alone. I want him to tell me all about his visit - describe uncle Rowland's house, his horse, his dog, his cat, his wife, his baby & what not. I want to know too if Guy remembers the Saviour. Tell him Jesus is father's best friend. He comforts him when far away from home. Last Sunday papa went to Church and ate a bit of bread & drank a swallow of wine with many friends of Jesus - this was done in remembrance of him. Mamma must take the Bible & read the account of Jesus' last supper to Guy.

And Jamie, Mamma says he comes to her so sweetly. I am losing all those little luxuries the little ways of a darling child.

We hear that Col. Cogswell is missing & Lt. Col. Ward has lost a leg & that two hundred lives are lost on our side and also that we are beaten.

Give much love to mother - I hope she is well & happy. Mr Farwell thinks very much of Mrs Norton's as a boarding place. But don't go any sooner than you like. It is doubtless very gratifying to Mother to hear from me as often as she does when you & she are at the same house and if she wants you to stay I would'nt hurry, but perhaps it will be better to be at Farmington on some accounts. Church close by - schools & Sunday school good & convenient.

I have not heard from Perry for some time. I saw an officer from the Brigade yesterday but I did not ask him. The Rev. Mr. Hall, Epis. Clergyman invited me & Capt Hillhouse to dine tomorrow. He is a "sledge hammer" to use one of his own favorite expressions - the author of "Hall's Commentaries", Mrs French seems to have commended me especially to him. But I do love old Dr Gurley of the Presbyterian church so much that I don't think I shall go any where else habitually while in Washington. Dr Gurley is much like His blessed master in Spirit. He is rather a slow & heavy speaker, but every word tells & he is faithful to speak out. Dr Hall is an orator, very high Church, says he don't believe in "means" commonly so called such as tracts & books, but he does agree with me as to personal labor & personal contact with men.

Kiss Guy & Gracie & Jamie, the little trio and let me say a blessing - "The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God & the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each one of you forever."

Love to Charlie & father

Your loving husband,  
Otis

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1466 10/22/1861 *From:* Sade Sampson

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-1420

Camp Howard

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[410]

Camp Howard  
Tuesday Morning Oct 22nd 1861

Dear Genl

Your letter with Capt Sewall's came safely Sabbath evening.

In regard to George we were not at all disappointed - in fact Charlie knew nothing of my writing - he has taken a man from his Company to cook for him until he may do better.

I do not wonder you should forget the circumstances of Campbell's death, when you have so much to think of; but you will readily recall them, when I remind you it was to select his burial-place, you and I took the little walk together one noon, to that beautiful little Cemetery opposite Col. Ward's encampment.

I wrote a long letter to his wife, at the time of his death giving her all the particulars of his sickness, and again after the funeral, sending her a lock of his hair and some pressed rose-leaves that had lain in his bosom. I have since visited his grave and took from it this little wild-flower and sprig which I pressed thinking at some convenient time I would send to his wife - but it had nearly escaped me till Capt. S. made mention of him. I now enclose them to you as his wife will appreciate them much more coming from you. I know she will.

In the Hospital he was the last one on the left hand side - bled very profusely at the nose all the time - died you know of Typhoid Fever and being delirious all the time, made no mention of home, friends, living or dying. But he was very quiet during his sickness and we were happy in taking care of him. Miss Bradley wrote to his mother and received an answer - but I had none from his wife - I think she must have received my letters as I directed as advised by his friends.

With yours came a letter from Charlie. He was in Augusta still sick with Jaundice though getting better - had consulted a Physician there. Had fifteen recruits - isn't that his part? If so I wish you'd ease him back.

Charlie and Will Watson were happy to be remembered by both you and Capt. S. and send their regards. We were all delighted with Capt. Sewall's picture. Isn't it perfect? Please tell him how thankful we were, and also if he is sick to send for me and I'll come on the "wings of the wind". Of course you will not think of being sick without sending for me.

I am getting over a small cold; this is the fifth day I have been confined to my room. Shall go out tomorrow if its pleasant.

Hoping to see you and Capt. S. very soon at Camp Howard. I am happy to remain a friend to you both.

Hastily & respectfully yrs  
Sade Sampson  
[Written in another hand]  
Mrs Sampson  
about Jno Campbell

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1467 10/22/1861 *From:* Samuel G. Sewall

*To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1421

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[111]

Augusta Octo. 22d 1861

Dear Sir

I have tried to get the Gov. & Council to pay your order but they say they cannot do so, as they will be unable to get the account allowed by the general Govt. This being the case I am under the necessity of asking you to send me the amount, as I am getting quite short financially & need it very much. I am sorry to be obliged to ask this, as it would have been much more agreeable to all concerned if the Govt would pay it but I cannot afford to lose even so small an amount.

By attending to this immediately you will confer a great favor, as I am about leaving home in the eleventh Reg't. & would like to have the money to leave with my family.

Yours respectfully  
Saml G. Sewall

(over)

The amt. of the order is Thirty 67/100 dollars (\$30.67).

[Written with another hand]  
Samuel G. Sewall  
Augusta  
answered

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1468 10/25/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1422

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[413]

Washington D.C.  
Oct. 25th 1861

My dearest Wife

I hav'nt received a letter from you since I wrote, but got two, one from Chas. & another from Rowland last night. The latter gave an account of Guy's visits & return & said that you had started to get rid of that troublesome tooth. I do hope you have done so & that you are now better. The news this morning is that Genl Stone, formerly of the Ordnance, has withdrawn his forces to this side of the river. G.W. Smith has out maneuvered him up opposite Poolsville. Smith's plan probably devised in New York must be to cut off these forces on the right, whip them out, cut our only line of Communication, while Johnston holds Manassas by a sufficient force to check the advance of our centre. It will delight me exceedingly if McClellan will cut off Smiths communication by a march plumb to the front. "G.W." is the grandest traitor of them all. He stayed in N York till he knew our exact location & then went to the enemy.

I am still at 376 "H" St. Gen'l Marcy said I should be assigned to a command soon. How soon I do not know.

Last night I hesitated whether to go to Dr Gurley's lecture or to visit General Casey. I decided to visit, so I went to the office & thence to the house of the General but not finding him in, I went to the house of Col Kingsbury, but the Colonel & Mrs K. were both out. So I returned & stopped at the Church of Dr Gurley as I came past & heard just what I needed. He impressed me with this truth "Count it joy to suffer for Christ." That privilege only belongs to this life. Well I am not suffering, but a non-assignment has at times harrassed my mind & heart, but I believe I must wait on the Lord. The principle that Dr Gurley enunciated removes the possibility of real suffering, when carried out because the Spirit will mount above it. After lecture I went to call on Mrs Vincent, found Mrs Buel, Mrs Hancock, Mrs Hayes, & Miss Vincent together, consoling & somewhat anxious & unhappy. Mrs Vincent gave me a description of meeting you at the time you got my dispatch from Maine. Mrs Hancock said her husband did'nt have any idea how hard it was for her, a man could'nt realize it or comprehend a womans feelings. Mrs Hayes expected her husband to dine but he had'nt come nor sent word, and oh was'nt she anxious. She said she did'nt marry the soldier but the man & nothing would delight her more than to know that he had resigned. I felt how poorly prepared they were to meet such news as has gone to greet poor Mrs Baker.

Yesterday I was one of the pall bearers to Genl Baker. Poor man. I learn once a christian, but of late wild, bloodthirsty, drinking & profane. He is said to have uttered a terrible oath just before he was shot. Such are some of the dreadful things said of a General after his death. May the Blessed Lord deliver us "In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment." Yesterday, Genl Baker was brought to the house of Mr Webb near us & I went in to see his corpse but the lid was closed. I saw his hat like my old dress hat, with a bullet hole just at the base of the crown on one side. I saw also his uniform coat covered with dirt. I noticed one cut with a bullet on the arm, but did not raise it up to look further. The Soldiers who had taken his body from the enemy (I believe it was they) were near by in the room drawn up in one line. Rev. Dr Sunderland of this city preached his funeral sermon. Much of it grated on my heart. It was much like a patriotic speech & too little like a sermon. His brother & son were present. Nothing yesterday touched my heart.

One of the men fell down in a swoon during the exercises. I believe I am coming to a perfect impurity of temper. I rode with, or opposite to Genl Denver of California, two Colonels ahead of me & two in advance of him. The distance to the Cemetery must be at least three miles. Col Wilson, the Senator, was one of the pall bearers. I was introduced to him & had a moments conversation. An immense crowd of most unintellectual people came to see the procession. Nobody evinced sorrow amongst them, some raised their hats as we passed. I wondered where so many people came from. Washington is no criterion by which to judge of our country. The passions & appetites & sins of "Great" small men who have run our Government upon the rocks, have left their Sad impression here and I doubt not the Army has called into its train its usual dirty brood of

followers. I don't love the concomitants of war. What a wail there will be in Massachusetts over the Sad disaster at Balls Bluff.

At home our people are getting vexed & tired of waiting to see the enemy finished, but it cant be done. They have the largest Army & the best officers. Their people are all in the war. Our best people are almost all at home waiting to be drafted. We will not wake up till, our communications are cut off & this Army is destroyed. It is'nt the numbers but the spirit that I complain of. We have the numbers in the field, but the spirit, the enthusiasm is at home. We want it here. God will help us when we stop self-seeking, place-seeking & money-making. When the pressure of want & deep sorrow is upon us then will we turn to the Lord & cry unto him, then will we grasp the means he has left us & go forth in His strength.

God bless you & the little ones & comfort you with His heavenly influence. Rowland writes me a good brotherly letter. I shall telegraph Charles today I think. His letter by being sent to Annapolis reached me very late.

Much love to Mother & Father. Kiss little olive branches.

Yr own  
Otis

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1469 10/25/1861 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1423

Leeds

Annapolis

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[414]

Leeds, Oct 25 1861

Dear brother Otis

I write you a letter to Annapolis having heard thro' Perry that you had a Brigade there. You will not be likely to get it. I came from Augusta via Bath. Wiggin has now got 10 men & hopes to get some more 1st of next month when the Fishermen come in. I left my office in Augusta in Charge of Dexter Howard. I have 6 names down there boarding at a house near the Mansion House. None enlisted in Augusta but quite a no. talk of it. The men we get now are slow to make up their minds & need good deal of talking to - all the Regts come slowly except the Cavalry which goes like the wind but is now about full - above 1000 at Augusta & nearly all the horses. Some of the officers are pious men, Gilley son of Jonathan P. is Capt. of one Co. & was a particular friend of mine in College. He is a religious man - was in at the Methodist Prayer-meeting with a lot of his men & took part the other evening. He is not a great man but will not lack courage or enthusiasm. Has been practicing law. I found him in his tent studying tactics.

I almost am afraid they will appoint me an officer of the Cavalry & then that you will not get me. What think you? Col. Goddard told me he would like much to have me & said he would speak to the Gov. about your letter. I told him that I had nothing to say & should not trouble the Gov. myself but if he chose to mention the matter he might. The Gov. will probably tell him which I did not that I am to go on your staff & not wishing to have any vacancies they will conclude not to appoint me.

If they could only fill the vacancy I would not hesitate to urge the matter. Don't you think it might be done in the same way that the vacancies were made in our regt by appointing an adjutant & Qr. Mr. Then you wrote to the Adj. Genl. I believe & got permission to have men commissioned for those places.

I came to Leeds in order to see some men of whom I had some hopes. Cannot get the Consent of Ezekiel Bates for Francis to go. He is 23 but his father is so "set" that he don't like to enlist. Saw to others yesterday of whom there is some hope. Read some good letters from Mr Keene. Guess I will make some tracts for publication.

I found Lizzie & Guy not well. They are getting better - the former of soar-throat - Guy something similar to Canker Rash but of very light form if that & he is about well. They are cheerful seemed glad to see me. Guy sent for me to come in & see him once or twice - not being allowed to come out here. I found that he had a store & was carrying on quite a business on the Carriage.

Mother has had a cold but seemed doubly active to care for the ailing ones.

Dr. Briggs I think did much to hasten my cure of the Jaundice. I shall return to Augusta Monday. Maj. Eastman was to be away till Saturday so that I could not arrange to have Wadsworth come up & drill the men. Could not in fact do anything wait & wait & wait in my office for nobody to come. I little over-state this however for during one or two days I had several callers who talked as tho' they might enlist after cogitating a few days.

One man I enlisted has enlisted also in the Cavalry - another has cut his foot & I did not get his father's consent - a miserable, drunken, Dana man so he is lost as he was only 20. Another of same age - said his father was willing, enlisted at muster but next day his father was unwilling & he will come up missing. So I have but 12 sure. You see I have my petty trials even in recruiting.

Maj. Eastman scratches out in my acct. Every thing except transportation & that only on Cars, ships &c. However, I think I am doing as well as any one in my business - also have opportunity of seeing home once-in-a while. If I cannot go with you as commissioned, I can as I went before if you want me. I should be entirely unwilling to remain in the 3d Regt to be back with them. I was in hopes to tell you about a good prayer-meeting

we had at Roland's last night. Father & mother down. Mr Chapin & wife - Capt Turner & wife but none of the young people - Jane Bates, Cynthia & her mother Sanford Gilbert & Orman's boy. An excellent spirit & promptings. Very glad of the opportunity & glad that father was there.

It makes me happy to hear of the brotherhood between you Mr. Sewall & Mr. Hillhouse. My regards to Mr. Sewall. Mr Baker came to me in a very cordial & kind manner after prayer-meeting at Augusta Sabbath evening. Rev. Mr. McKenzie said he knew you.

Write to Augusta as soon and often as you can will you not?

Yr affectionate Br.  
Charles

Charlie Mulliken has Chronic Diarrhea but is able to write for Mr A.D. Brown. Lives with his father.

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1470 10/26/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1424

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[415]

Washington D.C.  
Oct 26th 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I just write you a line this morning to tell you that I have received my orders. My Brigade consists of  
4th Rhode Island,  
36th Penn.,  
45 Ditto, &  
Gosline's Philadelphia Zouaves.

I will at another time tell you further.

I telegraphed to Chas. Yesterday to get a commission in Goddard's regiment. Genl Williams said I could'nt get him transferred unless he had a commission. I shall do my best to get him a commission.

I am to be stationed at Bladensburg at present, under Genl Casey. Thom Casey's Christian father. I have got Dr Palmer my old friend, have the prospect of having Wm H Owen my old Brigade Quartermaster & friend.

Much love & many kisses to the children. I send Abraham Lincoln for Guy & Grace to learn who is the President of the United States. Bladensburg is to the East bearing North of Washington. The Lord is very good to me & mine.

Affectionately  
Otis

---

1471 10/28/1861 *From:* W. H. Owen

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-1426

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[418]

Washington, Oct 28, 61

Dear Genl

I heard Saturday with great pleasure that you had been assigned a Brigade - a first rate one - also that you were making efforts to have me appointed your Qr. Master - for which accept my thanks. You cannot desire the appointment to be made more than I to be with you. I thought some letters I have might assist matters a little & brought them to you. Some of Harrkin's statements are rather highly colored as you will perceive, but, in the main, correct, I believe. You will of course not present the letter if you think it not proper. Mr Barney is collector of New York, as perhaps you know, & has a good deal of influence I suppose. I had some other letters but they are mislaid.

My successor has been assigned & I suppose will report in a day or two. So that, this application failing, there remains nothing for me but Company K & Richmond. Staples talks of recommending my name for Capt of Co. C. but I have no great faith in that, nor is it altogether agreeable to me to be thrust upon a Company that would probably prefer some one else.

From all which considerations, I pray you make every effort in my behalf consistent with your judgment your inclinations & your conveniences. I regret to be such an incubus upon you & I hope to be able to repay in some way your kindness & trouble. I will endeavor to see you this afternoon.

Very truly yours  
W. H. Owen

I would have gotten an additional letter from Gen. Sedgwick but he has been in Washington since Sat. There is - or ought to be - however a strong letter from him, now, at the War Dept.

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1472 10/28/1861 *From:* Dellie [RH Gilmore]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1427

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[417]

Bowd. Coll. Oct. 28. 1861

My dear Brother:

You can't think how glad I was to get a letter from you. I didn't know how you were nor where you were. I heard you had gone to Anapolis, then that you had a brigade in Virginia, then that you were on an examining board & then that you would go on some detached duty, nobody knew where. I wrote mother inquiring about you but I have had only one letter from her this term and that about six weeks ago. Rowland has not written me since the middle of August except about half a page on business and this is the first letter I have had from you since Charles was sick. I hardly know whether I don't write letters worthy of answers to my mother and brothers, or that they never remember me at all, or that they have so much to do and so many others to write to they can get no time for me. I am often quite blue in thinking of it. I love my mother and brothers as well as any brother does and I am anxious to hear from them, to know where they are and what they are doing. I don't know as I ought to write you in this way, but I can't help it. I have but few friends in the world except my brothers, nobody loves me except them and I often fear they don't care much for me. Rowland thinks I am a bad boy and is always making inquiries about me as though he could not trust me and when I am with him I feel like a criminal on trial. I have no one to cheer me or sympathise with me and I am getting gloomy and of a sore disposition. I have no one who cares for me here except my Saviour. I do go to him and after I have prayed a long time I feel better. I hardly know what I could do if I had no saviour to go to. Don't say anything to Rowland about what I have written.

There are a few of us yet in college who meet together a few times a week for prayer and conference. Five or six in my class meet weekly and about 20 meet in the College prayer-meetings. Christians are cold and those who are not Christians never go near the meetings. Remember us, Otis, in your prayers.

I have class of roguish little boys in the Baptist Sabbath School and they get their lessons well and recite them finely. I think they do very nicely though their former teacher said they would not get their lesson.

Charles passed through here one day and I saw him nearly an hour but it was while he was with Nettie. I had no time to ask about you or in fact to say any thing. I tried to get Rowland to stop over one train here which would be about one hour but he says he don't like to stop in Brunswick. I haven't heard from father or mother for more than six weeks. I haven't heard from Lizzie except in your letter, besides learning that she had gone to Leeds. The Railroad has more business than they now have the means of doing properly. Their most sanguine expectations are more than realized. They will soon have their old cars and engines fixed so as to carry more than now. The cars come into the same depot as the other R.R.

I think Charles is doing better recruiting than any other officer who is recruiting for regiments now in the field, though he isn't doing much. I stay here three weeks more and then go home to Thanksgiving, which is the 21 of Nov. On the Monday following I am going to Cumberland where I have a school engaged three months long. The P. Office is Cumberland Me.

I hope Lizzie will be at Leeds when I go home. Pray for me, Otis, and write soon.

Aff. Bro.  
Dell

[written in another hand]  
Answered  
Dellie



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1473 10/28/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1428

Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[416]

Leeds Me. Oct 28. 1861

My dearest Otis

I am so happy that I can write you that we are all very well. I do think if I can only have my health I shall consider it a great blessing. Jamie has a slight cold but I can take good care of him now myself, and I feel quite sure it will amount to nothing. I have just put Guy and Grace to bed, and as they are not asleep I am very often interrupted by a question. Guy is telling about "when he was at Papa's regiment." He wants to know if those guns were papa's where Bush hill was. Will papa always wear two rows of buttons. Uncle Charlie must be an officer because he wears "eagle buttons." I never saw such an observing boy. Charlie's old coat has the "State of Maine" buttons. He came to Leeds, but he wrote you and I enclosed a note last Thursday from here. He went to Augusta this morning. I shall send your six shirts, a pair new pants, and your cape the very first chance I can. I know you need them much.

Aunt Sarah heard we were sick and came up here in the afternoon train Saturday. She returned this Monday morning. I am going to lose Isabella for a while. She wishes to go to school this winter, but will engage to come back to me at the end of twelve weeks and stay till December next winter. As I have arranged it, it is as well. I want six or eight weeks to myself without much visiting and also to be where I can sew and purchase what I shall need for the children. Aunt Sarah is perfectly delighted to have me go to her. She lives next door to Adams and Fanny, Uncle Alden. I really think that is best, and Mother wants another visit before March.

Isabella remains about little less than a month longer and is to come back the very first of March. In doing as I have planned I shall not have to hunt up a new girl for at Aunts great house, Eva and Minnie will render me all the assistance I shall need. I presume this will not interfere or hinder my wanting Mr Farwells house. Rowland thinks it is March and not Dec. that I could have his house. He thinks the year begins then. I don't feel that I can go to Farmington without Isabella. It would take some time for Jamie to get acquainted with a new girl and I might have to change more than once and in fact I shouldn't know where to look for one at all. Jamie got acquainted with Aunt immediately.

Isabella seems very desirous of living with me. She has a brother in the 12th Mass. Gen Banks division. He wrote the Christian letter I spoke of. Our mail came very late this evening, No letters. The same as none to me for there were none from you, a note from Rowland. Ella and baby have been home one week. Abby is with her.

Tuesday evening.

Mother went to Farmington this afternoon because Rowland wrote that the baby was'nt very well, and she thought she might do something for the little fellow. Col Gilmore returns with a good long letter from you, the one dated Oct 25 and containing an account of Gen'l Baker's funeral, and visit to Mrs Vincent. Mrs Hayes I met at West Point. She is one who has very warm friends, and very strong prejudices.

I cannot answer this letter. I only sit and think, and have let the evening pass in this way. When I get a little down-hearted, I wish I could be in Washington a while. I am glad you heard Dr Gurley's lecture. I don't know but he is right, think he is. I don't think Grace or Jamie will have the scarlet fever. We are all well now, with the exception of Jamie's cold.

Wednesday morning.

I will add a few words this morning, dearest. Jamie is having his morning nap. Grace in the yard with Grandpa. Guy stands by me, sends three kisses. He is very busy with sticks and tools. This is a very pleasant morning. I have promised to take a walk with the children soon. Col Gilmore nearly ready to go to the Depot to meet Mother and mail this letter. So Good bye at present.

Your own  
Lizzie

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1474 10/29/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1429

Hd Qrs Bladensburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[041]

Hd Qrs Bladensburg  
Oct 29th 1861

Dearest Lizzie,

I received yours & Chas' letter this morning & shall be considerably anxious till I hear from you again. I am afraid you don't act up to your principle in letting me know that you are sick at once. I am glad you were comfortable & hope by this time you & Guy are well. I don't like the sound of discharges from the ear. Hope the dear little fellow will not suffer with sores in his head. Oh, You must tell Grace papa was delighted to get her first letter, and such a good & true letter "I LOVE PAPA". Kiss her rosy cheeks many times for that.

I have just taken up my head quarters at Bladensburg, with three regiments here & one at Good Hope south of the City of Washington. The Penn. Zouaves are detached from my command & will go to Genl Franklin near Alexandria tomorrow. I don't know what Regiment will take its place. The 4th Rhode Island is on the left of the road from Washington to Bladensburg. I am just on the right. The other two regts still further to the right. We look toward the village <[torn page]> tent was put up this evening just before sunset. I have two wall tents so I had them put together end to end. I have a little stove. I put it up & let the funnel run out to the front tonight. Capt Sewall & I put our beds close together so as to make one, so as to keep warm.

[Drawing of the layout of the two tents]

My hasty plan will give you some little idea of how we are. The road is ten rods from us & the village a half a mile. The Adjutant's tent & the Dr's will be on the right & the Aides on the left.

I do hope you will be well when this reaches you.

Direct to B.G. Howard 1st Brigade, Casey's Division, Washington DC.

Much love to Mother & father. A great deal of love to Guy, Grace, & Jamie. You must all remember me in your prayers. I hear that the fault found with me is that I am too gentle, would you have thought so? God bless you. I must bid you good night.

Affectionately  
Otis

P.S. I can appoint <Chas [torn page]> <> the moment <[torn page]>

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1475 10/30/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1425b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter from Lizzie to Charles was written in the blank space of the previous letter from Otis to Charles, written Oct 27.]

Wednesday evening [Oct 30, 1861]

My dear Brother

This letter came directed to you or me (C.H. or Mrs.) also another telling me of what his brigade consists:  
4th Rhod. Island,  
36th Penn.,  
45 Ditto,  
Goslines Philadelphia Zouaves.

He spoke of having telegraphed to you to get a commission in Goddards regiment. You had received that when here. I will enclose another letter I have received.

Mother went to Farmington yesterday because Ella's baby was'nt quite well. She will be home in the morning to-morrow.

Dexter Howard called here this afternoon to see Thomas B. but he had gone to Lewiston with his wife. I can't see anything to hinder either one of all these you saw when here from enlisting. Someone left me the other morning by saying "he hoped my husband with the others would soon put down the rebellion." Instead of answering with a quiet I hope so, I felt more like answering emphatically go and help them.

The "circle" is at Mrs Turner's this evening. I might have gone if Mother had been here, but it may be best not to go out in the evening yet. We are all quite well now. It was so pleasant I let Guy go out in the yard a little while this morning.

Give my best love to Mr & Mrs Mulliken. Dr Briggs and wife and all who speak of and remember me. I hope you will get a commission, and presume there is no doubt you will.

In haste but with a great deal of love from your sister  
Lizzie

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1476 10/30/1861 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1430

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[420]

Augusta Oct 30. 1861

My dear Otis

I have just returned to the Mansion House where I board from a Methodist Prayer-meeting where half the house was filled with soldiers who are soon going forth to the war. Some half doz. of them testified to a hope in Christ. One Officer was present & spoke - an earnest man with his heart full of the love of God. It did me good to hear him & others speak out of a full heart. I would like to dwell upon the subjects & scenes of the meeting but business must have its place even tonight. You will be glad to know that one soldier rose for prayers. I hope many others received impressions which will not leave them till they find peace in believing.

Maj. Eastman for whom I & many others have been waiting a long time came back tonight & I hope to get some directions with regard to my men and some of my accts settled. People complain of his slowness to do business. I have now 19 men enlisted with a good prospect of several others this week. Have enlisted 4 since I wrote you.

I received your dispatch while at Leeds. It was sent up from here to me while away hunting up men. When I got back here Monday the Gov. was absent at Boston. He got back last night & I saw him tonight. He says all the places are filled in the Cavalry with perhaps one exception when a man may be excluded for Intemperance. In case this vacancy occurs he will appoint me provided I am satisfactory to the Company & the Col. and provided I will stand in the Company in case a real vacancy is not made by my being appointed your aid. He is going to write to Washington to know whether the vacancy occurring by your making me your aid can be filled. If it can he will appoint me at any rate and I shall be all ready to join you which I will be glad to do whenever you want me.

I do not dislike my present business, but my pay is hardly enough considering that many of my expenses are not paid.

If I get a commission in the Cavalry I get 17 dollars per month more pay than in the Infantry. I wish you would see the Adj. Genl. & get the privilege of having the vacancy filled - if you think you can do anything to secure this end. The Gov. will probably write tonight or tomorrow and if you think best you could state how that I have been with you all summer in the service. But you may think it advisable not to say or do anything about it. If you do think so I shall not be dissatisfied. Perhaps you may think the Gov's letter sufficient.

I told him I would serve as Lt. in the Co. provided he appointed me & afterward found that the vacancy could not be filled.

Brick, discharged from the 3d Maine Band has been in the Bar-Room drunk since I have been writing. I heard him eulogizing you but he tells some awful lies & keeps drunk every night. He acknowledges this & says he is sober daytimes.

7 of my recruits are pious & all are young men of good habits with perhaps a single exception. A letter from Col. Staples to his father bro't only good news from the 3d Regt. tonight.

If you already know that the vacancy from my appointment as aide can be filled - please telegraph & charge to me the expense if you will. I am happy to write that the Saviour has seemed nearer of late & I hope to enjoy Christian communion with you more than ever before.

Your affectionate Brother  
Charles

Mr. Brick sends his best respects & says he is convalescent.

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1477 10/31/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1431

Head Qrs Camp Casey  
near Bladensburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[421]

Head Qrs Camp Casey  
near Bladensburg  
Oct 31 1861

My dearest wife,

I will write you a few lines tonight for fear I will not have time tomorrow. I am quite anxious to hear from you & Guy again. It takes me one day longer now to get letters. However I shall send to the office once a day in Washington.

One of my Regiments is ten miles from this place. When I visit it, I have a nice ride of twenty miles. After inspecting two here I went thither this afternoon & inspected that. When I got back I found another Regiment the New Hampshire 5th here & attached to my Brigade in the place of the Zouave just removed.

I think I shall like the change. First because this is a New England regiment & next that it has not been like the Zouave Regt raised in a City.

My regiments now are  
The Fourth Rhode Island Colonel Rodman  
The 5th New Hampshire Col. Ross  
The 36th Pennsylvania Col Miller  
& The 45th Pennsylvania Col Welch

The officers of all but the N.H. Regt are strictly opposed to drinking and Col. Ross said tonight that he had expelled before starting all the drunkards he had. The poor N.H. Regt. came in tonight in the cars from Baltimore. A treacherous conductor cut off their supply lines & their arms in boxes & also their tents, so that here they are sleeping on the ground without tents.

I do hope Charlie can get a commission for I want him now. I am doing duty with a brigade but have not yet got a Quartermaster or Commissary nor Aid. I have detailed a few to act in these several capacities.

I got a long letter from Fort Randall from Tannatt & he is in great trouble from the abuse of a villain, who is a relation of Lincoln, the president. On account of some contracts that Tannatt was too honest to give him, this man who has become a delegate to Congress, has come here to do him harm. He wrote his letter some time ago & to the 2nd Maine. It was afterwards directed to the 3d & has just reached me.

I cant help returning to the children & your own dear self. You must tell me just how you are.

I should like to give you a description of my quarters. I have changed to a better position a little to the North of the R.I. Regt. Dr Palmer has arrived. George the colored boy state cooks. John also remains with me.

I think Charlie will be highly pleased with my Regiments. Capt Hillhouse told his wife the next day after I wrote you. He thinks he will have to give up the field. He is still at 376 "H" St. The Dr says he is better today. Oh, he is a man without guile. Capt Sewall is working hard at his duties - very capable & industrious.

Much love to all. Many kisses to Guy, Grace & Jamie. God bless & comfort you all.

Affectionately  
Otis



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1478 10/31/1861 *From:* Arthur H Dutton  
2d Lt Engineers  
Washington

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-1433

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[422]

Washington 31st Oct [1861] [The year was written in pencil.]

General,

My brother Mr C.E. Dutton, who bears this note, has been visiting me for a couple of weeks, during which time he has decided to take an active part in the war, provided he can do so in a capacity suited to his education. Learning that you have not as yet selected all your staff officers. I have urged him to solicit from you the position of volunteer aide de camp.

If upon acquaintance with him, you should deem him suited to undertake the office, & should accordingly confer it upon him, you would place both him & myself under lasting obligations.

You will not attribute it to personal interest if I assure you that he is especially well qualified for the office, possessing all the qualifications that a young man not regularly educated for a soldier can possess.

Possibly there may be difficulty about securing his commission, in case you favor him with the appointment. He will see to that hereafter.

It may be well to mention that he designs studying for the ministry at the close of the war.

With the greatest respect, & best wishes for your future

I am Sir  
Very truly your friend  
Arthur H Dutton  
2d Lt Engineers

[Written in another hand on the back of the letter]  
Did not see the bearer  
O.O.H.  
Dutton

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1479 11/1/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1213

Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade  
Near Bladensburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade  
Near Bladensburg  
[Undated - Assume 11/1/1861]

My dearest Lizzie,

I hav'nt heard from you since I learned you were sick. I wish I could have before I came here. I am going tomorrow if the roads & the streams will permit to the southern part of Maryland to protect the citizens in their right of suffrage. I now have 5 Regiments & a Squadron of Cavalry under my command, without a Quartermaster & without a Commissary. I have a fine man, acting in both.

You must not think it wonderful or be anxious if you don't hear from me for a week. I shall be back in 6 days, the Lord permitting. Again I have to start on the Sabbath day. I must go, but I am sorry to do so. It is however a peaceful mission.

Give much love to Mother & many kisses to the children. Chas. ought to be with me during such marches. I rode to town 8 miles today in a pretty heavy rain, saw Hillborn. He is to give up the Military business - cant stand it in the field. He is an excellent man. I never half appreciated him at Troy. Pray for me that I may do my duty. I got a letter fr Delle tonight, rather a downhearted letter. I have written him so seldom & the others too that he feels as if there did'nt any body love him.

How is my little boy Guy. I hope he is well. Do thank Gracie for her nice little letter. God bless you.

Affectionately  
Otis

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1480 11/1/1861    *From:* Elias H. Marston    *To:* Mother

OOH-1434                      Co. D. 5th N.H. Vols

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[423 1/2]

Extract from letter sent from Camp Casey, Bladensburg, in Nov. 1861

“After sermon the general (Howard) said he wished to say a few words, and went on to tell us that, as he had always done in other matters, so he wished to express his views on the subject of religion. He avowed himself a believer in the Christian religion, and a follower of the Redeemer, and desired us to frown upon all wickedness, and seek to maintain the right. This is the substance of what was said, and I actually had hard work to keep from shedding tears. I was so glad to find him so noble a man.”

This letter sent to his mother from Camp Casey by  
Elias H. Marston  
Co. D. 5th N.H. Vols  
Afterwards Adjutant.  
Now of 27 Maple Av., Somerville Mass.

[Written by OO Howard on the back page]

Gnl Edward E. Brass commanded the 5th N.H. Regt., was killed at Gettysburg. His Regt. was with me at Fair Oaks, and Marston saw me on the cars as I left the F. Oaks Stn. June 2nd 1862.

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1481 11/1/1861

*From:* Frederick Robinson  
Corpl Co. D 5th Arty

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1435

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[423]

Washington D.C. Nov 1, 61

My Dear General

I called at your house in H Street a few days ago, but was informed that you left that very morning for your Brigade at Bladensburg. My object in doing so was briefly as follows.

My time in the army expires in about one year and nine months from this date. I have now served more than 8 years, been employed as Commissary Sergeant, Hospital Steward &c and while stationed at Fort Brady Mich. had property to the amount of several thousand dollars under my immediate care, for a period of more than two years. I think the circumstances of the case, and the general character I have sustained as a soldier, justify me in making an application for the benefit of that portion of the act of Congress passed a few years ago, in relation to promotion from the ranks. I introduced the subject to Captain Griffin, a week or two ago, who said he would be happy to forward my interests in every possible way, but advised me nevertheless, to defer the application till the Battery went again into action, as in that case it would be more likely that my claim would be attended to by the authorities. In the mean time however he suggested the propriety of securing a few letters from those officers to whom I am personally known, to be used as enclosures with my application. I have already a very handsome note from Captain Griffin given to me on leaving his office in Virginia, and another from my old commander, Capt F. Clark 4th Arty.

As an officer & gentleman, for whom I have always had the very highest respect, and who has known me at West Point for more than two years, I would request your influence in my favor, by a line recognizing my general habits as a steady soldier and as a reliable man. As I never unfortunately had an opportunity of serving under you, your letter must be somewhat circumscribed from this fact; yet at the same time, the very high position you now hold, must necessarily secure attention to your recommendation at the War Department.

I also hope to get a letter from Brig Genl Wadsworth of New York, who has already expressed a friendly sympathy in my case, and who I believe is possessed of considerable influence with the present administration. With these and the endorsement of Capt Griffin, I intend to submit my case to the proper authorities, and then let matters take their course. Be the ultimate event as it may, I shall remain satisfied.

There is one point however to which I would advert, and in doing so I hope you will not deem me guilty of anything approaching to either servility or flattery. I allude to the kindly interest you always have taken in the enlisted men of the army, and to myself among the number. Alas, my dear General, there is too little of what Shakespeare calls the "milk of human kindness" exhibited towards us by the unthinking many, for me to remain insensible of the many little services you performed for us at West Point. I am too poor and too dependent to offer any thing more substantial than my simple acknowledgment, but such as it is I give it heartily. The best wish I can give, is that neither you, nor any person connected with you, may ever know an hour of sorrow.

If the Battery should be called away unexpectedly, a letter directed to me, care of Mr. J. Shilling, Bookseller, Penn. Av. Will come to hand.

I am my dear General  
Your most obedt svt & aff friend  
Frederick Robinson  
Corpl Co. D 5th Arty

[written on the bottom of the last page]

Robinson  
answered



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1482 11/3/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1436

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[424]

Leeds, Me. Nov. 3, 1861

My dearest Otis

I have brought my writing into the dining room, because Isabella and the children are very happy in my room, and if I should remain there, little Jamie would leave his play and think I must take him but is just as well off and happy if I am out of sight. No one here with me but Col. Gilmore, who sits in his large chair reading, and Mother who is seated on the lounge seems to have finished reading. I am writing after dinner a little past 4 o'clock but it is getting quite dark. Guy just ran out and back asked if I was writing with the pen he gave me. He heard me say a few days since, that I was out of pens.

We have been speaking about the "Fleet" and hoping this severe storm does not reach them. Commenced raining in the night and has rained incessantly all day, but I think the wind is not blowing as hard now.

Since writing the above I have given the children their tea and put them to bed. They are all sleeping sweetly now at half past seven o'clock. Grace has seemed a little dull and asked me to rock her occasionally since last Wed'day and Friday covered with rash, very nicely out all over. So I think I shall have to say she has had scarlet fever. I must be over carefull that they do not take cold. Her throat was quite red inside and I immediately got up an irritation on the out side with hot vinegar, salt and c. pepper and she has had no trouble with it. She and Guy have been very happy today. I spent nearly all the morning reading to them and hearing them say the commandments &c.

Grace has had read and reread, looked and relooked at what "Papa said about her letter", and had pointed out to her where Grace was written and read over and over again "I love papa" and looked at your plan of your tent, and held it in her hands so long, that Guy "Wonders what makes Grace look at Papa's letter so much." Guy seems to think you are quite near home if you are this side of Washington, and he seems to think there are no secessionists near you, which gratifies him very much. His left ear is not quite well yet. Jamie is well.

Oscar was here this evening and I did not know before that William Turner drinks, and pretty hard I should think. When he was trying to get men to enlist they would not go with him because they would see that he had been drinking. I hope there will never anything come up against you because you recommended him for a commission. It is not known here that you did so, and I am glad.

Tuesday afternoon.

I will add a few words but I have not much time for it is three o'clock already.

Charlie came in just now quite unexpectedly. Jamie don't seem quite well to-day but is bright and playful. His throat looks swollen. All the rest well. Grace went to sleep in my lap a short time ago. Guy and Grand-mother have been to ride up the hill on an errand.

Your own,  
Lizzie

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1483 11/3/1861 *From:* L. R. Browne

*To:* Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-1437

Epworth Dubuque Co  
Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Epworth Dubuque Co Iowa Nov 3d 1861

Friend Howard -

I write you a friendly line & am quite certain it will be rec'd in the same spirit. Having read of your truly brilliant success at the Bull Run battle, of your promotion & the general upward tendency of fortune in this singular war, I trust I can congratulate you without a seeming impertinence. Permit me to say then that I view with pleasure your success & hope you will wear your Honors with a grace becoming the true Soldier.

I have a Brother in law in Company D 5th Regiment Maine Volunteers, A.J. Beane, who enlisted in the Ranks & is now Commissary of Company D as he informs me. He is a man of good education, honest, capable & can be trusted in any place. I thought it would not be too much for me to say to you, that any favors you may show him will only exhibit that goodness of heart which I have so much reason to thank you for while at the Point.

I have thought of taking a hand in this struggle & may before it closes. We seem to be moving very cautiously of late & I am glad to see it.

I would consider it a great favor, the reception of a letter from you at this time. Be so kind as to grant it. Receive my best wishes for your success & safe return from the lines & tented fields, safely in health. Give my best respects to any of our class in your lines. I am well, living well, content with my lot &c.

Your Friend

L. R. Browne [Levi R. Browne, Class of 1854, was a roommate of Otis in their first two years, but did not graduate.]

[Written on the back of the page in another hand]

L. R. Browne  
answered

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1484 11/3/1861 *From:* Ella [Howard]

*To:* brother Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1438

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[426]

Farmington Nov. 3rd 1861

I never wrote to a Brig. Gen'l before, and am at a loss as to the proper style of address, but I believe I shall still write, as my heart dictates.

My dear brother Otis -

I thank you a thousand times, for that perfect picture of yourself and Mr - (I beg his pardon) Capt. Sewall, which I received from Mr. Caswell the other day. It is just exactly like you, and I need not tell you, that Rowland and I both, value it as a treasure. Poor Rowland is preaching today to empty pews, with perhaps a dozen persons scattered about in remote corners - for it is a rainy Sabbath, and Farmingtonians, as a general rule, are fair weather people.

We were hoping to have Lizzie near us, this winter, but I believe she has decided to spend the most of it at Auburn, with her Aunt. I have only seen her once, since she came to Maine, & I fear I shall not see her very often while she is at Auburn, as we both have babies! I am hoping to have a visit from her though before she goes there.

We were rather amused at your minute enquiries about your little nephew - a stranger would have known that you had had babies of your own! As to his looks - people when they come to see him say - "very healthy looking child" - "guess he's a good baby" - "rather small, isn't he?" - sometimes one will go so far as to call him "a nice baby" - but nobody says "what a pretty baby"! His father & mother call him a little beauty, and pretend they think he is - whether he is or not. I will leave you to judge. A little round head, on which a crop of yellow-white furze seems to be sprouting - we hope it will ripen into respectable hair, some of these years, but we may be disappointed - a good forehead (or as it seems to promise) & pretty eyes - blue & large - the puggest of all pugs, by way of nose - a cunning little mouth, & a dimple in his chin. Isn't that a "little beauty" now? As to "what he wears" - his apparel is about what young gentlemen of his age are usually arrayed in, with the addition of a little white sack, with a red border, of which the sleeves are too short already. You have the young man, as far as I can represent him, with pen & ink.

Rowland has come, & he & the baby keep up such a conversation, that I cant write. Please remember me to Capt. Sewall, & thank him for his part of the picture. Rowland will write some, I guess.

With much love,  
Ella

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1485 11/4/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1439

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[425]

Augusta Nov. 4 1861

My dear brother

This beautiful morning waiting in my office I will write you tho' I have heard nothing further about my commission.

It was a very rainy day yesterday. Thin attendance at Rev. Mr. McKenzie's - Few ladies - Miss Susie Brooks was there. By invitation of S.S. Brooks Esq. I went over & took tea with himself & brother Lot evening. I had never met with any of the family before. He took me over in the same chaise with his lady Miss Wadsworth of Augusta whom he is soon to marry I hear. They all seemed to esteem you very highly & Miss Susie tho't she must be acquainted with me since I resembled you so much. Had a pleasant stay. Miss Cony was there & young Mr. Voie.

I enjoyed the sermons yesterday - Communion at noon - Text of A.M. "Do this in remembrance of me." I thought of the poor Christian soldiers who cannot keep this sacrament of our Lord. Text in P.M. "Be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness" &c. Horatio Howard attended church with me in the afternoon. He is son of Abel Howard. I was named for his brother who died. He is an M.D. & has enlisted in the Cavalry. Is a fine fellow but not a Christian - said his father, mother & brothers were. Hope he will soon become one. Says one pious man in his tent conducts prayers morning & evening.

The 11th Regt attended Rev. Mr. Hayne's Baptist Church last evening. They filled the house. He preached from the words - "The only name given among men whereby we must be saved."

He has begun to enlist for the Artillery. 5 batteries are to be raised in this state. He will be a Lt. - His sermon was written but he spoke to them at its close extemporaneously calling them "Comrades". He is quite an easy speaker.

Your last letter to Lizzie & the one to me or Lizzie - she remailed to me adding a note of her own. Your letters gave me great pleasure. I read them to the old gentleman Mr. Craig who met you he says at Mr. Bradbury's. He boards at the Mansion House where I do. He is a Christian man. Most of the Cavalry officers board there but they are not very congenial to me.

Col. Goddard has remained a little cool. I guess the Gov. has told him that I was to go with you if I got a commission & so he does not want to give me one in his Regt.

Dexter Howard is a very fine young man & assists in the office attending here when I am absent. He sits near now. His mother feels very badly to have him go. I have 20 recruits. Maj. Eastman has had me put under Mr. Wiggin because a Sergt. has no right to incur any expense without orders. Capt. Hight did not tell me so but allowed me to proceed as tho' an officer - regarding me under a recent order as an "agent." I got Wiggin to vouch for one of my accounts. He rec'd the money & paid it over to me - part of what I have paid out. I hope to get the remainder in the same way. I have learned to know the meaning of the expression "red tape".

They call Maj. Eastman a "slow coach". The Bangor paper said you were assigned to a Brigade at Martinsburg. You wrote Bladensburg & Good Hope.

I am very glad John is with you. Tell him I always think of him when I wind up his watch. I went to see his parents & sisters at Skowhegan. They seemed glad to see me & his father told me to tell John to keep up good courage - be a good boy & give it to the rebels as they deserve.

Where is my saddle & bridle? Where is my valise & other property? My overcoat & blouse. I have not yet paid Hall. I think I paid for the Bridle. Are you allowed 4 horses from Government now as you were while acting? I

hope so that I may have one of the regulation saddles. I hear that that intemperate Lt. from Bangor will be rejected so that there will be a place for me in the Cavalry if the Gov. would only put me in there. He would do so speedily were it not for leaving the Co. deficient in one officer when I go with you. I trust the Lord will direct me so that I may go in the way best suited to His great purposes & that all things will work for the best. My regards to Capt. Sewall. He must be very busy as well as yourself now. Don't you want me to come on without waiting. Of course you will make known your wishes & I am ready to comply.

Very affectionately  
C.H. Howard

When we get 50 men they will be sent on - Have 37 now. I may go with them when they go.

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1486 11/4/1861

*From:* James Q. Gilmore

*To:* Brig Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1440

#142 Coml St  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[428]

Boston Nov 4th 1861

Brig Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

I received your kind letter of Oct 21st in due course of mail for which you have many thanks.

At our missionary meeting last evening I took the liberty to read it and if you could have seen the interest manifested I think you would have come to the same conclusion that I did which was that this one letter of yours was doing good in calling the attention to the work of Christ in the Army. I know you would have enjoyed the meeting very much for there was an earnest desire manifested to be better followers of our Lord & master.

Dear Sir. You have our thanks for the letter and our prayers for your success and would to God that more of our Officers were as earnest in the cause of Christ.

When you have time we should all be glad to hear from you again how the course of our master progresses.

I wish I might do something to repay you for your trouble but I don't know how. There is more than usual interest in our meetings of late and the house of prayer is quite well filled.

As is always the case the more we love Christ the more we love our fellow men so now they are looking around to see who they can get to attend.

Last Saturday I sent by the Army Express a package of Books & tracts to you. I have a class in the Sabbath School of 12 boys between the ages of 14 and 16. I take up a collection in the class every Sabbath the money to be appropriated to some good object. This year we had some 5 or 6\$ in the box and last week they decided to buy books and tracts and send them to you to give to those you think best.

This package goes from them and you can give them to those you think best either in the Camp or hospital. Although they do not expect it I would be glad to have you if you have time send them a line telling them how the books were received and thus encouraging them to do good.

They are all good boys, regular in their attendance and have their lessons well generally but the one thing needfull they lack they have not given their hearts to the Saviour.

Their names are Henry R. Farley, Azel Ames, George Emmerson, Edgar Sherman, Louis Breed, William P. Smith, Frederick Hatch, Seyman Penney, Gideon Haskell, Thomas Bell, Homer Curtis and Frederick Bailey.

Thanking you again for your letter, I am

Yours &c  
James Q. Gilmore  
#142 Coml St.  
Boston

[Written on the back page in another hand]  
Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade  
Answered

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1487 11/7/1861 *From:* Saml G. Sewall

*To:* Brig Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1441

Augusta Me,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[429]

Augusta Me, Nov 7/61

Dear Sir

Your favor of 3d inst enclosing check on New York for (\$31.00) thirty one dollars, came to hand last evening, for which accept my thanks. I have not at hand the minutes of my account but enclose the order which you gave me on the Treas. of Maine which amounts to \$30.67 the balance 33 cts I shall have to pay for exchg.

I am expecting to leave with the 11th Regiment on Monday next as 2d Lieut. in Co. F. We have in Col Caldwell a man of high character & one who altho new in military life gives promise of soon attaining to a high rank as an officer. He is a gentleman in every respect and commands the unqualified respect of all who are connected with him. He is a strict temperance man and is most assiduous in his endeavor to promote the best interests of all under his command.

Again thanking you for your prompt reply to my request,

I remain with my best wishes for your prosperity & success

most respectfully

Your obed Servt

Saml G. Sewall

Brig Gen O.O. Howard

[Written on the back in another hand]

Samuel G Sewall

Nov 7th 1861

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1488 11/7/1861 *From:* W. H. Owens

*To:* Brig Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1442

Head Quarters 8th  
Brigade  
Camp Sacket

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[430]

Head Quarters 8th Brigade  
Camp Sacket, Nov 7, 61

Dear General,

I saw my appointment in Saturdays papers. Monday I went to the Adjutant General's office to hurry up matters & found that the letter of notification had been sent to Genl McClellan's Headquarters to be sent to you. On enquiring there your whereabouts they informed me that you had gone down into Maryland some thirty miles.

From the fact of my not having heard from you I thought it possible that the letter had failed to reach you. Please inform me for it is important that I should accept as soon as possible & be looking after my bonds.

Gen Sedgwick has sent back to Washington a quartermaster who was assigned to him & seems very much disinclined to give me up. So you will have to fight for me, I am afraid, if you want me.

Permit me to thank you again for your persistent & energetic efforts in my behalf, to which I undoubtedly owe my appointment.

My letters are usually addressed, now, "Head Quarters Sedgwick's Brigade, Alexandria, Va."

Very truly & respectfully yours  
W. H. Owens

Brig Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comdg - Brigade

[Written in another hand on the back]  
W. Owens

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1489 11/8/1861      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]      *To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-1443                      Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[432]

Leeds, Nov. 8, 1861  
Friday Evening

I must write you a few lines on your birthday, Dearest, but I am not in the mood for letter writing, for I am a little tired, and consequently down hearted. Grace don't get over the scarlet fever as soon as Guy did, and Jamie is restless. His throat is some swollen yet, but I don't think it worse; there is a kernel under his left ear, and under his right cheek it is swollen. I hope the worst is over with them both, but it is a treacherous disease. I am quite well, and Isabella is a great help, and willing to do anything for the children. I sat by Jamie Tuesday night and kept his mouth wet all the time and Isabella the next night, and last night I went to bed with him and slept about as usual. Grace is not quite as well to-day because she played so hard "hide and seek" yesterday afternoon. I am tired because I have held her a greater part of the day, but it is evening now and they are both asleep and I can rest.

It seems to be very sickly everywhere. Hannah Leonard who has been sick some time died last Wednesday, and I have to inform you of the sickness and death of our friend and neighbor Mrs Turner Oscar's Mother. She had a fever five days and passed peacefully away last night. Have I ever told you of the death of Grand-mother [Mariam (Knight) Waite d. 10 Oct 1861]! She was buried the twelfth of Oct. I knew nothing of it till I went to Lewiston the following Monday. I wish I had gone to see her before her death, but I didn't think I could leave or take Jamie, and I could'nt see any way for me to go, unless they might have come for me.

If we all had been well I should have gone to Aunt Sarah's this week but I know not now when I can go. I shall not dare to take the children out for some time after they recover, if the Lord lends them to us longer.

I have received your picture. I am so very happy to have it. I got it Tuesday evening so I had something to look at in the night while up with Jamie. I am glad Capt Sewall is with yours.

Friday morning. [Presumably Saturday morning]

I slept so late this morning I have no time to write. I did not go to bed till very late. Grace is dressed and looking at the first snow that is falling. Guy is very well and so am I. Jamie about the same.

The Lord will take care of us.

Yours  
Lizzie

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1490 11/9/1861

*From:* Frank W. Haskell

*To:* Brig. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1444

Head Quarters 3d Me  
Regt  
"Camp Howard" Va

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[433]

Head Quarters 3d Me Regt  
"Camp Howard" Va  
9th Nov 1861

General -  
Sir:-

Although you have aided me greatly heretofore I would respectfully ask you consideration of this letter, hoping it will meet with your approval. On your recommendation Colonel Staples gave me an appointment as 2nd Lieut in "C" Co., but upon the petition of the Co that one of the Sergeants belonging to it should be Commissioned, the Governor of Maine approved their selection. Colonel Staples promises me at an early day an appointment as above, but knowing that in whichever Company the appointment is made it will create hard feeling, I think that an appointment in one of the new Regiments now forming in Maine would in many respects be preferable.

If you have confidence in my ability, General, I would like a similar recommendation to the one you gave me before, to forward to the Governor of Maine under the endorsement of Colonel Staples & Major Burt. Hoping for an early reply, I am Genl

Very Respectfully  
Your obt Servt  
Frank W. Haskell

To:  
Brig. Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

[Written in another hand]  
Haskell's letter  
Nov 11, 1861

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1491 11/9/1861

*From:* E.W. Woodman

*To:* Brig. Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1445

Entering Port Royal,  
S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[434]

Entering Port Royal, S.C.  
Nov 9th 1861

Dear Cousin

You will learn the doings of this Expedition [Battle of Port Royal] by the papers, therefore I will say but little about it. We had a rough time in getting here. Lost two steamers & perhaps more. The Steamer which had my Horse & saddle aboard has run into Charleston. She was weak & the Capt was a Baltimore man. So you see I am afoot again. Well such is the fortune of War. We have not been paid off yet, so I cannot do as I would like & send what I owe you. There were about 90 Horses lost & perhaps 20 men on that Steam boat.

Gen'l Wrights Brigade landed the morning after the fort was abandoned. One or two Regts landed same night. Our Brigade (Gen Viele) are yet on Ship board & I do not know why it is so. It may be that his Brigade will be taken to some other place. Most of Gen Stephens Brigade has landed. Those two Brigades are able to hold these two points with the 50 or 60 Guns left by the Rebels. The Guns were not spiked & some of them left loaded. It is evident that they were not expecting a defeat. They left knapsacks, blankets, & muskets. Even the Officers left a few watches. It is a wonder that they did not do more execution with their big guns & especially their Rifle Cannons. They had just mounted 2 or 3 big Guns & one a Rifle, on the back side of the Fort which showed that they were expecting us to land & attack them in the rear.

Our Pilot was on board one of the ships which had 3 Guns & he showed me the a/c of their firing. One Gun fired 43.11 Inch Shells, 1 Gun 82.8 Inch Shells & the other fired 80 Balls . In all 205 shots. I went on shore the next day (yesterday) but did not learn any particulars - mostly rumors & they not reliable. The dead had mostly been buried & they were taking care of the wounded that had been found. The woods were so near that the Rebel troops soon escaped & it is not now known whether they are on the Island or not. There is another fort at the other end of the Island - 15 miles distant. The Island north or point opposite this is where we expect to Land & yet it may not be so. It is about 5 miles across from point to point.

This is indeed a success & one that has not cast much blood on our side (at least). South Carolina must feel this blow. Her paper which men found in Camp said we could not take these points. They knew all about our Expedition, every particular. Is it not too bad that we cannot make a move but they must know all about it. Where are all these well informed Traitors? There lays their strength & our weakness.

Our Navy did well, being between two fires at a time. I have more confidence than ever in the Navy.

I will remit to you as soon as possible. Will the Government pay for my horse & saddle?

Hope this will find you well & in active service.

Your cousin truly  
E.W. Woodman

Brig. Gen Howard

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1492 11/10/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1446

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Qrs. 1st Brigade  
Casey's  
Division

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[435]

Head Qrs. 1st Brigade Casey's  
Division Novr 10th 1861

My dearest wife

I am going to take time and give you a little more lengthy account of our expedition to the lower counties of Maryland than I did in my last letters. I was sent for, to go to Washington on Saturday a week ago. I rode in, in a heavy rain, went to Genl Casey's Head Quarters & received orders to move my Brigade into the Lower Counties, Pr. George & Calvert. I was instructed to report to Genl Marcy for further orders, which I did. Genl Marcy told me to take my Brigade to that quarter, consult with Union men and do what I could to prevent an obstruction of the polls. I called to see Hillhouse, took a cup of tea at Mrs Pools, sent John to buy an India rubber coat, returned to Camp, prepared the order of march and got ready for the next day.

It cleared off before morning, Sunday, but the "Eastern Branch" which flows between camp & Bladensburg had risen so much that it was ten rods across & when I attempted to cross over I had to swim my horse & get pretty coolly wet. We managed to cross the infantry over the rail road bridge & back by a foot path bridge into the town.

A Squadron of Cavalry which was assigned the day before was with me. These with the wagons were able to ford the stream by ten a.m. We continued the march till sunset making about 14 miles, and bivouaced at Centreville Md. without tents in an extensive piece of woods. The roads were muddy & slippery with the clay & the troops were tired, but some of them made havoc of a widow ladies fence to make a fire to warm their feet. I immediately put an officer of the 4th Rhode Island in arrest. This had the desired effect. I didn't hear any more of burning the fences. The 36th Pennsylvanian Regt Col Mills started from Good Hope & joined us at Centreville. The next day his regiment with two Comps of the N. Hampshire 5th 30 Cavalry (men) were left at Upper Marlborough, with orders to send two companies to Nottingham & vicinity - one to Queen Ann & one to Piscataway. At Daylight on Monday we were up & making ready to march when Genl Sykes with another Brigade just ahead, delayed us a little, but by ½ past six a.m. the Brigade was in motion. In six miles we came to the village of Upper Marlborough. Quite a pretty little town about 3 miles from the Patuxent, with a Court house one or two churches & one or two taverns. This place is full of that kind of secessionist who cry peace when there is no peace. I found a few good union men here and left Col Miller to consult with them. We passed on to the river Patuxent, found a part of the Bridge carried away. Delayed two hours for its repair, took advantage of the time to feed men & horses & then completed our march, making for the day the forced march of 27 miles.

Before dark with the Cavalry I came upon a large & beautiful estate owned by Mr Thomas J. Graham. And you never saw such generous hospitality as I met at his hands. Mrs Graham had one child just the age & look of our little Jamie. In these large plantations a generous soul like Mr Graham knows how to make one happy. Mrs Graham cooperated fully in this with her husband. Capt Sewall, Dr Palmer & I stayed from Monday night till Friday morning at this delightful place. All the rest of the brigade besides what was left at Upper Marlborough went into Mr Grahams woods, that Monday night. Tuesday I sent one regiment Col Rodman's Rhode Island to the village of Lower Marlborough. Col Welch's 13 miles to Prince Frederick & Major Wetherill of the Cavalry with a hundred of his own & 50 of Col Welch's 45 Pennsylvania to St Leonard's, 26 miles. Wednesday morning every voting place in Pr. George & Calvert Counties was occupied by troops. We made several arrests. One man Mr Sollers at Pr Frederick was formerly a member of Congress. He behaved in the worst violent manner, threatening to kill any Union man he could & striking to the right & left with his bowie knife. Col Welch arrested him & brought him with four more of a like stamp to Lower Marlborough. Mr Sollers was taken ill with the gout & unable to move when I left Friday morning, but is under solemn promise to make his appearance at Washington as soon as he can. The others I released on their taking the "oath of allegiance" & promise never to fight against our forces, & also receiving their word of honor that they never had. Col. Miller brought in one in secession dress, whom he turned over to the Provost Marshall at Washington. On Thursday the forces were

concentrated & Friday & Saturday returned to their old grounds.

Today I learned that the first Michigan Regt. was detached from me, so that I now have but four Regiments. We have had rather a sad day today - two deceased from the 1st Mich., two from the 45 Penn., & one from the New Hampshire. Miss Carroll in her carriage with her Mother visited me tonight & asked me to go to Washington to dine with them tomorrow.

Last night I went in after dark to carry my report, went to see Genl Casey who commended me highly for my promptitude & faithfulness. I visited Mr & Mrs Farwell, and saw their sweet little daughter. I got several kisses, tell Gracie. She says "I got a papa", "I got a papa". Think Gracie has? I hope Guy is'nt jealous of little sister because she loves papa. Papa wants all the love his children can spare him & that it is just enough to keep him warm these cold nights in a tent.

I went to a prayer meeting tonight in the New Hampshire Regiment. I do wish Charlie would get a commission so that I can appoint him my aid. I have one aid a Mr Miles of the 22nd Mass. Regt. an acting aid Mr Scudder of the 45th Penn. Quartermaster Barker, but Owen has been appointed & I expect to get him. Commissary Lt. Balloch & surgeon Dr Palmer.

Mr Farwell says I can have his house the 1st of March or April as I choose. Shall I engage it? Very much love to all, many kisses to the children. I do hope poor Jamie is over the scarlet fever.

Yr own  
Otis

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1493 11/12/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard]

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1447

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[436]

Augusta Nov. 12 1861

My dear brother

I returned today to this city & found that the letter I wrote the day before I left was not mailed. I will send it with this.

I saw the Governor today but he had not heard from Washington. I am convinced that it is of no use to wait for him. He has no intention of commissioning me in connection with one of the new Regts. He suggested to day as he has before that I go out & get put in a vacancy of the 3d Maine & then get transferred. If there is any vacancy there & this can be done I hope it may be soon. I do not think I better bother with the Gov. any longer here.

Couldn't you possibly get me a commission from the President? If you told him plainly your desire & the difficulty of my being appointed from any company I thought he might be willing to commission me in same way as Mr. Sewall. Perhaps it is not practicable. You will know.

Rowland seems to think you might take this course. The recent order about musicians who do not act as such gives me a chance of a discharge from the 3d Me.

I neither desire to be discharged nor to go back from this duty unless it be to join you.

I am, however, very much hampered now that I am under Wiggin & cannot recruit on my own hook.

I wish I might join you immediately if I am going to do so. Isn't there a vacancy in your Regts into which I could be transferred & then appointed, if I could get a commission in the 3d Me.? If so please to write me immediately also how I am to be relieved from this duty & how the transfer is to be made.

I have been feeling some anxiety about the children but Joshua came in from Leeds Sabbath P.M. & heard nothing but that Grace & Jamie were doing well. Guy & Lizzie had got well when I left. I have lots to tell you but hope to communicate it soon viva voce [orally].

I await an immediate reply.

Very affectionately  
C.H. Howard

---

1494 11/15/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1448

Head Qrs 1st Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[437]

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Novr 15th 1861

My dearest wife

I wish to write you a few lines just to say that all is well with me.

Yesterday I went over the river to my old regiment crossing by the ferry & returning by the long bridge making in all a distance of twenty seven miles. You cant think how the distances stretch out in this country. Monday evening by invitation I went in to Washington & took tea & staid all night coming out in the first train Tuesday morning. I found Mrs Carroll very well & anxiously inquiring about you & the children. She sends love & so does Mr C. Mrs Carroll is expecting Susan. I believe it will do me good even to see Susan. Mrs C. says her heart is almost broken at the loss of you & the children. Poor child she never realized her privileges while she had them as she cant now. Mrs Sampson sends her love & makes many inquiries about you & the children. She is now the only female with the 3d Maine. Has her tent close by her husbands. Keeps warm by one of our under ground furnaces, such as the soldiers improvise.

Col Staples inquired about you, when I heard & how you did. I cant help feeling anxious about Jamie, as he cant talk & tell when his little ears are sore. I hope Guy & Gracie are all well. Papa cant tell how much he wishes to see them. Mrs Sampson said it was much worse & hard for Mrs Howard than for me. I told her, it was'nt so, for Mrs Howard has the children to console her.

I heard that Charles had 42 men & when he gets 50 he is coming back. John Keen had this information just from home. I did not say anything to you about money the last month. I am sorry I neglected it. I sold one of my horses to Warren Woodman for which he gave me his note. I bought another of Capt Hillhouse for which I paid the cash. I had also to buy my epaulettes & establish a new mess - all of which absorbed my last months pay. At the end of the next, I mean this month I shall make you a remittance. I saw your name in the papers. I have applied for Charlie to be detailed & also John to me but I don't know as the War Department can grant me such a great favor. I have been in hopes the Governor of Maine would commission Charlie but he has not yet done so.

When I was promoted I was separated from Maine troops and perhaps the Governor thinks I have got enough, but surely Charlie deserves a commission on his own account. There is now considerable sickness with us, last night there were three deaths in the Brigade. Typhoid fever prevails to a sad extent.

Are you knitting stockings? Mrs Sampson gave me a flannel night gown yesterday so long that it drags on the ground. Much love to the children & many kisses from papa. Also to Father & mother. When are you going to Aunt Sarah's.

Here are some pictures of papa's manufacture for Guy & Gracie to study out.

Affectionately  
Otis.

---

1495 11/16/1861 *From:* Fred Elliot

*To:* Brig Gen O O Howard

OOH-1449

Camp Howard

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[438]

Camp Howard November 16th 1861

Brig Gen O O Howard

Dr Sir:

Perhaps you may be surprised at my writing to you, but judging of your character and kind-heartedness from personal observation, I have presumed to address you this letter.

In your position as Commander of a Brigade I know there are many offices in your power to give, or at least it is in your power to recommend, and believing that you know me very well and are aware of the sort of qualifications I possess, I write this to ask you if you cannot assist me in obtaining some office, (such as Quarter Master of a regiment) under your command. I have had some experience in the business and think I can perform all the duties faithfully and honestly which may be required.

I am not dissatisfied with the 3rd Maine, on the contrary I like the Regiment much, but I have come to the conclusion that there is no chance for further advancement in it for myself, and of course I am anxious to raise higher than my present position. Excuse me, Gen., if I have presumed, too far on your generosity, or have deviated from the line of etiquette and respect due an officer in your position, as I really meant no infringement on military law and discipline.

If it is not in your power to do anything for me, I think I shall apply for a transfer to the Navy.

Should it be convenient for you, you would much oblige if you would do me the honor of writing me your views on this subject.

I am Sir

Most respectfully

Yours Truly

Fred Elliot

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

Comdg Brig

My respects to Capt. Sewall and tell him I received the note I gave him.

[Written on the back of the letter in another hand.]

Answered

Elliot

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1496 11/18/1861 *From:* W. B. Weeks

*To:* Brig. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1450

Danbury Ct.

U.S. Army  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[439]

Danbury Ct. Nov 18th 1861

My dear Friend

I've been thinking some time of writing you, and see if you could not assist me in getting some situation, connected with the Army, or in some capacity under your supervision. I am out of employment and have been since the commencement of the hard times. You are acquainted or partly so with my abilities and honesty, any thing you can do for me under the circumstances will always be remembered. I enclose a stamp, please answer.

Resp: Your Friend  
W. B. Weeks

To:  
Brig. Genl O.O. Howard  
U.S. Army  
Washington D.C.

P.S. Quartermaster clerkship or any other, steward or any thing else you think could do.  
W.B.W.

[Written in another hand on the back of the letter]  
WB Weeks  
Danbury Ct.  
Answered

---

1497 11/20/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1451

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs 1st Brigade  
Casey's Divn near  
Bladensburg

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[449]

Hd. Qrs 1st Brigade  
Casey's Divn near Bladensburg  
November 20th 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I put off writing you last night because I felt tired, and tonight I might do so again, but I know you must often write me when you are tired & the thought makes me feel ashamed to offer weariness as a reason of delay. I have not heard from you for a long time. Some irregularity in the Post Office department or my own change of position has prevented me from getting my letters.

Yesterday one of my Regiments the 45th Pennsylvania was detached & sent to Fortress Monroe, and also yesterday Genl Casey reviewed & drilled the part of my Brigade left here. His wife & daughter & another lady accompanied him from Washington. Mrs Casey has just joined her husband. She is quite infirm. Her daughter is a young lady of 18 or 20 yrs. His son a lad of 13 rode the general's horse out for him. I thought last night I should like to see my family here but on reflection concluded that you & the little ones are better there, as long as at any rate as I have no surety of remaining a day in position.

I have taken the house which the sick of Genl Hookers Divn have at last vacated. It is a nice two story Gentleman's house, but had been with its surrounding's been rendered very filthy. We had it cleaned & fumigated. Capt Sewall & I occupy two rooms with folding doors between, for office & quarters. The Dr a room up stairs, also Capt Barker & Lt. Balloch Qr. Master, & Commissary two rooms up stairs. Lt. Miles the aid has a little room downstairs. Lieut Miles I appointed from the 22nd Mass. Regt. He is a fine looking officer about 21 or 22 yrs. with good military bearing, modest & a Christian. He appears & looks a good deal like Vincent, only taller with a deeper voice. I need not say I am highly pleased with him. Capt Barker is from Portland - 54 years of age. I wanted Wm H. Owen, but though the Secretary of War ordered him to me, I have not been able to get him. But Capt. Barker does very well, seems active & good hearted. His clerk is a civilian, Edwards of Portland, cousin to John Edwards of the Army.

I have been to see my old regiment since I wrote you. Mrs Sampson is full of kind messages. She is now the only lady, with her tent snuggled close to her husbands. Tell mother that Benjamin Woodman [Note 1], son of Ben Woodman that we saw at Cousin Henry Wingate's the night of my leaving Hallowell, was taken with typhoid fever & died within seven days delirious all the time. He was a <blunt>, honest boy. I met him in perfect health only a short time before at the War Department at Washington. He used to drive a team of four horses & government wagon.

What shall I say to Guy! I made a rough plan of my quarters, with some of the details, also a sketch of our camp. Sent all to Uncle Rowland. He must send them to Guy. Grace can look at the pictures of papa's fireplace, boots & sword &c. If Uncle don't send them, papa must make even more. How is our little chubby boy, Jamie, who has forgotten his papa. Kiss his little cheeks & lips for papa. Guy & Grace can do it & they must kiss Mamma for papa too.

I still keep Charles' place open, hoping he may yet have a commission.

I went to Good Hope today & drilled Col Weillars 36 Penn. Regt. today. He has to go nearly two miles further on to get a place to drill & gives me a ride out & back of over twenty miles.

I had a little cold but am otherwise well. I hope you are the same my darling. May God bless you.  
Otis

Much love to Charlie, father & mother. My kind regards to Isabella.

[Note 1: Benjamin Woodman was born 25 Jan 1837, died 11 Nov 1861, was the son of Capt Benjamin Woodman, Jr. and Joanna Leadbetter.]

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1498 11/21/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1452

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[442]

Leeds, Me. Nov. 21, 1861

Dearest

I wonder how soon you will take this out of your pocket, where I intend to put it. I dread to part with Charlie. I want him to be with you, and I know he must go, but it will be another trial.

I wrote the above last evening and have no time to write more this morning.

May God bless and take care of you.

Your own  
Lizzie

---

1499 11/21/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1453

Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[441]

Leeds Me. Nov 21, 1861

My dearest Otis

I received your last letter just as I was finishing a letter to Mrs Sampson, so I could mention it, and thank her for the wrapper she gave you. I can't help feeling very anxious about you while surrounded as you are with so many cases of Typhoid-fever. I don't want you to have it, so do please for my sake, dearest, take just as good care of yourself as you possibly can. All the children just recovering from sickness it seems same as it did last winter when we lived with the Carrolls, and I cant bear to even think we may have any more sickness at present, and particularly you so far away and in a tent. Why do you not take quarters in some house near by? Guy says, "Why don't papa live in a house? I thought all Brig. Genls did. Col Sedgewick did." How much like Mrs Carroll to visit you. You must give her my best love. So Susan is still with Mrs S. S. Carroll. I take it they are intending to visit Washington and take Susan with them.

Jamie is better than when I last wrote, but I don't like to see Grace look so pale. I fear her blood is poor, any time of day that I take off her boots and stockings I find her feet like ice. She seems happy when at play. A change may be of benefit to her.

I would like to go to Auburn Saturday but may not till Monday. You may direct all letters there after you receive this. Charlie and Dellie were home to take Thanksgiving dinner with us to-day, also Roland's family, Warren Morse and daughter.

I forgot to tell you that Jamie can walk. He is very happy about it, still remembers and likes Uncle Charlie little better than the rest. Don't you think he inherited that from his Mother(?) Charlie goes to Augusta to-morrow. He will take to you your things I have to send. I never should think of or expect money if you did not speak of it. I have great plenty now. I am always glad to have you speak of buying things for yourself as rubber coat. My freight bill was little more than forty dollars. I think after I go to Auburn I shall send quite a little present here of different things. So you saw the name of Mrs B. G. Howard in the papers. I am sorry, and am sorry it was put in unless it did some good to encourage others to do something. I never should have dared to have made the offer if I could have known it would be.

Guy was very much amused at the "pictures of voting" you sent. He has put himself in the position of all of them, even to the man on his back, but thinks it would be pretty hard to keep that position, (his head and feet raised a little). He is writing or rather printing a letter to Susan. I have'nt heard from West Point since I left. I must write to Mrs Blunt.

I think Charlie will give you the next news after you get this letter, if he goes as soon as next Wednesday. You will find a note with the things if you look sharp enough. I am glad Charlie has been home so long, but I have'nt seen him much seems to me. He has been a sort of connecting link between us and now he is to be taken back. I don't know how I shall feel about it. I want him to take care of you.

I have written this since I came into my room. Children all sleeping soundly. I am waiting and writing till Jamie wakes so I can take him to Isabella. Charlie had a pleasant visit at Mrs Sewalls when he was at Bath.

Good night now, dearest. Your  
Lizzie

---

1500 11/22/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1454

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[443]

Leeds Nov. 22 1861

Friday Morn

Dear Brother

I go to Augusta this morn and expect to go to Washington as soon as Wed. next.

I hear from the papers that Capt. Sampson is made Maj. There would be a vacancy in his Co. and the Gov. said he would commission me in the Third Maine. Colson Co C. also has resigned.

Wish I knew certainly that I could be transferred after getting a commission to some vacancy in your Brigade or if not transferred, could have the assurance that my place could be filled when appointed on your staff.

If you can arrange these matters with Col Staples perhaps he will request a commission from Gov. W.

I expect to go directly to the Third Me. and will do what I can.

You need not have troubled to get my transfer in my present capacity for I can be discharged from the 3d according to a recent order about musicians & then I can reenlist with you if for the best.

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

P.S.  
Children & all well & very happy.  
C.H.H.

---

1501 11/22/1861 *From:* F.S. Nickerson

*To:* Brig. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-1455

Head Quarters 4th Me

Near Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[444]

Head Quarters 4th Me  
Nov. 22, 1861

My Dear Genl,

After some hesitation I have concluded to accept the Colonelcy of the 14th. It is now more than half recruited, & will go into camp next week. It will be ready for the field about the 1st Jany.

I should like very much to go into your Brigade, if you can so arrange it.

The appointment was unexpected as it came. I did not expect one of the new Regts. It is certainly very kind in the Governor; and I suspect I am quite as much indebted to you as him. I will endeavour that you shall not suffer thereby.

I have taken good care while in Maine that you should suffer nothing by the disappointment of others.

Any suggestions, I should be most happy to receive. Do you know of the right kind of a young man for Adj. - Smart well parted in his duties &c. I have applications enough - but you know what I need.

The men will be good. The class of men now enlisting are far better than the earlier enlistments. It will be a fine Regt. & I should like to be in your Brigade.

Truly &c  
F.S. Nickerson

Brig. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Near Washington

Please give your address. Mine will be with the 4th for ten days at least.

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Answered  
Nickerson

---

1502 11/23/1861 *From:* F.B. Gilman

*To:* Dear Howard [RB  
Howard]

OOH-1456

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[445]

Revival letter from Frank Gilman [This was written by R.B. Howard]

Portland Nov. 23 1861

Dear Howard [Rowland Bailey Howard]

I started from home earlier than usual this afternoon to come down & write to you & queerly enough thought on my way that it was possible I should get a letter from you but hoped not for I wanted the credit of writing without a reminder. Sure enough the letter was waiting for me & <found> a welcome. So I am all charged for a long letter & really have my heart free of things new & old & some good things to tell you, but shall not succeed this afternoon in putting it upon paper.

We are having such an unusual series of meetings in our church that we hardly have recovered from our astonishment at being roused from sleep in such an unwanted manner & half of our members are not yet fully sensible of what is going on - some even are still sleeping. May Gods spirit soon convince them that He is speaking to them as well as to sinners.

You ask if I see or feel anything of the Revival. I know I see very much of it & hope I feel it. At any rate I have found it a delightful labor for eight successive evenings since Friday of last week to be at our church from seven to ten, half of the time listening to preaching by Mr. H. & others & spending the remainder in talking simply & earnestly to those who come by fifties & even hundreds to the prayer & enquiry meetings.

Dear Howard it has been a week of blessing not only to sinners but to our church members also. I cannot doubt that the Holy Spirit has been with us & that many true conversions attest this work. We cannot as yet measure it or say what has been done but I hope to give you hereafter the result in our own congregation - all the fruit of these precious meetings we shall not know. There have been many strangers, soldiers sailors & others in who have received faithful & affectionate words into their hearts followed by prayers that they might bring them to Christ. They have left us & hereafter we shall meet some of them I hope in heaven.

I wish you could have been here with us. Thinking you might be at Bath Thursday I sent a message by Mr Fisk, who preached for us last Sunday, for you to come up here but you did not receive it. Mr F. entered warmly into our meetings & impressed me as a very lovable man. I enjoyed his preaching very much. I wish you could even now come down for a day or two, for I hope we shall make some arrangement to keep up our evening preaching. This is not decided upon yet. Mr Hammond strongly urges that we should procure preachers & keep them up. He leaves the first of the week preaching only twice more tonight & tomorrow night. I feel as if we must continue these prayer & enquiry meetings.

I could fill sheets with telling you of instances of conversion & of interesting conversations & incidents. Two of my Sabbath school class have been very much interested & one of them gives the most satisfactory evidence of conversion. He is very intelligent & thoughtful & would not be led away by any excitement.

This word reminds me of what seems to me a very sad fact, that many of Gods people in Portland & all the ministers of our denomination except Mr Moore & Dr Caruthers have turned coldly away from Mr Hammond & have no sympathy with the meetings. Why I cannot tell satisfactorily. It is said by some that the Boston clergymen have by letter to Dr Chickering prejudiced him & others. One reason undoubtedly is found in the character of Mr Hammonds preaching & the manner in which he labors, though to my mind it is no excuse at all for Christians who by objecting to these, excuse themselves from taking any interest in meetings where so evidently the Spirit of God is preparing the hearts of the unconverted to receive the good seed of His truth. I can hardly give you a description of Mr H's preaching. In fact he does'nt preach sermons. He talks, earnestly, but without method or arrangement. He opens a meeting perhaps with a short prayer, then takes the bible & reads a few verses & talks & spends perhaps 15 minutes in going over a dozen verses then he may break out

into a familiar hymn in which the children all join him & many of the congregation.

Then a young convert with us through the week, will it not be delightful. It seems to me that he must have great effect upon a class of people who will not come to hear Mr. Hammond. He made a most stirring address tonight, compared prayer with steam & believed that we had but just begun to see its effects as when Watt observed the lifting of the <Hitte> cover & that we should yet see it run the arm that should move the world.

Cant you come down this week Howard & witness for yourself these precious meetings? I should be delighted to have you stop with us, as I know my brother would, & I think you would find such a <field> for a few evenings labor as would do your heart good - do come. The ministers I know will welcome you. I will tell you then perhaps of my visit to Washington. It was a very pleasant journey - was disappointed on calling at Genl Howards quarters to find that he was out of town, having gone to Bladensburg. I was counting upon seeing him considerably for the pleasure of my visit, but was fortunate in finding several pleasant friends.

You will smile at receiving with this mail another production of Mr Walker's. It was published yesterday & I thought you would not be unwilling to read it. Thruston printed it on his own responsibility. It was highly praised by those who heard it but I have only glanced at it & do not know what it is. I enclose a hymn sung tonight & was intending to put in a slip from Saturdays Currier about Mr Howard but do not see it now. I shall not settle for a letter but for "your good self" the mercantile letters have it, & its very soon.

Good night  
Yours affectionately  
F.B. Gilman

Good news, was it not from the expedition. I have read letters from the fleet enclosing "pieces of the insolent rebel flags that floated over Fts Walker & Beauregard. Excuse if you can such inexcusable writing as I can find no reason for sending or making.

My kind regards to your family.

---

1503 11/24/1861 *From:* W. H. Owen

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1457

Head Quarters  
Sedgewick Brig

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[446]

Head Quarters Sedgewick Brig  
Nov. 24 1861

Dear General,

Your kind letter was recd several days since. I would have answered it immediately but understood from Mrs Sampson that you were expected here on Thanksgiving Day when I would see you personally.

We were disappointed in not seeing you when you were here before & had intended to have you to breakfast with us.

Gen. S. desired me to ask you to dine with us on Thanksgiving day but Mrs Sampson protested, so I did not send the invitation.

Please consider the invitation a standing one to yourself & staff. Whenever you come over here we shall expect you to make this your Head Quarters.

I was somewhat surprised at your ill-success with Gen Van Vliet with regard to my assignment after what had transpired between you & the Q. M. General. Though at first disposed to regret it on many accounts, yet, like everything else, it was undoubtedly for the best. One of the proofs of it is that my brother has lately been quite seriously ill & I was enabled to remove him from his narrow & comfortless quarters to my more commodious tent where he could receive every attention. And in the course of the war it is very probable that by reason of my position I shall be able to render him still more important service.

Yet with all this I cannot banish a regret at the overthrow of plans I had formed & confidently reckoned on - and I cannot help still hoping that the fortunes of war may, in some way, throw us together again.

You may be sure I shall never forget your kindness or what I owe to you & that I shall study to deserve & repay it.

I trust that your Qr. Mr. has turned out better than you expected & that you will suffer no inconvenience from your failure to obtain the man of your choice.

Present my kindest regard to Capt. Sewall.

Very truly your friend  
W. H. Owen

---

1504 11/24/1861 *From:* W. H. Owen

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1460

Head Quarters  
Sedgewick Brig

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters Sedgewick Brig  
Nov. 24 1861

Dear General,

Your kind letter was recd several days since. I would have answered it immediately but understood from Mrs Sampson that you were expected here on Thanksgiving Day when I would see you personally.

We were disappointed in not seeing you when you were here before & had intended to have you to breakfast with us.

Gen. S. desired me to ask you to dine with us on Thanksgiving day but Mrs Sampson protested, so I did not send the invitations.

Please consider the invitations a standing one to yourself & staff. Whenever you come over here we shall expect you to make this your Head Quarters.

I was somewhat surprised at your ill-success with Gen Van Vliet with regard to my assignment after what had transpired between you & the Q. M. General. Though at first disposed to regret it on many accounts, yet, like anything else, it was undoubtedly for the best. One of the proofs of it is that my brother has lately been quite seriously ill & I was enabled to remove him from his narrow & comfortless quarters to my more commodious tent when he could receive every attention. And in the course of the war it is very probable that by reason of my position I shall be able to render him still more important service.

Yet with all this I cannot banish a regret at the overthrow of plans I had formed & confidently reckoned on - and I cannot help still hoping that the fortunes of war may, in some way, throw us together again.

You may be sure I shall never forget your kindness or what I owe to you & that I shall study to deserve & repay it.

I trust that your Qr. Mr. has turned out better than you expected & that you will suffer no inconvenience from your failure to obtain the man of your choice.

Present my kindest regard to Capt. Sewall.

Very truly your friend  
W. H. Owen

---

1505 11/25/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1458

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[447]

Augusta Nov. 25 1861

My dear Brother

I bid adieu to home and the family Friday forenoon. We expect to go on with about 50 men starting Wed. A.M.

I saw Gov. Washburn & Mr. Blaine together in the Gov's room. They see no way to have me commissioned except either by the Gov. of some of the states where troops you have or else in the 3d Me. and then have that Regt transferred to your Brigade. I hear from many sources that they would like to be transferred so I have written to Maj. Samson at the suggestion of Col. Harding who rec'd a letter from Capt. Sewall - to see if I could have a commission in his old Co.

There are several vacancies in the Regt. I am not sure that Col. Staples wishes to be in your Brigade. I don't know about this but I saw Capt Richmond Sat. and he says he would like very much to be transferred & he is confident all the officers would.

All well at home.

In haste. Yr. Affec. Br.

C.H. Howard

---

1506 11/27/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1459

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[449]

Leeds, Nov. 27 1861

Mr dearest Otis

I will write you a short letter this time for I have not time for a lengthy one. I went to the "Circle" this evening, with Col. Gilmore and Mother at Mrs. Lothrops. Her baby waked during the evening, just the age of Jamie, and was brought out. They are about the same size. He was very happy but looked somewhat astonished to see so may people in his house. We returned about half past nine, talked a while in the dining room and I am now writing fifteen minutes before eleven.

I went to Lewiston Monday by the trains and returned in the afternoon train, went to Farmington Tuesday afternoon - took Grace with me. I went directly to Sarah's and I worked nearly all the evening, with a man to assist me, opening boxes and taking out things I needed. I wanted my sewing machine most and it was not by itself. I returned this Wednesday morning leaving there quarter before nine so I had no time to see Ella as Rowland had gone to Portland to see Frank Gilman. Sarah is very comfortably fixed but Oh! Dear, she has indeed got her hands full. I don't feel my care to be so great since I have seen her.

Every body seems to know & say I am to have Mr Farwells house. So I suppose I am. I mean by every body, the people of Farmington.

Isabella goes away to School to-morrow. I shall miss her some at first. I did leave Jamie at home, and she got along very nicely with him. I wanted all these journeys over before I lost her.

I shall be here a while longer. Mother wants me to remain 'till after the first box is packed and sent to the soldiers. I wonder when they the things and sacks are the most needed. Most are directing to the "Maine Vols" and I think that a very good way for them to get there, through the "Sanitary Com."

I am too sleepy to write. Charlie did not leave Augusta today, waiting for Maj. Eastman to get back from New Ham. I don't like to hear you have a cold. I don't know why, but I do really see no way but that you will join some expedition by water south. Why are you at Bladensburg, not guarding the R.R.?

Good night now darling. Best love from your  
Lizzie

---

1507 11/29/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1461

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[452]

Farmington Nov. 29/61

Dear Bro. Otis

I send this letter [Note 1] because it will give you a better idea of the work of grace in progress in Portland than anything I can write in the time at my disposal. I went down to P. Tues. & returned Thursday, & witnessed repetitions of that Sunday night scene. Dr. Kirk preached as if his inspiration was direct from the throne & the Enquiry meetings were such as would have delighted your heart. I did not know how low, cold, backslidden I was till I got there. I tried to converse with inquirers some & would have staid longer had not my duties here recalled me. I saw proud fashionable women weeping like children. Dr Kirk & indeed we all would kneel right down in the pews & pray with the distressed souls.

I bad Charles good bye on the train. Lizzie was up Tuesday but stopped at Sarahs to look into her goods stored there. Ella & baby are well. Thank you for your letter & the plan of your encampment. Farwell writes me that he has seen you since you wrote. Charles will be with you tomorrow. He must go out to the 3d Reg. with his men & be careful to redeem all his promises to them & do all they could reasonably expect. His Christian reputation would be involved in their disappointment & I should feel personally grieved if Col. Staples & he do not do well by them.

The prepare of Sermon making prevents my writing more now, but I hope I will hear from you often. How about your Staff. Send a list. Give much Christian love to Maj. Sewall. Tell him it seems now in Portland as it did in Bath in 1858.

Yr. aff. Brother  
Rowland

[Note 1: The letter referred to here is probably the letter from Frank Gilman to Rowland dated 23 Nov 1861, which Rowland enclosed with his.]

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1508 12/2/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1466

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Qrs. Camp  
"California"  
(4 miles out of  
Alexandria Va.)

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[454]

Head Qrs. Camp  
"California" Decr 2nd 1861  
(4 miles out of Alexandria Va.)

My dearest Lizzie

Charlie has just returned & brought in the last news from you. After I wrote you, the next day I started for Springfield Station as ordered - reached there with two regiments, & was waiting for the other two & for the trains of baggage, when an aid came up & said Genl Sumner had made a mistake & ordered me back. Empty cars were then to take us to Alexandria. Genl Sumner had halted my wagon train & scattered it around, sent off the two regts. on the Leesburg turnpike. I put the rest of the men into the sheds & engine houses at the depot and found my way to the old city Hotel.

After ten that night with one of my colonels, I undertook to find Genl Sumner - dark rainy night. We hired a wagon or rather "covered buggy" with horse so poor that he could scarcely crawl - ran into a post, broke the harness - afterwards we rolled over carriage & all into the mud. After visiting some five or six houses & not being able to find Genl Sumner we returned to the City. I had a good sleep till daylight & then tried it over again a "Charlie" & succeeded better.

This was my first meeting with Genl Sumner. I breakfasted with him. He is a fine looking man - healthy, hardy, & robust. He has been in service since 1819. I like him very much. I think he is a strict disciplinarian & a vigilant General. We went out together Friday to select a proper position to locate his division. My Brigade being the 1st has the right. I am now in sight of our old ground at Bush Hill a little to the N. East.

Charlie being tired has gone to bed. He says you look a little pale - thinks Gracie does, but thinks Guy & Jamie are quite recovered. Mrs Genl Jameson came to see us today with Capt J.S. Smith (my former commissary). She is a beautiful lady. She staid & dined. I am almost afraid to tell you this for fear you will say I might go to. She, enquired with much interest for you & said I wont tell you that her youngest was three years old.

I should like to give you a description of my tent but will not try tonight. Everything is very cozy and comfortable however it snows a little. I am glad enough to get Charlie again & on our old ground. I am more than grateful to you darling for your thoughtfulness for me - for the cloak, the shirts, the pants, the mittens & the letter in the pocket of the pants. If you hadn't let the secret out, I should not have hunted for the note. Charlie suggested it was there.

I was over at the 3d Maine yesterday - about 15 minutes ride. Mrs Sampson said she had had a note from you - sent much love. Col Bard had his wife & baby in Camp - this one christened "Charles Howard" - a nice fat boy. As much as I would love to see you I could not consent to Camp life for you & the Children, unless driven to that sad necessity. Men can get along but it is a bad place for ladies.

Much love to mother & father & many kisses to my darlings.  
Affectionately, yr husband  
Otis

I enclose John Greble's picture. I can realize that the poor boy is no more. It belongs to Charles & he wants you to keep it for him.

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1509 12/6/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1467

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[455]

Leeds, Dec 6, 1861

Dearest,

I have not written you for some time. I ought not to neglect you, but I generally write in the evening, and of late I have been making sacks for Jamie for he has outgrown nearly everything. I don't have much leisure during the day. We are all quite well now. Cynthia and Johnie [Gilmore] are sick with scarlet fever. Mother is down there now, so I am left alone with the children as Isabella has gone home to attend school. They could not have taken it from us for it has been too long, but they spent Thanksgiving day here and might have taken the disease in the house. I have now cleansed everything as thoroughly as after you had the "small-pox" with chlorid of lime. There are other cases in town with which we have had no connection.

Jamie don't seem to think there is need of my writing, so I wont be able to write much. I am also writing a note to Ella. You "are coming home when you go into winter quarters." I have never heard of winter quarters before and I fear you wont see any. Please don't think of taking me by surprise, I could not have you. Col. Gilmore has come for the letters.

Your own Lizzie

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1510 12/7/1861      *From:* Geo. Wilson Howe

*To:* My dear Charlie [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1468

Andover Theo. Sem

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[453]

Andover Theo Sem  
Dec 7th 1861

My dear Charlie

I saw in the Boston Journal this morning an account of the Staff of General Howard's Brigade and seeing your name reported as Aide de Camp I took it to refer to the veritable Charles Henry Howard of Class of '59. Albert and I have often wondered where you were and I have suspected that you were in some way connected with the Army.

Perhaps you did not know that we were at Andover. We have been here most a year and a half. Are now in the Senior class and are enjoying ourselves well.

We have two other Bowdoin men Stanton [1856] and Currier [1857]. Today Darling of '57 made his appearance intending stop as a resident a few weeks. Andover is one of the pleasantest places in the world as you know. It is a great place here for study and we have an excellent faculty as a whole. These war times however are distracting to ones thoughts at least they are to mine so much so that I am having serious thoughts of trying for a position as chaplain. I am not at all reconciled to the idea of having no part in the affair.

Do you think I could secure a position where I could exert an influence for good over our men either in a Hospital Station or in Camp? I suppose in very many regiments a chaplain has but little favor shown him by the officers of the Regt. They had rather not have him round, but our men need to be looked after watched over and prayed with and it is a serious question in my mind whether I am fit for the service and ought to seek a place to work. If you have time I wish you would give what you know of a chaplains life.

Albert has been at home this week. There is a Maine Regt. The 12th Col Shifty there (at Lowell) and one company was from Orino which has quite a no. of his old scholars in it. Farrington of Class of '60 is Capt. of it. A Geo. Webster is Lieut. in a Bangor Company. I suppose our Webster.

The Miss Cushman you saw with Albert at Commencement is married – to an old man – a doctor – a widower, rich &c.

I have been to Cambridge once to see Billie Nowell since I have been here. He was the same old sixpence. The last I heard of Moody he was studying medicine. I dont know where Libbey is. I saw by the paper today that Henry D. Hutchins of '59 had been admitted to the bar in Freyburg Maine. I like to take my Album and look at the faces of the boys occasionally and I should be glad to hear from some of them once in a while. The last letter I had from any of them was from Moody and that was most a year ago. I expect you would be surprised to see Johny Stanton here in the Sem. & to see what a change he has experienced since he left Coll. He is in our class and we Bowdoin men hang together well. It is funny that we should all be ψu's. I sppose you know that Joe. Burbank is dead and that he died a Christian.

How do you like your present duties? Do you find any opportunities to do good? I think every Christian man ought to be bold for Christ in these times and exert a decided influence for him. I have no doubt that you do this. There is one thing you would be glad to hear, as perhaps you see the effects of them and that is the fervent prayers that go up from every closet and family altar and prayer meeting and pulpit - prayers that God will keep our men from temptation, will give them courage to resist it as well as courage in the day of battle, prayers too for the officers of the army and navy that they may be men of God and be shielded from danger.

But I must not write more. I thought you would be glad of a letter from an old friend and so have written. If you can find time I should be glad to hear from you.

Yours,  
Geo. Wilson Howe [Bowdoin Class of 1859]

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1511 12/7/1861 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

OOH-1469

Cumberland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[456]

Cumberland Dec. 7, 1861

My dear Brother:

I have been waiting for a letter this some time but should have written you before had I been able to get the time. I have written this evening a letter to Otis and one to Mother. I am some tired but will try and finish this. I have a pretty good school of about sixty scholars of all ages which the law allows. The school is not so large or so "advanced" as I had been led to suppose before I came here. The boys are sometimes disposed to be unruly and roguish but I have had no serious trouble and do not anticipate any. My classes are very numerous and I was unable to reduce them any more than I have. I hear daily 32 recitations and I have put four under the charge of my older scholars who are very willing to help me in such a way.

The little ones, which comprise the great majority of the school are restless and much inclined to whisper. They take to whispering much as a hungry dog takes to eating. They are disposed to go into it heart and soul. Many of them are good scholars, but some are the dullest blockheads I ever had the misfortune to fall in with. I have a most excellent boarding place. My boarding master is Capt. Poland. He keeps a store across the road and within 20 rods of the G.I.R.R. depot. The school house is up the hill about 40 rods perhaps. The neighborhood is quite a pleasant one, though much divided among themselves.

The religious persuasion of most of the people who have any religion is 2nd Adventism, though there are Congregationalists & Methodists. Capt. Poland and his family are Methodists. He is a fine man and a man who has seen much of the world, having been a sea Captain in his younger days.

We have established a union prayer meeting which is quite well attended and the time is pretty well occupied. Some of the "Advents" like to harp on their peculiar theological views which very much annoys Capt. Poland who hates to hear any thing but what is accepted by every body in such a meeting. I never express my opinion in such matters either in or out of the meeting.

Pray for me and my charge. Write to Cumberland. Give my love to Ella and Willie.

Your aff. bro.  
R.H. Gilmore

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1512 12/7/1861 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1470

Cumberland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[457]

Cumberland Dec. 7, 1861

My dear Brother:

Your kind letter reached me the first of this week having call at Brunswick and Leeds on the way and having experienced the delays attending such a course. I was very glad to get it and I hasten to answer it on this the first occasion. I suppose Charles is with you now and has given you all the information I know about home and his affairs.

I am pleasantly situated here in a good neighborhood about two miles from Yarmouth village. My boarding house is in sight of the Cumberland depot which is only 20 rods distant and the school-house is about 40 rods back of this house. The school numbers about 60 scholars of all ages and grades. Some of them are very noisy and mischievous and show unmistakable signs of having had a rather poor bringing up. Many are very uncultivated, but still I have young ladies and gentlemen in the school who are a great assistance to me in many things. Some of them even hear classes for me which is a great help. I hear 32 recitations everyday besides what I let out. I came near having some difficulty with my large boys during the first day or two but every thing goes along pleasantly and quietly now. I have succeeded in starting a "union prayer meeting" in my school house which is quite well attended by all denominations.

The majority of the people are disciples of Miller or "Advents" as they style themselves. But there are Baptists, Methodists and Congregationalists in the district, all of which attend the prayer meeting. Many of the people are earnest Christians but some or perhaps the majority of those who profess Christianity are very lukewarm and at most are but a negative value in the cause of religion.

I have made a number of calls on the parents of my scholars and they seem to be very warm cordial people and press me to come again. The children are taking hold of the learning business pretty well and seem to have quite an interest in getting an education. I go to Yarmouth to church every sabbath to hear Mr. Putnam a classmate of Rowland's at the Seminary. He is a fine preacher and an earnest Christian. We have heard much about your going into Gen. Sumner's Division below Alexandria, but mother wrote me that you are still at Bladensburg. Has Charles got a commission yet? Please write me about yourself and how you are situated and any thing else will be of interest. I do not now take a daily paper but am going to take, The Daily Journal next week.

Give my love to Charles. Tell him to write me soon at Cumberland. Pray for me and my charge.

Your very aff. bro.  
R.H. Gilmore

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written by Otis on the back of the letter]

Dellie  
Answered

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1513 12/9/1861 *From:* Jeanie Gray

*To:* My friend Col. [OO]  
Howard

OOH-1471

224 Mill St Po'keepsie

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[458]

334 Mill St Po'keepsie  
9th Dec 1861

My friend Col. Howard

I come to you with another sacrifice for the holy altar of our country. a very lovely young friend begs of me to solicit from you an appointment, any position, from a Bread Second to a Captain. He is a young man of high moral character, such an one as you would appoint, independently rich, but wild to serve his country. He has been drilled for eight or nine months under Sergeant Smith of W.P. Sapper Corps, who served in Mexico. His friends have consented, but feel very anxious to have him under some one they can feel assured, is imbued with religious principles. I thought of you, and I knew you would do what you could as you always have for me.

Oh! how I wish I were pleading for myself! If I could go, how quickly I would fly! This life of inaction when I need to do so much, almost drives me wild. I have invested a small sum in a building lot, south of the Episcopal parsonage & am now making every effort to get a home put up on it this winter, so that I can rent it next summer, to pay the money back, that I borrow to put it up. Mr Vaux the architect has given me a lovely little plan, and Mr Smith a carpenter in the Falls has agreed to build it for \$1000 by next march if I can only get the money. I grow faint at the possibility of not succeeding!

O! if I were only a man! But a woman, I can do nothing. I have made many efforts, but hitherto, all of them have failed. I have completed a romance of three hundred pages. It is now in Boston awaiting the business of the publishers! I. F. Heady read it and approved of it, said if I could get it out it would be a success! Then I could pay any one who was Kind enough to lend me the money with interest. I never knew how dear a home was till now that I am in another's, dependent. I am trying to make some return, by teaching my uncle's little children. Is it not worth while to make an effort for a home?

You have seen me through all my sad struggles, & this last has been almost too much for my unnerved system and aching heart. Forgive me for telling you all my troubles but you know that is an old trick of mine! Now I have none to advise me. I often wish for your hopeful face to seek advice & approval. I wrote to uncle Beebe but he does not know the value of a house in that vicinity & discouraged me. He speaks of you in the most enthusiastic manner. His son has just gone a Lieutenant under Col Hazan, 41st Ohio - to Kentucky. I thought it rather hard that he discouraged me, but hope to be more successful in other quarters, if materially assisted. My hands held up. If my book sells, I can pay all immediately, if not the summer's rent - the house furnished, you know - will pay all.

Kind Mr Cozzins has been very good, like a good angel. He sold me 30 by 100 feet for very little, and I have the deed all safe. Our furniture is stored in Mr Bigilow's until spring & if I do not get the house shall have to sacrifice every article of it. If God will only put it into someone's heart to lend me the money I am sure he would bless them!

The young man's name is Frank Stevens, a most influential family & just returned from Washington, where he was visiting the elite there. You would find him really lovely I think. How is our dear friend Charles Howard? Did he ever get my letter? And where is he? Much love to him. Where is Capt Lee? Have I not written a letter this time? Let your merciful heart plead my excuse & dictate an early answer.

Believe me we can never cease to pray for your life & health & prosperity! Mama's most affectionate remembrances.

Very gratefully  
Jeanie Gray



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1514 12/9/1861

*From:* O.O. Howard  
Brig Genl  
Comdg  
Head Qrs 1st Brigade

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-1472

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[459]

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Dec. 9 1861

My dearest wife,

I feel badly all the time to think I write you so little. I proposed to write you yesterday & did not & again this morning before breakfast & did not. Now you shall have a few lines. Rev Mr Whiteley has stopped with us for a few days and added immensely to our comfort. He has mended this camp's tools, rebuilt our chimney so that the stove will not smoke & by cheerfulness & good companionship made everything pleasant. Yesterday I went with him & Charlie to the encampment of the 3d Maine, where he preached a most earnest & truthful sermon. I called on Mrs Beaumont. She is a Christian young woman, boards in a house near by the 3d Maine. You should see what a warm welcome I get with my old regiment. Officers & men all seem to love me. The poorest of the officers are sure to come for a recommendation.

The Regiment is externally in excellent condition, scarcely any sick, beautiful grounds, <neat> streets, property, fences, <> &c <maintained>. My health is good & so is that of Charlie. One of my Regiments is on picket duty at Edsols' mill not far from Springfield.

I will not try darling to write more for I cannot write more than three words without interruption.

Give many kisses to my little Guy & Grace & Jamie & to Father & my dear Mother. I will try to get a little leisure for a decent letter.

Affectionately  
your obt Servt  
O.O. Howard  
Brig Genl  
Comdg

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1515 12/10/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1473

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[460]

Leeds, Dec. 10, 1861

My dearest Otis

I finished my last letter in such haste yesterday afternoon that I neglected to put in this, that I will now enclose. I hear that Mr Walter Foss said if we "Leeds Centre" could'nt worship God with him he would not go with us in anything.'

Uncle Ensign and Laura came down here last evening. They came in just before tea, and before the children were abed. I put them to bed soon after tea, and then had a very pleasant evening with them. Jamie did not wake from the time he went to sleep till just before they went home - past nine o'clock. Louise, Laura's cousin from Phila, is spending the Winter with her. I do not like her as well as I did 'Bell'.

Warren Lothrop is in town, arrived at Auburn, where his Mother and Mary Jane live, some time last week. I should think he would call here.

I sent your letter, in which you gave me a description of your expedition into Lower Maryland to Uncle Edward. He seemed very much pleased that I did so. I borrowed twenty dollars of him and I want you to send me little more than that so I can pay him.

We received Charlie's welcome letter last Friday. Mother was very glad he wrote so soon that she could know how you both were. I shall mail this in the morning and also one to Aunt Sarah, asking if I have more letters at Auburn.

I keep thinking about your coming home all the time and about Winter Quarters. How is your cold? I don't like to hear you have one. I do hope you are not sick.

A letter from Rowland to-day informs us that he received from you Miss Sallie Carrolls wedding cards. I suppose they were married to-day. May be you are there at the house now, (Tuesday evening little past nine o'clock.) Were those cards for Rowland or were they yours forwarded? Have you seen Susan yet. Guy wrote to her two weeks since. I directed it to West Point.

I wrote to Mrs Sampson. Do you know if she received it? I fear I wont hear from her again. I neglected her so long. It was not intened neglect. It does seem as if I had had more to think about, more to do, and less time to myself, since I left West Point, than ever before. My time is so broken up I have nothing in place, and have no settled feeling. I have'nt wanted to stay here so long and don't feel right about it. If you were home, you might take me where you pleased, but while you are away I should feel better with my relatives, while I am not keeping house. I think Col Gilmore is quite pushed to get along. He has taken what money he had in Monmouth Bank.

I paid all of Isabella's wages \$1.25 per week. I get along without her about as well as I did with her, only Jamie slept with her, but she was great help to Mother, so I am satisfied. I have given my time so much to the children since I have been here that I am quite behind in their winter clothes as well as my own. Jamie is less care now he walks so I am beginning to accomplish some thing each day. Grace and Guy went out to play yesterday. They slid down the little hill before you get to the wood, or rather between the house and road. They were out over two hours, had not been out so long before. "Bunnie" ran about with them. Jamie wants to go 'bye' (with a bow) every time he sees a hat or bonnet. The warm weather and slight rains wont leave us the snow much longer. It was not one foot deep at first.

All have retired but myself. I have come into my room to finish. Children sleeping very quietly, and are well. I have many things to be thankful for.

Jane Bates has been sewing here to-day. She is a real good, homely Christian if that will express it. I think a great deal of her. Eunice Turner is very sick. John Leonard is crazy. I cannot write more to-night. Much love to Charlie. He has come back to us, and I love him a great deal more.

I pray God in mercy will take care of you, and bring you back to your own  
Lizzie

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1516 12/10/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1474

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Sumners Divn

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[461]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Sumners Divn Dec 10th 1861

My dearest Wife

I have just received your letter written the 6th & mailed the 7th. I am glad to hear you say we are all well & sorry that Cynthia & her children are so afflicted. You must have your hands full if Jamie is as big as Charlie says he is. Does he crash through chairs now or trot his flesh off?

I have given you a little sketch of our encampment & the place of our Head Quarters. The ground is very uneven but pretty good soil for our purposes, i.e. gravelly. I send out a regiment at a time for Picket duty. Col. Crop 5th N.H. brought in his today & was replaced by Col Muller's 81st Penn. I spent much of the day with the outposts, locating the pickets. Charlie & Rev Mr Whiteley of Bath Me. went to Washington & have returned.

Griffens wedding is tonight. Charlie bought a nice opera glass & left it for me at the house with my regrets that I could not be present this evening. I really did not feel like going to a wedding.

General Sumner is a real soldier. He lives in a Sibley tent without a floor and declares that his Colonels & Lieut Colonels shall not live in houses while the men are in tents. Just at daylight every morning I have a bugle sound in front of my tent, three minutes after another sound & in four minutes the whole line is formed on the color line. The Colonels report to me as soon as the rolls are called. The brigade is under arms at this time.

I got Charlie an appointment in one of the companies of the 61st N.Y. and then appointed him my Aid de Camp. He has now got some straps on my coat & looks as much like the <Guardian> Lieut of Ordnance as may be. His mustache & whiskers add no little to the resemblance. You will perhaps be glad to know that I have gotten two large fox skin robes. They are very handsome & very warm. With the embankment & the stove my tent is as comfortable as a house. Almost every night I have company; we put our mattresses down so as to cover up the floor, spread on the blankets & fox skin robes & then go to bed one at a time beginning with Captain Sewall. John occupies the front tent - runs of errands during the night builds the fire & makes himself very useful. I am glad I was successful in getting him transferred to me.

Mr Whitelesy, who has been with us three or four days, has fixed my chimney so that it will not smoke, fixed the camp stools, put on Charlie's straps & made himself of great comfort to us. I love him very much.

Tell Guy the bugle is just sounding tattoo. He would like to hear it. Guy I am sorry Mamma has no girl to help her, so she might tell me all about my little boy & my little girl. I think Guy & Grace could take care of that "great boy" Jamie, so that Mamma might write, but then she has to sew for these children. Tell her papa will let her know when he is coming home if he can come. There is little prospect now. The weather is as fine as it is at home in June now. The enemy is in force at Centreville & have pickets at Fairfax C. House & this side, but there are nearly ten miles intervening between our lines & theirs. I think you would like Mr Miles very much. He is handsome & good. His father came on & bought him a beautiful horse & staid with us a few days. I am to have for Commissary a Mr Buchanan. Nobody that Mamma knows. Grace must brighten up & have full & rosy cheeks when papa goes home. Does she continue to be a good little girl & love Guy & Jamie. I saw Susan's letter from Guy & she crys over it for very long. Susan longs to have a letter from you Lizzie & if you can find time you must give her that great pleasure. She isn't so happy where she is as she was with us & her heart seems filled with the children - particularly Guy.

I send you a check for one hundred dollars. Shall I not send you more?

God bless you my love.

Otis

Give much love to my dear Mother & tell father I send him ten cents bank bill from Dixie.

[On page 4 of this letter is a plan of the interior of Otis' tent and the arrangement of the brigade.]

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1517 12/11/1861 *From:* H.V. Emmons

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1475

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[462]

Hallowell Decr. 11th 1861

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
My Dear Friend;

I have been yearning over our men who have volunteered ever since they have been in the field - both the soul & the body. I cd not, however, quite make up my mind to leave my far off field at the East until recently some personal considerations have made it a duty - among others my health. My present purpose in writing you is to ask if you, consistently with your leisure & what you know of me, can interest yourself as to any vacancy among the chaplaincies in x army th. may come within the scope of your influence. I wd like to enter the work as a matter of Ch'n duty. My soul wd be in it.

I suppose these matters are being removed from the charge of the States to the control of the U.S. government, & tho. influence in the army or at Washington wd be of more avail than here.

I have applied as yet to no one but Mr. Blaine of Augusta who is now in Washington. If it shd be a plain & easy matter to you & you shd think my appointment any service to the army I will feel obliged to you for any information or any word in my favor in yr present surroundings. I shall return East in a few days, but any letter may be addressed here.

The Lord bless you in your health & your responsible duties, as in yr soul, & send His Holy Spirit to convince & convert among our Soldiers.

Yours with esteem & very truly,  
(in the love of Ch.)  
H.V. Emmons

It occurs to me tho. it wd be better to request you to send any letter to, Pembroke Me., as I leave here next wk.

[Written in another hand]  
answered

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1518 12/12/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1476

Leeds.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[463]

Leeds. Dec 12, 1861

My dearest Otis

It is now nine o'clock Thursday evening. Col. Gilmore is reading the paper. Mother is writing to Dellie. He reads a paragraph aloud now and then.

Was your Brigade sent on towards Fairfax Court House with others? A few days since. You wrote to me last Monday and I received the letter to-night. I do not always get them in so short a time. I had quite a bunch of letters to-night four and Mother one from Rowland enclosing Charlie's last to him. It was full of interest to us.

I got Mrs Carrolls cards remailed from Auburn so it is too late to write a note of acknowledgment to Mrs C. So you must thank her for remembering me among so many, and best wishes for her daughters future happiness. You know Capt. Griffin is a friend of mine without his knowledge or consent. Were you there at the time of writing the cards to send out?

You need not fear to tell me about having so many ladies in camp. I have no idea of wanting to live with you there. I don't think I could be tempted to take the children into camp, or rather into a tent. I would'nt object to going to see you but I don't think I would want to stay. Mrs Sewall is home is she not? She and Mrs H are going to be very sensible. There must be quite a number in the 3d Me. I cant blame any one without children, for going for they can make themselves useful. What would the 3d have done without Mrs Sampson.

I read the resignation of Capt. J.G. Sampson 3d Maine the papers had it, and I almost trembled before I could convince myself it was not our Capt. Sampson, who is now I see Major. I heard not till to-night of the mistake at the Christening of Col Burt's baby, rather a joke. My desire is wholly to get news and I therefore suppose you desire to hear all about us.

I am very thankful that we are all so well. Cynthia and Johnie are getting quite well. Guy and Grace made them a visit to-day, and I went to see Mrs Berry. How I did miss Mrs Turner. Capt. Turner looked so lonely. I know he feels his wifes death very much. I wrote you Emma Francis was sick. She died this morning. We had a good prayer meeting here this evening. Mr Chapin made some remarks on "seek first the kingdom of Heaven" - very appropriate. Every one left just as we began to write. I did not get the children in bed in time to come out before the first singing, and Dea Pettengill sat in the door so I had to remain in Mothers bed room, but I think I enjoyed it all the better for it, as I was there alone in the dark.

The thought came into my mind, and I presume was suggested by the circumstances. What would be my feelings to know I was shut out from the presence of my saviour, and that led to other reflections which I trust was for my own spiritual good. I talked with Mr Chapin a little afterward. He has two brothers, or she [three?] I forget which in the army and he has one in Hen'g that he can hear nothing from. I read the papers till I am tired, and then I know no more than I did before I began.

I will finish the letter commenced last evening. I am writing in my room - Jamie not yet wakened from having his nap. Guy busy taking spruce-gum off a stick Thomas brought him when he came to dinner. Grace rocking on my big chair chewing some gum, which is something new to her, and I have to answer a great many questions about it. Jamie waked and an hour later I resume my writing.

Much love to Charlie. I am very glad you and he are together. I feel that I know you all, Dr Palmer, Capt Sewall and all. I wish you would write more about yourself - what you do &c. tell me who you see that I know. I don't expect a letter to-night but I wish I might get one. You will think I wrote a little sad in my last letter, I fear, but it must'nt trouble you. I generally write about as I feel. I hope you are well. It is really too bad that when I write I have to do it in such haste.

Your own  
Lizzie

Mr French's picture looked so good I wanted to speak to him. Mr Greble's is as natural as can be. I was glad to see them. I would not part with yours for anything.

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1519 12/14/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My darling wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1477

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Divn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[260]

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Divn 14th Dec [1861]

My darling wife

I will write you a few lines to send with Charlie's letter. I left Genl Sumner a little while ago, suffering considerably from the fall of his horse. He is in some pain. I hope he may be better tomorrow. I do not wish to command the Division even for a day. I do not feel prepared to do so.

I feel badly about not having sent you money sooner. I fear I have not kept you well supplied. I didn't know you were so short of money. I enclosed you a draft in my last letter. I have purchased a saddle for Charlie, one for John & a reconnoitering glass, also two new horse blankets & two fox skin robes. John has begged this saddle of me. He says he can pay me as soon as he gets his pay. I will send you forty dollars with this letter for fear you will not have enough. I shall then have \$35 left for contingencies. I asked Charles if father is pressed for money. He says he thinks not for he has little call for money. Tell me all about home. I don't want to neglect my father & mother nor you, nor the little ones. God give me strength & wisdom to discharge all my duties & bless you & all.

I am glad you have been so careful to keep Guy in the house, till the scarlet fever & all its traces are gone for it is a treacherous disease. Let him be dressed thoroughly warm when he goes out this winter. His cheeks will soon grow red. Give him much of papa's love. I long to see you all. I can't tell at all when I may see you.

The Lord removes Genl Sumner from active duty. He will chasten us still more, for we have not yet learned to love him & keep his commandments. Whiskey & profanity still prevail to a great extent. When will we look to the arm of the Lord, our God for succor.

Mr Whitlesey is still with us. He is a delightful companion & excellent Christian. He says he will go up to see you when he gets home.

How is our little Gracie? Do you suppose she will know me if I stay away much longer. I hope & pray that Genl Sumner may get well right away. He is a real soldier, stern but courteous - with an iron will & a very good head. He seems to take a fancy to me. I am not "afraid of my pains" & I think he likes promptness.

I hope this will reach you safely. Kiss Jamie & Guy & Gracie. Papa can't tell how much he loves them. I hav'nt spoken of Walter Foss. I hope he has not worried you any. I should like to see the piece - you forgot to enclose it. Much love to Mother. She must have letters too. Now Charlie is here to help, she shall.

Aff. Yr husband  
Otis

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1520 12/14/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1478

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[464]

Farmington Dec. 14, 1861

Dear Bro. Otis

Ella & baby are just getting quiet in bed, and as I can never sleep very well after the nervous excitement of the Sabbath I will write you a little just to steady my nerves. I have read tonight the letter wh. You wrote me from Tampa giving me some acct. of your mental exercises at the time of your conversion. I would like much to go over it with you & compare its statements with our matured feelings & views. I value that letter very highly. It is & always will be a very vivid portraiture from the fact that it is a transcript made at nearly the moment of the exercises depicted. Our Zion seems desolate as yet. How long Dear Saviour. O how long! Is our cry.

I do hope you will get your anticipated Furlough. Ella & I are anticipating great pleasure in seeing you as well as your own wife & children. With whom would you leave your Brigade, if you came?

I have prayer meetings now Tues. & Wednes. Evenings & a Lecture on Thursdays. I am taxing my physical strength pretty severely but am still well & hopeful. Our Snow has been dissipated by a no. of warm days & our roads are not good for either sleigh or wagon.

Helen Otis made us a little visit last week. I conversed with her about her Soul some what. She seems not to have been fairly free from conviction since John was converted. She is very sensitive to the subject & confesses that she takes every method to drive it out of her mind. O that she should thus abuse her best friend! John seems to enjoy his place here very well, but is not constant at meeting.

Do you believe in immediate retribution for Sin? My Reason is rather against it, but I have a feeling that we are frequently punished. I never could get rid of the feeling that my fall in Va. From my horse was because we were riding for pleasure on the Holy Sabbath.

I preached this A.M. on "My Grace is Sufficient for thee" & this P.M. on "He that believeth in the Son hath life" &c. Our meeting this Evening was dull, the brethren being backward.

I haven't heard from Leeds since I wrote Chas. We expect to see Father Tuesday at the R.R. meeting. They are going to try to change the name of the Corporation & to consolidate the boards into one issue wh. Shall include the "extension".

I hear good news from the Revivals in Portland & Patten. It seems sometimes that I must be in those places, but O if I could only see a work of Grace here!

I enclose Dellie's last letter to me. How the wind howls around our house. Charles will tell you how it is situated. There was a Baptist Quarterly meeting here last week. One Bro. mentioned what you said in N.Y., as to the principles on wh. You were to fight, with much approbation & prayed for you & Charles. Some of the Bretheren had seen him on his recruiting journeys.

Tell Charles I feel anxious for Henry Johnson - that I hope he will not forget him, but will give him my love when he sees him. Mr Fiske has had a "Fast" in hopes to revive the Church in Bath. He has been laboring in Portland. But it is bed-time & I must bid you Good night. May God bless you. Give Christian love to Capt. Sewall.

Your aff. Bro.  
Rowland

Did I mention that Ella & I had been down to Wilton & taken Tea with Warrens wife & hope soon to see her here. She seems to be a very lovable person.

Mr Caswell & Capt. Pillsbury of the Home Guard - (Chas will know him.) will leave here for Washington Tomorrow. The latter says he will go out to your Head Quarters. I bespeak a kind reception for him. He is an Editor.

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1521 12/14/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1479

Camp California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[465]

Camp California  
Dec. 14, 1861

My dear Lizzie

When Otis went over tonight after supper to Gen. Sumner's Hd Qrs to attend to the matters of the division he asked me to write you & gave me \$40 to enclose to you. Gen Sumner got hurt by being thrown from his horse this afternoon. Now Genl Howard being the ranking officer is in command of the Division. Capt. Taylor Asst. Adj. Genl to Gen. Sumner was in the Academy at the same time with Otis. Gen. Sumner was very seriously injured. We fear for his recovery. One of his sons is aide but he is absent today. The Genl will not allow his folks at Washington to be telegraphed to. He seems to have great confidence in Genl Howard.

Have you heard about the marriage of Capt Griffin & Miss Sallie Carroll. I went over to Washington that day - (last Wed.) & bo't a Field Glass for \$27 - put Otis' & my name into the box & sent it to Miss Sallie excusing the Genl & myself from attending the wedding.

That night, after a pleasant moonlight ride from Washington with Prof. Wittlesey of Bowdoin College who has been with us for more than a week, just as I was removing my outer garments for the night the order came to march to the outposts with our Regt to support a Regt which we had out there. I put on my clothes as rapidly as possible & with Mr. Miles & the Genl were soon riding down the hill upon the summit of which is our tent & within 15 minutes we were riding at the head of the Column with no noise but the tramp of marching men.

We had not slept more than half an hour when Gen Sumner appeared with the other 2 Regts - I should have said before that we marched out without finding any signs of the enemy & I may add here that we came back ditto.

Good for us that we were disturbed so much that we had no chance to get very cold & came out of our night march & bivouac in a good state of health & spirits. Next night made up all lost sleep. A letter from Rowland - the 1st since I arrived - gave us great pleasure tonight. Much love to the little ones.

Very affectionately  
CH Howard

P.S. I will write mother soon. Hope she & father are well & happy.

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1522 12/15/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Rowland [RB  
Howard]

OOH-1480

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade  
Camp California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[467]

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade  
Camp California  
Dec. 15, 1861

My dear Rowland

Your pleasing letter last night gave me much happiness - no less for my not having had one from you or mother before since I came out. In fact I have rec'd scarcely any letters at all. It is just past tattoo & the Bands of the different Regts are playing beautifully - Psalm tunes as it is Sabbath night.

We have just enjoyed a good old fashioned prayer-meeting. Otis had had a large log house built for Commissary stores the past week but not yet put in use. Tonight he proposed to have a meeting there & sent a circular to the different Co's. of the 61st Regt saying they could use it for that purpose. We put a stove in it & some blankets up at the door. Put some "Flies" (Canvass) upon the ground floor. Carried in Cot-bedsteads for cots & a table.

The bugle was sounded at 7 o'clock but before that there was quite a gathering there. It was cold, as there were wide cracks between the logs. Most of the men sat right down upon the canvass - some remained standing. Mr. Whittlesey & Otis sat behind the table & Otis conducted the meeting. We have a beautiful little soldier's hymn & tune book given in this past week by Mr. Alvord of the Tract Society.

The meeting was a hearty, prompt & spiritual one - no intervals. The men were ready with hymns & <psalms> in prayer. At the close, the Genl asked for an expression from those who would try to serve Christ & nearly every hand went up. One female was there - matron of the 61st NY. has son, a soldier with her. Three officers were present. We all feel greatly refreshed by the <[CHECK ORIGINAL right edge of page glued]>. Col. Staples was over this P.M. as also Joe Smith & Capt Savage. The first time I have seen the Col. He says my promises to the men have been fulfilled. I have been over several times & found some discontented. They could not go in to the Co. they enlisted for. Now all is right. Tell Mrs Tarbox the K'y Cavalry is removed and up the lines so I cannot see them & I am thus compelled to send her letter to her son Frank Davis.

You will see about Gen. Sumner's accidental injury. It is doubtful now as to his immediate recovery & Otis is in Charge of the Division. We have 1200 Cavalry & 3 batteries Artillery & 3 Brigades besides. Gen. French 3d Brigade is an old army officer & lately returned from Santa Rosa.

Did you see my letter in Boston Journal signed "Weir". Please send me a copy if you have it. I have written to the Kennebec J. a letter about Gen Sumner for the most part. I hesitated about sending it. I fear it will not prove interesting.

The man from <Ster?> is in the Co. he desired to enter in 3d Me. <They> got only one.

There are rumors the enemy are soon to occupy Centerville. I guess we would not have much fighting to do in order for this. Glad you wrote about Ella's health & that letter from Millie & Maj. B was a great treat. I have scribbled hurriedly tonight. Otis has gone over to Division Hd Qr's since the meeting. Send Howard's Brigade Alex'a Va.

Not received my comm but expect it in the 61st N.Y. I have been published in order of aide de camp. Col. Mulligan visited 69th day or two ago near our brigade. Judge Palmer from Gardiner brother doctor is here. Wm Grant called to see us this P.M. Cant get rid of Capt. Barker. I feel Lt. Miles is young but efficient & so by all means is Capt. Sewell in his duties. Capt. S. is very faithful & accurate.

With great love.

Yr Brother  
Charles

[The above letter from Charles to Rowland was probably sent to Lizzie, with the following postscript added.]

P.S.

Ella says ask Lizzie if she will be so kind as to send me a patern of Jamie's wrapper the one he wears mornings.

She can send it as a newspaper thro' the mail, if no way better offers.

R.B.H.

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1523 12/16/1861 *From:* Jas. H. Tallman

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1481

Head Qrs 3rd Maine  
Vols  
Camp Howard VA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[468]

Head Qrs 3rd Maine Vols  
Camp Howard VA Dec 16/61

Dear General,

Vice Prest Hamlin has assured me of his hearty support and cheerful cooperation with the Maine Delegation in endeavoring to procure for me the appointment of A.Q.M. If you will be kind enough to furnish me with a letter of recommendation you will confer a favor on

Yr friend  
Jas. H. Tallman

Genl O.O. Howard

Genls Sedgwick & Jameson will confer a similar favor.  
J.H. Tallman

[Written on the back in another hand]  
J.H. Tallman  
answered

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1524 12/18/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1482

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[469]

Leeds Dec 18, 1861

My dearest Otis

I received your letter enclosing the check for one hundred dollars, and to-night I got your and Charlie's letter and the \$40.00 dollars. I will send you what New Jersey money I have left, and I shall return some of this when I get to Auburn.

I was going to write more this evening, but Jamie seems to come in for some extra attention when I really wish he would'nt. He has another tooth almost through and I presume it troubles him. I am going to Auburn day after to-morrow (Friday) if possible. I shall be governed by the weather. Don't forget to direct there.

Guy commenced a letter to you to-day - did not finish it because he went to see Johnie this afternoon. They both enjoy being out with their sleds, or rather Guy uses Thomas' hand-sled, and Grace has Johnies now he is not able to go out. They are getting very well at Roland's.

I was very glad you got Charlie to write. He always writes just the things I would like to hear - about yourself as well as the other things of interest. I regret to hear of Gen Sumners accident. I know you regret to command the Div. May God be with you at all times. I should like to see Mr Whittlesey but he must'nt take the trouble to come to me. I may meet him in Brunswick some time this winter. I should take the liberty to let him know I was there if I did go there for a day or so.

I don't need all the money you sent me. I have bought nearly everything we shall want for winter. What do you get a month? (Yankee) Guy and Grace are well clothed, all but an overcoat for Guy. Jamie and I are not all ready for cold weather yet. Our sleighing is all gone. I will have to go to the Depot in a wagon. I fear it will be cold. I have written to Uncle Edward this evening to send the money I borrowed. Little later than half past ten and I must not write more.

Lovingly, your  
Lizzie

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1525 12/20/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1483

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[470]

Farmington Dec. 20 / 1861

Dear Mother

I enclose a letter recv'd from Charles last night. I did not see his letter in the Boston Journal & I presume it was not published. I read one in the Bath Times with the same signature & sent the paper to him. I hope that Father will send the Lewiston Falls Journal every week to Charles as soon as you have read it. It contains now more local news than any other Maine paper, & if I could be sure that you would send the weekly, I would never send the Daily in which I often see items of interest to Chas & Otis.

We had a very pleasant visit from Father & hope it will be so that you can come before long. I recv'd Lizzies note - have not had time yet to get Mrs Smiths things out. Had I known where they were I might have sent them long ago.

There is not much prospect of Ellas going to Leeds very soon. Her health is more miserable than since we were married, tho she seemed better last night & today. Her Mother will come up and assist about the Christmas Tree - Monday - the Tree is Tuesday night. Abby will go away in about a fortnight & then Aunt Jane will probably come. I have partially engaged a girl by the name of Jones, when Abby goes away. She is very highly recommended.

I rode out & gave a Lecture at Allen's Mills Industry, 5 miles, last evening. We had a good, full meeting. So on Tues. Eve. at Fairbanks Mills & Wednes. Eve at our Conference room. I read in the latter meeting part of a letter that Otis wrote me at the time of his conversion. It was deeply interesting & I hope always to preserve it. Frank G. writes me that the religious interest in Portland seems to be increasing. I am now looking over results for the year. They are so few as to humble me & yet so many as should give cause for gratitude. 19 will have joined the Church, 4 by prof, & the rest by letter, 4 have died & one has been dismissed. There seems to be complete unanimity of feeling & an increasing affection for their Pastor among the people.

Tell Lizzie if it is at all consistent, nothing would please me so much as to have Guy at the Christmas Tree, but it may not be. Jimmy has a bad cold. Sarah & the rest of the children are well. She took Tea here Wednes. night.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

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1526 12/20/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1484

Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[471]

Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division  
Decr. 20th 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I have now so much to do that I hardly have time to write. I am on a Board of Examinations for disposing of immoral & deficient officers. This with two Brigade drills & other duties keeps me snapping. Genl Sumner has applied for Genl Sedgwick to take the temporary command of this division till he can get better from his fall. He assures me it is not from want of confidence in me for it is not. I have demanded that he make that statement to Head Quarters and his Adjutant Gen assures me it shall be done. His reason for calling in Genl Sedgwick is that Genl French, the Commdg officer of the 3d Brigade is an old Army officer & feels agrieved.

My greatest crime has been all along my youth. I do not wish to command the Division will not if I can help it; but I do not wish to be dishonored. And for this reason I asked that the reasons be stated to Genl McClellan why another man is sent here for the temporary command.

My health is good, tent warm. Charles & Capt Sewall both live with me in the same tent. I got a good letter from you day before yesterday. The one before that made me wonder what I could do. I want you to keep a girl if possible. You know best.

Give much love to Mother. How does she seem to be; cheerful & happy or not? Much love & many kisses to Guy, Grace & Jamie. Remember me very kindly to Father. Tell him some of Mr Lane's sentiments are mine. Chas is well sends love to you & all.

Capt Sewall thinks you are a very sensible woman & sends his regards.

I sent you a check of \$100 - afterwards \$40 in Government bill. Please acknowledge.

May God bless you.

Affectionately  
Otis

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1527 12/22/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1485

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[472]

Auburn Dec 22, 1861

My dearest Otis

I came here yesterday, none of the children took cold, although it was the coldest morning we have had. I shall be very comfortable here and it will give Aunt great pleasure to have us with her.

I went to church today (Mr Adams) a faithful sermon to his people and to me also. Guy went with me and as soon as the morning service was finished I came home, put little Jamie to sleep, and then 15 minutes past twelve, took back Guy and Grace to S. School. One of the assistants opened the door as I reached it. I told him I had brought the children to join the school, and I would take a class if I could be useful or join the school and I said "Mrs Howard" to him. There is a Bible class or rather two, he said. I will introduce you to Mr Dingley and then put the children into classes. I followed him and afterward, was introduced and took my seat among the scholars. Mr D. is the superintendent. Judge Morrell has the other Bible class and this Mr Dingley is the very identical name editor who puts everything into the paper he can learn. My name would not have been given to the public if it had not been for him. I think I will have to make up a face to him next Sunday (?)

I read this evening a letter written by Mr L. <Chapin> of the 3d Maine dated Dec 5 and after he had visited you at your new quarters. He described "the dress parade, and daily religious service of Gen. Howard's Brigade". I saw mother in what he spoke of the <> to them in having you near the Regt. I wish you could, and may be you do, see the first. It is to lengthy to copy.

I have had many blessings this day and I have tried to enjoy them. The children wanted to know if they could go to S. S. again. I was spoken to by Judge Morrell as I came out. He enquired after you. I went with Cousin Fannie to-day, but I shall take seats, i.e. hire seats which seems very odd to do, that I may have a home while here. Uncle Alden and Aunt Betsey came in to see Jamie just after tea. I know he is a splendid boy, (don't know what Charlie may think.) He was very much delighted to see Papa's pictures come out of the trunk tonight.

It is now Wednesday eve when I resume my writing. I did not wish christmas to pass without doing something for the children. We all, after the children went to bed, were fixing the 'tree' and room. Guy has told you about the presents. They were very happy as you can suppose, when they came out this morning. They remembered all about last year at this time. I remember that time with pleasure. I have greens to go over the windows, a star over the mantle piece, a ring and cross on the opposite side of the room - all very pretty. Minnie is a very sweet and good girl for Guy and Grace to be with. She sings very well. Eva is a beautiful girl. I don't mean in looks. Aunt is blessed in these <>. Jamie feels quite at home here, <> not at all afraid from the first. I don't have much care of him.

Mrs Adams and sister Miss Adams called to see me to-day. The latter knew Rowland at Bangor. We have fine sleighing now. I shall take the children out to ride the first pleasant day. I thought Guy was perfectly well, but he is not. His food does not digest, and his bowels are all out of order. I fear he has canker. I am going to have Dr <Oakes> see him. Grace seems well. She has a "<sore>" on her finger and is losing her nail. Jamie is as well as need be. I sent a sled <to> Frankie and one to Timmie to-day. Sarah was less than she could.

I got Guy and Grace one each yesterday. I took them both, sleds and all, over the river this morning. When I went for the boy's, and when Grace saw a pretty bureau she preferred to exchange hers for it. I turned her off once going down the hill, and her feet were very cold when we reached the store, so she concluded "a sled was too cold for a little girl."

I hoped a change of diet would be well for Guy, but it does not seem to make any difference. I think he looks a little pale.

Perry sent Sarah \$5.00 to get her children presents for Christmas.

I am very tired to-night, have walked too much for my back yesterday and to-day. I have been on the snow so much I find it very tiresome.

I saw Charlie's letter in the Boston Journal last week. I shall see them all while here.

Guy did not write so well as he might, but he was very anxious to write to papa all day.

[Note: The remaining three sheets attached to this letter were moved to the end of the letter from Lizzie to Otis, OOH-1403, dated 10/13/1861. They belong earlier, to the time soon after Lizzie arrived in Maine in 1861, because of the reference to the North room, and after the trip that Guy made to see Rowland. The reference to Lizzie's cooking places it just after Rowland's letter dated 10/10/1861. OOH-1403 was missing a closing.]

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1528 12/22/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1486

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Divn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[473]

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Divn Decr 22, 1861

My dearest wife,

I have risen this morning & found it raining the first time since we have been here. The above three lines I wrote yesterday. It is again morning the 23d. Last night I was thinking how comfortable we were in our tent & wishing that the soldiers were all as well off or something like it when all at once a blaze of light appeared. I was just then reading aloud about Napoleon's moving with the rapidity of lightning. Capt Sewall sprang through the tent front without regard to strings & the rest followed. Our board chimney was on fire - the wind blowing furiously. It came down so fast & was thrown out of the way so quick that the tent was saved, but we have a practical prejudice against any more wooden chimneys. Oh, how the wind blew. Many many tents blew down & the flies flapped so that some could hardly sleep. It is now cold & windy

I hope you are all well & comfortable. I shall direct to Aunt Sarah's. You need not send my money back. I felt ashamed that I let you get so nearly out of money.

I am now in command of the Division. I wouldn't mind comdg. the division if I had my own staff but Genl Sumners staff suit him far better than they do me. They like things I don't like. Taylor the Asst. Adj. Genl was at West Point with me.

Give many kisses to the little ones. Mother says Jamie is a beautiful boy. I almost wish he could remain a baby so that I might see my little boy again. Give Guy much love. Papa expects a good deal of Guy. And Grace can't help being a good girl can she?

Genl French, an old army officer of the artillery has the 3d Brigade of this Division. Capt Clark also an old army officer & an instructor in Chemistry when I first went to West Point, is chief of Artillery in this divn. It is a little queer for me to command them, but all is done in the Providence of God.

May God keep you all in his love.

Affectionately  
Otis

P.S. Love to Aunt Sarah & the children. I got the N.Y. & N.J. money.

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1529 12/23/1861 *From:* Sarah E. Sargent

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1487

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[474]

Farmington Dec 23rd 1861

Dear Lizzie

I received your kind note today, and am very much obliged to you for your kind offer to get the sleds, and shall be very happy to avail myself of the opportunity of getting them cheap, if it will not give you too much trouble. Perry sent me some money (\$5.00) "to buy some Christmas presents for the children", and I have already spent \$2.00 of it in getting things to hang on the Christmas tree for them, in his name, and as they charge \$3.00 here for a good sled, I thought I would get one, but Mr Goff says he thinks I can get two for that price, and if I can, they would be much happier to each have one of his own, but I should like them strong, so that they may last them a long time, and prettily painted.

Frankie was very much pleased with your description of "Guy's set of tools," and has been teasing me for one ever since. Do you think you could find anything like it in Lewiston? I think he might like it even better than a sled but as I think it could not probably be found there, it might be as well to get them sleds and Mr Goff has very kindly offered to bring them up to me, if you can have them sent to his care. If you cannot get the two sleds for \$3.00, it will not be best to get but one, at this time, as I do not feel like going to the extra expense just now. I intended to have got them for a Christmas present, but as it is too late for that, it will just as acceptable on New Years. Not knowing your address, I do not like to risk the money in this letter, as it may never reach you. Will you please to let me know what it is, and I will forward the money by the first opportunity.

I saw Rowland & Ella today. She is not well, is troubled very much with dyspepsia. I am afraid she will have to wean the Baby, he's very well now.

[Missing Page]

and yours finely.

I was glad to hear from Perry, that Otis and Charles were well. I trust they will continue to enjoy the blessings of Life & health for many long years. Give much love to them, when you write.

My children are suffering from severe colds, this cold weather seems too much for them; it has been so mild, that they have not minded it till now. I am dreading the next two months for them. They are very anxious for the time to come, for you to move here, when, Frankie says, "he shall have some little Cousins to play with, as he had in Nassau." We shall all be glad to have you here. With much love to yourself, and little ones. From your

Cousin Sarah E. Sargent

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1530 12/25/1861 *From:* [O.O. Howard]

*To:* Dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1488

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

[Drawing of a New Hampshire sentinel at reveille in front of Otis' tent.]

Dec. 25 1861

Dear Guy

The above is the front of General Howard's tent. Mr Whittlesey made him a board door and a chimney of brick, some of the soldier's helping. You see a stone pavement in front of the tent; Uncle Charlie helped do that. The logs Lieut McNeshe a 81st Pennsylvania Regt. Put up. Papa had a wooden chimney & it burned up. He wishes mamma and all the children a very merry christmas. But if too late papa will wish you all a happy new year. How is Aunt Sarah? How is cousin Eva? How little Minnie? And Orestes? Did Grandpa and Grandma cry when you left them? Papa gave this christmas day to the troops. He did not make them drill. This morning, the New Hampshire men had a footrace: thus [drawing of men running]. This afternoon they caught a greased pig. [drawing of that scene]

[On the back of the letter is a drawing of 3 tents together and a Reveille Bugle and their family with the words next to the people:]

Guy's cap coat and belt

Brig. Gen. Vols.

Jamie's coat and hat

Gracie's winter cloak

Who is this?

---

1531 12/26/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1489

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[475]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
December 26th 1861

Dearest Lizzie,

I have written a letter to Guy & will accompany it by a sort of introductory note. I suppose you are at Aunt Sarah's. Last night I saw Mr Caswell from Farmington Me. I told him I would take Mr Farwell's house. You must try to make yourself as happy as you can there till I join you. Perhaps Aunt Sarah would like to go with you? As you think best. Sarah & Ella are near, and the Abbots are pleasant, the schools good. I do not like Lewiston or Auburn as a place to live in. I will write next time just what time we can have that house.

I have no belief in a war with England. I have no doubt the English Government would like to have a war so as to break up our blockade &, I fear, scorn our whole government, but I don't think our many governors will suffer such a thing to be brought upon us just now. Maine will soon become the theatre of operations if we should have trouble with England. I should soon be on my way to Canada. Our present officers do not suit me in rapidity of movements. I don't want to move blindly but I want to see more activity. We may have it all too soon, however. God rules & he will direct. I wish I could never for one moment forget that.

Mr Pillsbury from Farmington accompanied Mr Caswell. They went to the Fourth Maine to stay last night; this morning they proposed to go to Mount Vernon & in the afternoon be present at my drill & parade and stay all night. Mr P. says the people of Farmington & (Rowland in particular) are very much interested in our movements.

I long to see you & the children but I see no "Winter Quarters" & no prospect of leaving just at present.

Poor Mother must be very lonely now that you & the children are gone.

Much love & many kisses  
Affectionately,  
Otis

---

1532 12/27/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1490

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[476]

Auburn, Dec 27, 1861.

Dearest,

Mother remailed a letter to me from Leeds, and I got your first one directed here to-day. I fear you have too many trials lately. You are still in command of the Div. I have written three short business like letters this evening, one to Rowland. Mr Farwell had asked if I would engage the house. I wrote him yes. Said you did not get into Washington often now. Glad your tent did not burn up with the wooden chimney. I should think you would have a great practical prejudice against another of that kind. If you don't wish me to return any of this money so I will not now. I have \$107.00 now.

What could I have written that put you to thinking what you could do for me. I don't remember that I made any complaint - did'nt mean to. I have very little care of Jamie here. I love to peep in at the door when he is with Aunt, and see him play and try to talk to her, when he don't know I see him. It made me right sad to have you wish he could remain little, so you might see him as he was, again. If I was President, I don't know as I would have any "fighting men abroad." If I was king of France I know I would'nt. Are you still on the Board of examinations? You will work yourself half to death, then come home a sick old man. No more youth to complain of then.

I wrote the above evening before last. It is now Sunday evening. I engaged a pew last evening, took Guy to church with me this morning. When the morning service was ended I went into the S. School room and Guy came for Grace. They both came in very soon. I told them this evening I should have to write you about it and tell you what were their lessons.

Guy's Loving Jesus, gentle lamb  
In thy gracious hand, I am.  
Make me, Saviour, what thou art;  
Live thyself within my heart.

Grace's I love the Lamb who died for me,  
I love his little lamb to be,  
I love the Bible where I find  
How good my Saviour was, and kind.

Minnie, Guy, Grace and I went this afternoon. Our lesson was the 40th chapter of Genesis. Cousin Fannie joined the class with me to-day. Mr Adams came down while I was standing in the Hall waiting for Guy and Grace, which I did but not till they came. He spoke to Fannie and she introduced me. He remarked that we are pleased to have you spend the winter with us. I thought I was going to live very quiet here but I find already that many are interested in Mrs Gen Howard, and will try to make my stay here very pleasant. I hope she will be no discredit to the Gen. but between you and I, I don't like to have anyone even think Mrs Gen Howard when I am out. Mrs Stinson is here boarding. She is a sister to Mrs Blaine. Mr S as you may know is Qr. Master of Col Dow's regiment. She is a member of the class. I have bad ink and a bad pen and it is for that reason hard work to write.

Much love to Charlie. Kindest regards to Dr Palmer and Capt Sewall. I saw Warren's mother come into Church to-day, and Mary Jane. I want to know Dea Watson's family, probably shall. I hope Charlie will write to me some times. I see the Boston Journal while here, and the evening edition of the Lewiston Falls Daily Journal, and others I don't care to read.

Do write to me very often, Otis, if you possibly can.

May God be very near to direct you in all your ways, and in his own good time bring you back to us.

Lizzie

---

1533 12/30/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1491

Head Quarters 1st  
Bgde.  
Sumners Divn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[477]

Head Quarters 1st Bgde.  
Sumners Divn Dec 30th /61

Dearest,

This is probably the last letter I shall write you this year. I mean of course in 1861. I rec'd your good letter from the Auburn office. I am sorry, sorry to hear you speak as you do of little Guy. You must get him a good many apples & have them roasted & if he likes other fruit let him eat it regularly. It will take a good while for Guy to get entirely over the effects of the scarlet fever.

I have been almost home sick tonight. I <admit> I was not quite so much <pinned>. Perhaps Seward's admirable policy may soon work us out of our present position & I may go home. I would risk a good deal for a short look in upon you. I almost got over my prejudice against Auburn as a place to live in, when you wrote me about the church & the S. School, Aunt Sarah & the children, Eva & Minnie, but my dislike for the place remains when you speak of Guy's inclination to canker & indigestion.

I almost regretted at first having said anything about Mr Farwell's house, but I now think, if it be God's will you had better go there in March. I told Mr Casewell I would take Mr Farwell's house & asked him to lay in 15 cords of wood that it might be dry & good for summer. Everybody there longs for you to come & I feel that you & our darling children will find good & kind friends & Aunt Sarah can go with you. She loves to be benevolent & won't mind the trouble. Eva & Minnie will be good & useful companions. Get us a good little house & I will by the blessing of our Father go & see you. I don't know when. He is able to direct.

Mr George Patten, Mr Whittlesey's brother-in-law is with us tonight. He came yesterday. This morning I sat on the Examination Board. This afternoon reviewed my Brigade & drilled it a little while afterwards. This evening Mr Whittlesey read us aloud the correspondence with reference to our feared difficulties with England. Mr Seward's letter is more than good. England is fairly whipped without a flow Charlie says.

I never have been so fat since I was 16 yrs old, as I am now. He too looks in good health. I visited the hospitals yesterday. We are having a good deal of sickness - measles, mumps & some fevers. Dr Palmer's boy Erastus has got the measles. I saw him yesterday at Clermont. I tried yesterday to speak of the Saviour at the Hospitals. I believe I still love my Blessed Master & I hope & pray that it may not be necessary for him to take away any one of my precious little household. How is Aunt Sarah? Confidently repairing her trust in God I hope. Keep up a good heart my love. "Jehovah Jereh". Jamie, Grace, Guy, Lizzie God bless you.

A loving Father & husband  
Otis

Guy's letter is a little treasure to me. I thank him.

Much love to Mother if you see her & father. Remember me to all my friends at Auburn.

---

1534 1/1/1862

*From:* I. Washburn, Jr.

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1492

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[3]

[Letterhead]  
State of Maine  
Executive Department

Augusta Jan'y 1 1862

Dear General,

I have just rec'd your letter, & hasten to express my sincere regret that I should have been the instrument of giving you a moments pain. I felt it to be my duty to you to tell you frankly & truly what I had heard, & heard of. I may have erred - I don't know. But knowing the efforts which had been made (& by whom) in favor of Genl Berry, I did not think it advisable that I should attempt to raise an issue between yourself & Genl B. I therefore spoke in terms of praise, as I conscientiously could, of both, & removed as I believe an unfounded impression in regard to yourself which I feared might injure your prospects if not removed. I not only asserted your right to be Maj. Genl, but visited upon the country's need of you as such.

Nevertheless, it is true I did not subordinate Genl B. to Genl. H. Rather, under the circumstances, I thought such course would help neither, but harm both.

General, I wish you a Happy New Year! I may not write you again during my official term, and I must not go out of office without expressing my earnest thanks for your many kindnesses, with my warmest wishes for your health & happiness.

Yours truly,  
I. Washburn, Jr

Genl O.O. Howard

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1535 1/1/1862

*From:* L. Prang & Co.

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1493

*Source:* Bowdoin

34 Merchants Row,  
Boston, Mass.  
520 7th St.,  
Washington, D.C.

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[4]

Dear Sir:-

We are about to publish a Biographical Work under the title of "The Union Generals" to be illustrated with a large number of line-engraved portraits of the Generals engaged in the present War for the Union. The Book, in neat pocket form, well bound and to be sold at a low price, will be issued in a few weeks.

We beg leave to solicit from you, for this object, a brief sketch of your life, comprising some dates, such as those of your birth, graduation, marriage and various appointments, promotions and other important events - especially those relating to your participation in this War. We expect this book will be sold extensively to the troops engaged in our sacred cause, and trust their zeal, patriotism and energetic support of their worthy leaders may be, if possible, somewhat enhanced thereby.

Please answer immediately, and say whether we may have the sketch from your hand, or, if not, how otherwise it may be obtained. What you can write impromptu in an hour even, if no more, will be most acceptable and will be very gratefully acknowledged by presenting to you a copy of our book with abundant thanks and whatever else you may require in our line.

Respectfully Your Most Obt. Servts.,  
L. Prang & Co.

34 Merchants Row, Boston, Mass.  
520 7th St., Washington, D.C.  
Jan. 1, 1862

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1536 1/1/1862

*From:* Silas S Cummings

*To:* Brigadier Gen. Howard

OOH-1494

Pascoag Post Office, RI

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[5]

Brigadier Gen. Howard  
Respected Sir,

This communication you will perceive, is from an entire stranger, but nevertheless I am persuaded that your Christian urbanity will induce you to regard its content favorably. I have long felt, and still feel anxious, to do more for the salvation of our beloved country, than I can possibly do in my present position, and I should have been in the volunteer ranks in this, had it not been for the solemn conviction of duty to devote my time and influence to the moral and spiritual interest of mankind. To this work God has called me, and I do not feel at liberty, or should be justified in leaving the work of the Ministry. Ever since the war commenced, my sympathies and interests have been deeply solicited in behalf of our army, I anxiously desire to identify myself with the army not for the immunities of the office, but for the works sake, that I may employ my time and capacities for the promotion of the moral character of our brethren and friends that have left home, with all of its sabbath church going privileges to save our country from rebel fever. I have given my son to the cause, a youth of but 18 years, of a pure christian character. He is in the 4th Regt, R.I.V, connected with your Brigade.

The last 31 years of my life have been devoted exclusively to the work of the Ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church. 14 years of that time in the Maine Conference, my native state, the remainder in the N.H. and Providence conferences. My present connection is with the Providence Conference of the M.E. Church, and am Pastor of a church in Burrillville R.I.

Some of my brethren have frequently said that I ought to go into the army, that my familiar tone, and social capacities were well adapted for usefulness in the capacity of a chaplain. But I have kept the fire concealed, and convictions of duty hidden as much as possible, until within a few weeks I have finally decided to solicit a chaplain's berth. I wrote to Gen. Sumner a few weeks since to know if there were any Regiments in his division without a Chaplain. I have since learned that he had been disabled, and that his division was under your command. I think I have been informed that the appointment of the Chaplain was with the officers of the respective Regiments.

Now General Howard, if it would be your pleasure, to ascertain if there are any Regiments under your command, without a Chaplain, and if so, to present my wishes to those whose duty it is to make such appointments, you will confer a favor upon your correspondent.

I should be happy to serve any Regiment to the best of my abilities, and can be prepared to report myself at camp within two weeks after being notified, or in less time if desirable. My age is 47 and health good. Any recommendations requisite can be furnished, when notified what is required. I would refer you to Major J. Allen, Quartermaster Smith of the 4th Reg. R.I.V whose brief acquaintance I have formed.

Your humble Servant  
Silas S Cummings  
Pascoag Post Office R.I.  
Jan 1st 1862

[Written in another hand]  
Answered

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1537 1/2/1862

*From:* A. Full [Americus  
Fuller]  
Bangor

*To:* My Dear [CH] Howard

OOH-1495

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[285]

Bangor Jan 2nd 1862

My Dear [CH] Howard

Yours of the 28 ult. is at hand. That trunk shall be disposed of as you request & as soon as I get a chance to do it. If I had got your letter a week earlier I would have done it at once; for I was out that way & as it was, was half inclined to go to Jay (not to speak of anything beyond there) but did not. Another time I shall be sure to go through & will take your trunk w. me.

My business out that way was to preach at Bath. Had a very good day there stopped at Dr. Putnams close by Capt Patten's but did not call there. Ed. Reed & his sisters came in & spent the evening Saturday at the Drs. & we had a very nice time. Saw also lots of Bowdoin boys & among the rest John Weeks came into church in the P.M. Monday morning I called on him but he had just started for N.Y. - so said his mother - so I did not get a chance to speak to him. They have no regular minister there now but are talking of settling a Mr. Dwight nephew to the Dr. If they do not, possibly I may go out there again.

From Bath I went up to Lewiston to see Sis. This was the first time I have seen her since her conversion. You may judge how much pleasure I enjoyed with her. She is very happy & has a clear evidence I think of her hope.

On my way back I had some two hours at Brunswick which I spent in calling upon my old boarding-mistress & Miss Jewitt Grigg. Her father has the same old spider-in-his-net-look that he used to wear. As it was vacation time I saw none of the students & only Prof. Smyth of the faculty. He was as full as his grimaces & kinks as ever.

On my way from there the cars got so delayed that there was no hope of making a connection at Kendalls Mill, so I took occasion to stop at Augusta to see the sights & make some calls. Fell in with Capt. Stevens & he showed me around through the 13th encampment - & I got a chance to see something of the Cavalry &c&c. So on the whole I made quite an excursion of it. Last sab. I was down to Orland & saw that Miss Buck. She is looking very well indeed as though she might be good for another waltz.

New Years day (& by the way I wish you a happy New Year) was celebrated here with the usual ceremonies. They had a surprise party at Mr. Wheelwrights but I had such a cold that I could not go. I heard that they had a very pleasant party of some 30 or 40 persons.

Matters here at the Sem move on nearly as usual. The older Harlow has just lost his affianced - a Miss Phillips of Orrington a sister I believe of the Phillips we knew in college class of '58 & by the way have you heard that Sam. King is dead. He died at Augusta some four weeks ago after a sickness of some two weeks. His disease was Hemorrhage at the lungs caused by over work in the Ajt. Genls office. I have seen no particulars of his death & only heard of it by the way & a fortnight after it took place. As for that furniture I see by my book that the half of what we own in common (including saw, broom, &c wh we bot) was valued at about ten dollars. I shall pretty nearly use up the carpet this year so I will sell you my half of the things (Bookcase, Beaureau, tables & cover, carpet, saw, pails bowl mirror lounge &c &c) for five dollars or if you prefer I will buy your things at this rate & pay you besides for the use of them for this year.

We are having one of the roughest days of the season.

Ben Pond was married about a fortnight ago & has now gone to his parish in Vt.

I am glad that affair of the Treaty is settled aren't you? Do you think England wants to quarrel with us?

Very Truly Yrs

A. Full [Americus Fuller]

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1538 1/2/1862      *From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* My darling Guy [Howard]

OOH-1496

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[6]

Washington Jany 2d 1862

My darling Guy

I suppose you think I am very unkind for not answering your very welcome and long expected letter before now. But you must not think so for I have been very busy since I came here. I presume your Papa has told you in some of his letters of my being in Washington. I was not at West Point when I got it. I was here some time. I had given up expecting a letter from you when I got it and I know Guy you would write very often to me if you had any idea what pleasure it gives me to get a letter from my darling little Guy.

I was speaking once only to your Papa since I came, he talked a great deal about you and said he would like to see you very much. I wish you were in Washington now Guy while I am here. You and I would have such a nice time together. I think of you very often and also of Grace and that dear little rogue Jamey. I was glad to hear he had not forgotten some of his West Point tricks. I should like very much to see him clean his nose in a handkerchief. He will forget Susan but I trust you won't and as for Grace I know you will speak often of me to her so she will remember too. Your Papa read your letter and laughed when he read about Jamey. I hope I shall see him soon again.

Guy while I was speaking to your Papa I forget were I am and think I am on West Point again. <P> is very well and has grown a great deal - stouter than he was. You cant think what a big fat Papa you got now. I am living with Katey's Grandmamma now and not with her Mamma. They are both here yet but I think will be going away very soon. Please ask your Mamma to let me have your pictures as soon as it is convenient. Katey's grandmother sends her love to all of you. Guy kiss Grace and Jamey for me and remember me to your Mamma and Grandmamma. I hope you will write to me very soon again as I shall be anxiously expecting to hear from you.

Good by and I trust you will ever remember  
Susan [Carroll]

Address,  
Care W. T. Carroll Esqr  
Clerk of Surpreme Court  
Washington  
D.C.

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1539 1/3/1862

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1497

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[7]

Auburn Jan 3, 1862

My dearest Otis

I was very happy to get a letter from you this evening, but the first line gave me quite a start. That "this is probably the last letter I shall write you this year". I imagined you about to join some expedition or <such>. I generally take my letters, see if the address is in your handwriting, tear open the envelope and begin reading the first line without looking at the date, and even sometimes not stopping to see if it is addressed to me: this was the case to-night. My heart was comparatively at rest as soon as I read the next sentence.

I am sorry I wrote you about Guy now, for he is already very well, goes out to slide and don't seem to mind the cold. Cousin Fanny is quite a favorite and he visits her often and Aunt Betsy.

How do you think I get my mail? Guy goes to the P.O. every afternoon at half past three (just after the cars get here) and to the Book store, which is next door to the P.O. for the daily paper (Boston Journal). I was out with him one day and waited on the side walk while he crossed the street and went into the P. Office alone. I wanted to see how he asked and what he would do. Soon I heard his little voice "any letters for Mrs O.O. Howard?" He soon came out not seeing me. I had walked on a few steps. He called, "Mama, where are you. I have got one for myself." It was from Uncle Rowland describing the Christmas tree.

Fanny, Grace, Guy and I went out together one afternoon. I wanted to get him an overcoat, tried for one ready made but couldn't, and finally had him measured. I shall go for it to-morrow. Grace will have her new hat (brown beaver with feathers and velvet ribbon). They have these because they go to church and need them while here and will need them at Farmington also.

I don't want to tell you but I must what Grace said. "Papa writes Guy all the letters and don't write me any". I reminded her of your answers to hers. "I love papa". But that didn't quite do. Then I told her, I really thought, some day Guy would bring a letter to her, a long letter from papa. She reads in three letters. I took them out day before yesterday and got them both each a book. Guy has his nearly through already.

Jamie is very well. Col. Gilmore stayed here last night on his way home from Portland. Jamie remembered him. I received the "Herald" from Charlie. I think a Lieut in the 61st wrote it. I have seen now no letters from "Howard's Brigade" in the Boston journal since week before last. I have not seen every paper this week though.

You mustn't get home sick, Dearest, when you can't come home. Why, I don't know what I should do if you are going to get down hearted. I have never had any thought of giving up Mr. Farwell's house. I have not said anything about Aunt's going to Farmington with me. Don't know as I would want her to. I will think it over. I will not write more to-night. I have not read the paper and don't know the news, only what Aunt Betsy read aloud. She ran in a moment as Guy came home with the paper. Your ink sketches amuse the children very much. We would be glad to see you home when it is best for you to come. Wish that might not be long.

Your own  
Lizzie

---

1540 1/4/1862

*From:* L R Browne

*To:* Friend Howar [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1498

Epworth Dubuque Co  
Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8]

Epworth Dubuque Co Iowa Jan. 4, 1862

Friend Howar-

Was glad to hear from you. Did not know as the Howard of Bull Run was the of W.P. Thought I would test the matter. Sent a line. Recognized the hand write at a glance. I did not intend to give up the ship when I last saw you. Have been very thankful a hundred times that the faculty of the Point came to the conclusion that one Browne was not fit for a Soldier.

Am glad to hear of your good luck & fat babies. Have remained single & think there is a fine Prospect of so remaining for some time yet. Have been urged by many to try for a situation in the Iowa Regiment & believe I could have obtained one easily. Did not wish it. Do not think I shall at any future time but may in the Spring.

These are some things I am quite anxious to know. I am certain you can tell me.

How many of our Class are on the Rebel side & who are they? Please inform me if you can do so without too much trouble. There are some boys from the South so everything one could wish I am gott to believe them with Jeff & Co. Where is J.B. Villepigue, Sawtelle, Mercer, Wade, Treadwell, Davant & in fact all the good fellows with whom we were acquainted in our Class & out of it. If you can find time to tell me I will feel under lasting obligations to you.

Howard, to what gigantic proportions this war has grown. You remember I was a Democrat once. I have acted & worked with the now dominant Party since its existence. Believe this war could have been, ought to have been closed months ago. Some one man or set of men have blundered.

Tell me if compatible with your Position as a Gen, what you think of the future, the probable length of the war &c.

I would like to hear your opinion on this subject.

I thank you for your willingness to assist my Brother if in your power to do so. I do not feel enough acquainted with Slocum to ask a favor.

Please write me so soon as convenient & tell me all about the Boys & oblige your friend.

A Happy New year to you & your family.

Your truly  
L R Browne

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1541 1/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1499a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade Sumners Div  
Near Alexandria Va

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[9]

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade Sumners Div  
Near Alexandria Va  
January 4th 1862

My dearest Mother

Charlie has agreed to write Lizzie this morning & I will try to write you. We are both in good health and still in the same place as when I last wrote. On New Years' day we had a very pleasant time in the Rhode Island Regiment, the commissioned officers presenting a sash, pair of shoulder straps & an opera - a reconnoitering - glass to their Colonel. I was present & much pleased with the remarks of the Colonel & Chaplain. I addressed them a few words. The next day they were ordered to Annapolis. They join the Expedition of General Burnside, much to my sorrow, for it was a prime Regiment and a Rhode Island one at that.

Charlie & I went to Washington yesterday and secured the promise of the 64th N. York in the place of the 4th R.I.

We went to see General Casey at a Court Martial & he invited me to dine with him at 3 P.M. Chas. & I went & found Professor Wier & John Wier, Chas. friend. They came on to attend Henry Wier a son of the Professor through an attack of Typhoid fever. Poor fellow. He is very low, but they think now that he will recover. I hope so.

We called upon General Sumner at Washington yesterday. He is still poorly, can just sit up in an easy chair for a few minutes. I hope he will soon be better. General Sumner is a very energetic man, a good soldier. He requires nothing of his men, but he is willing to undergo himself.

Chas & I drew our pay yesterday. He thinks of sending you a portion for deposit.

Give much love to father. I must go to "the Board of Examination". There are so many talking in the front part of my tent that I can hardly write. You must pray for me that my head may be kept right. My kindest regards to all my friends. I had a letter from Lizzie last night.

Affectionately  
Otis

[The following letter from Charles to Eliza 1/4/1862 was appended to the end of Otis'.]

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1542 1/4/1862

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1499b

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade Sumners Div  
Near Alexandria Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[9]

[This letter was appended to the end of Otis' of the same date.]

11 a.m.

Jan. 4, 1862

My dear Mother

I enclose Fifty dollars (\$50) for father's use if he chooses or for your own if you desire it. At any rate I don't care to keep it here & I can send another \$50 in a few days. It might be on interest perhaps. If Father could get a deed of Roland's horse or Thomas' I could certify that I owned one without troubling the conscience of any one. Will father see if he can arrange some thing of the kind. I have directed that my trunk containing long box & such contains father's note be sent to Leeds 1st opportunity.

Very affectionately yr son  
Charlie

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1543 1/4/1862

*From:* Charles

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1500

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Camp California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[10]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Camp California  
Jan. 4 1862

My dear Lizzie

I had such a good time in Washington yesterday that I must certainly tell you about it. Otis & I rode over in the morning. We take a straight course now to Long Bridge - go first to Ft. Worth which is just above us to the North on the Crest of the hill, then to the Theol. Seminary which is used as a hospital and where Gen. Kearney has his Hd Qrs. about 1/2 mile further. We pass along by the N.Y. Regt. which the late Col. Jackson of Troy commanded. We pass several other Camps. At one we saw a Bethel tent (But we are going to build a log Chapel). We passed the 5th Maine. By the way Col. Jackson of the 5th called upon us a few days ago with two young gentlemen from Lewiston by name Lockwood. The Col. had just returned from a furlough.

As we rode along Otis complained a little of cold fingers. Before we left Washington last night he got a pair of warm mittens - buck-skin, with one finger which proved effectual to keep out the cold in coming home.

John went with us. We went first to Gen. Casey's H'd Qrs. We had lost our best Regt. the day before - 4th R.I. Burnside had got it detached from us to go with his expedition. Otis was greatly disappointed at this. Col. Rodman came at 1 o'clock A.M. to our tent & said a dispatch by telegraph had reached him ordering him to report immediately at Annapolis. Otis could not sleep much more that night.

But Gen. Casey's Asst. Adjt. Genl told us about the troops remaining at Washington from which we must draw a Regt. to fill the vacancy in our Brigade. We thought somewhat of the 11th Maine but soon we went across the street to see Gen. Casey himself who was president of a Court Martial.

I had never seen the Gen. Before. He looks quite aged. His hair is white & thin. He is a small man, mild and quiet in manners & looks. Otis sat down by him & conversed in a whisper. He seemed glad to see him. The notorious Col. Kerrigan was on trial. He is a remarkable man in his features & personal appearance. You would think him a Poet or Artist. His hair is jet black, his complexion pure. Each feature finely chiseled - a mustache highly cultivated - an eye black & sharp. Forehead not very broad but high. He wore his hair long. Is tall & erect. You will remember, he is also a member of Congress.

Gen. C. decided Otis on having the 64th N.Y. Col. Park and ordered it to report here today. It has been drilled a month or two & yet is comparatively raw. Gen. C. thought this the best. The 11th Me. had 200 sick & besides had just gone into Winter Quarters. Gen. C. invited Otis to dinner at 3 P.M. and to our great joy said that Prof. Weir would be there.

We called upon Gen. Sumner & found him able to sit up. He was very kind in his demeanor toward us. We called upon Lot Morrill, Senator, & then saw his brother Anson P., M.C., & soon Mr Farwell came in. Otis is trying to get Prof. Whittlesey appointed & assigned to him as <commissary>. He has little hope of success tho. Prof. W. said he would come if appointed.

We got to Gen. C's about 3. Mrs C. soon came into the Parlor. She has been paralyzed - I should think had been very beautiful. We found that Henry Weir was very low at Maj. Webb's and to our great surprise & gratification learned that Johnny Weir was in the city. Soon Prof. W. came in & not long after Johnny. He hardly knew me. Miss Casey also about the same time & two other young ladies. Another family share the house with Gen. C. (Mr. Eveleth) Miss Bessie C. is very beautiful - black eyes, black hair & very faultless features - bright & intelligent. Johnny & I had a grand time but he looks pale from constantly watching over Henry & before at the bedside of Verplank. The latter is quite well. Henry is still delirious but they have hope. Johnny will I hope visit us in Camp if his brother recovers.

We left Gen. Casey's about dark. Johnny came along a few doors to Maj. Webb's when we parted. We soon met John with the horses. Went down street & Otis bo't Craighill's work - "Army Officers Pocket Companion" and another little one by Capt. Coppeé "Field Evolutions &c" He bo't also another fine Robe - a little longer than the two he got before, one of which he gave to me. Price the same \$15.00. He presented Capt. Sewall with the mate to mine & retained the one he got last night. The Capt. was highly pleased.

We had a dark night to come back in and it was snowing - a kind of sleet. The first snow we have had since the night I came here. There is less than an inch but it is snowing more vigorously this morning.

The Capt. is loud in his praise of his robe this morning. We took some tea after we got back & Otis found that his new Robe was long enough to cover feet & chin completely so of course had a good sleep. I can't tell you how happy I was to see Johnny. Have you heard about Miss Jeanie Grey's book. She is building a house. Expects to pay for it from the proceeds of the book. Good many doubtful <> among the officers & their wives at West Point.

A Happy Happy New Year to my sister Lizzie & to my little nephews Guy & Jamie & my little niece Grace. John calls for the Genl.

Good bye  
Charlie

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1544 1/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1501

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[178]

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division  
January 4th 1862

Dearest,

I got a letter from you last night after my or rather our return from Washington, and I was glad on account of it that I came "home". This is a curious place to call home. It was a cheerful letter written after you had gotten the first one of mine directed to Auburn. The one before that spoke of Guy's disposition to dispepsia & of Gracie's run round & of Lizzie's lame back made me fear that the next letter might not be quite so cheerful. I hope you may remain well and keep "young" for it sometimes happens that "sick old men" like me have young wives. I was never in better health than now - in good flesh.

I have the control of that Board of Examination & can consult my convenience as to adjournments. The command of the Division has been devolved on Genl Heintzelman. I think Genl French has no feeling about my ranking him. He is a man of considerable talent & much experience. He always treats me with respect & cordiality.

I feel very sad that Genl Burnside got away from me the 4th R.I. The Chaplain Mr Flanders an Episcopalian was my favorite Chaplain - a most worthy, steady & active Christian. The 61st N.Y. has a good baptist minister but he has gone home with the measles. I should say to convalesce after having partially recovered. The measles & mumps are gradually progressing through the Brigade.

Lieut Miles is just coming down with the former. Aren't you glad I have had them <> Mr. Miles said when I gave your regards to Capt S. & to Charlie tell her it won't do for her to forget me. I hope he will have a good time with the disease. He is a very worthy young man.

I got a paper from Father today & Chas got a long letter from Rowland. He represents it as some sickly at Farmington now, mentions a case of dyptheria. I saw Mr Farwell yesterday but did not have time to go to see Mrs Farwell. Did not go to Mr Carroll's. I wish you would write Susan. If I liked to part with it I would send Guy's last letter to Susan.

I am glad Guy & Grace love the Sunday School. Guy must not study too much. I want him to get fat & rosy cheeks. Much love to Aunt to Eva & Minnie. I can understand how Grace prefers the doll & Bureau to the sled.

I enclose a draft on N.Y. for \$200.00.

I expect to have the 64th N.Y. Regt. I liked Guy's & Graces Sunday School Verses. I thought Guy's must be hard to learn.

May God bless you my precious wife.

Otis

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1545 1/6/1862

*From:* R.B. Howard

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1503

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[11]

Farmington Jan 6, 1862

Dear Otis,

We have entered upon a new year. Shall we see its close? "Watch & pray for ye know not the Day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh." A Sudden death of a strong, noble young man (of Diphtheria) has startled us a little. I trust he is with his Saviour. Tell Charles two of those Marvell boys are sick of the same disease. Yesterday was our coldest day, but quite a no. were at meeting & Communion. Eight joined the church by letter, none are profess sin. I preached A.M. on "He found us in a desert place" &c Duet. 32 10 (I believe) P.M. On the words of Pilate "Behold your King" and tried to lead Jesus out as Pilate led him but with a different motive.

This being the first Monday of the Year we have had Union prayer meetings this P.M. & evening - rather thinly attended.

But my heart was made glad by a sick neighbor. I went in & found him literally rejoicing in Christ. He is a very reserved & silent man usually, but Jesus was so precious to him today as to make him speak words of heavenly wisdom & love. It was like the joy of a new convert. I fear he will die. Cousin Sarah Woodman (Warrens wife) called this P.M. He has sent her \$100 wh. she left with me & wh. I will dispose of as you & Lizzie decide. I suppose Warren wishes it endowed on his note. It is in gold, & gold is increasing in value. Shall I keep it, deposit it in our Bank, or send it to Lizzie? I have not heard from her & the children since I wrote Charles. I hope to go down & see them by & by. Ella & baby are well & have just gone to bed. Baby grows, pulls hair & noses, wonders with his eyes, & follows us around with them, is very "cunning", "Sweet" &c.

I wrote Guy an acct. of our Christmas Tree for the S.S. Davie had a Silver mug from his Grandpa Patten & various other things. I had a fur collar & \$4. I have written cousin S.W. & talked with her today a little in regard to her spiritual interests. She seems "interested", that is all. Let us pray for her. She is truly an amiable & lovely person.

Poor Sarah Sargent is in a "heap of trouble." Ella & I called there this evening. Frankie is just recovering from measles & the other three are sick of <them> & Sarah quite worn out. I have been down before today & tried to do some things for her. The children are as well as we could expect - are delighted with their new years presents from uncle Perry of two nice sleds, wh. they think came from Va. Capt Pillsbury has called there but I have not seen him since his return. Aunt Ellen Otis married her hired man, Ruel Williams, last Wednesday! He has worked for her two years & I have heard nothing against him. She has settled a part of her property upon him. I hear by the way of Mrs Dea. Page of Hallowell. Our Leeds friends seem fast passing away. 4 have gone this winter - Mrs Turner, Eunice Francis, Dea. Palmer & Veranus Lathrop - three of them members of that little church. Saw John Otis this morn. His family are at Leeds. His Religion is likely to suffer from his employment wh. leads him to labor on the Sab. & prayer meeting evenings. I am glad to hear that you have been relieved of the command of the Div. & would like to know how. I am very glad that Lizzie & the children can have religious privileges at Auburn. I used to regret that deprivation at Leeds.

Bro. Morrill leaves here & goes to Auburn to supply the Baptist Church this week. The Baptist & F.W.B. Houses of worship are now closed & my labors increased in consequence. O if my faith & love were only lively I could do ten times as much. They have delayed making up my Supscription this year & Providence may indicate a change. I wish to leave myself in the hands of God. If called to a chaplaincy, I would try to go & do my duty.

Give much love to Charles & kindest christian remembrances to Capt. Sewall.

Yr. Aff. Bro.  
R.B. Howard

Warren would have sent the money to you but he did not know your address. I can send it if you so direct.

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1546 1/8/1862

*From:* Uncle Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1504

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

Farmington Jan 8/62

Dear Sister Lizzie

Sarah is again deeply afflicted & our hearts are all very sad over the death of dear little Timmie. He fell peacefully asleep in Jesus about 3 o'clock this morning. I was with him when even his poor mother could not bear to be there. He was sick a week of measles, but we thought there was nothing alarming till 24 hours before he died. It seemed as if a terrible fever affected brain, lungs & bowells & nothing could stop it. He often called for Uncle Perry in his delirium wh. was of a mild character. He was not conscious, or did not recognize even his mother for some hours before he died. He would call loudly for "Papa, Papa"! He did not seem to suffer very much. Sarah bears it like a christian mother - the baby is quite sick of the same disease & her attention is partially diverted by his care. Frank is about recovered & Otis does not seem very ill. Let us pray for poor Sarah.

Mrs Warren Woodman called here day before yesterday & left \$100 in gold for Otis. I wrote him immediately that he might endorse it on Warren's note, & will make such disposal of it either by depositing in Bank here or sending to you as he or you may direct.

Hope my dear little nephews & niece are well & their mother too. The funeral will be Friday. I hope mother will come up today. Uncle Ensign was here & has gone to Leeds today.

Many kisses for the little ones from their loving  
Uncle Rowland

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1547 1/8/1862

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1505a

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Jan. 8th 1862

My dear Lizzie

Otis has not returned from Reveille. Last night he & I visited Alexandria at my suggestion. I wished to call upon Miss McKuen of Bangor and daughter of Dr. McK. Brigade Surgeon to Sedgwick. Otis was "concerned" about the letter which he wished to write you to go in this morning's mail. I did not tell him I would write for him and do not intend to but if I begin he can at least add a few words and a letter will start today. He may tell you about our calls last night. It was clear and cold and the moon was shining very brightly. We trotted along sometimes socially, sometimes mutely for some distance. It is about 3 miles into Alex'a.

A new Regt came yesterday to supply the place of the R.I. 4th. The 64th N.Y. Col. Parker. He seems to be a serious minded man of middle age - somewhat more grey than Otis. He has a brother who is his Commissary. He & his Lt. Col. (Bingham) took dinner with us yesterday. This Regt. has not been much <drilled>. It is not very full. It was raised in Western N.Y. - one company at Owego.

It was pretty cold work pitching camp yesterday. We have a little snow - half inch or so.

Otis & Capt. Sewall have now come in & say the 64th did not appear at Reveille, neither officer nor man. We heard heavy firing before we got up & while dressing - down the River. We hope Burnside has sailed & is blowing up some of the Rebel batteries but can hardly believe he has got off without its being published all over America.

I will not take up Otis' "room". Did he tell you what a good prayer-meeting we had Sabbath night; & that Prof. Chamberlain was here Monday eve & that we took tea with Gen. Jameson & saw Mrs J. calling also upon Gen Heintzelman and Gen. Sedgwick?

Much love to Guy, Grace & a kiss to sweet Jamie.

Very affectionately yr. br. Charles

[Appended to this letter is one from Otis, written the same day.]

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1548 1/8/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1505b

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[The following letter from Otis was appended to one from Charles written on Jan 8, 1862.]

Dearest:

It is funny for me to fill up a letter to you that another has begun, but Charlie has left room. Chas has mentioned our visit to Alexandria last night. We went to the house of Lieut Ferguson, the "Depot Quartermaster". Mrs F. came out to stay a fortnight, but has stayed since October. A Mrs <Strickford> and daughter, a nice young lady with many curls & who sings, are staying with Mrs F. Mrs Sampson was in there last night to tea, we found.

After quite a pleasant call of at least an hour, Mr F accompanied us to show us the way to Mrs Thompson's. We found her at a boarding house. Capt. Thompson was there, but little Fanny was left at home in Ky. Mrs Thompson looks a little pale. She has a baby a month younger than Jamie you know. She is the same good woman ever. I thought Thompson did not seem quite so cordial as he used to [Note 1] but he promised to visit me & <[CHECK ORIGINAL -glued edge> with me some time & Charles is to go for Mrs Thompson & ride with her to Camp. She was much interested to inquire all about you & the children. She is rather lonely in Alexandria, but thinks, that while her husband is so near she may as well stay. He sleeps in town every night. He says, he knows it is unmilitary to have his wife there, but he can't help it. It makes me wish I could see you & the children to see these old friends, but I think we are the best off till there can be some prospect of more meetings & partings.

You spoke of Guy having indigestion in the letter next to the last, but in the last letter you did not say if he was better. Professor Wier says, how is Guy? Poor Henry Weir was very low when we were there but we have not heard since.

Mrs Thompson Fanny's mother thinks Grace must have gotten to be quite a young lady. Yesterday I had the front part of our tent floored & put up a mess tent. We are now very comfortable. I have one of the nicest of robes to sleep in. I turned over mine to Capt Sewall & bought one called the hide of a "<Guniaker>". Do you know anything of such a fur? It is nice & warm & large.

My kind regards to Aunt Sarah & Eva & Minnie. Many kisses to the little ones & a "God bless you" darling to yourself.

Affectionately yr husband  
Otis

[Note 1. The closing (2 sheets) from this point to the end was glued to OOH-1507 dated 1/10/1862. It was a duplicate closing and seems to fit with this letter from Charles & Otis to Lizzie, which was missing a closing by Otis.]

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1549 1/10/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Gracie Howard

OOH-1506

Head Quarters

Auburn Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[14]

Head Quarters, January 10 1862

My dear little daughter

Papa got Mamma's letters with a good one from Grace. He is very glad she is going to be such a nice little girl. Papa had a present today of a little dog. His name is Castor. The giver's name is Carlos, an Italian, who has come to blow the bugle for papa. The dog is lying on papa's wash box; near the wash basins; papa sends a picture with this letter. Mamma is very good to give Grace so many things, a bureau, a doll, a new hat with a feather and a velvet ribbon. Gracie goes to the Sunday School? Does she ever hear of the Saviour? Does she love him? Shall I bring Castor home when I go? Give much love to dear Mamma and Guy. Kiss Jamie boy and tell him not to forget papa. Who plays with Grace, Guy or Minnie? Is Guy getting to be a large boy? He goes to the Post Office and asks for letters and I think must be quite a little man.

Good night my darling child.

May God bless you and make you always a good girl and papa's loving little daughter.

Your own papa  
O.O. Howard

To  
Gracie Howard  
Auburn Maine

[Hand-Drawn Sketches]

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1550 1/10/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1507

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

Head Qrs 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division Jan 10, 1862

Dearest Lizzie

I expected I should get a letter from you yesterday but did not. I am in hopes the next letter will say Guy is hearty & his cheeks getting rosy and Gracies finger has got well of its "run-round". I believe Jamie shews no traces of the scarlet fever, does he? How has Aunt Sarah made out to get along lately? Does she still enjoy her religion. I am glad to hear you speak so well of Eva & Minnie. Is Orestes with his mother. You must give him my kindest remembrances.

(Evening). Since I began the above I have received just the news I asked for. Your good long letter with Gracie's darling little letter enclosed. I have written her a letter tonight with sundry illustrations. I expect she will be amused at it.

I was on the "Examining Board" today. We examined eight Captains & two Lieutenants. It is some work but you know I am used to work of that kind at West Point.

Capt Sewall sent his regards just as he lay down a few minutes ago & said he thought I had gained ten pounds: so much for health. Chas has a cold & throat a little sore. Mr Miles is quite sick with the measles & Capt Sewall Judge Advocate of a Genl Court Martial. Charlie wanted me to say to you he did not write such a piece as that in the Herald where he is called my son. I don't think you could have thought he did. I have forbidden him to praise me in any piece he may write.

Warren Woodman sent one hundred dollars to his wife intended for me. She gave it to Rowland & he wrote me to know what he should do with it. Would you make mother a present of the money to buy what she pleases? or would you put it on deposit? Our possessions might get shaken if we had a war with England. I am glad to have you clothe yourself & the children - above all let them be dressed warm. It has been rainy & warm the last three days. So muddy you can hardly step. The 64th N.Y. have come in & taken the place of the Rhode Island regiment.

I hear that Aunt Ellen has married her Coachman. It seems to surprise her friends very much.

The little dog that Carlos gave me will grow to be a very large one tell Guy. He has spent some time in my tent today. I have sent him to Carlos' tent to stay with his mother. Lieut Bullock has a nice little kitten that sometimes comes in & pays us a visit. I think Jamie would like to hear him purr. Tell Guy [one] of my horses looks like a zebra, he is so stripped & spotted. I exchanged the one Capt. Sewall let me have for him.

I must now wish you good night my precious wife. I am glad we can look to a common Father & that we must sooner or later be together with Christ. Many kisses to the children & love to Aunt & the children. May God bless you.

Affectionately  
Otis

[Note 1. A duplicate closing (2 sheets) was glued to this letter. It seems to fit with the letter from Charles & Otis to Lizzie, OOH-1505, dated 1/8/1862 which was missing a closing by Otis.]

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1551 1/12/1862 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1508

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[17]

Farmington Jan 12/62  
Sunday Evening

My dearest Otis,

You will see where I am, but may be you have not heard the sad cause of my coming here. Cousin Sarah has lost her dear little boy Timmie. He died last Wednesday morning, of measles. All the children have been sick. Otis has recovered. Frankie getting better, but the Baby is still quite sick. I didn't know how I could come up here at first but afterwards I felt as if I must, and as Guy had had the measles I took him with me. I came Thursday, and now I suppose Jamie is weaned, isn't it too bad? I can't bear to think of it. Aunt Sarah told me to stay from him, and perhaps it is best. Sarah bears her affliction just as we all ought, with Christian resignation to the will of God.

I was there to help her yesterday, but have not been to see her to-day. Warren Woodman's wife came to the funeral, and is staying a few days with Sarah. She is really a very agreeable person, and very lady like, and congenial. She gave Rowland \$100.00 toward paying for the horse that she had received from her husband. I told Rowland I would take it and then you need not send me more at present. Is that the way you think I ought to do? I was glad to learn the horse was not lost as first reported.

I have not written to you for some time. I think I have written but once since new year's. I have been waiting for Gen Burnside's expedition to sail, and have felt a great deal of anxiety lately. I have been thinking that might affect you, Dearest, but I didn't know how either. It left "Hampton Roads" the 9th. I shall read everything I can get in the shape of news and news papers now, for a while at least, and pray God may over rule all for good.

I think Charlie deserves a good, long letter from me, in answer to his most welcome letter to me. I was so glad to hear from him, about Johnie Weir, West Point, and especially Jeanie Gray's book. I am perfectly astounded. Do you know anything more about it? You must tell me if you ever hear any more.

I am going to write to Mrs Blunt soon. I cannot delay hearing from West Point much longer. Where is Mr Blunt? When I called to say 'good bye' to Mrs Wheeler she asked me if I knew what Jeanie had undertaken for she (I) told her "if I succeed in what I have undertaken I hope to have a nice little home of my own." I heard through Mrs Rothery, that she was building a house, but they said nothing to me. I will risk her anywhere as you said once. I believe I shouldn't want her to have any connection with me. She would lead us all, as I know she would if she should undertake it.

Rowland has returned from the S. School concert, and here is a whole family - all the members here. I fear they don't realize all their blessings, as I told Ella. I have looked out the window more since I have been up here, than I have done before for some time. I have not heard from you since I got Charlie's letter. I may have one sent from Auburn to-morrow. I think of visiting Cadet Smith's to-morrow and not returning to Auburn till the next day. How much I do want to see Jamie. I don't write you as often as I must and I wish I could get a letter from you every day. I want to write more, but with talking and writing I have let all the evening pass. I have written to Grace. I hope you will soon. Guy commenced a letter to Susan to-night. Her letter came to Leeds and was sent to Auburn the day we came up here, so he has not seen it yet. Guy was very sad when I told him of little Timmie's death, and Grace said she couldn't help crying. Guy said he did want to have Timmie to play with when he came here to live.

Good night now  
Lizzie

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1552 1/14/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1509

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Sumner's Division

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[16]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division Jan 14th 62

My dearest Lizzie

Charles says I shall begin about eleven o'clock tonight to write to you; contrary to his say so, I will begin at once. It is about 1/2 past 2 P.M. I have not done much today. There came quite a heavy snow last night & it has been rather stormy since. Sunday it was as warm as summer & now it is more like the weather you have.

Yesterday I was on the Examining Board & worked all day about as I have sometimes at West Point & felt pretty tired when I got back. I lay down & took a little sleep & then with Charlie went to Clermont & thence to the 3d Maine. Dr Palmer enquired for me that I should take tea at Mrs Sampson's as her sister Miss Smith & Mrs Capt Watkins had come to visit her. We found them dressed for a party at <to by> Alexandria. You should see how neat Mrs Sampson manages to make her tent look - rather more so than mine.

At this point I broke off. This evening I accompanied Lt. Col. Barlow of the 61st N. York Regt. to see his wife at Mr Richards. Mr R lives just at the right of our grounds near the 5th New Hampshire. This is the first time I have called there, though I have often thought of doing so. Mrs Richards is reputed to be quite "secession" a cousin to Mrs Commodore Forrest. I found her a very pleasant lady. Her husband was not home this evening. He professes to be & declares he has been a strong "Union Man".

We have just got the news of Secretary Cameron's resignation & of Secretary Stanton's appointment. Oh, that Washington might be free from Corruption. "Lead us not into temptation".

Tell Guy I shall expect him to laugh heartily at my picture. He must describe it to Gracie. I am a little afraid you are sick for I ought to have had a letter this evening, or rather this morning for the letters reach here in the morning.

Capt Sewall is working too hard with his Court Martial. I am afraid he will get sick. Charles has had a sore throat but has now gotten quite well. I too have a cold & am a little hoarse. I don't think I shall grow very old before I get home. How is it with you darling, shall I have a young wife when I get there? I expect you will be young. How did Grace like her letter? Does Jamie love pictures as well as Guy used to? Charles has written mother a long letter tonight of six pages letter paper size. Have you written to Susan? I have not seen nor heard of Susan since the wedding. Have you written her or heard from her.

Capt Sewall has come in now. We must read & go to our "boards".

May God bless you all. Dont forget to remember me to Aunt & the children. Your loving husband,  
Otis

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1553 1/16/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1510

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
1st brigade Sumner's  
Division

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[28]

Head Quarters  
1st brigade Sumner's Division  
Jan. 16th 1862

My dearest Wife,

I received your kind letter written from Farmington this noon. I had heard the sad tidings of little Timmie's death. Perry told me at the 3d Maine that Rowland had written him about it. I wrote you about the money which was sent to Rowland to ask you what you thought of assisting father or mother. I fear they may be much pressed. I can never forget the sacrifices my poor mother made in my earlier life to give me clothes & an education - the same you will make for Guy & Jamie, if ever like circumstances. I should like to make it easy for them if I could. Tell me darling what you think about them. Is Father hard pressed for money or not? Charles sent home some to deposit with him, for father to use at will. I think he sent a hundred dollars.

I know you must have been sorely tried to have parted from Jamie & I am afraid you have been too much taxed, or you wouldn't have "looked out of the window" so much. You will soon get back to Auburn. Was not poor Sarah dreadfully shaken to lose her precious boy. I keep hoping that we will not need that chastening, not that I expect we shall always be so good, but I long to have my children spared to become good & useful & I hope that such is the purpose of God. I wish I could go home for a time, but I don't feel that now is the time. Now men are getting discontented, restless, complaining. Now hearts are failing, money is growing scarcer, business is paralyzed, and now is the time for all men of true patriotism & courage to stand fast. We must, as a people, see hard times. We must be humbled before the Lord will exalt us.

A curious rumor got out in the 61st New York tonight that I was very sick & the result was a note from a French matron who is there. She is a curious woman & gives us some trouble with her disposition to use her tongue too freely, but she seems to be kindly disposed towards me. Capt. Sewall has been working during the past week on a Court Martial as Judge Advocate. He is working too hard I find. I fear he will give out for he is not naturally very strong.

Give many kisses to the little ones. It must be hard for you to wean Jamie, but I expect Aunt Sarah knows best. If you can only be well. I trust it won't be many months before we shall be together again. Charlie is asleep. He is a good brother.

Most lovingly your husband  
Otis

My prayer is ever for you.

Perry was here today to learn all he could from Farmington.

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1554 1/16/1862     *From:* [Lizzie Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1511

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[19]

Auburn, Jan 16, 1862

My dearest Otis

I receive letters so often from you, that I am quite happy, but ashamed of myself for not writing to you oftener than I do. Guy brought a letter from you to-night with another 'picture' (donkey and cart). They amuse the children very much indeed, but Uncle Charlie's "cold feet" ought to call forth pitying tears. I ought to write to him. He has written me such long, full letters that I feel very much indebted to him. He always writes just what you never would, so his letters are very welcome and read with a great deal of interest.

I remained in Farmington till Tuesday, was away from Jamie just five days. Jamie sleeps well at night now, and I can call him baby no longer. I found Grace and Jamie both well, but glad to see mama. I think of Sarah a great deal since I came back, how many afflictions she does have. I ought, and do try to be very thankful that we are all in good health. Rowland, Ella and baby look very happy in their own pleasant home. Ella has a very good girl now. Abby is still there, but will soon return to Bath, and Ella thinks of going home on a visit soon. I went to see Mr Smith's mother (I mean Cadet Smith) she is not married again, or was her second husband named Smith, and her first one, the one Charlie mentioned? She is a real good Christian woman with more good sense than we usually find in the country.

Charlie spoke of the late Col Jackson. I have never heard of his death.

How pleasant for Charlie to meet Johnny Weir in Washington. I must write to Mrs Blunt very soon. I should like to see Mrs Thompson. Give her my best love. Mr T. is a regular sot. He does better when his wife is with him, but has not much respect for her presence even. Mrs Blunt lived at Fort Independence and told me many things to surprise and almost shock me. I presume he would not be at all cordial towards you or any one who would do right.

Guy is much interested in Castor. Bunnie is still doing well. Gracie's finger is quite well. She has a new nail. Your letter to her was just the thing she wanted. I wrote to her from Farmington. Her hat didn't do, and she is still without.

I am very much obliged to Capt Sewall for saying you had gained so much. Charlie must not. Oh! I have made a mistake. Weir need not speak in such high terms of his General in the next letter to the B. Journal as he did in the last. I have never seen any reason to complain before, perhaps I should not now if I did not know 'the Weirs'.

I received the check, and I took the gold Mrs Woodman left with Rowland. I shall spend some of it for Mother. I want to and think that best. I saw Mrs Caswell at Sarah's when in Farmington. Mr C had not returned. Col. Strickland came home a week since. William Henry Timberlake came yesterday or very lately. They, he and wife, are going to Indiana soon. She has quite an amount of property there. I have seen her here lately. They have a little boy nearly two years old.

I find this note I left Friday evening, intending to finish it early the next morning, but did not think of it till just a moment too late for that day. I will try and not neglect you so long again. I hope you are still quite well and happy. I don't look for you home at all this winter. Aunt Sarah is for sending me to the wars now I need not take care of the children, but I fear I don't feel inclined to go. As long as I do not want to use the check I received from you, I shall not get it cashed for I think this better than to have so many bank bills, for I could not get the gold for it.

I have not written to Susan. Guy got a letter from her. We had been looking for one from her for some time. I have no time for writing during the day, but Guy must write to her again soon, and I will add some if I can get the time.

[Lizzie Howard]



Yours very respectfully  
Edmund K. Russell  
Lieut Co. K

[Written on the last page]  
Lt. E. K. Russell  
Letter looking for recom.  
Answered

[Note: This letter was filed in the January, 1863 folder. However, the date is probably correct. Edmund Kirby Russell resigned from the USMA in June 1861.]

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1556 1/18/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1512

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[21]

Auburn Jan 18, 1862

My dearest Otis,

I wrote quite a letter to Charlie last Thursday evening, but neglected to mail it the next morning, and the next evening I wrote a long letter to you but neglected to mail that, because I was helping Aunt about a carpet Saturday morning. I do feel badly at neglecting you so.

We are all very well now. All the children are asleep in my backroom opening out of this the parlor. We have changed the room somewhat since I first came. We have made the dining room that was, a play room for the children and I have my sewing machine there, and we stay there the most of the time when we are alone. But this room is always warm and that warms my sleeping room very well. I wish you all were as comfortable as we are.

I did not go to church this morning. I wasn't quite well yesterday and did not feel well this morning, but I went to Sunday school. Took Grace along. Guy was already there. It is directly after the morning service. Mr Adams exchanged with Mr Walker of Portland (State St.) Excellent sermon, text from the fourth chapter of John., "If thou knowest the gift of God."

I must tell you of a little incident that took place here. Cousin Fanny had a very bad cold and did not go to Church. I thought just after ten I would go and see how she was. I left Guy, Grace and Minnie up stairs in this room and took Jamie down to Aunt Sarah telling her where I thought of going. I found her quite well, <Adams> at home, and Aunt Betsey and Uncle Alden with them.

I made a visit as long as I wished and came home. As I opened the parlor door to come in Grace I saw Grace leaning against Aunt Sarah crying and Minnie on the other side of her crying. Guy was sitting in the rocking chair, looking as if he had something to tell me but hardly knew how to tell. It seems that they continued playing church and singing s. school hymns all just before I came in when Aunt, Jamie and Eva came up and found Minnie and Grace crying as if her heart would break. To inquire into it when they were done singing they had prayers. I took Grace up in my lap to ask her about it. "I couldn't help crying Mama, we were praying " and then she would cry again "O make Jesus to forgive my sins" she whispers and Minnie said "forgive the sins of the two little cousins" and we said some more and I cried, and Minnie said "don't tell" but I said, you would feel better about it if I told you", and don't you feel better now I have told you, mama?" I assured her that I did, but I hardly know what she had told me, with her sobbing, broken sentences and crying. Minnie cried because she saw Grace crying and said, 'don't tell', because being a little older she felt a little ashamed to be seen crying. I kept on talking to her to make her cheerful and happy. I told her we must try to be good, and do right and that Jesus came into the world to take away our sins. That we had to pray if we wanted Him to take away our sins. She seemed to think that there was something wrong in her praying because it made her cry. She is just as tender in her feelings as Guy when you have been talking to him. She cried again when she went to bed, because she feared she troubled me fixing her night-dress so long. She has a habit of saying 'I won't trouble you Ma-ma"; or "Have I troubled you to-day?" and I have to tell her as the case may be.

I wish you were with these children so they might be better instructed. Sometimes I don't know <what to say [CHECK ORIGINAL-fold on sheet 1] for them and I fear I don't do all I might.

I expect Col. Gilmore down to court. I hope Mother will come with him.

How much better for me to be here than at Leeds. I will try not forget this letter in the morning. It snowed all day to-day. I think it is pleasant now. I hope and trust you have had a pleasant and useful day. I enclose a work, and when you know what it reads, I should like to whisper to you, don't you wish you could? Me or Jamie which?

I will close now for it is nearly ten o'clock I presume. Continue to write often to me. When I stop to think that you may join some expedition & go into action, or leave your present position before I should see you I feel that I could not have <done> so, and <yet it> may all be.

Good night, no more room to write

Your  
Lizzie

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1557 1/19/1862

*From:* OO Howard  
Brig Gen. Vols

*To:* His Excellency  
Governor [Edward]  
Morgan  
Of New York

OOH-1513

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Sumner's Division

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[20]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division Jan 19 1862

To His Excellency  
Governor [Edward] Morgan  
Of New York  
Sir

I have just learned from Col Cone 61st N.Y. Regt. that his appointments or recommendations of officers to fill vacancies in Co. "D" of said Regt. were not confirmed by yourself.

Lt. Hemingway was made Captain - 2d Lt. Scott was made 1st Lt. and C. H. Howard whom I had requested Col Cone to appoint subject to your approval; and upon the strength of that appointment had created my Aide de Camp in orders; you had caused to be replaced by a Lieut Bain. Lieut Howard has been allowed to draw his pay upon this appointment.

This occasioned me much perplexity. It deprives me of a good Aide de Camp & obliges me to refund the amount of his pay drawn, to the Government. Had I supposed any want of confidence on the part of yourself in Col. Cone I should have hesitated to ask Lt. Howard's appointment in that Regt.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider this appointment and if possible put C.H. Howard in the place of Peter C. Bain who has never been with us or else give Mr. Howard a Lieutenancy in that or some other of your Regts. with the understanding that he is to remain my Aid de Camp.

I do not consider this as asking too much for I have two of your Regiments in my brigade & I am obliged to appoint my aides from the Vol. <subordinate> officers. An unfilled place in a Company is necessitated by the loss.

Very Respectfully  
Yr Obdt Srvt  
OO Howard  
Brig Gen. Vols

P.S. For the fitness of Lt. Howard for his position, I respectfully refer to the officers of the 61st Regt.  
O.O.H.  
Br. Gn

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1558 1/20/1862    *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1152

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Jan 20, 1861 [See Note 1]

My dear Brother

I was glad to get your letter giving some acct. of the Sabbaths labors & I trust that the blessing you receive in your own Soul in trying to be a benefit to others may stimulate you to renewed exertions. "The time is short"!

I exchanged with Rev. J.E. Adams of New Sharon yesterday & had a very stormy Sab. but I enjoyed preaching in the P.M. pretty well. I have two funerals of children who have died of Diptheria to attend tomorrow. One house that I visited today was much like a Hospital - a child dead, parents & grandparents all sick, but the love of Christ was in all their hearts.

I have not heard from Mother or Lizzie since I wrote Charles. Ella & baby go to Bath Thursday on a visit, and I hope to go as far as Auburn with them & see your family. Abby Abel goes with Ella. Sarah's family continue unwell but they are all recovering we hope & that the worst of her trial has passed. She has seemed divinely supported thro it all.

I have meetings appointed every evening this week till Friday. O if I could only feel God sensibly working with me. Charles' letter comes in here!

28th. I discovered this begun letter just now & will add a little & send it along.

I staid at Sarahs last night sleeping upon the sofa. Her girl, Emma Welch, died yesterday P.M. of Diptheria after less than four days sickness. She was a professing Christian & died a happy death. I was with her a good deal as she seemed to desire it & I liked to be there on Sarahs acct. The children are pretty well, tho they have not recovered from Measles yet & Sarah feels a good deal of anxiety now about Diptheria.

I enclose Ellas letter giving some acct. of the Revival meetings at Bath. I have not decided yet whether to invite Mr Hammond here or not. Our roads are very badly drifted, but they will try to take the girls remains home - 10 miles today, or tomorrow. Sarah spoke gratefully of yours & Charles' letters. It is a beautiful winters morning a chickadee singing by the window. Seems as if the Sun never rose more gloriously than this morning. How God mingles our cups!

Sometimes I almost passionately love the world, the glorious creation around me. The second thought always is - "and Heaven is more lovely than even this"! O for God's Spirit on our prayer meeting tonight! If Diptheria continues so prevalent, I will not advise Lizzie & the children to come here so early as they intended. Few escape & many think new comers especially liable to attack. I have said nothing to Lizzie but have thought much about this. She is happily situated at Auburn & need not hurry to change.

With much love to Charles  
Your Brother  
Rowland

[Note 1. This cannot be 1861, for 3 reasons - it could be 1862. Firstly, the reference to "Ella and baby". Ella gave birth to their first child, David Patten Howard, on August 10, 1861. Secondly, the reference to Sarah is probably referring to Sarah Sargent, who inquired of Rowland about moving to Farmington from Nassau. She had planned on moving from Nassau in the summer of 1861, after the death of her husband Frank Sargent, September 21 1860. Finally the references to Lizzie and Otis' family imply that they are not with Otis and are living with Eliza Gilmore, which is consistent with the war having started.

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1559 1/20/1862      *From:* Charlie [CH Howard]      *To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1514

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Sumner's Division

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[24]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division  
Jan'y 20 1862

My dear Lizzie

I persuaded Otis to go to bed early tonight and told him I would write you a letter. Perhaps you will not thank me for spoiling his good intention & depriving you of a letter from your husband. But Otis is disturbed a good deal of nights and often deprived of needful sleep. Night before last, just after pay-day some of the men would be noisy - I got up once and John once. I had three men taken from their tents to the Guard House and then made to walk before <tentmils> till morning. This was about midnight. Just before morning Capt Sewall had to go over to the G'd House to silence the men there - all these noises trouble Otis & keep him awake because he feels so much responsibility in the matter.

We have had it very rainy here for several days past. When not pouring right down there is a heavy fog settling down upon us.

Last Saturday Otis with a squadron of Cavalry went upon a Scout - partly to reconnoitre and partly to look for forage. I was left behind to inspect a Regt. Was just returning from Guard Mounting when I met Otis starting-out - (I have had this morning duty ever since Mr. Miles was taken sick with the measles. He is well now but very hoarse).

I was telling you about the starting of the scout. The cavalry had gone on a little before but the Chaplain was riding with Otis. It soon began to rain too hard for the Inspection so I got my horse & rode on after them. I found Otis riding at the head of the main body & the Maj. was with him now. He sent me forward with the advanced guard & I kept with it at its head most of the time we were gone. The reason he sent me was because I knew the "Countersign signals".

I cannot describe to you our entire expedition. We went out about 12 miles and at one house the farthest one visited by us and approached by only myself & another horseman. They told us that the Southern Cavalry were there two days before. I did not let them know but that we were Southern. We found very little forage. The country has been scoured.

Otis found one fine lady with her property undisturbed - Mrs. Fitzhugh - one of the F.F.V's. At another place near by only a few Negroes were left. Their master was in the Rebel Service. They deplored the loss of all Religious privileges so Otis called the Chaplain into the hut which we had entered to warm our feet & there we had a most excellent prayer offered up while we all knelt.

One poor old woman was blind & sat in the corner by the big fireplace which was so broad as to let in the outdoor light. All she wanted was tobacco & we borrowed some of one of the officers for her.

Otis is sleeping soundly. I hope my dear little nephews Guy & Jamie & my little niece Grace are also sweetly sleeping. Do they & does Sister Lizzie love the absent uncle.

Charlie

P.S. We were disappointed in not getting my commission from the Gov. of N.Y. Wouldn't it be too bad for me to be obliged to give up this situation but all will work for the best and I will leave it with the Lord.

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1560 1/21/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1516

Head Quarters

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[22]

Head Quarters

Jan 21 1862

Dearest

I had made up my mind to write you last night but had quite a head ache & had to give it up. Charlie volunteered & so I went to bed & fortunately went to sleep & this morning am perfectly over my troubles. Charlie has told you all the news. I had expected to take my Brigade out to the front but the Lord has prevented by sending us continuous rains & such traveling as we sometimes have at home in April.

I heard from Rowland of your cold ride to New Sharon. Did Guy see the place where papa fell down cellar, when he was three years old. He did not like to ride under the buffalo (?) I don't think there is much fun in that. And how cold it was when you & Guy rode to the depot. Are you well now you have got to Aunt Sarahs? I know you will write me all about these things.

I had a letter from your old beau at West Point Kirby Russell [Edmund K Russell, USMA class of 1862]. He is at present a Lieut. in a Long Island regiment & desires to be promoted in the regular army. So many of these young men ask me for letters! I wish he had taken more care of himself & his studies while at West Point.

It seems almost impossible for us to accomplish much new in this quarter. The idea will soon prevail that there are no live men here. And I fear that we shall have to bury many a poor fellow before the winter is out. One day last week there were five lying in State at the same time. In Col. Farnsworth Cavalry, sickness prevails to an alarming extent. Typhoid fever mostly. My general health is excellent & I have to be more than thankful, or I ought to be for God's goodness to me.

Poor Charlie seems to be hardly used. I have written to Governor Morgan to see if he will give him a commission. I do hope you will all be well. I am in hopes something will happen this Spring so that I can see you all. I want to know how you & Jamie are getting along. Did he know you when you came home? I don't expect he would know me. How did Gracie seem? Glad to see her brother Guy & Mamma?

Genl Sumner is almost well so that he walks about. I hope he will return to us soon. He expects to do so but it is bad weather for convalescents. How did Sarah seem when you left. Tell us about Ella & her home. How does the baby look, what kind of a house keeper is Ella. Rowland seems a little down hearted. I fear that it is going to be hard for the people to pay their ministers this year. I long to see you.

Affectionately

Otis

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1561 1/22/1862 *From:* E.W. Woodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1517

Port Royal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[7]

Port Royal Jany 22 1862

Dear Cousin -

I wrote you a long time ago, but receiving no answer I concluded you were away from W.

I had my wife pay to your brother Rowland 100 Dollars & will send the balance as soon as we are paid off. I wish the Regt could be paid off. There are many Soldiers whose families suffer. The last money they recd was 7 Sept.

That horse suits me very well except when troubled with that lameness. I am careful of him & hope he will be well by & by. Of course I do not allude to the horse to complain of you or to ask any discount.

Our Col I resigned. Lt Col Rust is now Col & I am promoted. Col R has been sick for about 12 days & I have had the command. I have drilled the Regt more during the past 12 days than it has ever been drilled before. Col I was just good for nothing in preparing Company to act together. In fact he knew nothing about military duties. Could not drill a Squad of men.

Col R started green & has not learned very rapidly. He is slow to learn & slow to think & dull of comprehension but what little time he acted as Col he seemed anxious to learn, still he was slow.

I am glad that I started as Captain for that position required of me to start at the bottom. I can now manage the Regt with as much ease as I could my Company. I hope the Col will be able fill that position, and soon be on duty.

We had one Brigade drill while Col R had command, & he seemed lost. Since he was taken sick we have had three & I got along alone (no Major here) & made no mistakes. Genl T told me that our Regt had improved rapidly. He said he was satisfied with me. What we need is a Col of experience. One who can manage the Regt in battle. The line Officers & men appear well satisfied that I can manage the Regt, but I doubt my ability to do justice by the Regt. We have been expecting to receive Marching Orders & if so I will have the command. We will go in bad condition. No Col. no Major, & no Adj. The Senior Capt is unfit, (but there are one or two Cpts who would do)

Adj. resigned & the one appointed not reached us. 3 of our Captains have resigned & 2 Lts.

The health of the Regt is quite good. Many have bad colds, owing to the sudden change from noon to 12 at night.

The Col expressed a wish to leave the Service on acct of his health. If he does, I should rather serve under an experienced Col (not of the rusty down East School) than to be promoted.

You got the general news by the papers.

Your Cousin  
E.W. Woodman

My health good - not failed to do duty a day since I came into the service.

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1562 1/23/1862    *From:* Jas. Q. Gilmore    *To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1518                      142 Com'l St  
   Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

Boston Jany 23d 1862

Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

I received your kind letter in due course of mail and should have written you before but thought I ought not to intrude too much on your time.

I would not trouble you now but your letters are interesting to so many that I know they would miss them very much. I read your last one to the boys who sent the Books and they were pleased to learn that they were so well received. I see by the papers that you now have command of Genl Sumners division and perhaps may be so busy that you cannot write yourself but you may know some one who would be willing to do so and let us know how the cause of Christ is prospering. Men and Women are beginning to appreciate the work that should be done in the Army and they are encouraged to hear such reports as come to us from some of the Regts.

They are also rejoiced to know that some of our Officers are examples of what Christians should be.

It has an influence more than we sometimes expect. The reason that I ever wrote to you a stranger was that an Officer under you told me that you always asked Gods blessing at your meals.

I thought if you did so you would be willing to write me about the cause of Christ in the Army. And many thank you for your letters they are so pleasant. Said an old lady to me the other day "I wish I could take him by the hand and thank him for his good letters."

There is some religious interest among us and some 6 or 8 have lately experienced a change. Oh! how much there is to do yet before the world will acknowledge Christ. If you have time I should be more than glad to hear from you and now wishing you health and a safe return to your home.

I am yours as ever.

Jas. Q. Gilmore  
142 Com'l St  
Boston

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1563 1/24/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1519

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[26]

Auburn Jan 24, 1862

My dearest Otis

I received your letter of the 20th this afternoon. I ought perhaps to call it Charlies. He was so good as to begin to write for you. I cannot express how thankful and glad I am to have him with you. I hav'nt mailed a letter to you for some time. I fear you will think some of us are sick. We are all well. I got up this morning with sick headache, but it was all gone before I went to ride, of which I will tell you before I close.

Rowland intended making me a visit yesterday leaving Ella, baby and Abby in the cars to pursue their journey to Bath. They did not get down here (Crowley's rather) in season to make the connection with the Lewiston train, so they all Ella, Rowland, baby and Frankie Sargent came over to visit us. Abby got a man to take her in a sleigh to her friends in Lisbon eight miles. We were all very glad to see them. I hope the journey will do Frankie good. He does not seem to gain at all and looks very thin and pale.

We left all the children last evening, great and small, with Aunt Sarah, and went over the river, to an excellent concert. Some of the pieces we have had at our concerts at West Point. It was very pleasant to me to hear them. Came home at ten o'clock, babies all asleep, and retired soon after evening prayers.

I had arranged to take the children to ride in the morning when it was most time for the train to start. We all went to the Depot, leaving Ella and baby there to go to Bath. (Her friends will probably meet her in Brunswick as they were telegraphed to yesterday telling where they were.) We Guy, Frankie, Grace, Jamie, Rowland and myself then went to Uncle Hicks store. They got all the candy, sweets &c that they wanted. We rode down to see the big factory of the "Androscoggin company" and its big bell which has on it "The Union, Constitution, and the Land." Drove about the building some, then returned home having been gone some over an hour. After dinner about two o'clock Uncle Rowland, Guy, Frankie and Orestes walked to the Depot. They took Guy's sled along for Frankie to ride, and Orestes went to come back with guy for he don't go that distance alone. Charlie knows where the new Depot is.

Now the children are all asleep and I hope they will not wake for they were more tired than usual. I want to write Mrs Blunt also to-night. The people here remember you very pleasantly in connection with the morning meetings and prayer meetings. Mrs. Dr. Wiggin called this afternoon. Fannie wanted me to go to the circle. It met at Mrs Littles and she has visited me but I did not exactly feel like making the necessary exertion. Uncle Alden and Aunt Betsy come in to pass the evening now and then. I enjoy her society more than any relations here. She knows more, reads more, goes more, has more than three ideas and cares for things generally. Prentis is still in Bangor & doing well. Adams went into business last Fall, purchased a machine shop. He wouldn't be here if he was working by the day and job as he used to be. Fanny has a great deal of energy, and helps him all she can. He is doing well.

Capt Sewall Judge Advocate of a court martial - that is hard work! I do hope he may have his health remain good, that he may be able to continue his great assistance to you.

I do not know about Col. Gilmores affairs. He did not keep much money by him, and they spoke as if he had collected all money he had out, and all debts [Note 1] men were owing him. I have thought I might return this Bath Bond to him as there are some things I want to get for Mother. We will help them all we can if they need it.

I received your letter of the 16th the day you wrote and Charlie last 20th. You had just received my letter from Farmington.

Jamie sleeps well. I do not have to get up with him. Patting him is enough to quiet him. He nestled just now. I

went to him a moment. He is now fast asleep. He has quite an idea of talking, calls mama, Guy, tea, pie, cake, book and great many questions, and signs, reaches for the little fluid lamp and blowing with his mouth as if to blow it out, but that is his name for lamp. Asked him if he wants to go to Aunt Betsy, he starts for the door bowing and saying "bye, bye". When he wakes in the night he will smack his lips once and then say "te". I comes out very pleasant, but short.

Grace wanted me to tell you that she held and took care of little David while he was here. Guy wishes he had seen the place where papa fell down cellar. I hope you will always take Charlie's good advice, when he tells you to go to bed. You don't know when you are tired and sick and I am glad he does and can watch you.

Aunt Sarah and Eva have just come to sit with me, Eva with her books, Aunt sewing. Aunt is very well but you would notice that she has changed somewhat, is suspicious of everybody - asks questions with an evident motive - all comes through her earthly afflictions I presume. I am only speaking of these things to you, not that it isn't pleasant to be here. She is very much respected as far as I know in the society.

Mr Adams called here to-day. He asked about you but he has no idea how you, and the rest spend the time, what the duties &c. I don't think he has any more relatives in the service, or knowing much about the military matters. He is working very [Note 1] hard for the people here but his health is not very good.

Much love to Charlie, and best regards to Dr. Palmer, Capt Sewall and Mr. Miles. Glad to hear the latter over of the Measles. Hope he was not as indisposed as you were when you had them - would go out skating and fishing and I would expect to see you return blind. I hope Mother will come down here during Court with Col. Gilmore.

Your own  
Lizzie

[Note 1. Two extra sides 5 & 6 (same sheet) were attached to the end of letter OOH-1524, but I believe they belong to the end of OOH-1519, before the sideways writing on sheet 1, indicated by the second reference to Note 1.]

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1564 1/25/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1541b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49]

[MISSING OPENING. Received Jan 30, 1862. Probably written about Jan 25 1862.]

This afternoon I proposed with Dr Vogle to make the rounds of the Hospitals. The 81st Pennsylvania has a Hospital, a large tent and also a hospital department in a house – so with each of the others. I will tell you about my tour when I return. Col Staples was here yesterday from the 3d Maine. He wants to get into my Brigade. Lt. <Talkinen> the Quartermaster is here today. He says the Regiment would give him a good deal of trouble if it should effect the exchange.

(Evening) I will now give you a detailed account of our visits to the Hospitals. I met Dr Vogle at the Hospital of the 61st. As you enter you see two tiers of the sick, feet towards the center. A range runs the whole length <beneath> the middle part. We talked with the sick. The Dr. was speaking to a boy about 15 or sixteen sick with the scarlet fever in the further corner. I told him Guy's short prayer - "O Lord, Give me thy Holy Spirit." I asked him if he could say it. He immediately repeated it & said he would remember it & use it. The Dr. made a prayer – then we passed to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr Gardner the Surgeon went in with us. One Sergeant who is quite deaf from sickness answered me when I asked him where his home was - "my home is in God." Here again the Doctor V. made a prayer. We then went to the 64th hospital. One man had just died. They have two tents. We visited them both and talked with them & prayed. In the last were the convalescent. A young man laughed as I asked another if he could tell me the story of his Saviour, as I saw him reading a story. I then told him I thought it a fine time to insult the Lord. Several hearers looked very serious; so I changed my tone & repeated some passages of Scripture. As we went out I put my head down to a poor boy about 16 & asked him if he loved the Saviour. He said he "had'nt experienced much," but he was crying & promised to think & pray. We next went to the N. Hampshire hospital. Here we took Dr Knight the Surgeon, a real good Christian man, and went the rounds of his hospital. He has a large tent, & four small ones quite full, not all badly sick; some with measles. I tried to point them all to Christ.

We now walked a half mile straight to our front, to the "Gregory house" All here were convalescents except one who had just died. They came into our room & we talked with them & the Dr made a prayer. Charlie had accompanied us till we left the N.H. Hospital. He then went for the horses & joined us here with the horses. I will mention one young man George H. Farnum of Milford N.H. who talked with me specially. He seemed in just the state of mind I was in prior to my going to Florida. I took his name & he has promised to let me know if he finds the Saviour. We now took a ride across the fields in a southerly direction to the "Clermont hospital," where we read some in the Bible & went from room to room to talk & pray with the men. In one room a lieutenant had asked for the Episcopal service. I used the prayers of the prayer book such as I could remember. After we had visited the sick we had a pleasant call on the assistant surgeon Dr. Merrill of whom I spoke awhile ago to you in the 61st N.Y. He is quite well again.

I am pretty tired & have not told you the story of our journey well, but you can see how we have spent the Sabbath. Charlie carried books & tracts. Many loved to hear of Christ.

Give many kisses to the little ones. Much love to Aunt Sarah. The puzzle is to get a kiss when the command comes in a letter that way. <Mother has driven><[CHECK ORIGINAL –line in overwrite area]> I fear not that you will guide Guy & Grace & Jamie in the right way. Her prayer & its answer were affecting. Jesus is near the little ones.

Affectionately your husband  
Otis

[Written in Lizzie's hand in the margin, probably to Eliza Gilmore.]

Jan 30 I received this letter from Otis to-day, and will forward to you to-morrow. Guy is quite well to-night, as well as the rest. Hope to have a visit from you soon.

Lizzie.



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1565 1/26/1862    *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1520

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Jan. 26. [1862]

My dear General

I was glad to receive your letter last Friday, & to learn from it that you are all well at your cozy quarters. I can see you all - each at his table, or one lying back in that luxurious chair of the Cap's with the ever present news paper. But you must be having a little of the disagreeable this month even if a small portion of our storms reach you. During the last two weeks it has snowed about half the time, & rained & hailed a good portion of the rest. I found the sleighing very fine when I returned, but now the snow is too deep.

Brunswick is as quiet as ever. There is nothing to remind one of the great struggle for life around you. It is only in the papers that we can find signs of war. But to me every description of a Camp or a battle presents a vivid reality; thus I am reaping every day good fruit from my recent pleasant visit with you.

Today I have been to church for the first time since I left you, & it was with difficulty that I kept my cough from annoying neighbors. Indeed I have not been able to be out much since my return; but am beginning to improve a little.

Our College term began Thursday, & I expect to enter upon my regular routine of work tomorrow. I shall try to apply my mind to "the school of the writer & speaker" for a few weeks; but I confess it looks in prospect rather dull, when there is so much to do & to suffer perhaps elsewhere. But my path seems to be made for me.

I do not think you will succeed in your kind effort to give me a place on your staff. There are many worthy men in subordinate stations whose services entitle them to promotion when vacancies occur, I think the Sec. of War will give them the preference - and justly too. Should Congress in the course of two or three months give you a chance to appoint a Brigade Chaplain, then —. But what changes may come in two or three months! That victory at Mill Spring Ky. has encouraged the expectation that great moves will soon be made and you may all be far from your present home. Great anxiety is now felt to hear from Burnside's Expedition. No one yet knows where he has gone. May the Lord direct his armada to the right place & give it great success.

A thousand things I would like to say and ask, but I must not inflict too long a letter upon you. I hope some one of the circle in your tent will write me often. I would be glad to hear from Chas or Miles or Cap. Sewall, & of course from you, if you can spare the time to write.

I will send the Independent to Cap. S. beginning tomorrow with the two first that contain Mrs. Stowe's story & sending two each day up to the last two.

Give my love to all. With much respect & love.

Yours  
E. Whittlesey

I have not been well enough to try James Patten's horse yet, but will do so soon & then write you about him.

Mrs. W—says her opinion of Sen. Morrill is rising fast.

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1566 1/26/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1521

Hd Qrs Howards  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27]

Hd Qrs Howards Brigade  
Jan. 26th 1862

Dearest

I received a very long letter from you in pencil two days ago. When I see the pencil I always fear you are not very well. I need not tell you how happy it makes me to get letters from you when you can get time to write me. I feel glad & I hope thankful that you have so comfortable a place to live in during this cold weather.

I wrote the above lines after prayers & before breakfast. After breakfast I had my horse also Charlie's & the Dr's & started to inspect the Brigade. I rode through the ranks of all the Regts. excepting the one on picket and then through the company grounds. It is hard to get so many men to conform to the rules of health & comfort. I told a Sergeant that he ought to see everything cleaned up, just as he would dress up for church at home. He said: "I wish I could go to church at home". I told him I wish I could but our business was here just now.

I came pretty near making a march this last week. It was reported that there was but one regiment at Fairfax Court House, and Col. Miller, one of my Colonels, desired to take a trip out there. I told him I would refer the matter to my Superiors in command. He went to see Genl Heintzelman & Genl H telegraphed to Genl McClellan for permission. The permission was granted and Genl H. sent for me to visit him. I did so & told him that I had very little information, none certain, the enemy probably had artillery. I was 12 miles from the place, the enemy in force but seven miles. I told him I was willing to go, would like to, but wished to look the difficulties fairly in the face. It was impossible to move artillery excepting on one road, mud deep & sticky. He said at once it was risking too much to accomplish very little; for if we lost a battle there it would be trumpeted over the south as a brilliant repulse; if we succeeded we would still have to fall back 12 miles to our Camp unless McClellan was ready to make a general advance. The project was given up.

I feel now that Genl McClellan's plans will succeed with very little loss of life. Genl Buel is succeeding. Let him cut the western R.R. Communication & Burnside the southern. That large Army cannot stay a month at Manassas, and as soon as it begins to break up we shall be likely to move.

After I wrote the above I attended religious Services in the 64th Regt. Rev Mr Hibberd. We formed square on the slope just in front of these Head Quarters. Band present. Opened by a piece from the band. The minister made a short Invocation, then sang a hymn, then Dr Vogle a minister (baptist) assisting in the 61st made a prayer. The Chaplain preached a written sermon – our chaplains fail to put Christ into their sermons – good lecture. Dr Vogle said a word or two. I told them that Dexter said that Walter had found his Saviour in Camp.

Mother wrote this about Dexter Howard & Walter Boothby. That was Dexter's message home. I hope that there will be no message like this - William or Henry "has lost his Saviour" but I fear such a one might now & then be told if the truth were spoken.

I think the Lord wills to carry me through this war. His will be done. General Sumner has not returned to us yet. But he is much better & we expect him soon.

Charlie had a long letter from Mother yesterday. Father was sleeping in his chair with his paper in his hand.

I have made a sketch of <> Thompsons cat for Grace. I visited her Friday. God bless them. Thinks her husband Thompson living more reverent than he used to be.

"Give my love to Lizzie", Charles. Give my kindest regards to her, Capt Sewall.

[Note 1.] This afternoon I proposed with Dr Vogle to make the rounds of the Hospitals. The 81st Pennsylvania has a Hospital, a large tent and also a hospital department in a house – so with each of the others. I will tell you

about my tour when I return. Col Staples was here yesterday from the 3d Maine. He wants to get into my Brigade. Lt. <Talkinen> the Quartermaster is here today. He says the Regiment would give him a good deal of trouble if it should effect the exchange.

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I am pretty tired & have not told you the story of our journey well, but you can see how we have spent the Sabbath. Charlie carried books & tracts. Many loved to hear of Christ.

Give many kisses to the little ones. Much love to Aunt Sarah. The puzzle is to get a kiss when the command comes in a letter that way. <Mother has driven><[CHECK ORIGINAL -line in overwrite area]> I fear not that you will guide Guy & Grace & Jamie in the right way. Her prayer & its answer were affecting. Jesus is near the little ones.

Affectionately your husband  
Otis

[Written in Lizzie's hand in the margin, probably to Eliza Gilmore.]

Jan 30 I received this letter from Otis to-day, and will forward to you to-morrow. Guy is quite well to-night, as well as the rest. Hope to have a visit from you soon.  
Lizzie.

[Note 1. From this point to the end of the letter was found attached to OOH-1541 from Otis to Lizzie dated 19 Feb 1862.]

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1567 1/27/1862 *From:* G. W. Shaw

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1522

Woolwich Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[28]

Woolwich Jany 27th 1862

Gen Howard

Dear Sir

Although a stranger personally, but not entirely by reputation I venture to say a few things that I proposed to say before you left the state Maine when your then 3rd Maine was at Augusta encamped but as I only saw you a few times during my brief stay and you appeared full of business I did not say what I went thirty miles to say, and after this long time feel drawn to write. We have about fifty men that have enlisted from this place & are now in the Potomac Army, and the larger part left here under your command among which was my son Corpl H. H. Shaw of Co. D that I feel a great interest in being promoted and who has often expressed regrett to me that you left their brigade. I hear very straight from them by a gentleman that has returned that there is a great desire pulling for commission & cousins <And> as he has had no one to say a word for him while others had so many to work for them I feel it my duty to make an effort for him and being an old officer myselfe you will allow me this privilege. I think by what my son says you will assist him at this time if in your power and as their has not bin any of the Woolwich boys that has asked or bin commissioned I think it no more than fair that if HH Shaw by examination is found to be compitent which I think & by what officers have told me that has bin their undcome luck that it is not asking too much to have him promoted to 2d Lieut which I can do if you will give him a recommendation for that office. I think you will find him a good scholar an honest steady upright man. Pleas to make a special effort for him, Gen and you shall be rewarded & drop me the answer as soon as possible and you will confer a great favour on your obt servt.

In Haste

G. W. Shaw

Woolwich Maine

To: Gen O.O. Howard

N.B. I send this in care of my son H.H. Shaw who will such conveyed to you as I do not know the number of your brigade

G.W. Shaw

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1568 1/30/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1524

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Auburn Jan. 30, 1862

My dearest Otis

I received a good long letter from you this evening. Glad you didn't make a march last week. You needn't be doing such naughty things. I was indeed happy to get a letter to-night for Guy has been having one of his "ever turns" this week and I have been a little down hearted. He has had no fever to-day and I presume it will not return again. He ate nuts one day last week, and took some cold which caused the fever to be aggravated. You know if anything is the matter with him this intermittent fever will follow. I have commenced giving him "torr elixir" It is highly recommended by friends who have tried it.

Peleg has lost his little boy—he died of Croup. Esq Perley came here evening before last. Peleg lost his health about two years ago by a fall injuring his back, at times he has not been able to be moved. He has been a great sufferer. He has been very low of lat, but was some better when John wrote about the death of the little boy. They have a babe six months old.

For three weeks we have had scarcely a pleasant day. We have a great deal of snow now, but it is good sleighing when there is much travelling. Col Gilmore was here yesterday Wednesday. Came down with his horse. He had seen no papers since Saturday. Cars could not get through. I think they went up regularly this afternoon. I will send Mother some letter to-morrow for Col. G. said they had not heard from you for some time. A letter may have been on the way.

I returned some visits Tuesday afternoon. I had a very pleasant visit at Mrs. Adams. They have four children, the youngest eleven years old.

Guy, Grace and Jamie are all sleeping sweetly now. Guy seems very well now. He has been hoarse since yesterday afternoon. I do feel very anxious when either of the children are sick. Aunt is a good nurse though. I have spent nearly all the evening reading the paper so I will have to cut short my letter, or leave it till to-morrow, but my mornings are so short I fear I would not get time to finish before mail time. We seldom breakfast before half-past eight. We are not at all military here. I will have a great many more bad habits to get over than I used to have by the time you come back to us. We had a visit from William Perry and wife and Coy one day this week. They are on their way to Indiana, near Louisville. Ky. He will join the army there as soon as he can. He spoke highly of Warren.

I would'n't try to get the 3d Maine to your Brigade, unless it was a superior regiment, and I suppose it is not. Col. Dow has a good chaplain, Rev. H. D. Morse.

Guy has commenced two letters to Susan, one at Farmington and left it, one just before he was taken sick. I suppose when I returned to West Point by this time I wrote to Mrs Blunt when I mailed your last letter. I hope she will write to me soon. Col. Gilmore and Mother think of coming down in the train to make us just a call not remaining all night, but returning in the afternoon train.

Thomas' wife has a little girl one week old. Her sister is helping at the home. Eva, Orestes and Minnie have gone to see Livia. Minnie is to tell Guy and Grace all about it to-morrow. We have Sunday School concert every month. Our class have written questions to answer in writing. One was "Why have we lots of Salvation through Christ?" Another, "What are given to Christ in the old and new testament"

What army officers are near you that I know? Army <>. Have you seen Mrs. Col. Staples yet? You will continue to write often, dearest, will you not.

Much love to Charlie. I may go to Bath while Ella is there, not sure. <[CHECK ORIGINAL - sideways writing along edge of page 1 is very faint> Mrs Sewall if I should. I don't hardly think I can get ready to go before Ellas will want to return.

I am just about beginning to sew for myself. I would like to do what I can before going to house-keeping for I have more time to sew now than I will have then. Rather lonely idea to think of going to house keeping alone, but it wont be so perhaps when I am really settled.

Yours lovingly,  
Lizzie

[Two extra sides 5 & 6 (same sheet) were attached to this letter but I don't thing they belong here. It would have followed just after the sentence "I may go to Bath not sure." above. But this seems to start at the end of a sentence, perhaps talking about Col. Gilmore.]

men were owing him. I have though I might return this Bath Bond to him as there are some things I want to get for Mother. We will help them all we can if they need it. I received your letter of the 16th the day you wrote and Charlie last 20th. You had just received my letter from Farmington.

Jamie sleeps well. I do not have to get up with him. Patting him is enough to quiet him. He nestled just now. I went to him a moment. He is now fast asleep. He has quite an idea of talking, calls mama, Guy, tea, pie, cake, book and great many questions, and signs, reaches for the little fluid lamp and blowing with his mouth as if to blow it out, but that is his name - lamp. Asked him if he wants to go to Aunt Betsy, he starts for the door bowing and saying "bye, bye". When he wakes in the night he will smack his lips once and then say "te". I comes out very pleasant, but short.

Grace wanted me to tell you that she held and took care of little David while he was here. Guy wishes he had seen the place where papa fell down cellar. I hope you will always take Charlie's good advice, when he tells you to go to bed. You don't know when you are tired and sick and I am glad he does and can watch you.

Aunt Sarah and Eva have just come to sit with me, Eva with her books, Aunt sewing. Aunt is very well but you would notice that she has changed somewhat, is suspicious of everybody asks questions with an evident motive - all comes through her earthly afflictions I presume. I am only speaking of these things to you, not that it isn't pleasant to be here. She is very much respected as far as I know in the society.

Mr Adams called here to-day. He asked about you but he has no idea how you, and the rest spend the time. What the <start> is &c. I don't think he has any more relatives in the service, or having much about the military matters. He is working very [MISSING PAGE]

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1569 2/1/1862

*From:* Rollin L Lofing

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1525

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[31]

Leeds Feb 1 1862

Mrs Howard

I received your note sometime ago wishing me to make out my bill. I have been very busy and have neglected untill the present.

I have six visits and four calls and call it 7.00 seven dollars . We are quite well and trust this will find you and family the same.

I shall ever feel grateful to you for you kindness to me

Rollin L Loring [M.D.]

I enclosed the money by return mail. Mrs. Howard

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1570 2/2/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1526

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[32]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade Feb. 2 1862

Dearest

I feel almost homesick this morning, for I have been allowing myself to think of you more than usual perhaps. I hope nothing has happened to you but that you find yourself well & happy this day. It is the Sabbath.

We have had Reveille & I have received my reports at the Guard house, returned and we have had prayers. I read the last Chapter in Leviticus & the 117th Psalm. Then Charlie led in prayer. I was thinking how much his voice sounded like uncle Ensign while he was praying. Yesterday I learned that Col Parker 64th N.Y. whom I had sent with his Regiment on picket had been negligent. So besides writing him a reprimand, Capt Sewall & I rode out to Edsell's hill. We rode with Col Heath – formerly Capt Heath of the 3d Me. who came to call as he passed along. We went down the Little River Turnpike and then turned down a new road through the woods. It was a cloudy day & for a little time, there was nothing to show where we were for a mile or two. I kept the direction & came out just where we wished, but the Captain got completely turned round, and thought we were approaching Edsel's hill from the other side. We have cleared away nearly all the woods in rear & up to where our troops are stationed, but beyond much of the country is covered with wood.

You can have no idea of the mud here. My brigade is the only one that has been able to drill for a month. I believe Genl Kearney did have one drill. The mud is sticky and in many places five & six inches deep & so soft that it will not tread.

Today is the Sabbath & I have thought I would not inspect (myself) this morning, but trust to the Colonels to keep everything in shape. On Friday I rode through the regiments, reviewed them all but the one on Picket & visited all the Camp. Our sick list is diminishing. I sent out a scouting party day before yesterday of about 25 men under Capt. Harkman who returned last night and reported 4 Regiments of the enemy encamped at Fairfax Station & located their pickets in advance and implicated a young man who lives just on the lines in going there to the enemy's lines where he has a relative. His name is Talbot. I have sent Mr Miles this morning to bring him in.

I have succeeded in the getting a chapel tent raised in the 61st near by. Friday evening I attended a prayer meeting there & tonight I hope to do so again. I have thought I would not visit the Hospitals today but I may some of them.

How I want you to write much about yourself & Grace & Guy & Jamie. I do so long to go home, but if I do I will have to let every body else go, for there are plenty of applications. I only go to Washington once a month & then do not stay all night. I have not seen the Carrolls for 3 months; dont know whether Susan is there.

Much love & many kisses to the children. May God bless you my precious wife.

Aff.  
Otis

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1571 2/3/1862

*From:* Wm. V. Tupper

*To:* Brig. Genl O. O. Howard

OOH-1527

New York

U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

New York, February 3, 1862

Dear Sir,

Permit me to introduce to your notice David Gregory Adj't 61st Rt N.Y.S.V.

Mr Gregory has been one of our near neighbors & our families have associated on terms of great intimacy.

I have always found Mr Gregory a young man of great respectability & have felt desirous that he should in some degree secure the interest of his general.

Our warmest wishes accompany you, Sir, & I trust that God will enable you to return to us unharmed & honored.

Begging you to pardon me for thus bringing before your notice a neighbor & friend.

I am truly yours,

Wm. V. Tupper

Brig. Genl O. O. Howard  
U.S.A.

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1572 2/5/1862

*From:* Jam E Belcher

*To:* Brig Genl OO Howard

OOH-1529

*Source:* Bowdoin

care Jefferson  
Insurance Co  
No 60 Wall St  
N. York

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[36]

New York Feb 5th 1862

Brig Genl OO Howard

Dear Sir:

I have received a letter from my son, Lieut Edgar Belcher of Co. E 61st Regt NY S. Vols. in which he states that charges have been preferred against him for sleeping on his post.

Will you please write me about the case and what you think of it.

My son is young and inexperienced, and joined the army only from his wish to serve his country and contrary to our wishes.

He states that the charge against him is not true, but that if Capt Jackson and some men in his interest, swear to it, he does not know what to do.

I shall take immediate steps in relation to it, and I could refer you to Col Cone in regard to my son and myself.

I can not yet make myself believe that any harm is to come to my son, and I wish to do all in my power to protect him. May I not depend, General, on you to do all that you can honorably to see justice done to him, and that when his case comes to trial he may have as able Counsel and defence as is possible.

When will the trial take place?

What preparations will be necessary on the part of the Lieutenant?

I regret to trouble you as I am aware that your time must be greatly engrossed in duties connected with your position, but I feel that you will not turn away from a Father's pleadings.

Do write me at once, and address to me as follows

Jam E Belcher  
care Jefferson Insurance Co  
No 60 Wall St  
N. York

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1573 2/5/1862

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1530

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[35]

Auburn, Feb. 5, 1862

Dearest

I have just received and read your letter written last sunday morning. I dont like to have you sad or homesick, but if you are I do wish you to say so. You must do as I do, never sit down to think. Somebody asked me the other day if I felt contented here. I had to stop a moment before I could answer her, for I came here to stay a certain length of time, and if I find everything pleasant so much the better, but if not, I can enjoy what is, and not grumble at the rest. I had never thought whether I was contented or not. I know I could under some circumstances make myself very discontented here. My paper has been lost every day this week and I have seen nothing to-day, and nothing this week but yesterdays "Boston Herald".

I am glad you enclosed the letter you did. Grace wanted me to read what Papa present was going to be. Guy, Grace and I went over to Uncle Hicks to-day, called at the P. Office on our way home just about dark. We took tea and then I came up stairs to write. When it was time I put the children to bed. I did as Jamie sleeps with Aunt Sarah every night. Some nights he does not wake at all and some times he cries. He is having some more teeth. He is just about as large now as Guy was when you went to Florida, but is much more go ahead and mischievous. He talks a great deal about "Pa-pa" because he hears it from the rest so much. I some times think he would call you "papa" if you were to come home and he should first see you in uniform by your Photo. He is always perfectly happy when I will let him have that and keeps repeating "papa, papa" and keeps walking very fast, but with such short steps that he does not get ahead any at scarcely. They are all asleep now.

Glad to hear the sick list is diminishing. I do hope you may continue to have good health. How is Charlie. I am so much obliged to him for writing me such good letters of late. I hope he will continue to find time to do so occasionally.

Where is the 3d Maine now? What is at Edsalls Hill? How far from your encampment do the (your) pickets go?

I cannot write more to-night and I hardly think I will have any time in the morning to write before its mail time. All letters go in the noon train, all that are going south. I do want you to write often. I don't look for you home on a visit now. My kindest regards to all with you and best love to yourself, from

Your Lizzie

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1574 2/6/1862

*From:* Lieut Edgerton

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-1531

H'd Qr's 1st Brigade  
Camp California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37]

[ca Feb 5, 1862 written in pencil]

Lieut Edgerton,

General

In behalf of the non-com officers of the 2nd Vermont Regt. allow me to tender to your acceptance this sword. It is but a poor token of our esteem for you as a man & an officer. You will remember, general, that we received our first lessons in the military profession under you and we are anxious to shew our appreciation of the able manner in which you dealt with us. We have had hard work to confine our list of Donors to the non-commissioned officers, for all officers & soldiers wished to bear a part & show the high esteem & affection they bear you. Take this sword & the motto engraved upon it *Palmas qui meruit ferat. Tuum est.* [ The palm belongs to him who deserves it. It is thine. ] You will not receive it for its intrinsic value, but you will value it for our sakes. Wear this belt & this sash & carry this sword, till you & this country we love are crowned with the laurels of victory.

[Written in another hand on the back of the letter]

Address of Lt. Edgerton on behalf of N.C. Officers Vt. 2d Regt Presenting sword &c to Gen. Howard Feb 6th 1862 H'd Qr's 1st Brigade Camp California

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1575 2/6/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1532

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade

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[38]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade February 6th 1862

My dearest wife

I often mean to write you; when I set apart a time, in comes a Colonel or someone who demands attention, and I have to sit & talk, but Capt Sewall & Charlie turn around immediately & go to writing. So it has been this evening; until tattoo Col Miller & Major Cramer of the 81st Penn were here, also Dr Palmer. Just before they went out, in came Lt Col. Bingham & Major Brooks of the 64th N. York. Now Lt. Ballack has come in for the evening reading and prayers. So goes the evening. I think I shall separate myself into the dining room so as to accomplish more.

I have been anxious to write you & tell you of my good piece of fortune today. You received the letter of Lt. Col Stannard Vt. 2nd & are therefore prepared beforehand. Today a committee of two Lieutenants, just promoted from Sergeants & the Commissary Sergeant came to these headquarters with a sword, a sash & a belt. The sword Capt. Sewall said one of them said, was worth 150 dollars & the sash was a very large & beautiful one, rich buff, wide with large tassels as good as McClellan's. The belt of Russian leather & embroidered. I should like to show them to you. The sword scabbard is silver mounted with a Latin inscription on one side: *Palinam qui meruit ferat. Tuum est.* Let him bear the palm who merits it. It is thine.

One of the Lieutenants presented it in behalf of the non-commissioned officers with a few remarks in perfectly good taste, full of flattering remembrances. I replied as I took these gifts in a few words & gave them a letter to carry with them to read to the non-commissioned officers. I had a good dinner prepared for their reception & with Capt Sewall accompanied them on their way back for two or three miles to show them a shorter way home. They are in Genl Brooks Brigade, Smith's division. They say they have never ceased to be sorry they left me. And indeed this Vt. 2nd & the R.I. 4th were splendid regiments of men.

I am anxious to hear from you again to hear if Guy got through his indigestion without any more fever.

Yesterday evening I took Mr Miles & visited the 3d Maine, called on Capt Watson, found three ladies, his wife, Mrs Dr Hildreth & Miss Smith, Mrs Sampsons sister quietly esconced in the buck. tent or <house>, with everything in tip-top-lady like order. Went next to Col Staples log house found him & Mrs Staples enjoying domestic comfort. Went to Lt. Col Sampson's – found Mrs Sampson.

We called first at the Hospital., saw one of Charlie's friends very sick, a Mr Morrill of Vassalboro, with dyptheria. I talked with him I fear he felt unprepared to die. Today he is dead. I talked with him quietly & tried to direct his thoughts to God, but he said he had been talked to, much by his parents, & to the end he declared he was unprepared. Oh, he was gloomy. He said he believed he would try to pray, but I feared he would'nt & could'nt. It is terrible to be cut off so.

I dined at Genl Sedgwick's head quarters with Dr. McCruer, Capt Owen, Capt Smith & Capt Sedgwick, their Genl having been gone two weeks in Washington on a Court Martial & still absent.

After dinner at ½ past 5 or 6 P.M. we went to Mr Fowle's nearby the 3d Maine Regt. & called upon Miss McCruer. Here I found a little boy Bernard Fowle, called Birdie, with rosy cheeks & bright eyes – just the age of Guy. He is the one I drew in the donkey cart. I had a good kiss from him before I came away. He looked so much like my little boy Guy. Tell Gracie that there was a little girl there, but she was larger than the boy, & a little colored girl came to the door.

Today after we left the non-commissioned officer & officers of the Vt. 2nd we went & called upon Mr Adams the

clergyman of the Maine 5th. Col Jackson, Lt. Col Heath & Major Scammon being absent. We had an interesting call & talk with Mr Adams. What a good, good man he is. I wish there were more chaplains like him. I think he knows your Mr Adams. He is brother to Dr Adams of New York City.

Kiss the little ones. Ask Jamie if he would know papa. Chas. sends love.

Affectionately your husband  
Otis

Capt S. would be offended if you did not go to see Mrs Sewall if you should go to Bath. Of course you would go to see her.

I have'nt drawn <my> pay yet.

Has mother come to see you yet?

Love to Aunt, to Eva, Minnie and Orestes.

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1576 2/7/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1515

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Camp California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[485]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Camp California  
[written in pencil ca January 20 1862?] [See Note]

Dearest Lizzie

I got a good long letter from you last night but it was replete with sad tidings. Perley disabled; His little boy dead & Guy sick with his <turns> that he almost always has after eating nuts.

I was intending to write you last night, but I had to make preparation to send out a scout and moreover had news (a rumor) that the enemy 500 strong were advancing on our left. I ordered one of my Regiments to prepare two days rations & put itself in order for a moment's call. The scout is a party consisting of 30 horse & 40 infantry under the command of Lieut. Miles Aid de Camp.

He was to leave at three, but the Cavalry to come from Alexandria did not come till four this morning. The infantry I sent on at 2 A.M. to wait at the outpost at Annandale till Mr Miles with the Cavalry should overtake them. I feel badly that the Cavalry Captain's neglect should have hindered Mr Miles so much & shall be a little anxious till he comes back. He is to go within two or 3 miles of the enemies lines, apprehend a spy & bring him in. We have caught one & stepped up our channel of information and are on the scent of two or three more. I made Mr Miles a map of the country over which he is to go. That is, put in "the <Rivers>", the rail roads, the roads & the positions of sundry houses, and also put down the places where he should have Alarm Sentinels & where a fence & gave him the detail of his march.

This morning we were waked at one and did not get any sleep till nearly five. John went as guide. He was out with me when I reconnoitered to the front. The rumor about the 500 strong proved to be untrue. This being ready for action night and day might seem pretty exciting, but it has long ago ceased to be so to me. When I held the front for two or three months after "Bull run" with a broken, demoralized, unclothed & poorly fed Brigade, I had to send out at all times of night & to sleep as it were with one eye open.

My mind & my heart keep recurring to you & to Dear little Guy just now. I do not think it well to go to Farmington with the children while sickness prevails - certainly not so early as March unless there is a decided change for the better. Charlie seems quite well, writes seldom for the Boston Journal.

I saw my name in the Herald yesterday as one who had expelled a sutter for selling liquor to the men. I told him to be off & he promised to go but did not; so I had him, his board house & all his goods put beyond the limits of the Brigade. No noise was made about it. He sent wagons & took everything away.

I have a picture for Guy & a hasty one for Grace. Papa cut out some pictures yesterday from a Book which he will send with his letters now & then. I wish Guy had been able to write to poor Susan. I think Susan is really in love with Guy. She can hardly think of the rest of us, when I have seen her.

I shall go to Washington soon. I expect to have to refund Charlie's pay this time for it was by my my order that he drew it. The Governor or rather the New York War department have as good as promised that he shall have a commission. I wanted it to get here before I went to Washington.

We have quite a snow now. The ground is as white as it is with you and now the sun has come out bright. Capt Sewall has just got ready to go to Washington so as to send home some of those bills that our people are so unpatriotic as to discount. They talk hard of cutting down our pay. They should do whatever the necessities of the country demand. I do not shrink from sacrifice, or anything that will help us out of the woeful plight our Country is in.

Give much love to Aunt Sarah & tell her she must keep her Armor bright - must not let the very trials & sorrows

that are sent to fit her for a high place in the better land, be to her a stumbling block. I hope she thinks much of the mercy of God. Kiss Gracie & Jamie & Guy & don't forget Minnie & Eva. Mother makes you a short visit. You are having good S.S. privileges & I hope the church privileges you enjoy. May God bless you & keep you.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

[The final page is a hand-drawn picture "For Guy" entitled "Scene at Reveille" with a subtitle of "a Guard House in front of Papa's brigade".]

[Note. The reference to Perley's disability and the death of his son were in Lizzie's letter to Otis dated Jan 30, 1862. Assuming that a letter takes 7 days in transit from Auburn, Me to Washington DC, that would place this letter about Feb 7, 1862.]

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1577 2/10/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1533

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Feb 10 1862

Dearest Lizzie

I wish to write you a few lines & tell you that I was made quite happy be getting your & Gracie's picture. Yours is very good & Gracie is a pretty little girl, but her hair is dark & I am afraid I shall not know her. She is growing to be such a great girl. Little Guy & Jamie did not appear. You combed your hair down pretty close, which makes you look a little odd. I cannot thank you too much. I am getting rich in presents.

You did'nt say whether Guy had gotten well, but I presume he had for you said they were all asleep & stopped there. I am glad to find you so philosophical – that you do not stop to be discontented. I generally have so much to occupy me that I do not get very restless.

This morning I told the Colonels at Reveille that I would have a short march with the entire Brigade in Knapsacks. This will occupy us till eleven A.M. Then we have the meeting of the examining board in this tent. One of our Colonels, Colonel Cone, was complained of, by his officers for inefficiency and I have had him brought before the Board. We examined him all one day & are to give him another trial today.

You asked where is Edsall's Hill. I think I will make you a map soon. This hill is on the right hand of the rail road as you go out from Alexandria towards Manassas 7 miles out, three miles from here. The enemy occupied it just after I left Mrs. Scotts. There our division sends a regiment without tents for four days. We have 11 Regiments to do picket duty.

Charlie is well. So is Capt Sewall. When you going to Bath? Capt S says Go directly to my house. Mrs S does not set upon points of etiquette & wants to see you.

Many kisses to the children. When shall I get Guys & Jamie's <picture>.

Most affectionately Yr husband  
Otis

My love to Aunt, Minnie, Eva & Orestes, Aunt Betsy, Uncle Adams & wife, Uncle Hicks & family.

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1578 2/10/1862    *From:* Maria [(Otis)  
Merrick]

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1534

West Phil.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[40]

West Phil. Monday Feb 10 [1862]

Dear Lizzie

I intended to have written you a note before this time telling you of the Mordecais – Maj. and his wife were here not very long ago. The young ladies have about ten scholars in their school. I am going to see them again very soon. I saw Mrs. Greble a week or two ago. She requested very affectionately after you and Otis, said she had thought of writing you. She has no nurse and is of course very busy as she teaches our boy, her <[torn page]> sisters, She seems to be anxious to be busy as she says that is the best comfort in trouble. It seems to be a great pleasure to her to think Otis is godfather to her little Clara. Mr French was here for a few days not long ago Mrs Greble says he is very much wearied out as he has had no assistance at all in teaching and he misses Otis very much in his other duties.

The Mordecai's have taken a very nice house indeed and I suppose their son helps them as much as possible. The son was very devoted to Otis and did not want to leave him his mother says.

My children are all very well. Sam goes to school for the first time today. I suppose Guy goes.

Write me when you can. Miss Berard is teaching Mary French this winter and another young lady. She was here for a week or two this winter. Her history is very highly spoken of. Give my love to Rowland and Ella. Good bye

Affly your cousin  
Maria [(Otis) Merrick]

Private

P.S. How does Sarah [(Lee) Sargent] get along, has she means enough to make her comfortable. I wish you would write me about her as I have no way of knowing.

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1579 2/10/1862     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest Otis ][OO  
Howard\

OOH-1537

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[41]

Auburn Feb 10, 1862

Dearest Otis

I have received two long letters since I wrote you. I am more than pleased when you write me often. I tried to have our Photographs taken last week but failed. We intend to go again soon when it is a pleasant sunshiny day.

Grace and Jamie are recovering from chicken pox. I suppose that was what ailed Guy about two weeks since. He most likely took it of someone and gave it to the others.

I had a treat last evening. I heard Dr. <Nollam> (T. Titcomb) lecture "Working and Shirking" the subject. It was capital as Blanche used to say. I wish you could hear it or see it reported.

I have spent nearly all the evening reading the Boston Journal of to-day. It contains "Carlitan's" account of the Capture of Fort Henry" but you of course see it. What a good reply Com. Foote made to the one who "feared he was nervous and did not sleep well." It also contains a short letter from Col. Cross "to the patriotic people of N. Hamshire.

I heard read an extract from a private letter written by a lady in N. Hamshire declining an invitation to spend Thanksgiving with a friend for she had so much work on her hands in work for the soldiers, that she would feel condemned to be seeking a more personal pleasure at such a time as this when so much could be done by the ladies. This is't all because I have forgotten, neither is it as beautifully expressed. I cried when I heard it read, from joy and sympathy, and wished this feeling was more universal.

Evening 13th. Jamie is so restless lately I do not get much time to write. He has been asleep once before this evening, but waked and I kept him a while. Now he is asleep. Thomas (and his dog <Liam>) was down here today to see us. Guy was glad to see the dog. He is much interested in "Castor" wonders if Papa will bring him home, thinks he might send him home by express or some way, but I had as lief you would keep him. I have babies enough (Bunnie included) to take care of at present.

The pictures you cut from books or papers are not as welcome as "papa's written pictures". Guy is writing to Susan. I shall try to have him finish it to-morrow. We often speak of what Susan used to do and say. Col. Gilmore has stopped the "Portland Advertiser" and now takes the "Boston Journal". He said "<wherefore> the politics had changed somewhat (by change of Editors) and he was not going to take a Democratic paper, nor one that advocated such principles". I have not yet had a visit from Mother. I wrote to her day before yesterday a short note and enclosed Lt. Col. Howard letter. I read of the presentation in to-days B. Journal.

The children are quite well but will not go out for a day or two. Grace said last evening before she went to sleep that I must send a kiss to papa for her, and for Guy, Jamie, and Minnie, which they all endorsed.

I hope they will cut down the pay of the Army and keep as much in the treasury as they can. There does'nt seem to be much just now, but I don't think Government will have to fail.

You visited quite a number of Ladies the other day I should think, but I think I am as well off as any of those you saw. I have not been to Bath. I hardly think I shall at present. I should go to see Mrs Sewall if I visit no one else. Ella will be coming home soon I presume. I have not heard from her since she went there.

I will send this without writing more, but I would like to say a great deal more. I think I will begin to believe the War is almost ended. I am in no need of money. I have the Gold Mrs Woodman received from her husband for you, and I deposited over two hundred dollars in Auburn bank lately. I have none by me now, and shall take out

twenty five to-morrow.

Much love to Charlie. If you were not together I should feel that I must write him also. As it is he gets neglected, but I love him just as much and think of him as often.

Yours ever,  
Lizzie

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1580 2/11/1862     *From:* Alfred Mordecai

*To:* My dear Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1535

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[43]

West Point N.Y.  
February 11th 1862

My dear Friend

Your note of the 8th was received by me this morning and I will not allow a day to pass without writing to you.

Your letter of October last containing the money was duly received and if I had done as I intended I should have answered it without delay, but I put it off so much that I at last imagined it was not necessary and satisfied my conscience when writing one day to Linith – your old Commissary by telling him that I had received your letter.

I have never even congratulated you on your promotion which allow me to do now. I know you do not care for the rank, but since you have determined to serve in the war it is pleasanter to be a Brig Genl than a Col. I have heard of you several times since I left Alexandria, from Sureth & also from Buel and I frequently speak of you to your friends on the point all of whom will be glad to hear something of you. I have often concluded how your wife was for when I saw her here she looked overworked & anxious though she declared she was perfectly well.

All here are as usual only more quiet than formerly, not the place it used to be in that respect. Mr. and Mrs. Church have been very well all winter. Capt Blunt not yet returned from Pickens but expected every steamer. French family all the same. Wheeler, Mendell, Craighill & Benet & families all well and the same as when you were here. Berards also well as is Col Bowman & family: amongst the single officers there has been changes. The maj the same as ever has been sick twice during the winter but is now well. I live in his addition where Symonds & Carling lived at different times. The Comdt is Garrard a Capt in 5th Cav a very fine man & an excellent Comdt much liked by the cadets. The Tactical officers all changed, are now Whistler & Hopkins of 3d Inf. Phillips of 1st & Adams, of my class of <61>. All very good but the latter who is too young. Piper of 3d Art is the Maj's Assistant in Chemistry a very nice man too; he & Garrard I suppose were 1st Classmen when you were a Plebe. Prof Church has Wheeler, Elderkin, who has just come & myself, has also 4 Cadet Assistants for the 4th class is very large, forms more than half the Corps. Boynton who used to be here in Chemistry is Adjutant & Quartermaster. Prof French has only Hopkins in his Dept. also two Cadets one of whom is Mr Smith; the latter named has I think greatly improved seems more of a man; stands very well indeed in his studies will I believe graduate in the fives. The Sunday school under the hill has been merged into the one at the Chapel & I think Mr Smith is one of its Pillars; he gives very general satisfaction to the Officers. Dr McDougall has been ordered off does not yet know where he is to be stationed. His daughters I suppose you know are married, the eldest to Buel the other to Babbitt they are both in the Ordnance now, Buel at Watervliet, Babbitt at Pittsburgh. I also am in that Corps, having been transferred, lost rank by it as I was a 1st Lt in Topogs & am 2nd now.

I know you were disappointed in me & I do not blame you for I was so myself. I did not intend that you should be but after Bull Run, I became very much disgusted with things generally & Volunteers in particular & I did not know enough to get over it; think I should do better now. I meddled in things that I had no business with & I know you saw it and I fear I have at times made myself very disagreeable to you & even hurt your feeling I now regret it very much. I never wished to come here and was sorry to leave the field but now that I am settled I find it pleasant enough; shall leave certainly in June.

I was in Philadelphia at Christmas a couple of days found them all well; my Father in fair spirits but well, has nothing to do which is a great worry to him & his family; my two oldest Sisters <> as well as they could wish with their school & seem perfectly contented. The only source of worry is that Father can find nothing that he will do or rather thinks he ought to do whilst remaining perfectly neutral.

I heard of your brother once I think through Mrs Greble whom I saw in Phila & who told me that she had seen

him. Please give my kind regards to him & also Mrs Sampson when you see her. I believe you are in Sumner's Division. If so you must be about where we used to be on the Little River Turnpike. I should like very much to go through our Camps once before you all move, but I suppose I shall not have the chance as by next June they will not be where they are now.

I have written more than I intended but I hope some of it will interest you. If so I shall be very glad. I enclose \$2 which is coming to you & which will make us, I believe, perfectly square. If you should hear of any one whom I owe anything just ask him to let me know. I left so hurriedly that I did not settle my accounts

Remember me most kindly to your wife when you write. Hoping always to hear of your good health & success in what ever you undertake. Believe me most kindly

Yours,  
Alfred Mordecai [USMA Class of 1861]

Maj Kendrick begs to be most kindly remembered.

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1581 2/11/1862

*From:* John J. Foote

*To:* Gen. O. O. Howard

OOH-1536

*Source:* Bowdoin

UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA  
CAPITOL OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
Washington City

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[42]

[Letterhead]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington City Febr 11 1862

Private

Gen. O. O. Howard  
Dr Sir

You kindly allowed me an interview with you in relation to the complaint made by officers in the 61st Reg. against Col Cone. Therefore I feel almost forbidden to trespass again upon your time, but my own anxiety, and the anxiety of others who with me have been instrumental in organizing the Companies of Captains Broady, Brooks & Deming press me, to again call the matter up for consideration. I am satisfied that the Reg. can never be efficient under Col Cones Command. There is such a want of affinity between him and his subordinate officers, that they cannot in the nature of things do as they would under a person in whom they had confidence. They think he lacks executive ability.

This is no new thing. The friends of these companies consented to their joining the Regiment under the impression that Col Cone not only had received a military education & every way competent, but that his Reg. together with the 3 companies of the Captains mentioned would make the Regiment complete. I do not know that Col. Cone represented that he had received a military education, but it was so said & believed, & also said he was fully competent to discharge the duties of Colonel. It was represented to a young man whom I sent to New York to make enquiries that 400 or 500 men were at that time enlisted for the Reg. when in fact there were only about 50. These companies at this time could have gone into the Ellsworth Reg. then being organized in Albany – that is a large portion of them, but such were the representations that they chose the 61st Reg. They have from the first almost, to this time, been sadly disappointed. They soon saw that Col. Cone not only lacked executive ability but lacked those elements of character necessary in order to obtain & hold the confidence of men of their intelligence & high moral character.

You have in that Reg. a large number of young men of superior intelligence & of high moral & Religious Character, and they are men too, who are brave – ardent in their attachment for free institutions, and if led to the battlefield by a Colonel in whom they have Confidence they will be an honor to your brigade & to your Division. Give them a Colonel in whose ability they have Confidence & battle they will display a valor & a bravery of which you will not be ashamed. I am satisfied from observations I made that they are governed by no improper motives. I know they are patriotic. They may be ambitious, but it is an ambition to serve their country. They risk their lives for their country, willingly, but don't want to risk their lives under circumstances where there will be no probable gain to their country. Had they not been influenced by patriotism they would never have enlisted. Feeling as they do, I think that unless there can be some change, they would all instantly resign their command were it not for the obligations they feel they are under to those who have chosen them to their respective commands. There is no obstacle so great to a soldier who desires to do his duty as a want of confidence in a superior officer – an officer who has the control of their action in a time of the greatest moment.

They have perfect confidence in you. This feeling I think is universal with their men, but none whatever in Col Cone. Now it may be said that Col. Cone passes a good examination, but is that enough. Ought not a Col. to

be able to obtain the confidence of his men. He might get along perhaps if he was simply unpopular if they only had confidence in his ability. Often military men are somewhat unpopular, when there exists a confidence in their ability; but unhappily Col Cone is not only unpopular with his subordinate officers, but they have no confidence in his ability.

During our conversation, you intimated that perhaps you could appoint Col Cone to some other office, Brigade Inspector I think you mentioned. Now, wont, you do so. For the sake of these men I hope you will if you can possibly make it consistent to do so. I can readily see why Col. Cone will dislike to broke of his command, but I have no doubt he would willingly accept of another post. I think under the circumstances, he (unless he can have some other place) ought to resign & that, without delay. I make no charges against Col. Cone personally. The misrepresentation is mentioned in regard to his qualifications & number of his Regiment to which I have alluded. I do not know as having been made by him, and I have only mentioned them to show the influences which induced their joining his Reg. & their consequent disappointment on finding they had by some person been imposed upon.

In Madison, Chenango and Onondaga Counties there is much feeling in behalf of the young men who have gone from those counties, and in behalf of the friends of the young men in those counties, & especially in behalf of the officers referred to & their friends, allow me to entreat you, to relieve them if you can possibly in any honorable way do so, any way consistent with your duty as the General of the Brigade. Of course, I do not ask you to do any thing improper to be done, & I know your high sense of honor & propriety would prevent, if I or any other person or persons were to ask it. But I am confident that if another place can be given to Col. Cone, or if there is no such place for him, if he in view of all the circumstances can be persuaded to resign, it will add much to the efficiency of the 61st Reg. & will be very gratifying to a large number of the friends of many of the Regiment.

I have written you quite freely, having been assured by you that there would be no impropriety in my exposing to you fully my views & feelings. You enquired of me whether more volunteers could be obtained for the Reg. I told you that under present circumstances there could not, but I think if there is a change in the Colonelcy – that with the present indication of a more determined course on the part of the Administration in regard to the war as is now indicated, that after one or two more victories we shall be able to send forward more recruits. We cannot certainly in any event unless there is a change of commander of the Reg. If a change is made we will make an effort to send forward recruits. I hope for the good of the Reg. & for the good of the young men who are dissatisfied & for the sake of their friends & of the cause we all have at heart a change will be made.

Most Respectfully your Obdt. Servt  
John J. Foote

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1582 2/13/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1538

Head Quarters Camp  
California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[45]

Head Quarters Camp California  
Feb 13 1862

Dearest Lizzie

I found a little gilt locket at the <> of the 64th N.Y & got him to fit you & Grace into it. Now I have you two suspended at my watch chain, not gaudily for you know I have my coat buttoned most of the time in military style. Charlie thinks you look a little too serious. Is Gracie getting rosy & fat cheeks again?

What good news we are having from Burnside & what useful from Kentucky. Yesterday after the days duties Capt Sewall & I accepted an invitation to take a cup of tea at the 3d Maine. We took a straight road through mud & slope & brook and found ourselves face to face with Perry. He was just getting ready to go to the new Theatre – the Minstrells from New York & the Misses Hudson, but I declined going – dont think much of theatre any way & far less of theatres in the field in front of an enemy.

We found Mrs Sampson, her sister Miss Smith & Col Sampson just ready to sit down to tea. We had a pleasant chat. Mrs Sampson said when I come over there she sometimes wished it was you I was going to see instead of herself for my sake & yours – didnt say whether she wished she was my wife. It seemed so didnt it?

I called into Mr Richards this evening the man whose place we are in. She insisted on telling me that Mr Richards said he would die for me, & he would tell that Mr. R said that if he should die & Mrs Howard should, she should set her cap for me. Mrs Richards is a very pretty & ladylike secession woman. Her brother George is in the Rebel Army. This is the second time I have been in the house.

I had'nt finished with the 3d Maine. I called upon the chubby & happy Mrs Staples in their cozy little cabin. There are 8 ladies now in the 3d Me. They dont feel like moving forward you know. It is all very pleasant – pleasant to go there to visit, but I would'nt like to bring you to Camp to stay. Mrs McCruer was at the Misses Frobels, so I called there & found the Dr & Mrs McC, also Mrs Beaumont. So you perceive I have been considerably in lady's society lately.

Capt Sewall accompanied me last night & tonight. Mrs Scott invited me to take Charlie & dine with her Sunday. I expect I told you of that visit in my last letter. I feel very great longing to go home now & then. Success flows in upon us & perhaps we soon can meet.

Kiss the darling fairies for papa. John Hillhouse writes about them by name and speaks of the tall lady with red hair. Sends kind regards. Good night & God bless thee, my precious wife.

Otis

[Written at the top, very faint and poorly written, but in Otis' hand]  
Save to Chest in General & family & to my friends

Has Mother been down. Charlie is writing to her. He says having no wife to write to has <> proposes to go to bed.

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1583 2/13/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1539

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[44]

Bath Feb. 13 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

Ella will return to Farmington with me today. She could not get any hat to suit you for Grace here. She is sorry that she could not have attended to it before.

I hope you will write how you all are. I sent the Eclectics & Childe Papers to Littlefield by Mr Goff. Mrs Patten sends her kindest regards & will be very happy to see you at any time you may come.

Mrs Sewall, on whom Ella & I called would like very much to become acquainted with you. She is an excellent Christian woman and is mainly engaged in the labors of the Revival.

Our meetings have been very large & interesting. It was a week Tuesday since I came down and it has been one of the happiest weeks in my life. Hattie hopes she has found Jesus & we are all hoping that Ellas father is coming, if we can only hold on in prayer. Do help us.

I stopped at Leeds one night as I came down. All well there. Tho's baby a week old, & Abby improving.

With a great deal of love for the children & kindest remembrance to yr. Aunt & family.

Yr aff. Bro  
Rowland

P.S. Tell Guy quite a no. of little children, no older than he, have become Christians we hope.

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1584 2/14/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1540

Head Quarters Camp  
California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[46]

Head Quarters Camp California  
Feb 14 1862

My dearest wife

I believe it is seven years ago tonight when that bonfire of houses took place in Portland & I worked at the engine breaks. Seven a week of years, since we were linked for weal or for woe. I wish I could kiss your forehead tonight & talk about the past, the present & the future. I have your picture with our darling little daughter's next my heart but it cannot smile nor talk, nor cry. How little we know of the future. When we were married, there was home, & mother – others were there & are not now. First Watervliet, the big stone house, the east window, the broken & sliding hill, the homesick little wife, the hopeless face, then the tour. Next Mrs Symington, the poor Majors prominent feature, her good size & strong ways, his goodness of heart – (Mrs Boggs, Miss Mary) Boggs & Shunk, Mrs Thornton with a husband away, waiting & waiting. He did come home.

Kennebec Arsenal. The good people Charlie & Mrs Mulliken. Mrs Williams & Susie Brooks. The happy Dr Briggs, the baby, Guy. How proud & happy we sometimes were. Mrs Clark gone - the discouraged. Back to Troy, leaving our friends & Capt. & Mrs Gorgas, Mulach, The pony, the sleigh, Thomas with his broad laugh, Ellen McCarty & Ella McNierty or McNierny. Jno. Hillhouse & Mrs H. Rowland, Albany, Mr & Mrs Dunlop (did I ever write you that Mr Dunlop had chanced to pay me a visit?) Now came the Orders, the parting, the first family prayer there. A long seven months, Maine again, Little Grace is given, Mother is taken. Home again, a new man, with new hopes, clearer head & clearer heart. You a Christian, Now West Point, with all its friends & associations & its several homes, from the packed room at Roe's to the little kennel at the North gate, thence to the cottage on the rock. Then the Carrols, then the good home, then the war & the runaway.

The wedding at Portland Feb. 1855, First Anniversary at Augusta Feb. 1856, Second Anniversary Florida Feb. 1857, third West Point Feb. 1858, fourth West Point Feb. 1859, Fifth West Point Feb 1860. Sixth West Point Feby 1861. Seventh Camp California near Alexandria Virginia Feb. 1862. We will not skip Dec 1st 1860 nor forget Jamie. Your places are respectively Portland, Augusta, Leeds, West Point & Auburn. How much it would take to fill up all the intervals with events, there is enough to link us closer & closer for time & for Eternity.

I am quite well, drilled the entire Brigade this afternoon. The mud is drying up a little. We have good news from Roanoke Island. We lost but 32 in the action. You know I sent the 4th Rhode Island & I am anxious to hear that they are safe.

Charlie & Capt Sewall are in the other tent. Kiss the children but dont wake them & go to bed. God hasten the time when I may join thee my darling little wife & make amends for the long hours. That is right fill up the time. A mother has much to do & so does he who is trusted with the lives of three thousand men. Pray for me.

Affectionately,  
Otis

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1585 2/19/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1541a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp California

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[48]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Camp California Feb 19 1862

Dearest,

I went to Washington Monday taking Charlie & McDonald the Hostler along with me. The latter is a member of the 4th R.I. Regt detached. He wanted to go in order to draw his pay by my assistance. We waded through the mud, via the long bridge, taking as straight a course as possible from my camp to that point. I went Monday to help Col Burt of 3d Maine get an appointment in the regular Army which he desired very much. I got my whiskers <covered> with ice. The first person I met in front of Willards was Major Prince the paymaster whom Gov. Washburn recommended for Brig. Genl. He invited & even directed me to his room to fix up, get dry &c, while Charlie & McDonald went to the P.O. & put up the horses.

After this Major Burt & myself meeting at Willards proceeded to the room of the Secretary of War, or rather that of his chief clerk. Here we found a crowd of people in waiting. At first we could not get near the Hon. Secretary, but soon the smoke took a fortunate turn & came down chimney. The Secretary changed his position to the hall & in following him we were thrown by the wave close by. I extended my papers made my request, introduced Maj Burt, got the homogeneous & polite refusal & a "thank you for coming"; and then retired – went back to Willards thence to the paymaster's, drew my pay for January and now enclose to you, one hundred dollars (\$100.00). I would send you more but you just said you had enough. I went there with Chas & McDonald & settled his pay matters.

Now Charlie & I paid a visit to Mr Carrolls. We met Miss Garry, Miss Glida, & Mrs Mercer at first. Mrs C. was lying down with sick head aches. She sent her love & request for us to dine & then come & stay all night. We went down Pennsylvania Avenue. I bought a new coat, overcoat, with semi-cape without sleeves. I think you would call it a Talma. I got also a military book, Jomini [The Art of War] translated by Lt Craighill & Mendell at West Point.

By the way I had a long letter from Mordecai at West Point. He inquired very kindly after you & the children.

We went back to Mrs Carrolls, met Dr Mercer & Mrs Carroll, saw Susan, who seemed delighted to meet us. Mrs C was better & in the evening we went & called on Pitt Fessenden & then returned to Judge Carrolls & spent a delightful evening. Mrs Griffin was quite unwell, with neuralgia. Griffin was in when I first got there. Mrs & Judge C wanted to be remembered to you. Sprigg is doing himself honor with McClellan. The next day we saw Mrs Farwell & her little girl. Then went to meet her husband. He said his tenant will not leave till the 29 of March.

Much love & many kisses to yourself & the little ones. When I can I shall make some more "written pictures". God bless thee.

Otis

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1586 2/20/1862

*From:* Thomas Francis  
Meagher  
Brig. General

*To:* Brigadier General  
Howard

OOH-1542

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Irish Brigade Sumner's  
Division

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[50]

Head Quarters  
Irish Brigade Sumner's Division  
Feby 20/62

General,

I accept with pleasure your very kind invitation and will do myself the honor to see you at the hour named in your note.

Very Respectfully  
Thomas Francis Meagher  
Brig. General

To  
Brigadier General Howard

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1587 2/22/1862 *From:* Uncle E. Waite

*To:* Mrs Elizabeth A. Howard

OOH-1543

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[51]

Portland Feby 22 1862

Mrs Elizabeth A. Howard

Dear Niece

This to inform you that I have collected the Interest on Coupons of your Treasury Notes amounting to \$14.60 the interest on the notes when purchased.

I paid leaving balance due me at the time 96 cents leaving now due to you \$13.64 which I would enclose if I was sure of your present place of residence. Please write me where I shall send.

Hoping this will find you and Children all well.

I remain Your Affectionate  
Uncle  
E. Waite

P.S. We are all well and all join in love to you and all yours.

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1588 2/22/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1544

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Feb. 22 1862

My dearest Lizzie

The 22nd of Feb is just past. Though invited by a resolution of Congress to be present at the Capital at the presentation of the Secession flags & other trophies to Congress I concluded when apprized of certain rumors of attack not to leave my Brigade. I have not granted a pass today. At ten A.M. I formed my Brigade in four columns in mass [small diagram showing the formation] and first had a piece by our Band, then a prayer by Mr. Hilberd Chaplain of the 64th. A second piece of music by another Band. After this I stood on the box and read Washington's farewell address to the Brigade. When about half through the New Hampshire battery, having come to pay Col Cross a visit, arrived & formed in the open space behind me. I closed the men up as compactly as possibly & think I made all attentive people hear. After this I spoke to them a few minutes. Then we had Washington's grand march played by the third Band. We then united in singing "America". After this was over, I formed the columns [diagram showing the formation] then [diagram showing a new formation]. Now the New Hampshire battery fired a salute of 34 guns, and the regiments were dismissed. In the afternoon we had a drill. Col Cross using his regiment to support the battery, i.e. drawing up his regiment in line in rear of the battery while it was firing and moving out to the front of it as soon as it ceased to fire, & opening himself with muskets.

I expect Guy would have been considerably excited over the events of today had he been here.

You will have read of the death of Willie Lincoln before this reaches you & perhaps think how the Lord tempers prosperity with sorrow. I hope He in infinite wisdom may make President Lincoln a Christian like George Washington. My trust is not in princes but in God; but no auspices are more satisfactory & promising than the work of the Lord in raising up men after his own heart to hold the rule.

The inauguration of Jefferson Davis, encroaching upon the anniversary of Washington's birthday is not by any means in joy or hope. Washington City & Richmond are shadowed in sorrow and I am hoping that good will come to us from both events. How calm, how firm, how constant a man can be if he has a real trust in his Divine Master. He knows, he feels, that events are in Good Hands & that all will be well - "Jehovah Jireh".

I have packed up my trunk with my white shirts, spare coats, spare books &c. &c. & sent it to Washington. My horse can carry all my baggage now except my tent, bedstead & mattress. We may not move, but it is my impression we shall before long.

A paper or letter sent me some months or more ago to the Washington P.O. asking me to give a sketch of my life came to hand when I was over in Washington last. Charles has concluded to answer it. So he is writing about me tonight. The editor or publisher wants to make a book of record of all the "Union Generals" engaged in this contest. I have expressly forbidden Charles to praise me in any of his Boston Correspondence & not to mention me only when he cannot help it. In this letter I do not wish him to appear & hardly know what to think of the propriety of his sketch. I am inclined to think it may tend to do good to the cause of Christ by making it prominent that I lean upon the Arms of the Lord, & it may tend to increase my usefulness or be a pleasant legacy to my children in case of disaster.

How is little Grace tonight. Papa has got her with mamma (in miniature) close to his heart. Papa has a sorrowful truth to tell Guy. Some wicked man has stolen "Castor" & papa cannot find him. Susan hung upon every word I spoke about you all. She is quite pale & very, very thin. How is Jamie now. How the chicken pox.

Good night my dearest wife. The beginning of the end is drawing near. Love to Aunt & family Most lovingly to yourself & the children,

Your husband  
Otis

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1589 2/23/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1546

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[53]

Auburn Feb 23, 1862

My dearest Otis

I have just returned from Sunday School concert. Took Guy with me and left Grace home to sit up till I should return. I put them both to bed after she told me about the story Aunt Sarah read to her. As it is but little past eight o'clock I will write a short letter to mail to-morrow. I fear I did not write you at all last week. I hope you have not been anxious about us. We are all quite well. I must have spent more time reading the papers and <bible> than usual. We thought my picture hardly worth sending, but for fear I could not get another for some time I concluded best to send it.

Our pleasant days are very few. I have to improve every pleasant day to pay visits, or they accumulate too fast. I wish to get over my bad habit with regard to visiting. I want to seem to have more energy. Mrs Stinson has just returned from Augusta, where she has been to say good-by to her husband [David Stinson]. He is Quarter Master in Col. Dow's Regiment. I am glad you have such good (?) secession friends as Mr and Mrs Richards. What is in locket No. 2? You said there were eight ladies in the 3d Maine. Is it they who do not feel like moving forward, or the Reg't? Glad Mr Dunlop has been to see you. I also looked for the welfare of the 4th Rhode Island. They are under another Ordnance Officer Gen. Reno.

Do you have much time for general reading. Would you like any books sent you. I have been reading "Lessons in Life", Timothy <Strand>. I would like you to read the book.

Aunt Betsey and Uncle Alden took tea with us to-night. She says Jamie will know his father, he hears so much about pa-pa and is familiar with his pictures that she dont see why he wont. I think a great deal of her opinion on any subject, and hope this will prove correct.

Give much love to Charlie. Grace is writing to pa-pa but I dont know as she will finish in time to send it in this. I mean she has a letter commenced, and I will try to have her finish it in the morning.

Good night now, dearest. I hope the war will be ended soon. It looks more like it now I think.

Ever your own true wife,  
Lizzie

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1590 2/23/1862    *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Charles H Howard

OOH-1547

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[54]

Leeds Feb 23, 1862

My dear Son Charles

Last evening we were made glad by the arrival of a letter from you of the 16, although a week old, owing to the snow storms. We have not had our mails regular for several days. I have written quite a number of letters to you this winter – two weeks ago this evening I wrote you. You have not mentioned any of my letters in yours. Perhaps they miscarry. You cannot write anything to your mother that is not interesting. Even the names of those with whom you associate are pleasant to me because they are your companions from day to day in your duties. I have sometimes thought of writing to Otis, and then I would think Lizzie writes to him and I will write to Charles and write Otis another time. But when you write you never have mentioned my letters, but I gathered from something Otis said in his letter to me that one of my letters had reached you.

I think a great deal about you this winter and hope you do not dispond. We have some reason to believe, that this terrible rebellion is on the wane, and our sons will soon return to their homes, those of them who do not fall a sacrifice to this great calamity. I am greatly obliged to you for describing your surroundings. Perhaps ere this you are on the march towards the enemy. I hope you feel safe to trust our Lord and Saviour with your Soul. Death is sure to us sooner or later.

We have had a sermon on that subject today from Mr Chapin on the funeral occasion of Mrs Rackley death. She died suddenly at Livermore falls a few days since, and her remains were brought into our church at noon today, where the funeral services were performed. It was truly an interesting day to me. There were a large collection of mourners and friends. Some lingered a long while over her coffin as though it was pleasant to their view. From my earliest recollections, I look back upon her, as the same calm example of propriety to the day of her death. She has been a member of our Baptist Church for 22 years. These things dont interest you as they do me, as young as you are. Mr C.'s text was, there is but a step between me and death 1. Sam. 20. Chap. 3 Verse.

Mr Isaiah Additon's family have fallen sick with diptheria the ten days past, and one daughter died seven years old, and it is thought the others will recover. I was very sorry to hear of the death of your friend Mr Merrill. It is indeed hard for his parents. But O, Charlie how many bleeding hearts there are in the land this very minute but our heavenly father suffers it to be so, no doubt for some wise purpose.

There is somewhat more attention to the subject of religion in North Leeds and at North Turner Bridge meetings are frequent and some have professed to a change of heart. How much I do hope, that God will appear for us. I have been benighted and hardened myself but I feel as though my saviour had appeared for me, and I feel an increased confidence to call on him for help in time of need, and the scripture seems indeed precious to my soul.

I should have gone to Farmington last week to spend one day if the storm had not prevented. Rowland thinks the attention of the people are somewhat called to the subject of religion in that place. I have not heard from Lizzie and the dear little ones the past week. Had a letter from Rodelphus last evening written his birth day, his twentyeth birth day. He said he should think parents would feel old to have their youngest son 20 years old, and indeed it is so. [Eliza b. in 1804 is 58 at this time.] I have been reminded of it particularly today, while seeing many of my old acquaintances that formerly were my companions in youth bald headed and grey headed with their children and grandchildren around them. Time carries us along and there certainly but a step between us and death.

Deacon Pettengill is very low, prostrated by sickness. I cannot help having a strong hope that he may yet be spared to us. Our church is fast thinning out, must thy children die so soon .

Your father's health is good, seldom coughs. Everything goes along well with us. I saw Brother Ensign today.

He was one of the bearers, and seemed well. Laura was with him. We have a great deal of snow, high drifts, but the Thermometer has been 40 degrees above zero. Roland and Cynthia and Children go along about the same.

It is reported in the neighborhood that Josie Keene has rallied somewhat under Doct. Loring practice. It is three weeks since he began to visit her. I have not seen her this winter. I seldom leave home unless some special duty calls.

Eliza Ann Perley came and talked to me after the funeral services. She told me Peleg had been confined to his bed with sickness two months and in the mean time his son three years and half old died with croup. Otis will feel to sympathize with him in his trouble, as an old friend and Chum and classmate.

I am in hopes to have more time to write letters and shall be able to write to Otis soon. My heart is always with him as well as yourself. When you see our Leeds boys remember me to them. If opportunity presents, tell them I still pray for them. I spoke with Dexter's mother today. She said a letter from him to his brother in law last evening he spoke of a forward march, but our papers do not say anything of it so I think it has not commenced. I was glad to hear that General Sumner had returned to his command. Hope he will recover his full strength. I see Col. Staples name in some paper saying he had captured a pianoforte for his log house. I saw Capt Foss's wife at the funeral with her father in law and Mother in law quite young and pretty. I understand she has lately returned here from her husband.

Your father has just ask if I had not nearly done writing. You have never answered my letter where I wrote you I had taken a note of your father for your money and whether you had ordered your trunk sent here from Bangor &c. Hope to hear soon from you.

From your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Charles H Howard

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1591 2/24/1862 *From:* John R. Bacon

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1548

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[25]

New York  
Feby 24/62

My Dear Howard

I have just been looking at your "Carte de Visite" and at the autographic "yours faithfully" at foot of same.

I know you never say, or write, more or less than you mean, therefore, as I know your time is valuable, I go at once into the more immediate occasion of this note

My youngest brother George, about 24 is a first Lieut in the 91st Regt N.Y.S.V. now at Key West. He was a member of the 7th Regt and with them at Washington, a good soldier, full of muscle and health, pluck &c, and he wants very much, (and so do I) to get on some General Officers staff, or would be especially glad to get a commission in the regular service. A thousand words are no better in this matter than the precise number needed to ask you the simple question if you can aid him in the accomplishment of his wishes, and thereby rendering him a service and very much obliging me.

I hope you are in good health and that you may soon lead your men to victory.

Genl Grant & his brother officers in that region will steal all the honors from you if you dont take care.

I trust you get good accounts from Mrs Howard & the dear children. I was truly sorry to hear of poor Sarahs affliction, what a sad thing for her. May the Good shepherd comfort her.

We are all, thank God, quite well. Mrs Bacon desires her warmest wishes for you welfare and kind remembrances.

I commend you, my dear Howard, to Gods mercy and care and am, with sentiments of strongest regard & friendship

Affectionately your friend  
John R. Bacon

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1592 2/24/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1549

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[55]

Farmington  
Feb. 24, 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

I enclose a note from Maria that came in a letter to Sarah.

There is considerable religious interest here. We have had Daily & Evening meetings for a week and there are as many as 15 Inquirers and a few converts. Christians are waking up & we feel that God is about to grant us a great blessing. Pray for us.

It has been a long time since I have heard from you and the dear children. Wont you write a few lines. Give my love to each of them.

Yr. aff. Brother,  
Rowland

Our Church was packed full to hear Mr Hammond last night, and 75 stopped at the Inquiry meeting.

Sarah & family are well now.

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1593 2/24/1862 *From:* M M Rawson

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-2000

Waldoboro

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[462]

Waldoboro Monday Eve [Ca - December 1863]

Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

Please to say to your husband when he gets home we have concluded to name our little Son Otis Howard Rawson. We have enlisted 24 of our quota up to 9 oclock. Hope you had a pleasant ride home. Your visit here will long be remembered.

Yours Truly

M M Rawson

[Note. Otis Howard Rawson was born 7 Feb 1862 in Waldoboro, Maine to Meaubec Mitchell Rawson and Mary Elizabeth Drummond. I presume this was written closer to the date of the birth - assume Monday, Feb 24, 1862.]

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1594 2/25/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1545

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[56]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Camp California Feb 25th 1862

Dearest Lizzie,

I feel quite badly to think I cannot send Guy & Grace some more "written pictures". I have so many different things to attend to. If I could do so I should like to make a drawing of a tempest in which my brigade underwent a review yesterday & afterward the wind blowing & chasing stoves, tents & <boards> at double quick over hill & dale. Sibley poles & flag staffs were quickly demolished. My poor tent stood the gale with difficulty but the dining tent was pretty badly torn, the kitchen & stable partly unroofed. <Rulantin's> & Carlos' tents were laid low. The 64th Artist's establishment turned over. Then his tables instruments pictures &c waked up into active life & joined the common <throng>: all this was to pay for our conduct the day before.

You see, the Inspectors General were known to be coming on Monday so our men turned in on Sunday and trimmed up their streets, planted trees & cleaned up their arms as well as they could. About ten A.M. on said Monday, we were formed in three lines & Col. Sackett came to inspect accompanied by Major Davis. It was a pleasant morning but a heavy cloud was rising in the west. It rained a little as we began to review. Then it poured upon us & drove into our faces hail & rain as hard as a battle almost. The men got wet pretty well through - arms & brasses grew dim. We dismissed them as soon as possible and then came the tug of war to keep the tents from blowing away. You should have seen Capt Sewall trying to get the flag down & to keep the pole up. His countenance looked wild & excited. His hat on the back of his head & his hair flying. The wind lasted during the day & part of the night. I got so tired at the windy inspection which I attended with Col Sackett till 5 P.M. without my dinner that I slept soundly during the night in spite or rather without fear of the elements.

Mr Richards very kindly took compassion on me & invited me with Chas. & Capt Sewall to dine at his house. & so I did a little after 5. Mrs Lt. Col Burlow 61st Regt boards there also Mrs Collet a wife of Major Collet of the N. Jersey 3d - Kearney's Brigade.

Tell little Guy papa has found "Castor". Carlos says "an Irishman had him tied up in his tent." A sergeant came & apologized for having him, said he found a little dog in his company ground & did'nt know whom he belonged to.

Yesterday Mr Jordan who came from the top of the house whence I got my dear little wife a few years ago, with two or three Maine friends paid us a visit, was present at drill & parade & enjoyed his visit wonderfully. He came into my tent, got Charlies autograph & mine & then left for the 5th Me. I told him when he went to Lewiston to call & see you. He said he often went & would do so.

A prominent factory gentleman from Lewiston was here the other day. He may drop in to see you. Col. Jackson is a fine soldier & I should like to have you call upon his wife. I think from what I have heard that she must be a grand woman.

How is my dear little daughter Grace. Papa fears she will change so much that he will hardly know her. And our little Jamie - bless his little heart. On Sunday Mrs Sampson sent me an invitation to go over to a Sing & prayer meeting in the evening & Mr Miles & I went. We had tea & then a good meeting.

I must stop for the hour of duty has arrived. I have written this interleaved by passes &c. Give much love to yourself & the bunnies - also to Aunt & family & all friends. I hope mother has been to see you & is well.

God bless you darling.

Affectionately  
Otis



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1595 2/26/1862     *From:* C.H.Howard

*To:* My dear brother [RB  
Howard]

OOH-1550

H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade  
Camp California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[57]

H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade  
Camp California  
Feb. 26 1862

My dear brother

Your letter of the 20th was brief but very welcome. Mr. Hammond's visit to you has often been in my mind. I trust that your hopes as to the beneficial results of the meetings will be fulfilled. I saw an article in Capt. Sewall's Christian Mirror which seemed to question rather critically the propriety & usefulness of Mr. H's labors. But if the Lord avows & blesses, it does not become editors to condemn too readily.

I thank the Lord for "signs of religious awakening" and hope your next letter will record something further.

I will not let any portion of your letter escape unanswered this time. I thought about your question regarding my Recruiting accounts just after I had sealed my last. I should have been more particular had I not concluded you better not be troubled with them. The larger one of \$25 is in Mr. Wiggins's name & is in the hands of Mr. Osgood - Express Agent at Augusta who has (what is required) the power of attorney "to secure" the money. Joshua Turner has another small account but perhaps he will not present it & no matter if he does not. This in my name. He also has "power of attorney" from me.

I thought of you & tried to pray for you & your people on Sabbath evening. We had a prayer-meeting in the Chapel tent of the 61st N.Y. This was a Hospital tent which Otis had put up (after it had been cast aside) for our meetings. We have interesting meetings. Some new one comes out almost every week, & some very interesting cases. Two Sergeants particularly. Wish you could have heard their simple Way of the Cross.

Glad to hear good news from Hattie. I did hope Capt. Patten would this time confess Christ. Poor Lizzie. I hope the shackles of this world & Satan will soon fall off from her.

Thus far I wrote before Breakfast. Mr. Miles is now attending to Guard Mounting. I hear the Band playing. Otis is writing Lizzie.

Yesterday P.M. while we were having Brigade Drill, Mr. Jordan who used to live in Mrs. Waite's house came riding out on horseback to see us together with two others from Portland & Mr. Warren the Suttler of the 5th Maine. They enjoyed the drill very much. I wish you could see our Brigade drills, they are much more interesting than Battalion drills. Today the General had the different Regiments take & hold different hills situated ¼ mile & more apart.

Last Sat. 22d Otis read Washington's Farewell address to the Brigade. A N.H. Battery came down from a neighboring Division to be present & in the afternoon Col. Cross supported them in a kind of show battle. The firing was deafening. They gave the National salute of 32 guns after the General finished the address. The troops gave 3 cheers to the General.

We had notice Saturday that Col. Sackett, Inspector General (of McClellans staff) would inspect our Brigade Monday.

The men as a matter of course neglected their cleaning up &c, a good deal Saturday & worked Sunday. The grounds never were in such good shape. The arms & brasses were all <burnished> & I thought our Brigade would take the Palm. But just the moment our Review began when Col. S. arrived it Commenced to rain in a flood & soon came hail & a terrible wind. Imagine the appearance of the review. We could hardly keep our horses in the field.

But just as we were marching in after the Review it cleared off & such a wind came up as I never before witnessed. We found Capt. Sewall with the entire force of <Ordellus> trying to keep our flag staff from blowing down upon the tents. We got inside but at the first Gust, almost every tent of the N.H. Regt was swept flat. Stoves & furniture of all kinds went flying past our tent. Our tent did not go down. Capt. Sewalls did & you can imagine the condition of our Sunday-fixed camp at the end of an half hour. The arms too of course suffered by the rain so that they did not look so well as they could have done. Otis stopped the work & had the men go to services but then took it up again. The General told Col. Sackett he thought the storm was to pay for working so much on Sunday.

We are to inspect the 64th this forenoon & I must close. We cant get that <chg> & clean. We expect to move before long.

With love to Ella, I am  
Yr. Affec. Br.  
C.H.Howard

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1596 2/27/1862    *From:* Ella [Howard]

*To:* My dear brothers Otis &  
Charles [Howard]

OOH-1551

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[9]

Feb 27 [1862] [The year was written in pencil.]

Farmington Feb 27

Thurs. Eve [Feb 27 1862 did fall on Thursday.]

My dear brothers Otis & Charles -

And I dont know but I might as well add Capt. Sewall, and the rest of the Gen'l's Staff! for I hear your letters are mostly in common! I've got into a letter writing mood tonight, which is quite a more cheerful thing for me. Baby and I are all alone this evening. All the rest have gone to meeting. Rowland has probably written you that Mr. Hammond was expected here two days last week. The storm prevented his coming until Saturday. He came Sat. night, intending to be here but two days – but Providence intended otherwise, and sent a big storm, so that the cars haven't been able to go since!

Mr. Hammond seems to carry a blessing with him, wherever he goes. He has certainly brought one here. There was much feeling among the impenitent, and christians had begun to pray, before he came, but now they have gone right to work with him, and sinners are coming to their Savior. Many remain to the Inquiry meeting, every night, and some have already given their hearts to Jesus. Dr. Alexander, whom you have both heard us mention, & whom Charles has seen – last night knelt down to be prayed for, and promised to pray in his family, and he is not a man to go so far, unless he meant it. Another man who had a “hope” years ago, has come now, & thrown his old “hope” away, and now has found a bran new one, that he never knew anything about before! He too prays in his family, and looks & acts like a “new man,” as he is. His wife is beginning with him, & it may now be called a christian family, tho' they have so long lived “without God & without hope in the world”.

A good work is beginning here, which I trust will not soon stop. I have often thought, & we have several times spoken of it, how you would enjoy these evening Inquiry meetings, and afternoon prayer meetings.

We made Lizzie an impromptu visit, on my way to Bath. I enjoyed it very much. The children have grown & it seems as if Jamie must be somebody's else child! How pleasant it will be to have them all here, this summer. Sarah & her children are getting along nicely now. Sarah gets out to the meetings quite often, and seems to enjoy them. I am very sorry your Mother couldn't come up. Rowland wrote her to.

Has Rowland told you that Anna Hattie hopes she has found her Savior? Mamma says she is very much changed. She loves her bible, & good books, & Dea. Mitchell & Mr Oliver never talked so well before, she says. In the evening meetings, Hattie was never much edified by these two, but she thinks they have improved! We are all praying for Papa – wont you help us?

We shall expect to hear astounding news, when the cars do get in. We have had no mails since Monday.

Rowland will write another sheet, I think, & I will write my good bye, I think. Please remember me to Capt. Sewall. I called & saw his wife & children when in Bath.

Good bye & God bless you both.

Your sister  
Ella

Your nephew is getting to be quite a promising youth, I think. He grows wise & cunning, & pretty of course, every day, and is as good as can be.



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1597 2/27/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1552

Hd Qrs Howards  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[58]

Hd Qrs Howards  
Brigade Feb 27 1862

Dearest

I will just send you some money I have in my pocket. I have'nt heard from you for so long I fear you are not well.

Much love to all.

Tell Guy, Grace & Jamie papa has prayed for them separately that God will make them his own children.

Affectionately  
Otis

P.S. We are getting ready - not likely to move immediately

\$10/00 enclosed & a bad engraving.

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1598 3/2/1862

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Charles H. Howard

OOH-1553

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[59]

Leeds March 2d 1862

My dear son Charles

I have this morning felt more than usually strong desires that this may be a sabbath day indeed, and more especially to those who are on the tented fields, preparing to fight their Country's battles, and that their faith may be strong in God, and that their Spirt may feel a united strength with the Holy Spirit.

It is now two weeks since your last letter was written. It came to hand in one week, owing to the irregularity of the mails in consequence of the storms. I wrote last Sunday evening and sent it out Monday not in time to go until Tuesday, and suppose it is at Mr. Lothrop's now as there has been no trains down since last Monday. We are having snow in abundance. Our house is nearly buried in snow. Your father shoveled the snow away from some of the windows yesterday which covered the lower sash, but still the weather is rather mild, the thermometer 25 above zero. The teams draw very hard to get through drifts. The districts are breaking roads to day. They began yesterday P.M.

Mr Additon's other daughter will be interred today. So those two lovely girls are laid away out of their parent's sight. My sincere prayer to God, is that this affliction may be blest to their eternal good, to the salvation of their souls.

I have heard within a few days Augustus Foss and wife are among the number who have professed religion at North Leeds. I hope it is a perfect work, that a throne of grace will be established in his family, and that he and his family will be shining lights to those around them. O that the same spirit may be found in every house. There is scarce a day but the bell is tolled for some death in Town. It was heard in this neighborhood Friday and is supposed to be Maj Herrick, as it was known he was supposed to be dying the day before.

My family are all gone from me, but for anything I know they are still preserved an unbroken family, for which I am truly greatful. As far as I am capable, I often have thought, since the mails have not brought us any news neither particular nor general, whether I was prepared to receive sad inteligence, as well as cheering inteligence, from the absent ones but I think I can say with the Psalmist, I "have been delivered from my fears." I have not heard from Rowland, the past week was intending to have visited him. Neither have I heard from Lizzie and children. If nothing in providence prevents, am in hopes to see them this week.

I have called on Mrs Josie Keene last Thursday, found her feeble but still not more so nor so much as I expected from what I learned. She talked freely on any subject and was cheerful, has a fine babe. The babe had her father's miniature in her hand open, liked to look at the picture. We called on Aranda Gilbert the same P.M. He is a poor skeleton of a man but thinks he shall be out when the weather is warm.

It is now just twelve o'clock and our teams are within hearing distance. We have a delightful sun shining into our south windows. I hope we may have many such to settle the immense snow drifts.

I called on Capt. Turner, the other day. He is looking nicely. Thomas has a bad cough but is out every day. We have a pair of twin lambs, and two calves at the barn. I wish Guy could be here to enjoy them but he has many enjoyments where he is, that I could not give him. Your father has a big woodpile for Thomas to begin to chop soon. We are hoping to see rain soon, to settle the snow, to make it better moving about. Your father has returned from braking roads and says there has been no passing on the Kennebec and Androscogin since Thursday.

Dellie's last letter was written his birth day. Now we date another month. I think probable you have had letters from him and Rowland since I have heard from them. Your father has no Newspaper reading, since we have no mails. He has been searching the house for something to read. He has read Miss Gilbert's career, and has brought forward Schmitz's History of Rome and Smellie's Philosophy and is quite interested in them. I would

give a great deal this minute to know you and Otis are in good health. Oscar says quite a number of the Maine third have been taken to man the gunboats that were built at Cairo. Is it so? He says Henry Turner has written home to that effect.

Your father has let fall his book, and is so sound of sleep he does not know it. He proposes going to Hallowel tomorrow. I would go with him but the traveling is so bad, I should not enjoy it. Our town meetings will soon come off. That will make quite a move. We have not had our Lewiston Journal for two weeks. Oscar said he would let us have his to send out to Virginia but no one has put it in practice.

I have not heard whether Oscar Millet has returned from Washington yet. It is now about year since this Calamitous rebellion began to show itself. I could not be made to believe it would burst upon us as it did until I was obliged to. What a world of iniquity has been unfolded to our view in one year. I little thought one year ago how many bleeding hearts would be in our united states at this time but the <army> still go it on, and must untill our National honor is reestablished or ruined. I feel a confidence that our cause is just and I feel to trust it in the hands God. My daily prayer to God is, that his wisdom may fill the hearts of our officers who guide and direct all the important movements to quell this rebellion. Our last papers seem more encouraging and still all news is fraught with painful regrets. Even so blood must be the sacrifice. I hope it will be to the honor and Glory of God.

Although we have such an abundance of snow the bright sun shining on it, and the month of March has arrived, I feel to look forward to bare ground and agricultural labors to be going forward. The lambs to be growing and all things in their usual way, according to their seasons but still there is stirring appeal in my heart at all times, for God to help, help, to close up this terrible war. "When will our sorrows have an end and joys when shall we see".

Abbie is still here with her little babe five weeks old, says she is going to her father's to stay four or five weeks as soon as the roads will do. She gets real weary with care of her babe. Her sisters will help her to to take care of her babe while at home. Thomas has been steady at home through the winter but if Abbie is gone I fear he will not do as well. It will be a relief to me, I am to have Abbie Gilbert a while to come any time I wish her to. Roland and family are well. I do not see much of them there is so much snow.

My plants have done well through the winter. Guy and Grace each of them one verbena looking very thrifty. They are to take them when they go to Farmington. I want to see them very much. Jamie I hear is growing very much. I must go and see them if the cars ever get through again.

I dislike to receive a letter with blank sides to it, so I have been trying fill mine entirely.

I will ask Thomas to get Capt Turner's last Journal to mail. Tomorrow your father can take them to Augusta and mail them if he can get through. It will be a pleasant sound to hear the whistle from the Engines once more.

Good bye my son,

Your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Charles H. Howard

P.S. We have heard to day that Maj Herrick is dead.

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1599 3/2/1862

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My precious Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-1554

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[60]

Auburn Mar. 2d 1862  
Sunday Eve half past 7 ocl

My precious Husband

I will try to write you a letter to-night that I may be able to send it in the morning mail. We had Mondays mail at the regular time and fortunately your letter of the 22d ult reached me at that time. Tuesdays mail arrived Wednesday noon. Thursday's arrived Friday very late in the eve and that was our last mail till I heard a whistle just as Mr Adams was about to close his sermon this morning. It seems a much longer time than it really is since I have seen the papers. I should judge you have some mud yet, by the description of your trip to Washington. I was glad to hear of the Carrolls, and from Susan. I hope you told her Guy was going to write to her. He began his letter the 13th of Feb. I really could not have him finish it before. The check came in safety. Uncle Edward sent me \$14.60 interest on coupons. (Government loan) I imagine S.S. Carroll is not at West Point now for you say he is doing himself honor with McClellen. Where are they? I wrote to Rowland what you said about having Mr Farwells house the 29th of March. I have become well enough acquainted to enjoy my stay here.

I received a letter from Maria last week. It was enclosed in one to Sarah and remailed to me by Rowland. Mr and Mrs Mordecai were to see her not long ago. The young ladies have a school about ten scholars. She saw Mrs Greble also week or two ago. Maria writes "It seems to be a great pleasure to her to think Otis is God father to her little Clara." Mr French was there for a few days. I presume it was after the Jan. examination. Mrs Greble said "he was very much worried out as he had had no assistance at all in teaching, and misses Otis very much in his other duties." Blanch was in Phila for a week or two this winter. Her "History" is very highly spoken of. I am very glad Maria visited the Mordecai's. I feel very grateful to her for it.

I presume Rowland has written you about his visit to Bath, and of the revival there. He writes me that Christians are waking up in his church, and he feels that God is about to grant them a great blessing. Sarah's family were all well the 24th. Tell Perry if you see him.

Was pleased to learn you saw Col Cross' Photographs. I like to know how your officers look. What a big man you are. (I wrote that last sentence in a whisper.) Maybe Charlie wont see it when his turn comes to read the letter. I have been writing, reading and thinking more than an hour. Guy, Grace, and Jamie are asleep and they are all well. I feel that health is a great blessing. I have been to Church all day. Guy and Grace to Sunday School. My first communion out of the Chapel was today. How well could I recall Mr French's room and words, and sentences of the service kept running through my mind.

I am reading "Agnes & the little key", a book Mr Farwell recommended to you our second year at West Point. I think it must be very good Aunt Sarah says. Her Agnes' father is like you. I dont know as it is Agnes' father but one of the characters. Aunt is asleep and I cant ask her. I should like to see Charlies sketch of your life. Now if the request had been sent to the wives of the Generals, I should have written a tip top one. I would have said, he is the best man, and I guess (showing the yankee) a pretty good Gen.

I had a visit from a Mr Ayer last Wednesday. He spent one hour or more in your Camp or tent two weeks ago to-day he told me, and called at your regiment. I was pleased to hear you were looking well. He gave me a good report of you all. I thanked him heartily for coming.

Guy regrets the loss of "Castor". When I told him he came very near dropping a tear while saying, "Now I cant have him to stay with". Grace I had told before, so she turned to comfort him and said, "Well, Guy, may be we will have some other dog." Grace is a very thoughtful, sweet and affectionate child. Guy's theories are all right as usual, but his practice is not quite perfect.

I feel more and more every day the necessity of relying on God to direct me in their education and government. I think of sending Guy to the private school, it will keep four weeks.

Not anything about dear little Jamie yet, but to begin, we had a great frolic this afternoon in the parlor, Jamie and I alone. I was saying, the other day if you had been in the habit of playing with him and been with him all the time I presume I should have very much to do with him. For there is so much of the boy to know that if he was in the habit of having strong hands toss and play with him, I should be wholly unable to manage him be worse he would be more well and he now is very strong, and he is very large also. He is a real go ahead boy. Aunt has taken him to sleep with her in a room opening out of mine, which Guy and Grace occupy with me.

Give much love to Charlie. I want him to write to me sometimes. I would like Col. Staples photograph with the consent of Mrs Staples.

Not much more this time. I have not had a visit from Mother yet. Uncle Oren has been here twice. He had many questions to ask about you. Aunt Lucy's health is better. Uncle says she is about as good a woman as he knows; and he knows she is a Christian, and that is what makes her so.

Good night, dearest now. May God continue to guard and to guide you, and in his own good time bring you home.

Your own loving wife  
Lizzie

I often think of Jehovah-jerah.

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1600 3/3/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1555

Head Quarters  
Howards Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[61]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
March 3d 1862

Dearest Lizzie,

I have hesitated this evening whether I should write you or study strategy. But I think I may see you as soon by the writing, under a divine protection, so I will write you. Today I telegraphed the Adjutant General of New York, Mr. Hillhouse, br. to John our friend, but before I got an answer Charles' notice of appointment came. He is now a bona fide Lieutenant in Co. 61st N. York & I am truly glad. His commission dates from 24th of January.

You can hardly imagine how hard it rains. Yesterday, Mrs Sampson, Miss Smith her sister, & Mrs Watson with Capt Watson 3d Me, came over here just before church service, attended with us at the exercises of the 61st N.Y, returned to this tent. It began to snow, they staid, took dinner, and after awhile I got the N Hampshire Hospital wagon & accompanied them back to their Camp. I called upon the chaplain, Perry Lee, Dexter Howard & Col Staples, stopping a few minutes & then returned here.

In the evening we had a prayer meeting at the Chapel tent of the 61st. I dont know as I told you that Capt Sewall had had a chimney built in the back tent of our mess tent & moved in there bag & baggage. So that Charlie & I occupy this by ourselves. The floor of our rear tent is raised a little above the other. On the right hand is my bed & on the left is his. In the middle & next to the rear pole we have a bed which closes up like a stool & on which Johns buffalo robe is put by day. We have a scraggly stick by the side of the rear pole upon which we hang clothes, cups &c. John sleeps in the front tent where the stove is. We are very comfortable. I wish all poor soldiers were as much so, but they are not so, yet they seem to enjoy life from day to day.

Capt Taylor Sumner's Adjt Genl said I must be wanting to go home. I told him I did, but not till after the work was done. I am getting a little in haste to be up & doing. Personally I have had enough work of late for again I have been obliged to muster & inspect my whole brigade. Charlie has spent the better part of two days in examining & preparing muster rolls. I have had to sign my name, he says, 180 times to those rolls & in many of them he has put in the "fair", "good" &c for me & the "Brig" "Gen." It is not a little thing to have a brother when you dont have a wife with you is it?

How do you suppose little Guy is this evening? Dreaming so quietly & happily & comfortably, watched over by our Father. And Gracie?

After I wrote the work Gracie, I got a note from Genl Sumner asking me to go to him as soon as convenient. He sends me with three regiments to protect the building of a bridge about 6 miles from this place, on the Orange & Alexandria R.R. We will have got it done before this letter reaches you.

I sent you today a draft for \$200. Next month or rather at the end of this month March I shall not be able to send you any money, for I must buy another horse. So you must so deposit your funds as to have enough.

Give many sweet kisses for papa to all the children - Guy, Grace & Jamie. Tell Guy & Gracie that a poor little colored boy, not much bigger than Guy was brought to papa's tent yesterday morning by a soldier. The Soldier said, he was so louzy that the man abused him & would not have him near them, & he got no place to stay. I went out to see him. The lice were on his jacket thousands of them & on his head. I had him taken to a spare ten, a tub of warm water prepared, his clothes stripped off & burnt. The boy was washed & cleansed & some old clothes put on him such as we could pick up. At night, nobody would let him have a place to sleep. Papa had some hay put in the corner of a tent & had him have an old blanket. Today he was again washed & then his head bathed in strong alcohol. The hair had been cut close - some got near his eyes. He beat Guy crying when papa used to wash Guy hard. Papa sent to Alexandria & got him a new suit of clothes, coarse thick woolens such as the colored boys wear here. You should have seen how happy he was. He fairly laughed aloud when he saw them. I fear he has learned many bad habits, but now he is clean, I hope he will learn of

George to do well. Guy will remember George as our colored cook. He is a very good man.

Now for bed. Good night darling. I may not be where I can write for a few days. God bless you all. Love to Aunt Sarah & fam.

Affectionately

Otis

Charlie sends love.

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1601 3/3/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1556

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[63]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
March 3rd 1862

Dearest Lizzie

I meant to have written you a letter but the mail is going. I will only say I am well, so is Charlie.

Love to Mother wh you see her. Guy, Grace & Jamie many kisses & much love.

We have not moved yet. Dont know wh we shall.

I enclose a draft for \$200

Truly & affectionately  
Your husband  
Otis

Love to Aunt Sarah & all

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1602 3/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Mrs O.O. Howard

OOH-1557a

Burkes Station

Auburn, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Burkes Station  
March 4th 1862

Dearest,

I took three Regts. of my Brigade & protected the Bridge over the Accotink while it was being rebuilt. Today I advanced as far as Fairfax Station driving in the enemy's pickets. I have one Regt. there & two here. I think the Lord has blessed us this time, thus far. Tomorrow I shall probably return to Camp California, having been relieved by another brigade.

I hope you are all well. Give much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie from papa.

Capt Sewall will take this back to Camp & mail it to you.

May God bless & protect you & me.

Affectionately  
Otis

[Written on the back of the letter by Otis]  
Mrs O.O. Howard  
Auburn, Me.

[A note from Charles was written on March 9, 1862 on the back of this letter.]

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1603 3/6/1862

*From:* Sergeant Henry N.  
Rothery

*To:* Brig. General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-1558

*Source:* Bowdoin

Capt. Griffins Battery  
Genl. Morrells Brigade  
Genl. Porters Division  
<Minon> Hill Va.

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[65]

March 6th, 1862

Brig. General O.O. Howard

General

I came to your Brigade today for the purpose of asking a favor of you. As you already know I have at B. Falls near West Point a wife and two children also a deaf and dumb sister. They cannot at the present time get sewing or work of this kind enough to keep them together with what I send them every pay-day, but they could if they were in Washington get plenty of employment & will need (\$30) thirty dollars besides the funds that I will have next pay. Gen Howard is the only person to whom I feel like applying to. If I could get my family to Washington they would be in a way to take care with the help of God of themselves, should anything happen to me. I will at the expiration of my time have about \$100.0, one hundred dollars out of which I will pay you if we should be unable to do so before, and should it please God to call me home before then my wife will pay you. Hoping that this request will meet with your favorable consideration.

I remain Your Obedt Servant  
Sergeant Henry N. Rothery  
Capt. Griffins Battery  
Genl. Morrells Brigade  
Genl. Porters Division  
Minon Hill Va.

P.S. Sergt Robinson wishes to be remembered to Genl Howard. H.N.R

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1604 3/6/1862

*From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1559

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[66]

Bowd. Coll. Thursday, March 6, 1862

My dear Brother:

Your kind and most welcome letter reached me on Tuesday. I intended to have answered your other letter immediately but the mails have not been very regular. From Thursday of last week till Tuesday of this week we got no mail whatever.

I was in to see Nettie yesterday afternoon and she treated me most cordially. I mentioned that I had just got a letter from you, but she asked no questions and made no remarks so I said nothing more.

I succeeded finely in my last declamation; and in the rehearsals Prof. Whittlesey paid me quite a compliment, but didn't favor any of the others in the same way but rather criticized them. Afterwards he inquired about you and Otis and mentioned his stopping with you and Otis. He paid Otis a high compliment as an officer and a man.

I can't see why you can't get a commission as well as any one else. You certainly have the influence of some friends and I don't imagine you are much inferior to most of 2nd Lieuts.

I was glad to get the engraving of Otis which I think hardly does him justice yet at a distance it looks like him. I don't hear from Rowland often. I haven't had a letter from Rowland for over two months, though I have written him there, but I don't care much. I would like a letter from Otis if he can find time to write me. But I believe that Rowland could write me if he wanted to. I never complained to mother that I got no letters from you. I simply mentioned once that I had not heard from you for sometime, but I think I owed you a letter even then. I cannot get letters regularly from home nowadays as the trains rarely get through in any shape. Some railroads have run no trains for more than a fortnight.

George Lothrop went through here yesterday on his way to Livermore. Perhaps you have already learned that he has removed himself to Bath and is in the Grocery business on the corner of Central & Washington Sts. His family have not yet gone down there. They expect to go soon. They are to live on High St., but exactly where I don't know. I haven't been to Bath this time owing to the lack of the tin. I saw Capt. Patten a day or two since. He said all his folks were nicely. He was feeling badly about the non-connection of the railroads. The snow is playing the mischief with all the railroads.

I am sorry to say that I think the religious interest in college is about as low as it has been since I came here. The Thursday noon meetings have been given up as very few attended them. Sunday morning perhaps fifteen or twenty attend. We manage to get as many as five or eight into our class prayer meetings. I have attended all of these except one. In the meetings all hold back and there are long pauses. Daniel Waldron always harangues and offers a prayer, all of which usually occupies 15 or 20 minutes of the sabbath morning meeting. He always sounds as if he was trying to show off and we have a great deal of it in our meetings. A petition has been in circulation headed by Daniel W. Waldron earnestly requesting Edward Payson Hammond to come here and preach to the people of Brunswick, but many of our most Christian men like John Pease Pres. of the Circle, did not sign it. It is proposed to have him preach in the Baptist House if he will come. The Baptists have given up trying to have any preaching and the house is now closed. Mr. Wyman and his family attend on the Hill, except Nettie who goes to the Episcopal. Many others of the Baptists go on the Hill.

Our time is now more than half done and the time is not far distant when I shall once more find myself in Leeds and among my friends and acquaintances. I think I shall go to see Rowland up to Farmington. When George & Huldah go to Bath perhaps I shall find myself a more frequent visitor in that city.

People are now looking very anxiously toward the Army of the Potomac. Most of us can hardly see the

necessity of such a protracted inaction there. For my part I am willing to wait and observe believing that the military authorities know best. I hear people about town and elsewhere growling heartily about so large an army taking the peoples money yet doing nothing. Many and probably most are willing to wait till Gen. McClellan sees fit for the Army to move.

I earnestly pray that my brothers may do their duty, yet be preserved from harm. I sometimes fear I shall never see both of you again but I hope for the best. I am not disposed to be gloomy about anything for a very long time continued.

Give my love to Otis. Tell him that as soon as he can spare the time I should be very pleased to have a letter from him. Write again soon. Does the recent order of the Secretary of War prohibit your writing to the Boston Journal and other papers? If not I hope to see something about Otis and his command there quite often.

Pray for me and my class and also for the College; ask Otis to do the same.

Your Very Aff. Brother  
R.H. Gilmore

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1605 3/6/1862

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1560

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

Auburn, Mar. 6th 1862

Dearest,

I wanted to mail a letter to you to-day, merely to ask if you could'nt write me nearly every day. You know the papers are blank now. Your last two letters were very short, but you dont know how much better they were than no letters. I wrote in my last that your letter of the 22d arrived Monday. I made a mistake it was yours of the 19th that came that day. Yours of the 25th and 27th came together. I receive your letters generally the third day after the date. Your last, March 3, came to me this afternoon.

Guy and Grace have just gone to bed, not asleep yet. Grace wants me to give a kiss to Papa. Guy is happy to learn that "Castor" is found. One would think him an old favorite to hear Guy talk of him; it belongs to papa and that is enough for him. Jamie is cutting more teeth, he has eight now.

I received the draft to-day. I made a deposit some time since in the Auburn bank. I shall have to add to it.

I received a card, if I may so call it, from Rowland yesterday with regard to the revival there. I presume he sent you one also so I conclude that the cars have finally got shoveled through to this place. The mails have been very irregular. I have not seen or heard from Mother.

Guy goes to school, hired school. I assure you he enjoys it hugely.

I would like to call to see Mrs Jackson, but there are objections. I think I better not. I should be very glad to meet her in the city. I cannot give you all of this evening, dearest, for I have some work to do for the children.

I am glad to hear you have good health and are looking well. I want Charlie to cut off some of your hair just as long as he can and send it home in your next letter to me. Dont forget. I have been out walking to-day. The weather begins to seem a very little like spring. I have heard nothing of Charlie's commission lately, but never mind that, you hold on to his coat tail if he should attempt to leave you.

Many express the opinion that the war will be ended by next June. I wonder if it will. I hope so, and my dearest Otis can come home to his own wife.

Lizzie

---

1606 3/9/1862

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs O.O. Howard

OOH-1557b

Camp Cal.

Auburn, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Written on the back of the letter from Otis on March 4, 1862 by Charles.]  
Camp Cal. Mar. 9th 1862 Sabbath

My very dear Sister-

This letter was sent down from Burke's but did not get into the mail. Otis telegraphed you that all were well, back again this morning.

It is a beautiful day. He has gone to Division H'd Q'rs being in Command for today of the Division.

Much love to little ones,  
Charles

---

1607 3/9/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1561

Hd. Qrs. Sumner's  
Division

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[123]

Hd. Qrs. Sumner's Division  
Mar 9th 1862

Dearest,

I got into my old Camp last night after having secured about nine miles more of the Orange & Alexandria R.R. without losing a man. I have turned over the R.R. to Genl Kearney and came here all right. We fired on the enemy's pickets, but I dont think any one was killed, except the spy who was shot. He had on a Maine overcoat, had a U.S.. rifle 2 pistols & a B. knife. His name was Chas. Dillon. He had a pass in his possession of our military governor of Alexandria Gen Montgomery & also one from Gen Sedgwick. He had also one from Beauregard & one from Gen. J.E. Johnston. He was a young looking man of fine appearance. The letters from his wife beseeching him to come home & troublingly anxious expressions about our kind of Savior & a Servant were touching in the extreme. She has one little child, Charlotte, a baby. One could hardly keep from crying on reading these epistles from West Mississippi. All she seemed to think of was that he must come home. And as he had a furlough all written out in his packet I think he was intending to go home soon. We have to remember always that our enemy is a man & I only felt sorrow that the man was slain & not taken. But as he was a Spy he would have been hung I think, had he been brought in alive. This would have been more painful still to his poor devoted wife. She talked of rejoining the Church & wanted him to join with her.

It is now evening. I have been in command of the division today & so have spent part of my time, not very profitably, at Divn Hd. Quarters. Genl S has gone to Washington to arrange the march most probably in council. He is to command an Army Corps of 3 divisions, and we will have some new commander over this Divn. We know that this Division will constitute a part of his command & that is all.

You asked about Edsels hill. This is a point three miles in advance of us & where our line of pickets meets Genl Franklin's on the right & Gen Heintzelman on the left. I have now advanced the picketing regiment to Springfield Station which is four miles from this place. I left the 64th N.Y. there when I came in from Burke's Station.

How are the Bunnies tonight. I presume all asleep by this time.

We got a letter from Mother tonight. She wants the snow to get so that she can see you & the children. She mentions many deaths - Mr Additons daughters, Mr Herrick & Mrs Rackley. How good the Lord is to us. Let us all love him as & more than we love one another.

[A small sketch, unreadable, is at the top of page 1.]

Your own husband  
Otis

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1608 3/9/1862

*From:* O. O. Howard  
Brig Genl  
Camp California

*To:* Mrs. O.O. Howard

OOH-1562

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

American Telegraph Company

Mch 9th 1862  
Received at Lewiston  
By Telegraph from Camp California  
To Mrs. O.O. Howard

All returned safely to camp last night  
O. J. Howard  
Brig Genl

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1609 3/10/1862     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1563

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69]

Auburn March 10th 1862

My dearest Otis

I have not finished reading Sundays paper, but I will begin my letter to you and tell you first that mother came down to see me to-day. She went to Farmington last Saturday and came from there this morning. As it was "town meeting" to-day she would have had to remain at the "Centre" till the arrival of the mail, so she concluded to come here and return in the afternoon train; I am glad she did so. I had been wanting to see her very much. I wish she could have stayed longer. She told me of the revival and rejoiced at it. She enjoyed what services she attended very much. I am very glad she went to Farmington. Some conversions have taken place in Leeds. Mr and Mrs Foss (formerly Caroline Lothrop), Osias Millett daughter.

I received a long interesting letter from Mrs Blunt who is still at West Point and her husband still at "Fort Pickens" but she "does really expect him home next March" meaning the month of March. She says Capt Boynton is living in our last home. I wonder if it is the same you knew when a Cadet. He was out of the Army and if in it again would he not rank higher than Capt. I have just thought he may be living there and not of the "Army". You knew he was in Mississippi. Nearly all of the Officers there are on parole. Carroll is Col. of a Ohio regiment and is the one whose name I read and wondered if it was not S.S. Carroll there. I saw it in the "Boston Journal". I think he is under Gen Grant or in his vicinity.

West Point is much changed and our old friends are scattered far and wide. The Sunday School has been moved to the Cadets Chapel, and the Children (of all classes who choose to attend) meet there. Mrs Blunt says quite a number of the Ladies take classes there. Miss Blanche is well, and much interested in the school. Capt Field is said to have been killed while on a scout by one of our pickets. I hope Mr Field did not influence him to resign. Capt Mendell lost his only brother at Fort Donelson. All this news I learned thro' Mrs. Blunt, and I presume is correct. I learned that a young man from Turner, Frank (a brother of George Blackstone) was wounded at the taking of Ft Donelson. He joined a regiment from Minnesota. Peleg was the first to go to Illinois and all those followed him. I forgot to tell you Mrs Blunt wished to be remembered. She said, "I see the name of your Genl frequently in the papers."

I have written your address on an envelope to go with this letter. I wonder if you will be in Camp California when this reaches you? Mother brought Charlies last letter, Mar 3d dated, to read it to me. I am glad she did. I was very happy to get your Telegraphic message this morning. Mother was very glad to hear too. I shall look for a letter Wednesday.

A few days ago, I thought you might move any moment, but now I dont think so. Seems to me you wont move right away, although you may. The beginning of the end has come, but when will the end be? If it didnt cost so much, and if there was someone I know going to Washington, and if I could think, I might leave the children that length of time, and if it would be best, and you would be glad to see me, and above all consent to it I should be at Camp California pretty soon. How many ifs there are in the way, too many to rush through.

Sarah sent word by Mother to have me stay with her while getting to house keeping. I dont know as I would do that. I should prefer to go to a boarding house. I presume I shall remain here this month out.

Give much love to Charlie. Dont forget to write as often as you can, dearest. Mother has seen Osias Millett. I dont know I want to owe anybody else from your cash. Mrs Goff is here from Farmington. I must go and see her to-morrow.

Now good night. May God's choicest blessings ever be with you both.

Lizzie



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1610 3/11/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1564

Head Qrs Sangster's  
Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70]

Head Qrs Sangster's Station  
Mar. 11 1862

Dearest

We are encamped here as before on our advance. After I finished your letter the other night, I lay down & slept a little while when suddenly I received a dispatch to move the Division at 6 A.M. the next day. It was then almost 12 o'clock. I went to Gen Sumners Head Qrs. called the Brigade commanders together, drew up the order of march, worked till daylight & started. Gen Sumner arrived from Washington at that time and took command.

Yesterday we had a terribly hard march, about 17 miles with a hard rain most of the way. I had command of the Advanced Guard & also of my Brigade. Perhaps you might like to know of an order of march. [Sketch showing the positions of the various components of the brigade –cavalry, scouts, skirmishers, artillery and the regiments with their commanders, the number of men marching in a line, etc.] When we came into camp at night we encamp in three lines thus [Diagram showing the positions of the various brigades with the names Advanced Guard, Howard's Brigade, French's Brigade, Meagher's Brigade, Rear Guard. Also a drawing of a man putting up a tent.]

This is the kind of work I am much engaged in. We hear that Manassas was entirely evacuated Sunday. You will get the news from the paper. My brigade, really, first started them in this quarter for I took Fairfax Station, and the next day the Brigade in front of me retired. It was Genl Kirby Smith's. Last night we encamped near Brimstone Hill. I had me a shelter fixed –made of rails, thus [sketch of a man sitting in front of a shelter.] and crawled in. I slept warm in my buffalo robe. Tonight our wagon is here & we have drawn a tent fly over a pole thus [sketch of the shelter and a fire]. You know it is very warm for you perceive the fire in front. I am writing right in front just inside the crotched pole.

Give much love to Guy & Grace & kiss Jamie & the others if they claim it. Be not over anxious. I have been very tired, two nights with little sleep, but last night I slept beautifully. I have just hired a contraband from Manassas. The band have come to sing to me - "Marching along, McClellan's our leader &c".

Camp life has its pleasures & excitements as well as its hardships. Capt Sewall says – It is a hard life – but Chas & I have been thro a "Bull run" defeat.

Good night darling. God be with & bless you & me.  
Your husband  
Otis

---

1611 3/12/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1565

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[71]

Auburn Mar 12th 1862

My dearest Otis

Manassas evacuated. Now what are you going to do? And where are you going? I received your note of the 4th inst, with a few words from Charlie which he added the 9th and mailed to me. I shall look for a longer letter to-morrow. I dont know as there will be need of my going to house-keeping. The war may be ended before I come into possession of the house engaged. So many say the war will be over by June if not before. Now, Otis, dearest, what do you think? I dont want you to write anything "Contraband" but I would like your opinion.

I got a note from Isabella to-day. She is anxious to be with the children and I have no doubt but that she will enjoy herself very much now. She would find Jamie a little treasure, he is very old in all his ways. He sees a great many mama's and papa's pass the windows.

I believe I spoke of Mother's short visit to me, in my last letter. I wish she could have stayed longer. I think of taking Grace and going to Leeds for a day or two. I am out of sewing, and while I can I am going to begin my summer sewing, and wish to go to my trunks packed at Leeds. I wish I could do something for you and the rest. Can I? I could do anything you might suggest. Will there be any particular things you may need. I know Charlie will tell me if there is, so you may pass this letter over to him. You are not wearing white shirts I take it, from what you said about packing and sending to Washington a trunk.

All the rest retired some time since but as I do not feel sleepy and have had an idle day, I think I will not do so at present.

Mrs Goff is here from Farmington. I called to see her this afternoon but found her out. Mrs Dr Harris was out also. I walked on to the Book store and got the 'paper', afterwards called to see a Mrs Venig. She is a sister to Mr Strout the Dentist here, but she has always lived in Portland where I knew her. She has come up here to take care of her very aged mother.

Mrs Lothrop and Mary Jane have been in Leeds all winter. Warren was on his way to Fort Donelson after it was occupied by our troops the last I heard from him. He has lately returned from recruiting. I have not met one of the "Watsons" since I have been here. I think it a little strange. They attend Mr Adams church. I do like Mr Adams very much.

Do you suppose the retreating rebels will trouble Gen. Burnside? I do hope they will not. I miss Aunt Betsey to talk with. She always comes in to see the papers. She is a great reader. She has gone to visit Aunt Lucy.

I hope you wont forget to write me very often. I have not written to Maria yet in answer to her letter to me. I enjoy the society of Mrs Stinson very much. She is a sister to Mr. Blaines wife at Augusta. Her husband is with Col. Dow under Gen Butler. I would like to know just how you are to-night and Charlie. At Camp California I believe because you have but just got back.

The same God watches there as here, and here as there. I trust you in his care. Children all asleep, so no messages or kisses from them.

From your  
Lizzie

Morning.

Guy had a restless night. Another sore broke in his ear. All the rest very well.

Lizzie



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1612 3/13/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1566

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills Mar 13, 1862

Dearest -

All well. Chas & I rode yesterday over the enemy's deserted camp at Manassas. I am in command of the Division again, and dont have leisure.

Much love to all. Kiss the Children.

God bless you  
Affectionately Yr husband  
Otis

---

1613 3/14/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1567

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

Farmington Mch. 14, 1862

Dear Bro. Otis

It may seem strange amid the alarms of war to hear of the peaceful triumphs of Jesus but I know it will seem good to you. The work of Grace still makes progress among us. A young lady found Jesus yesterday – two others & a young man were smitten by the Sword of the Spirit last night, and there is growing to be a more general interest among Christians. The Revival came upon us so suddenly that few were in any measure prepared to point Sinners to Jesus. O it takes great Grace to do that well!

I visited a family this a.m. the husband of wh. is a common laborer. He has all his life been a Swearer & Sabbath breaker and opposed his wife's attending meeting. She was once baptized but had gone back. He was induced to attend Mr. Hammonds meetings. The Holy Spirit met him and all is changed – the father prays in his family and is a regular missionary among his own class – holding a solemn little prayer meeting at his own house last night. His oxen behave well – the children have stopt swearing and the eldest is seeking Jesus.

I will tell you now of one family by the name of Greenwood. One invalid of ten years has been a patient Sufferer, but has just found Jesus. Ditto her Sister who takes care of her. Her brother a hard kind of man of 45, after a long, hard struggle, yielded to the Spirits influence. So his three boys – aged 13, 11, & 9 and the hired girl. Four of our Dr's are interested, two Drs Alexander & Russell, converted. In three families which I visited this morning the Servant girls had found Jesus. There are over 100 inquirers in our congregation of 250 – 2/3 of these have expressed hope in Jesus and there are many more among the Baptist, methodist & F.W. Baptist people. There is perfect harmony among Christians.

Even the Unitarians have their weekly prayer meetings & they are well attended. There are 8 or 10 of their young people converted, who will probably join our church. The Unitarian Minister is in a terrible strait. O that he would yield & follow Jesus!

Mother & Laura have been up & enjoyed some of our meetings. Sarah does her duty in conversation with the impenitent, and is greatly blessed. It would do you good to see and hear some of the babes in Christ lisping his name. Much fervent prayer has been offered for the Army in our meetings. Many request prayers for friends in the Service. 12 boys in the Abbott School give good evidence of piety & as many pupils in the Academy. Willie Frost has seemed changed. He "Hopes", but we tremble for him. His mother is here but does not yet seem to yield.

Ella's Father has been here. He is very much changed, is very much interested in everything religious, but don't seem to have found Jesus yet. He kneels at prayers, likes to talk, is a faithful student of the Bible and, I have no doubt, is often in his closet, but he don't confess Christ. Hattie is a Sweet Christian. She will be here next week. Lizzie is in Portland still.

Your Lizzie seems happy & contented at Lewiston. Hadn't she better stay? And Mr Farwell let his house to some other? We will have to move next month. Lizzie is now contented, it seems to me. The trouble & expense of house keeping will be great & you may be home by next fall. D.V. [God Willing]

Yr. loving Bro  
Rowland

---

1614 3/16/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1568

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73]

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills Mar 16, 1862

Dearest,

I rec'd two dear good letters from you last night. I had command of the division yesterday & day before. Yesterday sent Genl French with his command to occupy Manassas junction about 3 1/2 miles from here. I feel sorry that I did not write you a long letter last night, but I am so interrupted by having a double command, for I continue to hold my Brigade while I run the Division. Genl Sumner returned last night. He has an army Corps. Genl Kearney has this division. I am sorry. I think it will be better for me to command a brigade in every way but I do wish the lot had fallen on some other man than Kearney, because he has been & I feel is still a very corrupt man, profane, a high liver, hard drinker, licentious. These are hard things to say & I feel sorry to say them, for if he was a good man I would be perfectly satisfied. All will be well - "Jehovah-jereh"

Charles is well. Boynton is only a Captain. He came back from La. but did not want to take a high command. Probably he is on parole, not to fight in this war. He was restored to a Captaincy in the 11th infantry I think & is instructor at West Point. [See Note.]

I dont think Field is Killed, but it may be so.

Stuart is a Brig. Genl. Carroll commands an Ohio Regt., was under Genl Sanders & mentioned in his reports, is now under Genl Shields & in Banks Army Corps.

I will not delay the Post Man any longer this morning.

The enemy are 50 miles from us. We shall move south very soon but how soon I cannot tell. It will take a little time to perfect the new organization & a little more to get the transportation arrangements made. The R.R. here is being repaired. The bridges were burnt & track taken up.

Much love to Guy. I left "Castor" at Camp with a woman. She will take care of him till I come back. I am afraid he wont learn anything. Grace must join with Guy & pray for papa in these times, and little Jamie bless his little heart.

God bless you all.

Affectionately, your own husband  
Otis

[Note. Edward C. Boynton was a graduated from USMA in 1846. He served in the Mexican War and then returned to West Point as instructor. He became Professor of Chemistry at University of Mississippi until September, 1861, when he was dismissed for not supporting the confederate states. He was permitted to return to the north by promising not to take an active role in the military against the south. He was then appointed Adjutant and Quartermaster of the USMA.]

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1615 3/16/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1569

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Auburn, March 16th 1862

My dearest Otis

I wonder what I can write to you to-day. I am thinking a great deal about you of late, and regarding ourselves of very little importance, for we are comfortable, having very few trials or troubles in this vicinity. I do hope you and Charlie are very well and I do wish you could have sufficient sleep. I do want you to take care of your health as well as you can. I should be much more anxious about you if Charlie was not with you. Under the present circumstances it is better to have a brother with you than your wife, and as you say it is not a little thing either.

I have been trying to learn where Sangsters station is by your old letters, written at the time of the first advance, but I am not able to find its exact location. I should like to learn a great deal all at once now. Are you going to try to write to me, at least, every other day?

I commenced this letter in the afternoon, but I am now writing in the evening, about eight o'clock.

We are having a severe snow storm. This is the third day, a very great deal of snow has fallen.

I counted twenty five men and boys together, that came out of the church after morning service, and not as many this afternoon. I read aloud to Guy this morning over an hour. Grace and Minnie were downstairs, reading and singing. I had a play with Jamie also. I read to Guy and Grace nearly all the afternoon, till they were both tired from listening, although they enjoyed it very much. Guy has'nt been very well since Wednesday last, but I hope by to-morrow he will be quite well. I gave him a good dose of medicine to-night. Jamie is as happy and willful as usual. Tell Charlie he is beginning to get quite a head of hair. I fear it is going to be a greater task to govern him that it was both the other children.

Mrs Goff has returned, she called here, she said Mr and Mrs Hardy (they are now in Mr Farwell house) are going to take care of and board Mr & Mrs Stanwood, I think the name is. So I suppose there will not be any trouble about their moving. I suppose I shall go to Farmington when the house is vacated. Sarah sent word for me to stop with her while getting to house-keeping, but I should prefer to go to a boarding house. Then I need not hurry, but take time according to the weather.

Rowland is to move and I presume will do so next month. He and Mr Cutler are to exchange houses. They are out of the village now, but will be in the village after they move. Here is where they are living now. [drawing of the street layout, showing Rowland's house a little away from the two main streets.] Dont you think I can make written pictures?

I wish you would write Grace and Guy a short letter each, if you are not moving every day and have time to write. You must have a great deal to do. I dont know but I should like to see someone else in command of the advance guard. I wonder if the papers to-morrow will tell where the rebels are. I hope they are on their way to the Gulf.

I cannot write more to-night for I need to go to sleep. I will trust you in the hands of Him, who doeth all things well. Much love to Charlie, may he also be kept by the same power.

Affectionately your own  
Lizzie

Mar 19. Dearest. We are all very well this morning. I hope you are. I had no mail yesterday. Shall get it soon!

Yours  
Lizzie

---

1616 3/17/1862    *From:* Henry N. Rothery    *To:* General O.O. Howard

OOH-1570                      Camp Griffins Battery  
    Near  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      Alexandria Va.

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[76]

Camp Griffins Battery Near  
Alexandria Va. March 17th, 1862.

General O.O. Howard  
General

I had the pleasure of receiving thirty \$30 dollars from you on the 15th, inst, for which favor I am very grateful. The General hopes that I have not forgotten my saviour & shall not forget when I was brought to direct my attention to the great saviour of mankind by the remarks of Lt. Howard in the Chapel, on West Point. I was confirmed, in Washington, about two months since, but I am aware that this is not all that is necessary but it is a change of heart obtained by constant watchfulness and prayer.

Your Obedt. Servant  
Henry N. Rothery

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1617 3/17/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1571

Hd. Qrs. Union Mills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[77]

Hd. Qrs. Union Mills

Mar 17 1862

Dearest,

I marched the Division to Fairfax Station & thence to F. Court House yesterday - all but Gen French's Brigade. Then from reports we got from Genl French, Gen Sumner ordered me back again with the Division. Genl Richardson came & took command. So yesterday we marched upwards of twenty miles in the mud. Oh, was'nt I tired last night.

Friday we shall cross Bull run, take possession of Manassas. We are intended to go down the Potomac but when we shall get there is uncertain. I wish the strength & property of the men could be economized a little more.

You must never be anxious, for it is only once in a great while that we are exposed to danger.

Good bye & God bless you & the little ones.

Affectionately yr husband

Otis

---

1618 3/17/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1572

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[78]

[ca - March 17, 1862]

[Ink drawing labeled Secession officers house.]

Here is papa's head quarters the 17th March 1862. He feels too tired to write a letter, but he will just say to Mamma & the children that he is about a mile & one half from Manassas junction with his troops living in a secession camp. The enemy built little log huts & in the order of an encampment.

Dearest. I feel pretty well, but a little tired. Irregular hours as to rest & sleeping any where or no where are the hard things on a campaign. We shall probably turn back very soon, such seems to be the program now. I shant be sorry when the work is done & I can return to my happy little family.

There is scarcely any danger of an action here. Genl Richardson is here. He happened to be at Fairfax Court house, without any staff when we were ordered back. So he came on. The enemy is watching us but dont intend any action. Mr Miles is going to leave me & go on Genl Sumner's staff. I shall have Lieut Scott of the 61st in his place.

Much love to the little children. May God protect you all & me.

Affectionately your own husband  
Otis

P.S. Charles encloses the hair.

---

1619 3/18/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1573

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd Qrs Howard's  
Brigade  
Camp Manassas

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[79]

Hd Qrs Howard's Brigade  
Camp Manassas Mar 18 1862

Dearest

We are still here quietly encamped. Yesterday, after making the dispositions for the division, I rode with Charlie through the different Camps about here. We are south of "Bull run ". This morning Charlie & I with Dr. Knight, 5th NH Surgeon, & a company of cavalry went to the Manassas junction & a little way beyond. Genl French's Brigade is there, with one battery of Artillery. You will have seen a description of Manassas & its surroundings in the papers. There are quarters here & at Centerville sufficient to hold a hundred thousand men. Nine works at Centerville are pretty good. Here they are well arranged but incomplete, very different from ours this side of the Potomac. I presume we will be recalled to Fairfax Court house tomorrow, preparatory to a southern movement down the Potomac.

I got your kind & affectionate letter of the 12th this morning. I think you had better act without regard to the close of the war. The retreat of Johnson from Manassas does not indicate any disposition to give up, but a simple change which was necessitated by the movement of Genl Banks on the right. He (Johnson) has crossed the Rapahannock & is most probably fortifying & watching us. Our Army will move as quick as possible. Deo Volente, down the Potomac, Banks replaces us & we follow the rest.

We have not conquered the enemy yet. Stuart is opposite me with 2000 Cavalry, 3 Battalions of infantry & one battery. I am watching against one of his sudden raids. Genl Richardson is here. He now has his Adjutant Genl & I have loaned him an aid, so he will relieve me from responsibility in a measure.

I hear that Col. Field is not dead. You can have little idea of the distances here. There are so few homes to relieve the monotony of moving from place to place. The miles seem very long, and more so when this sticky mud is about 4 or 5 inches deep. But it is drying up rapidly.

How desolate everything is here. I went over the battle field the other day. Horses bones are strewn around & greenery covered with a few rails appear here & there to mark the places of encounter with the messenger of death. Most of the houses are deserted. A few poor people are living in the vicinity collecting a scanty subsistence from the abandoned camps. The enemy took a great deal pains in fixing themselves up for winter. All the houses are <long> little log huts with one window & a good fireplace.

I have a "Contraband" for a servant, agreed to pay him ten dollars per month. His name is Abram.

Genl Porter went & took possession of our Camp. Tell Guy that poor Castor is dead. A wicked man went into our Camp & shot him. Papa feels very sorry for he was a nice little dog & he anticipated a great deal of pleasure in taking him home to Guy. Capt Sewall has a boy by the name of Charlie. They call him "Boni" . He isnt much larger than Guy, ie not much taller, but very stout. He is a German & very bright. He rides my horse "Charlie " when I am on the other. I was thinking Guy might ride him, if horse "Charlie" & I get home. I have a fine Grey & Uncle Charles rides the third, that looks exactly like a Zebra. John sticks by me as my orderly. And you cannot beat him for activity in the field. When I move, I have my blanket & robe rolled up together & roll my india rubber blanket outside of that & then bind them by three straps on the back of my saddle. I put my dinner in the saddle pockets & then I am ready for a march.

You feel anxious to send me something, but I am anxious to reduce my baggage to its smallest possible limits. I have scarcely had our wagons get up to us the night after any march. So I go prepared. You must keep everything good till I get home. I should like to hear you & Aunt Betsey talk politics & tactics. You dont say much of Aunt Sarah. I fear her troubles & deafness have been a great detriment to her.

Perhaps I must give you an idea of this Division now belonging to Genl Richardson.

Genl Howard & Staff: Capt Sewall, Lieut Miles, Lieut Howard, Dr. Palmer. Capt Barker, Lieut Balloch.

Genl French: Capt Fast, Capt Valli, Lieut Farber, Lieut French, Capt Fuller, Lieut McGabe, Dr Grant.

Genl. Meagher (pronounced mar): Capt –, Lieut Gossen, Capt Sullivan, Capt –, Dr Tayler

Batteries Chief- Capt Clark: 1st battery Clarkes, 2nd Frank, 3d Nettil

Farnsworth's Cavalry -one Regt.

I am sorry to know that Guy's ears trouble him so much. Gracie & Jamie are spoken of most highly by mother. Guy was at school. Tell me about his school. Much love to them all & to your self darling.

Yr husband

Otis

God bless & protect you all.

---

1620 3/19/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1574

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[80]

Auburn Mar. 19th 1862  
Wednesday evening 10 o'clock

Dearest

I have just thought I would write you. I wish you to know that I have seen the "order" against letters from the "Army of the Potomac" being written. I do not know as it includes both Officers and men. If it does I am sorry but it will be no worse for me than thousands of others. I wish so many would stop finding fault with Gen. McClellan. To-days paper says "reported capture of Fredericksburg last Sunday". I hardly think so for your last letter was written from "Union Mills" on Monday.

We are all very well. I was out walking this afternoon with cousin Fanny. I received your letter of the 17th to-day. I thought it might be the last one for some time. Who is Gen. Richardson? I did not see Gen Kearney's name so presume he is not there. In what Div is the 3d Maine.

I wont write a longer letter to-night, Dearest. It is getting late. I was about to retire without writing, but I feared the children might hinder me in the morning, or something else might. I told Aunt to-day I was very sorry she or anyone would say or think I had a hard time – doing what I have to do and taking care of the children. I wish everyone would wait until I said something about uttering a complaint. I am not, what a forlorn sort of an individual I should be without these children.

I have plenty of money and shall have occasion to spend but little till I go to Farmington, except (if I do go to Leeds) what things I should take with me. I think I have "interest money" in April. I have'nt looked at the papers, so am not quite sure. If I am not to get letters I shall want to see Mrs Sewall more than ever.

I must write good night. When I have finished a letter I generally delay wishing to write more, then I would like to get into the envelope myself when I come to close up the letter. But your duty is there and I know mine is here.

Again Good Night  
Your own Lizzie

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1621 3/21/1862 *From:* Edward <Gurld>

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1575

Headquarters <51st>

*Source:* Bowdoin

NHV

Camp Manassas

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[81]

Headquarters <51st> NH  
Camp Manassas, March 21, 1862

Dear General

I was not only surprised and grieved at reading your note. Never in my life have I ever shirked or shrank from my duty even when I knew death stood in the way. The information I gave you yesterday morning I then supposed to be true & did not know otherwise until this morning. The floors brought by my men from Manassas eked out their ration. I trust, sir, that you did not do me the injustice to think I told you a lie to shield myself from duty. For 7 years I have borne arms, taken part in five battles, received three honorable rewards and it is not for me at this time, in the place I now hold to play the shirk.

For your expressions of esteem and confidence I thank you. Believe me, sir I entertain the most cordial sentiments of respect and friendship towards yourself, and you will never find a warmer supporter, in camp, or the march, or under fire of the enemy.

I beg to enclose a little slip of paper, that you may see that I come of a stock is not in the habit of neglecting duty.

I hope sir that my statement that I intended to state the truth & nothing else is satisfactory.

I am very truly  
Edward <Gurld>

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1622 3/21/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1576

Head Qrs Manassas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82]

Head Qrs Manassas  
Mar 21, 1862

Dearest

I have an opportunity to send in a note. Lt Col Johnson is waiting – he is going to Alexandria. Yesterday I made a reconnaissance in the rain for about 12 miles along the Manassas Gap R.R. but found nothing & nobody but burnt property & civilians somewhat frightened at our sudden apparition. Chas went with me. He is the most energetic & enterprising man we have. I generally give him the advance guard or advance scouts. We learned where the enemy was not. The roads have hundreds of dead horses left by the Rebels on the retreat. They burnt a Depot at Gainesville containing some 300 or 400 bushels of wheat. They have burnt bridges across the Shenandoah & at Thoroughfares &c. I saw some little children yesterday at Gainesville that reminded me of home – a little girl about as big as Gracie came up & talked with me very freely. We are still here waiting for Genl Banks. These long scouts look short on the maps but they give me a good appetite & good sleep at night.

A letter from you darling when it follows me up, & finds me in the field is as great a treat as I can have. Give much love to little Guy. Tell him papa is very sorry that he has so much pain in his ear.

I am happy to hear that sinners come turning to the Lord. I will try to be a true & faithful disciple here & my precious wife must cleave close unto Him & then she can but have true wisdom to direct her.

Kiss Jamie, Gracie & Guy, and tell them papa prays for them daily. Guy & Grace must never forget to ask God to take care of him & keep him from sin. They must be holy children & learn to do good all the time. I want them to be always unselfish & happy.

How good the Lord is to us all, is he not? Be patient & be happy & do what you think is best & believe me your most loving husband  
Otis

---

1623 3/22/1862      *From:* Oliver Otis Howard      *To:* Dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1577a

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[84]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade Mar. 22 1862

Dear Guy,

Papa received a good letter from dear mamma this morning and he was very glad. It was written mostly last Sunday, but sent Wednesday after. Do you remember Alexandria, the city you and uncle Rowland came through when you visited papa in camp. Well if you kept your eyes as wide open as you generally do you saw a rail road going straight out into the country. That Rail Road leads out to where we now are. We are about 25 miles from Alexandria. The first station is Ravensworth where papa protected the men who built a bridge across the Accotink (that is a small stream of water with high banks). He had himself sort of wigwam built there, thus [small picture of a tree and shelter] where he slept with uncle Charlie, Capt Sewall & Mr Miles. The fire was built in the centre and against the tree. A little hole was left at the top for the smoke. Everybody lay with his feet to the fire. The next station is Burke's. Here papa slept for two nights in a house. The next station is called "Fairfax Station." The next "Sangster's", where papa slept under a tent fly. The next "Union Mills". Here we had a house at Mr Landis where we were very kindly treated by the good woman Mrs Landis. She had a little girl about your size & age, whom papa talked with every chance he could get. Her name tell Grace was Sallie. Papa left that house in the morning & marched all day last Sunday & the same night returned to the same house; perhaps to pay Genl Sumner for making us march Sunday. The next day we went across Bull run along the same Rail road almost to the next station, called Manassas & here we have been, ever since. The Rebels have made thousands of huts & we are living in some of them. We are waiting and watching here, expecting soon to go back.

[picture of hills next to water.]

The hills are something like the above on both sides of "Bull Run". Papa feels very sorry that Guy has so many ill turns. You must try and be very kind to Gracie. Nothing is more pleasing to your Saviour than to show yourself loving and kind to your sister little brother and mother. Papa is now going to Genl Richardson't Head Quarters, i.e. Genl. Richardson's house. Give much love to dearest mamma, Gracie & Jamie. If he dont understand that, kiss him. Always pray to God to protect your papa & bring him home in his own good time.

Your loving papa  
Oliver Otis Howard



---

1625 3/22/1862      *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1578

Hd Qrs Howards  
Brigade  
Camp Manassas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[83]

Hd Qrs Howards Brigade  
Camp Manassas  
Mar. 22 1862

My dear Lizzie,

It has been a long time since I wrote you.

Capt Hazard of the Artillery came here yesterday P.M. He is to relieve Capt Clark in command of a battery & Chief of Artillery for this Division. Capt C. goes upon the Army Corps Staff. Capt H. was in Florida with Otis & so felt himself to be an old acquaintance. He is very sociable & told us a great deal about the Campaign & the Army of the West. He has been Col. of the 37th Indiana, was among those who first occupied Nashville. His experiences with a new Volunteer Regt. has been very similar to that of Otis'.

It seems he was firstly strict & wouldn't let the men go home &c &c so that 4000 women at length petitioned to have him relieved and as his connection with the Army had never been dissolved he was ordered from Washington to join his Company. He is not so popular in his turn & more angular than your venerated husband.

One thing that must have mitigated against Capt Hazard was that he did not allow the Chaplain to visit the Hospital without a pass.

Last night it rained hard but our hut does not leak. We slept in a row upon the floor, six of us. The Gen, Capt H., myself, Lt. Scott (He takes Mr. Miles place who was promoted to Army Corps Staff) Mr Balloch (Commissary) Capt Sewall (in the other corner). Dr. Palmer was here but slept on the table! John also found a place.

The sun came out bright & pleasant this morning. Gen. French who is down beyond the Junction & over 2 or 3 miles from us sent up word last night that the Enemy had been discovered near & that they were building a bridge across Broad Run as if to return upon us. He sent a Regiment in the night to ascertain but they did not find the enemy. They may yet be over the River getting the timber ready as much chopping was heard yesterday. We shall probably move down that way today & some of Blenker's Division will probably come on from Fairfax Court House.

We deem it somewhat uncertain whether we go down river in the boats as we at first expected.

It is strange Banks does not appear with his column to relieve us.

With a great deal of love to Guy & Grace & sweet little Jamie - & mostly to yourself on the score of sisterhood, remember me always as your brother,

C.H. Howard

Otis is going down to look for a place in case we move forward. I just heard him call for his grey horse. Did you know he had two?

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1626 3/23/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1579

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[88]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Mar 23, 1862

My dear Mother

I will write you a short letter tonight. Charlie generally writes Mother & I write Lizzie, but I must not get quite out of the habit of writing my mother.

You may think we work very hard. Sometimes we do – work, eat & sleep irregularly – then again for a few days we have scarcely anything to do, unless we make work. I dont like to let the troops be still long, for they get sick & out of order. I made two long reconnaissances last week, but did'nt do much else. The Rebel army in force is a good way off from us. They can retire & destroy bridges & rail roads faster than we can repair them, for you know it is easier to tear down houses than to build them.

People may wonder why armies do not move faster, but they cannot, for horses & men have to be fed, and this Country furnishes little or nothing to eat. This was a very poor section of Virginia in brighter days. The soil is nothing but red clay interspersed with sandstone here & there. One day the mud will be deep, sticky & troublesome to footmen & the next it will be dry even to dust, if a steady wind blows accompanied by sunshine.

The two principal features here are deserted huts for soldiers and dead horses. There are scarcely any dwelling houses. One, a Mr Weir lived about a mile from here, a wealthy man, who has gone away abandoning all his property. I have seen only one occupied by its owner within a mile and that is by a Mr Cannon who has just returned to it. War, under the best of circumstances, is an awful scourge. Everything decays before it. Farms, woods & fields of grain are destroyed. It matters little whether the force be friendly to the country or not.

I perceive also the demoralization of the men. We lose that careful recognition of the rights of persons to their own property, and make our necessities entirely the measure of our respect for those rights. I am afraid we shall steal when we get home if our neighbors have things better than we.

I try as hard as I can to prevent all marauding & lawless foraging, but with all I am obliged to provide – oats & corn & hay for horses & sometimes for an unexpected number. The course we have pursued is this – we tell a citizen – we want to buy your cows or your oats, and we will receipt for them & recommend to the government to pay on condition of the seller taking the oath of allegiance at the time of payment. Every body is willing to take the oath. I understand that they had to take the oath to serve the southern confederacy when the other army was here. The poor people between the two armies have a hard time of it. I dont wonder they get corrupt. There are no schools, no churches, no sabbaths.

We had today one service of the entire Brigade. We formed a large square thus: [picture of the arrangement of 4 groups of soldiers around a central chapel] like four blocks, Each Regt. a block with the band, Chaplain & the field officers in the center. Mr Wilkins, the only chaplain out here, of the New Hampshire 5th preached on the text: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation." He gave a real good, honest, truthful & touching discourse.

Rowland writes most cheering news from Farmington. I am rejoiced to see so many turning to the Lord. I wish I could support him by the prayers he desires from me. But it seems to me that I need all your prayers to keep me in the path of duty. I know I need the help of the Lord.

Charlie is a dear good brother – bold & fearless in the saddle, kind & gentle in quarters. We always move on in perfect harmony. Lizzie says he is better here than a wife. I think so for this is too rough a place for a wife. I heard that the wife of the adjutant of the 61st N.Y. came to the Camp tonight – a beautiful & delicate little

woman. I wish she was away in a good comfortable home

I ought to write Dellie & I mean to.

Is Oscar still hard on McClellan. Genl Burnside gives a beautiful tribute to his (McClellan's) plans in his report of the battle of Newbern. I still have great confidence in the patriotism of Genl McClellan, which I have not in many of his coadjutors & subordinates. Our new division Genl is Brig Genl Richardson, a graduate of West Point. I think he is a good man, but I wish he got up earlier in the morning & was a little more active. Our Army Corps is Sumner's consisting of Richardson's, Blenkers, & Sedgwicks Divisions. Richardson's Division consists of Howard's, French's & Meagher's Brigades – three batteries of Artillery, 6 pieces each & one full Regiment of Cavalry. The Army Corps will be nearly 30,000 men. The other Divisions I am not very fully acquainted with yet. We shall soon be brought together.

I wonder if you & father have been able to go out to meeting today. I feel sorry I shant see Aunt Howard [See Note 1] again, but I can only rejoice that she has laid off the burden of life to join her good husband in the better land. They are with Christ.

Give much love to Father from me & Charlie & to yourself. Remember us to Roland & fam., to Thos. & wife & to the neighbors. I feel sorry for Isaiah Additon's affliction [Note 2].

Very affectionately yr son  
Otis

[Note 1. Mary (Howard) Howard died 12 March 1862 at the age of 94. She was married to her second cousin, Barnabas Howard (1770-1859), who was the brother of Otis' grandfather, Seth Howard.]

[Note 2. Isaiah Addition's three daughters died in Feb & Mar, 1862. Flora and Juliette both died 15 Feb. Lorett died 10 Mar.]

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1627 3/24/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1580

Hd Qrs Camp  
Manassas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89]

Hd Qrs Camp Manassas  
Mar 24 1862

Dearest,

All well & waiting. I am Comdg. Division again. Chas. has gone with Lt. Col. Langley to the old Battle ground. Some of the men are getting sick in these old Camps. The man is waiting for the mail. I thought I would just send love to the Children & many kisses. Our position is entirely safe with regard to the enemy, & God is our protector.

Good bye  
Affectionately  
Your husband  
Otis

Our forces have landed at New Port News. Rowland thinks you are as well & happy at Auburn as at Farmington. Would you rather stay at Auburn?

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1628 3/25/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1583

Hd Qrs Warrenton  
Junction

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd Qrs Warrenton Junction  
Mar 2 [March 26, 1862?]

Dearest -

All well. We had a slight skirmish yesterday with horsemen – nobody hurt. A <horse> killed I believe. Give much <love> & many kisses to the little <ones>. God bless you all & keep you.

Affectionately  
Otis

---

1629 3/26/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1581

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[85]

Farmington Mch 26/62

Dear Sister Lizzie

From some hints that you have dropt, I have thought that perhaps you would feel happier at your Aunts & in the neighborhood of the telegraph & relieved from the cares & expense of housekeeping.

If this be your feeling, why not stay there & let Mr Farwell let his house? To be sure it has seemed settled but I have no doubt all could be arranged with him. Write me, please frankly, what you wish & how you feel and I will do just as you wish.

The Revival is making great progress and I am at work as hard as I can, but O it is a most delightful work.

Our last news from Otis & Chas was the 16t inst, when they were at Fairfax Ct. H. on their return to Alexandria to embark on the Boats for Ft. Munroe &c. I hope you have heard since. The engagement at Winchester shows that Banks can't relieve them at Fairfax as they hoped.

Sarah & family are all well. So are we. Hattie Patten is here for a few days of her vacation.

A deaf & dumb man called here in my absence one day to see Isabella. John & Helen are housekeeping over the River. We have had no mails for a week till yesterday or I would have written before. A wood bill has been presented to me and a bill for the Electic this year., the former about 40\$ & the latter 5\$. If you don't come the wood can be easily disposed of, but if you still desire to come & keep house here till God permits Otis to rejoin you, we will be very happy to have you & the dear children so near us.

So write immediately. Mr Hardy is to leave the house today & if you move before the <snow> goes away it had better be pretty soon.

Sarah expects you & yr family there and she is now well situated to have you come. I wish we were not quite so far off, but we expect to move down town in May. We have not had a case of Diptheria in the Village since these blessed meetings commenced nearly six weeks ago. The health of the place is now good.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

---

1630 3/27/1862    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1582

Hd Qrs Cedar run  
near Warrenton  
Junction

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87]

Hd Qrs Cedar run  
near Warrenton Junction  
Mar 27 1862

Dearest

We are here, a beautiful morning, all well & in good spirits. Kiss the little ones. Pray for me that I have the courage to do right. I will write as soon as possible more at length.

Very lovingly your husband  
O.O. Howard

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1631 3/30/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard[

*To:* My dear Brother  
[Unknown]

OOH-1584

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington  
Mch 30 [1862]  
Sab. Evening

My dear Brother

I will not write till tomorrow morn. May God bless & keep you this night!

Mon. morn.

I am having an opportunity this morning to "see what preparations the Sun makes when he leaves his Eastern chamber." We have a splendid crust, and the coasting down over the hill in front of our house is magnificent & well improved. Your kind note came Sat. night. I am not "angry" but if you send my letters to Ned Parker, I mustn't write confidentially. What we understand, inter nous, might seem to him officious in me.

Rev. Dr. Thurston of Searsport, below Bangor on the coast, is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, settled Pastor in the State. He is connected with a large family of excellent Congregationalist Christians & I am glad he has invited you. Prof Whittlesey of Bowdoin Coll. preached for me yesterday & I rested till evening. He wants you to come to Brunswick. If Dr. Adams will write you cordially, I would go, otherwise, not. I will hope to see you while at Lewiston. When will you come? We pray for Plymouth. Our Unitarian minister Raston, is from that place. He advertised in the papers & preached a doctrinal Sermon yesterday morning wh. drew away some of our young people. I hear that he was quite orthodox in the use of language. May the Lord keep that wily fox from destroying the vines - the tender ones here - & He will.

I delivered your message to Mrs H. & David. She generally reads your letters before I do. Hattie & Lis go home today with Prof. W. My Brothers are in advance towards Gordonsville Va. working & praying their way along. I feel a little acquainted with Mr. Headly on acct. of his contributions to literature. May the Lord help you to help him!

Some 15 rose for prayers last night - some new ones - a few first expressed hope yesterday. The no. hopefully converted in connection with these meetings cannot be less than 150. Old Professors are making up & hearing more & more signs of life every day. So far the young converts appear well. H.M. Dyer to whom you wrote, is not the Dr. who still inquires for but does not find Jesus. The former is a printer in the Patriot Office. Remember us kindly to yr. friends at home.

Yours forever  
R.B. Howard

How about the Ordination?

[Note: This was not addressed to Otis or Charles and probably not to Dellie because of the reference to "yr friends at home". The reference to the ordination and the tone of the letter probably means that it was sent to a fellow (unknown) minister.]

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1632 4/2/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1585

Hd Qrs Bristoe's Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[91]

Hd. Qrs. Bristoe's Station  
2 miles south of Manassas  
Apr. 2nd 1862

Dearest,

We are now on our return to Alexandria. Have now been four weeks in the field without tents. Our shoes are nearly worn out with long marches in this claying slippery mud. So we will probably delay long enough to fit up anew.

Last night after bivouacing for the night, I sent to Manassas junction & got the mail. You may guess my joy to get two letters from you - one written the 27th & the other previous. Charlie got one from Mother & one from Dellie. I got one from Mother and one from our friend Mr Jno. Bacon.

I have not seen our action of the 28th of March reported & think it was not. If any of our friends would like to give an account of it to the papers in Maine I gave the facts to you in your letter. I fear to seek notoriety, but if I had had some cracking move & then it would have kept me probably from being improperly commanded. However, the best way is not to look at all to the Public for praise, but endeavor to do your whole duty & say nothing about it. I think they are having more deaths at home than here.

How the dyphtheria is taking off the young people of Leeds.

Capt Hazzard you spoke of he is a splendid friend to me. He cooperated the other day with promptitude & success. I have hardly met an officer before who didn't at first seem to think it exceedingly absurd that I was a General officer, but I believe by dilligence & the blessing of God, I have not failed to secure the respect of every one whose respect was worth the having.

The skirmish spoken of in the paper occurred on Thursday & not Saturday & the 61st N.Y. was not engaged but the 81st Penn. Skirmishers came under fire of a few of the carbines of the enemy, but nobody was hurt. A few of Blenker's horses came up with the inspector of the Army Corps & crossed Cedar run. As soon as the firing began, the inspector Major Davis of the Reg. Army was left alone. The horsemen watching us cleared the track as soon as Blenker's & our 81st skirmishers came up & crossed the run.

You should see us cross these streams. The men wade them some 40 or 50 feet wide often. Sometimes I get off my horse & wade about & then wait till all the Brigade is over. The Band plays & the men march straight through. This last we crossed just at dark last night was Broad Run & the water came near up to the middle of the short men.

"George Bates" Regt is now within a half mile of us for a napper. He is in Banks' column & we are going to Alex. on our way to Fortress Monroe or in that direction. I was just ordered on a night march to capture "Beauty Stuart", wh. I got up had my coffee prepared, when the order was reversed & we were ordered north. So, So, the rule goes - march & countermarch. Our road is like that of the children of Jerall & I hope that our God is the Lord.

I have so much more I would like to write, but I think I will not now. Papa is much interested in what Guy & Gracie & <[torn page]> little Jamie. Do write about them Darling & about yourself. I hope Guy will always be ingenuous & truthful & a better & a wiser man than his father.

God bless you all.

Aff.  
Otis



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1633 4/4/1862

*From:* Mrs Sampson

*To:* My dear little Guy  
[Howard]

OOH-1586

Quarter-Master's Depot  
Alexandria, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[92]

[Letterhead]

Quarter-Master's Depot  
Alexandria, Va.  
1862

[End of Letterhead]

Friday P.M. April 4th 62

My dear little Guy,

Do not think because I have not written to you for a long time, that I have in any way forgotten you, or any of the pleasant little times we had together at Camp Fessenden. I love to think of them all, and of the little tent of yours I took such good care of after you left.

Our next camp was named Howard, and there too, I was very happy. Your papa had sometimes to visit us, and every-body was always glad to see him. That Camp was broken a fortnight since, and the Regiment went to Fortress-Monroe. I came to Alexandria to remain until it should be prudent for me to rejoin the Regiment which I hope may be very soon. I am at Lieut Ferguson's whose family were friends of ours before we left home. They have one little boy, about as old I think as your little Jamie, and I love him very dearly, for he is the only white baby I have seen since I left home. We stand him in the window with a little silk flag I have made for him, and when the soldiers go by, he waves it and hurrahs, and they often bow to him.

By the way some of our neighbors are seceshionists, and the other day I saw the little girls playing with a secesh flag, and if you would like to have one and will answer this letter, I will get some ribbon and make one for you.

And now you would like to know, why I wrote to you today. 'Tis because I have just seen your papa and uncle Charlie, and I know you would be glad to hear from them through me, as perhaps they did not get time to write you themselves, for they were very busy.

They came in from Manassas at midnight and were to embark at twelve today, and I knew they would have no time to come and see me, so with my friends I went down to the Steamer to see them. They were looking very well, and though they have had very little rest for three weeks, were in excellent spirits.

They were to embark in the Steamer Spaulding which was the finest one I saw at the wharfs, and as the day is very fine, and there is a good moon, I dare say they will have a fine run down the river, and will all have an opportunity to get rested.

Genl. McClellan went to Fortress Monroe a week ago, and we may expect to hear of some important action very soon; but you must tell your Mama, not to worry too much, for the days that soldiers are in actual danger, are very few, and your papa has become well accustomed to soldiers life and if we may judge from appearances, it agrees with him.

The weather is beautiful here, many of the spring flowers are in bloom, and at Fortress Monroe the peach trees are in full blossom. They sent me up a nice little branch. I wish I had saved a bit for you, but when I go there myself if they are not all gone I will remember you; and now will <reser> out in the yard and get you a little piece of myrtle or cedar.

I want you to give my love to you dear mother and grandmother, and kiss little Gracie and Jamie for me. I hope one of these days to see them all. I shall try very hard to see your papa and Uncle Charlie as often as possible, and will be very glad to do any thing for them at any time.

I hope you will write me a long letter and tell me all about your little brother and sister, if your rabbit is living, and if you go to school and when I think of those I love at home, I will remember my little sunbeam Guy.

Very affectionately yrs  
Mrs Sampson  
at Lieut. C. B. Ferguson's  
U.S. Quarter-Master  
Box 10  
Alexandria Va.

I should have printed this letter but had no time.

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1634 4/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1587

Hd Qrs City Hotel  
Alexandria Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62]

Hd Qrs City Hotel  
Alexandria Va  
April 4 1862

Dearest

I got to Camp California about 1 a.m. last night, slept till daylight. Came to Alexandria – have embarked 3 Regts of my troops on steamboats Spaulding, Croton & Donaldson. The other the 64th is still at Manassas. We go at once to Fortress Monroe.

Will write you on the Boat. Keep up a good heart. “Jehovah jirah”

Many kisses to the children & God bless you & them.

Very affectionately,  
Otis

---

1635 4/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1588

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters on  
Board  
Steamer Spaulding  
Near mouth of Potomac

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[93]

Head Quarters on Board  
Steamer Spaulding  
Near mouth of Potomac  
8-45 P.M. Apr. 4/62

Dearest

I wrote you just a note this morning. I received your letter just before I started dated Mar 31st. I thought I detected a slight tinge of discouragement in your affectionate letter. It is accounted for in your being unwell. I wish you could be well all the time, Deo Volente, but I know I cannot hope for it with your constant care & anxiety.

The last four weeks have rather told upon Charlie, Capt Sewall & me. I find we have marched with infantry about 140 miles besides the Cavalry scouting. Capt Taylor, now A.A.Gen. of our Army Corps says he had no idea I was so indefatigable. I like to see things move, and when a movement is ordered, if it is within the range of possibility I try to accomplish it.

But these labors are nothing. You have the care of men's lives on your heart. You have to see them fed & clothed, the horses must have oats & hay, and the enemy must be watched. Everybody comes to me for direction: "Where shall I go, General." Where the ambulance, where the horses, where the commissary stores?" Then the complaints, the fights on a small scale between different regts. & officers. Then the disposition to straggle away, the carelessness of company commanders, the marauding. Poor people coming with hearts broken for protection against "the Dutch" or Irish or American robbers either connected with you or encamped near by; all these things connected with the care & movement of troops press upon a commander. When all goes well, there is much satisfaction, but it dont always go well.

But here I am now enjoying a precious rest. The boat is moving along evenly. There are some 1200 men aboard this boat tonight. I think they are nearly all asleep. The sentinels are awake to guard against fire & to keep all the men in their places when they get up.

Charles & Capt Sewall are writing at the same table with me. Charlie was not well last night & this morning but is better now, in fact completely well. He & I both have had a sleep today to pay for our privation last night. Capt Sewall has had a very bad cold & cough lately & I am very careful of him. He has at times been half inclined to leave me & go home on account of his inability to stand the storms & fatigues of Camp life, but I think he will not leave. I dont like to spare him.

Genl Richardson is a great fat man somewhat given to lie abed in the morning, but I believe him to be a well-meaning & brave man. He & I get on quite well. We shall be at Fortress Monroe by dailight tomorrow morning & then I have no notion of further movements.

I saw Isabella's brother at Bristoe's Station tuesday morning. He looked hale & hearty and had a face beaming with smiles. George Bates was with him. I thought George was not quite so contented. Both were neatly dressed with well fitting Knapsack. They have not seen such rough times as my soldiers. Their roads have been good. I saw Mrs Sampson this morning. She cried to go with us to Fortress Monroe, but I thought her husband Lt Col Sampson did not wish it. She has a pleasant place at Alexandria.

I will again commend my precious wife into the hands of God. He will deal with us all wisely.

Kiss all the children & bless their little hearts. I am glad Gracie loves to go to Church.

Affectionately  
Otis

(Direct Fortress Monroe Va.)

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1636 4/5/1862

*From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs E. A. Howard

OOH-1589

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Portland April 5th 1862

Mrs E. A. Howard

Dear Niece

The dividend on Rail Road Bonds is due and payable at the Canal Bank. If you will send the Coupons I will collect and send you the money if you wish.

The Bond dividends will be payable after Monday next.

From your Uncle  
E Waite

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1637 4/6/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1590

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade Ship Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade Ship Point  
Apr 6th 1862

Dearest

Here we are about seven miles from Yorktown. Genl McClellan is near that place. We are facilitating the forwarding of supplies. We are quite well, a little tired. Gen Richardson not having arrived I am still in command - always seem to have much of the hard work to do.

Much love to the Children. I kissed a little girl 3 yrs old named Lilly Howard, tell Grace. God bless you all.

Affectionately  
Otis

---

1638 4/6/1862

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1591a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[101]

Leeds April 6th 1862

Dear Lizzie,

After I left you, I was constantly thinking of you, and your looking so worn, and your being so undecided and talking with my husband this morning. I suggested to myself whether you had not better stay at Auburn until May and then come to me, you and the children and stay through the hot weather. I dont know whether you would like the proposition. You know how we live. Guy could go to school to Eva. I propose it for your consideration. Why I did not suggest it when with you I cannot tell.

When I arrived home I found a letter from Charles, covering two large sheets of paper, giving in detail an account of their reconaissance to the Rappahannock. He says the instructions were direct from General McClellan with orders that the designated command be under General Howard. He Charles says their reconaissance is considered a perfect success by the officers.

I hope this will find you, not sick but better. Do be careful about lifting the children. If you once get bad in that way it will be hard to recover from it. Give much love to Guy, and dear Grace, dear little Jamie. Learn him to say Grand-ma. Remember my regards Aunt Sarah and Eva and Minnie. I shall send Charles letter to Rowland. I found a letter from RB when I got home. He has not heard from his brothers for some time. Drop me a few lines soon and tell me how you are, and all the rest.

From your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

P.S. Please tell me what you think of my proposition.  
E. Gilmore

next page [A letter from John Gilmore to Lizzie was written on the next page]

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1639 4/7/1862

*From:* John Gilmore

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1591b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter was written on the last page of the letter from Eliza to Lizzie on April 6, 1862.]

Leeds April 7 1862

Dear Lizzie

I understand that you have some money that you can spare. If you will pay Mrs Lothrop twenty four Dollars & endorse on the note which she holds against me (received the interest to April 5th 1862) I will account to you or Otis for that amount.

Yours Truly  
John Gilmore

---

1640 4/7/1862

*From:* Dell [RH GILMORE]

*To:* My dear brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1592

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Bowd. Coll. Apr. 7, 1862

My dear brother:

Your last letter reached me a day or two after I mailed my last, and I imagine you may be sending me another before long, perhaps ere this reaches you. The term is now nearly done. It closes one week from tomorrow. I am now reviewing as rapidly as the Profs. see fit to put us through, much more rapidly than we are pleased to go. We finish all languages this term except English. I have become pretty tired of thumbing dictionaries and am not sorry that our labors in that direction are over. Prof. Chadbourne gives us today his introductory lecture on Natural History.

The trials and strifes of the Junior Year are nearly over. We look forward to the studies of next term with pleasure as to a recreation. Now the studies which belong to the Senior year properly come one term earlier, thanks, it is said to Mr. Fiske of Bath. Prof. Smyth intends to give us another dose of Calculus next term it is said but the class intend to make a row about it as the Committee of the Trustees obtained the agreement from him that we were not to have it after the second week of the Spring Term. I dont intend to say much but shall be very glad to see something instead of Calculus.

I see Nettie often. She treats me with great consideration. The last time I was there Mrs. Merryman inquired about you. Mrs. M. has had a very severe sore throat but is now better. George is on his way from Havre and is expected soon.

The state of things about college remains the same as of yore. Woodside of the Senior class died last Wednesday of consumption. His class and the Delta Kappa Society went to Bath to the funeral.

The state of the Snow banks in our vicinity are certainly not promising for this season of the year, and mud and water are the bore for every pedestrian. I had a letter from mother during last week in which she said the snow was four feet deep. Poor prospect for farmers.

I had a letter from Rowland on Saturday, the first for about four months. I was somewhat surprised to get it. I shall answer it immediately. He has had a remarkable revival. I wish something of the kind might manifest itself here quite speedily. Prof. Egberts lectures are attend by about a dozen, usually the same ones. The Thursday noon prayer meeting is no more. Sunday morning prayer meeting thinly attend. Junior Class prayer meeting thinly attended, cold and stiff. Never since I came to college have I seen so little interest in the cause of Christ.

The Medical Class is unusually full this term; about 70 in all, among them Alf. Mitchell & Bucknam. Mitchell boards at Mr. Savett's.

Fast Day occurs here in Maine on Thursday of this week. I am going to Bath to hear Mr. Fiske and call upon Capt. Patten's family and George Lothrop.

I am making extremely hard work trying to write this letter. It reminds me of my boyish attempts when I would scratch my head with my pen holder and ask you or mother what I should write next. After giving my love to Otis I will close because I don't know what to write next. I will write from home next.

Your affectionate brother  
Dell

---

1641 4/8/1862

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1593

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95]

Leeds April 8th 1862

Dear daughter,

Your letter to my husband came last evening. He has gone to Augusta on business, will be home either this eve'g or to morrow evening. I think he will come down to Auburn. You probably got our letter by last night's mail. I received a letter from Charles last eve written April 2d on the march back from Warrenton to Manassas at Brister's Station. You probably had one from Otis, too.

William Turner's son was here just now. He tells me they received a letter from Henry dated 30th March at Big Bethel.

A neat letter came to Guy last evening which I will enclose. Tell Guy to hold on to his good nature until the ice cream works off then it will be easy to keep it. Kiss Jamie for me, and Guy and Grace. Remember me kindly to your Aunt and Eva and Minnie, and Orestus. Much love to yourself.

Yours  
Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

---

1642 4/9/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1594

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Ship Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[102]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Ship Point Apr. 9th 1862

Dearest

It is about 9 o'clock Wednesday evening. Since Sunday we have had a strong north east wind & almost continuous rains.

I find that we are so located that we get very little intelligence of any kind & no letters. When it clears off & the boats can run to Fortress Monroe we can get the mails. The Boat on which I proposed to come, the Croton has not yet arrived here. I am glad I changed to the Spaulding, for I got here Saturday night & landed two regiments & went to work.

The ground is almost all quicksand & the whole Army has had to be supplied from this post. I have worked my Brigade very hard, making bridges, roads, loading & unloading commissary & quartermaster stores. We found some huts at this place made in good style & quite spacious, about enough for two Regiments. I put them in them but today I moved into the woods a little to the south & across a small inlet of the bay. Mr William Howard's place adjoined this place to the south.

I have done this time what Brig. Gens sometimes do – I have gone into a house with my staff. A Mr Pomphrey lives here. He seems like a poor man & yet he has two hundred acres of land, some fifteen slaves, a wife who is more of a slave than the colored for she smokes a pipe incessantly. Seems to wear nothing whatever but an old dirty dress & for all the world I cant help pitying her for her forlorn life. The house is pretty tidy. You never saw more grateful people than Mr P & his wife were when I proposed to come here & make this my head quarters. He says he shall sleep tonight.

Imagine yourself in a country where soldiers, wagoners, negroes & camp followers are apt to come to your house at any time of night or day & rummage everything they can lay their hands upon. I have thought how mother would feel to have the cows shot, the chickens killed, the eggs stolen & the cellar robbed of a winter's supply. Such is the work of scoundrels & it is almost impossible to get hold of them in times like these. I have got so now that I try to protect everybody without stopping to ask their principles unless they are in arms against us.

I will try to finish this in the morning, my dearest wife.

I got up by five this morning to reconnoitre a place for a Camp & think that with the windy day makes me feel rather stupid.

McClellan was in my Quarters yesterday: and I saw him quite a little time at Gen. Richardson's. Colburn his aid says, the President gave the solemn promise to him that his command should not be interfered with, & yet 50 thousand men have been taken from him & put under McDowell at the last moment. Yorktown is said to be a very strong position. It cannot be carried without a partial siege. McClellan looked cheerful. He looked at the works, talked with the quartermaster & others right to the point, took a smoke at Genl Richardson's, while doing this, & then disappeared.

Home looks a good way off down here, but when the war is over, it will not take long to go home. Duane paid me a good long visit last night.

I dont know as I told you, that I found one day to my surprise that Dr Hammond was on Genl Sumners Staff as Medical director of our Army Corps. I found him at Genl Sumner's Head Qrs. at Warrenton junction. He inquired kindly for you. He is just as odd as usual.

I met a college classmate yesterday – Holmes – who used to sit beside me in College. He is now Dr Holmes & on his way to 6th Maine as surgeon. Capt Sewalls cough still holds on. I do wish he could get over it. Rev Mr Alvord, agent the tract Society is stopping with us now. My horses & Head Qrs. wagons were put on the Croton, were put ashore at Fortress Monroe & got here this evening. The weather is so bad that I doubt if she gets here tomorrow. Her captain was so cross & selfish that I would not go with him. I thanked him for his unaccommodating spirit after I found the Spaulding with so much better accommodations.

I have kept thinking about the children, while writing the above but have not mentioned them. I know, that if they are well they are sleeping quietly enough. I want you all to pray for me that I may have wisdom & discretion from on high to enable me to do my duty faithfully. Give my kindest regards to Aunt Sarah & Aunt Betsey. I thought you were up in <Farrville> till your last letter. You described your rooms once but I still located them there. Chas is well, but was sleepy & retired. I am going to put a large force on this awful road tomorrow & try & put it in order. I hope mother is well & father.

Much love.

Yr husband  
Otis

---

1643 4/13/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1595

Hd Qrs Howards  
Brigade  
Ship Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[103]

Hd Qrs Howards Brigade  
Apr 13th 1862 Ship Point

Dearest,

I have a chance to send a word. I want to have gotten you a long letter, but Rev Mr Alvord is just starting for Old <Nous> & our opportunities are so few that I must take advantage of this for sending.

Chas & I are well. We have not begun operations actively against Yorktown. The storm caused delay in getting up the siege guns. I am building a log road from here to the Army-abior near Yorktown.

Much love & many kisses to my precious little flock. I got a good letter from you last night, written just after hearing from me at Warrenton junction.

Be cheerful & happy, for God will take care of us. Most affectionately

Your husband  
Otis

---

1644 4/13/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1596

*Source:* Bowdoin

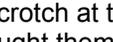
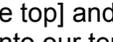
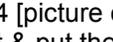
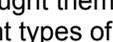
Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott  
Near Yorktown

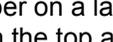
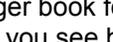
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[106]

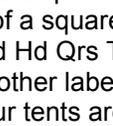
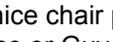
Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott  
Near Yorktown Apr. 13th 1862

Dearest,

I have taken my paper in season to write you a long letter. Last night we found little insects crawling over us and my experience in the southern country showed me the propriety of getting up from the ground & that the few insects will very soon be increased to ten millions. So this morning I took two men and went into the woods and cut 8  and 4  and 16 more , and then brought them into our tent & put them together thus:  and put a mattress upon them. Charles & <mine> are together & Capt. Sewalls alone & on the opposite sides of the tent.

Charlie is not yet very well. He is now lying upon ours & asleep. I am sitting upon Capt Sewall's writing on a book thus:  with a fig box:  & the ink stand on the top as you see by my side.

You know darling my pictures are for the children to see.

Col Cone has been in, the Chaplain of the 64th,, Mr Miles & now dinner is ready & I have got down only to this point. You can hardly realize how hot it is here, and it has become so very suddenly. Immediately after that long storm, the weather cleared up & since then has not been a drop of rain & this weather has been exceedingly warm. Our tents are now located on "three sides of a square" in this way: . Our tents are all new and look as white as clean sheets. My pillow case is not white. I turned it wrong side out this morning & I think it looks a little more respectable. I have a line running from pole to pole with our clothes upon it, and have pitched the tent fly in front, like an awning. Thus:  I have had a nice chair presented to me (made of oak) by the Chaplain of the 64th Regiment, Rev. Mr Hibbard. Perhaps Grace or Guy would like to have me make a drawing of that. It is made just like Grandmother's old fashioned kitchen chairs. I will not stop now for the mail carrier is calling for my letter.

There is no change in our position & that of the enemy. I don't know what Genl McClellan is doing. I wish he would wake up to the impatience of the country a little & make us move with a little more rapidity. I fear he will be superceded if he does not do so.

A siege party I believe is at work on our right & another detachment is at work making some breast works near our center. But I do not think the purpose is a regular siege.

I will let this go unfinished. Good bye & God bless you & the children.

Aff.

Otis

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1645 4/14/1862 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs Lizzie O Howard

OOH-1597

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[97]

Portland April 14 1862

Mrs Lizzie O Howard

Dear Niece

I received your letter with the coupons of Rail Road Bonds and have collected and deposited the same as you requested, also dividend on Bank Stock say \$44 on Casco Bank \$28 Canal Bank \$18 International Bank making in all \$240. If you should conclude to have it invested or any part of it you will please let me know and I will attend to it at any time. I was much interested in reading the letter you refered to in the Boston Journal. May a kind providence watch over and safely keep your Husband and so order events that he may soon be permitted to return to his home.

From your Affectionate  
Uncle  
E Waite

---

1646 4/16/1862 *From:* A. B. Farwell

*To:* Mrs. O. O. Howard

OOH-1598

Washington

Auburn Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[104]

Washington  
April 16, 1862  
Mrs. O. O. Howard  
Auburn Me.

I received your favor of the 6th some days since and should have answered it before, but for the expectations of seeing the Gen. your husband. Owing to quite a severe indisposition, I have been unable to visit his command, and hence cannot write you as I had hoped to do.

Although I very much dislike to have my house remain unoccupied I cannot consent to compel you to its occupancy, if it would in any degree decrease your happiness or increase the burdens and cares of life, and hence you are at liberty to consult your own wishes in the premises, and I will regard myself as at liberty to lease it to other parties, unless the General shall hold me to contract.

I have written to your brother Rowland, and he will, I doubt not, interest himself for me that the house does not long remain empty.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Srvt  
A. B. Farwell

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1647 4/16/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1598

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Near Yorktown  
Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade April 16 1862

Dearest,

Yesterday while out on the road Superintending our Corduroy constructions, I received orders to move up to join Genl Sumner, for which I was very glad, because is a soldier & likes me & my brigade. I drew my forces out of the mud & dirt and quartermaster's department as soon as I could & moved up. Charlie was un-well & I had to leave him behind, but he came up this morning & is now pretty smart. He was threatened with a fever, but having had good care I think he is safely over it.

Mr Edwards, clerk to Capt. Barker is just going to Fortress Monroe. I am writing this note to send by him. Here we are far from the post of danger.

Genl McClellan intends to take Yorktown by a partial siege. I hope you feel cheerful & dependent on the will of God. I told Genl Sumner this morning that I had a wife & three little children, & that they were not well provided for, but that I believed if I was taken, they would be cared for. I hope it is not God's will to take me away, but many other's have gone & many loving wives & lovely children have had to pray with broken hearts for consolation & strength. Let us be dependent & <trust in God[CHECK ORIGINAL tape right side page 2].

We have a pleasant encampment. I am living in tents. It is as beautiful & warm as in midsummer here now. Give much love to Guy & Gracie & kisses to Jamie.

Mrs Sampson wanted to come with me but I would not take her. There is no place here for a lady, none whatever, as things now are. She cried to come. The battle in the West was a hard one. We shall not take Yorktown without a struggle, but Genl McClellan is a safe man, notwithstanding the goading of the press.

Good by my darling wife. May God in mercy deal with us all after his own holy & righteous will. I got your good letter of the 10th inst, directed to Fortress Monroe. Put a "Richardson's Division" on your letters.

Most lovingly, yr husband  
Otis

Charlie sends love to Lizzie. "This is a better place than Ship Point" he says.

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1648 4/17/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1600

Head Quarters –near  
Yorktown  
Camp “Winfield Scott”

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[107]

Head Quarters – near Yorktown  
Camp “Winfield Scott”  
April 17, 1862

Dearest,

Yesterday after I wrote you & sent the letter off by Mr Edwards, I rode with Mr Scott through the woods to try & find Genl Key's Army Corps. We rode into the woods by a Corduroy road, & on & on. We went for some three miles and found nothing but a continuous forest. Here we came into a small clearing & found a few tents & some men marching. We heard firing from our right & as I feared I would be wanted, we rode back over the same road. I ordered a drill at 4 P.M. Just at that time, the order came for us to march. We immediately broke up camp got ready & marched, but only about a mile to occupy this place that Genl Sedgwick had just left. Our new camp is not so cleanly as the old, but we are well off for water.

The weather is extremely warm, as hot as July at West Point. A slight breeze is playing over the surface of the ground & relieves the oppressiveness of a hot day.

Today Mr Scott Lt. Col Langley of the 5th N.H and I went out straight to the front to get some idea of the fortifications & what our forces are doing. We went where we could see the works. One battery was in position & firing upon their works. They had partially withdrawn & were throwing up new works in rear of the first line. When McClellan will take these works I do not know. I hear that we were to be held in reserve. This is an entirely safe place unless the first & second line run, which I hope they are not going to do this time.

Charles is not yet quite well, but expects to be quite well by tomorrow. He isn't much sick.

Everybody is talking & I have tried to throw a few words together. I hope this will find you entirely well & cheerful. Many kisses & much love to Guy, Gracie & Jamie & may God's blessings rest upon you darling & them.

Affectionately  
Otis

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1649 4/20/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1601

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott  
near  
Yorktown

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[110]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott near  
Yorktown Apr. 20th 1862

Dearest,

I commenced a letter to you yesterday with the intention of writing you a full one but I failed to finish it. I have not received a letter from you since day before yesterday, and am hoping to get one today or tomorrow.

I feared last night from certain orders received about the sick that the big battle anticipated at & over Yorktown would begin today, but I am happy to find that there seems little change since yesterday. I said I feared. I have an abiding hope, that Sunday will not be selected for our attack. I have worked my brigade Sunday & hard & feel willing to do so when necessary, but I cant understand the recklessness that leads our Generals to select Sunday upon which to open an action.

I visited a poor family about a mile from here this morning, a Mr Buscher. He has a wife & some dozen children, & I noticed one little grandchild about the age of Jamie. The mother & one child were sick in bed. The daughter-in-law wife of a son now our prisoner was sick upstairs. The house was very small & situated in a clearing of some fifty acres, completely surrounded by woods & thus completely isolated from the rest of the world. He had some stock, a little corn, some bacon & a fair amount of other necessaries of life our troops took them from him when they first came in this vicinity. Two sons were taken away. One had been a secession soldier but the other had not, but was probably taken for a guide. The poor mother is sick & almost dying with anxiety for these sons. I told her they would not be hurt & were really safer than they would be at Yorktown at this time. I shall try to give these people some provisions. We could get along much better in our Army if we had no robbers.

I spoke of Mr Miles. He has come back to me. He got a little ambitious, had the promise from Genl Sumner of going on his Army Corps Staff, but failed of it on account of a reduction of the number of the staff in the Bill of organization. He then went with Genl Richardson, but found that the conversation & demeanor of his staff officers did not suit him, so he came back to me.

Genl Sumner is just announced as commanding the two left Army Corps on left wing of the Army of the Potomac. This will probably give us Genl Franklin to command our Corps d'Armeè for I understand his division is arriving & will be assigned to us. I have a notion that this arrangement augurs a change in the disposition of our forces, but cannot say.

Genl Smith, on account of a "misconstruction of his orders" on Wednesday last where the 3d & 6th Vermont Regiments suffered so much from being unsupported, has been arrested. I hear it so reported. I learn from good authority that he was drunk or very much under the influence of liquor during the action. An eye witness told me that he fell from his horse. There are other Brigadier Generals that get drunk. You must know the horror I feel regarding such men. Most excellent officers (otherwise) drink, drink, drink, and advocate whiskey rations. I don't like to be uncharitable, but I do not wonder at paralysis when liquor is ruling. McClellan is a good man, but his staff is drinking. Grant is a drinking man, hence, a want of preparation, a want of vigilance, & a lack of proper orders in action. God grant that Drunkards may not be allowed to destroy us. The only hope ought not to rest upon a drinking ending. Our troops are generally sober, but utterly profane. The people of this land do not fear God. They will face the jaws of death with blasphemy. Is it wonderful that rebellion is not crushed out?

We have a nice little German boy who is singing in a neighboring tent. His voice is sweet & soft & child like.

His name is Charlie, sometimes they call him "Bony." he was a little boot-black in Phila. I think some 12 or fourteen yrs of age. Capt Sewall took him of Col. Miller, 81st Penn. He is a real nice little boy tell Guy, without any relatives that he knows of, but just as cheerful & kind as he can be. He talks German as my interpreter very often.

I met Genl Jameson the other day, but says Mrs Jameson is now at home. I wish you could see her. I think you would love her. Capt. Sewall keeps begging that you will take a trip to Bath & see Mrs Sewall. She feels dreadful about her husband being here, begs & pleads with him to go home, & some of her friends think & say to her, that she must have driven him away. I wish she could feel how all important her husband is to his country's service, & how absolutely necessary it is to make these terrible sacrifices for the common good. He <looks [CHECK ORIGINAL-tape]> to go home & I think will so soon as he can with honor & without detriment to me. Mrs Sewall thinks you bargained for a soldier. I hardly think that is so in the drawing up of the primary contracts, n'est ce pas?

Many kisses to the little ones. Charles is pretty smart but not quite well. His liver wont act & he is weak. It is very rainy today. May our Common Father bless us & protect us & bring us together in Safety.

Affectionately your husband  
Otis

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1650 4/22/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1602

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[312]

Auburn April 22d 1862

Dearest

I received such a great letter from you to-day that I want to write and tell you how happy a letter makes me, and if you and Charlie are well and happy also of course I am made more happy. You wrote this letter on the 16th the next day after you joined Gen. Sumner which you seemed very glad to do, if it was "near Yorktown" you wrote "here we are far from the post of danger" but from what follows now your having moved up as you termed it. I presume you left out the not and meant to have said, "not far from the post of danger", I think I am cheerful. I think I am dependent on the will of God. "the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." The Lord is my strength and my refuge.

I do most earnestly pray you may come back to us, but if God takes you to himself, he can also take care of us. I am not writing a sad letter I am only telling you.

I told you in my last that I had written to Mr Farwell. I got an answer and he also wrote to Rowland. A gentleman he mentioned to Rowland will take the house. I may have to pay this months or so rent, but would do that willingly. The thought of going to house-keeping alone began to be a burden and I got rid of it as soon as possible and I dont think Mr Farwell cares or is disappointed only there is a little mistrustful feeling on my part that he would like the Generals family in his house in preference to others. I dont think I am bound to gratify him in so small a matter.

I finished a letter to Maria before I commenced this and it is now late. I will leave it now. When I stop to think what sentence to end with I can only lift up my heart in prayer to God for you and for me.

Morning.

We had a rainy day yesterday and it is not very pleasant this morning. I am going over the river with cousin Fanny taking Grace with me. Guy has gone to walk with Minnie.

I am glad to learn that 'McDowell' is moving on hoping he is to go to the rear of "Yorktown", according to McClellan's plan I was sorry when I learned that the former was given a department. I think Gen McClellan must have felt badly to have lost his men, but he is a good man, and if the end is only accomplished that he aimed at he will rise above jealousy and be thankful. All he has done will eventually be known. Guy is going to wear a "McClellan" hat. It is a small thing but in a community like this small things are noticed.

We are all well this morning. I hope and trust you and Charlie are also. Much love to you both. I presume I shall go to Farmington to spend the summer. Mrs Paswell wanted to board us a while ago. You must not worry anything about us. When we are all well I think I dont want anything else. I will get ready to go out now and take this to the P. Office. What would I do without the mails.

As ever your trusting wife.

Lizzie

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1651 4/22/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1603

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[111]

Farmington Apr 22/62

Dear Lizzie

I arrived home about 7. last evening using the "shore car" for the last 5 miles. The cars came thro' without difficulty this a.m.

We have had such a severe rain that I have been out but little today, but have been resting very fast. Mr Hones thinks he could go into Mr Farwells house pretty soon if you decide not to take it. Mrs Norton's rooms are let permanently to a Dr Hamilton & family.

So it seems to be housekeeping (unless your Aunt would come) or nothing. The wood is not cut yet & I will see the man & tell him not to do it.

I have bought some dry wood in the wood house of Mr Hardy, a part of wh. you can have if you come. Sarah & children are well, but her girl has gone home for a few days & she is alone.

Give much love to the children & yr. Aunts family.

Yr. aff. Brother  
Rowland

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1652 4/23/1862 *From:* Mary A Morris

*To:* Dear Sir [OO HOWARD]

OOH-1604

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[109]

Washington D.C.

April 23d 1862

My dear Sir,

I can not tell you how truly happy I feel in hearing from my son that I must direct my letters to "General Howard's Head Quarters" for if I misstake not, "Genl Howard" is my old friend of Tampa Bay, Florida, memories – then a Lieut in the Ordnance Corps.

I trust so, for I am sure for my sake and Col Morris' you will have a friendly interest in our boy – he is not the one we used to think looked like you, but our youngest and darling – not yet nineteen years of age. He is a good youth, a good son, manly and self-reliant, and will, I trust, show you he is worthy the good will you will feel for him on his parents account.

My heart in common with those of thousands of anxious mothers and wives is in a constant state of disquietude. I seem but to live on the daily accounts – uninformed as they so often prove to be, and in prayer to God, to give success to our armies, & end this most afflicting war.

I have a few moments only before the mail today closes, and I do not wish to lose it. I introduce my boy to you, and to ask your thought for his welfare.

With sincere & friendly regard  
Mary A Morris

My son is in the 4th Artillery Company A. under Capt G. N. Hazzard.

My address is  
Fort McHenry  
Baltimore Md

Col Morris has been there since the beginning of the War.

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1653 4/24/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1605

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade Camp Winfield  
Scott

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[112]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade Camp Winfield Scott  
Apr. 24 1862

Dearest,

Yesterday I went up to Genl McClellan's Head Quarters in the forenoon, saw our friend Col. Kingsbury and had a long talk with him. He says Genl McClellan wishes to get all his batteries in readiness before he opens fire. If our friends could realize the kind of country we are in, they would not be impatient. The peninsula is level, the crust is some six inches before you strike water & quicksand. The whole front & the whole country in fact is a forest with clearings large enough for separate farms.

The Warwick river, I visited in the afternoon of yesterday is a stream some 20 or 30 rods wide and bordered by a swamp on each side wider than the river. I went to our extreme left in the afternoon, called upon Genl Keyes, saw Major (alias Capt) Baird. Baird was very pleasant but always manages to show what a small opinion he has of me as a Genl. There are others like him, but we get on very well here, thanks to a good staff & a good providence.

Charlie took the afternoon ride with me, also Capt Booker, & Lieuts Scott & Miles. Charlie was not strong enough to ride so far & got pretty tired before we got back, but he slept well on our pole bed & is still sleeping. Last night I concluded I was too tired & stupid to write a decent letter so I got up this morning & am fulfilling the purpose.

One incident occurred yesterday that was a little amusing to look on. We were crossing a ravine, in the middle was a muddy stream. Mr Miles came up, looked at it & checked his horse. I thought it would do to pass through & let my horse "Charlie" have the reins. He went in & immediately sank in the mud. I scrambled out on my hands & knees as fast as I could & let the horse take care of himself. He made a few plunges & brought himself clear through. Such are some of the scenes you meet with here, but I myself have never had to leave my horse's back before. I saw one poor horse lying in the mud & water almost covered & just ready to die, with the other three of his team looking on – having been got out.

Warwick Court House consists of a small brick school house building, for the Courts, a little jail of less size & one other building, perhaps for a bank. There was one old, dilapidated wooden dwelling house nearby. This is what occupies one clearing. The interval lands in that vicinity are beautiful. The apple trees & peaches are in blossom, and the trees are leaving. As soon as the rains are over the ground gets settled. I expect it will be pleasant here, but I would rather live even in Auburn.

If you dont want to go to Farmington, nor to housekeeping I would a thousand times rather you would not. I want you to be where you feel most happy & contented.

Chas' love if awake. I have'nt got any letters for several days, but shall look for one from you darling today. May God Bless you my precious wife & keep you in his love & <favor>.

Aff.  
Otis

I must write the names of Guy, Grace & Jamie & send much love & many kisses. Tell Jamie to lookout how he calls other people "papa"

Remember me to Aunts & cousins. Mother gives an account of her visit & Rowland of his.

Aff. Yr husband  
Otis

My place is where it was at last writing.

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1654 4/26/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1606

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd Qrs Howard's  
Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott  
near  
Yorktown Va

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[114]

Hd. Qrs. Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott, near  
Yorktown Va Apr 26 1862

Dearest,

Charlie has just sent a letter to you and I intended to have put a line in it, but it was just leaving for the mail as I entered this office tent, so I concluded not to detain it but to begin and then to send by the next mail.

Yesterday after my usual duties had been done I went to the York river & visited Genl McClellan's "Water battery" No 1. I found Col Tyler there, in the class before mine at West Point. Five guns were in place, with the one hundred lbs balls piled by their side. From this battery I could see the enemy's works at Gloucester Point just opposite Yorktown & the Water or Sea coast battery on the Yorktown side. The distance is nearly two miles – rather a long range. The Guns in our battery are on wrought iron carriages & look as if they might break them on recoil. We took a survey of the enemy's works.

I say we – Col Miller 81st Penn was with me. Also Maj Cook & Adj't Dodd of 5th N.H. And after that Col M & I went past Genl McClellan's Head Quarters to visit another battery nearer Yorktown. We saw Brigades coming in & Brigades going out on picket duty. We saw a second battery of 6 20 lbs guns in position - but as it was growing dark, I led Col Miller by a straight course to my Head Quarters. I met Reese near battery no 1. He said he engineered that & inquired kindly for you.

Lt. Wagner died from hemorrhage after he thought he was going to get well. Lt Merrill is in hospital (wounded at the same time). Today, though it rained, I took another trip to Genl Sumner's, about a mile & a half ahead, through woods and thence to the front. I saw Capt Owens of your acquaintance at Sumner's Head Qrs. & Grace's Dr Hammond. Capt Owens inquired for you, where you are & if well. Dr Hammond was much pleased at the children's messages & says Gracie ought to come. What a place to come to!

At the front I found a battery ready for 6 Guns & whom should I meet but Lieut Kirby. He has had the Typhoid fever since I met him with a bloody face at Bull Run. He asked for Mrs Howard & seemed glad to see me. I thought he looked very sober, I mean serious with a tinge of sadness. There was a skirmish this morning near where he was. He pointed to the place.

I went along to the North & looked at our works & the enemy's till I could see the same battery we left yesterday at dusk & then turned about and went to Genl Smith's Divn called at the tent of my old friend Col Whiting 2nd Vermont. The Chaplain Rev. Mr. Smith was there, but the regiment was out as pickets.

John puts in his head & says, "Genl the supper is all ready, Sir." "The oysters are cooling," Capt Sewall says.

After supper it was dark and I sat by our fire, talking with Capt. Hazzard till quite late. The weather is very cold & trying when the wind is northeast. It storms for three days, consecutively and we have a fire arranged thus: [picture of tents with flies and a fire in front of them and soldiers sitting around the fire.] Mr Scott looked at my picture & recommends that I show how the smoke goes in under the fly. I am sitting under the fly with Charlie & Mr Scott now. The other day I sent some pioneers to get some chestnut bark & fix up the sides under the fly. The front of the tent fills up the back. Tell Guy they brought some bark that looked thus: [picture of a cylinder] then they unrolled it thus [picture of a flat supported with some rods] these are stuck up under the edges of the fly like the side boards of a cart. When the wind "whiffles" around now it sometimes drives the smoke under the fly & makes every body cry. We have some pine boughs or twigs for a floor in the tent & this with our nice pole bedsteads make us very cozy & comfortable. You can hardly think how little a man needs to make him

comfortable. Capt Sewall says he shall not put up a tent & build a fire in his back yard when he gets home. This is because we sometimes try to make him own that a man sleeps better out of doors than in a house.

My health is good. Dr Palmer says he was deceived in me when he first saw me. He thought I couldnt stand anything, but now thinks I am "tough." The open air & much exercise on horseback agree well with my health. I generally ride one horse in the morning and the other in the afternoon when I have much riding to do. My little brown "Charlie" is still a favorite. I can ride him for hours & he will then kick up his heels & caper like a colt. He very seldom gets tired. Charlie's horse looks like a large size zebra. We want to take these horses home to shew to Guy & Grace. Perhaps Jamie would like a ride.

I know you must read the papers with anxiety. These siege operations are tedious, but I hope they will be effectual with comparatively little loss of life. You were asked about Genl McClellan. I dont like to force a hasty judgment. We might have taken Yorktown by assault, & then again we might have failed with an immense sacrifice & an utterly hopeless termination of the war. But with the steady operations of a siege we shall undoubtedly succeed unless the will of God is against us. A man is judged of much by success or failure. Genl McClellan might have done better in the selection of some of his staff, & Congress might do better than in confirming everybody as Brig. General, but I dont feel like complaining. The self-seeking, office hunting of our public men at this juncture fills me with sorrow. God sees not as we see. He does not base his government on the permanency of human institutions.

I am anxious to hear what Mr Farwell said to you in reply to your letter to him. I sent Warren Woodman's note to Rowland to give to Mrs W. One of Rowland's letters went to Roanoke & back before we got it, & the one asked me to send Warren's note to Mrs W.

I have sent my pay accounts for March to Maj Fry but hav'nt heard from them yet. I shall have to pay for a horse, 150. Will send you one hundred & keep the rest in reserve for use here.

Much love & many kisses to the children. Charlie wrote yesterday is quite well this morning. Capt Sewall got over his attack nicely. Much love & many kisses from your loving husband.

Otis

Much love to Mother if you should see her, & dont forget Aunt Sarah, Eva, Minnie & Orestes, Aunt Betsey, Frank & Adams.

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1655 4/27/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brothers [OO &  
CH Howard]

OOH-1607

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[54]

Farmington Apr. 27/62

My dear Brothers

Perry wrote a long letter to Sarah the other day, in wh. he complained bitterly of her long silence & I thought then I would write you the first opportunity. This has been a most beautiful quiet lovely Sabbath. Our church has been full, but the Spirit was not so manifestly present as in Sab's past – 24 were "propounded" to be admitted next Sab. There as more than as many more to come forward at the next communion if Satan does not catch away the seed Jesus hath sown. Our blessings have made us remember & pray for you today. So still, so solemn & so delightful has been this holy day here among Gods everlasting hills.

O how the Spirit of War conflicts with that of Jesus! I do believe that I have committed you both to God in faith, but I can not be certain till the blow falls upon you.

I preached (extempore, for three mos) on "I can do all things thru X, which strengtheneth me" this P.M. Heads (1) How He strengtheneth us. (a) By Instruction (b) By example (c) By working faith in us & presenting himself as its object (d) By constraining love (e) By Divine Union. (2) For What? All things. More particularly (a) all duty (b) all temptation (c) all Suffering & Endurance. The plan was mostly borrowed, but I do think God helped me to fill out with & feel the truths I preached, & I do hope his Spirit has gone with it. X will strengthen you for all duty. He has not called you to a work & then refused the "Sufficient Grace". How sweet to remember that every emergency has its own supernatural strength. So I look forward to your possible suffering & even death with confidence that Jesus will be with you in just the manner & to the degree your Souls need. Keep looking to Jesus, my dear Brothers. You have not yet learned a fraction of the power of a look to strengthen & Save.

"Till to Jesus'work you cling  
By a living faith,  
Doing is a deadly thing  
Doing ends in death.  
Then Cast your deadly doing down  
Down at Jesus feet  
Stand in Him, in Him alone,  
Gloriously complete."- is as true in our Sanctification as it was in our justification.

Ella & Davie went to Bath a week ago yesterday. We moved the day before, but haven't "set-up" yet – except the "study" & one bedroom wh. I occupy. Will & Abby Jones are with me and we live about as unceremoniously as you do in Camp. Lizzie has given up Mr. Farwells house & will continue to board at Auburn, Mothers, or here. I hope she will be able to spend part of the Summer here. I long to see more of the children especially Guy. He is a great favorite at Lewiston. Ella will come home next week I hope.

I have the County Ministerial Association here a week from next Wednesday. Mr Hammond went to Lewiston yesterday. I have no doubt there will be a Revival. I saw evidences of it the Sab. I spent there. In Auburn, Christians are less awake.

Our Street is now perfectly dry, but the grass waits for rain & the buds on the maples do not look red yet. I now live amid shops & stores – no dwelling house very near. It is a noisy place, but the best I could get. Sarah is without a girl just now and kept at home – all well. John & Helen dont come to our meeting – perhaps they attend the Baptist. I enclose a letter published here from cousin Warren Woodman. He is evidently more accustomed to the sword than pen.

Two of those propounded today said, in telling their experience yesterday, that they promised dying husbands to meet them in Heaven. A Shoemaker who has become a Xtian had his Bible reading it as I entered his Shop

yesterday. He has what he calls "two terrible Universalists" at work with him & says he would be often "floored" but for taking up his Bible occasionally & reading to them out of that! He was terribly profane & passionate before his conversion, not at all so now.

Why our Army are not sent to the rear of Yorktown is the wonder of everybody, and the grief & trial of your unmilitary brother. Why you should be left to be needlessly killed in front of those intrenchments, while the Enemy, even if driven out, can safely retreat, is a mystery, & looks as if God was yet again going to answer the prayers of his children "by terrible things in Righteousness". God be more merciful to the homes of N.E. than He has seen fit to be to those of the West, is our prayer!

Next Sab. is our communion. O how much I need grace for that occasion, in some respects the most responsible of my life. 35 will unite with Mr Fiskes church next Sab. among them Hattie, & nearly all her School companions. 12 have joined the Church in Waterville, among the recent converts are Bodge & Barrell, R.R. Conductors. Willie seems less interested than he did. There are now 25 Inquirers in Winthrop. I do hope that if God permits you to enter the ministry it will be in such or even better spiritual times than these.

Dellie made me a little visit & is now at Leeds, I suppose. Our cousins Theresa Howard & her sister have lately hoped in Jesus at No. Leeds. Thank you again for all your kind letters. Every word is read with interest & pleasure. Kind regards to Capt Sewall.

Rowland

Wheres W. Woodmans note, wh. he has paid?

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1656 4/30/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1608

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[118]

Farmington Apr. 30/62

Dear Sister Lizzie

I was glad to hear from you last night. I had spoken to Mrs Caswell & found that it would be inconvenient for her to take you. This morning I called on Mrs Hopkins who boards Mr Kelsey, the principal of the Acd. He leaves the 7th of June and she thinks she could take your family then. It will be nearly that time before you get ready, I suppose, & you give mother a visit in the mean time. I had no time to enter into particulars with Mrs. H. but <[torn page]> be the same as Mrs Norton's, perhaps less. You would have her parlor & bed room opening out of it and a chamber, the house is 1 1/2 stories. She is a good housekeeper. Mr H. is out of health able to do marketing &c, both are members of our church & among the most active. There is a nice large play ground, & the best children we have in the place to play with.

Plan of Farmington! [Map of Main Street, another parallel street (unnamed) and 3 cross streets, showing the locations of the houses of Rev. Mr. Howard, Mr Hopkins and Mrs Sargent.]

You will thus be pleasantly & conveniently located half way between Sarah & me! Mrs H. is a quiet industrious little woman & one of the best. She is accustomed to boarders.

Ella will come home Monday. I like your plan of going to Bath & wish E. could be there, but wish her here more! Mrs Patten will be very glad to have you come there. A letter directed Mrs Fred. D. Sewall will be sure to reach Mrs S. She lives quite a way above Capt. Patten a little off the same St. (Washington).

I hope Guy & Grace will learn a lot in the School so as not to be behind the Farmington boys & girls. I know they will like to hear Mr Hammond next Sab. P.M.

No news from Otis since yours. Love to the children.

Yr. aff. Bro.  
Rowland

If you will go to Bath Monday, Ella will wait till Tues. before coming up. You'd better.  
R

Please drop "Ella P. Howard" a line if you can go.

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1657 5/1/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1609

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade Camp Winfield  
Scott near  
Yorktown Va.

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[116]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade Camp Winfield Scott near  
Yorktown Va. May 1st 1862

Dearest,

We have finished April and are still here. Day before yesterday, I visited the trenches with Capt Hazzard. You would be astounded at the amount of work that has been done. The first parallel with a large number of batteries, complete & guns in position. The parallel is about 12 feet wide & three feet deep, the dirt thrown towards the enemy, and distant from his outwork about 1500 yards: thus: [Diagram of the enemy's outworks and the Union parallel showing the battery placements and the location of the York river.]

Capt Hazzard, Sewall, Charles & myself went together first to the extreme right on the York river and to the one hundred & two hundred pds. Battery. There we had a good look at the Gunboats below, Gloucester & Yorktown above. On the way thither, I met Gordon, now Captain in the cavalry, a classmate at West Point. He was the son of Old Commodore Gordon of the Navy (now deceased). He said his (step) mother arranged for him to go south, and Jefferson Davis ordered him to report at Montgomery Ala. at a certain time but he concluded not to do so. At the house near the battery I met Davis, of whom I have spoken before, a captain also in Cavalry & a classmate at West Point. He is from Mississippi and a staunch Union man. The position of some of these young men is very trying; but they will have their reward. I learned from Gordon that "Jim Deshler" of Ala. was killed at Fort Pickens. He said he never would be in but one battle. Villepigue is a Brig. Genl in the south. He lost an arm somewhere, probably at Big Bethel or Bull run. I met Hight of our Maine Cavalry. He was "overslaughed" & resigned & is now with his own cavalry company.

We returned from the battery & proceeded to see the 1st parallel on the way, met Lieut Ames, who inquired for you. He was looking well, entirely recovered from his wound at Bull Run. We left our horses with John & walked into the parallel & inspected the works on foot. After a while Capt S. & Charlie got tired & started for home. Capt H & I went to get a better view of the enemy's works. Once in a while a shell was tossed over & beyond our workmen in the trenches. We met H.L. Abbot still 1st Lieut Topo. Eng'eers laying out & superintending work in the trenches.

After we had tired ourselves sufficiently we returned via Genl Berry's Head Qrs. Missed Capt Thompson's battery. Genl Berry was Col 4th Maine. He makes a very good Genl officer. Capt Thompson, little Fanny's father. Mrs Thompson has gone back to Newport, R.I.

Yesterday I had to muster my command. Capt Sewall took the 64th in Camp here. I went to the 5th New Hampshire, making Gabions 2 miles away. Chas accompanied me. Mr Scott the 81st Penn. some 3 miles off making roads. Mr Miles the 61st N.Y. also 2 or 3 miles away making roads. It was not a very hard day's work for I knew I could not muster the whole though it was ordered, so I did it by proxy for all but one regiment. Sometimes however an aid is considered a part of oneself. So I will consider it & claim a literal fulfillment of the order.

How is Guy this beautiful May morning. I trust he is a cheerful good boy who loves his Mamma, his sister & his little brother. Almost before he knows it he will grow up to be a man. And what kind of a man will Guy be? Papa hopes an upright man, one who fears God & obeys him (I mean fears to do wrong, for that is the fear of God.) That fear is consistent with the warmest love & a part of it. How is Gracie my little daughter. Papa would indeed love to see her. Papa is greatly in hopes the secessionists will let him go home before long. And she must tell Jamie about papa all she can remember. Perhaps Jamie would like to hear about Maj Dr. Hammond's doll.

I will enclose to you a hundred dollars in bills. You must tell me if you get them safely as soon as received.

I found Dexter Howard quite sick the other day at the 3d Maine. Dexter is Uncle Warren's son, Uncle Barna's [Barnabas Howard] Grandson you will remember. He has a fever & finds his bed quite hard. I felt for him, have written his mother. Charles goes up to see him frequently & does what he can. He took him some oranges the other day. We are in a very safe position as I told you (I did not forget & leave out the word not) beyond the range of shot & shells. I have been up to service my duties & all I can do about the enemy but do not think I have suddenly exposed myself.

Charlie is now quite well – eats enormously – sends love. If you see mother tell her this is the safest place in the world. The climate & soil cannot be trusted, but the Dr says I am tough & I think Charles is acclimated at any rate & not a small thing is it. We are under the protection of God.

Much love & many kisses for you “in reserve”. Papa's love to all.

Aff. Yr husband  
Otis

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1658 5/1/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [RB Howard]

OOH-1610

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Qrs. Howard's  
Brg'de  
Camp "Win. Scott"  
Near Yorktown Va

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[117]

Head Qrs. Howard's Brg'de  
Camp "Win. Scott" Near Yorktown Va  
May 1st 1862

My dear Brother

Charles & Mr Scott have taken a ride to Big Bethel today; before Chas. left he said you had better write Rowland.

The siege of Yorktown continues. We hear occasional guns & mortars. We make no reply but a steady preparation goes on. We do not know the hour when the bombardment commences. I have our regiment making Gabions, another making corduroy roads & another repairing roads & the fourth only in Camp. We have good news from New Orleans.

Dellie wrote Charles a long letter and I gathered from reading an impression that Dellie thinks you are rather cold towards him. He seems to feel very badly & confesses his faults. I am sure you have only his best interest at heart. Give him credit, Rowland, for more sensitiveness and treat him affectionately & as an equal, for fear that through a desire to benefit him you might lose a good influence over him, or rather estrange his affection. Dellie may write you himself & make a clean breast of it. Charlie advised him to do so.

How is my great little nephew & my gentle sister.

I went into the trenches day before yesterday and found the first parallel quite complete & many batteries established with guns in position. The mortar batteries are nearly ready. The impression is that the cost of taking the enemy's works in this the strongest position that art & nature ever combined to make would have cost us dearly as tho if not procured an absolute defeat. If McClellan succeeds & saves 5000 men and some of our dear friends amongst the number, we ought to be satisfied and those anxious for us should be especially so. It is strange that the public clamor & suspicion & military & political rivalry, have not driven him into some hasty movements to our great disadvantage. I hope he has not forgotten his God & that He will bless & succor him.

Give much love to Ella, many kisses to the baby. I want to make his acquaintance. Your news about the conversions of Cousin Laura & others at W was refreshing. You must not overwork. Remember what you have said to me in times gone by.

I am having quite a relaxation now. I only transmit orders for details & work. I presume my time will come for the trenches. Oh, that this work was done, that the Rebels would give up their rebellion & allow peace to return to our borders. Much love to Sarah. I saw Perry well, a day or two ago. Dexter Howard is ill. Love to mother when you see her.

Write me when you can. My trust is firm & in God - not in man.  
Affectionately yr Br.  
Otis

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1659 5/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1611

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade  
(Camp "Win. Scott"  
near Yorktown Va)

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[120]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade May 4th 1862  
(Camp "Win. Scott" near Yorktown Va)

Dearest,

It is now Sunday morning about 7 o'clock and we at these Head Qrs. are all well. I thought I felt grateful to God this morning for all his favors & blessings. Just before breakfast, Capt Sewall, Lt. Bullock, Charles, John & myself with little "Bony" as the German boy Charlie is often called, retired into my tent. I read that Chapter of Daniel that speaks of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego passing through the fiery furnace and Mr Bulloch led in prayer. God is able to keep us unscathed if we will obey & trust him.

I don't think I have ever said much of Mr Bulloch in my letters to you. He is rather rough in his personal appearance & manners, but a true hearted Christian and a man thoroughly conversant with his duties. He has never failed to supply the Brigade with provisions & in season, though at times he has had to work with all his might to do it, night & day. He is taller than I bent in the shoulders, light hair, eyes, & mustache - of scottish extraction, about forty years of age.

Capt Barker, the Quartermaster, is from Portland. You may have seen him. He used to keep a Livery Stable I think in Portland. At one time was called Col Barker, has a wife & one daughter. He is a pleasant, good hearted man and thus pained to conduct his department well. Thomas Edwards of Portland is his clerk. Col Cone, who was examined by the military board last winter has recently been...

Yorktown is abandoned & our troops are marching in. I am now under marching orders - 1/4 before 8 a.m.

Thank Him who doeth all things well.

Affectionately, love to the children.

Otis

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1660 5/4/1862

*From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1612

*Source:* Bowdoin

Care of W.T. Carroll  
esqr  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
Washington D.C.

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[119]

Washington May 4th [1862]

My dear Guy

I trust you will pardon me for not answering your kind and very welcome note before now. I hope you are all well and that you will continue so for the time to come. I suppose your Mamma has been perfectly worn out on account of you all being sick so much.

Tell me when you write next if you hear often from your Papa and uncle Charley. I saw them only once since I wrote to you last and then they looked very well. Your Papa then showed me the picture of your Mamma and Grace. I did not think Grace resembled it much either that or she has changed a great deal since I saw her.

Guy I hope you will not disappoint me this time by not sending me your picture with Grace's and Jamey's too. I wish very much to have them and have been expecting them this long time.

You wanted to know where Katey Carroll is now. She is in a place called Cumberland and her Papa is some where near there dont exactly know where as he is moved very often.

I heard once about your Papa since he went down near Yorktown and then he was very well.

Guy I dont like Washington very well. I dont think I will remain here more than one month longer. When you write again tell me if Grace ever speaks of me now and also tell all about Jamey. I suppose he is a great big boy now able to speak. I wish I could see him. I think of you all Guy very often and wonder if you ever think of me. I shall never forget you, no never.

Katey's Grandmother sends a great deal of love to your Mamma and all of you she says she would like very much to be able to give you a sweet kiss and so would I Guy I should like it too. I wonder if I ever can kiss you again. When I get your pictures I shall kiss them very often. What a great boy you must be now. I wonder how much bigger than Dooley Wear are you and how much bigger that Carry Wear is Grace. Dear little Grace how much I would wish to see her. She would not know me now I suppose. I pray do you think you would know me if you saw me.

Give my love to Mamma and Grandmother and dont forget to write soon to

Susan [Key]

Address

Care of W.T. Carroll esqr  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
Washington D.C.

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1661 5/4/1862

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Lizzie A Howard

OOH-1617

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds May 4th 1862

My Dear daughter,

Yours of the 12th, and 18th have been duly received. I am glad to hear God is enlarging his Church on earth and am rejoiced to know that you enjoy it, and Mrs Lothrop and Mary J Lane, I think have long been reasonably convinced that a work of grace on the heart was necessary, and I hope "now is the time" for them to receive the love of Christ fully into their hearts.

We received two letters from Charles this week one at the time he sent the money now in your possession, the other at Williamsburg, after their arrival, May the 6th that came in last evenings mail. Probably you have one ere this from Otis. O, Lizzie all we can do for them is to Pray for them.

We are so busy this week, that it is hardly probable we shall come to you. My Husband says you had better deposit the money have as your own in the Auburn Bank. My husband may come down the last of the week and take the trunks and your other articles that you mentioned. If I could get a box to Mr Brewsters, I would send them by Isibella. However we will do the best we can.

I am cleaning house. My help is young and dont proceed very fast. We have got to the dining room, shall probably finish this week. My garden is on hand now, have done a very little in it.

Do not hear much from Rowland, but judging from what I do hear that he is very busy at this time.

I have some butter on hand. If I can, I will send it to your Aunt. I regret that Guy should be sick but last week was so cold, he took cold probably. Give much love to him from Grandmother. Tell Grace much joy to her, in going to school. Jamie must have as many kisses from Grandma as he wants. Give my regards to Mrs Jones and her family.

My husband is at my elbow, hurrying me. In haste yours  
Eliza Gilmore

Lizzie A Howard

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1662 5/5/1862

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1613

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[121]

Auburn May 5th 1862

Dearest

I fear I have let too many days pass since writing to you. I often intend to write but I cannot do so during the day and when evening comes I find a torn dress, pants or jacket that must be mended for the morrow, and then talking a little, reading a little, the evening is gone.

I heard the news of the rebels evacuating Yorktown not 'till noon to-day, but it was in the morning papers. Cousin Adams told me at tea time our Army had over taken them at Williamsburg. If your troops were under Gen. Franklin you must have gone up the York river with him. I write to you with the same calm feeling, I think that I have formerly. I have not usual amount of anxiety. You are in the hands of our loving God. I opened my bible to-day and it was at the tenth chapter of Joshua, and it seemed as if our nation's troubles were written there. It gave me great comfort that if the Lord is with us what matters if the whole world is against us. The Lord can take care of his own.

I would like to tell you about the revival of religion here but I feel unable to speak of it. I have seen what I never saw before, souls turning to Jesus finding him and trusting him during a morning meeting during the children's meeting of which I wrote about to take place. Many, I know not the number, gave their hearts to Jesus. One young man who had before this received his appointment as Cadet is among the recent converts. I am to meet him at a friends house some evening. His name is Webster, son of an Universalist minister of Conn. He spoke beautifully, told his young friends, one day a christian was worth more than all his life before. I have talked with Fanny and walked home from one of the meetings with Adams when I told him of Jesus, how I wished he was a Christian. Mr Adams has talked with him & other friends have talked with them both.

The first words I heard Mr Hammond utter was a hymn, as I was entering the Church

I'm glad salvation free  
Salvation's free for you and me,  
I'm glad salvation's free.

Dellie made me a visit and went to hear him one evening. Tomorrow morning we have another children's meeting. Mr Hammond will be there. He has not been on this side of the river, only at the children's first meeting. I should'nt be surprised at any thing the lord is able to save with the uttermost - from the youngest to the oldest. I dont think our dear little Guy or Grace too young to come to him. If Grace continues in the same gentle course she has lately, and careful about troubling me I shall have to believe she is already in the fold of Jesus. They both go to school now. Guy said "I thought the other school was the best school but now I think this is". Grace is very happy these days, but that little rogue Jamie, is just about as much as I can manage. Aunt Sarah says he is getting the upper hand in the kitchen.

I do not close my letters at night now because I get letters in the morning sometimes, two hours before I have to mail a letter to you. I have been thinking of Mrs Sewall a great deal to-day. I may see her this week, shall if I go to Portland.

I am not in Mr Dingley's class now. Mr Cobb wants me to take a class of little boys. I did'nt want to, but as he wished it, and I thought what a hard time you had to get teachers, then I took it. Their ages from nine to twelve. I will not write more but finish in the morning as it is very late and I shall have to be up early to get the children and myself ready for Church at quarter before eight. We will have to go long before or we will not be able to get into the Church.

Morning.

I have not time, Dearest, to tell you all about the meeting this morning but Eva will trust Jesus. (I wish you would write this <to Guy>).

I spoke to Mr Hammond as we came out. I had Guy and Grace with me by the hands past him. I said Mr Howard of Farmington is their uncle after a few words I had said before, then he knew all about us, and spoke so fatherly so kindly to the children Guy and Grace, "I know all about your pa-pa, read letters how he found Jesus. You must love Jesus."

Now I am going to the office. I have walked to school with the children before I took my letter to finish. I have surely thought of you this morning but you will not wonder when you know of the interest manifested here.

Your own Lizzie

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1663 5/7/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1614

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade  
Yorktown Va.

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[122]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade May 7th 1862  
Yorktown Va.

Dearest,

We marched from our old Camp to the vicinity of Yorktown Monday, and encamped as a reserve along side of Genl Sedgwick's Division. Just before sunset we got orders to march on towards Williamsburg. It had been raining all day & continued to do so. We started (following) my brigade in rear of Genl French's. We had to pass through a narrow roadway at the Yorktown works, the mud eight or ten inches deep. Horses, wagons, mules & footmen were going both ways, & meeting here. It was dark before I got my brigade past Yorktown. We continued the march till eleven o'clock at night. The mud was deep & slippery so that it was almost impossible for the men to stand up. I walked a great deal to rest my horse and to help on a sick man & I found I had to depend on the halter or bridle of my horse to keep on my feet. Men fell out dreadfully from different regiments of the Division, but the next day, yesterday, they came up. We bivouacked in a ploughed field till daylight, & then moved on. We were halted a little beyond "the half-way-house" to Williamsburg and again went into Camp.

The battle had been fought at Williamsburg & won & the enemy had retreated towards Richmond. I let Mr Miles & John go forward on Monday & they were present during part of the action. Charlie & the Dr spent a good part of tuesday in visiting the battle field & the wounded on both sides.

I went up so as to get on to the field just as the sun set. All the dead were not yet buried. I saw poor fellows "caring brethren" they doubtless had been lying in their last sleep crowned with mud. I stopped, dismounted and looked at them in the face. I could not help feeling the same towards friend & foe there. I saw the grave of a Union soldier with his name marked on a wooden cross at his head & still unburied lay a poor enemy by his side. I felt sorry that the hands that had buried the one had not buried the other. I would have done so. Another was covered with a blanket. John uncovered his face, & he looked as peaceful & pleasant as a sleeping child. These scenes are not pleasant but they are the part of war that we should not neglect to observe. That battle was hotly contested.

This morning we marched back to this place (Yorktown) prepared to embark for West Point (Va.) 80 miles above. Genl Sedgwick & Genl Porter go before us. I feel it necessary to repress every eagerness to press forward. If by the Providence of God we are brought into battle, my duties will be discharged then. If it is not His will to bring me into the battle, I will try & not tempt Him to destroy me. Such is my Christian philosophy & I feel content. I have worked very hard during this campaign to make my troops do well. Night & day I feel that I have felt the pressure of responsibility. Now, I love to be commended, darling, but is it not better to go home with whole limbs & without dishonor, than to get great glory at the expense of them. I will accept the safe & well side & with gratitude to God if He has seen fit to bring about the great result with other instrumentalities.

Lizzie, you ask me a little about McClellan. I believe myself & have that it would have been better for the country to have attacked the Yorktown works, the next day after arriving & I am sorry that the enemy could be executing a retreat from Wednesday till Sunday & Genl McClellan not know it. But I do not believe he lacks genius for his profession, but I think he inclines too much to engineering. You perceive it is easy to criticize & to say "I told you so." The method of Genl McClellan has thus far been a safe one & it may be it will prove effective - "Nous verrons." ["We will see."] Here is one who will not begrudge him complete success.

I met Capt Blunt the other day. He asked if you & Mrs B had not been corresponding. Lt Col Sampson - 3d Me came to our tent this evening. Sick with severe neuralgia; on his way to Fortress Monroe - has telegraphed to Mrs Samson to meet him there. He looks poorly & discouraged. It will do him good to see his wife & so it would

some other husbands & papa's.

How is the little flock tonight. What word can papa say to each one of them. Guy & Grace going to school? I wonder if Guy will see there all the boys he knows, and if he will get what lessons he does get well. Many kisses to them & much love from a loving father.

Charlie is well & so is Capt Sewall. We are all glad to think of your visit to Bath. And it will make us quite happy to run across another letter, perhaps tomorrow. Our opportunities of sending the mail are not always good nowadays. Direct for the present Via Fortress Monroe.

Much love, & many blessings for our Common Father & blessed Saviour.

Affectionately  
Otis

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1664 5/11/1862    *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1190

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington May 11/61 [1862. See Note 1]

Dear Brother Otis

As you wrote me last, this shall be addressed to you. You spoke of my treatment of Dellie. It is a thing of wh. I am utterly unconscious, if I seem "cool" to him. I am sure I have his highest welfare at heart.

I have watched the papers closely to see your Div. or Brigade mentioned in the pursuit of the Rebels, but have not as yet & so conclude that you are in the rear. We commit you to God whatever the event may be. It seems as if the Rebellion was in its last legs, but many more valuable lives will have to be sacrificed yet.

Our church has not been so full today, the Methodists having their new minister. I preached A.M. on the Christian conflict, Rom. 7-21.25. P.M. How to prolong the gracious visits of Christ. Luke - IV- 42. The religious interest has abated & I fear a reaction as is so apt to be the case after a Revival. Mr. Hammond writes me that a glorious work is in progress at Lewiston. The Baptist minister writes that they have given up all attempts at counting the Converts, they are so numerous. I hope to spend one night there this week.

Our winds are still cold & the snow lies pretty deep on the north mountains, but the grass begins to look green in the fields & the maples to put forth their long red buds. The roads are quite "settled" tho rather soft yet "for the transportation of heavy guns", I suppose.

Have not heard from Lizzie or Mother since I wrote. Susan has sent another letter to Guy wh. I will forward in the morning. We are pretty well settled in our house now, Aunt Jane helping us. I hope you & Charles will come to see us yet in this house. We often speak of you both, conjecturing, remembering, prognosticating &c. Ella is pretty well, but weighs only 101, baby is well & happy, but a little wee fellow.

Our S.S. Concert is tonight. The Children are each to repeat a verse in some hymn & Will is getting his.

Mr. Fiske desires an exchange next Sab. & perhaps I will do it. I'd rather preach where they have been "revived".

Sarah [cousin Sarah (Lee) Sargent] is busy cultivating her garden, & is well as usual. John [John Harrison Otis] comes to the Baptist meeting occasionally. Helen [John's wife] seems just as far from the Kingdom as ever. They live near the Depot. Last Wednesday our ministerial association of Franklin & Somerset Co's had a pleasant meeting with me. You will remember Rev. Mssrs. Laphan of Norridgenook & Adams of New Sharon, who inquired kindly for you & Charles.

Love to Charles & kindest Christian Regards to Capt Sewall.

Yr. Aff. Bro  
Rowland

[Note 1. The date of May 11, 1861 seems wrong for several reasons. First the reference to the "wee baby" is probably to their first child, David Patten Howard, who was born 10 August 1861. Then the references to fighting the rebels, and the references to Otis and Charles being together and to Capt Sewall put the date to be well after the war had started. Charles joined Otis in Washington in about June 1861. Finally, Sarah Sargent was scheduled to sail from Nassau to New York June 10th, 1861. The month and day are about right for approaching spring. Thus I assume that the date should have been May 11, 1862.]

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1665 5/11/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1615

Head Qrs. Just beyond  
Yorktown

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[125]

Head Qrs. Just beyond  
Yorktown May 11 1862  
(Sunday)

Dearest,

We are ordered to embark today, will go on board for West Point Va. as soon as possible. I hope you are well & having a happy Sunday. I am delighted to find you so much engaged in your precious Saviour's cause.

God bless you all & bring me to you in his own good time.

Kiss the children for papa. Congratulate Eva on finding a Redeemer. Love to all.

Affectionately  
Otis

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1666 5/12/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1616

Hd. Qrs. Near Eltham 5  
miles  
above West Point Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126]

Hd. Qrs. Near Eltham 5 miles  
above West Point Va  
May 12 1862

Dearest,

We arrived here yesterday, that is the whole brigade did so. The Vanderbilt got up day before yesterday with myself, staff & two Regiments just at dark. We all spent the night on board & spent the most of the day in disembarking. The Pamunkey & the Matapony unite to form the York River - we are on the shore of the former. I say on the shore; we are in a large clearing about a half mile from the river to the left as you go up. My Head Quarters are in the edge of a wood. I had a little place cleared for us. The wagons came up with our tents last night.

All are well. Charlie had a letter from mother last night. Letters are our refreshment here, though the constant work & change of scene keeps us from being so homesick as we might otherwise be. Mrs Sewall is wondering about you & your coming, & very eager to see you. Capt Sewall read me a portion of his sisters letter which said I was mentioned in the N.Y. Independent with McClellan, Anderson & Foote as a Christian officer. It is one thing to be reported a Christian & quite another to be one. I hope God will preserve me from falling into temptation. My danger is what appertains very much to my life as an officer. The doing everything to be sure of me.

How blessed it is to find you so engaged & so happy in Christ. You will have to help me by prayer & by example. The children are well & happy?

Gen. Sumner who commanded at the battle of Williamsburg has been much complained of & Genl McClellan has received all the praise. For a while it seemed as if Sumner was to be thrown out of his command, but he is now here in command of his Army Corps. Gen. Franklin has a Corps, his Divn & Smiths. Gen F.J. Porter one, his own & the regulars & Durgen Zouaves. Keyes his own corps less Smiths Divn Heintzelman his own less Porters Divn The main body of the Army advances today still nearer Richmond. Our advance force is now about 20 miles from that city.

Col Jackson 5th Maine, was here last night. His regiment was spoken highly of in the skirmish the other day here in the woods near Brickhouse Point. Lt. Col Heath came with him, formerly one of my Captains in the 3d Maine. The Maine troops are now highly spoken of by Genl McClellan & Hancock.

I am glad for you that you have found friends & duties that interest you. I hope Lewiston & Auburn will become a little garden of the Lord.

With much love & many kisses. I am your own husband  
Otis

We do not go on today

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1667 5/17/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1618

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
near Cumberland  
Landing

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[108]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
near Cumberland Landing  
May 17, 1862

Dearest,

We moved thursday as I wrote you towards this place. It rained very hard during the latter part of the march & on our arrival we put up a "fly" which I now carry on my spare horse, because the wagons dont get up till late. We made a nice big fire close by the fly & made ourselves quite comfortable till the tents came up.

Mr Alvord, the Agent of the Tract Society of Boston, has come back with a wagon-load of books & tracts. He has a nice good wagon & I told him to move along with my Head Quarters near the head of the column. He did so & brought us something to cut with him after the brigade had been fairly established in the woods. We cut away a nice little nook for our Head Quarters tents. Soon they came up & before night we had some nice beds made in the tents with posts, poles & bows. Mr Alvord said this was his first experience in marching in a rain storm & encamping. He would not have missed it for anything.

We are again apprized that we shall move up a mile or so, nearer the landing on the Pamunkey.

Our operations are very slow, too slow, darling, to suit me for I want to get through & go home. I long very much for home. When will peace come? I cannot tell. I look above for that blessing. I believe if the rebels persevere in rebellion as in New Orleans even after they have a fair chance to return to their allegiance & it is so evidently their interest to do so. I believe the bone of contention will have to be destroyed. Genl Hunter has begun to arm & train the Negroes under intelligent sergeants & corporals. If every army in the field commences this process & encourages fugitives from "secession" we shall strike a heavy blow. It will create hate but initiate a policy to weaken the enemy while it will encourage & elevate the black men. I have'nt the foresight to enable me to come to a satisfactory presumption even as to what is going to be the [Note 1] end of the war. It may all be brought about in a very short time and it may not. Everything does not go on harmoniously in the Army of the Potomac. In the battle of Williamsburg, officers were engaged with their troops for some hours & suffered great losses & no mention was made of them. Genl McClellan's friend Hancock won all the "sentiment". Genls Heintzelman, Hooker, Kearney, Peck, Berry (my old Col. of 4th Me) & others are greatly chagrined at the injustice done them. Genl Sumner who was the commanding officer on the field is entirely ignored. Such are the feelings involved. You might think the aim of most of them was personal glory. I hope it is not.

Genl McClellan has acted injudiciously without doubt, & probably wants to center some or much of the glory in himself & his particular friends; but I will try to be charitable in judgment.

From no act of Genl McClellan have I ever thought he had a favorable opinion of me, except one cordial shake of the hand when he met me Col. of the third Maine. I dont think he cares for me now, or would mention me in orders unless I did something extraordinary, but still I have nothing to complain of. His is a hard position to maintain. The responsibility is immense, and I hope & trust he has been made equal to it.

I believe his military abilities to be good, but I think Genl VanVliet, Qr Mr, Genl Barry, chief of Arty, Gen Marcy Chief of Staff, Col Hudson & Col Sweitzer, Aids far from being the best selections McClellan could have made. I do not believe he reads men well. "His clique" are his friends & intimates who graduated about the same time at West Point, or who have served with him since. Genl S. Williams Adjutant Genl, Col Kingsbury chief of Ordnance, Col Colburn Aid are good officers & industrious men. The others may be industrious, but Genl Marcy is McClellan's father-in-law & over ambitious – Hudson supercilious & disagreeable, Genl Barry believed to be of too limited capacity, Genl Vanvliet loves his wine, Sweitzer is a hardy soldier, but I have not discovered any particular ability in him. The volunteer staff is numerous, & must be bothersome. Such is some of the

criticism.

But success will make every wheel turn. And in order to a successful issue here, all must cooperate with Genl McClellan & not work against him. And all ought to give up the idea of receiving a reward from him.

I got a little letter from you yesterday morning. The one you wrote acknowledging the receipt of Charles & my packages, & wh. Jaimie was so generously helping you.

Genl Jameson called to see me last night & made quite a long call. He says Mrs Jameson is in Bath. I wonder if you have been to Bath yet. I hope you have been able to go & see Mrs Sewall & will write me about your visit. Capt Sewall is well & longing for the close of this struggle. Charlie feels a little "under the weather today" , but nothing worth telling. I hope little Guy was not croupy long. Grace goes to school alone! Does it tire her to go to school? How long does she stay in the morning & how long in the evening. What does Guy learn! Does he ever read aloud to his Mamma? I fear papa would'nt know Jamie boy if he should meet him in Boston, would he? Tell him Guy, to send his picture with yours.

This page was accidentally skipped. My anticipation is that a severe battle will be fought before many days. The Chickahominy is in a swamp, difficult of approach.

I dont know what my last words would be if I had a premonition that the battle would end my life. I hope I shall be in to see you all again but God only can know whether I shall. You know my faith is in God & I hope, for His sake & through the love of Christ I shall go to Heaven. I want my precious wife to continue in close fellowship with Jesus & my children to be the Lords. We may then surely meet again. I am not as this might seem the least desponding.

Much love to mother if you see her.

Most lovingly your husband  
Otis

[Note 1. From this point until the sentence "This page was accidentally skipped" was found glued to OOH-1626 from Rowland to Charles dated 5/29/1862.]

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1668 5/18/1862     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1619

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[127]

Auburn, May 18, 1862

Dearest

I moved yesterday morning from Aunt's to the "Maine Hotel" kept by Mr Davis. You probably know the location, on Water street. I had previously sent for Isabella and she came at noon. I met her and Col. Gilmore also at the Depot and after dining here we went for the children. It being Saturday Mr Hammond held a meeting for Children. Isabella took Guy and Grace till five o'clock and I stayed at home with Jamie (at Aunts) till five o'clock, when we all came here. We are very pleasantly situated, and when I went with the next room ( I have two rooms together) this afternoon to take a little rest I felt entirely relieved from the care of the children, and not at all dependent on any one, for they were with Isabella and that is what she is here for.

I have engaged the rooms till the children's school is finished not over eight weeks. I pay for that time twelve dollars per week all found. This is a nice place and nice people. Guy says, "It seems most like home at West Point" It is because my rooms are pleasant, and every thing is regular, and they are treated very kindly.

Aunt has other boarders, two young ladies and two gentlemen. I have'nt been to Portland or to Bath, because I did not see the time when I could leave any of the meetings, and I hear Capt Sewall will come home as soon as he can without discredit and when he can. Between you and I, I think he is not so devoted to his country as you are. It might be on account of his health.

I gave Col. Gilmore Charlie's money. I am to make a deposit of three hundred or more somewhere. I have not been very extravagant during the past winter.

I received your letter of the 11th inst last Friday. I would like to get another to-morrow, but I now depend more on the papers than letters for they are so long coming. I expect Mother and Col. Gilmore will visit us one day next week, coming with their horse and carriage and returning the same day.

Isabella is happy to be here, and we are very happy to have her here. I hope we can all remain well, for health is a great blessing.

Uncle Hicks is a very bright Christian. I know you will be very glad to hear it. Fanny is'nt altogether willing to persevere without Adam's going along with her and I am sorry to say he dont yet see the necessity. I pray he will.

I have been enabled to consecrate myself anew, more fully, to Christ, and I have receive great blessings. I see Him a precious Saviour and my heart is so full of love to God that I love to work for Jesus.

I may have told you that Mr Hammond visited me with Rowland last Thursday morning. He has quite won Guy's heart because he said "he knew all about his papa." And when he called Guy was home as his throat was not entirely well, Mr Hammonds's throat was not inflamed, and when he went to get into the buggy Guy followed him out, and as Mrs Patten, Rowland and I followed to the door, Mr H. and Guy were looking as we first thought at the sun, or trying to, as their heads were up, but they were instead gargling their throats out of Mr H's vial he had just got from Dr. Wiggin and we rather joked then for making so from with the bottle in the street, and I dont think Guy will ever forget it or him, and Guy wanted me to write to Papa "and ask him to guess what Mr Hammond and he did."

I have written this with a pencil for my ink in not here, and a poor pencil at that. Oh, I do hope you are well, both of you. I hope you are not yet having very warm weather. We have had three days as hot as August but it is cooler to-night. It is now about half past nine Sunday evening. Children all asleep.

God bless and keep you all well.

Lizzie

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1669 5/21/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1620

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade 14 miles from  
Richmond on the  
West Point & Richmond  
R.R.

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[128]

Head Quarters, Howard's  
Brigade 14 miles from Richmond on the  
West Point & Richmond R.R.  
May 21st 1862

Dearest,

We have just arrived in this Camp after a march of 8 or 9 miles. The route was circuitous & from a place called St. Peters Church, & not far from the Landing called the White house. Last Sunday we halted & encamped at Dr Pomfrey's, between Cumberland & "White house".

Monday morning at 5 a.m.

I rode to the White house a distance of four miles in a direct line. I found Genl McClellan, just ready to move on with all the force there - viz Genl Porters Divn & the regulars.

This "White house" is not white but is on the spot where Washington courted his wife and where Col. Now Rebel Genl Lee's son W. F. Lee married & lived. W.F. Lee used to be called "Rhuney" (soubriquet) [Roony]. In fact Mrs. Genl Lee & family have lived here till we came.

I returned & found my Brigade just preparing to march. We started for St. Peter's Church; but coming in contact with Genl Hooker's Divn we came to a halt till near noon. It rained as it often does when we march, but not hard.

We came into camp just beyond the Church, an old brick building with a conical tower in the midst of as fine a grove of old oak trees as you ever saw. The fields are extensive, the ground rolling. My brigade encamped on one Knoll, Genl French's on another, Genl Meagher's another & the batteries still another. The scene was picturesque in the extreme. The Church is where Washington married the lovely widow. It is some three miles from the White house by a round about road.

This morning we left that place a 6 a.m. and were here by one P.M. We came 8 or 9 miles, with the men loaded with 40 rounds of cartridges, 3 days provisions, and a Knapsack & overcoat, a good march. Oh, how hot it is today. This afternoon there is a good breeze, which relieves the heat somewhat. This morning we met your old beau little Kirby Russell. He is now adjutant of L. Island Regiment. <[Missing lines - Torn page]> and chatted pleasantly. He asked after you & the children. We are now not far from Richmond. I will give you a little sketch. [Sketch showing the railroad to Richmond, anticipated battle ground 7 miles from Richmond, Bottoms bridge, New Bridge, Grapevine bridge, Chickahominy and James Rivers, their scouts and pickets, and Howard's brigade.]

I hope the next letter will be from Richmond city, but I expect not. The enemy have fallen back to avoid our Gun boats on the one hand & McDowell on the <[Missing lines - torn page]>.

With the help of God we will succeed, but I think still not without a struggle.  
Much love to the children, Guy Grace & Jamie & God bless you all.  
Love to mother when you see her.

Affectionately  
Otis



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1670 5/23/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1621

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Near Coal Harbor –14  
miles from Richmond  
via New Bridge

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[129]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Near Coal Harbor –14 miles from Richmond  
via New Bridge – May 23d 1862

Dearest,

Our friend Mr Alvord is to start for the Boston Anniversaries tomorrow & we think it a good opportunity to start some letters onward. Today we were to march at 9 a.m. But as General Sedgwick's Division was to precede us we had to be governed by his column. At Eleven his wagon train had scarcely gotten out of his camp. However we started at that time. Genl French took the fields & woods on the right & I took the fields & woods on the left. With the pioneers in front the rubbish was cut away & we made good progress. At an early hour we were located here four miles onward but yet just as near Richmond as before.

No news of importance comes to us tonight. Genl Sumner thinks we shall have no battle between the Chicahominy & Richmond. Yesterday I was on a Court Martial till 3 P.M. Then Capt. Sewall & I tried to catch some fish in a mill pond not far from our Camp. The day before Capt Hazzard & myself rode to the Chicahominy & looked at the R.R. Bridge. Only little of it was burnt & part of Genl Couch's Divn was on the other side then. Our difficulty now is that we have to haul rations & provisions nearly 20 miles. When we get to Richmond & get the James River clear we will have less trouble.

Charlie has been again quite unwell, but is also again quite well. He rode today & directed the pioneers. He enjoys going ahead. I have written a protest today against the order of Genl McClellan giving a ration of whiskey to the whole command – my protest extends only to my own part of it. Dr Tripler advised this issue. Men begin already to be drunk. I expect to hear in time of it. Satan maneuvers in every possible way to destroy men.

Give much love to each of my (our!) little children. May God bless them & you my darling wife. We shall soon meet I hope.

Affectionately Your husband  
Otis

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1671 5/23/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1622

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131]

Auburn May 23 1862

Dearest,

I received your precious note dated May 14th yesterday morning but I could not write to you yesterday. I had so much to do for my blessed master. I am glad you are in the reserve, because you are needed there just as much as in the front, and I had to fret over that letter but it did my soul good. You said "I commend you and the little ones into the hands of our blessed saviour." We are in his hands and O, he is very near, very dear, and precious to me.

I love him so much I cannot help telling everybody who will listen to come to him, and when a mother told me this morning that my feeble words were not lost on her was instrumental in leading her to Christ. I rejoiced with tears that I had been enabled to do something for the Glory of God, and her cousin, a young lady, said you looked so good to me that night when you came to talk to us, and said dont reject Jesus. I cannot forget it, and she too loves and has given her heart to Him. This mother has family prayers and her husband says he can stand almost everything but he cant stand against a wifes prayers. Mr Hammond talked with him last night at the inquiry meeting. Mr H. took tea with us and I am to write a letter to Rowland for him to-day.

Rowland has got wood for me at Farmington at last, and when I told Mr H. while here that he had sent for us, he said, he or we cant spare you now, but I cant do anything I felt, but I am willing. I love to cast in my <nite>.

I have much more to write but it is most mail time, and I have a note to write to Mrs Sewall, as I cannot go there at present. We are all well and happy. If you are so near Richmond, you will come back, you must come back, that we can praise God to-gether. But if not I resign yourself to the will of God, a loving saviour. We shall meet again never to part. Take care of yourself, your health, great great love to Charlie. Guy and Grace at school. Jamie and Isabella out walking. God bless and keep you.

Your devoted  
Lizzie

The check was enclosed in your last letter for \$100. dollars I have just invested \$500.00 and have two hundred deposited for future use. I gave a contribution for Mr Hammond. I have enough and to spare.

Written in haste, Lizzie

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1672 5/26/1862      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1623

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade, Tylers Farm,  
near Chickahominy

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[130]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade, Tylers Farm, near Chickahominy  
May 26th (Monday) 1862

Dearest,

The crisis is drawing nigh. Before this reaches you I think the battle in front of Richmond will be over & we will have won or lost, according to the will of God. Jefferson Davis has called his rebellious people to prayer, himself joined the Church & doubtless is invoking the blessing of our Common Father, for the success of his Armies. On both sides there is calling upon God, but oh, the wickedness of ourselves. Yet how foolish it would be to hang success upon the Holiness of our people.

We cannot approximate desert, but if we would repent & acknowledge that God rules & after we have made every exertion he has given us the <power> to make & then look to Him for his blessing. How confident & hopeful we might be. But if I should not write again, what could I say to you, my precious wife, I dont know. How sweetly & beautifully Jesus is preparing you for any event. It may be against prosperity, it may be to meet adversity. I cannot do better than give you to the Lord. You may have many trials but you will always have the aid <[missing line, torn page]>

have just heard of Genl Banks defeat & it fills us with sorrow, but these reverses are to be expected, else we might get proud & unendurable. Fame, Fame, Fame, and the presidency for a reward, is born of our hearts.

I wish my own was free from a desire for distinction & that I was only remarkable for my love to Christ. How small these things, glory, a breath of human praise will seem, when I come into the presence of my judge. Shall I not want all things as nothing if I but win Christ.

I do not have any presentiment, that I shall die in battle, but there is danger of it & of Charlie too. Let my bequest be then "Jehovah Jereh". To Him I commit you & require a cheerful acquiescence in His holy will, for He will provide comfort, consolation & strength.

I have become very tender about little children of late. I read a story yesterday where there was much about them. Guy is a darling boy & loves his papa. He will one day be a man and can he not imitate his papa so far as his papa did right. I do not expect he will always do right, but if he makes Jesus the object of his early love, He will guide him through. Do you suppose he will ever forget that he has so often knelt in prayer with his father? He must be very tender hearted & kind to his Mamma, Gracie. Her picture with Mamma is suspended <[Missing line, torn page]>

will feel sorry. Her little heart is young, life is just opening. Will not Jesus keep that heart pure? Papa dont know what is in store for his little daughter, but he does know that she is safe. While she can, pray "papa's little prayer", with faith. "O, God for Christs sake give me thy Holy Spirit". That spirit will sweeten every cup & disarm every danger. And Jamie. The story I read yesterday told of Jamie, a little boy, who in his life & in his death was a blessing to his parents, a clear eyed, earnest & loving child. The remembrance of my little Jamie is sweet to me. He can know little of papa only as he is told unless "Deo Volente" papa goes home. He will be all Mamma's boy then. How completely must she commit him to God. You are all to struggle through the world. "Let not your heart be troubled, let it not be afraid, in my Fathers house are many mansions &c...".

You mentioned Capt Sewall. He is very patriotic, very kind & Christian & devoted to me. God grant his little family may not have to lose him. He had things drawing him home of which I was not aware till he told me, certain obligations resting on him, as a guardian of some children. He says he would willingly stay a month, that I might have a leave to visit my family. Capt Sewall is a true man, of good mind & unflinching integrity. He

is not strong. Charlie is now quite well. <[Missing line, torn page]>

of myself.

Yesterday morning.

We attended service at the 61st. Rev Dr Vogel & afterward at the 64th Rev Mr Hibbard, both good discourses & having candid, careful listeners. I hope the truth, found its way into many hearts. Capt Hazzard is a constant companion here, & a good man – a plain spoken, open hearted fellow, but I believe right in his instincts & almost persuaded to be a Christian. I dont talk much with him on religion. I used to talk with him in Florida, but I hope I may be the means of blessing him by living an unobtrusive Christian life, if by the blessing of God I may do so here. He says if he falls I must write to his wife, & if I fall he must write to mine.

When you & the children can, you will not forget how sweet & precious are your visits to my good mother as age & loneliness draws on. Her children are all gone from under her roof, but not from her care, love & prayers. My Step-Father, or better “Father is a noble hearted man” - like uncle Hicks afraid to venture to give up himself to Christ. I am rejoiced for uncle Hicks. Tell him to read the Bible carefully. God bless & keep him. Fanny need not tug away at the threshold. God will save her husband, not she. Let her enter “the door” & go in & out. Adams will then begin to think more than now. Eva does not love Christ! Poor child, she may be found by Him & when she beholds Him she will love Him.

Many sweet kisses <[Missing line, torn page]>

[OO Howard]

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1673 5/26/1862 *From:* Helen D. Sands

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1624

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[132]

Monday Morning May 26 [1862]

Dear Lizzie,

I was very glad to receive a letter from you Saturday and still more delighted upon learning that I should see you so soon.

I have very many things to say to you but my limited time will not admit of my writing you many lines.

I am teaching in the High School this term, but can easily arrange to go to Bath with you any Wednesday or Saturday, as there is but one session on those days I can be spared as well as not.

I hope you will bring the children with you and remain with us as long as you can.

Mother sends love and will be very happy to see you.

Alice is in Saco. I shall write her of your anticipated visit and I presume she will come immediately home. Her intention, when we last heard from her was to return this week or next.

Rowland was in town last night. I waited sometime after meeting to speak with him but had no opportunity of doing so.

I must now get ready for school.

Hoping very soon to see you I remain  
Your sincere and loving friend  
Helen D. Sands

Give much love to the children. I want very much to see them.  
H.D.S.

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1674 5/27/1862     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1625

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133]

Auburn May 27th 1862

My dearest Otis

When I have written to you of late I have been in great haste and have not said all that I have wanted to. I presume I have said very little about the revival and I dont know as I have ever told you of Uncle Hicks happy conversion. Cousin Fanny has doubts and fears. Adams as yet wont come but very many have turned to the Lord. Our morning and evening prayer meetings continue. Isabella and I take turns in going, but we did not either of us go to-night, could'nt.

Mr Hammond has gone to Brunswick and O! they are so cold down there. There has been no revival there for thirty years and I almost feel that they all (connected with the college) want to be converted over again. Mrs Upham and a few others are all right. An extra train will go to Brunswick next Thursday and return after the evening meeting. I intend to go and I also intend to take a carriage and go to Bath from there and back the same afternoon. I want so much to see Mrs Sewall. I would like to meet Mrs Jameson. I shall enquire for her.

You know I always liked all my people any way, but I am getting bravely over all my likes, and desires to do, or be so and so. I also like to do Gods will & be anything or nothing as he sees best to order. This life seems so short to me that it matters not if I only do whatever duties devolve upon me. Three members of my Sunday School class (I have a class of boys from eight to twelve years old) have professed to love Christ. Three more are very near to him, and I trust he will soon reveal himself to them. I have more than twelve in the class.

I am very much at home here, but I think I must go to Farmington, so I shall, and come back when it seems right to do so. I wish this terrible war would end. I dont believe it will begin to come to an end until the Negroes are all freed. I wish every one of them should come north or wherever <[CHECK ORIGINAL very faint]> are and say they would no longer be cattle but men.

Your letter received today was dated May 17th and it was a good long letter. I do wish there could be no self seeking and right and justice could rule. Everybody ought to pray and then we would prosper.

I have just closed my door for I began to smell smoke from the office. Dont forget we are at the "Maine Hotel". We are very pleasantly situated, and the children feel at home. I think I shall be here about six weeks longer. I hear the clock striking ten and I am getting sleepy.

I dont feel <some [CHECK ORIGINAL very faint]> that Gen. Banks' retreat will do any great harm to the cause, if the rebels have returned toward Richmond or rather down the valley.

Mother came down here last Saturday and had shopping to do, so she sent for us to go to meet her at Uncle Hicks. Isabella, Guy, Grace, Jamie and I, and Uncle Hicks who came for us, locked our rooms and went over just after dinner. She was very well and returned in the afternoon train, hardly two hours and a half here. Rowland preached in Bath and again in Brunswick Sunday evening to help Mr Hammond. I bought a carriage for Jamie to ride in last saturday and he does enjoy being in it very much. I think you would know Jamie if you should see him almost any where.

Warren Woodman has resigned and come home. He would have stayed but the Col. dont know anything. He should I know have been in command.

We are all very well now. Guy lost one week of school. Isabella's brother is under Gen Hartsuf, with McDowell. She had a letter today. Yesterday we were thinking he was still with Gen Banks. I wish to know where you were, and what you are doing just now. I will trust you are well, doing your duty in the sight of God, and not looking for honor and glory form men. It is pleasant to be commended I know.

I wish you could see Jamie now. He has just turned over, or rather thrown himself over, and his head is still on his own pillow but his feet are on mine and there he is with his fat feet naked. He is called a noble boy here. Mr Davis says he is the best boy, and Mr Small says he is the brightest boy of his age he ever saw. He is always ready to go <[[CHECK ORIGINAL-Faint line at bottom of page]> and pray that he will serve the Lord.

I do think Guy and Grace know what it is to serve and love Jesus, as a little boy said at the Sunday School concert, "If you had a dear friend and he should lay down his life for you, you would think it was a great deal. Jesus has done it and I should think you would want to serve him."

I must close now. Much love to Charlie. I don't like to have him get sick. I hope by the next letter to you I have seen Mrs Sewall.

Your loving Lizzie

May God keep you.

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1675 5/29/1862     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My Dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1626

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131]

Farmington May 29/62

My Dear Brother

Your letter by Mr Alvord & the one containing the \$20. came together last night. The latter made me feel grateful to you, & I trust, to God for it seemed to come from Him. I had had no money for a no. of days & had borrowed 18 of Willie to buy some herrings 1.00 of Abby to pay for some butter yesterday & I was owing \$3.00 for some tracts & Quarter day is not till July. I do not spend money as I used to unnecessarily, I do believe, but if God did not interpose occasionally thro my dear Brothers & other kind friends I would have hard work to make the "ends meet" by a good deal, but I thank you my dear Brother for your kindness & pray the Lord to repay you. I fear I never can in the same way.

I do hope that illness will not continue, if it does you must come home, of course, if able. But if you are well, it seems as if Our Country must need you as much as ever. I can hardly approve of Warrens resigning. I hope he will go out again in the new Reg. but Wildes has been appointed Col.! How strange that the Gov can't learn by experience that his most intimate friends do not make the best officers.

The flurry about Banks is pretty much over. Sec Stanton & Gov. Andrew seem to enjoy a Sensation, but it was too bad to leave Banks at the mercy of the enemy so & thus sacrifice all we had gained in that Dept. Jackson will probably escape. But it was glorious to see how the people rushed to arms at the first alarm. At first I thought I must go this time, but I will not till we have suffered a defeat.

Mr Fred Stewart has an appt. of Brig. Quartermaster of Princes Staff & has gone to Washington. Dr Alexander has had a Surgeons place offered him. I don't know as he will go yet. Stewart joined the Church & the Dr. was to do so next Sab. I could not go to Boston on acct. of 24 persons to be received into the Church next Sab. I would have been delighted to have seen Mr. Alvord after his long visit to you.

I sent your letter to Mother this morn. Capt. Patten went home from here yesterday & Mrs P. came last night. Ella's girl left yesterday & she is waiting for one to "turn up". Our meeting last night was not so lively as I could wish. Are all your prayer meetings suspended?

If we can get Davie to sit still long enough we will send you his picture in my next. He had a nice May Basket with a good dollar in it the 1st of May.

Give [See note 1] much love to Otis, & the rest of yr military family  
Rowland

Sister is to be married today in Boston.

[Note 1. The word Give was written on page 4 with the rest of the sentence written on the side of page 1. The postscript was written on page 4. An additional page, (numbered #4) written by Otis and doesn't follow onto this page was glued to page 4. This was followed by another 3 pages, also written by Otis, were filed with the above. They were moved to OOH\_1618].

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1676 5/31/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1627

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's  
Brigade Tyler's Farm,  
Va.

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[136]

Head Quarters Howard's  
Brigade Tyler's Farm, Va.  
May 31st, 1862

Dearest,

I had a real good letter from you three days ago and am expecting another today.

We have remained in this position ever since my last letter, have built two bridges across the Chickahominy one of them a quarter of a mile long. Yesterday, with Genls Sumner & Sedgwick I went as far as Fair Oaks Station, just seven miles from Richmond City. Here we found Genl Keys & his Corps d'Arm e waiting for orders. Genl Porter went to Hanover C.H. fought a battle & has returned. Now I believe there is some change of policy & we will have to wait here awhile longer for which I feel sorry for, though we are surrounded with a magnificent country, we are in low wet land & in much danger of fevers.

Again I feel anxious to get the work done. I have thought that after Richmond was fairly in our hands, I might get a leave of thirty days & look in upon you. Certainly I may if active operations should cease. Capt Sewall is very anxious to go home as soon as he can do so without detriment to the cause.

It seems wonderful to me to find you so happy in Christ & so much engaged. Do not overwork, darling, nor allow any excitement more than that coming from the influence of God's Holy Spirit to check your progress in holiness & joy. Yours is doubtless a preparation of heart for the duties devolving on you & "God be with you & lead you" is my prayer. It is blessed to find our old friends turning to the Lord, & oh, that I did not see so many turning from Him & scarcely raise a hand to prevent it. Last Sunday's services were solemn & profitable to the Brigade I believe, and I hope tomorrow's may be equally good. But we are always in such danger of marching on Sunday, that we cannot calculate on a good Sabbath.

We are all well at Head Quarters. Genl Sumner seems troubled by the Newspaper attacks. Some of them are virulent. He not only receives no praise for the battle of Williamsburg, but is even called a traitor by one correspondent. You never knew a more patriotic man – over 40 years faithful service, all forgotten & publicly blamed & traduced without the slightest cause. It looks hard & is hard for one who seeks his reward here below. Genl Sumner is not a thoughtless man, but he often profanes the name of God. God has once brought him near his grave, now he touches the very apple of his eye. Would that he might turn away from ungrateful men & seek for strength & comfort from on high. You may say "Point him to Christ." I wish I could do so judiciously, but he is like Col Delafield too strong a man, to become a little child except always by the grace of God.

Much love & many kisses to the little ones from papa.

Aff. yr. Husband  
Otis

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1677 6/2/1862

*From:* Francis C. Barlow  
Col. Comdg.

*To:* 1st Lieut G. W. Scott

OOH-1628

61st. Reg. N. Y. Vol  
Camp at Fair Oaks  
Station

61st N.J. Vols  
Actd. Asst. Adj. Genl. 1st  
Brigade Richardson's Div

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[329]

Camp at Fair Oaks Station June 2/62  
1st Lieut G. W. Scott 61st N.J. Vols  
Actd. Asst. Adj. Genl. 1st Brigade Richardson's Div

Sir

At four a.m. Of June 1st 1862 in obedience to orders from Genl comdg. Brigade this Regt. was formed in close column of Division in the field to the north of the R. Rd. at Fair Oaks Station Va. The Reg. numbered 375 men in the ranks 42 Sergts. File closers Col. Lt Col Adj. & 15 com'd officers

At about 7 a.m. we were moved to the R. Rd and formed in line of battle therein facing the south with our right resting about one quarter of a mile east of the station. Immediately on our left was the 64th N.J.V. The two other Regts of this Brigade were not in sight. The firing in the woods in our front was very brisk and we were immediately ordered by the Genl. Comdg. the Brigade to advance. We advanced into a woods of tall trees, thickly interspersed with an undergrowth of young oaks which rendered it impossible for us to see to any great distance before us. The ground in some place was muddy and marshy. After advancing some 150 yds we came upon the 53d Reg. Penn Vols Col Brooks, formed in line and briskly engaging the enemy. I requested Col. Brooks to cease firing that we might pass in front of and relieve him. This was done and we at once advanced upon the enemy who we <were> drawn up in line before us and who kept up a heavy fire. After advancing some 25 yds beyond Col. Brooks Regt I halted the Reg. and fired one or two rounds. The enemy fell back, firing out of sight among the thick under growth. Not willg. to deliver our fire until we could see those opposed to us I ordered the Reg. to cease firing, which command was promptly obeyed. We then moved forward in excellent order some 180 yds meeting with a heavy fire but not seeing the enemy with sufficient distinction to warrant, in my opinion our halting and renewing the fire. On arriving upon the crest of a hill within some 20 yds of the road running parallel to the R. Rd. and directly opposite the camp of Casey's Divn which the <enemy> had occupied the battalion was halted the enemy being plainly in sight by the road side and at once opened fire receiving a very heavy one in return. This continued for a considerable time & it was there that our principal loss occurred.

We drove the enemy back and he ceased firing when we could no longer see the enemy and his fire had become slackened, we ceased firing and I directed my men to sit down & rest. I considered it unwise to advance farther as there were no Regts. on our flanks and we were considerably in advance of the line in our rear and were liable to be taken rear or out flanked by the enemy coming up the road if we passed beyond it.

We renewed fire several times until we could <see> that the woods and camp in our front were <clear> of the enemy for a considerable distance, when we finally <> and they did not again appear in our front.

Finding that our flanks were not supported I sent to ask Col Brooks to bring up his Regt upon our line which he did scarcely any firing was done after his arrival, but lines were ready and the men rested. A tremendous fire was opened upon us from the rear which would have been murderous had we not avoided the balls [by] lying down. During this fire I despatched my adjutant, Lieut Gregory to carry information of our position and ask for orders in as much as there was <> enemy in our front for us to work upon. We <refrained> from firing to the rear in return although it had been reported to me that the enemy were there; a report for which I could find no foundation. We lost <few> if any by this fire from the rear. On the return <> Lieut Gregory with orders from the Gen. Comdg. the <> for us to retire, we marched off in perfect order by the road leading to our right and returned [to] the field whence we started.

We were not again engaged, just before we started on our return from front I plainly saw a body of the enemy advancing obliquely upon our right on the other side of this road, but we had cleared the woods before the reached our position, our wounded who were left on the ground state that the position was <occupied> by the enemy immediately after we left it.

The Regt. under my command calmly and faithfully performed its duty. A few of the men sometimes commenced firing without orders, but my commands to cease firing, march halt &c were readily obeyed under heavy fire. A few of the men at times would crouch down <> firing and shrink to the rear, but were brought up again by their officers and were few in number. The greater part of the men stood firm and erect <> the firing and only stooped or went down when ordered to do so. I did not see one officer shrink or fail in his duty, and all deserve <praise> alike.

Lt Col. Massett Capts Russell & Trenor & 1st Lt. <McIntyre> comdg. Co. C were all shot dead while doing their duty <>, calmly and nobly, 1st Lt Bergen & 2d Lt Baon <> Cos. A & D and their only commissioned officers & <> Lt Coultis who took command of Co C. after the death of Lt McIntyre & 1st Lt Inaze of Co. A were wounded very early in the flight & obliged to go to the rear Cos. C D & K were thus left without Commissioned Officer & were taken charge of by officers of other companies .

Our loss is over one quarter our strength as follows

Killed 30 – 4 comd Officers 26 enlisted men

Wounded 76 – 4 comd Officers 72 enlisted men

Missing 6 – enlisted men of whom 4 men and corporal were attending to the wounded & taken prisoners in the discharge of their duty. The sixth man Drum Major Gloded was taken prison while in the woods after the action was over, making a total of 112. This Reg. took some ten prisoners one of whom was an officer supposed to be a Brig. Genl. From these prisoners & from some of our wounded I learnt that the force opposed to us was the 3d Ala. about 1000 strong supported by the 12th & 41st Vir.

At present we have for duty one Col., nine compys Officers and 338 enlisted men of whom 17 are drummers. My command thus reduced I have organized into eight compys each of which has but one Comd. Officer. The senior Capt. of the Regt. being detailed to act as a field Officer.

At an early hour of the day a greater part of two companies of the 64th N. J. Vols we collected and joined our left and remained with us till the action was over.

I have the honor to enclose a list of those killed, wounded and missing with the nature of the wounds received.

The Reg. was engaged four hours having come out of the woods at 11 A.M.

Very Respectfully

(Signed) Francis C. Barlow

Col. Comdg. 61st. Reg. N. Y. Vol

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1678 6/2/1862

*From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1629

Richardson's Div  
Fair Oaks VA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[140]

[Letterhead]

THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST.

Dated Richardsons [Div.], [Fair Oaks VA] June 2d 1862.  
Rec'd Lewiston 2d 1862 via Ft Monroe  
To Mrs O O Howard

The general is wounded.  
Fear he will lose his arm  
he will come home as soon as possible.  
Do not come unless you hear again.  
Charles slightly wounded in the leg.

F.D. Sewall

31 / Paid 557

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1679 6/2/1862      *From:* Thos J. Parker Col.      *To:* Gen'l [OO Howard]  
64th N.Y.S.Vols.  
OOH-1630      Head Quarters 64th  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Regt. N.Y.S.V.  
Camp Victory at Fair  
Oaks Station Va

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[308]  
Head Quarters 64th Regt. N.Y.S.V.  
Camp Victory at Fair Oaks Station Va  
June 2d 1862

Gen'l

I have the honor to report the position and part taken by my Regiment on the Battle Field in the engagement of yesterday June 1st 1862 near this place about 7 o'clock a.m. we were ordered to the front. On advancing through a thick woods on the south side of the Rail Road under a shower of balls from the enemy Genl O.O. Howard and his aid C. Howard were both severely wounded near our line. On arriving within about 50 yards of the enemys line we opened fire on them. They fought desperately, being soon reinforced and the battle raged about two hours. Both lines holding their position we then charged bayonet on them they falling back in disorder leaving their dead and wounded on the field. I then received orders to reform the line in rear of Genl Meaghers Brigade and took that position about this time. I was directed by Genl Richardson to take the command of the Brigade. After this I ordered the 64th to support Captain Pettits Battery under the command of Capt. R. Washburn as Leut Col. Bingham being severely wounded and Capt Washburn being the seignor officer.

The Regiment took position according to the aforesaid order in rear of Capt. Pettits Battery supporting the same – during the entire engagement the Officers and men displayed the most determined courage and bravery. Being in the hottest part of the contest opposed to vastly superior numbers, observing good order and obeying every command, numerous instances of distinguished bravery in Officers could be mentioned but where all done so nobly it is difficult to determine who done best. All acted bravely, nobly & honorably.

I am Sir verry respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
(Signed) Thos J. Parker Col. 64 th  
Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.

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1680 6/2/1862

*From:* Edward E Cross  
Col. 5th N.H. Vols  
Head Quarters 5th  
Regt N.H.Vols  
Camp near Fair Oaks  
Station

*To:* Captain [Unknown]

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OOH-1631

*Source:* Bowdoin

[309]

Head Quarters 5th Regt N.H.Vols,  
Camp near Fair Oaks Station  
June 2d 1862

Captain

I have the honor to report the part taken by my Regt. in the battle of June 1st near this place.

On the evening of May 31st the 5th Regt. was posted as advance guard in front of the Brigade of Genl French. Being very near the enemy we took several prisoners, and soon after day-break an orderly bearing a dispatch from Gen. Pryor of the Confederate Army to Gen. Anderson was taken and sent to Head Quarters. Soon after this my regiment moved across the rail-road and took post in the edge of the wood. Here being fired upon by the enemys pickets, we had several men wounded. The fire was promptly returned, and the pickets retreated. We were then ordered back to a position in the first line of battle, but soon after, advanced into the woods again, where we took quite a number of prisoners. The battle had now gone on nearly an hour, when I received orders from Genl Richardson to move to the support of Gen French. While marching along the rail road, I received notice that Brig. Gen. Howard was severely wounded and the command of the first Brigade devolved upon me. Finding that the three other regiments of the Brigade had been some time in action, and severely handled, I directed that they should move out of the woods and reform in the rear of Meaghers Brigade while I advanced my Regt to occupy the ground. We moved forward in line of battle, through a thick woods and about three hundred R.R. track encountered the rebel line of battle and a fierce fire commenced on both sides. Since my line advanced in the most gallant style, and each time the enemy fell back. The fire was now very close and deadly, the opposing lines being several times not over thirty yards apart. When about ordering another Charge I was struck by a rifle ball in the thigh, and disabled. Leut. Col Langley then took command of the regiment and the rebels endeavoring to flank us he brought off the Regt in excellent style carrying most of our wounded.

I cannot speak to highly of the coolness, bravery, and good conduct of the Officers and men of my regt. in the face of a largely superior force, and under a fire seldom experienced by troops in battle. The loss of the Regt. in killed, wounded, and missing is about one hundred and eighty five men, and five officers wounded.

Yours very respectfully  
(signed) Edward E Cross  
Col. 5th N.H. Vols

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1681 6/2/1862

*From:* T. J. Parker  
Col. Comdg 64th  
N.Y. Vols.

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-1632

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. 54th Regt.  
N.Y.S.Vols.  
Camp Victory, at Fair  
Oaks Station Va

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[310]

Hd. Qrs. 64th Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.  
Camp Victory, at Fair Oaks Station Va  
June 2d 1862

General

I have the honor to report the part taken by this Brigade on the battle Field in the engagement of June 1st 1862. After the command of the Brigade was turned over to me which was about 10 a.m. previous to that time having the com'd of the 64th N.Y. which was in the hottest of the battle two hours or more when I recd orders to reform in rear of Genl Meagher line of battle, soon after executing the order I was directed by Genl. Richardson to take command of the Brigade.

The force was disposed of as follows, the 5th N.H. Vols. under comd of Lt. Col. Langley (their Col. being severely wounded) held the R.R. on the left the 69th N.Y. the 81st Penn. under comd. Capt. Miles Genl. Howards Staff held a position on south side R.R. in the open field opposite the head of the enemys Collum on extreme left of the line, 61st N.Y.V. Under Comd of Col. Barlow on the line of the woods in the rear of the R.R. the 64th N.Y.V. under the comd of Capt. R. Washburn were ordered to support Pettits Battery & took possession of it accordingly. The Brigade fought with the greatest courage & bravery making two successful bayonet charges driving the enemy from the field in the utmost disorder, leaving their dead and wounded behind them.

Very Respectfully  
Yr. Obedt. Svt  
(Signed) T. J. Parker  
Col. Comdg 64th N.Y. Vols.

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1682 6/3/1862

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1633

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[141]

Auburn June 3d [1862]

Dear Bro. Otis

I came down from home last night and am here with Lizzie waiting news from you. I will go on to meet you & Charles, if I can find out where you will be.

I would love to be with you, nurse you & pray with you. Our dispatches from Capt Sewall are all we have heard and we feel very thankful that God directed those balls just so far from any vital parts.

Lizzie fears that you will start too quick. She & Jamie are very well. Grace & Guy are at School. All well, but I haven't seen the latter two. I spent a few hours with mother this morn. She seems very calm. We had a delightful season of family prayer after Breakfast trying to commend you two to the throne of Grace.

Lizzie says she can go to you, if necessary, and I can go as well as not, and have almost a mind to start today, but Lizzie seems to think it would not be advisable to do so.

We have no news from Perry. I am at your disposal.

God bless & keep you both. Lizzie is surrounded by kind friends. Every one expresses great sympathy for her and feels affectionately towards you.

Yr. loving Bro.  
Rowland

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1683 6/3/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1634a

Head Qrs. Str

Nellie Baker

*Source:* Bowdoin

White House Landing

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139]

[June 3, 1862] [This date was added later, but it is what Charlie wrote in his note at the bottom.]

Head Qrs. Str

Nellie Baker

White House Landing

Dearest

I am on my way with only my left arm. Shall go to Fort Monroe today and probably to Baltimore tonight, but may be I shall wait for a str. going directly to N.Y. from Ft. Monroe to avoid changes. Charlie is very comfortable & so am I. God bless you & the children. Shall see you soon.

Affectionately yr husband

Otis

[The above letter was written by Otis using his left hand.]

[Charles wrote a note to Lizzie at the bottom of this note.]

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1684 6/3/1862

*From:* Charlie

*To:* Dear Sister [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-1634b

On Nellie Baker

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

On Nellie Baker  
6 ½ A.M June 3d

Dear Sister:

Capt Sewall is with us and we are quite comfortable. You will see us at Auburn soon.

Affectionately  
Charles

Mine is only a flesh wound in the thigh.

C.H.H.

---

1685 6/4/1862

*From:* E.H. Sewall

*To:* My Dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-1635

[Bath]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[142]

Wednesday eve June 4th [1862]

My Dear Mrs Howard,

I cannot refrain from writing and yet I know not, what I can say in this trying time to comfort you.

Be assured I do sympathize with you and would that I could be near you to cheer you, but we have the promise that "God is our present help in time of trouble" and he I know will be your stay and support. I hope the sad news you have received of the Genl's wound may not be as they feared at first, but may the firm trust you have in your Maker stay your hand and heart.

How little did we realize when parting that our dear husbands were so near a battle. I have felt so gratified in and pleased with your call tho short, knowing that we should soon see more of each other, and I do feel very great interest in your dear husband, as he has been so kind, and so like a brother to Mr Sewall since his connection with him. You of course as well as myself passed a very anxious day Monday, I never knew so long a day and this state of suspense is fearful, almost worse than reality, I feel that I have great reason to be thankful for God's goodness in preserving my dear husband from danger, how unworthy I feel of all his many blessings to me. I have tried to leave all in the hands of God, but I have been rebellious, may God forgive me.

How are the dear children. I feel that I must come to you and strive to do what I could to comfort you. I have prayed that you might be enabled to bear up under this affliction and to say "thy will be done." I learned from Mr Whittmore today, that you was looking for Genl Howard home. I am very glad, that you can be with him, to nurse and cheer him in his hours of weariness and pain, that he may have to endure.

May God sustain and comfort you, and may you be spared many years to tread life's thorny path together is the sincere wish of your friend.

E.H. Sewall [Evelina Hill Sewall]

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1686 6/5/1862

*From:* Maria (Otis) Merrick

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1636

Phila.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

[The edges of this letter are quite torn, so there are a lot of missing words.]

Phila. June 5th 18 [1862]

Thursday

My dear Lizzie

I feel very sad [when] I think of Otis pain and suffering and I cannot help feeling very thankful he has been able to do so much sacrificing his life. As you may guess [I have] been looking very intently in the <papers> for any news of Richardson's division since you wrote me Otis <> that and when I saw in the <> day that, it was in the midst [of] terrible battle I felt very <anxious> Monday evening came the telegram <Genl> Howard was wounded twice in <>. William wrote directly for him to < > if he could but we had not the <> his arm. Yesterday afternoon came a note <> the "refreshment Saloon" telling Will that <his> relative, Gen. Howard had passed through <>. William has since been down to the <"saloon"> and hears that a "Capt" the man <thought > it Gen. Howard's son had been wounded <> the day and was with him. We suppose [it] must be Charley. In last night's paper [it] also spoke of Gen. H and his son passing through. You can imagine we are very anxious to hear from them both, we <could> have taken good care of them [if] they had only staid here, as I told <> as soon as I saw the battle, if <> Charley or Perry are wounded <> will take care of them. I think [it] is a pity Charley (if it is he?) did not <>. I suppose Otis felt as if he must [be] with you and the children and though [of] course we should have been glad to have had as many as the house <> accommodate yet it would not be <> convenient to bring 3 children at <short> notice. You would have come as <far> as cars could bring you. I only trust they will not either of them be worse for their long journey through this storm. Give a great deal of love to Otis and tell him we have thought of him constantly since he went to Yorktown and have prayed for him regularly. I am going to enclose a little bit of praise that was in this afternoons 'Bulletin' which excited my pride considerably especially as we are apt not to hear as much of the deeds of valor of our New England men as we should if we were not in Philadelphia. Of course my own special family pride was roused <> deserved praise. May God <> valuable life for many <years>

<> danger again but I know he will never shrink from his duty. It is such [a] comfort to feel that this war is a positive duty and our cause a righteous one, is [it] not? I feel as if every life sacrificed has a glory about it that no common course could give. The soldiers are my constant theme of thought. I feel grateful to every one I meet, knowing how great have been their hardships and from what dreadful calamities they have saved us.

I must bring this letter to a close for you will be almost to busy to read it. Do get Roland or Ella or somebody to write and tell me how Otis and Charley are, and all about them since the beginning of the battle. Mrs. Greble has gone <> West Point, she will probably write <> she sees this notice of Otis, <> has often said she meant to write <> is very busy here as she teaches Mr Greble's sister Sallie. Miss Berard has been here to see what she could do about getting Maj. <Vogdes> exchanged as he was very sick in prison and they did not think he could live if he was not released. She has gone back and I am afraid has not been able to do much. I hear he has become very serious since his imprisonment. She was very anxious to hear about you and Otis.

Give my love to Ella, Roland and Sarah. Tell Sarah I wish she would write me. With much love I remain

Your afct. Cousin  
Maria

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1687 6/5/1862

*From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

*To:* My dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-1637

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[144]

West Point June 5th 1862

My dear Mrs Howard -

I see by this morning-paper that which makes my heart ache for you, my poor friend. Can it be true. I had hoped that your noble brave Husband would pass unharmed through this our terrible war. Much as I want to write to you this morning still what can I say to you. Simply that I love you both so much that I cannot help sympathizing with you in your trouble as I would joy with you in your happiness. I do hope it is true that Mr Howard is with you 'twill be a comfort to you to have him to nurse <> cheer, and oh the assistance of having him to help you bring up the little ones. I sent his little God-daughter to him tis a poor substitute for her little bright self. Your friend Mrs William Merrick [Maria Otis] has been very kind about coming to see me this winter and I have learned to love her and through her I have often heard of you and my heart has been with you constantly but I cannot think of you as at any place but here & West Point. Seems strange without you. If my dear friend the papers have been in error do let us know we are all so anxious for you. Was your brother Charles wounded too? We saw that both had gone through New York to New England yesterday. I must not intrude upon your precious time longer, but with warm love from us all believe me sincerely your attached friend.

Sarah B. F. Greble

Kiss the little ones for me. Father, Mother & all desire their warmest love and sympathy sent to you.

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1688 6/5/1862

*From:* Helen Sands

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1638

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[145]

Brunswick June 5th [1862]

Dear Lizzie -

I must write you a few lines to-night although they will necessarily be very few. You have been much in my thoughts since the sad tidings came to me that dear Mr Howard was wounded. I felt that I must go and see you but knew that was out of the question - now that I am teaching.

Cousin Ed wrote Alice that Mr. Howard would return home immediately which we were glad to learn - it will be such a comfort to you to be with him and take care of him.

When you have leisure I should like to have you write me how severely your dear husband is wounded.

Alice sends much love and wishes very, very much to see you. She is in a very interesting frame of mind - is very constant in her attendance at Mr. Hammond's meetings, talks freely with Christians and finds pleasure in so doing.

We both of us felt at the last meeting that we would stand with those who love the Saviour. I have given up striving for a certain amount of feeling and resolved to trust in Jesus - and take just the amount and kind of feeling which God in his wisdom sees fit to give me.

Alice wishes very much to talk with you and Mr. Howard on this subject.

The work here seems increasing in interest. Many of my pupils are seeking their Saviour, and several are rejoicing in hope. Will you pray dear Lizzie that I may have strength and wisdom from above to be faithful to these souls that are brought so directly under my influence.

I can write no words of comfort to you - for I know that you have the Comforter with you always.

You will be glad to hear that the Students are becoming more deeply interested in these meetings. Nothing like the present state of feeling ever existed in Brunswick before.

I must not write more now. We all send much love to you and the children.

May God bless you all is the prayer of your friend.

Helen Sands

---

1689 6/9/1862

*From:* Blanche Berard

*To:* My dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-1639

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[146]

My dear Mrs Howard

We were truly grieved to see by the papers, that your husband has been wounded in the recent battle. Those same papers tell so many contradictory stories of the nature and seriousness of his wounds, that we hardly know what to believe, and are consequently very anxious about him. When you can, my dear friend, will you not send us, if only a line, to let us know the truth. May God support you both in this severe trial. What a blessedness to know that all things work together for good to those who love God, and to have the assurance that your husband is among that happy number for - "by their fruits ye shall know them."

Mamma, Euphilia, Emily, all send love and sympathy in your affliction.

I enclose a little notice from the N.Y. Express which you may not have seen.

Remember me very affectionately to Genl Howard and your children; with a kiss to my little god-child, and hoping for a line from you soon, I remain

Very truly and affectionately  
Your friend  
Blanche Berard

June 9th 1862  
West Point N.Y.

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1690 6/10/1862    *From:* C.H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Friend Oliver [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1640

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[147]

Augusta June 10th 1862

Dear Friend Oliver

With sincere regret did I learn of your being wounded and that you was obliged to return home at this trying time for our country when the services of all such men are needed. - but Oliver that you have home and kind friends to come to who can administer to your every want is a comfort and a blessing that many are deprived of who have fought & suffered in their country's cause. I have often thought of you during the past winter & Spring and wished much to hear from you but I knew your time was all occupied too much so to read friendly letters as well as to write them. Your loss is great Oliver very great, but I feel your courage & patience are greater than mine to bear such a loss heroically. I wish I could see you and talk with you but do not know even where to direct this letter. Still I think you will be at Leeds at your mothers and shall venture to send this there. I suppose Mrs Howard is with you although we have heard nothing from her directly or indirectly since she came from West Point. We supposed during the winter she would have been here for a visit at least and that we should have seen her.

Your brother Charles I see was severely wounded at the same battle you was, and that he was with you, and near you, also that you & he came home together. You both have my kindest sympathy in your afflictions and that God will spare your lives for greater services is my earnest wish. Are you in great pain? And how long do you anticipate being confined to the House? I trust we may see you at Augusta, and at our house at any time when you can spare time to ride as far. Mrs Mulliken desires a kind remembrance to you and much love to Mrs Howard and the children.

I little thought when I saw you in Boston that such scenes would transpire through out our land as have taken place West & South but how little we know of the future Oliver or of God's dealing with us. His ways are mysterious and beyond our comprehension.

With kind remembrance to your family.

I am very Truly  
Your friend  
C.H. Mulliken

---

1691 6/10/1862    *From:* Jeanie & Isa Grey    *To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1641                      Po'kepsie

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[148]

Po'kepsie June 10th 1862

Gen Howard!

My dear brother in Christ!

How my heart bleeds to address you after reading the terrible news of your great sufferings, and those of our dear Charles! We have been down at our little cottage since the 15th of May & have had no papers so that we have not known what has transpired for a month, but last saturday a boy came to our door with the paper that contained your departure from New York! This was the first we have heard from you since your letter. I waited to hear more & Johnny Weir came & told us all the said tidings! I could only exclaim, "Why dearest Father-in-heaven! Why sever that right arm from the heart & head that ever kept it actively engaged in deeds of loving kindness?" I prayed fervently for you that your life & health, soul & body should be precious in His sight, who takes cognizance of those who live for the happiness of others!

My dear sister Howard! My soul yearns over her! Would to God we could come to you & comfort you as you comforted us! We have been thinking of writing to Mrs Howard daily for months, to tell her of all our perplexities & all the goodness of God to His poor dust! We have, nominally, a dear little cottage at Cozzens, not ours till much money, now in the Hands of our Heavenly Banker, is paid, but we can trust to Him, you know confidently, and do feel that if He takes it away, it will be all right. While we are in possession however, what could give us such unalloyed comfort as to receive you & yours and your dear brothers & Ella your sweet sister under our little roofree?

Tears streamed from our eyes as for brothers at the recital of your sufferings! I know how to close this letter, yet cannot express my deep sorrow & sympathy! We have waded through deep waters, but Jesus has stood by us, though the tempter of <[torn page]> assailed us & bid us despair of <God's> mercy, my poor little Jeanie has been quite a heroine, and nearly sacrificed health & life for me, & I have been a sad drag upon her energetic little soul & body.

Everybody feels the most intense interest in any news about you and I crave a line from any one to tell us that God is going to spare you a little longer to our dear little sister and your precious babies! Our best love & prayers to you & dear Charles & that God will restore you both to those who love you & make you blessings to the world again, good shepherds!

Our warmest love to dear sister Howard & Roland & Ella & the dear children.

Again & again God bless you & all

Your very grateful and affectionate friends  
Jeanie & Isa Grey

---

1692 6/10/1862     *From:* A.S. Packard

*To:* Brig. General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-1642

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[149]

Bowdoin College  
June 10, 1862

Brig. General Howard,  
My dear Sir,

I am mortified that I should have sent the circular of the Historical Society, as I did, without an accompanying note of sympathy; but I let it go as a part of the general routine of that service. I have sent a similar one to a large number of the officers from Maine.

Your misfortune caused us a shock, though when we heard of the slaughter & desperation of that battle field we felt thankful to the Bountiful Preserver of us all, for his care of you. I trust you may soon recover your health & strength. I regret to learn from Gilmore of the severity of your brother's wound.

You will always have a reminder of your personal sacrifice for the defence & life of your country. I have suffered very much with shame, & indignation as well as with anxiety during all this strange scene of things in our land. But I have looked upon it from the first as a life-struggle – a contest for the life of the nation, which has been struck at by the most uncaused & iniquitous rebellion & treason which history records. The war has been thrust upon us, & my feeling has ever been, that we must carry it through to the end; & my confidence is that the God of our Father is accomplishing his own purposes regarding this people, so that he will not suffer this nation to be dashed in pieces like a potter's vessel.

We are enjoying a precious revival of God's work among us, & I hope you may be able, among your recreations, to come & witness for yourself what He is doing. I heard that Mrs. Howard was in town week before last after she had left, or I should have called upon her. Will you present me respectfully to her - & assure your brother of our regard & sympathy.

In the hope that you may be able soon to resume the duties of your command, I am with sincere respect & regard, faithfully your friend & servant,

A.S. Packard [Alpheus Spring Packard, Bowdoin Professor of Ancient Languages and Classical Literature]

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1693 6/12/1862 *From:* Wm S. Gardner

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1643

Lowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[151]

Lowell June 12th 1862

My dear Howard

I desire to tender you my sincere sympathy for the serious accident which befel you in the late battle before Richmond, and to express that pride and admiration for your heroic courage, which your friends every where feel.

In reading the account of your exposures on that fearful occasion, and of your Providential protection, it seems as though you must have been especially preserved for future usefulness to your country and mankind.

The loss of your arm and the pain suffered, can receive no adequate compensation, but yet in that honest pride which a just cause and a brave heart engenders, there is something to be considered, for you will bear through life the most gratifying memorial of your courage and your patriotism.

The class of /50 has after all been distinguished, and one of its members will have a page of history reserved for him.

Hoping that your wound will soon be healed and that you will resume your accustomed health.

I remain sincerely yours  
Wm S. Gardner [Bowdoin Class of 1850]

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1694 6/13/1862 *From:* J. F. Hammond

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1644

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters, 2d  
Corps d'Armee  
Medical Director's Office  
Courtney House, Va

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[152]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters, 2d Corps d'Armée  
Medical Director's Office

Courtney House, Va 13th June 1862

My Dear General

Your certificates and applications were sent in, and have come up with Richardson's approval. In the confusion here the certificates were wayward, and Taylor requested me to have them copied. In that way I have come in possession of the copies I send you. Of the application I have no copy. Of course there is no doubt of the terms being granted. I wrote the certificate for your Brother from a dim recollection of his case. I have seen so many here that I have not been able to keep in my memory all the cases. I know well that he should not be here.

We are just as we were, nearly, when you left us. Advanced a little, and the main force of our Corps is to the N.W. Our Hd. Qrs. are where Sully's regt was during the fight. Smith is immediately on our right. There is no doubt of the determination of the rascals to make their best fight here. We can form no idea of their numbers. McClellan moved his Hd. Qrs. to Trent's House, yesterday. It is said that Franklin and Porter are gone to Mechanicsville; the reserve Artillery still where it was. Genl. McCall is at the White House, and we hear rumors of coming improvements. The last orders here indicate an intention to remain still for the present. Smith's Division has been ordered to withdraw out of reach of shells. They are shelling us more or less all the time. They commenced this morning with three iron pieces and one brass,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile distant, and for one hour they burst thickly about us. Since then we have one on an average every five minutes, or a (one burst this moment near me) little more.

Dr. Palmer is very well, and speaks of resigning as soon as we get to Richmond.

Kind regards to Mrs. Howard and the children, and to your Brother.

Yours Truly,

J. F. <Hammond [The ink had gotten wet and smeared and is now quite illegible. But it was probably John F. Hammond M.D., from South Carolina, who was on the medical staff at West Point in 1860. The handwriting is very similar to others from him, e.g. OOH-1208, 5/29/1861.]>

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1695 6/13/1862

*From:* A. B. Farwell  
Hiram Hayes  
Washington D.C.

*To:* Brig Genl O.O. Howard

Auburn  
Maine

OOH-1645

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[153]

Washington D.C.  
June 13th 1862

Dear General,

It is fitting and natural that the deeds of a brave, and true man, in a period like this, should meet instant, and heartfelt acknowledgment. It is left to other times to award historical justice. To actors of to day present consideration of their faithful services is most grateful. It is inspiration to him who receives it, and blessing to the giver.

Citizens of the same state with yourself, we are proud to witness that your signal gallantry, and courage in the recent great battlefield of the Republic at "Fair Oaks" has excited sincere admiration and eulogy. The thinned ranks of your command, attest no less the desperate character of the struggle, than the valor and constancy which sustained them, until Victory declared for the Right. A son of Maine on that occasion vindicated the emblem of his State as well in conduct, and direction, as in the prowess by which his native Pine was made to triumph among its kindred forests of the South. Happily does the device illustrate the qualities of our bretheren in the field, reliance, courage, firmness, faith. Your title to the first distinction for these virtues has been settled on the great days of the Country's trial, and sealed with your blood.

We sympathise deeply with you in your suffering, and indulge the hope, that an excellent constitution, with the tender cares of home, and the smiles of a kind Providence, may speedily restore you to health, and to new fields of military usefulness, and glory.

We are, Dear General,  
Faithfully & Sincerely  
A. B. Farwell  
Hiram Hayes

Brig Genl. O.O. Howard  
Auburn  
Maine

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1696 6/13/1862 *From:* Unknown

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1646

Adams House Hospital  
Near  
Fair Oaks Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[154]

Adams House Hospital Near  
Fair Oaks Va. June 13th 1862

My dear General

I was greatly relieved & very much pleased on receiving a line from your brother last evening. Considering the long journey which you have made, the joltings & hittings which the arm must have had, and the excitement to which you have been exposed, I could not expect it would heal by first intention. Charles' case we know must suppurate.

I have no doubt you will both be well soon. We remain nearly as we were when you left us, have a little skirmishing and some shelling every day. We lose in this part of the army from five to ten men per day, killed & wounded. I am in charge of this Hospital, and this is the principal depot. We send them North as soon as they are operated upon, and dressed.

This morning the Rebels were shelling us rapidly, but we have not yet disclosed the position of our guns. But we can not stand it much longer I think the battle must open soon. Their shells reach quite to this house.

All who know you inquire anxiously about your welfare and all are <> in your praise.

I think Gen. French was not quite pleased with your report, but since the Irish & Sickles have taken so much credit, he has forgotten all about what you said. The hammer attributed your report to Capt. Sewall.

Gen. Caldwell you know I presume, has been assigned to your Brigade. I have made his acquaintance, am much pleased with him. He is in reality a gentleman & a scholar. But I need not tell you that your place in the estimation and affections of your staff, can never be filled.

Please accept our best regards & good wishes, and let us hear often how you are getting along. All are anxious to hear from Charles also, and send him much love.

Most truly yours  
<J.S. [Torn Page]>

P.S. Cannonading is going on briskly I assure you. But we know but little of its true cause, whether the general battle is now to open I cannot tell. Gen. McClellan has taken the Trent House, in our rear for Head Quarters, has built a good road over the Chickahominy also the Grape river. Gen. Burnside has been up to see him.

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1697 6/14/1862 *From:* P.B. Phillips

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1647

New Burgh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[155]

New Burgh June 14/61 [1862]

Gen Howard

Dear Cousin

We read with thrilling interest of the battle of Richmond, and were pained to see among the list of wounded the names of Gen Howard and brother, and have felt anxious ever since to know the extent of your injuries. When we saw by the papers that you had arrived at the Astor House in a feeble condition, and fearing you might not be able to be removed, to your home, we requested a friend in the City, to call and make inquiries concerning you, proposing, could you bear the removal to have you brought directly to our house, that you might be among sympathising friends and relatives and where cousin Lizzy could join you and feel at home. Our friend called immediately, but found you had left in a Fall River boat some hours before, in a critical situation, which left us still in a state of anxiety concerning you. We did not know how to direct to you, until we learned by to-day's paper, which gives your residence as Auburn, Maine.

Will it be too much to ask of Mrs Howard to write a few lines giving particulars of your wound and present condition, also your brother's?

Mr Banks family join with us in sympathy and kind regards for you and yours.

Commending you to the care of our Heavenly Father, who watched over you in the hour of battle, sparing your life and who is able to comfort you in all your tribulation, believe us

Your truly Sympathising and  
Affectionate friends and  
Cousins  
Phillips & Williams

N.B. By last accounts from Gen. Williams dated May 22 he was three miles below Vicksburg. All well.

If you write please direct to P.B. Phillips [Pamela B. Phillips]

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1698 6/17/1862      *From:* Geo. W. Balloch      *To:* Dear [OO] General

OOH-1648      Fair Oaks Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156]

Fair Oaks Va  
June 17, 1862

Dear General

Your kind favor was duly received today, and when I say, that I was glad to hear from you the expression will convey only a faint idea of the feeling. I wish you could have seen the bevy of anxious ones at Head Quarters, when it was known that you had written to me, all eager to hear from the absent ones.

I suppose ere this that you have heard who has been assigned to us. His name is John C. Caldwell formerly Colonel of the Maine 11th. I cannot speak of him yet as a military man, but he is most certainly a finished gentleman and scholar. He retains your old staff (which is proof beyond question of his good sense). The position of the troops is about the same as when you left. Field works are being erected in front of our position. "Little Mac" rode around among us the other day, wearing a straw hat & smoking a cigar. By his side rode the veteran Sumner. Father Inuel [Note], Gen Heintzleman & others were also in his wake. After this I suppose that the man who dares discard straw hats, will be liable to be court-martialed.

The pleasant face of Mr Alvord is once more in our midst, and his hands are busy as ever in the good work. Dr. Palmer is still engrossed with the cares, to say of the dignity of his position, is very sorry that he did not go home when you went for they wont let him go now. The valiant 64th Regt has left our family, and has finally brought up in French's Brigade, after stopping two days in Meaghers. In its place we have the 7th N.Y. (German) 800 strong, composed of men who have many of them, seen service in the Crimea.

Sickness prevails to a large extent among the officers and men of the 5th N.H. The 81st & 61st remain pretty much the same. The Rebels drove in our Pickets on the afternoon of the 15, and killed the gallant Capt. Sherlock of the 81st. In regard to the staff, but little needs be said.

Miles the "Superb" sports a new hat, with a solid gold band & tassel, rides Excelsior with as much grace as ever, and also exercises his lungs on the boy "Prentis". He appropriated the Adjutant Generalship to himself on the ground that he ranked Lt. Scott, and Capt Miles is now "A. No. 1." in all respects.

Scott, the gallant Lieutenant sports a bran new Regulation Cap, just from N.Y. the visor making an angle of forty five degrees with the front line of his face. He posts the pickets and does the labor.

Capt. Barker keeps up his former reputation of never drinking unless asked, keeps his teams all harnessed from "Early dawn to dewy eve" all ready at the first approach of danger to take distance to the rear. Your poor old commissary, still wears his Lieutenants straps (when he wears any) with as much dignity as he can command. Following the prevailing tendency he concluded to spruce up a little, and discarded his old fore and aft N.H. Cap and in its stead wears a jaunty hat "a la Miles" with one side slightly turned up signifying that he always keeps one eye open to business. The Brigade is still well fed as usual, and I might add, well whiskied too, for liquid fire is now furnished freely to all the patriots.

You were very kind to mention me in your Report. My only wish always was to do my duty in a manner to meet your approbation, and if I succeeded I am content. Perhaps the corps of orderlies should be mentioned or at least the "Boys". James the "Sable song of the evening" is as cunning as ever. He has of late "reinforced his pants" in a manner quite peculiar to his own taste, having in mind utility more than beauty. Prentiss is the biggest toad in the puddle and he is very chary of Capt Miles honors. Capt Sewall turned the "Corporal" over to me, and I am trying to keep him all right until the Capt. returns which will be soon I suppose as I learn that his resignation is not accepted.

Your horse Charlie is a nimble as ever & just as full of play. He is nearly well. I told Capt Barker of your wish & he will attend to him.

It is very quiet all along the lines. The report tonight is that Burnside has taken Fort Darling. The enemy drive in our pickets occasionally & now and then send us over a shell by way of a morning salutation. Capt Hazzard is well and as full of fun as ever. He does not come to see us as he used to. It has been very rainy most of the time since you left, and the nights are quite cold.

We were all pleased to hear that your arm is doing so well, and if good wishes are of any avail you will soon be well. All the old friends as well as myself desire to be remembered to Charles. May his recovery also be speedy. I am afraid you will think this letter rather a "running fire" but I think I have hit almost everything if I have not made any effective shots. Write again as soon as you feel able, but do not be too smart so as to meet with a drawback. I cannot close this letter without again expressing the fondest wish of my that, "that we may all be together once more," but be that as it may, may the choicest blessings of Heaven rest on you & yours.

Yours sincerely  
Geo. W. Balloch

[Note: "Father Inuel" may be a reference to McClellan's father-in-law, General Randolph B. Marcy who was now on his staff.]

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1699 6/18/1862    *From:* William H. Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1649

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[157]

Phila June 18/62

My dear Otis

I was greatly surprised and much gratified at the receipt of your kind note, which is doubly valuable from the circumstances under which it was written.

Your progress in left hand writing must be very rapid unless you have before practiced at it.

I have no doubt you knew best as to what was good for you, but I am still very sorry I did not see you on your way through Philada. We were very glad to hear that Miss Pearson was able to render you some assistance on your passage from Phila. to New York.

We are all anxiously expecting news from McClellan as you may readily imagine and I am very sorry he is deprived of the assistance of such a good officer as Gen Howard has proved himself to be.

The sick & wounded soldiers brought here from the various camps, and they come to us in very large quantities gives us plenty of field for benevolent exertions - our hospitals are all as full as they can hold, and are as a general thing well supplied with everything that can contribute to the comfort both bodily & spiritual of the poor fellows.

We here sad stories of the neglect from which the men suffer after every battle. Can it be that there are not enough supplies and enough help with all the immense resources at the command of the Government to relieve the wounded men in a reasonable time after they are injured - or is it a necessary evil which cannot by any means be obviated. As a civilian I do not think it right for such severe criticism to be passed by civilians on the actions of our War Dept & Generals and always feel disposed to defend the powers that be, but we do here some terrible stories of the neglect of our men.

We all pray that the horrible business may soon be over, and our country restored to its happy condition.

We are so anxious to hear how you are progressing that although I do not want you to weary yourself with writing, I hope Lizzie may find time to drop us a line just to say whether you are better or worse than when you reached home. With our best love to all including Charlie & prayers that you may soon be restored.

I am yrs affecty

W.H.M. [William H. Merrick, husband of Otis' cousin Maria Otis.]

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1700 6/20/1862    *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-1650

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Bath June 20 1862

Dear Genl,

Last evening I rec'd the following telegram "Resignation disapproved, extension of leave not granted. You are ordered to return to the Brigade. Signed Geo. W. Scott. A.D.G." I was somewhat surprised and a good deal disappointed, but I obey orders promptly and try to do it cheerfully. May I have grace from on high. I leave this noon for the front, and shall hurry on as rapidly as possible. I shall endeavour to get my resignation accepted at once, and I wish dear Genl, that you would send me by mail as early as possible a paper recommending my discharge.

Mr. Gilbert my partner is about retiring from the Office and it is actually necessary that I should return to my business. If I remain in service I must sacrifice my private business, which I am not able to do. Then I would not have accepted the position indeed with any other one than yourself. I must be discharged, or relieved for the present at least.

Please send me such a communication as you think proper, address at our Hd. Qrs. I regret that I can not see you before I go, also Chas. May God bless both of you and "heal your diseases".

I wanted to settle our account before I left, but my partner is away, and I have but little funds in my hands. I intended to have sent the amount to you the first of the week. I will remit it as soon as I draw my pay. Excuse me for the delay in this matter.

I shall write you as soon as I reach Hd. Qrs. I can not bear to think of going there without you, how changed it will be.

Mrs. S. is feeling quite unreconciled to it. I trust all my dear ones to the care of Him who has been so good to me. Will you my dear Christian brother pray for me. You know how much I need aid from God to keep me in the path of duty.

Tell Chas. that I shall write him very soon. Give my regards to Mrs. Howard & the children.

God bless all of you.

Very truly yrs  
F.D. Sewall

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1701 6/20/1862 *From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

*To:* my dear Friend [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1651

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

West Point June 20th 1862

Many thanks, my dear Friend, for writing and relieving our minds about your brave husband and brother Charlie. We were most anxious about them. I felt I had done almost wrong to have intruded upon your time, and that I ought not to have asked you to write, for your every moment must be needed. Our love for you all must be my only excuse. We are all thankful to know that dear Mr Howard is with you, and although my sweet friend you write sadly I see you feel rightly - that our kind Heavenly Father may spare your precious husband to you and your little ones is my prayer.

I will see that your friends here shall hear all I know of him. I took the Liberty of sending your letter to Mama Greble an hour or two after its reception. She has written so anxiously about Mr H and has been twice to Mrs Merrick's door to find out something definite of him. I hope when Mr Howard is better and in fact all through his life he will never be as near us without coming to see us. Mama and Papa Greble were much disappointed that they did not see him in Phil'a and Father would have gone down to N.Y. had he known he was there in time.

I must not trespass longer upon your time. Kiss dear little manly Guy and Grace and baby Jamie for me, and with warm love to you my friend & every wish for your happiness & sympathy in all your trials. Believe me ever

Lovingly your friend  
Sarah B. F. Greble

I don't write for an answer but only to tell you how we all think of you, but whenever in months to come you feel you have an hour to spare, spend it in writing to me for I shall always be truly glad to hear from you. Poor little Mamie is sick with dysentery, all the rest of us are all. John has been ordered to Milwaukie. It takes him far away, but such is army life.

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1702 6/21/1862 *From:* Saloman A Nelk

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-1652

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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160]

Augusta June 21/62

Gen'l OO Howard

Dear Sir

I take the plasure of writing to you to let you know how I am getting a long when I saw you last I told you that I bought the Farm of Joseph Shandler, which I did, but still when we was going to <do harvesting> he ask me \$50 more then I agreed to he ask for the sect on the farm \$50 and all he dit but in was \$14,65 my Folks told me that I should not by at that Price. So I have not bought it yet but still I think I shall by a Farm not far from this one it is Cheeper, and better land, it is on Stiltzfants Hill, a bout a mile from the former Farm. So Genl if you cam to see me pleas call at Stiltzfants Hill and you will find me ther I am at present at Augusta and shall go Home next week. The Hundert Dollars you let me have I keep as good as I can and I shall spent it so it will pay me good intrest. Pleas give my best respects to your dear Wife and to your Brother Charles.

I remain Yours most  
Truly and Obident Servant  
Saloman A Nelk

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1703 6/23/1862

*From:* C. H. Strickland

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1654a

Richmond Ind.

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161]

Richmond Ind.  
June 23 1862

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dr Sir

We recvd on Saturday last, from some of our Eastern friends, a Lewiston paper containing an acct of your arrival home, also of your wound & the loss of your arm. This is the first we have heard of you directly, with the exception of some correspondence in the New York papers speaking of you. We have written you directed Washington but presume you have not recvd our letters. We saw Gen. H. spoken of, by a N. Hampshire officer, as the "lamented & heroic" Howard, & from that, feared you were killed. Accept our hearty congratulations, that your loss is no more, had it been a leg or two, or your life, we should indeed have mourned, as it is we feel that you have made your contribution to our common country, in your blood, & it will yet rise up & call you blessed.

I feel much depressed in looking over the whole field & feel that we are not doing ourselves the credit we ought, & our energies are not well directed, especially by a few, such as McClellan, McDowell & Halleck & in fact, that we shall never succeed in this matter, until the people & the Government come up to the mark, & are willing to strike at the root of the whole matter. The freedom of the slave is involved in this contest, & a just God will not permit this contest to close until his freedom is wrought out in some way. I remember your sturdy ideas of freedom & independence as they once existed, & if I mistake not, you suffered personally from the overbearing pride produced by the System of Slavery. Shall it be again visited upon us as a nation? Before this war is closed the whole North will come up to the standard, & the evil will be swept away.

We sympathize with you & Lieut. Charles, your brother, & heartily wish we could do something for you, as an evidence of that sympathy. If after a little rest & you have recruited your strength a little, you & your brother would take a trip & come here & visit us, we should be much pleased. Our country now is beautiful, & I would go with round the country, to Chicago, Indianapolis & St Louis, if you wished, can you not come?

Martha has written your mother, & it goes in the same mail as this. She must be much pleased to have her two sons back again with her. Shall you leave the Army now? Or will you continue until the end shall come?

I see Maine has suffered, shed some of her best blood. In this state we have sent 15,000 men & we are now completing five (5) new regiments. The West is in earnest in the matter, & I hope no rivalry or bad feeling may ever exist between the East & the West, as united they are self sustaining & divided, there would be no further peace on this continent.

We are pleasantly situated here & could make your visit very pleasant, if Mrs. Howard could come with you it would give us much pleasure. I hope you will think of this matter seriously, & if there is nothing to prevent, we hope you will come.

My former Partner Mr Bridgton was appointed Colonel of a Cavalry Regiment, but on acct of his health, had to resign & is now travelling in Europe.

Present our best regards to Mrs. Howard & to all our friends & for yourself & your brother Charles accept our earnest sympathies for your sufferings, & our best wishes for your future welfare & happiness.

Truly yours  
C. H. Strickland

I shall be very glad to hear from you & Charles, please write as soon as you are able. C.H.S.

[Written at the bottom of this note from their uncle Charles Strickland is a letter from Charles to Otis written from

Leeds June 29, 1862.]

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1704 6/26/1862

*From:* Geo. W. Balloch  
1st Lt. ACS

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1653

Howard's Brigade  
Fair Oaks Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[163]

Fair Oaks Va  
June 26, 1862

Dear General,

I write you now strictly on business not a bit of fun this time. I am trying to make up "our mess" account for May, and I wish you would let me know if either you or Charles paid out any thing during that month for the benefit of that institution, and as soon as I get the payment together I will consolidate them.

We have been expecting to see Capt Sewall for a day or two, but he has not arrived as yet. Dr Palmer is as well as usual. He recd your letter yesterday. He is evidently much annoyed at the fate of Brigade Surgeons as laid down by the new Bill. It suspends his functions as general overseer of the health of the Brigade, and Cardinal Wolsey never felt his fall from power more keenly. Ergo, if I err not we shall soon have one Surgeon less, and Maine one citizen more. Capt Barker has been quite unwell, but is better again. Scott and Miles are well. My own health and spirits are excellent. Things remain "in status quo" or nearly so.

Hooker advanced his column yesterday something like half a mile, and the consequence was, there was a pretty sharp fight. Gen McClellan visits us often. Gen Sumner and Father Dick are well. Mrs. Dick and the Baby are also here. Heard from Col Cross yesterday & he is able to walk a little. Col Barlow is as rough as ever, and is now at loggerheads with Capt Demming. Cols Johnson, Connor, and "Major Harry" of the 81st are well. Col Langley is about the only officer left fit for duty in the 5th. Cpts. Davis, Pierce, Burton, Perry and Murray also the Adjut are all sick. Perry dangerously. Capt Long has just returned well. Capt Rice has been back a few days, and is down again. Col. Cross is doing all he can to get me ordered back again.

The weather is very hot indeed with cool nights. Maj Marston is about and our vision has been gladdened with a little more of Uncle Samuels Money, for which we hope to have given him a fair equivalent in the shape of valuable services rendered. I furnished "my corporal" with materials to write you a letter yesterday and I suppose he will give you all the minor details of news. We were all glad to hear you were getting along so well. Capt. Thomas Wilson (our Commissary at this Post) sends his regards. Have just had a letter from home wife & babies all well.

Give my regards to Charles. I suppose John Tortish is in closer now. He will no doubt be quite a hero in his sphere.

Truly yours  
Geo. W. Balloch  
1st Lt. ACS  
Howard's Brigade

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1705 6/29/1862    *From:* Charles [CH Howard    *To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1654b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter was written at the bottom of a letter from Charles' uncle Charles Strickland from Richmond Indiana on June 23, 1862.]

Leeds June 29 '62

My dear brother

Aunt Martha said in her letter that Uncle Henry was going to write you and me so I took the liberty to open this letter. I wish to send it up to mail by Father & Mother when they go to church & I add something of my own after the Virginia or Army style of writing letters on the Sabbath. My anxiety to let you know how safely and comfortably I came up yesterday must be my excuse.

My leg seems as well this morning as usual. I did not get very tired.

After mid-night I slept well. Had the best of care from Thomas (Bubier). I met with no accident and only a few times was my leg hurt enough so as to make me aware that it was not perfectly sound.

Mother is well & seems very happy. Put me into the Parlor (to which I had no objections) in order among other reasons to have the No. room ready for you & Lizzie & your family all of whom we would be exceedingly happy to have with us whenever you think best to come and would enjoy it <[ink bleed]> know Lizzie & you would miss the meetings. But you would soon have good ones up here. I have (if ever anywhere) met with my Lord Jesus in our homely prayer meetings in this town and receive therefrom holy impulses. Uncle Ensign came home with me last night. John "couldn't live up here".

My kindest regards to Dr. W, Mrs Libbey & Miss Stetson. A great deal of love to Lizzie and the children from

Your Affectionate brother,  
Charles

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1706 7/2/1862

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1655

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[162]

Leeds July 2d 1862

My dear brother [Otis]

I was so glad to get Lizzie's letters – one last night and the other night before with the package of fruit, that I feel inclined to direct to her but it is “all in the family” and I shall not know whether I am talking to you or Lizzie as I go on. By the way I dont know who to thank for the fruit. That which I have not eaten looks very inviting upon the table. I have so much to thank my kind friends for that it makes me dumb altogether in attempts to express my gratitude. I heard you one day addressing Mrs. Libbey of our gratitude for what she had done, and mentioning our great obligation to her and I was ready to thank you for so doing. I rec'd all the attentions & care for me & from Mrs. L., Miss Stetson & others as I would from a mother or sister – just as if it would be unnatural to thank them however grateful I might feel.

I told John yesterday that he might go back today. I believe he began to ask about the time of returning before we got here Saturday and every day would ask if he could not go. Every night Thomas has carried him to ride. He has a good deal to say about riding up to see the “School Mistress”. This is Eva you know. But he is so discontented I think he rather go back. And I shall be able to get along quite comfortably without him here with Mother.

Rollin Gilbert sat up with me last night. I have enough offers for a week to come. My leg is doing well. Discharges much less – none from the outside aperture – you may mention to the Dr. if he inquires. The knee about the same. I sat upon the sofa nearly all day yesterday – more comfortable then & can see more. Capt. Turner spent part of the forenoon with me. Betsy Bates afternoon. Francis Lothrop & wife evening. Mr. L. had seen you – also bro't news of Capt. Sewall's arrival before Lizzie's letter arrived. He was returning from Saco with his brother Elias' remains which had been brought thither from Calafornia. He had them interred last night in the Leeds Cemetery. He brought news of the reported change of our line & the advance of our left – but my Journal arrived last night & I intend to read it when I have finished this.

When we got news of the severe attack upon our right I told father I thought McClellan would throw forward the left taking advantage of the absence of so many of their troops. But wasn't it remarkable that Meacher's Brigade should have been sent over & apparently no other troops from the left? How badly is Col. Jackson wounded? Poor Heath. And then Gen. Jameson must die! The ways of Providence are unsearchable. You and I are saved we know not for how long a service in this world.

I was in hopes you could arrange to make us a visit either going or returning from Livermore. I am glad Lizzie thinks of accompanying you. Guess I shall not go up. Fourth of July speeches dont amount to much you know. Mr. Berry & wife, Mr. Lothrop et al. talk of going up. There will be an extra train up & back.

Flora Turner just came in to see me on her way to school. Likes her teacher very much. What a bright, cool, pleasant morning to make people cheerful & happy. I wish I could be made more regardful of the great Giver of these blessings.

Col. Barlow is quite aspiring. Roland & Cynthia will be at Liv. Falls – you see I shall have reporters there, so beware! Dont forget to thank Uncle Hicks for me. I will not need to have him send any more at present as we now have a “meat-cart” visit the town regularly.

My kindest regards to Dr. W. Mr. & Mrs. Libbey, Miss Stetson. Lizzie is too kind to write me so often. Give abundance of love to her to be shared with the little ones. Guy's letter was a great treat to both me and Grandma. The latter is beating butter down cellar. She has a good girl.

Your affectionate br.

Charles

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1707 7/4/1862

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1656

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[135]

Leeds July 4th 1862

My dear brother [Otis]

Lest you and my other dear friends at Auburn should commiserate me too much upon being compelled to remain quietly at home this 4th of July day and more than this as you might reason, being compelled to lie upon my back I thought I would write a few lines tonight that you might know what a pleasant, happy day I have had. I make it a rule to write one letter a day but this is additional and comes from the impulse mentioned which I will add came over me not long after eating a nice supper. And this led me to one source of my contentment.

My appetite is good and you must know that I have everything I could ask for its gratification. You are one of those who ignore nice things to eat and follow the maxim of our (own) father who used to say "a man ought not to know what he had for dinner an hour after eating it." But to me this always was "an hard saying." Particularly today how could I forget tender steak for Breakfast, Pickerell for dinner & fresh strawberries for supper with other luxuries too numerous to mention accompanying each.

But to mount up to the <height> before you become disgusted I had a very amusing communication from the Sec'y of my College Class to answer this forenoon. Wm Bates called to see me and seemed to enjoy his call in the morning. Last night's paper was read with interest by me. I enjoy the variety of sitting upon the sofa in such a way that I can get a view from two windows & into the dining room.

This afternoon Miss Huldah Bates came & spent some time here most agreeably to me. While she was here my eye fell upon a paragraph in last night's paper relating to Gen. O.O. Howard which I began to read aloud but really it was so adulatory that I had hard work to stumble through, and I cant imagine what a modest man like the General can do with such. I trust they fall upon his mind like water upon a dry cloth (to take an illustration very familiar to me just now) to roll off without leaving even a sign of their presence. Oscar came in just before night & brought my welcome Boston Journal with a letter for you. The accounts little less discouraging tonight. Mother read some excellent religious pieces to me this afternoon from the Lion's Advocate – her paper.

What I have written gives you the accessories to my happiness. But the main source I think has not yet been mentioned. The Lord visited me early in the morning when I first waked about 4 o'clock. It was half a dream and half a wakeful prayer. I found myself thinking "This is our national birth-day"& then praying "O Lord give us to-day a new birth". "O let our nation be 'born again'". And may I not dare to hope that the inception of the new birth if not before, has been inaugurated today?

All the fruits must be slow to show themselves. But I will hope that the radical work is done upon this great day. The Lord (as I trust) comes often to me in great mercy & abounding grace and gives me peace & faith and a little love. I think he has not been far off sometimes today. Sometimes, taking my Testament I go with him to the synagogue & temple & hear him teach & hope I am not of those "who having ears hear not". Every day of late I have thus gone back & accompanied Jesus in his walks while a brief sojourn upon Earth. He took me today to the mount of Olives. Oh that I might be an earnest & attentive disciple. I say attentive because I find so much in his words & deeds which had before escaped me.

It is growing dark. I think it might have been arranged so you & Lizzie & either part or which of your family could have spent tonight with us. I should be thrice glad any day to see your beloved countenances.

With great love to your family & kind regards to inquiring friends. Thanks for papers &c. I am

affectionately yr. br.  
Charles



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1708 7/5/1862

*From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1657

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[137]

Bath July 5th 1862

My dear Genl

I find that the law of 1796 provided for remuneration for horses killed in action. This "act" allows a sum not exceeding \$200. I can not find that this "act" has been amended or modified, so that I presume you may recover the loss of both your horses not exceeding that sum.

I found nothing requiring the officer to be mounted or evidence thereof. The evidence required of the loss is either the affidavit of the Qr. Mr. of the Corps to which he was attached. (which I suppose would be Capt. Barker) or the statement, properly authenticated, of two competent witnesses. Two of your staff, I apprehend would be sufficient. I will prepare the papers as you may desire, the affidavit of Capt. Barker if you think best, or perhaps the statement of Charles and myself. There is some question, perhaps whether you could recover for the Rhode Island horse, as you were not on him, and he was not actually in your own use at the time. Would it not be as well to let Chas. collect for him. He regards him as his animal. I suggest this.

You will be here with me soon, and then we can prepare the papers. I shall expect you with Mrs. Howard as soon as you have visited your mother.

Affairs on the peninsula do not look favorable. I fear our friends have had a hard time. I am anxious to hear from them. I trust that God in his mercy has spared them. Mrs. Sampson writes that she has arrived at "Old Point" from Savages, having lost all her baggage in the retreat. No other letters have been recd here.

I almost feel that I ought not to be here. I have thot that I ought to offer my services to the Gov. in the organization of the new Regmts. What do you think of it?

We shall expect you here at an early day. Please give my regards to Mrs. H. the children as also to Chas. when you see him.

Very truly yrs.  
F.D. Sewall

Genl. O. O. Howard

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1709 7/12/1862 *From:* Andrew Merrell

*To:* Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-1658

Geneva

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[138]

Geneva, July 12/62

Gen'l O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

An extract from a private letter of mine appeared in the N.Y. Evangelist, some two weeks since. That article so expresses my respect and christian love for you, that you will not be surprised if I request your permission to christen my little boy, - (to day four weeks old) - "Howard" Merrell, in the hope that, if spared, he may not prove himself wholly unworthy the name.

I am rejoiced to hear that your health is being so far restored as to enable you to attend the convention mentioned in the Independent, and especially to learn that your brother is recovering, - whom I supposed to be mortally wounded. Please give him my kindest regards & christian sympathy.

My own health is now, after a long confinement, rapidly improving, and I hope permanently.

Very respectfully Yours  
Andrew Merrell

P.S. I hear that Dr Willis, who took my place in the 61st is reported a prisoner at Richmond, together with Capts. Denning & Spencer, first wounded and having their legs amputated – also Adj Gregory slightly wounded. During the recent battles the 61st has lost in killed, wounded & missing 119 – exclusive of those lost at Fair Oaks, leaving, according to my informant less than a hundred effective men. When I joined the regiment it numbered 775, all apparently well; when I left it had been reduced by sickness, disability, & death to between five & six hundred able to do duty; at Fair Oaks 417 entered the battle and at the recent battles only about 200 were able to use their arms. How the facts tell of the horrors of war, and how they call, as if from the grave, for reinforcements to our noble army of the Potomac. A.M.

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1710 7/14/1862     *From:* Wm. S. Southgate

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1659

Scarboro, Me.

Lewiston, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Scarboro, Me.

July 14th 1862

My dear Howard

Pardon the liberty that an old college friend takes in thus addressing you so familiarly after years of separation. You will perhaps scarcely recognize in the Rev. Wm. S. Southgate, the "Scottie" of old Bowdoin, but he is the same, only a little improved I trust in respect to inward condition. Being here on a visit to my aged father, I spent yesterday in Portland, and returned here in the evening. Just before leaving the city I happened to hear that you were there, and so hastened at once to pay my respects to you, and to express to you, as an old friend, my hearty and thankful appreciation of your noble services in behalf of <> soon distracted country. Above all I wished to tell you how much I rejoiced as a christian minister in hearing of the faithful witness you are bearing everywhere for the blessed Jesus. As a native of Maine, a son of the same Alma Mater, and a friend, I am proud of your well-won distinction among the brave defenders of the constitution and laws, the rights and the integrity of our dear country.

But I am prouder of you as a manly, earnest, and faithful soldier of the Cross. I wished to tell you this face to face with you yesterday, but as I failed to see you then, excuse me for writing it now, as I may never see you again in the flesh. It is possible, however, that I may be included in your new command, should you <> assigned to you or your Brigade <> the new regiments now being raised in our State. I sincerely wish <> it might be so. Nothing would <> me more. I have expressed a desire to some of the prospective officers of the 17th Regt for the position of chaplain in that Regt. My cousin, C.B. Merrill, has the appointment of Lieut. Col. "Will Hobson", of college memory will probably be one of the captains. These, I believe are pious men. But the Col. is not, and is probably indifferent to the appointment of any one to the chaplaincy. If consistent with your position and feelings, and you have no better choice, could you recomd my application to him by a word of recommendation? But this by the way, it is an after thought. I did not mean to trouble you by asking a favor. Thanking God for your noble example as a soldier and a christian, I am most truly,

Your friend & brother in Christ,  
Wm. S. Southgate. [Bowdoin class of 1851]

<> Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Lewiston, Me.

[Note: The missing words are due to torn edges of the paper.]

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1711 7/16/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1660

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[166]

Farmington July 16, 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

I received your note & also one from Charles last evening. I took nothing from Otis trunk but the "Life of Whitefield". I enclose a letter which I received & mislaid so as not to forward it to you at the time. I hope you can go to Bangor. Otis ought to have somebody with him & no one so good as a wife. I presume he will go to Bangor tomorrow via Jay & Leeds Junction, stopping at Leeds between trains. I hope you will go to Gen'l Stevens & that Otis will not forget among his many new friends an old friend of mine & his. Dea Wm. S. Sennett Cashier of Norumbega Bank & Dea Wheelwright whom we saw in Portland. I wish you would mention them, particularly the former to him. Frank also sent me the papers & I like the Gen'l's speech as reported in the "Advertiser" very much.

Ella & baby are well. Her Bath company came last night. Mrs Patten writes that she very much hopes that you & Otis & family can spend a little time with them while in Bath. I hope so too – particularly Sunday – as it is so near church & Capt. Sewalls is so far up town & they will be so delighted to have you. I hope a kind Providence will protect you & Otis on your journey and keep him from getting sick with his arm. I hope the military & political men will leave him to the enjoyment of Religion & its duties & services on the Sab. at least. I will always be happy to get a line or be of any service.

Yr. aff. Bro.  
Rowland

Give much love to Charles, Mother & Father & your dear little children.

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1712 7/21/1862 *From:* G. S. Smith

*To:* Genl O O Howard

OOH-1661

Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167]

Washington DC

July 21st 1862

To Genl O O Howard

Dear Sir -

My neighbor & particular friend Wm A Bower of Fauquier Co. Va has put some claims against the Federal Government in to my hands to be adjusted. They are memorandums in pencil issued by you when your command was up to the Rapahanock River. I have been intimate with Mr Bowen during all of the wars & know him to be a union man, & I am well known here at all of the deficit departments. If you will be kind enough to inform me what course to pursue to get these claims into such a shape as will be excepted by the War department you will confer a great favor.

Very Respectfully

Yr obt St

G. S. Smith

c/o M. D. Mallock

Star office

Washington

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1713 7/22/1862    *From:* Thorndike Saunders    *To:* Brig Genl OO Howard

OOH-1662                      16 Wall St  
    New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169]

16 Wall St  
New York July 22 '62

General

Enclosed please find a form of oath consent to take your own written answers Interrogations and Cross Interrogation in the matter of the Petition of Mrs Virginia Scott of Bush Hill Fairfax County Va for compensation for damages to her estate caused by the United States Forces.

From your intimate knowledge of the facts in the case you become a most important witness for the Petitioner wherefore I request that you will follow closely the procedure indicated in the "consent".

The address of the Clerk is L. H. Huntingdon Esq clerk Court of Claims Washington D.C.

Please inform me of the receipt of this enclosure and also, when accomplished, of the sending to Washington the Interrogations and answers.

Whatever expense you may incur I will immediately reimburse.

Very respectfully  
Yr obt svt  
Thorndike Saunders

Brig Genl OO Howard

[Written on the back page]  
Answered July 27 1862 C.H.H.

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1714 7/22/1862     *From:* Dick Dongluf

*To:* Bro. [Rowland] Howard

OOH-1663

Boylston Center Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[168]

Boylston Center Mass July 22 [1862]  
Monday

Bro. Howard –[Possibly Rowland]

You see by the date that I am on the wing again and as I have heard nothing from you since I wrote some time since ,conclude that you must be very busy, and [set of three dots – symbolizing “therefore”] you will not object to receiving a line from your friends at any time, at least if you are like me in that respect. I hardly know either where to direct this to insure your rec't of it, but will trust to the well earned reputation of your noble Brother for its safe delivery.

You will see that I have but little to communicate that will be of interest but I do want to send you some of the good wishes from my heart which is always full of them for you. Am now at one of my Massachusetts homes – with Bro. Ruggles folks – enjoying myself very much. Am also on my way from Comm. at Amherst to Bridgewater, where I am going to visit with my Bro. until time to begin a “High School” in Orrington Maine. Hope Chum will be able to get the School in Holden which you were to have. I left Bangor on the 1st of July and your S.S. Class passed into Mr. Nobles hands. Hardly know whether you would be pleased with the arrangement, & so had nothing to do with it. Dea. Godfrey managed the affair alone. Had there but two Sabbaths. Have heard nothing from them since leaving.

We are all looking anxiously today for more battle news from Bulls-run. Hope there will be something done to make those cowardly fellows smart for the injury they did on Friday. They seem to be so strong however that it will be next to impossible to drive them out without a great many more men. There are two Regiments forming in Worcester now and there is some talk of drafting if there are not more offered soon. If it comes to that you may expect to hear from me “sogering” in place of someone who dont want to go.

Mr. James' Band of Hope are coming out from Worcester into a grove on Mr. Goughs place this P.M. Mr G. is going to speak to them on Temperance. He invited me to come and go to his house afterwards to spend the P.M. Of course its well enough to know such a man as John B Gough and so I guess I'll go. If I do I shall have to bid you good bye right off. You know “Good Bye” means “God be with ye” and I never use it in any other sense.

If you can find time let me hear from you (at Bangor as I can be sure of letters there) but whether you write or not you may be sure that you have one

Friend & Bro in X  
Dick Dongluf

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1715 7/23/1862     *From:* B. Vaughan

*To:* Brig. Gen. Otis Howard

OOH-1664

Boston  
127 State Str

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[312]

Boston July 23. 62  
127 State Str

My dear sir -

I am taking the liberty of addressing you, in order to obtain some information in regard to the state of the enlistments in Maine at present, & whether, if from the state of the war I am obliged, by duty, to enlist (& there seems to be a good prospect of it) I could in any way obtain any commission as Lieut, in any of the Regiments from Maine.

Heretofore I have felt that as I am situated, I could not afford to give three years, or more, to a soldiers life, when there were plenty of others who could & wished to go, but now our country seems to need every man, & altho it will be at the sacrifice of a business just established, I am ready to obey the call which comes from our Potomac army, for "more men"- if it is not answered by the country better than it apparently is being now.

This is my first step in the matter & I tho't if I could get some position (hav'g had a few months experience in drill) in Maine, I should prefer it to one in this state.

It is with great pleasure I learn you are so rapidly recovering from the terrible wound, we were all so much pained to hear you had received, and I sincerely trust nothing may prevent your speedy & entire recovery.

I must apologize for troubling you in this matter, but by giving me the desired information at your earliest convenience, you will greatly oblige.

Yours Respectfully

B. Vaughan [Probably Benjamin Vaughan, b. 3 Nov 1837]

To  
Brig. Gen. Otis Howard  
Leeds

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1716 7/24/1862     *From:* Geo. W. Balloch

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1665

Harrisons Landing Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170]

Harrisons Landing Va  
July 24. 1862

Dear General,

Your kind favor was gladly received in due time, but a multiplicity of "canking cares" have prevented my answering it until now. The weather is very warm, and one feels languid at best and it requires something of an effort to get up steam enough to write a letter.

So much time has elapsed since the six days fighting that I presume you have heard from other sources all the news of any interest to you. Your little Brigade was as usual in the thickest of it, and as usual fought well, as its decimated ranks but too plainly tell. Once during that retreat it saved this grand Army from being routed. It was when McCalls division was attacked on the left. They had begun to give way when your old Brigade came to their assistance and saved them. It was there that the lamented Connor fell, and Col Johnson wounded. The 81st after expending every round of their ammunition, stood in their places and kept the line good with their bayonets. The 61st came out with 159 men and one officer besides the Colonel. Report says that General Caldwell behaved well. Miles fought like a perfect tiger and Scott was wounded in the leg. Capt Hazzard had his leg broken the day before at White Oak swamp with a Cannister Shot. He is now at Fort McHenry and is doing well.

I suppose you have heard that Miles has been promoted to Lieut Col of the 61st. Dr Palmer is still here but his functions as Brigade Surgeon are suspended. He is now in the Reserve Corps of Surgeons and does not belong to any one in particular. He is talking about coming home. Capt Barker saved all his transportation. He does not feel very well and also talks about resigning. He found Capt Sewalls horse yesterday, but it will be next to impossible to send either yours or his home. "Father Israel" is away at Fort Munroe on sick leave and Gen French is in command. Rumor says that Gen Richardson dont care about staying any longer, his young wife and baby possess attractions too potent to be resisted.

Cant you manage to get the Division. I cannot learn whether Gen Caldwell considers himself as permanently assigned to this Brigade or not. He has no staff as yet but what little there is left of yours. He is a very fine gentleman, and a man of large and cultivated mind and with the necessary experience will no doubt do well. Gen Sumner <is [CHECK ORIGINAL Page 4 right edge glued to Pg 5 left edge]> as well as ever. Dr Hammond has been relieved and has gone to New York. Capt Taylor is at Fort Munroe, sick. Pettit is also away for 20 days. Col Langley ditto. Col. Cross is on his way back I hear. Maj Cook has resigned.

Gen McClellan has been reviewing various Divisions this week. The President was here the other day and looked us over. How long we shall remain here I think is a doubtful question. The troops are all in position, the lines established and also entrenched. The enemy are not within five miles of our lines. The officers generally seem to have lost confidence in McClellan. I think the politicians at Washington <are> more to blame. Dr Welles of the 61st was taken prisoner and carried to Richmond. He was released a few days since. He tells of prices of various articles of subsistence that seem almost fabulous. He saw Lee, Longstreet, Huger and others, and says there seems to be but one sentiment among both officers and men and that is to fight it out and never to yield. They admit to have lost terribly but that only makes them more furious.

Mr. Alvord is here, doing as much good as ever. He has a little building stocked with his publications and all kinds of delicacies for the sick.

We were all glad to hear of Capt Sewalls appointment. He will make a splendid Col. if he can have a good Lt. Col. to do the majority of the manual labor. Success to the gallant Colonel.

We are sorry to hear that Charles does not recuperate faster. I think he must have had an ugly wound besides

he is not very strong naturally. Give my kind regards to him. We hope the bracing air of Maine and the kind attentions of loving hearts will yet bring him up again.

As for myself, I am just as well as ever, if you except one of "Jobs Comforters" under my ear. My cares are just as numerous, and my family just as clamorous for food. Some of my friends are trying to get another bar in my shoulder straps, but I dont suppose I shall feel any better or have any more fun than I do now if I should be elevated a notch. God has indeed been very good to me thus far to preserve me safely amid all the dangers that have beset my path. Many that I loved have been cut down in battle, and many more are languishing on beds of sickness, and yet I have been preserved. My little family have also been kept in health. The "bairnes" begin to think that Father does not mean to come home. Poor little fellows they know but little of the anxious thoughts that Father has concerning their welfare.

To hear of your recovery is not the least of my joys. God grant that you may long be spared to bless His name, whose love is your great comforter. I am sure you have my humble prayers for your continued health and prosperity. I cannot and I am sure I do not wish to think but what you will yet be with us.

Such has been the havoc with your old Brigade that you would hardly know your friends. Perhaps the "Junior" Staff" deserve a notice "Prentice" has risen in proportion as Mr Miles' honors have advanced. Charles (alias the Corporal) has attached himself to the Commissary department for better or worse. Sports a pair of my old straps, and lords it over Jerri in great Style. Jerri has nothing to do now Mr Scott is away but enjoy life. This he does to its fullest extent. Nothing disturbs his equanimity but shot and shell, he says he "cant love them no how".

Now Genl if you dont get weary of this medley of nothing in particular and everything in general I shall be glad. Please write just a few lines if you can find a spare moment.

Truly yours  
Geo. W. Balloch

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1717 7/27/1862 *From:* R.B. Howard

*To:* Dear Bro Hammond

OOH-1667

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington July 27 / 62

Dear Bro. Hammond

I lost sight & scent of you in Portland very much as a dog loses his fox when the latter wades in a stream. Or put it "Indian" & "victim" if that is more elegant. But the point is I think of you very much as I do of the "Departed".

Hope you are happy, but have no sensible demonstration of it! But as to you, I do hope see you again in the flesh (you & I have plenty). Mr Headley wrote me a note apologetic in regard to the way you & Mr Sewall, being nearer friends & more jealous of my reputation curtailed my remarks as made at the Portland meeting as reported in "Congregationalist". He is coming in August. Can't you – won't you come too?

Don't give yourself up to your city proclivities altogether but remember your country cousins. Perhaps we'll have an out-of-door meeting. Two villages in this vicinity – New Sharon (Rev. J.E. Adams) & Milton (Rev R. Emerson) are ripe for your advent. A work of Grace is just commencing in each, & you by the Grace of Jesus would give it great impetus.

I didn't speak of you as much as I ought that night in Portland. My conscience has since troubled me about it. Forgive me. I'll be more thoughtful & truthful next "time D.V." All honor to you, dear brother, as a "chosen vessel".

A lady from Bruns. spent night before last with us & told us about some of our dear friends in that town finding Jesus. The work there, unlike here, seems to have nearly stopped when you left, but she says - it would revive, if you were to come again. About 50 are talking of joining Bro. Adams Church. 63 have joined us since you were here. 7 have this week started for the war – dear brethren, the best we have. May God go with them. Dr. Alexander, Dyer, Gleason, Dow &c are among the no. Thank God that we live in an age when even martyrdom is possible - "for our people & for the cities of our God"

Since you were here I have read Whitefields life. O may you & I ripen & bring forth fruit in old age like him! You know how he preached & prayed for the French war. Do the same, Dear Bro. for Our dear bleeding Country. Surely she may justly called one of Xsts little ones, and what we do for her we do for him.

My Bro. is speaking all the time to arouse the people. Charles (Bro) begins to hobble on a crutch. David grows & exhibit tokens of native depravity. His mother is as good as ever & sends much love. Our meetings are well attended & the Standard of piety among us is rather above that of the cold heart of their minister &

Yr. aff. Bro. in Jesus  
R.B. Howard



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1719 8/6/1862

*From:* Rufus King Sewall

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1669

Wiscasset

Augusta Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[172]

Wiscasset Aug. 6 1862

Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

Since my late interviews with you here & at Bath though I am above 45 years of age & not subject to a draft, yet if I can serve my country & my God in the army I am disposed to go. I have received a full collegiate Theological & professional education – have been much in southern latitudes – am sound & hale in body & mind & have for the past five or six years devoted my time to literary & historical pursuits one of the fruits of which is the accompanying copy of the Ancient Dominions of Maine, wh. with my respects I herewith present to you & as you are aiding in writing the name of our native state as high on the roles of fame, as this historical sketch will show you her position to have been in the past it may relieve some of the tedium of the hours of your camp life on the field in its perusal.

Now if there is a place for me within your military purview & I can go I am at your service, & that of my country though I have to leave five motherless children.

My military experience is limited to early sword exercise acquired in the art of fencing & horseback riding, though I am not ignorant of the use of firearms.

An early reply  
will oblige

Truly your obt. Svt  
Rufus King Sewall

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Augusta Me.

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1720 8/8/1862

*From:* U.S. Grant  
Maj. Gen.

*To:* Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman

OOH-1670

Head Quarters, Dist. of  
West Ten.  
Corinth

Comdg U.S. Forces  
Memphis Tn.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[807]

File  
Head Quarters, Dist. of West Ten.  
Corinth, August 8th 1862

Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman  
Comdg U.S. Forces  
Memphis Tn.

Gen.

Herewith I send you an article credited to the Memphis correspondent of the Chicago Times which is both false in fact and mischievous in character.

You will have the author arrested and sent to Alton Penitentiary under proper escort for confinement until the close of the war unless sooner discharged by competent authority.

I am Gen. Very respectfully  
Your obt. Svt.  
U.S. Grant  
Maj. Gen.

[added at the bottom of the letter]  
Do you know the man. Find him out and arrest him.  
W. T. Sherman  
Maj. Genl.  
Aug 15, 62

[Printed at the bottom of the page]  
FAC-SIMILE OF LETTER WRITTEN BY GEN'L GRANT

[Written on the back page in pencil.]  
Conrad Brown  
88 Lookout Mountain  
Berkeley

[Written on the back page sideways in ink]  
Facsimile of letter from Gen'l Grant to Gen'l W. T. Sherman  
Dated Corinth Miss, Aug 8, 1862

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1721 8/8/1862

*From:* J. L. Chamberlain

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1672

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[296]

[Form Letter, except for the date, the addressee and the signature.]

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, August 8 1862

To Gen. O.O. Howard

Sir,

It devolves upon me to inform you that you are elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Maine.

An answer is requested at your earliest convenience.

J. L. Chamberlain Secretary

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1722 8/9/1862

*From:* Samuel Harris

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-1673

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[173]

Bangor, Aug 9, 1862

Gen. Howard,

My dear Sir,

I learn that you are to take command of our new regiments. You will be selecting staff officers. It has been suggested to me that Lieut. Frederic E. Shaw of the 18th regiment may be a man that you would like. He is a member of the church to which I minister here, has been active in our Sabbath School of which he is now the Secretary, & is an active Christian in prayer meetings & all the labors of the Christian life – a man whom we highly esteem & are very sorry to part with. He is a lawyer & has been in the active practice of his profession until last week. I am informed also that he has made military affairs a special study & knows more of them than any officer in the regiment, who has not already seen actual service. He has a noble wife & some 3 or 4 children, & in enlisting I believe is actuated as simply by patriotism & duty as any man that has gone into the service.

I am ignorant whether in view of pecuniary sup't & military rank a position on the staff is better than a 1st lieutenancy, but I suppose it may be pleasant to both of you, as Christian men, to be associated if the interests of the service are equally well presented.

With much respect,  
Sincerely yours,  
Samuel Harris

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1723 8/15/1862    *From:* Henrietta C. Hewitt    *To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-1674

Wiscasset

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[174]

Wiscasset Aug. 15th 1862

Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

You will please excuse the delay in sending the Song, which I referred to when you were with us, and which I take great pleasure in sending today. I was obliged to wait till the Music could come from Boston, and my time has been so fully occupied in assisting in making preparations for our grand Union Festival, that I have neglected other duties. We have the satisfaction clearing over \$200, and hope to increase it considerably, by means of some other public entertainments, soon. I remember with the greatest satisfaction your kind visit among us, with this exception, that it was not in my power to entertain you at my own home, on account of our house being entirely in disorder from having a chimney torn down and rebuilt about that time.

I hope we may have the pleasure of again meeting you, & hearing from you.

Will you pardon me if I take the liberty to ask for your Photograph for my Album?

With the kindest regards,

Yours very respectfully  
Henrietta C. Hewitt

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1724 8/16/1862 *From:* J. Merrill

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-1675

Wiscasset

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[175]

Wiscasset Aug 16 1862

Gen. Howard.

Dear Sir:

If Providence should open the way, I should be glad to serve our country in the capacity of Chaplain in one of our regiments. I have made application, through Brother Fiske of Bath for the Chaplaincy of 19th regiment. Capt Spear of this place who is in the 20th said he would speak to Col. Ames for me. If you can speak a word for me to the proper authorities, you will confer a favor, for which I shall feel greatly obliged.

Mrs M. joins with me in kind regards to yourself & family. We remember your visit to this place with great pleasure, & think that the results have been apparent in the increased patriotism of our people. Our quota of men was raised, & the ladies have raised some \$225, & three boxes of articles for the Sanitary Commission, & this against strong opposition by the secessionists.

I think Wiscasset on the whole has done well.

With the highest esteem

Yours very truly

J. Merrill

---

1725 8/16/1862

*From:* J.A. Smith  
2nd Lt. U.S.  
Engineers  
Head Quarters 2 nd  
Army Corporation  
Maj. Gen. Banks'  
Command  
Army of Virginia

*To:* Gen. & Mrs. O.O.  
Howard  
Leeds,  
Maine

OOH-1676

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[176]

Head Quarters 2nd Army Corps  
Maj. Gen. Banks' Command  
Army of Virginia  
[ca. Aug 16, 1862] [written in pencil]

My dear friends,

I have been trying for a long time to get the opportunity of writing to you but for two weeks I have been very, very busy, and when not at my duties have felt so much exhausted that I could not write. Today I am very unwell but hope to be better soon. I enclose a letter to the General with reference to obtaining a commission from the Governor. I hardly think I may be fortunate enough to obtain it, still perhaps I do nothing wrong, to try.

I was quite fortunate in my orders from the War Dep't. as I was assigned to Maj. Gen'l Banks thus making me the only Engineer officer in this Army Corps. The General is a perfect Gentleman and is very social and agreeable. He is not a pious man, but never shocks the feelings of those who are, by profane expressions.

My associates are very kind, but are not the class of men I would prefer. I have few opportunities for seclusion, or religious thought and this makes me look with profound pleasure to those that are past. But let us hope that before long this wicked rebellion may cease, and that we may again enjoy the pleasures of peace, serving our Creator and our Country without shedding blood.

Please remember me kindly to your brother Charlie. I hope he is getting along well. My love to Guy and Grace, and a kiss to the little one for me.

My address is at the heading of this sheet.

Sincerely your friend  
J.A. Smith  
2nd Lt. U.S. Engineers

Gen. & Mrs. O.O. Howard  
Leeds,  
Maine

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1726 8/16/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1679

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181]

Washington D.C.  
Aug 25, 1862

Dearest

A gentleman by the name of Abbot in Baltimore took me home with him. I found him his wife & little girl and his father & mother-in-law, ready to sacrifice everything for their country. They got very extensively acquainted with the officers of the 10th Me & seem to have been engaged in kindly offices toward them and other Union soldiers.

I left Bal at 3.50 P.M. & arrived here at about 6 – ten minutes after the Regt. I came directly to Mr Murdocks boarding house (Mr Harwells quarters) corner of “K & 12th Sts.” Mr Packard is with me (a most excellent young man). John & John board at Mrs Pauls. Horse came thro. nicely. I reported to Gen Halleck sat. night and met with so frigid a reception that I felt very badly, but I learned that he treated Gen Griffin & Gen Heintzelman in much the same “what did you come <herein> for” kind of style & also learned that this ungentlemanly kind of deportment was a part of his discipline. I became reconciled but have concluded not to trouble him again.

Yesterday I went to church at the Presbyterian. Had a pretty good meeting. Text “Ye are my witnesses &c”. In the evening saw Dean who boards here & I visited Miss Harris, daughter of the late Gov Harris of Me. I went thence to Mr Carrolls, found Sprigg now wounded in the breast. He was about the house though suffering, his right arm is still troubled from his fall. Mrs Sprigg Carroll was most affectionate in her inquiries for you & the children. Susan has gone to West Point sick, Mrs Carroll is at Newport R.I. Mrs Griffin was then at home.

I got the appointment of Mr Whittlesey, Asst Adj. Gen. This morning took in the recoms. of Mr H. Strickland to the War office, was received at the War Dept. by all hands with warmth. Saw Vincent, his wife at Ky. He enquired for you. Saw Gen. Heintzelman. He met me like a son, went into a Church hospital saw some wounded of my old brigade. I shall go back to my old brigade, but whether I shall stay or not is yet uncertain. I feel the heat & fatigue considerably, but am well. The 17th is now joining about 10 boats on this side the Potomac. The 16th on the other side. I shall be glad to see Chas & Mr Whittlesey.

Many kisses to Guy, Grace & Jamie. I want that little locket, dont forget to send it, & if I could have Guy's & Jamie's, I would be glad enough. I hope you will be well & not be anxious. God is good & he will deal with us in mercy.

I expect to find my brigade near Fredericksburg. Shall know today. Direct to Washington for the present – Sumner's Corps.

How is Mother? I saw Gen J. Williams remains had arrived at Newburgh - but Mrs W was not well enough to take them to Detroit. Poor lady. God must help her.

Gen McClellan's popularity is gone. Gen Casey says he let slip his Golden opportunities & is a failure. Gen Casey is well & hard at work organizing new brigades.

Much love to Lizzie my wife  
Most affectionately  
Otis

P.S. Kindest regards to Isabella. Love to Father & Charlie & Dell.

---

1727 8/18/1862

*From:* Jared A. Smith  
Lt. Corps of  
Engineers U.S.A.

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1677

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2nd  
Army Corps.  
Camp near Culpepper  
Va

U.S. Volunteers

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[177]

Head Quarters 2nd Army Corps.  
Camp near Culpepper Va  
Aug. 18th 1862

Dear General,

When I left you in Maine, we had been talking of the organization of new troops from Maine into a brigade under your command, and also it had been casually proposed that I should get detached for the purpose of taking some higher position either in the "field" or staff of the command. Until the present however the War Dep't has opposed having officers detached. Recently an order has been given the Adj't General to detach any regular officer, who obtains a commission as a Colonel in any new regiments. I have now been a month in the field on the staff of Maj General Banks. My opportunities have afforded me great facilities for understanding the drill, discipline and management of regiments in the field, and I have been in one engagement which according to numbers, has been one of the hottest contested of the war. Should you think me competent for the position, it would gratify me much to have you recommend me to the Gov. as a Col. of some new regiment and I feel confident I should give you no cause to regret your influence in my behalf.

The engagement I referred to was on the 9th inst. at Cedar (or Slaughter's) Mountain.

Very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Jared A. Smith  
Lt. Corps of Engineers U.S.A.

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard  
U.S. Volunteers

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1728 8/22/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1680

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[182]

Washington D.C. Aug 22, 62

Dearest

I am to start this morning for Acquia Creek in the Steamer. Yesterday I drew my pay for August, assisted my friend Dr Wigin to buy a horse the day before by promising to meet the demand. The Dr came away without money & supposed he could get a horse & pay when his first accts. became due. His Regt is distributed around at ten different posts, & he was obliged to ride at once. He gave me his note & has sent home for the money.

I went down street & bought me a mattress, a bedstead, blanket & rubber blanket, an Indian rubber <tolma>, a blow up-pillow, a high back camp stool, a nice reconnoitering glass, some quinine and some <aurich>. I was looking for a mattress with a <merchant> & going towards a ware-house near the Penn. Avenue, when I saw a wagon (Rockaway covered) with a harness inside. He told me it was for sale at Auction – 40 dolls, the lowest limit. I gave him 40 & took a bill of sale. It is long enough for me to lie down in if I wish & the Addition horse drives in it first rate, so I wont always have to ride a horse-back.

Jno Ivory is a real good & faithful man – takes hold & washes & helps me as if he liked to. He understands that he is to attend to Chas. also. Write me still via Washington – Sumners Corps. I saw Mr Garcelon here last night. He is getting a contract for saddles.

Much love to all. I have'nt time to write more this morning for our time to leave has come. Kiss Guy, Grace & Jamie. Susan has married a good Engr dischgd soldier & gone to St Louis. Mo. I have forgotten his name.

God bless you darling.

Aff. Yr husband  
Otis

\$40.00 enclosed

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1729 8/23/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1678

Baltimore (Mullberry)  
House

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[180]

Baltimore (Mullberry) House  
Aug 23, 1862

Dearest,

You may be surprised to get a letter from Baltimore. I was taken by a kind gentleman to breakfast & take a short rest with the understanding that I should be <> for in time to accompany the Regt on leaving for Washington. I got to the Depot a little late, so I have come here to get my dinner & go on by the next train.

On Wednesday I had a pleasant ride into Portland. John Ivory met me in Brunswick. John Tantish was in Portland before me with the horse & met me at the Depot. I took a carriage with a young officer formerly of the R.I. 4th Lieut Monroe for the United States, where we dined. After dinner we walked down Middle St. I left him & made my way to Uncle Edwards. John brot the horse for me to ride out to the Regt. but I felt a little weary & concluded not to go. Sent him instead & learned that the 17th would leave the next morning at 7.

Mrs Waite was gone to get Susie's house in order in Mass. Uncle E. came in in the evening. But who should drop in upon me just at night but Peleg. He staid all night with me. He says he wants to be a Christian very much.

The next morning we rode to the depot & overtook Dr Wiggin in uniform & took him in. He left his home at 12 midnight. I slept on his <shoulder> last night, but I anticipate. We had a five hour run to Boston, marched to the Stonington depot & while the baggage was loading, Dr W & I went to the Winthrop house & got some dinner. We left Boston before 5 got on the Str. beyond Stonington at about 11 a.m. I had a State Room & a good sleep. We landed in Jersey City & I breakfasted, went on to Phila by two trains. I went with the first & 4 corps.

I ran up to Wm Merricks & found him gone on the "Iron Sides"& Maria out at the summer residence of his father. As soon as I stepped into the st. I met Bill & Louise Brewster & went home with them & took tea. All well & happy to see me.

The soldiers were all treated to a nice supper by the citizens of the city. At 11 p.m. we left for this place & arrived at 8 a.m. Today I am going in the ten minutes before four train. It is too far to go to Ft McHenry to see Capt Hazard. I shall write to him.

Tell the children that papa will kiss all the little boys & girls who have clean faces in remembrance of them.

Much love to Mother & all.

Affectionately  
Yr. husband  
Otis

---

1730 8/28/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1681

On Board "Golden Gate"

*Source:* Bowdoin

Alexandria Va

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[184]

On Board "Golden Gate"  
Alexandria Va  
Aug 28th 1862

Dearest,

I went to Acquia Creek yesterday and reported to Gen. Sumner. He immediately assigned, or rather asked of Gen. McClellan the authority to assign me to Burns Brigade Sedgwicks Division. Gen Burns is home wounded and it will be some time before he is able to return. This is a large brigade of five full Regts, all from Penn.

My old Brigade received me with great demonstrations of joy. John I. says a thousand men asked him if I was not to have command of them. I miss a great many old faces, but the remnant are weatherbeaten veterans with cheerful faces. Scott is well & back. Miles looks happy & fleshy. Col. Barlow was lean but is growing stout.

Last night after nearly all Sumners Corps had disembarked and my old Brigade had marched some six miles, the order came to reembark and proceed to this place. I am anxious to get settled. The order assigning me to Burns Brigade has not yet come, but there is little doubt but that such will be the disposition of me. We are to bivouac here near Alexandria for the present. I have very little news. Fitz Lee's raid & taking of Pope's baggage is all. We expect a general engagement before long, perhaps before this reaches you.

I do hope you are cheerful & prayerful. I want to have my heart filled with the Spirit of God, pray for it darling. I am perfectly satisfied with my reception here. Gen. Sumner not only received me with affection but has kept me here at his head quarters & entertained me. Capt Taylor abandoned his bed last night in order to give me a soft one on the floor. All the cordiality of other officers has more than made amends for Gen. Halleck's coldness.

Kiss Guy, Grace & Jamie, our beautiful little trio.

My poor friend Hazzard is dead, bled to death at Baltimore. He wanted to have his leg amputated, but the Drs. said not. God grant he died in Christ. His poor wife must indeed be lonely.

Good bye now darling. I sent 40 dolls in yesterdays letter. I want to hear from you. I hope Col. Sewall has left.

Much love to Father, Mother & all.

Yr aff. Husband  
Otis

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1731 8/28/1862 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1682

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[183]

Leeds Thursday Aug. 28th 1862

Dearest

I received your second letter written from Washington to-day. I was very glad to hear that you had so pleasant a journey, but I see you were somewhat fatigued, and fear very much that you are not yet well or strong enough to be away from home and in the field.

Uncle Ensign and Laura visited us to-day. She has received a letter from her cousins since you passed through their city. They were very much gratified with your visit to them. Mr and Mrs Farwell just called here to day on their way to his Father's in Green. We expect, and very much wish them to be here to dinner to-morrow. I can now tell them where they will find you. They leave for Washington Thursday next one week from to-day, so if you get this letter before that time you can get fixed up for company and vacate if necessary.

I regret to hear of S.S. Carrolls wound. Give my kindest regards to them all. (Charlie directed a letter to you in the care of W.F. Carroll, Esq.) You did not mention little Katie. Both Guy and Grace asked about her when I read to them about Mrs Carroll. Guy will write to Susan now we know where she is. Guy was quite unhappy the day you left here, says he dont want Papa to come home wounded again and insists that he will the first time he writes to Papa ask him to resign before the war is over. I tried to comfort him, but the more I tried to comfort him the more the truth pressed him to myself and I ceased trying to give or receive comfort, but my trust is in the Lord "Let him do what sureth his good".

Charlie was to have taken me to Augusta this week. I want very much to go soon. Dellie has returned to College. Charlie sent the horse by the 19th Regt. I hope he will go with the 20th Regt leaving Portland Monday next, if he is able to go. I am sorry that this horse is so ugly, and worries himself so about little things.

When I ask Jamie where is Papa? he answers "didi, Char" which interpreted means, he has gone, to ride with Uncle Charlie. He came across your picture unexpectedly in my trunk, and rejoiced over it a great deal, repeating "ah Papa" a great many times, 'till he was sure I understood him, and rejoice with him. Guy and Grace have had their verses found and marked in your little Bible. I would'nt have you to try to write long letters Dearest, but do write often if possible.

A letter from Lieut J.A. Smith came since you went away. He would have liked to have gone with one of the new Regiments. Charlie answered the letter. He is the only Engineer Officer with Gen. Banks.

I send a short letter this time. Charlie encloses a note. Guy has just come in (I am finishing my letter in the morning) and sends his love to Papa. This will go by this mornings mail so I have not time to write much more. Grace has just come in and sends five kisses to Papa. Let us hear from you often and take good care of yourself.

Yours lovingly  
Lizzie

---

1732 8/31/1862      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1683

Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[185]

Leeds Maine Aug. 31st /62

Dearest

I am very happy to hear from you so often. Two letters came last evening, with forty dollars enclosed. I have plenty of money now to get to house-keeping. You have not yet told me if you are as well as when you left us.

I am gratified to learn that you met with so cordial a reception from those you were so long associated with. I regret to hear of Capt. Hazzard's death, his poor wife must indeed be lonely. I suppose you have left Dr Wiggin by this time as the Regt to which he belongs is near Washington. I see you have made a number of purchases, hope you will make yourself as comfortable as possible. I am glad that you have got a carriage and hope you may always be able to have it along with you.

I presume you will see Charlie soon, may be before this letter reaches you. He left home yesterday to go to Washington with the 20th Reg't. I have written one letter to you before this, and directed to the "Corner of K and 12th Sts". You will not be at Mr Farwells when they return home this week. You gave a good account of John Ivory. I was glad to hear it. I hope he will prove just the man for you. Prof. Whittlesey and Charlie will soon be with you. I want to hear if you found your horse "Charlie". You mentioned your old Brigade, but not the horse.

The army news of late have been a little uncertain. The armies seem all mixed up. I will direct to Washington "Sumners Corps" 'till I hear whether you are assigned to "Burns Brigade" or not.

There are no services at the Church to-day. Mr Chapin attends the funeral of an old man, a Mr. Sumner, near the red school house. Mother and I intend to go to Augusta to-morrow afternoon. I want to be settled as much as you do. We shall go first to Hallowell to visit Mrs Wingate and to Augusta the next morning, and home in the afternoon. I presume I shall take Mr Norton's house if it is not occupied, but I should like a large yard for the children if I could have it. We will be happy to have a house almost any where and I shall establish one as soon as I possibly can.

I think Rowland has some serious thoughts about going into the Army. I do most sincerely hope he will not, for I fear he would be near you some way, and I really don't want him to be. I hope Col. Sewall wont apply for him as Chaplain.

It is now evening. Guy and Grace gone to bed. Bell rocking Jamie, and I am by the table writing. I have been out in the dining-room since tea. Col. Gilmore says he has got to go to Augusta this week on business, and wants me to be ready at seven o'clock, but dont know as he will be ready for an hour afterwards. That is, seven o'clock to-morrow morning. I shall be ready for I can as well as not, as none of the children are going.

This has been a long day. Isabella had Jamie 'till about eleven when he went to sleep, then she and Mother went to the funeral. I then sat down and read to Guy and Grace till <[CHECK ORIGINAL in the fold]>. We after that had our lunch, then we four took a walk in the field back of the bee house, went down to the lower side of the field, came back and I amused the children in my room till Isabella came back and that was most tea time. I read one story, a long one, "thou shalt not steal", then supper was ready. The children all three, had a real good frolic before they went to bed.

I have found use for your "horrid engravings". They are numbered among Jamie's playthings. I gave him three and told him they were Jamies and now when he can find but one he asks for "more papa". Guy is not yet asleep, has been asking questions, and sends a kiss to Papa. I am quite well and have been since you left. Jamie was some sick one day. I dont feel sure that he has the whooping cough. Dr Loring thinks he only has a cold as yet. He may have taken it lately of Henry Mulliken if so it is not time for it to be known. Charlie will tell you all the news I presume.

May God give you wisdom to perform every duty, and bring you safely back to us.

Your Lizzie

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1733 8/31/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1684

Head Qrs Burns  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[186]

Head Qrs, Burns Brigade  
Aug 31 1862

Dearest,

We are at Centreville after marching two nights & a part of a day. First to Chain bridge & then to this place. Yesterday was a decided defeat. The Rebels drove both McDowell's & Porter's Corps from our old field of Bull Run.

I am nicely – went to see Charlie & Mr W. Kiss the children. God bless you & them. I don't think we shall be engaged right away.

Aff. yr. Husband  
Otis

---

1734 9/4/1862

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1686

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[190]

Farmington Sept. 4, 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

We received your note tonight & hope you & the children will come up Monday. Bring them all if you can, for when you get off as far as Augusta I fear we will not see you or them often. Mrs Farwell was here today and will go to Augusta tomorrow to remain till the present disturbed state of affairs is at an end. I wrote mother yesterday by Hattie Patten, but she must have forgotten the letter, or you would have learned that Sarah came home last Monday. Baby is no better that we can see.

Was very glad to get Otis address & will write him soon. Lizzie Patten is with us. We are all waked up for the war having meetings every day almost & will probably fill our quota for 9 mos this week. I am to address the people of Strong tomorrow to get volunteers.

We sent off two boxes of fruit & bandages this morn.

I would not be surprised to hear that Jackson has cut off the R.R. between Baltimore and Washington next. He is very daring. Have not heard from Perry since the 27th ult. His Brigade was then beyond Warrington Junction. This is the most desperate & I believe the last move of the Rebels now & put them down. I am strongly tempted to volunteer & were I in any other profession I should not hesitate a moment. But I have not felt it my duty yet – tho I pray God daily to show it unto me.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

P.S.  
Mr Farwell goes to Washington tomorrow.

Will you please tell Mother that we will send one can for some sour milk today if we can. I am getting hungry for a Johnny cake.

---

1735 9/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1687

Head Qrs. Tenallytown,  
Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[191]

Head Qrs. Tenallytown, Md.  
Sept 4 1862

Dearest,

I wrote you a short letter from Camp "Confidence" near our old Camp California. We staid there one night & held ourselves in readiness to march the next day during the entire day. Just before sundown we started & marched via Alexandria northward till about midnight. Stopt near & beyond Fort Corcoran. The next morning we marched to Chain Bridge four or five miles beyond and rested till towards night, when we were ordered to take the back track to Fairfax Court house. We marched till about 8 ½, slept 4 hours & went on to Centreville, arriving about noon at our place of encampment on the N.E. slope of the Centreville heights.

The next day I was selected to make a reconaissance to the North - to the Little River turnpike, find out all I could & return. Be sure & not bring on a Grand Action. Gen Sedgwick was to support me with Gorman's brigade. We started from Camp about 7 a.m. Monday and marched some 3 miles to the north, met the enemy's Cavalry pickets - they retired, then came their infantry pickets. We pushed them with our skirmishers as hard as was prudent. I went thru a skirting of woods, following our skirmishers & was fired at two or three times, but by permission of a kind Providence was not hit. We found infantry, Cavalry & Artillery & their position and then returned to our camp that night.

We waited under arms, for our turn to retreat - started about 11 p.m., marched all night, arrived at Fairfax C.H. a little after sunrise, tuesday morning. Moved off some two miles to the north to Flint Hill & encamped. Towards night three Corps, Sigels, Porters & Sumners started via Vienna to Chain bridge. I was ordered to Command the rear Guard. I had besides my (Burns) brigade the 1st Minnesota, the 15 & 19 Mass. Regts, a Regt of Cavalry & two pieces of Arty. The enemy began to shell us when the Sun was about an hour high before the last of Sigel had passed & kept it up, till we put a stop to it. Just at dusk we placed the Arty in a good position, & supported it by infny. The rebel Cavalry came up in the woods close by when the 1st Minnesota fired & the artillery also. The enemy fired just before & fled. Our arty-horses were frightened & upset a Limber, broke one man's thigh, another was wounded with a Carbine & two more with pieces of a shell, but none mortally. We [missing page?]

This was the last of the pursuit. We had one of those sudden panics, when three were killed & several wounded, about 11 in the night. My command broke up, horses ran loose, there was firing & running. I was riding along a side path in the edge of a wood opposite one of my Regts, when the panic began. We rallied quickly & marched on, went into camp about 2 & slept till sunrise. Yesterday we marched to this place 6 miles above Washington, & will probably remain here till we gather up clothes, shoes &c.

I have just received your kind & good letter. My horse Charlie is well but has not yet appeared. Mr Whittlesey turned up today but has gone back for a day to Col Sewall below Washington. Chas, my aide has not yet arrived.

Much love to all special kisses to the children.

I dont see what made you say what you did about Rowland being near me, but it was probably because he is a brother & you thought too many relations would spoil everything.

Affectionately  
Otis

---

1736 9/4/1862

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1688

Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[188?]

The American Telegraph Company  
North, South, East and West.

Dated Washington DC 4ct 1862  
Rec'd Sept 5ct 1862  
To Mrs O O Howard

I am well at Tenallytown Maryland

O.O. Howard

6/123

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1737 9/5/1862

*From:* Addison Pool

*To:* Brig. Gen'l. O.O. Howard

OOH-1689

U.S. Gun Boat  
'Penobscot'

Portland  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

Off Wilmington N.C.

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[193]

U.S. Gun Boat 'Penobscot'  
Off Wilmington N.C. Sept 5th 1862

Dear General,

I have been intending for the last few weeks, indeed, ever since I heard of your misfortune, to write you, but my duties in part and procrastination too, I fear, have kept me from it 'till the present time.

You must have had a fierce engagement the day you was wounded. From the accounts that have reached me, I should judge it to have been one of the severest fights of the war, but you did nobly, and will receive the plaudits of a grateful country.

I have desired very much to see you for the last week. I want the advice of some good christian. I have entered upon a new life, and, by the grace of God, I trust, have come to a saving knowledge of the truth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. This state of mind has been brought about by no excitement, or influence of any kind, aside from my own conviction of sin and prayers to God for enlightenment, and as I have no one here to commune with, and there is so much I wish to say to a sympathizing heart, I have been induced to write you, as I have not only known you as a correct upright christian, but a gentleman of liberal views and feelings, just such as I most desire to converse with at this time.

One thing that troubles me now is creed. I have those feelings that would direct me to only know christians as such without any reference to minor parts of creed, or "articles of faith", yet, as I feel it my duty to connect myself with some body of Gods people, at an early opportunity, and cannot fully, with my present views, and my limited experience, assent to all the points of doctrine in any, as I now understand them, I need the enlightenment of some person, who (as I have no doubt all believers have at sometime) has passed through the same experiences and realize the same doubts as myself.

My whole desire is now to please God, and set an example before my fellow man, that may lead them to the same happy state of mind to which I have myself been brought.

Dear General, I want your prayers for myself that I may be kept in the right way and devote myself to the service of God.

Oh! what would I give for good Christian associations. But it is useless to borrow trouble about that. Perhaps Our Father may make so worthless and sinful a disciple as myself the means of bringing others to accept himself through Christ, and I may receive what I desire where I now little expect it.

We are very pleasantly situated as regards our other associations. All the officers of this vessel being gentlemen in every respect, and so far our Heavenly Father has blessed us with health. My health has very much improved since joining the Navy, and as we have a very healthy situation, I hope the change may prove to be a permanent one.

Should you write me, a letter will find me directed to this ship off Wilmington N.C.

Hoping that you may soon entirely recover from your wound, and again return to active duty in the field.

I remain, as ever  
Yours respectfully & truly  
Addison Pool

Brig. Gen'l. O.O. Howard  
Portland

Maine

---

1738 9/7/1862

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1690

Head Quarters Burns  
Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

West of Rockville, Md.

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[192]

Head Quarters Burns Brigade  
Sept 7, 1862  
West of Rockville, Md.

Dear Guy,

Papa wrote Mamma a letter this morning, and was ashamed because it looked so bad, but he had to hurry too much to write well. His left hand will not go fast yet. Papa thinks there will be no battle here. The enemy crossed the Potomac above here about 16 miles and have probably gone another way. We formed 3 lines with our troops & waited for the enemy, but he concluded not to come. Papa wishes uncle Charlie would come if he is well, and his horse "Charlie" has not yet come. The horse "Tige" from Mr Additon is a beautiful and kind one. He generally draws the wagon, but papa rode him on the reconnaissance at Centreville. Papa found the horse of Gen. Burns here and has ridden him most of the time. Papa has never ridden in the wagon since he left Washington. John Ivory & Mr Packard ride in the wagon, carry Provisions & bedding & valises. The shafts have both been broken short off by some unruly mules, but papa bought new ones & had them put in. Papa is now in Gen. Sedgwick's Division. His regiments are:

69th Penn.Col. Owen  
71st Penn.Col. Wister  
72d Penn.Col. Baxter  
106 Penn.Col Morehead

Give much love to Gracie. Papa will write her the next letter. Love to all. God is very good to me my son. I am well. Be very kind to your precious Mamma. Much love to Grandpa & Grandma.

Sept 8th All well today – no battle.

Your affectionate Father  
O.O. Howard

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1739 9/7/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1691

Head Qrs 2 miles west  
of Rockville Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[195]

Head Qrs 2 miles west of Rockville Md.  
Sunday 7 Sept 1862

Dearest

I am well & have been, my arm pains me so little that I think little of it. We formed here to wait the Enemy but he did not come yesterday. God will be with us & you. Kiss Guy Grace & Jamie I wish he could have them with "papa" to play with. I wanted to have printed a letter to Guy & Grace but have not yet got a chance.

Much love  
Affly yours from  
Otis

Much love to Father & Mother. I saw Jno Kern & H. Jameson at Centreville well & looking hearty. Mr Whittlesey is on his way from Washington. Chas has not arrived.

---

1740 9/8/1862

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Gracie [Howard]

OOH-1692a

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Near Rockville Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[196]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Sept 8, 1862  
Near Rockville Md.

Dear Gracie,

Papa wrote Guy a letter yesterday and must fulfill his promise to his little daughter to write her next. Papa is quite well to night. He is in a tent, has a camp bedstead, a good mattress, blanket, rubber-blanket. Papa has on his dressing gown and slippers. The weather is very warm and so papa keeps his tent front up. Uncle Charlie has not yet come up. Mr Whittlesey came to me with the black horse. Last Friday went away to Washington saying he should be back the next day but he did not come. There are a great many men here. General McClellan is only about a mile away. Papa is 20 miles from Washington. Can Gracie tell where her passage of Scripture is: "Love one another".

Much love to dearest Mamma, Grandma, Guy, Grandpa, Jamie & Isabella. Her brother is not near me now. I will find him when I get a chance. Good night to all.

Your affectionate Father  
O. O. Howard

[A letter to Lizzie was written at the bottom of this one to Grace.]

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1741 9/8/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1692b

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Near Rockville Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[196]

[This letter to Lizzie was written at the bottom of one to Grace, dated Sept 8, 1862]

My dearest wife

I received your first kind letter tonight directed to corner of 12 & K Washington.

I got very weary going on, but felt quite rested when I joined Gen Sumner at Acquia Creek. But I never underwent harder campaigning in my life than I did till I got to Tennally town, sleeping on the ground, marching nearly all night for two or three nights in succession, eating what I could catch & when I could catch it, and added to this the responsibility of important commands of troops new to me, and yet I was perfectly well, rode my horse, scolded stragglers, rallied men in panic & watched the enemy every whit as well as if I had two arms. I have been greatly blessed and believe I feel thankful to God for his goodness.

After I got to Centreville I came to the conclusion that General Pope lacked some of the first principles of a good General. I am heartily glad we are back to McClellan. He will not throw us away through sheer incompetency. He is the only man yet who has the love & confidence of this entire army.

I dont see where Charlie & Mr Whittlesey are. My horse "Tige" is a nice one. I doubt not the other will suit me well enough. I can ride as well as I ever could and find no difficulty in managing horses. We do not go faster than a walk often.

Gen Sumner called me up and said last night, that he should have given me the new division just formed, but he heard that I said I would rather have a brigade in Gen Sedgwick's division & so he gave it to Gen. French. I did intimate something of the kind, that I found increased responsibility just now, but I was quite disappointed after all when I found it given away & I was not asked to take it. Now I feel it is all for the best. God knoweth what is fit & proper for me.

I do hope Jamie will keep up some sort of a recollection of his papa. Tell Guy papa would love to resign & go home, but the dear little fellow will one day rejoice that papa did not resign in this dark hour of his country. Much love & many kisses.

Affectionately  
Otis

Chas says mother was not very well. How is she?

---

1742 9/10/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1693

Head Qrs Burns  
Brigade  
Middlebrook Md

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[197]

Head Qrs Burns Brigade  
Sept 10 1862  
Middlebrook Md.

Dearest

We took up the march yesterday at 12 n & proceeded by a cross road to the road to Frederick and then advanced five or six miles to Middlebrook. There are none but farm houses here, yet there is a very nice brook which probably gives rise to the name of the place. Chas & Bowdoin Mr now Capt Whittlesey arrived in Camp just before the march yesterday. I was glad enough to see them. We have our Camp to the right and a little to the rear of my line, have our tents up. Yesterday Charles rode "Tige" & put the black horse in the harness. Both went well. I expect my horse "Charlie" up today. Capt Barker is quite sick in Alexandria & has not got his horses up with the division yet. Gen McClellan is now with the army in the field. We cannot help feeling well about the matter. His fortifications saved Washington & his system gives us something to hope for, and for some indescribable reason the army loves him. Pope's reckless course has brought McClellan's caution into good repute.

(Wednesday) After breakfast.

Chas is still a little lame. It troubles him to walk but not to ride. We have just got the order to march to Damascus, a place this side of Frederick. I dont know how far it is, but not more than ten miles at the outside.

Give much love to Guy. I printed him a letter & the next day one to Gracie. I shall expect an answer to both. Uncle Charlie has Jamie's <carriage> strap, & papa is now looking at it while Charlie is writing his name on it so as not to lose it. Much love to little daughter & to Jamie with kisses. I hope mother is well & also father. It takes a good while darling, for a letter to get to me. I hope it is not so with you. My letters are probably not so delayed. I find I write now with comparative ease, though not yet very fast. My arm does not ache very much. I find no difficulty in riding or in mounting. I have taken Mr Culkand as my private secretary and shall have him write all other letters but yours & those that I dont want inspected except by the one written to. You must tell Guy that the Lord is papa's shepherd & papa will not want. The whole army is pressing up the river and so I suppose the rebels are ahead of us in force. Good bye my precious wife till the next camp. God will ever care for us.

Yr aff. husband  
Otis

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1743 9/10/1862 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1694

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[198]

Portland Sept 10th 1862

Mrs Lizzie Howard

Dear Niece

Your letter of 4th inst was recvd last evening. We were very glad to hear from you and learn that you and the children were well, and that you had just recvd news from your dear Husband. I pray that he may be preserved to return again to his home and his family in safety.

Should you conclude to come to Portland to purchase your furniture and carpets, we should be pleased to assist you in any way we could. If you should need the money due you from me, you can have it as well as not. We are all quite well.

With love to your self and children.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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1744 9/17/1862 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1695

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[199]

Farmington Sept. 17/62

Dear Sister Lizzie

Not hearing from you Monday I hesitated about sending your goods but finally concluded to send them to the Depot yesterday & they will start for Augusta this morn.

Guy is having a nice time & has not decided whether he will go home with Grandma today or not. Chas wrote a little in his letter received last night on last Sunday morn just before the battle. They were as well as usual then.

In haste but, affy. Yours  
Rowland

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1745 9/21/1862 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1696

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[201]

Augusta Sept 21st 1862

Dearest,

It is now just four o'clock Sunday afternoon. I went to church this morning with Mrs Stinson, but it is such a long walk I thought I would not try to go the second time. I did not get the telegram you sent me, but saw it in the Lewiston Journal which did as well. I suppose it went to Leeds and was not reailed to me. I shall get it the first of the week and I hope a letter with it. You may continue to send letters to Leeds. I shall be there myself the last of this week and after that I shall go to Portland and back to Leeds before taking the children here. I have been thinking all day how thankful I ought to be to hear good news from you, for all do not get good news.

I am at Mrs Lemonts, and from my window I can look directly over to the Arsenal. I recall with pleasure our stay there, how we walked over the ground, and fished from the dock, and Malloch, and the little black pony, and "old Ben". We have had many rides after them all. I remember how often you used to come up into my chamber to see little Guy and tell him who inquired about him 'over the river' and called him the young Lieut. But that wasn't war times. If it was all the battles were fought at home.

I saw Miss Susan Brooks on the street. Everybody here is very servile and attentive to me, ready to help me in any way. Charles Mulliken brought me home to tea last evening. I was very tired as I had been at the house all day, then I had to go down town, and as I was leaving his store and the horse was there I told him a ride would be a great blessing.

Gen Hodsdon went home in the train to Bangor. His wife, daughter, and little son will spend the winter here. His daughter was engaged to Senator Fessenden's son that was fallen lately. They attended his funeral in Portland. Rev. Mr McKinsey who preaches in Mr Webb's church buried his mother last week. Rev Wheelock Craig (Dr Briggs son-in-law) preached to-day. Did'nt we meet one of Dr Briggs son-in-laws on board the Boston boat once, and was he not a Unitarian then? I am under that impression.

I have torn out this paragraph and enclose it to let you know this is the only thing I have seen published of Sedgwick's division - not very comforting. But your dispatch makes it all right.

I am very anxious to get a letter from you. I think you must have had a very hard time, since you have been in the field this time. I know you have had hard, responsible and exposed positions. I am anxious to learn how you stand it.

I hope Charlie is quite well by this time. Much love to him. I hav'nt written to you very often of late. I must try to do better. Your letters are not long in reaching me. Your last received was mailed or rather was finished, I did not notice the Post mark, Wednesday and I got it at Leeds the following Monday, the day before I came down here. I know I must have another one there by this time.

I am glad I came to Mrs Lemonts. I find it very quiet and pleasant. I have been to supper since writing the above and I will now finish my letter. I have been reading "Hymns of the Ages" to-day. They are perfect gems. I don't suppose you have much time for reading.

I do want a letter from you very much. I wrote to Leeds yesterday to have them send me letters from you if there were any. I don't want you to think I am working hard. I have been here since Wed. and yesterday was the first day I had worked any. I unpacked dishes. Other days I looked on merely and told what I wanted done. Before this letter reaches you the house will be I trust in quite good order, so do not, dearest, please have any anxiety about me, but take care of yourself if only for my sake.

Lizzie.

I sent a poor picture in my last letter.



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1746 9/21/1862    *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Charles Howard

OOH-1697

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[200]

Leeds Sept 21st 1862

My Dear Son,

I have reason to return thanks to God, that my sons have been saved from the terrible weapons of war while so many have fallen a sacrifice to this awful rebellion. I have received your good and long letter finished on the Sabbath at the commencement of the last weeks battles. Otis's dispatch has reached us, so that we know you are both safe.

I have written to Rodelphus this evening and shall not attempt only a beginning of your's. I was at Farmington when I received your letter as you anticipated so that we enjoyed it together. Monday eve I went to F - the Association commenced its cession Tues 2 o'clock P.M. When I went into the church the services had commenced. There was a Social meeting prayer and exhortation. About an hour was devoted the reading of some of the letters of communication from various churches of that association and then the regular service began with singing and prayer and an introductory sermon by the Reverend Mr Pepper of Waterville, from the text "It is impossible for God to lie". It was a very able sermon showing the Bible to be the word of God and criminality of not believing it. At 5 o'clock the meeting adjourned until 7, eve when it commenced with a prayer meeting and some letters read and then a sermon by Mr Skelton of west Waterville. His was a very able and interesting sermon.

It is now time for me to stop. Good night.

Sabbath morning Sept 26th.

Dear Charlie

Last evening brought us your good long letter written on the Sabbath, for which I hope I am truly thankful. It was written in pencil, was received in due time as also the dispatch from Otis. My letter commenced one week ago. I certainly expected would have gone in Tuesday's mail, but the past week has been one those unaccountable weeks of mine, of which my life is subject.

Corah's sister broke her arm and she must go home.

We had an appointment of soldier's aid society, on Tuesday's P.M. and it has gone on from day and evening, and now another sabbath our soldier's aid society is prospering more than I expected. We met on Friday evening and found there had been about twenty dollars collected besides many other comforts. We hope to send off a box this week. O! How much I hope these donations will go where they are designed. They are sending all the time now through the Sanitary Mission.

Mr Chapin is thinking of going to the hospitals as nurse. There are proposals from government to men for nurses. I think he will be a good one.

I shall not attempt to give you a detailed account of our Association as I at first intended, but will say I was rejoiced that I had the privilege of meeting with so many good praying people and to be one to join in prayer to Almighty God for every good work. Rowland took part in all the prayer meeting. He expressed his admiration of the sermons. Mr Rowe the new Baptist minister from Augusta preached one sermon. Mr Skelton from West Waterville one, Mr Nugent one and the baptist minister from Fayette one, one hour for Prayer for our country particularly was taken up, in which Rowland took part thursday morning. Oh it must be that God has a people here on earth that are taught by his Spirit. When will they prevail?

Lizzie has not returned from Augusta yet.

Sabbath evening

I have been out to Church to day. The Reverend Mr Fogg an old Baptist minister preached in the morning. His sermon reminded me of Mr Rogers of Farmington. He dwelt much on the law of God. It was very interesting to me. Mr Chapin was very interesting this P.M.

Grace attended Church with me. I left Guy at Farmington. He was very anxious to stop and his Uncle and Aunt and Lizzie Patten, all were desirous to have him stay. In Lizzie's last letter to Grace said she should go to Farmington in the stage, and take Guy home with her. Jamie is trying to talk. Grace and Jamie are asleep. Jamie saw a picture to day. Said papa a number of times with a shout.

Everything is perfectly healthy. I was glad you mentioned George Bates in your letter. Augusta Jennings, Columbus Jennings daughter, died last Monday with diptheria a short sickness of a few days. We have had letters from Sarah since her arrival at Brooklyn and placed her little ones in the lot with her husband.

With much love to Otis and large share to yourself I remain your affectionate mother.

Eliza Gilmore

Charles Howard

P.S. My health is good now. September has been a beautiful month. All kinds of vegitables are ripening very nicely – tomatoes never were so nice.

E. Gilmore

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1747 9/22/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1698

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[202]

Farmington Sept. 22/62

Dear Sister Lizzie

Guy wishes me to answer your letter which he received tonight & tell you that he would like to stay here awhile if you are willing. He thought he would go to School this P.M. & seems to have enjoyed it. He is perfectly well – sleeps with Lizzie – rides with me – works with Mr Bachus & plays with some little friends that he has made. He wears his plaid suit to School & his old clothes at home. We love to have him here but he can go to Leeds any day you may wish it. He enjoyed your letter & I read him all about his Papa in the papers. How grateful we should be to God that our dear ones escaped when so many fell in that terrible battle!

Sarah writes that she made her journey well & has deposited her precious dust beside the other precious ones who went before.

Mrs Patten is here – all would send love but are abed. Mr Gilbraith went thro here today. He saw you in Augusta P.O. & you called him Mr. Brown & at the moment he did not recognise you. Wished me to apologize – says he ordered some vegetables sent you from Arsenal Garden. Mrs Farwell is here now. I hope you will get on well “setting up”.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

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1748 9/23/1862 *From:* Isabella Curtis

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1699

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[203]

Leeds Sept 23rd /62

Dear Mrs Howard

Your dispatch came to Lewiston on Friday but too late for the mail. They were going to bring it here that night with a team but Mr Hicks thought it too bad for you to pay so much and told them to leave it with him and he would send it to you and he did but by mistake directed his letter to North Leeds and we did not get it till Sunday. There was no way to send it yesterday. We thought it not worth while to send Mr Hicks letter.

Your letters to the children came safe. Grace was very much pleased to receive hers. Guy has not yet returned from Farmington. He begged so hard to stay and his uncle and the rest wanted him to stop so much that his Grandmother concluded to let him remain over Sunday.

Yesterday a letter came to you from Rowland asking you if Guy might not stop there till he went to Augusta. His Grandmother thinks he can stay till we hear from you. Then we will let him know.

Grace and Jamie are both well and seem happy and contented. Grace says tell mama that Isabella says that I have been a very good girl and she sends you one sweet kiss and will be glad to see you. Jamie says a great deal about mama's dress which hangs up in the bedroom. I washed what clothes we had dirty yesterday.

Guy's letter was sent to him on Saturday. Received a letter from Charles last night – were very happy to hear of their welfare. Mrs G. sends her love to you.

In haste yours with much love  
Isabella Curtis

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1749 9/23/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1700

Head Quarters  
Howard's Divn  
Harper's Ferry Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[205]

Head Quarters Howard's Divn  
Sept 23. 1862  
Harper's Ferry Va.

Dearest,

Yesterday Gen. Sumner marched his Corps from the battle ground at Sharpsburg to Sandy Hook and here we found the R.R. Bridge & the Ponton bridge destroyed. After waiting for Gen. Sumner to select his encampment for about an hour, we then got word to cross the distance by a ford just above Harper's Ferry. The water part of the way was a little more than knee deep. My division crossed first, then Hancock's formerly Richardson's in which is my old Brigade, & then Gen. French's.

This country is as rugged as the highlands of the Hudson & the scenery very peculiar. It looks much like that near West Point. [Hand drawn sketch of a map of the area around Harper's Ferry and the placement of the various divisions.] I have given you a little sketch just to show you the relative position of things. Harpers Ferry is right where the two rivers join & the buildings or the ruins of them even the Armory & its dependencies & little else. After you get up from the river on this bank is quite a little village & I should think a pretty one before the war. Passing the village westward about a half mile you come to what are called "Bolivar heights", a hill running from river to river and making with the two rivers a kind of triangle thus: [Small sketch showing the Potomac and the Shenandoah rivers, Harper's Ferry, the mountains behind Harper's Ferry, B. Heights and the placements of the 3 Union Corps, Howard's, Hancock's & French's.] My head quarters are near a little brick house in which a Mr Sayle & wife & daughter and two old people live. He used to work in the shops run under Major Symington. All the people I believe but one man were for the Union. Poor people, they have now no shops & no occupation. You never saw such utter ruin & desolation as Harpers Ferry presents, & Bolivar is but little better.

Mr now Capt. Whittlesey is as I knew he would be a perfect jewel to me. Charlie is troubled with one of "Job's comforters". Poor Job, now he has afflicted the human race.

I don't know whether you are at Augusta or not.

An Aide of Gen. Caldwell is now waiting for this letter. We are well. Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie. George Bates I saw Sunday & well. Love to all.

Affectionately  
Otis

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1750 9/25/1862

*From:* W.H. Owen  
A.Q.M.  
Alexandria, Va

*To:* Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1701

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[204]

Alexandria, Va  
Sept 25. 1862

Dear General,

I wrote you from the General Hospital at Point Lookout, Md., directing to Maine, not knowing or suspecting that you had so soon rejoined the Army.

I had understood that you were to have a new Brigade & I asked the favor of being your Quartermaster if one had not already been assigned you.

I do not desire to serve any longer in the Brigade in which I now am if I can help it. Gen. Ingalls has promised to transfer me to any vacant Brigade I will indicate.

There is no General in the Army with whom I should so soon serve as yourself.

If you have a vacancy & want me, I am at your service.

I am at present off duty & settling up my accounts, which got behind during my sickness. If I can avoid it I do not desire to return to Birney's Brigade at all .

If it is out of your power to have me yourself, perhaps you will recommend me to some Commander of Division wanting a quartermaster. I should like very well to be relieved from the severer duties of a Brigade, from which my health suffered somewhat, on the Peninsula.

Please answer immediately & address me at this place – care Capt. C.B. Ferguson, A.Q.M., U.S. Army.

Very truly  
Your friend  
W.H. Owen  
A.Q.M.

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

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1751 9/26/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1702

Head Quarters Bolivar  
Heights  
Sept 26 1862

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[206]

Head Quarters Bolivar Heights  
Sept 26 1862

Dearest,

I wrote Guy a letter today and this evening I had the happiness to get a letter from you, after you had seen the dispatch in the Lewiston Journal. Mrs Whittlesey saw or heard of the dispatch the day I sent it. I am glad you all got word so soon, for I feared that my messenger to Hagerstown was not a good one as he had a bottle of whiskey with him & swore a great deal. Mrs Whittlesey spoke of your being in Brunswick & commends your cheerful faith & wishes she had as much. It is a singular providence if you two were together on the very day of the battle.

Gen Sumner visited the Division today & complimented us on our good & cleanly appearance. I notice that "<Anthton>" of the Boston Journal speaks of <miss> connection with the Division. I did work very hard that day to keep the men together. Gen Sumner tried a movement & nobody knew in the beginning what he wanted to do. He faced my troops before he let me know & they were broken or nearly so almost immediately. I worked & so did Genl Sumner & the rest us. We did'nt go far & many of the regiments did'nt break at all, but oh how many of these brave men were left dead on the field. Was'nt the Lord merciful to me & mine.

I was glad indeed to get your picture, if you did look a little sorry and about that tooth. My arm does not trouble me. John Ivory sleeps in my tent helps me wash & dress, put on belt, spurs &c. Charles took quite a long walk today. He seems to be quite well.

Capt Joseph Smith, who came out as our commissary Sergeant & was afterwards made Capt. in the Com. Dept. & has been with Gen. Sedgwick ever since, he is with me. Capt Bachelder of N.H. is my Quartermaster and Lieut. Whittier & Chas my aides. Lieut Steel is my Ord. Officer. We have a very pleasant mess. Mr Packard got over-worked & sick & started for New York to recruit his health. If I get time I shall write Gracie tomorrow.

Papa sends lots of love & kisses to all the children. We have our circle of prayer, all the loved ones at home are remembered. Pray for us darling, that we fall not into temptation. Pray for papa children.

Major Sedgwick was as he supposed mortally wounded, while lying on the field under fire, he wrote in his note book, his good bye to his wife & family now in Germany, and said, he had prayed God to forgive him his sins. He is still very poorly. He has a slight chance of getting up. Gen Sedgwick has gone to his home in Connecticut. The Major's mother & sister are with him at Keedysville [Md]. Col Barlow is getting better. Gen Richardson's case is yet critical. I feel a redoubled anxiety that this war should be brought to a close. I have learned that Gen Pope has the reputation of being a liar, a profane swearer, & he certainly is a braggart and a failure. I feel troubled that I should so unadvisedly have endorsed him. I am now glad he has gone overboard & hope God may spare us from such men.

Good night, God's blessing rest with you my dearest wife.

Yrs affectionately  
Otis

Much love to Mother & Father & kind regards to Isabella.

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1752 9/26/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1703

Head Quarters  
Howard's Divn  
Harpers Ferry

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[207]

Head Quarters Howard's Divn  
Harpers Ferry Sept 26, 1862

My dear Guy

Mamma wrote papa a letter and told him she thought you and Grace would be pleased quite as well to receive a written letter as a printed one. Perhaps so, now that you are almost old enough to write and to read writing. I heard that Susan was married, to an engineer Soldier & gone to St. Louis. I cannot remember the man's name. He is not now in the army and is I hear a good man.

Papa now commands a Division, ie three Brigades, four regiments in two of them and five in the other. Gen Gorman has the first Brigade, Gen Dana, the 2nd or rather Col. Lee of the 20th Mass. as Gen. Dana was wounded and has gone away. Gen Burns is still at home with his wound and Col Baxter of the 72nd Penn Volunteers commands his brigade; it is the one that papa had till the last battle, called the battle of Antietam. Papa has also two Batteries, Lieut Kirby with his six guns & Capt. Tompkins with his six guns. Do you remember Mr Kirby at West Point? You must remember Genl Sedgwick. He was wounded like papa in the wrist and also in the neck.

Papa was again where the bullets flew pretty fast, so was Uncle Charlie, but God was able to take care of us and did so. Papa rides his horse "Charlie" now on all occasions. He is as nice as ever, a little more quiet than he used to be. Papa finds no trouble in getting on. Somebody must have whispered in "Charlie's" ear that papa now had but one arm. May be he looked & saw it himself. He looks cross at strangers and I feel afraid he dont like little boys, but when you come to feed him with something he likes to eat, he will overcome his naughty prejudices.

Mamma went away to Augusta & left you all, in order to fix up a place to put us in. Papa wants the war to be over, so that he may come home & live with you all. He hopes to spend many happy days with your dear mamma & his little children. They must be good and learn all they can while they are young. Papa wants his children to be the followers of Christ. Guy you must have a fixed purpose to do right & God will help you.

Uncle Charlie is still a little lame, but I think improving. The weather is still very pleasant, but the nights are cold & the ground very dry. Much love to Grandma. How is she, pretty well? Uncle Charlie thought she was not well when he came away. And Isabella, how is she and does she hear from her wounded & noble brother? I hope he has got well before this. And Grandpa we cant forget him. Is he reading his paper or working in the fields?

Perhaps when you get this you will be already at your new house in Augusta. You must then tell me how you like & what you see. Do you think that you and Gracie love each other as much as you ought. You give her papa's love he will write her just as soon as he can. Papa was very happy to get Mamma's picture, if it did look a little sorry. And Jamie, - I wonder if he will look at Papa when he comes home; you know he wouldnt when he went away. Give papas love to the boy & a good kiss.

With love & kisses to all and a prayer for God's blessing upon you. I say good bye.

Your affectionate papa  
Otis

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1753 9/27/1862    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1704a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's Divn  
Bolivar Heights near  
Harpers  
Ferry

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[209]

Head Quarters Howard's Divn.  
Bolivar Heights near Harpers  
Ferry Sept 27, 1862

My dear little daughter

I wrote Guy a letter yesterday and Mamma one last evening and as I have some spare time this morning I will say a few words to you. Mamma went away to Augusta & left her three little children and papa dont know whether she has got back or not. If she has not perhaps Grandma can read this.

Papa & uncle Charlie are now together in papa's tent. Uncle is pretty well & so is papa. Papa's arm aches a little now and then, but never enough to make him cry. Tell Mamma that papa feels like crying this morning, for when he went to the top of his trunk where her letter & miniature were put and could not find them. All the searching and shaking out of coats & shirts have done no good. They cannot be found. <[Bottom line is missing -page torn.]> Perhaps it can be found yet.

John Ivory and Mr Packard lost papa's nice dressing case out of the wagon. John kept it out of the trunk on the trunk so that he could get at it easily, & when he did not know it, it was jolted out. Papa has bought another but it is not the one Mamma gave him.

Have the apples got ripe? What does Gracie find to do every day? Does that little chubby boy Jamie remember his papa think you? I have some more questions to ask. Does little Lizzie Gilmore ever go up & play with you? Tell me all you can think about Grandpa, Grandma & Isabella. If you can tell me something really good about Guy, you must write it to me. I think Jamie must be able to talk a great deal by this time. You can hardly think what a terrible battle we had. Papa longs for peace. He wishes the rebels would stop & go home & not destroy this country any further.

Give much <> to all <> pray for papa every day & pray her little prayer, "O God for Christs sake give me thy Holy Spirit". How much papa wishes Gracie to be very kind to Guy & Jamie, and cheerfully obedient to Mamma. When papa comes home wont we then have a nice & happy little home? Papa hopes that time is not far off, but he must do the work that God gives him to do.

Perhaps you will be down to Augusta at your new home, when Mamma has put down the carpets and put up the curtains. You must tell papa all about the new home and what little friends you find there. I hope you may find as good and lovely a teacher as Miss Lottie Adams was.

Much love from your papa.  
O.O. Howard

[A letter from Otis to Lizzie followed the above letter to Grace.]

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1754 9/27/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1704b

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Howard's Divn  
Bolivar Heights near  
Harpers  
Ferry

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[207]

[Head Quarters Howard's Divn  
Bolivar Heights near Harpers  
Ferry Sept 27, 1862]

[This letter to Lizzie from Otis followed a letter to Grace.]

My dearest wife.

<[first line missing –bottom of page cut off.]> since yesterday. The days are warm the nights autumnal. Charlie is quite well. Capt W the same. McClellan is trying to fill up the old Regiments. The enemy are very quiet & in the vicinity of Winchester. Much love to Mother. She will feel a little lonely I fear after you go and she musnt fail to visit you at Augusta it will do her good. I saw Mr Ames & Prof. Chamberlain the other day with their new Regt. They were not engaged with the enemy. Tell Mother Dr Horatio Howard Surg. of the 10th Me comes to see us frequently. He is the son of my father's cousin Charles & seems to be an excellent young man. I think we met Mr Craig on the Boston boat, but he never was a Unitarian. The Dr used to incline that way.

God bless & strengthen you & me.

Yr aff. husband

<Otis [Bottom line of page cut off.]>

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1755 9/27/1862

*From:* John L. Hodsdon  
Adjutant General

*To:* Genl Oliver O. Howard

OOH-1705

*Source:* Bowdoin

State of Maine  
Head Quarters,  
Adjutant General's  
Office  
Augusta

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[210]

[Letterhead]  
State of Maine  
Head Quarters,  
Adjutant General's Office  
Augusta

Sept. 27th 1862

Genl Oliver O. Howard,  
My dear Sir,

You are aware that I cannot in my official capacity require of you for publication in my annual report or other use the whole, or indeed any portion of your military history since being commissioned under the United States Government. Yet justice to yourself and your family and friends, as well as to your State, demands the same public recognition of your services by this department that will be accorded to those serving under the authority of the broad seal of the Pine Tree State.

The accompanying circular letter addressed to the commanding officers of all regiments and corps in the service of Government from this State may afford you some indication of the general character of the information required.

In your case it should be confined principally to events of a nature personal to yourself, except so far as your command is concerned. It should not be limited to last December but may properly embrace the entire period of your career since first entering service.

A full response hereto early in November for the State printer will insure its publication with my annual report, and greatly oblige,

Your obedient servant,  
John L. Hodsdon  
Adjutant General

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1756 9/30/1862

*From:* Lt. S. P. Lee

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1706

*Source:* Bowdoin

Staff Gen Birney  
1st Div 3d Corps  
Near Fairfax Seminary  
Alexandria Va

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[211]

Head Quarters 1st Div 3d Corps  
Near Fairfax Seminary Rd  
Sept 30th 1862

Dear Otis

I see by the papers that you are in command of Gen Sedgwick's Division during his absence. And it is the general opinion here that you are the man to fill his place, so I suppose you will soon have a Division.

We have been here since our return from Centreville. Gen Birney has two Brigades (Berrys & Roberson's) of infantry, one of Cavalry & 5 Batterys under his command. Gen Stoneman was assigned to the division but when he reported was ordered with our Brigade (Birneys) to nearly Poolsville where he has been ever since.

I sopose you have heard that Sarah lost her Babe and that she took Jimmie & the Babes coffin to Brooklyn and laid them beside their fathers in Green Wood. She was in New York a week and came on to see me and is now here with me. Our Hd Qrs are in <Bishop> Johns house. It is a beautiful place. Mrs Birney & her daughter is here & Sarah & Frank. I am enjoying her visit much and hope it will do her good. She seems in good spirits. She will remain a few days longer and visit Maria at Philadelphia for a week or more before she returns home.

Now I will come to the business point of my letter. At the Battle of Chantilly the day I saw you at Centreville I had my Black horse shot and in presenting my claim to Government for payment I find that there is no official notice at the Adjutant Generals office that I have been duly mustered into the U.S. Service and so cannot collect the loss without it. I informed them that I was mustered in by you at Clermont the 31st July 1861 and took affidavit to that effect which I think was the case and if you remember it and will send me a certificate to that effect I can get the pay for my horse. If you will do so at the earliest moment you will greatly oblige me as I am greatly in want of the money to buy me another horse.

Give my love to Charlie also remember me to Mr Whittlesey. Sarah sends love to you all. Please direct to me,  
Lt. S. P. Lee  
Staff Gen Birney  
1st Div 3d Corps  
Near Fairfax Seminary Alexandria Va

with love I am your  
affectionate cousin  
Perry

P.S. Capt Lakeman is Lt Col 3d Me. Burt still Major and I am going to be Capt of Co. E. but do not want to go back to such a mean Regt.

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1757 10/1/1862

*From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1707a

H'd Q'rs 2d Div.  
Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[212]

H'd Q'rs 2d Div. Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va.  
Oct. 1st 1862

My dear Lizzie

Otis is busy this morn, but just remarked to me that he would like to have letter go to you this morning.

I am not fit for much else than writing letters & it remains to be proved whether I will do for that.

I have not been able to ride for more than a week owing to a Boil caused by over-much riding about the time of the battle & consequently I have taken almost no exercise as I do not yet walk with much ease. The result is a billious attack & threatening fever. But by careful dieting during a few days past & a thorough course of medicine from Dr Palmer I have no doubt will be successful in throwing it off. In fact I am better this morning.

Otis is on a Court of Inquiring in reference to the conduct of Gen. Caldwell at the battle of Antietam. Otis is president of the Court. Previous to this he was on another Court.

He seems well as usual - active & untiring as ever. We are always a little disappointed when a mail comes without a letter from you. Last night, Otis had 3 or 4 but none from you. One from Owen soliciting the place of Qr. Mr. somewhere in Otis' command - saying he had got very tired of being with Birney. One reference to Capt. Barker, our former Qr. Mr. who is very sick at Washington & wished much to see "the General". Another contained a circular from Genl Hodsdon asking for an account of his command & some history of himself since he entered the service.

We have had very hot weather for a few days past. It is probable we will remain here at least a week more undisturbed. The R.R. bridge will not be finished till then. Otis said at the Breakfast table this morning that he received intimations last night that we were going to Ft. Hamilton. I at once suggested that it must have been in his dreams & he "Owned up" that that was the way the intimations came.

Lt. Kirbie, in command of a battery, is attached to this Div. We often see him tho till since the battle he had been away sick.

Mrs. Maj. Morris (now Brig Gen) & daughter called, with her son who is attached to a battery in this Corps to see Otis night before last. She was full of flattering commendations of Otis. Had considerable to say of Poor Hazzard - who I suppose you know died at last.

Maj. Lawrence 61st N.Y. who came from Washington day or two ago says there is talk there that Otis will be made a Maj. General. There is a rumor here that Gen. Sumner is going to ask to be relieved from this Corps desiring to have a command somewhere where he will be distinct & separate - thinking he does not get justice under McClellan. In case this takes place Sedgwick will probably have this Corps which we would like much.

Maj. Sedgwick A.A.G. to Gen. S. died night before last near Keedysville from his wounds. His mother & sister were with him, but his wife is on her way from Europe home, where she had been travelling.

I have invited Rowland to come & see us while we are here but I haven't much hope that he will be able to. Give much love to Guy & Grace & a kiss from both to Jamie for me. Is Jamie well? We heard from you thro' Rowland's last letter who saw Mr Gilbraith of the Arsenal the day before who brought the latest news from you at Augusta.

It is mail time. Love to Mother. Hope to hear from her soon.

Your affectionate brother  
Charles

[Appended to the letter from Charles to Lizzie on 10/1/1862, was one from Otis to Lizzie on the same date.]

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1758 10/1/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1707b

H'd Q'rs 2d Div.  
Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[212]

H'd Q'rs 2d Div. Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va

[This letter from Otis to Lizzie on 10/1/1862 was appended to the letter from Charles to Lizzie on the same date.]

Wednesday Oct 1 1862

Dearest

For two days past I have been on "Boards & Courts of Inquiry" & have not written. I hav'nt time to read what Chas has written but presume he has written you a good long & specific letter. He is'nt very well. We wish you are quite well. We heard of the death of Major Sedgwick last night to our great sorrow.

Give much love to all. Many kisses to our dear little children. God bless you all.

Your aff. husband  
Otis

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1759 10/2/1862    *From:* Edward N. Packard    *To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-1708

Biddeford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[214]

Biddeford Oct 2nd 1862.

Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I left you, as you remember, on the morning of the last great battle at Antietam with the expectation of making my way to Frederick on the same day. The wagons were unaccountably delayed and I remained quite near the field through the day, glad enough at its close to learn of your safety and that of your Staff. On Friday morning I made out to walk to Hagerstown, in default of conveyance, and was delayed there over night in the cattle cars, by the movements of Pennsylvania militia. I succeeded in getting to Harrisburg on Saturday night and spent a quiet Sabbath there. Monday morning at 8 o'clock I got to New York and found my brother without trouble. A week spent under his care quite transformed me, and at its close I found myself quite well from the lingering illness that had so completely unfitted me for duty in Camp.

It was by his advice that I concluded not to return and renew the experiment of the Army in which, I am free to confess, I found myself out of place. Our life there was such a sudden and entire change from my quiet mode of existence before that I can't wonder at my sickness. I am confident that the life would have grown easier and that I might have become hardened to it in time, but I doubt whether my nature and education would have ever fitted me for it. Some seem to be born for it while others find themselves entirely out of their reckoning. Doubtless my poor health gave a sickly color to the profession of arms and made me a poor judge of what was best. I find however that some of my friends had predicted a failure for me and I now have to humiliate myself in fulfilling their auguries. The time had come for me to enlist if I remained, and when I left there were only Penna. Troops under your command. Moreover just at this time I am obliged to be earning money for the immediate payment of debts incurred at College, and tho' in time I might have got a satisfactory position in that respect, it was just in the interim that I needed it most.

I only hesitated about leaving lest I should appear to slight your kindness in opening a way for me into the Army. My own pleasant relations to you would prevent, I hope, any such construction, yet to make the matter clear I have given you every reason I could think of, for my course.

I found our family all well. Father wishes you a "God speed", and thanks you for your kindness to me throughout my absence. Please remember me to your staff especially to your brother and Capt. Whittlesey. It is my prayer that God may take care of you and restore you in due time to home and friends.

Very respectfully & truly yours.  
Edward N. Packard

---

1760 10/4/1862 *From:* Guy [Howard]

*To:* Dear Papa [OO Howard]

OOH-1709

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[215]

Oct. 4. 1862

Dear Papa

I came home while Mama and Grace were eating their supper. I took tea with Jimmie Stinson. I will go to school soon. I wish to learn to write. Papa I like very much to have you write to me.

I am glad you did not get wounded in the battle. I do want always to do right. I like to live at Augusta. Jamie talks more than he did. Give my love to uncle Charlie. Grace has not received the letter you spoke of.

I send a kiss to you.

From Guy

---

1761 10/4/1862 *From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* Dear Papa [OO Howard]

OOH-1710

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[216]

Oct. 4. 1862.

Dear Papa

Mama Guy and I are at Augusta now.

We have a nice home. Do you think you will come and see us some day.

Thank you for your long printed letter but you can make writing letters just as well.

My school is on this street. I shall go soon. I dont know any little girls here yet. Guy is reading a story out loud to mother. It is most my bedtime.

Good night, Papa  
From Grace

---

1762 10/4/1862 *From:* H. Hayes

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1712

Washington

Sumner's Corps  
In the Field

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[219]

Washington 4 Oct 1862

Genl O.O. Howard  
Sumner's Corps  
In the Field

Dear General,

I was just now informed by the clerk in charge of your account for indemnity arising from loss of horses at Fair Oaks that the proof must show that Lieut C.H. Howard, was regularly assigned as your Aide Camp. It is asked in what regiment was he mustered in as a Lieutenant? Or other officer. They say if he was detailed to act on your staff, not being a commissioned officer, then he was simply a volunteer aid, and the horse ridden by him at that battle was at risk of owner.

Col Garische gave me the enclosed circular and said it was the rule controlling.

I told them that C.H. Howard wore the uniform and received the pay of a Lieutenant, but in all the offices no one found the evidence of his being mustered as an officer. I urged that he had served with great credit and distinction at the first Battle of Bull Run, that of Fair Oaks, and Antietam, but red tape asked where is the commission? You will set all this right by a word. I take the first moment to advise, as to what is considered a desideratum in the case, as now presented to the 3d Aud'tor.

Allow me sincerely to congratulate you on your preservation and that of your brother Lieut Howard, amid the dangers of the great battles of Maryland. I had the rare opportunity of witnessing the battle of the Antietam, being a portion of the time on the hill towards Keedysville and again on the field itself.

It was not deemed prudent by my advisers to penetrate to your command, and so I regret the loss of an opportunity to see you.

Let me hear from you at your first moment of leisure & remembrance to your brother.

Very truly,  
H. Hayes

P.S. You have a Division. My augury is that your star will be duplicated, since meritorious service will henceforth measure promotion for the most part.

---

1763 10/5/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1711

Head Qrs. Bolivar  
Heights

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[217]

Head Qrs. Bolivar Heights  
Oct 5 1862

Dearest

It is Sunday afternoon & about Quarter past two. Your kind & affectionate letter came announcing that you had gone to Leeds to take Guy & Grace with you to Augusta & that you intended leaving on thursday following i.e. on thursday last. I feel sorry that so much time must pass before you get a letter from me at Augusta. There must have been several on their way to Leeds though, when you left.

For several days I have been on "Boards" and "Courts of Inquiry" From ten till one & then from three till sunset. This taken with the other business I had to attend to connected with the Division, just about used me up, but now I hope we are through. Our Court of inquiry was about Genl. Caldwell, who has my old Brigade. Col Cross resigned stating that he would not serve under an officer who had shown such want of courage and capacity on the battle-field of Antietam. Genl Caldwell immediately asked for & was granted a court. We cleared the Genl from the charges which I think arose from Camp rumors.

Capt Bulloch visited me today and showed me the miniatures of his wife & sister. So I took another persevering look for my lost picture but it could not be found. Why wont you send me my little locket of you & Gracie. It would'nt hurt papa's feelings a whit to have Guys & Jamie's also.

This morning at 11 a.m. We had services in the vicinity of my Hd. Qrs., there being but one chaplain in the Div'n, Mr Harris - he preached to all of the Division who were disposed to come & hear him. Mrs Col Lee, Col. Wm Raymond Lee's wife from Massachusetts was at the service. Capt Pell the Provost Marshall came in just here & interrupted me. That's the trouble somebody comes in & I feel obliged to be polite.

Gen French who now has a division gave an invitation to all of us to attend at 4 P.M. I was glad of this & went. A very good Chaplain from Conn. preached to a large body of men. A band, we dont have bands any more except by private subscription, a band was there with a new regiment.

Oh, I should like to look in upon our new home, why dont it look like home. I expect it is because the children were not there. You know it takes papa & the rest of the children to make musick. Is it so darling. A good time is coming. I feel sure of this, dont you? I think my health has been wonderfully preserved, and I believe that God is enabling me & mine to exert an influence for Christ though I fear the harsher & sterner qualities of my nature are called so much into requisition as to become habitual. Oh, these stragglers, these bad men, Mr Whittlesey, what a priceless friend. Col. Sewall has been assigned to my command and is encamped near me. He is in Genl Gorman's Division. It is a good Regt. Thomas is here, Col S. says the best man he knows.

A heart full of love for my little wife & precious children. Pray for me.

Much warm hearted Christian sympathy for Mrs Stinson. Regards to Charlie M [Mulliken] & the rest. I jumped into Gen Sedgwick's shoes & had all that was left of his staff.

God bless you.

Affectionately your husband  
Otis

Charlie made a lovely walk with me tonight, is pretty well.

---

1764 10/6/1862    *From:* Ella P. H. [Ella  
Patten Howard]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1713

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[218]

Leeds Oct 6th 1862

My dear Lizzie -

Lizzie & Davie and I came to Leeds this morning. Rowland went to Bath, to take the boat tonight for Boston, on his way to Springfield, to the meeting of the American Board.

Your letter came this evening, and we are all glad you are getting along so well. But you mustn't work too hard, & get so tired as you were at Farmington. Charles' letter to you, also came this afternoon, & Mother could not let it go away without knowing how they were, & what they were doing, so she opened it.

Jamie is well, and doing finely – seems to love “Bella-ed” as he calls her, as well as he would his mother – says Mamma has “Gone ride” Mother says your butter will be ready the last of this week, and you can have it any time after. She thinks you had better come while you are sure of good travelling. Tell Guy that Lion came back today, looking very “muching”, & exceedingly starved. His ribs stuck out on both sides, & he ate all the hens' dinner up, he was so hungry.

We shall probably be here all the week, as Rowland will not be back before Saturday, and possibly not until the first of next week. I shut up the house, and Harriet went home. She was almost sick this morning, with a very sore throat & some symptoms of Dyphtheria, but I hope it will prove no worse than a bad cold.

My ideas seem unusually dull tonight, but my heart is full of good wishes for you & the children, & I hope you will write as often as you can, & tell us how you get along in your new home.

With love to you & kisses to the little ones.

Your sister  
Ella P. H.

---

1765 10/8/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1714

Bolivar Heights  
Head Quarters  
Howard's Div

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[320]

Bolivar Heights  
Head Quarters Howard's Div'n  
October 8 1862

Dearest

Yesterday I rode with Genl Sumner to visit the pickets of the entire Corps & it was a pretty good days work. The weather has been extraordinary for three whole weeks, very pleasant indeed, a few showers, but generally not a cloud to be seen. The heat during the day has been great but the nights cool, sometimes cold. You said I might have crossed into Virginia. Harpers Ferry & Bolivar are in Virginia. We crossed by the ford two weeks ago last monday and are about two miles from the crossing. Since then, a pontoon bridge has been put across the Potomac & another across the Shenandoah. Charlie has gone out this morning with the Genl Officer of the day (or just going) to reorganize the picket line. He seems now to be quite well. For some time he was threatened with a fever but now it is over. I have felt worried about him. I am on another court today I am sorry to say for courts do not agree with me very well: their effect is to make me sleep poorly at night.

How is Guy now – at Augusta? I expect he would be glad to see a little squirrel, we have here. Sometimes he is treed in front of papa's tent to the flag pole. He is a beautiful gray and very tame. I sometimes see him on John's shoulder & again sticking his head out of his pocket, have never known him to bite anybody.

Has Grace found anybody she knows at Augusta. Has Aunty Clark come to see them? Gen. Sumner has a leave of 30 days beginning with today. I must hasten down to see him before the Court is in session & before he leaves.

God bless & keep you. Jamie is a good way off but in good hands.

Much love  
Most affectionately  
O.O. Howard

Too bad, they were talking to me.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

---

1766 10/10/1862 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs Lizzie A Howard

OOH-1715

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[21]

Portland Oct 10 1862

Mrs Lizzie A Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter of 8th and have made enquiry about Furniture. Mr Corney say that they have a good assortment of furniture now on hand, and think they can suit you very well as to quality and price. They have no such Lounges as you mention but think they could make you one that would suit you.

Your dividends are due at the Banks. Say Casco \$44, Canal \$28, International \$18, Merchants \$18, Making \$108. The coupons on Rail Road Bonds are also due. The money is ready at the Banks. I can collect all but from Merchants Bank for that I should need an Order. We should be pleased to see you at Portland and render you our best services.

From Your Affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

P.S.

In case you should conclude to go with your friend to Boston, and will drop me a line I will cheerfully attend to any business you may wish. E.W.

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1767 10/11/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1716

Hd. Qrs. Bolivar Heights

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[323]

Hd. Qrs. Bolivar Heights  
Oct 11 1862

Dearest

Day before yesterday I was made happy by getting what purported to be two letters, but on opening I found that there were three one from yourself and one from Guy and another from Grace. What real good letters they did write papa, so nicely printed. Guy began with small letters but I think he found it too hard work and went again to his capitals. The man who owned the squirrel has sold him to a paymaster & he is gone. Papa feels sorry for he had half a mind to invite Guy out see him.

For a few days past I have been troubled a great deal with a dull head-ache. I lay abed yesterday a good part of the time. I think my head is better this morning. We have had continuous heat from before the battle of Antietam till now. Last night the weather changed. I am inclined to think the heat of the sun as I have been exposed has effected my head, but as I am so nicely this morning and have eaten a good breakfast, it is a pity to mention it.

I hope Gracie's letter has reached her. It was sent to Leeds. It is odd that you could not get a pew, the House must be very full. But I presume you did not wish to get one too far back.

At present we are doing nothing but drilling & making works. General Sumner has gone on a 30 days leave & taken his staff with him. General Couch has been assigned to the corps. A man who does'nt look older than I, he graduated about the time of General McClellan, left the army, but came out with a Mass. Regt as Colonel. I think from his countenance, he must be a good man. My rank is next to his, so that I am liable to command the corps in case any accident happen to him. Gen Hancock & Gen French have reversed rank & I the Junior rank them both.

Charles is now quite well. I think he is scarcely any lame though his leg is not very strong.

Col Sewall was in here last night. His wife writes him such cheerless letters that it makes him discontented and unhappy. She thinks he deceives her, for he promised not to go into the field and yet he has gone. I am very sorry she gives way so to her feelings. The Col could not resign now without great dishonor & yet he thinks he must do something for the sake of his wife and family.

I fear you may be in want of money. I bought Dr Wiggin's horse for him - \$115, assisted Capt. Whittlesey with some - expect 300 from the Government which it delays paying and what is still worse I sent to Washington by Genl Sedgwick's aide de Camp Lt. Whittier for my last month's pay. He drew it & spent the whole of it and when he came back said he was disappointed in getting his own. He bought me a Robe (just like my old one) & some things for the mess. Now I am waiting for him to get his own pay & refund, which he now thinks will be even before monday. Tell me, darling, how you are getting on for money.

I had a letter from Genl Sedgwick a day or two since. His wounds are quite troublesome, but he expects to be back soon. Genl Burns has returned to his Brigade, but is not well. His spine is affected. I doubt if he can ride for any considerable distance.

Give much love & many kisses to the children. Kind regards to C.H.M. & all friends.

Your own husband  
Otis

---

1768 10/14/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1717

Head Quarters Bolivar

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[239]

Head Quarters Bolivar  
(a good warm room)  
Oct 14th 1862

Dearest,

I have not written you for the last three days & I dont know but more. I will own up I have been quite unwell, threatened with a fever. I now eat cornstarch & Farina & a baked or roasted apple. I have thus far done all the duties of my post & hope to be decidedly better tomorrow.

John <Antish> has become guilty of an awful crime, robbing the mails.

I have persuaded Charles to go to the North. He cannot get well here. If my feverish turns hang on I shall have to go too.

Give much love to the children & many kisses. I shall send for you if my sickness should amount to any thing serious. God bless you.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

---

1769 10/15/1862 *From:* Addison Pool

*To:* My Dear Gen'l [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1718

Beaufort, N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8]

Beaufort, N.C. Oct 15th 1862

My Dear Gen'l,

Your kind Christian letter was duly received, and you may be assured I was very glad to hear that you were once more returned to your position in the army, and were recovering so well from your recent disaster.

It made me sad to notice the difference in your hand writing, but I knew you could see the hand of God in your affliction, and was prepared to abide his will.

I thank you Gen'l, for your kind advice, and will try to follow out your course of action, so plainly laid down. I shall take the earliest opportunity of receiving the ordnance of baptism, and delay joining any church until my way looks more clear, to connect myself with some body of christ's people at as early a day as practicable, however is my wish as I believe I shall be less subject to temptation, and stronger to resist, when I have the prayers of the church joined to my own, for strength to resist the allurements of sin.

I have had a very serious spell of sickness since writing you before, and was obliged to stay over at this place from our vessel, when she came here for coal ten days ago, however I am now much better, and hope soon to rejoin my ship in full health. I suppose you must be expecting warm work soon, and no doubt there will be much hard fighting before winter sets in. I hope you may be kept from harm and that we may yet meet this side the judgment – but above all that we may spend eternity together in the presence of him, in whom we trust.

My kind regards to your brother Charles, and thank him for his kind wishes on my behalf.

I am, Gen'l,  
very respectfully  
your obedient servant  
Addison Pool

---

1770 10/18/1862 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs. Lizzie A Howard

OOH-1719

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[324]

Portland Oct 18 1862

Mrs. Lizzie A Howard

Dear Niece

I received your letter with the Order for Merchants Bank dividend. I now enclose one hundred dollars \$100 – leaving due eight dollars which I will send with the Collection of the Rail Road Coupons.

We are all well hope this will find you & children all enjoying the same Blessing. Did hope we should see you in Portland.

With much love to all  
from your Affectionate  
Uncle  
E Waite

Please acknowledge recpt.

---

1771 10/19/1862 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1720

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[325]

Leeds Oct. 19, 1862

Dear Lizzie:

I came home here last Friday and return to College tomorrow. I extract the following from the Telegraphic dispatches in the Lewiston Daily Journal of yesterday.

"The Tribune's Harper's Ferry dispatch says Brig. Gen. Howard, who is prostrated by fever, leaves this morning for his home in Maine." The date was Oct. 17. Will you be kind enough to write Mother here and me at Brunswick what you know about it as of course we are exceedingly anxious to learn all we can in regard to the matter.

We are led to suppose that it is not a very severe attack, or he would be unable to travel six or eight hundred miles. Will Charles or Prof. Whittlesey or both come with him?

I shall return to College tomorrow and shall visit each train to see if they pass through there if they have not already done so.

It is needless to say that my poor aid, in any capacity, is at your disposal, if need be.

I have engaged the school at "Slab City" to teach this winter and shall have the privilege of coming home every week. I commence to teach two weeks from tomorrow, Nov. 3d. Jamie is well.

A kiss for Guy and Grace.

Very affectionately Yours  
R.H. Gilmore

---

1772 10/23/1862 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1721

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[327]

Leeds Oct. 23 1862

My dear brother

I arrived in safety last night home and trust you found as good a haven the day previous.

Mr. Webb was very cordial & urged me so much to stay longer that I was really embarrassed, but I wanted to get home. He sent his love to you & tho't he would write to you soon.

As Jamie is still with us I shall expect you & Lizzie to come up as soon as you are able. Jamie is well & very happy – seemed glad to see me & likes to talk or play with me. He came over with Isabella from her house this morning where they have been since last Saturday.

Jamie has a cold in his head but has not seemed sick.

Isabella seems to take the best of care of him. He speaks very distinctly some words.

When you come up I want Lizzie to bring my papers which she has in possession for me. Father will pay up a portion of the <cost>.

Mother is well & preparing for Winter – getting her plants & tomatoes in away from the Frost which is coming on apace.

My health seems to improve. The coating is leaving my tongue. I rested well in the boat from Boston to Portland tho' it was very rough.

My love to Lizzie & a big bunch to Guy & Grace. I send them some money which they will not be likely to spend. It will therefore spend well.

It is cold in this Longitude. How is it with you?

Write us when you can come.

Your Affectionate brother  
CH Howard

P.S. Louisa is making us a visit – seems happy & is as well as usual. Huldah is very low & is at Willard's.

---

1773 10/24/1862 *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* Dear Gen'l [OO Howard]

OOH-1722

Frederic City, Md

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[328]

Frederic City, Md.  
Oct 24, 1862

Dear Gen'l,

I was sorry not to have seen you again before you left, but was glad nevertheless that you got away so soon. I heard from you at Philadelphia thro' Capt. Whittlesey. I presume before this that you are with your dear family in your own home. May God's blessing be with all there.

I was quite unwell and felt obliged to ask for a leave. My throat became sore and my cough increased. Dr. Palmer recommended a leave of twenty days, which Genl. Gorman particularly requested, and advised me to go to Maine, but I tho't it better to go no further back than this place, especially in the present state of my cough. I left Bolivar Wednesday. I have a nice boarding place in the family of a Methodist Clergyman, they are very kind to me. I expect my wife to join me tomorrow. I felt considerably better yesterday, but am not nearly as well today, and have been obliged to keep my bed most of the time. I hope however to recruit rappidly, and to be able to join my Regmt, before the expiration of my leave of absence. I do not like to be away from it, as long as I command it, tho' I should much prefer some other service.

I got quite discouraged with my success before I left. I tho't, that I had my command in a good state of discipline, and was vain enough to believe that it was a good Regmt, but that Lt. Jones who inspected it, made a very unfavorable report. He reported every Regmt, I believe in the Division to be in a poor state of discipline, arms in bad condition, and appearance bad. Genl. McClellan wrote a note to Gen Gorman in regard to it. I felt that injustice had been done me, and made a statement in reply, at the suggestion of Genl Gorman. I was sorry that the report did not come before you left. It was an outrageous report, and really untrue. He says in his report that with the exception of the 1st Maine, no books except the morning report books are kept in either of the Regmts. He did not inspect my books, which I know to be correctly kept. Of course I was pretty angry, to be disgraced so early, and after I had worked so hard to put my Regmt in proper shape. I am quite out with the war, and would gladly return to the quiet of my own home, but I suppose it is my duty to remain, and trusting in my heavenly Father who has ever been so good to me. I will try to do what seems to be my duty.

Genl. Gorman is commanding the Division, and Col. Suiter our Brigade. The Genl is very kind to me, and were it not for his profanity, I should like him very well. I wish his heart might be reached.

Every body seems to think that the army is to advance, but there were no indications of it when I left.

I hope my dear Genl, that you may be able to return soon. I want my Regmt in another Division you may have. It was very lonesome after you left.

I shall remain here until I am able to join the Regmt.

Give my kindest regards to your wife and the children also to Charles if with you. May the grace of our Lord & Savior be multiplied to you and yours.

Yrs Very truly  
F.D. Sewall

Letters directed to the care of Rev. B.H. <Carver> will reach me here.

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1774 10/27/1862 *From:* Andrew Merrell

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1723

Geneva, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[252]

Geneva, N.Y. Oct. 27th 1862

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Your very acceptable letter was received a few days since. I thank you for your benediction upon the boy who bears your name, and also for your excellent photograph. It is but a few days since I was presented with a beautiful album and expressed the wish that your face might have a place within it, - a wish I did not expect so soon to have gratified.

Since returning home my health has been variable. It is now generally good, though I cannot endure what I once could. Were I able to return to the army there is no one under whom I should more desire to serve than yourself.

Dr. Snow, I am sorry to say, has done me an injustice by circulating the report that I was "inefficient" in the service, "did little or nothing," and so overtaken him as to "cause his dismissal".

Dr. Palmer used to tell me that Dr. Snow was jealous in his feelings toward me, but I did not then believe it. He said, too, when the Dr's troubles began, that, had it not been for the accuracy & promptness with which I made out the Surgeon's reports, Dr. S. would have been dismissed long before, and he has also kindly sent me a statement, over his own signature, to the effect that "Dr. Merrell, as Ass't Surgeon, was not surpassed by any in the Division," xxx "That he often performed the duties of Surgeon & always correctly & promptly" xxx "That he (Dr. P.) knows of no man better calculated, did his health permit, to become an efficient & prompt Surgeon in the field than Dr. Merrell."

Although I do not fear the ultimate effect of such "small minded jealous scandal," (as Dr. Palmer calls it in a letter to me) it is nevertheless unlooked for treatment from one whose faults I endeavored to conceal & whose reputation I guarded with the utmost consideration, and it is a satisfaction, if not a duty, to be able to refute these calumnies by the credentials of such men as yourself & Dr. Palmer. If, therefore, you find leisure briefly to state, whether, in your opinion, I was faithful in the performance of my duties & held the confidence & respect of my regiment while connected with your Brigade, I shall be very much gratified.

From the papers I learn that you have been raising a new Brigade from which I judge that you intend returning to the army.

Please present my kind regards to your brother, from whom I should be pleased to hear and whose photograph I should also prize.

Very Respectfully Yours  
Andrew Merrell

---

1775 10/28/1862 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. O. O. Howard

OOH-1724

Philadelphia

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[256]

Kennebec Telegraph

Augusta Oct 28th 1862

By Telegraph from Philadelphia

To Mrs. O. O. Howard

Have had slow fever. Better now. Home Tuesday on short leave.  
O.O. Howard

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1776 10/29/1862 *From:* C. Briggs U.S.  
Actng Surgeon

*To:* To Whom it May Concern

OOH-1725

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[329]

Lieut C H Howard of the Regiment of Maine volunteers having applied for a certificate on which to ground an application for an extension of leave of absense I do hereby certify that I have carefully examined this Officer & find that he is suffering from lameness of the right leg caused by a wound from a musket ball through the thigh from chronic diarrhea & piles. And that in consequence thereof, he is in my opinion unfit for duty. I further declare my belief that he will not be able to resume his duties in a less period than thirty days from the sixth of November.

C. Briggs U.S. Actg Surgeon

Augusta Oct 29, 1862

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1777 10/29/1862 *From:* W.H.M. [William H.  
Merrick]

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1726

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[230]

Phila Oct. 29/62

My dear Otis

Your two notes have been received and I am greatly obliged for the contents of both. The likeness is admirable only your modesty has prevented you being in the right rig - Genl H. ought to have a Genl's feathers on.

My health is not yet quite what it ought to be. I went to N.Y. last week & have been knocking about too much within the last few days & do not feel at all well to day. I have serious thoughts of slipping away for a short time & try Maine air.

My love to all. Yrs. affy.

W.H.M. [William H. Merrick]

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1778 11/2/1862 *From:* Harry [Stinson]

*To:* My dear Mother [Emily Stinson]

OOH-1727

Camp in the Field

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[231]

Camp in the Field  
Sunday Evening  
November 2d /62

My dear Mother, [Emily S. Stinson]

Your letter of the 28th was received last evening containing the gratifying intelligence of Gen. Howards generous offer.

Gratifying, because I consider it a high honor from a noble general. After thinking over the matter and considering it in its different bearings I have decided not to accept the position, even if it was a sure thing.

You may be surprised that such should be my decision, but I have not jumped at this conclusion.

My reason is simply this, I have not the necessary capital. If I should accept such a position I must live as a staff officer. In the first place I must buy a horse, and it is doubtful if one horse would be sufficient. Government allows forage for one horse only and if obliged to keep a second I must buy forage, then I must have a servant. If my horse is hurt on the road I must buy another. They only pay the loss of a horse when he is killed under fire and even then it is a round about process to obtain remuneration. Besides this it would be more necessary to dress in good style which requires funds.

Perhaps I have overestimated the expense, but were it less I could not cover it at present, and I do not know when I shall get any pay as there is trouble about it as I was not assigned to the vacancy which existed at the time of my commission. I will not try to explain the matter to you, indeed it was my intention not to mention it at all till rendered necessary. I have written to Mr Blaine in regard to the matter. I hope to get it after a while.

These are the reasons and these only that have brought me to the above decision.

I should have liked the position very much, for it is truly a splendid situation. I have not given up the idea without some regret. You can see how the matter stands, and do not feel bad that I have come to this conclusion. The chance for promotion is about as good here if not better, but I do not expect any of that for a long time.

This afternoon we had a sermon from the Chaplain. There we sat as the sun was setting this fine autumnal day while ever and anon came the dull and heavy booming of the cannon from our advance. I am beginning to like soldiering and if I was paid off and matters straitened so I could send you some I think I should be as happy as ever I was.

Love to the boys. Tell Herb I should not have objected to doing the same thing he did at school. Remember me to Aunt Caddy and Hattie. I stand the march first rate.

Your affectionate son  
Harry [Stinson]

Nov 3d evening. Have advanced about 7 miles in the direction of Sniggers Gap in the Blue Ridge.

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1779 11/5/1862    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1728

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[232]

Leeds Nov. 5th 1862

My dear Lizzie

Your letter to Isabella came last night with the money safe although the letter was not sealed. We are all well as usual. Father has gone to a R.R. meeting at Farmington. I also recv'd a letter from you & the accompanying letters from Dr. P. & Capt Whittlesey for which you have my thanks.

I will send those statistics to the State Adj. General's Office today I think. I suppose Otis only wished me to copy & correct what he had written & I will do so. I shall be glad to go to Texas if Otis should go & want me. Hope he will go, if it please God.

I cannot send my Commission till father gets back as it is in his safe & then I dont think we will get our pay any sooner for that will not prove that I have been mustered in. I have already written that I was mustered in by Capt Whipple & it occurred the 27th June 1861. Since that date I have never been out of service, therefore did not require a remuster.

Dellie began his school last monday morning and boards with Mr. Joe Frost.

I saw Laura yesterday & little Otis well & I took Uncle Ensign down to the Cars to go to Farmington. Father has sold the two cattle-cars for \$200.

Mother sends love to you & the children. She has this morning bought 4 qts. of Beechnuts which I spoke for yesterday, and intends them as a present to you, says she will send them down the first opportunity. They were picked by Charlie Hanson & brother.

Cousin Aurelia Preston (Leadbeter) is quite low. Otis has often said he would like to call on her. Did he have time or did he think of doing so when he went on. She seems to have Consumption. Aunt Lucretia is going on to stay some time with her.

It looks like a storm & has been raining a little this morning.

You ought to be up here now if you like <veo cide>.

The papers seem to indicate that a battle is soon to take place. I cannot decide whether Sedgwick's Div. has left Harpers Ferry or not. Hancock who has Richardson's Div. is in the advance & in all probability the whole Corps is together.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Isabella is almost homesick, she wants to see Jamie so much.

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1780 11/6/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1729

Harpers Ferry  
Dr Palmers room

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[233]

Harpers Ferry  
Dr Palmers room  
Thursday Morning  
Nov 6 1862

Dearest,

I arrived here with Capt Whittlesey & John at 10 P.M. last night. Am just about to start for Snickersville Gap about 30 miles distant. Have a borrowed horse & a two horse Ambulance.

I reached Boston at 2 P.M. Monday, went to the Parker House, called on Gen Banks, saw his wife, dined, went to 67 Rutland St, saw Mr & Mrs Webb. They gave a pressing invitation for you to come to them. Mrs Webb said she would write you if she thought you would not take the invitation, come & take the children. You go down Washington St cars - to Rutland St.

Good bye & God bless you. I am well.

Yr aff. husband  
Otis

---

1781 11/8/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [CH Howard]

OOH-1730

Head Qrs. 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[11]

Head Qrs. 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Nov 8 1862  
7 miles from Warrenton

Dear Brother,

I am here & at it again. We waited tonight till 8 for our wagons to come up. Yesterday we had quite a snow storm, but the sun came out today & dissipated it. Many inquire for you & express sorrow that you are not back, as Gen Williams, Gen Couch, Major Walker, Capt Taylor & others. I had the warmest kind of receptions from Gen McClellan, Gen Couch, Gen Sumner & all. Gen Gorman only feels badly that he loses the Divn. I hav'nt yet assigned him to a Brigade as Sully has his. Gen Burns has a Divn in Burnside's old Corps. Couch retains this. Sumner has the Grand Corps i.e. the command of two or more.

Gen. McClellan was relieved today & ordered to Newton N.J. We are frightened. There we are in the midst of a rapid march, the enemy on one side of the Blue Ridge and we the other, running for "gaps" & position. Burnside feels dreadfully without a staff, and without sufficient statistical & topographical knowledge to be put over an army that he hardly would dare command under the best of circumstances. All this creates uneasiness. I should feel safer with McClellan to finish what he had planned & was executing so well. Slocum with his Corps commands Harper's Ferry.

Capt Whittlesey & I staid with Dr Palmer at Harpers Ferry in our old house transformed into a Corps Hospital, together with all the neighboring houses. He had one room his own & we slept with him. We got an ambulance of Gen. Slocum & started Thursday morning - 35 miles first day - 20 the 2nd & today 12 - brings us here. Col Hall commands Danas. Owens dismissed & reinstated commands Burns Brigade. I have Harry Stinson appointed but he has'nt arrived.

Much love to Mother. This my birthday - 32.

Gen. Banks said to me in Boston he would be pleased to have me go with him. I called on him at Parker house. Mr Webb wants you to go up & stay with him. Wm Merrick is quite well. Capt Whittlesey has been sick & is not well. I shall see Thomas Bubin tomorrow, & perhaps Geo. Bates in a day or two. Col. Sewall is getting better. We are soon to pass our old stomping grounds beyond Manassas.

I didnt get your letter at Augusta & hav'nt yet. I hope you will try to gain much in Spirituality, get near the Lord. Mrs Greble said much of you. She & the children were well. Love to Father, Mother, Isabella & all. Let us have letters. Tell Rowland & Dellie that I am well.

I now feel sorry for McClellan. I fear we hav'nt a better man.

God bless you all.

Yr Aff Bro  
Otis

---

1782 11/8/1862     *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1731

Head Quarters  
Howard's Divn  
Rector Town, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[234]

Head Quarters Howard's Divn  
Nov 8 1862 Rector Town, Va.

Dearest,

I have got up early on this my Birthday morning to write you before the march. I reached Gen McClellans Head Qrs yesterday about 11 a.m. in a regular old fashioned Maine snow storm. I went directly to McClellan's private tent, found him and Genl Williams together in a comfortable tent. I received a warm welcome. Gen Mc. said I was the Jonah to bring such a storm, and he had half a mind to order me straight back. He said they were talking of me and were really glad to see me. I got the same warm reception from Gen. Couch. I hav'nt seen Gen. Sumner. He got here about 15 minutes before me, or rather reported then at Gen. Hd Qrs. He commands two Corps, ours & another & leaves us Gen Couch.

Now I will go back and begin where I left off at Harpers Ferry and give you a brief account of my journey. I told you of my visit to Mr Webb. He went with me to the Wn St cars & directed me on my way. I saw Mr Twing in the cars down and inquired for Cousin Susie. She drives her carriage about Boston fearlessly. I met Lieut Whittier, Gen Sedgwick's Aid. He showed me a letter from Gen. S. He could not be back for four weeks.

I went on to F. River Depot and then found the young lady from Auburn Miss Stevens who had put herself under my charge, for conduction to Jersey city. I think she was about 15. I felt somewhat interested in her because "she had never been aboard a Steamer before." John & I secured a good State room. After ten I took the young lady round to look at the Salon &c and then conducted her to the lady's cabin. I had a prime sleep on the boat.

We reached N.Y. about 8 a.m. I ran up to 501, found I must go to Brady's corner 10th & Broadway - sat for my picture. They took a small one & a large one. I hurried down to Canal St., took Desbrosses St. Ferry & met John & baggage at Jersey City via J City Ferry. We went on to Phila in 10 a.m. train.

I breakfasted at a saloon at 2 ½ P.M. for I had only eaten two apples. I then went on Mr Guff's found all the Greble's, Mrs Sully's little ones but she was gone out. I staid awhile, went out and got some books & play things for Eddie & Clair & returned, staid till after ten. Mrs Greble & the children were glad enough to chat with me. Little Clair calls me God father & so does Edwin. He don't look so happy as he used to. I found Col Leach who married Miss Hannah Greble, a class mate of mine at West Point, at home temporarily. I went to Wm Merricks found him quite well, with a good old fashioned cold.

The next day I left Phila at 11.35. I found Capt W. very pale & thin, he is now not well, though full of goodness & self-denial. Mrs W looked very full of sorrow, & I didn't wonder.

We reached Harper's ferry a little after 10 P.M. found Dr Palmer in our old Qrs filling every room with sick. He had reserved our little room. We slept there on the floor & were thankful. The next day we rode 35 miles over an unguarded route but without accident. Yesterday 20 more miles - now on Manassas Gap R.R. On today - Harry Stinson has been appointed A.D.C. & ordered to report to me if he accepts.

Give much love to Guy Grace & Jamie. There is no immediate danger of a battle, probably not at all.

Don't be anxious. God bless & keep you. Tell them at Mr Danl Williams that Gen Williams inquires for all & for his little nephew especially. He is looking in prime health. My kindest regards to Mrs Clark & Lottie. I could'nt pay her son for carriage. Please send a qr or half.

Affectionately your husband  
O.O. Howard



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1783 11/9/1862      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]      *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1732      Head Qrs 2nd Divn near  
Warrenton

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[235]

Head Qrs 2nd Divn near  
Warrenton Nov. 9, 1862

Dearest,

Yesterday we made a march of 8 miles and are now located on the Gainsville road within a mile of Warrenton Va. We got into camp quite early last evening. The wind was blowing hard and I placed Hd Qrs in a ravine. This morning we turned out our troops and drew them up along the road to give a parting salute to Genl McClellan. He rode along and the tattered colors were lowered, the drums beat and the men cheered him. Gen. Burnside rode by his side. I called on McClellan yesterday. He appeared well, said: "Burnside is a pure man & a man of integrity of purpose & such a man cant go far wrong". He also said in the course of our conversation "I have been long enough in command of a large army to learn the utter insignificance of any man unless he depend on a power above". It is not possible to be associated with Genl McClellan and not love him.

After visiting McClellan I went to pay my respects to Genl Burnside. He looked very tired as he undoubtedly was for he said he had been without sleep for a night or two. He had concluded to take the command but did not regard it as a fit subject for congratulation. I gave him my words of allegiance & came away.

Tuesday Nov 11.

I was interrupted yesterday so that I did not finish my letter. Yesterday we did not move waiting for supplies & for Genl Burnside to get his staff in working order. I inspected a brigade yesterday after 3 P.M. It took me until after sunset & then called upon Genl Couch & had a pleasant conversation with him. He looks younger than I, is quiet and good & I like him much.

Harry Stinson came to me last night and said he had concluded to decline my appointment, & he said the only reason was that he had no horse & no money to buy one. I told him to come if that was all and I would furnish him a horse till he can pay for it. The position of Aid De Camp will increase his pay. He appeared delighted at the idea of coming to live with me. He was looking well. His corps now is at New Baltimore half way between here & Gainsville.

I have applied for another young man to act as aid, till it is decided about Chas. He is a fine, Christian young man and has been long anxious to get on my Staff.

I hope you are well of your cold & happy. You have a good deal to bear and alone. I wish I could help you. How is Guy, hard at play still? If you have such cold weather as we do you dont let them play out of doors much. Does Guy still want papa to resign? How is Gracie this morning? And little Jamie. Give very much love & many kisses to them all. I have written to Charles but have not heard from him.

I never gave Jno. Ivory the letter that came to him at Augusta. Please send it. And I cannot find the letter of Genl Sedgwick now about Cols. Owen & Morehead. Col. Sewall has'nt yet come back. We are expecting him daily. Col Ames is near me & well. Col. Chamberlain came to see me. I hear that Capt. Commerand of Waldoboro is Capt of a Co. in the 21st.

Much love & God bless you.

Aff.

Otis

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1784 11/10/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1733

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[236]

Leeds Nov 10 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

It is 10 o'clock in the evening & father & mother are preparing for bed. We have had family prayers and Isabella who completes the household has gone to bed. I read tonight the 37th Chap of Ezekiel. Please notice how you may take the decorations or promises in the last part of that Chapter – from the 22d to 28th verse and embody them into an appropriate prayer for our nation at the present time – with very slight modification.

We have been hoping to hear from you for several days. We feel particularly anxious to get any word about Otis. Mother feels a great deal of anxiety for him & is continually speaking of him. She asked me to write to you in hopes to get something from you about him as well as about yourself & the children. We want to know how you are. Mother also expresses anxiety lest you may not be well. And how are the children not forgetting little Jamie?

I hope you will give us a few lines at least by return of mail.

The papers brought exciting news tonight. McClellan gone. We will at least indulge the hope that a change will not result for the worse. McClellan has really seemed to me much to be blamed for lying still thus long & permitting the Rebels to escape again.

Four letters from Oscar Turner came into the neighborhood Sat. night. He is well & seems to be expecting active duty – to enter upon the more terrible realities of war. He is now in Md. not far from Rockville.

George Huzzy who enlisted in the 16th Regt. from this town while I was at home in August – a fine young man & a Christian is dead. His funeral sermon was to be preached at the Center last Sabbath but it was so rainy none of our family attended. His folks live next house beyond Mrs. Veranus Lothrop's.

Dellie came home Sat. Eve. I went over & visited his school & bro't him home. He has a good school & school-house. He says the easiest school he has ever had. I took him back this morning.

I got an answer from the Adjt. General's Department tonight inclosing an order which I had not seen saying a Leave was not necessary, for an extension, only the Surgeon's certificate, duly certified; & that the one I sent covered my case satisfactorily. I, however, need a copy of it which I think I will write to Dr. Briggs to furnish me. Poor Jameson is gone & poor Gen. Richardson. I do hope their attention has been directed to their soul's welfare since they have been upon beds of languishing.

Do not omit to give lots of love to Guy & Grace from their Uncle Charlie. I really hope Otis may in Providence go to Texas & that I may accompany him. But the Lord will direct all these things for the best.

Rowland writes all well & Sarah on her way home.

Do write us for the good cheer of  
Yr. Very loving br.  
Charles

---

1785 11/12/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1734

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[237]

Leeds Nov. 12th 1862

Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Brother

We got our first news from you tonight by letter from Lizzie. She writes that She has got well of her cold & that the children are well. Asks if all the "ifs" are cleared away whether I will not take her to New York with me to see you before you go to Texas.

Seeing by tonight's paper that Gen. Augur is going with Banks & is to be Maj. Gen. makes me fear you will not go. But, I will be reconciled to the disposition Providence shall make of us.

In answer to my application for leave Adj. Genl. Townsend sent Gen. Order No. 160 War Department, also adding a note saying my certificate covered my absence. But I see that I should have a duplicate one to shew to my commanding officer on my return & for fear either that you might forget that you saw mine or that some other commanding officer might require it I have sent to Dr. Briggs for a duplicate copy.

6 Me. Regts. & a battery go with Banks. He ought to have a Maj. Gen. from Maine.

I saw a letter in the Portland Press tonight which spoke in high terms of you but rather higher of Berry I thought, saying that Gen. Hooker recommended him for Maj. Gen. & that Gen. Berry had been in Hookers Div. (Where?) The letter was from Washington & spoke in the highest terms of Jameson, now gone. Lizzie has heard that he joined the Church before he died.

I am in hopes to be quite well & strong by the expiration of the Leave which is the 6th of Dec. & I feel quite a desire to go with you if you go to Texas.

I wonder where you are tonight. I hope well. My kindest regards to Capt. Whittlesey, - hope he is fully restored. If I were not still troubled with my leg I should believe myself as fit for duty as ever. In helping father "fix up" for Winter I find I cannot "hold out" long especially in the lower extremity. But my leg grows stronger I think & upon level ground you would not notice that I walk lame at all.

Mother is well & has been taking out a "baking" this evening. The warm weather today has carried off pretty much all the snow. Isabella is at home for a few days - expects her brother home next week whose foot does not heal. Fabyon of South Leeds whom I enlisted has died from Diptheria.

Have you heard from Lt. Stinson? I see that Gorman is in Washington. How did Gen. Augur have a Divn in 2d Corps? Was it a mistake of the news-paper?

May the Lord bless & keep you.

Your Affec. Br.  
Charles

Letter from Rowland says all well. He is anxious about you & Mother is almost afraid to have the mail come for fear of some bad news. Good deal of excitement now about McClellan's removal. I am well satisfied, aren't you?  
C.H.H.

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1786 11/12/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1738b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This page of a letter from Otis to Lizzie was glued to a letter from Otis to Guy dated Nov 17, 1862.]

[MISSING BEGINNING To Lizzie] [Nov 12, 1862 - See Note]

I heard of the death of Genl Jameson a few days ago. [Gen. Charles Davis Jameson died Nov. 6, 1862.] Mrs Jameson's brother Capt Smith is my commissary. I am very glad to know that the Genl is a member of the Church and hope he was able to find strength from on high during his last pain or sickness. I mean to write to Mrs Jameson.

I don't think I shall be allowed to go to Texas. This is quite as good a place now & I can get home in case of sickness &c. I want Chas. to go to Maj Gardiner & be mustered in to date from his commission. He need not bother about the medical certificate. I shall write him by next mail. He must stay here four or five days at the least. In the mean time I shall try & write to all my <promised> friends.

I saw Gen Williams last Friday & find him well. The army is in good shape & I believe well managed.

Much love (our mail goes)

Yr husband

Otis

[Note: This ending of a letter to Lizzie must have been written before Guy's (Nov 17, 1862) and a few days after the death of Gen. Jameson on Nov 6. I assume his letter to Lizzie was written about Nov 12, 1862.]

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1787 11/14/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1736

Head Quarters  
Warrenton Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[238]

Head Quarters Warrenton Va  
Nov 14, 1862

Dearest,

I anticipated getting a letter from you today but did not. I got your note written the day I left enclosing the one for John Ivory. It has been now almost two weeks since I left home and I am very anxious to hear from you, darling, and my precious little flock. I hope you are well.

I got a telegraph dispatch tonight, which gave me some feelings of uneasiness before I broke the seal, but it was on military business. Yesterday I had a Divn drill and today inspected a brigade with the assistance of Lieut Stinson, who is worth his weight in gold. He is so intelligent & quick that I like him much. I have now finished the inspection of my entire division except the Arty. & find it in very good trim. I have now appointed Col. Sewall on my staff to take this duty off my hands.

Did I tell you that Gov. Washburn with his aide Col Hathaway, came to see us and I accompanied them all around to visit different Maine Regiments. The Governor was very agreeable & I enjoyed his visit. He said he should call upon you when he got back & tell you how hearty I am.

We will probably move tomorrow and the next letter will show you where we are. Gen. Burnside has just got ready to go on. I do not think the march will be dangerous.

I want to get time to write to Guy and Grace, but tell them papa has had such big bundles to attend to that he could not get time. Much love to yourself & them. Commending you to God.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

---

1788 11/16/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1737

Head Quarters  
"Spotted Tavern" Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[211]

Head Quarters near  
"Spotted Tavern" Va  
November 16 1862

Dearest,

I felt too tired to write last night but am less so tonight though we have made a march of nearly twenty miles today. Last night I encamped two miles this side i.e. south east of Warrenton Junction. Tonight we are about 13 miles from Fredericksburg, Va. we (i.e. Couch's Corps) move in three columns one in the row, one on the right & the 3d on the left of the road. I have the left. Today it has been our fortune to have woods to march in most of the way. The pioneers go ahead, open the fences, clear away the brush & cut the small trees in our path. One Brigade has the lead one day and another the next. Gen. Sully an old army officer has Gen. Gorman's Brigade. Col. Hull, whom you knew at West Point commands Gen. Dana's Brigade. Gen. Dana, I met in Phila. His leg is still lame. I have learned since that he is in Washington. Col Owen, who formerly commanded a Regt. in Burn's brigade, commands my 3d Brigade. The army has been divided into 4 grand

	Left	Center	Right	
divisions	Franklin	Hooker	Sumner	
Corps	6th	1st	Porters Hint old 6 3d	Couch Wilcox 2nd 9th

Gen. Siegel has the reserve. Yesterday I crossed my old line of march made last Winter. The ground that was so wet and muddy then is very dry now. The weather is beautiful. We anticipate rain tomorrow as it has clouded up this evening.

It has'nt been much like Sunday with us today – marching on – on. You have undoubtedly been to church. I hope you have enjoyed it & Guy & Grace the Sunday School, and the darling little Jamie the company of Auntie Clark and John. My love to all.

I think we are moving now as rapidly as the country can wish. I hope it is the will of God for us to succeed this time, but I fear much, as I have said, on account of our own wickedness. I saw two Generals commanding divisions, drunk day before yesterday, and another yesterday, much under the influence of liquor.

I have just announced Lieut Atwood as Aide a fine modest young man. He and Lieut. Harry M. S. will tent together. Capt W. & I tent together and they come in for prayers. We, Capt. W & I, sleep on the ground & side by side, in a Sibley tent. [Sketch of a Sibley tent a conical structure over a central pole.] The stove you see is the central figure – our heads near the eaves, feet towards the fire.

Much love & many kisses from papa to the children & much love much sympathy & God bless you.

From your loving husband  
Otis

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1789 11/17/1862 *From:* Your Father *To:* My dear Guy [Howard]  
O.O.H [OO Howard]  
OOH-1738a Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
*Source:* Bowdoin Near Falmouth Va  
Opposite Fredricksburg

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[no number stamp]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
Nov. 17, 1862  
Near Falmouth Va, Opposite Fredricksburg

My dear Guy,

I wrote Mamma last night and think I will write you tonight. The rebels fired some heavy guns at some of our troops but did not hit or hurt any of us. This afternoon after we had pitched our tents, nearly a mile and a half from the Rappahannock River, a number of big guns and a Brigade of our soldiers were sent down to drive the rebels back from the other side of the river. This was done - some of these guns will fire a ball three miles - i.e. further than it is from Augusta to Hallowell. The rebel guns fired one ball which hit a wheel of Capt Petit's battery & broke it. They, the rebels, soon ran away and our troops marched down to the river and into the little town of Falmouth, about as large as Winthrop village. Fredericksburg is on the other side of the river, thus: [Sketch showing the Rappahannock River and the towns of Falmouth on one side and, downstream a little, Fredericksburg on the other.]

Fredericksburg is quite a large city. Perhaps you would like to have papa tell you the names of the officers who sit at his table now - Capt. Bachelder, he takes charge of the wagons & horses. Capt Smith, he takes care to feed the soldiers. Col. Sewall, he sees to the guns & belts & knapsacks &c that they are in good order. Capt. Whittlesey, he writes the orders. Lieut Harry Stinson & Lieut Atwood assist papa in moving, camping, &c. of all the 14 Regts. & two batteries of his divn. Dr Sherman in place of Dr Palmer sees to all the sick.

Good night my dear Guy. Papa prays for you & you must for him.

Your (<[CHECK ORIGINAL- page edge glued with another].) Father  
O.O.H

Papa sends to Mamma in this letter \$100.

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1790 11/19/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1739

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps near  
Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[213]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps near Falmouth Va  
Novr 19th 1862

My dear little daughter,

I wrote Guy a day or two ago and now I have another chance to send a letter and think I must write you. We are still in the same place as when I wrote Guy, waiting to make some bridges before we can go on to drive back the rebels.

Papa is now very well, his arm aches considerably, but he is otherwise well. His horse "Charlie" has learned to be cross since he went home. Gen. Gorman's horse was hitched along side of 'Charlie' and he didn't seem to like it so he kick Gen. Gorman's furiously. Besides this Dr Palmer's horse kicked "Charlie" so that it made 'Charlie's leg quite sore; and McDonald my hostler went home while I was sick and a negro lad took care of him and being a sensible horse he took offence and so now he puts back his ear & acts as if he was going to kick. I gave him a potato yesterday from my hand, which he turned around and ate very kindly. I shall not like to take him home if he does not behave well.

The mail carrier is waiting for me. Tell Mamma I sent a hundred dollars in Guys letter.

Love to Mamma

" " Guy  
" " Jamie  
" " Auntie Clark  
" " Lottie

Papa will be glad to get a letter. Goes Gracie love her Saviour?

Yr loving father  
O.O. Howard

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1791 11/20/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1740

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps. Near  
Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[244]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps. Near Falmouth Va.  
November 20, 1862

Dearest,

Our Mail has been suspended since we left Warrenton Junction till today. Today we got our first letters by the way of Acquia Creek. I got two big letters & one little one from you, enclosing Guy's and Gracie's. I was really glad to get them and only sorry that the date was no later than the 9th inst.

I think I wrote you from Phila., know I did from Harper's Ferry and have written very often since. I hope you have got my letters. I sent one by an orderly to Harper's Ferry, and have sent the rest directly to Washington. A day or two ago I directed a letter to Guy to your care containing one hundred dollars. I wrote to Grace the next day, but I think Guy's & one to you will get home much the soonest for they went by different routes. The first were taken by a reporter directly to the nearest station that communicated with Washington.

Today we changed camp a little nearer Falmouth (your old habitation?) And now I am living upon a high bluff covered with stones as thick as hail. It is now evening raining very hard and has nearly all the afternoon.

The children's letters were a great treat. How quickly they have learned to write legibly, almost as quickly as papa the second time. They both spelt mamma with one m in the middle - thus "mama". I think those are <bad boots> to make a young man's side & <feet> ache don't you?

I have worn my india rubber boots today & they made my feet ache. I am afraid Guy put his hands in the snow. The rain comes through the top of my Sibley tent right down on my letter and makes it look much worse than it otherwise would .

Harry Stinson has become quite domesticated & I think is contented. He has not yet bought a horse. I had him furnished with a public one for the present & I do not think it will be more expensive for him; considering his increase of pay he will be able to send home as much & perhaps more than before. I believe thus far we are mutually pleased with each other.

Mr Atwood too is a fine young man, member of the Episcopal Church & sensitive.

Capt. W. has been well until today. He has a slight indisposition today. He looks many times better than when I found him in Phila.

We have a pretty hard storm to stand, but it will prevent "raids". The country will wonder why we wait here five or six days. Our answer is men must rest, so must horses & mules. We take five or 6 days supply start off - at the end of that time you must have something more. The <track> depots & bridges are destroyed between here & Acquia Creek. They are being rebuilt as rapidly as possible. Last night after I had got to bed & asleep who should come in but Sprigg Carroll, with three friends. He was just on his way from Washington to his brigade. They call him General, though he has not yet been confirmed. He had a picture of Mrs C. & Katy. He inquired for you & Guy & Grace & sends his kind regards. Mrs Carroll, his mother has gone to Pr George's Md. to the funeral of her brother. Sprigg says that brother was'nt much loss as he drank himself to death. Mr. C is the same old sixpence.

Good night, my darling wife. God bless thee.  
Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

Kind regards to Mrs Clark & Lottie. Many Kisses to G, G, & J. Give my love to Mrs Stinson & Mrs Daniel

Williams.

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1792 11/20/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1741

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[245]

Leeds Nov. 20, 1862  
Dear Brother

We were very glad to get your letter to me written 7 miles from Warrenton & upon your arrival with the army. We were relieved to know that you were well & hope soon to be reassured.

I am so much recovered as to feel much inclined to return to duty. If it is my duty to continue in the struggle until either it is ended or my longer adherence is rendered impossible. I am sure I would not shrink from the labor, the hardship or the sacrifice. How shall I decide whether it be duty? I made up my mind to accompany you if you should go to Texas. So far it is decided. Now the question remains – What, if you do not go?

My health is good. My leg has grown stronger tho' it is by no means equal to the other & if I were in Infantry Service I should be able to decide at once that I ought to resign. I could not march on foot. I am not strong physically but I believe it is because there has hardly been time enough to develop my muscles since I got better.

Unless something in Providence shall transpire to make the path of duty plain I shall depend much upon your wishes in the matter of returning.

Have you not been a little cramped in your staff Lts. Have you, I believe, Mr. Stinson not arrived?

Is <Steele> with you? Give him my kind regards & ask how he likes the horse. If I am to come back, I ought to get me a saddle here & perhaps a horse – tho' I believe it would be better not to get a horse here if you think there is a tolerable chance to buy one out there. This for two or more reasons one the cost & trouble of taking one on, another the difficulty of procuring a suitable one here and another that I will not draw my two months pay till I get to Washington if I come on.

I have written to & got answer from Maj. Gardiner who says he will muster me in on presentation of my Commission & to date from the same. I only wait the return of my Commission from W.

Hayes writes that this mustering in is all that is required.

How is John Ivory and I am anxious to learn how Capt. Whittlesey's health is. I hope he is well again. I hear nothing from Col. Miles & my promotion in the 61st N.Y. If I should conclude to resign I should like first to get my promotion which is due me from the time the vacancy occurred.

Oscar Turner was disappointed at not seeing you on your return as also Clark Curtis, who is at Alexa. The latter is expecting a furlough. His foot is no better. He is at the Prince St. Hospital. Oscar wrote in answer to me that he had heard only two prayers since they left Portland & that there were no praying men in his company. Plenty of swearing which he says "sounds disagreeable" to him. His (23d) with 5 other Me. Regts (9 mos.) is to go with Banks. I dont believe Gen. Sumner will consent to you leaving.

How does the Divn seem? Has it improved. With a staff all our own it seems to me I would like much to be with you again (if it is my duty). I do not feel certain that I am as good an aid as you can get, if I did I dont know as I should hesitate to urge coming back. May the Lord, my Guide, this time also as heretofore direct my steps.

All well. Mother says she thinks of you almost constantly. I was edified by a good old preacher of the Gospel up at the Methodist house last Sabbath. Mother, Isabella, Dellie & I walked up. Mr. Chapin is at Frederic Md. in hospital. I have been helping father paint his Grave-yard fence. I read aloud a good deal to Mother & Isabella. Intend to visit Augusta as soon as the Com'n arrives for which I wrote last week. I may visit Bangor 1st of next week & be back to Thanksgiving 27th Inst. Write me as often as possible. From the papers I judge you are

nearing Fredericksburg. I made some feeble efforts to draw near to my Lord & feel that He is blessing me greatly tho' I never was more conscious of my own wickedness & dependence upon His mercy.

I know almost nothing about our Corps & its prospects. Kind regards to your staff. Is Dr. P. with you?

Very affectionately  
Charles

P.S. My certificate extends to Dec. 6th. If I return, I ought to start by Dec. 1st or 2d. C.H.H.

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1793 11/22/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1742

Head Qrs. near  
Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[217]

Head Qrs. near Falmouth  
Va. Nov 22, 1862

Dearest,

I was disappointed last night when a large mail came without a letter for Head Quarters, but this morning I got one that had found its way into a Brigade mail. Last night Capt Whittlesey and I felt so confident there must be a letter for some one of us, that we had two or three immense mail bags brought in to search, but there was such a large number that we gave up after about a half hour's work.

I was sorry to see that you seemed to feel so sad. You said you kept putting off writing till you felt more like it, or something which I so interpreted. I don't wonder at your feelings, darling, and am happy that you have so good sense & bear up so well.

I have not yet bought a horse for Harry, but let him ride a public one for the present till we can find a good one. Harry has got to feel at home and gives me much satisfaction. He does as well as Charles used to in establishing pickets. He just went to inquire into an unusual noise in the Division. It is about 9 P.M. I have an excellent staff now. Capt. Whittlesey knows & does all his duty; so do the Qr. Mtrs & Aides. I am very contented, though I can't say I want the war to last that I may campaign in the winter instead of be at home with my precious wife and children.

The nights are now pretty cold and of late we have had long rains, yet today I visited nearly all the hospitals in the Divn and found only one man much sick and he had the measles. Col Sewall is away with his Regt repairing the road between Redplain & this place.

The enemy are pretty strong in our front, have much artillery in position and are making preparations to dispute our crossing the river. One ponton bridge has arrived and where it will be put down I do not know. I suppose we shall have to cross over soon, as we are getting supplies and are ordered to keep quite an amount on hand.

Lieut. Benjamin & Lt Murray came to see me & spent a pleasant half hour this evening. Benjamin says he kept from swearing till he got into battle & then he gave way, thinks he would give anything to break off, but can't; it has become a part of his discipline. Murray, another member of the church "doesn't swear very often". Benjamin cried as he told me of his father's sudden death. I didn't know of it. I feel badly to see as it were the very ~~elect~~ falling into sin. I have no doubt God will lead us all to repentance but how much we lose!

I feel the necessity of more watchfulness and prayer. I am filled with self more than with Christ. I believe my principle & purpose are right but I come so very far short of them. You must pray for me that I may be enabled to do the will of God.

I wrote you a letter and Guy one & sent them by a messenger to Washington by the way of Catletts Station the 18th inst. We feared the messenger had been taken prisoner till he made his appearance this evening. Guy's letter had a hundred dolls. in it & Mrs Whittleseys (also carried by him) had a hundred & twenty.

Give much love & many kisses to the children. I like to have you write what they do & say. Their letters were fine. Jamie is a nice boy to go to bed with Gracie. Papa will be glad to see them all. I am well. I hope you have enjoyed your sabbath today. Love to Mrs Clark & Lottie and to Mrs Stinson and a heartfelt to my precious wife.

Otis



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1794 11/24/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1743

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[248]

Leeds Nov. 24 1862

Dear Brother

It is a bright cold morning with a little snow upon the ground which fell Saturday night. Sarah has just come down from Uncle Ensign's with both children – all well. She came to town last Frid. I am writing this to send to P.O. by Albert, uncle Ensign's boy, who is going right back. I hoped to have had a second letter from you before this, in answer to some of my questions.

I have about made up my mind to come out and join you starting the 1st of Dec. I shall go to Augusta tomorrow & back Wed., thus see Lizzie & get "mustered in". Be home at Thanksgiving & start for Washington next Monday. If you get this before Dec. 6th please write in Care of Mr. Hayes at Corner of K & 12th Sts. W.

My certificate ends at the above date & I thought I would attend to our business in W. if I had time. I hope also to get my two months pay & so be prepared to buy me a horse. Where can I find one? Had I better wait till I reach you?

If I get a letter positively dissuading – from you before week from today, I can change my purpose & send you my resignation.

I am feeling quite well except occasionally Rheumatism.

Mother is well. We read with interest Gen. Sumner's proclamation to the Fredericksburg Authorities. What came of it?

Rowland spends Thanksgiving in Bath. I have not seen him since you left. How did you spend yesterday (Sabbath). I read "Patience of Hope".

Kind regards to Capt. Whittlesey. Is Mr. Stinson with you?

Very affectionately  
Charles

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1795 11/24/1862 *From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1744

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[250]

Phila Novbr 24th 1862

Mrs Howard -

I trust you will excuse me for troubling you this time by writing to you. I have given up all hopes of again having a letter from Guy. I would not have been so much dissappointed at his not answering my letters had I not expected to receive the likenesses of the children. I have written two letters to Guy and did not receive an answer to either. I suppose he has entirely forgotten me.

I will be forever thankful to you if you would be so kind as to send their photographs to me. You promised them to me on your leaving West Point and you do not know what a favour you will confer on me by allowing me to have them. I was divided about writing to you but came to the conclusion I would it being the only means left to me of receiving those dear children's pictures. If you would be so kind as to tell me something about the children I shall be forever grateful to you. I surely never see a child that I do not think of Guy and Grace and dear little Jamey that I loved so dearly.

I must say I did not feel content after I was separated from those children. It was foolish I suppose but I could not help it. They were ever in my memory and ever shall be. I trust Almighty God will ever protect them from harm and guard them in this world. The days I have spent with them are amongst the number of happy ones I have spent in this country.

Excuse me I did not intend saying so much but I feel now as if I could talk about them for hours. I hear occasionally from Mr Howard through Mrs Carrolls family. I suppose you have heard from him of my being married. I am living in Philadelphia and I am very comfortable. My husband has a very good situation at the arsenal and I feel now perfectly happy. When I left you I could not feel content anywhere. While in Washington I felt miserable.

Please remember me to Mr. Howard and tell Guy I did not think he would forget Susan so soon. Please tell Guy Grace and Jamey that Susan would give any thing to be able to kiss them once more.

I remain  
ever grateful  
Yours Susan [Keys]

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1796 11/24/1862 *From:* I. Washburn, Jr

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1745

Orono

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[246]

Orono, Nov. 24th 1862

Dear General,

At home for thanksgiving, I have time to tell you how much I enjoyed my visit to the Army, & how much I am indebted to you for your kind attention & courtesy. I am glad for many reasons that I went to the front, & not the least among them, is that I think I have thereby been enabled to say a good word for you in the right place, & which I hope in due time will have a fitting response. On my return to W. in speaking of the Army, the Generals, & other officers, & particularly of yourself, I discovered that in high quarters the impression had been recd that you were one of the special favorites, pets & <confidants> of a General who has not now so large a command as he once had, & whose policy or no policy is believed by many to have come very near ruining the country, & who is the special care of all the disloyal sentiment in the North. I was glad that I had it my power to state not only your position in the army as a General, your standing among the high officers &c, but also your precise status, & your true opinions, not alone, recently, but uniformly for many months, expressed to me, so that I felt that you were now "rectus in curia" ["right in court"].

Genl. Berry having been urgently presented by the Vice P. & others, will I think be appointed Maj. Genl. before long. To present you in his stead under the circumstances might harm him but could not help you. I have thought it best to secure his appointment as soon as possible, & then to make Maine a unit for you, & I have not the slightest doubt that your great record will be recognized by the President & Secy at an early day, by your nomination to the Senate as Major General. Whatever I can do to bring about a result so just to you & true in the Adm'n. will not be neglected.

Yours, very truly  
I. Washburn, Jr

P.S.

Genl. Reynold's telegram by some mistake asked my son to meet me at Arlington written at Warrenton, & so I had the pleasure to meet him the night after I left Warrenton. He was very well, & was sent by the Sec'y to Hagerstown for the clothing of the 16th.

I.W. Jr.

[Written on the back page.]  
Letter from Gov. Washburn

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1797 11/26/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1746

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[249]

Head Quarters 2nd Div &c.  
Near Falmouth Va  
Nov. 26 1862

Dearest,

I will just write you a few lines to say that I am well, so is Capt W & Mr Stinson. We are in the same place as last letter showed. Another heavy rain & deep clay mud. It was arranged to try to cross the river but given up at that time. I was to lead. A kind Providence protects me.

I got a good loving letter from Rowland. He said you sent Ellas letter back, and that she felt dreadfully about it. I am sorry you did so, for R says he never thought of that paragraph when he sent the letter to me. I am terribly afraid hard feelings will spring up. I know it was mortifying to you, darling, but if it was not intended you must forgive without punishment.

Tell Guy & Grace that papa saw a curious sight on opening his eyes yesterday morning. A man stood near the table with several forked flames <protuding> from the top of his head. I called out & he put both hands up & the flames disappeared. It was John Ivory whose hair was "tossed" like Grace's some of those mornings. He had put his head near the candle to see what time it was and his locks caught fire. It was lucky I waked at the time I did was'nt it. John thinks he would have found it out.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, & Jamie and many kisses. Has Jamie fallen down stairs yet?

The people will get vexed at us for not going ahead. I have no doubt that God has us in charge and that he will bring out all right. Col. <Sewall> has just come in and wants to be remembered. Capt. W. sends his love. I feel that God will have you in his holy keeping.

The mail carrier is waiting, so good bye.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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1798 11/27/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1747

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[253]

Leeds Nov. 27 1862  
- "Thanksgiving Day" -

Dear brother

It is a beautiful winter's day. It snowed all day yesterday & cleared away in the night. We have done justice to an abundant and luscious dinner. Father, Mother, Roland & Cynthia, Dellie & I, the two grand-children & Isabella.

Yesterday I parted from your little family at Augusta after spending a very happy 24 hours with them. Guy urged me to stay, said I might stay. He did not see why I couldn't. I told him I was going out to see his Papa and he was silent a little while. He wanted me to go skating with him before Breakfast. This before we got up in the morning as I slept with him. But lo! it was raining when we came to look out. They were all very well & we were very happy to get your letter to Grace the evening I was there. Little Jamie is a wonderfully good & happy boy & I loved him very much. He came down stairs saying "Charlie come" "Charlie come" as I entered the Hall. Lizzie seemed very happy & Grace was delighted to get a letter from papa. I was very glad to see your letters to Lizzie & the children as I had not rec'd but one from you & that written when you arrived with the army.

I had a tedious ride in the snow-storm. Came home by way of Gardiner as the Maj. did not come up to A. But I did not care much as I got my "muster in" all right down there & I saw Mrs. G. having a pleasant call at the Major's house. He is relieved & to go to Annapolis Md. - probably owing to disagreement with the Gov. I like Maj. G. He seems to be a man of strict integrity.

I got home by dark. The wagon went hard in the snow & it was very rough before the storm, from the frozen mud. Lizzie talks of going to Boston to do some shopping, &c. Jamie was delighted with a little spotted red frock his mother was making him "new dress" he said "Jamies new dress". Lizzie sent some sweet potatoes up for our Thanksgiving. I took down about as many apples as before & 26 lbs of butter. Also some chickens & some Bechnuts.

I was exceedingly glad to get your second letter to me last night. From Lizzie's I learned much to my gratification that Lts. Atwood & Stinson were with you & Col. Sewall. Give my kind regards to the last & tell him I am glad he is home again - i.e. in our family.

From what you wrote last night about my staying till my leg was all well &c &c and owing to Mother's desire to do some sewing for me I have decided not to leave here till Wed. next. I was intending to leave Monday, but think I can reach you by Sat. if I do not start till Wed, at least can get to Washington before Sat. & I hope to find a letter there from you in Care of Hayes Corner of K & 12th Sts.

What shall I do about a horse? I think I will get a saddle here if Mr. Garcelon can make one.

Dellie is troubled a little with his throat but nothing serious. Mrs. Berry is quite sick with the measles. Mr. Bubie hoped you would mention Thomas. Mr. Blaine told me (Do not mention this) that he heard that Capt. Whittlesey was sick & going to resign & that I was going to be your Asst. Adj't General. Where did he get such a report?

Gov. Morrell said he was going to Washington this week. Jamie Wingate is better. Gov. Washburn not back yet. I don't think he tried very hard to have you go with Banks. I am quite well except the leg which is not much lame. It is reported that there will be no fighting for a month so I shall not be too late to cast in my mite probably.

We have abundant rain to be thankful today to the Giver of all good.

Affectionately

Charles

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1799 11/27/1862 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1748

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[254]

Portland Nov 27 1862

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I write to inform you that I can send you the amt that is due to you - \$260 dollars with interest from 21st of May last and \$8 dollars due on Bank Stock. I have no particular use for it at present. I will either send you the money or invest it for you in some stock here as you direct.

We intended to have invited you to Portland to spend Thanksgiving with us – if we had expected to remain at home – we had thought of going to Quincy & spend Thanksgiving with Susie but got disappointed. Hope you and the children are all well.

With much love

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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1800 11/28/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1749

Hd. Qrs near Falmouth  
Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[255]

Hd. Qrs near Falmouth Va  
Nov 28, 1862

Dearest,

I shall have to write you another short letter this morning, for the mail carrier is waiting for me & gives me 15 minutes. I was too tired to write last night. Capt W. & I worked on official papers till 11 P.M. In the morning I began at Falmouth and reconnoitered all the picket line of the Corps, riding from nine a.m. till one P.M. ate dinner and then went off on foot to select a place for Head Qrs. I found one of the pleasantest places you ever saw except home – on quite a high bluff & in the woods, the immediate surroundings being cedar. I led a party who cut a couple of rows out. The cedars around us are so thick that we are entirely protected against the wind. The prospects of immediate action are not strong. We are probably waiting for information & to let the column by the James River have a chance. I think Gen Banks will go there & not to Texas, but we shall see.

The Army in this vicinity is in good health & spirits. Lieut Stinson A.D.C. is well & happy, and comfortable tell Mrs S. Give her my love. I feel that you & she can get much comfort out of each other's society. Gen Jackson is reported in our rear with 30,000 men, and we keep wide awake.

Much love & many kisses to self & the children. The divine blessing upon you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1801 11/29/1862 *From:* Edwin M Stanton

*To:* Major General Oliver O.  
Howard

OOH-1750

*Source:* Bowdoin

Secretary of War  
WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington

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[314]

[Letterhead]  
WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington

November 29, 1862

Sir:

You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you

Major General of Volunteers,

in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the twenty-ninth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two. Should the Senate, at their next session, advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

Immediately on receipt hereof, please to communicate to this Department, through the ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, your acceptance or non-acceptance; and, with your letter of acceptance, return the OATH herewith enclosed, properly filled up, SUBSCRIBED and ATTESTED, and report your AGE, BIRTHPLACE, and the STATE of which you were a permanent RESIDENT.

You will report for duty to

/s/ Edwin M Stanton  
Secretary of War.

Major General Oliver O. Howard  
U.S. Volunteers

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1802 11/29/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1751

Head Quarters &c near  
Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[258]

Head Quarters &c near Falmouth Va  
Nov 29 1862

My dear Brother,

I received a good long letter from you last night dated Nov. 20, 1862 and I hasten to reply. I doubt if this letter gets to you before you leave for Washington, but I will direct it so that Mother will open it if you are gone.

All the questions propounded I have answered in previous letters. I want you for an aide if you are well. But if you cannot be well, I should prefer that you have the comfort of houses to sleep in.

I have a beautiful place for Head Quarters now, on the top of a high bluff & completely surrounded by cedar, the slopes in every direction covered with woods. It is a little too far from my troops but the beauty & coziness of the place draw me to it.

Capt. Whittlesey is well and quietly does his whole duty. Lt. Steel is still with me, though just now gone to Washington for Ordnance Stores. Capt. Batchelder is well & seems to stick by me. Capt. Smith as of old. Lt. Stinson a jewel & so is Lt. Atwood. Everything seems to work well & be very pleasant now. No knowing what a day may bring to us, but we know who rules on high.

Much love to Mother & Father, and kind remembrances to all the neighbors. We are waiting here because the Govt says so.

Very affectionately  
O.O. Howard

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1803 11/30/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1752

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[260]

Leeds Nov. 30th 1862

My dear Lizzie

I was much pleased to get your letter – to have a word about yourself & the darling children and your Thanksgiving – altho' I was happy enough to get a letter myself from Otis the evening I reached home – Wednesday. It was written the same time as yours – part of it the next day. He urged me to stay at home till I should be quite well & my leg strong.

On consideration, I decided to stay one day longer than I had intended! So I expect now to go from home Tuesday to spend one night at Auburn & go to Boston in the early morning train.

Otis wrote in the best of spirits – seemed happy, contented & cheerful.

I am feeling somewhat blue tonight, I hardly know why. I very seldom have depressions of the kind – especially when well – as I am now.

Your solicitude about my going home hungry was almost amusing to me – an old campaigner. I did not think of such a thing as eating & why should you. But as you imagined I dined at rather a late hour.

Maj. Gardiner was very kind – made out the papers properly – mustering me in as I desired. Introduced me to Mrs. G – was sociable & invited me cordially to dine with them.

I could not spend the time altho' it was then about 7 P.M. I knew I would be late home. The travelling was so hard. The wagon dragged like an anchor. The horse “pulled” and once slipped & fell breaking the harness & compelling me to get out into the snow which gave me the luxury of cold feet the rest of the way home. The route was a new one to me & the storm made me rather cold, wet & uncomfortable.

But nothing like being inured to rough weather & disagreeables. I guess I was in as good humor as usual as soon as I was warmly posted before the blazing fire at home, & especially after reading the 6 pages from Otis. He does not believe the Generals above him will agree to his going with Banks.

We enjoyed Thanksgiving – Roland & family, here at Dinner & we all down there to Tea. Father read a sermon of Beecher's to us in evening. Had my first sleigh-ride for the mail that night. Weather fine. “Going” not bad. Took Dellie back to his school next morning. Mother was greatly pleased with the sweet Potatoes & we all enjoyed your contribution to the Thanksgiving dinner.

Rowland arrived here yesterday evening from Bath. We (Father, Mother, & I) were at Warren Mower's but got home early. We spent the afternoon there very agreeably. Emma had come home from her school & bro't a young lady friend. - Louisa was cheerful. Warren had just come from Lewiston & bro't my pants which had been colored deep blue from light.

We had a pleasant sleigh-ride home by moonlight and a happy surprise in finding Rowland here. He went up in the train last night. Ella & Davie not yet come from Bath.

Today has been pleasant & I get another sleigh-ride in taking Isabella home, who goes to school tomorrow. We miss her much. Her brother Clark will be home in 6 or 8 days. His wound is no better.

There was meeting at the Center today but we had no notice of it except the bell & as I was just starting with Isabella, none of us got to Church.

Father & Mother went up to see Mrs. George Lothrop who is just alive.

Love to Guy & Grace. Perhaps Guy makes up in "sliding" what he lost in skating by this snow. Tell him we have a long hill out here to slide down but I will soon be gone to Va. where there is no snow. Kiss Jamie – sweet boy – about a dozen times for me.

I am Your Affectionate brother  
Charles

Mother sends love to you & the children. It is 10 P.M.

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1804 11/30/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1753

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth, Va.

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[259]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps Nov. 30th 1862  
Near Falmouth, Va.

Dearest,

I have spent this sabbath morning seemingly in a very unprofitable manner. I hope you have been more edified, for I have only attended to business. I ordered that there be no drills today and that Chaplains have every facility to hold services with their Regiments, but what's the good of it when there is only one chaplain and he "No better than he should be".

I dont get many letters from you. I fear they halt on the way, somewhere. I think I have rec'd but three besides those of Guy & Grace since I left home. I got one from Charles a day or two ago. He is in doubt about coming back. If he gets well and strong I dont know any more acceptable or suitable aid than Charlie, but I feel that he had better not come if still suffering.

We are having beautiful weather now – the frosts & the rain have disturbed the hardness of the soil and the roads. Col. Sewall has his regiment still near Belleplain repairing roads. The R.R. from this place to Acquia Creek is now in running order and the whistle blows. I have just received another letter from Charles and he says he shall start tomorrow for Washington and wants a letter from me to meet him there.

I am again interrupted and must go out to locate some troops. I went out after the last sentence, reconnoitered the two hills for batteries and placed a Regiment for the support of one of them; this is done for fear the enemy might attack us; but I do not fear that at present.

I had a letter from Farwell intimating that I was to go with Genl. Banks. I suppose he got his information from some Maine paper or letter and therefore do not place any reliance on the report, for I have heard nothing from Genl Banks or the War Department on the subject.

We all continue very well, I have been particularly well since I got back. My arm aches a little but it isn't worth speaking of. I have'nt had a twinge of rheumatism. Since the ground has got damp I have slept on my cot. The air comes in some of these cold nights making my back a little cold and sometimes John gets up pretty early, and "by order" to build a fire. Capt Whittlesey made him a board bedstead and two foot planks from some boxes sent from Washington with our stationary. His bed-stead is in two parts: thus [sketch of the bed-stead] you perceive they can be piled up so as to make a short pile by day and when pushed together make a warm box at night. The Capt to whom I submitted my drawing says: after divining that it was his boxes, too high for the length, our foot boards are merely box-covers of inch boards. You may say in view of all these luxuries, how is it with the poor soldier. Why, two of them stretch their shelter tents over a pole and button them together, [sketch of the scene] put some bushes or bows at the back and stick their feet out towards the good birch log fire in the front. They sleep very warm.

Give love to Guy. I expect he will be amused at papa's pictures. Well, they are for him & Grace to look at as well as Mamma. I should love to look in upon you tonight. Hope you are happy and well and that the children are so too. Guy must be careful how he dips into the snow quite so strongly. I hav'nt said much about Jamie but papa thinks much of him. Has Gracie read a good story today? Much love to you my darling wife. Asking upon you the choicest of God's blessings, I remain

Your loving husband  
Otis

H.M.S. is well & happy.



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1805 12/2/1862    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1754

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn &c  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[263]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn &c  
Dec. 2nd 1862 Near Falmouth Va

My dear Mother,

Charles wrote me that he should start for Washington yesterday; if he went I presume you will feel more lonely. I directed a letter to him a day or two since but sent it under cover to you as I thought he might be gone. I think I have written him other letters which he has not received, for I had answered all his questions & some that he seemed to be uncertain about judging from his last letter.

We are still in the same place. I heard that we were to have reinforcements. Gen. Couch said some 16000 to the Right Grand Divn. We will then probably halt till these troops come up.

The enemy have much heavy artillery across the river in position and mean to contest our passage and unless our crossing is managed very carefully, we shall suffer a very heavy loss if not defeat. It is the most difficult of military operations to cross a river in the face of an enemy of equal strength. We could easily have done it the day we arrived but Gen. Halleck had withholden the ponton bridge and it was impracticable to move over without it & folly to throw over a small force for the enemy to crush as at Balls bluff. We had to wait and while waiting the enemy brought a hundred thousand men to our front and Jackson brought some 30,000 to threaten our base of supplies. So goes war, a game that both armies can play at, and one that the small item of a bridge may disconcert if the bridge is not at the right place at the right time.

However we may get impatient. God's way's are not always our ways and he will doubtless regulate us to his own praise. I feel that I am too little dependent on Him, too disposed to be ambitious. You must pray for me that I may be kept in the right path.

We have a very beautiful place for our Head Quarters, tents and the weather holds good. Capt Whittlesey has got entirely well, & thoroughly conversant with the duties of his department. I cannot be too thankful for the Good Providence that has sent him here. I find Lieut. Stinson a good Aid & an excellent young man. I am glad I chose him.

I meant to have written you a longer letter but the mail carrier is waiting.

Give love to Father & Isabella. I hope her brother Clark is home by this time. God bless you.

Yr. affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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1806 12/2/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1755

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[262]

Farmington Dec 2, 1862

My dear Brother

I think I wrote in my last that I would write once a fortnight! I must have been demented about that, thus I meant - I will write often.

Ella has been at Bath with Davie now a little over a week. I went down to Bath Thanksgiving Day & returned Sat. spending a night at Leeds with mother & Charles. I suppose he starts today for your Head Quarters, going as far as Lewiston. I hope he will not hurry on unless you need him. I think he is pretty well now, but not strong & not capable of enduring fatigue. Mother seemed well & to take Charles departure quietly - Tho doubtless she feels as I do, that we may not see him (nor you) again "this side Jordan".

I often feel that my life I would willingly give if it would be a mite towards putting down this Rebellion & I could part with my dear brothers with greater equanimity, it seems to me, for this cause than for any other. The hearts of the people are becoming dejected & the timid are crying "Peace - peace on any terms!" The educated, moral & religious classes of Society must "Hold up the hands that hang down & strengthen the feeble knees". O for the eloquence of a Henry. O for the prudence, moderation & patient, unwavering perseverance & undaunted fortitude of a Washington!

I look upon this Rebellion as I would upon a great criminal who having committed a capital crime is endeavoring to escape justice. No amount of means, no no. of friends, no respectability, derived from mere power, no success in eluding the avenging rod, can alter my estimate of the turpitude of the crime - the punishment due it, nor the great moral obligation resting upon "the power that be" to inflict it. Surely if a single murderer or thief is visited with the full penalty of the law, those who have directly or indirectly promoted the Rebellion, with its thousands of murders & its millions stolen, should not escape. God will fix the responsibility and punish the offenders, whether human justice overtakes them or not, but our duty is not performed - our obligations are not met, if we leave a single thing untried to bring these transgressors of human law to condign punishment.

My feelings of benevolence are more & more excited for the slaved, & I took occasion to denounce the dread that many have of abolition, as well as the prejudice so generally entertained against the negro Race, as un-Christian - not in accordance with the spirit of the gospel as embodied in the Golden Rule, last Sab. evening. I then asked a good democratic Deacon to pray. He passed over the Slaves & freedmen & prayed that we might feel right towards the Rebels - "This might be to have done but not left the other undone" I wish to feel towards the Rebels as I would towards any band of outlaws. Among them are many deceived & innocent, but the essence of the Rebellion is against human & divine law. I pray for the criminal that he may repent - I teach him - I pity him - but if he is a murderer - I would hang him. I can't get this idea of simple justice - righteous penalty - into my Deacons mind. Charity, mercy & many other virtues, he loves. But unswerving, unbending Justice - such as the Bible teaches is the attribute of God - he can't comprehend.

Lizzie has not written me since you left Augusta. I sold part of the wood and sent her the proceeds. It had become wet & heavy by reason of being out of doors & I concluded to take the balance & will send her a fair price for it on Jan 1st.

Our winter has fairly opened (or shut). The sleighing is excellent the weather cold & blustering. I am in Winter Quarters - the house has a "banking" - the new furnace heats well - my Study has a new stove and temporal matters are well enough.

I wish you could share my comfort & conveniences, and yet I often envy your life of strong activity, where every day presents its own duties unmistakably. I never am so happy as on days when I am most active with things that must be done. But it is hard to be responsible for your own time & its improvement to devise methods of

usefulness & to furnish Sermons, that shall not be flat, stale, & unprofitable. I have now a Bible class Monday evenings wh. promises well.

Last Sab. the funeral Services of a Vol. in 16th Me. crowded our house of worship. I preached with some ease & enjoyment in "the uses of affliction" and the special consolations that friends have who give a dear one to their country. I am trying to keep up a correspondence with all our church members who are in the Army.

Dec 3.

Charles will be likely to reach you as soon as this letter & will bring the latest news from home. Huldah is to be buried today [See Note]. Charles will tell you about her. I called Sat. saw her & prayed with George & the children. He seems deeply affected. She has been unto him Rudder & compass and in spite of both he has often missed his course. I am glad she has found her "rest".

I expect Ella & Davie tonight. I hear incidentally from a lady Mrs W.W. Thomas of Portland that you forgot to give or send her a Photograph you promised.

With kind remembrance to Col. Sewall & Capt Whittlesey.

Yr. aff. Bro.  
Rowland

[Note: Huldah Alger (Gilmore) Lothrop died Dec 1, 1862. She was the wife of George Lothrop and the step-sister of Rowland, being the daughter of Col John Gilmore and Huldah Alger.]

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1807 12/3/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1756

Hd. Qrs. 2nd Divn &c  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[265]

Hd. Qrs. 2nd Divn &c  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Dec. 3d 1862

Dearest

I have got up, got washed & got dressed and Capt Whittlesey says it is six minutes after seven, as the sun rises somewhat earlier in your country than here I must imagine you already up, unless you are lazy and lie abed in the morning which I believe you never do. If Grace & Jamie sleep together where does Lizzie sleep? Alone or with Guy in the little room? I shall have to go home & find out. I presume Charles will reach Washington today, but I do not expect him here before next Monday.

Yesterday I mounted "Charlie" and rode to Genl Sumner's, some two or three miles Eastward & in sight of Fredericksburg in a large brick house. I gathered very little from him as to movements. Probably we shall attempt a crossing before long. It will be a difficult operation at the best, but I think we can do it when we get ready. We are to be pretty strongly reinforced today or tomorrow. I shall probably get a regiment more. Col Sewall's is still at Belle Plain. We have been intrenching batteries, drilling & changing camps. I am going out this morning to see Col Hull, drill his Brigade, and shew him how he is to cross a bridge, if he does not know already. Those five year Cadets know everything almost. Col Hull is married, I believe I told you, & had a visit from Mrs Hull while at Harpers Ferry. Hull is a very good officer.

All of us are well. Dr Palmer was at Harpers Ferry when I last heard from him & was expecting to be sent to Frederick. Dr Sherman my Divn Surgeon has gone to Washington. He was a member of Congress from N.Y. State and gave his services as a Surgeon during the recess; quite advanced in life I should think upwards of 60 yrs.

How is Guy this morning? I suppose you have had more snow before this and perhaps he has played in it, but maybe not without those new boots & mittens. I shall expect that that dressing gown by Charlie a little. I have made the other <underwear> for an outside night gown. I take off my clothes, except drawers & put on the dressing gown. It keeps my back warm where the robe doesn't stay tucked. John sometimes is called up to put overcoat on feet, but I generally sleep very warm.

The mail is ready.

Hugs & kisses to Gracie & Jamie as well as Guy. God bless you & keep you all.

Affectionately  
Otis

Mr Stinson is well.

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1808 12/3/1862    *From:* Thomas R. Deverell    *To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1757

510 North Eleventh St.  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[264]

Philadelphia 3d December /62

Genl Howard  
Dear Sir,

I have often thought of you, and the excellent advice you used to give us (the members of your bible class at West Point) and I should have written you before, had I been aware how to address a letter that would find you. It is some two weeks since I have found how to write you. Mr G. P. Presser leader of the band formerly attached to Genl Burns's brigade informed you were the same I had the honor of knowing. I heard of your losing your arm, and deeply sympathized with you, not knowing at that time, you were the man that gave us such excellent advice.

I have taken great interest in the events that have transpired since the beginning of this terrible war, and have made many efforts, to get a commission so that I could join those brave hearts in fighting for the restoration of our glorious union, but up to now, my efforts have failed, some Colonels informing me it would be necessary to have money or political influence, neither of which, I (unfortunately) possessed, or I would have paid any amount, as it is a life I have been used to. My father was an officer in the british service, and I have had some experience in the same Army.

It gave me much pleasure to learn that Mr. McCook had attained to such an eminent position. It is gratifying to think that the merits of such officers are not overlooked and that politics does not entirely rule. If it were not for party favoritism, I think the army would be much more efficient. It is a bad system to appoint men as officers whose only merits consist in belonging to the Republican or democratic parties. The only consideration should be, who are the best qualified, for command.

Dear Genl if there is any position you could procure for me, you would confer a great favor by recommending me for it. I would be extremely grateful if you could get me a commission however subordinate it may be, and if I could only be so fortunate as to be attached to your Brigade, I am sure you would never be sorry for having recommended me. I have been well used to a millitary life and should be delighted to serve under a man who is not only a Good soldier but likewise so devout, and consistent follower of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Again thanking you for the many Kind words I have received from you and earnestly hoping you will be preserved for the sake of all who may be fortunate enough to know you. I am sir with very great respect your humble servant

Thomas R. Deverell  
510 North Eleventh St. Phil

Formerly a member of your Bible Class at West Point. [He was not a student at the USMA.]

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1809 12/5/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1758

Near Falmouth Va  
Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[266]

Near Falmouth Va.  
Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps Dec 5th 1862

Dearest,

I received your letter written the 27th (thanksgiving day) day before yesterday. A good cheerful letter, and one from Charles written the same day from home telling of his visit to you. The two together gave me a very complete picture of home at Augusta. Charles put off coming till Wednesday. It is now Friday. He is probably in Washington tonight. I shall not look for him before Monday or Tuesday. We are now having a heavy storm. It rained & then snowed and is again raining; though the snow and ice are clinging to the trees.

I have, stopping at my Head Quarters, Mr Richardson a correspondent of the N.Y. Tribune. He takes occasion, not withstanding my prohibition, to use my name once in awhile, as in describing our march from Warrenton to this place. In the past paper he mentioned Genl H's Head Qrs. which I will enclose if I can find the Tribune that contains it. I do not like puffs. They may please the vanity but they are not wholesome.

I think a good deal of Senator Morrill and not the less for his domestic qualities. I should like to slide downhill too. Just think of it to be 32 & 30, staid people with grey hairs, and some three or four children.

I wrote a letter to Mrs Jameson last night. I had thought of it quite often, but I did'nt muster time & courage till last night. Capt Smith her brother & my commissary received a letter from his mother giving a description of Jameson's last hours & speaking of the severity of the blow to his wife. He asked how the evening before his death (if I remember rightly) if they (he & she) were alone. She said yes. Then he said, "Repeat the Lords prayer." She did so, and he tried to repeat it after her and said "Amen" distinctly. She went on to ask that he might be spared to them a little longer. He checked her and said, "no more" At another time he said, "It will be her hardest trial" speaking to her father of his wife, and then added, "Whom he loveth he chasteneth". His last hours were doubtless those of a christian, brought in, "Purified as by fire" through much bodily suffering and perhaps not less, mental. He was a kind hearted man and a gentleman. He was ambitious to rise a gallant officer, sacrificed on the alter of his country, for the peninsula laid the diseases upon him, which terminated in his death.

Tell Jamie papa is going to try and get another arm one of these days. What will he say then. You can send me a bundle by express – direct: "Via Washington Army of the Potomac". Write when you send and if it does not come I will send for it by some one going to the city. Guy gave me so much encouragement about the dressing gown that I hoped Charles would bring it on, but there is no haste as I shall have plenty of old coats, as soon as I get to be a Major General.

I received a letter the other day, no, Capt Smith received it, saying I had been promoted, but the letter was too fast. My name was sent up with many others, but the appointments suspended, probably till the President gets law-authority to make more Major Generals. I did not feel very much disappointed.

Mrs Whittlesey had'nt returned to Maine last Monday. The Captain continues in excellent health. Mr Stinson is well. He has bought a horse of Capt. Whittlesey. His pay outs were sent in with mine but the paymaster wanted the evidence that he had been mustered in to the U.S. Service. When that is furnished he will get his pay.

Does Guy & Grace slide much? Give them Guy, Grace & Jamie papa's love & a kiss apiece. Remember me kindly to Mrs Clark & daughter. The blessings of God upon you.

Your husband lovingly  
Otis

I wrote to Mother a few days ago. Charlie says her mind reverts to me & to my younger days a great deal. He speaks of it again that she thinks & talks a great deal of me. I got a letter from Wm Merrick a few days since. All well there. I am very well & strong.

I will enclose you \$300. Write as soon as you get it.

My kind regards to Mrs Stinson. Does Mrs Blaine go with her husband?

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1810 12/7/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1759

Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[267]

Near Falmouth Va  
Dec 7 1862

My dear Mother

I presume you got my last letter before Chas. left. Now I rather anticipate him to be in Washington & here tomorrow: giving him Sat. & Monday there for business. On Friday we had a snow storm and it has been very cold since. The ground is as white & wintry as it is with you.

Thomas was away from me five or six miles off till Friday when his regiment returned from Bell Plain to this place. I saw Thomas twice yesterday. He has been a little bilious but did not call himself sick. He was looking well. I should'nt wonder if winter, with a shelter tent went rather hard with him. The cold creeps through the canvass.

Perhaps you all wonder why we delay so. Well, I do. Men can move and work if the order is given and I am anxious to have the work done for I wish to return to civil & civilized life. I am not unhappy; the most of the time quite the reverse.

My health is good. I have a good appetite, sleep well and am able to endure a great deal of fatigue. With these blessings, almost any body is cheerful.

It is very possible, the progress of events seems so to indicate, that the very incompetency of our leaders is God's way of blessing the nation. Why? because his object is to humble, disenthral & purify the nation & ours merely to prevent disruption. Slavery, which has given us so much trouble must "go by the board". We want to hurry a settlement, but no settlement is to be had at present. In the meantime, the oppressed are going free.

I hope you and father are very well. Who (what man) is with you? I suppose Isabella has gone. I will know all about things at home when Charlie gets here. I am anxious to see him and yet almost afraid to have him leave houses for tents at this inclement season. We have a large wall tent to eat in and have had no fire in it yet. We generally eat with our hats and over-coats on.

Today I proposed to make a "California fire-place". Perhaps you are curious to know how they are constructed. [Sketch of the fire-place.] You dig a hole in the ground somewhere in the compass of the tent and then lead a small trench to the outside and place two empty <meat> barrels without heads over the end, cover the trench & part of the hole with flat stones, and dirt on top. The hole is the fire place, the barrels the chimney, the trench does not prevent a draft and has the effect to dry the ground.

Thomas said he heard that Charlie was coming back from a letter. Remember me to all the neighbors.

I hear from Lizzie and the children quite often. Guy & Grace wrote me each of them pretty good letters in writing & not printing. Guy tells me about the visit of Uncle Charlie & the beach nuts he brought. They seem very well & very happy. Guy can "stand on skates on the ice".

You dont have any better church privileges than we do now your minister is gone. We cant have services very well out of doors, the weather is so cold. Pray for me Mother that I may never forget God.

Your affectionate Son  
Otis

I have just had letters from Charles & Rowland. Chas. is in Washington. The Auditor now want two more certificates from me.



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1811 12/9/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1760

Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[268]

Near Falmouth Va.  
December 9, 1862

Dearest,

We are still in the same place but from all appearances may not be here long; for last night our teams were detached to help draw boats, logs for corduroying &c, which looks like an attempt to cross. We shall stay here till the rest get fairly over, how long I cannot tell.

Charles wrote me friday from Washington. The auditor still demanded other certificates. I must certify that I did not draw forage or pay for the dead horses. I must certify that I bought horses to replace each of the horses lost. I dont know what will come next. Charles letter was delayed in getting to me, reaching here last night. He cannot get my reply before tonight & get through his business before tomorrow night. So I shall not much expect to see him before thursday noon if as soon as that.

I have just got a new Regiment the 127th Penn. assigned to Col. Hull's Brigade, and I must see about encamping it.

Afternoon.

Quite a large Regt - the Col is named Jennings. He must think a good deal of home, for almost his first inquiry was, how he could get his mail. He seemed like a good officer, handling his men well.

Capt. Whittlesey has been making us a door to the tent. [Sketch of the door.] The lower frame is fixed so as to incline as the tent does and is propped up as in the figure. The canvass is nailed to the outer frame which constitutes the door.

Guy & Grace would like to see our cedar wash stand. Capt Whittlesey says there is an advantage in that wash stand for it never tumbles over. [Sketch of the wash stand - a tree stump in the ground.] They can see my water pail and wash basin. Papa was delighted to get their letters and would write them now if he could.

Dearest, I am now writing on Wednesday morning Dec 10.

Before you get this letter you will get the news of a battle. I try to rely calmly on my Saviour in these trying hours. If anything should happen to me, I feel that I have committed you all to God and I hope to meet my wife and children in Heaven. May the divine presence relieve you from all excess of sorrow and the little ones find in Jesus one to love & trust. I have no forebodings of disaster, but I know the desperate nature of our undertaking. But if it is the will of God it will be easily accomplished.

Charles has not reached here and I am rather in hopes he will not come before thursday.

Mr Stinson is well. I feel sad to expose my personal staff to the hazards of a battle. I hope God may see fit to spare us all as He did at Antietam.

Guy, bless his heart, I should like to see him and talk with him this morning. Thomas, the former owner of Lion, was in hoping to see Charles. He has got the jaundice and is feeling quite unwell. Capt W. has a bad cold. I am well, my arm does not trouble me much. I can lie on my right side part of the night. I do not think I am half thankful enough for my blessings and I feel that I am a great sinner before God. Every time nearly I open my Bible I read this: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear". Then I always see the next passage & fear it for me, but I remember the Lord our Saviour.

Grace & Jamie papa would like to have two sweet kisses .

Your loving husband,  
Otis

I sent \$300 in \$50 dollar notes in my last letter.

The mail came good bye & God bless you.

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1812 12/13/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1761

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps  
Knox House  
Fredericksburg Va

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[269]

Hd. Quarters 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Knox House Fredericksburg Va  
Dec 13, 1862 [Saturday]

Dearest,

I have waked this morning at 3 a.m. and not feeling sleepy I thought I would write you a few lines.

On thursday we left camp at 6 ½ a.m. and moved down near the R.R. & near the place of crossing the river. At 8 I sent Col. Hull's Brigade to support Batteries & aid the crossing. The Engineers succeeded in getting the bridge about half done, when the fire of the sharp shooters became so great & close that they desisted and it was impossible to get them to work. In the mean time our batteries were pouring in shot & shells concentrating their fire on the sharp shooters position, but they were in a block house, in cellars, in rifle pits, behind stone walls & buildings.

Finally at about 4 in the afternoon, Lt. Col. Baxter with his regt. 7th Mich of Hall's brigade, volunteered to cross in boats and drive the enemy off from the bridge head. The Engineers were to get the boats ready. This they failed to do, two or three would get hold of a big boat and as soon as fired at would run back. Finally Lt Col. Baxter said he would put the boats in and did so with his men at once and filled them & shoved off. One man was killed & himself wounded. They pushed to the other bank, disembarked, and rushed for the houses, cellars, &c. One company took 32 prisoners. The 7th Michigan held the bank, the 19th Massachusetts followed, then the 20th, then the 59th N.Y.

The bank was now held in sufficient force & the Engineers put down the bridge. I moved up the rest of my Divn by Gen Bank's direction, and just as soon as the bridge was completed, the rest of Hall's brigade, the 42nd N.Y. & 19th Penn followed by Col Owen's brigade moved over the bridge. I followed this brigade with my staff.

Meanwhile the enemy's batteries had found our range and shells & shot struck close to the column, but I believe by the blessing of God not a man was killed and few hurt. The 127th band undertook to play, but just as the instruments were put to their mouths a shot struck right amongst them and they fell on their faces, then scattered, so our only music was cannon & musketry fire.

I sent Col. Hull to the front, Col Owen to the left through the town and kept Gen Sully in reserve near the bridge head. It was getting quite dark, but the Regts pushed forward. The fire from homes & "round corners" was deadly. The 20th Mass lost 19 E.M. Killed & 81 wounded. Capt Cabot was killed & 4 offs. Wounded. The 19th Mass. had 8 killed, the 7th Mich had 5 killed, the 69th N.Y. also lost some.

We got as far as the 3d Street parallel with the river and I ordered firing to cease, as soon as it could be done. We placed our pickets. Our men were in the houses & pillaging & destroying went on to some extent. Women & men who had spent the day in cellars came for protection. No instance of abuse occurred that I heard of. Some mothers brought little children for permission to cross. A few men got into wine cellars & got pretty drunk.

I took Head Qrs. in a little old house <karcked> to pieces somewhat by our shot. Col Hall stopped with us. I did'nt sleep much, went out frequently to quiet the men. Another Brigade came over the bridge built ½ a mile below, comd. by Col Hawkins, Dexter's brother. This bridge was built like ours, by throwing over men in boats, after they heard what we had done. Col H. reported to me and took post on my left. At 3 a.m. I went around the out-line pickets and found all quiet, no enemy near.

At daylight threw forward Genl Sully & Col Owens, took the whole town and picked the front range of heights

near by. During the day we have had a little skirmishing. The enemy have shelled us from their hills, but the Army has been crossing. Gen Franklin is over, so is Gen Sumner. Today the heights will be attempted. By God's blessing we will be successful.

Burnside says he puts his trust in God. He made some remarks to a room full of Generals Wednesday evening. He heard they had murmured. He rebuked them, & told them he lacked, but his trust was in God. Solemn, noble, manly & Christian were his remarks, and God will bless him.

We are now in a house abandoned by Mr Knox and near the front line. One or two shells have passed clear through it, but my room is in pretty good shape. Chas. joined, of course, the day before the battle, is well & sleeping. So Mr Stinson, Capt Whittlesey & Mr Atwood & Mr Steel sleeping on the floor near me.

I am sitting on this floor, near a fireplace, just like Professor Church's writing on my lap having an ink stand, candle stick and paper on a large portfolio with Tom, a little colored boy, holding up the outer edge. Tom drops asleep now & then. When my candle stick with its light sinks and with it ink slip down, - but I wake Tom & it is soon all righted. Tom also acts as paper clamp at the bottom of pages. "Tom" works for Capt W and Chas, & as you see for me. Every body works for me darling, but rebels.

Guy & Grace will be much interested in papa's letter, and Jamie can be told that papa found a little white pussy here & a big, big dog – big as lion. Much love to my precious children and a prayer to God in their & your behalf – that he will bless you & keep you all as his faithful children.

By the military committee I learn that I am unanimously recommended for a Maj Gen! It seems now less strange now that I have become accustomed to a larger command. Oh. that I may increase in love to God, who so abundantly blesses me.

Much regard for Mrs Stinson. Harry is a man, a brave & true one. He is amongst my blessings. My love to Chas. M. [Mulliken]. I wrote him a long letter; he has not replied. Chas has written Mother.

We may be in battle today. We trust in God to do for us.

Affectionately your own  
Otis

Chas sends love to Lizzie & the children. Love to Mother when you write.

---

1813 12/15/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1762

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps  
Fredericksburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[271]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps Fredericksburg  
Dec. 15, 1862

Dearest,

I would write you oftener but my labors of all kinds makes me feel almost unfit to write when I get a chance. We have had another terrible battle. Chas. slightly wounded, but of little account. A piece of a shell hit him on the rubber boot near the top and took a small piece out of his left leg. His horse was standing on my left and touching me. "Charlie" my horse was wounded slightly in the ankle by a musket ball. All my staff had their horses wounded, two orderlies had theirs killed. Lts. Stinson & Atwood were often exposed but not scratched. God has been good to us indeed.

I will not describe the battle but say that I supported Gen Hancock and held my ground from 1 P.M. for over 12 hours until relieved by other troops, only 100 yds from the enemies rifle pits - <> my men lying down. One of my regts, staid till four A.M. 157 Penn, when some of Gen. Hooker's men who came to relieve me swept them off in a retrograde movement. They brought a fire I understand four deep & cut us up terribly. Col Miles wounded not badly. Col Cross ditto.

Much love to my precious children & to yourself. My reliance upon my Saviour, I feel to be unshaken.

This hard work will soon be over I hope.

God bless you. Chas has written Mother. Love in abundance to her.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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1814 12/15/1862 *From:* C.H.H. [CH Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1763

H'd Q'rs 2d Division  
Fredericksburg Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[270]

H'd Q'rs 2d Division  
Fredericksburg Va  
Dec. 15, 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

For fear Otis may not get time to write I send you word that we are all safe and well. We had a fearful battle on Saturday and we were exposed much and long but the Lord shielded not only Otis and me but all our staff. No fighting yesterday, for which we were doubly thankful because it was the Lord's day and because we were weary from the tension of the day before. Otis' and my horses were slightly wounded – not enough to disable them. I had a very slight wound by a bit of shell in calf of the leg but it will not put me off duty. My new rubber boots protected my leg.

It is a beautiful morning, warm as September. The ground is damp and somewhat muddy. We were disturbed many times last night as 5 Regts. of our command are on picket & Otis has the responsibility of looking out for an attack.

I think we may not be in action again at present tho' it is possible. We failed to carry the works in front & some other plan than pressing right here has undoubtedly been adopted. Siegel will probably be sent down South – down river I mean to outflank them.

We have good quarters. Lt. Stinson I like much. He was brave & gallant the day of the battle in the highest sense and both our brigade Commanders and their staffs say they will vote him a Brigade General.

I have got my promotion as 1st Lt. and Otis is sure to be Major General if he is spared. The Lord is very gracious to us. How kindly He deals with us all. Many, many friends have been laid low. Gen. Caldwell was wounded, not dangerously. So was Col. Miles formerly of our staff. Gen. Bayard is said to have been killed. Col Cross was badly wounded.

Gen. Couch is very genial and is disposed to deal justly with all – not a man of caprice nor is he obnoxiously willful as some Generals in high places are liable to be. Otis likes his Brigade Commanders much and they cooperate heartily.

We have had an almost amusing acquaintance with a rich secession lady, our next neighbor and our host Saturday night. She was glad to have us come in & sleep there for her protection but showed so much unwillingness at our making her house H'd Q'rs & taking our meals there that we came into this Parsonage and we feel much more at home with a house of our own. Had feather beds on the floor last night & might have slept beautifully had we not been waked up about 25 times by orders & other matters of business.

Otis is writing you by my side so this letter will not be so important as I thought. It will however assure you of the love of your brother  
C.H.H.

Tell Guy I'm glad he can skate & hope he will have plenty of ice. Love to him & to Grace & Jamie.

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1815 12/16/1862 *From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1764

*Source:* Bowdoin

North West corner  
Brown & New Market  
Sts  
Philadelphia  
Pa

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[272]

Phila Dec 16th 1862

Dear Mrs Howard

Your letter bearing date of the 8th I received today. On first opening it I felt disappointed seeing it contained no likenesses but on reading it my disappointment left me. I hasten to reply to it, knowing the sooner you receive this the sooner I will receive Grace and Guy's letters which I shall be most anxiously expecting. Please let me have Jamey's likeness too. I would like to know whether Guy or Grace ever speak of Susan to him.

I think Guy would know me now if he saw me but I am afraid Grace would not. Is there any chance of you ever coming to Philadelphia to visit your friends for if I remember rightly you have some living here. How glad I would be to see you and the dear children here. I believe I would take it as a special gratification of my wishes from Him that can do all things. I watch the papers closely to find all accounts about Mr Howard. Until this last battle I could get no information for some time of where he was. I heard he went back after recovering and that he called at Carroll's and I think I heard once or twice of him since then. I heard that Mrs <Duam> was living in this city now. I dont know how true it is.

Please tell Guy & Grace and Jamey that Susan sends them a thousand kisses and is longing very much to get their letters and likenesses.

That Almighty God may spare Mr Howard and always grant you peace of mind and happiness is the daily prayer of  
Susan

Address  
North West corner  
Brown & New Market Sts  
Philadelphia  
Pa

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1816 12/17/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1765

Head Qrs. Old Place  
near  
Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[273]

Head Qrs. Old Place near  
Falmouth Va Dec 17, 62

Dearest

I feel the exhaustion of the past few days labor & excitement so much that I neglect even my precious little family. After the battle of Saturday we had a working night of it; my division, after remaining for more than 12 hours within a hundred paces of the enemy's lines were withdrawn being relieved coming back to Fredericksburg. The next day Sunday was comparatively quiet all day. Monday my division were picketing the front again. The enemy shelled us badly & one time three regiments abandoned their position. I had been at work laying out defences was in a high cupola, a mile off, when I saw a regiment giving back & knowing it was mine I hastened to bring up others. The most of the abandoned ground was retaken, under the fire of with my command, then had a detail of 625 men for entrenching. Just as a part of them got to work, we were ordered to retreat to the old Camp. This we did. Our tents are repitched - old picket lines reestablished and we are trying to rest. I have addressed the entire command – regiment after regiment & I fear have done some harm, as I said some truths to those regts, that did badly. Charles wound was so slight that he does not mention it. I have had a new tent stocaded today & am having a fire place put in. I am going into Winter quarters..

Give much love & many kisses to my/our precious children & God bless you all.

Mr Stinson is well.

Your loving husband  
Otis

Dec 18 Thursday.

We are all well & nicely rested this morning. Guy's birthday has passed. Papa will try and get a leave & go to Phila as soon as he can be spared, to fit a new arm. I wonder if somebody would not like to meet me there, Mamma, Grace, Guy or Jamie? You must assure Mrs Stinson & Mrs Blaine that Harry is noble & brave and deserves just as much praise as if we had defeated the enemy.

I must make out my report today and get my new house (tent) in order. I am perfectly well.

What mourning and depression there is in our land today. Read the 44th Ps. It just describes us, only we are sinful.

Much love  
Otis

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1817 12/18/1862 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1766

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[274]

Farmington Dec 18th /62

Dear Brother Otis

We hope tonight will bring us some news from some quarter concerning you & Charles. Farwell has been home to attend the funeral of his Brother-in-law Mr Sampson, & says he heard in Washington that you & yr staff were safe. That & the meager acct. in our newspapers of Sat's battle & the subsequent Retreat is all that we have heard. We were led by Sundays dispatches to think that the assault on the Enemy was only partial, but when I read them & learned of the repulse, I was very anxious till I heard that the Army was safe back again. "Safe" did I say. O may God comfort the widows, fatherless, & childless made so in that assault! I am not sorry that it was made. Nothing else could have demonstrated that the works could not be carried. The People will now more patiently endure slower & surer procession.

I write in the hope that your Division did nothing to cause chagrin to their commander, and that those nearest you were spared tho' the end is again painfully postponed. Poor Charles Hutchins! His name last night was among the "killed" & no comment. His family are in Augusta.

Uncle Ensign & Laura spent the last night here & he is to break the news to Uncle Charles & Aunt Hannah Knapp tonight. Capt Belcher of this place is wounded, & he of all the 3 years Quota both of Leeds & Farmington who went in the 16th is the only one we have heard from. We hear nothing from Perry except that he is Maj. of 3d Me.

Ella & Baby are very well. We have the "Circle" tonight & probably a house full of our parishioners. Father spent a day & two nights with us (R.R.meeting) - so did Ellas Father & Mother. Mr Sampson died of apoplexy after only 16 hours illness. He was a good man. We mean to observe New Years Day as a Day of Fasting & Prayer. We enjoy it much more, spiritually, probably, than if flushed & vane of a great victory. O for more humility. God must crush us all before we can safely rise & prosper!

I do not hear at all from Lizzie and the dear little children. Farwell thinks your promotion & Perrys will be made simultaneously & very soon. He has lost one his most faithful & best friends in Mr Sampson. We have a Christmas Festival for Our S.S. this year. Our people are healthy and some I hope are praying. "O Lord Revive thy work"!

Give my love to Charles & kind regards to Capt W.

Affly  
Rowland

We received Chas letter written on the Battle morning.

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1818 12/19/1862 *From:* C.H.H. [CH Howard] *To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1767

*Source:* Bowdoin

H'd Q'rs 2d Divn 2d  
Corps  
near Falmouth

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[275]

H'd Q'rs 2d Divn 2d Corps  
Dec. 19 1862  
near Falmouth

Dear Lizzie

Otis has at length got in the reports of Brigade Commanders and is this afternoon busy in writing his report. He sits near me for I am in his tent. Perhaps you are not aware that he has a new tent all by himself. It is pitched upon stockade walls of timber some 3 or 4 feet high and will be more comfortable in cold weather.

It is moderate today. The war committee of Congress are down here. We cannot divine the future but trust the Lord.

Love to all, from papa & uncle Charlie.

Otis says he is going to write some decent letters just as soon as he gets his reports out.

Yr Affectionate br.  
C.H.H.

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1819 12/20/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1768

Head Qrs. near  
Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[276]

Head Qrs. near Falmouth Va  
Dec 20 1862

Dearest,

I received your letter written last Sunday last night, Friday. I thought the telegraph would have apprized you of Saturday's battle & of the affairs of crossing the river and seizing the city. This morning my report went in – tabular lists of the killed, wounded & missing have been sent before. This morning we sent up the names.

Guy wrote me a good letter and what is better he sent papa, himself in ambrotype. It is good indeed. My little black eyed boy is all I lack. But I shall not object to the one with brown.

I presume before this reaches you, you will have heard of our repulse. I cannot say much about it – I am now in the fog. I have just heard that Seward had left the Cabinet and if Mr Lincoln reorganizes his cabinet will be better it. I feel more & more the need of a general humiliation before God, to wont upon Him & know his will.

A letter to the rebel General Jackson came into my possession, this morning, from his wife; just before the birth of a daughter, the first part was written & the rest after, purporting to come from the child. The matter was so touching & so sacred that I sent it directly to Gen. Burnside and asked him to forward it by the first flag of truce.

I am now the only Gen'l officer in this Div'n. Gen Sully has been sent to com'd Gen. French's Div'n, Gen French having gotten a sick leave. Gen Couch Comdg Corps is quite unwell. I do not understand why every body is down on Fred. Sewall. I expect it is on account of his politics & prejudices which are strong. He was with his regiment in crossing the river and afterwards in the Saturday's battle. On Sunday he was sick and turned over his command to Col Heath. He is now better, but weak & unfit for the field. Tell the Governor not to be too hard on him. There never was a more diligent man in the performance of duty. I understand that Maj Cunningham of the same regt. has been working a little against the Col & Lt. Col. but cannot vouch for it. He wrote to the Gov. & made recommendations adverse to those of Col. Sewall. Give my kind regards to Gov. Coburn when you see him. He soon goes into power. Success to him.

Some of your friends suggest that you made a bad move when you moved to Augusta – for Mrs De Janon or Mrs French would have told you, that in the Old district your husband was intended for Congress & in the new Blaine outranks him. What a pity you had not thought of it, but cant we wait till Blaine is a Senator? I have no higher thought now than to do what I can to save my country, and this is the highest I can have, for I believe in doing this I am serving God.

You should hear the high terms in which the brigade commanders speak of the conduct of Harry Stinson. Chas. wound was so slight he does not speak of it. I hope you are nicely. God bless & strengthen you darling.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1820 12/20/1862 *From:* Andrew Merrell

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1769

Geneva

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[277]

Geneva, Dec. 20th 1862,

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Your beautiful & highly finished silver knife & fork for Master Howard was received by yesterday's mail.

As he is too young to thank you himself, permit me, as his sponsor, to express the honor conferred upon him in possessing a gift from one whose name and character he will early be taught to love & imitate.

This pleasant remembrancer of army friendships and experiences, though a perfect surprise, is grateful to our hearts, and for it please accept from Mrs. Merrell and myself our sincere appreciation and thanks.

Praying the Lord to shield you in the perils of battle I remain

Very Respectfully  
Your obt. Serv't.  
Andrew Merrell

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1821 12/20/1862 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1770

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[278]

Portland Decm 20 1862

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I intended to written you before. My business prevented me the day you left Portland from assisting you & Grace with your Bundles to the Cars. I enclose the Bill paid Lowell & Senten & the two dollars which I exchanged at a very trifling discount.

I have purchased for you two shares in Mechanic Bank which I will forward after getting the Certificate, which will leave due still to you \$15 dollars including interest that I owe you.

We have all contemplated the Battle at Fredericksburg. Glad to hear that your good Husband has been preserved. May the Lord still watch over him & keep him safe.

Love to all.

Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

---

1822 12/21/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1771

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2nd  
Div'n  
2nd Corps near  
Falmouth Va

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[279]

Head Quarters 2nd Div'n  
2nd Corps near Falmouth Va  
Dec. 21, 1862

My dear Guy,

I received your good and welcome letter with mammas, which was written a week ago today. I mean to answer you tonight. I have also received Graces in which she tells me about her new furs. I shall try and write her very soon.

Papa now lives in a tent by himself. Capt Bachelder had one without pole & stove. Papa had some logs about four feet long cut & split into thus: [sketch of a log split long wise in two halves, along the length.] Then he had a circular trench dug: [sketch of a circular trench] about two feet deep and then stood the logs up side by side & fill in the dirt. Then he spread the tent over the tops of the logs and holds it up by three long poles. You can see two of them [sketch of the tent held up by exterior poles]. The fire place is at the back side of the tent and you cannot see it. Papa can show you how it looks thus: [Sketch of the fireplace against the rear wall of the stockade with a stone hearth extending out and a chair at the end of the hearth.] The chimney runs up just outside the tent. You will see something that looks like papas chair not far from the hearth.

Papa had services in his tent this morning. All the white boys & all the colored boys came in and Mr Whittlesey and papa read & talked to them about Jesus. We had a real good meeting. This afternoon Capt Whittlesey & papa went to see the poor wounded soldiers. Some had lost arms & some legs. They all looked very cheerful & some were trying to look to Jesus for strength. Poor boys & poor men, papa hopes God will bless them in His own way with much comfort.

Give lots of love to Grace, Jamie and Mamma.

We are all quite well. Uncle Charlie & papa take much pleasure in looking at your picture. Papa hopes you love the Saviour with all your heart.

Your loving papa  
O.O. Howard

P.S. Love to Lottie & Mrs Clark.

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1823 12/22/1862 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1772

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[280]

Portland Decm 22d 1862

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I now send you the two shares of Bank Stock which will draw interest from October last. The interest that I owe you makes the balance now due to you \$15 dollars, which I can send to you at any time.

We expect to go to Quincy on Wednesday and spend Christmas with Susie and return on Saturday.

Hoping this will find you and the children all well

I remain

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

---

1824 12/25/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1773

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[281]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
Dec. 25 1862  
Near Falmouth Va

My dear little daughter,

Papa has promised you the next letter. He wishes you this morning a very "Merry Christmas" . You will not hear the ring of it from papa's lips this year and the wish will not reach you till Christmas is all over, but yet papa does hope his little daughter will have a merry Christmas & a happy new year.

You remember Dr Wiggin; he over-worked and got quite unwell after the battle; so papa went to see him and invited him to come over & stop a few days with him in papa's large tent. Papa has had a door made to his tent since he wrote Guy and Dr Wiggin is making a latch for it. My door as you see opens inside and is a little straighter up than the drawing would show. [Sketch showing the tent, the door and the chimney.] In the first place I had no boards & had cedar bought to cover the ground floor but now I have had the present of some old boxes and by breaking them up have got a very good floor. John got me a piece of carpet a square piece that I put right in front of the fire. Everybody says what a pleasant tent when he comes in.

Give lots & lots of love to dearest mamma. Tell her papa is commanding the Corps & Division too just now which gives him double duty. Gen Sumner reviewed the entire Corps yesterday, taking from 11 a.m. until near Sunset. Papa got very tired & did not sleep so well for it last night, but is well.

Much love & a merry Christmas & a happy new year to Guy & Jamie. Don't forget to remember papa to Auntie Clark & Lottie.

How is Mamma well & happy? Does her little daughter behave well? Does she act like a little child who loves the Saviour. Dr Wiggin & Uncle Charlie send their love to Gracie.

May God have you all in his holy keeping is papas prayer.

Lovingly Yr Father  
O.O. Howard

P.S.  
Lt Stinson is quite well.

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1825 12/26/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1774

Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[283]

Near Falmouth Va  
Dec 26 1862

My dear Mother,

I desire to make you a new year's present and having nothing to send but money, I forward the enclosed with the request that you buy something that will add to your comfort.

Perry was wounded in the last battle, about as badly as Charles was at Fair Oaks.

I saw John Keen two days ago & Henry Mower. They were well. So was Dexter Howard.

Love to Father & all.

Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

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1826 12/26/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1775

Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[282]

Near Falmouth Va.  
Dec 26, 1862

Dearest,

I have just received your letter mailed Dec. 22nd 1862, containing the three blank cards which I have written on to the satisfaction of Chas. I am always happy when the mail carrier comes in with my darling's superscription. I have put off writing you for a couple of days, to write to Guy and Grace, feeling that this would please you best. My letter to Gracie was shorter and more hurried than I meant it should be. Gen. Sedgwick has now returned and assumed command of the Corps and I have only my own division to attend to.

The weather is a little warmish and I do not feel so strong as I wish I did, though I am well and endure a great deal of fatigue. I am kind of nervous and feel like Dr Wiggin as though a few days rest would not hurt me. When I think of you my patient little wife suffering so much without complaint, I do not feel that I have a right to say, "I am tired". Dr Wiggin spent two days with me & went back evidently refreshed. His eye was dead & his flesh thin & he looked worn.

Gen. Sedgwick takes Capts. Batchelder & Smith and I have applied for Owen & Balloch in their places and shall probably get them. You can hardly think how pleasant my tent is. John has got me a white table cloth and a tall brass candle stick from some place. My ground floor is now nearly covered with boards, and my fireplace & hearth very cheerful. John puts on big logs which last all night. I dont like to live in a house without a little wife in it, would you? So I adhere to the tent. Gen Sedgwick who dined with us today exclaimed as he came in, what a beautiful tent and I would as lief have it as a house.

Gen. French has gone & Gen Sully has been assigned to his Division. There has been a reduction of Generals, of late. In this Corps there is not one commanding a brigade. All are wounded, dead or on the shelf. I did hope for success in the last battle, I prayed for it when Hooker's men were giving way, but it was not the will of God. Oh. We must wait on Him and learn His will & then do it. Would that He would give me the wisdom. I omitted to tell you that our noble General Couch was taken sick and obliged to leave. He expected to return but I fear will not be able to. I like Gen. Sedgwick. I believe I always have good commanding officers at least I have had the good fortune to get along well with them.

You must tell me how Guy & Grace get on with their letters. I wonder at Jamie. I feel badly to think he & I fell out such willful individuals as we both are. I received a letter from Mrs Gray assuring us of their (herself & Jennie) prayers & inquiring for our little family.

Chas. thinks John Wier did'nt like it, that I never had him appointed an officer – do you think so? Charlie says he never answers his letters. You know that Perry Lee got wounded full as badly as Charles old wound in the last battle. I did'nt know it when I wrote you. I saw him at his tent. I think he is on his way to Sarah. His conduct was gallant. He staid on the field all day after he was wounded in the thigh.

Much love & many sweet kisses to yourself & children.

Aff.  
Otis

Harry Stinson seems well & happy. Capt W was thankful for your message. Chas sends his love. God bless & keep you & make your heart light.

Lovingly  
Otis



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1827 12/29/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1776

Hd Qrs 2nd Divn &c  
Near Falmouth, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[459]

Hd Qrs 2nd Divn &c  
Near Falmouth, Va.  
Dec. 29th 1862

Dearest

I received your kind letter enclosing Gracies ambrotype last night. I think it very good, not so good as her little self, for her hair is inimitable. I take them out & show them to my choice friends. I don't know that I would do that of yours, for ones wife is very sacred as well as precious. A cold look implying criticism would pain you, a high commendation would make you jealous: one has to entertain very peculiar & contradictory feelings when the wife is in question.

Who directed your last letter? I am quite affected about that, half inclined to fear you are sick. Perhaps Mrs Stinson? If so she writes a very manly hand. Perhaps Mr. Blaine but that not likely. Perhaps Charles Mulliken? But it is'nt his hand. Who wrote it? Perhaps Mr Merrill & enclosed the letter in a note to you? There, that's it why did'nt I think of it before.

I hope Grace was not much sick at the time she had her ambrotype taken. Why does he have such cold rooms to take pictures in?

Yesterday I went with Mr Stinson & visited every hospital in my division. We found very few sick. In our regiment we arrived just in time & staid thro' the divine Service. The Methodist minister was loudly calling the men to believe & do well that they might pass the judgement & meet on the right hand of God. The Chaplain did not know that I was present till he got through. I stepped up & said a word or two and then we passed on.

In the evening we had a good meeting at my head quarters. Col Owen came in. Capt Corkhill & his father, a minister on a visit to him. Mr Alvord our old friend who visited us so often on the Peninsula and the servants, clerks & others about these head quarters, all had a chance to sit or stand & I mus'nt forget Lieut Benjamin who came from his battery a mile away. Benjamin feels that he has wandered away & wants to get back to a closer walk with God.

We have had beautiful weather, but I hear the rain beginning to patter on my tent and fear we shall have to take some of the mud now. The weather has been so warm that I have not even worn a cloak for more than a week.

Give papa's love & kisses to his little children.

We have been talking of winter quarters, but I doubt if we get into any more comfortable than these we now occupy. I think we may try another forward movement before long. Lt Stinson, Capt W. & Chas are well. Capt Owen is ordered to me, but has a short leave. It is Tuesday Dec 30. The mail man is waiting.

Much love & may God bless you darling.  
Your aff. husband  
Otis

---

1828 1/1/1863

*From:* R.M. Rogers  
A.A.A.G.

*To:* Lt. Col. C.W. Asmussen  
Chief of Staff

OOH-1777

At the Front

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[328]

At the <front> - 1 P.M [1863] [Filed with Jan, 1863, assume 1/1/1863]

Colonel

I have been delayed with the Hd Qrs Ambulances and forage wagon. It is impossible to get them over the river and I will probably be detained here, an hour or longer if it is desired to have me see to them. Please send me word by orderly (if you send one back) as to what you desire me to do.

Very truly yrs  
R.M. Rogers  
A.A.A.G.

Lt. Col. C.W. Asmussen  
Chief of Staff

---

1829 1/1/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1778

Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[284]

Near Falmouth Va  
New Years 1863 [Jan 1]

Dearest,

I will just write you a line to say that we are all well. It is near twelve o'clock. I have felt such a burden for my country, that I have written a hasty article to the times under my signature whether win or not for the end I have in view viz: to do good I cannot tell. I have acted sincerely.

God bless you dear & kisses to you & the children. Harry is well, tell Mrs S.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

1830 1/4/1863

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother Otis  
[OO Howard]

OOH-1779

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[287]

Farmington Sabbath  
Jan. 4 1863, 9 P.M.

My dear Brother Otis

Charles sometimes writes that you enjoy my accts. of my Sab. services and so I will employ a few moments before retiring recounting them. I preached a New Years Sermon this morn: Rom. 13. 11-12, showing the folly & unreasonableness of sleep, when duty calls & danger threatens as it does now. I enjoyed reading my Sermon and wish I could have preached it without notes. This P.M. my Sermon was on Eph. 5.14. The darkness, sleep & death of Sin, till Christ give light. Our meeting was unusually full and our communion well attended. Father Rogers always assists me at the latter. None joined the Church today. Tonight was our "Monthly Concert of prayer for the conversion of the world" - was rather thinly attended as it is apt to be. It takes a large Souled Christian to feel towards Christian missions as one ought. Unless our faith be great, our prayers scatter & generalise at the point "Thy Kingdom Come". We have adopted a "family monthly subscription" for the present year. I hope there is no child so small or poor but will give one cent per month. The Board is now greatly embarrassed by the high rates of exchange.

Ella says "tell Charles I am reading the Life of Lemuel Norton presented by him". She breaks out laughing & reads me the good "elders" unsophisticated passages occasionally. David sleeps so soundly as to almost to snore in the cradle. We have had 10 days of the most beautiful weather I ever remember in a Maine winter. Such sleighing. Such perfect moonlight nights!

Perry arrived at Sarahs last evening. He has been gaining all the time & seems very comfortable. I called a few moments after meeting. Ollie Hazard came with him - no one else - and goes back tomorrow. He (Perry) seems to enjoy himself with Sarahs children. Mother spent only new years day with us, - we could not prevail on her to stay longer. She seemed well and to enjoy her visit.

I read a letter from Dr Wiggin to a Sister-in-law of his tonight. He speaks of his visit to you and his hopes in case you are promoted. I wrote Lizzie a New Years letter, in wh. I sent the balance of pay for the wood - now sold or consumed - and hope it will elicit a reply.

My pen goes every many way I am so nervous after the labors of a day - a call on a sick & dying woman being added to the above - and I guess I'll stop.

Much love from your sister Ella & Brother  
Rowland

Give much love to Chas. Thank him for his frequent letters.

---

1831 1/4/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1780

Head Qrs 2nd Div &c  
Near Falmouth, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[286]

Head Qrs 2nd Div &c  
Near Falmouth, Va.  
Jan 4. 1863

Dearest,

I have not written you during the past week so often nor so much as I wish I had. I came back from breakfast and found that John had fixed up my tent very nicely: he put my table in order and "stood up" Guys' & Grace's ambrotypes by the side of a book, so that Guy looked <sober> at papa & Grace smiling. Guy is sorry papa is gone and Grace is glad he is coming home. Perhaps this picture taking is serious business with Guy, but a pleasant novelty to Grace. I miss Jamie the little rogue with his "papa's arm all gone".

I wish I could know how you are, my darling wife. I hope you are not pressed with excessive anxieties for at this time it is so very necessary for you to be as Mr McKenzie thought you were calm & happy. I was just thinking you never told me whether you kept up the habit of regular family prayers just before breakfast. I presume you do. I would like to have you tell me of your daily exercises, so that I can think of you all at such times as thus engaged.

Here Charles, Capt. Whittlesey & myself take turns, just after breakfast & just before retiring, in reading from the Scriptures & in prayer. Today we have services in my tent at 11 a.m. Capt. Whittlesey is to lead. In the morning I go to their tent as soon as I am dressed on my way to breakfast: in the evening they come into mine.

Sprigg Carroll was here day before yesterday, said his wife, Katy, & mother were very well. I invited him to dine with me yesterday, but he sent me word he was on a court and could not be here. He was full of nonsense as usual. I fear he swears & drinks. He told me how much "egg-nog" he made and dealt out on New Years. He had a good deal to say about Guy & Grace.

Yesterday I visited Genl Burnside. He is afraid the rebels opposite us have sent reinforcements to Bragg. What a terrible battle in Ky. Poor Joshua Sill is dead. Slavery dies hard and costs us a bitter sacrifice, but I hope and trust we hav'nt invested our blood and treasure for naught. They, the rebels, will have it so, and our Government has come up to the issue that Providence has imposed, viz. the emancipation of Slaves. You should see our colored boys around these Hd. Qrs. They are all <learning> to read. Tom is Chas. & Capt. W's boy. He affords himself and other people a great deal of amusement. Nothing makes his eye sparkle so much as the mention of taking him home by Capt. Whittlesey. He reads & spells by himself very often. He comes out of his tent & says where is the b-a-g bag.

Charlie must write Guy a description of Tom & his doings. He rejoices greatly at the idea that his father, mother & friends are free. I cannot convince these boys that slavery is so much better than freedom.

I hope you are having just such a beautiful day as we are. Mr Stinson has just come in to report the condition of the 3d Brigade which he has been inspecting. He is well & true as ever.

Much love from papa to all. Mother feels very sad. Chas. Hutchins, Walter Boothby & <Young> Berry are very near home.

Your loving husband. God bless you all.  
Otis

---

1832 1/5/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Guy Howard

OOH-1781

Head Quarters 2nd Divn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters 2nd Divn

Jan 5, 1863

My dear Guy

Mr Alvord, uncle Charles & your papa took a ride the other day to find Benjamin's battery and just as we were passing the Hartwood road we saw an ox-cart like the above. [Sketch of a cart being pulled by two oxen.] it was an unusual sight in Virginia, but its contents, a lot of colored children: the short horns of the oxen, and the rickety old affair attracted our attention and I thought I would try to draw it for Guy. You dont see so many of these colored boys & girls as papa does. Uncle Charlie says they are very jubilant: i.e. they laugh & play a great deal. I dont think they play any harder or any more than you and Wally Stinson. You must write papa about those Stinson boys. Tell him their names & which are older than you and describe them so that he would know them if he should meet them in Richmond when our Army gets there.

How is dearest Mamma. Does she look out of the window any now. When Momma first went to Troy she used to be a little homesick now & then and she was sure to look out of the window & over the river at at a steep barren hill side where the rocks & soil had slid down.

Papa had a review today of two Brigades. Did you ever see a review? [Sketch of the formation of the regiments for a review with dots and lines.] Suppose the little dots to be the men in Regts. facing toward P. That begins the review. They all present arms & then P goes & looks at each man. Then goes back. Now all march past P as the lines show & then go back where the dots are. You don't know how much company my two little children are. They stand beside an old book that I think uncle Charlie must have borrowed over in Fredericksburg. He said "there were a great many books lying around loose" and perhaps he picked one up.

This is the way the children look [sketch of the ambrotypes on Otis' desk]. I mean towards papa – who is sitting in front of the table on which uncle's old book is lying. John has made a different kind of wash stand for papa in this tent, it is thus: [sketch of the wash stand] with the towel stand close by but papa dont wash there for that is too near the door and it is often too cold. So John places a box thus: [sketch of Otis leaning over the wash bowl on a box near the fire, with water dripping from his head] right before the fire close up to the hearth. Papa now has a barrel of apples or rather a barrel half full of apples near his trunk. Do you have any good apples? [Sketch of an apple] you see I tried to make an apple like the fine looking one on my table but I could not without your red paint.

John has now come in to fix papa's bed. Uncle Chas. is here and Capt Whittlesey will soon come for reading in the Bible and prayers.

How is it Guy? Do you love to do what is right? Do you try to live as you know the Saviour wants you to? I hope you & Grace & little Jamie are quite well. Papa expected a letter from Mamma tonight but it did not come. He hopes you are all very well. Many kisses one of these days & much love from your loving papa

O.O. Howard

To/ Guy Howard

---

1833 1/5/1863

*From:* Wm Smyth

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-1782

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[288]

Brunswick Jany 5th 1863

Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

My son Wm. H. Smyth, as you may be aware, after a short term in the Volunteer Service in Kansas, was appointed, more than a year since, a 1st Lieut. in the U.S. Regular Army in the 16th Infy. He was kept on the Recruiting Service some six mos; thence was ordered to camp Coolidge near Chicago on camp duty, and thence recently to Fort Ontario, Oswego N.Y. for better Winter Qrs I suppose for the men.

I have just returned from a visit to him, and find that he has already acquired a high reputation among his associate officers for ability in the service. He has, I know, great energy and decision of character combined with sound judgement & indomitable perseverance. His education, habits of study, & tastes, all adapt him to the military profession which is now his choice. He is already an accomplished officer in all that pertains to his profession thus far, and I found it the unanimous opinion of his associates that he is qualified for a much higher position than he now occupies. He could have obtained a higher commission at the outset, but he entered the service modestly determined to work his way up, and to secure promotion by deserving it.

He has long been anxious to get into more active service, and has become conscious of ability to serve in a higher position than that which he now occupies. He would be an accession of a Field Officer to any of our Volunteer Regiments. The position, however, which he would first of all prefer, would be, if it were possible, a place on your Staff, both on account of its relation to you, and the kind of service it would afford.

He would not leave the Regular Army for the Volunteer Service. But for some such place as I have indicated he could, I presume, get leave of absence from the Secretary of War. You know something of the young man. From my own knowledge of him, from personal observation of him at the Fort, and from the unanimous testimony of the Officers there, given to me unasked, I can have no doubt that he would fill with manifest ability any of the places to which I have referred. Major Coolidge commandant at the Fort, spoke to me of him in the strongest terms, remarking that he possessed in a high degree that "indescribable something" essential to success in the military profession, which few possess, and no education can bestow. I would refer to the Major & to Capt Prescott of his Regiment for testimony in regard to him. I might refer to others his superiors in office, but have not their address. Major Coolidge & Capt Prescott are now at Oswego.

I write to call your attention to my Son, without intending any solicitation in his behalf. Having given him to God and his country's service, I only wish that his abilities, whatever they may be, may be employed to the best advantage.

Now that at last the axe is laid at the root of this wicked rebellion, I have great confidence that God will prosper our efforts to put it down.

Praying, my dear Sir, that God will give you health and life and eminent success in the discharge of duty, I am in the bonds of christian affection,

Most truly & respectfully yours  
Wm Smyth [Bowdoin College Professor of Mathematics]

---

1834 1/7/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1783

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
&c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[289]

Head Quarters 2nd Div &c  
Jan 7th 1863

Dearest,

Our anxiety with reference to Rosecrans is now somewhat relieved and mine turns to my home. What is the reason I do not hear from you? I fear you or one of the children may be ill. I was sure I should get a letter last night but "Hughes" the mail carrier came in with two news papers and "No letter, Sir." I wrote Guy a short letter with some pen-sketches, day before yesterday.

We are all very well.

I have been reviewing my command. Yesterday I was to review Col Owen's brigade, but there came on a rain & prevented the review. Today I am going with Capt Owen to inspect his trim, and this afternoon have the review that was omitted yesterday.

I am thinking some of going to Phil'a. I would if I had a Gen'l Officer to take my place in the Division and yet I dont like the going without going home or inviting you. If Maria & you were both well, I should ask you to meet me there, but I had better run home for a day or two than that as it is.

Tell Mrs Stinson that Harry is well. It is a beautiful day. Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie, & much love to yourself.

May God have you in His holy blessing.

Lovingly  
yr husband  
Otis

---

1835 1/8/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1784

Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[291]

Near Falmouth Va.  
January 8th 1863

My dear little daughter,

Papa wrote Guy and then Mamma and thinks it is now your turn. Uncle Charlie is in papa's tent and eating an apple while reading an interesting news paper. He has now gone and Lt Stinson's colored boy has come in to get some sugar. Now he has gone. This makes me think of two things - the boy & the sugar. This boy is about as big as our "Tom" but you never saw our Tom. He is about the size of Mr Blaine's oldest (is his name Walter?). He has curly hair, black eyes, but his skin is not exactly black, the white & the black both appear - not spotted, but a wave of white follows close upon a wave of black. The sugar comes in a barrel. Capt Bullock our new commissary brought it and for fear these little colored boys would put their hands in the barrel too often where it was deposited, the Capt put it in my tent.

Evening.

I have just received a budget of letters one from Mamma. She tells papa the sad news that Guy learns something wrong almost every day. Papa hopes & prays that his little boys may strive to do right every day. Do you try hard to do the things you know Jesus loves? Papa finds it hard to do what he knows to be right but he prays & asks God to help him.

Your two Ambrotypes dont look as if you would do wrong. They are very sweet children. Give much love for papa all around and pray for papa in real earnest.

Very lovingly your father  
O.O. Howard

I send you a picture from Mr Alvord's paper. I would draw one, but wish to write Mamma.

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1836 1/8/1863

*From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* My dear Grace [Howard]

OOH-1785a

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[290]

Phila January 8th 1863

My dear Grace

I cannot tell you how delighted I was to get a letter from you. What a great big girl you have grown since I saw you. You write just the same way as Guy did to his Papa when we were all at West Point. I often think to myself if you are as big as Libby French was when we left West Point.

I should like to go to Fort Putnam too Grace with you but I would like to go in summer and I know you would not like to go up there such a cold day as this is. Do you remember the time we would go up there to gather nuts. What a nice time we had then Grace. I am sorry it did not last longer. Grace I have a piece of your hair that you gave me one day when we lived at the black gate in the little cottage and also a piece of Guy's that he gave me the same time after your Mamma cut it. Well I must tell you what I do sometimes with those two pieces of hair. I take them out and look at them for a long time, and then I kiss them very often before I put them away again. I suppose you think that Susan is a very queer girl to be kissing your hair. But you must know that Susan loves you now as nearly as she ever did.

Good bye now Grace and I hope you will not forget to write soon again to me. Tell Jamey that Susan sent him three kisses and I hope you will give them to him for me.

Your old friend  
Susan

[The following letter to Guy was appended to the one to Grace.]

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1837 1/8/1863

*From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* My darling Guy [Howard]

OOH-1785b

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter to Guy was appended to the preceding one to Grace.]

[290]

My darling Guy

I was intended to write a very long letter to you this time but I think I will have to wait now until I write again. Guy you look in your likeness just the same as you did the day Mr McCook called you a girl. I think if he saw you now he would not think you were a girl. Do you think he would. Guy darling I did hear that your Papa lost his arm. I always heard about him when in Washington and I was there at the time. I need not tell you that I was very sorry when I heard it. Katey Carroll was there & just of the time and she often said to me that she would not take you to her Maine because you did not take her to your Maine. She fought there just as much as she did on West Point.

Guy excuse this letter. I have a great deal more to tell you but have to wait for the next time.

Write soon to  
Susan

A dozen kisses to Grace the same to Guy.

---

1838 1/8/1863

*From:* Susan M Key

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1786

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[292]

Phila January 8th 1863

Dear Mrs Howard

I return you my sincere thanks for the likenesses. I received both and feasted my eyes on them for a considerable length of time. I think there is a greater change in Grace than in Guy at least I fancy so. She looks as beautiful as ever in my eyes but much larger. I think she has grown more rapidly than Guy but I suppose I cannot tell very well from the likenesses.

I am very happy to learn that the Genl and brother are well. I trust that Almighty God will protect them and keep them from all harm. When looking over the news paper daily I try to see if it contains any news about Mr Howard and I dont think there ever has been a piece on the paper & here that I did not see and cut out.

Hoping always to have an opportunity of hearing occasionally from you.

I remain  
very thankfully yours  
Susan W Key

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1839 1/10/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1787

Head Quarters &c  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[293]

Head Quarters &c  
Near Falmouth Va  
Jan. 10 1863

Dearest

The express box came this evening with our warm dressing gowns all safe. I did'nt find you inside but found an expression of your love in this good coat which cost you so much work & perhaps pain; and is so peculiarly nice and acceptable that I long to pay you in the usual coin. I mean that which dont go by mail or telegraph. You can hardly tell how comfortable we are this rainy night. Chas. is writing on a box: you can see the relative positions thus, [Sketch of the positions with annotations by Otis of the ] fire, Chas, Capt W, carpet, box with candles &c and your spouse [within Otis' tent.] Capt W. has now taken his departure with the remark I doubt if I make my appearance in this quarter again tonight. It was so very much work to put on his rubber coat & boots. He said when I told him you wished the box was bigger so you could get in: Tell her I hope she will not come in a box, it takes so long for it get here. I like to hear him say these things his eyes twinkle so good humoredly. Who put in the nuts that we have been enjoying and the figs? What a "petite boite [small box]" that of the figs.

F - I wrote that F & then my attention was called away for a half hour. Now I cannot find in all the corners of my brain what letters were to follow the F.

Charlie says if he had not volunteered to write to Prof Smyth an answer to a letter in behalf of his son William, I should not have written you this. Mr. Alvord is now here just came from Washington. He has taken Mr Whittlesey's relative position as to fire & box &c.

Gen Sumner went to Washington for four days two days since putting Gen. Sedgwick in command of the Grand Corps & me in command of the Corps. I go down to Corps Head Quarters twice a day & settle all business & then return to enjoy the more congenial atmosphere of my own staff. Capt. Owen has sprained his ankle & cannot step. I fear it will hold him on his bed a long time. My horse Charlie fell with me the other day while crossing a corduroy bridge, so as to strike his fore top, but he came up again and I remained fast in the saddle as if I was a part of the horse & did'nt get hurt. Mr Stinson looked happy in his gown & found his handkerchief.

Give much love to all the little ones. Remember me to Mrs Stinson. I consider Gov. Coburn as my friend. I hope God will prosper him. Much love & God bless you all.

Yrs lovingly  
Otis

---

1840 1/11/1863     *From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

*To:* My very dear Friend  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1788

19th above Walnut  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[294]

Philadelphia January 11th 1863

My very dear Friend

I feel almost ashamed to reducing my promises to your noble brave Husband that I must write to you, but better late than never. So I will write to-night.

I have been waiting to have a little carte of baby Clara taken to send to you. I wanted to send Edwin's picture too but have not yet had it taken. The children frequently speak of Genl Howard, and every night his little God daughter prays for him. Dear good man, how proud you must feel of him, and how thankful you must be that you have such a Husband & that your little ones have such a Father.

He did enjoy his visit to us so thoroughly. He told us of you and the little ones. I can only think of you as my sweet little friend in the cottage next door to us at West Point. We did not realize how truly happy we were then, & yet I am never sad & even the memory of those days makes me feel happy.

Mama Greble is just going off to bed and says send my warmest love & tell Mrs H that her good Husband promised that she should send me one of his cartes de visite.

Mr Howard (Genl ought to say but Mr seems like old times & my dear husband's friend) brought me a sweet book with a beautiful & touching title "The pleasures of Memory <-> pleasures of Hope" & in it he placed my name & two texts of scripture - "The Lord gave & the Lord hath taken away blessed by the name of the Lord" & "Come unto me all ye that labor & are heavy laden & I will give you rest ". He also gave each of the little ones a book & a Toy. I have the things put away most carefully as they will appreciate them much more when older. I have read their books to them however.

I think it is wonderful how well he writes & how handy he is, and how patient & full of trust in God. Dear good man. I loved him better than ever & felt so thankful that he had been kind enough to stand sponsor for our little one. I think having so good a Godfather will make it easier for her to take those solemn vows upon herself from his example. She is the liveliest gayest & brightest little thing I ever saw & very active. Edwin is much more sedate. She has a cheerful happy bright disposition & sings all days, but Edwin often frets.

Mr Howard said you wanted one of dear Papa French's cartes & I have promised to send one to you as soon as I can obtain one. Unfortunately the plate is broken & he will have to sit again. I can scarcely realize that Guy can go to school.

Do my dear friend write to me when you have time and tell me all about yourself and your dear little ones. I was glad to know that you were at housekeeping for I know just how you enjoy it. I heard from Mrs Vaughn that your brother Charlie had returned to Mr Howard. Johnnie Weir has his studio in New York this winter. Mrs Mendall at West Point has a little daughter & Mr Blunt is at home. I am so glad for Maggie. Sister Clara had a Christmas present of a nice saddle horse from Mr Pennington. He bought a Wheeler & Wilson machine last week. It had a glass foot, brush pad, a hammer which slips in without unscrewing anything & a glass foot with which you can embroider braiding without basting. My children have still in wear some of the things which you so kindly allowed me to stitch upon your machine.

I hope I have not tired you my dear friend, by this long egotistical epistle. Clara Paige comes to stay with me tomorrow. Goodnight & good bye. With every wish for your happiness & welfare, with a "Happy New Year" to you & the little ones believe me ever

Sincerely your attached friend  
Sarah B. F. Greble

19th above Walnut  
Philadelphia

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1841 1/11/1863 *From:* Geo Osgood

*To:* Mrs Sarah Woodman

OOH-1789

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[295]

Boston Janry 11 1863

Mrs Sarah Woodman

Madam

I have sent you this day a sett of nice Hudson Bay Sable Furs and put the price as near the limit, as possible viz \$225.00 for the sett which is really verry cheap for the quality and much lower than the usual price. Also a dark American Sable Muff @ \$20.00 which we think can not fail to please you. These furs are sent at the request of Mr Homer Rice, with the understanding that if not satisfactory they shall be returned immediately at your expense.

Yours Resptly  
Geo Osgood

P.S.

The price of the cape alone is \$170.- and the muff \$55.-

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1842 1/13/1863 *From:* Isabella Curtis

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1790

Curtis Corner

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[296]

Curtis Corner Jan. 13th /63

Dear Mrs Howard

It was with great pleasure that I received your kind letter and I thank you much for your kindness in remembering me and for the present you was pleased to make me.

I am much better than I was though still very weak. Dr Lorin was here yesterday. He said I was getting along well and if nothing new happens I shall soon get better. Perhaps you would like to hear from Brother. He has not yet got home but has got as far as Boston. He has been there about three weeks. Since he has been there he has had the ball cut out of his foot. He hopes to be able to come home by the last of this week. I do hope he may.

I would like to see you all very much especialy Jamie. I did not know how much I did love him untill he went away. Please give him many kisses from me. Mother sends an especial kiss for him too. Give much love to Guy and Grace and tell them I want to see them very much. I hope they have fine times attending school this winter.

Please excuse this poor writing for I can scarcely hold my pen. I hope you have very good meetings there.

Accept this with much love from  
Isabella Curtis

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1843 1/15/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1791

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[207]

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Jan. 15 1863

Dearest

I hear that Uncle Hicks has started to come out here, & will probably be here by Thursday night. I got the paper you sent with the Governors message contained. I read it all through aloud and was glad I did. For good wholesome common sense and for good taste the message is not surpassed by any similar documents. And I agree with it without reservation. Capt. Whittlesey thinks our Insane Asylum hardly up to those in Massachusetts. Otherwise he expressed his warm concurrence.

We have had a terrible thing occur here that has cast a shade over our life at Head Quarters. One of the colored boys, Andrew, who worked for Lieut Steel, Ord. Officer, and who waited on all of us at table every day was sent by Mr Steel to get a washing at Falmouth Va. He was returning with the clothes on horseback when he was accosted by a soldier, one of several stragglers from the Irish brigade picket guard on their way to Camp. The soldier said – dismount and give me your horse. He said I cannot, I am taking clothes to Gen. Howard. The man cursed him & told him, he'd fix him, raised his gun & shot him. Andrew rode clear up here about a mile & told me the story. Yesterday, the next day after the outrage, the doctors took his arm off at the shoulder. The wound was so bad that he has since died. He was a good boy, kind and thoughtful at all times & I believe a follower of Christ. He was very much beloved at these Head Quarters by every-body. He has gone to his God, but the murderer has not yet been found. In the Irish brigade they are so clannish that they will screen each other from all deserved punishment. The good boys blood is upon them, and God will require it at their hands.

Col. Sewall writes that he will start back tomorrow, I hope his health is completely restored. I received a letter which I will enclose from O.A. Mack's clergiman. I wrote a letter of sympathy to Mrs Mack. I wish we had known her personally. I think of Mrs Greble & of Mrs Mack & now of poor Mrs <Sinead> and how many more. Shant we say, Lord how long? O, how long?

I hear there is a notice of Gen. Gill in the paper, N.Y. Tribune, but I have not yet seen one. Charles is well. He has just written to Rothery. Rothery's time is out. He has a good place under Major Breck and is thankful for it, asks for Mrs Howard & the children. Mrs Rothery is with him there. Seville met me the other day an officer & A. D. Camp on somebody's staff. He appeared well. Robinson has got his commission. About all my soldier boys have done well. Mr Benjamin comes to see us occasionally. Sunday evening last we had a good service in my tent. Mr <Gokhill>, Father of commissary of 2nd Brigade, came & spoke to us. Mr Alvord was present. Capt W. and the rest – Guard & orderlies &c.

I dont think you can have such good times, but you know you have the children which are such a bothersome comfort. I would'nt mind the bother much if Jamie would'nt tumble down those long stairs. Much love to them all. God bless you all.

With affection  
Otis

Harry Stinson is always well. Tell Mrs S. & happy as I am over his new gown. I have got mine on. Every one exclaims what a nice coat!

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1844 1/16/1863     *From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1792

Head Quarters  
2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[298]

Head Quarters  
2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth, Va.  
January 16, 1863

Dearest,

The order has come to be ready to march an an early hour tomorrow morning, but I have no idea yet where we are going. I do not think to Washington, & I must say that I do not wish to take my family to that place to stay any length of time. My services, if worth anything, are for the field. The experience of the last year & a half has been in field service, but I do want the work to be over that I may rejoin my beautiful little family in the quietude of home. Such may be the will of God. It will doubtless be the case if he has any more work for me to do.

Mrs John Harris has just sent me some cards and books. The first one reads, "the spirit and the bride say come! And let him that heareth say come! And let him that is atheist come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely", Rev. 22.27. When Mr Alvord brought in the cards and bundles and I took up this one, it touched me and slightly disturbed my equanimity. Am I ready? Christ can make me so. How beautiful, how sweet the welcome! Come & partake of the water of life freely.

Dearest, I covet for you a very strong faith. God has imposed on you a heavy burden at the best but only what He will give you the Grace and Strength to bear. There is so much of earthly joy in the possessions with which I have been blessed, that I hardly can feel as if it were gain to die, but we will leave all this with God. God grant that you & I and our precious little flock may do His holy will.

We are all very well.

The Rev. Mr. Childs Baptist from Boston, one of the Secretaries of the Tract Society is with us, on a short visit. A very pleasant and intelligent gentleman. Mr Alvord comes & goes, we like him much.

I had in mind when I began my letter what I did not write you that I received two letters – one written the 30th ult. & the other the 12th inst. The former told me about the little box containing this nice dressing gown and the latter was in good season & told you about receiving the box in a former letter. My gown or coat is splendid, warm, & pretty.

Guy's letter came last night with yours. He said mamma had a tooth ache. I hope it does'nt ache often, nor long. Guy did not misspell a word, nor make any bad grammar. I am glad Uncle Hicks is coming out, but feel sorry he is going to sell because there is so little permanency to this business. I think Charles Mulliken would make a good commissary of subsistence, if he could get the appointment. I will write him on the subject.

[Missing closing]

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1845 1/16/1863    *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1793

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[no stamp]

Portland Jany 16 1863

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I wrote you about the 20th of Decmr (I think), enclosing certificate for two shares of Bank Stock, also a letter enclosing the two dollars you gave me to exchange, and a Bill from Lowell & Center for \$10 – paid. I have not heard whether you Recvd the letters. In looking over my Memo Book since, I think I made a mistake in giving you the amt due.

I enclose a Memorandum of the items of account. Please let me know if you recvd the letters &c, and if I shall send you the \$25.

We are all quite well – hope this will find you & children the same. Where is your Good Husband Stationed - is he well?

With much love, your uncle

E. Waite

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1846 1/16/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1798

[Missing Opening]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[302]

[Missing opening. Probably OOH-1792, dated 1/16/1863]

Your letter of the 13th came last night. Where did you get such little paper? I am very happy to hear from you so often. Did Guy fall when skating & get that bump? "Jamie tomach well". Think he would know papa?

There is no good place for you here, my darling; for you to meet me in Phila perhaps you meant. But your objection to my getting an arm has rather put it out of my mind. I think the arm might be of considerable service but cant say how much.

Give kind regards to Mrs Stinson. Harry is well.

We have a Corps review today so I must stop. I got a letter from Gov. Coburn last night. Hope he is well. God bless & keep you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie from papa. Thank Guy for his last good letter.

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1847 1/17/1863 *From:* Paul Babcock

*To:* Brig. Gen. V. Howard

OOH-1794

New York

In the Field Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[209?]

New York Jany 17/63

Dear Sir

"The critical state of our country induces me to risk being misinterpreted & to take leave to set before you the feelings & thoughts", of a simple citizen: who with you "yearns for the welfare of his country".

You who have (as I think from your letter to the Times fortunately for that country) attained a high military position if misinterpreted risk much, while I personally a stranger will suffer nothing if you throw this aside unnoticed. At any rate I intend anything but an improper familiarity, my heart beats responsively to every word you have written – my children are now close by your side as ready with their weapons to sustain you as is their father by his voice.

He is chagrined & mortified to confirm Sir, what you have heard it is indeed true too true that "there is apathy at home amongst a large class". "The disloyal are gaining them over" some too many I fear "rejoice at your failures" and "thousands are crying peace peace at all events" - and the "portent" is chaos, dissolution, despotism, the despotism of a Barbarian fear over a pusillanimous many; before that day comes I pray God to give me strength & courage to die like a man in defence of the right & the truth – nothing can be clearer I think than that God will no longer permit a nation to use its power to sustain slavery & do so with impunity.

The guilt & turpitude of this is just equal at the north & at the south, but the meanness & degradation is much greater with ourselves. I can conceive that a slaveholder or his ignorant non-slaveholding neighbour may reason himself into the belief that he is justified possibly he may not despise himself.

But a northern proslavery democrat, who opposes & frustrates the government cannot be in that category. His lust for power cannot obscure all his faculties he must feel the same contempt for himself that all mankind feel for him.

Doubtless General there is much to discourage much to dishearten but you who are constantly exposed to peril from battle & from the elements & we who know not when we go to bed whether anarchy & confusion may not meet us in the morning and yet there are not wanting some hopeful signs. Occasionally a democratic leader lifts himself above party like Butler in the field & camp, & like Randolph in the New Jersey Legislature. Would that all such might be duly honored & exalted. Again the late address of the Lancashire working men to the President is much more signifiant for good than at first sight appears. The Press ought to make much more of it than they have done.

I have been too tedious already. Allow me but to say that if a majority of our Army agree with you in sentiment & will avow it, the people will back you & the partisan leaders will be crushed & the Rebellion with them.

With very great Respect  
&c much prayers for  
Your protection. I am your Servt

Paul Babcock

Brig. Gen. V.V. Howard  
In the Field Va.

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1848 1/20/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1796

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2nd  
Brigade  
2nd Div. Near  
Falmouth, Va.

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[301]

Head Quarters 2nd Brigade  
2nd Div. Near Falmouth, Va.  
January 20th 1863

Dearest,

I wrote so much early this morning and was then interrupted, and have been kept busy. We have just received an order to move tomorrow morning which will probably not be far from this place. I believe the Army is already in motion & I think it will be likely to turn on us, as a pivot; though I have received no instruction yet as to the plan of Campaign. God grant us success, if it be his Divine will. I hope the time has now come when he will so bless our Army.

Uncle Hicks came last night. He looks well, but a little sober. He has gone to work to supply us. I will try to keep him contented, so will all of us.

Capt Hayes a.k Quartermaster has come for one of my brigades. I feel very hopeful now about everything. I shall not go to Phila at present. I want to see you and hope by the blessing of God to be with you in May, Middle or all.

Give much love to Guy. Tell him he could not help loving the Saviour if he only knew Him well enough. Give much love to my little daughter. She must be a real lady and Jamie papa wants to be home much on his account so as to know him better, sweet faced black eyed little boy as he is. We had a nice day here Sunday; a good prayer meeting in my tent of the evening. Mr Alvord was here. He has given me the pictures of his wife and daughter to send you, so has Capt. W. sent you these two for photo album, himself & wife. I want just such a photograph of you as Mrs Whittleseys. Isn't it a good one.

I send you my pay for my horses just obtained, \$337.38. Do what you think best with it. You will want to pay your current expenses out of it, for I hav'nt drawn my pay for December & Jan'y.

I must now stop. I am in the hands of God. I trust you are quietly resting in him. May He give you a rich abundance of his Grace.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

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1849 1/23/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1797

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[no stamp]

Portland Jany 23d 1863

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter of 21st by which I learn that you have sickness in your Family. Hope that Grace has got better of the Measels, and that you are all comfortable. We see by the papers that the Army of the Potomac has not moved forward by last accounts. I think it now doubtfull whether they move immediately in the direction first contemplated as the enemy have had time to prepare. I trust the Lord will over Rule for the best. I now enclose \$25 dollars which is the amt due. With Love to all.

Acknowledge recpt if convenient.

From Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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1850 1/24/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1799

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[303]

Head Quarters 2nd Div 2nd Corps  
January 24 1863

Dearest,

Our movement was vetoed by a kind Providence for His own wise purposes. I think I can see good reasons why we were not allowed to cross the river. Army officers have to a great extent, talked against Gen. Burnside and the men have caught the spirit of it till there is an almost universal pulling back, no <lurnistures>, no enthusiasm. And I fear that had we crossed the river with this spirit we should have been again defeated.

I am thinking much about the children Gracie with the measles. I am afraid she will have a hard time before she gets through with them. Then Guy with his sore throat & fever turns. I hope you will not have to over work. It may be that the widely circulated rumors of a move reached you, and that you have had to suffer with anxiety on that account.

I asked a gentleman Mr Richardson, Tribune reporter who makes his room with us, to telegraph you from Washington (whither he is going today) of the news of the abandonment of the design of an immediate forward movement.

I am inspecting my Division, their books, papers &c. now. Last night I wanted to write you, but I was so completely stupid and tired that I gave it up till this morning. I think I got a little cold, have a little canker in my mouth and probably internally affected by it. But this morning I am nicely. The terrible storm has now given way and pleasant weather again smiles upon us. Applications for furloughs & leaves of absence come in – papers in abundance. It would be very pleasant to be home now but I think I shall put off trying to get away unless some important change takes place. I am in hopes this Army will be broken up & distributed to the other Armies in the field. There is too much croaking too much self-seeking. We are too near Washington.

I do hope the children are better. Mr Hicks has gone to Washington to get supplies. He will be back today. He will be much liked I think, though I fear it may not be very profitable for him. We give him 5 dolls per week & <> for servants.

Give much love to Guy. Tell him he is fortunate to be sick at home, also Grace. Papa had his measles in the <chest> in great part. And Jamie I expect he will have his turn at them.

Mr Stinson is well, but his poor horse is not.

Much kind regard to all friends.

Will write you more at length soon. God bless you all.

Affectionately  
Yr husband  
Otis

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1851 1/25/1863 *From:* C.H.Howard

*To:* My dear mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1800

H'd Q's 2nd Division &c  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[304]

H'd Q's 2nd Division &c  
Near Falmouth Va  
Jan. 25 1863

My dear mother -

I will write a few words before going to bed. It has been a warm pleasant day like May – somewhat muddy from the recent storm which lasted just long enough to put a stop to the plan of attack upon the Enemy. If you saw my letter in the Press & another to Rowland you will know about the plan - and its failure.

Today has been a Sabbath to a part of the Division – with one Brigade we held services this forenoon. Heard a portion of a sermon by a Methodist Clergyman from the West who is staying with his son. He asked the General “to make some remarks” and Otis gave them an earnest & impressive talk.

Tonight we have had a good Prayer-meeting. Rev. Mr. Means of Boston son of Dea. Means of Augusta is here, took dinner & tea, helped much and very interestingly in the meeting. Mr. Hicks got back from Washington tonight. He was much disappointed that he did not get here early enough for the meeting. I will tell you of his perplexities on the route when I resume my letter. I must soon be in my bed as the Capt. has “turned in” & he cannot get to sleep well with the candle burning. Two ladies were at our meeting. We had a long sing afterwards in my tent but the ladies did not stay for this.

The idea that became most strongly impressed upon me tonight is the good amount of prayer that is going up for the Army & the results we are to expect therefrom in the awakening & conversion of souls.

Good night dear mother. Hope you are in as good health as both your sons. I was weighed today – found that I reach the remarkable (for me) figure of 162 ½ lbs!

I have been in Otis' tent to family prayers with Mr. Hicks & Capt Balloch. The latter is going home to N.H. tomorrow on a Leave of twenty days.

Monday – 2 P.M.

I have been riding all the morning with Rev. Mr. Means & Dea. Ropes who came on with him from Roxbury. We went along the river where we could see the Rebel Pickets along the other bank. They were digging in some places as though making Artillery Redoubts. I pointed out the place of crossing – the manner of taking Fredericksburg &c., all the points of interest, the distant battle field. We went to the Lacey House – saw there Mrs. Harris who was here last eve. She is cooking & caring for the sick. That is opposite the city and we heard a Rebel band discoursing sweet music in a most jubilant manner. The first Rebel music I have heard since in front of Yorktown.

Mrs Harris told me first the news of Burnside's removal with Sumner & Franklin. Soon after I rode to Gen. Sumner's & found Otis there. I feel very sad. Hooker is not a pure man I fear. He is intemperate & profane. I know not what will become of us. Wish we might go West with Sumner; if he is <to [CHECK ORIGINAL – right edge of page 4 glued]> go West to St. Louis as is the rumor.

I rode with the gentlemen to the 2nd Div. 9th Corps to visit the 35th Mass which had a company from Roxbury thence home.

Mr. Hicks got his supplies from the depot this morning. He had come down to Aquia Creek on Sat. & gone back again on finding that the officers of the boat had left a part of his things. When he got down there yesterday he could not get his things upon the train until coming so it <> his arrival late & after the wagon <> went for him had returned. So he had to walk up in the darkness & <>. I believe he is well as usual now. He is very cheerful & it

does us good to see his good natured face about. He said 4 months ago, had he had the same perplexities & ungentlemanly treatment of R.R. & boat employees, there would have been some tall "swearing". It was a new way of spending the Sabbath to him.

Gen. Howard now commands the Corps & Gen. Couch the Grand Divn, but there is a prospect of the Grand Divisions being abolished as Gen. Hooker is said not to believe in them. We saw in papers yesterday that Gen. Howard is appointed a Maj. Gen. to date from 29th of Nov. If the Grand Divn arrangement had been continued Gen. Howard would have had a Corps permanently & his staff would have been promoted.

But all will work out right & for the best to those that love God. There was a want of heartiness in the support of Burnside & perhaps his removal has saved him from a more disastrous & disgraceful defeat by the Rebels on this account.

You know it is a principle with your sons to be hopeful & stouthearted in the darkest times because there is so much need of such a spirit when all around are cast down. Lord give us strength to stand up firmly & press forward boldly in the line of duty!

Mr. Alvord is having today a meeting of Chaplains of this Corps. They are in his tent just behind mine & I just heard the grand harmony of their weird mole services in a good old tune & hymn.

Col. Sewall came back in better health. Had seen Lizzie, called on her in Augusta. He now commands the Brigade as the ranking Colonel. Gen. Pully is away on Leave for 20 days & several other Colonels are absent.

I came near going down to the 1st Brigade as Assist. Adjutant General yesterday for Col. Sewall but he got some one at last & I am very glad now as we may possibly go to the Corps.

I hope the people are not ceasing or falling off in any respect in their prayers for this army & for our Country. It is time we all began to call upon the Lord, & it is strange the whole nation cannot see it in this light.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

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1852 1/27/1863

*From:* Adonis Howard

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1801

Joppa Village, East  
Bridgewater,  
Mass.

Second Division of the  
Second Army Corps. Va

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[430]

Gen. O.O. Howard, of the Second Division of the Second Army Corps. Va.  
Dear Sir,

Having just read in the "Boston Semi-Weekly Journal" of this morning, words in which you address the editor of the New York Times, I venture to indulge a desire I have felt for some time to ask of you a line or two of information upon a less public topic. First, however, allow me to thank you with all my heart for the monitory and brave and patriotic accents of the address above adverted to. We need such notes sounded among us here at the Eastward, and when they come to us from the tried, good and brave Generals of our army, they surely must be hearkened to and will do us good.

The information I would ask, dear Sir, is simply a matter of genealogy. You are, if I am right in my supposition, a descendant of an Old West Bridgewater Stock, of the fifth or sixth generation from John Howard an original proprietor and First Settler of ancient Bridgewater, Mass., and, if I rightly conjecture, you derive descent from him through the late Lieut. Jesse Howard of West Bridgewater, and through his son the late Capt. Seth Howard of Leeds, Maine.

If I am not asking too much, and your more important cares and labors will allow you to favor me with information, at least so much as to name to me your father and grandfather on the paternal side, you will greatly oblige me thereby.

I have endeavored to keep some record of the descendants of John Howard above named, rather additional to that given by the late Judge Mitchell in his "History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater," and am therefore the more solicitous for the information. In my possession is a printed copy of a letter written to the above named John Howard and his brother George after they came to New England, by their mother, dated: London, August 16th, 1652. Should you desire it, I will with pleasure give you an accurate transcript of the letter.

I am of the fifth generation from said John Howard, and a grandson of the late Capt. Eliakim Howard of (West) Bridgewater, who deceased in 1827 in the 88th year of his age, was town clerk of (ancient) Bridgewater from 1779 to 1822 when the town was divided or 43 years, and whose wife was Mary H. a sister of the late Lieut Jesse Howard above named. My father, Capt Amasa Howard, deceased in 1797, when I was two years old. He was in the American Revolutionary Army and stationed in New York a while, then was an orderly sergeant, I think. Lieut. Jesse Howard was, on the side of my mother, my great uncle.

I have made mention of the foregoing things, only because they may serve to show why I may feel interest in the information asked of you, dear Sir. If you indulge me with it, please direct to Rev. A. Howard, Joppa Village, Mass.

I am with great respect,  
Your Obedt Servnt  
Adonis Howard

Joppa Village, East Bridgewater,  
Mass. Jan. 27th, 1863.

Above and beside the noble consolation of serving well and faithfully our beloved country, may our Heavenly Father compensate you, for the loss of your right arm, with a heavenly, supernal reward!

I should like much to have your signature in full, and more especially, if instead of employing an amanuensis, you manage to write with your left hand.



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1853 1/27/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1802

Head Quarters 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[305]

Head Quarters 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va. Jan. 27 1863

Dearest,

I am today at Corps Head Quarters. The changes of which you will be apprised before you get this have brought me for the present in command of the Corps. Gens Burnside, Sumner and Franklin have gone and Gen. Hooker has the command. Hooker is not believed to be so good a man morally as either of the others, but if God is proposing to use him as his fit instrument, we will work on & wait for His will. It is thought that Grand Divisions will be broken up and that Corps will remain as they were under McClellan. I think I shall be satisfied either way.

It is not desirable to increase ones command, because ones responsibility is increased therewith. Enough is enough. Gen Couch said his wife wished him a General, when he was Col., a Maj. Gen when he commanded a Brigade and after he got a Divn she thought he ought to have a Corps and now she wants him to have a Grand Division. He has just got that & writes her to stop wishing. I believe your ambition was satisfied when I was 1st Lt. of Ordnance & Asst. Professor of Mathematics. But I think if I could now be honorably promoted to civil life, according to your last letter which I got Sunday night you would feel quite satisfied, n'est ce-pas? Perhaps you have a small spark of patriotism, and will be willing for me to stay for the good of my country. I do feel almost startled at my own littleness, but I hope for the sake of my own command I am held in higher esteem by others than I hold myself.

How are my precious little children today. Guy, I hope he is better. Col Sewall says he wanted to come out with him. Tell Guy, it is hard enough to send Uncle Charlie of errands under fire, and would be a little too tough to risk Guy too. Perhaps that would be a little too much for Mamma's patriotism to stand. How is Gracie & the measles? Did she have a red flag as Guy & I did? Has Jamie surely got them? I suppose he could'nt be kept out of any particular room.

Uncle Hicks got back from Washington after much difficulty. Quartermasters & officials both need him exceedingly but he says he did not swear as he might have done 16 months ago! He did not sell out.

I have drawn my pay & enclose you a hundred dollars.

Give much love to all. How are Mrs Clark and Lottie.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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1854 1/29/1863     *From:* J W Patterson

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1803

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[306]

Augusta Jany 29/63

Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

I send herewith a triweekly Age edited as a <review> by D. T. Pike that you may see for yourself the course he is pursuing in relation to the rebellion. He and most of the leading democrats in this vicinity are more in favor of the rebels than the government. Daniel Williams, Allen Lauchon, L W Lithgow, G.N. Stanley, Benj Davis, W R Smith, Thos Lamberd, and many others are as bitter as they can be and will all rejoice to read Pikes comments on your communication to the people, but you may rest assured that all loyal people agree with you and that you will be sustained. It is the common remark of all loyal men that Gen'l Howard is honest true and brave, and if all our officers were like him, we should do much better than we do.

Pikes son as you are aware lost a leg in battle. He came home, and the people gave quite a sum of money to help him, and I believe he has been since commissioned as a Lieut, and it is well known to all of his acquaintances that he is wholly unfit for any office whatever and I have no doubt but that his sentiments and his fathers agree. It is such appointments that hurt us more than any thing else. We have lots of traitors holding commissions. It has been frequently reported here that Seth Williams, son of Daniel Williams one of the traitors herein named has written home frequently that he has no heart in this war. He was on Gen'l McLellans staff, and is yet in the army I suppose. But wherever he is, if he has written home as reported, he needs <rodtaking> in fact he ought to out of the army or placed where he cant do any harm.

It is hard that our soldiers are deprived of their votes. They ought to be allowed to vote by proxy. I fear that the traitors may get control of the northern states, in consequence of the absence of our voters. It is the most we have to fear now, and the hope that they may succeed is the greatest comfort the rebels in arms now have. They say that if they can prevent the rebellion from being crushed, till this congress adjourns, they can force the President to call an extra session and then they will stop the war. But I am one that believes we never can have peace until slavery is abolished. In fact it is useless to expect it or think of it, for it cannot be.

Please excuse the liberty I have taken of writing you at this time. I felt so vexed to read such an article as Pikes, such a slander upon the acts of a faithful officer I could not keep silent. And with much regard for your success and welfare I will close.

Yours <truly>  
J W Patterson

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1855 1/30/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1804

Head Quarters 2nd  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[307]

Head Quarters 2nd Corps  
Jan 30, 1863

Dearest,

I received your letter referring to Capt W's Photographs & the check for horses, night before last. I am glad the children are able to go to church. Gracie gets better very quickly. She could'nt have had so hard a time I think as Guy & papa. And I am glad Jamie runs so fast the measles cannot catch him.

I am still commanding the Corps without being aware whether I am to continue this sort of business or not. I went to Head Quarters to call upon Gen. Hooker yesterday - met a very warm reception. Gen Hooker has always been very friendly to me. You probably have an interest to know how he looks & what he will do. I think you have his photograph. He is a handsome manly looking man, quite affable in his manners, self-confident, strong in his expressions of loyalty and determined with reference to home traitors, "Not even lukewarmness is to be tolerated here".

Saturday morning. Jan 31

I expected to finish your letter yesterday morning but breakfast came a little too soon. This morning I am up with the light. I am living at my old Quarters. Chas. is now acting Assistant Adjutant General for me at Corps Head Quarters and is working pretty hard for him, but he likes it.

I got my promotion to Maj General day before yesterday and now I want some clothes. Please go to Chisum & Cobb's and tell them to make me a dress coat out of just such cloth as the last. The size around the waist wants to be one inch larger, across the breast about 2 inches larger. The back is just right according to the old measure. I want also a good set of Maj Genls shoulder straps, not too large but neat. Let them make me a pair of pants of stout dark blue cloth. The Tailors are apt to put on the buttons thus [sketch of three groups of three buttons uniformly placed from the straight edge of the coat], but I want the coat to bulge out a little across the breast thus [sketch showing a curved edge, with the buttons following the curve]. They must consult the Regulations. The distance apart of the two rows of buttons at top 5 ½ in. at bottom 3 ½ [sketch showing these distances]. I enclose you a hundred dollars (100).

My ink blots badly this morning. John says "Breakfast is ready". Uncle Hicks has been in. He keeps us almost too well. It does me good to see his sweet face around.

Give much love to the children. I am anxious to hear from them & you often. When they get all well I may ask you to take a trip to Phila if the journey will not be too much for you. Let my new clothes be sent to Washington with request to be forwarded by express - pay expressage & let me know date of leaving.

Harry Stinson is well. Capt W. says you cant fail to send your Photograph now. My kind regards to all my friends. I hope Mrs Clark and Lottie are well.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1856 2/4/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1805

Head Quarters 2nd  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[309]

Head Quarters 2nd Corps  
February 4, 1863

Dearest,

Dr. Wiggin has resigned, was here yesterday and took three hundred dollars to carry to you. I have drawn my pay up to the close of January. I received notice of my commission or rather appointment as Major General to date from Novr 29, so I drew the back pay due from increased rank. Now I hear that the Senate sent back the names of all the nominees to the President without confirming them. But as I have the appointment and no news official to the contrary I shall continue to sign myself as Major Gen. The Corps is still in my hands. But I am expecting a breaking up of Grand divisions, which will be likely to give me my division again: a thing not to be regretted, for if I leave I must lose Capts. Whittlesey, Bulloch and Owen. A recent order makes those officers fixtures. I dont know what made people report that Capt. Whittlesey was going to leave us. Professor Packard promises to do everything he can for him during his absence.

Some Furloughs are now being granted to officers and enlisted men, a few to each. Do you think you and Guy or Gracie could make the journey to Phila to meet me by and by? I have thought Maria's condition of "expectancy" would be a hindrance to our going there. So we would take rooms at a hotel and pay visits. Mrs Greble with her little charge would be delighted to see us. I fear the journey would be too much for you, but you will know best. You can take your time to come on and if you had to wait a day or two for me you would'nt mind it. Both Guy & Grace might come and it might do them good, but the care would be greater for you. Now do not feel that you must come, but consult your health, strength & that of the children and your own feelings and wishes, darling. I could be with you about seven days.

I sent you by Dr. Wiggin the Photographs of Mr, Mrs, & Miss Alvord. He is with us a great deal & we have a great love for him. He continues to distribute to the soldiers books and tracts. On Sunday evenings we continue to have services in my tent. They are a kind of prayer meeting. Mr Alvord is often present and two or three times we have had strangers here. Last Sunday Mr Stinson's uncle Mr Stanwood of Boston was here, a week ago Rev. Mr. Means of Roxbury and the week before that Rev. Dr Childs. The two latter entertained us by some very interesting remarks.

A week ago we were astonished by two ladies dropping in upon us Mrs Harris and Mrs Parish. They are Secretary & agent respectively of the Ladies Aid Society of Phila. and are going about among the soldiers trying to do good. Mrs Harris about your size only considerably older & Mrs Parrish is not quite as large as Mrs Symington. How indignant Mrs S must be in these times. I would rather fight a battle than meet her in politics.

Give much love & many kisses to the children and our kind Father have us all in His Holy Keeping.

Lovingly your own  
Otis  
January 13, 2016

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1857 2/8/1863

*From:* C.H.H. [CH Howard]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1806

Headquarters 2nd Divn  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[310]

Headquarters 2nd Divn  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Feb. 8 1863

My dear Lizzie

I have for some time intended writing you. Those remembrances of little Jamie and his mention of me are irresistible. I hope you will try and make him understand that "uncle Charlie" loves him very much and cannot bear the thought that he (Jamie) will forget him. I am glad he has got safely thro' the measles. They are quite fatal to the soldiers who are having them out here.

Otis visited the hospitals today in company with Mrs. Owen riding round in an ambulance. Mrs. O. has been with us about a week – came out to nurse up the Captain's sprained ankle. She is a very kind & pleasant lady – youthful appearing so much so that Mr. Stinson thought she was the Captain's wife instead of Mother. Her other son has recently got appointed Capt. in the Commissary Dept. Mrs. O. was chiefly instrumental in procuring his appointment – visiting the President in person for that purpose.

Otis got pretty tired in going to so many hospitals. This with the other duties of the day & a meeting here this evening has made him go to bed earlier than usual. He has just got fixed down for the night upon his Couch wrapped in his Robe with a soldiers over coat over his feet. He was just talking with Uncle Hicks who sleeps here now that Mrs Alvord has gone away with his tent. Uncle H. sleeps upon the carpet upon the ground by the side of Otis' bed. He has a mattress which he puts down. He took part in the meeting tonight by offering a prayer. One of the soldiers (of Hd Qrs) arose & spoke very well.

Otis rec'd another copy of the "Age" tonight. We had got one before sent by Mr. Patterson of Augusta. This has another article rather severe upon your husband as a letter-writer. It was sent by Mr Farwell. These pieces seem to be rather strained as tho' the editor feared the influence of Otis' letter upon many of his own party who should read it and so sought by a strenuous effort to counteract it.

Otis was relieved from the Corps, yesterday by the Grand Divn being broken up, and I was thusly relieved from arduous duty as adjutant General what I have been attending to for more than a week.

Give much love to Guy & Grace. Their pictures stand here upon their father's table looking at me or else at two big apples on the same table. Uncle Hicks keeps us well furnished with apples 3 bbls. in this tent for safe keeping from thieves, & the frost. Otis wont go to sleep but just made us all laugh by a remark.

I fear I am too stupid to write; at any rate my sheet is full so good night & a prayer for you

from yr loving br.  
C.H.H.

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1858 2/10/1863      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]      *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1807                      Head Quarters 2nd Div

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[311]

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
Feb 10, 1863

Dearest,

I got your letter mailed Feb 6 last night. I hope poor little Jamie's "lameness & ear ache" are all over by this time. I should like to go home, but I feel that it is due to the poor men who have been kept away from their families so long to stay.

I find my left chest developing so fast at the expense of the other that I believe I shall go to Phila for a few days to get the arm fitted. I may not be able to wear it all the time but it will keep up the strength & muscles of the right side, if I can use it even a part of the time. I should be made happy to meet you, but not while the children are unfit to leave or to take. If it was as good weather with you as it is here just at present, you might let Jamie be your beau. I am almost afraid to risk you traveling alone in these days. But not to disappoint you, if you can make it all right & proper & safe to meet me with or without the children, telegraph me thus: "Gen. O.O. Howard 2nd Div 2nd Corps, near Falmouth Va. I leave Augusta this A.M. all well. Mrs Howard". If you leave Boston by one of the Boats, you will not be far from N.J. Ferry. Take cars, not "Camden & Amboy". When you get to Phila, if you do not meet me at Depot drive to "The Continental" take a room and await me there. We can go thence to see Maria & Mrs Greble. The Continental is on Chestnut Street. You must write also for fear the telegraph might miscarry. I shall wait two weeks for the telegraph dispatch. Any time between this & two weeks I can go.

Give much love to our little children. I was much pleased with Grace's letter. Capt Whittlesey's little boy wrote him or printed him a letter and ran the letters, all together. Gracie left very wide spaces between her words. The weather was exceedingly pleasant yesterday.

I fear I shant be able to get ten days if I put it off very long. I am still on a military Commission for the trial of citizens for aiding the rebels. We meet at the Phillips house, 3 miles off. Genls Pleasanton & Grigg, Cols. Garrard & others, Capt De Russy Judge Advocate. These are old Army officers. Pleasanton & DeRussy I knew in Florida.

Chas went over with me yesterday (tuesday) and met Capt Henry Wier who is now asst Adj. Genl. for Genl Grigg. Mr Gilbreth's son staid with me last night, seemed to enjoy sleeping on my carpet wonderfully. He thinks our mud is rather deep. Charlie & I visited the 3d Me. yesterday. Dexter Howard has been made a Sergt, is now hearty & strong. Capt. Jno. Keen of Leeds is very fleshy and seems to enjoy military life.

I hope my friends in Maine will not feel called upon to answer Mr Pike's strictures. I wrote before the Proclamation came out. It seems to me that Mr Pike shows more hostility to the Government than to me. I do not even feel offended. I trust we may conduct ourselves according to the will of God, this year & that He will grant us this blessing.

Many kind regards to all my friends & enemies at home & God bless you all.

Affectionately & lovingly yr husband  
Otis

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1859 2/14/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1808

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn 2nd Corps.  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[312]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps. Feb 14, 1863  
Near Falmouth Va.

Dearest,

It is getting pretty late and we have had reading and prayers, but I cant go to bed without telling you that I have thought much of this day 8 years ago, since then how much of experience in the retrospect. You seem just as young, just as beautiful and I think a little more so to me now. There is so much freshness in our lives. I would like lover-like to pay my addresses to you tonight – never mind the wedding dress, nor the tiny slippers, nor the choice cake – to me it would be a wedding night if I were home even without the bonfire. Good night.

(Sunday 15th) I was too tired last to continue. Capt. Owen having sprained his ankle and it taking so long for it to get well Mrs Owen his mother came to see him. Capt. Balloch being away on his twenty day's furlough, she has occupied his tent. Of an evening Mrs Owen, Capt Owen, Capt Whittlesey, Charles and myself constitute the company gathered before my fire to hear Capt. Whittlesey read the paper. He is an excellent reader. Such was the assemblage last night. After we got through Capt. W read the 50th Chapter of Is. and led us in prayer.

I went to bed thinking of home and particularly of my patient and loving little wife. I rather expect to get a word by telegraph from you this week. I hope Guy, Gracie and Jamie are entirely well. I am anxious to hear. I do hope you are not broken down by "Jamie lame" and Guy & Gracie sick. I feel as though I would like to meet you in Phila and rather long for no Providential hindrance. But in all things we must say & feel "Thy will not mine be done".

I have not heard from Wm Merrick for a long time. "The mother's expectation" may or may not have been realized at his house. I dont know, for my department of information is rather limited. I am glad you heard from Mrs. Greble. I feel more real appreciation of her loss, since I was there.

Charles & Harry Stinson went on a visit to the 5th Me yesterday; found the Regt. on Picket and had to make a journey, reckoning both ways, of some twenty miles or more. Mr Gilbreth's son is at present with Gen. Owen, as Volunteer Aid De Camp. He messes with Gen. Owen & Capt. Hiram Hayes Qr. Mr. I had no place for him. My staff is full and when not on the march, there is hardly work enough for what I have to keep them busy.

I perceive that Gen Rosecrans & other officers besides myself, have been guilty of "military impertinence" and have published denunciations stronger than mine of home-traitors who are trying to weaken our hands that we may be conquered & that our country may be destroyed. I am very hopeful of final success. All it needs is nerve in the army, nerve in the Government and nerve in the Nation. I hope you are enjoying a very pleasant and profitable sabbath with the children.

I have received a present from the orderlies & clerks at these Head Qrs. of a beautiful set of shoulder straps. It was unexpected from them. This is the second mark of respect & affection shown me in this manner by enlisted men.

Charles is present talking & reading to me as I write. I am accustomed to do two or three things at the same time. He sends his love. He hopes the Genl. may be induced to take his personal stuff with him by you, if you are coming to meet him at Phila.

Much love & many kisses to Guy, Grace & Jamie. I want Jamie's picture more & more. May God have you in His Holy Keeping & give us & our loved ones His blessing.

Your loving husband  
Otis

My kind regards to Mrs Clark and Lottie. Remember me to Mrs. Stinson.

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1860 2/14/1863     *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-1809

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2d Div.  
2d Corps  
Camp near Falmouth  
Va.

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[315]

Head Quarters 2d Div. 2d Corps  
Camp near Falmouth Va. Feb. 14, 1863

Will Maj. Gen. Howard accept this pitcher as a slight expression of their sincere respect & of their congratulations upon his well-earned promotion. Its material, tho' pure and precious, is but an imperfect symbol of our friendship. It is for daily use; and if, in after years, amid the joys of home, it shall often recall those who are now proud to aid your efforts in our Country's cause, it will as often assure you of our unabated affection and interest in your welfare.

E. Whittlesey A.A.G.  
W.H. Owen, Capt. A.Q.M.  
Geo. W. Balloch Capt & C.S.  
Franklin Dyer, Surgeon  
C.H. Howard A.D.C.  
A.J. Atwood, A.D.C.  
H.M. Stinson  
H.R. Steele

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1861 2/14/1863

*From:* A. Howard

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1810

Joppa Village, E.  
Bridgewater,  
Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[313]

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

It gave me much pleasure to have your kind reply to my letter, which I received on the 9th, and I was glad to find myself not in error in regard to your genealogy. Receive my thanks for what you wrote me. I remember your grandfather, Capt. Seth Howard, and of his calling to see my mother, his cousin, on a visit he made to West Bridgewater, from Leeds, Maine, where he had a splendid farm.

John Howard, the first American ancestor of the Howards of (ancient) Bridgewater, Mass. who died about A.D. 1700, had sons John, James, Jonathan, & Ephraim, and daughters Elizabeth, Sarah, & Bethiah, and through them a very numerous posterity. Jonathan had a son Seth, the grandfather of Capt. Seth Howard your grandfather. Two of the first named John's sons, viz. Jonathan and Ephraim, were my great-great granfathers, from the circumstance that my grandfather Eliakim Howard married his 2nd cousin, Mary, daughter of the first named Seth Howard.

The ancestral letter adverted to, was carefully handed down - as a kind of heir-loom - in the line of direct descendants from John oldest son of our first American ancestor John Howard. It was addressed as the superscription reads:

"For her loving son John Hayward. In case he be dead, to George Hayward, in New England."

Its contents are as follows:-

London, August 16th, 1652.

Loving Son, - Having a fit opportunity by a friend to send to you, I could not out of my motherly care to you and your brother, do less than write these few lines to certify you that both I and your sister are in good health, praised be God! And that I earnestly desire to hear from you both - how you do, and in what condition you are both. Your sister desires to be remembered to you both; and she and I have sent you some small tokens of you. I have sent George three bands and an hand-kerchief, and an hand-kerchief for yourself; and I have sent you a shilling to pay for writing a letter, if by long silence you have forgot. I wonder, son, you should so forget your mother, whose welfare she [desires] more than any thing in the world. Your sister hath sent you a book of your father's to you, and a Bible to George. Did we conceive you were alive, I would have sent you better tokens, child. With my blessing to you both, desiring to hear from you and George - [whether] you ever intend [to return] and how your cousin Sarah doth - with my daily prayers to the Lord for you, I rest.

Your loving Mother  
Mary Hayward"

Such is the letter, though handed down for so long a period, before it was printed in 1847, several words became obliterated and are replaced by those in brackets. And the sentiments, do they not do honor to their pious author? The tone of religious feeling which the letter breathes throughout, I think we should agree in saying, would do honor to any mother in any age.

Counting from her, your father was of the 6th generation, he and I were second cousins. No further back can we reckon in the Howard ancestry. Her son John always wrote his name Haward and so did all his descendants till after AD. 1700. But always in ancient Bridgewater was it pronounced Howard.

I admire your writing with the left hand.. So good is it, I think you could hardly have excelled it before the loss of your right arm.

I supplicate the Lord for our beloved country in the contest now waged, that He would qualify and dispose us to look up to Him and be with us, would prepare us for and make us meet to receive His Devine benediction.

Affectionately  
A. Howard  
Joppa Village, E. Bridgewater,  
Mass. Feb. 14th 1863.

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1862 2/15/1863

*From:* J.A. Smith  
Lieut. Corps of  
Engineers  
West Point N.Y.

*To:* Mrs O.O. Howard

OOH-1811

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[314]

West Point N.Y.  
February 15th 1863.

Mrs. Howard,  
Dear friend,

It is a very long time since I have heard from you, or your family, so you will, perhaps, pardon the liberty I take in writing. I am very often asked about yourself, your family, and your good husband. I can only answer them that I have seen none of you in a long time, and that your brother Rowland Howard had told me you were staying in Augusta. Since I saw you I have been in the field, (during Pope's campaign in Va.) was quite severely hurt, and had a very severe illness, from which I have not yet entirely recovered, and fear I never shall. I was at home quite a long time, and then was ordered here, as an instructor, on account of my ill health.

Things at West Point are somewhat changed since you left. New families have come and others gone. Miss Clara French was married to Lieut. Pennington of the Artillery, a little more than a week ago. Miss Jennie Gray still lives with her mother near Buttermilk Falls, and desires to be very kindly remembered to you. She is the authoress of a book which has just appeared, but which I fear will meet but little favor.

Our friends, Prof. French and family desired me to remember them to you, with many expressions of regards. How are your family? Little Guy, Gracie, and the little darling, that was so shamefully cheated out of his God father? It really makes me feel ashamed of myself, every time I think of the funny circumstance, connected with his baptism.

The Sunday school still prospers, I am still the Superintendent. It is much larger than when you were here. The prayer-meetings are also still continued in the Corps. I always attend them when I can. Cadet Townsend, of whom I presume you have heard, died here a little more than a month ago; he was in the first class.

Please remember me to my kind friend, your husband, also to Charlie H. If I knew their address I would write to them. A kiss to the children from me, while I remain

As ever, Your friend  
J.A. Smith  
Lieut. Corps of Engineers

Mrs O.O. Howard

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1863 2/16/1863     *From:* Blanche Berard

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1812

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[315]

Monday Feb 16th 1863

Dear Mrs Howard

Intending everything and accomplishing nothing has been the record of the last year. Writing to you has long been on the list of "to be dones," but epistolary claims, of all others have been the ones oftenest sent to the wall. But I must not consume this square bit of paper and time in apologies. Sallie Greble came on to her Sister Clara's wedding and told me that she had had a charming evening from Genl Howard on his way back to the seat of war. Since then none of his friends here, I believe, have heard from him. If you can forgive me and write, and tell us all about your selves, I shall feel truly grateful. Tell me about the children especially.

There have been several additions to the population of the Post lately. Mrs Wheeler has a 3d daughter, Mrs Benet a son, Mr Mendell a little girl, & a Mrs A.T. Smith a son. I am sorry to say that Mrs Mendell's child is very very ill, and but little hopes are entertained of its recovery. One very sad piece of news, which has made us all really heart-sick is that poor Mrs Simpson in a fit of insanity attempted the life of her husband. This occurred a week ago last Saturday. She was committed for assault with intent to kill, and taken to Newburgh. She at first refused to accept bail, but has consented within a few days back & is I understand now ill in Albany. She is to be tried, I hear but I cannot doubt that her insanity on that subject (jealousy of Joe) will become so apparent, that the case will be dismissed.

I believe there is little else of W.P. news to interest you. Mr Watson was with Mrs Benet during her confinement, and asked with much interest after you. Mama is pretty well. Major Vogdes I hear is promoted and awaiting orders which will take him into the field. Sister and the children are pretty well. Grace Berard is ill with Erysipelas but I hope doing well. The other children somewhat ailing and poor Robert having a hard time as usual. They talk of a new Presbyterian Church at Buttermilk & have a good deal of money subscribed for it. Edward Kinsly gave \$500 towards it! The present minister, Mr Frissell seems to give satisfaction. Jenny Grey has just published a novel - "Tactics or Cupid in shoulder-straps". Such a barrage of stuff you never read I am sure. John Weir has gone to N.Y. setting up artist for himself. He is, in <dit>, engaged to Mamie French. I wonder if any one has ever told you of the De Janon baby going on two years old? A splendid boy. But Minnie's baby - little Kate is just the sweetest specimen of baby-hood you ever saw. She was with us 2 mo's this Fall.

Give love & kisses to the little ones, & believe me

Yr truly loving friend  
Blanche Berard

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1864 2/19/1863      *From:* C.H.H. [CH Howard]      *To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1813                      Head quarters 2nd Divn  
   2nd Corps  
*Source:* Bowdoin              Near Falmouth Va.

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[316]

Head quarters 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Feb. 19 1863

My dear Mother,

After a hard rain all day yesterday and last night, we have a cessation this morning and some indication of fair weather again. I scarcely went out of my tent; at most only into the neighboring ones here at Hd. Qrs. I have not been upon my horse since last Saturday night when I returned with Mr. Stinson, as I think I wrote you, from a visit to the left of the Army and the 5th Maine.

Otis asked me this morning whether I would not like to go with him to Philadelphia as he intends to take a Leave of ten days soon. I told him I would be compelled to get some clothes if I did so and that perhaps I had better not go. He said I could go if I chose and I will consider the matter meanwhile.

I heard this morning that Gen. Sumner was hoping to have a command in the West and that he said he should try and get this Corps (2nd) in such a case. I would prefer to go West for the sake of seeing the country and having a change.

Mrs. Owen went to Washington Monday, Capt. O. with her. He has returned and she gone home to Brooklyn N.Y. She has no family but her two sons in the Army so will visit her friends and not keep house.

Capt. Balloch returned day before yesterday whose tent Mrs. O. had occupied. He comes back very happy after his visit to N.H., the first for two years nearly.

Gen. Caldwell (whose Brigade (formerly Howard's) is in the 1st Divn of this Corps) has just returned having been absent since the battle of Fredericksburg where he was slightly wounded.

Otis has written for Lizzie to come on to Philad'a, but wonders that he gets no answer.

Our army constantly feels the presence of Hooker as an energetic and stirring General. He will yet, I confidently believe, strike a hard blow at the Rebellion. You know I am not inextricably attached to any General or any man; but I pray and trust that nothing whether it be moral or physical power, can sever me from my love of my country or turn me from the duty I owe her under God.

I have been reading some Rebel papers and I find renewed evidence of what I had believed before, that our enemies are terribly in earnest and a large portion generally think, as did Paul, that they are doing God service. Now shall we be less in earnest while we expect the blessed moment, when Jesus the Lord shall strike them down and turn the hearts of such as He wills, so that they shall perceive that they have been fighting against God? We are pained to see that there are so many traitors at home. Still it is more natural than to have all united and true to the best interests of the world and the Kingdom of Christ. Perhaps a want of success ought not to discourage – it certainly ought not to surprise us in view of the wickedness and pride of our nation. How can God bless us till we become more humble? He cannot admit an individual soul into his Kingdom till he becomes as a little child, humble, meek, trustful. Of a similar spirit must be the nation that receives his continued and highest favor.

I hear from Dellie and Rowland often. The prayers of the faithful are one great source of hope to us. Herein you can lend a help – perhaps greater than that of a Regiment or Brigade in the field.

With love to those who love me. I am dear Mother

Yr Affectionate Son  
C.H.H.

P.S. I enclose another letter from Rev. Adonis Howard giving that ancient letter spoken of in his last. Please keep it for us.

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1865 2/19/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1814

Hd Qrs 2nd Div &c  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[317]

Hd Qrs 2nd Div &c  
Near Falmouth Va  
Feb. 19, 1863

Dearest

So many mails have come & no letter from you that I am considerably worried about it. I cant read by any of the papers that snow storms have blocked you up. Mrs Stinson relieves me a little by writing to Harry that you are going to send a box, but she says no more. Perhaps you & she are coming on this time in the box, but I fear that the children or yourself darling have got sick so as to prevent your writing.

I have applied for a leave of ten days and shall be more than delighted if all things are so that you can meet me in Phila. I shall probably start in about three days from today, say Saturday or Monday. I hope I may get your telegram before that.

Give much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie the little trio.

May God bless you all. My kind regards to Mrs Clark & Lottie. Also remember me kindly to Mrs Stinson. Charlie has a slight attack of dysentery, but is now better – a little sober about it. I think I may take him to Phila with me. Capt Balloch has got back, so has Gen Caldwell. I am waiting for Genl Hancock's return & your telegram. Col Sewall has resigned & is going home for good. Capt Whittlesey is quiet, hearty, contented. He has not resigned. Lt Col Heath a leave for 15 days, went home to Waterville and got married. He has just returned to Camp leaving his wife in Washington.

I will not write more tonight but I do hope you are all well. Poor little Jamie I want to hear that he is no longer lame, "Jamie lame" "Jamie cant walk". Kiss him three times for papa.

Much love to yourself, darling. May God bless & keep you well & strong. Papa prays for the bunnies.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1866 2/28/1863      *From:* C.H.H. [CH Howard]      *To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1816                      West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[257]

West Point N.Y.  
Feb. 28 1863

My dear Mother

I came to this place day before yesterday. Lt. Smith took me into his quarters in the Cadet Barrack (Officers part). It is very pleasant for me to be back here & see so many old friends and to look upon the endeared spots about West Point. The Professors are very cordial. I called upon Profs. Weir, French and Church, the first night. Prof. French is sick with Fever – but getting better.

I attended the Cadet Prayer-meeting which Otis established. Attendance not so large as when I used to be present every week, but I was gratified that the meeting was kept up at all.

Lt. Smith takes Otis' place in conducting the Sabbath School &c. He is from New Sharon Me. & is a fine family man as well as firm friend of mine & Otis.

Last evening we went down and called upon Mrs. Grey & Miss Jeanie. The latter has procured the means and had a house built upon a plan of her own. It is a neat Cottage, with a tower for an observatory - this to get sight of some of the beautiful views up & down river. Their new house is near the "Little Church" or "Church of the Holy Innocents" as it is named, which Prof. Weir built & gave to the poor & the public.

Mrs. G. has been sick but is getting better. Miss Jeanie has written a book & had it published – called "Tactics" or "Cupid in Shoulder-Straps". She did this to get money to support herself & mother & build them a house. It is very successful as to selling. The first edition sold out in a week. It is a Romance & brings in a good deal of West Point life. Miss Jeanie says it is too light and that she don't want her friends to judge her by that book. It is interesting, however, to those who have lived here or who know the author – and I hope it will be quite a source of income.

I have decided to remain over the Sabbath when I will return to N.Y. & finish my visit to Johnny Weir who made me very welcome & with whom I was very happy before coming up here. We are to be back to Washington next Friday.

I do not hear from Otis. Hope I will find a letter from you, one at least & the more the better when I return.

Your affectionate Son  
C.H.H.

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1867 3/5/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1817

Phila. Conti'l [Hotel  
Continental]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[320]

Phila. Conti'l [Hotel Continental]

March 5 1863

1 ½ P.M. (Thurs)

Dearest,

I pursued my journey very pleasantly as we planned and without interruption or accident. I have been to try on my arm. It fits me well, but my coat-sleeve is a little too long & I fear it will not be quite as good as the old one after all. It is covered with flesh-colored buckskin and the gloved hand looks as well as anybody's. I think I felt a little disappointed in its working.

Charles has not joined me. Saw Mrs Whittlesey. She is like some other wives, likes to have husbands at home.

Much love to all our little flock.

Lovingly

Otis

---

1868 3/5/1863

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear dear Brother  
[OO Howard]

OOH-1818

Dellies Room  
Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[319]

Dellies Room  
Brunswick Mch 5, 63 [1863]

My dear dear Brother

I came down today (Thursday) in the hope of seeing you. The men in the Farmington train all assured me that you did not go yesterday & as I had not heard from you directly, I thought possibly you might wait till today. Our association met at New Sharon yesterday or I would have been in Augusta. I could not feel that it was right for me to neglect that meeting for anything hardly. But I have not seen you & at first I felt it, but God does all things well. Your letter from Boston to mother (I saw no other) said you would return on Tues., so I came down with Ella & David as far as here on their way to Bath, thinking there might be a chance that you would go notwithstanding your message to me by our Academy Teacher Mr Kelsey.

I am glad to see by his letter to Del, that Charley is having a good time at West Point and that you both became acquainted with our new & most worthy cousin Lizzie Lee. I hear that you are to have some pleasant Surprises on your return. May God bless you, especially in granting you meekness, humility & Divine Trust, amid all the temptations to the contrary that you are called to contend with.

I have been reading "Adjutant Stearns" in the Cars, & tears have often filled my eyes involuntarily as I have reflected, how many of those touching expressions of "last words" &c might have been & may yet be our own. Somehow eternity has seemed very near to me today and as I have anticipated this meeting as possibly the last, I have tried to commend you unto God. But my prayers seem to me ineffectual & unfervent, yet amid the thousands others that pray for you, there must be many real prayers. How much of the encircling power of prayer Satan must have to break thro' to trouble you!

Ella wrote to Charles, care of W.H. Merrick I hope he will get her letter. Dellie will send this West Point letter to her. Dellie sends a great deal love.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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1869 3/6/1863

*From:* Thomazine M.  
Potter  
Bellefonte [Pa.]

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1819

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[321]

Bellefonte [Pa.] March 6 1863

Gen Howard  
Sir,

Excuse the liberty an entire stranger takes in addressing you, but I was led to do so from a desire to obtain your kindly interest and Christian friendship for my husband Dr Potter of the 145<sup>th</sup> Penna Vol.

From the manner in which he has spoken of you to me, I know he has felt the power of your earnest, consistent, Christian life, and respects you as a true Christian. I say not this to flatter you, but in the hope that you may have an influence over him to lead him away from the associations and temptations, that must beset the pathway of every unconverted man in the army, and you know yourself how a word in season, or a slight influence used for good often changes the whole tenour of a man's life.

He is very quick to see the inconsistencies of those who follow Jesus afar off, and ready to admire His image in those who live near to Him, but, alas, as yet he, himself, cares for none of these things. Many years have I prayed and looked for his conversion, and I still hope and strive "quietly to wait for the salvation of the Lord" trusting my prayers will yet be granted.

I hope it was the Lord that has put it into my heart to write to you thus, and that you may be the means in His hand of doing him good. I would also speak of Col. Beaver of the 148<sup>th</sup> P.V. who is a friend of mine, in whom I take much interest, and who also in a letter to me mentioned the influence of your life upon my husband.

He is a young disciple, but was an earnest, consistent Christian before entering the army, and I hope continues so. No doubt the counsel and sympathy of an older and more experienced Christian will be useful and acceptable to him. I would desire that you would not speak to my husband of this letter, not that I consider it improper, but that I remember before becoming a Christian myself I did not feel so thankful as I should have done often, for such interference on the part of my friends, and judge that he might not either.

May God prosper you in your endeavors to promote His cause, and give you many souls which shall shine as stars in your crown of rejoicing forever, is the prayer of

Your friend in Christ Jesus.  
Thomazine M. Potter

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1870 3/9/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1820

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[322]

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
2nd Corps Mar 9, 1863

Dearest

I left Phila at 12 midnight Friday. Chas & I left in a "sleeping car" till 7 a.m. when we found ourselves in Washington. I sent Chas to look for John whom I had sent ahead from Phila to look up some express matter. He was to stop at the Ebbitt House. I went directly to the boat. Charles joined me before the boat left but had not found John. Poor John had tried to get on the boat but had given up in despair as he had no pass and he didn't know what had become of me. I Telegraphed him last night and shall expect him today. I met Uncle Hicks on the boat. He still has great difficulty in getting his things through.

We were fortunate in getting aboard of the 12m train at Aquia, and unfortunate in getting twice set off on the way, the last time at Stonemans crossing, where Chas. & I left baggage & started to walk, but we called in at the old Head Qrs. of Gen. Carroll. Carroll is no longer here, is or has been in St. Louis. His successor furnished us with horses & we came over home, found Capt Whittlesey quite well, but hoarse from a cold. All the rest quite well.

In Phila by a little contrivance on the part of the President of the Christian Commission, I was announced without my consent, to speak at the Academy of Music, in an introductory manner for Mr Goff. I heard Mr Goff the night before on subject 'Eloquence' and was much delighted with both his eloquence & his patriotism. As the work was in behalf of the soldiers and as all the hospital soldiers in town were to be turned out and as I could go on at 12 midnight, I did stop and did try to speak. I dont think I made a complete failure as I did at Brunswick Commencement (?) but Chas didn't think I spoke as easily as at some other times. Mr Goff's voice was husky so that it is said he did not do as well as usual, but he had his favorite subject, temperance, and couldn't help doing well and as on the previous evening his patriotic digressions were most excellent.

I rather think Charles has got smitten with Miss Jeannie Grey. He enjoyed her society wonderfully and acts like a young man in love. I told him Miss Jeannie was altogether too smart for him. What's your opinion. Poor Smith has almost lost his heart to Cindy Reed. He had better have made a strike for Miss Jeannie.

I called to see Maria. She looked nicely. She has a fine boy with eyes open, though only 7 days old, born thursday a week ago. I do hope you are happy & "know what to do" Did'nt Jamie & Papa have a good time. Much love to them all.

My arm does pretty well. I have written my name with it, carried a lantern, held my paper, brushed my hat, assisted the other hand at table by having held a knife, held a book, newspaper, a candle with it. The arm is about an inch shorter than the other, the right hand always wears a kid glove on it.

I saw Gov. Washburn in the cars on my return between Portland & Exeter N.H. where he was to speak, that (Wednesday) night. The Governor & I made all up.

I saw Mrs Greble, though not the first time I called. The second time, she was gone to Church, but Eddie & Clara were there, also Mrs Greble the Elder & daughter, Mrs Col Leach. Chas & I were there & waited for Mrs Sally's return. She looked very well & seemed to be enjoying the meetings she was attending during lent. Capt Whittlesey says "Give my love and say that I will go & see her, if I resign & go home." I hope he will not do it and yet he may if I should be sent elsewhere. I think he will take a short leave and go home to see what arrangements can be made at the College. Charlie is quite well with the above exception as to Jeannie Grey.

Oscar A. Mack is not dead, Mrs Mack writes me. She has sent me his & her photograph. It looks a little like him though a very poor one, taken from a picture. She has been too sick to go to him & he too low to be moved. Her father though is with him. He was dreadfully wounded in three places.

God bless you my darling.  
Yr husband  
Otis

The box has come with all the nice things for me & Harry; are'nt we happy boys. The pillow case is splendid, the coat fits well, the socks are nice.

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1871 3/9/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard  
Maj. Genl

*To:* Capt. E. Whittlesey  
A.A.Gen

OOH-1821

Head Quarters 2d Div.  
2d Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[317]

Head Quarters 2d Div. 2d Corps  
Near Falmouth Va. March 9, 1863

Messrs. of the Staff

I do accept your beautiful present & most heartily thank you for this additional expression of affectionate regard. We shall never be likely to forget our association in this trying season in the history of our Country, but it will be indeed pleasant to look back upon these scenes fraught with so much interest & danger from the quiet of home, after the war shall be over, & it will then as now ever fill me with thankfulness to the Giver of all perfect gifts, that he permitted me to have so noble, able & generous a Staff to help me on. Asking for you His blessing & protection

I am  
affectionately yours  
O.O. Howard  
Maj. Genl

To:  
Capt. E. Whittlesey  
A.A. Gen

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1872 3/9/1863

*From:* Jas. A Hardee  
Asst. Adjutant  
General

*To:* Major Genl. Oliver O.  
Howard,  
U.S. Volunteers

OOH-1830

*Source:* Bowdoin

Adjutant General's  
Office,  
Washington

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[316]

Adjutant General's Office,  
Washington, March [22?] 1863. [See Note.]

Sir:

I forward herewith your commission of

Major General

your receipt and acceptance of which you will please acknowledge without delay, reporting at the same time your age and residence when appointed, the State where born, and your full name, correctly written. Fill up, subscribe, and return as soon as possible, the accompanying oath, duly and carefully executed.

I am, sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
Jas. A Hardee  
Asst. Adjutant General

Major Genl. Oliver O. Howard,  
U.S. Volunteers

[Note. The date of the 22d had been written in pencil. It was probably dated the 9th. On 3/11/1863 (OOH-1815), Otis refers to having received a pitcher from his staff, on the day that he was confirmed by the Senate as Major General. I presume that he received the pitcher on the date that he wrote a letter to the staff, accepting the gift, which was on 3/9.]

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1873 3/10/1863     *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1822

Court Room  
Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[323]

Court Room  
Bath March 10 1863

My dear Genl,

Let me congratulate you on assuming command of the 11th Corps. May God give you the grace and strength to enable you to do for your Country what you so much desire. I hope this new command may be agreeable to you, I know that you will carry to it a heart devoted to the cause and the zeal of a Christian patriot. To me our cause never seemed to demand greater sacrifice. I feel that I ought to be in the field. I am not contented to remain inactive. I am satisfied that the morning is breaking. If we are true God will help us. His hand will soon be seen. "The clouds are big with mercy."

There is a change of sentiment here. The Copperheads are falling back in confusion. We shall turn their flanks and break their center, and completely rout them. We are to have a large meeting next week. The call is headed by Geo. F. Patten and is generally signed by our best citizens. We mean to sustain our brave men in the field.

You know I always am interested in your movements. I will not ask you to write me, for I know that your time must be much occupied, but I wish Chas. would tell me all about your present situation. Who is on your staff, &c.

My health is not quite established yet, but I am anxious again to return to the service. I can not feel that it is right for me to remain quiet. Could I obtain a staff appointment of sufficient rank, I think I should accept it.

I do not know who of my old friends are with you. Remember me to Chas & others who I may know.

Mrs. Sewall desires to be kindly remembered to you.

May God bless you and cover you  
I am dear Genl very  
truly Yrs  
F.D. Sewall

---

1874 3/11/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1815

Head Qrs 2 nd Divn &c  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[318]

Head Qrs 2nd Divn &c  
Near Falmouth Va.

[ca. February 20, 1863] [The date was written in pencil. See Note.]

Dearest,

I wanted to write you last night but I got a little too tired yesterday as Charlie & I inspected a good many regimental Camps after the usual morning work. That beautiful Pitcher that you will receive by express, I found to my surprise on the table, the very day I was confirmed by the Senate as Maj. General. The remarks were in it with the names. I send also a copy of my reply. How nicely correspondent this pitcher is to our little set. Charlie says, voluntarily: "It cost 125 dollars." I should not have asked & wd not have known, for money cannot value a token of affection & good will.

I find my command in very good condition indeed. Two or three regiments lost their furloughs by not being up to the mark on inspection and two or three have an increased number of furloughs on account of remarkable cleanliness, &c. The ban has since been removed from a part of the deficient ones. All are taking great pains to do well.

Papa thinks a good deal about his little children since he came back and one thing only makes him feel bad, that is from all he saw he was led to fear that Guy & Gracie did not love each other as much as they ought. Now, Papa does'nt expect impossibilities, he expects little grievances 'Fallings out' and such like, but he does expect Guy should be tender, loving and obliging to his sister – and Gracie should be proud of her brother, and make his life happy. How glad they will be wont they Mamma, when they are grown up to be a man & woman, that they were happy together in childhood. They must both write papa & tell him: "I do love my sister, papa." & "I do love my brother, papa".

Charles is now acting as Asst. Adjt. Genl during Capt Whittlesey's absence. I find my arm of some use but it tires me and as I have to take off my outside shirt every time I put it on, it is a little troublesome. It is of use in riding, particularly in keeping me properly balanced.

I sent some old clothes on by Capt. W. thinking you & Guy might make some important use of them. Chas. wants his coat kept for him as it went thro' 1st battle B.R. & several other battles. I sent also a poor picture of Capt. Mack and one of his wife, also one of my staunch Scottish friend Capt Balloch. It seems hardly possible that Mack is still living. I may see his face again. He seems to have been wounded badly in three different places and his wife so sick she could not get to him. I believe she never has had any child.

You hoped John joined me. He did at Brunswick, but I sent him on ahead from Phila, and lost him in Washington. He went to the Sec. Of War, got a pass & came on the next day. He had to change from Ebbitt house where he could sleep for 50 cts and have another 50 for something to eat. Chas. missed me in N.Y. as I did not stop. He joined me in Phila with only 10 cts left. Charlie says Mrs Gray & Miss Jeannie want you to come & bring your whole family and make them a visit. Every body buys & reads Miss Jeannie's book. Chas. has a copy, but I have not yet had time to read it.

Much love to all the children. Papa would like to play with Jamie today.

We have some rumors of attempted raids. Harry Stinson is well.

Lovingly yr husband  
Otis

[Note. The date must be later than Feb. 20 1863. In the letter of Feb 19, Otis was planning to leave on Feb 23, 1863 for a 10 day leave. He has gone to Philadelphia for a prosthetic arm and home to Augusta, returning through Brunswick. So he did take the leave, but the start date is not certain. He wrote a letter on Mar 9 from

camp, saying that he and Charlie left Phila. On Friday Mar 6. He refers to having received a gift of a pitcher in this letter and enclosing the response. That response was written March 9. As he had already written a letter home on the 9th, I assume this letter was written about March 11, 1863.]

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1875 3/15/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1823

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn &c  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[321]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn &c  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Mar. 15th 1863

Dearest,

I have just reread your good long letter written a week ago today, but mailed tuesday morning. I feel badly about our little boy's burns and shall be glad to hear that his hands are entirely well. I find a kind congratulatory letter from Mr Blaine, which I hav'nt answered, but shall as soon as I can answer some of his inquiries intelligibly. Charles says he saw Mrs. Blunt at her father's and that she sent lots of love to you. We seem to be appreciated, so Chas reports, now that we are away. It is'nt meant for an uncharitable or unkind remark, but my subsequent publicity has of course a reflex influence. I received and answered a curious letter from Aunt Emily Morse. I thought by its tone her husband might be inclined to be a copperhead. Sam thinks he is. Those trips he used to take down south prevent him from seeing in the rebels, enemies of the Country (most probably).

Major Whittlesey must now be at home. I expect he will run up to Augusta some day during his stay. I have got some of the best photographs I have ever had. They were taken in Phila. I made an exchange with Gen. Couch, so as to send you his, with his autograph on the back. You have so many of mine you dont need anymore, but I will send you one with which you can replace that wild one from New York. I will also enclose you a hundred dollars as I have drawn my pay and paid most of my debts.

Yesterday Mrs Harris and Mrs Buck called here. They had been carrying jellies around to the sick and the traveling being so bad and the mud deep, they had upset. Ambulance ladies & jellies were mixed with mud.

In the evening Charlie & I went down to the Lacy house where they stop and attended a meeting. Their room was crowded full of soldiers. Mrs Harris had been talking to them. She stopped when we entered and asked me to say something to them. After I had urged them to look to Christ, Charles followed with an earnest prayer. With Singing, repeating the Lord's prayer in unison & another prayer we closed. Nearly all seemed more or less affected. Those ladies hold a short meeting there every evening.

On Friday Chas. & I went to the 3d Me., called on Gen Ward found his Spanish wife at his quarters. He has built quite a nice little log hut for himself & her. He married her during the Mexican Campaign. She was 15 when married now 30 with six children. She has just accent enough.

On the way back we called on Col. Ames, found Mrs. Chamberlain there in a neighboring tent. Charles was talking to me during the last sentence. The box with the coat, pants, pillow case &c came safely. I gave to Mr Stinson his sham, who thanked me with his usual blush of gratitude.

Give much love to Guy. Papa thinks a good deal about him. And also much love to Gracie. Let us know how she does. Papa read a story today about Grace, which he thinks he must send her. And Jamie – ask him if he can keep out of fire and water and kiss them all.

Good night. May God bless you darling and Give you Strength.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1876 3/18/1863     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear nephew Guy  
[Howard]

OOH-1824

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[327]

Farmington Mch. 18/1863

My dear nephew Guy

Grandmother Gilmore came up last evening and we heard all about you & Grace & Jamie & your mamma. We had not heard for a long time before and were glad that Jamie has got over his cough, that Guy can read in the Bible as well as any body & that Grace has improved very much. I went to Brunswick after your Papa went back, to see him! But he went the day before.

What a good time you must have had going to meet him!

Horace & his mother have been here over a week making a visit. Horace had a boys & girls party yesterday afternoon. There were 23 children beside David & me! We had a real good time – played lots of plays, like “Blind man's buff”, “Button”, “The needles Eye”, “Hot & Cold” “Roll the plate”&c, &c. But the best thing we had was an “old folks concert” I appointed two door keepers – one at each parlor door. The performers were admitted by black “tickets”- the Audience by white ones thro' the other door. The performers were two boys & four girls dressed up, in old folks things. One boy had a fiddle made of my whip & a broom stick.

Aunt Ella played the piano, & I rang a tin-bell. When we (the performers) were all ready, the audience were admitted through the other door & when I pushed the sofa away from the singers & players and when we all struck up, each singing & playing a different tune they all burst out laughing and I guess you would, if you had been there!

At 5 oclock, we all sat down round the Sitting Room, and each of us had a buttered biscuit. A cookie all covered with little sugar plums. Each a fruit cake frosted white & each a cup custard. David wouldn't sit down but kept running about eating his cake & made sport for us. After Supper we had some more plays and the children all went home before dark. I forgot to say that I talked to them & prayed with them before Supper & they were all very still and attentive. Nobody was over 10, or under three, except me & David. Cousins Frankie Sargent & Etta Otis were here.

Nobody knows I am writing but if they knew it, all would send a great deal of love to you & Grace & Jamie & your mother. I do now. Remember me to Mrs Clark also. Please ask your Mother when it will be convenient for you to come & see us.

I wish you & Grace could have been at the party. I mean to ask Aunt Ella to make one for you when you come to see us.

Do write me a letter. I heard Grace had a Doll. Did Papa buy you anything?

Your loving uncle  
Rowland

---

1877 3/18/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1825

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
&c.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[335]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn &c.  
Mar. 18th 1863

Dearest,

I received your letter of Mar. 12 last night and was happy as I always am to see the familiar superscription; and as you probably imagine, not less so, to get inside and find what is there. I am glad Jamie is doing so well. I feared he would be very much troubled and that the burns might leave sad scars. As to business, I rely upon Uncle Edward's judgement, but just at this time incline very much to state & city bonds or script, to anything that gives evidence of permanence. I dont know how bank stock will be affected by the new finance bill. I do not think unfavorably but for your sake I wish to be a little on my guard.

As to Jeannie, I did'nt dare to let Charlie see what you had written, tho I told him part, as to age and the books. Charlie is corresponding with Miss Jeannie and as I told you quite in love. Now I believe I know Jeannie Gray very well, know her faults, her pride, her lightness and also her good points. Chas. has been bothered by his friends a good deal and I want to urge you and Rowland & Ella to be very charitable. Jeannie has shown a great deal of energy. She has bought a piece of land, built a cottage, supported herself & mother, with little if any aid and with hard criticism to bear. With such a peculiar odity for a father & such a simple-hearted, douting mother, she has come up to be a good deal of a woman. The speech that annoyed you & me, was not well considered, but darling, how very natural. She had been petted & exalted by the West Point great ones with such attention as few ladies are impervious to and it was more than she could bear, for them to think and say, that she & <hers> were supported by Mr Howard's charity. Her father took no pains to relieve her while he, poor man, was living and after he had died she was struggling with poverty. Taking all things into the account and considering the peculiar influence of West Point life on a young lady I am much inclined to overlook every foible. Charles sent Miss Jeannie one of my Photographs.

As I am upon this subject I have read Miss J's book very carefully. It is an inimitable portraiture of West Point life, I mean, gay life. The selections of poetry are apt & in good taste. The references to the present struggle are pointed, truthful & high-toned; but withal, the book to be appreciated must be read by people acquainted with the butterfly society that flits up & down annually in that beautiful region. I think the work ingenious and not "without value".

Now darling, the prospect is Jeannie may become a sister; my heart rebelled a little at first, but Charles has good taste, & good sense and may like things different from you & me and he will say "Non interference". The exact status between them I do not understand, have not been told.

Maj. Whittlesey has been gone a week. Gen. Hooker told me he should assign me to a Corps, probably the 11th, if Gen Siegel does not come back.

We are all very well. I am on a Court Martial. We are now waiting for Col Ward to join us before proceeding – at my Hd Qrs.

Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie. My kind remembrances to Mrs Clark & Lottie. I hope you are nicely.

Lovingly yr husband  
Otis

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1878 3/20/1863    *From:* Papa [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest Children  
[Guy, Grace, Jamie  
Howard]

OOH-1826

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[361]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Mar. 20, 1863

My dearest Children

I want to tell you about a little boy about the age of Grace. The other night just at evening, I was sitting before the fire, a knock at my tent door: "Come in", when in bounced a little black eyed boy. He looked some-thing like this little fellow [sketch of a little boy] with his pants rolled up near the tops of his little boots. A large man followed him, "Well, where did you come from!" No answer, only eyes sparkle. Then, "What's your name". Willie. Willie's uncle had been traveling around with Willie, trying to find his father in the 98 Penn. Regiment, all that afternoon. It was in Gen. Sedgwick's Corps & people had sent him to Gen. Sedgwick's old Division. I was delighted. He looked at my tongs, handled my shovel - called for my poker and insisted that that was not a poker but a cane. [Sketches of tongs, shovel and poker.] He got hold of the black end of the tongs and I had to wash his hands. He next had my photographs & in an instant was out begging for a ride on a horse. Uncle Charlie gave him one. It was near night and the boy & Uncle had as much as five miles to go. I kissed the little boy and sent him off in an ambulance. I asked him while here where his mother was. He said in her grave. His uncle said he was an only son, and his father was a Lieutenant in the Army.

Now I will tell you a little about Uncle Charlie's colored boy Tom or as John calls him, Tomie. Mr Sypher, the correspondent, Uncle Charlie & Tomie were sleeping in the same tent. Some little animals made a scratching and Mr Sypher called out "Tomie, Tomie". "How about the rats". Tomie rubs his eyes and says, "I thinks the one with the shortest tail will get into his hole first."

Speaking of rats makes me think last night. John was sound asleep when a rat undertook to run up the side of the tent, when down he fell on John's head. John sprang from his couch as quickly as if the rebels had seized him. The rats then went to sleep so did John & I with heads well covered.

Much love to Momma, And be good and loving children,

Affectionately  
Papa

---

1879 3/21/1863    *From:* O.A. Mack

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1827

Spencer House, Cinn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[326]

Spencer House, Cinn.  
March 21st 1863.

Dear Howard:

I have heard of the kind sympathy you extended to my poor wife in her days of physical & mental distress, and now that she is no more of this life, the knowledge of the consolation you gave her, awakens emotions of gratitude in my own breast which I would convey to you.

I have not seen the letter you sent to my dear Fanny, but I know it breathed the pure spirits of Christian love & charity, and declared the unspeakable riches of Christ Jesus, and the glory of those who enter into his rest; and she has testified, in her letters to me, the great comfort she derived from its perusal.

My wife had been in feeble health for some years, and the news of my dangerous wounds being announced abruptly in her presence produced so great a shock upon her nervous system that she never recovered from it. She was a sincere and earnest Christian, and through all her sufferings testified to the Lord Jesus, and partook of the consolations of His Holy Spirits. Her last words were - "What a strange morning is this. How many there are about me. Who are these clothed in bright array" - and soon after peacefully breathed her last and passed to the bosom of her God.

She died on the 10th. I left Nashville on the 8th & reached here on the 14th and learned my melancholy loss.

God has been very merciful and gracious to me. I was at death's door - no human skill could save me, but He, in answer to the fervent prayers of my devoted wife, and my Christian friends, extended His loving hand & drew me back. My wife has been exchanged for me - preferred before me. She was prepared for the translation, and my great loss is her incalculable gain.

God's will be done. My burdens are heavy but I know in whom to trust, and I pray that these visitations may draw me nearer to the Lord Jesus, and that I, too, may be a partaker of his Heavenly Spirit.

I am recovering slowly. I am not able to travel on the cars yet, and shall remain here for some time.

I shall be very glad to hear from you if you have time to write. Again expressing to you the deep gratitude I feel for your considerate kindness to my lamented wife. I remain your sincere friend,  
and brother in Christ,  
O.A. Mack

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1880 3/22/1863     *From:* Sarah B.F. Greble

*To:* My very dear Friend  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1828

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[435]

Philadelphia March 22nd 1863

My very dear Friend

I really did not intend to allow your very kind letter to remain, so long unanswered, for I was so glad to receive it, that I felt just like sitting down & writing immediately, but when one has much to do, the moments (in fact the weeks) glide so swiftly by, that one cannot realize how the time flies without our doing half we intended to.

I did enjoy seeing your good Husband most truly. He does seem very near & dear to me now. Little Clara seems fully to realize that he is some one who loves her, & one whom she cannot help loving. A day or two since he kindly sent both Edwin & Clara a little child's paper, which they have enjoyed having had read to them. Please thank him for me & them. I was much touched by his thoughtful kindness.

Last Sunday I spent with Mrs William Merrick, whom I do really like very much indeed. She has a new little baby boy three weeks old last Thursday [Feb 26, 1863], to be called William Henry. I went to church both morning & afternoon to her church in the morning. Bishop Potter assisted by Bishop Stevens confirmed many candidates & ordained a deacon. They have a delightful clergyman – Rev Mr Chas. H. L. Richards. I have promised to spend a day with Mrs. Merrick before leaving for West Point. Miss Clara Davis is staying with her – she has been off nursing the soldiers for about a year & her whole heart is with “the boys” as she terms our noble soldiers.

I spent an hour with Mrs Vaughn last week taking little Clara with me - to me it is very wonderful to see one who suffers so intensely & incessantly, so bright and cheerful. I received a very sweet <yearningly> <glad> letter from Mrs. Thomas Williams a few weeks since. She is living with her mother near Fishkill, but is to go to Detroit in June to live. I hope to see her before she leaves.

I do wish you could have managed to have met your dear good Husband here in this city & give us all the pleasure of seeing you & the children. We would all have given you a warm welcome. I hope the next leave Genl Howard gets you will come to us & meet him here.

Since I wrote to you last I have been on to dear old West Point to see Sister Clara married. It was very unexpected altho' Mr Pennington & Clara have been engaged a long time. The wedding with all its arrangements went off delightful. Mrs Simpson fortunately did all that was needed before she committed the fearful deed of trying to take her husband's life. Can you think of Mrs S as attempting to do anything so dreadful. Sister received many beautiful gifts – a camel hair shawl, black lace one. <> bonnet, sett of <bemime>, Six setts of jewelry, one of pearl & one of solid coral – exceedingly pretty & between twenty five & thirty presents in silver - and many pretty little ornaments for the toilet - <etagere> &c Alex Pennington sent her a little Mare for a Christmas present & Johnnie sent her a saddle, bridle &c for a wedding gift. So you see she fared finely.

They were married at home in the back parlor by Papa. Mamie was first bridesmaid, Mary Pennington 2nd & Clara Paige. It was intensely cold, the thermometer five below zero. Still most of the people of the Post were present. The bridal couple had a nice reception at Mr Pennington Senior's in New York on Monday the 9th, then they <> Boston for a few days & now both are home <> each other. Clara is at W.P. & Alex with his battery at the Potomac. These separations are terrible. I left my little ones here while I went on to the Point. I saw the Church's, Mrs Blunt, many of your friends.

I have sent for Papa's carte for you but there seems a fatality about your ever getting it. Your good Husbands address was very highly spoken of here. I would have liked very much to have heard him, but I never go out to any such places. Brother Johnnie is still in Chicago on recruiting service. Father has not been at all well this winter. Mama Greble always speaks of you with much affection & sends her warmest love to you. I should

dearly love to see your dear little ones. Clara baby said – to her Godfather - take me to see little Jamie. You must kiss them all that is each for me. I hope to be able to do so for myself some of these days.

Have you seen Jeannie Greys book - "Tactics or Cupid in shoulder straps". It is well received - the third edition is already out. Mama is delighted with the carte of the Genl which you sent her. I intend getting one of his from Gutekunst, where I think he had <it taken>.

Poor Mrs. Mendalls little baby was very ill & they did not think until very lately that it would be spared to her. Mrs Wheeler has a nice little baby. My letter I fear is very stupid for letter writing is not my forte, but my dear friend you must overlook all its faults, and let me assure you that it is freighted with much love, for I cling to those friends who were with me during those happy, happy days at West Point. Dear Mr Greble seems so very near to me very often, but when I want to tell him of the little ones, & realize that I can neither write or ever tell him then I feel almost overcome, but when I look round & realize my many blessings of home, children, friends, and all needs quickly supplied, I feel I cannot be too thankful.

Goodnight my dear friend. That our Heavenly Father may keep you, your dear children, & your noble Husband in health, happiness & restore you all to each other is the sincere wish & prayer of your loving

Friend

Sarah B.F. Greble

South 19th

Write when you can but I shall always feel that you love me even can you not write – for with your little ones, duties, & letters to your Husband you must be very busy, but I shall always be charmed to hear from you. After the 1st of June (D.V. [Deo Volente, God willing]) I shall be at West Point.

<[CHECK ORIGINAL. There is faint writing on the last page.]>

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1881 3/22/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1829

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[328]

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
2nd Corps Mar. 22nd 1863

Dearest,

I have not received a letter from you since I wrote you, then you wrote Monday morning all well - Jamie's hand doing well. It is now Sunday morning. Yesterday & day before we had a snow-storm. Now it is misty and warm and the snow is fast leaving, but at the very best it will be a week before the roads will become reasonably passable. No more news about a Corps.

Mr Hicks got a letter from his wife stating that he must go home, if he had to return, that she was alone and would have to shut up the shop at the end of last week, and that she was sick. He will probably go home next week.

Charles gets good letters from Miss Jeannie and is well. He has all the duties of Adjutant Genl to do in the absence of Major Whittlesey. Harry Stinson is well and apparently well & happy. Col. Wilde has written me requesting permission to go on my staff and shewing an earnest desire to go into service again. But I have already applied for the son of Professor Smyth, Bowdoin, for aide in place of Mr. Atwood, who has been promoted to Capt. in the Qr. Master's department.

I hope you are quite well this morning and are able to go to Church with the children. I saw Mr McKenzie at the depot after I left home that Wednesday morning. I told him he must drop in often. Perhaps it is as well that he is careful in his preaching, but I am glad of his earnest prayers in behalf of his country and I hope all his hearers join in them. It is perhaps too much to say all even in this cause.

I have got my arm on this morning, but do not use it much. I find it tires me to wear it all day, so we have fixed it that I may put it on and take it off without removing my shirt, collar &c.

The remarks I made in the House of Representatives at Washington are published in the Sunday school Times of Phila. Charles proposes sending you a copy. It is reported almost word for word as it was spoken. So are the other lectures published in the same paper.

I had a letter from Mrs. O.A. Mack's clergyman saying that he "buried her last Thursday" (a week ago). She wrote me the last lines she ever penned. Her husband has been brought as far as Cincinnati. His wounds were healing.

Just before I wrote the last sentence the sad intelligence of the death of Gen. Sumner was received by telegraph. He died at home at Syracuse N.Y. The cause of his death is not stated. Another aged patriot, faithful earnest and devoted, has gone. He was a warm friend of mine. He always welcomed me with a pleasant greeting and gave me his confidence. God has taken him away and has permitted a loving family to have him at home. Brave, even to rashness, he wonderfully escaped every shaft, because there is a Providence in all things. When I can hear that he was at peace with his God before he passed away, I shall be satisfied. Four weeks ago today I was with him for quite a little time, when he read me his testimony before the War Committee of Congress. He seemed very glad to see me and said I must make my friends work for my promotion.

Give much love to our precious little flock. How dependant we are on God. When we are in Heaven & look back we may understand all God's dealings with us, and see how those many tears were all for our best good. I believe I have an abiding faith that, "He doeth all things well". My daily prayer for you is that He may allay all unnecessary anxiety in your heart. Give my regards to all inquiring friends.

Affectionately your husband

Otis

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1882 3/28/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1831

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[331]

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
Near Falmouth Va  
March 28, 1863

Dearest,

I wrote you a head ache'y letter yesterday and omitted many items. Capt Wiggin, discharged from 3d Me on disability certificate was going home to Bath, so I sent by him a bundle, containing one or two books I did not need, my Brigadier Straps, a glove and two photographs in one of the books, one of our friend & Ord. Off. Lt. Steel and the other to replace the soiled one of Capt. Owen which you have. I should like to buy a special album to put our friends in, both family and military family & intimates as well as others for whom we entertain a very great regard. I have sent a little wooden book to 'Jamie Howard' and Miss Jeannie's to you to keep. A soldier of the 7th Mich. made the wooden book and sent it to me with an anonymous note telling me how hard it I to live as a christian. Commodore Foot has sent me his Photograph and I will send it to you for safe keeping.

Charlie and I have had a long talk. I asked how far he had gone, if he was engaged and he said no, that they were simply attached without promises and corresponding. He says that there is so much opposition that he will probably cease to write. Rowlands criticism was severe. Yours ditto. Mothers discouraging. He says moreover that his past is unhappy in the extreme, unhappy in the retrospect. But he thinks this is providential, teaching him to look beyond this world. Now I feel as I said in all such matters like non-interference. Netty M with her poor little body, I would have welcomed or Miss Jeannie Gray with all her faults. I believe Jeannie has been guilty of indiscretions and of playing a part, but she has her good points and would make a good wife if people would let her. She has been too forward, has written notes and letters to unmarried gentlemen, but Chas. assures me she never undertook to "catch" him. He went thither of his own accord, and conversed & shewed her attentions. Her letters to him are reserved so far as he has confided in me by reading selections. But enough of Charlie's love.

True love never did run smooth did it, darling - except ours since we were married? I hope you are very well today. O.A. Mack (Major) has written me a good long letter from Cincinnati. He had heard of the death of his beloved wife. She was so suddenly apprized of his being mortally wounded that it broke her down. She was weakly and never recovered from the shock.

I had what people call "sick-headache" yesterday, but I went to bed "with the chickens" and slept it off and began today more reasonably by drinking a good cup of coffee instead of cocoa.

Harry Stinson is well & apparently happy. I have just read another from Rowland to Chas, just received. He and Ella are undertaking a visit to you. From 20 Aug to 20 May - do I know how to reckon.

I wish you had good rosy cheeks as you had when you came to the Arsenal over the river - not for youth - not for me to love better, but you know Prof. Cleaveland traced health & strength in rosy cheeks which took their hue from salts of iron &c.

Much love to the "good little stock" Guy, Gracie & Jamie and trust much & strongly in God, so as to fear nothing - no evil.

Lovingly  
Otis

Charlie sends his love.

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1883 3/31/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1832

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn 2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[329]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
March 31st 1863

Dearest,

I received a good letter from you this afternoon and was glad to hear that you all are so well & Jamie so much restored. This afternoon a little while before your letter came I got the order assigning me to the 11th Corps – Gen. Siegel's. The order reads temporarily, but it will doubtless be permanent, as Gen Gibbon is ordered to replace me here. Chas. Harry Stinson & myself break away from the rest of the staff. Maj. Whittlesey, Capts Owen, & Bulloch, Dr. Dyer & Lt. Steel have to remain here, all for the present at least.

Give much love to the children. Did you ever get the one hundred dolls of February's pay I sent enclosed with two photographs? I recd the Book Szabad, the one bought in Boston.

Much love to yourself. May God bless you & our dear ones.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1884 4/2/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1833

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[332]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
April 2nd 1863

Dearest,

I started yesterday morning about 9 a.m. for my new command. After riding some 8 or ten miles, I found the Corps, called on Genl Schimmelfennig (If you cant pronounce, just think of me), got an orderly who directed me here, to Stafford C.H. Chas, Harry S. and myself with Michael & McDonald and a spare horse made the ride thru mud and water. John & Mr <Gibb> came with an ambulance & baggage. I found Gen. Schurz here in Charge of the Corps. He is the eloquent, Carl Schurz, friend of the President. My Divn Commanders are, Gen McLean, Gen. Steinwehr, & Gen. Schurz.

All well, love to all & God bless you. More soon.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1885 4/3/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1834

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Stafford C.H.

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[331]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Potomac

Stafford C.H.

April 3d 1863

Dearest,

I wrote you a tiny letter yesterday and perhaps will not do any better today. I had not finished the above sentence before I was interrupted and it has been two hours since. I am learning the regiments and officers. This command is completely new to me. I will enclose a list of the regiments as I have had them drawn up. I presume you & Jamie can pronounce the German names about as well as I. I am going to move Hd. Qrs. to the vicinity of Brooke's station tomorrow. Mr Sylpher came up from my old Camp, says Maj. Whittlesey, Capt Owen, Capt Balloch, Lt. Steele and the Dr are very blue and want to come along. Genl Gibbon our old West Point acquaintance succeeds me in the command of the Divn. Maj Whittlesey says to him at tea "If not disagreeable to you I will ask a blessing as we are accustomed to." Gibbon yields and the blessing is asked. There is some chance of my getting the Major and Balloch and I have made application for Lieut J.A. Smith, West Pt. in order to make him my topographical Eng'r.

(Saturday morning) I had a very satisfactory review of Gen. Schurz's Divn yesterday. This morning at 8, I am to start for Gen. Hooker's Hd. Qrs. to try and effect some important changes in the command. The Germans are considerably jealous at my being sent here. But I believe all will gradually gain confidence in time.

I hope you are well darling this morning, and Guy, Grace & Jamie well and happy. As to Guy going to school across the river I doubt the distance too great, but the objection is that he has to pass daily so much of "down-street." I do hope God will bless his little heart and give him the will and the power to do right. How with Gracie, will she keep on where she is? I shall expect to hear about the "fair" or "levee" in behalf of the soldiers at the State House. Perhaps you only went to the Governor & did not attend the <Line>. The President of the U.S. is expected here today – perhaps I shall see him. Mr Alvord has found his way to my new Quarters, & is writing at my table.

Many kisses from papa & a wish for Heavenly blessings.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1886 4/5/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1835

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Stafford C.H.

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[335]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Army of the Potomac

Stafford C.H.  
April 5th, 1863

Dearest,

I received a letter from you last night and was very glad to find the children doing so well. Jamie must keep off the stove now. Mamma says he is a go-ahead boy. I dont doubt it. I hope you take him up and tell him about the Saviour. Guy has never gotten over his first impressions. We are apt to underrate a child's ability to understand. By trying, as you doubtless do you can lead him quietly to the Lord.

You spoke of Jeannie Gray. I am not going to defend her, but I feel badly that you allow yourself to entertain such thoughts. If you dont like her you need not see her but I wish you did not feel so. I do not let Charlie see what you write about her falseness or faultiness, for fear he will be vexed at you. I have written no article for the "Press". My impression is that opposition would be likely to drive Charles into a proposal. I see no indications of her having set her cap for him. I have talked with him very candidly. He says he used to get a chance to read your letters but now he does not and thinks he must write directly.

Chaplain Quint of Mass came in to see us this morning & had a long talk. Maj Whittlesey is ordered to report to me tomorrow. I think I shall make him commissary of Musters. I am living in a house just now, meant to have got into Camp saturday but failed to obtain new tents. It was very fortunate for a terribly cold snow-storm came on last night.

I rode to Gen. Hooker's & back yesterday a distance of some six or seven miles, and the wind blew very hard & cold. I feared I should take a severe cold as I was without an over-coat. I saw Gen. Seth Williams. Tell any of his friends that you may see and that he never looked in better health and spirits. I believe his department progresses very much to his satisfaction.

The snow lies thick upon the ground this morning. The roads had become very fair but again we will have mud. I am glad of this storm for Gen. Stoneman was going to have a review of the entire cavalry corps, the President of the U.S. being expected here today.

Oh, that we might remember that there is a God in Heaven & obey his commands. Much love and many kisses to all the children and not a few to your own self.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1887 4/9/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1836

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[333]

[Letterhead

Headquarters Eleventh Corps

Apr 9 1863

Dear Guy,

Papa sends you a very poor sketch of my Head Quarters and you will see the foundation is of logs, but you cannot see the beautiful moss between them, and you cannot look inside and see my nice stove, table, desk, bed, carpet, new chairs and other things. I wish you could look in. We moved here last tuesday. The pioneers came before us & fixed my tent very nicely. They are almost all Germans.

Maj Whittlesey has now come to us. Yesterday we all went to a review of a very large number of men. I think some 60,000 or 70,000 men, four Army Corps – Gen Sedgwick's, the 6th, Gen Couch's the 2nd, Gen Meade's the 5th, and Gen. Sickles the 3d. It took a very long time for them to march past the president.

There were two little boys, sons of the President, at the review, one of them was but little larger than you & rode a very handsome pony. I think he borrowed the pony. He rode about as well as anybody I saw. I should like to have had you there.

The President reviews papas Corps tomorrow.

Give much love to Gracie, Jamie and Mamma. Papa cannot write more now. He hopes you are all very well and love the blessed Saviour very much.

Your affect. Papa  
O.O. Howard

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1888 4/10/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1837

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Near Brooke's Station

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[336]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Near Brooke's Station  
Apr 10 1863

Dearest,

John says, as he sees me preparing to get up: "It is'nt six yet." "Well, so much the more time to write a letter before breakfast." I wrote Guy yesterday, but I have'nt written you since we moved from Stafford C.H. into Camp.

I wish you could see how tastefully the pioneers have arranged my camp and what a beautiful tent they have fixed for me. They made a fence surrounding the Hd. Qrs. camp with a beautiful gateway trimmed with evergreens: it is shaped something like this: [Sketch of the gateway] you go through that gate and enter a handsome street on the right and left are the tents of the staff and straight before you is my tent with a flag pole and a sentinel in front of it. You will see a crescent over my door of evergreen - that is my corps badge.

You enter the tent, if you dont stop to look at me writing at the desk at the further end, you will see over me my sign-board thus: [sketch of the sign-board]. The words of today are <sins> what must I do to be saved &c. also, Acts 13.38 & 39 – Romans 5.1 and 8.1. This arrangement is called "the silent comforter", and is made for every day in the month. It answers for an almanac & preaches to my visitors and gives me much comfort. On your right you will see a house-made stove [sketch of the stove]. On your left in the corner some shelves, used for wash stand [sketch of the shelves]. Then four chairs, then trunk & bed in the 2nd corner. On the right after the stove comes the square table, then the clothes' horse, thus: [sketch], shoes, boots, &c under the horse. Johns bed is rolled up neatly in the corner - up high is the hat rack [sketch].

My back has been towards you. Now I think I will turn around and give you a kiss, if you have looked long enough.

The President reviews us today.

God bless, comfort & strengthen you for your long trial.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1889 4/12/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1839

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Near Brooke's Station

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[96]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Near Brooke's Station  
Apr. 12th 1863

My dear Mother,

Chas has gone to Washington, went yesterday, and I thought you might not get your usual letter from Camp. I presume he has told you about the President's visit & how Mrs Lincoln paid my humble tent a visit. She was very pleasant and ladylike, but I dont think her quite so much of a woman as my own mother.

We had a very pleasant religious service at these Hd. Qrs. today at 11 a.m. had good singing, and quite good preaching from a chaplain. The force at Corps Head Quarters consists of a pioneer Company of about 50 with axes, shovels & other tools – a Provost Guard of 90. I take convalescents for this duty – a small detachment of mounted men, and the servants. There are thirteen or fourteen staff officers. My Corps is a good one and I do not think it will tax my strength much more than a Divn. There is additional responsibility and therefore greater need of trust in God. But I believe: "The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want."

Charlie has been promoted to a Captain and I expect he is fitting himself with new marks of office. You ought to see how nicely these Germans have fixed my tent. It is nicely walled with logs with green moss between, and when my bed comes, the inner part is ceiled with boards. I have a nice little stove & a clothes horse – made by the pioneers.

Give much love to father. The weather has been very pleasant for a few days past with us. Today I have plucked some "May flowers" which are in a glass before me. My kind regards to Miss Shaw, to Roland & family, to Capt Turner & fam. Where is Oscar [Turner] now? I must be near George Bates I think. Is he in the 12th Corps? Lizzie writes that the children have bad colds. We hear from Rowland occasionally. I hope you are very well and have enjoyed the Sabbath very much. Pray for us Mother as you have done.

Yr. Affectionate Son  
Otis

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1890 4/12/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1840

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Near Brooke's Station

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[337]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Near Brooke's Station  
Apr. 12th 1863

Dearest,

It is a beautiful sabbath morning. I have had a bath, breakfast, made arrangement for services at three, read some in the news-paper and two chapters in the Bible - then with Maj Whittlesey & Mr Sypher took a short walk, gathered a bunch of "May flowers" and returned to tell you. I believe I would have got a letter from you last night had you directed Head Quarters 11th Corps, for it takes a long time to get anything by mail unless it be sent directly to me from the 2nd Corps by an orderly.

(Afternoon) I have had the happiness to get your letter written on the 5th. Sorry for the children's bad colds, and Jamies croup and sorry, sorry for the poor mamma, who has to get up so often at night. I think you are too self-sacrificing darling, for the children, because you must lead a healthy, happy life yourself, to effect what you so much desire. Now you must have amusements, and refreshment yourself in order to afford it. It isn't lost time when you take a short walk or read a pleasant book or chat with a good, kind friend. I feel that it is as difficult for you to do your part in this war as it is for me to do mine, but it is a work that God has imposed. Isn't it sweet to have one place to rest & to know that He will not laden beyond our ability to bear.

I find all things moving on well here. The President & Gen. Hooker came in before the review of my Corps. Mrs Lincoln came to look at & admire my tent. My salute & review were perfect. Corps all on the same slope in masses of regiments.

At 11 we had services - present all staff officers, Divn Genls, Provost Guard, Orderlies, pioneers & servants. A chaplain conducted the service. He was not quite cheerful enough, but he was sensible. At 3 P.M. I attended service at the Camp of the 17th Conn. Gen. McLean is uncle to Lt. Col. Taylor who was on Gen. Sumner's staff. I have applied for Balloch - already have Maj. Whittlesey.

Give much love to our dear little children. Don't over-work, my precious wife. Trust much of it with God. Look forward hopefully & happily for all will be well.

Lovingly,  
Otis

Enclosed 100 dollars. Please acknowledge receipt.

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1891 4/14/1863 *From:* A. C. Adams

*To:* Maj. Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1841

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[338]

Auburn Ap 14, '63

Maj. Gen Howard  
My Dear Friend & Brother,

Will you let me tell you a story about the affairs of our Society. You are perhaps aware that our new church edifice was built by an earnest and almost universal effort of the people, men, women & children giving for it, in sums ranging from twelve hundred dollars down to two dollars - that this was done when ours was the only society and operation on this side the river, & where we had reasonable hope of filling up from the surrounding community - that it was done upon the principle of having no individual ownership & low pew rents, so as to gather in the largest possible number, & to do a good work for our master, as well as for ourselves & our children.

But four new societies have come up, the growth of our community is slower than was anticipated, and, besides the ten thousand dollars we have paid, we have a debt of three thousand dollars, and smaller resources than when we started. The same set of men who have just paid their last installment must do the rest.

It is a time for paying debts and we know not what shall be on the morrow. Mr. Pickard who gave \$1000 at first offered to give \$500 more if we will finish up the rest. The value of the offer depends on his continued life, which is more & more uncertain. I have undertaken the work of raising the twenty five hundred. I feel that almost everything involved in the prosperity of the society depends on my success. If we cannot pay the debt we shall have years of great discomfort & disadvantage. But I mean to have it paid, though our people with few exceptions are so poor & so embarrassed that it will be hard work.

You see then what I am coming to - that if you can find a reason in your brief residence among us, & in your relation to us as a brother in the church, for giving us a lift - more or less as you judge fit - it will be very gladly and gratefully received - by your humble servant if by no one else - and so I leave the matter with your Christian kindness and wise judgment.

I was very glad to hear from you through Sam Hicks. You & your fellow soldiers are remembered in our daily prayers. It is hard to wait for decisive good news from Charleston and elsewhere, but perhaps God is preparing us to keep the Fast Day so that he can bless us. I think the northern people are gaining, at least, a deeper sense of the value of their nationality & of the necessity of sustaining it. I hope they are finding out that they need the Divine favor.

We are having a good deal of sickness & have lost some of our best church members, though not persons who were conspicuous in society.

Please give my kind regards to your brother, to Capt. Whittlesey, & Harry Stinson. Ladies have just raised \$200 by a <levee> to help the Maine soldiers.

Yours with affectionate & Christian regard

A. C. Adams [Reverend Aaron Chester Adams, pastor of the church in Auburn, Maine 1858-1867, was a younger brother of Reverend George Eliashib Adams, the pastor of the Brunswick Congregational Church.]

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1892 4/16/1863     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1838

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[14]

Farmington Apr. 16, 1863

Dear Brother Otis

I write you tonight in preference to Frank & Charles to both of whom I believe I owe letters because Guy is here & I know you will wish to hear about him. He came up last Tues. from Bruns. with Mrs Patten. The next day we went to a "sugaring off" at Dea Titcombs & he had plenty of maple syrup. He went to School one day with Frankie & Otis Sargent & has played with them a good deal. He has worked for me two hours upon the different days at 6 cts. per hour, piling some dry stove wood and shingles. Dadie helped about the latter & said "Papa must pay Dadie". Guy wants to get enough to buy a drum, but he put 3 cts in the contribution of the S.S. Today. All the S.S. get verses of Scripture & poetry with some read in each to recite at S.S. Concert. Tonight it was "Angel" & Guy recited these verses "He will give his Angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways" & "Dear Angel, ever at my side. How loving thou must be, & To leave thy home in Heaven To guard a little child like me."

I preached this a.m. from Phil. 2.21: "For all seek their own & not the things that are Jesus Christs." in "Selfishness". P.M. on Isa. 58.3. "Behold on the day of your fast ye find pleasure & exact all your labors." "How to keep Fast Day – (Next Thursday)

- (1) To avoid mere amusement
- (2) To avoid labor
- (3) To be mindful of our Sins & danger as a people
- (4) To seek Gods blessing on the unknown & blood-stained future.

In short to keep an acceptable Fast to the Lord. May He help us all to do it. Since meeting Alice has been reading to me in the Tract Primer & she & Guy have spelled in the same class. He taking the hard words & she the easy ones. Ella says tell Otis I am trying to straighten him (Guy) & Rowland up! Alice is to have her picture taken – if she is a good girl & learns well. I am hoping to do good this week.

We have seen the Order for you to change to the 4th Corps, but are entirely ignorant of that Command and hardly know whether to congratulate you or not. All western troops – lacking in discipline & cleanliness we fear. As I hear of the gathering of these mighty hosts to battle, I feel we need a true fast.

I hope we will have the monthly letter. Our Concert comes the 2d Sab in each month & it requires about ten days for a letter to come from your present place.

Love to Charlie & Frank from Ella, Guy & yr. Aff. Bro.  
Rowland

---

1893 4/16/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1842

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[339]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Apr 16, 1863

Dearest,

We are all here still. The weather is better this morning for Campaigning. We had yesterday & the night before as hard a rain as I ever saw. Gen Schurz said we ought to be very thankful, we had not started from Camp. Our brigade I sent three days ago some 30 miles from us. The roads must be now nearly impassible. They will dry up, in a couple of days if we have no rain.

You must tell me all about the fair. I thought I ought to write Gracie a letter this morning, but concluded to write mamma first. Papa read a Psalm this morning that made him speak of Gracie – Beginning - The Lord is my shepherd &c. She repeated it when I was at home with a fever. I'm very sorry the children all have such bad colds. Jamie has the croup. I didn't know he was subject to it. I hope it is only temporary. Give much love to Guy.

Capt. Balloch & the little German boy called "Bony" have come over here to live. Gen. Barlow formerly Col 61st N.Y. so seriously wounded at Antietam has been assigned to my command or will be today. He is here – a brave man & complete officer.

Charles has come back from Washington, is now captain Howard. Harry Stinson went with the brigade I mentioned. I shall expect him back tomorrow, perhaps today.

I enclose a hundred dollars. I sent a hundred in my last. I do hope you are not too weary this morning & will not be when this arrives.

God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

1894 4/20/1863 *From:* John M. Round

*To:* David Tod,  
Governor of Ohio

OOH-1843

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of the Noble  
County Military  
Committee  
Caldwell

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[215]

Office of the Noble County Military Committee  
Caldwell April 20, 1863

To his Excellency David Tod,  
Governor of Ohio,

At a meeting of the Military Committee for Noble County Ohio held on the day and year aforesaid it was ordered that the Chairman and Secretary certify that this Committee Recommend Rev. Randall Ross, formerly of Sharon, in said county but Now of the 62nd Reg. Ohio volunteers as a suitable person to Raise, and Command a Regiment of Colored Soldiers for service in the U.S. Army.

And we further certify that from an acquaintance of over ten years, with said Randall Ross, we know him to possess sufficient intelligence literary acquirements and general knowledge of human nature, honesty and patriotism, to eminently fit him for the position Recommended.

John M. Round Chairman  
W.H. Frazier Sec.

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1895 4/20/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1844

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[341]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Apr. 20th 1863

Dearest,

I received a short letter from you after the fair. You were very tired. I dont like to have you get tired. The months are hastening on. It is already the 20th of April. I am hoping that you have good courage and much strength. We are still here and it is raining again. It is singular how late the season is, but perhaps life will be saved by it. I want a more implicit & specific reliance upon God. Rev. Mr Quint preached for us yesterday here at Hd. Qrs. He gave us a good, nice talk on the necessity of believing, on testimony. Perry Lee, Cols Ames & Chamberlain., also Dr Howard & Rev. Mr Knox of the tenth Me. Gen Jackson has met with a sad accident.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, & Jamie. I hope they are well.

Kind regards to Mrs Stinson. Harry S is still at Kelly's ford.

My regards also to Mrs Clark & Lottie.

But an abundance of love & encouragement to you my darling with a prayer for you.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

1896 4/22/1863    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1845

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[343]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Apr 22nd 1863

My dear little daughter,

Papa thinks it is time for you to have a letter. Guy must have received his and read it before this time. I would like to look in upon you all this morning. I think you must just now be at breakfast. Jamie just at Mamma's left, bothering her while she is pouring out the coffee. Yourself on her right with a bright happy face and Guy directly opposite ready to laugh, or to tell a story. Uncle Rowland says: "Guy has'nt time to write him a letter." Guy must be very busy. Do you still get impatient when you get tired and cry very hard? Or have you got older and wiser? One time Mamma said you all had bad colds – have you got over them. Jamie was croupy.

Gen. Devens, tell Mamma, has just been sent to command one of Papas divisions. Guy wanted to know if a commander of four Regiments was a Brigadier Genl? A Commander of two or three brigades is a Division Commander, and a Commander of three Divisions is a Corps Commander. Papa is now a Corps Commander. With Jamies blocks or the dominos you can arrange three brigades and call it a division. Make three Divisions & call it a Brigade Corps. [Sketch of two groups of 4 blocks]

John is glad you remember him. He is very good to papa. I dont know how I would do without him, unless I got home when Mamma and my little children would take care of me. It will be very nice when the war is over will it not, so that I can go home to stay. How are Mrs Clark & Lottie – quite well I hope?

And do you go to school to Miss Woodard now? Do you love her as much as you used to? I should think Mamma would be jealous. I suppose you see Mrs Stinson occasionally. Tell her we hear from Harry every day at Kelly's ford. We hope he will come back soon.

Much love to dearest Mamma, little brothers Guy & Jamie. I hope you all pray for papa.

Your affectionate papa  
O.O. Howard

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1897 4/22/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1846

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[344]

Portland Aprill 22d 1863

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I now enclose Certificate of 5 Shares Canal Bank Stock, also \$500 of State of Maine Bonds. These Coupons will be paid when due, at any good Bank in the State. They Charged interest on the State Coupons from 1st of March \$4.42 which I did not before reckon, as nothing was said about it when I bargained for it. The Amt I paid Mr Marrett was \$1.38, making \$5.80 due to me which can remain to suit your own convenience. I could not get these Certificates so as to send them before to day.

I was glad to hear of your Husbands welfare and that he could write to you with cheerfulness. May the Lord be with him and protect him through all the dangers he may be called to pass, and again return him in safety to his Family. With much love

your affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

Let me know if all come safe.

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1898 4/24/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1847

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[345]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Apr 24th 1863

Dearest,

Yesterday I received a letter from you and so did Charles. We have just got thro. another severe rain storm – since I wrote the above words, it has begun to rain again hard, patter patter on my tent driven by a North West Wind. It will probably be a clearing off shower. The rains thus far have hindered the probability of moving effectively, but I believe Gen Hooker has kept a large force of the enemy opposite & caused them of late to reinforce. All this answers every purpose, if provisions are running as low as it is claimed in the rebel country. I expected we should make some movements before this. Harry Stinson with Col Bushbecks German Brigade is still up at Kelly's ford. I hear from them every day.

I feel as if it is especially providential that Abby Abel is with you. I think she is a real good woman and will be a kind friend. I am glad she can sew. I hope the Lord will carry you through this great trial safely and in joy. All I ever fear in your case is over-work, too much self-sacrifice for the children – for example lying in uncomfortable positions or not well covered, in order to give them comfort. The mother must take care of herself for the sake of her children. Dont you think so? Then mind (?)

The last words on my tablet this morning are: "My times are in thy hand." Ps. 31.15. This will apply to both of us. I dont feel so very anxious about you as I would did I not feel that I had committed you into the hands of a loving Heavenly Father.

Charles seldom says anything of Miss Jeannie. She would be very reluctant to accept him without the positive approval of yourself & Ella. Charles said in a letter that he found stormy opposition in home quarters than ours. I told him in the beginning that I should not bother him. I have got a fixed notion that girls change - sometimes they grow into hard cases & sometimes they make the loveliest kind of wives and mothers. He has made up his mind that he has allowed his friends to influence him too much and the very next pretty girl he falls in love with, he will laugh at ministers & Generals & also at minister's & General's wives – and soon he will exhibit a happy household like the rest of us. I would'nt give a fig for a wife somebody else selected for me – would you?

I like Gen. Devens very much. Gen. McLean has gone back to his brigade. Col Lee who commanded the Brigade feels very badly to be displaced. He is a good officer and I feel sorry for him, but La fortune de guerre. Gen Barlow has a brigade under Gen. Steinweher. He has got a pass for his wife to join him. She has not the blessing of children and so she can come. But I would'nt exchange our lot. So you will say by the divine blessing, by next June. God bless you & yours and give you fortitude & much joy.

I wrote to Grace the last letter. Give them much love from papa. They must'nt play too hard. Remember me to Mrs Clark, Lottie & Miss Abby. Has Guy begun to go to school over the River yet?

You will probably see by the papers that I have been permanently assigned to this Corps. This will promote Capt. Howard to a Major & Lieut. Stinson to a Captain. I have a beautiful camp. Did'nt you see it as you came through the gate? I hardly think Uncle Hicks will come back. There are so many <preves> for him that I do not need him. And I dont think he would like here. I shall try to write him soon.

Now very much love & many kisses to my precious wife  
Otis

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1899 4/24/1863    *From:* F.B. Gilman

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1848

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[346]

Portland Apr 24 '63

Dear General

I take the liberty to write you in behalf of gentlemen of this city upon a matter which they do not wish to make the subject of an official communication. It is their opinion, & they represent the leaders of the Republican party throughout the State, that the copperheads as they are called confidently expect to carry the State in the fall elections, and that loyal men of every name must put forth their most earnest efforts to defeat them. It is a most sacred duty not only to the State but our Country. To insure success & the defeat of rebellion here in our midst, it is the desire of Republicans to advance a Union candidate for Governor upon whom they can unite the whole loyal heart of the State & the votes of every man who loves liberty, his country and the right.

I am assured that the best and most influential men of the Republican party unite in naming yourself as the man who, in their opinion, can best thus unite the people & secure the State. Many in this vicinity are anxious to know what are your views upon this subject and if you would accept the nomination. The expression of your feeling and opinion if you see fit to communicate it to me, would not of course be made public, but would be seen only by a few who have influence and control in political matters & who desire thus to hear from you that they may be able to act understandingly.

I hope you are well & I pray that God will abundantly strengthen you for your responsible duties & bless you spiritually.

Please give my kind regard to Charles.

Your very truly  
F.B. Gilman

---

1900 4/25/1863 *From:* P.F. Barstow

*To:* Maj Gen'l Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

OOH-1849

Head Quarters Army  
Potomac

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[347]

[Letterhead]

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH

Received Apl 25 1863

From Head Quarters Army Potomac

To Maj Gen'l Howard

Comdg 11th Corps

The Maj Gen'l Comdg directs me to inform you that your Brigade at Kelly's Ford will want Knapsacks and complete equipments with eight days rations in Knapsacks & Haversacks as heretofore directed in circular as early as Tuesday noon. You can make this arrangement as you may think proper by relieving them or sending their Knapsacks to them. I am also directed to inform you confidentially for you own information and not for publication that your whole Corps will probably move in that direction as early as Monday A.M.

P.F. Barstow

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1901 4/25/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1850

Headquarter Eleventh  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[348]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Apr 25th 1863

Dearest,

I drew my pay yesterday, and enclose you a check for 300 dollars. You can put Mrs. O.O. Howard on the back and get it cashed at the bank at your convenience.

We are all well but John. John has a bad cold and cough. When he puts his head down it aches. I feel very sorry for John, but he keeps around & is getting better. He is a most excellent & faithful man.

Lieut. Griffith who was with us when I commanded Burns brigade has joined me as A.D.C. He is a fine man, his wife lives in Phila.

This is a beautiful morning. May our Heavenly Father comfort & bless you. Many Kisses to yourself & the Children.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1902 4/27/1863 *From:* Wm. Ballantyne

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1851

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[349]

Washington April 27th 1863

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

As the President of the Washington City Young Men's Christian Association, it becomes my pleasant duty to inform you that at the Anniversary Meeting held on Wednesday the 22nd inst. you were constituted a Member for Life of the Association by the contribution of the following gentlemen.

Rear Admiral A. H. Foote

Dr. Peter Parker

Wm Ballantyne

Rev. I. G. Butler

The Association has for over a year sustained an active Christian Minister as Missionary to labor among the Teamsters, Quartermaster's Men, Forts, Guards &c who are not otherwise provided with religious services, and his labors have been very acceptable and greatly blessed; it was to sustain this Mission that a contribution though unasked was made at the meeting.

May the rich blessing of Heaven rest upon you, and may God shield your head in the day of battle, and give you victory.

With great respect General  
I am your Obedient Servant  
Wm. Ballantyne

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1903 4/27/1863

*From:* S. Williams  
Asst. Adj. Genl.

*To:* General O.O. Howard  
Comg 11th Corps

OOH-1852

Head Quarters Army of  
the Potomac

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[322]

Head Quarters Army of the Potomac  
April 27 1863

General O.O. Howard  
Comg 11th Corps

The commanding General directs me to say that he desires to have you meet him at Morrisville at 2 P.M. tomorrow, Tuesday.

Respectfully  
Yr Obdt Srvt  
S. Williams  
Asst. Adj. Genl.

---

1904 4/27/1863 *From:* Wm G LeDuc

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1853

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of Chief Quarter  
Master,  
Eleventh Army Corps,

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[323]

[Letterhead]

Office of Chief Quarter Master,  
Eleventh Army Corps,  
11 OC PM Apr 27 1863

General -

The order was given in accordance with your understanding of the order of march. The wagons for forage have gone as follows – not to my personal knowledge but from reports of officers

1 wagon Gen Steinwehrs – 4 are on the way – for 1st Brigade 2nd Brigade 2 Div wagons have gone forward 1 for Hd Qrts 4 for first Brigade – also 3 for Battery 2 Brigade 4 wagons are on the way & will if possible be through to night – the 1 Div following in the rear has had very bad roads to contend with. They were ordered to send the wagons with forage and 3 wagons are therefore on the way will go on to night – have not yet reported – except that the train is stuck at Potomac creek part have crossed and they are crossing as fast as possible.

We have been delayed by the 5th Corps untill dark – and hence the delay of the forage wagons which should have been with their respective commands.

Had not my presence here been imperatively demanded I would have reported in person to night.

Respectfully

Wm G LeDuc  
Lt Col & Chf QM 11 Corps

Major Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written on the back of the letter, as an envelope address.]

Major Gen. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

A mail recd here nothing whatever for head quarters, LeD

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1905 4/28/1863

*From:* Major General  
[Joseph] Hooker

*To:* Major General Howard  
12th Corps

OOH-1854

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. 1st Cavalry  
Division  
Grove Church

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[319]

Hd. Qrs. 1st Cavalry Division  
Grove Church April 28, [1863]

To Major General Howard  
12th Corps

General -

By direction of Major General Hooker, I send you a regiment of Cavalry (17th Penn. Cav) Colonel Kellogg, Com'dg for duty with your corps. It is intended I believe that they should cover your movement in front & flank as skirmishers & scouts.

I send you, also, six other cavalry men as guides thro' the country to the Rapidan & its fords.

[No signature]

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1906 4/28/1863    *From:* HW Slocum

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Commd 11th Corps

OOH-1855

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Twelfth  
Corps D'Arme'e,  
Army of the Potomac

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[318]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Twelfth Corps D'Arme'e,  
Army of the Potomac  
April 28th 1863.

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Commd 11th Corps

General

I would thank you for any information that you can send me from the river – about the crossing – your progress &c, my head quarters are in a small house on the right of the road about a mile from you. My orderly will conduct any one you may wish to send.

HW Slocum [Henry Warner Slocum]  
M.G. Vols

---

1907 4/30/1863

*From:* Jno. W. Geary  
Brig. Gen. Com'dg

*To:* Maj. Gen. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

OOH-1856

On route

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[321]

On route  
April 30/63

General

I am directed to station a Reg't of Infantry in the woods, which will be pointed out by an Orderly, to remain until the 12th Corps passes.

My object in notifying you is for your direction in posting another Reg't for your Corps.

Very Respy  
Your Obd't Servant  
Jno. W. Geary  
Brig. Gen. Com'dg

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

[Written on the back side as an envelope address]

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

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1908 5/1/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1857

Hd Qrs 11th Corps  
Near Chancelorville, Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[350]

Hd Qrs 11th Corps  
May 1st 1863  
Near Chancelorville, Va

Dearest

After crossing the two Rivers we have marched to this place with no loss thus far. We are now south west of Fredericksburg & on a plank road – 4 Corps are here. Monday & tuesday I moved my Corps 30 miles & crossed the river tuesday night. Wednesday night we crossed the Rapidan – the water of the ford was more than 3 feet deep, yet many of Gen Slocum's men forded. A bridge was made and all men crossed on it.

Give much love & many kisses to the Children. May God bless & strengthen you. May has come.

Lovingly  
Otis

Chas is well. Harry S also & with me.

---

1909 5/6/1863

*From:* Geo. W. Balloch  
Lt Col & C.S.

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-1859

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[325]

May 5 [1863] 3.30 P.M.

General

I shall have the supplies all ready. Col Batchelder informs me that Gen Ingalls has ordered all the transportation of the army back to Potomac Creek. Our transportation is all here, as Col LeDuc has had no orders to move. If you want forage or tools, you will have to send here. Sedgwick is on this side having crossed at Banks ford this morning. The Bridge is up & the enemy have guns in position on the other side. Let me know as soon as possible how to reach you.

Yours truly  
Geo. W. Balloch  
Lt Col & C.S.

P.S. The Enemy hold Fredericksburg.

---

1910 5/6/1863

*From:* Danl Butterfield  
Maj. Gen. Ch. Of  
Staff

*To:* Circular  
[OO Howard]

OOH-1860

Headquarters Army of  
Potomac

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[326]

Headquarters Army of Potomac  
May 6, 6 ½ am [1863]

Circular

Genl. Hd. Qrs. tonight will be at the old Camp near Falmouth. Corps Commanders will send their Staff Officer for orders at 6 p.m. to report their locations for the night as found on the old map of the Camp of occupation. For the present the 6th Corps will continue to cover the river as ordered & the 1st Corps will camp temporarily in the vicinity of the Old Camp of the 6th Corps, between the left of the old Camp of the 2nd Corps & the right of the 6th Corps.

By Command of Genl Hooker  
Danl Butterfield  
Maj. Gen. Ch. Of Staff

“Official” Wm. H. Lawrence  
Major & A.D.C.

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1911 5/6/1863

*From:* <Hakach>  
Col Comdg  
Brooke's Station

*To:* Maj [Eli.] Whittlesey

OOH-1861

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[327]

Brooke's Station  
May 6 1863

Maj Whittlesey

You may report to the Commd Gen'l that the 2d Brig 1st Div is in on its former Camp.

<Hakach>  
Col Comdg

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1912 5/7/1863

*From:* Jno. N. Jewett

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1858

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[351]

Chicago May 7 1863

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Dr. Sir,

It is scarcely a time now for congratulation. If it were I would congratulate you upon your elevation, undoubtedly deserved, to the highest military rank. Let this pass.

Today has been a sad one for the country as the news has been coming in over the wires. I confess it is such as I was not prepared for, and in the general gloom, I decidedly participate – in fact as it seems to me from the accounts that have reached us, we have lost if not another battle, at least another victory.

For myself, wholly without military knowledge or experience, I do not and never have, pretended to criticize the movements and conduct of our Generals in the field. The task of fault finding I leave to those whose sympathies with our difficulties are less active than mine. Especially was I sorry to hear that your own particular Army Corps should have so behaved as to lead some to say that the result is owing to strain. Everybody however acquits you of any responsibility for what is generally believed to be a cowardly abandonment of their position by the soldiers under your immediate command. No one, who knows you, at any rate, will make any question as to your action in so critical a crisis. But it is now quite immaterial by what particular accident or series of accidents, the result was reached.

Our Army is again on the North Bank of the Rappahannock, and as it must be there, I hope, in the absence of information, that the retreat was successfully made. Is the advantage lost? Has nothing been gained by another desperate Battle of 3 or 4 Days? Shall we hear nothing for the next three months, except, that our Army is terribly demoralized, and therefore unfit for any further service? I assure you I do not make these inquiries in any spirit of detraction, but, hoping that in the arduous labors now imposed upon you, you may yet, for old acquaintance sake, find time to give me, so much of a statement of the condition of affairs, as is consistent with your position, and for the purpose of ascertaining reliably, what our condition is & what we have to expect in the future.

It would be a natural enough inquiry for you to make - "why are you not in your country's service" - not to mention others. I have four reasons, a wife and two Babies, are three of them –the fourth is the particular in which I differ from you, viz. I am disqualified and unfit for a common soldier, and wholly incompetent from education and habit for an officer even if I could obtain an official plan. You are by education a soldier and I am not. I may be something of a Lawyer, but I have no doubt I should be a very poor general, or even Colonel, at least until after years of study & experience – and I had hopes that this war would be over in a shorter time than it would require to make me of much advantage to its service.

Now my Dr. Genl. of the physical evidence of your valor, which I regretted much to hear of, and your pressing duties will permit you to give me any account of present matters, I shall be extremely gratified. If not, please consider me as consoling with you in a misfortune, which no one will appreciate more than you – and still hopeful of better things and interested in your success – and believe me Genl,

Your friend &c  
Jno. N. Jewett

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1913 5/9/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1862

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps near  
Brooke's Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[358]

Head Quarters 11th Corps near  
Brooke's Station  
May 9th 1863

Dearest,

It has been some days since I have written you and just at a time when I am very anxious on your account, but the exposure & inconveniences of our marches & battles for the last ten days are beyond description. We have been without wagons & without tents & much of the time in forests. The papers report so many things that are false that I am very anxious that you should know the truth. I heard that I was reported killed, wounded and missing - but, except in spirit, I assure you I was neither.

On last Saturday, Stonewall Jackson attacked my right, with a solid column & with great fury. Col Von Gilsa's Brigade occupied the point of attack and immediately gave way, broke up & ran upon the other troops with such momentum that they gave way too. Such a mass of fugitives I hav'nt seen since the first battle of Bull Run. Some of Col Bushbeck's brigade stood and for some fifteen minutes held the enemy in check. The batteries were used. My staff & myself worked as hard as men could to arrest the tide. Sometimes we would get a line behind a fence, or in the woods, but to little purpose. The most trying and dangerous position a commander can be in is when his troops have got a panic and are flying.

Poor Capt Dessaur was killed not far from me. Chas. saw him after he had fallen. His wife besought him to resign just before the march. To please her he did so, but I disapproved. He worked hard, generously & constantly to make everything go well. He was rallying broken troops when he fell. I presume I have never been more exposed than in the last battle, but a kind Providence has succored me. Charles & Stinson were in the thickest of the hail. I had sent Maj Whittlesey to bring up a train of forage and so he was not there during the disaster. Gen Barlow with his brigade had been sent away just before the engagement - by Gen. Hooker's order.

Now after several successive engagements the army has resumed nearly its old position.

How are Guy, Grace & Jamie & how is Lizzie. I am very afraid of these shocks & anxieties upon you, darling. I got a short letter from you saturday before the encounter, but I want to hear again. Give much love to the children and do not <> to pray & sweetly trust in God.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1914 5/9/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1863

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station  
Va

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[352]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station Va  
May 9th 1863

Dearest,

I got Guy's letter last night and was delighted. Only I fear you made too much exertion to write so much that day May 3d. That was Sunday, the day of the most terrific battle I ever witnessed. We are now in the old camp. God is indeed good to us, my precious wife. I hope by this time you are getting strong. I am longing for the work to be over, that I may go home in peace. Poor Gen. Berry has gone. Kirby has been severely wounded & will lose his leg. He behaved with his usual gallantry. But there is perhaps yet too much intertwined in these events for you to bear.

Remember we are all quiet and safe now & in the hands of God. The battle was Chancelorville. Shant we call the little boy – Chancelor & dub him Chancy. Is he as big a boy as Guy was? How does Jamie take the little rivals coming? [Chancey Otis Howard was born 3 May 1863.]

Guy must write again – till mamma is able – so as to keep papa informed. God bless & strengthen you & me.

Lovingly  
Otis

Charlie sends love. He has don'd the Major's straps. He is Major Howard.

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1915 5/10/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1864

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station  
Va.

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[354]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station Va.,  
May 10th 1863

Dearest,

Since I wrote you I have received a long letter from you containing a lock of the baby's hair: it is a little brown boy like the rest of us. Of course he looks wise. Number four is a good name but not one for an affectionate abbreviation.

Poor Capt. Dessaur was killed in that battle – a noble, generous hearted young man with a wife & one child in Brooklyn. I would like to name No 4 for him, either Dessaur Howard or Frederick Dessaur Howard. It would be a monument to my faithful young friend. I would not accept his resignation when his wife urged him to resign and may God bless & protect her.

Does the baby ever cry? Then three are to rock him, Guy when he can find time, Grace when she feels like it and Jamie for fun. This assistance well combined and arranged ought to take much of the rocking time, but perhaps there is no cradle.

Are you not getting along nicely? Do not write me more than four lines until you are fully able. Is Mrs Clark the nurse, and my good friend Abby still with you? I do not tell you much of the news. I have been through with a good deal in the last ten days, but as I am well and ready for action, the least said about all the disasters the better.

I will enclose you an order I published this morning which will show you my feeling and hopefulness. I believe my heart will never flag. God is good to us & blesses us. I long for my children to be his faithful followers.

We are having lovely weather now, though on our return to this place we had to wade through deep clayey mud. You must not allow the news papers to excite you. I must expect a few hits as my corps did not do well. Thus far I have escaped wonderfully. But when the body suffers the head suffers with it.

Kiss all the little ones for papa & tell me if you accept my last proffer of a name.

God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1916 5/12/1863    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother Otis  
[OO Howard]

OOH-1865

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[355]

Farmington May 12/63

My dear Brother Otis

The papers are so full of lies that I am tired of reading them, but I do wish we could get some authentic news from you & Charles. I am anxious to know of your morale as well as your physique.

Allow me to congratulate you & join in your thanksgiving over the birth of a 2d daughter. We hear indirectly that she is a week old & the mother comfortable so all is not dark.

Indeed if you are well & have not lost heart nor faith under your reverse & the disgraceful conduct of your troops all is well. All we get from you is by the papers. Lizzie being too sick to send us any news. She may yet. We have had a rumor never contradicted that you were wounded, but we dont believe it as the Boston Journal Correspondent speaks of your appearance at the meeting with the President & Gen Halleck - and also gives a quotation from your letter to Gen Shurz. Some of Sigels friends evidently think that his cause will be advanced by throwing some blame on you tho' they hardly dare to do it. I do hope Charles will get time to write to the Boston or Lewiston Journal, a truthful statement of the affair of Sat. & the subsequent events.

A man might as well not be a Christian if reverses can dishearten him utterly, & the only reason that we ever feel like giving up, is because we are afflicted in our unexpected & particularly grievous way. "He Scourgeth Every Son whom he receiveth". Bacon calmly bequeathed the care of his fame to posterity. We can safely leave ours with God. Men are liars, cowards &c – God is not. Truth is forever. Tho Heaven & Earth pass, not one jot or little will pass from Gods law (will, pleasure, character, holiness, purpose). The Army of the Potomac must look small to God & its annihilation no great thing. But a proud selfish people are to humbled & brought to Christ. A wicked system of Oppression & Bondage is to be ended. A nation is to be raised up on fields that have been desolated – to show forth Gods glory. These are great things. How blessed to contribute a dollar, a drop of blood, a life, a friend, a prayer, a word, that will be used by God to extend the Kingdom of Jesus. "It is a good thing to both hope & quietly wait for the Salvation of the Lord," We gain in prayer by every defeat. Also in humility, also in genuine faith in God. "Be of good courage, I will strengthen thy heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord." O my Brother keep near to God - & He will bless & will use you.

Rowland

I expect to preach in Hallowell next Sabbath & to see Lizzie & the four children. Ella joins me in Oceans of love to you & Charley.

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1917 5/12/1863      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]      *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1866      Headquarters Eleventh  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station

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[356]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station  
May 12th 1863

Dearest,

We are still here. I hope you are still doing well and are not "too smart". My Corps is much abused, but I think in a high degree unjustly. I trust the future may relieve us from obloquy. I am conscious of having neglected no precaution and yet our right was turned in the thick woods and an overwhelming force hurled upon the flank & rear.

For your sake I hope it is not quite so warm at Augusta as it is here today as I know you do not like warm weather very well. Guy's letter written Apr 25 was beautifully written. The letters even, all the words spelt correctly and what he said natural. The last one was like a field report written under the pressure of excitement and in haste. Guy & Grace must feel very proud of their two little brothers. Gracie remains the undisturbed professor of her rights as an only daughter.

I am hoping that you have not been allowed to read the papers lately. For they have contained all sorts of false reports. I have been reported as wounded and killed, but I believe not as missing. When the battle first struck us & I was trying to replace a regiment, my black horse stood so straight on his hind legs, that I had to come down, but I was soon up again. I got my hand scratched, my leg a little bruised but no wound. Charlie & Stinson are well. The mail is waiting.

God bless you all. Lovingly  
Otis

[CHECK ORIGINAL – last page may have very faint writing on it.]

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1918 5/14/1863 *From:* G. I. Kraft

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1867

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[357]

New York, May 14, 1863

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 10th, in answer to my inquiry after the late Capt. Dessauer, is received, for which you will please accept my thanks. I have already written to Lt. Col. Asmussen in relation to his effects. If you wish to keep his horse you will please send the value of it to my daughter, Mrs. Dessauer, 127 Amity St. Brooklyn, or to me.

Very respectfully yours  
G. I. Kraft

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1919 5/16/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1868

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Brooke's Sn

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[358]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
May 16 / Near Brooke's Sn / 1863

Dearest,

I must write you this morning. It is now 14 days since the advent of our little stranger and I hope you have been so wise as to get very smart by this time. Mrs Barlow came to see her husband yesterday & I told him in her presence I envied him. I came across a family yesterday - Mr Green has a wife & 7 boys. He had a farm & was well off. Now he has nothing & starvation stares him in the face. He is almost crazy. His wife has a little one 6 weeks old in her arms. She is a nice looking woman & keeps up pretty good courage. They want to go to the West. Nobody can realize the misery this rebellion has caused – till he sees it. Would God we might end it, in some way.

Much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie and shall I say Freddie. Give him a kiss for his papa & commit him by prayer into the hands of God.

My kindest regards & warmest gratitude to the Dr., Abby, Mrs Clark & all who have been kind & attentive to you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1920 5/16/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [RB Howard]

OOH-1869

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
May 16th Near  
Brooke's Sn 1863

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[359]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
May 16th Near Brooke's Sn 1863

My dear Brother,

I have just received your kind letter of the 12th Inst. I am surprized at the information you have received and more particularly at that you have not received. The 2nd Daughter was a 3d boy, yes born on May 3d the day of the terrible battle of Chancellorville. I have asked Lizzie to name him for a dear young man, Capt Dessauer, who was on my staff & killed while rallying the men. His name was Frederick. All the rest of this family were spared.

I cannot say anything that will be of service to you in allaying yr. anxiety. We made a Campaign of ten days, and have returned to the place of starting. The injuries inflicted on both sides are great. Both of us are boasting - but here we are & daily 9 months regts & 2 yrs regts are leaving the service. "Well, does your courage flag?" No. Hav'nt I passed through the first battle of Bull run, and was'nt I near the 2nd. If my tenet was in man, General or Armies I should have flagged long ago, but you know I trust in God. I believe He means something by this revolution. I believe I am right in standing by the Government and that Stonewall Jackson was on the wrong side, but would to God our kind Father, that he might give us more men & more leaders than we now have, who possess the virtues of that man. The hand of God seems against me. I know I am weak & unworthy, but I do trust in that strong arm.

At last if we will let him he will bless us. But we have a strange people, mercenary, boasting, ungodly. Gen Hooker is said to be impure. He swears. Gen Sickles is known - If God give us Sickles to lead us I shall cry with vexation & sorrow and plead to be delivered. Would that you would plead with our Father to convert the soul of Gen Hooker. It is just what we need. The Rebels are praising God & appealing to Him. We are despising God & trusting in fine looking soldiers. But His arm is not shortened that it cannot save.

We have not the rebel hate in our hearts and this makes me think we are truer than they - for while they hate us they cannot love really love God. My heart bleeds for the poor people who are impoverished by this rebellion & the war entailed by it. Large families know not where to look for bread. It seems as though sometimes that I was not able to do any good. But I feel cheerful & contented at all times.

Lizzie appears to be doing nicely. She has written me twice since the advent of "No 4" besides a few lines added to Guy's letter on the very day of the good tidings. I have not written much about the battle, for Charles has told you the whole story; besides he has written to the Portland Press. There have been indications of movements, but I do not think much will be attempted in this quarter right away. However it may be so.

Give much love to Ella. Lizzie has got more "olive branches". Ella must make haste. Kiss the boy. I do wish you could come out & bring Guy or Grace. You could have many opportunities for doing good in the various hospitals near us if we remain.

Affectionately  
Otis

I am sorry Mother's work troubles her and hope Father will retain his faculties unimpaired for many years yet. Pray for us.

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1921 5/17/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1870

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
May 17 Near Brooke's  
Station Va 1863

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[360]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
May 17 Near Brooke's Station Va 1863

My dear Mother

I received a letter from Farmington from Rowland yesterday. He speaks of your visit and of your health. He thinks you feel that your work is too hard for you. I think sometimes that I do very little for your comfort, but I know that you enjoy as much as anything the good name of your children and their real welfare, but if I can do anything to make life pleasanter for you & father I am anxious to do it.

I presume father's mind must be interested in public affairs, just now. My own thoughts lie in that direction so much & with so much attendant anxiety that I am apt to avoid the subject in all private letters.

We all have felt badly that my Corps did not do better, but that is past. If men were not afraid to die it would simplify matters very much. They are afraid & fear makes them run. I should certainly despair of my country, did I not know that there is an over-ruling power & that He will guide even amid the turbulent passions of men.

I fear there is something very wrong, perhaps radically wrong amongst us. We must yet be much humbled before we come any where near a dependence on God. We look to president to leaders but not to God. I know as well as anybody the value of instruments, but they are not the main thing. We will have to suffer, become poor & starving, have to appreciate our blessings by the loss of them, before we can come up to the Spirit necessary for us in this terrible crisis. Love of country must take the place of love of money.

I dont know what we shall try next, but since the two years & 9 months men are giving out or are already gone our numbers will be very much reduced. I hope the draft will be applied as soon as possible, for I am anxious to get this work done.

How is everything about home. I can hardly think of Jane Bates as gone. I hav'nt heard from George of late. Give my love to all our friends. I hope Roland, Cynthia and the children are well. Give love to father, & God bless you all. Pray for me.

Affectionately yr Son  
Otis

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1922 5/22/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1871

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station  
Va.

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[362]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
May 22nd Va.  
Near Brooke's Station 1863

Dearest,

At the request of Genl. Hooker, I went up to Washington two nights before last. I spent one day & one night in Washington & returned yesterday.

Day before yesterday I spent in running about with Chas. part of the time & part of the time with our friend Sen. Dean. Charlie & I met the President in his grounds before breakfast. He appointed a meeting with me after breakfast. In the meantime we visit Mr Farwell at his office. After about half an hour Chas. & I visited the President. He had a good deal to say about the campaign of nine days & a good many questions to ask. We saw then much all the secretaries – of whom Secretary Chase is my friend & favorite. Then we called on the Sec. of War at his office. After that, visited Admirals Foote, Smith, Davis & the Secretary of the Navy. I was very warmly received at Washington.

Dean took me to call on Mrs & Miss ex Gov. Davis where I had a very pleasant call & many questions about your health &c. Miss Davis is about the age of & much like Miss Blanch Berard and wants to know you. Dean has been sick & the Davis ladies have taken so much care of him & been so kind that he is filled with gratitude towards them.

I am writing this time more in haste than I like, but the time for the mail has come & I fear lest another day may elapse & you not get a letter. We found Perry Lee & wife in Washington. She came down with us. All well. Good bye. God bless you & the baby & all the little ones. I shall write you tomorrow.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1923 5/23/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1872

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station  
Va.

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[363]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station Va.,  
May 23d 1863

Dearest,

I told you in yesterday's letter that Mrs Lizzie Lee came from Washington with us. Yesterday Charles took her to Falmouth, to see Fredericksburg & the troops on the way thither. She thinks she had a fine time notwithstanding the roughness of the roads & of the carriage. Last night we gave her a tea party, inviting all the ladies & a few gentlemen, i.e. Mrs Barlow, Mrs & Lt Parker (a wife & regular) Mr Hovey & Dr & Mrs Steinwehr & the Gen. Schurz & Col Von Gilsa. All the ladies did not come, viz Mrs B & Mrs D absent but the Band of the 33d Mass. came & played during the evening.

While I was gone our Hd. Qrs. were nearly trimmed with shade trees. Now the Germans are making me a porch of bows & wreaths. They have already made two long & rustic seats on the right & left of my door. Would'nt Guy & Grace have a fine place to play if they were with papa. All is very pleasant but it isnt home, is it Darling.

Rowland writes me a most excellent description of our little "branch". Very fine boy, quite advanced for a baby. Jamie is happy, fresh & handsomer than ever. Now if Mamma is only all well we have reason to be very, very happy & thankful.

Sunday morning. We are all very well this morning. Mrs Perry Lee is still here. Perry has tendered his resignation and has an appointment in the Navy. His resignation has not yet been accepted as he put it in yesterday. Charles continues well & so does Capt. Stinson. I have thought some about leaving the service, but I do not think it the proper time now. I cannot make up my mind to it. The work is not yet done.

On the Mississippi the army is now doing well. God grant us success in that quarter. I think we are to be led to a gradual success, so that we shall not be carried away by pride and arrogance and annihilate all the good points intended for us in this great scourge & affliction. I got Col Ames' promotion to a Brigadier General & have assigned him to a brigade in this Corps. Gen. McLean has gone to Gen. Burnside.

We are going to have services this morning. How very warm it is – no rain for many days. Much love to the children, and many kisses & not less to baby & his Mother.

Lovingly  
Otis

Mrs Lee is reading the Bible in the front part of the tent, says Give my love to her meaning you.

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1924 5/25/1863

*From:* [Elizabeth R.  
(Fiske) Lee]

*To:* My dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-1873

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Brooks Station

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[364]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Brooks Station May 25 1863

My dear Mrs Howard,

Though I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting you I hope some day to claim a cousinship. And being a guest here I thought it might be pleasant for you to have a lady description of your husbands present camp home which is very pretty and comfortable. My visit here was so unexpected that I enjoy it all the more.

Maj Lee took a flying trip to Brooklyn and brought me to Washington last Tuesday. The next day I was most happily surprised by a call from Gen Howard and brother. Perry spoke half jokingly of bringing me down. Then your husband really gave me an invitation, which at first I could hardly realize could be possible & so I never thought I could come.

But Thursday noon I found myself at Head Quarters and after a shake off of a coat of dust, I look up & saw a beautiful little encampment, enclosed with a thick hedge of evergreen in the form of a square. Entering the opening it looked like a fairy's wood land - each side the white tents were partly screened by rows of pine and evergreen. In the center stood a flag staff. Opposite the gate way is the g. Generals tent which is of course the finest of any, being twice as large and containing some luxuries. All the tents look very nice & have floors and are very comfortable and pretty. You will be most interested to hear of the tent I am now writing in. The walls about six feet are of hewn logs, above which is stretched the tent making it quite high and as it consists of two a goodly sized apartment. The floor is of hewn logs, and half of it boasts of a bright carpet of which the legend is it came from the City over the <> river. A comfortable bed covered with a robe, a writing desk & table, and rustic hat, & towel stands, a stove & two pretty camp chairs complete the picture. I was surprised to find everything so nice, here, but I find all Head Quarters are not kept quite so neatly. The bell for dinner rang, and we adjourned to a side tent.

The table neatly laid and plates for eight when seated a colored woman Fanny stood suddenly in the back ground & a little girl of about twelve whose comical gravity in watching me is amusing. Her eyes are like some pictures where ever you turn they follow you. I feel that I have given you but a poor description of this place, but I heard some one speaking of having a picture taken of it, which I hope you will see. I have forgotten to speak of an evergreen arbor just by the tent door covered at the sides & top by weaving the branches thick <> poles. Each side is a rustic seat or bench.

Friday I rode to Falmouth and every mile had much of interest. That evening Mr & Mrs Maj Van Steinweher, & Mr & Mrs Dr Hovy here at tea and the 33d Band played for us that evening. I have enjoyed every moment I have been here, and it will be one of the brightest spots in future for me to think of. Gen Howard has gone out for the morning. But as I saw him writing you yesterday, his letters would give you all news of himself. Cousin Charles came in to sit here and write his French lesson but something has taken him away. I hope yourself the baby & children are well. I thought often how anxious you must have been during these fearful days.

In going by a hospital tent & seeing the hot sun beating down on the poor men, I felt I could not be half thankful enough that all dear to me were spared. My husband has sent up his resignation. If it is not accepted today I shall go and remain with him a while. It is not as pleasant in a house even I think as a good tent, as things are not kept so tidy about.

Yesterday came the good news "that Vicksburg is ours." We had service and Mrs Sampson was here to attend it on her way to the hospitals.

I shall hope to have the pleasure of having a visit from you some time & will do all in my power to try and have it

pass pleasantly. My home is but two <[CHECK ORIGINAL – Missing Closing]>

[Elizabeth R. Fiske married Samuel Perry Lee 10 Feb 1863.]

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1925 5/26/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1874

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[365]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Brooke's Station  
May 26th 1863.

Dearest,

I received a letter from you Sunday afternoon, and felt sorry indeed that seeing your friends had proved so bad for you, but I hope after a little quiet you are yourself again. I am not so sure that my coming might not excite you even though I belong there.

I do not think I can go home now. I will tell you my reasons. My Corps did not do very well at Chancellorville, now every body who is to blame tries to shift the responsibility upon somebody's else shoulders. The German's and the American's are many of them against me. It was my first trial with them. Now I must drill & discipline my command & get it in hand. I must work to get good officers in the command of Brigades and regiments. I must be here to head off wire-pullers. I want the command to learn me and I wish to learn it.

Again I rather apprehend an attack here, after the affair at Vicksburg which is so disastrous to the rebels. They will try some game to retrieve their losses. Most probably will accumulate a very large force against Rosecrants [sic] – in that case we should not be attacked - but perhaps now something desperate will be attempted and Lee will cross above us & attack us hoping to crush this army now that we have lost so many two year & nine month regiments.

I have meditated resigning (a little), but do not think this a proper time. The Christian people, who look to me as a sort of representative, would be disappointed if I deserted my colors now. Then I am under a little cloud – tenderly excused but yet unsuccessful and I have not been accustomed to succumb under difficulties.

Mrs Lee is still here. I have not quite given my consent that she may go to Gen Sickles Hd. Qrs. So Perry comes up here at night & goes back in the morning. She says she wants to write you & I believe she did yesterday. She would tell you so very many interesting details, that I have thought it would be a relief to you.

Balloch thinks I must be going home to see that little boy. I think we might make the name Chancey Howard. It is pleasant sounding, but I am afraid he will be a little rebel. I could almost see you all as Rowland described the home scenes, when he was with you.

Much love & many Kisses. God bless you & all

Lovingly  
Otis

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1926 5/31/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1875

Headquarters 11th  
Corps  
(Near Brooke's Sta.)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[367]

Headquarters 11th Corps  
May 31st 1863 (Near Brooke's Sta.)

Dearest,

Your last letter received was written on the 22nd inst. It is now nine days since that & I am hoping to hear from you today. I have been hoping that you would not read the News Papers much, till the public mind had been turned to other topics than our defeat. I cannot escape censure in reference to that unfortunate affair of May 2d, and it is impossible to get along without <enering>. If my incompetency can be established, the 11th Corps throws a load of obloquy from its own shoulders on me. If the President will return Genl Siegel, superceding me, or sending me elsewhere, the Germans have gained their point and can abuse me with impunity.

Again some of my friends have thought I would be an available candidate for the Governorship of Maine and though I have already declined, still this gets around and makes for me political enemies; and the disaster gives a handle against me. Thus my little wife when she is not very strong ought not allow herself to read newspapers much. The Boston Journal & the Press are friendly I learn. General Hooker is a very politic man & I think will sacrifice me the moment he deems it necessary. If I could quietly go home where I am loved & be quiet I should like it, but one becomes so involved. My staff are dependent on me. The christian element in the Army & out of it expects much of me as a christian. My sense of duty in this crisis would keep me in the service. I said however to the President, Sec. of War & to Genl Hooker – if you have anybody else whom you deem better able under the circumstances to command this Corps you must not hesitate on my account to give him the command.

Major Whittlesey has put in his resignation. It is hard to lose such a fast friend from the Military family, and one with such good sound practical sense.

We have hardly had a rainy day since the 6th of May & the dust is everywhere abundant, almost as much so as in Florida. Since I began my letter we have had a preacher who came originally from the North of Ireland but is now located in Pennsylvania, discourse to us. Fearing he might not come as he belonged to the Christian commission and stopped at Falmouth, so Maj Whittlesey invited one other a chaplain of the 153d Penn. They both came strangers to each other. The former Rev. Mr Stevens preached a most excellent Gospel Sermon from the text there is joy in the presence of the Angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. After he closed, the chaplain said he had selected the same text for us & prayed over it, expecting to preach from it. It was a singular coincidence and I hope it was the means of bringing some one to the truth.

This afternoon Mrs Lee & Perry called. They have a room in a house now. Genl Ames came back from Washington today. He attended Kirby's funeral. Poor Kirby has gone. He was a brave and true soldier, and a good man. I told you I called to see him (I think) when in Washington. This evening Maj. Whittlesey & I went to the 153 Penn Regt to a prayer meeting. They have fixed up some seats of split logs out of doors, and had their prayer-meeting by moon light. They prayed in English & in German & they sang in English & then in German.

I wish I could see you this quiet sabbath evening. Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy all asleep. Would we have a good time ruminating, prospecting & chatting. I hope this will find you quite well. Much love from papa to Guy & Grace and kisses for Jamie & the baby. I think Guy has a great many studies - <> & thorough Guy.

God bless my lovely little family. Remember me kindly to Mrs Clark & Lottie. Have you heard from Mother of late. Dellie is somewhat troubled about my Generalship.

Lovingly  
Otis



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1927 6/3/1863

*From:* C. Schurz  
Maj. Genl.

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard,

OOH-1876

Headqu 3d Div 11th  
Corps

Headqu. 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Private  
Headqu 3d Div 11th Corps  
June 3d 1863

Maj. Genl. Howard,  
Headqu. 11th Corps

General,

I am informed the "Wash. Star" had an article a few days ago stating that the German regts of this Corps would be transferred to the fortifications of Washington and that American regts would be sent to fill their places in this Corps; it was added, that this would be done at your or Gen. Hookers request, I do not remember which.

I would most respectfully ask you to tell me, whether you know anything about this matter or whether you have made the request. You would greatly oblige me by giving me this information if you can consistently do so.

Most respectfully your obt. Servt  
C. Schurz [Carl Schurz]  
Maj. Genl.

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1928 6/6/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1878

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Brooke's Sta. Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[369]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Brooke's Sta. Va.,  
June 6th 1863

Dearest,

We have moved Head Quarters to a new place where we have some shade and no dust, some  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile from the old place. I have had quite a severe attack of dysintery. One day I lay by entirely, that was day before yesterday, but yesterday I rode to Hd. Qrs. of Gen Hooker and felt pretty well all day, and I am quite well this morning. Yesterday there was some cannonading near Fredericksburg, a sort of reconnaissance in force on our part, with an attempt to lay a bridge. Some brigades of the enemy were reported moving off, but I understand they soon reappeared. This morning all seems to be quiet.

I hope you are still on the gain. Your next to the last letter said you feared to go down stairs lest you should not get back. In the last you were going down to your meals and were talking about that fearful but essential time of house-cleaning. I hope you did not have to work at it yourself but were wise enough to hire somebody who could see the spider's webs & the dirt in the corners.

I have lost my poor horse Charlie. He grew sicker & sicker with the distemper. McDonald took good care of him, turned him out to grass, but it was of no use. He had served his country long enough and he died. Major Whittlesey says McDonald came with a very sad look and announced the fact of "Charly's" death and it startled him at first; but he soon learned that it was the horse. He has been a nice, beautiful, active & faithful friend to me. He was well at the last battle, but I had just ridden him & changed for the black as the battle commenced. I have poor Capt Dessaur's horse a fine hardy little bay, now too big for Guy or Grace to ride. I bought him, so I own the Black & this Pony now. Charles has two.

I forgot to tell you I had a family photograph case purchased for me in New York. [Sketch of photograph case opened and closed] I can carry it nicely in my pocket. Guy's & Grace's ambrotypes fitted in well & your photograph. I lack Jamie & Chancy. I hope Jamie will go & have his photograph taken the first opportunity to send to papa. He must look as sober as possible.

Give much love to all our little flock. God bless you & them.

Lovingly  
Otis

I got a good long letter from Mother yesterday. Send her a lock of the baby's hair.

I enclose 200 dolls. Otis

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1929 6/9/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1879

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Va.

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[370]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Va., June 9th 1863.

Dear Sister Lizzie

Otis has gone out to inspect the camps of one of his Divns and said to me as he was leaving that he had intended to write you this morning and asked me to do so.

It is a delightfully cool and refreshing Summer morning. Otis has not been very well but is much improved – in fact says he is well now. My own health is good.

We have the most lovely spot for Hd Qrs. we have ever had I believe. Moved up here last week. It is about ¼ mile from the old place.

I had invited Rowland to come out and see us and yesterday got answer from him that he would come next week or week after. So if you wish to send anything to Otis you will probably have the opportunity.

Gen. Ames has been sent up river with a Brigade of Infantry & some Artillery in conjunction with a Cavalry force and this moment I hear very distant firing. He went away day before yesterday & has under him the best troops of the Army. One Regt from this Corps 33d Mass. Capt. Stinson is with him. They anticipate meeting Stewart & perhaps they have caught him – such is the indication of the Firing. Capt Cross of Ames Class (Engineers) was killed at Fredericksburg last Friday night at the Cannonading. One Div of 6th Corps is now across but it is I think only a Reconnaissance.

Love to Guy - at school for now I suppose & to dear, little Grace & Jamie & an overwhelming amount of kisses for the littlest one.

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

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1930 6/10/1863      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]      *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1880      Headquarters Eleventh  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Corps,  
Near Brooke's Stn. Va.

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[371]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Brooke's Stn. Va.,  
June 10th 1863

Dearest,

I received a good letter from you in which you compare the unsettled condition of your house to my reputation. I hope you have not worked at that business yourself. Mrs Goodwin writes me that Maria is very poorly, weak, debilitated and discouraged about herself. She & Will were to start for St. Paul Minesota last Friday. Mrs Merrick Sen. was to take the baby and nurse and they might stay some months if the climate prove to agree with Maria.

Col Underwood commands the 33d Mass Regiment, Steinweher's Division. A secret expedition was organized, Gen. Ames commanding to proceed up river and attack or intercept one of Stuarts Raids. Col Underwood's wife had just arrived in camp with his little girl. I chose his regiment as the one best fitted for the work to be done. Mrs Underwood is an intimate friend of Mrs Lizzie Lee. They met here at my camp yesterday. Gen. Steinweher, Col Olin Smith Comdg Brigade, a Lieut Thompson and his wife & Perry took tea with us last night and spent a pleasant evening. We had the band of the 33d Mass which did not go with the Regiment. An engagement is now in progress between our cavalry & that of Gen Stuart near Culpepper. Gen. Ames with his force must be there. I do hope this will be a success worth the mention. I understand Stuart was completely surprised just as he was getting ready to go on some expedition to the North. Particulars of the engagement have not come to hand yet. One Division of Gen Sedgwick's Corps is still over the river below Fredericksburg. The bridge was built and this force crossed to find out how much force of the enemy was there. Our own guns cover these troops & they can stay as long as they please.

Our new camp is very beautiful, laid out in a large semi-circle. [Sketch of the layout of the staff officer tents in a semi-circle.] Harry Stinson has gone with Gen. Ames & the 33d. We shall look for him back by tomorrow-night.

How does Guy like his school. Are his cheeks rosy and full? He must tell me who is his teacher, how he likes his books, what he studies. Does he learn something near every day? I want to hear more about Gracie. I am afraid she may forget she is papa's daughter. Jamie seems to suit Uncle Rowland very much. He must be a very enterprising boy. Does he speak slowly? But the baby, I cannot imagine how he looks. Does he sleep much of the time?

Mrs Lee & Perry staid with us last night & she is here now. Perry's resignation has not yet been accepted, neither has that of Capt Whittlesey. Perry is acting Adj. Gen. for Gen. Birney now comdg. the 3d Corps. Give my kind regards to all my friends. Do not forget Mrs Clark & Lottie. Has Mr Dan. Williams been to see you? I constantly ask for the protection of Gods divine Spirit for you, for me & for the children.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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1931 6/12/1863 *From:* N. A. Farwell

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1881

Rockland

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[373]

Rockland Jun 12th 1863

My Dear Sir

My object in this is to ask you if you would not consent to have your name used as a candidate for Gov. I am confident under the call you would be a more acceptable candidate than any we could get and it is important that we carry this State by a good sound majority. Your name was frequently mentioned last winter at "Augusta" and always with favour and we hoped the "War" would be in such progress that you could be spared from the field without detriment to the Service. We are willing to leave the whole matter to your judgment but I think I am safe in assuming you that your name would add greatly to the strength of our State Ticket.

I am yours very truly  
N. A. Farwell

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Washington

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1932 6/17/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1882

Hd Qrs 11th Corps  
Goose Creek Near  
Leesburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[372]

Hd Qrs 11th Corps June 17th 1863  
Goose Creek Near Leesburg

Dearest,

The weather has been very hot & dry & we have marched as follows – 12 miles, 19, 18, rested two days then marched 17. I was a little feverish at Centreville, but am now quite recovered. This Corps has marched in a very unsteady style as all my orders are obeyed with great alacrity.

I trust you are well & that the weather is cooler with you for I know how much the heat affects you. I want to see the baby very much. Has mother been to get acquainted? I suppose Grace dont want any more dolls, but spends much time in tending him. I think every day of Lizzie my loving wife & of my dear little children & I try to pray for them & I know papa is thought of at home.

(Thursday morning 18th) I am feeling quite well this morning, though it is very hot, almost too hot for campaigning. I am waiting for orders. Gen. Hd. Qrs. are 30 miles away just now. I dont know when this will reach you. Charlie is quite well and so is Capt Stinson and with us, or Chas. has just at this time gone to Gen Reynolds Camp & Capt. Stinson to that of Gen. Meade. I have a new officer on my staff, Capt Hall, additional A.D.C. formerly John P. Hale's private Secretary. A very fine young man. He has been sick and I am afraid he will not stand the fatigue.

Good bye to all of my precious ones at home & God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1933 6/17/1863    *From:* Ella [(Patten)  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1883

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[374]

Leeds June 17th 1863

Dear Lizzie

It strikes me we might be a little more sisterly in the way of corresponding, and yet, I know it takes a good deal of time to write letters, and you especially, have very little to spare, with your little family, & your letters to Otis. For my own part, I dont know but it is as much laziness, as any thing else, that keeps me from writing, for I have been intending to send you my love & congratulations, ever since the dear little baby came.

But you have them now, & will you please kiss the little fellow for his Auntie. I want very much to see him. I wish it wasn't such a journey between Augusta & Farmington, & such an almost impossible journey with little children. I do wish you could come up, & bring all four of them this summer. Is it quite out of the question? I should so love to have you.

I came down here yesterday. Dadie & I came in the cars, & Mary Frances Lothrop who travels with me at present, & Mary Sprague, an old friend of mine who is making me a visit, came with our horse. We are all going back Friday.

This "north room" where I am writing, always reminds me of you. The first time I ever really got acquainted with you, you were occupying this room. How many changes there have been, since then!

Rowland wanted very much to go to Augusta, to see you, before he went to Washington, but he couldn't leave Farmington, to do so. It is more difficult, than one would suppose, to get away from one's Parish. It is as much like leaving a great Baby, as any thing. The Child always has to be "put to rights" again, when the Parent returns. I dont know how the late movements of the Army will affect Rowland, I am sure. He started Monday morning, in company with Mr. Adams of New Sharon, who goes out as a delegate of the Christian Commission.

Shall you be able to go to Commencement this year? I suppose Dellie will want as many of his friends there as can go. I expect to go home about that time, & I wish you could come to Bath, & we could go to Brunswick, as often, or as seldom as we chose. And the baby would be safe, at my father's, while you were away. You had better do so, if you can. I wonder if you have heard of the new cousin – Laura has a little boy born the 11th [See Note]. She is nicely, I hear. Mother & I are going to ride up to see it tomorrow.

Mother seems pretty well – has a good girl. Col. Gilmore had a very sore finger, which seems as much like a felon as anything, but he doesn't call it a felon. He has suffered with it for three weeks, & it is not much, if any, better. Mother sends love to you & the children. She has been intending to write, but has been unusually busy this spring.

Dadie grows fast, & is very well. I should like to see Jamie. Rowland told me he talked very plain.

Good bye. Love to all the children, & kisses from Auntie.

Ella

[Note. Laura Brewster (Howard) Otis, wife of Ensign Otis, gave birth to a son, Ensign Otis, Jr. on June 11, 1863.]

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1934 6/19/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1884

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Near Goose Creek

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[376]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Near Goose Creek  
June 19th (Friday) 1863

Dearest,

I have time to write you a line. We are all well & Gen. Hooker says waiting till the enemy develops his intentions. Charles & Harry went on perilous rides but came back all safe.

Much love from papa to the children & not a little to a dear wife. God bless us all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1935 6/22/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1885

The same place as last  
letter

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[377]

June 22nd 1863

The same place as last letter

Dearest,

All well. I have sent for Rowland to Washington. Mail goes at once. God bless you all. A severe Cavalry engagement 8 miles off yesterday.

Many kisses & much love to the children & yourself.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

1936 6/24/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1886

Hd Qrs 11th Corps  
Goose Creek

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[375]

Hd Qrs 11th Corps  
Goose Creek  
June 24th 1863

Dearest

Rowland arrived after a 45 miles ride yesterday & some little exposure to Bush wackers. All well. I have got two good letters from you in this camp. I have just written a letter to Mr Farwell of Rockland declining the honor of a nomination for Governor. I think duty requires it.

God bless you all. Much love to the children. Baby not forgotten. Mail must go now. Will try to give you a better letter next time. Would like to talk with Blaine or Morrill.

Affectionately yr husband  
Otis

---

1937 6/26/1863

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1887

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Middletown Md

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[371]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Middletown Md June 26, 1863

Dear Sister Lizzie

I came to camp at Goose Creek – 6 miles from Leesburg on Tues. with the 11th Corps Mail Carrier. The next day, I “marched” with the Corps to Edwards Ferry, 6 miles, & the next, to Point of Rocks & turning at that point to Jefferson – 5 miles from the Potomac where we spent the night in a house. The march was a hard one of 25 or 30 miles in a day. Today we have only moved 6 miles up this beautiful & fruitful valley to this lovely little town. There is no immediate prospect of a battle – the enemy being two days march ahead of us towards Penn.

Otis seems quite well, but works hard almost every moment & gets pretty tired every night & sometimes is awakened often during the night with orders. Tonight he is just by my side in bed & John is minding his watch. We are at a farm house ½ a mile out of town. Charley has gone to sleep in a tent outside & don't seem very well tonight but, he is very tired. How I pity the poor men on these marches.

I hope my stay in Washington did some good as I labored in the Camps & Hospitals for the Ch. Com.

Otis received a letter from you tonight. He has no moment to write for the last few days. I am glad Prof. Whittlesey went to see you & wish he was back here with Otis. A personal friend, of high moral character is a great blessing to one in his position. I think I will be home before the 2d Sab. in July & will try to come by way of Augusta & tell you what I have not time to write. We have prayed together, & Otis is now asleep. There is no order yet for any move.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

Give Guy a great deal of love & tell Grace she is getting too old. Tell Jamie he must saw the wood box all up & baby must have a kiss from all of us

---

1938 6/27/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1888

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Middletown Md

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[372]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Middletown Md  
June 27 1863

Dearest,

I have received another good long letter from you written just after Maj. Whittlesey's & Mrs. W's visit. I am glad they came to see you. I got a letter from Major Whittlesey at the same time. It is grand that you were able to go down street. You must have gone bareheaded as you had no bonnet to wear to Church. I am afraid you are working too hard or doing too much. Shopping you know is very dangerous.

We are working along up towards you. The rebels are again between us and home. Rowland has sent you a letter. I dont know what he wrote, but I presume he told you it was pretty hard to keep up on horseback over fields across ditches. I dont find the fatigue of commanding a Corps any less than that in commanding a division. I sometimes get tired as you used to at home when you worked too hard, but I call myself quite well. We are faring luxuriously here in Maryland. I have a nice room in a house and a superb table is set for me and all my staff. The lady has "a brigade" of daughters 6 in number the eldest about ten yrs & the youngest about two. I have so many irons in the fire I cannot stop to chat with them - I wish I could. I fear I should not be a very devoted father or husband if my little family came up.

I am thinking our troubles will be brought to a crisis before long, and if God wills I may be home before long also.

Rowland says Jamie saws the wood box a good deal. I am glad if his nose is not out of joint. Mamma must kiss him on both cheeks and ask him to name the baby. Maj W inclines to think the baby has yet no name. What shall we call him? I must let you give him a name.

A couple of young ladies made us a Corps flag today & presented it: [sketch of a flag with the number 11 in the center] The trefoil is pink and the flag is blue. Our flag was silk and and it got fretted away till there was scarcely anything left. I wrote a note of thanks & the young men have gone to serenade these young ladies & to take the note.

We were in this lovely valley before just before the battle of South Mountain & Antietam. It is like an immense basin with a bottom beaten out of regular shape & so fertile that almost every field is covered with crops – no woods but quite a number of shade trees. The mountain border has plenty of forests. I wish you could get a view of this charming valley.

How is Guy? Likes his school? Learning something new every day? How does Gracie get on. I want to see her very much & I want to see you all and think I shall be allowed to do so before long. I hope you will be able to have a good opinion of the 11th Corps if we are engaged again. It certainly marches well. One day we made more than 23 miles. Almost all the officers like to please me & cooperate with alacrity. I do not yet quite despair of my country – the rebels are stirring up Pennsylvania & I hope the furor will last.

I am sorry Mrs Clark is sick. Give much love to all and accept not a little for yourself.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

---

1939 7/2/1863

*From:* John Moeser  
Sexton

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-1889

Cemetery Grounds,  
Gettysville Pa

Cmdg 11th Army Corps  
U.S.A

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[331]

Cemetery Grounds, Gettysville Pa  
July 2, 1863

To  
Gen. Howard  
Cmdg 11th Army Corps  
U.S.A.

Sir!

The Subscriber, the sexton of this cemetery most Resectfully requests You to secure him, who is only a poor man, from the loss of his property by the arrogation of this Cemetery Grounds and the destruction of my private property by Your Army.

The following property has either been destroyed or has been used by Your and other troops of the U.S. or Vol. Army, to wit:

5000 lb of hay  
\$25.00 worth of gras  
25 bushel of potatoes  
\$15.00 worth of sundry greens  
one good milch cow.

I remain

Yours most Respectfully  
John Moeser  
Sexton

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1940 7/3/1863

*From:* Joseph Hooker  
Maj. Genl.  
Washington

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1890

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[380]

Washington  
July 3d 1863

Maj Gen Howard  
Dear General:

Soon after the battle of Chancellorville Maj Gen Meade furnished me with a copy of a letter he had addressed Genl Sickles and yourself on the subject of a difference of opinion between Genl Meade and myself growing out of our council of Corps Commanders at Chancellorville. I have received Genl Sickles reply & if you have no objection will be greatly obliged to be furnished with a copy of your own.

I am rejoiced that yourself and command acquired so much fame at Gettysburgh. It must be a great satisfaction to you especially.

Report has it that I am to have another command but when or where I have not the slightest idea. I presume that I shall know on Saturday next. Hope that you are well.

Very truly yrs  
Joseph Hooker  
Maj. Genl.

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1941 7/5/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1891

Gettysburg Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[381]

Gettysburg Pa.

July 5, 1863

Dearest,

We are thru another terrible conflict of 3 days. The enemy has been baffled & is gone. God grant us a complete victory. Chas & I are well. Love to the children & the blessing of our Father be yours.

Lovingly

Otis

---

1942 7/6/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1892

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Middle Creek 5 miles  
from  
Emmitsburg Pa

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[382]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Middle Creek 5 miles from  
Emmitsburg Pa  
9:20 a.m. July 6th /63

Dearest,

We commenced a movement last night towards the enemy but have been halted here. Poor Perry Lee is very sadly wounded. He has lost his arm & I fear will lose his life. Rowland says he is very weak & cries considerably. I made a reconaissance yesterday in person with some 15 or 20 Cavalry. We saw some men ahead that looked like stragglers. A dash was made by the cavalry led by Charley, Capt. Griffith & other officers. Poor Griffith was very badly wounded by a sudden fire from the woods & thickets. Also two or three of the men. We all love Griffith very much. He is a pure minded noble man, has a wife in Phila. The ball went quite thru him. He is at a Dr Taylors in Gettysburg and is comfortable. I talked with him, got strong expressions of his faith in God thru Christ, read & prayed with him before leaving. I told him it, his wound, was a punishment to me & not to him.

Give much love to the children. Charles is well, but we are all pretty well tired out. I long for rest.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

---

1943 7/9/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1893

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

Near Boonsboro, Md

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[383]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
July 9, 1863  
Near Boonsboro, Md

Dearest,

I am quite well, but nowadays am apt to feel very tired at times. It is about the same with Charlie. We are near the enemy. Lee has not yet crossed the river & we must have one more trial. God grant us success in this next battle. He has preserved me so many times, I begin to feel as though he might do so to the end.

Give much love & papa's prayers to the little flock. Good night darling.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1944 7/9/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Major [Eliphalet Whittlesey]

OOH-1894

Hd. qrs 11th Corps  
Boonesboro Gap, Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[381]

Hd. qrs 11th Corps  
Boonesboro Gap, Md.  
July 9, 1863

My dear Major (to Major E. Whittlesey then in Brunswick Me. H.S.H.) [This parenthetical remark was written by Otis' son Harry Stinson Howard.]

I received your letter while we were at Gettysburg and feel grateful for it. You know very well how difficult it is to write upon an active Campaign and I have never written so few letters as since we reached Md. and Penna. In fact we never drove business quite so hard before. Day before yesterday we marched about 30 miles. Our Corps is in advance of all. Schurtz Divn. went forward beyond Boonesboro last night to support Buford's Cavalry, which had been fighting all day. The other two Divns took up position on the sides (West) of the mountain to hold the Gap at all hazards until the other Corps get up.

The 1st has come forward and occupied the right of the road but has now advanced to the town. Schurtz acts now as an advance guard & is instructed to fall back if attacked in any great force.

The papers have from you pretty full accounts of the battle of Gettysburg. The 1st & 11th Corps fought 3 days. The others 2 (Thurs & Friday). On Sunday morning we were riding out to reconnoiter with the Genl & body guard – the enemy having left the town & immediate vicinity. We saw some Rebel Pickets about a mile out when we got within ¼ mile. The Genl waited while the rest rode forward. We found a lot of stragglers & c in a house about 20 rods from the Pickets whom we captured & then dashed forward before the Pickets. I had cautioned Capt Shona to send 3 or 4 men up to find out what force was there & he did; but the whole guard went galloping in so close that it did no good and suddenly a company of concealed Rebels opened fire from a woods upon us. Griffith was badly wounded through the body near the hip. This occurrence saddened us all very much because it seemed so uncalled for. We left him at G.

Rowland had been with us, or near in the hospitals during the battle & he will probably be with Griffith till his wife comes.

We had a very strong position at G. selected by the Gen. (Howard), [written by H.S.H.] the first day & occupied by his Reserves.

He would not have gone forward beyond the town on Weds. had not Reynolds (who was in command of both Corps) already commenced the fight & sent back for help. As it was, both Corps were out flanked & the Genl sent orders for them to withdraw in good order to the position accompanied by his reserve.

He had hoped that Slocum would come up to assist in the retreat as he was but 2 miles away but he was too willing to demonstrate the fitness of his name Slow come. In fact refused to come up in person saying he would not assume the responsibility of that day's fighting & of those two corps. His Divns were finally sent up but too late & the 11th & 1st Corps suffered most terribly in their retreat – losing many prisoners – more than had been previously taken from the enemy which was considerable.

Barlow was badly wounded & left in town. It seems they did not find him, however, & he escaped without parole - I hear they left. (Mrs. B. is now with him, tho' she could not get into town for two days.) [The previous parenthetical sentence was written by H.S.H.] I cannot begin to give you an acct. of the fighting. We never have had so complete a battle – reinforcing one and another part of the line when attacked in overwhelming force. We held it most determinedly. The 11th Corps did better than ever before – though Barlow's Divn did not fight very well the first day. The Genl (Howard) & staff were in the hottest artillery fire I ever saw and remained in the same place night & day as long as the Rebels remained except that when they made an assault upon our front the Genl went up to the front (some 2 or 3 rods) & stood between the guns of Dieger's battery while they

poured the grape and canister into them. All that time we were subjected to a concentrated fire from 3 directions and a hundred guns were opened upon us. We saw there the sublimity of battle. The enemy's guns gave way and they went scattering back as Humphrey did at Fredericksburg (you will remember). The losses are immense. Maj. Lee had his arm shot off & amputated afterwards at the shoulder – his survival is doubtful.

The army is in excellent spirits though terribly exhausted by marches & without shoes & supplies - but during last night we got shoes by superhuman exertion from Frederic also three days rations – after one days fast. We will fight them again tomorrow or perhaps this P.M. Genl Howard seems to have the fullest confidence of Gen. Meade and has had the command of two Corps 11th & 5th (a good Corps you know). The 6th Corps has just marched past to the front. The 6th was less engaged & suffered less than any other at Gettysburg.

Please give my kindest regards to Mrs. Whittlesey & if Gilmore is at B. please allow him to read this. I was struck by a piece of shell but not hurt – only had my clothes torn & made my back tingle a little. Capt Hall was considerably hurt by a shell but is on duty. All would be glad to see you back again, especially I & the Genl.

Truly yrs  
C.H. Howard

P.S. The boys were delighted to hear from Tom. Walter read the letter to them. Charlie is a very good boy & useful. "Wash" is worth his weight in gold to Capt Stinson & me.

[Note. This letter had also been typed, presumably by Harry Stinson Howard.]

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1945 7/14/1863    *From:* Ella [Patten Howard]    *To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1895

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[385]

Farmington July 14th 1863

My dear Lizzie

I was very glad indeed to hear from you again. I wish I could see you, which would be far better. Rowland has not yet come home & I dont know when he will come. Though I shall look for him now every day, a little. I think he will go to Augusta if he can. But he has been away so much longer than he anticipated, that I suppose he'll feel as if he must hurry home as soon as possible. I hope he can go to Augusta.

It would be so pleasant to see some one right from Otis. He was with Perry when he wrote last. Perry has lost an arm, close up to the shoulder. I dont know which one. Rowland said he was very much prostrated by it. The shock to his system was very great – his wife had gone on. Dr. Alexander from here, is wounded in the hip, & is coming home with Rowland I believe. I shall be very glad indeed to have Guy come up & make us a visit. We shall be going to Commencement in about a fortnight, & possibly (if Rowland returns in season) to Bangor, the week before, though the Bangor project is very uncertain.

Hattie & Horace are here now, but that need make no difference about Guy's coming. I shall be glad to see him now, or after we return from Commencement, just as is most convenient for you. If you come, to Leeds, why cant you come up here? I should be so glad to have you. I do want to see that baby so much. Abby says Jamie is splendid. Dadie talks a good deal – has learned a great deal since his father went away.

I have a new girl, a little one, only sixteen, & small at that, but I like her very much. She is very neat, quiet, & modest, and I get along nicely with her. Dellie writes me that Mother Gilmore is lame, but says nothing more about it. He is at home now. Mamma wished me to say to you that she would be very happy to have you come to her house at Commencement time, without any ceremony, & the baby shall be taken care of whenever you can leave it. She is very much engaged now with Lizzie's matters, who expects to be married in August or Sept. I cant realize it at all.

I must bid you good night, as it is getting late. Dont know as you can read this scrawl I have written so hastily.

Love to yourself & the children.

Your sister  
Ella

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1946 7/14/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]     *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1896                      Headquarters Eleventh  
   Corps  
*Source:* Bowdoin              Funkstown Md.

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[386]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
July 14 1863  
Funkstown Md.

Dearest,

The enemy have got away from us again, & gone back, having left a strongly fortified position. We do not know yet whether they, the confederates, have crossed.

Charlie & I are pretty well, though much worn & fatigued. Senator Wilson & V. President Hamlin have visited us while here. When we get the rebels fairly across the river I presume everybody will breathe more freely particularly in this section of country.

I am anxious to hear from home. I haven't got a letter for some time. Every day I pray for you all separately & trust it may be the will of God to bring us all together soon in health & safety. How are you now darling. The baby is growing, growing & papa has'nt seen him yet – over 3 months old. What is his name? I want to drop in upon you & I mean to before long. With much love.

I dont hear from Perry or Rowland. Oscar Turner married Bell Brewster & took her home with him after his time was out. I saw Oscar & Emerson Whitman on my way up before the battle.

Is it vacation with Guy yet? Quite a long walk over the bridge.

Capt. H.S. Stinson, good, true & faithful & brave as ever – just reported that he had been in the enemy's evacuated works.

I am very anxious to hear from you, & am hoping you have been having a quiet trust during these last few trying days.

Pray for me my precious wife that I may be supported by Grace in these times Do you hear from Mother.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1947 7/17/1863    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1897

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[387]

Bath July 17, 1863

Dear Sister Lizzie

I am so far on my way home & were it not for preaching tomorrow, I would go into Augusta. I have not seen Otis & Charles since a week ago last Sabbath. You have doubtless heard from them a no. of times since. Gen. Meade has great confidence in Otis & no officers stand better with the Army today, so Charles says.

I left Perry with his wife last Monday. He was hardly out of danger. I attended Capt Griffiths funeral on Wednesday. I could speak with confidence of his Christian character & hope. He died triumphantly. Maria is no better, and is now at Beverly N.J. - a watering place. She buried her babe last Tuesday. I could get no trace of Capt Keenes body.

Abby sends her love. Mrs Patten sends her love and says she will be happy to have you come here Commencement time & bring the baby. Lizzie Patten sends her love too. Ella has a house full of company I hear. Abby says - "tell Jamie not to forget me."

Give Guy much love from Uncle Rowland and Grace & Jamie & Chancey. Tell Guy I want to see him & tell him about the battle & his father.

In great haste,

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

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1948 7/18/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1898

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Berlin

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[388]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
July 18 1863  
Near Berlin

Dearest,

After I wrote you at Funkstown, we marched to Williamsport. The next day we took back tracks & marched to Middletown again 24 miles, and thence the next day to this place. The bridges are now down & we go on across towards the Rappahannock. We all are rather tired. The poor soldiers begin to complain of long marches.

The riots in N. York are dreadful, but are what copperheads & unconditional peace men will naturally bring upon us.

I was made happy by a letter from you with the sweet face & sweet smile of our charming little boy Jamie.

I read a short account of the serenade & of Blaine's speech in the Journal. I will enclose it as you request. At Gettysburg I am awarded much credit, & fear that the excess of praise, much of it unmerited will excite the unkind criticisms of some of my brother officers.

Chas. Is well, poor dear Capt Griffith is in the better world. Perry is I hear doing well. Rowland has just left for home. John Keen of Leeds was killed.

Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie, & twenty kisses to the baby.

May God bless you all. My kindest regards to all my friends. I see Gen. S. Williams often. Remember me kindly to Mr Daniel & Mrs Williams. Harry S is well.

Gen Gordon now cmds the 1st Divn. I have quite large reinforcements again.

With much to yourself darling.

Your husband  
Otis

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1949 7/20/1863    *From:* I. Washburn Jr.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-1899

Orono

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[338]

Orono July 20, 1863

Dear General,

Thank God for what you have done & are doing for your country & the human race! I have rejoiced in your triumphs all along & now that your consummate generalship at Gettysburg, & your noble position in the matter of the pursuit of Lee, are known & legible to the country, every loyal & honest man in Maine, is my associate in admiring & honoring you.

Excuse me, General, but my heart would not permit me to withhold these words, & urges me to tell you how truly I am

Yours, always,  
I. Washburn Jr.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

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1950 7/22/1863      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]      *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1900      Headquarters Eleventh  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Corps,  
Mountsville Va

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[389]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
July 22nd 1863  
Mountsville Va

Dearest,

We have got back into Virginia again as you see, have halted here. I presume it is because Lee does not move. There is now a high mountain and a deep river between the two armies. I sent you from Berlin a letter containing two hundred dollars.

I have little Jamie's picture encased with the rest. How finely you got that executed.

The people in this part of the country are secession strong but present much of the old style Virginia family – disposed to be open-hearted and hospitable. In time of peace this valley of Loudon County would be a beautiful place to visit. There is a beautiful young lady here at Mr Mounts – a grand-daughter, a native of Penn. but a strong little rebel. I should'nt wonder if she converted Charles & Harry S. The ice has thawed very much since we came thanks to kindly treatment & a good band. The soldiers are much inclined to retaliate the losses of Pennsylvania upon the people here.

How is Guy this morning. He must have a vacation now. Does Gracie's occur at the same time.

I notice C.H. Mulliken & Blaine are drafted. With they enter cavalry or infantry? I hope everybody will not pay his 300 dolls. & not come.

Chas & I are quite well now, we are getting a nice rest. Harry Stinson the same. Gen. Ames was in to see me last evening. He looks as youthful & blooming as usual. He says he has a good brigade now. He has one or two new regiments & has exchanged his Germans. He does not have any fancy for German troops, is almost uncivil to them. Gen. Barlow, I hear is doing well, so is Perry by last accounts.

Did Rowland visit you on his way back? How is the darling baby. He is such a little stranger, how could I know him. Give him papa's love. God bless you & the little household.

Lovingly  
Otis

Do you hear from Mother.

---

1951 7/23/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard  
Maj. Genl. Comd'g.  
Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
New Baltimore Va

*To:* Brig. Genl. Rufus Ingalls

OOH-1901

*Source:* Bowdoin

Chief Quarter Master  
Army of the Potomac

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[332]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Army of the Potomac  
New Baltimore Va. July 23d 1863

General -

I am not satisfied with the manner in which my Quarter Master conducts his Department. He has at times displayed great Energy, particularly on the march. His department towards me has been unexceptionable. But he ignores details to a great extent, and from lack of personal supervision troubles are continually arising. For example, yesterday he desired to send out a train for forage to the vicinity of Circleville. I gave the permission, but instructed him in no case to send a train without a guard. The guard was ordered and reported, but the train had already gone. Col Le Duc was away, and no officer, clerk or agent of his department could direct the guard so that it could follow the train, until it was too late. The train of eight or nine wagons was captured, but the wagons were recovered by Col Le Duc. The mules and teamsters have gone to the enemy. All this arose from neglect on his part to see that the train did not start till the guard had arrived.

I would not injure Col. LeDuc but I do not feel safe, as far as concerns my transportation, with him at the head of the Quarter Master's Department of this Corps. I therefore ask that he be assigned to duty elsewhere.

I would recommend, in case this application should be granted, that Capt. H. B. Lacy be allowed to temporarily perform the duties of Chief Quartermaster of the Corps.

Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedt. Servt.  
/s/ O.O. Howard [See Note]  
Maj. Genl. Comd'g.

Brig. Genl. Rufus Ingalls  
Chief Quarter Master  
Army of the Potomac

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
<Lt. Col. LeDuc [CHECK ORIGINAL writing hidden by tape]>  
Chief Qr. Mr.  
application for his relief

[Note. The entire letter was handwritten by someone other than OO Howard. However, the signature was that of OO Howard.]

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1952 7/26/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1902

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Warrenton Junction

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[390]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Warrenton Junction  
July 26th 1863

Dearest,

We are here probably for a day at the same place I was March 1862. It is not so filthy & muddy as then, but there is no good water. The creeks are muddy and the wells dry or bad. I have received but one letter from you, darling, since the battle of Gettysburg. I hope to get a mail here. For a day or two past I have had a great longing to see & be with you.

Gen. Lee's army, what there is left of it, seems to have arrived in the vicinity of Richmond once more. An attack was made upon him at Manassas Gap & at Chester - some prisoners taken, 1100 head of cattle & a large number of sheep & some horses. Whether we shall go on or not from this point is a question. The army has got pretty tired & needs rest, yet it seems as if a little more effort now might end the war.

I expect everybody would like to see home. Do you suppose I would know the baby. Whom does he resemble. I have got my picture case full. I have put Charlie's picture in the baby's place. I should like a photograph that did you justice. The bonnet is too lofty and the furs too warm for this hot weather, so I want one bonnetless, without the furs & good like your own self. I presume I shall have to photograph the baby myself in his new cradle. Does Jamie persevere in rocking the cradle. I am glad they all have so nice a tent. What piece did Guy speak at the exhibition. Papa would like to have heard him. Did he speak up boldly & in a manly style? I suppose his cheeks burned some. Did Gracie go to Guy's exhibition? I have not had any letters from the children lately. Perhaps it is because I have'nt written any. Well, you must tell them papa gets too tired to write.

Today by Uncle Charlie's help I have answered a good many letters, and in my own hand written a letter to poor Mrs Griffiths.

Many kisses & prayers for yourself & the children.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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1953 7/29/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard  
Maj. Genl. U.S.Vols

*To:* H.W. Halleck  
General in Chief

OOH-1903

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Army of the Potomac.  
Warrenton Junction

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[333]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Army of the Potomac.  
Warrenton Junction July 29 1863

General

Allow me to introduce Maj. General Schurz. In case the proposition of General Meade, which was telegraphed to-day respecting the Eleventh Corps should be acted upon as desired, General Schurz would be left with an independent Division. In furtherance of his own views, which he will present in person, I wish to say that the General has been prompt and energetic and able during the operations in which I have been associated with him. Should you see fit to occupy the Shenandoah valley with a small force, so as to cooperate with this army & prevent its occupancy by the rebels, I believe I do not flatter him when I say, that General Schurz will not fail to give complete satisfaction.

As to the changes proposed merging two divisions of this Corps into the 2d & 12th respectively, they have my approval as also that of the division Commanders concerned. We feel sensitive under false accusations but considering the existing prejudices in this army against the 11th Corps and the great difficulty of overcoming them we regard it better for the service to make these changes.

The different Corps are now so small that a consolidation is advisable. General Steinweher desires to go with me to the 2d Corps. General Gordon with his division to the 12th. Personally it will be gratifying to me to return to the Second Corps, but I do not feel dissatisfied with the Eleventh during the present Campaign, and hope the changes referred to will not be regarded as a reflection upon the officers and soldiers of this command who have worked so hard and done so much to carry out every order.

Respectfully

/s/ O.O. Howard [see note]  
Maj. Genl. U.S.Vols

H.W. Halleck  
General in Chief

[written on the back]  
Letter to Genl. Halleck  
Introducing Genl Schurz

[Note: The entire letter was handwritten by someone other than OO Howard, except for his signature, which was written by him.]

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1954 7/29/1863

*From:* D. McConaughy

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1904

President of Ever  
Green Cemetery Assoc.  
Gettysburg, Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[392]

Gettysburg, Pa.  
July 29th 1863

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
General,

A correspondent of the New York times, L.L. Crouse, in a letter to that paper of date of 25th July inst., makes the following statement -

“And before the blood of the heroic men shed among the batteries in the Cemetery was fairly dry upon the ground, a bill of seventeen hundred dollars damages was presented for payment.”

As President of the Ever Green Cemetery, which is referred to in the above quotation, and at the request of its Board of Directors, it is made my duty to call your attention to this injurious charge. You may perhaps remember, General, my friendly call upon you on Saturday the 4th of July inst. at your Quarters. Upon the same day I made a friendly & congratulatory visit to Gen. Carl Shurz and Gen. Shimmilfilling at their Head Quarters in the midst of our Cemetery grounds. You and they will bear testimony that not the most distant allusion was made by me to the injuries to the Cemetery, but that I acted as if wholly unconscious of them – regarding them as nothing as compared with the glorious achievements of our army and the blood with which our brave soldiers consecrated its sod, and the grand consequence of the victory they there achieved.

At once, upon noticing this damaging accusation, I called our Board of Directors together and they all stated that the assertion was utterly without foundation, and that no demand of any kind had been made, nor any complaint.

Will you be kind enough to state in reply whether any demand for damages was made by any one professing to speak on behalf of Ever Green Cemetery, and, if not, then to negative it, and thus vindicate us from what in our judgment is only less infamous than the reckless publication of so offensive a slander.

Most respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
D. McConaughy  
President of  
Ever Green Cemetery Assoc.

[On back] From – President of Ever Green Cemetery Association Gettysburg  
Answered

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1955 7/31/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1905

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Near Warrenton Juncn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[394]

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Near Warrenton Juncn.  
July 31 1863

Dearest,

I have written quite a number of letters by dictation. I seldom write my-self. It requires so many conveniences except to you and I fear you think I do not write often enough. I saw Col. formerly Capt. Platt whom you knew at West Point day before yesterday at Hd. Qrs Army. He writes to Mrs Platt every day. I felt quite rebuked.

Yours & Guy's letter came day before yesterday. He seems to be enjoying his vacation much. I hope Uncle Rowland will let him ride. I am a little afraid my Pony is going to be cross as he puts back his ears at me once in a while. Whether he will be kind to little boys or not remains to be tested.

I noticed today for the first time a reference to the death of Mr. Carroll, Sprigg's father. I am feeling very sad about this news, for Mr Carroll was one of my most worthy friends in Washington. He ever gave me a warm welcome & took pleasure & pains to do me a kindness. How Mrs Carroll & the girls will feel his death. Sprigg is their only dependence – no, I mus'nt forget the Dr. & Gen. Griffin. I dont suppose the family will ever suffer for want of food, but it will be a sad loss for he was a kind husband & an affectionate father. Has Guy forgotten Mrs Carroll?

There is some prospect of breaking up the 11th Corps and assigning me to the old 2nd. I rather favor it. Gen Gordon wants to get to his old Corps the 12th. The Germans begin to be attached to me.

Give much love to all the children. Papa thinks of & prays for Mamma, Guy, Gracie, Jamie & the little baby every day. I cannot go home just yet, as I didnt get wounded. Gen Strong has died – friend after friend goes. Oh Lord - how long?

I shall try for a leave as soon as there is a prospect of lying still for a short time.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1956 8/3/1863

*From:* Sarah E. Sargent.

*To:* Dear Cousin Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1906

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[303]

Leeds Aug 3d 1863

Dear Cousin Lizzie

Aunt Eliza is very much engaged this morning, and has requested me to write you, as she is preparing for commencement. She will go to Brunswick tomorrow, and return on Friday. I came to Leeds last Thursday, and made a little visit at Uncle Ensign's and came here Saturday evening, intend to return to Farmington tomorrow, unless I shall conclude to attend commencement, which is very doubtful, as I do not like to leave my little boys, and it would be quite impossible to take them with me. Frank is anticipating a great deal of pleasure, from Guy's visit at Farmington, and I hope you will be able to make us a visit there at the same time. It would give us much pleasure to see you, and the other children, and it is not a long, or tiresome journey from here. I want to see the little one, very much, what is his name to be?

Letters came from Charles on Saturday eve, dated Warrenton Junction July 29th. They were resting there for a few days waiting for horses for the Artillery. They were all well. How thankful we should be that their lives, and health, have been so mercifully preserved, amid so many dangers, and hardships, and I trust their precious lives may be spared for many long years of usefulness, and Influence.

You have doubtless heard of dear Perry's terrible wound, his right arm was amputated at the shoulder joint. I have not heard for a week from him, but hope that "no news is good news". His Wife is with him at Gettysburg, and he has every comfort and attention possible. We feel that he is still in much danger, but he seems hopeful and cheerful, and says "he is glad he has still one arm left, to defend his Country's flag, and that arm is ever ready when needed." I am glad he feels so resigned, but it is a terrible loss, and I fear it will be a long time before he fully recovers his health.

Mr and Mrs Oscar Turner will go to Augusta, as soon as "haying is over", sooner if convenient, and Aunt Eliza says they will bring Grace up with them, and she shall be very glad to receive a visit from her, and from you, and the little ones, when you can make it convenient. Her health is about as usual, and she has a good girl, now with her. Uncle Gilmore's finger is still very sore, but they hope it is improving. It is not as painful, but it looks terribly. He endures it with great patience. Many of the people here oppose the draft, and nearly all, "hope to be excused", on account of physical disability. It is too bad we have so little Patriotism among us, and very discouraging.

We are having very warm and sultry weather. I shall be glad when "dog days" are over. How uncomfortable it is for the sick and wounded. Capt. Keens funeral sermon was preached here yesterday by Mr Holt. It was very Patriotic, and we hope may have a good influence on the People here. A great many attended.

Aunt Eliza joins me in much love to yourself and Children. Give much love to Otis, when you write to him, and if you can find a spare moment, it would give me much pleasure to receive a letter from you, and hoping that you will visit us at Farmington soon, believe me as ever

Affectionately your cousin  
Sarah E. Sargent.

Aunt Eliza is very anxious to see Grace, and thinks Mr Turner will go down in a few days. Her lameness is quite well, and she wants very much to see you all. She is very much obliged for the Photographs, and thinks that they are "pretty good, but not quite handsome enough". I wish you would send me a Carte de Visite of yourself, as I have one of Otis, in my Album, and the Picture is not complete without yours on the opposite page. I have one of Rowland and Ella and Charlie.

Sarah.



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1957 8/4/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1907

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Catlett's Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[391]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Catlett's Station Aug 4, 1863

Dearest,

I have been trying to get a leave of absence for several days but have'nt yet succeeded. I tho't Gen Meade disposed to grant the indulgence the other day. He said he would let me know. I may get home as soon as this letter. I have tried for a leave of 20 days and will (if I can) take Chas. & Harry Stinson along with me. No leaves except on Surgeon's certificate have been granted yet, and I am neither sick nor wounded.

Yesterday I moved to this place - Mr Catlett's about a mile from the Depot. It is a beautiful place. Mr & Mrs Catlett about our age & time of life. Mrs C has two little children, has recently lost her youngest. Though evidently southern in sympathy, yet she is a perfect lady - servants gone, milks her cow, makes her own bread. The little boy is gone on a visit, the little girl Lottie is a sweet little one, about 4 years old, wants me to bring her a doll, which I have promised when I go on home. She cant get Dolls nor even shoes. You can hardly realize the misery of living in this region with a family, where the people can go, neither this way nor that.

The breaking up my Corps has been given up - surely until a complete reorganization of this army takes place.

Give much love to the children. Perhaps papa will see the baby before long. God bless you all.

Lovingly,  
Otis

P.S. I hear Mother is quite well.

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1958 8/6/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard  
M.G.

*To:* Gen'l [Unknown]

OOH-1908

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[395]

United States Military Telegraph  
1 A.M.  
Dated Aug 6th 1863

Genl

Your message was sent promptly to Hd Qrs. The operator there (H.Q) told me both Gen Ingalls & Gen Williams had gone to bed. I will send your answer over immediately on its arrival (probably in morning).

Respy

This little is all the answer I could get.

Respy  
O.O. Howard  
M.G.

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1959 8/9/1863

*From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1909

Depot Camp 8th Corps  
Hartford Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[396]

Depot Camp 8th Corps  
Hartford Conn. Aug 9th 1863

My dear Genl,

My thots often turn toward you, especially on the Sabbath. And to-day the past came up to my mind. I have been reflecting on the scenes of the last two years. How changed. How many of troops whom we met at Bladensburg one Sabbath in September are gone, Rodman and Curtis, Miller and Conner, and now Cross. And how varied have been our lives. How little we knew of the future. How good has God been to me. I was inclined to these tho'ts from a sermon which I heard this a.m. from the text "They are new every morning" Lamentations 3d.23d. And as I sat alone in my tent this afternoon, and the past crowded upon me I could but add, "Great is Thy faithfulness." How little I have tho't of His daily mercies, Oh what an ungrateful child I have been. May I be more faithful and may grace abound more in my heart.

I wonder where you are to-day? Are you in the enjoyment of a quiet Sabbath? Or is the holy day broken and disturbed by the necessities of the Campaign.

I was suddenly ordered from Mass. to report in Washington for nurse, from there I was sent here with seven companies. I have sent three under Maj. Wardwell to N.H. and have four at this Camp. We were sent to aid in the draft, but we have had not the slightest trouble. Everything is quiet. I can not say that I fancy this service, it is not at all pleasing to me, and I hope soon to be relieved from it. If my health was good, I would at once ask to be sent to the army. I have been quite unwell for the last fortnight. I am living in Camp, and enjoying the luxury of a pole bed stead. My wife was with me at Minha, but I do not expect her to join me again until I am located for the winter. I have not a religious acquaintance here, all around me are profane. Maj. D. D. Perkins, Capt. 4th Artillery is Provost Marshall Genl here, and Capt. Owens of the 5th Cavalry is Inspector.

The people have not manifested the least interest in the spiritual welfare of the soldiers. Yesterday I addressed a note to the City Missionary asking him to visit the Camp to-day, and I am to have service at 5 this evening. I wish you were here to talk to the men. They are a hard set, taken from all the Hospitals. Some of the Officers are fair, and some "utterly worthless".

I can hardly keep the Army of the Potomac in view. I suppose you are on the banks of the Rappahannoc, perhaps have advanced. May God go with you, as he did with his people of old, and especially may he keep and preserve you, my dear friend. I am confident of the result, but there is to be fighting yet. Oh that the north was more loyal. I see that my old friends in Me. (the Democracy) have "rolled in the dirt" again.

I should be very glad to hear from you, but your time is occupied. Give my kindest regards to Charles, & ask him to write me. Remember me to Lt. Col. Balloch, & tell him that I am ashamed that I had to send my men to New Hampshire to take care of his boys.

May the love of our Saviour abound in your heart.

Yrs. Truly  
F.D. Sewall [Frederick]

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1960 8/14/1863 *From:* Jeanie H Grey

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-1910

Buttermilk Falls [NY]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[397]

Buttermilk Falls  
14 Aug 1863

Dear General Howard,

I hasten to copy a letter I received this morning from I.F. Headley written Saturday, and please answer as soon as possible as I would not send him one word that you had not seen. He need not know or any one on earth that I wrote to you, but I want it well authenticated before he gets any thing.

“Dear Jeanie

Can't you furnish me some facts about Gen. Howard which will help me in making up a biographical sketch of him. 1st Was he a professing Christian when he came to West Point or became one while there. 2nd Was he a teacher in the Sabbath school, & what he did in it - the part he took in meetings &c. 3rd Any anecdotes or facts in relation to his religious life at West Point – his companions &c – recall some of the things he has said to you. Now if you will thump your noodle a little & give me a few scraps right away, I shall feel much obliged.

Yours truly

Any thing about his family – their position occupation &c. Didnt you tell me he prayed with his regiment the first time he met it. Tell me all the anecdotes you ever heard of him.

I.F. Headley”

Now I humbly opine that this is the one to do you justice, dear General Howard, & as I have had so few opportunities of seeing papers & have never corresponded with any one near you & am most anxious to see you done justice to, as our much loved friend I write at once, and beg you will promptly send me some thing of your life that you would most like to come from the historians' pen!

Our best & kindest love  
Jeanie H Grey

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1961 8/17/1863

*From:* A.M. Carter

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1911

Bank of Baltimore

USA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[308]

Bank of Baltimore  
Aug 17th 1863

Major Genl Howard  
USA  
My Dear Sir,

I was one of the few who helped to refresh your first regiment during its passage thro' our city, since which time I have watched your course with no small degree of interest, if your course as a soldier of our beloved union has not failed to challenge my love & admiration you may be sure that your career as a soldier of the Cross has bound me to you as with hooks of steel & has led me to pray God to bless you & to prosper you in the great work to which in his providence he has called you.

I daily realize the fact that our country needs Christian patriots both in the field & in the cabinet & halls of legislation as well as in the private walks of life – men who fear God & eschew evil.

In my humble position as a bank teller & an Elder in the church & a Sab School Supt. it is my earnest desire to do what I can to better the condition of things in our unhappy land, to “fear God & honor the King “ & to teach this by precept & example to do likewise.

About a year ago while confined to a sick room I wrote the enclosed little tract “Watch” after earnestly seeking the Divine blessing upon the feeble & imperfect effort.

The gallant & christian Genl Burnside & others – chaplains &c, commended it . The American Tract Society & Presbytn Boardd adopted it among their soldiers series, various religious papers copied it & it has gone forth by 1000s in the name of Him who has said “My word shall not return unto me void &”.

And may he bless it to the Salvation of souls to the glory of his own great name.

I also enclose 3 little hand bills which are pages in my own life - should you think favorably of any of the enclosed I will be glad to forward some to your address.

Very resply yr Obt svt  
A.M. Carter

Care of  
<?? [Frayed bottom of page]> Baltimore

I send you also <> mail  
“Show your colors”  
“Matt the idiot boy”  
“Something for boys “  
“God will shew me the way”  
“The child angel”

[Written across the top of the first page by Lizzie Howard]  
I have taken out the tracts mentioned on last page. Lizzie

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1962 8/20/1863

*From:* C. Schurz  
Maj. Gen.  
Head Quarters  
3rd Division

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
  
Cmdg 11th Corps.

OOH-1912

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[No number stamp]

"Extract"  
Head Quarters 3rd  
Division August 20th 1863

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comd'g 11th Corps.

General:

On the part taken by my division in the actions of July 2d & 3rd I have the honor to submit the following report.

x x x x x x x x x x x x

Extract:

Between 6 & 7 o'clock P.M. July 2d the enemy made a demonstration upon our right wing. As soon as the firing commenced, you ordered me to send one of my brigades to the support of Gen. Ames, Comd'g 1st Division.

I took the first Brigade, Col. von Amesberg comd'g, out of its position filling its place behind the stone wall with the reserve Regiments of the 2d Brigade. One of the 5 Regiments of the 1st Brigade the 44th Penn. was left with Gen. Ames to strengthen his right wing. The remaining four were directed toward a strip of wood, on the right of the 1st Division, in which the firing had become very heavy, and where, according to a report of some staff officer of the 1st Corps, immediate aid was needed. Two Regiments the 157th N.Y and the 61st Ohio were guided by one of these officers, while the two others the 45th New York and the 82d Illinois under the command of Col. Salomon were directed by my Chief of Staff Lieut Col. Otto.

It had meanwhile become quite dark, the direction of the fight being indicated by nothing, but the sound of musketry. The Regts entered the woods with the greatest determination, and drove the enemy from our rifle pits, of which at several points he had already gained possession.

It is my pleasant duty to mention as especially deserving the names of Lieut. Col. Otto who showed great judgment and courage and of Colonel Edward J. Salomon of the 82d Illinois who displayed the highest order of coolness and determination under very trying circumstances. At 9 o'clock the enemy was repulsed at that point and no further demonstrations made.

x x x x x x x x x x x x

I am general very respectfully yours  
(sig) C. Schurz  
Maj. Gen. comd'g Division

[written in pencil at the bottom of the last page] w/ letter #16.

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1963 8/22/1863

*From:* Chas. R Custer

*To:* Maj Genl O. Howard

Col. 134th Rgt.

OOH-1913

No 18 University Place

Rikers Island

*Source:* Bowdoin

New York

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[399]

Rikers Island  
Aug 22d 1863

To  
Maj Genl O. Howard  
General

I have the honor to address you to request a favor for myself, if the granting of it is found consistent with your opinion on the subject. My request is if you think my past services and present capability entitle me to hold the rank of Brig. Genl. of Vols. that you recommend me for that promotion.

I know that you have already recommended three officers of the Corps for promotion, and therefore do not desire to interfere with the claims of others doubtless more deserving and meritorious than myself; but, if my request is consistent with your views I most earnestly solicit your help.

I have made this request - believing that the 11th Corps is to be broken up and yourself receive some other and higher command under which circumstance I would be forced perhaps to undergo another long campaign before gaining the confidence of my new commander. If you have already made the official report of your recommendation I sincerely trust that you will unofficially give me a recommendation in the reply with which I hope your valuable time will allow you to honor me.

I am General  
Very respectfully  
Your obdt. Servt.  
Chas. R Custer  
Col. 134th Rgt.

Letter Address  
No 18 University Place  
New York

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1964 8/29/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1914

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[401]

Washington D.C.  
Aug 29 1863

Dearest,

After leaving you & my dear Children, I talked pretty steadily till we got beyond Portland. Our train was delayed by so many Camp meeting people so that we did not reach Boston till 10 ½ P.M. Staid all night at the American. Lt. George Hunton joined us at Livermore Falls, also Maj. Hall from Damariscotta and a Lt Donnel going to join the 20th so that we had quite a party. Early friday morning we left Boston by the Worcester route, reached New York by 5 P.M. had just time to ride through the city to the Jersey City Ferry & cross when the train was ready to leave. At Phila, we all got into a sleeping car & had a good nights rest. Yesterday I had a head ache, but today I am nicely. We got here before 7 a.m. I visited the Sec. of War. He was sorry I came back, said nothing was to be done here right away, wished I would see the President. I went to the Whitehouse saw the President. The President agreed with me that I had better go back to the Army. Called upon Gen. Halleck, met a cordial reception from his Adj. Gen. & himself. Everybody here seems hopeful for a speedy settlement of our difficulties. I shall leave at 2 P.M. in about half an hour for the Army. The Army is where I left it. Give much love to all the children from Papa. May God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Your husband  
Otis

---

1965 8/30/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1915

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catletts Sta. Va,

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[402]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catletts Sta. Va,  
Aug 30th 1863

Dearest,

We arrived safely at 7 ½ P.M. last night, found my staff waiting for me at the Depot, with the Cavalry body guard, received a very warm reception. Mr Catletts house was illuminated. My Corps is reduced to a mere handful of men. We are all well. Give much love to the children, to Mother & father. I feel troubled about your cough & your own-working. It seems to me as if I neglected you when at home, but you know I would'nt willingly do it, since you are my dearest earthly treasure. You must take good care of yourself. The mail must go now. Everything is very quiet here just now.

Very affectionately  
Your own husband  
Otis

---

1966 9/1/1863

*From:* Sarah B.F. Greble

*To:* My very dear Friend  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1916

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[403]

West Point Sep. 1st 1863

My very dear Friend -

Yesterday's mail brought a letter box directed to me but in taking off the outer covering little Clara met my eye, and on opening the box, I found it contained, an exquisite little gold chain, with locket attached, within which were two dear faces, which I love dearly to see together. Clara immediately exclaimed, "Mine own Papa and mine God father." Now I can attribute this kind token to no other hand, than that of your own brave Husband, whose love for my dear Husband and his little God daughter prompted him to send his own face to her, who shall daily learn to love and appreciate one whom we all, as well as our country, value most truly. Clara is a dear little treasure, full of life, impulse & gushing love for everyone. She wins all hearts, but such temperaments as hers need very careful watchful rearing, and I am always so truly thankful that Genl Howard <is her> God-father <[bottom line of page 1 torn off]> her will help me.

I commenced writing in time for to-days mail, but with thousands of interruptions, it is now two oclock and I am just trying to commence again.

Mother returned to us to-night after having been absent from us for ten days. We have missed her sadly but she seems much benefitted by her trip, and I am very thankful she is once more safely at home again. Father has been at the sea-shore for several weeks & has returned to us looking & seeming very much better and stronger. Did you get your picture of Father? We cannot get any of those first best pictures, but we have some now though not nearly so good, and I will send you one if you wish it. Sister Clara has been off for six weeks at Rockaway, the White Mountains, Lake George, Saratoga two weeks, and Catskill with Mr Penningtons parents, who are devoted to Sister Clara. They have been spending this week at Cozzens, while his sisters are with us. Clara is less anxious than she was, hears regularly from Alex, who is spoken of very well indeed by all his brother officers. Brother Johnnie is in New York with the eighth Infantry (regulars) at Governors Island. Marnie is much as you saw her last, gentle & very sweet looking. My little ones are well – bright & happy & the greatest possible comforts to me – in fact to all of us in both homes. I am perfectly well & strong. Clara has the <> pony which I ride almost daily & <[last line page 2 torn off]> expecting to have the pleasure of having dear Papa & Mama Greble with us very soon on their way to Vermont.

I regret very much that you could not have been with Genl Howard in Phila. I long to see you again & live in the hope that some day we may be nearer to each other.

Mr Blunt has been ordered to Fort Hamilton. Maggie is delighted, they intend going to housekeeping there. I went up to Newburg a week ago, to see poor Mrs Williams who has just returned from Detroit, where her little darling baby boy was taken away after only a few hours illness. She left him to sleep upon the bosom of his brave Father, who had never seen this little one. She is gentle, quiet, resigned & truly christian-like. I think her very lovely in character. Mrs Wheeler leaves us tomorrow. She intends staying in Newburg until after a frost, then returning to Washington. Mrs Mendall with her baby are boarding at Mrs Berards at Buttermilk, until she knows where she can pitch her tent for the winter. How sad for her to have no home, no relatives to be with. The Weirs are all well. Robert & his wife have been staying here. Genl & Mrs Seymour have been at home – the Genl was wounded in his foot. <?larck> is to be married in a week or so. John <Weir> I see several times a day. Charlie Bartlett <is> at home, a very shadow of himself. His little <> is with him. She looks a perfect child. <> <?field> has lost her little baby, a fine <[last line page 3 torn off]> other day. He is stationed at Louisville and told me they had lost their eldest child but have two others. Mrs Andy Webb spent Saturday with us. Tell Genl Howard that Mr McCook now Genl has become a member of the church, & has married a lovely little christian lady, who has transformed him. The Berards all seem well. Miss Blanche has gone to stay with Minnie – Mrs Reed - they say is to be married to Smith (Jared I think is his name) in the Spring. Mrs Henry & her daughters were here a week or so ago. They have opened a school in Reading Pennsylvania, where Mr Terrill is buried. Guy is doing finely in Charleston Harbor. There are few families here whom you would know

beside the Professors' families. Everything seems so changed to me.

Do write to me my dear Friend, and tell me all about yourself and all about the dear little ones, giving them each a kiss for me, and please send me Genl Howard's address. I often see little bits about the good he is doing. How proud of and thankful for such a Husband you must be, and that God may spare you to each other and for your little ones is my sincere prayer. All at home here send you dearest love. The Sunday School has been closed for a month, so has the chapel for repairs. Mother has two little <> boys whom she teaches every Sunday. <Ever> my friend you will think I have <[bottom line page 4 torn off]> <[left edge of page 1 torn off -missing top line of sideways writing] those I loved or liked of whom I can hear nothing. The Delafields have been staying at the Hotel & many others whom I ought to tell you, but it is very late and I am very weary & sleepy. Good-night my dear friend, send my best & warmest thanks & love to your husband. Love to your brother Charles also and for yourself.

Heavens choicest blessings with much love believe me to be ever your sincere friend  
Sarah B.F. Greble

It is many months since I have heard from you. I wrote to Genl H in April.

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1967 9/4/1863

*From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1917

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catlett's Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[402]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catlett's Va  
Sept 4 1863

Dearest,

I wonder how you are & where you are this morning. I felt quite homesick for a day or two, but begin to get accustomed to the old life. I found my Adj. Gen. Lt. Col. Niezenburg away on a sick leave. Col. Balloch is now gone. I went to Hd. Qrs. yesterday saw Gens. Meade, Williams & Humphreys – all looking well. Gen Williams says, I told them at home he might have a leave as well as not and he never has been able to get away a moment. He says he will have to write in order to explain away my impression. He is a hard working man and perhaps has more to do than any other officer and undoubtedly Gen. Meade does not wish to spare him. Gen. Meade had made the rule that only one Corps Comdr should be absent at the same time. He was a little miffed that the Secretary of War granted me an extension without consulting him, this I think was the ground of his recall. He was very cordial and friendly, shewed me his new sword, with its two dugout scabbards. You never saw anything richer. Garrets, diamonds, gold in profusion. The Gen's initials G.G.M. The coat of arms of the State of Penn. in one place, and the eagle with "E Pluribus Unum" in another. The Gen. says it is too rich, a waste, but he prizes it highly. I feel glad I did not speak any more in Maine. I said what I believed and that is enough. I will enclose you a piece from the Argus which will amuse you.

How is the cough and how is the baby? Tell Guy I found the pony in good condition, a little cross with his ears & frisky when I got on. I shall keep sending to Leeds till I hear from you. Tell Gracie I found little Lottie Catlett very happy with the doll I sent her and shod with some good shoes with brass toes. Does Jamie miss papa as a play fellow? The dear little fellow, his papa would like to have the privilege of playing with him & talking with him every day; and it would be very pleasant to play with the baby, who is given to pulling whiskers. Home is very sweet, very inviting and always longed for, I trust it is not very far off, for many a weary & waiting heart. Yet we will cheerfully endure all this for the blessings that shall follow. The weather is again warm, the ground parched. We have a fly spread over our mess table and you can tell Guy [Missing page, missing ending]

[From OO Howard]

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1968 9/7/1863

*From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1918

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Catletts Stn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[405]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Sept. 7th 1863  
Near Catletts Stn.

My dear Guy

Papa begins to wonder why he does not get a letter from Mamma. Is Mamma sick so that she cannot write? Is her cough bad? Are any of the children ill? How is that sweet little baby, who talked in his own way & pulled his father's whiskers? How is Jamie with his keen, black eyes & his quiet face? How is sister Gracie, with her loving heart? And how is our manly boy Guy? Did you have a happy time at uncle Rowland's? And how is papa's mother, who used to have him, not many years ago as her little boy? Has Grandpa's finger got well? I want to know all these things and whatever else you can tell me about your visit.

Yesterday we had the 33d Massachusett's band come down from Bristow's Station and play for us at an evening service. I didn't understand the sermon much better than you & Grace understand Mr McKenzie's sermons when you dont pay attention, for the minister preached in the German language and papa understood only a few words. But one prayer was in English and the band played sweet hymns. This band staid here all this day (Monday) and have been playing delightfully all the evening.

Little Lottie Catletts has been quite happy. She is the principal reminder of our little household at home. I think of you all every day and try to ask God to bless, direct & preserve you all. Give much love from papa to everyone of the family & write papa a good letter.

Uncle Charles has been in my tent since I began to write; he is very well. He went with Capt. Stinson to inspect the camps of some regiments of this corps. It has been a very warm day today. At midday the heat was oppressive, but now it is comfortable and the katydids are singing their never-ending songs in the trees; the tree toads & crickets mingle their voices. Guy, Grace, Jamie, & the baby asleep – are Mamma & papa awake & thinking? Good night all.

Most lovingly your father  
O. O. Howard

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1969 9/8/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1919

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Sept 8th 1863

Dearest,

I get more and more frightened every day. I think you must be still visiting and cannot write. I think you must be sick and cannot. I remember that naughty cough and am afraid it has holden on. I did not write you at Farmington for you intended to go to Leeds' so shortly, I sent my first letters there – one from Washington with a check & two or three since I returned. Day before yesterday I wrote Guy a letter & directed it to Augusta.

The days are now quite warm and considerably monotonous. I have been reading Fanny Kemble's account of her life as Mrs Pearce Butler on a Georgia plantation for a or two I have stuck pretty closely to the book.

This morning by the help of Major Howard I made out the rest of my report. Gen. Meade required a report of the whole campaign after he took command until he arrived in his present camp. I am now glad it is made.

Did I tell you that after I had returned from reviewing some of my troops at Manassas Junction last Saturday, who should I find here but Genl Meade, Gen Humphrey's Chf. Of Staff and Genl Pleasanton. The latter is one of my old friends in Florida. He was then the handsome Adj. General of General Harney. He used to be the brains of that General. You notice his name doubtless as commanding the Cavalry Corps of this Army. Gen. Meade took dinner with me under our fly; he admired the ability of our cook in making strange devices upon an admirable cake. Our cooks ability of the German cast exceeds anything you find in cities. We have everything – duck, chickens, pies, cakes &c. Dont pity us on account of the poverty of our diet.

We had a little a little episode yesterday to relieve the general monotony – brisk artillery firing was heard about 11 A.M. Charles & I mounted and rode to Warrenton Junction, 3 miles, and found at the telegraph office that it was only artillery practice. It does not do to get excited here, till you are sure.

On friday last I made a very pleasant trip to Greenwich. I have a regiment there. A Mr Green is the principal resident. How glad he was to see me, had often heard of me, and indeed his grounds & buildings are as splendid as J.R. Brown's and his hospitality without stint. He feasted me & my staff. In a solemn manner he craved a blessing at the table and when I afterwards heard Mrs Catletts speak of his benevolence, his character has much impressed me. An Englishman – "British Property" is posted on his gate posts. He has even large stacks of good hay untouched and bee-hives filled with honey in this country of war & theft. His wife is a Virginia lady – rather large, rather masculine, evidently rebel in sympathy.

Our Hd. Qrs. are still at Mr Catletts. No rain has yet fallen since my return & if you have been astonished at our cries of mud, mud in the spring, you would be now at the cry of dust, dust. The ground is parched by the continued heat & drought. I propose to take ride to Hd. Qrs. tomorrow.

Good night darling. I am almost homesick. Much love to the children. Papa dont forget the baby. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1970 9/11/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1923

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Catletts Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[410]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Sept 11th 1863  
Catletts Station

Dearest,

I received your bundles of letters with two most welcome ones from yourself. I had already begun one to Grace & intended to send it to Leeds as you said in the letter from Leeds that you would probably leave her there for awhile. I am sorry to hear that our little Jamie is so unwell, but am in hopes that you & Dr Briggs by the divine blessing will soon cure him.

Yesterday a reconaissance was made by quite a large body of our Cavalry, supported by the 2nd Corps. They found only a small force in front and pushed on as far as the Rapidan yesterday taking a few prisoners & three heavy guns. Some change will be likely to take place in our position before this reaches you. We dont know yet where Lee has gone. Gen. Meade may by this time.

Much love to Guy, Jamie & the baby - & not a little to your own self.

Mrs Greble wrote a letter much like herself. She seems to have liked little Clara's present. "Papa and John must come home again before long." John takes a great deal of pleasure in bringing in good letters. He says, "it is not a good one General" frequently. The other day, he came with one to my tent & said, he believed it was a good one, but was'nt very sure. The envelope was from Leeds and was'nt white.

May God bless & keep you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

Charlie & Harry both well.

---

1971 9/12/1863     *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1920

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[408]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
September 12th 1863

My dear little daughter

I wrote Guy a few days ago and now think it is your turn to have a letter. When I began to write I remembered that Mamma said in her last letter that Grace wanted to stay a few days with Grandmother, so I must write to you at Leeds.

Papa has changed his Head Quarters from the pleasant grove at Mr Catlett's house into the open fields on the same farm. Now we are encamped in a semi-circle as you will see by the drawing which I enclose. Little Lottie Catlett who looks something like yourself, gave me a good hearty welcome when I returned and shewed me her nice new doll that she knew I sent her from Washington. One time she understood somebody to say I had been killed and she cried about it very heartily.

How is Grandma? Did you ever think that I was once Grandma's little boy? It does not seem many years ago, when I used to drive up the cows, rake the hay & help husk the corn. Perhaps you may be helping Grandpa pick up apples or be doing something. Grandma never had any little girls. Her children were always noisy bothersome little boys. She must be much pleased to have you to chat with and has, I have no doubt, told you many things about your papa, and uncles, Rowland & Charles.

Some troops went out from this army early this morning to try and see what the rebel General Lee is doing. This is called making a reconnoissance. I have heard firing all day with cannon. I am sorry this work had to be done today, for it is Sunday. For the commandment is, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy"&c.

Gracie will learn that there are two kinds of work that may be done – one, where it is necessary, as to eat your breakfast feed your pig or milk your cow – and the other, where you can be merciful, as to help the sick, or relieve pain. Our Saviour allowed his friends to pluck the ears of corn & eat when they were hungry. He told others, that it was right to pull out an ox or ass which had fallen into a pit on the Sabbath day. You read about it in 14th Chapter of St. Luke.

Give much love to Grandma & Grandpa. I am glad to hear they are so well. Poor Jamie is not quite well. Pray for you papa, and be a very good little girl.

Very affectionately  
O.O. Howard

Uncle Charles is very well and so am I.

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1972 9/12/1863 *From:* [Grace Howard]

*To:* My Dear Mama [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1921

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[407]

Leeds Sept. 12, 1863

My Dear Mama

I hope you are very well. I am getting along nicely. How is the baby. I am having a nice time but some times I wish the baby was here. I now eat but three apples a day. This morning is the sabbath. We went to Mises Lothrope's Friday. How is Jamie is he pretty well. How are you and Guy, and Lott getting along. How does the baby go. Does he go the way he did here. Gran-ma went to metting to-day and I staid at home with grandpa. The package came saturday. But has not come yet to-day is saturday.

Monday. It is in the morn-ing now. I staid in bed

[Grace Howard]

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1973 9/13/1863     *From:* [Eliza Gilmore]

*To:* My dear daughter [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1922

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[409]

Leeds Sept 13, 1863

My dear daughter

You cannot tell how very glad I was to hear from you, and that you reached your home so favorably. I am still feeling badly about Jamie, what does Doct Briggs say about him. I hope he is much better ere this, but still I have my fears that is not the case. Hope Guy and baby are well. How is your cough. Do take care of yourself. Gracie was delighted with her letter and seems to enjoy herself wonderfully. She stays with me more since you went away. Mrs Lothrop invited Mr. Gilmore and I to tea and I took Gracie with me. I told her she might select a dress to suit herself to were, and she chose her green and white plaid and Jack like it. She looked very sweet and pretty and was very lady-like all the time. Her pleasant face is a real comfort.

I found a letter at the P.O. from Dellie on my return home after I left you, written monday morning saying if we wished him to return home to vote we might send for him, but unless we had written at the office that night and left it to go the next morning, it could not have reached him in time for him to come home saturday. I am realy sorry. I thought him more patriotic than he actually proves to be. He wrote from North Easton and is now probably at Westborou. Gracie has been printing a letter to you. She will do some more to it in the morning. The package came safely to Mr Lothrop's. Mr Gilmore came away without it last evening. Gracie was quite disappointed when he told her of it.

I attended the quarterly Methodist meeting on the ridge today. Gracie did not care to go, and I was satisfied to have her stay with her grandpa. There is always such a crowd at those meetings.

[Missing closing, from Eliza Gilmore]

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1974 9/18/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1924

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catlett's Station

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[411]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catlett's Station Sept. 18, 1863

Dearest,

I received a letter from you yesterday, mailed monday morning. "Jamie was better but very weak and low." I immediately telegraphed you "How is Jamie?" but do not get an answer. I do hope God will spare us, but when I think of my sins I dont feel that He can. You did right in bringing him home, please dont think of blaming yourself for want of care. "Whom He loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son that he receiveth". He is indeed a beautiful boy, graceful, noble, may we not bring him up to love and be loved to do good! Our own little links darling are yet all on the earth. Oh, how many beloved boys, this year, God has called away.

It rains very hard, it pours, and a very sad, sad, thing is to be done today. A poor German soldier is to be shot this afternoon in my command. He deserted in a passion; was a good soldier but he deserted, was caught, courtmartialled and sentenced to be shot. After it was settled, then calls came for pardon or mitigation. I recommended that he be pardoned on account of past good conduct, present repentance & promises of future good behaviour, but General Meade decided that he must die and I think the General is right. This poor misguided man must suffer, but thousands will probably be saved by it, still it is very sad. He has a wife and four children at home. His wife was a widow with three and he married her and has had one child. I sent for a German priest to Alexandria. He seems an excellent man, came and breakfasted with me this morning. He wanted to have the man saved. He has gone to him again to say that there is no hope.

I wonder why you do not reply to my dispatch - it is so short: he is well, he is better. Where are you today. You & the baby and poor little Jamie in "Mamma's room". I do feel cheerful and hopeful but, as you must sometimes, in suspense.

Charles has just come in to read over some letters that a lady of this country wishes to send north. These ladies cannot put many secrets in their letters. I should'nt like to write that way, should you? One of our officers was shot at from the bushes, just outside of our outposts or rather not far from Greenwich. We had all the citizens in that vicinity apprehended and brought in. One old gentleman and his daughter (the Marstella's) were among them. I released them all as there was no proof against them, but I hope I frightened them sufficiently, so that they will exert themselves to prevent such unpleasant occurrences. I have written Gracie. God bless you all and save us from Sorrow if it be his holy will.

Your Loving husband  
Otis.

p.m. Friday

Have got no answer yet to my messages to you, but I find there is no communication with Washington on account of the storm, probably telegraph poles have blown down. It has now cleared off and the weather is fair indeed. A letter was received from mother today and I will copy what she says about you and Jamie. "Lizzie was happy here and spoke of what a relief it was to be so quiet, ... but after Jamie lost his health she was anxious to go home. She went two days sooner than we anticipated. Dr Loring said it would not hurt him to go. He, Jamie, asked a number of times to go to Ja's home. I went with her to Brunswick... Grace seems happy, was delighted to have a whole letter of her own printed, from her mother." She says, near the close of her letter: "I am afraid Lizzie will wear herself out if Jamie should remain sick long." I have quoted this because I thought you feared mother would blame you for taking Jamie home from what you said in your letter.

I am not depressed & feel that all will be well. Tell Guy papa thinks much about him, hopes he enjoys his school. Kiss the baby & Jamie for papa and may Our precious Saviour be very nigh you till we meet again. I am guarding the communications with my reduced Corps. I was'nt quite reconciled but I know this is right.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1975 9/18/1863      *From:* John S. Sewall

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1925

Wenham Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[412]

Wenham Mass.  
Sep. 18, 1863

My dear Howard -

Will you recognize my handwriting? I have taken out paper many a time to write you, since you went out in Command of the 3d Maine, but have as often concluded th. you already had so much correspondence, & probably too so much official business to attend to besides, th. it w'd be really more friendly to let you alone. But I met yr. brother Rowland at Commence't last August, & he assured me it was not so.

I cannot tell you how my heart has been with you & with all our brave boys thro' this terrible struggle, & how much I have wanted to be on the spot with you to share the labor & danger. We are all in for the Union & for the war with all our hearts. I am rejoiced to see such a triumph in Maine. Its moral influence will equal I hope a victory in the field, & will encourage our friends & defenders in the army.

It has been a source of great pleasure to me to find th. among all the turmoil of active service yr. heart holds itself true to the higher Cause of Christ. You may be sure there are multitudes of Christian men & women all thro' N. England, who sympathise with you & pray for you. They have rejoiced in yr. constancy & christian consistency. And I doubt not th. many a time when in the midst of difficulties & temptations yr. weak heart has felt strengthened – that invigorating influence fr. above may have been drawn down upon you by the prayers of many whom you never saw. I trust you will be enabled to “endure to the end” & th. your influence over the troops may be blessed to many conversions among them.

You will ask me to tell you something abt. myself. I am settled over the Ch. in this town – have been since Apr. '57. My relations to my people are of the pleasantest sort. I love them & they love me. We get along as happily as 2 peas in a pod. I endeavor to preach to them the whole truth - “the truth as it is in Jesus” - & sometimes feel encouraged by their interest, & by an occasional conversion. I visit them considerable, & endeavor to talk with them personally; & tho' I find it a laborious life, it is yet I hope a useful life, & one in wh. I take a deal of comfort. A few of my “spare hours” (& they are very few I assure you) I occupy with writing for some of our religious quarterlies; & this is a sort of labor for wh. I have quite a fancy.

I am married – to the eldest daughter of S.P. Benson of Winthrop – M.C. For Kennebec 1852-56 - & we have 2 little children - Julia 3 ½ years old & Benson, 1 1/6. We are a happy family, & all the more so th. Mr. B. lives with us (has an office in Boston), - & Lillie, his youngest & only surviving daughter.

So much for my history. If I c'd have got anything like a consent fr. my family or my parish, I should have been able to add to it a chapter of the war, for I have longed to be there, personally engaged, either with bible or Sword.

I have often recalled the pleasant hours we spent together in the North end of Maine Hall - the battles we used to fight with Jack Bulfinch & Sam Buck on the old green lounge, the pages of calculus we used to puzzle over, & the walks we used to take down among the “whispering pines”. Life did not look so sober to us th. as it does now, but doubtless God was preparing us then for the fields we are working in now. May we both be enabled to accomplish much for Him.

We have rejoiced at every mention of yr. gallantry in action. It did my heart good to find so much of the credit of the affair at Gettysburg ascribed to you. I talked with men wounded in that battle, & they all spoke in the highest terms of yr skill. So did Jack [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain - whom I met in Brunswick at commence't.

What a blessing th. so many Christian men are in our army & navy. God bless you my dear Howard, & help you to “keep yr. lamp trimmed & burning” - is the prayer of yr. classmate & friend.

John S. Sewall [Bowdoin class of 1850]

If you can spare a leisure moment, I sh'd be greatly pleased to hear from you.

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1976 9/20/1863     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1926

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[413]

Farmington Sept. 20, 1863

My dear Brother

We have had a stormy Sabbath, but the rain did not come down freely till Evening and we have had a medium sized meeting tonight. I preached A.M. on Deut. XXXII. 31. "Their Rock is not as our rock even our Enemies themselves being judges," trying to prove the inferiority of worldly sources of trust & joy to those of Christians from the testimony of the Enemies of Christianity. This P.M. I preached on Heb. III 7,8. "Today if ye will hear his voice harden not your hearts." Enforcing the (1) fact of hard hearts, (2) the methods of hardening & the (3) dangers consequent. Tonight we have been dwelling on the parable of the 10 Virgins. O God, may I be prepared to die, tho' but just awakened from a sound sleep as were those virgins, when Jesus calls. How many a "midnight cry" the poor Soldiers hears!

Warren Woodman sent us word Friday as he came from Augusta that Jamie was better. Ella wrote Lizzie by him Tuesday, & I will write soon & will go down any time that I can do any good.

Rev. Mr. Adams & I spoke for Ch. Com. in Wilton Tuesday & got 25\$. We speak in the same cause at Phillips next Tuesday Evening D.V.

I think what you said before the Election did good, in allaying a party spirit, in developing a deeper patriotism, and in rebuking meanness, sneaking & cowardice which are our yankee besetting Sins. So far as I know the Election was carried on noble, manly principles & every man who contributed to the result has good reason to rejoice & thank God. The Republican party lost some by the influence of the Draft & (gained) others here to the union cause by disgust at Smith & other copperhead leaders. I don't know whether Dellie got home to vote or not. I notice the death of Oliver Ames, his great uncle, on Tuesday of last week. No news from Leeds.

David goes to sleep just before dark alone in his crib and says his prayer quite distinctly after his mother, & gives us some new words & sentences every day. He often speaks of "Unc'a"Otis, & "Tarley" Perry arrived at Sarahs with his wife last Evening. He looks quite well and appears very cheerful. They were kept from meeting by the rain, but Sarah was out all day. Perry seems to walk eat, & sleep as well as ever & looks about as fleshy. I only called a few moments last Evening.

I sent your miserable Chancellorville pamphlet to Prof Whittlesey & he returned it with some "marginal <readings"> & "scholia" & the enclosed note. From extreme hot weather, when we have pitied you & the soldiers very much, our days have become uncomfortably cold & a fire is necessary again.

I often find myself wondering at the way in which the Providence of God has led you, & almost fear any change in your position lest it be for the worse, but if you live a life of faith, faith kept alive by constant prayer, you will be led, guided, upheld & blessed of God & I know that that is your highest ambition. I hope you will never forget your obligation to labor personally for Christ. O that the soul of President Lincoln might be converted to God!

Rev. Charles Beecher lately stated in a Conference that the thing that impressed him most with the need of Christ was the fact that one day his parents were so anxious for his conversion that they could not "eat a meal". How seldom are our spiritual exercises strong enough to interrupt our daily habits! Do we feel enough for the conversion of our children! How anxious for their health, their morality, their respectability. How little anxiety for their conversion. I wonder if her sons would ever have been converted if our mother had never wept & prayed in secret places for that very object when we were little! I sometimes fear that dear little Guy would not go to Heaven if he should die now. I speak not of this to arouse your parental tenderness and make you anxious to be with your family but to "provoke" you to the "good work" of prayer, for which I feel that I need every stimulus that the very strongest motives often & pointedly presented, can afford.

Ella & David are sleeping sweetly and I must say good night. May God give you richly of his Holy Spirit & enable you fully to open your heart to his providences. Love to Charley.

Rowland

Charles letters &c are all recv'd & will be duly answered.

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1977 9/20/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1927

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catlett's Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[414]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catlett's Station September 20th 1863

Dearest,

I received Mrs Stinson's letter yesterday & began to realize how sick our poor little Jamie is. The dispatch of the 18th was two days later. The at present makes me fear he is yet no better; but I can not yet realize we shall lose him. I say & try to feel as you do "Thy will be done". God has been truly gracious, long-suffering and of tender kindness to us. Mrs Stinson says you look pale & worn. I hope you will not over-work but I know you cannot spare yourself. She said Mother had come, but did not say whether Gracie had come home. Jamie said in his little room: "God loves Jamie" and I feel sure, papa loves Jamie. When he is delirious he does not realize his suffering.

I wrote very slowly, because I keep stopping. It is sabbath morning about 10 A.M. the weather has become very cold. I am left 25 miles in the rear of the rest of the army to guard the communications; this is a mercy now for I can hear from home with more regularity, than if I was on the front line.

John says I have but ten minutes more. I can think only of home. God be near to you in Christ, strengthen and bless you all. I do earnestly pray that he may spare us our dear little boy. We will try to do well by him. Oh, how many poor afflicted parents in our country did feel just as we do. Yet He loveth mercy and not sacrifice. I am a sinful man. I feel that I do not keep the honor & Glory of God constantly before my eyes, and cannot without the help of my Saviour.

The tablet of yesterday (it has not been turned) says - "To me to live is Christ, to die is gain". It is hard to feel that to die is gain – good bye darling, much love to them all. God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1978 9/23/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1929

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Catletts

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[416]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Sept. 23d Catletts 1863

Dearest,

Generals & Colonels sometimes come to see me during those few moments set apart to write to you. Gen Schurz & Col. Bushbeck have just gone leaving me 15 minutes. I asked Charles to write for fear I would not get a moment. I have heard from you up to thursday last and I am hoping that the darling little boy is improving, and that you are not worn out. I am hoping to get a letter from you today. I try to pray for you and all the loved ones daily.

I am now having some defensive works constructed to keep the men busy & shew that I have some plan. I am still guarding the rail road & bridges. Gen. Meade told me that he regarded it as a most important duty.

I visited Culpepper day before yesterday saw Gen Williams. He is well, would like to have things so that he could make a visit home.

Poor Jamie, papa wishes he could help take care of him. Much love to Guy. Kisses for the baby. Is mother well and still with you. Give her my love. May God have you in his Holy Keeping. Charlie & Harry are well.

Lovingly  
Otis

I dont forget Grace, think she is at Leeds.

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1979 9/23/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1930

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[417]

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Sept. 23 1863

My dear Sister Lizzie

Otis just came in and said as he had two officers Gen. Schurz and Col Buschbeck in his tent he feared he would not be able to write you and wished I would do so – said that he was very anxious still about Jamie – that he had rec'd nothing later than the Telegram and your note in pencil of the same day. Mrs. Stinson's also was of the same date. Says that he is well.

I never knew him to show so much anxiety as he has about dear little Jamie & I do trust we will get some cheering news from you soon.

I suppose mother is with you. It is a clear cold morning but the sun is so bright – we can easily get warm. In fact we keep very comfortable. The army may move to the attack any day but it is doubtful if we get to the front at all.

Ever your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

Love to Mother, to Guy and as much as you can communicate to the other two – not forgetting Grace also at Leeds.

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1980 9/25/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1931

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Alexandria Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[418]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Alexandria Va. Sept. 25th 1863

Dearest,

I have been ordered to the West with the 11th Corps and am now on the way. It will be further from home and perhaps have hard work. I trust our darling boy is growing better. Give him papa's love & papa's kiss when he, poor boy, is able to hear it. Send your next letter darling, to Nashville Tenn. I feel that I am a sinner before God. I do wrong every day and my heart is burdened.

Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & the baby and God bless you and them and me.

I am stopping tonight at the City Hotel Alexandria. I drew Sept's pay today & enclose you a check of \$250, please acknowledge. Chas & I & Harry are well. Sending troops by cars is troublesome work.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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1981 9/26/1863    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dear brother & sister  
[Rowland and Ella  
Howard]

OOH-1932a

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[208]

Augusta, Sept. 26th 1863

Dear brother & sister

I received your letter this evening and will answer to-night as I have the time. Dear little Jamie has been gaining for the last four days and we think now that he will recover – that God will spare him longer to us. He has had a hard time, is a mere shadow of himself. I do not think his limbs any larger than Davie's. His head looks as if it was on a pivot. I do not think he realized all his sufferings because he was so delirious. I am thankful he suffered no more, and was sick no longer. One night we thought he could not live 24 hours, and he would not had there not been a change for the better. I gave him up. I dont know as I had a wish to keep him longer for I felt it God's will to take him, and it was so hard to see him suffer. His little mind was very active when awake – and himself – he told me everything he ever knew – among other things that “God had flowers for Jamie – all tied” an original thought with him and very comforting to me.

Mother I sent for and Grace – she was with me a week. Mrs Clark was sick in bed three days soon after I came home, then Charlotte, and when Mother came Mrs Clark was crawling about the house. Everybody near was very kind and I am through it all. I am well but very much worn and need much rest, which I do not get as yet. If I have no company, and can keep the house quiet a few weeks longer I hope Jamie will be quite well, and myself well rested. Jamie cannot even stand, or rest on his feet when I take him out of bed now. It is a great deal of work to take care of him now, but I have no anxiety with the labor. Grace is at Leeds and I wish her to remain some time longer if she is contented. Guy goes to school – baby is very well.

Last letters from Otis to-night dated Sept. 23d Catletts. He is guarding the communications. Was 25 miles in rear of the army the 20th. They were all very well.

Jamie is sleeping very sweetly now. I hope and trust I will not have to get up with him to-night. I didnt last night – only gave him drink as he called for it. I hav'nt had baby in the room yet to sleep, but think I shall to-night.

I hope you are all well. Give love to Sarah, Perry and wife.

Your loving sister  
Lizzie

I have written very hastily but hope you will be able to read it.

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1982 9/27/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1928

Piedmont, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[415]

Piedmont, Va. Sept. 27 1863

Dearest – I am on the way. My infantry is on trains ahead and my artillery behind. This is the celebrated Baltimore and Ohio R.R. which the rebels break up and which the energetic company immediately repair. I have a good car for me and my staff, in which I now am writing. I have a little board on my knee and a piece of paper on it. A candle on Col Meysunburg's little desk, stood up without a candle stick. We are now going to ascend the mountain at the rate of 116 feet to the mile. I wish it was day – (it is 7 P.M. sunday evening) I felt very happy to get a few lines from you, giving me news up to tuesday night. I feel so anxious about our little boy that I dont like to write of anything else.

Chas is well. The cars have started. Good night. Harry is well. God bless & strengthen you. I have a swollen face from my newly filled tooth. I wish I could help you. Guy must pray much for papa & mamma & for himself. Does he feel sure that he loves the Saviour.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1983 9/27/1863 *From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* My Dear Mama [Lizzie  
Gilmore]

OOH-1933a

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[419]

[Leeds] Sep. 27, 1863

My Dear Mama,

My uncle dellie has come home. I am very sorry that I have not written you a letter but I cannot help it. Mrs Turner and ellen were here the next day after your first letter came. the next day we prepared for a apple bee but they did not come because it rained and so we had it all to our selves. I strung twelve strings of apples in all. How is the baby getting along without me. how are you and Guy and lottie getting along. I have not got cold yet. I had both of your letters and have them now. Laura and her baby and uncle ensign were here today. The baby does not cry as much as it did. It is monday morning now. Tonight we are going to have the apple bee tonight.

From your loving dauter  
Grace.

Grandma and betsey have a cold.

[The following letter from Dellie to Lizzie dated Sep 28, 1863 was written on the same paper as the letter from Grace to Lizzie.]

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1984 9/28/1863    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1932b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[208]

[The following letter from Rowland to Eliza Gilmore, was written on the back page of Lizzie's letter to him and Ella. Lizzie's letter was dated Sept 26, 1863, Rowland's was undated, but assume it was Sept 28.]

Dear Mother,

I thought I would send these letters down as containing matters of interest. I am sorry Otis must go again under Hooker & Slocum, but God rules and I can leave him with him.

We are quite well except that Dadie has a bad cold. I attended Bro Adams' (of New Sharon) only child's funeral last Sab. Ellas mother went home yesterday. Ella has a good girl now.

Can't you come up & bring Grace & see Perry & his wife? He goes Thurs or Fri. Our fair (County) is tomorrow & next day.

Rowland

Where is Dellie?

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1985 9/28/1863    *From:* Dell [RH Gilmore]

*To:* Mrs. O.O. Howard

OOH-1933b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[419. This letter was written on the same paper as the letter from Grace to her mother dated Sep 27, 1863.]

Leeds Sept 28, 1863

My dear Sister:

My return to Leeds on Saturday night has been duly chronicled by Grace. Mother's letter written at Augusta to me never reached me or Cousin Olive as far as I know. Did it get into the office. I learned through Cousin Warren Woodman that Mother was at your house and that Jamie was sick. We were very glad to hear from you on Saturday evening and that Jamie was getting better. We hope to hear soon of his recovery. Had it not been for Jamies illness I think I should have gone up to your house Saturday instead of going home.

My health is improved though I am far from being well.

I propose to commence my Law studies about the first of Nov. The place has not yet been decided upon. You may remember that I mentioned studying in Augusta, when I was with you last. It may be that in the course of a few weeks I shall go down to Augusta with the view of informing myself concerning the Law advantages there.

I left Cousin Warren & wife at Boston on Wednesday last. They were nicely.

Grace is very well and appears to be pretty well contented. I made her a swing this morning. She was also made very much pleased by the presentation on my part of two little bird's nests. At present she is entertaining Lizzie Gilmore who is "making a call".

Father's hand seems to be improving and he is about his "farm duties".

Grace was anxious that I should write upon the same sheet that she did, which will partly explain the lack of neatness.

My love to Guy and Jamie.

Your aff. Brother  
Dell.

Mrs. O.O. Howard

[The following letter from Eliza to Lizzie, undated but probably 9/28/1863, was written following the letter from Dellie to Lizzie.]

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1986 9/28/1863 *From:* EG [Eliza Gilmore]

*To:* Dear Daughter [Lizzie Gilmore]

OOH-1933c

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[419 This letter from Eliza to Lizzie was written following the letters from Grace and Dellie to Lizzie. It was undated but probably the same date as Dellie's, 9/28/1863.]

Dear Daughter,

You will perceive by this, that Grace and I came safely through the day we left you with little sick Jamie and baby. I find myself thinking about you often, and indeed much of the time.

Give much love to Guy and Jamie, baby in his little way. Mrs Clark and Lottie I hope are in better health.

In haste  
EG [Eliza Gilmore]

---

1987 9/28/1863    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1934

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[420]

Farmington Sept. 28/63

Dear Sister Lizzie

We have been made very anxious by hearing thro Col Woodman that Jamie was dangerously sick. Ella says if she can be any use to you, she will leave any Day & send Davie to Bath from Brunswick & go to you. And I will come too, if I can do anything.

Abby felt very badly that she had made such positive engagements & could not go to you. Mrs Patten came up last night & will return tomorrow.

Perry & wife are at Sarahs. He walked up here twice yesterday & seems nicely.

May God grant dear little Jamie "recovering grace" and support you under the great weight of care.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

P.S. If darling Jamie should not live I must come.

---

1988 9/28/1863 *From:* B. D. Godfrey

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-1935

Milford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[334]

Milford Sept. 28 ,1863

Maj Gen O O Howard  
Dear Sir,

I thank you for your kindness in sending me the measure of your foot, and for the pleasure I have derived in making a pr of Boots, for a Kinsman of my new relative, Maj Lee, who with Libby is now down East visiting his friends in Maine.

Pardon me the liberty of casting any reflections upon "your understanding" but I must say that for a "big General" you certainly have a very small foot. All I trust is that my boots may not detract from its grace, nor prove detrimental to my skill as a New England Manufacturer. Hoping you may find the boots to fit and that they may contribute to your comfort.

Believe me with much Respect  
Your Obt Servt  
B. D. Godfrey

P.S. The Fur insoles you will find are adjustable and you can easily take them out should the boots prove too tight. Should the boots not fit, please present them to some "hail well met fellow Officer" who is perrelling his life in the cause of his country and who they may fit and inform me of the necessary alterations you want made in the boots and I will get done up another pr.

I have forwarded the Boots to your address via Adms Express. The box is marked Maj. Gen O. O. Howard, Headquarters 11th Corps c/o Main State Agency. Washington.

[Written on the back side in another hand (not Otis').]

Mr. B. D. Godfrey  
Mass  
Sept 28/63  
Answered <Are> 19 1863

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1989 9/30/1863     *From:* B. D. Godfrey

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-1936

Milford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[335]

Milford Sept 30, 1863

Maj Gen O O Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I have forwarded to your address this morning, via Adms Express a Box Containing a pr of Boots I have had the pleasure of making for you and an accompanying note. The more I see of my new relative "Maj Lee" the more I am pleased to say I find cause to love and admire in him and as there is a strain of blood the same flowing in your veins as his, I cannot help feeling a little interest in your welfare as well as Perry's. I hope the Boots may fit you and if I can be the humble means of adding in the least to your comfort it will afford me a high gratification.

Maj Lee has been getting along finely of late; he and Libby are at present absent from Milford visiting Mr Lees friends in Maine. Adieu! May God bless protect and aid you in all your efforts, until peace shall be restored with the union maintained in all its integrity; is the humble prayer of

Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
B.D. Godfrey

[Written on the back in another hand, possibly CH Howard.]  
Letter from Mr. Godfrey  
Milford Mass  
(Boots)

---

1990 10/1/1863    *From:* Ella [Patten Howard]    *To:* My dear sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1937                      Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[421]

Farmington Oct 1st 1863

My dear sister Lizzie,

I dont know as I have very much to say but I feel like writing you tonight.

We were very glad to hear from you, that dear little Jamie was getting well again. We were feeling very anxious about him. I have since heard a rumor that he was not so well again – but trust it is without foundation. I have feared you would give out yourself, with so many cares. I wish you could have some good strong woman to depend upon. I have an excellent girl now, and I wish you had a mate to her – though she isn't equal to Mrs. Clark, except in health & strength.

We have been feeling very sad for two or three days, on acct of the sudden sickness, and death of Mrs. Hamilton Abbott. I know you will be shocked to hear it, it was so recently that we saw her, full of life, and apparently of health. A week ago today, one of the boys was taken down with Diphtheria & died Sabbath evening. Mrs. Abbott took nearly all the care of him, & after he died, she was obliged to give up, herself, and ever since, that dreadful disease has been making progress upon her, & this afternoon, at about five o'clock, she went Home. Rowland has been there since yesterday morning all the time, except about two hours last night. She wanted him there all the time & Mr. Abbott isn't willing for him to come away yet, so he is going to stay there tonight. She will be a great loss to this whole community - and to us very great - for she loved Rowland, as only a few, here & there, ever love their Pastor. And as for her husband, I dont know what he will do without her.

Perry & his wife are here, but I think are not to remain much longer. Miss Kearney had made her visit at Hallowell, & is now here again. Dont know how long she intends to stay this time, but thinks she rather enjoys Farmington. Perry seems quite nicely, and it doesn't look at all strange, to see him with but one arm. He seems in very good spirits. I like his wife very much.

Uncle Ensign & Laura & the baby spent last night with me. They have a nice baby, & it is very good now, too. Laura seems as motherly as possible.

Dadie has had a bad cold, but is otherwise quite well. It is late, and I must bid you goodnight. With Love to yourself & children.

Your sister  
Ella

How do you like Otis' going West? It seems so far away.

---

1991 10/1/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1938

Louisville Ky.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[213]

Louisville Ky.  
Oct 1, 1863

My dear Mother,

I have left Charles behind at Indianapolis with Uncle Henry. He is going back to Richmond, Ind. I could spare him to stop as we passed thro that place. I staid there the last half of the night (tuesday) and Uncle Henry came on with me to Indianapolis. Aunt Martha J. to my great disappoinment, was away at Cincinnati with cousin Lizzie. Freddie, Carrie & the little one were there. They have a beautiful place at Richmond. The town seems larger than Augusta & everybody wide awake. Freddie is gentlemanly in his deportment, so much so as to be remarked by a stranger. Henry had family prayers and very happy & orderly household.

He seems much respected by his neighbors. I like the deportment of the western gentlemen, I hav'nt seen much of the ladies. You would enjoy a visit to Aunt Martha very much. Henry spoke of it two or three times and wished me to urge you to come. He said you promised to do so, after Dellie graduated. Now your boys are this way perhaps you may take a notion to come. I told him I hardly thought father would be willing for you to go without him.

It is a little more than a week since I heard from Jamie. He was a little better. How is my precious little daughter Gracie? I hope a very good girl with Grandma. Give her much love from papa & tell her she must think about her saviour, and pray for her father.

I enclose you two twenty dollar bills as a small present towards your Western visit should you decide to make one. It will cost about \$18. from Boston to Richmond Ind.

Give my love to father. I hope his finger is better. I am quite well and not tired, though I have ridden in the cars since last Saturday day & night. I was in bed for a few hours at Uncle Henry's. Charles looked very tired. I hope he will have a pleasant visit.

My kind regards to the neighbors.

Your ever affectionate Son  
Otis

---

1992 10/1/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1939

Louisville Ky.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[422]

Louisville Ky.  
Oct 1 1863 Wed

Dearest,

I have just arrived at this point, my infantry is ahead of me & some of my artillery. It has been quite a long journey. I stopped a part of a night with Uncle Henry as we passed thro his place. Aunt & Lizzie were gone to Cincinatti. Uncle accompanied us as far as Indianapolis, & took Charles back with him to make a short visit. Chas will stay till Monday.

How much I wish I could know just how you & our dear little boy are today. I hope you will have written to Nashville, Tenn. the moment you have learned we have come this way. I had no idea of the beauty & fertility of Ohio & Indiana till I came through. Richmond is a gem of a place. If little Jamie gets better we must talk about a visit to the West. It is singular how suddenly river & sun changes the scene. I feel now very far separated from you and shall do so till the letters begin to find their way thro. I have traveled every night since last saturday, but have slept quite comfortably. My neuralgy & tooth ulceration is most well. The swelling has subsided. I had a fall at Grafton Va, while running from the telegraph office to the train, bruised my knee, but it too is well.

I feel that I am sent out here for some wise and good purpose. I believe my Corps will be better appreciated. Already the good conduct of the soldiers excites wonder – so good in contrast with the Indiana wilderness.

My heart rests on home. I see you moving up and down and nursing our darling little sick boy.

Papa & John are in the Galt House in a fine large room. I miss Charles. I disappointed him so much in not letting him stop at Richmond Ind; and he worked so hard transferring troops & property at Indianapolis, that I thought I would give him a rest & let him go back with Uncle Henry and stay till Monday with instructions to bring up all stragglers.

Harry Stinson has just come in and is now writing at my table. I expect you & Mrs Stinson will be affected alike with surprise at our move. We shall go straight on to Chattanooga.

God grant us success and a speedy close to the war. I must try to lean upon him more and more. Jamie's sickness has had the effect to quicken my conscience and I believe make me fear God, fear to offend him. I try to say not my will but thine be done, but I do love that little boy and trust he may be spared to us, but I know how much better God sees my necessities than I myself can & how kindly He will provide. "Jehovah Jireh": you remember.

Good bye my love. Pray for me that I may do right.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

1993 10/2/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1940

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[423]

Portland Oct 2d 1863

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I recv'd your letter yesterday with the Checks and have just purchased for you U.S. Bond \$500 including interest & Brokerage. Amt in all to \$506 dollars. This is as good investment as I know of at present. The first interest will be due in Novm'r on which you will get a premium as the interest is payable in Gold. I can get a premium on your other Coupons if due.

The banks will pay dividends next week – if you wish any further investment, please let me know. There is \$24.45 left in my hands from this.

In haste,

Your affectionate Uncle

E Waite

---

1994 10/4/1863     *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1941

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[421]

Leeds, Oct. 4th 1863

Dear daughter,

It seems a long time, since we heard from you but trust you are doing well. Hope Jamie is doing well, if so that you are resting and Guy is well, and that baby is well and happy. Grace is well and happy apparently. We attended Church today. She seemed happy all day. She misses Uncle Dellie somewhat, does not seem quite as happy and gay since he left. He went to Farmington Friday evening. Mrs Hamilton Abbot died Thursday eve with Dyptheria. All of F-ton is in grief. Brother Ensign and wife have been there from Tuesday to Thursday. She was thought to be dying before they left. Laura told me today that they would say we cannot give her up, but oh our father in heaven has some wise purpose in removing that good and useful woman from among us.

Dear Lizzie, we have had a new trial in having our dear ones removed to so great a distance from us, but we must trust them in the hands of our heavenly father. Gracie prays for you all at night, and so do I, in poor way. God is my helper in this time of need. Rowland wrote to me to come to F-ton, and bring Grace, the first of last week and see Perry and wife, but Mr Gilmore has had a Nephew here on a visit from Mass, left here Friday.

Grace is good, is a good girl, and a great deal of company for me. I think she has grown fleshy since she came back this time. She thinks it long time since she heard from home. Mrs Lothrop has filled your <jar> and Mrs Sumner has taken one to fill for Mrs Stinson, and I shall have one to spare. You may have the one I laid down in June or the one I have nearly full at this time.

Dellie says he will come to Augusta the last of this month or before if necessary.

Last night's mail brought us a letter from Charles written in Ohio at Bellaire at a Hotel. He said Otis had had a bad tooth but was better. He Charles was well, spoke of receiving your letter in the Cars when leaving and the pleasure it gave them to hear from you before they left.

Mention me kindly to Guy and Jamie, and a good sweet kiss to baby. Hope Mrs Clark as she grows stronger in health will grow happier, in temper.

Grace and I had a very pleasant time from Augusta home. Heard in the cars that Hellen Sands, that was Mrs Otis, was at her fathers. Grace and I went there, was introduced to Capt Otis, had a very pleasant call. Never saw Hellen look in so good health as now. She was delighted to see Grace and spoke of her remarkable intelligence, and I am astonished some times myself at it. Either I have forgotten or she is more intelligent than common for her age.

Ella has obtained a good strong girl. Mr Goff told me Friday Perry was sick with a cold, I hope he will escape without a hard sickness. Ensign says his wound is nearly healed. Laura was at church both services and looked very happy. We had our paring bee and it passed off very nicely. We had 145 strings to hang out the next day and had the pleasure of seeing our friends and Neighbors and think they enjoy'd it.

Saw Mrs Joshua Turner at church today but did not speak to her. Mrs Sands and Mary were gone away, and Hellen was the house keeper for a week or two. I paid the man 15 cents that carried our valices to the Depot and one dollar for my ticket. They said nothing about Grace. Neither did I so I have quite a lot of your money left.

My paper is full. I think of you very often, hoping always that your health will hold out.

From you ever affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

---

1995 10/5/1863 *From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* My dear mama [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1942a

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[426]

[Leeds] Oct. 5 1863

My dear mama

I want to get a letter from you very much. I hope you are very well. Betsey has gone home to see her mother. Joshua turner is coming next Thurs and I wish you would send me my tea-sette and doll and her things when he comes. I have been thinking I will get one tonight from you. How is the baby and Guy and Jamie getting along. I would write more but I cant think of eny now. Dinner is on the table and grandma is just sitting down.

From your loving dauter Grac.

Grandma is very well and so am I.

[The following letter was written on the same sheet as the preceding letter from Grace to Lizzie. Assume the same date.]

---

1996 10/5/1863 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs. Lizzie Howard

OOH-1942b

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[The following letter was written on the same sheet as the preceding letter from Grace to Lizzie. Assume the same date.]

[426 Leeds Oct. 5 1863]

Dear Lizzie

Grace has been trying to write. Please send her buff tire if you make up a parcel for her, to send by Mr Turner. You can do as you think best. I sent off a letter to you this morning. Mentioned the butter in that.

In haste

Eliza Gilmore

Mrs. Lizzie Howard

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1997 10/5/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1943

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Bridgeport Ala.

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[425]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Oct. 5th Bridgeport Ala. 1863

Dearest

On Saturday evening about 9 P.M. I arrived at a place called Stevenson's, a dirty little town with some half dozen miserable houses. Here is quite an accumulation of supplies for Gen Rosencrans Army – a depot. He has to transport everything in wagons from that point by the northern bank of the Tenn. River to Chattanooga.

In the morning I took a train of Cars with one of my batteries to this place Bridgeport. It is on the Tenn. River and full as far south as Chattanooga on the R.R. thither. The bridge across the Tennessee is destroyed (excepting the piers). I am about 50 miles from Gen. Rosencrans by the wagon Road and about 30 by the R.R. with no wagons. The Artillery is here but the horses have not arrived.

How much I wish I could hear from Jamie today & from yourself.

I think you must have been a good deal astonished at our sudden start Westward. Charlie leaves Richmond Ind. for this place today. It will take him at least three days to get through. I shall be glad to see him. This is a singular rough, mountainous country - nothing but mountains - except the River & the Railroad. I do not think it will be very hard to campaign in after we get accustomed to new features.

I met Thompson (Tompie as the Madam used to call him). He looked well. Mrs Thompson with two children is in Nashville, Tenn. Where we are now there is'nt a house in sight. Woods, woods, woods: more than Chancelorville in that respect.

I hope Guy, baby & yourself keep well and that our poor little Jamie is able to run about by this time. I shall look for a letter by every mail. I am afraid my letters will be carried by as they may be directed to Rosencrans Army. Direct to me - Comdg 11th Corps via Nashville (Army of the Cumberland).

Give much love to all the children. Guy owes me a letter. Gracie too. God bless you darling & hasten the close of this war – for home is far away.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1998 10/5/1863 *From:* Daniel Hall

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1950

Bennington, N.H.

Cmdg 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[337]

[<Bennington N.H.> CHECK ORIGINAL –faint writing on the top of the first page for the return address and date.]

[ca. Oct. 18, 1863] [This date was added by someone. I have used the date written at the end of the letter, Oct 5, 1863.]

My dear General:

I have been at my father's house now nearly a week during which time I have scarcely been out of doors. You remember that I left you at Catlett's Station just before the order came for the movement of the Corps. When you were afterwards in Washington I hesitated long whether to accompany you to your probable destination in Tennessee, or avail myself of my leave of absence and come home. I am now glad that I chose the latter course, inasmuch as I have been in a condition that requires the comforts and cares of home rather than the scantier accommodations afforded by the march and the camp. My head is much affected by some kind of disease of a cutaneous or other nature, which is a perpetual discomfort and heaviness – and when to that is added a return of a rheumatism which troubled me last winter, and a severe cough and hoarseness, I am for the time a useless piece of machinery.

I have regretted very much, General, that I have been able to do so little for the Service and for you since I have had the honor of a place on your staff. I am quite aware that I have been an incubus rather than a help. No language can express the interest I feel in the Great Cause for which we are contending, and I have been proud and satisfied to serve it under the orders of a man, like yourself, distinguished alike for military genius, patriotic devotion, and a moral height and excellence admirable in the last degree. Content with my position, nothing but weakened health admonishing me of my unfitness for hard service could induce me to take the step I now do. I am satisfied that I should be unable to do any effective service this fall and winter, and I am apprehensive of one of my troubles, the rheumatism, becoming fixed and chronic, if I suffer longer exposure in the field.

I therefore accompany this with the tender of my resignation, which is addressed to the Adjutant General of the Army, as I believe it should be inasmuch as I hold my commission from the President. I suppose it should however go through the regular channels. I shall be greatly obliged if you will have the Kindness to forward it, and, if you think proper, give it your approval. I do not wish to be under the pay of the government (much as my circumstances require it) longer than I can render a fair equivalent.

What I have already said comprises the main object of this letter; but I can scarcely forbear telling you how much satisfaction your course as a soldier and a citizen has given to the loyal people of this vicinity. According you praise as a soldier and credit particularly (which many of us know to be so eminently your due) for the battle of Gettysburg, and the subsequent effort to take advantage of the victory – they also acknowledge and feel especially grateful for the services you have just rendered Maine by helping to an initial Union Victory in the Fall Campaign. This is expressed by men who have called on me not in the spirit of mere partisan rejoicing and complacency either: on the contrary I believe, as I believe I live, that the loyal people, the controlling minds of them I mean, have risen in the course of this Convulsion far above the influence of such considerations merely. Even to the plane of patriotism a lofty spirit of nationality, love of liberty, and all those great ideas which make for the elevation of the race and the Glory of God. There is something in a great crisis and peril like this that is separative in the last degree – it is a discernor of men's spirits – and while it reveals the weakness and darkness in the characters of some men, it also lifts up, purifies and awakens others to the higher possibilities of thought and deed which their lives unfold. If there is Copperheadism at the nadir, there is also Loyalty, pure, spotless, unselfish, self-sacrificing, ready to do and dare all for Truth, at the zenith. If there are here now meaner traitors, there are also intenser Patriots than ever before. Of the plaudits of this latter class any man might well be found even if he had no higher reward satisfaction for having done his duty. You have emphatically then “well done, good and faithful” - and while the remark is one perhaps of no consequence, I may truly say that my humble efforts, wherever I may be, will not be wanting to give you that place in the national regard, which you are entitled to.

And now, General, regretting that I shall leave you, if my resignation is accepted, and begging your pardon for taking your time as much as I have done.

With warmest wishes for your happiness and success

I am, very truly,  
Your obdt Servt  
Daniel Hall Capt. &c

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Cmdg 11th Corps

[Written on the back page in an unknown hand:]

Capt Hall  
A.D.C.  
Oct 5 1863

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1999 10/6/1863

*From:* Rick Long  
Lt Col & <Piw Mail>  
11th Corps  
Kellys Ferry Tenn

*To:* Lt. Col. C.W. Ansmussen

OOH-1944

Chief of Staff  
11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[336]

Kellys Ferry, Tenn  
Oct 6th 1863

Colonel.

Upon arrival here this morning I found quite a number of wounded men mostly belonging to our Corps, lying in the Ambulances waiting the departure of the boat for Bridgport.

These men have been in the Ambulances since yesterday P.M. the ambulances having camped in the woods last night.

Most of them are severely wounded – some with amputated limbs - and no arrangements have been made for their reception here or for their departure. I have succeeded in getting a few beds for the worst cases - the others will have to lie upon the floor of the Boat without proper covering.

I deem it my duty to report the facts as I found them so as to effect a change if possible.

The Boat seldom leaves here until the Afternoon.

I remain  
Yours Truly  
Rick Long  
Lt Col & <Piw Mail> 11th Corps

Lt. Col. C.W. Assmussen  
Chief of Staff  
11th Corps

[Attached]

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Med. Director's Office  
Nov. 6, 1863

General:

In explanation of the Report of Lieut Col. Long representing the wounded at Kellys' Ferry as in a neglected condition as to supplies & medical attendance I beg leave respectfully to represent that having been committed to Hospital by order of Surgeon G. Perrie Med. Director of the department they were under the Control of Surgeon Cooke, Surgeon in charge of the Hospital and that in order to effect their removal the only instructions I received were "to report as many ambulances as possible to the Hospital" for that purpose. As their removal was pre-arranged I had reason to believe that they had been promptly sent down the river on their arrival at the Ferry until the receipt of this report. I immediately sent a Lieut. of the ambulance Corps to ascertain & report their condition; and he informs me that they are provided with food, shelter and medical attendance. This is confirmed also by the Rev. Mr. Sewell who very kindly came to Hd. Qrs. this P.M. in order to report these facts to the Commanding General.

Very respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servt  
R Hubbard Actng  
Med. Director 11th Corps

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

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2000 10/7/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1945

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[427]

Portland Oct 7, 1863

Mrs O O Howard  
Dear Niece

I recvd your kind letter of 1st inst also one yesterday enclosing coupons of Treasury notes – interest \$14.60 which I sold at premium of \$6 dollars making \$20.60. The dividends from the Banks are 117 dollars (137.60 total) but the City tax on Stock 18.25 they kept back which leaves on hand \$119.35 and the amt on hand from Checks 24.45 which leaves to your Credit in all 143.80. Perhaps I may find opportunity to invest unless you prefer to let it remain untill convenient to add more to it. The tax on your Bank Stock is something new. It was pased by a law of the last legeslator that unless the residence of Stock holders was known tax should be retained by the Bank. The Banks will probably make return of your Stock to Augusta to be taxed next year. Your Treasury Notes and Bonds will not be taxed.

I am glad you wrote about the location of your Husband. I shall now feel more interested to hear all the news from that quarter. I have not only a hope but a Strong Faith that he will be preserved from harm – and my prayer is – that he may be kept in Safety. Hope little Jamie has got quite well. You have not told us the name of the little one.

Much love to yourself and Children with kind Regards to Your dear Husband.

From Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

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2001 10/8/1863    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1946

Nashville Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[428]

Nashville Tenn.  
Oct. 8 1863 Thursday

Dear Sister Lizzie

I reached this place Tuesday night having stopped back five days with Uncle Henry at Richmond Ind.

I found that a Rebel Cavalry raid had destroyed several bridges below here & I could not go on and join the Corps and the General who had already reached Bridgeport on the Tennessee River, his destination for the present.

I found Asmussen Chief of Staff and other officers here. Some trains of our freight and our artillery horses had not yet passed this place. The rear of the Corps is all up now and we will march by land on Saturday morning, in order that the Rail Road may be free for supplies as soon as open. It is 120 miles to Bridgeport. Chattanooga is up the Tennessee some 30 miles (i.e. East) from Bridgeport.

So you perceive our duty for the present is as before to protect the line of communication, and depot of supplies.

Slocum is still in this city. One of his Divns having gone down before the breakage, the other being now at Murfreesboro about 30 miles from here. I hope to get telegraphic communication with the General today. I intend to go down to Murfreesboro tomorrow & if I can get a train on the other side of the break I will go on, if not come back & wait till the R.R. is repaired.

Our Corps is well supplied with rations for ten days more so they will not suffer. Our own Hd. Qrs. mess furniture however is all here and I guess the General & Staff have to go a begging for their food.

I was cheered with a sight of your familiar hand-writing upon a letter for Otis at the Post Office this morning. It was written 30th Sept – after you got his letter from Alex'a. I shall carry the letter forward if I go.

Otis will be happy to learn as soon as we can telegraph that Col. Asmussen has succeeded in getting all the wagons we needed and they will go forward with everything else of our Corps next Saturday morning. Otis left here last Friday Evening. I parted from him at Indianapolis Ind. Wednesday evening. He had a special car to Louisville and no one to share it except Cpts. Stinson & Powers and some orderlies & John.

I returned with Uncle Henry to his home. Aunt Martha & Lizzie were making a visit to Cincinnati. They returned Saturday. My visit was most agreeable by all bonds. They are all hoping to have a visit from you now that Otis is West. It is about the same distance from Richmond here as from Augusta to Washington, so if we have but fifteen days leaves of absence I dont know but we will have to ask our friends to meet us at Uncle Henry's. It is a delightful Country & I liked the people whom I saw much.

Today besides attending to business, I have found time to visit the State Capitol in this City, a magnificent structure built of a kind of lime-stone resembling marble, being capable of a fine finish and of a greyish white color. I went to the summit from which I got an extended view. Could take in the entire city and the Cumberland River as it winds almost in folds around it. No high mountains visible but a varied country. The residence of James K. Polk is still an imposing and pleasing structure – a monument to his memory in the garden. But this is already a prolonged letter & I will close with good love to all your dear family. Hope Jamie is trotting about at his play before this.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard



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2002 10/10/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1947

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Bridgeport, Ala.

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[433?] [CHECK ORIGINAL, edge of paper folded over the number]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Bridgeport, Ala.  
Oct 10th 1863

Dearest,

I have by a telegram from Charles at Nashville (120 miles from here) that there is a letter for me on the way and up to Sept 30th Jamie was improving, but now it is the 10th of October. We have been cut off from Nashville for several days by a body of Rebel raiders. They burnt 400 of Gen. Rosencrans wagons between here and Chattanooga, burnt a train of cars near McMinville and captured some 6 companies of Cavalry. Then our communications were cut and we dont know what they have done. We heard yesterday that our troops had beaten them & were in pursuit. About 9 last night I got orders to send a thousand men under resolute officers some 35 or 40 miles back towards Nashville. A train of cars came for them between 11 & 12 last night & I hope got them to the threatened points before dailight. At Stevenson Gen. Rosencrans has accumulated some fifteen days supply, but already the ration has been reduced and we are obliged to send out foraging parties to get something for the subsistence of the animals.

I did expect Charlie last night. I hope he has had a pleasant visit at Richmond Ind. I am having this place cleaned up. Every <training> imaginable seems to be here. Bridge builders, pontoneers, sutters, quartermasters, engineers &c. They have set down in confused order & made much dirt. We begin to look a little better. The nights are quite cold, but the days are very warm. I am building a sort of house at the back of my tent – boards on the sides, fly on top, chimney & fireplace to the rear. My fireplace is built of stone. I shall be quite comfortable. The nights are very cold and I have taken cold and cough some.

I feel interested to hear how Guy is getting along with his studies. What is he learning now? I suppose Gracie must be at home by this time. John thinks Jamie must be running up & down stairs by this time: the dear little fellow I hope he may be able. How has the baby, Chancey, stood it since little brother has been sick? And yourself I trust you have been well.

Oct 12. Sunday

Charlie arrived this morning with your letter. I am really glad to hear from you and glad & I hope thankful for the good news. John was much pleased at Jamie's recollection of him and at the "up high." Aunt Martha trusts now, that you will come & see her (Chas. says). He thinks Aunt is just as young & much improved. Says Henry seems another man, takes a christian stand in the community. The children read around and he repeated an excellent prayer the morning I was there.

I am really glad to see Charles. He calls this a splendid place. The scenery is rugged, mountainous – the river beautiful – but of all the accumulation of filth I never saw the like. We begin to see our way clear thro. it.

This is a beautiful day. I do hope you are enjoying it. Capt. Harry Stinson is well – just returned from his night expedition.

Give much love to all our little flock and all pray for me & for peace. God bless, protect, strengthen & preserve you.

Most lovingly Your husband  
Otis

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2003 10/13/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1948

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[429]

Head Quarters 11th Corps Oct. 13, 1863

Dearest

We are seeing Bridgeport under a new phase today. It began to rain last night and has continued most of the time since. The soil does not materially differ from that of Virginia, so that we have but exchanged one muddy place for another. My house leaks pretty badly, both on top, on the end & on the sides, but my fireplace draws well and when the rain stops will soon dry up the surroundings.

I went to Stevenson yesterday to see General Hooker, and Maj [Wright] Rives of [Adelbert] Ames' class [USMA 1861] returned with me last evening & staid all night. This morning he went with me to inspect the defences. I find the pioneers or pontoniers who have been here sometime afflicted with chills & fever. I have been able to escape this troublesome disease thus far & I hope I may even here.

A part of my force is engaged in making corduroy roads between this and Chattanooga. Just think of hauling all the supplies for an army over fifty miles of road, over mountains & through muddy valleys. It is easy to wonder why our army dont go on & do this or that but when you come here and find us as far from Nashville as Portland is from Boston and that every article must come by a single poor rail road running over a high mountain ridge with difficult grades at best and that the main army is forty or fifty miles further on, and that the country is too impoverished to support the inhabitants, the wonder is how the army can remain, & sustain itself.

From some indications I get I am inclined to think the enemy is falling back on this line, & perhaps about to change its programme. I think if he has transportation, he will try & get between Rosencrans & Burnside.

I wish you had a good map so that you could see where we are more accurately. I went to see Mr Lincoln the day I left Washington and he gave me a very nice coast survey map. He had a kind of music stand with two maps just alike one over the other. One was mounted. He gave me that, said the other would do for him.

I hav'nt said a word about the children. I look to him that Jamie has found his feet. Does Guy know enough of Geography to find this place – away down in Alabama. How does the baby do. Does he talk & laugh any yet.

God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

I wonder if Gracie has got home yet. I wrote her a letter describing my camp at Catletts and intended to enclose a sketch but did'nt make it. Give her & all papa's love. I told John, my house looked quite comfortable. Ah, says he, it is'nt home though. I have so much to think of and to attend to that I get along very well with few comforts. Chas & Harry S. are well. My cold is better.

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2004 10/16/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1949

Hd Qrs near Bridgeport  
Ala.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[431]

Hd. Qrs. near Bridgeport  
Ala. Oct. 16 1863

Dearest,

I met a Lieut Alden from Me. on his way from Chattanooga home for a visit. He will pass through Augusta.

We are all well, except I have quite a cold & cough some. We have had a terrible rain.

Good news from Ohio & Penn and Ind.

Much love to all Guy, Grace, Jamie, Chancey & Mamma.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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2005 10/19/1863 *From:* Maj Genl J. Hooker

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1951

Head Quarters 11th &  
12th Corps  
Stevenson

Comdg 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[339]

Head Quarters Army of the Cumberland  
Chattanooga Oct 18th 1863  
12:45 P.M.

Maj Genl J. Hooker  
Stevenson

It will be necessary to make extraordinary efforts to get the road passable from Bridgeport to Jasper – also to have rations thrown into Stevenson as rapidly as possible.

It will require almost superhuman efforts to sustain us here. That steamboat must be got ready, so that we can freight to Shellmound and thus shorten our wagon transportation. This will require us to hold both sides of the river and fortify, but to make our depots on the North side. I must confide the pushing up of the repairs of the wagon roads, and seeing that our supplies are brought forward to your care, as the remoteness of our position and the necessity for the active Authority and intervention of an Officer of high rank, is absolutely necessary to the preservation of our army.

Signed (W. S. Rosecrans, Maj. Genl.)

To:  
Maj. Genl Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

Head Quarters 11th & 12th Corps  
Stevenson Oct 19, 1863  
Official  
H W Perkins  
A.A.A.G.

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2006 10/19/1863 *From:* H. W. Perkins

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

A.A.A.G.

OOH-1952

Head-Quarters,  
Eleventh and Twelfth

Comdg 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

Corps,  
Army of the Cumberland  
Stevenson

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[157]

Head-Quarters, Eleventh and Twelfth Corps,  
Army of the Cumberland  
Stevenson Oct 19th 1863

Maj Genl Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps  
Genl,

I am directed by the Maj Genl Comdg to Enclose you a copy of a letter from the Maj Genl Comdg Dept to show you how deep is his anxiety and how necessary it is to push the repairs on the roads and urge on the completion of the Steamers. As the Genl will not be able to give it his personal supervision he begs that you will spare no means to have the comdg General's desires fully carried out.

Your Brigade that is here will have to march back as I am informed tonight that cars cannot be spared for that purpose, owing to the press of business.

Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
H. W. Perkins  
A.A.A.G.

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2007 10/19/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1953

Bridgeport Ala.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[432]

Bridgeport Ala. Oct 19, 1863

Dearest,

Yesterday I was lucky enough to get a letter dated the 9th. It was nine days on the way. Your last said Jamie had begun to recover, but he hadn't got the full use of his feet yet. This one didn't say one word about him and so I must infer that the little fellow is well. I was sorry to find Guy feverish again. How poor his digestion has always been – nuts, acorns and such like he will have to forego. I suspect he is like his father.

My cold holds on unaccountably. I cough pretty hard & raise -. The climate is peculiar – fogs on the mountains & along the Tenn. River, always chilly mornings and in the night.

We have heard that Gen. Rosencrans has been relieved and ordered to Cincinnati and that Gen. Thomas is in Command of this Army, that the three Depts. of Tennessee, Ohio & Cumberland are consolidated and Gen. Grant assigned to the command. I feel sorry about Rosencrans, I thought I should like him. I have not seen him. His Chief of Staff Gen. Garfield was here day before yesterday & I rode with him to Stevenson returning by the R.R.

Charles & I had an interesting ride on the engine after night. Dellie writes that Gracie is well and much interested in learning to knit. She <will> probably be at home when this reaches you. She must knit papa some socks one of these days. John persists in asking "how is Jimmie" when he sees me get a letter. John had a bad cold and it came out on his nose in bad sores, but they are mostly well.

My wagons which started from Nashville a week ago yesterday hav'nt got here yet. My horses (Artillery & for Officers) arrived today, a good many some 70 died on the way, so bad are the mountain roads.

We hear that Mrs Abbot of the Abbot school is dead. I suppose it is Mrs Hamilton Abbot and that Rowland was feeling it much.

We hear that a severe battle was fought nearby Catletts where we staid so long. I wonder if poor Mrs Catlett & little Lottie were not pretty badly frightened. I had just begun some works there and I presume they were made use of. Back & forth, back and forth, goes that Army. When will it end? This is a long war & I now feel that I am far, far, from home.

Chancey is well and happy so I hope his mother may be and Guy too when this gets to you. If you could see this country, the bad roads, the difficulty of hauling supplies, you would think that not much will be done. I believe Gen Thomas will try to get such points as will make Chattanooga secure & if this doesn't bring on a general engagement there will not much else be done here this season.

Give much love to all. Harry & Ch. are well. May God bless and keep you .

Lovingly  
Otis

Direct  
11th Corps  
Army of Cumberland  
Via Nashville Tenn.

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2008 10/20/1863 *From:* Geo. Suckley  
Surgeon U.S. Vols  
OOH-1954  
*Source:* Bowdoin  
Medical Director's  
Office, Middle  
Department, 8th Army  
Corps.  
Baltimore, Md.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commdg 11th Army Corps  
Burnside's Army  
Deptmt. Of Ohio

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[18]

Medical Director's Office, Middle Department, 8th Army Corps.  
Baltimore, Md., Oct. 20th 1863

PRIVATE

General:

I have long thought of writing you a private letr, thanking you for your kindness to me, and for your official support while I was under your command. No better opportunity presenting itself, I now fulfill my promise to myself.

Poor Griffith as I expected, died, peritonitis, & probably internal hemorrhage, having set in.

After about a months attendance on Gen. Barlow I succeeded in finding the ball, and extracting it. I fear very much that one of the spinal vertebrae has been so much injured as to render him more or less of a cripple for life.

A matter which has presented itself to my notice I think may interest you and call for action on your part. A "Chaplain" named Ferdinand Sarner belonging to some New York Regt. in your Corps, - I think the 54th or 58th N.Y., seemed to me while he was here under Medical treatment to be a Jew, and I understood boarded while here at a Jew boarding house. If a Jew, & not a Rabbi, he, I should think is not entitled to such a sacred position, & the matter should be investigated. As he was appointed during the palmy days of Blenker, the probabilities are that some rascality was at the bottom, & I accordingly give you these hints for whatever they are worth.

My health is now quite good, & I often think of my friends at your Head Quarters. Had I known of your early transfer to another Army, I do not think I should have pushed for a transfer. My official relations with the Med. Director of the A. of P. were very unpleasant.

My dear General please give my best regards to your brother the Major & to Lt. Cols. Asmussen & Meysenberg, & believe me

Always your friend  
and Obt. Servant  
Geo. Suckley  
Surgeon U.S. Vols

P.S. I am now performing the duties of Medical Director of this Military Department. G.S.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commdg 11th Army Corps  
Burnside's Army  
Deptmt. Of Ohio.

[Written on the back sheet, in an unknown hand.]  
Surg. Suckley  
Oct 20 1863

Letter from Dr. Suckley

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2009 10/21/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1955

Bridgeport Ala  
Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[399?]

Bridgeport Ala.  
Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Oct 21 1863

Dear Sister Lizzie

Lt. Gilbreth is going to start for home on Leave this morning and Otis intended to write you a long letter to send by him but as usual he has so many callers on business that he will not be able, I fear, to write. I just went into his tent and found Col. Buschbeck commanding one of our Brigades and another officer probably of the Army of the Cumberland as he was a stranger.

I told Otis that Lt. G. must go pretty soon and asked him whether he had written any letter. He said no and when I enquired if he wished me to write he said "I think you better Charlie". So I judge that he intends to write if he can get a little time.

It is raining. We began to hear thunder about Daylight and at first were not certain that it might not be artillery firing in the distance. Capt. Stinson got up and went out to listen. We concluded it was thunder. At Breakfast when the thunder had sounded nearer and nearer it began to rain a pouring shower – then it ceased and we hoped would "break away" but the rain is renewed again.

Yesterday the removal of Rosecrans was confirmed. Every body expresses regret & disappointment, but nobody doubts that Thomas will be an excellent Commander, perhaps superior in many respects to Gen. Rosecrans. The latter is expected here this morning & perhaps Lt. Gilbreth will go upon the same train with him to Nashville.

We get fearfully few letters here and "far between". Cant you do a little for us in that direction. Guy too must write. Dell has written one letter since I have been here which we were glad to get. He said Gracie seemed contented & happy and this pleased Otis – said, also, that she was learning to Knit.

We have had a little addition to the Corps – two Illinois Regts, but hope for more unless Otis is to be relieved and sent elsewhere, which we sometimes anticipate. The scenery in this region continues to be a source of pleasure. Last evening – before sunset – Otis & I had quite a social ride up along the bank of the River, being alone except orderlies. It is not a disagreeable post here to me or to the General, I think. His bad cold is improving. Our diet is also improving which probably interests me more than Otis or you. We find that some of our old friends fell in Meade's recent fight.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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2010 10/21/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1956

Bridgeport Ala.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[439]

Bridgeport Ala. Oct 21 / 63

Dearest,

Mr Gilbreth is going home for twenty days & will take a message from me to you. We are all well & doing well just at present. Gen Thomas is comdg Army of Cumberland. He is forty miles from us by an open road. We are making roads, bridges, forts, scouting &c but not moving very fast.

I trust Mr Gilbreth will find you all well & happy. Much love & many kisses to all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2011 10/24/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1957

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Cumberland  
Bridgeport

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[434]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Cumberland  
Bridgeport  
Oct 24th 1863 8.25 P.M.

Dearest,

We received a letter written to Chas. and mailed Oct. 16. It has reached here in eight days. I am glad to hear Jamie is so well and you say nothing of Guy's illness, so I presume his fever turn was soon over. "Baby has a little cough" to keep company with papa. I hope neither will last long. This is a cold damp place, more so than Augusta it seems to me. You want me impressed with the necessity of writing often. I ought to write more, but with a multiplicity of things to think of I am apt to procrastinate. I think in the morning I shall have a clearer time at night and vice versa, but I suspect the rebel raid must have hindered some letters I did write from going thro in very good season.

Gen Rosencrans called to see me as he came through & I accompanied him to Stevenson. There I met Gen. Grant who had telegraphed that he would be at this place that night. The telegram came after I left. I returned immediately in his train. He, Gen Meigs and Mr Dana an Asst Secretary of War took tea with me. Gen. Grant was on crutches still. I gave him up my bed and tent, because he was lame & not wholly because he was Gen. U.S. Grant. I liked his appearance better than that of any Major General I have seen. He is modest, quiet and thoughtful. He looks the picture of firmness. He does not drink liquor and never swears. A member of his staff told me he never had used a profane oath. How different from what we had imagined when those stories of Shiloh were being circulated. I rode with him Thursday morning as far as Jasper, giving me a ride of about 24 miles.

I sent out three Regts. To rescue & bring in a Locomotive and two or three cars about ten or eleven miles on the other side the Tenn. and nearer Chattanooga. The regts brought down the engine yesterday on a rough branch road to Shellmound. Just this side a bridge had to be built. This is going to take at least three days. I am feeling a little disappointed for I expected them in tonight and they are so near the rebels that it is rather risky staying out so far. These kind of anxieties are peculiar to the military profession and are sometimes intense. I think sometimes a battle is a relief, for then you know somewhere near where the enemy is & what he is doing.

I am glad Perry Lee & his wife came to visit you. She is very pleasant & I think good. How does Perry get along with one arm? My boots hav'nt come. I heard through Col. Underwood of the 33d Mass that they were done & en route toward Washington. My mended ones do very well and John keeps them bright.

I have a good bright fire in my fireplace and wish you could enjoy it with me. My tablets are before me up high, under them a map of this section with an R.R. map to its right and a R.R. time table to its left. My desk with books & papers to the left of the fire & John's wood pile to the right. I am writing on my knee with clasp to hold my sheet. John is sitting on my bed near the front waiting patiently for me to go to bed.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy – quite a host of little olive branches. I hope they are well and sweetly sleeping tonight. I try to pray for you all, but I feel as though my heart was not as near the Saviour as it once was. "A Father's hand" is on the tablets tonight - passages are Heb. XII 5,6; Ps. CXIX, 75 and Ps. XXXI, 15. The last one - "My times are in thy hands." So they are – God knoweth the future & controleth it.

Harry Stinson is well, goes to carry some rations to hungry men at Shellmound. Chas. is quite well and delighted to get your letter. I expect some changes of organization will take place soon as Gen. Grant has taken hold. I am glad Warren Woodman has got the Cavalry regiment, should like him & it very much out here, but fear it cannot be had. You must write Mrs Woodman & ask her to take up her abode with you. I may do it

yet myself, though home seems pretty far away just now.

God bless you darling & keep you. I hear from Mother thro Dellie's letters. Many kisses to the children.

Lovingly  
Otis

Send me by Lt. Gilbreth a pair of shirts (flannel) 14  $\frac{3}{4}$  in neck and pretty long – a rubber coat (Chas Mulliken's size) and oblige your most loving husband  
Otis

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2012 10/26/1863 *From:* M C Meigs

*To:* Major Gn [OO] Howard

OOH-1958

Chattanooga

Comdg 11th Army Corps  
Bridgeport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[342]

Chattanooga 26 Oct 1863

Major Gn Howard  
Comdg 11th Army Corps  
Bridgeport

General,

I learned that the pontoons were taken for another use. I regret that this help to our transportation had to be denied us.

If the boat is furnished as promised we may certainly use it for a part of the distance at least to Battle Creek if not to the Signal Hill & thus in some degree relieve our overworked & starving mules. The weather the mud & the rocks have nearly taken all the strength out of them. I have sent all the horses of my party except one back to Bridgeport to be fed until better roads enable us to feed them here.

I do not think that Capt Edward's visit to Cincinnati would be of as much service to the U.S. as his remaining at his post. I have telegraphed to Col Swords at Cincinnati to engage at any necessary time & said to <Bucelepus> 25 to 30 carpenters & Boat builders and the general commanding has ordered detail of such mechanics to be made at once for the same work. It is important that the engines be <?aited> by a <> screw & pipe is ready! I understand that the boat launched is to be detained for want of a "piece of pipe" which may have been broken or stolen to serve as stove pipe to some tent.

I congratulate you upon the capture of locomotive & cars. They will be useful before the Bridge is completed & will aid us.

You have no idea of the destruction of the animals in this army. They die daily & few of the horses can move with any vigor. The men are in short rations but have enough for sustenance for the present.

Hoping that you may be successful in every operation against this rebellious horde now beleaguering Chattanooga.

I am truly yours  
M.C. Meigs  
<>

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2013 10/30/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1959

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
General's Office

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[436]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
General's Office  
October 30th 1863

Dearest,

We have passed through another encounter with the enemy and providentially have escaped unharmed. My Corps left Bridgeport, on tuesday the 27th and marched some fifteen or sixteen miles encamped at a place called Whitesides. You can hardly imagine a rougher country – rocks, hills and mountains with deep valleys. We met with coal mines on the top of the high peaks with an arrangement of a car, tramway & rope to let down the coal. Whitesides had a log-house filled one large woman & several children. How poor, how filthy, how ignorant all the people are. You would be horrified at the poverty & dirt. One abandoned house at the Depot was pretty fair. It had two rooms. We had them swept and fires built. With pickets well out and some misgivings about the enemy we had a fair night. The enemy's cavalry were chased as we advanced – took two prisoners.

The next day at daylight we pressed on toward Chattanooga, had to halt to get everything across the mountain into Lookout Valley. Then we marched on, met the enemy's scouts who fled as we drew near. Just after passing Wauhatchee Station the enemy headed us off by an ambush in a thick wood near the base of a mountain spur. Firing was hard on our scouts & pickets. After a short skirmish, in which we had one killed and a few wounded we cleared the wood & marched on. The rebels meanwhile shelling us from Lookout mountain. They fired over & under but they wounded but one man. We went into camp. Gen. Geary of the 12th Corps encamped about 3 ½ miles back.

A little after midnight terrific firing was heard near Gen. Geary and I got my command under arms with instructions to go to the relief of Geary. It was clear & there was a bright moon. We had hardly got the Corps under way before we were fired on from a range of hills or spurs on our left as we marched along. My troops drove the rebels from these hills and opened communication. The rebels were driven from rifle-pits and by the 11th Corps, and we have received high commendation. Col Underwood 33d Mass, Mrs Perry Lee's friend was most seriously wounded. I have seen his beautiful & resolute little wife & daughter, when she visited him at Brooks Station. He has a clear & decided Christian faith. He is a temperate & healthy man & may get well. We had some 15 or 20 killed and 125 wounded. Gen Geary had a hard time, lost his only son & some 300 killed & wounded. God has been good & sparing and given us the victory & we have opened the river from Bridgeport almost to Chattanooga.

Give much love to the children. I have been too hard at work to write you since the battle before this. I have just received two letters written while Jamie was so sick. Via Washington, I got a nice letter from home just before the battle. God bless you & the children.

Lovingly  
Otis

The battle was from 1 a.m. to 3 ½ a.m, Oct. 29, 1863

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2014 11/2/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1960

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley near  
Chattanooga

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[437]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Lookout Valley near Chattanooga  
Nov. 2nd 1863

Dearest,

I will write you just a few lines this morning. I get yr letters very regularly and am most happy to hear from home, though 7 & eight days is a good while. I am happy to know that you are well.

I would give anything to have Col. Woodman come to me with his regiment of Cavalry. Write to Mrs Woodman frankly how much pleasure it would give you to have her stay with you this winter. I think it would tend to relieve the loneliness of both of you.

We were in a state of feverish anxiety last night. The rebels succeeded by rafts & logs in breaking our bridges, thus in cutting us off from Chattanooga. They were also reported moving down the Lookout mountain towards us. My men have worked all night in covering our front. I slept well – am used to alarms, should sleep sounder at home. You ought to see the chicken pen we are now in. Our tents are expected today and I am having a house made for me.

Much love to yourself and the children. Would write more but must get our works done so as to be safe. May God help & strengthen and bless Lizzie, Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy.

Lovingly,  
Otis

P.S. Love to all from Charles.

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2015 11/4/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1961

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

Lookout Valley Tenn.

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[438]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley Tenn.  
November 4th 1863

Dearest,

You perceive by the above date that you have gained a year on me as I am 32 and you 31. I got a good letter from you last night dated Oct 27th. It came to me in seven days, one day better than any preceding letter.

I saw Gen. Baird today. He enquired kindly for you. His wife is in New York. Yes. Gen. Thomas is the same whose wife you met at West Point. He is a man of sterling good qualities. John Willard of Troy is Capt. & on his staff. The Gen. invited me to dine with him any time I could go over to Chattanooga & I promised to do so.

I am very much pleased with Gen. Grant. He doesn't play the great man at all, but goes straight forward about his business. Gen Grant's Head Quarters are also at Chattanooga.

The rebels still occupy Lookout mountain & occasionally throw a shell down into this valley. [Sketch of the region around Lookout mountain & valley, Chattanooga, Raccoon range.] The mountains are very high. I went up Raccoon Mt yesterday in the afternoon, rode part of the way and walked the rest with Gen. Geary. The Gen. (Geary) lost a son in our late action. He talked with me about it yesterday. Said his son had a Mother living.

I have written in behalf of Perry - for invalid Corps. I hope he will get strong as I am. You must not stop to look forward to winter. It will come soon enough and soon be gone. Mr & Mrs Webb have staid in Maine a long time.

I have just got a house built like the one at Bridgeport. The chimney was a little too deep so I had it rendered shallow by a large flat stone. This stone being a peculiar lime stone keeps exploding & sending large flakes over my hearth, carpet, & floor.

Gen Hazen whom you met once at West Point with a lame hand commands a brigade on this side the river. He enquired for Mrs Howard. You must be feeling quite womanly today. I would be glad to be able to pull your ears or pinch your cheeks. Guy & Grace must now find Chattanooga on the map. Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee come so near together here that we hardly know what state we live in. I presume you have seen Mr Gilbreth before this time. He left us at Bridgeport. We shall be glad to see him back. Is it really a fact that Col. Lakeman has been promoted?

Much love & many kisses to all at home. I trust, my darling wife, that another birth day may not find us separated. We should bless God for the pleasing hope of meeting. I cannot forget Col Underwood's resolute & patriotic little wife.

Is Chancy yet well but I fear not. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2016 11/6/1863      *From:* Ella P. H. [Howard]

*To:* My dear sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1962

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[439]

Farmington Nov. 6th 1863

My dear sister Lizzie

We reached home last evening – having enjoyed our trip exceedingly – with the exception of a few days at Milford, in which Rowland was quite sick – but he says he enjoyed those! He took a severe cold, & had quite a high fever for four or five days – nearly all the time we were there.

I found four letters here, with the budget that was awaiting us at the P.O. As to the question of “What shall we wear” - there seems to be as great a variety, as if there were no war in the world. It was very stupid in me not to think that you might have some errands I could do for you. I might have thought to let you know we were going, but I didn't. I wish I had, for I should have liked the fun of buying some of those nice dresses which were entirely beyond my limited purse.

The furs had just begun to be exhibited in the windows, as I came home, but I presume they are pretty high, like everything else. I think the Hudson Bay sable is very handsome. I think Mamma's victorive, by itself, was about \$75 a year ago. I think that was it. Hers is a very handsome one. Those I saw in Boston were about the same styles as have been worn. The Russia is of course more expensive, but I dont think it is a bit handsomer, do you?

In dress goods, bright colors seem to predominate. I saw plaids of all kinds - blue & green are very fashionable, in plaids, & seem to be especially sought after. I saw a great many plain colors, in poplins – or ottomans – I dont know the difference, which were elegant, some of them 2 ½ & 3 dollars a yard. Some of the handsomest blue & green plaids were as high as that – but they were double width, of course. Mamma got a very pretty one for Hattie, [single width was crossed out] (I forget) for 1.50.

O there are lots of pretty things, if you only have the money for them!

Sarah did not go with Perry & Lizzie. I have not seen her since we came home, but saw Frankie this morning. Dadie stayed at Bath while I was away. He was a very good boy I believe. He has got into Jamie's way of clipping his name, & calls himself “Da”, entirely. He acquired that while I was gone. I am glad Jamie is getting along so nicely. Dear little fellow. Lizzie Lee told me how pale & thin he was. She was delighted with her visit at Augusta. We didn't see Perry – he had gone to Washington. The Sunday we were at Milford, Rowland was not able to go out to church at all. The Sabbath before, he preached at New Bedford. He would send much love to you if he were here. He has a meeting over the river tonight.

We had a letter from Charles tonight, written after their victory, by which he seems very much elated. I am so thankful for their success.

How is Mrs Clark now? I do hope she will be well this winter & you wont have too much care. I wish I could see you oftener, & I am so sorry I was so stupid, before I went to Boston.

Good night.  
Ella P. H.

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2017 11/7/1863 *From:* Catharina Mueller

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-1963

Philadelphia

Commanding 11th Army  
Corps  
Cumberland Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

Major General Howard  
Commanding 11th Army Corps  
Cumberland Army

Philadelphia Novbr 7, 1863

Dear Sir,

The petition of the undersigned respectfully represents to you the following

I the undersigned Catherina Mueller am the legal wife of Herrman Mueller a member of the 54th New York Regiment. The said Herrman Mueller deserted me on the 16th of June 1860 taking with him my whole property of \$200 which I had saved by many years hard labor. He subsequently enlisted in the above named regiment and since the time of his leaving me has never provided for my support or even sent me a word of notice of his whereabouts until I was informed by a friend who served in the same regiment that my husband enlisted therein. Some four months after his desertion I had a little daughter born, for whom he is also in duty bound to provide for. I am a poor unfortunate woman, not acquainted with the course of law and unable to prosecute my husband in his position wherein he is now situated. I have no other means left as to appeal to your heart and feelings, to have my husband the above named Herrman Mueller compelled to provide for me & my child or at least to make him pay a reasonable part of his salaries as I am in the greatest need, have nobody to help me and besides I am compelled to support my aged and infirm mother.

Dear General, by aiding me in my helpless situation you will do a great deal of good to a poor deserted woman & child and I therefore sincerely hope that this letter will not be received unfavorable by you.

I am Sir most respectfully

Your humble servant  
Catharina Mueller  
(her X mark)

My address is  
Catharina Mueller  
care of Mrs Wulfe No. 220 Rare Str.  
Philadelphia Pa.

[Written upside down on the last page of the letter in another hand.]  
Letter from Mrs Mueller asks that her husband Prv. 54th N.Y. be compelled to support her.

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2018 11/9/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1964

Lookout Valley, Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[410]

Lookout Valley, Tenn.  
November 9 1863

Dearest,

Yesterday was sunday and my birthday. At sunrise I was wakened by the 33d Band playing "sounds from home".

I visited Col Underwood yesterday. He is cheerful & I hope he may yet live, his father & father-in-law were with him. They dined with me yesterday - are from the home of Perry's wife. I carried him a copy of my tablets for the day - which Chas. had prepared to send to Mother. Selections are - Rom. 5-8, John 3-16 & Num 8-32 and Ps. 103 and 1 John 4. He was much pleased. A clerk had printed them in large hand.

At four P.M. we had services here. Chaplain of 33d N. Jersey preached. I said a few words after he was done, expressing my interest in the men & my hope, that they might each be able to say with Col Underwood, if I die it will be "All right" with me. The band was present and played some excellent hymns. I had a pleasant surprise just before dinner. My staff nicely dressed with [out] giving me any warning came in a body & Col Asmussen made a short congratulatory speech to me, in behalf of the rest, because it was my birth-day. I tried to reply & thank them for their uniform attention to duty & aid to me.

We have had a hard struggle to get forage & rations but are now doing better.

My birth day passed pleasantly but would have suited me better if I could have suspended all work. I did so at 4 P.M.

Give much love to all the darling little ones. I sympathize with Guy in suspenders & pants & jacket. It is almost equal to new boots. Will Grace get to long dresses before papa gets home? I hope not. Is Jamie getting strong & athletic? May God bless & keep you as ever. I am now quite well & so is Charles.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2019 11/11/1863 *From:* Robt. Hubbard

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Actng  
Med. Director  
11th Corps

OOH-1965

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of the Medical  
Director,  
Eleventh Corps, Army  
of the Cumberland  
Lookout Valley

Comnd'g 11th Corps  
Army of the Cumberland

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[24]

Office of the Medical Director,  
Eleventh Corps, Army of the Cumberland  
Lookout Valley Nov. 11th 1863.

General:

Having suffered from illness since the middle of July 1863 which I fear has become chronic, and believing that a radical change of all the unfavorable circumstances which surround me in the Service, for a protracted period of time, necessary to restore me to health, I have concluded to offer, through my regiment, my resignation as soon as I can make the requisite adjustment of my business affairs with the different Departments of the Government. I therefore respectfully request the Commanding General to relieve me from my present duties as Acting Medical Director of the Corps as soon as the office can be satisfactorily filled.

A grateful sense of obligation to the Commanding General and my associate members of his Staff for the Complimentary and Courteous treatment which I have uniformly received from them all has induced me long to defer taking any steps towards dissolving such honorable and to me agreeable relations. With sincere thanks for the many acts of personal kindness I have received at your hands, and heartfelt wishes for your success and happiness I remain

Very respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servt  
Robt. Hubbard Actng  
Med. Director  
11th Corps

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comnd'g 11th Corps  
Army of the Cumberland

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2020 11/12/1863 *From:* Papa [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear boy [Guy Howard]

OOH-1966

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn.

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[441]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn. Nov. 12, 1863

My dear boy

I have just received a letter from Mamma. She says Guy has improved in reading. I am glad to hear this for a poor reader seems like a poor scholar. In this part of the country I have not met a little boy who can read or write. There are no school houses. Hardly any of the grown up people can read. They make their mark, thus: "William (his X mark) Wilson" The man makes only the cross; Somebody else writes the name.

From the high mountain the rebels throw shells down every day with their guns: only one or two have done us any harm. They fire at us in the morning and at Chattanooga in the afternoon. [Sketch of Chattanooga, Lookout Mt., Tenn. R., Lookout Creek, Papas troops]

Papa has had a chimney built of stone and has had a house built like the one at Bridgeport. [Sketch of his house.] A tent in front a log basement and a tent fly for a roof. The weather is very warm in the day but very cold at night. John wraps me up in my Guniacca robe at night, tucks in my feet with an overcoat and if I am cold he puts my dressing gown over my shoulders. He takes his place on the floor with his overcoat and blankets near the fire, and as he says makes one sleep i.e. does not wake till morning unless I wake him.

How is Grace since she came home from Leeds. Were you glad to see her back? You must all have been happy to see Jamie getting well. How is he now? The same happy little boy that papa carried up high on his neck and that John put on the top of the door?

I went to Chattanooga today with Gen. Hooker, saw Gen Thomas who now commands this Army called "The army of the Cumberland". Gen. Bragg commands the rebel army opposite us. We are now making corduroy roads. As soon as it rains here the roads get very muddy and our big army wagons make deep ruts and mud holes so that in a little while the road becomes almost if not quite impassible. Corduroy roads are made thus: [sketch of a section showing the construction] like a bridge only it is a very long bridge and there is no water under the great part of it.

Give much love to Mamma, Grace, Jamie, and Chancy and keep not a little for yourself. Pray for papa in real earnest that God will help him to do what is right. Uncle Charles has gone to Bridgeport, will be back tomorrow. I am sorry Mrs Stinson is sick.

Lovingly  
Papa

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2021 11/12/1863 *From:* S. P. Lee [Samuel  
Perry Lee]

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1967

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[25]

Washington Novr 12th 1863

My dear Cousin

I have been here ten days. Am waiting the result of my application for an appointment in the Invalid Corps. I  
enclose Gen Meades report. Lizzie is in Milford. All well. With love to Charles.

Your affectionate Cousin  
S. P. Lee [Samuel Perry Lee]

[Written on the back page, in the same hand.]

I have got my appointment as major in the invalid corps and am assigned to duty in Washington.

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Maj Lee  
Nov. 12 1863

Letter from Maj Lee  
Washington Nov. 12 1863

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2022 11/13/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1968

Head Quarters -  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[442]

Head Quarters - Lookout Valley  
Nov. 13. 1863

Dearest,

I wrote to Guy yesterday. I doubt if I will be able to write you every day and I am afraid it would not be good policy for as soon as there was a march there would be an interruption hard to account for. Gen. Meigs paid me a brief and pleasant visit today. Gen Smith W.S. visited me last evening and staid all night. He was in Sill's, Shunk & Bogg's class at West Point [See Note]. He has been assigned as Chief of Cavalry for Gen. Grant. He used to attend Prof. Sprole's bible class with me. He said he had to leave his wife three day's before her death near the beginning of the war. He is married again.

Charles came back from Bridgeport today. On his way down, he found the steamer gone when he reached Kelly's ferry and so with another Major and a clerk he paddled down the river in a canoe thirty miles. The canoe is called a 'Dugout' and is very narrow & ticklish. [Sketch of 3 people in a canoe] When they came to meet the steamer which they did after dark, Charles says the waves were terrific for his narrow boat. All had to sit in one position during the passage. I am glad I didn't know anything about it till he returned.

We are just getting the Newspaper accounts of our engagement during the night of the 28th & 29th ult. The New York Herald of the 6th inst has a map & quite a detailed recital. I will enclose you a brief one from the Louisville Journal which is mainly correct.

One of my Cadet pupils came to see me today - Lieut Twining. Lt Wharton of the Engineers of J.A. Smith's class was with him. Rabb died on reaching New Orleans soon after graduation.

Chas. got a long letter from John Wier today, very good and characteristic.

Quite goodly numbers of rebel deserters come within our lines every day. I wish they would come in larger bodies. Nothing but pride keeps the Tennesseans back. This coupled with the fear that we will put them into our ranks.

Gen Hardee now commands Gen Polk's Corps right opposite me. A part of his troops are on the top of Lookout Mt. It seems singular that we should be thus vis-a-vis, dont it? Where think the young ladies are. They are probably very strong rebels. I heard somewhere that Miss <Dumounth> had become so.

I suppose you are quietly asleep now and I hope are well. Are you going to West Point to have the baby christened? I would'nt have any objection to Mr. French baptizing him, though I think Mr McKenzie would do very well.

Give a kiss to them all, the little ones, and may the time be hastened when I shall see you all again.

Dellie wrote Charles a very good letter which he received today. Dellie thinks his uncle Oaks Ames may wish to employ him this winter, but is not certain, says father never felt so poor as he does now.

Mr Gilbreth's time is out but he is not back yet, we are looking for him. He writes that his foot still troubles him.

With my best love & a prayer that God will bless & keep you I will close,

Your loving husband  
Otis

[Note. Joshua W. Sill, William R. Boggs, Francis J. Shunk and William S. Smith graduated 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th,

respectfully, in the West Point class of 1853.]

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2023 11/15/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1969

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

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[443]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley November 15 1863

Dearest,

I have not received a letter from you since I last wrote, but Lt. Gilbreth writes that you are all well. He seems to have stretched his leave beyond the twenty days. I got a rumor, I think thro. Capt. Stinson that Mr Gilbreth was going to bring me a bundle. Perhaps you are sending me a pair of shirts. I would'nt object. I will take mine which have grown small and short sleeved as under & use the new ones for over. My boots, which Mrs Lizzie Lee's uncle made for me went to Washington and have'nt yet returned. We have few incidents to vary the monotony of military stand still.

The rebels keep hurling shells down into this valley at our trains and Camps. They can see us better in the morning when the sun is at their backs. They turn round and shell Chattanooga in the afternoon. One poor man in the 101st Ill. was hit this a.m. and lost his arm. Today is sunday and we are to have services at the hospital at 4 P.M. and I must now suspend writing to go.

Evening. 7 ½ P.M.

Col. Balloch, Capt Pearson, Capt. Stinson, Dr. Hubbard and Charles accompanied me. My orderly took a basket of grapes and we rode about a mile to the Hospital. We found the religious [added in red] services in progress already when we arrived. The poor sick ones who could leave their beds had gathered near the largest hospital and had their hats off reverently while the Chaplain was praying. The Sick inside the tents could hear as canvass obstructs the sound very little. We sang a hymn and then the chaplain preached a Sermon about giving our bodies & spirits a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God. He gave many earnest appeals and I think left a good impression on the men and officers present.

While he was speaking the rebels made themselves heard by an occasional shell from Lookout mountain. The 33d Massachusetts band came up and, as soon as the sermon was over, struck up some familiar hymns and airs that were sweet and cheering. As I went thro. the hospital I asked the men if they liked the music. "Oh, yes, I wish they'd play often" was the burden of the response.

After going to see all the sick, who were confined to their beds, Capt. Stinson and I took a trip along the lines, so that I could point out to him where I wanted work done early in the morning.

I hope Mrs Stinson is well again. A military sunday at the best is not so good as one at home. I suspended work today on the Works and also on the roads. The rebels are making a little show of force in our front but I do not think they are going to attack us. If they will be kind enough to wait a day or longer, I would'nt care so much if they did attack us for they would be likely to miss by it.

Col. Underwood 33d Mass. left two days ago. He was carried to Kelly's ferry by his men. I saw him after he reached that point 4 ms. from here. He bore <his journey [added in red]> well, but he has a dreadful wound and I am afraid he will not get well. He said to me he was very happy. Christ was with him all the time. He should ever call me his friend. His father a man about 60 is one of noble specimens of a New England business man with a good head and a tender heart. His father-in-law Mr. Walker looks like Lt. Col Sampson 3d Me. They two took care of him & will bear him to his wife. She was telegraphed to, to come on as far as Nashville. It will be very delightful to him to see her. She is a beautiful little woman. She had a little daughter with her when she visited him at Brook's station.

Our battle lost but few but they were a noble few. Capt Buckwalter of 73d Ohio was as handsome a young man as I ever saw. He graduated at a college before the war at the head of his class. I have heard of his mother and that it will be very, very hard for her to bear his death. How often is the same sad tale told. My son, my brother, my husband killed in battle? I trust the drama is drawing to a close, though I fear many more just such

sacrifices before the end. I wish you knew the different members of my staff. You would like Col. Meysenburg very much. He is modest & dignified. Dr Hubbard is so true a man that you would confide in him without question. Col Asmussen doesn't strike the ladies favorably. He deals with men and knows how to make them move. Col. Balloch is rough and kind & true as steel. Capt Skofield my Provost Marshall says he has administered the Oath of Allegiance to Eighty five persons and only one could write the name.

I have got almost to the bottom of my page. Give much love to the children. I propose to write my very next letter to Gracie. Does Jamie begin to look for any letters from papa yet. I must hurry home or I will not have a chance to enjoy Chancy's babyhood, and then you are getting so aged – 31. Why it seems but a little time since you were a bride. My kind regards to Mrs Clark and Lottie. Pray for me darling that I may be pure and wise.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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2024 11/17/1863 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1970

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
(Lookout valley)

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[432]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
November 17th (Lookout valley) 1863

My dear little daughter,

I wrote Guy and then Mamma and ceased with a promise that you should have the next letter. I am glad you had so nice a time with Grandma. I wish I was near enough so that you could pay me a visit.

There are a great many children living in this Valley, but none of them can read & write. I told a boy 12 years of age that he ought to learn, and asked John to teach him. His name is Philip. Philip came last evening and received one lesson. He did know his letters. I should like to have him and his two smaller brothers come and see me often if they had not such dreadfully dirty hands, feet, faces and clothes. Peter's hair was never combed and is so matted & faded that it looks like an old faded cloth cap.

"Bill" played all day on Saturday without anything on but one under garment. Today Bill & Peter were playing with our grindstone when Peter hit the crank against Bill's head and made him cry. Soon Bill hit Peter and he began to cry. Bill is about as big as Guy & Peter a fat boy is somewhat smaller. Bill declared he would kill Peter. I asked him, if I should give him an axe or a bayonet.

Sometimes I hear these very dirty little boys singing with a beautiful clear voice and ringing out a sound like the hounds in pursuit of a fox: then they have a kind of Indian War hoop that I cannot imitate. Sunday I carried these two boys a book a piece and found there quite a bright looking little girl. The people here are all very poor and very ignorant. The men are most all gone in the rebel army, the women & children are here poor, and very dirty. Their homes are made of logs with large cracks and their chimneys made at the end of the house of logs & sticks, made so large that the fire does not burn them or they are lined with mud.

All this poverty and wretchedness comes from slavery – white people dont like to work, it is not honorable, and they are too poor to buy negroes. The rebel army came here first and then ours, and it was almost impossible to bring corn & hay, so that they both took away much of the corn these poor people had and they had nothing else or almost nothing else. Now we have to feed them with our bread. John has been making him a little log house today. It looks like a long crib with a canvass top.

Uncle Charlie sends his love to Grace, says he wishes he had her down here to teach these little folks how to keep their faces clean and how to read. Give much love to Mamma, Guy, Jamie and Chancey. Dont forget Mrs. Clark and Lottie.

From you affectionate father  
O.O. Howard

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2025 11/17/1863 *From:* Orland Smith  
Col & Corps Off. of  
the <>

*To:* Lt. Col C.H. Asmussen  
Chief of Staff

OOH-1971

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd Qrs 2d Brig 2d Div  
11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

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[26]

Hd Qrs 2d Brig 2d Div 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley 11.45 P.M. Nov 17 / 63

Colonel:

Our Pickets all concur in the opinion that no gun has been fired from Lookout mountain tonight. They say the gun fired a short time since was from the direction of Chattanooga and the general impression is that it was from Moccasin Point.

One Sentinel felt sure it was fired at a Signal which he says was working on the point of Lookout at the time.

They report the Signal Station as having been pretty active all the evening, but no unusual camp fires neither any movement seen or heard. I have directed those Outposts nearest my Hd. Qrs. to instruct their Sentinels to report to them if any thing unusual shall be observed and the report to be forwarded to me. Should any be received worthy of notice I will advise you at once.

Very Respectfully  
Orland Smith  
Col & Corps Off. of the <>

Lt. Col C.W. Asmussen  
Chief of Staff

[Written on the back in another hand.]

Letter from Col. Orland Smith relative to firing from Lookout &c.

Nov 6 1863 [This date does not agree with the date at the beginning of the letter.]

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**2026 11/18/1863** *From:* U.S. Grant  
Maj. Gen'l. U.S.A.  
Com'dg  
Headquarters Mil. Div.  
of the Miss.  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

*To:* Maj. Gen. Geo. H.  
Thomas  
Com'dg. Dep't & Army of the  
Cumberland

OOH-1972  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27]

Confidential

Headquarters Mil. Div. of the Miss.  
Chattanooga, Tenn. Nov. 18 1863.

Maj. Gen. Geo. H. Thomas.  
Com'dg. Dep't & Army of the Cumberland

General:

All preparations should be made for attacking the enemy's position on Missionary ridge, by Saturday morning at daylight. Not being provided with a map giving names of roads, spurs of the mountain and other places, such definite instructions cannot be given as might be desirable.

However, the general plan you understand is for Sherman with the force brought with him strengthened by a Division from your command to effect a crossing of the Tenn. River just below the mouth of the Chickamauga; his crossing to be protected by artillery from the heights on the north side of the river (to be located by your Chief of Artillery) and to carry the heights from the Northern extremities to about the Rail Road tunnel before the enemy can concentrate a force against him.

You will co-operate with Sherman. The troops in Chattanooga valley should be well concentrated on your left flank, leaving only the necessary force to defend fortifications on the right and centre, and a movable column of one Division in readiness to move wherever ordered.

This Division should show itself as threateningly as possible on the most practicable line for making an attack up the valley.

Your effort then will be to form a junction with Sherman, making your advance well towards the north end of missionary ridge, and moving as near simultaneously as possible.

The junction once formed and the ridge carried communications will be at once established between the two Armies by roads on the south bank of the river. Further movements will then depend on those of the enemy.

Lookout Valley I think will be easily held by Geary's Division and what troops you may still have there belonging to the old Army of the Cumberland. Howard's Corps can then be held in readiness to act either with you at Chattanooga or with Sherman. It should be marched on Friday night to a position on the north side of the river not lower down than the first pontoon bridge, and then held in readiness for such orders as may become necessary.

All the troops will be provided with two days cooked rations in their haversacks and one hundred rounds of ammunition on the person of each Infantry soldier.

Special care should be taken by all officers to see that ammunition is not wasted or unnecessarily fired away.

You will call on the Engineering Dep't. for such preparations as you may deem necessary for crossing your Infantry and Artillery over Cities Creek.

I am, Gen'l, very respectfully,  
Your ob't. Serv't.

(sd) U.S. Grant  
Maj. Gen'l. U.S.A. Com'dg

[Written in red ink]  
Hd Qrs 11th & 12th Corps Nov 20 1863  
Official Copy  
/s/ <HA Pudid>  
A.A.A.G.

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2027 11/20/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1973

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[445]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley  
Nov. 20 1863

Dearest

I sat down this evening to write you, but Col Orland Smith came in and we have had quite a long talk. The plan had been to attack the enemy tomorrow morning, but Sherman's troops had not all arrived on acct of bad roads, so the work is postponed. It is now raining steadily. Bragg may attack, may retreat, but if there is no insurmountable hindrance I shall expect a great battle before this reaches you. I trust God will give us strength to do our duty to our country and that effectually at this time. This blow is necessary, Gen Longstreet has gone after Gen Burnside. I hope he (Burnside) may be aided by every possible circumstance & kind providence.

I have been in Chattanooga nearly all day, looking at the country, works, rebel positions &c. Met Gen. Sheridan, whom I knew as a Cadet, Gens. Palmer, Granger, Baird and others. Baird seems very kind & attentive to me. We had a pleasant chat. He asks for you & the Children. Willie is quite a boy. Mrs Baird I think is in Washington. I saw Capt Merrill, whom you knew as a cadet. Gen. Thomas is a most excellent man and I trust will do well by us. Charles likes his imperturbability.

Dellie writes from Lewiston, Rowland from Farmington. It is now the 18th day since I have heard from you. I mean your last letter was dated Nov 2nd. I am expecting the next mail will bring me several.

I am not worried because of the want of System that pervades every department or I should say did so – for Gen. Grant, Thomas & others are setting things to rights as fast as possible.

Give much love from papa to Guy, Grace, Jamie and Chancy, and not a little to your self darling. I should be very happy to be at home tonight but that plan is a long way off.

Some rebel letters were thrown across the lines tonight & open – one from a Capt to his lady love & the other from a soldier to his mother. As there was no harm in them I sealed them & sent them on. Poor fellows, how many of them long for the war over & for home. Many have come in lately & given themselves up.

May God bless and protect you and the Children. Pray for me that I may rise above all temptations to evil. I hope you are well.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2028 11/22/1863 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1974

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[416]

Leeds Nov 22, 1863

My dear daughter,

I have been thinking for sometime, & wished Lizzie and Gracie would find time to drop me a line or two to let me know of their general welfare. I imagine you caring for first one and then another, but thinking all the time that all the family are well, or in some way, I should hear of their sickness. I received a letter from Charles and Otis to day. Otis did not write any, but I had news from both. It was written on Otis birth day. He mentions the pleasant attentions received from his friends that day. You recollect the 8th was on the Sabbath. I wish you were here to read Charles letter. He had the texts that Otis prepared for the day, copied and sent them in the letter. On the whole, it was a pleasant and satisfactory letter to me. It had been written two weeks when I received it.

This is Mr Gilmore's birth day 22nd of Nov, seventy three years, 73 years old. His health is good. He has done quite an amount of labor this autumn, went out to the circle with me two weeks ago to Mr Francis Lothrop's. I think he miss'd Grace's lively happy ways as much as any of us.

We were really very lonely after she left us. How is she? Happy I hope. Is Jamie as well as he was before his sickness. How is baby? Growing fat all the time, and Guy is his health good and is he contributing his share in helping his mother taking care of his little Brothers?

I have been out to the funeral of Mrs Sumner's youngest son of ten years 10 years, who has died of dyptheria after struggling with it two weeks, the youngest of four sons, 4 sons.

Oscar in just now says he is going to Augusta next week and take Bell with him. I shall hear from you when she returns. Bell is a good Christian. What a place she has got into, but I hope she may yet be the means in Gods hands of much good in that family. Tell Grace tis but a few days since I finished taking down her play house. How is Mrs Clark's health and how is Lottie's at this time, and is Mrs Woodman with you yet? I heard from Farmington last monday. All pretty well. I dont know when we shall be able to get there again. The rains have injured the railroad track so much between Livermore Falls and Farmington. The cars only run to Livermore Falls at present.

Dellie left home a few days after his return from Augusta. We shall expect him home Thanksgiving day. I wish I could say the same of some other of my sons. Rowland preaches on that day, and where are Otis and Charles? I wish you could step in with your family on that day, and take a slice of Grandpa's doblers as Gracie was wont to call them, but if they are all in good health I will try to be content.

Warren Mower's youngest daughter is in bad health so we shall not expect any one from there at thanksgiving. We have no services at the centre on thanksgiving day, but at the Union Chappel there is one, at North Leeds.

Give much love to Grace and each one of your family individually. Do drop me a line to let me know how you are and when you hear from Otis.

From your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

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2029 11/22/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1975

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[447]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Nov. 22nd 1863

Dearest,

Mr Gilbreth has returned with this good letter which I have before me, bringing those nice shirts which John says you must have made. He knows it. John has no confidence in my shopping ability, since I got a pr of pants which burst out the first time I wore them, and he discovered a hole in my bran new hat. I assured him that I bought the hat that Tullahoma [Tennessee] afforded, in fact about all there was. Yet he is not quite satisfied.

I got a letter last night written Nov 12th. It got here before Mr Gilbreth. He says Jamie is the handsomest boy he ever saw. May God who has spared him to us make him good and noble. Guy was last seen by Mr Gilbreth having a fun time snow-balling. Tell Grace the leave may be near or far, papa cant tell – he only knows it is a good way home.

You will have heard about a great battle here before this reaches you. I trust all will be well. God grant that there be not many more of them. Oh, that he might be able to give us the victory & fulfill his purposes in us. The battle starts with us in reserve, probably tomorrow morning, but I have no expectancy of long remaining so. When on the eve of battle I long for a more complete reliance on God. I should like to be able to see you and Guy and Grace & Jamie and little Chancy this morning but I presume you might all cry and then the meeting would not be so happy.

Charlie is very well & so is Capt. Stinson. May a Gentle Saviour <enrobe> you with his Love, and my children all be the servants of God. Be strong in the Lord.

I enclose \$200.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

P.S. Charlie is pleased with his present. Perry is Major in the Invalid Corps.

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2030 11/25/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1976

Chattanooga Tenn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[418]

Chattanooga Tenn.  
Nov. 25th 1863 3-35 a.m.

Dearest,

We have passed thro the fatigues of another extended engagement. The battle began yesterday about one P.M. and has been more or less continuous. My Corps was brought over from Lookout Valley sunday afternoon. Gen Granger made yesterday what was intended as a reconnaissance in force. I was ready to support him. His troops formed as if for a drill right in plain sight of the enemy and then moved towards Missionary ridge, pressing the rebels back over a half mile. Then Gen. Grant resolved to keep what he had got. I formed on Granger's left & was engaged with skirmishers till night. Gen Sherman crossed his Command above us and got upon the crest of Missionary Ridge about four or five miles from my left. I pushed those on the river and formed a junction with him yesterday about noon. Meanwhile Gen Hooker with Geary's Div'n and some of Sherman's who could'nt get over for the breaking of the bridge & some of the guards located below, moved up the nose of Lookout Mt. following right around on to the east face, fighting & taking prisoners. We are all to take the initiation this morning at daylight. I trust a good Providence is with us this time.

I am quite well, nobody hurt on my staff. Stinson & Meysenburg had each a horse wounded while riding with me. Gens. Grant & Thomas are men of the strictest integrity & God is blessing them. I commit you & our precious children into his hands.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

I sent you \$200 in my last.

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2031 11/28/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1977

Hd Qrs 11th Corps  
Parkers Gap –near  
Ringold Georgia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[458]

Hd Qrs 11th Corps  
Parkers Gap – near Ringold Georgia  
28th Nov / 63

Dearest,

By the divine blessing, we have had an extensive victory. Myself and Staff are well. Col Meysenburg, Maj Howard & Capt. Stinson had each a horse wounded under him. Tuesday & Wednesday a part of my Corps was engaged. Thursday I had a column, a Division being added to me - Gen. I. G. Davis – a fine officer.

Oh, how tired we have been. Charlie is almost used up, but our victory worth all our pains.

Much love to yourself and all the little ones.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2032 11/30/1863 *From:* C.H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-1978

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[341/28]

Augusta November 30th 1863  
Monday A.M.

Dear Friend Howard,

Your very welcome letter was received a few days since and although it found me at the House sick – (It is now almost five weeks since I have been out) I think I still more appreciated it. I got a very correct idea of your position & the army under Grant with your letter & plan and Colton's large Atlas, a copy of which I refer to often in connection with the movements of the army. It must have been an exciting and severe conflict when the enemy were forced from their entrenchments and driven across Lookout Creek. I felt for you all over when I read your account as I have done many times before in like stirring scenes and my prayers to our Heavenly Father have been to preserve and take care of you amid all trials and dangers for I have always felt a brothers interest in your welfare and success.

I am glad you like both Genls Grant & Thomas the former I have from the first entertained the highest respect for, and a person in his position should be above the common vices although I knew nothing of his private character before. He certainly has seemed to fill fully his illustrious predecessors position and the latest accounts confirm it. What a splendid victory, 7000 prisoners and 60 cannon taken, besides giving us the country and opening it to the benefit of the inhabitants & ourselves as well as the deprivation of it to the enemy. May this continue until the Rebels cry for peace from South Carolina to Texas. Bye the way has'nt Genl Banks done a fine thing the landing at the mouth of the Rio Grande River and the taking of Brownsville & other places as well as a large amount of Cotton at the same time it stops all that contraband trade between Texas & Mexico which has been enormous, probably more cotton smuggled off this way than all others included from every port. Then again the Loyal people of Texas I trust will flock to his support particularly if they feel confident his forces are to remain there as a protection in the future.

Well Oliver I was real glad to hear from you and wish you would write me as often as you can find time. I have been very busy the past summer & fall as business has been quite good, but Henry has been sick longer than I have and is still in the house except that at noon when it is bright & warm he rides out a short distance. Jonny goes out this A.M. to School but he has had two weeks sickness in the House, so you can judge that for the last five weeks Mrs Mulliken has had a very hard time, with us all, however she is quite nicely and wishes to be remembered to you as well as My Father Sister & dear Jonny. We often speak of you, and occasionally see Mrs Howard & the children although she is quite a home body. Remember me kindly to your Brother and believe me

Sincerely your friend  
C.H. Mulliken

P.S. I really have but little home news to write you not being out doors of course I do not hear local matters as I should if about every day. Mrs M has now gone over to your house to enquire of yours which I will add when she returns. Later - your wife & family are nicely.

Ever yours  
C.H. Mulliken  
Nov 30 1863

[Written on the last page in another hand.]  
Letter from Chas. Mulliken

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2033 12/4/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]    *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1979                      Headquarters Eleventh  
*Source:* Bowdoin              Corps,  
   Loudon East Tenn.

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[430]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Loudon East Tenn. Dec. 4 1863

Dearest,

I dont know when this will ever reach you. After reaching Parker's gap & breaking the Cleveland & Dalton R.R. we turned to the left and marched on up here.

Sunday Dec 6th  
I was interrupted.

friday.  
friday night we made a bridge with Rebel Wagons 75 feet long across the little Tenn. Crossed the river and marched to this place yesterday. Longstreet is retreating & Burnside relieved from siege. I have just got a letter from him.

We are all well. I fear you have been much worried, for I have been for over a week without any communication, marching & marching. God has blessed us in spite of our unworthiness. May He give you & our children his constant blessing.

I am stopping with a house full of beautiful little children - at Mr Foster's. He is away with our army at Kingston, a strong Union man. Almost all the people of East Tenn. are strong, unconditional union men. They put to shame our Copperheads.

Goodbye. I shall try to get this off from Knoxville.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2034 12/4/1863    *From:* J. G. Blaine

*To:* To the Editor of the  
Evening Post

OOH-1980

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[29]

Major-General Howard

Washington, D.C. Dec. 4th 1863.

To the Editor of the Evening Post

Sir: In your issue of Monday last I read with equal surprise and regret, an article headed "The Eleventh Army Corps, and its General" in referring to its participation, in the recent battle at Chattanooga you use the following language.

"We rejoice over the redemption of the Eleventh Corps. Its disgrace was a sad thought to everybody who had the honor of our arms at heart. That the Corps is now trustworthy, is proof that its demoralization was the fault, not of the men themselves, but of the officers under whose command they were. We are glad that to General Hooker belongs the credit of restoring this lost Corps to the confidence of the country".

You can hardly say too much in praise of Genl Hooker, whom all loyal men regard as among the most gallant, dashing and heroic leaders of our Army. But in praising Genl Hooker there is certainly no occasion for aspersing, even indirectly, the well earned and brilliant fame of other officers. You seem to have entirely forgotten – you certainly failed to mention – the important fact that, the immediate commander of the Eleventh Corps, at the time of its misfortune at Chancellorsville, and at the time of its magnificent feat of arms on the summit of Lookout Mountain, was one and the same man – Major-Genl. Oliver O. Howard. In both of these battles General Hooker was General Howard's superior officer, and it has never been alleged that General Howard failed to obey orders in either place. I think the Evening Post, is the first respectable paper that has even intimated that General Howard was at fault for the repulse of his Corps at Chancellorsville. He has in his possession the documents to vindicate his conduct as a military commander on that field, and may make them public when he can do so without injury to the service.

The gallant part borne by the Eleventh Corps in the battle of Gettysburg is entirely ignored by you. The fierce rebel assaults on Cemetery Hill – the key to Meade's position – were repulsed by Howard's command with a bravery and skill which won universal praise, and at the close of that bloody contest the Eleventh Corps had fought its way to the gratitude and admiration of all loyal hearts. The Corps went to Chattanooga, therefore, under its gallant young leader, with the glory of Gettysburg and not the failure of Chancellorsville inscribed on its banners. After the battle of Gettysburg, the President of the United States was pleased to send General Howard an autograph letter of thanks and congratulation for his consummate generalship on that field – a letter which the young hero's modesty has thus far kept from the public eye. And last August, in an address before the Alumni of Waterville College, Vice President Hamlin, speaking the opinion of two of the most gallant Generals who fought at Gettysburg, declared that when the history of that battle should be truthfully written the great victory would be ascribed, so far as it could be ascribed to one man, to the heroic firmness with which Howard, with his Eleventh Corps, held Cemetery Hill.

I ask the insertion of this letter because General Howard's fame is dear not only to the Country, but especially to his native state, which I have the honor in part to represent. He is my immediate constituent, my fellow townsman, my friend. He has attained at thirty three years of age, the eminent rank of Major-General, with the command of an Army Corps. He is an able, loyal, brave, Christian General, and I venture to say of him in the language of another, that at the close of this war, "Few will leave a more splendid, and none a more stainless name."

Very Respectfully Yours  
J. G. Blaine

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Letter to N.Y. Evening Post by J.G. Blaine

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2035 12/5/1863

*From:* S N Sherman  
Surg. US Vols

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1981

U.S. General Hospit'l  
Grafton, W.Va.

11th Army Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[176]

U.S. General Hospit'l Grafton, W.Va.  
Dec 5th, 1863

To  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard, 11th Army Corps  
My dear Genl:

Will you allow me to introduce to your acquaintance my brother, M.G. Sherman, Surg in charge of the 3rd Brig, 2d Division, 24th Army Corps. He is a dear brother to me; a son of New England, and has as brave and patriotic a heart, as ever throbb'd under a military uniform. Any courtesy you may extend to him, will lay me under renewed obligations, and will be as warmly appreciated, as if extended to me.

I am Genl.  
Very truly, your Friend,  
S N Sherman,  
Surg. US Vols

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2036 12/5/1863    *From:* Laura B Otis

*To:* Dear Cousin Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1982

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

Leeds Dec 5 1863

Dear Cousin Otis

I received a letter from my cousin Louise last evening. She was very anxious for me to write and enquire if the 44 Indiana Reg was there. She has heard that her husband is Col of that Reg. She is going to try get something. I dont think there is any use in her trying to find his whereabouts, but to please her I thought I would write to you., and when Charles writes to his Mother let him write if you can find out any thing who the Col is, if it is there. I cant tell you the particulars now but when I see you I will.

I am writing this in a hurry for my little boy is setting in his high chair at my side fretting for me to take him. It is almost conference time & want to give this to your Mother to put in one of her letters to Charles. I hear from you by the way of your Mother. Oh may you both be spared to her and your dear family is my earnest prayer.

When it comes good sleighing I am going to Augusta to compare babies. Mine has grown to be a great fat boy I think most as big as yours. He is just as good a boy as need to be.

We are having some very interesting prayer meetings. Four have joined the church. Your Mother has written who they are.

I should like to write you a good long letter, but I dont get much time to write.

From your Cousin  
Laura B Otis

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2037 12/5/1863

*From:* S N. Sherman,  
Surg. US. Vols.

*To:* Maj General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-1983

US Genl Hosptl  
Grafton, W. Va.

Commanding 11th Army  
Corps, Army of the  
Cumberland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

US Genl Hospt'l Grafton, W. Va.  
Dec 5th 1863

My dear Genl:

Allow me to tender you congratulations with the rest of your friends, on the new laurels you have won for yourself and your command, in the late battles that drove the enemy from his "strong places" on "Lookout Mountain", and inflicted on his panic stricken and dismayed legions, one of the deadliest blows to the Rebellion it has received. A few more such, and the bloody drama is ended; and how can we be thankful enough, that we are permitted to be among the instruments, however humble, by which a merciful and just God, is so palpably making "The wrath of man to praise Him."

Please accept for yourself, your Brother, Capt Atwood, and any else on your staff whose acquaintance it has been my happiness to share, my highest consideration and kindly wishes. My earnest prayers for your safety, success, and happiness, you will always have.

Most truly, Your Friend  
S N. Sherman, Surg. US. Vols.  
In Charge

To Maj General O.O. Howard,  
Commanding 11th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland

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2038 12/6/1863     *From:* Lizzie Lee

*To:* My dear Cousin Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1984

32 G. St Between 12th  
& 13th St.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[449]

Washington D.C. Dec. 6, 1863

My dear Cousin Lizzie,

I am much mortified that so long a time has elapsed after my right pleasant visit with you and I have not written. Excuses are very poor but it seems that there has been a perfect fatality about my writing since I came here. Perry has said now today you will write and I truly intended but the time has gone and one truly believes in the school motto procrastination is the thief of time. The first fortnight after I left you we had company. Then I was ill a little while and a week after that Perry came on after me. We have moved once since we have been here, and are now very pleasantly situated. Our room is the parlor – large & prettily furnished. Our meals we have sent in. I like it much better than I ever thought I could. It seems like play keep house. But I would like so to have a real home, but as military men never can take root any where I am going to try and like change. Perry was very fortunate in getting into the Invalid Corps. He is for the present stationed in charge of the Depot department, so is not very much confined. He seems well, but is very easily fatigued yet, not having his old strength by any means. He received a letter from Charles a few days since dated the 21 of Nov. I have just read it over to see if there is anything of interest I could repeat to you but there seems to be nothing but they were well. And think the Gen must have been feeling well for he wrote a P.S. to say he thought he could beat Perry. Is it not grand that that Corps have won such laurels. I think they have been covered with glory since Gettysburg, where the Gen is certainly acknowledged to be the hero of the grand battle.

Mrs Farwell has just been in and desired me to give you much love. She is the only lady acquaintance I have. She is quite near and comes in quite often which is very pleasant. We think of going to see the <Arabs> this afternoon.

The weather is delightful here; one hardly needs furs. I can't realize it can be cold any where. Week ago I saw roses in bloom out doors. How is little Jamie & the others, his bright-pale face I have often thought of. Children and people begin to think of Christmas. There is a very fine Toy Shop here, and I have been in several times and tell Grace I saw a beautiful doll in a cradle that by touching springs would open its eyes, throw up its hands sit up, and even open its wonderful little mouth, where were tiny white-teeth and say Mama, Mama and Papa, Papa as plain as I can. I thought walking dolls wonderful, but this one was a wonder. I hope that you are quite well, and baby too. Tell Guy Perry has a nice little gentle pony he calls mine, and if he were only here, he should have it to ride. Perry had a sword given him by a friend in New York, and from another gentleman a horse. I met the lady yesterday who had such a brilliant wedding at Augusta. Perry took Mrs Farwell and myself to the Capitol and she toured with us.

Enclosed are our pictures. I think Perrys good, but I hope to get some better ones. I would like one of you much.

I hope you will have good news from the West. I feel that they will be kept safe and well. I am going to write to Charles to-day. Perry would join me in a great deal of love to you and yours.

Ever your affec cousin.  
Lizzie Lee

332 G. St Between 12th & 13th St.

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2039 12/6/1863 *From:* A.E. Burnside

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2321

Hd Qrs Knoxville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[261]

Hd Qrs Knoxville

Dec 6th 2 A.M. [1864 was added, see note]

My dear Genl -

I thank you for your kind letter, but the raising of the siege is due to the prompt movement of our friends to our support. Genl Sherman will be here to-morrow in person, when our future movements will be settled.

Hope to see you very soon.

Sincerely your friend  
A.E. Burnside

To Gen. Howard

[Note. The siege of Burnside's army in Knoxville by Longstreet was ended on Dec 4, 1863, when Grant sent Sherman with a large force toward Knoxville.]

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2040 12/9/1863

*From:* George B Corkhill  
Capt & CS Vols.

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard[]

OOH-1985

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Second  
Brigade,  
Second Division,  
Second Corps,

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[31]

Headquarters Second Brigade,  
Second Division, Second Corps,  
Dec 9th 1863

My Dear General

I cannot resist the temptation to compliment you on the success which has attended your corp in the west.

You certainly have very many friends in your old command who like me are gratified at the victory which has crowned the gallant fighting of even the 11th Corps while under your leadership!

Your army I fear will have the glory of having struck the fatal blow to the rebellion. The country seems to have lost confidence in our army, whether justly or unjustly I cannot say.

We have of late met with very little success: We crossed the Rapid Anne the other day, but to recross. There seems to be a rumor that Gen. Meade will be relieved! In case this is true I wonder who is to be sacrafized next?

I heard a very distinguished man high in power in the Government say that to you was due the credit of "Gettysburg" and that if you were here, you would be his choice for the command. You may feel thankful you are not here, lest some such misfortune might overtake you.

The 2d Division remains about as of old. Col Devereaux of the 19th Mass commands our brigade, Col Baxter 72d and Col Morehead 106th, the 1st and 3d Brigade. Brig Genl Webb the Division and Maj Gen Warren the Corp. Genl Hancock arrived in Washington last week and is expected here every day. There are but few changes. Col Heath 19th Maine has resigned. Lt. Col Hessel 72d killed, some others killed or resigned whom you would know but whose names you will meet in papers.

I see that you must have been under heavy fire in your last fight from the way the bullets handled the horses of your staff officers.

I should be glad to hear from you at any time, should you feel disposed to write, as there is no commander with whom I ever served that I remember with more pleasure than you.

My Kindest Regards to Your Brother, Col Balloch et al.

Very faithfully  
George B Corkhill  
Capt & CS Vols.

P.S. Should you ever want a Corp C.S. dont forget that I am next on the docket. - G  
Capt Geo. B. Corkhill  
Dec. 9, 1863

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2041 12/10/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1986

Head Qrs 11th Corps  
Athens, Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Qrs. 11th Corps  
Dec. 10, 1863 Athens, Tenn.

Dearest,

We have returned from Knoxville where I last wrote or rather sent a letter to you. I should'nt wonder if you had more news than we. I hope you have heard where we are and are therefore not overanxious. We have been for two weeks without any communications whatever, have lived on the produce of the country. We run the mills, gather in the pigs, sheep & cattle and have got on very well. I wish we could get where there was some sort of chance of getting letters from home. This & all Tenn is a beautiful country. I am at the house of a Mr <Chages> - three beautiful little girls one ten, one about Gracies age & about as old as Jamie. Mrs C is a complete lady. Very many almost all are Union people here.

Give much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie & Chancy. I think about you much & long for the end & for home. I hope you are well and happy. Chas. has some cold but I am quite well. God bless & keep you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2042 12/17/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1987

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[453]

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley  
Dec. 17th 1863

Dearest,

Last night we returned to the old camp, after fighting a three days battle and marching immediately thereafter some two hundred and forty (240) miles. Much of the time we have been cut off from all mail connection.

I got a good letter from you last night eight days old. You seem to want a cook. I wish you had some of the yellow girls that follow us out of slavery. One wanted to cook for us yesterday, but I am afraid you have'nt a constitution sufficiently strong for the diet that these poor people are "raised in" You talk of boarding. Boarding destroys two things the family & the home. If you can stick it out till I can come to you, I shall feel better than to know that you are boarding. When you go to the last house you surrender your independence. A hotel ruins the children. I think Joshua Turner would be a true friend to help you in the purchase or renting of a good house.

I cannot bear the thought of pulling up stakes & leaving Maine and beginning anew, for I feel secure in the friendship & appreciation of a large number of our best citizens, who take a pride & pleasure in my good name. Mr Blaine has written an article for the Evening Post, too flattering to me, but a generous & manly defense of a friend and I feel very grateful. Our school privileges in Maine are better than elsewhere.

Charles thinks you might come west on a visit and bring Jamie & the baby & proposes that he go part of the way to fetch you. What do you think of it. It is uncertain what time I could get if any to meet you, and I am hoping something will turn up to give us peace before the end of this winter. I might resign & leave the field, but I cannot make it seem consistent with my duty so to do. My staff are all dependent on me & would be thrown out of Service. However, we shall see.

Meade's want of success is a good thing for the general result, for it keeps Lee & his army preying upon the vitals of Virginia, while the Western Armies are doing the necessary work.

Tenn. is full of loyal people. She will resume her duties soon.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie and an armful of kisses to Chancy. Grace's letter I got at Cleveland. I wish you could travel with us thro E. Tennessee – a splendid country & a fine people. The ladies are Union – US flags appear from many houses.

I must go now & look for a new camp. God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2043 12/18/1863 *From:* W.T. Sherman *To:* Maj Genl OO Howard  
Maj Genl  
OOH-1988 Head Qrs. Dept of the Comdg 11th Corps  
*Source:* Bowdoin Tenn.  
Chattanooga,

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[344/32]

Head Qrs. Dept of the Tenn.  
Chattanooga, Dec 18, 1863

Maj Genl OO Howard,  
Comdg 11th Corps.  
Dear General,

As the Events of War brought us together and have as suddenly parted us, I cannot deny myself the pleasure it gives me to express to you the deep personal respect I entertain for you. I had known you by reputation, but it needed the opportunity our short campaign gave me to appreciate one who mingles so gracefully and perfectly the polished Christian Gentleman, and the prompt, zealous, and Gallant soldier. I am not in the habit of flattering, but I have deemed it my duty to express to Genl Grant and others in whom I confide not only the satisfaction but the great pleasure I experienced in being associated with you in our late short but most fruitful campaign. Not only did you do all that circumstances required, but you did it in a spirit of cheerfulness that was reflected in the conduct and behaviour of your whole command. I beg you will convey to Genl Schurz, Col Rushbeck and all your officers the assurances of my personal & official respect.

Should Fortune bring us together again in any capacity, I will deem myself most fortunate, and should it ever be in my power to serve you, I beg you will unhesitatingly call on me as a Friend.

With great respect, Your friend,  
W.T. Sherman  
Maj Genl

[Written on the back]  
18th December 1863  
Major General Sherman  
Congratulatory Letter

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2044 12/20/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1990

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[454]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Dec. 20th 1863

Dearest,

It is sort of unsatisfactory to write letters when one feels a strong inclination to go home. I have meditated on several propositions like these. To go alone making the journey in 7 days on and 7 days back spending 6 days at home. Objection. I might fail of connections & take more time en route - Command not in condition to leave - Too short a visit at best. Dont like to come back. Another proposition - For wife & baby to meet me in New York and go to West Point spending 10 days there. Objection - Too cold weather for wife & baby - Would have to part away from home - Would want to see the other children - Only one Isabela. Well, I think we will wait and see what will turn up.

You can hardly think what a host of mail matter we had when we got back last thursday. So many accounts of the battle of Chattanooga. We cannot feel too thankful for the dealings of Divine Providence with us. I wish, nay long, for the end, but know it is wrong to be impatient.

I will enclose you the letter of Gen. Sherman to me. It will explain itself.

This corps was engaged three days with the enemy. Marched all the fourth in pursuit. On the 5th day a part made a march of 27 miles the rest about 10, one day's rest & bring up supplies. The next day, 21 miles from Parker's gap to Cleaveland, next about 10 or 11 to Charleston. Some worked till 1 o'clock at night in repairing the bridge over the Hiwassee. Tuesday crossed Hiwassee, marched 13 or 14 miles to near Athens. Wednesday 23 miles. Thursday 8 miles. Friday night made wagon bridge at Davis' ford 750 feet long, marched from Loudon across wagon bridge to Louisville, 21 miles. Sunday command rested, while I went on to Knoxville from 13 to 15 miles. The next day we turned back and marched leisurely back to Lookout Valley, having fought 3 days and marched some 240 miles. More than half the men have either no shoes or no bottoms to them. Nobody would complain, but they would show me their poor red cold feet as I passed on. We are now giving them shoes. Rebels did'nt have any in their country.

I feel much gratified that Gen Sherman was pleased with me and the command. Gen Grant regards him as his best officer & warm friend. He is rather rough in his expressions, but an uncompromising friend of the government.

Give much love to Guy. I hope he is very well this cold winter. It is cold here. We all have our overcoats on at dinner as our dining tent has no fireplace or stove yet. Grace wrote papa a good letter which met him at Cleaveland on his way back from Knoxville. Guy & Grace will have to study Geography pretty smartly to keep up with papa. I hope Jamie is still hearty, and Chancy well. Jamie, does he want papa & John to come home still? With my prayers & much love for you my darling wife. I remain

Your husband  
Otis

P.S.

I believe I am more homesick of late than usual. Charles is well & proposes sending for a book to be sent to Guy. I have some fans for you, for mother and for Grace.

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2045 12/23/1863 *From:* M C Meigs

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1992

Chattanooga

Comd'g 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

Chattanooga 23d December 1863

My dear General,

In ancient times, before the invention or diffusion of letters, our barbarous ancestors raised upon the battlefields which decided the fate of tribes, tumuli of earth or cairns of loose stones, which have outlasted the traditions of the contests they are intended to commemorate.

We have fought a great battle, one which makes an epocha in the history not only of the United States, but of that almost eternal contest between good and evil – between liberty and slavery of which our war is the latest & greatest act.

I wish to see some monument erected upon the battlefield, and it seems to me that the point of Lookout Mountain is a site on which the rudest artificial structure if of sufficient size to be seen at a distance will have a striking effect.

I have sketched a monument little removed in its rude simplicity from the cairns which dot the fields of Germany & Northern Europe but containing a sepulchral chamber, which, by diminishing the quantity of material, diminishes the labor of erection and will form a receptacle, in which, at some future day, it is probable that the bones of those who lie buried on the mountain would be collected. There appears to be a period of repose for the troops. Could not the 11th and 12th Corps erect this monument on the field of their valor – in commemoration of their great exploit and of their comrades who gave their lives for their country.

I enclose a sketch – the cairn is sixty four feet square at base – and 40 feet high – the block is 17 feet square & 8 feet high – the column 8 feet diameter at base & 20 feet high. The vault is a dome, circular in plan 32 feet in diameter. The whole to be built of dry stones of moderate size laid with their beds horizontal, except the lining of the vault which should be built as wells are walled up, with radial joints clinched with small wedge shaped stones.

I would insert a large slab of cut stone in the panel of the die-inscribed “Erected by the 11th and 12th Corps of the Army of the U.S., in memory of their comrades who fell in the storming of Lookout Mountain and Missionary ridge on the 23d 24th & 25th November 1863.”

I would place it on the flat rock at the NE point of the summit of Lookout and encircling the floor would sculpture in large letters three feet long “Stormed by the Army of the United States 24 November 1863 .”

Would your Corps enter upon such a task with spirit. I hope they will.

Truly your friend  
(signed) M C Meigs [General Montgomery C Meigs]

To  
Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Comd'g 11th Corps.

[Sketches of the proposed monument.]

[Written on the last page]

Date. Dec. 23d 1863

Recd. Dec. 24

Letter from Qr. Genl. Meigs

Concerning Monument on Lookout

[Note. A copy of this letter was generated. It was filed as OOH\_1991. The original is OOH\_1992.]

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2046 12/23/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1993

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[452]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Dec. 23 1863

Dearest,

I must confess to you that I have got a smoky tent. My house smoked so badly that I have had it torn down and it is now rebuilding. I have moved into another place temporarily and find to my sorrow that this smokes too, so that I have to keep the front up.

This is my excuse for not writing for a day or two. Col. Asmussen starts for Nashville tomorrow & I want to send just a note by him to say that I am quite well & so is Charles, Capt Stinson & Mr Gilbreth.

Everything is now very quiet. Bragg's army (Gen. Hardee comdg) keeps at a proper distance. We are hoping that no disaster may befall us in the vicinity of Knoxville by Longstreet turning back. Gen. Foster has quite <has> a pretty large force and if well handled will drive Longstreet out. Perhaps Gen. Grant will go up in person pretty soon.

I hope the children are well tonight. The weather must be getting quite cold by this time in Maine. It is pretty cold here, freezes very hard. I have a most excellent cook, a mulatto woman, who has two little children and is staying in a tent. She wants to earn something to take her north. I wish you had her, she seems like a good woman. I have a man run our mess, and he hires this woman. Charles, Capt Stinson, Capt. Pearson, Col. Hayes and Mr Gilbreth mess with me. We still eat in a cold tent but are having a place fixed – half house & half tent. Give much love to each of the little ones & God bless you all.

Most affectionately,

Your husband

Otis

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2047 12/26/1863 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace]

OOH-1994

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[450]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Dec 26th 1863

My dear little daughter,

I think I wrote Guy last; at any rate I received a letter from you last. I dont remember when I got one from Guy it was so long ago. Papa has just had a new house built one that it has taken three days and one half of Christmas to finish. I think my house is now quite as big as Mamma's parlor. My new chimney not being high enough was topped off with a box. Just now the box caught fire and if John had not moved very quickly my whole house would have been on fire. John pulled off the burning box, but now my new house is full of smoke. Perhaps a kind Heavenly Father dont want your papa to find too much comfort away from his home.

Yesterday was Christmas. You would have wished me a merry Christmas if I had been at home and who knows, but you and Guy would have made me a Christmas present. Which do you like best to make presents or to receive them?

Yesterday Uncle Charles, Col Meysenburg, Dr Hubbard, Dr. Sukeley & I went up to the tip top of Lookout Mountain. This is a very high mountain 1400 feet above the surface of the river. You can see from the northern point into five different states, I am told – Tennessee, Alabama, N. Carolina and Georgia. I do not know whether the other state is Kentucky or South Carolina. Chattanooga with its houses its tents and soldiers huts is spread out before you. The beautiful serpent like river the Tennessee runs at your feet and as far as you can see it twists along in the valleys. You can look at Missionary ridge & all along where the battle was fought and you can see your papas present camp.

Two steamboats came in sight several miles apart on the river while we were gazing. I hope to take you there some day, my daughter, with Mamma, Guy, Jamie, and Chancy. Lookout mountain will some day be a place of great interest and frequent resort. There is a fine little hamlet called Summertown on top, - probably called so because people went thither from the hot cities to spend the summer.

You must give a great deal of love to Guy. Has he improved much in reading and writing since he left your school? And Jamie, can he stop "his self" long enough to think about John and his absent papa? Does the baby grow? Can he talk any yet? And how is dearest Mamma, very cheery and happy and well, working for all the children and for papa far away? I feel glad you are a good girl, glad you remember the verse "love one another" and expect you know its meaning. May our kind and loving Heavenly Father have you all in his holy keeping.

Your affectionate father  
OO Howard

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2048 12/27/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1995

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

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[457]

[Letterhead]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley December 27th 1863 between Christmas & New Years

Dear Mother

I intended to write you on Christmas eve, but my tent and house smoked so badly that I gave it up and moved into another belonging to the Quartermaster while mine was being rebuilt. After mine had been torn down Chimney and all I found to my sorrow that my temporary abode was but little superior to the other and I read & wrote without comfort. Your letter and others that I hope to write I have reserved for my new house. I'm in a house of one room, the side logs a foot through. One end fireplace & chimney, and stockading, the other boarding from clothing boxes. The floor the same, a little like patch work - for roof a cotton covering called "paulin" without the tar. We fitted a shelter tent into the upper part of the gable end. I enclose you a little sketch as I do to Guy & Grace thinking it might interest you to learn how we make houses here. My house is much superior to those of the inhabitants in this valley. I have a nice cot-bed, a desk, a table and three chairs. So that you see how comfortably fixed I am for the winter.

I think the weather is quite as cold here as in Virginia, but we hav'nt seen any snow yet.

I take it for granted Charles has described to you the events of interest in our long march to the vicinity of Knoxville and back. So I thought it might be of interest to you to name each member of our staff, and attempt his marked characteristics.

Col Asmussen as we call him is a Lieutenant Colonel, an inspector and chief of Staff. I found him here on taking command. He is a German, about my size, black hair & a piercing black eye, very mandatory in his style of speaking. You can just barely detect the foreigner in his accents. He is most energetic and constant in the discharge of his military duties and aids me very much. He drinks some but never lets me see him do so. He seems always very much attached to me.

Lieut Col. Meysenburg is my Adjutant General. He keeps an office with several clerks, records all orders, issues mine and makes out reports to send up from those received from the Divisions. He is a little taller than I has dark brown hair, a high, broad, clear forehead. He seems quiet, dignified; is a good German and English scholar, looks about 22 yrs of age.

Lieut. Col Balloch, my Commissary, looks as if 40 yrs, has a stoop in his shoulders and a long face & care worn, but he is the most jovial, companionable, kind rough Scotchman, born in America, you ever saw.

Lieut Col. Hayes, my Quartermaster was an old College friend at Bowdoin in the next class after me. I got him appointed Asst. Qr Mr with the rank of Captain in the 2nd Div. 2nd Corps. Recently I have had him appointed Corps Qr. Mr. with rank of Lieut Col. He is about my age & size - a little heavier perhaps. He has brown hair and blue eyes, talks little, gives you the impression of a firm & careful man.

Maj Howard, my first Aide de Camp, with his fine brown hair, reddish mustache & whiskers, and genial face, you will recognize without an introduction.

Capt. Stinson A.D.C. is about as tall as the Major, of a sundy complexion, slender build, neck rather long. He has a clear blue eye and the stamp of intelligence and independence in his face. He has a slight lisp, or impediment in speech, particularly in pronouncing the word horse, dropping the r

Capt. Daniel Cross A.D.C. takes the place of Capt Griffith, who was killed at Gettysburg. He came on with Col

Hayes, and is a handsome young man of Chas' age, of red cheeks, dark eyes & hair and a cheerful expression. Always very prompt & active.

Capt Pearson is called commissary of musters. He musters in and out all officers & men of the Volunteer Service in this corps. He is a regular officer of the 14th infantry. A young man about 25, of a sober look, thoughtful, quick to reply and respectful, generally reticent. He is very fearless in action.

Lieut Gilbreth whose father lives at Augusta at the Arsenal is an Acting Aide de Camp.

Capt. Schofield, a black haired, black eyed dark complexioned thick set young man brings up stragglers, takes care of prisoners and gives passes.

These officers constitute the staff when you have added two fine young men of the Medical Department. Surgeon Brinton looks hardly 25, has a fine clear bright dark eye, quite deep in a young face, a high full forehead and he is prepossessing, but for a little touch of the cynic in the smile. He is withal a young man of unusual ability & character. Dr Hubbard is older, health not good. He looks a little as Thomas Bridgham used, to before he had so many wrinkles, and is a high minded, true hearted man. The former, Dr B, is called Medical Director of the Corps & the latter is the Medical Inspector. He has resigned and leaves us soon.

Capt Stinson, Pearson, Col. Hayes, Chas, Lt Gilbreth & myself now mess together. We have attached to Hd. Qrs. a pioneer company, the Provost guard, an escort, one company of Cavalry, orderlies, hostlers, clerks and a number of Colored Servants. All these officers & men belong to and really constitute Corps Headquarters.

It is the sabbath & has been very stormy all day, for the most of the time raining hard. Chas sits by my fire reading the Independent. Give love to Father, remember me to Roland & Cynthia & the neighbors. Is Oscar at home? I hope you are very cozy & happy this cold winter. Dellie comes home frequently? Give him my love. Isabella has gone to Lizzie & I am glad. Mrs Clark was getting aged & broken. Charles sends his love and says he shall write soon. We would like to hear of a still growing religious interest in Leeds. I hope Dear Mother, you do not cease to pray for us that we may ever walk uprightly in the fear of God.

Your ever affectionate son  
Otis

Enclosed a New Year's present to go with Charles'.

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2049 12/31/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1997

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[460]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Dec. 31 1863

Dearest,

I have now had my chimney rebuilt the third time and have attained a perfect success. I now have a large fireplace that affords me a warm fire and does not keep my eyes and lungs filled with smoke.

Today I have ridden all day and into the night and for much of the time in a heavy rain. I went to Whitesides and back; the roads are almost as bad as they are in Maine in the early spring when the frost is just coming out of the ground. Harry Stinson and Col. <Broughten> of the 143 N.Y. accompanied me also two orderlies. We went to see about getting an Engine across the Falling Waters bridge at Whitesides. The workmen will not complete the bridge for some time and Gen. Thomas wishes me and mine to get the Engine and some cars on this side.

A more barren, rugged country you have never seen. It is like the back country of West Point only there are more detached mountain hills (foothills?) with narrow and deep ravines. The streams are high and flow with mud. I notice that the masons to make mortar have only to dig a hole in the ground and mix in the excavated earth with water & really after a rain it would only be necessary to scrape the ground.

1863 has got on cloak and hat and is just ready to say: "Good bye, General, Good bye Howard, Good bye Otis. Let the mistakes you have made under me teach you lessons of wisdom. I speak to thee in confidence, in thy relations official, in those between man and man, in those of family, remember thy shortcomings and do better. Decisive in office, a bridled tongue in social sphere, and more effort for the comfort and welfare of the beloved at home. Renew thy covenant with God. Good bye!" May we not hope that this coming year will bring us peace, and love and home!

I have a beautiful etching of our past head quarter's camp, executed by one of Maj Hoffman's clerks. I cannot spell his name without notes nor pronounce it with them. You can get a photographic copy if you think best and send one to mother and another to Rowland. The picture is perfect, true to the minutia.

Capt Stinson says, out of doors: "snow aint it"! We hav'nt got into the sunny south yet. For it freezes, it blows, it rains and now it snows. You cant think how cold Johns hands are in the morning when he undertakes to roll up my sleeves. I must make as much fuss as Jamie does when you wash his face in cold water. It amuses John.

It is now five minutes after 12: the old year out out & the new year in. I wish you and all the little peaceful sleeping bunnies a very happy new year. Our love we will renew and repledge to each other – time only binds us with more cords. May we always be able to preserve a lively sense of a Father's hand bestowing blessings and not the least of them His Son, our Saviour.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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2050 12/31/1863 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1998

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[451]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley 1863 [Dec 1863 was written in pencil.]

My dear Guy,

I have just finished a letter to Gracie and now your turn comes.

It is a very rainy night. When it rains here the mud gets deep so that you can scarcely walk. We have a very large Newfoundland dog at these Head Quarters, by the name of "Lookout". He generally keeps very quiet with his big head and shaggy tail, but he sometimes gets his pretty black back up and looks ill-favored strangers in the face. He is much like an Irishman: he dont like the negroes, but on the whole he is good-natured, looks you in the face like a sensible boy and fondly wags his tail.

The little foxes (boys) are still running about amusing themselves, not by washing their faces as you might suppose at first sight, but by setting fire to tall stumps of trees at the bottom. These burn two or three days and as many nights. When people clear a piece of land in this country for corn or for cotton, they do not cut the trees & draw off the wood but they girdle them: that is they cut a circular incision quite around the tree [sketch of a tree with a circular cut], so that the tree dies, the roots decay and the plough can be drawn amongst them with very little obstruction.

The people in Lookout Valley are generally very poor and all the children without any exception are ignorant and very dirty. It was not so in East Tennessee. The people there were intelligent, the boys and girls had "chances" to go to school and often washed their rosy cheeks. I got acquainted with little Walter Craigmiles at Cleaveland, Henry Hennegar at Charleston, Mary Creagr at Athens, Mary Sheldon at Sweetwater, Mary & Martha and Horace Foster at Louisville, E. Tennessee. These children were all between you & Jamie as to age and I talked with them about you all and showed them your pictures. They were moreover Union children and loved "Yankee Soldiers" as they call us and also the dear old flag of our country which the rebels hate so.

I am glad you and Mamma and the other children live so far from the Armies. These poor children have to see the rebel armies encamping on their father's farms, destroying fences, eating up the corn & then ours have to follow.

Uncle Charley sends his love to Guy & Grace and Jamie. Are you all glad that Isabella has come back to live with you? Is Mamma still the cook. Tell her papa is now wearing the new shirts she made. They are splendid, splendid. How can we pay her for all she does for us, Guy? You must tell me about your studies. Are you a good reader yet? And can you spell well?

Now I must go to bed under my Guniacca robe and let the rain pattering on my canvass roof sing me to sleep. The Saviour loves you Guy. His blessing be upon you my son.

Your affectionate father  
O.O. Howard

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2051 1/1/1864

*From:* Corse [Brig. Gen.  
John M. Corse]

*To:* Unknown

OOH-2001

<Pace's> Ferry

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[no number stamp]

<Pace's> Ferry [1864. Written in pencil assume 1/1/1864]  
9.30 A.M.

Wood's skirmishers have passed & driven away any opposition that may have been in this front. The train is down at Mad river & the boats are being put together. Genl Thomas says his troops are at ready to cross & will do so before 12 pm.

He has been waiting for Howard to push down expecting he would do it by 7 a.m. Hence, the delay. I will cross here & join you on the other side. Every thing is quiet. The little skirmishing that Woods' troops aroused having subsided.

Respectfully  
Corse [Brig. Gen. John M. Corse]

Woods advance must be at Nancy Creek by this time. No firing at the R.R. bridge.  
C

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2052 1/4/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2006

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[407]

Farmington Jan. 4, 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie

I haven't had time till now to wish you even a happy new year, but "better late than never", I suppose. Our new year's day passed very quietly & pleasantly at home till Evening when we attended a Donation Party at Father Rogers & had a pleasant time. As we (Ella & I) were walking by the P.O. we went in to see if there was mail for us. Among our letters was one post marked Augusta & directed in a strange hand. It contained no correspondence except "the complement of the Season" but enclosed two green-backs, the sum represented was 40\$ and it filled us with surprise and gratitude to the unknown donor or donors, and to our good Heavenly Father who moved their hearts to remember us so kindly & generously, when living is so high, that somebody has said, "no one can afford to live long."

Give my love to all my little nephews & my niece. I hope their books suited them. Ella sends her love to you & the children and you must give it also to cousin's Warren & Sarah if they are with you.

Dadie plays all the time & talks a great deal. Tell Jamie he has had presents of an Elephant! A knit Solider, a little carved dog & trooper, an express waggon & horse, a sled & a sleigh! & a no. of pretty picture books. I wish his little cousins would come and play with him, before he destroys all his playthings. We had a picture of him taken last month and I will send you one of them when the next lot arrives. We have left a vacant place in our album beside Otis for you! I hope you will get a good photograph & have the children taken too. It seems too bad we can't have our good looking relatives as well as the rest. Tell Warren I don't mean that he is not good looking! We shall miss good Dr. Tappan very much. He used to visit us quite often & usually brought news from you.

Aunt Sallucia Abbott gave Dadie a book of her brother Jacob's called "Learning to talk", which is the best thing to read to such little folks that I ever saw. It is full of just the pictures they like. I wish I had seen it before I sent "Ja" his book.

Remember me to Isabella. I am glad you can have with you this winter. Sarah is talking of visiting Hallowell about the middle of this month & will come and see you, if agreeable. Frank is to go with her.

Charles wrote the 21st that they were back in Lookout valley all well. He sent me a copy of Gen Shermans letter to Otis. It was very complimentary.

We think Hattie grows weaker & fear she will never recover. I exchanged with Mr Fiske a week ago last Sunday. Yesterday we had a pleasant, tho. cold Communion Sab. and are hoping much from this week of prayer. Tell Guy Uncle Rowland thinks he is old enough to be a Christian.

Yr. loving Bro.  
Rowland

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2053 1/4/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2007

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[463]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Jan. 4th 1864

Dearest,

I hav'nt written you since N. Year's day. Tonight I have written a letter to Gracie in answer to hers that came with one of yours enclosed. I have this moment received another letter from you a week earlier dated Dec 14th. It is the one that speaks of Jamie's croup, Dr in the night, Gracie coughing, you and Mrs Woodman cooking by turns, Isabella sore throat. The next letter I got first. You say you had just heard from me, probably at Athens, Tenn., but now we have been a long time back.

I am truly sorry to hear of the death of Dr Tappan – so pure, so noble, so firm & so tranquil in age. I had been thinking about him, about his attention to me coming to see me and his conversation. Well done thou good & faithful servant. He has entered into the joy of his Lord. May my last days be as peaceful and as fruitful as his. I love those sterling old pillars of truth, made of rock. Would God our young men promised to be like them. His family will only mourn for their own loss, for to him to live was Christ, to die was gain.

Did you hear that I was killed in the last battle. Such a story got circulated. Gen. Smith (W.H) in the class before me at West Point heard of it at Nashville, and one of my captains who was there said he cried very bitterly. Smith, Sill & I used to attend Professor Sprole's Bible class together. Gen. Sill is dead, killed at Perryville I think.

Charlie would have written you tonight but as I wrote, he concluded to write Rowland and you at another time. I hope, you are all well now & that you have a cook to suit you. I wanted to send you some money in this letter but hav'nt got my accts. cashed yet. I am afraid you may be getting short. Our regiments are many of them enlisting as veteran volunteers. In a short time my command will be rather small, but I hope they will be back in the spring well filled up, i.e. if Jefferson Davis perseveres in his Demon-like enterprise of destroying the government.

I have just completed my report and feel a little freer, something as you do when all the sewing is done, though you feel quite certain another batch will come on before a week.

I have a pretty big pile of papers to look after daily but if I let every day do its duty, that is easy. Reports are extra. You dont want a new house do you till spring? I hope you are able to keep warm. Have you a good stack of wood?

With much love to all and many kisses for Lizzie from her loving husband. God bless & keep you.  
Otis

I send the picture, be careful not to cut it as you unroll it. I am some homesick. I hope Mrs Woodman will return to you. Harry Stinson is well & studious as ever.

Otis

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2054 1/4/1864

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little Daughter  
[Grace]

OOH-2008

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[465]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
January 4th 1864

My dear little Daughter

You are so good to write that I will reply at once. You say "It is not a very long letter, papa, but I hope you will read it". Papa would'nt love his little children much if he neglected to read their letters. I did read it and reread it and feel surprised and pleased that a little girl six years old can write so good a letter. I noticed only two words spelt wrong, one is Mamma, spelling it with one m in the middle instead of two, and the other is going without the last g. I see now that the word street has lost one of its e's. This is I think far better than that papa used to do when a little boy he wrote to his Grandmother.

I dont know how tents are made. I know how they are put up: the little shelter tents have two pieces, one piece for each man. Sometimes the men put two together & sometimes more. It is done thus: [sketch of two squares put together with ropes at the 4 corners] A stick is put up on two crotchets, thus: [sketch of two poles in the ground with a "Y" at the top and a cross pole laying in the crotch.] The tent complete is fixed thus: [sketch of the two sheets laying over the cross pole and attached to the ground.] An "A" tent is in this shape [sketch of the same tent shape but with a front door.] A wall tent is like a house in shape – thus: [Sketch of a bigger tent with side walls to raise it higher.]

Uncle Charlie is in my tent now & is quite well. He has some cold and John has quite a bad cold. John was very thankful for the pin-ball, his christmas present and wondered if Gracie thought of it herself.

Give my love to Guy. Tell him if he stands up perfectly straight and takes good honest draughts of air, that coughs & colds will not last long. So, Jamie has turned Doctor and gives pills on the homeopathic system? Well that is a good profession. I am glad Chancy's eyes are well again. Give Mamma, Guy, Jamie & the baby a great deal of love from me. My kindest regards to Isabella. I am glad she is with you. When is Mrs Woodman coming back?

We have had some weather as cold as in Maine. My water in the basin froze an inch close to the fire. Now it has grown warmer & is rainy.

Does Gracie love the Saviour, who always loves her so much, better than papa or mamma?

From your loving papa  
O.O. Howard

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2055 1/4/1864

*From:* P.M. Craigmiles

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2009

Cleveland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49]

Cleveland Jan 4th / 64

Genl O.O. Howard:

My dear Sir

I hope you will pardon me for troubling you with a matter which does not properly come under line of your official duty, but, believing you will interest yourself in my behalf, when it is manifest, I make no unreasonable request, I feel free to address you.

When you was at my house on your return from Upper E. Tenn., I spoke to you concerning some Receipts which had been placed in my hands (all informal) also memorandums for Hay taken from my farm near Charleston and also near this place, all of which you ordered your division Quartermaster (Capt. Lacy I believe) to give me Vouchers for the Receipt for (95) ninety five Bushels of Corn & five hundred pounds of Hay - was given by (Capt Mooreland I believe) of Genl Ewings division. The memorandum for Hay, for which Capt. Lacy & myself <> agreed upon the value which was (50) Fifty dollars – was all handed to him (Capt Lacy) for which I expected him to return a voucher, but since then I have not seen Capt. Lacy nor the voucher, & hence I am minus the whole. I hope you will order Vouchers given for the foregoing, and forward the same to Chattanooga to Hon. J. C. Gaut who will send it to me.

I will mention that the Vouchers given me for 1027 lb Bacon by Lt. Shermond & approved by you, was not paid when presented to Col. Porter in Chattanooga, because of informality, and I respectfully ask you to Send me a proper Voucher for that also. The amt. is \$102.70/100 for the Bacon. We have had Several raids in our house Since you passed through here, but none of a Serious character. All quiet here now.

Yours Very Truly

P.M. Craigmiles

Summary of acts.

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| 95 Bu Corn  | 95.00    |
| 500 lb Hay  | 5.00     |
| 5000 lb Hay | 50.00    |
|             | -----    |
|             | \$150.00 |

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1027 lb Bacon 10 ¢ | 102.70 |
|--------------------|--------|

[The following was written on the last page in different hands.]

P.M. Craigmiles

Jan 4, 64

[The next three lines were written by OO Howard.]

Mr Craigmiles

Letter from E. Tennessee

Answered

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2056 1/6/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2010

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[468?]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Jan 6 1864

Dearest,

I will just write you a line on business. I enclose six hundred and seventy dollars (670). Please acknowledge the receipt.

Tell the people of Augusta if they want to keep you from migrating to the West, they must make you a present of a house and a very nice one. I hardly know how to advise you about investing any surplus you may have. The 5-20s are good. I would as lief as not own a good house in Augusta. It would be well merely as property – to have a good brick house with ample grounds – i.e. if it could be purchased at a low price. You must think it over & tell me what you think. I have not much choice as to the sides of the river – schools are on both sides. The church & stores are on this.

Much love to all & God bless you. We are now quite well. The Children must have been delighted with their presents.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2057 1/8/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2011

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[469]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Jan. 8 1864

Dearest,

What I expressed to you lately as a wish has now mounted to a proposition. Today, a colored man jet black, but with a well formed head and an intelligent eye, ushered in Julia the cook. He said she was his adopted daughter. He was going away with my escort that had been relieved from duty here and was going to its regiment. He wanted to tell me that Julia always had a good character, was a member of the church &c. He didnt know where she would find so good protection as at Gen. Howard's Head quarters.

Julia with two little children followed us out of East Tennessee and I found her here employed by the Caterer as cook. Another girl a mere child of 16 was with her and then two children some two or three years old. I called up Julia & asked her about this girl, whom I thought was not discreet enough, and told her they must behave well if they staid here. She shewed so much intelligence and sweetness that I was struck with it. She is not black – good deal of the <swear> cust of look. I told her I would write you and perhaps send her to you. She is an excellent cook. “She would undergo anything to go to you.” It is her children. For a time she kept them in a cold tent – no cry, no murmur. They are never in the way – stay when she tells them to stay. I had a small log hut made for them. Now I cant have them when we come to move. I believe I will send Julia with her two mites to you. Her husband, she says is dead. What say you? I would'nt propose it did I not think you could benefit her with no home & two little children to bring up, & on the other hand did I not see how exceedingly active & capable she is and believe she would be to you a faithful & honest servant.

Give much love & many kisses to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy. I think about them & bear them in my heart all the time. You must tell me much about Guy. He is growing older and the character of his mind is forming. Papa wants him to be manly and truthful and what he learns let it be learned. No matter at all if it isnt much – it is far, far better to perfect in little than to be imperfect in much. It is getting late – remember me to Isabella, to Col & Mrs Woodman if with you. God bless & keep you darling.

Lovingly,  
Otis

I sent a check of \$670 yesterday in a letter.

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2058 1/8/1864

*From:* Susan M Key

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-2012

1504 Apple St. Above  
Jefferson  
Phila. Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[464]

1504 Apple St. Above Jefferson  
Phila. Pa.  
January 8th /64

My dear Guy

I suppose you will be astonished at receiving a letter from me. For a long time I have given up hopes of ever receiving an answer to my last from you. I cannot tell you how dissapointed I was at not hearing from you once in a while and how often I think of you and Grace and dear little Jamey. I have not heard anything about Papa now for some time. I trust that he and Mamma and all of you are in good health.

I happened to see little Sam Merrick's Papa one day in the street here and thought of going to him and asking him how you were but on second consideration I did not do it.

I presume you are able to write a letter now without much assistance from Mamma and I do hope dear Guy you will be kind enough to write to me that I may know how you all are and that you have not forgotten me. I often thought of writing to your Papa since I left Washington but some times sickness prevented me and other times I understood that he was in active service and therefore knew he had no time to spend on such letters as mine. However I trust I will have an opportunity of doing so soon. I tried to see him when he was in this city but could not learn where Mr Merrick lived. I knew (through Mrs Church) that he was to come here and made all the enquiries was in my power but failed to find it out.

I know all the time he had here was entirely occupied by his friends but still I think he would give me a few moments if I could only see him.

Please write to me Guy and tell me where he is now. I send you my photograph that you may sometimes think of me when you see it. Tell me if you would know me or if Grace remembered ever seeing me before. Please remember me to your Mamma and kiss Grace (who I suppose is a young lady now) and Jamey for me.

Write soon Guy to  
Susan McKey

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2059 1/11/1864 *From:* Clara Davis

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2013

1433 Filbert St. Phila.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[50]

1433 Filbert St. Phila.  
11th January 1864

Gen. O.O. Howard  
My dear Sir,

The bearer, Lieut. Ehrings, (a friend of mine) is going to Chattanooga with a detachment of recruits for Jersey Regts. and kindly offers to bear any message to you.

I am very sorry to send you sad intelligence of dear Maria, but the poor child is failing rapidly. Can only sit up an hour or two out of the twenty-four. 'Tis very sad to look at her, and think of the little ones, soon to be motherless. She spoke of you a day or two ago, and wanted to know something of you. I wrote to Sarah Sargent, asking her to tell you of Maria's wish. Maria cannot feel that her sins are forgiven, and therefore has not that peace she ought to have. Looks too much into her own heart and too little at Christ. I have thought that a line from you, who have faced death in so many forms, may comfort her. She is not willing to think that she cannot recover.

You will pardon me for writing to you, when you have so much to think of?

May God bless you as He alone can!

With sincere regards,  
Yours respectfully  
Clara Davis

[written on the back]  
Letter, Clara Davis

[Note. Otis' cousin Sarah Maria (Otis) Merrick died on 17 Jan 1864 in Philadelphia.]

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2060 1/12/1864 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-2014

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[471]

Portland Jany 12 – 1864

Mrs Howard

Dear Niece

Your letter of 9th inst I recvd yesterday P.M. We were glad to hear from you and to learn that you and Children were now well and also that your Husband was (by last news) enjoying the same blessing. We are all in usual good heath. Edward Francis has enlisted as a Soldier in the Army and expects to leave here this week to join the 17th Maine Regiment near Brandy Station V.A.

I called on Mr Barrett to enquire about the value of Rail Road Bonds and find they are worth from 90 to \$92 dollars pr 100 Say \$920 for a 1000. They will probably be higher before they become due. There is a balance due to you since last October \$143.80 which is not invested, as I could not tell what was best to do with so small amt, and have let it remain <not invested [last line torn]>. If you wish me to send you the amt. that is to your credit here I will do so, or can get you a share of Bank Stock. Please let me know.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

---

2061 1/13/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-2015

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[472]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Jan. 13th 1864

Dearest Lizzie,

I have received a letter from you dated Dec. 31st, a really good one though short. All these little home scenes are very full of interest to me: Jamie talking to the baby, his sitting alone &c.

We are now very quiet and I might think of a leave, but for the feeling that my Corps is so poorly provided with clothing and supplies. Isn't it too bad, when there is such abundance in the country, that our men cant have pants to cover them and proper food to eat. The trouble is the want of transportation. The R.R. from Nashville to Bridgeport 120 miles is a poor concern running over mountain grades, worn out, old style with bad managers from top to bottom. It now has to supply Knoxville. This fact uses up our river steamers so that we can scarcely get through the bare necessaries i.e. sugar, coffee beans, bread and salt meat. Eating these things constantly brings on sickness and discouragement. As soon as the Memphis and Charleston R.R. is through we will get relief and that is hoped for by the middle of next month. They promise to have the Chattanooga R.R. through today.

When we came to this department, there was a very long bridge over the Tennessee at Bridgeport completely destroyed and another at Whitesides - a very high one. The carpenter's have to build story upon story of trestle work. All this is now nearly done - the bridges across Lookout Creek & Chattanooga Creek are done. This R.R. will help us a little because whatever gets to Bridgeport can be brought forward having the R.R. and the river transportation to accomplish it with. Now when I get everything in good order, food and clothing for the men and food for the animals and it is not too late in the season I shall ask for a short leave to look in upon you to say: "How do you do", and "Goodbye". But we will not count upon this as too certain.

Two brigades have been added to my Corps, though the order has not yet come to hand. Many of my animals and wagons are at Nashville, which Col. Asmussen went up there to get and bring down, but owing to bad R.R. &c he was ordered to delay and was granted a leave of 20 days. In a month he will be back and do this work. My batteries are at Bridgeport and Nashville at present where the animals can get forage. The two new brigades are between Nashville and Murfreesboro. All this dissipation of my command requires my supervision and so I am a little fearful I cannot get a respite before the spring opens.

Charles is quite well. He is inspector at present during Col Asmussen's absence. Capt Stinson is well. He and Chas. continue to study French together. Mr Gilbreth is quite well. All with myself have had a slight attack of billious affection with its accompaniaments, but this is not serious and does not last long. We have heard from Perry at Washington. The Uncle of Mrs Perry Lee who made me the boots that the Express Co. are determined not to bring me, has become deranged.

Give much love to each and all the children. I hope you are quite well yourself, darling, and hope you are not getting tired of being a soldier's wife. God bless you.

Lovingly,  
Otis

I received a good long letter from Dr Wiggin a day or two since. My kind remembrances & regards to Dr Briggs Mr McKenzie, Chas. Mulliken, Joshua Turner & other friends.

We always remember Isabella.



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2062 1/14/1864    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2016  
*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Lookout Valley

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[474]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland  
Lookout Valley Jan 14, 1864.

Dear Sister Lizzie

You will consider this an awkward sheet to write letters to young ladies upon. I think so too. But I find this paper convenient on Otis' table just where I was using it until twelve last night writing for him. Otis got in a mood for business letters and I usually wield the pen on such occasions. I shall not be so precise and slow in the formation of my words to you as when writing for the eye of the Sec'y of War and such dignitaries.

It is evening, our mail just arrived. We were disappointed not to get a letter from you as we always are when none comes. But I was made happier than I was before by a letter from Rowland and we imagine that we get a kind of indirect kind of news from you too. Rowland said that he had the agreeable surprise of an anonymous letter from Augusta containing 2 \$20 notes received New Years day for which he seemed to feel very grateful. We imagine that this must have originated from you and that it indicates at least a healthy state of finances.

Tomorrow morning Lt. Thompson of Staff of 2nd Divn will start for Portland & I will send this by him. Letters clog in this Department. Get them beyond Louisville and the miserable R.R. between this & there and they go well enough. Speaking of Rail Roads – hurrah! I heard a locomotive whistle this afternoon and in very truth a train of cars went through to Chattanooga – going across the famous Lookout Creek – around the more famous “nose” of the mountain – again across Chattanooga Creek – and to town. I hope this will facilitate our bread and, I was going to say butter, but I will have to change to forage for we wont mind the luxury of butter if only they wont let our horses starve.

Otis has just been reading newspapers but remarks that he does not get much good out of the newspapers. “The progress of the revolution during the winter months is too slow” (To Maj. Osborne our Chief of Artillery who sits here). I suppose Otis does not tell you that he has been not very well – a kind of sickness has passed around to nearly every member of the staff. I was not slighted but now “Richard is himself again” & Otis who took his “Billious turn” last is better.

You have never mentioned the Cincinnati Gazette Weekly, which by my hand Otis subscribed for you. I enclose receipt.

I have been much interested in learning first of your expectation to have Isabella with you and now am very glad that you were not disappointed. I fear her brother Clark did not get a transfer to the Cavalry. It is next to impossible to effect such a transfer. I know by experience. Is he fully recovered from his wounds? I hoped he would enter the Invalid Corps now. But he is a bold-spirited young man and if able I suppose would not be contented out of the field.

We have, or rather I have, the faintest shadow of a hope that we may have the Infantry Veteran Regiments from Maine in our Corps. Otis would like to have them, and if Warren is still with you please tell him we wish it were so that we could have his Regt. The 29th I think it is – at least that which contains the old 10th Maine is coming, I hear, to the 12th Corps which is in this Department.

Please give kindest remembrances to Isabella. I wouldn't wonder if Otis took a leave by & by but it is so far I fear I will not go home.

We have had a new Division attached to this Corps - Western troops - commanded by Genl Ward. They will not join us here for the present. Otis is reading Harper's Monthly. The new moon is out bright tonight and the 33d Band is making the mild evening air resound with sweetest strains.

Dont you wish you were here – as happy as we? But oh! Appearances are deceitful – there is a void – without home and the bonds we love. Otis thought of sending you a nice Colored woman, but feared it would be too much trouble for Thompson. Besides where would we get our cakes & pies if you should take our cook?

I have double-duty now as Inspector General in Col. Asmussen's absence.

Genl Schurz is getting into a quarrel with Gen. Hooker (not Otis, be thankful) about the Lookout Valley Battle. Hooker blamed Schurz in his official Report & now comes Court of Inquiry. I fear our memories (as witnesses) will be rather murky not to say foggy relative to the doings of that dark night's fight.

But I cannot scribble & prate always to you.

Love to all the little ones.

Yr. Affectionate br.  
C.H. Howard

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2063 1/15/1864 *From:* Geo Duford Dyer

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-2017

Boston

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[473]

Boston Jany 15 / 64

Mrs Howard  
Augusta Me

Yours of the 13th at home this A.M.

We shall be pleased to remedy any imperfections as you suggest & regret the impossibility of including buffs for the same price.

The amt. named you is really very low, affording us only a small margin of profit.

Yours  
Geo <Duford> <Dyer>

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2064 1/22/1864 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2018

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Assistant Inspector  
General's Office  
Lookout Valley

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[476]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Assistant Inspector General's Office  
Lookout Valley – Jan 22nd 1864

Dear Brother [OO Howard]

I was sorry to learn that you did not get off till 4 P.M. instead of A.M. Kerlin saw you pass the Lookout Switch. I also heard from you by my orderly John who went over to the Sanitary Rooms.

Mr Lawrence of C.C. sent me some Raspberry sherbet which I could drink with relish. He also sent some apples which I have had roasted and this morning I had some appetite and feel a great deal better. I kept pretty quiet yesterday. Have had no return of the sickness and will now soon be perfectly well.

Col. Richardson 25th Ohio has written again to enquire for his former letters. Col. Meysenburg will answer that you replied to them & sent back Gen. McLean's paper.

Two other unimportant letters inquiring for a Surgeon & a soldier - Capt Stinson will attend to. Col. Logie, Corps officer of the Day does not report here nor does he visit the Camps - & even day before yesterday did he report any visit to Picket lines. I sent him a copy of an old Circular of yours this morning requiring attention to these things.

It is very pleasant & you are probably just about arriving at Nashville if you have not again been delayed.

Love to Lizzie & the little ones – Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy.

I have no time to write more. Hope you will promote the plan of mother's coming west.

Yr affec. Brother  
C.H. Howard

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2065 1/22/1864      *From:* Henry J. Abbott      *To:* Genl Howard

OOH-2019      Care of E. A. Abbott &  
*Source:* Bowdoin      sons  
                                 Baltimore

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[16]

Baltimore Jan 22nd 1864

Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

It has been some time since I have heard of you. I believe you were in Maine last August. I heard of you, but did not see you. I was in Lewiston at the same time, I went there with the 10th Me. and was there until Sept. I went there with the intention of learning to be a machinist. I was at work about three months when I was taken down rheumatic fever; and after I got able to be moved my mother came on and took me home.

I do not think of returning as the climate does not agree with me.

I am now entirely well and am about to go to my trade again, as soon as I decide on a place. I want to join the army but my parents object because they think that I am too young, and it is best policy for boys of my age to obey their Parents. I have been studying tactics ever since the war began, with a view of some time serving my Country. The folks often speak of Genl Howard and wonder why he has not stopped to see them when he has been passing thru the city.

I have a friend Jeff Tuttle of the 1st Conn. Vol. Who has been in the service ever since the war began. His time expired a short time ago and he reenlisted for the war. He has seen some service but not much in comparison to some.

He is a man about twenty two years old, a smart active young man. He is a good horse man, and from what I have seen of him and what I hear of him pretty well served in military.

He is five feet ten inches and a half, and weighs about one hundred and seventy lbs.

He wants to get some where that he can see more active service, as his regt. is doing provost duty here. If it would not be asking too much of you would you use your influence to get him a position on a staff somewhere out where you are.

His rank is second Lt. And is adjutant of one of the battalions of his regt.

I know him for a long time and know him to be a man of good principles and steady habits. I can vouch for all of this. If necessary I can get a letter from Maj Genl. Schenk whom he has been under for some time.

I hope soon to hear from you. The folks all wish to be remembered to you.

I remain yours truly.  
Henry J. Abbott

Direct  
Care of E. A. Abbott & sons.

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2066 1/24/1864 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2020

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn

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[477]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn  
January 24th 1864

My dear brother [OO Howard]

A bright beautiful morning, mild as May. We have had several such and evenings like the one before you left or if anything more mild and pleasant. We are beginning to wonder if Winter has really gone.

Col. Hayes has decided not to work on the Switch today. I thought it better not. He will send three or four miles up the Trenton R.R. for an old Switch. He is not allowed to take the rails as he expected from the Wauhatchie Junction. Will get them in Chattanooga. He saw the Supt. R.R. yesterday.

I rode over the battle-ground of 28th, 29th Oct. with Gen Schurz, also visited Hooker's & other camps yesterday. Schurz is going to have not so easy a victory with Hooker I think. Hooker will prove that I communicated an order for him to halt but Gen. Hooker will hold that he never authorized me to give any such order and moreover will <offer in> that he supposed Krzyzanowski was marching on with his brigade. And I think Schurz cannot show that Krzyzanowski had any order to halt. Mr. Douglass came yesterday & we will have a meeting in my office tonight. Today he visits the 33d Mass. Last evening by moonlight he & I went over & got the 33d Band to play over those three first pieces that they played the eve of your departure. I'll name them for Lizzie's benefit. I. "Siege Quickstep" dedicated to Maj. Gen. Howard. II. "Glory to God on High". III "We may be happy yet." (Cornet obligate & Solo).

My Cabin door is open to let in the clear pure air & sunlight. I doubt if Capt. S. gets that Statistical Record done was to send it to you at Augusta. My health improves slowly, not much appetite. It would be ungrateful not to get well such weather.

Please explain & enlarge upon the fact of how much I love little Guy, Grace & Jamie, and try & make Lizzie & Chancy comprehend the same in regard to themselves.

Yr. Affec. Brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Remember me with the greatest kindness to Isabella, and to Col. Woodman & wife with much regard, if with you.  
C.H.H.

P.S. Capt Stinson just remarks that he don't believe they have much better weather than this in Italy. Maj Hoffman is making a sun-dial.

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2067 1/25/1864 *From:* E Gilmore

*To:* My dear Son, [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2023

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds January 25th 1864

My dear Son, [OO Howard]

I am concious, that I do not properly appreciate my daily blessings. Neither do I enter fully into your privations, the former would be a happy contemplation to have a spiritual love to the author of every good and perfect gift, would create in my heart great happiness, but to have a realizing sense of all your dangers and privations, would not benefit you & might help me faster towards old age. Your kind letter of the 27 ult. I was very happy to receive, and am much obliged to you for it, and the present it contained of ten dollars, and how much I should be gratified to divide some of our winter stores with you, such as apples, cheese, butter and milk &c &c. But 800 miles intervenes between us. I heard through Rowland that Mrs Patten Ella's mother had sent some cans of dried fruit to Charles through John Ivory's friends. I was glad but could not help wishing I could be one to help fill up a box for you.

But I will not fill up my letter with useless regrets, but tell you about things here. I went to Farmington last Thursday and stopt two nights with Rowland. There I learned of Maria's death, (which news will reach you, ere my letter does, as Rowland wrote you while I was there) I read two letters from Clara Davis to Sarah, a particular friend of Maria's a lady with whom you and Charles have met at Maria's house. I hope and trust her (Maria's) spirit is at rest in the bosom of her saviour, but still it brought a sadness over my mind to review my brother's life and his family's. I suppose Maria had as much to live for as any one, but Infinite wisdom saw fit to remove her from earth, and who shall question his right to do so.

This day has been one of great privilege to me. I have heard two gospel sermons, and enjoyed the services of our church very much. Mr Smith of Wayne exchanged with our minister. We have had some additions to our church the past year, and are still looking for more mercy from our Heavenly father however undeserved it may be. I am now in my sixtieth year, and I know I have had many blessing, both spiritual and temporal. But still it is what I cannot fully distinguish between one blessing or another as all are from God and it is our duty to render thanks to our great Master for our benefits. I have been ungrateful many times, but the great love of God has brought me back in much humility, I trust, to his feet, and that, I count one of his great mercies.

Mr Berry and Florra Turner returned from Augusta yesterday. They called to see your family. They were in health. I sent them some apples by them. F said they were delighted with them. Augusta is full of soldiers at this time, poor fellows. I hope, at least, some of them have a true motive in enlisting. I almost dread for them the hardships they must endure. Our family at the present time consists of your father, and I and the girl.

We have so far had a mild winter, just snow enough to have good sleighing. I felt no inconvenience from the cold in going to Church to-day. I think now your father and I shall go to Augusta soon and visit the dear ones there. I have not seen Flora much to ask her much about them. Mr and Mrs F. Lothrop called to see Rodelphus yesterday, said he was well and happy. He has written Charles since I wrote the 4th of Jan. I think that was the letter in which I placed Laura's letter. My last letter from Charles was written at midnight of the last year and the comming in of the new year. He expressed himself of possessing a contented spirit, in that there is great enjoyment. I am glad to feel that he is happy. I saw Mrs Warren Howard to day. She spoke of Dexter, said his health was good and he was looking forward to the time his Regiment would be discharged.

Good night. Your mother  
E Gilmore

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2068 1/26/1864 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear Son [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2021

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[478]

Tues, P.M. 26, 1864 [January written in pencil. Jan 26, 1864 fell on a Tuesday.]

My dear Son,

You will see my letter has not been mailed. We are still in good health. No letter yet from Charles. It is a longer time than usual since we have heard from you, and yet we hope all is right with you. Nothing new with us. If there is anything I desire, more than another it is a more lively sense of the goodness of God, his great love and condecention to me a puny creature. Charlie has never said anything about our Changing the direction of our letters to any other place so we continue to direct to Nashville as formerly.

Much love to Charlie and abundance to yourself.

From your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

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2069 1/26/1864 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2022  
*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Assistant Inspector  
General's Office  
Lookout Valley

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[480]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Assistant Inspector General's Office.  
Lookout Valley - Jan'y 26 1864

My dear brother [OO Howard]

Night before last an order came for the III Div'n to relieve the troops of Gen. Granger between this & Bridgeport. So our Brigade will be at Whiteside - one at Shellmound and one at B. Hd. Qrs. Div'n probably at the last named.

Gen. Schurz moved here yesterday & occupied your house, your furniture being stowed in a corner. The Div'n marched yesterday morning. Part of the baggage was taken by R.R. train. Part of the <sick> ditto & the rest will be. This leaves a small cond. here. I do not get daily reports from III Div'n. Shall try & get the monthly both from them & the new 1st Div'n and forward the same before I leave. In order to accomplish this I may be compelled to remain till the 3d or 4th Feb'y before starting for Richmond. I will finish my business well & properly first - afterwards play.

My health has continued to improve and with the exception of an old difficulty (the Piles) which has attacked me anew I am quite well. I am going to ride every day & have done so of late for my health. I saw Col. Fessenden yesterday who desired me to say to you that he had written the letter as you wished.

Poor McCaulay died night before last. I had been deluded by the report from the Dr. every day that he was getting better & did not even see him.

Gen. Schurz by our invitation takes your seat at the mess. Everything goes on well. Gen. S. seems unusually diligent to do his whole duty. Gen. Butterfield is here. Gen. Grant I hear is at Chattanooga. I suppose Granger's Div'n will join him at Knoxville & perhaps a fight will ensue.

The weather is incomparably fine. Capt. S. will have the Statistical Record finished today.

Your affec. Brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Kindest love to Lizzie & the children.

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2070 1/28/1864 *From:* J.G. Blaine

*To:* Maj. Genl. Howard

OOH-2024

Wash'tn D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52]

Wash'tn D.C.  
28 Jany 1864

My Dear General:

I enclose you a copy of the Joint Resolution whose adoption by a unanimous vote in both branches of Congress you have doubtless already noticed.

The effect of the Resolution is to recognise you and to permanently record you in the Annals of the Country as the Hero of the Great Battle of Gettysburgh.

I congratulate you on a result at once so just & generous on the part of the National Congress, and so honorable & auspicious to yourself.

I remain  
Very heartily your friend  
J.G. Blaine

Maj. Genl. Howard

[Note. The Joint Resolution was not attached here. Letter OOH-2038 dated Feb 13, 1864 is a congratulatory letter from the Secretary of War in which a copy of the Resolution was attached.]

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2071 1/29/1864 *From:* Mrs Wm Rusknell

*To:* Mr. G. H. Stuart

OOH-2026

Phila.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[481]

Phila'd Jany 29th 1864

Dear Sir

Allow me to enclose you a bill for \$100. to be added to last nights collection in aid of "The Christian Commission".

I esteem it a privilege to have attended that meeting, to listen to those interesting addresses, and to have witnessed the enthusiasm of feeling manifested; but above everything else to have been permitted to hear the testimony of such a man as General Howard in favor of our holy religion. To me that was one of the greatest sermons I have ever heard. We know now the secret of his coolness and bravery in battle – and I have all along thought our victory at Gettysburg was more owing to his choice of position, than even to General Meade.

If we have many such men as he in the army, we may surely look for the favor and blessing of God.

With him I say, God bless the "Christian Commission", which while it does not neglect the bodies of our brave Soldiers, cares especially for their souls.

Respectfully yours  
Mrs Wm Rusknell

Mr. G. H. Stuart

[Written across the top of the first page, in a different hand.]

\$100.00

Rec'd Jan 29/64

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2072 1/30/1864    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* My Dear General Howard

OOH-2025

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

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[483]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission,  
11 Bank Street  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 11 Bank St.  
Jos. Patterson, Treas., Western Bank.  
Rev. W.E. Boardman, Sec'y, 11 Bank St.  
Philadelphia

January 30, 1864

My Dear General Howard,

It is with the most sincere and grateful feelings that I find myself called upon to tender you the thanks of the Commission, of the Public, and of myself for the eloquent and noble address made by you on the evening of the Anniversary. As a personal favor to myself I shall always cherish the remembrance of it, and as a favor to the Christian Commission also. The grand Christian sentiments and character of the address; the prominence it gave to what was eminently spiritual, and the acknowledgment there was in it of the power of our religion to guide the soul amidst the storms of war and the calms of peace alike, came with a force unequalled to the hearts of Christians present. Would that all the officers and soldiers of our army were actuated thus; may the time not be far off when all shall be thus led to bow at the feet of the God of Battles – and Lord of war. As an index – a single one – of the power of the address, I beg leave to enclose to you a letter received by me from a lady of Philadelphia – indicating her appreciation of your words and the practical influence it had in her case. So we have heard from every quarter like testimonies to the value of what you said as a declaration for Christ.

On your return from home for the field, could you do us the favor of making an address for us in the city of New York; or if arrangements are not made there in Philadelphia again. I am sure that my own feeling of pleasure at your acceptance of this invitation would be shared by every friend of the Commission.

Hoping that God may long spare you in the service of your country, and of Him – and with sentiments of our highest regards and well-wishes.

I am very truly yours,  
Geo. H. Stuart

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2073 1/30/1864    *From:* Cornelia E.  
Anderson  
Lambertville NJ

*To:* Maj Gen Howard

OOH-2027

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[482]

Lambertville NJ Jan 30 1864

Maj Gen Howard,

Having heard you speak in Phila, on Thursday night I feel that it does not need any apology even for a stranger to address one who belongs so fully to his country and hero, but although I do feel an almost idolatry love for those who for us & for the "old flag" have gone forth to the conflict and offered their lives. Yet while listening to one who had given his strong right arm for our beloved land I felt there was a stronger bond of union. If I loved you for your patriotism it was even a purer and holier love I felt for one who amid the fearful conflict was resting so perfectly on our almighty Fathers arm.

I thank you for staying. I thank our Father for inclining that heart to stay and speak for his glory. I thank you for standing up for Jesus before that multitude.

I do feel that we have not done what we could for the conversion of those who have gone forth to battle for our flag. It almost breaks my heart to feel that many of our brave ones have no home in our "Father's house of many mansions." I feel that we must pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers in to his harvest that every Christian should feel that it is not for us who are at home to live at ease while our brave ones are falling on every side without an interest in Christ. I feel that we must send men whos meat and drink it is to do their masters will to teach them the way of life.

And now one request – never decline an opportunity of speaking for your country and your God. Words spoken from a heart so filled with love to his Country and his God must reach the hearts of al. Speak then when you may.

I would ask for our brave ones earths richest choicest blessings. I would crown them with laurels – but all earthly things must perish. I would ask a crown unfading with many stars, and that you may go back to your duties and your trials from your dear ones at home with stronger faith in the Savior and more earnest desires for the glory of God in the conversion of souls and that in the darkest hour may you ever feel underneath and around you the Almighty arm of our heavenly Father and that the peace of God which passeth all understanding may keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus and that you may at last sit down with him in the house of the blest where no wars ever come is the prayer of one of your fellow servants in the work of the master.

Cornelia E. Anderson

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2074 1/30/1864 *From:* Susan V. Greble

*To:* My dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-2028

128 S. 19th St.  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[484]

Philadelphia January 30th 1864

My dear Mrs Howard

It is needless to say how often I think of you, and your noble Husband, and dear little Guy and Grace, and I will not attempt to tell you how often my thoughts take me to your home at West Point, where we were all so happy when my darling son was your neighbor and friend. I will not attempt to tell you, how I learned to love your husband when a Cadet because my son loved him, and claimed him for his friend.

But I will tell you, about his late visit to our City, because I think that his modesty will not speak of it. I well know my dear friend that your heart will throb with Patriotic pride to know that in our City of "Brotherly Love" your noble Husband, is not only admired, but honored. Oh how I wish that you could have been in our Academy of Music last Thursday evening, to have seen the welcome that was given to him, in rapturous rounds of applause. I wish that you could have seen, and heard him, in that large assemblage tell how much he loved his Country and how fearlessly he avowed his love for his (and our) Savior. I thank my God for your Husbands firmness of character, and I thank him for giving my darling son, and his wife, and children, such a friend. I pray God that your life and your precious Husbands may long be spared to you and your little ones.

I have often told your Husband how very glad we would all be to have you make us a visit and have urged him to bring you. When his leave is up, come this far with him. You need not fear to bring the little Chancy with you. We all love children, and will do our best to help you take care of him and I promise you a warm welcome. If you cannot come now with the General we will be glad to see you at any time you can make it convenient to come.

Sallie received your letter and was truly glad to hear from you, and the little stranger. She sends much love to you, and your Husband, and little ones.

My dear Husband joins me, in wishing that you would come to us. Sallie too will enjoy your visit.

With many good wishes for your health, peace, and happiness, I am dear Mrs Howard your Sincere Friend

Susan V. Greble  
128 S. 19 St. Philada.

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2075 1/31/1864    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2003

Hd. qrs 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[588]

Hd. qrs 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley Jan [See note 1]  
Evening [Jan, 1864?] [The date was written in pencil. It should be Jan 31, 1864]

My dear brother [OO Howard]

Your letter written at <Nashville> reached me today – four days old. I got one from Rowland also today announcing the sad intelligence of Maria's death [Note 2]. You were too late to see her. I hope you were not too late [for] the funeral. You will at least be a comfort to William. I will enclose a letter from Gen. McClellan. Mr. Gilbreth tried to <get> me to part with it, bidding as high as <> dollars, for the sake of having an autographed letter from Gen. McClellan.

I just went into your tent & saw Gen. Schurz, Col. Meysenburg & Major Hoffman – each and all desired me to send you their kindest regards. Gen. Schurz says he made <a> plea “for the jurisdiction” of the Court today. All goes on satisfactorily. Col M. wished me [to] inform you that Gen. Butterfield was giving instructions directly to the Brigades now <> on the R.R. He thinks they at Gen. <Hookers> Hd. Qrs. are somewhat disposed to our [Missing line or page]

We have had another mild and beautiful <day> - really warm like summer in the middle of the day. Capt. Stinson & I spend <a> large portion of the day on Raccoon Mt. I have been riding considerably every day for my health since you left. Day yesterday we went upon Lookout with Capt Cross & got <our> picture taken – embracing quite an extensive <view> of the rock – the very point of Lookout. <> your personal staff proper in a group. I am improving in health every day.

Col. Hayes & Lt. Gilbreth go to Nashville tomorrow. The latter was surprised to have [a] leave of 10 days granted him instead of an order to go to Murfreesboro to settle ordnance matters as he desired. He fears he will lose some pay by the means. They start at 5 in the morning & I send this by them. Lt. G. will go to Gen. Ward & take some Inspection Blanks for “Monthly Report” which Maj. Lawrence wishes me to get from the new <Qr Mr>. I have (a day or two since) sent all the requisite instructions & orders – direct to Gen Ward with a letter requesting him to hand them <to> an Inspector. I believe one of his Brigades, our old Brigade is to be relocated at <[our]> post. This will separate his Divn.

There seems to be no prospect of <> Corps going to Nashville. In fact I <> I said that that Divn of Granger's who we relieved is only going beyond <Chatt> to guard the R.R. to Cleveland & above.

Col. Meysenburg wished me to mention [to] you that Lt. Col. Falkner had forwarded that application direct to Capt. Perkins & the latter had referred it back. Col <> returned it with endorsement that a <repetition> of the procedure would put him <in> arrest, but I hardly need bother you <on> these petty wranglings. I fear you will <have> puzzling times in reading this. My hand <is> unusually unsteady – perhaps in great measure <to> weariness. Scouts in this evening bring <nothing> of importance. They mention a rumor of <deserters>, that Johnson's army is under marching orders <> the story needs confirmation.

I am looking <forward> with delightful anticipations of my trip <>. I do hope I will meet mother & Dellie. <If> <I could> not meet them I should be strongly <tempted> to go East as far as N.Y. & see John Weir and other friends. I long to see some of <my> old tried friends – perhaps more since you have been away. I like the Inspector's duties, much better than I ever expected I would. <Maj ?k> pleases me much. He is invaluable. I wish I <could> procure him a Commission in his Regt. <for> his sake. In looking over & selecting the <circulares> from my office for Gen. Ward I find <some> very poorly constructed at least as far as <the> English language is concerned – and in fact <there> is a general want alike of clearness & conciseness.

I will enclose a letter from Publisher Bramhill which also came today. A good long letter from Lizzie I need not

remail. I wonder <if> she will pardon me for opening & enjoying it <all> by myself. Hope the little ones are recovered.

<The> Kennebec Journal from her also came – but the <> still comes regularly from the Publisher. I sent you a Nashville Press having an article <from> East Tennessee – rather severe on Sherman & complimentary & appreciatory of you.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

[Note 1. The right side of page 1 and the left side of page 2 seem to be cut off. CHECK ORIGINAL. Perhaps some of the information can be recovered.]

[Note 2. Maria (Otis) Merrick, the wife of William Merrick, died on 19 Jan 1864. Charles had written a letter dated Jan 26, 1864, where he states that Otis has left for Philadelphia and hopes that he gets there in time to talk with Maria. He obviously did not know that she had died. This letter therefore was written after the 25th and before one written on Feb 11, 1864. Assume January 31, 1864.]

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2076 2/2/1864

*From:* J.W. Chickering

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2029

No 1 Bulfinch Place  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

No 1 Bulfinch Place  
Boston, Feb. 2d [1864] [The year was written in pencil.]

Dear General and brother,

I did not try to crowd up and tell you how happy, & (evangelically) proud we of Maine, & of America, were last evening.

I send you the "Advertiser" notice, & shall make one for the N. York Observer.

Now a word of my work, and the important aid I desire in it, which no one can give as well as yourself. So thought more than one of our Board, who said, last ev'g "Can we not have an address from him?"

Our movement, as you will see from our Circular, is moral, and especially Christian – not ignoring still less opposing the law work on the various "Orders", but yet striving to bring in the respectable religious people, who are tired of Temperance (joking) – afraid of "Secret Societies" - and doubtful about "Prohibition".

We use the Sabbath freely and without reproach for Gospel temperance, sermons, & hold prayer-meetings Sabbath evenings at which thousands of pledges have been taken.

Now we are about commencing a course of discourses Sabbath ev'gs, from our ablest pastors, and it will encourage them, & give us prestige before the people to precede them by an address from one who the people so much delight to honor.

It need not be elaborate, or a lecture at all, but such remarks and illustrations can convey <> versus abstinence & safety, as you could give by the hour.

You shall not do it "for naught", in any sense.

Will you be kind enough to send me at once the dates of your engagements home, & mention one or more evening Sabbaths or others from which we may select, so as to plan in season?

I also wish to arrange for my son to come from Exeter, N.H. while you are here.

I remain, dear Sir, with best regards to you & all yours.  
Truly yr friend & brother in our Lord.  
J.W. Chickering

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2077 2/4/1864

*From:* T. W. Osborn

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-1528

Bridgeport Ala

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[34]

Bridgeport Ala  
Feb. 4, 1864

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Genl.

My brother, Rev. A.C. Osborn of St. Louis, will leave St. Louis in a few days for Washington on the business of the promotion.

Will you do me the favor to write him an introductory note to Vice Prest. Hamlin stating, as you may see fit, the object of this visit.

I do not expect the Vice Prest. to interest himself but my brother through this channel may be able to gain very valuable information.

Please direct the letter to Washington where he will rec. it.

I am Genl. respfly your obd serv.  
T. W. Osborn

Every thing here passes on pleasantly. Wheeler Baty has gone home. Woodside has not. The 2d Indiana Baty is assigned to first Div.

[Written in another hand on the back of the letter.]  
No. 49 So. Cherry St.  
Arthur F. Reed

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2078 2/4/1864

*From:* J.A. Anderson

*To:* Maj. Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2030

*Source:* Bowdoin

Belvidere Delaware  
and Flemington  
Railroads  
Office of the Engineer  
and Superintendent  
Lambertville, N.J.

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[485]

[Letterhead]

Belvidere Delaware and Flemington Railroads  
Office of the Engineer and Superintendent,  
Lambertville, N.J.  
Feb. 4th 1864

Maj. Gen Howard  
Dear Sir

Pardon a Stranger for expressing to you the very great satisfaction felt in listening to your address at the Academy of Music in Phila. last week, and my sympathy with one who is standing up so faithfully in Our Master's service. My wife, who also heard you, has had full liberty to adore the defenders of our flag, ever since it was assailed, and therefore the enclosed will not perhaps seem out of place to one of its Christian defenders.

You may possibly remember my introducing myself to you as a "Jersey man" before the meeting in Phila. I recall the circumstance in order to refer again to my brother-in-law Surgeon Riley of the 33rd N.J.V. He is the husband of a beloved and praying Sister, and is himself a professor of religion, but I fear has not mastered fully the idea of honoring God in all his ways, and is not very spiritual in his religion. As he has expressed to me a special respect for yourself, you will pardon me, I think, for stating these facts, and suggesting that possibly it may fall in your way to bring to bear upon him the influence of your character, and thus benefit his own soul as well as those under him. It would be a great source of thankfulness to me if he should be led to see his duty and to work for the Savior in the position he holds, which gives him many opportunities of doing good.

Please, Sir, accept the assurance that our prayers shall ascend to our Heavenly Father for his blessing upon you and upon your efforts to honor him.

Your Respectfully  
J.A. Anderson

I may add that possibly Surgeon Riley might not be pleased to know that I have communicated with you in his behalf.

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2079 2/4/1864

*From:* F. D. Sewall

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2031

*Source:* Bowdoin

Board of Examinations  
for Officers  
of Invalid Corps Cor.  
18th St. & Pa. Av.  
Washington D.C.

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[53]

Board of Examination for Officers  
of Invalid Corps Cor. 18th St. & Pa. Av.  
Washington D.C. Feb'y. 4th 1864

General

Mr. Haskell Adj. of the 19th Me, is desirous of obtaining a position on your staff. I cheerfully recommend him as an excellent officer for staff duty. He is intelligent, industrious and brave. He was of great assistance to me while I commanded that Regmt. and during the short time I was in command of the Brigade, he was my A.A. Adj. Gen'l. and served me very acceptably. He was subsequently with Col. Heath at Brigade Hd Qrs. Col. Heath speaks of him in high terms.

I know that Mr. Haskell has a strong personal attachment for you, and I am confident he would serve faithfully on your staff.

If you have a position for him I hope that it may agreeable for you to select him. For the interest I have always felt in Mr. H. I would like to have him under your influence as a personal benefit to him.

I am Gen'l. very respectfully  
Yr Obt. Servt.  
F. D. Sewall  
Col. 3d. Regt. Inv. Corps.

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2080 2/6/1864

*From:* J.S. Sewall

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-2032

Wenham, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[489]

Wenham, Mass.

Feb. 6, 1864

My dear Howard

I see by the papers th. you are home on a short furlough among yr. friends. I w'd like very much to see you. We have not met since the war began. We c'd have lots of talk abt. old college days, as well as abt. the affairs of the times. I cannot get to Maine, now, & so why can't you stop here overnight (& day too) on yr. return to Tennessee? I do not know at what time you go back, but if you come to Boston over the Eastern R.R. you come thro' our place, & we shd. give you a hearty welcome. Wenham is 20 miles out of Boston, a quiet village, where you c'd. take a day of rest before returning to the field. I will meet you at any train you mention. If you c'd. only spare a single night you c'd. get here in the eve'g train fr. Portland, & then reach Boston at 9 3/4 the next morning, so as to have the whole day before you there. If Mrs. Howard returns with you any part of the way, we sh'd be right glad to welcome her with you, & will make you both comfortable.

I feel rejoiced at yr. success with the Eleventh Corps, & I doubt not you will always look back with pleasure to the part you took in these struggles.

Jack [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain you know has long been in the army. I met him, last Commence't & all my old fever for the army revived. I have wanted to go ever since the 12th April '61, but my parish & family have prevented.

If you can possibly spare the time, I hope you can stop with me before you leave N. England, & my wife, & father in law (Mr. Benson of Winthrop, whom you know) join me most heartily in the request.

With respects to yr. family

Affectionately Yr. Friend & Classmate

J.S. Sewall [John Smith Sewall, Bowdon Class of 1850]

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2081 2/9/1864

*From:* Francis W. Hasbee  
Lt. & Adj. 19th  
Maine Vols

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2033

Hd Qrs 19th Maine Vols  
(near) Stevensburg, Va

Augusta, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[54]

Hd. Qrs. 19th Maine Vols  
(near) Stevensburg, Va  
February 9th 1864

General:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter from Col. Sewall.

I have made this application with hesitation not knowing your wishes in such matters but trust that I may not be misunderstood.

I shall be glad to be with you in any position, General, that you may wish. I have tried to do my duty faithfully and to honor the commission that you gave me.

I also enclose a statement from Capt. Fogler, Comd'g. The three Field officers are now in Maine on Conscript and recruiting service. I hope I may yet be with you, if not, I shall try General, to be ever worthy of your former kindness to me.

I am General, Very Respectfully  
Your ob't Serv't.  
Francis W. Haskell  
Lt. & Adj. 19th Maine Vols

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Augusta, Maine

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2082 2/9/1864

*From:* Jn B Bachelder

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2034

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[470]

Washington D.C. Feb. 9, 1864

Maj. Genl. Howard

Dear Sir

I am engaged in preparing a large general view of the "Gettysburg Battlefield". The scenery, representing some twenty five square miles is completed. I am now engaged in locating the position of the troops. I returned yesterday from the Army of the Potomac, every Regt of which I have now located on my drawing. I should like very much to see you before I pronounce it completed and will visit you a week from today, or any other day near that date if you will write me when you can be seen. As I do not know your address I send this to the care of your State Adj. General.

I am Sir

Yours with Respect

Jn B Bachelder

address

125 Washington St

Boston Mass

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2083 2/10/1864     *From:* Geo Shepard

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2035

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[CHECK ORIGINAL Number stamp hidden in fold at bottom of page.]

Bangor Feb 10, 1864

Gen. O.O. Howard  
My Dear Sir,

Will you excuse me if I state to you in general the facts about the endowing of our Theol. Seminary. I have been here, connected with it, twenty seven years, in all that time struggling with poverty.

Nineteen years ago, I was called to a pulpit in Brooklyn N.Y. where my salary would have been \$5000. I remained here on \$1000 for the sake of the good cause in Maine.

But now there has come some success to the Seminary in getting funds to live on. The greatest success has been in connexion with this war. In returning from the West last fall, where I went to lecture <two ? [CHECK ORIGINAL –fold at bottom of page]> subscribed, each \$10,000 - another gave \$10,000 in his will - another \$3000 - another gentleman in NY \$6000. All this in large sums with the year; then a great many smaller gifts, from \$500 down to \$100. The result is that we are getting toward the end of a complete endowment.

I state this to you, knowing you will rejoice in it, and that you may communicate the facts to your brother Charles, and still further, that if you or he would, at any time, deem it a privilege, to drive in a nail, or lay a stone in our foundation, you might know the state of the case, and be assured it would do good.

I have had to stoop to the humiliation of begging for this object the last year – a sort of crucifixion it has been to me – but some duties not pleasant have to be done.

I hardly know that I proceed with propriety in at all bringing this matter before your mind – as you and your brother have the higher sacrifices to make; if not, you will pardon me.

I regret that I failed to see you on Monday when I called at your house, and I intended to call again.

I have followed you in your course with admiration at the moral courage, as well as the other you have shown – have thanked God for the preeminent service He has enabled you to render your country.

May his power still protect you, and his counsel guide you, and the comforts of his spirit be with you. Make my kindest regards to your Brother when you see him.

With great respect  
Your Most Truly  
Geo Shepard

---

2084 2/10/1864 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Rev. J. S. Sewall

OOH-2037

Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta, Me. Feb. 10th 1864

My dear Sewall

Nothing would give me more pleasure than to comply with your kind invitation, but I cannot this time. I have accepted a pressing invitation from the Christian Commission to stop in Boston friday night next and speak somewhere, but at what place I do not know.

My mother is going to Indiana with me and we have agreed to stay over night with a near relative.

Just as soon as I can do so, if God spares my life, I shall do myself the pleasure of visiting you. Give my kindest remembrances to Mrs Sewall & her father.

May God bless & keep you.

Affectionately  
O.O. Howard

Rev. J. S. Sewall

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2085 2/13/1864    *From:* E.D. Townsend

*To:* Major General Oliver O.  
Howard

OOH-2038  
*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Adjutant General's  
Office  
Washington

U.S. Volunteers,  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

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[57]

[Letterhead]  
War Department  
Adjutant General's Office  
Washington  
February 13, 1864

Major General Oliver O. Howard,  
U.S. Volunteers,  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

General,

The Secretary of War takes great pleasure in transmitting to you General Orders, No. 41, promulgating a Joint Resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to yourself and the officers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedt. Servant,  
E.D. Townsend  
Assistant Adjutant General

Joint Resolution

Expressive of the thanks of Congress to Major General Joseph Hooker, Major General George G. Meade, Major General Oliver O. Howard and the officers and soldiers of the army of the Potomac.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the gratitude of the American people, and the thanks of their representatives are due, and are hereby tendered, to Major General Joseph Hooker and the officers and soldiers of the army of the Potomac, for the skill energy and endurance which first covered Washington and Baltimore from the meditated blow of the advancing and powerful army of rebels led by General Robert E. Lee; and to Major General George G. Meade, Major General Oliver O. Howard and the officers and soldiers of that army, for the skill and heroic valor which at Gettysburg repulsed, defeated and drove back, broken and dispirited, beyond the Rappahannock, the veteran army of the rebellion.

[Written on the back of the Resolution]  
Resolutions of Congress respecting certain Officers and Army of Potomac

[CHECK ORIGINAL –Line difficult to read]  
A.G. O.  
Washington D.C.  
Feby. 13th, '64

Townsend E.D.  
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Copy of letter transmitting Genl. Orders No 41, promulgating a Joint Resolution of Congress thank Genls.

Hooker, Meade and Howard, for bravery &c.

Recd Feby 18th 1864

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2086 2/13/1864    *From:* Orland Smith  
Col. 73d Ohio Vols.  
Chillicothe Ohio  
*Source:* Bowdoin

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps  
Chattanooga.

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[56]

Private

Chillicothe Ohio, Feb. 13, 1864

General:

I have been impelled by, what I regard, justifiable circumstances to tender my resignation, and I take the liberty to address you privately on the subject.

The communication was forwarded to the Superintendent of recruiting for Ohio, and by him transmitted to the Adj. Gen. of the Army at Washington. I think it probable, the document will be referred to you for your opinion, and I desire to ask your favorable consideration. I trust you know me well enough to need no assurance, that the step was not taken without careful deliberation, and a conscientious inquiry touching my obligations to my country. The leading reason set forth in my resignation would have induced me to retire from the service months ago had we not been in the midst of activities which rendered it improper and impracticable.

I was unwilling to disregard the claims of the Service when circumstances seemed to render them paramount to other considerations. I now believe I can retire without prejudice to my regiment. You are well aware that Lt. Col. Long and his associates are abundantly capable of directing its operations without impairing its efficiency. Moreover, should its numbers reach the requirement, I think him, as well as Major Hurst and Capt. Higgins justly entitled to promotion. If I have succeeded, in the two years service already rendered, in promoting the efficiency of the regiment, and in any manner contributed towards the success of our arms and the crippling of the rebellion, I shall feel fully compensated for my efforts, and were I convinced that my regiment must suffer by my withdrawal I should still feel under obligations to remain with it. Having satisfied myself to the contrary of this, I do not recognize any legal or moral obligation of a higher Command. I therefore must earnestly repeat my desire that you should make such endorsements as will secure the object, which I seek, viz: my retirement, to private life.

With assurance of the highest esteem and profoundest wishes for your continued safety and success.

I am, Dear General,  
Very Truly Yours,  
Orland Smith  
Col. 73d Ohio Vols.

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps  
Chattanooga.

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2087 2/14/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear father [John  
Gilmore]

OOH-2040

Richmond Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[47]

Richmond Ind.  
Feb. 14th 1864

Dear father,

We had quite a pleasant journey, stopped in Buffalo over Sunday, got here yesterday tuesday morning. Mother not only stood the journey well, but I think has been decidedly benefitted by it. She became quite active & is very happy & cheerful. I do hope you are getting on well & so does she. Henry is well & seems to be doing well. All the family are well. Chas. has got perfectly well.

Remember me Roland & Cynthia.

Your affectionate Son  
Otis

Aunt Martha says you must come west if you want a new lease of life. She and Henry send their thanks for Mother's coming.

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2088 2/17/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2041

Richmond Indiana

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[48]

Richmond Indiana  
February 17th 1864

Dearest,

Mr. Dimond met us at the Depot in Boston. Mr Hazard was there and took mother to Cambridge and I was taken to the Tremont and washed also took tea Then went with Mr D. to Mr Tobey the Pres. Of the Boston board of trade whom I knew having met him in Phila.

Some three hundred of the principal men, merchants, statesmen, lawyers Drs. &c were introduced to me and conversed for a minute or two. I think this cordial reception in Boston did me good. Mrs T. and daughters & mother very fine ladies. At 11 I went thence to Mr Hazard's, had a good sleep, so did Mother. Left 8 ½ a.m. next day, via Albany, arrived in Albany 5 P.M. took tea at Delaware. Entered car at 6 P.M., arrived in Rochester at 4 A.M. Sunday slept in Lawrence Hotel till 7, breakfasted and then went on to Buffalo, went to American House, dined, went to a Mil. Funeral & thence to St. Paul's Epis. evening service – services very pleasant to me & Mother also. Music not to be surpassed.

At night I found Dr Hill, Christian physician that I had traveled with from Phila to New York. We went to Presbyterian Church, heard Dr. Hickock preach on Sin. Met Col Dandy an old army officer & acquaintance. A Mr Howard prominent citizen, Pres. of the bank came to call on me. Next day (Monday) we left for Cleaveland at 7, arrived 3 P.M., train waiting for Columbus. Mother had grown so young that she ran from train to train faster than I could, reached Columbus 9-30 P.M.

Met with the brothers of Commodore Foot - one quite elderly probably 65 yrs, shewed great attention. We went with him to Exchange Hotel near depot, slept till after 1, went on at 2 & reached Richmond about 9 a.m. tuesday.

We anticipated all expectation, found a warm welcome. Chas. was gone to Chicago, to see the place, has just returned bringing back Cousin Lizzie Strickland. She is a lady now, one that you and I would commend, no affectation and very cheerful and good looking. Henry is proud of her.

I told Aunt Martha what you said about Mother's bonnet. She will attend to it. She sends warmest love to you – wishes me to press you to make her a visit & bring all the children. I told her you had <6>, 4 white & two blk. She says bring me one blk. She has a colored girl, very dark and one who can do three times the work of a white one (ordinaire) – take courage, darling, & be patient, wont you?

I concluded to get a small insurance policy. They wont insure me for but 2000. It isnt enough to render it dangerous.

Love from all to you. Chas is in clover. I shall leave tomorrow at 10 1/2 a.m.

I am anxious about Guy. I do hope his attack was temporary, and Jamie I cant feel that he is quite well, and yourself I feel sure you will break down unless you can live a little more easily. My insurance will cover the mortgage if Mr Hall takes up with the offer. I dont think I would sell a great deal of R.R. Bonds. They must be good for the present. When you can get time I want you, Lizzie, to send me a list of stocks and cash on deposit. I shall send you the Insurance policy or rather Uncle Henry will. Much love to your dear self, and to the children. Tell Gracie papa dont want her to read story books much. Miss Woodard will make other selection for her. Papa wants her to learn everything as her Mamma did, i.e. to knit, and sew & cut & fit – a sweet kiss for precious baby.

God keep you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2089 2/19/1864

*From:* Wm. H. Fogler

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2036

Head Qrs. 19th Maine  
Vols.

Comdg. 11th Army Corps.

*Source:* Bowdoin

Near Stevensburg, Va.

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[55]

Head Qrs. 19th Maine Vols.  
Near Stevensburg, Va.  
February 19th, 1864

General,

The object of this note is to call your attention to the merits of Lt. F.W. Haskell, Adj't. of this regiment who is desirous of securing a position on your staff whenever a vacancy occurs.

Lt. Haskell has been Adj't. of this regiment since its organization and has been a most efficient officer in that capacity. He was for some time A.A.A. Gen. at Brigade Head Qrs. and earned a fine reputation for his efficiency in that position. He is a prompt, able and energetic officer, perfectly conversant with his duties and faithful in their discharge.

Should you appoint him as a member of your staff it will be very gratifying to him as well as his friends who know his worth and his wishes in this respect, and will secure for yourself the services of a most valuable officer.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
Wm. H. Fogler  
Capt. Com'dg. 19th Maine Vols.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com'dg. 11th Army Corps.

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2090 2/19/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2042

Lookout Valley &c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Unreadable number stamp]

Lookout Valley &c Feb 19 / 64

Dearest -

I feel like writing you this morning, not because I have got anything to say, but as the bashful boy might say to his lady love & dont dare to, because I love you. I generally think of you a great deal in the morning after I wake. I expect I go to bed sooner than you do and therefore wake up pretty early. Then again my canvas house which is two thirds roof is very light after sunrise. I used to love you and talk about or rather write about it a few years ago, but now I really think a great deal more of you. To all the external beauty, God has granted you graces of heart, a beautiful spirit which endears you to me above measure, and then how he has blessed us, what completeness in children.

(Afternoon) I told Charles today as he showed me a picture of children in Harper, making a noise up stairs, and Uncle George knitting his brows over a speech in <proun> downstairs, that I believed I could write better with the children making a noise around me and I have no doubt of it. I wish I had Jamie and the baby here to play with for it is rainy and I have intermitted my usual 4 P.M. ride. But you will say: "I thought it was morning", it was on the other page yet now it is evening almost dark.

I got up early yesterday morning and rode with McDonald (orderly) to the Lookout Depot to meet Charles. At ten minutes past 8, the train arrived and he emerged with his old genial face. The journey refreshed him. He left mother quite well and enjoying her visit. Uncle Henry enjoys reading the responses. Mr Wakefield can hardly do without him. This is a little severe. He is really changed. Lizzie is a real good girl. Fred is not good, has no moral principle. Such are some of Charles' comments.

I sent you in my last letter to you, a check of 90 dollars on Louisville Depository (U.S.) to your order.

Tuesday Morning. Raining hard. Scarcely any rain for last two months. No more operations probably before April.

I did not write you from Buffalo, because half the day was spent in the cars and I did'nt find a respectable convenience at the Hotel. Mother did'nt go to church in the evening and wrote to father a few lines in pencil I wrote you from Richmond Ind. a brief sketch of our trip. Again I sent a letter from Nashville.

I did'nt tell you I met my old class mate & room-mate Townsend with wife & child riding. I think you met him when we were cadets. He is the Ordnance Officer at Nashville. He looked very happy. I called out: "Hallo Townsend". He hesitated a moment & then knew me, introduced me to his wife and then to the little daughter, as papa's room-mate. Townsend (Edwin F.) resigned, but was reappointed in the 16th Infantry at the beginning of the war.

We are quite well this morning. I feel in good spirits, cough and raise a little every morning but dont think it amounts to much. I think Chas Mulliken's Dr's sugar plums did me good, but I got out of them before I got well.

How about the new house. Has Mr Hall decided about my offer. My insurance was with a view to cover the mortgage of 1500.

The examining thought me a good subject, but for the chances of war. My lungs sound and having an expansion of three inches. I pay 5 percent for war risk (while war lasts) and after that 24 dollars a year for ten years. Meanwhile all dividends will be added to the amount of policy or paid back, so that at the end of ten years it will be like all other investments.

Give much love to Guy. I will write him soon. I was glad to have Mrs Williams intimate that he loved the truth. How happy he will be if he always dares to tell the truth let what will come. May God help him to love & serve

Him. Give much love to Grace. I have sent her a letter. Jamie and Chancy are never forgotten.

Mother wants to get Martha to live with her. I think if you get a larger house she will be well off with her mother. If there is a good chance for going to school, it will be a good thing. Should she go to Mothers you & Julia would have less care, but I dont think she could well go to school out there, and Mother is a little too advanced in life to teach her.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2091 2/19/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2043

Louisville Ky

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[490]

Louisville Ky  
Friday Feb 19th 1864

Dearest,

When Chas. Came back from Chicago, he brought a letter from you, commencing "My dear husband". I could'nt account for the formation and hope I may now return to be your "Dearest" again.

I consented to stop two days at Henry's and now I think it well as I avoided a collision on the Indianapolis and Louisville R.R. Yesterday on reaching the former place I expected to leave in the 9 P.M. train but I found it was not to go, and so I took a "oldier train" and was from 8 ¼ P.M. until 2 P.M. today in getting to this place.

I made the acquaintance of Major Saml. Moody commdg a newly organized detachment of the 27th Mich. On his way to join the regt. At Knoxville. He went from Falmouth, Me. Thinks he met you, years ago when you were a young lady at somebody's house at Falmouth. He was then about starting for California. He said he thought you a very beautiful and amiable girl and that his mother who never would consent to himself or his brother marrying, was willing he should make an offer to you. So we chatted. His brother's name is Glendy Moody I believe.

I have met here at the Galt House Gen. McCook & his wife also Mrs Crittenden. Mrs McCook is about your size. She is fresh & young & pretty. Mrs. C. is of a lovely spirit. Gen W. F. Smith "Baldie" as we call him is here with his wife and baby of 14 months, taken ill en route from New York to Nashville. The little one is just hanging by a thread between life and death. Mrs Smith is as beautiful a lady, my own wife excepted, as I have seen. She is very cheerful, but she can scarcely keep the tears back. God grant they may be spared the great sorrow of losing him.

I wish I could hear from Guy & Jamie, as well as from the rest. I am sitting in the office of the Galt house at a desk for Guests to write on, chairs fastened in position, an old man of 70 in next chair, in a troublesome, drunken sleep, dreams aloud now & then.

I called on Mrs Jenkins tonight. She sends her love to you, has a baby of 16 months, fine little girl, just running alone. Thro some misrepresentation, Capt Jenkins A.Q.M. was suddenly relieved from duty and has long waited for an assignment. She thinks he will go with Schofield in East Tenn. Mr. Jenkins was out during the evening. I fear he is drinking some. She is unchanged.

Give papa's love to each bunny and may God bless you & them. Remember me kindly to the girls - Julia & hers. I leave for Nashville at 7 in the morning.

Lovingly  
Otis

Uncle Henry evaporates much water with his furnace daily. I think it unsafe not to do so, don't you?

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2092 2/20/1864 *From:* Sam Carey

*To:* Mrs Gen Howard

OOH-1999

[Augusta]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[463]

Mrs Gen Howard [ca Dec. 1863] [Ella?] [See note.]

Dear Madam

Gen Burnside is to be here to day – if convenient for him will it be agreeable to you receive a call from him accompanied by myself late this afternoon or early in the evening? I do not know how much time will be consumed by formalities & cannot fix the precise hour. Please send by word of mouth by the bearer – yes or no.

Yours respectfully  
Sam Carey

[Note. The date and Ella? were written in pencil. This is obviously not to Ella, but to Lizzie Howard, the wife of Maj. Gen. OO Howard. A letter [OOH-2058] from Otis to Lizzie dated 8 Mar 1864 confirms the visit of Gen Burnside to Lizzie. I assume that the date of this letter should be closer to Feb 20, 1864, rather than Dec, 1863.]

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2093 2/22/1864    *From:* David Preston

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2044

Banking House of  
David Preston & Co.  
Established May, 1852  
Detroit

Chattanooga Tenn

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[58]

[Letterhead]

Banking House of David Preston & Co.  
Established May, 1852  
Detroit  
Feb 22 1864

Major General Howard  
Chattanooga Tenn  
My Dear Sir:

I yesterdy read with great pleasure the proceedings of the 2nd Aniversay of the U S Christian Com at Phil 28th ult.

I am glad General Howard, that we have at Least one Maj Genrl. (I hope we have many) who Love the Lord Jesus Christ. One who amid the noise, and, amid the dangers of Battles Can exclaim, "I fear no evil, Thy Rod and thy staff they comfort & support me." One who can affectionately kneel by the side of the Dying Soldier and whisper in his ear "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Fathers' house are many mansions &c". I am glad my Dear Bro that you, not only believe in God, but that you believe in Jesus in the Savior of the world. O "How Sweet the name of Jesus Sounds in the Christians ear. It soothes his sorrows, Heals his wounds, and drives away his Fear". O how many Christian Hearts will gladly embrace the invitation to "pray for you".

Yours truly  
David Preston

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
David Preston  
Chicago  
Feby 22, 1864  
Letter

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2094 2/23/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2045

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[492]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Feb 23 1864

Dearest,

I arrived at "Lookout" Depot yesterday morning, found my staff waiting for me, breakfasted at my old place or rather in a new mess tent that had been put up, an improvement. Went to see Gen. Thomas in the afternoon. He has been & is suffering from rheumatism.

The weather is lovely beyond description, warm as May, birds singing. I am hardly comfortable with a coat on. I have hired a colored "boy" (man) by the name of "Sam". He says his wife is Julia's sister. He appears to be a fine man, and takes hold well. I mean to begin back at Louisville and give you a bit of history of the journey, which was a very pleasant one. I got your letter on my arrival & was glad to find Guy was so well & sorry for Jamie. I think the furnace is the cause of sore throats. My cold is nearly well.

I have just snatched a few moments to say I am here and all is well. Gen Palmer with 14th Corps is making a reconnaissance towards Dalton. My command is a little scattered, but I hope to bring it forward before long.

Much love to all the children and a prayer for your keeping. Am sorry for the little one to lose Isabella. Some kind words to Julia.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2095 2/24/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2046

Head Qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[493]

Head Qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley  
Feb 24th 1864

Dearest,

I wrote you a hasty letter yesterday with the promise of beginning back. After I closed my letter at Louisville I went to bed & had a good sleep till about 5 am, when I was awakened with a similar sound from door to door of "Breakfast". I met a good many officers at the Hotel on account of the Court of Inquiry in session on McCook, Crittenden and Negley. Gens Hunter, Wadsworth, Van Cleve, Smith (i.e. Baldie) also Col. Schriver, Gen. Meade's Inspector General who is the judge advocate of the Court.

Capt. Tilford of the 3d Cavalry was there with his bride, brought from St. Louis and en route to Huntsville Ala. where he was stationed. Tilford graduated three years before me. His wife was not handsome but seems to exercise a good deal of influence over him. She is a "Romanist". Gen Davis, the Tilfords & myself got seats together for Nashville.

There was a great rush at the Depot as much as at Augusta. Everybody who wants to is not allowed to go, and it is quite a feat to get a seat amongst those who are allowed to go. Gen. Davis (Jeff C.) is the General who shot Gen Nelson at the Galt House. He is a pleasant, quiet gentleman, but quick tempered. He was in the old army and is still a Captain in the first Artillery. He commands a Divn in the 14th Corps – was associated with me in the pursuit of the enemy after the battle of Chattanooga. We had a pleasant day and no accident.

We had 20 minutes for dinner at Cave City. In this town is the celebrated Mammoth cave – the one "that every American ought to see", yet it has been my fortune to pass through three times without that pleasure. You and I will stop there when we visit Lookout Mountain – wont we?

At Nashville we found charming May weather, drove to the St. Cloud where I left valise and robe and walked to Gen. Underwoods. He is improving, able to move his leg a little and begins to feel out of danger. I was again invited to come over & stay with them. Mrs Harris of the ladies Aid Society, my particular friend - dont be jealous for she is considerably passed fifty – to whom this house is assigned, was gone to St. Louis. I occupied her room at the request she left behind on leaving. Here I staid very pleasantly.

Mrs Underwood accompanied me to Church, at the Presbyterian, College St. The house was almost filled with Soldiers from the hospitals. The interstices were filled, with citizens & strangers. We had a good sermon, convincing us of sin, but the coughing was so marked that it interrupted the service. I helped a little, in spite of good resolutions to the contrary. I met at Mrs Underwoods two Surgeons & their wives, a friend lady & two others. They bound together occupying this palatial residence, that Mrs Harris, rescued from secesh sympathizers who were trying to keep it for the rebel family which had abandoned it and fled on the approach of the Union forces. The scenery & the residences in and about Nashville are magnificent. At 4 ½ P.M. I joined Gen Davis, Capt & Mrs Tilford at the depot.

But I forgot to tell of my interview with Gen. Grant. Sat. evening I went in to see him. He appears to a stranger very much as Shunk used to at Watervliet. He talked with me very freely –thinks with me that the coming campaign will be likely to settle the difficulties and end the war. After talking a while - about Sherman's expedition – he spoke of his visit to Missouri, of his son who was sick and of his wife. She took cold when at Nashville and it settled in her eyes and she was still suffering sadly from it. The sick son was the one who had been so long with him in the Mississippi Campaign and acted as aid – about 13 yrs. old. Young was'nt it? The father spoke with pride of his fearlessness under fire.

The Gen. accompanied me to the St. Cloud to call on Mrs Tilford. In the parlor of the Hotel we found an elegant & accomplished lady. I was introduced by Gen Grant – Mrs Hough. She knew everything, everybody - interested with Mrs. Seward and others. I noticed in talking with Gen. Grant she was intensely union and laid

great stress on the word rebel. She wanted a pass to Huntsville, Ala. I think: as she said she proposed going there. Afterwards I asked Gen. Grant who she was. He said she had been recommended to him by some of his friends as an actress who moved in the best society of the land.

While on the way hither Gen. Davis told me of a conversation he overheard with some cotton speculators. They represented that some Jew, whose mistress this woman was, was using her to circumvent an Order of Gen Logan at Huntsville expelling all cotton speculators from his lines. I wrote the facts or hypotheses to Gen. Grant. It seems almost impossible that so elegant, so beautiful a lady, with every accomplishment could be bad.

Gen Davis & myself fixed us a bed by turning two seats together & putting the bottoms across, opening my robe blanket & pillow. We had a very good sleep, thru Tullahoma, over the mountains – thru Stevenson, where Capt & Mrs Tilford waked me to say good bye. At daylight we looked out upon Bridgeport. It is now quite a place – buildings have sprung up. Steamboats are building. The gigantic bridge is complete. My arrival was welcomed in a quiet way. Everybody seemed real glad to see me. Harry & Gilbreth are well. I like my Sam, getting less homesick, cough scarcely any. Much love to all the children. My pants were not in the valise. Did the Tailor bring them up.

God bless you all. I hope Jamie is well.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2096 2/25/1864    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2047

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission,  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

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[59]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission,  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 11 Bank St.  
Jos. Patterson, Treas., Western Bank.  
Rev. W. E. Boardman, Sec'y, 11 Bank St.

February 25 1864

My dear Friend:

We have received a number of letters from clergymen and others, urging us to publish your speech, delivered at our meeting in the Academy of Music, this city, in pamphlet form, for general, gratuitous distribution. The general opinion is that it would greatly promote the cause of Christ and of our country, and we have concluded to comply with the request, which comes from so many and such influential sources.

Before publishing it, we thought best to send you a copy, that you may have an opportunity of making any alterations you think proper, though we are of opinion it is all right as it is. When you have made the alterations, if you should think of any, please return it to us, that it may go direct to the printer. We propose printing a very large number of copies, and will be happy to send you as many as you may order.

Yours very truly,  
Geo. H. Stuart  
per. J.M.

Major General O.O. Howard

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2097 2/25/1864    *From:* O.A. Black

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2048

1st Presb Church  
Tawanda, Pa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65]

Tawanda Feb 25 / 64

Genl. Howard

Dear Sir

Allow me to inform you of your election as an Honorary Member of our S.S. Miss. Soc, per the contribution & voice of Mr Bulls class of our S.S. (Boy). Hoping to hear from you of your willingness to have your name enrolled on our list of worthies as a friend of the SS & Miss. cause.

I remain yours  
O.A. Black  
Sec of S S Miss Soc  
1st Presb Church  
Tawanda, Pa

P.S. Genl if not asking to much we would like a letter to read to our S.S. At our monthly concert.

[written on the back]  
Answered  
Black, O.A.  
Secy. S.S. Miss. Soc'y  
1st Pres. Church  
Tawanda, Pa.  
Feb. 25th, 1864

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2098 2/26/1864    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-2049

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[479]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
February 26th 1864

My dearest Daughter,

I received your letter with mammas good long post script today. I did have a pleasant ride after I went from home, but I dont think it was so interesting to me as it would have been to you, had you accompanied me. Grandma, who met me at Brunswick, had a very pleasant journey. We staid at Letty's House the first night, rode almost all night the second, stopping at the Lawrence Hotel at Rochester N.Y. from 4 a.m. till about 8. The next night we slept in Buffalo N.Y. The next from 10 P.M. till 1 A.M. at Columbus, Ohio.

The next at Richmond Indiana, where you have one little cousin and three big ones. The little one they call Annie. She cannot speak plainly. You can scarcely understand her, but she is very animated and loves her sisters and cousins very much. Uncle Charles & cousin Lizzie Strickland met us the next day after our arrival - came down on the cars from Chicago.

Thursday night Papa was on a Soldiers train, slept in the cars - Friday night at the Galt House Louisville, Ky. The next night at Nashville, Tenn. The next on the cars, and the others up to now in Lookout Valley.

I hope you will not whisper and you will not have the unpleasant duty of telling that others whisper. I hope you will be able to draw a good map of Maine. There are three rivers you must not forget – the Androscoggin, near which you & papa were born, the Kennebec, near which Guy was born and the Penobscot, near which mamma was born. Ask mamma if she was not born at Bangor, or if she only went there when a little girl?

You said “Good by” papa – so good bye daughter. Give much love to dearest Mamma, to Guy, Jamie & Chancy. My love also to Col & Mrs Woodman. I hope you are all very well. Remember me kindly to Ebell, to Julia and “Jamie's little girls”.

May our blessed Heavenly Father keep you all in his love and fear. He says: “I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee”. See if you can find those words in the Bible.

Papa coughs scarcely any, and is quite well, expects Uncle Charlie tomorrow or next day morning.

Your affectionate father  
O.O. Howard

P.S. I sent a (\$90) check on the U.S. Louisville Depositor to Mamma's Order in my last letter.  
O.O.H.

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2099 2/26/1864    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2050

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[494]

Bath Feb. 26, 1864 [Friday]

Dear Sister Lizzie

Poor Hattie [Anna Harriet Patten] died Wednesday [Feb 24, 1864] morning after untold suffering. She bore a consistent & clear testimony to the Love of Jesus to the last. The family seem calm, except when some haze of sorrow sweeps over them. She besought them each by name to meet her in Heaven. The funeral is Sat. at 3. P.M. and I will not go home till Monday. Ella & Dadie are here & pretty well.

I have not heard a word yet from Otis & Mother. Charles went up to Chicago for Lizzie Strickland & wrote me from there. Sarah got home last Sat. Evening & enjoyed her visit very much.

Give much love to my little nephews & niece & to Cousins Warren & Sarah W. [Woodman]

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

Ella sends much love.

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2100 2/26/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-2051

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[232]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Feb. 26th 1864.

My dear Mother -

I wrote you at Louisville and Charles a short note from Nashville but I believe I have said nothing to you since. I went to the Presbyterian Church in the forenoon. The Church was filled with soldiers apparently the convalescents from the hospitals in the city & many of them seemed to have a bad cough, worse than mine, so that the services were much interrupted. The coughing was only drowned by the doxology.

At 4 ½ P.M. I left for Chattanooga in the regular passenger train. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis was with me and we managed to make us two very comfortable beds. At about 8 A.M. Monday I got off at Lookout Switch, where all my staff were waiting to receive me. I found everything quiet here, called on Gen Hooker and Gen. Thomas that day. Gen. Thomas had dispatched the greater part of his force on a reconnaissance towards Dalton and it has not returned yet. He himself went yesterday. There has been some little firing in that direction. My scouts can find no enemy withing forty miles of this place.

My new Divn is to come forward soon from Nashville & vicinity. I wanted to see Col. Coburn but have not yet been able to. I find my regiments that are here in prime condition with beautiful camps. We have a nice bakery near the RR station and gives the men soft bread constantly. The Christian Commission have a stand near there. I will enclose one of Mr Douglass' circulars.

The weather is beautiful, has been as warm as May at home. Have not had on an overcoat since my return. It seems like another world compared with Richmond Indiana, where you can scarcely keep your ears from freezing. I shall expect Charles a little tomorrow morning, but more Sunday, for he cannot get here easily till the latter since the trains do not connect at Nashville.

My health is very good, cough a very little in the morning and take a little cold by the change from close houses, but feel quite well. I have ridden every day, inspecting camps, hospitals, pickets &c. beginning at 4 P.M.

Tomorrow I have engaged to go to Chatt'a with Gen Hooker. He is unusually cordial since my return.

Give my love to Uncle, Aunt & Cousins. I hear from Lizzie & Children up to 19th inst, all well. Isabella & Etta were both away, Isabella on a visit. Julia & "Jamies little girls" were doing nicely. I have got a check for the Policy tell Uncle Henry. I hope you are very well & happy.

Yr. aff. Son  
Otis

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2101 2/28/1864 *From:* Hugo Jacoby

*To:* Maj. Gen. O. Howard

OOH-2052

Camp Lookout Valley

Cmg 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[61]

Camp Lookout Valley Feb. 28/1864

Maj. Gen. O. Howard  
Cmg 11th Corps  
Sir,

As the critical condition of my adopted but affectionately beloved country at the time of the evacuation of Harrisons Landing and the 2nd battle of Bull Run I abandoned a lucrative position as Salesman with the house of Thomas Mellor & Co in Phila to enlist with the 27th Rgt P.V. having previously refused the tender of a commission as 2nd Lieut. by the now Gen. Schimmelpfennig and Col. Bushbeck. I did then not hesitate to enter as Private, although brought up in comparative refinement and educated at the University of Berlin Prussia. The allusion to such matters, indifferent though they be in themselves and indiscreet their recital, will explain my perhaps too fastidious sensitiveness upon the point of honor, the unrestricted cultivation of which sense had heretofore attended my whole life. The keener the conception of the disgrace, inflicted upon me, the more humiliating was therefore a Regimental order, a copy of which I would have enclosed, had it not been refused to me, reducing me in due form to the ranks, for leaving Camp without permission.

It is hard, General, after laboring with religious punctuality and faithfulness to discharge all, even the most onerous duties on marches and pickets as well as in battles, especially since my promotion to Corporal in Dec. 1862, never having been guilty of any neglect of duties, not even happily on account of sickness, when the terms of enlistment of our Regt are nearly expired, to be yet subjected to disgrace. The passport, which I have the liberty to include, does not in my opinion, sustain the charge of said order.

You will, therefore pardon, General, if I briefly state my offence. On the 22nd inst. I received in the afternoon, together with Serg Naar permission to go to Lookout Point. We met there some old friends of the 78th Rgt P.V. and remained longer than we intended, trusting in the then full moon to be our safe guide after sunset. Our friends however bade us to desist from the very perilous undertaking, to descend the steep mountain at night, and as neither the passport nor any remarks of ours had specified the time of our return, we stayed there overnight.

Next morning I reported myself to Capt. v. Seidlitz, Comdg my Co., and offered my apology, which was not accepted. I was then recommended for degradation, while Serg. Naar received arrest of 24 hours as punishment. I have some reason to believe, General, that I am a victim to partiality. Yet my urgent appeal for an interview with Maj. Priedt Cmdg our Rgt as well as my humble prayer for redress of Col. Bushbeck have so far been ignored. I owe it to my family and friends at home, who have faith in the integrity of my character, to remove by yet another effort, the stigma, which the excess of punishment has lastingly imposed upon it, (as degradation is generally accepted as a punishment for disgraceful actions) and I implore you, General, with all the fervor, with which the conviction of an undeserved stain upon my honor, inspires me, to assist me in in having the order revoked and substitute, if must be, a less degrading punishment. I allow myself to suggest, that the ends of justice will not suffer thereby, and I will not cease to submissively confront hardships, exposures and even death, although not prepared for disgrace.

I may have, General, transgressed in this intrusive communication the routine of military discipline, but believe me, that my reverential faith in your justice and my filial regard for your own individuality have ever proved effective equivalents and powerful incentives for adequating myself to all essential requirements of the service.

I have the honor to sign myself  
with the highest regard  
General  
Your humble servant  
Hugo Jacoby  
Corp. Co. A 27th Rgt P.V.

1st Brig. 2nd Div. 11th Corps

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2102 2/29/1864      *From:* James Wood Jr Col      *To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2053

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 136th  
Regt N.Y.V.I. 2d Brig  
2d Div. 11th A.C.  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

Comdg 11th Corps A.C

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[62]

Head Quarters 2d Brig 2d Div. 11th A.C.  
Lookout Valley, Tenn. Febr 29th 1864

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard Comdg 11th Corps A.C.

General

It is to me a humiliating position to ask for, and canvass my own claims for office. It was always so in civil life; and hence I never was a successful politician; particularly in the proposition true in matters military. But I observe that those who are successful in obtaining military office and promotion, use those who put forth and press their own claims, and that the management of the politician is adopted in military life, and is, I regret to say, too often successful over justice, rank & merit. Self-defence, therefore, compels me, to a certain extent, to adopt the same course, even at the expense of some self-respect.

I was very highly gratified and flattered by the favourable consideration with which you received my application for promotion, in the interview I had with you on the subject. I resolved to have an interview with Maj. Genl Hooker on the same subject. Accordingly I called on him the next day. This to me was a sure cross, for beside the self-abasement of presenting my own claims, I was but slightly acquainted with him. The interview however was a very pleasant one, and Genl Hooker did me the honor to say that he would do all in his power to procure my promotion. He said that in his judgment, the true course to pursue, was for the Corps Commander to give me a recommendation in writing, asking my promotion upon such grounds as he might think proper to present, which recommendation he (Genl Hooker) would favourably endorse.

I beg leave therefore, in presenting my request for such a recommendation, to lay before you in writing, the grounds upon which, in my judgment, it is right and proper for me to ask for promotion.

I. A consciousness of an ability to discharge the duties which the advanced grade will devolve upon me, with credit to myself, and benefit to the service. I am aware, that no opinion is more likely to be erroneous, than a favourable opinion of one's self. As a general rule, men are apt to over estimate their own abilities, their own relative positions, their own importance. Yet I am constrained to believe that I can do justice to the office I seek. In comparing myself with those officers around me, with whom I come in contact, holding or discharging the duties of the advanced grade, I see nothing which should deter me from asking for the position; on the contrary, it seems to me that I could discharge the duties, with more energy, more efficiency, and more profitably to the Government than, at least some of them.

II. I humbly submit, with all due deference, that my services since I have been in the Military service of the U.S. authorise me to ask for promotion as a favor, if it does not entitle me to demand it as a right.

I have now been in the service nineteen months. I entered the army as Colonel of the 136th Regt. N.Y.V.I. made up entirely of raw recruits. Not an officer in the Regt. had received a military education, or had any military experience. The arduous nature of the undertaking to work this material into a well disciplined, efficient, reliable regiment, will be readily appreciated. Within a week after I reached Washington, when arms were first put into the hands of the men, I was ordered to join the 11th Corps, Army of the Potomac, for active duties in the field. I was put under Commanders from whom I received no advice, no instruction, no encouragement, up to the time Genl Barlen took command of the Brigade, so far as drill, discipline and the internal government of the Regt was concerned. I had an isolated Command. Our Camp of instruction was in front of the Enemy, our time for drill when resting from long marches. Under these discouraging circumstances I labored arduously & industriously, to drill & discipline my Regt, & make it efficient & reliable. In my judgment, it did make rapid proficiency in acquiring the drill, and a knowledge of all the duties it was called upon to discharge. In long and many marches, on the picket line, and on the battle field, its character & efficiency has frequently been put to a

practical test. At Chancellorsville, at Gettysburgh, at Lookout Valley, at Chattanooga, and the marches which preceded and succeeded the battles designated by these names, it made a record, of which, to say the least, it need not be ashamed. In military as in morals, the same rule, I suppose obtains. You discern a good officer by the same criterion that you do a righteous man "By their fruits ye shall know them". By this rule I am willing my merits should be tested.

III. It seems to me that the sacrifices to which I was subjected, and to which I was compelled to submit, when I entered the military service of the U.S. entitles me to some compensations, and other things being equal, ought to be taken into consideration, in determining the question of promotion.

When the rebellion broke out which was the cause of the present war, I was engaged in the practice of the law, at Geneseo, Livingston Co. State of N.Y. where I commenced my professional career. I had an established reputation, and a large and lucrative practice. Under the Presidents first call for troops, I was actually engaged in raising & forwarding volunteers to the defence of Washington. I did not then take a regiment, because there seemed to be no lack of regimental Commanders; and because I had not sufficient confidence in my military knowledge & capacity, to justify myself in assuming the responsible position of the command of an undisciplined regt. I doubted my ability to meet the exigencies of the service, as I then understood it. It is true, that in my younger days I had dabbled in military affairs, had succeeded with others in remodeling, not to say reforming, the militia system of our state; had organized volunteer militia regts, had drilled and maneuvered them on field days and in encampments; but for ten years next preceding the commencement of the war, I had devoted myself exclusively to my profession. I knew just enough of military, to cause me to shrink from the responsibility of command.

After the disastrous result of the peninsular campaign and the defeat of our armies at the second battle of Bull run, the President issued another call for volunteers, and ordered a draft of the militia. The stability of the Government seemed to be imperilled, and the people of the north were gloomy & despondent. Under these circumstances, I was called upon to raise and take command of a Regt. to meet the emergency that was upon us. A sense of duty, the promptings of patriotism, and public sentiment induced me to respond to the call. It is true, I had many clients who had entrusted their business to me and where rights & interests required protection. But the time had come when I thought the Government had a paramount claim to my services. I dropped my pen, laid aside my briefs, and abandoned my clients. I accepted the Colonelcy in a volunteer Regt. to be raised in the 30th Senate Dist of the State of N.Y. Within two weeks from the time I accepted the commission, the men to compose the Regt. were enlisted, within four weeks they were organized into a reg't. and mustered into the U.S. service, and within six weeks I was with my Regt, on the South bank of the Potomac, in the state of Virginia. At the same time that I was commissioned, my law partner, and the clerk in our office, were appointed & commissioned as officers in the same Regt.; thus stopping my law office of every person connected with it, leaving no one to take care of my business interest in my absence. The pay and emoluments of the office of Colonel are much less than the income from my professional business; and it will readily be seen, that I could not thus suddenly and unexpectedly abandon my business, without sustaining a large pecuniary loss.

But the pecuniary considerations and loss is of small account, and does not weigh much in my mind, in estimating the value of the sacrifice, which I laid upon the altar of my country. I was ambitious in my profession. I determined to occupy no second places. After a long, arduous, and almost exhausting struggle, I reached the point for which I started. I trust I may be allowed to state without subjecting myself to the charge of self-laudation or egotism, what was a conceded fact, namely, that at the time I entered the service, I stood at the head of the bar with which I was connected. It was a position which I had acquired by hard study, close & long continued application to business, and many a hard fought engagement in the forensic battle field. Here I was securely entrenched, and could not be dislodged until life's forces should fail by natural decay, or be weakened by disease.

For a professional man to satisfy himself, that it is his duty, voluntarily, to abandon such a position "Hic opus, hic labor est." [this is the hard work, this is the toil.] But I arrived at the conclusion that such was my duty. Guided by what I supposed to be patriotic motives, humbly asking from "Our Father which art in Heaven" light from above to direct me in the right path, and lead me in the right way, I did abandon my professional business, its names, its distractions, its advantages and its benefits, (not however without casting many "longing, lingering looks behind" ) to risk my reputation in a new and untried profession, and my life on the battle field.

IV. An attempt has been made to deprive my Regt of the credit to which it is entitled, for the part it took in the night action of Lookout Valley, and to have it believed that the Regt did not participate in the engagement. As near as I can ascertain, outside of this Division, it is understood that the assault on the hill was made by the 73d O & 33d Mass, and that the 136th N.Y. was not engaged. The facts are that the first two regts named, made an

attack upon the enemy posted on the hill. They were repulsed and retreated to foot of the hill. It was in this repulse, that the casualties occurred which those regiments sustained. Col Underwood was wounded, as it was then thought mortally, and several other officers were killed and wounded. At this juncture my Regt was ordered up, and I was directed to attack the enemy. I charged up the hill in the face of a steady musketry fire, without firing a gun I out-flanked the enemies line of battle, drove that part of his forces in my front in confusion from the hill. This exposed his right flank and carried a retreat of the whole line. The 33d Mass, after the repulse reformed at the foot of the hill, renewed the attack and when I arrived on the hill, it was in contact with the enemy, with both flanks exposed, and but for timely reinforcement would have been cut off or repulsed. The 73d O. did not attack the second time, but threw out skirmishers and took shelter by getting into a depression in the surface of the ground, a short distance from the road. It was not till sometime after the engagement was over that the 73d O. was moved up the hill and formed connections with the 33d Mass, on its right. The evidences of confusion and precipitancy of retreat, were found only in front of my Regt. I refer to the guns, swords, hats, caps &c, with which the ground was strewn.

This is a plain unvarnished statement of the facts, in regard to this fight. I claim that the success of the attack, and the victory, was due to the vigorous charge of the 136th N.Y. That is to say, the attack could have been repulsed, and the enemy held the hill if that charge had not been made. Far be it from me to impeach, or in any way detract from the valor & bravery of the other regts engaged. All I ask is even handed justice. I have, perhaps, been too indifferent in regard to this matter & have not taken sufficient pains to correct the erroneous impressions, that have gone abroad. That, it seemed to me, was the duty of the Brigade Commander. It is due to the 136th, that it should have all the credit to which it is justly entitled. If it is withheld, it takes away that ambition which would otherwise impel the men to display similar valor & bravery under similar circumstances. Col Underwood has already been promoted for gallantry in that action. Col Smith, for the same reason, was recommended for promotion by the corps Commander and the Commander of the 11th & 12th Corps. Col Underwood was my junior in rank. His promotion, is due in part, perhaps, to the severe wound he received; and for that reason, I suppose, I ought not to complain that he is promoted over my head. Col Smith was in Command of the brigade, and it may be claimed, that the credit of the operation of the brigade, legitimately belonged to him, and that his promotion is a commendation of the whole brigade. But Col Smith has resigned & left the Service, without waiting for his promotion as recommended. That secures to the 33d Mass. all the honors of the engagement, and I submit, bears the inference firmly deduceable, that this Regt. exhibited more valor & bravery & performed more brilliant & deserving services than the other Regts engaged; particularly is this so, when it is observed that the promotion of its Colonel, puts him near his Senior in rank & supports the impression which prevails that 136th N.Y.V.I. did not take part in a charge which has been specially noticed by the Maj. Genl commanding the Department, as being one "of the most distinguished feats of arms of this war".

In view of the considerations herein presented, and such other courses and considerations as may occur to you, I respectfully request, that by a communication in writing, you recommend me for promotion to the office of Brig. General, putting it in such terms as will bring it within the provisions of General Order No. 111. War Department. (Aug 18th 1862).

I should be highly gratified, if in the recommendation reference could be made to the night action of the 29th of October 1863 in such terms, as would induce the appointing person to date the Commission (if one was granted) and the rank under the same on that day, that it might be to me and those who come after me, a memento that I participated in that action.

I have the honor to be  
General  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt.  
James Wood Jr Col  
136th Regt N.Y.V.I. Comdg  
2d Brig 2d Div 11th A.C.

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2103 3/1/1864

*From:* Albert B. Otis

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2054

Belfast,  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[63]

P&C

Belfast,  
March 1st 1864

Maj Gen. Howard:

I am about to write a letter which may seem absurd and quixotic, but it has the old apology of good intention.

I desire a position as Private Sec'y to some Maj. Gen. Commanding, in particular to you.

I ask no compensation beyond my most necessary expenses.

To such a situation, I can bring the medium of education in one of our best New England colleges, sufficient literary skill to have won a prize for an essay on an historical theme, correct habits, and a knowledge of the usages of good society.

(I should like opportunity to write out the annals of a campaign.)

I am at present in the Law Office of the Hon. N. Abbott of this city; but it seems rather shabby at such a time to be pursuing a selfish course of ease and profit, and it would gratify me to contribute a little to the aid of the country, if not directly, at least by serving those who are giving so largely.

I am too well aware of my inability to command in the field to accept any one of the commissions that have been within my control.

I have written to you as the representative man of our state in the Army, and I have written with entire frankness, well-knowing that you would treat the communication as strictly confidential.

I can adduce recommendations from any persons in this vicinity whom you may be pleased to designate.

With much respect,  
Yr obdt servt  
Albert B. Otis  
Belfast,  
Maine

[Written on back}  
Albert B. Otis Letter  
Mch 1, 1864

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2104 3/4/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2055

Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley  
Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[486]

Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley Tenn.  
Mar 4, 1864

Dearest -

The Post Master gives me about 15 minutes before this morning's mail must leave, and I wish to write you just enough to let you know that we are all well. Chas. & myself went on the mountain (Lookout) yesterday – had a pleasant day, warm as summer. Mrs Dr Hovey of 136 N.Y. with her husband & son accompanied us. Capt. Pearson completed the party. Mrs Hovey's only son has grown up, is about 15 & so she can go about with him for a beau. We stood on the projecting rocks on the pinnacle for the ambrotypist to take our pictures. If any photographs are taken from these ambrotypes I will send you one. I never go on the mountain but I long to have you with me.

I enclose two laurel leaves from the tip top point. Give much love to all. You hav'nt got your full share of the 15 minutes.

The veteran regiments are coming back, quite full, three have arrived.

God bless you darling & the rest.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2105 3/5/1864

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear daughter [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2056

Richmond

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[487]

Richmond, March 5th 1864

My dear daughter,

Yours of 22 ult. came safely to hand, in due time, and indeed was very satisfactory to me in every particular and indeed my journey through with Otis was very pleasant. We arrived in Boston about eight o'clock the day after leaving Maine. I will here say when I stepped into the cars at Leeds I found Ella, David and the coullared girl Alice in the cars, on the way to Bath. My husband went with me to Brunswick. There I parted with all the above mentioned. It is now three weeks since my arrival, very near the time I was to have started for home. Martha says if I will stay one week more with her she will not say one word about my going home, although she veryly thought I would stay six weeks.

Now I will say more of my journey. When we stepped out of the cars in Boston, Mr Hazzard and Mr Demond were both standing at the foot of the steps. Mr Demond claimed Otis and Mr Hazzard me. Otis asked Mr Demond what he would do with him. He said, take you to the Fremont house and brush you up a little and then to Mr Toby, who has invited 350 gentlemen to meet you and be introduced. He did not require him to speak at all.

I went to Mr Hazzards and had a very pleasant reception, felt very little fatigue from my first days ride in the Cars, sat with Mr Hazzard and wife [see Note 1] until nearly Eleven, had nicely laid down for the night, when Otis came, and I think we were both of us well cared for. Mrs Hazzard slept with me. At half past eight in the morning, we found ourselves, at the depot where we leave for the West accompanied by Mr Hazzard who did all in his power for our convenience.

We said good bye to him and were soon on our way to Albany. That day was very pleasantly spent in Otis' company. In other respects nearly like many others nothing worthy of remark.

The sun was an hour high or more when we approached Albany. As we passed Kinderhook and viewed its surroundings the Cars were going slow and all the way to Albany, it was very interesting to me for many reasons. My mind was redily carried back to my husband's admiration of all those scenes in his youth, and now at my advanced age my mind was taking in the same pleasure from those same views, and all the changes, which have been made since. It was nearly sunset when we struck the shore on the other side of the river, and we were actually in Albany. A few steps brought us to the Hotell where we had a supper, and left that city for the West at 6 o'clock P.M. That night past about as you would expect Otis slept some, I think after midnight the most of the time, I slept some. We arrived at Syricuse at 5 o'clock where we had 4 hours to rest and wait, or soon to get into a train loaded with a Regiment of Soldiers. We decided to stop until 8 o'clock. Then we had a good wash, and rested until we were called to breakfast, and soon we were away to Buffalo where we arrived 11 o'clock Sabbath morning.

By the way at Albany Otis could not obtain any sleeping cars, so he was near me all night. It being saturday night was the reason given, but it did not discommode me in the least.

At Buffalo we must lay over until Monday, as there was no train for the west until seven o'clock on Monday A.M.

I felt very little fatigue and prepared for Church, an P.M. Service of the Presbyterian. It was a public funeral service of an officer brought home from the war, a free Mason I should judge from the appearance. From there we went to the Episcal service. It was all interesting but the singing was beautiful. After that I staid at the Hotel, but Otis went to a prayer meeting. I wrote to my husband, and mailed it there. We were called according to arrangement at six in the morning, and made every necessary arrangement for taking our departure for the west at seven o'clock in the morning.

The Lake shore route was ours. The Cars were very much crowded but we continued to enjoy ourselves pretty well. Some of the passengers were with us all the way from Albany. Some of the soldiers were rude, drank whisky and boxed each others ears, &c, but that soon wore off. I had some beautiful views of Lake Erie. It was a pleasant day, and we arrived in Cleaveland just in time to hurry into the Cars (<[Missing Line?]> <inland> and said he was well, the Bath liner) for Columbus where Otis found some very congenial friends to talk with, two Mr Foote's, brothers of Commodore Foote. At Sunset we stoped at a place for refreshments, rather a course place. When we entered some one sang out General Howard, and at the table several recognized him and he found nearly the whole of a regiment were there, which had been in his command when he was Brigadier. We reached Columbus, at ten and a half o'clock. Mr Foote went to the Hotel to get us well cared for, or to show his politeness. He said it was not the best Hotel in Columbus but as we were to stop only a few hours that was near the depot it was more convenient. We had a nice slice of toast and a cup of tea, and were called at two o'clock to pursue and close our journey to Richmond.

Monday was a fine day, the weather very mild and before we reached Columbus the Cars were cramed to suffocation, but when we went from the Hotel, the weather had changed, heavy winds attended with snow and rain. It grew cold all the way. About nine, in the morning we stept from the Cars at Richmond we looked for a welcome reception but no one was there not even Charles. So Otis and I (with the Thermometer below Zero) trudged along through the streets and enquired the way, and found uncle Henries House. Martha was filled with consternation. We were real cold. It never occurred to her we should come that way. They expected us to arrive in the P.M. from Philidelphia so we took her by surprise. Charles was gone to Chicago. Henry at his Mill, Freddie was at the house and Carrie was at school. Little Anna was delighted to see us. I had written Martha the day we should leave home, and they did not dream of any other route but New York City, and Philidelphia.

Otis stopt two days. It was bitter cold, the thermometer 10 degrees below zero. He seemed to enjoy his visit and I could not help thinking he dreaded his journey and felt more regret than usual in leaving civilized life. He had some callers here and rested somewhat. Charles returned from Chicago the following morning accompanied by Lizzie Strickland an accomplished young lady of nearly seventeen. She had been in Chicago since last October. She is fine looking but not handsome, Her fathers pride she plays well on the piano and sings pretty well. She is always pleasant and happy, is a member of the Episcopal Church. Henry is every day at his mill and seems a good husband, has prayers in his family in the morning. He and Otis had some talk on subject of religion. Martha is a member of the Episcopal Church. Finally I do think there has been a great improvement in Henry's and Martha's domestic affairs, since I have seen them before. Carrie is a nice girl of thirteen, attends a good school in Richmond. Freddie is in Business here and very much confined to his business. Henry obtained a free pass for Charles to go to Chicago and back. Since I have been here Henry and Martha and all the family have showed me every attention necessary to my comfort. Martha has collored help very good.

Mrs Schyler lives near, a few doors from Henry's. I have seen her often. She was in since I have been writing , says give my love to Otis' wife. She has a little girl two and a half years old, quite a nice little girl. You will recollect she is a widow. She is left in comfortable circumstances. She still gives lessons in music. Martha and all Henrie's family send love to you. Otis wrote from Louisville and from Nashville and since his arrival has written quite a long letter date 26 February said he had heard from Augusta and all was in health. Charles stopt until the 25 of Feb and arrived at Lookout Valley the 28th. Had a prosperous journey wrote me in two hours after he arrived, said Otis and Mr Stinson were well. That was our latest news from them. None of Otis command have been on the move yet. I have nearly covered my second sheet. The mail has arrived and I hear Henry reading a letter in the other room. The letter I heard them reading was from Mrs Hazzard. She mentions a letter from Warren to her saying you had not heard from Otis. I know he wrote you here, and has no doubt written you many times since and you have received them. I was very glad to hear from Leeds through you. I have had no direct connection.

[sideways on page 1]

has arrived here bringing the intelligence that Hattie [Patten] had passed away to her last home. We cannot regret she has done suffering but the tenderness of our feelings are to attend us through all these scenes.

Tell the children they cannot tell how much I love them. Much love and many kisses to them. Give much love to Warren and Mrs Woodman and accept a large lot yourself.

From your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

[Note 1. Mrs Hazzard was Olive B. Woodman, the daughter of Eliza's sister Sally Otis and her husband Ephraim Woodman. A brother of Olive's was Col. Ephraim Warren Woodman.]



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2106 3/6/1864

*From:* O.O.H. [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-2057

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[406]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley Mar. 6th 1864

My dear Guy

I have promised you a letter in two or three of mine written home of late. Now I will make a beginning. I had hardly begun when our dinner bell rang calling Uncle Charlie, Capt. Stinson, Capt. Pearson and myself. Mr Gilbreth has gone on duty up to McMinnville for a day or two. I hope you are very well this Sabbath day. It is a beautiful day indeed here. The atmosphere is very clear and warm, very much like May and June in Maine.

I wrote Mamma about a trip the officers and myself took to the top of Lookout mountain. Yesterday afternoon uncle Charlie and I (followed by the good McDonald) on "Charlie" and "Jack" started to ascend the Racoon mountain that hunches up its bristly back just behind us so that we can never see the sun set. I streamed away closely followed down hill, passed the 33d Mass. Camp - across the hospital bridge, by the hospital tents up the narrow path, under limbs of trees, over lopped branches, over logs & stones, up steep declivities, up into the gap, itself two thirds as high as the top of the mountain, now to the right up a steeper slope. Here uncle C & McDonald dismount and papa goes on, resting black "Charlie" about every ten steps. "Jack" pulls away alone, trots by me and takes the lead till he gets tired and then he drops back a little. Up! Up, we go over round stones & flat ones till "Jack" and I and the other nags get well on the summit. Then we wait for uncle Charles & McDonald to toil up and mount.

Oh, what a magnificent picture is before us as we stand facing eastward on the edge of the perpendicular side. There is Lookout Creek, Lookout Mountain, the Tennessee river, Chattanooga, the wide valley, Missionary ridge and ridge after ridge as far as the Great mountains in North Carolina called the Blue ridge. I said to uncle Charles, how Guy would enjoy this and thought how much I would give to have Mamma there with me to see the indescribable beauty and grandeur, that God had fashioned. I could'nt help praying to Him up there. Jesus went up into a mountain to pray. We could'nt stay long. We rode almost to the river on the mountain top & then followed down a road that was less steep, winding slowly and at length almost up to our camp.

Uncle Charles wanted me to describe a chair I have, made of red cedar by the pioneers. I dont think I could. I think I will bring it home as a keep sake and to remind us of Lookout Valley.

Give much love to all. Tell Julia, I hav'nt seen her uncle. The cavalry is away somewhere doing duty. Sam is a good man and takes good care of papa. Uncle Charles sends his love, and says he wishes you were with us on Racoon yesterday. The band is playing. God bless you, my son.

Yr father with love  
O.O.H.

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2107 3/8/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2058

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

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[437]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley March 8, 1864

Dearest

I received your note and the photographs, but one or two preceding letters I must have missed. The photographs are good. Charles says: "a little sober". I don't think they could be improved as photographs, where you lose all the effect of color and everything is set down in black and white.

You have gone back to the good old way and I am your 'dearest' again. When I am only your dear husband I am quite jealous a thousand of things might come between us – honor, riches, learning, children, amusements, society and what not? But when I am your dearest and you are mine, that settles everything and this love is not inconsistent with religion but fostered by it, for together and for each other we will go to the Lord. If I came between you and Christ or if you came between me and Christ in any way to hinder the one or the other from being his children, duty would constrain the putting away of the idol, but knowing that God has given each to the other to be one in love, in sympathy, in joy, in sorrow it may be, and enabled me to be one in his love and worship. I conclude you may be my 'dearest' and if possible I yours without any <species> of idolatry. It is not often that we renew our youth by love letters, technically so called, yet all letters between those that love are love letters. I am sure my precious wife that you are far dearer to me now that we have grown into the completest sympathy in all things.

<(Morning) [? torn page]>. This morning Mr Reynolds a young man you will remember who came to see me while I was wounded and whose father gave me the Herald to read - arrived by cars to take the place of Clerk to Col. Hayes. He rode with Charles & me over Raccoon Mountain to the rough, stony valley beyond.

We visited the people living there – one family consisting of an old man by the name of Scott a second wife & little daughter presented a picture of wretched desolation very painful indeed. As I entered his log hut, just opposite the door, lay what looked to me like a corpse, the head bound up, the arms thin, the eyes closed, the face deadly pale and no perceptible breathing. I asked Mr Scott if his wife was sick and he said yes. The little child was dirty & pale as nearly all the poor children are here. I still thought the woman must be dead, but suddenly a coughing fit came on. She opened her black eyes and looked if anything more miserable than before. She said she could'n't cough many more times like that. When I spoke of the better land, at first neither understood me, but when I said beyond the grave, the old man brightened up and said it was a good thing if he was only prepared. He had a hope in Christ but didn't think he was holy enough. I asked how is it, with you madam!! she said she had had a 'hope' for many years and then wanted to know if I was a "professor". Yes. What'd you belong to - a branch of the presbyterian. Her friends were presbyterians - that seemed to please her. As soon as they found my name was Howard, they seemed like new people. Charles had been there before, had spoken kindly & protected their corn when we first came to the Valley, but oh, the poverty, the misery of these poor people - no clothes but rags, no bedding but filthy, old coverlids, no sheets, no cleanliness, living on mush & hard bread. "Oh, I can't eat that", she said. He has money but nothing else and cannot buy. The old man was quite familiar with scripture. Thousands will die from want of vegetable diet. All the people look thin and haggard with a sort of chap-fallen expression of countenance. We have to feed every family within five miles of us out of the common crib.

We turned homeward, up the steep paths, over the clean running brooks. My gray horse "Dan" is allowed to drink just a little. We walk up the steepest, ruggedest slopes. Now on top & now wind slowly and gently down the mountain by a pathway almost but not quite parallel with the crest. It was dark as a pocket when we reached this place and began to rain just as I entered the tent door.

We found some peach trees in blossom today. I never take these rides without thinking how much you would enjoy them with me. You must not burden yourself with, or I mus'nt over-lade you with "olive branches" to bear and to train, for I shall want you to roam with me.

The thin shoes & no rubbers to parties, and the sitting up nightly till eleven and twelve will never do. A rested body and a healthy look & feeling are so much better for you, for the children and for your loving husband. I am anxious to get your last letter – only the note with the photographs has come since you heard from me. My Richmond, Louisville and several Lookout Valley letters have not been acknowledged as received. Your letter regarding Gen. Burnside's visit I got.

Maj. Osborne my Adj. of Artillery broke his leg, jumping from a train of cars during a R.R. Accident. Mr Gilbreth was aboard but escaped unhurt. My Medical Director Dr. Brinton has been ordered away. Mother seems to enjoy her visit, spoke of your letter. It pleased her I know. I did the bonnet business up all right. Give my love to each of our precious little flock.

You met me in a lovely dream the other night, with so much <archness> and joyous reciprocity that it was quite real and in a way that only a little wife can. You may so come often dearest, for begun I am not easily weaned from home.

I commit you all into the kind keeping of Him who makes all things so happy for us. Tell Julia Sam is always pleased to hear from her. He is real good & capable.

From your loving husband  
Otis

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2108 3/8/1864

*From:* A. E. Church

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2059

West Point N.Y.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[495]

West Point N.Y.  
March 8th 1864

My Dear Genl

Your letter of the 25th ult enclosing \$27. subn to the Battle Monument is received. We thank you not only for the amount subscribed but for the expression of your warm sympathy in our project.

It originated from the fact that the remains of several officers were brought here for burial, one a son of the South who by his loyalty to the flag was alienated from relatives and friends at home and had no resting place save under the shadow of the hills which surround his "alma mater".

To the old friends and companions in arms of these officers the question is presented shall their graves remain unmarked and the names of the brave spirits unhonored or shall we from our private means cast a memorial which shall tell to coming ages of their sacrifice and patriotism as well as that of others resting on every battle field of the war.

We know well that every state will raise a memorial, distinctive and in detail to its own volunteers – that the nation ought to erect one to all her sons fallen in this deadly struggle for national life. But who but their own brethren shall do this for the officers and men of the Regulars, who from their organization knew no state or city – but the Nation. These questions have suggested the Battle Monument. We raise no question of relative merit between volunteer and regular. We rejoice in every effort to honor the former and believe that he will rejoice in our efforts to do like honor to the latter.

We have nothing new here. We look for stirring news from your quarter soon.

Your friends here, the few that are left are all well. We all rejoice in your success and pray that a kind Providence will spare you in the coming battles.

Mrs C joins me in kind regards to yourself.

Very truly your friend

A. E. Church [Albert E. Church, USMA Class of 1828. Professor of Mathematics, USMA, 1837-1878.]

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

[Note. The book "History of the Battle Monument at West Point" prepared by Charles W. Larned and published in 1898 by USMA, gives the history, the addresses during the dedication the names of the original donors, the construction and a number of pictures.]

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2109 3/10/1864    *From:* M. Jacobs

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2060

Gettysburg Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

Gettysburg Pa. March 10/64

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Your kind letter of the 2nd inst. has been received. Accept of my thanks for your frankness in communicating to me the points in which my "Notes on the Battle of Gettysburg" [Note 1] require correction. So soon as an Edition shall be called for I will make the changes requisite in the Book.

The "Notes" were prepared soon after the Battle, not for publication, but for the purpose of preserving for myself & family, a lively remembrance of those terrible scenes which transpired around us. Solicited, however, by many of my friends to give them to the public, I yielded to their solicitations. I am sorry that I had not then the means of accurate information in every case. Still, having aimed at presenting a truthful history, I think I have succeeded in the main.

With sentiments of high regard, I am yours very respectfully,

M. Jacobs [Rev. Michael Jacobs, Prof of Mathematics, Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pa.]

[Note 1: These notes entitled "Later Rambles over the field of Gettysburg", were published by M. Jacobs in the January, 1864 issue of the United States Service Magazine, Volume 1, pp 66-76 and continued on pp 158-168. An expanded, and corrected, version was published (J.P. Lippincott: Philadelphia) in 1864 as a book entitled "Notes on the Rebel invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania : and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d and 3d, 1863".]

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2110 3/14/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]    *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2061                      Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[498]

Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley March 14, 1864

Dearest,

I wish to write you a few lines before the mail leaves this morning. I have received two letters from you since I wrote, but one of your letters and perhaps more has never come. I asked about the pants, if they really started with me and were lost on the way. I have not yet found them.

A man is coming in and I fear I shall lose the opportunity of finishing my letter for this morning.

Yesterday we had a very pleasant sabbath. In the morning, Chas, Capt Stinson, Mr Reynolds & I went over to Chr. Com. [Christian Commission] Chapel for teachers in a Sunday School for the poor children of the Valley. We had a very good attendance – a large class of little boys, another of little girls and another small one of larger girls. The grown women constituted still another. Besides we had two classes of soldiers.

I am sorry Mr Blaine is ill - give him my sympathy & sorrow. I am glad Mr Hall did not take up with the offer. I expect it is providential. No one knows what is God's will concerning us.

Give much love to each one. I write you this in haste as Mr Palmer & another officer are waiting for me with a bundle of papers. Sam has dictated a letter to Julia. You will probably have to read it to her as I wrote it. Sam is a real good man, just as capable as can be. He is learning to read & write & takes much interest in Scripture readings. Many kisses to yourself and the children. Mr Gilbreth & Capt Stinson are well. We still have beautiful weather. Love to Col & Mrs Woodman. May God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis





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2113 3/15/1864    *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2064

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston March 15, 1864

My Dear Brother

I recd your welcome letter with grateful & lively emotions. I am glad you cl'd commemorate the Lord's death in the Camp – glad that Douglass is with you & that you like him. He is a good fellow. Am glad for the minute description of your life. We remember you quite frequently at the family altar.

But now as to your confession, as to a priest. Well you know, my dear Genl, that I love you well eno' to tell you the truth. You do love applause. So does every man who is fit to love – i.e. the commendation of wise, discreet, godly men. You do not covet the applause of the wicked, nor the senseless babble of the fickle mass, who shant because the sign is given. And to add, I think your love of approbation is under christian control, isn't it? All is done, all is accepted as Christ w'd have it, that is your prayer Genl. Now dont be troubled, dont be over nice in your introspection.

The truth is you are entitled to great praise for what you have done. Your host of friends see & appreciate this. And your name associated by Congress in a vote of thanks with the highest officers in the Army, will of course provoke criticism & carping, & jealousy, & envy. Keep your christian simplicity, read your Bible, & say your prayers.

I have just seen Blaine. He told me of Sherman's most flattering & fraternal letter of commendation. How glad I am. I hope you will be at him again, on the march & in the fight. I wish you & he cl'd be more directly & closely associated. Keep that letter to be published after you are dead.

Blaine & Hamlin are going to get you restored as a Brigadier in the regular army if possible, & the old Prest – Abe – is well disposed. I have talked with Blaine before about the matter. The army is your place, dont mention the matter from me until you are in some other way informed of it.

Now you will put before all these telegraphic sentences “please”, & “I sh'd say if asked” &c &c or you may say this is a brother's direct, free, honest utterance.

Can I do anything for you here? I shall look with interest for my monthly letter. The more of a diary, the more personal the better.

My love to your Brother, Maj. H. & to the other members of your family. Mrs Webb joins me in sentiments of esteem & love for yrself. We are nicely in the new Ch'h – all paid for. I think of running on to Washington about the 10th of Apl.

Fraternally  
E.B. Webb

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2114 3/15/1864     *From:* M. Jacobs

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2065

Gettysburg Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

Gettysburg Pa. March 15th 1864

Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir:

Yours (To Prof. H Coppee) of March 4th came to hand last evg. I read it & the accompanying letters from Maj. Howard & Capt Hall, & immediately determined to assure you & your friend Prof Coppee of my sorrow that I should have been innocently led to deprive you of any credit which may justly be due to you.

The following is a copy of the letter I addressed to him. I hope it will at least satisfactorily explain the manner in which I was led to write as I did in the Jan. No of the U.S.S.M. [United States Service Magazine]

(Copy)

Prof H. Coppee,

Dear Sir,

I am really sorry that the reference I made to Gen. Howard, in the Jan. No. of your Magazine has not given entire satisfaction. I regret this the more, because all that I have learned to know of him has been calculated to impress me with a high regard of him as a man, as a christian, & as a soldier.

In my "Notes on the Rebel Inv. & battle of Gettysburg" I had given him the credit of having, on account of a just appreciation of its strategic value, selected Cemetery Hill, &, prompted by his own judgment & foresight, taken all the requisite steps for its occupation by our men. This was my first impression. I knew that he had arrived in Gettysburg in advance of his corps (the 11th); that he could scarcely have seen Gen. Reynolds before his death & have learned from him the intended details of the day & the mode of meeting its contingencies, that he had visited the observatory of Mr S. Fahnestock & other localities with the view of acquainting himself with the surroundings of the town, & that the command of the field, for the day, had devolved upon him. Hence I supposed that he alone deserved the credit of selecting that position.

But when I was informed by one of Gen. Reynold's staff officers that he (Gen R.) understood & appreciated the ground referred to, that he had ordered up all his troops for the express purpose of holding the town & C. Hill; & that he had sent a staff officer to Gen Meade, informing him of the steps he meant to take to carry out this design, & when I remembered conversing with one of his signal officers, (Lieut. -) as early as 8 o'clock of that morning, concerning that locality, it was easy for me to come to the conclusion, that he, being thus informed, would have provided against the contingencies of meeting a heavy force of the enemy by ordering so eligible a position to be occupied as a place to fall back upon & to hold against the rebels. That has been the impression made on more minds than mine by the information referred to, & I presented the matter in that light in your Magazine, believing I was thus doing justice to the "living & the dead".

It appears, however, that whatever the intentions of Gen. Reynolds may have been in regard to this subject, he communicated no order, directly or indirectly, to Gen. Howard for the occupation of Cem. Hill, but a more general one for the bringing up of his corps to the town. Immediately upon the receipt of the melancholy intelligence of Gen. R's death, Gen Howard began to arrange a plan for the occasion, one feature of which was the occupation of the hill by one division of his corps & 3 batteries of artillery, as a reserve or as a place to fall back to if necessary.

His corps was two hours & a half later in coming to the field of battle than the 1st corps, because they left Emmitsburg that morning at 8 o'clock, & two divisions were marched 12 or 13 miles by a circuitous route in order to avoid crowding on Gen R's rear. When they passed through our town we noticed how much fatigued they were, & yet how eager they were for the fight.

Both officers, Gens R. & H., must therefore, independently of each other, have been impressed with the great

importance of occupying that position which afterwards under the Providence of God, proved the salvation of our noble army & of our country, but the early death of the former prevented him from communicating his convictions & wishes to the latter. These facts should be made known to the public & to posterity as an act of justice to two highly deserving generals.

Yours very truly  
M. Jacobs

P.S. Should the above be satisfactory, you are at liberty to use it as you see best. Perhaps Prof. Coppee would publish it in his magazine if you desire him to do so.

I am very thankful to you & Maj. Howard for the valuable facts stated in your letters. Should opportunity offer, I will gladly avail myself of them in giving a more detailed history of the battle of G.

With sentiments of high esteem I am yours  
M. Jacobs

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2115 3/19/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2066

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

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[499]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Lookout Valley March 19th 1864

Dearest,

I hav'nt received a letter from you since Wednesday and I think not since tuesday last and the last I wrote was written very hurriedly. I am anxious to get a letter. You had received the 90 dollars, but feared you might have to send it to Louisville Ky. I should have supposed that some Bank of Augusta would have cashed any U.S. Draft.

I was glad you took the ground you did about the house. I would on no account consent to giving Capt. Hall a cent more than my offer. In fact the thousands of cases of extreme want, that constantly present themselves to me, make me feel that we ought to court simplicity now and I rather regretted that our minds had fallen on so costly a place.

On Wednesday a half hour before sunrise myself and staff set out for Wenton, Ga. We took an escort from Gen. Ward's command of two hundred mounted infantry. The road lies between Lookout and Raccoon all the way - Lookout Creek about sixty feet wide winds its way through the whole distance for twenty miles, like this [sketch of a winding line]. The crookedest stream, you ever saw. The Valley is no where level but full of ridges and knolls. We came past many fine farms. One large one pleasurable at this time & place seen on our return between the Creek and Lookout, where the depredation have not been - the Owners name was Brock (reminding me of West Point). He had a fine two story brick house, almost hidden, it being on that by road - fences all up. Sheep in this pasture, negroes all at home &c. Two or three ladies appeared in sight as we passed. They looked bitter - as in rebel, down in the heyday of its prosperity. Trenton is a little village of some half a dozen houses, a church & a "Village Inn". We stopped at the latter. Widow Gardenhive who lives there has an aged mother in bed and a "little son", some ten or twelve yrs old. We ate our own lunch here and were permitted to put it on her table. All the people of this village are secesh and impoverished. It is a mistery when they get enough food to eat.

In returning we crossed the Lookout Creek, skirted the mountain, passed Mr Brock's & other farms hidden away behind the ridges & woods. Some three or four miles this side of Trenton, we ascended Lookout, walking and leading our horses up the Nickajack trace. This rough, steep mountain path was obstructed by the rebels near the top by felled trees. They are now partially cut away and a gateway is made through their breastwork-wall which did completely close the road at the top. We now look along the crest of the mountain so as to take in the whole valley at a glance. The top of Lookout is rather rough and for the most part covered with forest. One pretty good road runs lengthwise along its back. We came this side of Summertown and then descended by a new & steep path, very difficult. I plucked the epigia or may flower on the side of that path (see inscription on accompanying sheet). We reached camp a little after dark having made about forty miles in one day besides ascending & descending the mountain. The next day Charles & I rode to Rossville and accompanied by Gen. Davis and Capt Digley his Aid de Camp, went over the battle field of Chicamauga. We found on reckoning up that we had ridden that day about twenty eight miles. And I was tired as you are sometimes, when I got into a chair in my own tent.

The first day the weather was cold & raw and this took much from our pleasure. We are waiting to see what Gen. Grant is going to do. We believe he proposes to try his hand at Richmond! Last night, Mrs Hovey (wife of Surgeon) the only lady in the Camp invited Chas. & me "out to tea" Gen Steinwehr was there. We had good things - a pheasant, talk & then back to tents. Today we have had a review of Gen Ward's first Brigade. After which the Gen & four of his Colonels, two Lieut. Cols & two Chaplains dined with me. I did'nt tell "Aunt Ann" tell Julia till I brought them home at 12 m. A fair dinner was served up at one P.M. Sam is a good Carver and a tailor by trade. Col. Meysenburg has asked to go back to Gen. Sigle (Sigel) and I have applied for Mr Whittlesey to be Lieutenant Colonel & A.A.G. in his place. Chas. sighs a little over it. Stinson & Gilbreth will be a little disappointed, for if I promoted Chas, Stinson would be Major & Gilbreth Captain. But I want to get Maj

Whittlesey back if I can.

Kiss the dear little ones and accept much love for your own dear self. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

My kind regards to Isabella. Remember me kindly to Julia & her sister.

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2116 3/21/1864     *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2067

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[71 or 79]

Brunswick March 21st [1864] [The year was written in pencil.]

Dear General

A bright cool morning after a dark, snow-squally Sunday, makes one feel like settling up old accounts. And here lies your letter (which came about a week after you went) giving an outline of the expected Spring campaign, which first demands my attention – the letter I mean not the Campaign. When the latter takes place we shall be sure to give it our attention. But where are you & Charles & all the rest? I have not seen your name or that of your command, nor heard one word about you since we parted in the Depot. So I suppose you are all quietly awaiting orders in Lookout valley. Now that Sherman is safe in Vicksburg, I do not anticipate any general movement for some weeks.

With a new head, new combinations & plans will be necessary. There is much rejoicing over Grant's promotion, & the announcement that his Hd. Qrs. will be in the field with the Army of the Potomac. But I confess that I rejoice with trembling. I fear the promotion was unwise & premature. Still we will pray & hope for the best. A desperate struggle seems to be at hand. The President's call for 200 000 more men will be cheerfully responded to, & the forces furnished, even if a draft shall be necessary to raise them.

You will have heard before this reaches you of the release & return of Gen. Neal Dow. Butler is managing to continue the exchange of prisoners, in spite of all the growling at Richmond.

Isn't the death of Col. Dahlgren a sad Event? I remember him well, having seen him at Gen. Hooker's Hd. Qrs. I think I have heard you speak of knowing him.

Gen. S. Williams has been at Augusta. I saw him on his return to duty, & had an hour's conversation with him. He made many inquiries about you, & spoke of you in the kindest terms. I wanted to ask him some questions about the Report of the Gettysburg battle, but feared I might seem to be meddlesome.

By the way, that order to retreat has been making a great fuss in Congress, & it is likely to throw Gen Meade overboard. It seems to me that they are making more of the matter than it deserves. If he had selected another position for a general action, & supposed Reynolds to have made only a reconnoissance, what blame can be imputed to him for giving the order? It was simply a mistake arising from his ignorance of the position of affairs at the front. Fortunately for the Country the order was not obeyed.

I do not think of anything specially interesting that has occurred here. Some of our students have lately tried to make beasts of themselves, & we have sent three home, to return no more. A little military discipline in this College would do it good.

I still preach at Waterville & there are some indications of an awakened interest in religion there. In many places revivals are in progress, & we hear very good news from some portions of the Army.

Please present my respect & best wishes to Chas., Stinson, Ballock, Asmussen, Meysenberg & all the good friends about you. And for yourself accept my assurance of unchanged regard & love.

May you live to see the end of Rebellion & Slavery, & to enjoy many years the fruits of this wearisome struggle, is the prayer of

Your friend & brother  
E. Whittlesey



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2117 3/22/1864 *From:* S. D. Dana

*To:* My dear Gen [Henry Prince]

OOH-2068

1339 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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1339 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia Mar 22 [1864] [The year was written in pencil.]

My dear Gen [Henry Prince]

I am getting up an Album for the "Sanitary Fair" containing the photographs of all the Generals whom I like best & I hope to have yours. Will you send me a good vignette of yourself with your autograph on it written so as to be seen when in the book, & please send me a half dozen extra autographs.

I must tell you that I think you are a right mean fellow, & you may as well plead guilty, for I heard, through Mrs Meade you had very recently been in Philadelphia & I do not believe you even thought of us. Now this is a nice way to treat old friends - never would.

Mamie has just had a long letter from our old friend Maj Nelson; he writes that some of the young Ladies you used to admire so much will soon be married - Alice Patterson & a Mr Mann of N. Y. Emily Pope & Mr Litchfield of the Rail Road, Gerasie Sibley & Capt Pope, Lizzie Whipple & Mr Fanham of this Place - all to be married soon. Some talk too of Miss Emily Coleman & Mr Cathcart, so you see Cupid has been busy out there.

Were you not sorry to hear of poor Mollie <Sandeid's> affliction. She will be here this spring.

Now Gen goodbye & do not forget when you come to Phil. that you have friends who will give you a cordial welcome.

Truly & sincerely yours  
S. D. Dana

My dear Husband is still in Texas but has applied to be released. He is not a bit satisfied, thinks so much might have been done in Texas & has begged & plead in vain for cavalry.

Gen. if you can get for me a photograph of Gen. Howard & his autographs also I will be so much obliged to you. I admire him very much. My husband speaks in the most complimentary manner of him as well as the Public.

[Note. This letter was enclosed in a letter from General Prince to OO Howard, OOH-2081, dated 2 April 1864.]

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2118 3/23/1864    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2069  
*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Head Quarters, 11th Army  
Corps

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[71]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 11 Bank St.  
Jos. Patterson, Treas., Western Bank.  
Rev. W.E. Boardman, Sec'y, 11 Bank St.  
Philadelphia

March 23, 1864

Major General Howard  
Head Quarters, 11th Army Corps  
Dear Sir,

In answer to your welcome letter of the 8th inst. I need first to express the hearty satisfaction I felt on receiving it. The Christian sentiments contained in it and the hearty appreciation of the efforts of the Commission are, you may be sure, extremely pleasant to me. I must confess the gratification I feel at finding that you take such an interest in our station at your Head Quarters; and in the labors of the Rev. R.D. Douglass, our agent. I should have liked to have been with you on the Sabbath you describe in your letter. It must be an unusual thing to have such blessed privileges as the dispensation of the communion. God grant that soon the cloud of war may soon be rolled away and the soldier, at his quiet home, in peaceful contemplation, may be able to enjoy the ordinances of the church.

God seems to be opening up a grand and wide and glorious path. From every corner of the army come to us calls and at the same time thanks - calls for the gospel and for every kind of reading matter - and thanks for what we have been enabled to send. We humbly trust that God will enable us to reach the whole extent of the work before us.

Accounts of religious interest and even of revivals in the army of the Potomac - and elsewhere reach us nearly every day. Delegates are continually coming home, full themselves and filling us with the tale of what God is doing, and much more also of what might be done, if there was ability.

Your speech at the Anniversary meeting is now being got ready for the public eye: we hope to make a great deal of use of it. We have taken the liberty to fulfill my promise once made namely to send you samples of the various publications of the Commission; and hence have ordered a small box to be filled for distribution and use at your Head Quarters; although the corps is supplied from Nashville I have thought it best to send you this box, for which an invoice is enclosed. You can at any time get from our agent there, for your Head quarters, what ever you need and, if necessary, from the office here.

I met General Grant yesterday, during his stay while passing through the city and had a very pleasant conversation with him about the Commission. I was very favorably impressed with him.

I shall send papers which are published from time to time to your wife's address in Augusta, Maine.

Wishing you God's blessing and the confidence of your soldiers.

I am yours, very truly and sincerely  
Geo. H. Stuart

P.S. I need not say that I shall always be very glad to hear from you, especially any suggestions about Commission work, and so on.

G.H.S.

Per F.

[Written on the back page in another hand.]

Mr Geo H. Stuart

Philadelphia

Mch. 23/64

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2119 3/24/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2070

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn.

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[500]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn. Mar. 24th 1864.

Dearest,

I received your kind letter mailed the 15th inst. day before yesterday and was quite happy to get it for owing to an irregularity in delivering mail matter I had been some days without a letter. I am rendered somewhat anxious about Jamie – am sorry at this “hurting him of food” . My weakness lies in a faulty digestion and so it is with all the family. I hope my children will never use tobacco to impair theirs as I foolishly did while I was growing, thus adding to natural weaknesses.

I dread my being away so long from our little ones, but it in a measure compensated for in the thought, that by doing my duty faithfully and conscientiously in these times, my character and influence will not be unfelt by them. I do not regard my military service as anything remarkable, but if I can live, a sincere follower of Christ, Guy, Jamie, and Chancy may imitate their father with profit, whatever be their profession in life, and I trust by the Divine blessing they may each be able to improve upon it. As it is a noble trait in a son 'never to be ashamed of his father', I would like to live so that my son should have no reason to be ashamed.

I know that Gracie improves. I do not fear for her studies. I want her not to get bent shoulders, nor inelastic limbs. One of these days she will read books to papa, but now papa thinks the number of story books should be limited, which for Guy it would'nt harm him to increase the number he reads. Jamies imitation powers are good. He talks well. There is no haste about his letters. The children will teach him when he gets a little bigger. The picture of Chancy in the cradle, his waking, his creeping, and pushing chairs are beautiful home pictures for his papa. He would like to speak to him, even if he did go to sleep jus as he was going to leave him.

Who should walk into my tent yesterday but Dr. G. [Gideon] S. Palmer, my old Regimental and Brigade Surgeon. He is to come to us temporarily as Medical Director to try the experiment whether or not he can stand the field service. Dr Brinton my Med. Director is sick and obliged to leave.

Frank Gilman is coming to us as my private Clerk besides what Col Balloch may require in the Commissary business. He has reached Louisville and probably will be here tomorrow morning. Young Reynolds is here and at work. Capt. Stinson is well and as good as ever, tell Mrs. Stinson – so also Charles.

We have had a very heavy snow storm, but yesterday's & today's sun has melted it. Tonight it began to blow furiously and finally to rain & hail. The Yankee's seem to have imported regular March weather.

Mr Gilbreth is well and acting in charge of all detachments at Head Quarters during the absence of Capt Cross who has gone home sick. Mr Gilbreth is building a structure for a school & Church – quite interested. The pioneers are getting out the lumber. Major Hoffman is drawing a plan. Our Sabbath school flourishing. They have done a great deal of good already, created an interest in cleaning up, washing faces if no more.

Sam is here. I have set him a task while I write you this letter, to read a couple of pages of a book, marking the words that he cannot make out. All my regiments are back but three & they are pretty well filled up some of them.

Give much love & many kisses from papa (though his lips are sore) to all the children. Many kind words for Julia and her children. I hope she is well & contented. Sam says: “he is in tolerable good health, bad cough (a cold) – sent a letter to her mother the other day, has not got an answer yet”. Good night darling. May God bless & protect you and the rest.

Lovingly  
Otis



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2120 3/24/1864 *From:* Margaretta L.

Meade

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2071

2037 Pine St.  
Phil.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

Phil. March [24?, 1864] [The corner of the page had been torn off, and the date had been added in pencil.]

Maj. Genl. Howard

My dear General,

Will you be kind enough to send me your photo graph, with an autograph directly under it, to place in an album, which I intend to present to the Great Central Fair of the Sanitary Commission.

Hoping that you will excuse the liberty I take I remain

Very truly Yours

Margaretta L. Meade [wife of General George Meade]

2037 Pine St.

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2121 3/26/1864    *From:* Mrs G. H. Crosman    *To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2073                      Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73]

Philadelphia Mach 26, [1864]

Sir:

May I solicit the favor of half a dozen of your autographs. I am about preparing as many Photograph Albums for our "Great Sanitary Fair" and wish to place the autograph of each distinguished person underneath his Photograph.

Please direct care of "Col G. H. Crosman", U.S.A. Philadelphia

Yours Respectfully  
Mrs G. H. Crosman

[Written in another hand, at an angle.]

Complied with

Apr 16/64

lr

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2122 3/29/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2074

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[501]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Mar 29th 1864

Dearest,

I received your letter on returning from Chattanooga today. It was written just before Col Woodman was to leave, and at different sittings. I felt that you must have been tired and that you were doing too much, though you did not say that and I shall fear you will over-do and get ill. I feel too anxious about little Jamie. Charles thinks good wholesome food is better than wine of iron. When the spring weather is over and he can run out of doors and play he will be better. It would be a great relief if I could go home & help you. I couldnt help saying today how much less work it is to manage an army corp than a family of little children. Why cant you rest a little darling – play sick a few days before you really get so.

Gen Thomas said to me today, “That he always had to work. When he commanded a post, he had to stick by and attend to everything or else affairs went wrong. Other people did'nt seem to have to keep on it as he did.” So it is with you Lizzie, you always have to work. I told him he set his standard so high that it required his constant attention. You and he must lower your standards a little, and approximate perfection.

Frank Gilman has arrived and been with us four days. He is my private secretary. He is copying all my telegrams, orders, reports, letters &c, into a single blank book and very neatly for my own preservation, for your perusal and that of the children if they should ever desire to do so. We are trying to harden him into a soldier by short rides, daily.

The weather has been quite unpleasant for the past week and is still inclement.

Gen. Sherman went over to Chattanooga yesterday, but today proceeded to Knoxville. I shall expect to see him on his return. I do not expect we shall go back to Army of Potomac because I do not well see how we can be spared from this army. I am rather anticipating Johnson's undertaking some game before long. If he takes the initiative he may bother us considerably.

Sam continues the best man in the world. He begins to read quite well. He reads to me every night or morning and keeps up his interest in the Bible. Julia wants him to become a Christian? He is trying. I am glad Julia & Chr. are doing so well, and hope they do not burden you.

I am glad to hear Mother has got home. Did you hear that Oscar & Solomon Lothrop Jr had become Christians. Give much love to Guy, to Gracie and a sweet kiss apiece to Jamie and Chancy, and as many as you wish for your own precious self. I do hope you are well, and so also the children.

Mr Webb writes me a kind letter; so does Professor Whittlesey. He has'nt got any letter about his appointment. My kind regards to Isabella. Remember me kindly to Julia.

Good night Dearest  
Yours lovingly  
Otis

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2123 3/30/1864    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2075

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission,  
11 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia

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[74 ½]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission,  
11 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 11 Bank St.  
Jos. Patterson, Treas., Western Bank.  
Rev. W. E. Boardman, Sec'y, 11 Bank St.

March 30, 1864

My dear Brother,

The work of the Commission throughout the army is extending. The number of calls made upon us from every quarter is really astonishing. Unfortunately just at the present time in the midst of these continued demands upon us, we find ourselves cramped and crippled by the want of funds. The interest attaching to the Fairs in progress or in prospect throughout the country is telling severely upon our treasury. To extend our operations we are very anxious. In the Army of the Potomac we have covered and supplied fifty chapel tents and have erected fifteen stations - where religious services are regularly carried on; we cannot make less what we would rather make greater without injuring the cause of Christ in the army.

For some time we have had in contemplation sending two of our best speakers on an expedition to California for the purpose of representing the Commission to the people there. It is our wish to send with them a letter from one or more of our Union Generals, containing the appreciation they have for the Christian Commission operations in the army.

I send this to you with the request that you would write for us a letter of your own experience of our work; such as would be of use to us in the way we have said. The delegates who are going to California leave for their destination on the 13th of April, and hence it is necessary that we should have your letter very soon. Their objects would be to read it in meetings and to refer to it when needed. If it meets your approbation, you might send a friendly letter to me, something like your last, omitting of course personal allusions and, also, for the sake of Baptist brethren of the close-union belief, the church-union history, which was so exceedingly pleasant to myself, and many more who heard it read.

I am greatly delighted to hear of your efforts in organizing a Sabbath School. I trust it will be successful and the means of much good in the hands of God.

With my kindest regards  
I am yours very truly  
in Christian bonds.

/s/ Geo. H. Stuart

[Written in another hand on the back page.]  
Letter Geo. H. Stuart  
Philadelphia Mch 30/64

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2124 3/30/1864      *From:* Thorndike Saunders      *To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2076

16 Wall Street,  
New York

U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

16 Wall St.  
New York Mar 30 '64

Sir

Mr Edward Steers the petitioner as within in order to preserve his rights and relieve his necessities finds it necessary to petition for compensation for injuries suffered by him while in Virginia. He informs me that you boarded with him for a time while certain regiments were encamped on some land that he had hired from Commodore Forrest and was then cultivating. The lease from the Commodore is now in evidence.

Under these facts you are one of his most necessary witnesses, therefore the herewith enclosed interrogatories.

The important points are Loyalty and the occupation of the fields called Clermont bottom which are so leased. It is not necessary that you should know the precise boundaries of his farm, because that and the character and amount of the injury can be proved by others. Still any knowledge you possess on those points would be valuable to Mr Steers, therefore the questions relating we base matters.

The terms of the "consqus" should be followed as closely as possible. The Interrogatories and answers should be enclosed and mailed to Samuel H Huntingdon Esq Clerk Court Claims Washington D.C. The fact of your having taken the oath referred to in the consent, to make true answers &c should be stated in writing previous to the answers.

Mr Steers begs that you will take an early occasion to attend to this matter.

There is one circumstance that I will mention to you. The whole damage to the farm is not included in his petition - for two reasons the first that by making the amount claimed \$3000, he escapes the expense of printing and the second is that the United States have a right to confiscate the rent of the farm due the Commodore.

I shall be obliged to you if you will notify me when you send the answers and of any expense that you incur herein that I may immediately remit the amount.

Very respectfully yr obt Svt  
Thorndike Saunders

General Howard U.S.A.

[Written on the second page of the letter]  
Thorndike Saunders  
New York Mch 30/64  
Respecting claim of Mr. Steers  
(Answered Apr 19/64)

[This letter was written on the back of a petition to the Court of Claims, which follows.]  
In the Court of Claims  
Edward Steers vs. The United States (Petition)

The petition of Edward Steers to the Honorable the Court of Claims of the United States, respectfully shows:

That he is a native born citizen of the United States and has at all times born true allegiance to the Government thereof; that he has not any way voluntary or involuntarily aided or abetted or given encouragement to rebellion against said Government.

That on or about the 19th September, 1860, he leased one hundred and fifty acres of land, being part of the Estate known as Clermont, and situated in Fairfax County and State of Virginia, for a term ending December 31, 1861, for which he engaged himself to pay a sum equal to one half of the proceeds of said lands for said term; and that he occupied said lands and planted and cultivated certain crops thereon.

That during said tenancy, and commencing in the latter part of the month of June, 1861, and continuing at intervals during the remainder of the whole time, a part of the United States forces, to wit; the 2d Vermont and 3d, 4th, and 5th Maine regiments, under and by command of Col. O.O. Howard, took possession of, occupied and fully controlled said premises.

That during, and by means of this occupation, he has been injured in his property to the amount of three thousand dollars in the following particulars, to wit:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 65 acres Corn, 650 barrels at \$3 50 per bbl.....  | \$2275 00 |
| Corn Fodder, at least .....                        | 70 00     |
| 20 acres Oats, 500 bushels at 50c, per bushel..... | 250 00    |
| Oat Straw .....                                    | 30 00     |
| 35 tons of Hay at \$15.....                        | 525 00    |
|  | <hr/>     |
|  | \$3150 00 |

That of said sum he received from the Brig.-Quartermaster, one hundred and fifty dollars.

And your Petitioner further shows, That this claim has been submitted to the War Department of the United States and that the answer has been received: "That there is no appropriation from which claims of this character can be paid nor any law for their adjustment."

And your Petitioner further shows, That he is the only and sole owner of this claim, and the only one interested therein.

Your Petitioner therefore prays, that he be indemnified for the loss and injury aforesaid in the sum of three thousand dollars.

Thorndike Saunders,  
Attorney for Petitioner,  
16 Wall Street,  
New York City

Edward Steers,  
Care of Theodore Buckhout,  
Sing Sing,  
Westchester County,  
New York.

State of New York,  
City and County of New York,

Edward Steers, being duly sworn says, that he is the above Petitioner, and that no assignment or transfer of said claim or any part thereof, or any interest therein has been made, except as in said petition stated; that said claimant is justly entitled to the amount therein claimed from the United States after allowing all just credits and offsets; and that he believes the facts as stated in said petition are true.

Edward Steers

Sworn to before me, this Sixth day of October, 1863  
Horatio Dorr,  
Notary Public, New York.

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2125 3/31/1864     *From:* A.M. Carter

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2077

Bank of Baltimore  
Baltimore Md

US Army  
of the Cumberland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Bank of Baltimore  
Baltimore Md  
Mch 31st 1864

Major Genl Howard  
US Army  
of the Cumberland  
My Dear Sir

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a copy or two of a little tract "Watch" which I, a plain layman, have ventured to write & which has been published & widely circulated by the Am'n Tract So of New York & the Presbyt'n Board of Philada & which I pray God to bless to the good of some precious souls.

It has been copied in the "NYK Observer", the "Epis. Recorder", "The Pacipi" & other papers & I do hope is glorifying our blessed Master in the conversion of souls for whom he died.

In your excellent speech before the Christian Comm's at Philada you made a touching allusion to my old playmate (a native of Balt) Col Moorhead [See Note] of Philada you spoke of him as among the slain. This I was greatly pained to learn.

May I ask you to let me know when, where & how he died, was he a God-fearing man?

I wish to send a book of consolation to his widow.

I will be glad to send you some Sunday School papers for the children in your S School if you will favor me with your address.

May God bless you & keep you in His holy keeping.

And may he save our blessed land.

Very respy  
& truly yours  
A.M. Carter

[Summary written on the back, in a different hand.]

A.M. Carter  
Baltimore Md.  
Encloses Tract  
"Watch"  
Asks about Col. Morehead

[Note. Col. Turner Gustavus Morehead (1814–1892), born in Baltimore and moved to Philadelphia, was mustered out on April 5, 1864 due to disabilities caused by disease. He was promoted to Brevet Brig. General on March 13, 1865. He did not die in the civil war.]

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2126 4/1/1864

*From:* Alpheus S. Packard

*To:* Maj. General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2078

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[76]

Brunswick April 1, 1864

Maj. General O.O. Howard  
My dear Sir,

Your very kind letter of March 22d was received a day or two since. I find that Edward sent you a copy of the Telegraph & you have probably heard from him before this.

My brother's removal was as unexpected & sudden as possible. It was a great mercy to him as he was saved all the anxieties which would have attended ordinary disease. He had been through divine grace preparing for such a departure for three or four years. The end of his conversation was such as becomes a christian minister. As you may suppose the bereavement is a very heavy one to me. I have on file the correspondence of more than forty years from graduation down to the period of his death. I thank you most sincerely for your thoughts of me & of us in this sorrow.

Allow me to thank the Major for the mutilated copy of Weems's Life of Washington, which he sent to the Library of the Maine Historical Society. I shall hope for other matter of which he made half a promise for the same depository.

We never know how much to believe of the stories of the rebels massing in large force in your front. We hope in God, that the death blow to the rebellion may not be long delayed. It sickens & disheartens to see evidence of jealousies & petty rivalries among military commanders when so much is at stake. I have been disgusted at recent attacks on Gen. Meade, especially as from the source to which they were ascribed. I could not think as much more than the outpouring of malignant rivalry. The movements of Gen. Grant lead us to anticipate vigorous action early in the season. I know not what we are yet to suffer, but I must confess I have great confidence that so much prayer ascends for those in the cabinet & in the field, that the Lord will not suffer us to be dashed in pieces or rent in twain.

I wish I could report more favorably of our College regarding its religious state. Williams College is now experiencing a powerful revival of religious interest. I still hope we have evidence that the Lord is not withholding tokens of his presence.

You may be assured, my dear General, that we feel a very deep & tender interest in you & your brother & pursue with watchful eyes your movements, commending you & your army to the god of Battles. I hope too our God as he was our Father's God.

With best regards to your brother believe me most cordially yours,  
Alpheus S. Packard [Bowdoin College, Professor Ancient Language and Classical Literature]

Maj. General Howard

[Summary written on back page, in a different hand.]  
Prof A. S. Packard  
April 1, 1864

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2127 4/1/1864

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2079

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[20]

Augusta, April 1st 1864

Dearest

I do not write as often lately as I ought. If I am interrupted during the evening, or have work that needs my immediate attention you do not get a letter, and in the morning it is next to impossible to write. I might write, and must, without regard to the mail. My last letter received from you was dated the 19th ult. and gave a description of your ride to Trenton, Ga. I think I should like very much to go with you on these rides, but I should have to practice riding a long time before I should be able to keep up. I read of the fall and death of the Artist, Mr R. I dont want to hear of your going to the very top of Lookout mountain.

I have not written to Mother as I wished. I wish I could go to Leeds, run away from all the children for a day or two.

I do not hear of any house as yet but I am not going to make myself miserable if I do have to remain here. I dont know about Mr Norcross' house, who called to see you but I dont want his house. I told you the reasons.

Mrs Woodman and I went out for a walk this afternoon. It is very bad walking, snow all gone, mud very deep. It is now raining very hard, has rained three days, did not rain while we were out. We thought when we started it was pleasant weather, rained very hard soon after our return.

Do you get the Kennebec Journal? I remail them to you. Send one with this letter. We have no daily paper now the 'Legislature' has adjourned.

I have been writing to Rowland and Ella this evening, consequently have not written you a very long letter. I can write no more now.

Good night, Dearest, with  
best love from your  
own Lizzie

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2128 4/2/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-2080

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[503]

Farmington Apr. 2/64

Dear Lizzie

I send a jug of Maple Syrup by Express which I hope you will receive in good order with much love from Ella & me to yourself & children & Mrs Woodman & Warren if still with you.

No late news from Otis & Charles.

There is an interesting Revival in Leeds, in the blessings of which Oscar & Solomon L Lothrop & other of our friends participate.

I spent a week ago last Mon. night with Mother & attended an interesting meeting but have not heard from her since. I hope you are all, including Jamie now well.

Alice is a very good girl & seems contented & happy. She would like to see Julia & the children very much. Give her love to them.

Dadie is almost sick with canker in the mouth & is very troublesome.

I think a great deal of Warrens Reg. during this long storm.

In haste.  
yr. aff. Bro.  
Rowland

---

2129 4/2/1864

*From:* Henry Prince

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2081

Head Qrs., 3d Div., 6th  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[78]

Head Qrs., 3d Div., 6th Corps,  
April 2/64

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
My Dear Howard -

To show you the entire foundation of the request I have to make, I inclose it, - a letter from the wife of Maj. Gen. Dana in whose behalf the request is made. The request is for nothing less than an image of yourself - and she wants me to get it, but I am sure it will be the more acceptable still if you send it to her directly, with an autograph committed on the spur of the moment. Allow me to say that making allowance for the difference between her & me - she being a most estimable & sincere lady & I being just the opposite - in the matter of admiration for honest & heroic generals we are equal. And I should be very glad if you would send her your photograph & some autographs.

Very truly Yours  
Henry Prince [USMA Class of 1835]

[Written on the back page.]  
Letter from  
General Prince  
enclosing one from  
Mrs. Maj. Gen. Dana [See OOH-2068]  
April 2 1864

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2130 4/3/1864

*From:* William Riddle  
Major & A.D.C.  
Head-Quarters, Army  
of the Potomac

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2082

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[79]

Head-Quarters, Army of the Potomac,  
April 3d 1864

Dear General

I have received your letter of the 22d ultimo, and in reply desire to say that I did not carry to you any order to place any troops on Cemetery Hill, nor do I know that General Reynolds sent you such order by any of his staff at Gettysburg.

I am the only one of the old staff here, but I will ask them as I see them and advise you; and if in any way at any time I can be of service to you, believe me it will gratify me to serve one who had the confidence and love of my old Chief.

I am General  
Very Truly Yours,  
William Riddle  
Major & A.D.C.

Maj. Genl Howard

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2131 4/3/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2083

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[21]

Farmington Apr. 3, 1864

Dear Brother Otis

I thank you very much for your kind letter received last evening and for your remembrance of my note about young Gracer as it may save me some embarrassment with his friends. I am glad Frank went and I truly hope the necessary "affections" of Campaign Life will not injure his health nor dishearten him. I wish I could have seen him before he went and have armed him with fears & forebodings dire, but sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Give my love to him & tell him he must write me soon.

Charleys letter about the S.S. was very interesting to us and I will read it at S.S. Concert. We are going to contribute to send the Tract Soc's publications to the Army & Freedmen. Can't you write us a letter before the Campaign opens. Write as you would to your own children. Between you & Frank & Charles we ought to have an interesting letter once a month, and in payment, I will promise you increased prayers & contributions. I will always ask prayers for the author.

Ella speaks from the neighboring room & says "Give my love to him & tell Charles that I appreciate his present more & more". She (Ella) & Dadie have been miserable for a week past. He has canker in his mouth & affected breath & cries when he wakes up, cries when he tries to eat & is generally peevish & unreasonable.

One of our neighbors lost a sweet little boy today. I wonder if I could give up my dear child without a murmur – not as I feel now – but "As thy day, thy strength" and I rest there.

Dellie wrote me that there has a division of feeling arisen in Leeds. It almost spoiled my Sab. to hear of this grieving of the Spirit. He gave no particulars.

Mother was well, had had a letter from Lizzie Strickland with the "diction & penmanship" of wh. Del found some fault! It amused me to see Charles rein father up & try to make him go, in business matters in military style. Wonder how he gets on!

I have preached all day today on "The Harvest truly plenteous but the Laborers are few". My hearers were few & our contribution for the Ed. Soc. was small, but we had a good meeting this evening. Did I ever tell you how much I love my Dea. Titcomb? He always says or prays or does something that lifts the cloud off my heart. Our Church are cold & dead & I am too fitful in my feelings for a minister. Sometimes, as a week ago, I could truly say "Thy Sabbaths are a delight" but often they are a weariness. God help me to hold on by faith.

We sent Lizzie & the children a jug of maple syrup by express yesterday. Wish I could send you some.

Affly.  
Rowland

John & family & Sarah & family are well.

Did you see Gen Lee's letter to his son at West Point in which he referred to "That boy Howard"?

Tell Charles he must try to furnish me some "heroic deeds" for F. S. C. Abbott.

---

2132 4/4/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2084

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[505]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Apr 4th 1864

Dearest,

I have just reread the last two of your letters dated respectively the 11th and 21st of March. They are full of those home pictures true to life – the cradle, the library, the bed room, Jamie's sleepy "dont put out the gas," Chancy's improvement, Guy's proposition and Gracie's scholarship. Your own fatigue and bravely giving up your pen and going to bed. All, all, is full of interest and the only answer is when you can end with a few moments of leisure and when you are not weary, write me. I think the report of Charles being A.A.G. is incorrect. He is Major and A.D.C.

Gen. Meade's first order for retreat was preparatory and he was in person then twenty miles from the field and therefore unaware of the exact state of events. I do not think he ought to be censured. I would rather not have credit than have it by the detraction of other people. My friends are secretly at work for me so I have intimations to get me a Brigadiership in the regular Army. I cannot regard it in the light of a great favor. On the one hand it is flattering and suspicious. On the other quite unflattering. There may be danger of my being politically strong and therefore must be disposed of – or I may be unfit for any place but in the Army. However I mean to go on as much as possible in the even tenor of my way. If a position in the regular Army is tendered me, then there will be time to consider it, and if there is no such offer, then will I believe that a good Providence points in a different direction.

Charles is well, so is Captain Stinson. Frank Gilman I have assigned to the staff with the rank of 2nd Lieut. He lives with me and continues to write at my desk. He is an excellent Christian companion. Young Reynolds is in the quartermaster department. Mr Gilbreth is now commandant of Head Quarters during the absence of Capt. Cross.

Yesterday we had a very pleasant sabbath. Frank, Charles, Stinson & I went to the Sabbath School at the Chr. Com. tent. We found quite a number of Children, filling four or five seats and the remaining seats or benches filled by Soldiers. A Rev Mr Smith the Superintendent of the Chr. Com. at Nashville was there and made some remarks to the school, sang "Little drops of water" &c with the children and interested everybody. I invited him to preach for us which he did at 5 P.M. to a large audience at their Headquarters.

I was going to write you a full letter, but the mail man has come. Give much love to the children each and all. Sam is well. Kind regards to Isabella and to Julia & her little ones. Take good care of yourself for my sake & that of our loving ones. God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2133 4/4/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-2085

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[504]

Farmington Apr. 4, 1864

Dear Lizzie

A letter from you is a great treat, & we were glad that you were so well when you wrote.

The Lappans, Mr Fiske &c all think that Real Estate in Augusta is still cheap. If so, that would change my view of Otis buying. There are obvious advantages in his being at the Capital. I think his numerous friends in A. might make some effort to secure you a more convenient house.

We are glad the syrup proved acceptable & wish for no "funds" in return, but as you mentioned enclosing something & the letter was empty on its arrival, I feared it was lost.

We would like to have Guy come & stay as long as he is contented. Why can't he come when Mrs W. comes to Wilton. A ticket to Farmington costs but 1.50 & a boy should be half price.

If we don't hear from you we will look for him the last of the week. He will only have to get into one of our two hacks & ride right to my door you know, & as he is almost a man now, I think he will like to do it.

Ella joins me in love to you all & hopes Guy will come.

Affectionately yr Bro.  
Rowland

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2134 4/4/1864

*From:* John R. Adams  
Chaplain of Me. 5th  
Camp of Maine 5th

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2086

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[80]

Camp of Maine 5th  
Apr 4th/64

Genl Howard  
Dear Sir,

I have just been reading your speech before the Christian Commission at Philadelphia, which recently was put into my hands. I want to tell you how much I was interested in the perusal of it, & the Christian spirit which it breathes. I want to thank God that he has raised up a General, who has done much & suffered much for his Country & who is ready, on all occasions, to avow his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I honor & love such an officer, & I mourn to think that we have not more of like character. What a new aspect would be given to our Armies, if all of our Generals would remember the divine charge, that "Whether ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I pray God that your own life may be spared, in the Army, or out of it, that thereby God may be honored by your Christian influence!

I regret that I didn't see you, in your late visit in Maine. I was then at home, but I did not hear of your arrival till the day before I left for the Army. Gladly would I have visited Augusta, that I might once more take you by the hand, if it had been possible.

Let me say a word for the Maine 5th. Our numbers are greatly reduced - Half of the effective men of the Regt have reenlisted. Eleven of the officers have signified their readiness to remain in the service. The Chaplain being one of the number. The "old man" is a veteran now. I want to see the end of the strife.

In our winter quarters, we have a Chapel 30 x 18 - & we have much to interest us. There have been several conversions, & the religious interest is on the increase. Several of our officers have become decided Christians.

We have a flourishing Temperance Society. <All of the Field, H-off. & Some> officers have signed the pledge with the exception of four or five & the men have signed in like ratio. Our last meeting was very encouraging, & the one, on Wed. next, I hope will be still more hopeful.

Col. Upton commands the Brigade & lends all his influence in support of the Temperance movement. He is a graduate of West Point & probably known to you - as Emory Upton.

Remember me very affectionately to your Brother the Major & to Capt. Stinson, & believe me,

Your friend & brother in Christ  
John R. Adams  
Chaplain of Me. 5th

Genl. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

P.S. I write to you, because I could'nt help it, after reading your speech, & thanking you, but do not feel, under your onerous duties, compelled to reply, however grateful it would be to hear from you or your Brother.

My Son writes to me, of a late day, from his station at Williamsburg Va, that on the previous Sabbath, his officers were racing horses, for money. Is not this too bad, & do you wonder that he mourns bitterly over such influences or that he sighs for better companionship. How can we expect God's blessing for our Army when officers & men trample his authority under foot?

As my Son is the only Professing Christian on the Line (he is senior 1st Lieut) perhaps this isolation is designed

for the trial of his faith. Thus far, I think, it has been for his good, as he has established a meeting for prayer at his tent.

Yours  
J.R.A.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]  
Rev. Mr. Adams  
Chaplain 5th Maine  
April 4th 1864

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2135 4/4/1864

*From:* Henry N. Rothery

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2087

403 7th Street  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington D.C. April 4th / 64

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
General

I have the pleasure of informing you that I have the (\$.30) thirty dollars ready. Shall I send it on to you or pay it to some body here for you. I should have sent it on to you with this letter but I wished first to see if I had the proper address. My family are all well and it has pleased God to make an addition in the person of a little daughter who was baptized Clara, by Mr. Hall a month since. We have now three little ones (girls) the oldest of whom is old enough and does attend Sunday school every sunday. We feel that we have great cause to give thanks to Almighty God for all his mercies and blessings to us which we do not fail to do in our daily family prayer. Mrs. Rothery (my wife) wishes to be remembered to your estimable lady in your next letter to her. Lieut. Robinson was well at last accounts. He is married to a young lady a school mistress of Philadelphia. My wife and family join me in kind regards to yourself and also to your brother.

I am Sir  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servant  
Henry N. Rothery  
403 7th Street

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2136 4/4/1864

*From:* J. Parkhurst  
Col. & PM Gen  
Chattanooga

*To:* A. Reed

OOH-2088

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82]

South-Western Telegraph Company

Apr 4 186 [1864 The year was not given, but it must be 1864. See OOH-2090.]

By telegraph from Chattanooga

To A. Reed

Genl Howard is not at Chattanooga. He is with Gen Hooker. If he requests permission for you to visit him it will be granted.

J. Parkhurst

Col. & QM Gen

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2137 4/5/1864

*From:* Fred H. Munson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2089

Albany N.Y.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[83]

Albany April 5 1864

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have been for some time past engaged in collecting the Autographs of distinguished persons. I have already a great number and I have often thought of sending for yours and have as often put it off but on Sunday last I attended a meeting called in our city by the U.S. Christian Commission which was addressed by its honored Pres't who in his earnest, and eloquent manner told us of an incident which happened I think at the Battle of Gettysburg in which Major Genl Howard showed himself to be a true christian Genl of the right stamp. That incident will never be forgotten, and as the speaker held up a letter which he had recently recd from this one armed hero written in his (Genl H) left hand writing and, I do not think there was one in the room but what would have cried out (but for the sacredness of the hour.) All Honor to Genl Howard.

Now sir I hope you will grant my request and give me at least your Autograph which I assure you will be prized in my collection on account of its authors illustrious name but more particularly by reason of his also being a christian Genl who is not afraid or ashamed to own or serve his master under any, and every circumstance.

Accept this from your sincere friend and well wisher.

Fred H. Munson  
Albany N.Y.  
Care S. Mol

Major Genl O.O. Howard

[Written on the back page]  
F. H. Munson  
Albany N.Y.  
Apr 5 / 64

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2138 4/5/1864

*From:* Arthur F. Reed

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2090

Post Office Box 549  
Nashville Tenn.

Comdg 11th Army Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82]

Nashville Tenn.  
April 5th 1864

Maj Genl. Howard  
Comdg 11th Army Corps

Honored Sir

Enclosed please find telegraph dispatch [See Note] from the Pro. Mar. Genl. at Chattanooga, saying that if you request it, he will grant me permission to visit you. I have business of importance to me, to attend to, and I would be very glad to have an interview with you.

My regards to Maj. Howard, and my best wishes for your health & prosperity.

I have the honor to be,  
Very Respectively  
Your Obedient Servant  
Arthur F. Reed

Post Office Box 549

[Written along the side in red ink.]  
Answered Apr 16 & request enclosed.  
lr

[Note: The telegraph dispatch referred to is OOH-2088.]

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2139 4/5/1864

*From:* W T Sherman  
Maj Gen  
Washington

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2092

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
Apr 5 1864

By Telegraph from Washington 5 1864  
To Maj Gen Howard

The following orders have just been received by Telegraph from War Department.

Maj Gen Hooker to Command the First (1st) Corps comprised of of the Eleventh 11 & 12th twelfth. Maj Gen Howard to command the Fourth 4 Corps. Maj Gen J M Scofield to command the Twenty third 23d Corps. Maj Gen H W Slocum is ordered to the Command of Vicksburg.

W T Sherman  
Maj Gen

Robt. N Ramsey  
A.A.G.

[Written on the back]  
Changes Commanders  
April 5, 1864

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2140 4/5/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2093

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[506]

Farmington Apr. 5, 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie

I recvd your letter last evening and answered it, pressing you to send Guy! I was over at the Depot tonight, looking out for Ellas mother, when who should appear, but the dear little fellow himself with Mrs. P. so he had company all the way. He rode over behind our seat on a valise, gave me your messages, & Alice, Julias - ate a good hearty supper & went to bed about 8 ½ o'clock. He unpacked his basket & placed his things nicely in the drawer that I gave him for himself, or hung them up. Making remarks on each article of apparel, especially excusing the stockings and calling my attentions to the worsted shirts. He is now sleeping quietly & restfully in the next (Aunt Hatties room - Dadie calls it) room.

He brushed his hair before tea & we talk of having ours cut tomorrow. He is going out with me to see the tapped trees & the sugar making, & will visit Frankies School (Otis goes) & I hope will have a good time.

Our word for S.S. Concert is "angel" and we will find him some good verse to repeat. I think he & Dadie are alike in many things & they will get on splendidly together.

Thank you for your present. It must'nt make you think that ours was less a present. Maple Syrup is about all the thing that Farmington is distinguished for.

Mrs Partridge is at Mr Ormsbys still.

I had a letter from Frank Gilman dated the 25th. He likes & I hope will be liked. I know him to be capable & conscientious. We had also a short letter from Otis Sat. night.

Guy had a dull two hours in Brunswick & thinks our R.R. Slow - says he gets up early.

Ella & Mrs Patten join me in love to you & Gracie & the rest. Remember us most affly to Warren & wife.

Yr. aff. Bro.  
Rowland

---

2141 4/6/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2094

Lookout Valley

Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. 11th A.C.

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[507]

Lookout Valley Tennessee

Hd. Qrs. 11th A.C.

April 6th 1864

Dearest,

You will probably have seen by the papers that my Corps & the 12th are consolidated and I am sent to command the 4th Corps. now under Gordon Granger. Gen. Hooker commands our two as the new "Twelfth Corps". The order was received last night; so that after a year and four days of trial with the 11th, it goes out and I begin again. The new Corps is a large one and peculiarly Western. Two of the Divn Commanders Wood and Stanley are Army officers, two at least of the Brigade Commanders Hazen and Harker are so also. The Head Quarters will be at Cleaveland for the present. It will make twenty miles further for your letters to go. I lose Col. Balloch, Col. Hayes, Col. Assmussen and Col. Meysenburg. Maj Hoffman and Capt. Pearson too are doubtful. The new house always breaks up the pleasant associations of the old one.

I received a very nice letter from you last night. You said at the beginning that all were well at home, so I did wonder at the pencil writing till I found you were out of ink. The pencil was a very good one.

We have had it very rainy for the last two weeks, but now it is clearing up - it is beautiful morning and the birds are singing and rejoicing at the sunshine. Frank thinks a great deal of good warm weather. I shall try somehow to keep him. He is too valuable an accession to lose.

I saw Gen Thomas yesterday. Capt Willard whom you remember (keeping a bookstore?) at Troy Gemma's Cousin. Also Capt Merrill of the Engineers, whom you remember at West Point. Capt. Stinson and I rode over together. We were joined by Col Jim Fessenden on our way back. He is still on Gen. Hooker's staff. We spent the evening in talking over new arrangements. I shall be glad when everything has settled down again into quiet. Gen. Slocum is ordered to the command of Vicksburg Mississippi.

I hope you will have the woodhouse fixed up if you remain long where you are. It will increase your elbow room a little and I shall be really glad if you can get a house to rent. I shall think you are going to keep a boarding house at the Gage. Never mind that if it is a good one.

McDonald is waiting at the front with my horse to go to Gen. Hookers.

Give my warmest love to self and the children. God bless you all. Soon you write me to Cleaveland. Will write Julia by and by. Kind regards to Isabella.

Lovingly

Otis

---

2142 4/6/1864

*From:* John Brannan  
Brig.Gen & Chf Arty  
Chattanooga

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2095

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[36]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
April 6 1864  
By Telegraph from Chattanooga 6 1864  
To Maj Gen Howard

Do you wish Maj Osborn assigned to you as Chief of Artillery of the Fourth Army Corps. Answer.

John Brannan  
Brig.Gen & Chf Arty

[Written on back side]  
Jnos Brannan Brig Gen  
April 6 / 64

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2143 4/6/1864

*From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs. O O Howard

OOH-2096

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[508]

Portland April 6 1864

Mrs. O O Howard

Dear Niece

You are probably aware that the time has come round for the payment of Bank dividends. The amt due you from the Banks here is \$141 dollars, and there was also a balance to your credit last October to the amt. Of \$143. dollars, on which I think you ought to receive some interest. If you will please to write me what you wish to have done with the above named amts, I will attend to it with pleasure. You can now have your money invested in the Government 5-40 Bonds in any sums you choose and those Bonds will be ready in a few days probably, or I will send you the Bills, if you wish.

From your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

P.S. Please inform me how many Shares you now have in Canal Bank.

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2144 4/6/1864

*From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs. O O Howard

OOH-2097

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[509]

Portland April 6 1864

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter this forenoon after I had deposited my letter in the Office.

I will attend to collecting the Coupons of RR Bonds and <Term> Notes Interest on R.R. Bonds \$150 from which they deduct 3 pr cent Revenue tax – amt - 145.50.

Interest on U.S. Coupons \$14 on which I shall get 62 pr. cent premium – 22.68, making the amt to collect now \$168.18. To your credit before I believe 143 & 141 or 284.00, which will make the amt in all - \$452.18

You will pleas let me know what you wish to have done with this amt, and I will attend to it with pleasure.

Very glad to hear of the Generals good health & spirits. May it long continue. Love to yourself & Family.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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2145 4/7/1864

*From:* Warren Woodman

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2098

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[84]

Augusta April 7th 1864

My dear Cousin,

I write to acknowledge the many obligations you & your family have placed me & Mrs W. under during the past few months. I can never forget them & I fear never repay.

Cousin Lizzie has been very kind to us indeed. We shall never forget her many acts of kindness. She is all that could be ask for in one. Valuable as a wife, mother & friend. I fear her warm heart prompts her to do too much. She hesitated to take anything for our board, but I trust you understand my feelings when I say that I prefer to pay – had it been convenient would fully paid more.

The Regt began to move on the 15th March but want of transports & bad weather has delayed us. The last of the Regt will get away tonight. Our destination has not been changed, therefore report to Genl Bank.

The people express all confidence in Lt. Genl Grant.

I will inform you of our arrival in New Orleans.

Yours very truly  
E. Warren Woodman

[Written twice at the bottom of the 2nd page, in two different hands.]

Col. Woodman

April 7th 1864

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2146 4/8/1864

*From:* Chas Douglass

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2099

Bath Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[85]

Bath Me. Apr. 8 1864

Major Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

Knowing your feelings towards the U.S. Christian Commission I take the liberty to ask of you a letter upon the subject; for us to read at meetings we propose to get up in the counties of Franklin Androscoggin Sagadahock & Lincoln to rais funds for this noble cause.

We are told by Mr Stuart its worthy President by Mr Demand the New England Agt. & by Mr Cole the General Field Agt. of the Army of the Potomac that means are wanted to accompany the ary in the Bloody Spring campaign now before it. We at home are anxious to comply with the demand.

We think such a letter from you would do us good in Maine.

Having been a delegate myself I feel the need of prompt action in this matter.

In hast I am  
Respectfully Yours  
Chas Douglass

[Written on the last page]  
Charles Douglass  
Letter, Bath, Me  
Apr. 8, 1864

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2147 4/9/1864

*From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-2100

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[511]

Portland April 9th 1864

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

Your letter of 7th enclosing Bank Check for \$347 82/100 dollars was duly recvd, and yesterday I made a deposit for you in the Government Bank here of \$800 dollars, and took a Certificate for the delivery of the U.S. 5-40 Bonds to draw interest from date of the deposits. As soon as the Bonds are recvd here from Government I will forward them to you.

There is to be one of \$500 and three of \$100 each, and there will be a balance due to you of two dollars 12/100 \$2-12/100. I got that much more premium on your treasury note Coupons more than I expected. - will send it to you with the Bonds.

From Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

---

2148 4/9/1864

*From:* W.T. Sherman

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-2102

Head-Quarters Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi  
Nashville, Tenn.

Comdg 4th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[86]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters Military Division of the Mississippi  
Nashville, Tenn.,  
April 9 1864

Genl OO Howard,  
Comdg 4th Corps

General,

Yours of Apr 7 is received with map and Report, which I have read, and find most interesting. I think in my Report I caught all the chief points. It may be that I failed to mention Col McAdam in connection with Col Taft. But your Report supplies fully this omission.

It will be unnecessary to make a <spenic> & special Report to me, as this covers fully the whole operation of your troops.

I am with respect  
Yours truly  
W.T. Sherman  
Maj Gen Comdg

---

2149 4/9/1864

*From:* Alex. S. Webb

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-2103

Headquarters 1st  
Brigade Second  
Division 2d Army Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters 1st Brigade Second Division, 2d Army Corps  
April 9th 1864

Dear Howard.

I have attended to your request in your note of March 25th. The clerk has the order to carry out your wishes.

Gibbon has resumed the command of the Division.

You will probably have noticed that I have a good Brigade. I shall not waste the opportunity offered.

With best wishes for you & yours.

Sincerely  
Alex. S. Webb  
Brig. Genl.

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2150 4/10/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2104

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

Augusta April 10th 1864

Dearest

I must write you a few lines this quiet Sabbath evening. Grace and Isabella have been to Sunday School concert. I went to Church this morning. I am alone - that is Col and Mrs Woodman have gone. I presume he sailed from Portland yesterday, and she is at her sisters in Wilton. I miss her very much indeed. I am just now very anxious to hear from you. I do not know where the 4th Corps is. I am under the impression that it is near Knoxville. When you went to the relief to Gen. Burnside was not Gen. Granger with you? And did he not remain after your return to "Lookout"? If he is not in Tenn. he must be in the "Army of the Potomac". I dont think you will be particularly pleased to come back to Virginia, but will be willing to leave the Corps you now have. If you come back to Virginia you may expect a visit some time from your humble servant. I wont wait for an invitation either, but "move to the front without delay".

I have heard from Rowland since Guy arrived. I think he will have a fine time there, and will want to stay till his school begins. I heard yesterday that it would not begin before the 25th inst. Even Chancy misses Guy - calls the little boys out of doors 'Guy'. I must write to him to-morrow.

I have collected all interest, and taking what I had on deposit in Portland, and three hundred from here, have invested \$800.00 (Uncle Edward has for me) in Gov. Bonds 5-40. Would it not be well to write to, or give me an order on the "Washington Marine Insurance Co." that the interest might be collected. You invested four hundred (4 shares) in Jan. 1860, and no interest has been paid but once, and that soon after the first battle of Bull Run. Mr Bacon collected on your order you sent me and sent me forty dollars. A.W. Whittle, President. A.B. Van ---- Secretary. I cannot read the name of the Secretary.

I did not send my letter to the P. Office this morning. We are having a snow storm. It is now nearly five o'clock, Monday afternoon and I am writing to send to the P.O. this evening when Isabella goes for the mail. We are all very well. Our family seems small. Chancy has just waked and is blowing his whistle. Jamie is asleep. Grace is at school. I will write a note to Guy now. Love to Charlie, he is well I trust.

Yours as ever,  
Lizzie

[Written on the back side]

Mrs. O.O.H.

Apr. 10 '64

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2151 4/11/1864     *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2101

638 Tremont St  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston Apl 11 1864

My Dear Brother,

Your welcome letter came to hand Saturday. This, as you perceive, is Monday Morn'g. Yesterday was very stormy after 12 o'clock, & this Morn'g there is an inch or two of snow & slush all over the city. We have had a cold, raw sore-throat N. East wind blowing for more than 2 weeks.

I was already to make a visit to the Army of the Potomac last week, in company with your friend Mr. Toby, Dr. Kirk, Mr Demond & Mr Stuart of Phi'a, but when the time came to start, I was unwell, & therefore staid behind. Sought the rear, like a coward. I think however that prudence in this case, as in most others, is the better part of valor. For I have been rather out of sorts all the week, preaching yesterday with a bad throat.

Are you coming to the Army of the Potomac again? Saturday eve'gs Journal says that Genl Geary, (I am not sure that I recollect the name correctly, but of the rest I am sure), Commanding the 4th Army Core is to be relieved by Maj. Genl. Howard. If you shd come into that old race ground again I may visit you if I can get a pass.

I saw also a letter from Col Leonard, Mass 13th, who says that some portion of the Western army is coming East, & that the talk is of a grand, combined movement against Richmond, & whatever stands in the way of its capture. Perhaps you will write me 5 lines on the reception of this, or when you know of any change appointed for yourself.

Dear Genl, as to myself, I am a very, poor christian, have little power with God or man. I feel sometimes like one who finds himself standing upon a dizzy height without knowing how he got there, & when I hear other people talking about our affairs, the greatness, & the prosperity of our society, I am smitten with trembling under a sense of responsibility. God has blest us in outward things wonderfully. When I took the Society, it was small - everything at loose ends - & a debt of more than 10 thousand dollars upon us. We have steadily increased & prospered, till now we are in a chh that has cost us 77, 500\$ all paid for, & the debt also wiped off, all from the sale of pews - our keel is off the bottom & we are on our course.

Our house seats about 1500, twice as many as the old one, & it is as full as the old one was. It w'l'd kindle your inspiration, if it did not crush you with a sense of responsibility, to stand up on Sab'th morn'g, & speak to such a large, dense congregation. Our Chapel is capacious, light, high & airy. We have all the appointments necessary to convenience & comfort. Outwardly we are very prosperous, but what I mourn is the absence of the spirit. This is what we need - the quickening, converting influences of the Holy Ghost. Why does he not come. Dont he like our chh - dont he like us? Is the difficulty in my poor faithless, unsanctified heart? That is what troubles me at times a good deal. I am not what I ought to be - am not what I desire to be - am not what I conceive a christian minister occupying my place ought to be. Genl, is it not harder to gain a height in holiness than to gain the brow of Lookout Mountain? I am seldom on the Mt. anyway - seldom if ever, gain a victory, tho' I do not know that I am ever quite driven from the field, or pushed aside from my course. I really need more time for myself, - more time to read the Bible & to pray for myself. You will think this a strange confession perhaps, but it is just about the truth. I am always thinking & working for others, & have no time to think, or plan, or act for myself.

I sometimes get a sweet view of the rest beyond - the blessed presence of Jesus, & the grateful employments of the redeemed, & am comforted & cheered by the Sight, till I remember how sinful & unworthy I am, & how little assurance I have that my name is written in the Lambs book of life, & then it is as when a cloud arises & the wind gusts disturb the calm bosom of the lake, & the beautiful picture is gone.

Dear Genl do you think that such a poor, vile creature as I am will ever be fit for Hn, or be welcomed there? Do

you ever feel disturbed in such ways? It will be sweet to be there, in Hn, with Christ, - with the redeemed, where there is no sin, no conflict, no war, no groans.

I have two boxes for the army at my disposal - in addition to 500\$ just taken as a collection for the support of the Xn commission - one has flannels, shirts & drawers, & 50 bags with needles, thread, yarn, buttons, scissors &c &c - the other a general variety. I sh'd like to take them personally into your tent & go round with you & distribute them.

Fraternally yrs.  
E.B. Webb.

Love to your staff, espy Mj H.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

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2152 4/11/1864 *From:* Wm E. Merrill

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2105

Chattanooga

Knoxville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[35]

U.S. Military Telegraph

April 11th 1864

By Telegraph from Chattanooga forwarded from Loudon

To Maj Genl Howard

Knoxville

I would strongly recommend Major Morhardt late Genl Sheridan's Topographical Engineer - as Chief Topographic Engineer of the 4th Army Corps.

Wm E. Merrill

Capt and Chief Topographic Engr.

[Written on the last page]

Capt W. E. Merrill

Telegram Recommending Major Morhardt

April 11th 1864

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2153 4/11/1864 *From:* J B Bachelder

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2106

59 Beekman St New  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39]

59 Beekman St New York  
[ca. April 11, 1864] [The date was written in pencil.]

Maj Genl. Howard  
Sir

Last November I wrote to you asking for information regarding the position of the Regiments of your Corps at Gettysburg, but as I have never received an answer I fear that my letter miscarried. I started to visit you in Maine last winter but learned on arriving in Boston that you had passed through that city on the same day, en route for the Army. I have been constantly engaged since the battle of Gettysburg in preparing a historical picture of the Battlefield on which I wish to show the position of every Regiment of both Armies. I have established the Confederate positions, after months of labor with the prisoners. I spent the entire winter with the Army of the Potomac and have located every Regiment. Genls Williams, Greene & Lockwood with other officers have given me the 12th Corps. Genls Barlow & Schurtz have given me something of the 11th Corps which I send you, but it is still imperfect. Now that I have the whole Army beside, it would seem like neglect were I to issue my print imperfect in this respect. I have sent a copy of this outline map and the tabular form attached to each Reg of the 11th Corps, but as yet have received answers to none, though at this writing it may be to early to do so. I enclose you facsimiles of officers' signatures who have assisted me in locating their commands. If you can indicate the remaining positions to your satisfaction I should be pleased to have you add your name to my list of testimonials.

The plate is now in a forward state which will make it necessary to forward this material at once if it is to go on.

I am Sir  
Yours With Respect  
J B Bachelder  
Print Publisher

Maj Genl Howard

[Written on the back}  
J.B. Bachelder  
Print Publisher New York

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2154 4/13/1864

*From:* G.S. Palmer

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2108

Lookout Valley Tenn.

4th AC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[88]

Lookout Valley Tenn.  
April 13th 1864

General

I am exceedingly sorry that I am not able to go campaigning with you this summer, but I am not, and I must submit, I shall apply for hospital duty in some of the more Northern States, & if I cannot get that, I shall be obliged to offer my resignation.

A general letter from you, stating what you know of me as an officer, whether I have been faithful, careful &c, will help me very much, I think. If you see fit to write such a letter, please inclose it to me at Gardiner Maine. I shall probably be there soon, as I have received a leave of absence.

I hope you will not undertake to do too much work this summer, and thus break your own health and destroy or impair your usefulness. All depends upon having competent reliable and willing men on your staff. You must let them do all the hard work.

It is enough for you or any other man to have the responsibility of so large a command. You are well aware that care and anxiety wear upon the health as much as physical exposure. Excuse my freedom.

Very truly your Friend  
G.S. Palmer

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
4th AC

[Written on the back page]  
Surgeon G.S. Palmer  
Lookout Valley  
April 13 / 64

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2155 4/13/1864      *From:* T. A. Meysenburg      *To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard  
Lt Col  
OOH-2109      Headquarters Eleventh  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Corps

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[90]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
April 13 1864

General,

Last night your telegram regarding the plan of the battle of Gettysburg reached me. I am very sorry that the information brought by Lieut Breckle of the position of the troops on the different days and in the different positions is not sufficient for the purpose mentioned in Mr Batchelder's letter.

The delay has been occasioned principally by the unacquaintance with the position of the 1st Division on the first day. Although I know the position by brigades pretty well, the information received from Col Gilsa & others appeared to me rather doubtful as instead of having the 1 & 2 Brig 1 Div in echelon. Gilsa gives the 2 Brig at right angles to the 1st with the front entirely in rear of the 1st Brigade.

This is said to have caused the confusion of the 1st Division and especially of Genl Ames' brigade of which there was scarcely a man before the retreat through the town. Undoubtedly Mr Batchelder will receive some information regarding this from Genl Barlow so that any errors may be corrected by him, if they should occur.

Genl Schurz is still here in command of the corps, the new organization not being ordered yet. It is expected to-day, at Genl Hooker's Headquarters. I sent to-day the copy of my diary by courier. The books, which are still in use will be sent just as soon as the business transactions with the Eleventh Corps have ceased.

Major Hoffmann is hard at work finishing the church. Genl von <Steinwehr> who takes great interest in the building expects to finish it shortly. They are now erecting the steeple. Nothing has been heard of the organization of the new corps. All that can be heard indicates that Genl Butterfield is to receive the 1st Division with four brigades. The Corps badge has not been determined upon, but it is to be hoped that the badges of the 11 & 12 Corps will be combined, the star in the center of the crescent, making one of the best or probably the finest badge in the army.

We have just received an order from Genl Hookers H.Q. directing that the Divisions of the Corps report directly to Headquarters 11 & 12 Corps until the organization of the 20th Corps is effected.

In hopes to hear from you General, and with my best wishes for your success,  
I remain with great respect & sincerity  
your obt srvt  
T. [Theodore] A. Meysenburg  
Lt Col

Maj Genl Howard

[written on the pack page]  
Lieut. Col. Meysenburg  
Lookout Valley  
April 13 1864

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2156 4/13/1864    *From:* Edw. P. Smith

*To:* O.O. Howard

Maj. Genl.

OOH-2110

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Branch Office  
Nashville Tenn.

Commanding 4th A.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[91]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission,  
Branch Office  
Nashville Tenn. April 13, 1864

O.O. Howard  
Maj. Genl.  
Commanding 4th A.C.

My dear Sir,

Your own kindness is my apology for troubling you with a statement of a new difficulty into which we have fallen.

Gen. Sherman has never met the Christian Com'n as an organized effort in the army & consequently holds our request for so much passing and transportation as a presumption to be denied & rebuked & says that nearly every regiment at the front has a chaplain.

This, of course, will make a speedy end of all our present plans of working in this Mil. Division. These plans require the passing, on an average, of one delegate per day from Nashville front. Perhaps for an army, so encompassed with difficulties of transportation, some change of plans will be best, that shall lessen the number of delegates to be passed, by increasing their term of service. But there are great advantages in these frequent reliefs. Each man brings a full, fresh invoice of home feeling & religion & carries back reliable information of the need & encouragement for benevolent & religious work in the army. If, however, the public service is more hindered than helped by this frequent passing then there must be a change.

Will you not give us your views on this matter as relates to this army.

I am waiting a suitable opportunity to lay before the General Commanding a statement of the object and plans of the Commission & ask his permission to go on.

A note of introduction - and yr endorsement of the two fold purpose of the Commission, bodily relief & moral reinforcement would be of great weight in our favor.

My full conviction after a year's experience is that an average delegate in his volunteer service reinforces the fighting ability of the army, by as much as one able bodied veteran.

Yr love for the Master & solicitude for the welfare of men in service & your well known appreciation of the endeavor of the Christian Commission lead me to ask this favor at yr hand. So that if, in my ignorance of the delicate nature of military relations, I have asked what you cannot grant, I shall have no difficulty in appreciating the ground of yr refusal.

With gratitude & unfeigned respect I am, General,  
Yr obt Srvt  
Edw. P. Smith  
Genl Field Agt, U.S.C.C

[Written on the last page.]

Rev. E.P. Smith  
U.S. Chr. Com.

Nashville Tenn.  
Apl. 13/64

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2157 4/14/1864    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2111

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24]

Augusta, April 14th 1864.

Dearest

I do very much wish I could find out where you are to go. I must wait to hear and learn it from you. I cannot think you have already left Lookout Valley. Your letter dated April 4th was the last received – got it this week. I was not intending to write you to-night, but after making all necessary arrangements, I concluded that twenty minutes past nine too early to retire. I will write till Chancy wakes. He and Jamie were vaccinated last week – is somewhat troublesome - Both are getting well now.

Sunday Evening

I have been so busy I have not finished this letter – sewing – housecleaning – and over seeing matters generally.

Guy did not come home Sat. as I expected. I dont know what to think is the reason – may not have reached the Depot in season – may be coming by the Stage. I will not think he is sick for they would have let me know.

Ella writes that Alice was far better than she dared to hope at first – slow but apt to learn anything but her books. I have tried to think that Julia was neat, but I almost despair of her ever being so, and so irregular in doing her work. I go down into the kitchen sometimes and then come back and say to myself, O dear, what shall I do, and again I come up and have a good laugh.

Martha and Fanny go to Sunday School regularly. Julia dont go to church as much as I wish she would. She needs as much instruction as a little child. She went out to go to church this afternoon but there was none at the Methodist, and so she came back. Sometimes she goes to the Baptist Church with old father Eason – colored man member of the church. She likes to hear of Sam's doing well.

Isabella comes in as I am writing, from prayer meeting at our vestry. She seems to have enjoyed it. I learned of the death of Parson Ingrahan one evening last week. He was buried this afternoon. He was the father of your class mate, Dan Ingrahan.

We have had a beautiful day. I went to Church this morning with Grace. Jamie thought the mud was dried up enough for him to go. He now will listen to stories read to him, was very much interested this afternoon in the story of David and Goliath. I made him a sling of thread and paper to show him how David did. Gracie reads as much as ever. I hope Guy will come home happy and contented. I see no chance of me moving this spring. Some talk of taking houses in Hallowell. I should prefer to remain here to going there. It is now little past nine. Jamie has waked, says his arm doesnt feel better. I know it must feel uncomfortable but he wont scratch it, likes to have me wet it. I will say you write good night, with love to you all.

Yours  
Lizzie

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2158 4/17/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2112

Head Quarters 4th  
Corps  
Cleaveland E. Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[513]

Head Quarters 4th Corps  
Cleaveland E. Tenn.  
Apr 17th 1864

Dearest,

This is sunday evening and it is now a quarter before ten. I did propose to write you a long letter this evening, but Gen. Newton from the Army of the Potomac has come having been assigned to my second Divn at my request. He is a fine man and I believe an excellent officer. Gen. Stanley, Gen. Newton and Gen. Wood are all graduates of West Point each commanding a division in this Corp. In getting started I have had a great deal to occupy my time & attention so that I have not been as faithful in writing as I ought.

I have a very very pleasant place for Head Quarters just in the out-skirts of Cleaveland. The house belonged to the company that owned the copper mills at this place. I am now living in State in a fine large room. Could you and the children be here during the next two or three weeks. I could make you quite comfortable. But Gen Sherman dont allow citizens to come over the road now this side of Nashville and by the time you should arrive the bird might be flown.

Monday morning.

Last night it was too late to finish your letter. Yesterday morning we went to Church at the Presbyterian. The house was filled mostly with soldiers and officers and we had a very good sermon from a Chaplain about the firmness of Daniel, urging us all to a like course of conduct.

This is quite a pleasant little village for the south and I really wish it were so <> that you and the children could be here for a while. Guy has gone to pay his uncle Rowland a visit. He must be back by this time. I think he ought to write papa a letter giving a description of his visit at Farmington. I shall have to take a ride of about 30 miles today 15 miles out and 15 back to review Gen. Crofts brigade of Stanley's division.

I am really glad to hear from you that you are all so well. Give much love to Grace, Jamie Chancy as well as Guy if he is back. Papa is very glad Chancy can speak – sorry he learns him by a picture, but the war will soon be over and then everybody expects a good time – home again. Charlie is well; is acting Inspector General and I have recommended his promotion. This will make Capt. Stinson Major and Lt. Gilbreth Captain. I shall probably lose Professor Whittlesey, as Col Fullerton is an excellent adjutant General & belongs here. I will try to do better next time. Sam is well tell Julia. Much love to all. God bless & preserve you.

Lovingly,  
Otis

Enclosed please find a check for \$100 dollars.

Chas. wants to borrow 200 for a little while for investment, or I would send you more - Say if you are in want.

Rothery will forward you 30 dollars from Washington – please send him a receipt.

Your Otis

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2159 4/17/1864

*From:* H. Boyd McKeen  
Colonel

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2113

Head Quarters 81st 2D

Comandg 11th Corps.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[93]

Head Quarters 81st 2D  
April 17th 1864

General

I take the liberty of asking a favor of you in behalf of Charles Miller son of James Miller Col 81st 2D who was killed at Fair Oaks Virginia. The widow of Col Miller is desirous that her son should enter West Point, and follow in the foot-steps of his gallant father. If you will be kind enough to use your influence to obtain his appointment you will be doing a great favor to the widow of one who has dearly bought the right of such an appointment for his son. By making me aware of your views upon this subject you will greatly oblige me.

I remain General  
Your Obt Svt  
H. Boyd McKeen  
Colonel 81st 2D

Major General O.O. Howard  
Comandg 11th Corps.

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2160 4/18/1864

*From:* Dan'l Butterfield,  
Major General

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-2091

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Third  
Division, 20th Corps  
Army of the Cumberland  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

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[38]

[The following is typeset]

Head-Quarters Third Division, 20th Corps  
Army of the Cumberland,  
Lookout Valley, Tenn., April 18th, 1864.

General Orders,  
No. 1.

In compliance with Department Orders the undersigned hereby assumes command of the 3d Division, 20th Corps.

The following named Staff Officers are announced:

Capt. Jno. Speed, U.S.Vols., Assistant Adjutant General  
Capt. L.Y. Stuart, U.S. Vols., Commissary of Subsistence.  
Capt. Henry A. Lacey, U.S. Vols., Division Quartermaster.  
Capt. H.M. Scott, 70th Ind. Vols., Division Inspector.  
Capt. Robt. M. McDowell, Division Topographical Officer.  
Capt. Paul A. Oliver, 12th N.Y. Vols., A.D.C.  
Lieut. Jas. C. McKell, 73d O. Vols., Division Ordnance Officer  
Lieut. H. Ford, 19th, Mich. Vols., Division Ambulance Officer  
Lieut. F.P. Thompson, 33d Mass. Vols., Division Provost Marshal  
Lieut. R.E. Beecher, 73d O. Vols., Division Commissary of Musters

They will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

Acting and other Staff Officers of the First and Second Divisions, Eleventh Corps, belonging to Regiments within this Division, who are not assigned by this order will report to their Regiments or Batteries. Those not belonging to this Division and not provided for in this order, will report in person to these Headquarters.

Dan'l Butterfield,  
Major General

Official: A.A.G.

[Note: The above was printed, whereas the below was handwritten.]  
(Over)

Compliments  
Genl Butterfield

3d Div

1st Wards Brigade 11th A.C of Ward  
3d Col Woods Brigade 11th A.C. Of Steinwehr  
(26 Wis added)  
2d Coburns Brigade  
(20th Conn. added)

What shall we call your church when dedicated – Howard Chapel? Or Lookout Valley Chapel?

D.B.

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2161 4/18/1864    *From:* Ella [Patten Howard]    *To:* My dear sister [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2114                      [Farmington]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[514]

Mon. Morn. Apr. 18th [1864]

My dear sister -

I fear you have been anxious about Guy, since his non-appearance on Saturday, but for some reason your letter didn't reach here till Sat. evening, when of course it was too late for him to go. He has been a good boy & we have enjoyed his visit. He has chapped his hands badly, playing out of doors so much with Frankie, without his gloves. I have tried to cure them as much as possible with glycerine, and they are a great deal better, but look badly still. I am sorry also to have him take home dirty clothes, but as it is Monday morning, that could not be well avoided. We tried to get some maple candy to send to you but didn't succeed.

Rowland has gone out this morning, and perhaps may find a little. Guy went for it Saturday evening, & came home with the presents he has for you. He said he couldn't find any candy, & he thought he ought to carry home something! I didn't know how you would fancy such an expenditure, but he seemed so happy about his presents & altogether showed so good a taste in the selections, that I thought I wouldn't say any thing to damp his pleasure – so I just enjoyed them with him!

I am going to do something at house cleaning this week. We have already made a beginning. Alice washes paint nicely.

Rowland will go to Lewiston with Guy, & will see that he is placed under good care. I think there will be no trouble. I must be about my Monday duties, & will bid you good bye, with much love.

Ella

[Written on the back]  
Mrs. O.O. Howard  
Augusta (by Guy Howard)

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2162 4/18/1864    *From:* Mrs J.B. Clark

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2115

Allegheny Pa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95]

Allegheny Pa, April 18, 1864

Major Gen O.O. Howard

My Dear Sir

Permit me to make this request of you, in the name of our common country that you will send a contribution to the "Post Office Department" of the Sanitary Fair to be held in this city 1st of June. Your Photograph, or Autograph if you do not see fit to send anything additional, will be highly prized by the Christian friends you have made, as a General in the Army. My sympathies are with the Army and its leaders. My husband though a minister, was at the head of the 123d Pa Vols., at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and would be yet in the Army but for his church here, and me, his sick wife, having been an invalid for years. I beg pardon for having thus spoken of myself.

May Goodness and mercy follow you, all the days of your life, and may your dwelling place be in Gods house forever more.

Yours very Respectfully

Mrs J.B. Clark

Chairman of Committee

[Written on the back page]

Mrs J.B. Clark

Allegheny Pa.

April 18/64

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2163 4/18/1864 *From:* Hoffman

*To:* Major General O. O.  
Howard

OOH-2116

Shellmount Tenn.

Comdg 4th Army Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Shellmount Tenn. April 18, 64

Major General O. O. Howard  
Comdg 4th Army Corps  
General:

I beg most respectfully to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter through Lt. Col. Meysenburg, for which please accept my profoundest thanks. Be assured, General, that I shall not forget the last conversation I had with you, - that I promise you.

Lt. Col. Meysenburg requested me to send you a map of Gettysburg, which I forward herewith; the position of the troops is marked down to the best of my knowledge.

A report of the late 11th Corps has to be forwarded yet to Washington, after receiving your signature. General Schurz refuses to sign it, as he was on leave of absence at the time the report was made out.

I have the honor to be General  
Your most obdt servant  
<Tuoffman>  
Major and A.D.C.  
Enclosed 1 Report and 1 Map

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2164 4/18/1864 *From:* D.K. Cross

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2117

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96]

[Embossed stamp]

Bigelow Bros. & Kennard  
210 Washington St  
Boston

Boston April 18th 1864

My dear General

This my first letter is to inform you that my resignation was forwarded Saturday last to Adj't. Genl. Thomas Washington D.C.

I did this General very reluctantly, but I was discouraged having been quite well at all times in Va. hardly sick a single day for more than two years, and in Tennessee four months - suffering all the time with Diarrhea. I could not believe my health would be good in that Climate, therefore decided to resign.

General, I am very sorry to be obliged to give up at the present time, having served two and a half years.

While with you General, I have done nothing to repay your kindness in honoring me so much by an appointment on your staff. This troubles me much, I assure you. Could I have served through one campaign even, through one battle with you General, I should have endeavored to earn this honor. To my past services in the Potomac Army, through all the campaigns, and in nearly every battle in which the 2nd Corps was engaged - to this I look back upon with satisfaction, having at all times performed my duties faithfully to my Commanding Officer as well as to my Country.

My connection with your staff will be remembered with pleasure, my admiration for yourself will never cease, and my constant desire will be that you may always be successful with your command, and wherever you meet the Enemy may the victory be yours.

My resignation was accompanied with Surgeons Certificate of Disability approved by Surgeon Genl Dale, as soon as heard from I will inform you.

I should be pleased to hear from you through the major - please address care Mssr Bigelow Bros & Kennard Boston Mass.

Please remember me kindly to your staff.

And believe me General  
Very Respectfully  
Your obt Servt  
D.K. Cross

To  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard

[Written on the last page]  
Capt. D.K. Cross  
Boston Apr 18/64

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2165 4/19/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2107

Head. Qrs 4th Corps  
Cleaveland Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[512]

Head Qrs. 4th Corps  
Cleaveland Tenn.  
Apr. 19th 1864

Dearest,

I will write you just a few words. I went to Loudon Saturday and relieved Gen. Granger - staid there over Sunday - went with Frank Gilman & Capt Stinson to Knoxville on Monday to see Gen Skofield. Mrs S. - was there with two children, but the latter were abed much to my sorrow. Kittie S. looks much handsomer and even younger than when she was a girl.

We came here yesterday - all well. Chas. sends love. Capt. Willard sends his regards. Much love to the Children. You will write soon. God bless & keep you.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2166 4/19/1864

*From:* Joseph Hooker  
Major General  
Com'dg.  
Head Quarters 20th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2118

Com'dg. 4th Corps.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[97]

Head Quarters 20th Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn. April 19, 1864.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Com'dg. 4th Corps.  
Dear General:

I enclose herewith a copy of a communication received this morning in regard to some public horses and arms belonging to the scouts of the 11th Corps, and represented to have been removed without authority on the consolidation of that Corps with the 12th.

On inquiry of the Inspector General I am led to believe that horses and arms have been improperly exchanged and taken away, and if this should be found to have been the case, I request that you will cause them all to be returned. I have been induced to appeal directly to you on this subject, feeling assured that no one will remark its impropriety sooner than yourself, and if as represented no one will be more willing to have it corrected. Lieut. Col. Asmussen is of the opinion that the horses were taken away under the impression that I had given my consent to it, which is a mistake – I did not know of it even.

I also enclose a communication regarding an orderly said to have been taken to the 4th Corps. If so, I request that he may be returned.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
Joseph Hooker  
Major General Com'dg.

[Note. The signature of Joseph Hooker was in a different hand than the rest of the letter. Neither of the two enclosures referred to in the letter were attached.]

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2167 4/21/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2119

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Cleaveland Tenn.

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[515]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland  
Cleaveland, Tenn.  
April 21st 1864

Dearest,

We are still "in status quo", and all well. My new Corps is gradually collating in this vicinity, though to review one brigade of it I have to ride fifteen miles. Gens. Wood, Stanley and Newton dined with me yesterday. I think they are all able men; they are graduates of West Point and every one ahead of me. Stanley was two years before me and the others graduated before I entered. Charlie is acting Inspector General and I have asked for his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel vice Lieut Col Selfridge removed, whom I am not inclined to retain. Today I am invited to dine at 3 P.M. with Capt. and Mrs Kniffin A.C.S. It may be because I have ordered all quartermasters and commissaries to remove from the town. This one having his wife here doubtless wishes to remain and how could you refuse after a good dinner! We shall see.

Probably Guy will have gotten back from his visit to Uncle Rowland before the arrival of this letter. I wonder if he enjoyed the visit as much as his papa used to enjoy his visits to Hallowell particularly in prospect. Grace I believe loves to go and see Grandma & I am very sure Grandma loves to have Grace visit her. But Jamie must be a homebody and Chancy is all right where Mamma and Isabella are. I suspect he will be walking as well as talking before we are aware of it.

I see some citizens coming and must shut up the book of home pictures. Good bye and God bless you all.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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2168 4/22/1864

*From:* J. D. Webster  
Brig. Genl.

*To:* Major Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2120

Head-Quarters Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi  
Nashville, Tenn.

Cleveland Tenn.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[98]

Head-Quarters Military Division of the Mississippi  
Nashville, Tenn., 22d April 1864

Major Gen'l O.O. Howard  
Cleveland Tenn.  
General,

Your letter of the 16th inst introducing Rev. E.P. Smith, Agent of the Christian Commission, was presented by that gentleman yesterday, and Maj. Gen. Sherman instructs me to say that it would give him great pleasure to afford to the Commission the facilities asked, but that the exigencies of the public service, at this time, demand a rigorous enforcement of the rule, recently established, restricting transportation to army supplies & persons immediately connected with the Service. The General appreciates the high character and pure motives of the members of the Commission and on this account, as well as that of high personal regard for yourself, regrets that he must, for the present, continue the restrictions referred to.

I am, very respectfully,  
General,

Yr. mo. obt. st.

J. D. Webster [Joseph Dana Webster]  
Brig. Genl.

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2169 4/24/1864 *From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* Dear Papa [OO Howard]

OOH-2121

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[25]

Augusta, April 24, 1864

Dear Papa

I have not written you this long time but now I will begin. I am very well and go to school. Hattie Bardon Mrs Bosworths neice with her Mother came here on a visit but are going home now at Fall River. Hattie has a little sister 6 years old that she left behind. I am very sorry that Hattie is going home because for we used to play together almost all the time. Mother Jamie Hattie and I went down street yesterday although it was Friday I did not go to school and bought a pair of chairs one for me and one for Hattie. The chairs were for our dolls. Yesterday morning I went over to Mrs Bosworths and Hattie gave me a little book. And yesterday morning I went to school. Miss Woodward heard all of our lessons but our spelling then we chose sides and sung and read pieces and next week we are going to have 4 recesses in a day, 2 in the forenoon and 2 in the afternoon.

We like the cedar chair you sent us.

When are you coming home. Will you write me soon. Good bye Papa

From your affectionate daughter  
Grace

PS The school is going to have a picnic next Mayday and Miss Woodward is going to take care of us.

---

2170 4/25/1864 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-2122

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[510

Portland April 25 1864

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Neice

I now enclose the U.S. 10-40 Bond. The bonds arrived at the Bank from Washington Saturday Evening. The \$2 10/100 is balance due you on account being for premium over what I first was offered on the 7-30 coupons.

Hopeing you may find this correct. I remain your  
Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

P.S.

Should you at any time have occasion for my services in attending to any Business Matters, I will be pleased if you let me know. EW

NB

Please acknowledge the Recpt of Bonds - so that I may know they came safe. The twelve cents I still owe.  
E.W.

---

2171 4/25/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2123

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Cleaveland Tenn.

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[516]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland  
Cleaveland Tenn. Apr 25th 1864

Dearest

It is monday morning and I feel as if I ought to write the children, but am more inclined to write you. Charles has concluded not to borrow the 200 dollars and I shall enclose it to you in this letter also an order to draw on the Washington Marine Co.

(Afternoon)

I was interrupted this morning and have had no time to resume till now. I feel in a measure emancipated now that the 11th Corps is no more yet I hav'nt things in so good working order as then. My staff is not yet so complete. After the reverse at Chancellorsville, it was hard for me to cherish a feeling of confidence in the whole of the old Corps, and after one division was removed to Charleston S.C. the Corps was for a long time very small. Sundry of our friends of other commands were accustomed to point the finger at us and laugh at our moans. I feel that the 11th Corps conquered all difficulties and ended with a fine record. I like this 4th Army Corps. It is much larger than any command I have ever had except during the first day of the battle of Gettysburg.

Yesterday I went to the Sabbath School and had a class of little girls, at the Presbyterian Church. The members of the Christian Commission and Chaplains keep the churches (edifices) in use. I have had the Provost Marshall put the churches in order, some three of them. Mr Nichols from Chicago preached yesterday morning and a Methodist Chaplain in the evening. After the evening discourse, three young soldiers stood up and waited standing asking for prayers for themselves. The Churches are full every evening and great religious interest is manifested. No matter if all leave to trust in God. It is earnestly to be desired.

Give papa's love to all the little ones. From Rowland and from Ella we have the best accounts of Guy, that he is a real good boy & is enjoying his visit.

Capt Stinson and Gilbreth are well. Charley & Frank also and all in good spirits. We are having beautiful summer weather.

Tuesday 26th

I never wrote a letter with more interruptions. All well but busy in making preparations for orders. It is like house cleaning. Sam is well, says Julia's friends are all well. Everybody (citizens) is rather short of rations in this region.

May our kind Father bless you and the little ones.

Lovingly your husband

Otis

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2172 4/30/1864     *From:* D.K. Cross

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2124

Boston Mass

Comdg 4th Army Corps  
Army of the Cumberland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

[Emboss Stamp]

Bigelow Bros & Kennard  
210 Washington St. Boston  
Boston Mass  
April 30th 1864

My dear General

I have this day recd information from the Adj. Genl Washington D.C. of the acceptance of my resignation by the President – to take effect from date – April 20th 1864, therefore I cease to be a member of your staff.

It is quite impossible for me to express with the pen my feelings at separating myself at the present time from the Army – withdrawing my services now, when everyone is needed, and again serving nearly three years I feel as though I should like to see the end - like to be with the Army when the last blow is struck, - the blow that is to end this wicked war.

I could not make myself believe that my health would be good in Tennessee, and my friends were quite unwilling for me to return to that climate.

I did hope, General, that you might be assigned to a command on the Potomac again and then I could retain my position, and remain in the service of my Country, but as no such change was made, and I did not choose to remain here idle at the expense of the Government, decided to resign.

Again will I express my regrets, not having an opportunity of serving you General through an active Campaign, - and I would also thank you again for the honor conferred in requesting my appointment.

I have always enjoyed camp life exceedingly. Now as I read of the progress of the war, my inclination will surely be to join again. My brothers-in-arms - should it become necessary I shall not be among the last to answer the call of my Country – my health permitting.

I am happy to say for the past week I have had but little of the old disease, am getting better with home nursing.

I should be pleased to hear from you General. My address is care Mess Bigelow Bros & Kennard, Boston Mass.

Please remember me kindly to your staff - accepting warm regards for yourself, mingled with gratitude for your kindness to me. Ah! This is a sad day for me!

With much respect  
I am General  
Your obt servt  
D.K. Cross

To  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comdg 4th Army Corps  
Army of the Cumberland

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2173 5/1/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2125

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Cleveland E. Tenn.

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[517]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland  
Cleveland E. Tenn. May 1st 1864

Dearest,

It is almost the anniversary of the battle of Chancellorsville and of the birth of our little boy Chancy [born May 3d 63 Note: This birth date was written in pencil, but not by OOH.], and we are drawing nigh another trial of arms perhaps more terrific than ever, that, before this reaches you, it will doubtless be over.

But on the eve of an active campaign and battle I do not feel in any degree depressed and hope you too are resting without any oppressive anxieties. I presume those unaccustomed to rely on God can have no appreciation of the relief of such a reliance. When it can be done there is a quiet happiness in being able to say, think & feel "not what I will, but what thou wilt". I presume too it is difficult to go back to the time when we had no hope and no trust and understand the desolation & anguish in fear of bereavement, when the love of God has not tempered and directed the human love. But how little I have ever been tried. Goodness and mercy has indeed followed me and how thankful I ought to be that God has not deemed it necessary to afflict me more.

We are hoping that this campaign will end the war and I am more sanguine in that belief or hope than ever before. God grant that no more disasters befall us. That Pleasant Hill affair was a sad one at the best. Col. Woodman will arrive in season to give them some good cavalry. I got a kind letter from him and answered it.

I am thinking how bad it is to be separated from you and the children so long. Guy will be a young man and Grace a young lady almost before I am aware of it. My only consolation is that I may be able to make for them a proper name and example to which you can appeal in your instruction and influence. I believe I realize that yours are far the greater trials and sacrifices darling, but the ones for which God in his Providence has prepared you. Jamie's peculiar, quiet, half credulous smile often comes up before me and the baby's completely happy laugh. I hope you & Julia will make the work as easy as possible.

I hav'nt been able lately to have Sam read much, but he continues to improve in that line. Sam is neat but did not have the <teaching> of order quite as large as I.

Many kind words to Isabella. Much love to the children from papa & no little to your own dear self. I have sent you two checks – one a hundred & one two hundred dolls to yr. Order - so you need not be anxious. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2174 5/2/1864

*From:* H'y Coppee

*To:* M. G. [OO] Howard

OOH-2126

University of Penn'a  
Phil'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[26]

University of Penn'a  
Phil'a May 2, 1864

My dear Howard:

Your kind letter was received long since, and I have only delayed to answer it until something more sh'd be developed concerning the Gettysburg Campaign, which, you know, was being investigated by a committee. I never meant to do you injustice, nor would I under any circumstances be guilty of so doing, for I respect you as a brave and skilful officer and a christian gentleman. The statements made in the Service Magazine were from responsible men, and I in common with all Pennsylvanians did feel aggrieved - not that you were rewarded, but that Hancock was not. The Army & Navy Journal published some injurious articles, but such I would not admit.

Professor Jacobs' letter, a copy of the same which he sent to you, I published at once, and I believe that it has really cleared up the whole matter. In all future actions, I shall be very glad to have from some skilful writer on your staff, such statements as will guard against errors of any kind. My task is a difficult one but I desire to perform it not only with strict justice, but also with a desire to give the fullest and most generous credit to our educated West Point Generals, by whom, under God, we hope to be guided to reunion & honorable peace. I shall be much obliged to you for a line saying that you have received this.

The extract from the Phil'a Bulletin, was printed before your letter came, or I should not have published it.

Very sincerely & truly yours,  
H'y Coppee [Henry Coppee, Editor of the U.S. Service Magazine, Professor of English Literature and History at Univ. of Penn.]

M. G. Howard

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2175 5/2/1864

*From:* Lt. A. Owen

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2127

Hd. Qrs. 5th A.C.  
Culpepper, Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100]

Hd. Qrs. 5th A.C.  
Culpepper, Va  
May 2d 1864

Dear General,

Your very kind & excellent letter, in my behalf, was duly received. I would have answered it sooner, but wished first to be able to tell you something of its disposition & effect.

I carried it to Washington last week together with others from Generals Sedwick, Gibbon, Hazen, Meade & Ingalls. Gen. Meigs who has been very friendly to me since his inspecting visit to the Army last summer, received me very kindly, endorsed your letter in the warmest manner, & himself nominated me for the position I asked.

He thought it would be better for him to send the papers to the Secretary, than for me to present them, personally, & so I left them with him.

I think that all has been done that military influence could effect. If, now, I could but bring some strong political influence to bear, I think there would be little doubt about my obtaining the appointment.

But, unfortunately, I have been such a wanderer during the last twelve years (much of the time residing at the South), that I have only a very slight acquaintance with any member of Congress.

My mother living in a great city like New York, knows none & my fathers friends in Maine are, unfortunately, rather too much of the democratic persuasion in politics, to have much influence.

Under these circumstances, might I venture to ask you to write to Senator Fessenden & Morrill on the subject, to get them to call the attention of the President & Secretary to my claims. Were it a personal favor to me, I should scarcely ask a stranger to use his influence in my behalf, but the position I seek, such as it is (& it is not very much) I consider as no more than a just reward for service faithfully rendered during the whole period of the war, as those have testified who have had the best means of knowing. And as such, I think it just & right to ask any public man satisfied of the facts, & having a general interest in the good of the service & the welfare of the Country, to use his influence, to see, at least, that my application has a fair consideration.

I feel General that I have already asked many favors of you & I have some hesitation in asking this, yet I scarcely know in what other way I could reach the parties I wish to reach.

Still, if you have the slightest objection for any reason whatever, to appeal to these gentlemen, in my behalf, I beg that you will not do so, through any feeling of kindness to me.

Your friends here were all exceedingly glad to hear of your transfer to another Corps & a command so honorable & so justly due. We watch your course with great interest, & are expecting much from you & the Army of the Cumberland this summer.

For ourselves, we have strong hopes of accomplishing what we have so long tried in vain. There is not much enthusiasm for Grant, the days of enthusiasm are past, in this Army of the Potomac, but still there is no lack of confidence. I believe the A.P. is today vastly superior on all respects to what it ever has been.

There is some dissatisfaction on the part of regiments whose term of service, reckoning from their enlistment, has expired, but I think a few stern examples (& they will certainly be made if necessary) will set this all right.

Before this reaches you the Army will, in all probability, have moved, & the fate of Richmond be perhaps decided.

I saw Mr Syphen the other day. He is writing a History of the Penn. Reserves under the sanction of the state authorities & was here to see Genl. Meade & gather information, finally, about his subject.

He seems well & in fine spirits. We talked much, of course, of you & the old staff which he remembers with pleasure & gratitude.

Remember me very kindly to Charley & my other friends with you. I would have written Charley in answer to his letters but am very busy & have not time just now. Will do so at my earliest leisure.

Is Hayes with you still? I trust so. Capt. Norris, one of my old Division Q. Mrs. who was sent to the A.C. at my recommendation to instruct the Q.M.D. there in our system, writes me that Hayes is the best of the Corps Qr. Masters.

I remember "Sam" well. Give him my regards & ask him what has become of his master, young Johnson who was my assistant.

Believe me, General, Ever  
Sincerely Your friend  
Lt. A. Owen

---

2176 5/2/1864

*From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-2128

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[519]

Portland May 2d 1864

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I have just collected Interest of the two Coupons you sent due May 1st. \$30 I got \$53 which I now enclose. They do not pay quite so much as gold is worth in New York. The 12 cents due before I paid for a postage Stamp to Send the Bonds.

Our people here are all engaged in preparing things for the comfort of sick & wounded Soldiers. I think we cannot do too much for them.

We often hear something in praise of your good Husband. May He ever be with him and keep him, that he may again return in safety to his family & Friends.

Your affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

---

2177 5/4/1864

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Lizzie A. Howard

OOH-2129

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[521]

Leeds May 4th 1864

Dear daughter,

I received your very welcome but short letter, last evening not going for the mail sooner, or the evening previous. The barrel of potatoes was taken to the depot at Curtis corner the 9th of April, and I suppose it was sent soon after Roland A. Gilmore carried it. He said he only paid the freight to Brunswick, as Henry Brewster told him he could not pay the freight any further. Mr Gilmore directed it to Gen. O.O. Howard, Augusta Maine with red chalk on the head of the barrel. The red chalk cannot be rubbed off. I presume it is at Brunswick. I will see Henry Brewster and know how he billed it, and ask Mr Goff to enquire about it.

I am much obliged to you for your Photograph. I think I sent one of mine in one of those letters I wrote you.

We had a letter from Charles last evening. They were well at the date of that 14th April.

I have saved dried apples enough for you. Dont pay me anything for what I send to you for I am always under obligations to you. I did not have much warning of Mr Berry's going to Augusta. I might have sent your collars and sleeves. I did not think of the dried apples in time to send them. I am sorry about the potatoes but think they will be found.

Am in hopes Grace will come with Mr Berry. I will keep anything for Julia that will be useful to her.

Much love and many kisses to all the children. I was in hopes to have seen Guy when he went to Farmington. Our business is farming, caring for lambs, cleaning house, gardening, &c. You did not say what I should do with that life ensurance policy that was sent to you by me. It is in my husbands safe at present.

Yours &c  
Eliza Gilmore

Lizzie A. Howard

---

2178 5/4/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-2130

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[520]

Farmington May 4/64

Dear Sister

We are so glad to get your picture that we reciprocate immediately. You must send us one each of the children as soon as convenient. The postage is but 2cts a ½ Doz. Ella will answer your kind & welcome letter as soon as possible.

We had the Association (60) here yesterday & today. I attend the funeral of Dec Cutler's baby Nellie, 10 mos.

Yr. aff. Bro.  
Rowland

Love to Guy & Grace & the young "scholar" and the little "walker" too!

[Written along the torn side]

I hope Ella will get a letter <[Torn Page]> for this by & by.

---

2179 5/5/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2131

Hq Qrs 4th Army Corps  
Catoosa Sprs.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[524]

Hq Qrs 4th Army Corps  
Catoosa Sprs. May 5th 1864

Dearest,

This is thursday, left Cleveland tuesday M. on arrival of Gen Schofield. I received a letter from you and Gracie just before leaving Cleveland. We rather anticipated a little trouble in getting here, but had only a little skirmishing. One of our cavalry was wounded badly and a little girl accidentally.

Give much love to all.

This Catoosa Spring is a splendid Watering place, tremendous wooden houses, but beautiful mountain scenery. More by & by. I am now close to the rest of the army – Thomas.

May God bless & keep you all.

Lovingly  
Otis.

Sam is well. Chas, Capt St, Gilbreth & Hayes the same.

---

2180 5/5/1864

*From:* William Seward

*To:* Maj Gen JM Schofield

OOH-2132b

Red Clay

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[101]

May 5th 1864

Maj Gen JM Schofield  
Red Clay,

Sir,

Yours of the 4th inst is to hand - contents duly noted.

Dalton May 3rd P.M. Polks corps returned to Rome. Troops ordered to be ready to march. Flank movement apprehended in the direction of Rome.

Spring Place May 5th 2 o'clock P.M. Walkers Div Hardees Corps – strength about (5,000) Five thousand arrived here from Dalton Tuesday the 3rd inst and returned yesterday (Wednesday) morning. Force now there (35) thirty-five mounted men. Pickets 500 yds from town on each road.

Please forward above information to Maj. Gen. Thomas – any communication will reach me, if sent to one Frank Smiths, who lives on Waterhouse farm, one mile from Whickers Benton Roads. Send word when to communicate with you tomorrow, or next day.

Sir with respects  
Your obed Sevt  
William Seward

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Red Clay, May 5 1864

Schofield, J.M. Maj.Gen. Forwards a letter from "Seward" also asks for map of country between us.

One (1) enclosure

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2181 5/6/1864

*From:* JM Schofield  
Maj Gen.  
Red Clay, Tenn

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2132a

Catoosa Spring

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[101]

Red Clay [Tenn.] May 6 [1864]  
7 A.M.

Maj Genl Howard  
Catoosa Spring

I send you a letter from "Seward" . Have telegraphed Genl Sherman the substance of it. Nothing new here. A small body of rebel cavalry was near this place last evening. Nothing more. Please send me a sketch of the country between us.

JM Schofield [John McAllister Schofield]  
Maj Gen.

---

2182 5/6/1864

*From:* J. M. McCook  
Col Commanding  
Head-Quarters First  
Cavalry Division,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Our House

*To:* Lt Col J.O. Fullerton

---

OOH-2133

*Source:* Bowdoin

[102]

Head-Quarters First Cavalry Division,  
Department of the Cumberland,  
Our House May 6th 1864

Colonel

I have the honor to inform you that the scouts of the 1st Brigade, report "strong Picket at burnel's station. Camp of Infantry and Cavalry at Mill Creek on this Dalton Road. Citizens report Earth Works at Poplar Springs."

Will you have the kindness to inform the General, that I shall require a train of fifty wagons for the forage & rations of my division, and if I carry a full supply of extra ammunition (eighty rounds to the man) I shall need twenty three waggons more, making seventy three wagons in all.

I am Colonel  
very respectfully  
your obt srvt  
J. M. McCook  
Col Commanding

Lt Col. J.O. Fullerton  
A.A.S.

[Written on the back side]  
Hd. Qrs. 1st Cavalry Div, Dept. of C.  
May 6th 1864

McCook J. M.  
Col. Comdg.

Gives reports of his scouts concerning the Enemy. Also states that he requires 73 wagons.

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2183 5/8/1864

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2134

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27]

Augusta, May 8th 1864.

Dearest

I received your letter dated the 25 ult, and know you must have been very busy at that time. I wish you had had this new command sooner and had a few of the past months of quiet to have got everything into good working order. I imagine it would have been easier for you, than just before an expected forward movement. The news of Gen. Grant's visiting came this Sunday afternoon, and also that Gen. Sherman has taken Tunnel Hill. I do not think, dearest, that you have left Cleveland, although you may have left there and are with the advance. I was anxiously waiting for the morrow when I can learn more.

Mr. Fiske preached for Mr McKenzie to-day, and I wont call him disloyal again, for he gave us an excellent sermon - well adapted to this congregation. Words of the text, "Pilate saith unto him, what is truth?". I spoke with him after the morning service, fearing I would not see him again.

Guy and Grace went to the S.S. Concert and have come in since I began to write, and have gone to bed. Grace told what Mr Bradbury said, and Guy thought what Mr Fiske said was the best. Both agreed that it was a very good concert. Chancy is awake and as Isabella sings he joins with his "by-n-lo" very sweetly. She came from prayer-meeting a little time ago, and has taken baby so I can finish my letter.

We are quite well now. Chancy is restless lately, because he is getting his teeth. He now has four. Jamie continues to go to school mornings, and sleep evenings, then wakes and has an hour or two before supper for play. Guy is doing well this term. Guy and Grace are both just beginning "Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic". I dont think he likes to write letters very well though. With Grace it is quite a mania. I hope she will write compositions as readily.

I am enjoying this month very much. You remember I was sick last year and lost all the beautiful spring. Mother sent me some butter, apples, cheese by Mr Berry last week. I hope they will come to Augusta when the roads get settled; they are not good yet. I have not seen Mrs Gilbreth for over a week. I went down to Mrs Stinsons, Thursday last and they kept me 'till after tea, had a pleasant visit.

I will not write more this time. Money and order came in the last letter.

Monday Morning

I will now finish my letter to you, dearest, and mail it with others when I go down street. I am going to get cloth for Guy a suit of clothes, and to pay some bills. Jamie is home this morning with neck quite swollen and cough. We are having very damp weather.

Fanny and Martha enjoy going to school. Julia says she gets up rested in the morning, and she "used to wish it was night so she could go to sleep again, for every bone in her body used to ache".

I dread to go down street – dont know what news I may hear but Guy must have clothes. I must do my work. Love to Charlie.

Your own loving  
Lizzie

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2184 5/12/1864    *From:* A.S. Packard

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2136

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[104]

Brunswick May 12, 1864

My dear General,

This afternoon the parcel of reports (official) was received for the Historical Society of Maine, for which I beg to return you our very sincere thanks. I should have sent our formal letter of acknowledgment, but wished to write a few lines in addition. A few days since a parcel of newspapers came from your brother, the major, which have been entered as his donation, & which are very acceptable.

I perceive some movement is afoot in your department which makes it uncertain when or where this letter will find you. We are in high hope from tidings from Gen. Grant. These battles are very severe, & so far as I can judge, the result depends entirely on skill & endurance. It has much the appearance of a final struggle, & I doubt whether the history of war records such persistent, bloody & disastrous conflict. Our prayers daily ascend for the presence & favor of Him who is accomplishing his own purposes. We are chagrined by the reports from Gen B. in Louisiana. They seem to us very discreditable & very disastrous.

The accompanying circular will explain itself. Your brother who was in the last class that the Professor taught will be interested, & must, I believe, take a share in the announcement of this one circular. He will be interested to know that his classmates, Brackett & Young are valuable teachers, Brackett being very successful in his lectures to the medical & senior classes in a branch of chemistry.

That you & your brother may ever enjoy the protection & blessing of Him whose blessing maketh rich, is the sincere desire & prayer, dear General, of your

sincere friend,  
A.S. Packard

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2185 5/13/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2137

Head-Quarters 4th  
Army Corps  
Dalton

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[522]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps  
May 13 1864, 11 o'clock A.M.

Dearest,

My Corps entered Dalton this morning. Myself & staff unhurt.

God bless & prosper you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

P.S. The enemy retreating.

Dalton May 13th 1864

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2186 5/15/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2138

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[29]

Augusta May 15th / 64

Dearest

What shall I write to you to-night. Long before this letter reaches you, battles will have been fought, news will come to us, sad news may be to some of us. We have no news yet from Gen. Sherman, only "All is going well with Sherman", but how little is this to individuals, whose hours seem days, and the days weeks.

I think I am more anxious this spring than I was last. I dont know why I should be – we are all in the hands of God – He rules, governs and directs all things. He is the same yesterday and to-day. I have never looked forward to the end of the war until lately but it does seem as if the end was not very far distant, and God giving us the victory as we have long trusted he would in his own good time. This may be the cause of my extreme anxiety, feeling that if you are preserved during these present months, you will be brought safely back to us. "The Lord is gracious, full of compassion and of great mercy", can I not trust in Him?

I have been enabled to keep cheerful all the time, when any one would be here, Dearest, before Mrs Stinson Mrs Gilbreth even, but when Mr McKenzie called last thursday or friday I could'nt be, darling. He came just the wrong time. You were falsely reported wounded here last week, but I knew after a few moments that it could not be so, for no news had then come from the 'Army of the Cumberland'. Your letter from Catoosa Sprs is the last received. It is the latest from any of the staff.

I am obliged to Charlie for sending me the Photographs. I do not like to look at yours – it is not good. I hope Charlie is quite well. We hear that Isabella's brother Joseph is wounded and a prisoner. Maj Whitman is home wounded in the hand. Col. Fessenden I hope is not killed as last reported. How many friends we have lost in these late battles. I almost dread for the morrow to come.

It is now past nine all asleep. Guy has but just finished learning his bible lesson for to morrow morning. Guy is a good, obedient boy. I dont believe he ever can go astray. The clock is striking ten I must close. All are quite well. Chancy has some trouble getting his teeth – wakes me when I dont want to wake.

Tuesday Morning

My letter to you, Dearest, has been in my desk unfinished all this time. I am now writing just before Guy goes to school. I wish I could hear from you. We have news from Gen. Sherman up to the 15th Sunday – the enemy had evacuated Dalton, and there was an engagement all day Saturday. I expect a telegram at any moment.

Much love to Charlie. I pray it may be Gods will to preserve you both from injury.

Grace was glad to hear that you had received her letter.

Your own  
Lizzie

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2187 5/16/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2135

Tunnel Hill Ga.  
Hd Qrs 4th A.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[523]

Tunnel Hill Ga. May 16th 1864  
Hd Qrs 4th A.C.

Dearest,

This cannot reach you in a moment to tell you that we are all safe after a three days action in a most impossible country. I suspect you must be very anxious during these days and I wish I might lay before you at once the exact state of things but I trust the movements of the Army of the Potomac will occupy you. Today we are fearing rather a stubborn battle, but maybe not, for McPherson with a large force is on Johnson's communication already. "Rocky face" is worse than Lookout – a sharp ridge with gaps that you cannot pass. It is very high & very steep and very rocky as the name implies. We have already lost a good many valuable lives. Oh, how the country will rejoice at the victory in the east, & how much christians should pray & be thankful.

God bless you, darling, & the little ones.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2188 5/18/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2002

Hd Qrs 4th Corps  
Calhoun Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[502]

[1864]

Hd Qrs 4th Corps  
Calhoun, Ga.

Dearest,

Myself and staff are still well but very tired. We have been fighting & working for ten consecutive days. Johnston is now in full retreat and we have pursued this far and are going on.

God bless you and the children.

Lovingly  
Otis

[Note. The location of Calhoun, Ga. puts the date about May 18, 1864 after the Battle of Resaca.]

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2189 5/19/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2139

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[28]

Augusta, May 19th 1864

Dearest,

I received your 'dispatch' the same day I mailed my last letter – last Tuesday just about eleven o'clock. How thankful I was to heard such good news – I cried for joy. I sent the dispatch to Mrs Stinson, and sent a note to Mrs. Gilbreth. I wrote to Mother and to Rowland. I have had no letters from you - presume you have had very little time for writing letters to anyone.

We are all well now, and are having delightful weather. I have had the garden cleared up and it is beginning to look quite green and a floor to the wood shed. We look quite neat out of doors, if all the corners are not dug out in doors. I received a letter from Mrs Woodman to-night. She is quite well and hears from the Col. often. Frank Gilman's little package was 'called for' today by Miss McArthur to be sent to his Mother. I am very glad you sent home the cedar chair.

You do not object to my leaving my writing when I am tired and go to bed. I think the clock has struck ten, but I am not tired to-night. I hav'nt felt as well yesterday and to-day as I do most of the time. I think I have rest enough and I frequently take an after dinner sleep lately.

I try to through off as much of the work and care as I can. I have the tailor now well initiated into making Guy's clothes. I select the cloth and turn it over to him, and the clothes come home all right. It is a great relief.

You will be surprised, and I dont know whether sorry or glad, at the dont care feeling I have with regard to many things which once gave me great anxiety. I hope and trust I wont become indifferent to the more important duties of life. I want to do what is best for the children, but how little I can tell what will be best sometimes.

The Bible passage "if anyone lack wisdom let him ask of God", I often think of and repeat. I remember Mrs Adams of Auburn once spoke of it in my presence.

I was in at the Bank a few mornings ago, and Mr Hallett said "Well Mrs Howard nearly all the houses in Augusta are sold." Quite a number have been sold lately, Mr Jackson's Mr Norcross' &c. I dont care though and I am glad now we did not get Col Halls. I really dont want only a house. I do want plenty of land, not a yard merely. I think I must be getting a farm fever. I walked up to Mr Turners with Guy about a month ago. Everything there looked pleasant but the house. I do like such a place as that best. I think the war so nearly ended I can remain here till that time.

Good night now with best love from  
Lizzie

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2190 5/21/1864 *From:* G. W. Alexander

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-2140

Cleveland, Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[103]

Cleveland May 21st 1864

Maj Genl OO Howard

Dear Sir

Mr E Waterhouse has ninety eight bales of cotton stored with A Green & Co in Marietta Ga which perhaps there will be no one there to look after it, and he desires to have the cotton protected. He has owned the cotton for three years. Mr Waterhouse is a loyal citizen. Any protection you can afford him for his cotton will be thankfully rec'd, and appreciated by me.

Very Respectfully your

Obdt Servant

G. W. Alexander

P.S. Permit to congratulate you on your continued success. It is very gratifying to us all.

[Written on the back side of the page]

G. W. Alexander

Cleveland, Tenn.

Cotton of Mr. Waterhouse Marietta Ga.

States Mr. W. is a loyal man.

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2191 5/21/1864      *From:* Geo. A. Cobham Jr.      *To:* Capt. Thos. H. Elliotte  
Col. Commanding  
Brigade

OOH-2141

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 3d Brig,  
2d Div, 20th A.C.  
Near Cassville Ga

Ast. Adjt. Genl. 2d Div. 20th  
A.C.

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[388]

(Copy)

Head Quarters 3d Brig. 2d Div. 20th A.C.  
Near Cassville Ga, May 21, 1864

Capt. Thos. H. Elliotte  
Ast. Adjt. Genl. 2d Div. 20th A.C.

Captain,

I have the honor to transmit the following report of the part taken by my command in the engagement at Resaca Ga, on the 15th inst. I also enclose Reports of the Regimental Commanders, of the part taken by their respective regiments.

At Ten oclock A.M. of the 15th the Brigade received orders to move from its position on the extreme left of the line, to a position near the Dalton Road, and was then massed in column of Regiments in a Ravine nearly parallel to the Road, and but a short distance from it. About 12 M, the Brigade was ordered forward by Col. Ireland, under direction of Genl. Geary and advanced up the hill, changing direction to the right. I advanced with my own Regiment, the 111th P.V.V. crossed the Dalton Road, and changing direction to the right, ascended the hill in front, where a desultory firing was kept up by the enemy's sharpshooters, and drew my regiment up in line on the summit.

Here I was ordered in person by Maj Genl Hooker commanding 20th Corps, to advance to the summit of the opposite ridge on which the enemy had a Battery in position, and a strong line of breastworks, and to take and hold the position if possible.

I immediately moved my line forward, down the hill, across the intervening plain and up the opposite ridge. The ground, for the whole distance of about half a mile, was thickly covered with Timber and Brush, and exposed to the enemies fire. On reaching the summit, we were met by a terrible fire from the Rebel breastworks, and also from sharpshooters in the trees. We returned the fire and moved steadily forward, until within a few yards of the Battery, when I ordered the regiment to Halt, and lie down, (the men loading and firing rapidly) and soon succeeded in silencing the rebel fire, and holding possession of the battery of four 12 pounder brass Cannon. Our line at this time was about 30 yards from the rebel breastworks, on a parallel line in rear of the battery. The cannon were planted in a sort of Fort, sunk in the side of the hill, and about midway between my own line, and the rebel breastworks, with the rear opening into the battery, and the front of the Fort sunk so as to bring the muzzles of the guns near the ground. The position was one of extreme peril, and we had to contend without any cover whatever, against superior numbers behind very strong works, but we held the position from 12 ½ P.M. till night.

The right of my regiment covering the guns, and preventing any approach to recapture them, on the part of the rebels. One company of the 149th N.Y.V. under command of Capt Coville formed on my left and did good service in the charge. I cannot speak in too high terms of the brave conduct of the officers and men of the 111th Pa. regiment during the day. They never flinched, and many of them have sealed their devotion to the union cause with their blood. I have also to regret the loss of Capt. Charles Woeltge Co. I, 111th Pa. V. V. A brave and gallant officer, who was shot dead at the very mouth of the rebel cannon. Capt. Wells Co. F. was also severely wounded at the same time and place.

At 5 o'clock P.M. I received a written order from Maj. Genl. Hooker "to take command of the troops in front of the rebel works". I turned over the command of the 111th P.V.V. To Lieut. Col. Walker and immediately placed

them in position to command the ridge, and to resist any attack that might be made by the Rebels in our front. About the same time an aid on Genl. Geary's staff informed me that Col. Ireland the Brigade Commander was wounded, and the command of the 3d Brigade devolved on me. The 102 NY Vols, Col Lane took position on the left of the 111th Pa. Vol. by my order, with the 119 N.Y Vols. Col. Lockman as support, joined on the right of the rear line by the 134th N.Y. Vol. Lt. Col. Jackson, and 109th Pa. Vols. Capt. Gimber, and on the left by a part of the 33d N.J.V. Col. Fourat, the 149 NY Vol Lt. Col. Randal occupying the right of the 111th P.V. in the front line. In this formation the command remained, with occasional firing on both sides until near 11 o'clock P.M.

As soon as the lines were formed in the above order I reported in person to General Geary commanding Division, and received orders from him to secure the Four Cannon in the rebel Fort, and remove them to the rear if possible. I immediately returned to the front, and ordered the 5th Ohio Vol. Lieut Col. Kilpatrick commanding, to relieve the 111th P.V. their right then resting in front of the fort and covering it. The 109th P.V. Capt. Gimber commanding was directed to take position on the left of the 5th O.V. in the same line, and the 102nd N.Y. Col Lane on the extreme left. The 149 NY was relieved by the 73 P.V. Maj. Cresson, and the 154 N.Y.V. Col. Allen. All the other troops (with the exception of the 33d N.J.V. who were held in reserve) I ordered to report to their respective brigades.

I immediately set a fatigue party at work digging down the side of the Fort, to remove the guns, when the Rebels opened fire on our line, and working party who were driven from their work. The fire was severe for a short time, and we were also exposed to a sharp fire from our own friends in the rear, through some mistake on their part; it was however soon silenced and the rebels driven back.

I then sent 1st Lieut., Wm. H. Cochran 33d N.J.V. who acted as aid for me during the night, with orders for Lt. Col. Kilpatrick 5th Ohio, to take charge in person of the working party, and to remove the guns at once, under cover of sharpshooters, regardless of the enemy's opposition.

I also ordered Col. Fourat of the 33rd N.J.V. to furnish a detail of 50 men without arms to report to Col. Kilpatrick and assist in removing the guns out of the Redoubt, and taking them to Division Head quarters.

After about two and a half hours severe labor, the digging was completed, and the guns removed to Div. Head Qrs. by 3 A.M.

All the troops under my command were from the 2nd Division, all three Brigades being represented. I therefore ask for the White Star Division whatever honor may be connected with the capture and removal of the Rebel battery.

In conclusion I would tender my thanks to the officers and men thus temporarily under my command, for their cordial support, and strict attention to orders.

I would also notice as worthy of special praise, Lieut. Col. Kilpatrick 5th Ohio Vols., for the prompt and energetic performance of the difficult and dangerous duty assigned to him, and also the officers and men of the 111th Pa.V.V. as worthy of special mention for their uniform good conduct under a most severe fire.

I annex herewith a tabular list of casualties in the 3rd Brigade in the action of the 15th inst.

I have the honor Captain, to remain,  
Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedient servant  
Geo. A. Cobham Jr.  
Col. Commanding Brigade

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2192 5/22/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2142

Head Quarters 4th  
Corps  
Near Cassville Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[518]

Head Quarters 4th Corps  
Near Cassville Ga.  
May 22 1864

Dearest,

I hav'nt written you for several days and am not sure about this letter getting back, but will try & send it. Chas., Gilbreth, Stinson, Frank and myself are all well.

Instead of three days we have had some twelve or thirteen days fighting. It is not always engaging our main lines but heavy skirmishing. "The rebs" have a rear guard of Cavalry supported by infantry. They arrange barricades of rails and logs along the road. When driven from one, another force has another ready some half or three quarters of a mile on. In this way they manage to check and hinder our march. We have driven them across the Etowah, & are now resting and collecting supplies for further progress.

You will possibly see accounts of our operations in the newspapers. We have had to charge on their well constructed breast-works, & at times the fighting has been quite severe. General [August] Willich and Col now General [Charles Garrison] Harker were wounded, and I have upwards of a thousand killed & wounded in the Corps. We had quite a battle at Dalton, then at Resaca, then at Adairsville and lastly here near Cassville. A kind Providence has protected me and my staff in the midst of constant danger. We have been fired upon by sharp-shooters, small arms and artillery. Now or then have had their horses shot and I had one bullet through my coat but none of us have received harm. We are preparing for quite a march and if you dont get a letter you must not think it strange for communication may be much interrupted. I long to get this work done that I may return to you all if God is willing. I do not feel as though my work was done, but we ought always to be ready.

The children were nicely at your last letter. Is Chancy as bright and happy as ever? And how is Jamie with his black laughing eyes. I am glad to have such good accounts of Guy and Grace.

The country this side of Resaca is very beautiful. Large and luxurious farms, magnificent trees. It is no wonder the "rebels" are not starving in such a country as this. This is a pleasing change of scenery from the mountains near Chattanooga, and really of great practical benefit for the horse & mule trains; plenty of grass to eat. The people have nearly all gone away - frightened away by rebel lies. Our men however are apt to pillage & destroy unless restrained.

I hope you are very well and that the weather is not quite so hot with you as here. We are hoping for more good news from the army of the Potomac. Give my love & kisses to all the children & your own dear self. Tell Julia Sam is well. He hasn't got to Athens Ga yet but hopes to do so.

Lovingly  
Otis

God bless and keep you all.

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2193 5/22/1864    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2143

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

Augusta May 22d / 64

Dearest

I received a note from Dell yesterday saying "they had received a letter from Charlie who wrote that you were writing at the same time to me with pencil". I ought to have had the letter long ago but it has not come. I wonder if you wrote that you had a bullet put through your coat. My heart beat quickly when I heard about it. I do believe I am more anxious about you both than ever before.

You are at or near Kingston, Ga. and how far away that is. I want the war over and you home. I dont expect the one without the other.

Henry Wingate was here yesterday - had not heard from you, or Leeds or from us for some time. Josie has been sick, is better. He thinks real estate very high here now. I heard that Mr Farwell who is here at the Arsenal with his family was to take his wife to look at Mr. Turner's house. I dont go anywhere so I have not called to see them yet.

Miss Jane, and Anna Tupper are expected back next Wednesday to spend the summer. I presume the Webbs and the rest will be here by and by. Mr Potter has offered four thousand for their house, but they now ask five thousand for both lots. I wont know as it is for us to always remain here. I can <sit> along another year here. A new house would bring other wants that could not be supplied here and I cannot make up my mind to leave <OLancy> here and go away unless I should have to before next fall.

I ought to go to Portland or Boston now, this very week. We are all ragged-out at the elbows &c &c &c. but what I put on, is one of the last things I think about. It is as much as I can do to keep all this big family covered. I only dont want to be shabby.

We had a good sermon to-day (as we always do) about "Heaven begins here on the earth" to use Guys words. I will write more in the morning if I can get time. Good night now,

Best love  
From Lizzie

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2194 5/25/1864     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2144

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[31]

Augusta, May 25 / 64

Dearest

I dont think my letters can reach you in very good season as you are moving. I hope you have the mail if not a regular mail. Your little wee letter from Dalton has reached me - a leaf from an order book I take it. I am always so happy to get a word from you. Your friends here all seem very glad you got through the battles safely. I have been reading about the battle of the 14th and 15th inst. You had hard fighting and all of you must have been much exposed. I wish and wish it was all over and we had a settled peace.

I am writing just as the clock is striking ten. All asleep in the house, but now and then I hear a step on the sidewalk – think my light must be the only one now burning, and I will now stop writing as it is getting late.

Your own  
Lizzie

I did not write much of a letter last night, and as I did not mail it this morning, I will add what I can while Chancy is creeping about the library floor after Guys foot-ball.

I have been writing to Mrs Woodman this morning. I should think Mother could come to Augusta some time next month. It will not be a busy time and the roads are good. Col. Gilmore could leave too. Dellie is making money it seems. Wrote me from Farmington. I had no photographs of myself when he wrote, will soon send him one.

I now resume my writing Dearest, after all is quiet and I am alone in the library. Chancy is asleep just outside the door in his cradle.

Mary and Lizzie Otis and Willie Ellis have been here, took tea, and spent a greater part of the evening with Lizzie and Fred Morton. We had a good round table full of children at supper. Jamie enjoyed it most heartily - supper and company, both. The girls had letters to-day from Aunt Ellen, "Been to St. Pauls - now at her brother William's, think of coming home soon."

I hear it raining hard. We have had very few bright days this month. It seems as if this letter will never reach you so far away. A little more than three months you were here at home – that seems a great while ago. When do you suppose you will be home again? Can you tell anything about it? I hope you have written me a very long letter during the delay or rather rest Sherman's army has had. I hope you are all well. Love to Charlie and to our good friends with you. Good night.

Your Lizzie

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2195 5/29/1864     *From:* Ella P.H. [Ella  
(Patten) Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2145

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[531]

Farmington May 29th /64  
Ten P.M.

Dear Sister Lizzie

Rowland has been away from home a week, and I begin to wish I had four children as you have! It is awfully lonesome especially these dull, rainy days we have had. I expect him home tomorrow however. Dadie and Alice and I have been alone. I have usually had some one come in & spend the nights - some one of the young ladies. We have had a young man from the Seminary to preach for us today. Rowland has been in Boston, at the Anniversaries, and was invited to supply a pulpit in Lynn, and sent this young man here.

I suppose you are anxious every day about Otis. We dont hear from them except through the papers, and your note which we were very thankful to you for.

I have been expecting Mother Gilmore up for three or four weeks, but she doesn't come. I suppose she may be waiting till the western army is more quiet. I think she always feels very anxious, and very little like leaving home, when Otis and Charles are in any danger.

My mother spent nearly a week with me lately. She has been up twice lately, but makes very short visits. The family is so small at home now, that she doesn't like to leave Papa alone very long. Rowland and I are hoping to go to the June meetings at Searsport this year, and if we do, we shall go to Bath, and take Papa's horse, & go "overland". In that case I shall make a little visit at Bath on my way back. I shall take Alice, and leave her with Dadie at Bath, while we go to the meetings. I wish Augusta was in our way. I should really like to see you occasionally! Why cant you take your whole family, and "rusticate" awhile, at Leeds and Farmington? The change would do you all good. It doesn't seem a year since you were here, and yet it is almost.

I haven't seen Mrs. Woodman since she came home. The roads have been so bad all the spring, that we couldn't go over to Wilton, and now we have no horse, and perhaps she would as lief we would wait awhile more. Still, we have talked a great deal about going, since the travelling has become good, but Rowland has so many things to attend to, that we haven't got started.

I received your good letter a long time ago, and have had it in my mind to write you, ever since, but I am getting lazy about writing, I believe.

I hope the children are all well. You must send Guy or Grace, or both, up here, whenever you would like to have them come away, & I will take as good care of them as I would if they were mine. I cant promise to do any better. I suppose Master Chancy is walking before this. How babies do grow up!

We heard the sad news of the death of Uncle Lincoln's oldest boy, a fortnight ago [Edward Lincoln Patten, b. 10 Apr 1846, d. 13 Mar 1864]. He died in the East Indies [Rangoon, Burma], very suddenly. He was very near to us, having been in our family a great deal while his father was at sea.

Dadie is very well, and asks so many questions it wearies me to answer them.

Alice reads a little every day, but isn't very apt, I think. She don't seem to "take to learning"!  
With much love,-  
Ella P.H.

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2196 5/29/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2146

Head-Quarters 4th  
Army Corps.  
Near Dallas Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[325]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps.  
Near Dallas Ga May 29th 1864

Dearest,

This is a little the longest and most fatiguing of any Campaign we have had. For 25 days we have been more or less under fire (except two). Thus far a kind providence has protected us, except poor Stinson. The Dr. thinks this morning that he will get entirely well. He was close by me examining the enemy's works with a glass, when the ball struck him. He stooped forward and said he was hit, but he thought by a spent ball. He lay back and we found the wound the ball had struck his breast and passed quite through him. We carried him back a little way into a safer place. He began to fail growing cold. I asked him if he was trusting in Christ or something like it. When he said yes, tell them all at home that I expect to meet them in Heaven. After he was given a little stimulant, he rallied and looked bright. The surgeon came to him. Our own beloved Med. Director Dr Heard is attending him. How much I wish he was at home. Stinson is a perfect man; as I review his life and think of his personal character I find no fault in him. Always ready for duty, always cheerful night and day, always brave. I never thought how much I loved him till I thought I was bidding him a final good bye. I had seen Gen. Wood cry over a beautiful young officer who was mortally wounded earlier in the day. Now my turn came. The Lord can come very nigh us all in these terrible blows

I had my foot hit by a piece of shell the same day (Friday May 27th) but my boot sole was so thick that my foot was saved with only a contusion. The shock was enough to make my foot black & blue across the instep & toes but I am able to wear my boot and walk today. Yesterday I rode and walked in a slipper. At the time I was wounded I was commanding two Divisions Gen. Woods & Gen Johnsons attempting under the cover of the woods to turn the enemy's flank, but they were prepared and we had a severe engagement. We succeeded in gaining a position two miles nearer the R.R. but did not dislodge the rebels. They were behind well constructed intrenchments as usual. The army opposed to us is large and in good condition, and we have no easy task before us, but under the Divine blessing and with a cause as sacred as ours we shall succeed.

As soon as Harry Stinson is able to take the ride we will send him North. At present he is better here with good medical care. Charles is quite well.

I hope Guy is very well. I am glad he is doing well at school. Grace is well too. She must write the letters! Jamie, how does he like school? And little Chancy is getting his teeth. I know you will be glad when he is well through with the business.

There is some firing along the lines and my officers find that some bullets alight right here at Head Qrs.

God bless & keep us all through this struggle. "Not my will but thine be done"

Lovingly  
Otis

Tell Mrs Stinson Harry is very happy & cheerful. Give her my love. Send much love to Mother.

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2197 5/30/1864    *From:* Jeanie H. Grey

*To:* My dear friend General  
[OO] Howard

OOH-2147

Greystone

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[32]

Greystone 30th May '64

My dear friend General Howard!

We have looked with anxiety too great for language to describe for the news of your safety, and thank God! you are still unharmed! Oh, may the impenetrable shield of His love ever enfold you and ward off all evil from you, is our fervent prayer! I have been wishing for two years to send you a couple of boxes of books on which I have inscribed your name – to do whatever you choose with – would they were a thousand fold more valuable – although very precious they <[Missing Line –torn page]> often covered them over. Yet I need not say to you, that earth contains nothing too precious in my estimation, to give to the good angel of our darkest darkest night! You whose coming I watched as the only event that kept me from despair! Oh may the Angel of the covenant ever accompany your steps, and enfold you in His wings of love! And your kind wife! How often often I think, how gladly I would shew her my deep gratitude for her angelic loveliness! To me in the hour of anguish and destitution! I know He will yet give me the happiness of ministering to her & her dear ones under our own roof! This I pray for!

My cousin William Melvin Beebe will give you this letter. I enclose it to him because I wish you to throw your good & holy influences around him, and I know I need not beg this for him, your great heart will open to one so dear to us, I know? As indeed it encircles all God's creatures. Please ask my brother Charles to love him & be kind to him also?

With our most devout aspirations for your health, happiness, and security from ill - and his -

I am ever gratefully & affectionately  
Your friend  
Jeanie H. Grey

P.S. Shall I send the books to you, or what shall I do <with> them, for they shall ever remain sacred to you - not that <I> count them of the slightest pecuniary value - for believe I do not - but I want my dear father's dear friend to <> those companions of his best hours when he <> his God - and you know he loved & prized you.

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2198 6/2/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2149

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Near Dallas Ga.

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[534]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland  
Near Dallas, Ga. June 2nd 1864

Dearest,

I was lucky enough to receive three letters from you last night, just as I was lying down for the night, mailed 11th, 21st & 23d of May. I am glad you received my telegram from Resacca and hope you did another, after Captain Stinson was wounded. The Newspapers put in things without mercy.

At a severe encounter near Picketts mill, I received a slight bruise from a piece of a shell and my little toe aches some yet, but the thickness of the sole of my boot and a kind Providence saved me from a serious injury. Not so with hundreds of other poor fellows. Capt. Stinson is cheerful and is doing well. The staff takes turns in staying with him. Gilbreth did so last night and I hav'nt heard this morning how he is. The Dr. said yesterday his appetite was good & had no fever. The ball passed through the upper part of the lungs & below the shoulder, going quite through him.

We have met the enemy here in heavy force. Not being successful the first evening in dislodging the enemy from Dallas, the two armies faced each other and intrenched. There has been a great deal of fighting sometimes one army attacking & sometimes the other but as yet without any decisive result. Before this reaches you something will occur.

Capt. Gilbreth has returned & says Stinson is brighter than he has been at all. As soon as he is able we will send him at least to Cleveland. God grant he may fully recover & we think he will.

Charles is quite well. I am very much rejoiced that Guy knows how to act uprightly. But "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." At times I have gone very, very far astray. May god forgive me and never visit my sins upon us in our children.

These operations are necessarily much prolonged and there is a degree of uncertainty attending them, but I have confidence in God that all will be right. The weather is very hot and very dry day after day and no rain. We have at last really got into the sunny south. We are encamped in a wood. My tent was our only and that we gave to Stinson. Charles & I put our robes on the ground under a tent fly and when the rebels will let us, we sleep very well.

Give my love and sympathy to Mrs Stinson. Gilbreth is well. Sam is well tell Julia & continues his good care of me. I am hoping strongly that the present campaigns will end the war, and I pray for it. Gen Wood talks to me of his home. He has lost his only child, and his wife is very dear to him. Charles is writing to Mother. God bless you & Guy and Grace and Jamie & Chancy & the rest.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2199 6/4/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2150

Hd Qrs 4th Corps Near  
Dallas, Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[527]

Hd Qrs 4th Corps Near Dallas, Ga.  
June 4th 1864

Dearest,

I am detaining an officer about to start for Chat'a. long enough to say that we are well. My little toe aches some but is no serious trouble, about as much as a corn on the foot.

Capt. Stinson continues to do well, is cheerful and happy. Frank Gilman staid with him last night. He proposes to go to Cleveland E. Tenn. as soon as he can.

I say nothing of our operations because of the liability of Capture.

Gilbreth is in fine health and spirits.

Much love to all the Children. God bless you all.

With much love  
Otis

Chas. sends love. How badly was Clark Curtis wounded. Kind regards to Isabella.

---

2200 6/7/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2151

Head Quarters 4th  
Corps  
Near Acworth Georgia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[528]

Head Quarters 4th Corps  
Near Acworth Georgia  
June 7th 1864

Dearest,

My Corps has been so changed in position that communication which was disturbed for a few days has been reestablished. The enemy left our front last Saturday night and retired toward Atlanta, so that we had quite a comfortable sabbath. I say this for my command occupied breast works in places about 85 paces from those of the rebels, and constant firing was kept up for several days. The men on neither side could move about without exposure. I was only a portion of the army then held & exposed but my corps had to stand it & became very much exhausted. My command has been in action at Dalton, Ressaeca, Adairsville, Altoona, Kingston & Cassville and near Picketts mill between Dallas & Acworth. We have worked very hard & sometimes lost heavily.

The wilderness here is almost universal. There are, however, more farms here than near Dallas; perhaps averaging 1/3d cleared land and 2/3d woods. All the cultivated land or nearly all is sown with wheat, or rye or planted with corn. The people nearly all leave on our approach. The poor are an exception. They stay in fear and trembling. No negroes are left. The country must be thickly settled south of the Chattahoochee.

I had a telegram asking about Harry Stinson, from the Sec. of War, this morning. Fortunately, telegraphic communication had just been established and I went up to Acworth on a visit to Gen. Sherman. While there the telegram arrived and I answered it at once. It must be Blaine & Morrill who are inquiring through the Sec. of War. Stinson has had no drawback, always is cheerful and pleasant, has good care. Today he is being moved to Acworth, which I dread, I am anxious to hear how he stood the journey. Our ambulance at Hd. Qrs. went to move him, for his bed could be pushed right into it, so that he would be very little disturbed by the transfers. As soon as the bridge is down and the cars can come here he will be sent to Cleveland E.T. or Chatt'a where he will remain till able to go home. We regard him as out of danger.

Give my love to Mrs Stinson & tell her the above. So noble, so worthy, so beloved a young man as Harry Stinson will not be neglected when disabled.

Charlie, Frank & Gilbreth are well. We are now stopping in a nice little abandoned Cottage, Sqr. Peter's. Have cleaned it out, had the floor faithfully scrubbed and now present quite a respectable appearance. The men are resting today, supplies are coming up. More work is before us, but I trust the same strong arm will carry us through the same that has given us support hitherto.

Gen. Sherman is rather tight with Army correspondents, so that you do not hear as much from us as from the Army of the Potomac. Operations here are on a very extensive scale.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie, Chancy and yourself. I hope they are all well. Papa remembers them all in his morning & evening prayers. Guy & Grace must never forget to pray for Papa, that he may have wisdom & do right. Give kind regards to Isabella & tell us about Clark. Sam is well tell Julia - has'nt got to Athens Ga. yet, but we are on the way thither via Atlanta. I hope Mother gets Charlie's letters. Father is not quite well, Del writes.

God bless and keep you all. Lovingly,  
Otis

P.S. There are no paymasters near us. I dont know but you may have to go on credit awhile.

The Dr. says Capt. Stinson is standing the ride well.



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2201 6/8/1864

*From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* My Dear Papa [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2152

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[34]

Augusta June 8th 1864

My Dear Papa

I have not got any writing book. Mamma said I might write you a letter. Jamie goes to school every day and has learnt to pronounce real nice. Miss Woodward says that he will go to college. Jamie can read just like a big boy. Cousen Mary and Cousen Lizzie go to school every day. Some day Miss Woodward and I are going to see them and then we all are going to see the cascade. I suppose you know where that is because you used to go to school there. Papa dont forget my birthday which will come the 22d of this month. I dont expect you will send me a present, but if you can send me a letter I should like very much to receive it. I stood Chancy up against the wall this morning and he walked to me. Please to write me soon.

Goodbye

From  
Grace

[the following was written by Lizzie on the same paper]

I will just write, Dearest that we are all very well here. Grace wrote her letter at school. Guy is now going to take it to the P.O. on his way to school. We are feeling sad about Harry's wound. Glad he is on his way home. I dont think you are wounded in the foot or at all, although the paper last night said so.

Ever your own  
Lizzie

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2202 6/8/1864

*From:* E.W. [Eliphalet  
Whittlesey]

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2153

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[106]

Brunswick June 8th [1864]

Dear General

It is just a year today since with much regret I bade you adieu at our beautiful Hd. Qrs. near Brooks Station. It seems a long time since I was in the midst of exciting army movements, but my interest in what is transpiring has not abated. One can hardly think of anything else. I go through my daily routine of College duties, & try to be faithful, but my thoughts are often with you in Georgia, or with Grant in Va. What a month the last has been! Hard fighting, and terrible destruction of life on both sides; but the blessing of God seems to rest upon our cause. Our two great Armies appear to be gaining ground every day. Banks has made a sad failure west of the Miss., but we hope Canby will repair the losses there, as Hunter has Sigel's blunders in West Va.

We have been told that you were wounded lately, near Dallas, in the foot, one account says seriously, another slightly, the last I hope is the true story. We cannot afford to lose your services now even for a short time.

And as to Stinson I am yet in doubt. One account is that Major Stinson of 5th Maine is mortally wounded, & another that Capt. Stinson A.D.C. to Gen. Johnson is the man. I hope to hear that our Capt. S. is yet safe. How sad our losses have been in Officers. It is hard to realize that Sedgwick has fallen. But I will not dwell on this dark side of the times. The army has fought nobly, and no part of it has done more hard work, or gained more honor than our old 2nd Corps. You have seen how Barlow goes ahead, & how Hancock is rising. He was named for Vice President at Baltimore, but the preference for Johnson of Tenn. was so strong, that Hancock's friends did not urge his claims.

There is general satisfaction with the results of the Convention, & no fear is felt about the Election of Lincoln & Johnson. The people are more united than ever, & the work done for the Army increases from day to day. I am all the time engaged supplying the place of some minister who is absent in the service of the Christian Com. Just now Mr. Fiske! of Bath.

Your last letter reached me a few days ago, having first gone to Brunswick Mo. instead of Me. Please write next time Maine.

Your transfer to the 4th Corps settled all my expectations of returning to your Staff.

The bell will ring for my recitation in 3 minutes and I must close with a hearty God bless you all.

E.W. [Eliphalet Whittlesey]

Give my regards to all my friends. Packard was here a moment since and sends his regards and thanks for your kind message to which he will respond. We are all well at home.

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2203 6/10/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2154

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 5th  
Corps Near Acworth,  
Ga.  
House of Sqr. Peter's

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[529]

Head Quarters 4th Corps Near Acworth, Ga.  
June 10th 1864  
House of Sqr. Peter's

Dearest,

We are all quite well. Capt. Stinson doing nicely, will probably be able to get to Cleveland monday or tuesday next. We go towards the enemy this morning. The papers say very little of the 4th A.C. but it has worked hard and fought hard. I read the 46th Chap of <Is[CHECK ORIGINAL- page separated]> this morning and felt as though we should cut down their wildernesses but that as a people we cannot go unchastened.

Give much love to the children. God bless and keep all the precious household.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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2204 6/11/1864 *From:* T.A. Meysenburg

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2155

Martinsburg, Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[107]

Martinsburg, Va  
June 11, 1864

Dear General,

With the greatest feelings of sorrow did I notice that you and Capt Stinson were wounded in one of your late engagements. The papers state Capt Stinson's wound is dangerous but that yours is not. I hope the latter is so and also hope that Stinson's wound is not so serious as represented. Even a momentary disability from taking part in the operations I know will annoy you very much, but it was fortunate that during your hard fought battles you came off with comparatively little injury.

General, you can not afford to lose much more, than you have already done for your country's cause and it is my sincere wish that you will be spared from any further suffering, although a wound in the foot even if not dangerous is in most cases painful.

Undoubtedly you have heard before this of our disaster at New Market which altogether was a small affair. The enemy had decided advantages in position and number the latter especially.

Genl Hunter has been more fortunate in not meeting with much opposition. Genl Sigel seems to be unfortunate of late, for which I must say I am unable to account. His constant hard-working has affected his health too, to such a degree, that he has been suffering for three weeks. Genl S. who has the very best feelings towards you, General, desires me to give you his compliments and his best wishes.

If your Secretary should have an opportunity to send the books of the 11th Corps, I would ask you to address them to Martinsburg, Va. so that I can send the whole papers & books together. Sincerely hoping that further success will attend your untiring perseverance and that you will not lose the services of so amiable and valuable an officer as Capt Stinson to whom and Lt Col Howard I wish to be remembered.

I remain General  
as ever yours  
with sincerity  
T.A. Meysenburg

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2205 6/12/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2156

Head Qrs 4th Army  
Corps  
Near Marietta Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[530]

Head Qrs 4th Army Corps  
Near Marietta Ga.  
June 12th 1864

Dearest,

I find it necessary during the campaign to write with a pencil. I received your letter mailed 27th ult. You had just gotten my note from Dalton.

I hoped, that after we were well through the Alatoona range of mountains we should have open country, but no, we are in an interminable wilderness. There is an occasional little farm in a clearing with a small windowless log cabin.

Yesterday we came across a family of (6) six very pretty children. The mother & her little boy had sown a couple of acres of wheat & planted some corn. Our soldiers had taken nearly everything - our animals eaten & destroyed the wheat & much of the corn. She talked to me and cried, "Her husband is in the rebel army, but she and the little ones did not bring on the war". Oh, how much misery & suffering grows out of this rebellion. Would God it might have an end.

Johnston appears to be making a stand this side of Marietta. In these woods we have to work up to him very cautiously. His lines are often five or six miles long and sometimes longer. For two or three days we have had continuous & heavy showers. Now it has set in for a long storm.

I hav'nt had a tent since we gave Capt. Stinson our only one, till night before last. A Q.M. who had one heard of my destitution & kindly sent me one. I turned in my cot & slept on the ground, but Capt. Kalenbaugh our Provost Marshall had me another made. They (my staff) wont let me share the hardships with them. "It is so necessary to have few wagons that everybody is obliged to retrench."

Harry Stinson sent me his love from Acworth. The cars are through & he expects to go to Cleveland today. He has not yet had an unfavorable symptom. His perfect health, good habits and cheerful temper, are all in his favor.

The mail man is waiting for me. Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy. "Now he creeps & plays with Guy's foot ball" and "Now he sleeps quietly & sweetly in his cradle". All sweet home pictures. We pitch in the wilderness & long for the end of the war & home. My kind regards to Isabella, also to Julia. Tell Julia that Sam is still faithful & well.

Remember me to all our friends. Gilbreth & Charles are in good health. God bless you all.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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2206 6/12/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-2157

Head Quarters 4th  
Corps  
Near Marietta Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150]

Head Quarters 4th Corps June 12th [1864 O.O.H. was written in pencil, possibly by OO Howard.]  
Near Marietta Ga. (Sunday evening)

My dear Mother

I have just come back to my tent from tea. My tent is the only one. The rest arrange a tent fly for two or four. We take our tea under a fly fixed thus: [sketch of a tarp extended over a ridge pole and staked down on the two sides.] When you locate us in the midst of a big forest you form a good notion of the whereabouts of your boys. This is a very woody country, very few farms, an occasional clearing and a log cabin often without windows. We shall find more open country doubtless after crossing the Chattahoochee.

We had very beautiful weather till lately. Now the rains seem to have set in. The roads are getting very bad. The army wagons are heavy and when some (20) twenty miles of them pass over a road during a rain, it is generally rendered nearly impassible. Such is the case just now.

Charles may have spoken of my wound - it amounted to just as much as a stone bruise used to when I was a little boy & ran about without shoes. It has been painful & troublesome but not enough to prevent me from riding every day. The piece of shell struck me on the side of the right foot near the little toe spending its main force against the sole of the boot which is quite thick. At first all the toes were discolored, but after a couple of days the little toe only was troublesome.

Capt. Stinson sends his love to me this evening from Acworth. He was shot quite through the body, but has suffered very little pain and has had no drawback. The cars will probably take him back tomorrow as they are now through.

The rebels are in large force in our front probably seventy thousand strong. They work hard, dig long lines of intrenchments (five & six miles in extent) under the cover of these almost interminable forests. The breastwork is usually first made of logs & then dirt thrown on the side towards us. We get as near them as we can without sacrifice of life and confront them by the same kind of works thus: [sketch of a pile of logs and dirt in front with the heads of three men standing behind it] I have left a part of the logs uncovered [in the sketch]. Sometimes the men arrange a top log with a narrow opening beneath to keep the enemy's sharpshooters & skirmishers from hitting their heads.

You may imagine that such serious business keeps every face rather dolorous. On the contrary the majority are light hearted. It is like all work you get used to it. At times it is painful, fatiguing in the extreme and affecting to carry on operations but the scenes keep changing.

Our sabbaths are not well improved and I feel the need of better ones. I believe my reliance upon God is unwavering though I am heavy hearted sometimes when I dont seem to get the blessings I hoped for & prayed for. It requires a good deal of patience as well as endurance to command troops successfully.

Charles is quite well, has thus far escaped shot & shells. At our mess we have Col. Sherman 85th Ill. from Chicago. He is now my Chief of Staff. Dr Heard, a handsome good & able young surgeon, my medical director. Lt. Col. Fullerton is my Adjutant General, formerly with Gen. Granger. Chas., Capt. Gilbreth & Frank Gilman. We often have very pleasant reunions i.e. at breakfast, dinner & supper. We breakfast generally at 5 a.m. Sometimes we are compelled to do so earlier still.

The news from the Army of the Potomac is still uncertain. Grant is not yet quite up to where I buried my arm. He has much hard work before him. If regular siege operations begin I fear he will send troops out here.

I hope Father & Dellie are well. Much love to them & Roland & fam.

Yr affectionate son,  
Otis

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2207 6/17/1864     *From:* J. Edward Hardy

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2158

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission.  
Kentucky  
Branch  
Louisville Ky

Commanding 11th Army  
Corps  
Army of the Cumberland

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[108]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission.  
Kentucky Branch

Maj Gen Howard  
Commanding 11th Army Corps  
Army of the Cumberland

Dear Sir

A number of the ladies of our city are desirous of forming a society for the purpose of doing all in their power to relieve the wants of our soldiers now in the hospitals and camps here and to assist the Sanitary and Christian commissions in their labors of love. They find quite a prejudice existing among our citizens against both commissions owing to reports which have been very industriously circulated to the effect, that the stores &c contributed do not reach the common soldier, that members of the commissions use their facilities for political and other selfish purposes and sometimes engage in immoral practices. In fact that both are humbugs in the largest sense of the word and are not worthy of the support of Christian people. There has been very little done in Kentucky for these commissions owing to the fact that the workings of the same have been very imperfectly understood. A strong prejudice has grown up here among the Government officials against them, especially against the Sanitary, and reports emanating from these officials are hindering contributions of money and stores to their treasury. What we desire is to remove these prejudices as far as we may. To fully succeed our ladies must have the hearty co-operation of our people and their confidence. A well organized society here will go far towards opening a general system for our state.

My object in writing to you is to ask as a favor that you will at once write our commission a statement of your experience, especially as to the work of the Christian Commission among your men and as the opportunity may offer obtain like testimonials from other officers and forward them to us. Our ladies are only waiting your response as a basis upon which to act.

We feel that we are asking a good deal of you but know that a christian heart will not fail to respond to such an appeal.

With much respect I remain  
Yours truly  
J. Edward Hardy Chairman  
Ky Branch U.S. Christian Comm.

Louisville Ky  
June 17 / 64

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2208 6/19/1864    *From:* E Gilmore

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-2159

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[531]

Leeds June 19, 1864

My dear daughter,

Your last letter written the first of the week, I received in due season, but have let company and other duties keep me from answering it, and I learned to day that Mrs. Lothrop has butter packed for you and has been ready a week or more but the information failed to reach me until now. I am happy to receive the children, dear Guy and Grace, and only wish that I could take the butter to you, and bring them home with me, but do not see any way to do it. At one time my husband said he would go to Augusta in June but since has thought better of it, and concluded he could not. He thinks Guy and Grace would come through well in the cars. I was in hopes Grace would spend her seven'th birth day here but that is so near, she will not probably do so.

I have just been talking with my husband and he says he has learned nothing about the barrel of potatoes. If you have, be kind enough to mention in in your letter after the reception of your butter, or if you would like have the butter kept in Mrs Lothrop's sellar until fall. My husband says it can go Wednesday. I will endeavor to get it and have it packed in a bag of dried apples.

You ask where was Rodelphus. He is at Auburn studying Law, in Pulriphen's office. He was out through May, introducing text books into the different towns in Androscoggin County and Franklin County. He made well by it and will now be able to pay his own bills for some time.

I feel sometimes to almost fly. I want to see you and the children so much. How is Jamie now, is his health good? And little Chancy, is he healthy? I do not feel quite equal to going alone to Augusta with the horse and Waggon. Our harness is poor, and the waggon is not much better. I have not seen Ella and David since my return from Ind. Rowland wrote me, you mentioned you would like to get a place for Martha. If you cannot do any better I will take her in Sept, if you think best. Tell Isabella to be sure and come and see me when she comes home.

My last letter from Charles, was dated the 4th of June. All well but Maj Stinson. Dellie told me that Doc Wiggins had a letter from Mrs Stinson saying he would come home. I do hope he will recover.

Give much love to all the children, and Isabella. Accept a good share yourself.

Fondly  
E Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

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2209 6/20/1864    *From:* C H Howard  
A.D.C.

*To:* Gen'l [OO Howard]

OOH-2148

At Rives' House

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[34]

At Rives' House

[June, 1864?] [This letter had been undated. A date was added in pencil. A reference to Powder Springs road in OO Howard's Autobiography was on June 22, so assume June 20, 1864.]

Gen'l

As Gen. Kilpatrick suggested that the Infantry take the Dallas road I send you information obtained of Mr. Rives, and a sketch showing that there is a fork of the roads here, the left leading to Powder Springs 3 ½ ms. and the right (or as it appears the straight road) makes a fork 2 miles from here where the right leads to Lost Mt. and the left to Dallas.

Gen. Belknap's head of column has just come in sight and I suppose will go on to Powder Springs unless you order otherwise. But if you wish him to change his plan and take this right hand road & go on towards Dallas this way, an order would probably reach him before he had got more than a mile on the Powder Springs road. Kilpatrick seems to have no difficulty in that quarter.

Respectfully  
C H Howard  
A.D.C.

[Sketch of the region.]

Rives house  
(near Powder Springs)  
Howard, C.H.  
Lt. Col. & A.D.C.

Gives information concerning reconaissance towards Powder Springs, also concerning Gen. Kilpatrick's operations

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2210 6/20/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2160

Head Qrs 4th A.C. 2  
miles from  
Marietta, Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[532]

Head Qrs 4th A.C. 2 miles from  
Marietta, Ga. June 20th 1864

Dearest,

We are making rather slow progress but the country of swamps, mountains, creeks, impassible ravines & the like is exceedingly difficult are ill adapted to any but one mode of warfare and that is a skirmish on a large scale. As soon as the rebels get into a bad box they take up a new line often by changing front and we skirmish through the woods up to them and get just as near as possible and put the batteries in position and so on. This is constant work. If you should hear the firing every day you would think a great battle was in progress, but we have learned that it is only a skirmish. A good many poor fellows get wounded in these skirmishes.

I was very happy to receive such a nice letter from Gracie yesterday. I must try to write her in reply, on her birthday (the 22nd inst). How much can happen in 7 years?

Well darling I must go to my daily work and see if we cannot break through these fortified lines. Dont believe the papers. I was not on the skirmish line when my foot was hurt but in my proper place. While Gen. Woods Division was hotly engaged, I was reconnoitering for a point of attack when Harry Stinson was hurt. Stinson is now at Cleveland & doing well. Gilbreth has got his promotion. Frank Gilman has gone sick to Chatta.

God bless you all. Stinson is in good spirits and at Mr P. Craigmiles where he will get the nicest kind of care. I put Frank into good hands & hope he will soon be back well.

Much love to all.

Lovingly  
yr. Otis

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2211 6/20/1864

*From:* Joshua A.  
Turpenden

*To:* Major General O. O.  
Howard

OOH-2161

*Source:* Bowdoin

Camp Battery H. 5th  
U.S. Arty.  
Nashville, Tennessee

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[109]

Camp Battery H. 5th U.S. Arty.  
Nashville, Tennessee  
June 20, 1864

Major General O. O. Howard  
Dear Sir:

You will, doubtless, recollect the conversation that took place between us at Stevenson, Ala. in the early part of last October, when you kindly offered me a position on your staff. I was then about starting for the East, on sick leave. At the expiration of my leave, I was ordered to report to Major Gardiner U.S.A. at Augusta, Me. where I have been on duty up to the last of May, when I was ordered to join my Battery in the field. I supposed the battery was at the front, and made all arrangements to enter upon the duties of active service. I am disappointed in finding the battery at this place. It is stationed here - with the regular batteries - in the Artillery Reserve. I am desirous, if agreeable to yourself, of being placed now upon your staff. Should you be pleased to request that I be detailed for this purpose, I have no doubt the Commanding General will issue the necessary order. It would afford me no inconsiderable pleasure to be with you, General. Shall myself, and my friends, much ever esteem it a high personal favor.

Hoping that, if possible, this may be accomplished.

I have the honor  
to be, General  
very Respectfully &  
Truly Yours,  
Joshua A. Turpenden  
2d Lt 5th Arty.

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2212 6/22/1864    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-2162

Head Quarters 4th  
Corps  
Near Marietta Georgia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[533]

Head Quarters 4th Corps  
June 22nd 1864  
Near Marietta Georgia

My dear little daughter,

I received your excellent letter yesterday, no the day before, and was very glad to hear from you and home. We are having very constant and hard work just now, and Papa gets pretty tired. The rebels made an attack upon Gen. Hookers front this evening but without success. They have done the same on Papa's command but had to go back. The shells burst about us quite briskly nowadays and make a good deal of noise but seldom hurt anybody. Poor McDonald who has been with me for nearly three years was wounded today in the foot and I fear he may have to lose it. A signal officer Capt Leonard on my staff also was wounded by a sharp shooter while sending a message.

Papa remembers this as your birthday and thinks you are seven (7) years old today. Papa was in Florida when you born at Leeds. He found you in a cradle at Auburn on his return.

Give much love to Mamma, Guy, Jamie, Chancy & the rest. Uncle Charlie sends love to Grace and the rest of the family. Papa hopes the war will soon be over so that he can go home & enjoy your society. May God bless and keep you.

Your Loving Father  
O.O. Howard

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2213 6/25/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2163

Head Quarters 4th A.C.  
Near Marietta Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[534]

Head Quarters 4th A.C.  
Near Marietta Ga. June 25, 1864

Dearest,

It is about 4 P.M. Saturday I have not written since the evening of the 22nd and then to Grace as it was all the birth day present I could send my little daughter from here. The mail is just in and leaves again tomorrow morning. Probably you wonder at our slowness of progress lately. Gen. Sherman does not appear to be in very great haste. We will turn or break the enemy's line, but find he has prepared another. He has held on to Kennesaw & gradually swung back his left till we face nearly east. We have had a battle or grand skirmish nearly every day – cannonading is now going on near Gen. Palmer's lines. Mine are comparatively quiet today though the rebels occasionally destroy some valuable life.

We heard from Capt. Stinson through Mr. Marble Col Hayes clerk who has been with him since he left Acworth. He was doing finely last tuesday afternoon. He has ridden out on horseback and his wound is almost healed. His convalescence is remarkable. I shall advise him to take a trip home. He thinks he ought to come back. Frank Gilman is at the officer's hospital on Lookout Mountain and I hear is doing well. He was very feverish when he left us and I feared the Typhoid fever. I am anxious to get more direct word. Gilbreth has got his appointment as Captain and received his commission. He is very well and enjoys himself finely.

Charlie seems to have very good health this summer. He has got a Maine paper of the 16th and tells me the news: "3d Me. at home received quite a reception". He speaks of the few men who returned out of the thousand I took out three years ago. It is costing us heavily to prevent the destruction of the Republic.

Sometimes I feel a little discouraged but I fully believe God will carry us through this severe trial in his own good time. If we only could acknowledge Him and leave off our unbelief and our idolatry and ask his guidance. I try to do my duty daily and beg for his hand to sustain and strengthen me. He does not always grant me the measure of success I long for and my heart is saddened by it, but I understand the sufficiency of His wisdom and must submit to his chastening.

I must now go out to look at the lines.

God bless you, darling, and give you wisdom and strength; and the little ones, we commend them to his care.

Your loving husband  
Otis

P.S. Sam is well.

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2214 6/28/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2164

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
(Near Marietta Ga)

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[535]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland  
June 28th (Near Marietta Ga) 1864

Dearest,

I will just drop you a line this morning to say that we are all quite well. Yesterday several assaults were made upon the enemy's works one in front of my Corps Gen. Newton's Div'n leading. Gen. Harker was mortally wounded within a few yards of the works. We lost quite heavily in officers and more men than we ought to spare in an unsuccessful assault.

The weather is very hot, and I find it takes hold of me badly.

Frank Gilman is at Chatt'a. convalescing. He talks of not coming back as he does not get an appointment and he fears it will be burdensome to me to pay him. I cannot well spare him and shall try hard for his appointment. I dont think he has had a bad fever.

Capt. Stinson was recovering rapidly when I last heard from him. Mr & Mrs Craigmiles took him right home and nursed him at Cleveland.

We are hoping to hear some good news from Grant. His losses are very severe indeed & ours are considerable. It is a high price to pay for the government, but the blessing will follow. Poor Gen. Harker was much beloved, an upright, straight-forward complete soldier, and a thorough gentleman. I cannot realize that he is really gone. He used to be a member of my prayer-meeting, I think, while at West Point. Perhaps you may remember him.

Several mails have come in without a letter from you, dearest, but the mails are so irregular here that I am not surprised. We have just had stronger infantry guards put on the exposed points of the R.R. so that we may now anticipate greater regularity.

I am afraid Guy will forget his papa if he does not write him once in a while. I feel very hopeful for Guy, that he will be a conscientious good boy "fearing God & keeping his commandments." But he will like all boys have a great many temptations to resist and will need a Saviour's help constantly. The help of that same Saviour that he and I used to talk about when he was a very little boy. He being the eldest will do a great deal towards shaping the characters of Jamie & Chancy who almost before we know it will be large boys. Gracie is quick and can think for herself and must be the Grace of the household, the one to love & be loved by all.

Time has come for the mail to leave. God bless and keep us all.

Your own loving husband.

Otis

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2215 6/29/1864    *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs Lizzie A. Howard

OOH-2165

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[537]

Leeds June 29th 1864

My dear daughter,

A feeling of intense anxiety about you and your family has seemed to possess me the few days past, and just now, I resolved to try writing to you and if your health is poor, or ought else has befallen you, can not Isabella write so that we may know how it is with you. I have felt such a strong desire to see you and know how you all are, that it is but one idea with me. Your letter mailed 14th I answered. The answer was sent to Curtis Corner Monday the 20th of June. I had just heard that Mrs Lothrop had been packing butter for you, and wrote you to know whether you would have it kept till fall or sent now. I have seen Mrs Lothrop since and found it was only <lb 20> (twenty pounds). Mrs Lothrop said it was packed so that it would keep until fall.

I have been hoping to see Guy and Grace by this time. I want very much to see Jamie, and Chancy.

Rowland has been gone to the Congregationalist Conference since the 20th of June. I am in hopes they will return through Augusta and I shall hear from you through him and Ella. When will the children come? I did not mention in either of my letters that my husband's health had been poor, for he is much better and I feared you might think the Children would annoy him, and would not have them come, and I want to have them come very much. I am very lonesome. My husband is attending to his affairs as usual. Yesterday morning he went to Slabb City, to get some blacksmith work done and in the P.M. went to Wayne to Carry away his wool, and now he is repairing his tools for haying. I have looked every day for a week for a letter from you.

I had a double letter from Otis and Charles, last Friday evening, written the twelfth of June, mailed the 15th. All well at that time, and Capt Stinson doing well at that time. My husband does not like to eat away from home because he sometimes throws up two or three times, before he can manage to keep anything on his stomach. But of late he looks better and is in better spirits, and intends going to Portland the 13th of July to a Meeting of some kind concerning the railroad.

Rodelphus wrote me he might come home next Saturday, and stay until after the fourth. If he does, and Guy and Grace have not come, I will see if it will not be so that he can come for them. I do hope you will get this, in due time, and I shall hear from you soon as practicable. I mentioned (about Martha, Julia's oldest girl) in my other letter. I do not think it a very good place for her here on many accounts but if it would be any relief to you I will take her any time. I have a home well provided with comforts of life and I will take her until some better place presents. These things I only suggest.

I close, it is nearly time to send my letter to the office. Give much love and many kisses to your children and my best regards to Isabella. Does she know anything certain about Joseph.

Yours with much affection  
Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie A. Howard

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2216 6/30/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2166

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Near Marietta, Ga.

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[538]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland  
Near Marietta, Ga. June 30th 1864

Dearest,

I have just recd your letter of the 20th inst. You were not well, worn out, with too many to care for and did not feel that you had been faithful in anything. I feel very sorry and heartily sympathize with you, but think it is now ten days since she wrote and she may be rested and happy now. I can hardly forgive myself for having tried you so with J & her children, and the first opportunity you have you must let her go to some place where she can have a mistress who is physically stronger than you, and who has less other care.

I expect that grand little boy, Chancy, must pull you down much, but my darling wife while I appreciate to a keen degree the hardships and burdens and loneliness of your anxious life during these days, I must say to you as I often have to say and feel here: Cheer up, a cloud & then the bright sun. When you need rest darling, take it with all its direful consequences, take it even if things get out of place. I am obliged to do so.

The Army of the Potomac has absorbed the public attention and the accounts of this army's doings are much overshadowed, but for constancy of fighting I have never seen the equal of this campaign. My own corps has lost in killed and wounded and missing in action upwards of 5000 (nearly 6000) men since we began work before Dalton.

Last night about 2 o'clock A.M. a tremendous musketry fire struck up. We all got up & dressed. Artillery opened. How fearful this would have been at the beginning of the war, but now we quietly send out scouts & officers to see where the firing is. The rebels had attacked a working party that was running a new line in front of our works. In a half hour all was quiet and we undress and go to sleep.

We have become so accustomed to danger that matters go on with perfect business like composure. Our lines are close. Last night one of Stanley's men called out "come rebs, stop firing let us go to sleep". The answer back was "all right" and immediately the firing ceased. This was not far from where the working party was attacked and the opposing lines were firing though not very briskly.

Last night during the melee a rebel captain lost his way and stepped from his pickets to ours without knowing it, and began instructing our men when they took him and brought him in. He was much mortified.

My letters must be irregular for a time. I have sent to Chattanooga to have some pay forwarded to you. Frank Gilman who is still there is to draw it and send to your order. Give much love & many kisses to the children. I hope you found father better and mother well. Tell me about your visit to Leeds if you went. Stinson was nicely at last accts. Capt. Gilbreth is very well & happy. So is Charles. With much love and the same prayer for us all, that God may keep us safely.

I am yours Lovingly  
Otis

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2217 7/4/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2167

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[539]

Farmington July 4, 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie

We rode around by "Togus" & took Tea at Gardiner at Mr Bradstreets, a friend of Ellas, & spent the night at Bowdoinham after we bade you good by. I placed 10\$ with your check & sent it to the Tract Soc. We arrived at Bath about 10 a.m. Thursday and started with our whole family for home at 2 P.M. Mr Patten gave me 3\$ for your scrip for which I am greatly obliged to you.

Ella left her Parasol at your house & she needs it very much. If you or the children come to Leeds, could it not be brought & sent up by Mr. Goff.

No later letters from the Army.

With much love from Ella & myself to you & the children.

Yr. aff. Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Yesterday was a precious communion Sabbath to us all.

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2218 7/6/1864

*From:* Jeanie H. Grey

*To:* My dear friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2168

Greystone

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

Greystone 6th July 1864

My dear friend!

Since your letter - so very like yourself, was written, I have heard of more battles! And my heart is filled with fears that each day will bring some sorrowful tidings! Those I love, all are in such terrible scenes - fraught with peril to their precious lives - that I feel impelled to write - lest "one of these days" it may be too late. I know you will pardon me for troubling you with my scribblings, for you know how dear you are to us.

I felt convinced you would grant my wish that your loving influence should be thrown around Willie my sweet-brother-cousin my noble Willie - if not that I asked it, because you cannot resist the Spirit that sends you like Philip, to those prayer encircled ones, around you! But that spirit dwells with you & influences every act of your life. Bless God for such Generals. All were lost without them! Do you know the battle-cry of Gen Kilpatrick? "Let the rebels know there is a God in Israel"! He tells me that he has had his men into the very jaws death with this cry! Is it not a strange time? Does it not seem like the days when "All shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest"! Mrs Captain Roe was telling me yesterday, that Captain Roe & Charles, his eldest son, just entered West Point Academy - both go forward & join the church next sabbath - is not that good news?

Our Willie is a member of the Episcopal church, & was leader in the choir, and very active in the S. School at his home & I feel a proud certainty of his never forgetting the teachings of his mother in his boyhood - still associations are so powerful, and his high opinion of you (I might quote half a sheet of large letter-paper, about you & your brother - his admiration of you both - were it not too much for you to read!) will give you an unbounded influence over him. He wrote me of your injury & said it was well it was no worse. I felt very sorry for you, it much have been very painful!

We are still in our house, but hope for a favorable answer to-day from an applicant I like. How I would like to stay in it & have Mrs Howard & the children come on & spend a month with us! May we see that day yet! Could not you get a leave in the fall & all come? It is so lovely here then!

May I not send your books to Rowland to keep for you? As they are theological works they might interest him till you would need them - or I will send them wherever you say.

Mama sends her very kindest love to you & your brother & family & prays fervently for your safety & happiness & I believe her prayers will be answered! Cols Bowman & Clitz are ordered away & Cols Z.B. Tower & Fidball are ordered there instead. I am very sorry, as both are good friends of mine! Capt Craighill is back, and Platt is ordered back as professor of Spanish! There is little other news of interest. When Kilpatrick was looking at your photograph, he said "I like that man!" very emphatically.

Now when you want to amuse yourself (?) or when an ordinary mortal would be "whittling", tell me about the books - or where Rowland is, or Mrs Howard - please? Love to brother Charles & yourself from one who will never forget March 1861!

Jeanie H. Grey

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2219 7/7/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2169

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters 4th  
Army Corps.  
Near Vinings Sta.  
Atlanta R.R.

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[54]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps.  
Near Vinings Sta. Atlanta R.R. 1864  
July 7th 1864

Dearest,

We have the prospect of rest today, and I have promised myself to begin the day by a letter to you. If you had such terribly hot weather as we I know you would give up making much exertion. The sun often affects me unfavorably. It is so nearly over head that it is hard to get away from it. However the country is full of woods & the shade good.

I am now at a very fair house, that of Mr Hanly Pace. He went over the river and took about 50 negroes. He is an old man about 75 yrs. His aged house keeper is here. She got frightened during the firing and ran to the woods - says two balls came through the house. The soldiers have taken her clothing and she is left with only one dress and no underclothes and very little to eat. She comes to me to know what she shall do. Whether our soldiers or the rebels have done the mischief I do not know.

We hear that Frank Gilman is getting well. I failed to get him an appointment as I had wished and he feels disinclined to remain otherwise and so I think he will go home. He dont like war much. I have'nt heard from Stinson for some days.

The enemy made a stand about five miles south of Marietta, and put up their usual strong lines of intrenchments. On the Fourth of July Gen. Hanley stormed their intrenched skirmish line in an open field and put his lines up in its place. The rebels opened with musketry & artillery to drive him back but did not succeed. That night they abandoned their line & we pursued the next day, driving their rear guard of Cavalry across the river at this place (Pace's Ferry). A portion of the Rebel army near the R.R. bridge is not across and they act as though they meant to make another stand. We take a good many prisoners at every move and this depletes Johnson's army.

From a high hill near me I can see Atlanta about ten miles away. I trust some favorable change will occur, so that I can go home with honor & health before the close of 1864. We must continue to labor and to wait. I wish I could be with you to help you bear your burdens and you could help me bear mine.

You said in your last letter, you were faithful in nothing. I must say to you as I ever did to Prof. Bartlett do what you can and trust in God for the rest. Pray for me darling that my faith may not fail. In the midst of so much wrong over which I have no control I am inclined all the time to let things go. Oh, that peace might return to us.

The man is waiting to take this letter, and I hear the bell on the train. God bless you all. Kiss all the children for papa. Chas. & Capt. Gilbreth are well.

Yours lovingly  
Otis

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2220 7/8/1864

*From:* S.F. Chalfin  
Asst. Adjt. Gen'l.  
War Department,  
Adjutant General's  
Office,  
Washington

*To:* Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2170

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Volunteers,  
Dep't. of the Cumberland,  
Via Chattanooga,  
Tenn.

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[110]

[Letterhead]

War Department,  
Adjutant General's Office,  
Washington,  
July 8th, 1864.

Sir:

Your endorsement of the 18th of May, last, on Lieut. Colonel C.H. Howard's resignation of his commission as aide-de-camp on your staff, approving the same, and requesting certain appointments on your staff, has been submitted to the Secretary of War, by whom it has been decided that with the appointment of F.W. Gilbreth as aide, your staff, as corps commander, under the Act of July 17, 1862, was full; and that no other appointments, therefore, could be made. The act in question prescribes that officers, on the corps establishment, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, shall be assigned from the army or volunteer force by the President. Hence it will be seen that should Major Howard's resignation as Aide-de-Camp, be accepted he would cease to be an officer in the service and would thereby become legally incapable of holding the position of Assistant Inspector General by assignment.

I am, Sir, Very Respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
S.F. Chalfin [Samuel F. Chalfin, USMA Class of 1847]  
Asst. Adjt. Gen'l.

Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard,  
U.S. Volunteers,  
Dep't. of the Cumberland,  
Via Chattanooga,  
Tenn.

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2221 7/9/1864

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2171

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[35]

Augusta, July 9th 1864

Dearest

It is now just eight o'clock Saturday morning and I am going to give you an hour or more, and tell you of my visit at Leeds. I took Guy, Grace, Chancy and Mrs Wingate (the latter came up in the "fly train" last Thursday morning at eight and ½ o'clock and started for Leeds. We had a very pleasant ride and arrived just after they had finished dinner. Mother knew we were coming. I found Mother looking quite well, but Col Gilmore looks poorly. I dont feel as if he will ever be well again.

Uncle Ensign and Horace Patten drove down that evening after tea and Guy went home with them. The next morning, Cousin Laura, baby and the boys came back to see us, and we left them all there when we came away about two o'clock. Ensign walks and is a bright, active boy. Chancy looked at him in wonder to see him walk as he does not walk. I had to be so devoted to Chancy I did not enjoy my visit so much as I might for he is so timid afraid of every body and would cling to me.

I expect Guy will go to Farmington this after-noon with Horace. Mrs Patten and Libby will be in the cars and join them at Leeds. Grace is happy enough with Grandmother and now if they can only keep well they will have a delightful visit. Grace did not get her letter, but it came while I was gone. I will mail it to her this morning. I got mine of the 25th ult the night before I went to Leeds. Mother received hers of the same date.

I heard all about Mother's journey and visit. She seems to have enjoyed it all very much.

We called to see Mrs Burgess at Winthrop. She had just returned from Mrs Prestons sister Aurelia who has a young child. She has never kept house in the winter since her husband died. I took Mrs Wingate down to Hallowell after we had taken tea at home.

Jamie was very happy with Isabella. I took him with me after tea, and he now talks a great deal about going to see Grandmother with "Liz-a-bella". She wants to take him and I fear he would be greatly disappointed if I do not let him go. I have some fear to have him go, but mother wants to see him.

Julia did just as well while I was away as when I am here. Isabella's brother Clark is coming home on a visit, but Joseph, who was wounded I heard while at Leeds, is not living. I have just written to Col. Whitman to learn what I can. He came home wounded in the hand.

I must now give Chancy his bath. He is standing by my side earnestly calling "mam-ma mam-ma". I will write to Guy, and Grace and send the letter you wrote on her birthday. I hope you are all very well. Mrs Stinson was in last evening, wants Harry to come, thinks he may. You advised him. I saw Mr Blaine at the window as I passed yesterday. Mr William Means has lost his beautiful little daughter eight years old, buried yesterday. I wish the warm weather was over. Give great love to Charlie. I saw the small picture of "the three on the <?ck>." The large one had been sent away to be framed. I cannot write more this time. Mrs Wingate sends love to both.

Your own  
Lizzie

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2222 7/9/1864

*From:* David Chage

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2172

Nashville Tennessee

On the Front

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[111]

Nashville Tennessee 9 July 1864

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
On the Front  
My Friend,

I wrote to you last week, also to Gen. Sherman, asking you to intercede with Genl Sherman for the Release of my old Brother Alex Chage & his two young Sons, Jno & Wm. I went with them up to Jeffersonville Ind, where they were sent, and have just returned here on my way home to Athens – will leave tomorrow 1200 train. I telegraphed to day, to you, through permission and approval of Gen Webster, asking and immediate answer of the result which I trust I may receive before I go. In case I do not, I write this letter believing you will render me your influence to the final release of the parties. Indeed my sole reliance is in you, as it almost impossible for me to go to the Front, and plead with Gen Sherman. My Brother and his young Sons, assure me that they are personally innocent of the Charge of Corresponding beyond the lines or with the Enemy, and I have ever found them truthful. If any from the South, beyond the lines should be writing, they here ought not be held responsible here, unless they encouraged it, only for their own acts and they have not and will not do anything detrimental to the United States. Alex Chage took the Oath of Allegiance in Sept when Col Birds Brigade - first occupied our County and sometime afterward was advised by Lieut Col Watterman of the 100 Ill. to take the Amnesty Oath which he did, and has lived up to both. He never was a Secessionist, but circumstances he could not control caused him after the vote of the State to be classed as a rebel, and he has suffered much pecuniarily for it and now in person, he desires to be a peaceable Citizen always has been one, he is a retiring inoffensive man non engaged in party or politics, but loved to attend to his farming and mill operations.

Dear Genl. - If Gen Sherman has not yet agreed to release him, will you, for I believe you are a good christian for Humanity Sake, have Genl Sherman to permit A. Chage & sons to return to their Homes. I will have any Bonds for any amt given that he may require or any terms that he may think best for peace and restoration of our once glorious & peaceable union.

If Gen Sherman will grant this humane request, Genl Webster, who I have found a good hand man – would carry-out instructions.

I remain your Obt Sevt  
David Chage

I would be much gratified to receive a letter from you, at Athens Tenn, when it may suit your convenience.

[Written on the back page]  
Letter from David Chage  
Athens, E. Tenn.

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2223 7/11/1864    *From:* Mrs F.T. Sherman    *To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2173                      Chattanooga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112]

Chattanooga July 11th /64

Gen Howard  
Dear Sir

My anxiety for my husband must plead my excuse for trespassing upon your valuable time.

I think I have waited patiently. I have heard nothing since your Telegram of the 8th. I sent a Telegraph to you the same day asking if you knew whether he was wounded when taken. If I could be asured that he was not wounded I would feel comparatively easy about him. Gen please tell me if you think there could be special exchange effected for him & if so how I am to proceed or what steps are to be taken to effect it. May success and God's blessing crown with glory all the efforts of our noble army to bring back to peace our noble Republic. With prayer for you safety & well being, I am

Very Respectfully  
Your Friend  
Mrs F. T. Sherman [Eleanor (Vedder) Sherman, wife of Francis Trowbridge Sherman]

Mrs. Col. F.T. Sherman  
Chattanooga, July 11 1864.

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2224 7/12/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2174

Hd. Qrs. 4th A.C.  
Near Marietta (6 miles)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd. Qrs. 4th A.C.  
Near Marietta (6 miles)  
July 12th 1864

Dearest,

I will just write you a line this morning to tell you that we are all well and about to cross the Chattahoochee today. I received a letter of 29th ult. from Rowland while at Augusta – quite a family picture. He says you look worn. Chancy he says is inclined to be afraid of Uncle Rowland. He gives a line or so for Guy quite characteristic. Grace, Guy, yourself & cousin Laura are going to Leeds. After he got to Farmington he wrote Charlie, and the letter actually got here in 7 days. I think your last letter must have been captured. The rebels now & then pick up a train of cars in our rear.

Capt. Stinson wrote he was improving at Cleveland, hav'nt heard from him since the 1st inst. Capt. Gilbreth is well & happy, able to smoke his pipe with strength and manifest pleasure. Young Dr Heard is his companion in this refreshment. We are now located in the woods.

Give much love & many kisses for papa to the children. I hope your ride to Leeds & the change did you good. You mus'nt let your forehead get wrinkled. May our kind Heavenly father have us all in his holy keeping.

Your loving husband  
Otis

P.S. Frank has gone home – and carries some money to mail to you . I am glad you gave Rowland the 40 dolls for W-Soc. But don't know how you could spare it having received so little from me of late.

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2225 7/15/1864    *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Dear Neice [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-2175

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[542]

Portland July 15 1864

Dear Neice

I recvd your letter last evening, and today I have been looking in the Stock Market to see what could be done in buying or selling 7-30 Treasury Notes. It is difficult to find any now for sale, and we cannot get any of the 6-20 Bonds for less amt than \$500, but I can get you one of the 10-40 Bonds of 500 and pay the balance in paper money, and can get a premium on your Treasury Notes of 3 ½ or 4 per cent together with the interest, which probably is a good investment.

If you send your notes with your orders I will attend to it with pleasure.

Your Affectionate Uncle  
E. Waite

P.S. Edward F. is now home on furlough with a gunshot wound through the left shoulder. Hope you will soon have good news from your husband.

E.W.

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2226 7/16/1864    *From:* Maxwell Woodhull

*To:* Brig Gen [William D.] Whipple

OOH-2176

Washington

USA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[113]

Private

Washington July 16th 1864

My Dear General

My Desire for active service, must be my excuse for applying to you for your influence & assistance.

I have just been appointed an Ast Adj Genl of Vols. with the rank of Major, and am of course anxious to go to the field. I would prefer, had I my choice, an assignment to the Army of the West.

I can not expect, so late in the campaign, to be ordered to the staff of a General Comdg a Division, as he of course has filled ere this any vacancy that may have existed. But, on the application of some General Comdg an Army or an Army Corps I could be assigned as assistant to his Adj. General.

Will you be kind enough to obtain for me such an assignment? I have had as you know enough office work, and now want to participate in some of the glorious actions of the war. If you are acting as Ast Adj. Genl to Genl Thomas, I should esteem it a great favor to be assigned to duty in your office.

Hoping at least to hear from you.

I am General

Very Respectfully & truly yours  
Maxwell Woodhull

Brig Genl [William D.] Whipple  
USA

[Written on the back page]  
Maxwell Woodhull  
Maj. & A.A.G., U.S.V.  
Washington, July 16, 1864

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2227 7/16/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2177

Head Quarters 4th A.C.  
Across Chata Near  
Power's ferry

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[513]

Head Quarters 4th A.C.  
July 16th 1864  
Across Chat'a Near Power's ferry

Dearest,

I just received a letter from you dated July 1st, mailed in Boston on the 4th. Rowland's letter came through in 7 days whereas yours has been 16 days. It is the one containing Mrs Merrill's note & the picture of her charming little boy. I will do as you ask and return this picture as I have no means of preserving it. I wonder if Chancy could not be caught in picture and transferred to Camp. I will write Mrs Morrill a note thanking her for her thoughtfulness. I wish I was as true a christian as she thinks I am.

We are still in the same camp as when I last wrote. Gen. Schofield often visits me & I him. He has proven himself a very fine officer – good to manage men and of excellent judgment in other military matters. I believe I wrote you about meeting Mrs Schofield at Knoxville, but I dont think I wrote about her two boys which I afterwards met in the cars. They are just as wild and restless as their grandfather ever was or their uncles Bill and Ned. Bill is here, makes a very gallant officer now on Schofield's staff. Ned is at Annapolis at the Naval Academy. Mrs Schofield, Mrs Gen. Stanley & Mrs Rosencrans are at 'Yellow Springs' not far from Cincinnati Ohio.

Did you take a trip to Boston for the 4th of July? Do you remember when you and I, before we were married, went to Boston. I have a dim recollection of the place, of Adams, a tall trooper who was going into service on the frontier, but the rest is like a dream. I cant tell what I did with you; think I must have left you there. You will laugh at me, such is the foolishness of my memory of much of the past. Events & places often recall what seemed to be forgotten.

I hope the children are having a nice time at Leeds with Grandma. How the process is renewed. My grandma used to be at Hallowell, and it was the joy of my life to be allowed to make her a visit. We have to look back in order to realize what delights a child. The children are keenly alone to pleasures that we don't think are so at all, unless we participate in their enjoyment.

Everything progresses with us in a satisfactory manner. Delays are necessarily created in the supply & movement of large bodies of men. The raids in Maryland & Pennsylvania are creating quite a furor of excitement. But they will hardly move Grant; and the effect will be to stimulate enlistments. We must put forth all our efforts now.

Frank Gilman has gone home & I fear he is quite ill but trust the northern air will bring him up. He took some of my pay for you & you will probably get it before this reaches.

I hope you have turned over the care of Jamie and Chancy to Isabella for two weeks and taken a rest. Though I know it is hard for you to rest in warm weather. This climate would'nt suit you. The sun gets right over your head & shines at you with great heat. But this dont plague me so bad as the insects which never cease to bite me. They are so small I cannot see them, but they leave their mark I bathed last night in salted water and am more comfortable from it. Charles is quite well, so is Capt. Gilbreth. We got a telegram from Stinson last night, and think he is doing well.

Give much love to Jamie, Chancy & yourself & papa's kisses. I hope Isabella gets good news from her brother. I hear that Dexter Howard is badly wounded, and at Phila. Give my kind regards to Isabella. Sam, Wash & Ann are all well tell Julia. Give her my kind remembrances. I hope the children are learning. God bless & keep in safety my little household.

Lovingly

Otis

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2228 7/17/1864    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2178

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37]

Augusta, July 17th 1864

Dearest

I had rather write you this morning than to read. Chancy is asleep in his cradle near me. We are alone in the house. The bells have just finished ringing for church. Julia and her children have gone to church and Sunday school also. I have not been well all the week, neither has Chancy. Night before last he was quite sick. Last night he did not vomit any, and I think we both are better this morning.

You have heard before this of the loss of our meeting house. It was struck by lightning during a terrific storm Monday night last. It burnt very rapidly – the communion service, sofa, chairs, and a few other things were saved. Mr McKenzie is away and was at the time of the fire. Mr Oliver Weams of Roxbury preached a very comforting funeral sermon in the house last Sunday morning. His brother William Weams had lost his beautiful little daughter eight years old the preceding week. We are to have services in the vestry after today. They are beginning to think about a new edifice and I suppose it must be begun by contributions. There was but five thousand insurance. What will you think best to give?

I have received your letters written June 28th and 30th. I sent the former to Guy with prayers that the words written might not be lost on him. Chancy is about waking.

Evening.

I told you we were alone and you may wonder where Jamie is. I let Isabella take him home last Wednesday. She wrote me yesterday saying he is very happy. She asked him if he wanted to go home. He answered "No, mama said I might stay three hours." I fear he will want to stay all the time with Grandma after he has been over there. I have some anxiety about him because the Diphtheria is in the neighborhood. I received a letter from Grace the first of last week. Guy I suppose is at Farmington. They are all very happy and enjoying their visit.

Monday morning

I will close my letters and send to the P.O. We are quite well but Chancy is so cross. It is Mam-ma all the time. He can walk now quite well. We are having a very warm summer. I wish you were here this beautiful morning. I should like to take a drive. Chancy enjoyed the ride to Leeds. He can ride "sandy" I am sorry if Frank Gilman is to remain at home, on your account. I received the money from him, have invested 500 in 5/20 bonds, and the rest is on deposit till I change the 7/30 treasury bonds. Then will put both together and invest what I shall not want to keep on deposit.

I must write to Uncle Edward this morning. His son is home wounded "gun shot wound through the shoulder" I never write half I want to before I have to leave. Now Chancy's bath, then the letters must go.

I have now written to Uncle. Chancy is asleep and Lizzie Morton, Grace's friend is going to stay with him while I go down street to the Bank &c. Love to Charlie

Your own Lizzie

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2229 7/19/1864     *From:* Guy V. Henry

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-2179

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd Qrs 3rd Brig 1st Div  
18th Corps  
In Front of Petersburg  
VA

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[114]

Hd Qrs 3rd Brig 1st Div 18th Corps  
"In Front of Petersburg VA"  
July 19th 64 [1864 written in pencil]

Dear Genl:

I have been intending to write to you for some time, and as I sit in my tent to day, sheltered from the rain, my memory goes back to those pleasant evenings we used to spend together at West Point. Oh me, you told us that the world was different from what we then (in our ignorance) imagined. Many who used to <meet> with us have gone, and those who are here, have changed. I am so glad to hear of your reputation, for I know, that you are fighting as a "Christian Soldier" so I have tried to do, and in all my successes, I attribute them to him who takes care of us all. Poor Terrill was another Christian, who has gone. How many more of us, will go before this war is over, God only knows. You are doing finely out West, you go on the principle of doing the greatest amount of damage to the enemy, with the least to yourselves. We can lose more men in one day, than you have lost altogether, I am sorry such is the case. In one charge I lost in my brigade 400 men I hardly know, what our next step may be. I fear Lee, who is strong in his works may reinforce Johnston. At times I think I am unfortunate in not getting promoted, and then again I feel I have a great deal to be thankful for. My record is good, and in several "Official Reports" I have been particularly mentioned. But the one essential "political influence" I have not got scarcely knowing a civilian. The only two direct applications for my promotion that I am aware of were made by Genls Butler and Smith, who sent me their endorsements. I wish you were with us here but still you have plenty to do where you are. I must now close my letter. Believe me

Truly yr friend  
Guy V. Henry [USMA Class of 1861]  
Col. 40th Mass,  
Comdg 3rd Brig. 1st Div. 18th Corps.

P.S. I enclose the two endorsements supposing you may take some interest in them. Guy.

Hd. Qrs. Dept. of Va. & N.C.  
July 9th 64

"From every report, from every source, I have heard the highest encomiums, upon Colonel Henry. Personal interviews have confirmed these reports. I must cordially recommend his promotion for gallant services.

Signed B.F. Butler,  
Major Genl Comdg

Hd. Qrs. 18th Army Corps Va  
July 6th 64

"I can not too strongly recommend to the notice of the authorities, the case of Col. Henry, who has shown during this campaign, coolness, skill, energy, and intelligence, and promotion is asked for him, as much for the interest of the service, as to recompense him for meritorious acts.

Signed Wm F. Smith, [USMA Class of 1845]  
Major Genl Comdg

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.] G. V. Henry, Col. 40th Mass.  
July 19 1864

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2230 7/21/1864    *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-2180

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[545]

Portland July 21 1864

Mrs Howard

Dear Niece

Enclosed is a 10-40 U.S. Bond for \$500 interest due 1st Sept on which they have reckoned the interest to yesterday 20th, and the Gold premium 1.60 amt

|      |        |  |
|------|--------|--|
|      | 25.37  |  |
| Bond | 500.   |  |
|      | -----  |  |
|      | 525.37 |  |

|                    |       |         |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| four 7-30 Notes    | 400   |         |
| interest & premium |       |         |
| to July 20th       | 31.20 | 431.20  |
|                    |       | -----   |
| Balance            |       | \$94.17 |

at the present price of Gold you will be Entitled to \$32.50/100 interest on this Bond. The 1st of Sept. I could get you a 5-20 Bond Exclusive of interest at 4 ½ pr. cent premium - Say for 522 50/100.

I will cheerfully attend to your orders.

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

P.S.

I see by the Paper to day that the Treasurer is about to issue some more 7-30 Treasury Notes. Perhaps it would be well to wait and see if some of those notes can be had without paying too high a premium.

E.W.

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2231 7/21/1864 *From:* Guy Howard

*To:* Dear mother [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2181

Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[544]

Leeds Maine july 21 1864

Dear mother

I am at Grandmothers and I have helped David get in three or four loads of hay. I have been all round. I have been to uncle Rowlands and I have been to uncle ensigns and to bath. I lost my poocket-book at mister Abbott school gymnastics. Will you send me some monney and stamps and will you send me some paper and envelopes. I had to borrow a stamp of Horis.

from your son  
Guy Howard

Antie ella sends her love to you. Dadie is here to.

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2232 7/22/1864    *From:* John Eaton Jr.

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2182

Wells River Vt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62]

Wells River Vt.  
July 22nd 1864

My dear General:

This is a beautiful little village nestled among the hills on the banks of the Conn. under the spiritual call of an excellent friend with whom we came to visit with a brother of mine immediately from Hanover.

The relaxation is so <> that I can hardly describe it

The subject - the Bureau - however I can not get away from – have spoken twice, as well as conferred with many of our most eminent men at the commencement of the college.

The great public are with you heart & hand.

I inclose a slip from the Boston Advertiser of Saturday.

Information in regard to the Bureau is greatly needed.

I hope you are taking the work easy & that that of the Dist. is not troubling you.

You must take sufficient time in your absence to have a little leisure.

Today we ride to the White mountains.

My plans are fixed to meet you as agreed at Boston.

Very truly  
Your obdt serv't  
John Eaton Jr.

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2233 7/23/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2183

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Near Atlanta Ga (2  
miles)

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[546]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps  
Department of the Cumberland  
Near Atlanta Ga (2 miles) 23d July 1864

Dearest,

We were all made sad yesterday by the death of Gen McPherson, so young, so noble, so promising, already commanding a department. I believe you saw him at Watervliet. Some of his command was taken by surprise. The rebels had made a wide circuit, quite around his left flank, having abandoned all their works in the night except the Forts close up to Atlanta. When the action began he went back to see about protecting his flank and was shot through the breast & instantly killed. His body was brought to Gen Sherman's Hd. Qrs. just before I was there, but I did not see him. The rebel surprise though not producing any irreparable disaster was bad enough. They got from McPherson quite a number of guns.

I feel very bad about the news from father. I fear I shall not see him again.

We are now within two miles of Atlanta and the matter will soon be decided. Hood was a classmate of McPherson. He is a stupid fellow but a hard fighter – does very unexpected things.

I do hope the children and yourself keep well. Much love to them & your own dear self.

God bless you.

Lovingly

Otis

P.S. Chas. sends his love.

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2234 7/24/1864    *From:* Ella [Howard]

*To:* Dear sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2184

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[547]

Farmington July 24th / 64  
Sun. morn.

Dear sister Lizzie,

I shall expect you Thursday of this week, without fail. And shall moreover be delighted to see you. I hope Julia will have a good influence over Alice, while she is here. I wish you would give her a few hints on this subject, without letting her know I have mentioned it. Alice is an excellent girl, the best I ever had, without any exception, except her unfortunate disposition, and an idea she seems to be getting lately, of having her own way. Perhaps Julia's advice may do her some good in these respects, if Alice dont know that I have any hand <[top line on page torn]> lest she might let it slip incautiously.

I was at Leeds last week, - had a very good visit. Col. Gilmore was more feeble than I expected to find him. I fear he is not much longer for this world. Your children were well, and seemed very happy. Gracie took care of Dadie, in their plays, as well as I could. She is a dear little girl.

I will not prolong my letter, but shall be glad to see you Thursday. Perhaps you will make a longer visit after you get here.

Yours with love.  
Ella

[The following note was added to the preceding.]

I hope you will plan to stay longer than Sat. if possible. Be sure & bring your last letters. I will be at the Depot Thurs. night.  
Rowland

Clara Davis & Sam Merrick are here, boarding at Mr Luce's & staying with Sarah most of the time. She is engaged to Edw. Abbott, Mr Jacob Abbotts youngest son.

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2235 7/24/1864      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2185

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[36]

Augusta July 24th 1864.

Dearest,

I have received two letters from you since I wrote, dated July 12th and 16th. You had crossed the Chat'ee since and was at Power's ferry. Your last letter came through in eight days, next to the last in nine days. I would like to know where you are this morning. I fear I have not written you since last Sunday morning, just one week ago this hour. I sent Julia and her children to church. I stay with Chancy. We have only Sunday School in the vestry. I realize more and more what a loss the old church is to this place. I fear the people dont feel generous about this time.

I met Mr Gilbreth a few days ago on the street. He said he had been writing, that I was away. I suppose he thought I was intending to remain with the children. I dont know but I may go to Farmington this week. Col. Gilmore went from here yesterday morning, spent one night here, came to consult Dr Hill. He went to see him and when he came back he told me that the Dr thinks he has a cancerous trouble, could do nothing for him, gave him a little medicine, told him to eat light food, that the passage would finally close up. He seems very feeble indeed, and so very thin. When Chancy sees a picture of an old gentleman now he calls it "Grand-pa". He speaks it differently from "Papa" although he cannot speak it distinctly. He enjoys walking very much.

Guy, Grace, Jamie and Isabella were all at Mothers last Friday when Col. Gilmore came away. Guy has been to Farmington and to Bath, he writes me. They are having a good time I know. I begin to want to see them. Guy has three more weeks before school begins. I dont think he will want to come back till the very last day of vacation. I shall take Jamie on my way to Farmington if I go, and let Isabella have a rest without him. I dont think I have told you that Joseph was killed instantly, and not a prisoner. Isabella's brother Clark is home on a visit. Julia was glad to hear from Sam, Wash and Ann. Julia wants to tell Sam that "she and the children are well, and doing as well as heart can wish. Remember her to Wash and Ann. She would like to know if he has ever heard from her mother. She goes to meeting whenever she likes and enjoys it, says whenever he gets to sister Emmeline to tell her to come north."

My letter has been lying on my desk all day, and it is now six o'clock and the bells are ringing for the evening service. Chancy is walking about the library with an envelope off one of your letters. He is a very social little fellow, wants "mamma" to enjoy everything he has. We are having very warm weather and it's very dry indeed. We are constantly hearing of fires. As I look out now I can hardly see "Sandy hill" for the smoke that comes from the woods four miles from here, in the vicinity of the "Togus house".

I have just reread your last letter. I do not know how my letter got mailed in Boston. I gave a letter to Mr Wells, furniture dealer, as he was going to the Depot one morning. I was too late to take it to the P. Office, and maybe he was just starting for Boston.

How I would like to send you Chancy's picture, but you will have to get someone to run this machine faster than I can before everything that ought to be done can be. Julia is just as kind and willing as she can be. Chancy loves her very much. I cannot say I am sorry I have them. I can get along with everything, but clothing them. They wear out their clothes fast and do not know how to take care or mend. Julia does better in many things than when she first came. I dont mind the expense, but the time spent in eating and making. I am on the whole better off with her just now than without her. I have not heard the news to-day but it is from Gen. Sherman. Julia came home and said it was from "Gen Sherman to Gen Howard or from Gen Howard to Gen Sherman", and that is all she could remember besides "that the rebels have not evacuated Atlanta but that there is a battle there now." So you see, Dearest, I am in a state of anxiety to-night. I presume dispatches came this morning.

Capt. Stinson is not coming home, "is going to the front" he writes his mother. When this war is over and you at home, if this is ever to be, I know I shall be happy and thankful. Give love to Charlie.

Your own  
Lizzie

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2236 7/29/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2186

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters Army  
Department of the  
Tennessee

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[548]

Head Quarters Army Department of the Tennessee  
July 29th 1864

Dearest,

You will see by the papers that I have been assigned to the command of this Department and Army. It is indeed a very high compliment to me as I am junior to Generals Hooker & Slocum, but as matter of fact, it is an assignment to new duties & new responsibilities. The first day the 27th I received the army in motion from our extreme left & was obliged to displace the enemy & put it in position on the extreme right. We did not have time to get into position at night, so that early yesterday morning the movement was continued. We had hardly got into position before the enemy attacked us all along Gen. Logan's Corps (15th) and a little beyond the flank. My flanks gave back perhaps 30 paces. The enemy was repulsed at every point & even on the flank every inch of the ground recovered. I was about 200 paces in rear of the centre and I assure you for four hours the engagement was terrific. On one point and another & sometimes all along there was a continuous roll of musketry from 11 ½ a.m. till 3 ½ p.m. Our men had covered themselves with rails & old logs, hastily thrown together. We lost about six hundred in killed, wounded & missing, but the dead lay in great numbers in our front. All night the enemy's ambulances were carrying off their wounded. Poor fellows they were rushed into the fight without mercy. They lost a thousand where we lost a hundred.

My first engagement in command of the Army of the Tennessee has proven a success. I take the place of a commander very much beloved & very accomplished. It remains to be seen whether I shall be able to fill his place.

I had a letter from you three days since written while you were alone with Chancy. Jamie was certainly entitled to his "three hours" at Isabella's. Father seems to be very unwell. I hope Dr. Wiggin is wrong this time and that there is no cancer. The children will all be at home probably when this reaches you. Guy & Grace must have been much refreshed at Grandma's. I hope they are very well and that now they will have perfect lessons. I am sorry about the church. Give first 300 dolls and increase it 200 more if great difficulty is found in raising enough.

It is pretty warm weather here. Capt. Stinson has got back, came yesterday. I shall have him keep a journal till he gets strong enough for hard travels. He says he is well, but he is a shade or two whiter than his fellow soldiers.

Charles is detailed from the fourth Corps to report to me. So is Osborne & Capt. Beebe. The latter is Jeannie Grey's cousin. He is a beautiful young man - a modest, brave, christian gentleman. Charles broke off the correspondence with Jeannie, but I perceive he thinks a great deal about her still. She wrote me about Beebe and I was glad to have him. He was on the staff of Gen. Hazen. His health is not very good.

We have now little more extensive accommodations than I did have in the Fourth Corps. I wish you could look in upon our present camp. Many tents in a row with a hand-made awning along the front, made of bows, but the weather is too warm for you(?) and the enemy's guns too near.

Much love to all the children. May God bless & preserve you all.

Lovingly, Your husband  
Otis

---

2237 7/30/1864    *From:* E.W. [Eliphalet  
Whittlesey]

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2187

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110]

Brunswick July 30 '64

My dear General

A lull in my busy, noisy work of preparation for Commencement, gives me time to answer your last very welcome, & very interesting letter. You need not be told that I have kept my eye upon the Army of the Cumberland, as well as upon that of the Potomac. Your work has been as important, & as grand as that in Va. & now it seems likely to be crowned with earlier success. I do not see how you can do any more after the capture of Atlanta, for some weeks to come at least. For the Army must be very much in need of rest.

The state of public opinion at home is still good. The people are hopeful and firm. The new call for 500 000 men is well received, & a large number of recruits will be obtained without a draft. As many as possible will be enlisted in the disloyal States; & that will leave at home a few of the laborers needed to raise & manufacture supplies for the Army & keep the government in funds.

Fessenden's appointment to the Treasury department very quickly allayed the panic which Mr. Chase's resignation created; & the new Secretary has already made a good impression. We all feel the war now; & I rejoice in that. It may be necessary that we feel it more deeply yet. But I have strong faith that God means it all for good & not for evil.

It seems a long time since I laid aside the weapons of war. The year has been one of steady confining & rather wearing work. The term will close next week, & we send out a small class (about 30) to do good or evil in the world. Some of them will go at once into the Army.

Gen. Chamberlain is slowly improving, & his case is now regarded as very hopeful, but he will not be able to leave the Hospital for several weeks.

Wm Smyth, prisoner, escaped from the cars while on the way to Georgia, & after hiding some weeks, & walking seventy or eighty miles, was recaptured, & is now at Macon.

We mourn the loss of McPherson. Gen Grant is said to have wept like a child (or rather like a man) when his death was announced. The papers today state that you are to take McPherson's place. If so, may help be given you from above to do well the work of such a responsible position.

Mrs. Howard with Jamie & the baby call on us Thursday on her way to Farmington. She is looking well & the children are as fat and happy as need be. I was very glad to hear from her that Stinson is nearly well and about to rejoin you. Please give my hearty congratulations to him.

My regards also to Charles & tell him that I thank him for his kind wishes that I were with you, which I reciprocate.

My family are all well & send love with unchanged respect & love. Yours  
E.W. [Eliphalet Whittlesey]

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2238 7/30/1864    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2188

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
18 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Commanding Department of  
the Tennessee

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[145]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission  
18 Bank Street  
Philadelphia  
July 30 1864

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commanding Department of the Tennessee  
My Dear Sir,

I have no small pleasure in congratulating you upon your appointment to the command of the Department of the Tennessee, and trust that in your new relation to our noble soldiers and officers in the Army of the West that the same Divine help which has hitherto gone with you will still be present in all your arrangements and doings.

It is with much regret that I have omitted sending you copies of your address before the Commission at its Anniversary in January last, an occasion which I shall never forget. I send them now with the expression of my remissness in not sending them before and with the earnest hope that your soldiers will find in them something to remember and love – if they can be made to remember you any better than they do. Enclosed please find invoice.

I have sent this to you by Rev. E. P. Smith's hand – our Field Agent for Tennessee. You must not forget, whenever the commission can help you in Publications, Stores, &c, to call, without delay, upon Rev. Mr. Smith, who will be more than happy to aid you, in every possible way.

I have the honor to be, General, yours very truly and faithfully,  
Geo. H. Stuart  
Chairman

P.S. You will be glad to know that over 50,000 copies have been distributed amongst our soldiers of your address.

[Enclosed Invoice]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Office – No. 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia, July 30 1864  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 13 Bank St., Philadelphia  
Jos. Patterson, Treas., Western Bank, Philadelphia  
Rev. W. E. Boardman, Sec'y, 13 Bank St., Philadelphia

Invoice of One Package sent by United States Christian Commission, to Major General Howard Commanding Army of Tennessee  
Care U.S. Christ'n Com'n. Nashville. Tenn per Adams Express  
Freight: Paid  
No. 19775    1 Pkg    500 Major Gen Howards Address  
Geo H. Stuart    CCC  
per Wm <>

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2239 7/31/1864    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2189

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[38]

Augusta July 31st 1864

Dearest,

Your last news from me before this letter was probably a message to you in a letter written to Capt Gilbreth last Thursday by his father. I was preparing to go to Farmington when they called. I took Jamie, Chancy and Julia and went by the train last Thursday. I called at Prof. Whittlesey's, saw him but Mrs W. had driven to Harpswell to dine with some friends and I did not see her. I then drove to Mrs Sands, found Alice at home but Hellen had just gone with her baby two months old, to join her husband at St Johns - going to Liverpool.

We went on from Brunswick at half past two, and when we got to Leeds, found Grandpa and Grace. I took her into the car to see Jamie and Chancy and put her out the other end of the car, giving her Guys ball that had been lost under a neighbor's wood-pile all summer, and a set of dishes &c for Grace. I did not see anyone Saturday when we came back.

Rowland met us at the Depot at Farmington with Mr Butler's horse & carriage took us all over together. Julia and Alice were delighted to see each other. Alice likes "the family" very much but dont want to stay in Farmington alone. Julia dont want her to come to Augusta. She dont like her Alice saying that she wishes she was back in Tenn.

Miss Clara Davis is spending the summer in Farmington with little Sam Merrick. She is now engaged to Jacob Abbott's youngest son. I heard from Blanche and quite a number of friends through her. I liked her. She called to see me with "Aunt Salucia" Friday evening.

I went with Rowland, Ella, and the three children to Wilton to see Mrs [Sarah (Hiscock)] Woodman. She is looking quite well, fear she does not go out enough for her own good. She has a fine healthy looking boy [Cony Warren Woodman, b. 15 July 1864], looks a little like his father – dark blue eyes, dark hair.

Sarah Sargent with little Otis came up after tea Friday. The evening was passed alone with Ella. Rowland held a prayer meeting near the Depot. I had the pleasure of reading Charlie's long affectionate letter to Ella. I hope he wont object, dated the 17th inst, day after your last one. I have been congratulated on your promotion by Mr Eaton on the train when the news first came (in the Lewiston Journal). Then Mr Blaine at Brunswick (on his way to Harpswell), wife and children were already there. Gov. Coburn in the cars for Augusta, and Gov Morrell while seated in the carriage outside the Depot. I asked the latter if you would remain in the field the same - all seem to think you will - "maybe with Hd. Qrs at Chattanooga".

I wrote the above yesterday and it is now Monday evening nine o'clock. I received your letter dated the 23d to-day, written the day after Gen McPherson was shot. He is a great loss. I read a letter to-day written by a gentleman in Nashville, Mr. Albert Hill, Mrs Bosworths brother, written at the time of the funeral services, giving an account of the procession. He wrote with tearful eye - a very touching account. And now before this letter reaches you, you will have taken his place. May God still be your kind Protector. Mrs Stinson has had a letter from Harry. I suppose he is with you before this.

I shall not know how to direct letters – shall send to the 4th Corps until you tell me.

I left this letter unfinished to look for an envelope and as I could not find any I left this letter and wrote to Ella as I found an envelope already addressed to her. I got a letter from you today dated the 20th June. Wonder where it has been all this time.

Jamie has been sick since he came home - vomiting &c as he was before we went to Farmington last summer. He has been playing with his "jack straws" to-day, has not had them before for some time. He has been amusing himself now with a chair and his reins, but Chancy will "trouble Jamie", and he wants me to put him to

sleep. I should not have thought to write about him but he came from my room to this table and resting his head on his hand (he has had no sleep this afternoon) and said "I guess pa-pa will bring Jamie a little cedar chair "after" he comes home". I have given Jamie a book to show Chancy the pictures, and they are seated on the floor, both engaged and naming the pictures.

I will finish my letter while I can. I forgot to say that it is Wednesday nearly tea time now.

"Jamie wants to go to see Grandma again." He has not much appetite. Chancy is a pig. I am quite well, enjoyed my stay in Farmington. It is a rainy day to-day but everybody is glad to see the rain. I would like to write a great deal more, but I dont think I can now. I ought to write to Grace and Guy and have the letter go by tomorrows mail.

Love to Charlie. I was called away from my letter to see a gentleman in the parlor, and I was surprised to find Uncle Edward there. His son came home wounded wants his furlough extended - shot through the left shoulder - the wound heals too fast outside. Cousin Susan is home with three children.

Jamie has had a good time this evening.

Yours as ever  
Lizzie

I have not been away from Chancy at all.

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2240 8/1/1864      *From:* Unknown

*To:* Unknown

OOH-2190

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[5]

U.S. Military Telegraph

By Telegraph from Press [Aug] 186[4]

New York. Gunboat Ft. Morgan from Mobile 16 arrived. Our Gunboats & Iron clads are near Mobile but no attack been made.

St Louis 27. Official information still puts Prices main forces at Fredericktown with this advance at Farmington. The main body is estimated to 12000 strong principally Cavalry. The advance consisted of about 4000 all mounted. Light attacks were made on Pilot Knob & Ironton which were easily repulsed. Precise plans are yet undeveloped but he seems massing his forces in Arcadia Valley.

Gen Mower with strong force Cav & Arty is still moving northward. Considerable <cadie> troops arriving Militia are responding to Call of the Commanding Genl.

A rope walk Corner gold and high streets burned last night & very extensive quantities used by Govt also consumed.

Sandy Hook Steamer City of Balto Liverpool fourteenth passed here. Spanish ministry resigned.

Grimes argues that the Chicago Convention will lead to peace.

Liverpool cotton slightly depressed Consols 88 ¼

Washington Navy Dept recd intelligence from Farragut of successful expedition up Fish River. He has removed 21 torpedoes.

New York Gold 195 ½

Commercial Washon special says several prominent Georgian Refugees now here are confident that some kind arrangement will soon be effected between Gov Brown & Gen Sherman whereby Ga will secede from the Confederacy.

30

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2241 8/4/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2191

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
Near Atlanta Ga.

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[563]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee  
Near Atlanta Ga. Aug. 4th 1864

Dearest,

I received a letter from you yesterday dated July 24th. It was ten days in coming. I feel very anxious about father. I did hope Dr Hill would have given him some encouragement, but it seems not.

Sam is always glad to hear from Julia. He says, he has not seen Julia's mother but heard from her & her sister Martha and that they were well. He has seen her brother 'Bob', working for a Captain in the 33d New Jersey. This Captain was wounded and 'Bob' went home with him. He was well and doing well.

I feel sorry about the church, & suppose this direct providence was to rebuke covetousness and I hope all the people will give liberally to rebuild the house of the Lord.

I am now in charge of one of our large armies. I hardly realize the fact. The aggregate in the Department & out of it belonging to the Army of the Tennessee is some 140,000 but the proportion at this point is quite small. But it is dangerous to tell one's wife any secrets because of the accidents which sometimes put letters into the Enemy's hands.

The country about Atlanta is very woody. Our lines extend more than half around the place at a distance off of a mile & a half or two miles. We are obliged to find the rebel lines and work up to them, but if the country dont get impatient we will get them out in time. Today may settle the matter. Gen. Schofield came to my right yesterday. He continues to shew himself an able officer and a warm friend to me. Gen Hooker, dissatisfied with my promotion, has left the field. Perhaps I should say dissatisfied that he was not assigned to this command.

I hope you will not be too anxious. A kind Providence has had us in His keeping ever. You will have to learn a lesson that I have been slow in digesting, that is to work by the hands of others.

I am very well now in every respect. Charles has been a little unwell, but is now better. I am glad the children have had so good a time at Leeds. I can imagine the abundance of Jamie's quiet joy as he looks at the lambs and other objects of interest at Grandpas. It must have made you feel quite young to have been so long with only Chancy for a companion. Gracie and Grandma must have had a much joy and who knows how much knitting & sewing Gracie learned. Guy seems to have traveled & can doubtless write papa about Farmington, Leeds & Bath. Give them one & all papa's love.

In a few days this campaign will probably be settled, and we shall see what then will follow.

Pray for me, darling, and be happy. With Gods blessing we shall be reunited before long. Give my kindest regards & sympathies to Isabella.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2242 8/5/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2192

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,

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[564]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
August 5th 1864

Dearest,

There will be some days probably in which I cannot write you from location, but am hoping for the best of results. Chas took a hasty letter to you, on his way to Louisville, Memphis &c. News from father up to 17th is terrible - can eat no more. God bless him.

I have blotted my page & am sorry but will let it go this time.

I am very well, so is Capt Stinson & Gilbreth. I heard from Chas. at Chattanooga on his way. He was well. Rowland thinks Grace rightly named. She is so gentle & loving. She had visited him & he was going to take her back.

I cannot realize that I shall see my father no more. Has'nt he been a good father to me always! But it is perhaps better that I should not see him since his change. I wish I could see you all tonight, Lizzie, Guy, Gracie, Jamie, Chancy. Are they all well & happy?

I heard from you thru Blaine. He warmly congratulates me on my promotion, reputation &c and argues for me a Brigadiership in Reg. Army. I am not at all concerned provided we are successful in preventing a destruction of the Republic but I shall be favored enough in the Army & out of it. Now is the time to think only of putting forth our whole strength. God has indeed given me a hard task to perform, but I am still hopeful, that he will bring us through the fire purified & blessed.

I see the rebel sympathizers in the North are actually organizing & arming themselves. I am thunderstruck with the audacity & wickedness of these men, but am glad to see the cloven foot. It is far better to deal with an open enemy than a secret traitor.

Give my kind regards to our friends at Augusta & much love to the little ones at home. My heart is often with you. I do not feel burdened with care & anxiety, but have become used to my work. I shall however rejoice with exceeding great joy when we may see no more of our poor fellows wounded. May God have you in his holy keeping. Did you receive a check from Chattanooga?

Lovingly  
Otis

In haste

Sam is well tell Julia.

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2243 8/5/1864

*From:* Sarah J. McDonald

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2193

Coventry

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[120]

Coventry Aug 5th /64

General Howard

Respected Sir

There is rumor that my husband Edwin McDonald is dead. It came from a soldier on the Potomac but I cannot put confidence enough in it to believe it & I thought you would know wether he was living or not. I have not heard from him but once since he was wounded & that was the next week after he was wounded & you will confer a great favor to forward a few lines for I feel very anxious to hear from him.

Yours Respectfully  
Sarah J. McDonald

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2244 8/10/1864 *From:* H.M. Halleck

*To:* Col C H Howard

OOH-2194

Wash'n

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Western Union Telegraph Company

To Col C H Howard  
Augst [10?] 1864  
By Telegraph from Wash'n

Troops must not be taken from the Mississippi River without first communicating with Genl Sherman & Genl Canby both understand.

H.W. Halleck  
M G & C

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2245 8/10/1864

*From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2195

A.A. Provost Marshals  
General's Office,  
Hartford Connecticut

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[117]

A.A. Provost Marshals General's Office,  
Hartford Connecticut,  
Aug 10th 1864

General

It was with much pleasure, that I learned of your assignment to the command of a Department. I only write to congratulate you, and to express my gratification that the merits of a personal friend, and the services of a brave and Christian Officer have been acknowledged and rewarded.

May the blessings of God attend you, and the grace of our Lord and Savior be multiplied and increased in your heart.

I also desire to thank you for your great kindness to me. I owe my present standing in the army to you. I shall never cease to remember your kind instruction and advice.

Please remember me kindly to Col. Howard.

Yrs. Very sincerely  
F.D. Sewall

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2246 8/11/1864

*From:* Nelson A. Miles  
Brig Gen US Vols

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2196

Hd. Qrs. 1st Division  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[118]

Hd. Qrs. 1st Division 2nd Corps  
August 11th 1864

Dear General:

I am delighted to learn by the papers that you have been assigned to the command of the Department & Army of Tennessee, and allow one who has the highest esteem for you, both as a General-benefactor - & friend to congratulate you on receiving such a command.

I presume you have learned ere this that I have received the promotion for which you kindly recommended me. My rank dates from May 12th – the battle of Spotsylvania where my brigade was the first to go over the Enemies works in the assault and capture of twenty pieces of artillery and about four thousand prisoners by the 2nd Corps. General Barlow is at present absent on account of the death of Mrs Barlow, the loss of his wife is a severe blow to him.

The old Division & original Corps are very much changed since you were here. I think I am about the last of the old officers. Very many have fallen in this campaign. Poor Harry McKean my most intimate friend was killed at Coal Harbor.

General I would like very much to have a command under you - although I have, I think the best brigade in this army, (of eight regiments at present only twenty-one hundred strong) yet I would much rather serve under you than any other General.

If there is any command, or position, for which you think me qualified to fill in your army I should be most happy to be assigned there. Hoping that this may find you well, & to hear from you soon, I remain

Very Truly Your Obt Servt  
Nelson A. Miles  
Brig Gen US Vols

[Written on back]  
Nelson A. Miles  
Brig Genl U.S.V.  
Aug. 11 1864

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2247 8/11/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2197

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
Near Atlanta Georgia

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[56]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee  
Near Atlanta Georgia Aug. 11th 1864

Dearest,

Since I last wrote you we have been digging up nearer & nearer to Atlanta. The city is near by and can be seen from various points. The country around Atlanta is almost a wilderness, and very rough. The rebels have a single line of communication left to them, which, by forts & intrenchments, they have thus far managed to protect. The news comes to us through Prisoners that Mobile is in our hands, which is very good if true. I was in hopes the campaign this year would commence by taking Mobile. Better late than not at all.

I heard from you en route to Farmington. Mother wrote that Grace had gone to see you as you passed through Leeds. I could imagine the meeting at the cars. Jamie is getting to be quite a traveler, already acquainted with Leeds & Farmington.

The news is now confirmed of our having full possession of Mobile bay, Forts Powell and Gaines having surrendered. I hope before this reaches you, we shall have better news still. The terrible conflict at Petersburg is sad to contemplate. God grant that this struggle may soon be over.

The rebels are now putting forth their utmost strength and bad men at the North are helping them all they can. It will require great fixedness of purpose and endurance on our part to carry the war on to a successful conclusion and I hope I do not forget that it requires also the blessing of God to make success real.

Gen. Hooker left the Army because I was assigned to this Department, so that you need not be surprised if my name is now and then associated with considerable abuse. I do not think the new responsibility will weigh very heavily upon me. At any rate I propose to take everything quietly, meet every difficulty as it comes and not anticipate unkind emergencies. I did feel worse than I meant to, when the Cin. Gazette said Chancellor's ville disaster, was due to my neglect. I think that came from a member of Gen. Hooker's staff. The commercial the next day kindly & <finely> took my part. I dont think Gen. Hooker will be foolish enough to attempt to raise himself by depressing me. It matters little to me, for I have only my own duty to do.

Capt. Stinson is perfectly well, so is Capt. Gilbreth & Charles. Capt Beebe, Jeanny's cousin has gone home sick. He was indeed a fine young man, able & & upright. He will probably be made Colonel of an Ohio regiment.

It is said Miss Hoffman of Phila when she saw the teleg'ic announcement of McPherson's death fell speechless and has been in a very bad state ever since. McPherson told me, he could'nt get time to go on & be married. She is with her mother in Baltimore. Her mother is secesh, her brother in the rebel army. She keeps the Union flag over the mantel in her room. God bless him and comfort her affliction.

Give much love to Guy. I must have a letter from him before long. I want him to love truth as he does his eye. Much love to Grace. She will be like her dear Mamma. Jamie and Chancy must have a kind word & a loving kiss from papa.

A great many big guns are making music for us, but there is no battle.

I commend you all to God's holy keeping.

Lovingly,

Otis

We hear from home often thru Dellie. We are very anxious about Father.

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2248 8/13/1864    *From:* J.G. Blaine

*To:* Maj. Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2198

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[119]

Augusta Me.  
13th Aug / 64

My Dear Genl

Your promotion to the Command of the Dept and the Army of the Tennessee has been hailed by your friends and the public with profound satisfaction. Enviably as was your record before, you have added to it immensely by your masterly conduct in the trying & splendid campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. Not to detract from others I should say today that on popular esteem Grant, Sherman, Howard & Hancock stand a niche higher than any other General in our service.

As I rarely write you without asking a favor you will not be surprised to have me prefer a request of that kind now.

My nephew, Frank Stanwood, (son of Mr Jacob Stanwood) now a 1st Lieut 3d U.S. Cavalry is very desirous of more active service and would be especially gratified if he could have a place on your staff. I feel the most profound interest personally in the matter, & if you could find it in your power to give him a place with volunteer rank of Capt or Major, you would be conferring an inestimable favor upon me.

He is a good officer - well educated, brave and discreet and I should esteem it a great piece of good fortune for him to have the opportunity of pursuing his military training under your eye. Can you oblige me in the matter? Lieut S. is now at Carlisle Barracks but you could readily have him transferred.

I saw Mrs Howard today. She is very well.

Most Truly Yours  
J.G. Blaine [Senator from Maine and ex-Governor of Maine]

Maj. Gen. Howard

P.S. The last conversation I had with the President just prior to Adjut of Congress, he as good as told me in so many words that he intended appointing you a Brig. Genl in the Regular Army. If you desire it I presume it will not be long before you will be made a Maj. Genl in same.

JGB

Kind regards to Maj. Howard & Capts Stinson & Gilbreth of your staff.

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2249 8/15/1864     *From:* Charles Hamlin

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2199

Washington

Atlanta, Georgia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[121]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Inspector of Artillery, U.S.A.  
Washington,  
Aug 15 1864

Dear General:

In view of the appointment of a Surgeon Genl. the Medical Staff Corps have urged my cousin Lt. Col. A.C. Hamlin Medical Inspector U.S.A. to present his name to the President. The result of the movement seems to be this: the President will make the appointment and all that is needed is to swell the list of the names of those urging the appointment so that the President may be sustained in making it when the public presume he ought of course to give the nomination to Barner or to some one of the old flock.

Thirty Senators including Fessenden, Morrill, Wilson, Trumbull, Doolittle, Chandler, Cowan, all the Medical Directors of the West & South West, the Medical fraternity of Philadelphia & Norfolk, backed by every Vol Medical Officer of the Department, Secy. Blair, Prof. Bache, Henry Agassiz &c &c have given him letters.

In an interview with the President he told the Doct. to make his case as strong as he can. We have the impression that Hammond the Surg. Genl. will not be disposed of until after the November election but still it is desirable to have the matter determined as soon as can be.

Now a recommendation from you, Genl., will be of great weight with the President, of value to the Doct, and gratefully received by his friends, and if among your present arduous duties you can find time to enclose to me a letter to be added to the others named above I shall be deeply obliged.

I write you without the knowledge of my cousin.

I am General  
With respect  
Truly yr friend  
Charles Hamlin

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Atlanta, Georgia

P.S. Please give my utmost regards to Charley. Direct in care of Genl. A.P. Hane Inspector Arty U.S.A.  
C.H.

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2250 8/15/1864 *From:* Albert B. Otis

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2203

Belfast, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[123]

Maj. Gen. Howard:

I intend to enter the Cambridge Law School in two weeks.

If you have anything considerable for me to do, I will gladly defer my plan.

Yrs respectfully  
Albert B. Otis

15th Aug. 1864  
Belfast, Maine

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2251 8/17/1864      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2200

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39]

Augusta, Aug. 17th 1864

Dearest

It is now nearly tea time. I am waiting for Guy to bring the mail but as he has gone to the "Mill" also with a little boy and will not be back for some time I will begin the letter I wish to send by to-morrow's mail. I received your good long letter dated Aug 4th yesterday morning. It was a long time on the way. I oftener get them in nine days, and then once in a while a letter will get here in eight days. I was very glad to have you speak of yourself – your health. I am indeed glad and thankful that you are so well. I hope Charlie is quite well again.

Guy came home from Leeds last Friday in the train. He came alone. That same day Mrs Stinson and I took a ride to Winthrop. We went in season to take the cars for Lewiston, where we arrived about twelve o'clock. We walked to Dr Wiggins where we stopped a short time at the door. There we separated to meet again at three o'clock, at the Depot.

I called and dined at cousin Franks. She was away with her baby Grace, but Aunt Betsy was there and I was very glad to see her, and Uncle Alden [Whitman]. I visited Major Whitman and family – cousin Lucretia has five children. I heard from Aunt Lucy. She has entirely recovered her health. I was sorry not to have seen Uncle Hicks; he is not at all well. One of his knees troubles him and he is quite thin and lame. I met quite a number of friends at the Depot.

Dr. and Mrs Wiggin send kindest regards to you. We said 'good bye' to them when the train arrived and returned to Winthrop where we found the carriage and after a pleasant ride of two hours arrived at Mrs Stinson's door, where I found Guy, who arrived at four o'clock, and Jamie, waiting for a ride. That night I did not get to sleep till two o'clock. I was so very tired, almost sick the next day.

Sunday morning I went to Church after making a strong effort to start. I am as well now as before I started. Mrs S. has gone away for two or three weeks.

Guy says that he would like to have stayed longer at Grand-ma's. I do not think he comes home very well. He seems to have exercised to much for his strength. His leg aches as when he has been running very hard. The leg the carriage ran over at Auburn, the same day you were wounded. He commenced his school last Monday. He has Geography, Arithmetic, Reading, Spelling, French exercises, and is beginning Latin and not English grammar, with drawing and writing. I think this full enough for him. I tell Guy I will study Latin with him. The school seems pleasant to him and I hope he will have a good report this term.

Grace does not say anything about coming home and I can just as well let her stay through the warm weather. Mother is quite alone and I presume prefers to have her stay as long as she is contented.

Thursday morning. I have only Julia and her children with me now. Isabella went home yesterday to go to school. Now if I only had an old maid friend to come and stay with me for company I should be all right. I get so lonely. Uncle Edward's wife has a sister Mrs Jackson living with them. I am going to write to her, asking her to come and stay with me. I dont feel that Chancy needs a great deal of care, but there ought to be two where there are so many children to wait on. Isabella is an excellent girl, but I would as soon have some one else. She may come back, in ten weeks, or after school. She would rather come here than go anywhere else away from home.

I am anxiously waiting for you to get through at Atlanta, and at the same time wondering where you will then go. I had a visit from William Merrick one morning last week. I presume he is now at Farmington. I must ride down to Hallowell and see if any of the family are there. I have not been down since Rowland & Ella were here. I received a package of money by express last week. I want this letter to go this morning but I fear it will not get to the P.O. as Guy has gone to school. I try to have breakfast earlier than I have been in the habit of

having it. The children wake about six and then we get up. I have to go to bed earlier in order to do so, but it is well I do for I have injured my eyes reading, writing, and sewing so much by gas light as I have the past year. I dont think I am worth much anyway. I wish it was not so far out to mothers, so I could see her often. Sometimes I wish you would let me break up house-keeping and again I wish you had a permanent position somewhere where I could be with you.

Evening.

Dearest. I left my letter unfinished this morning and will now almost ten o'clock add a few lines. Mrs Wingate was here this afternoon said Aunt Fanny is with her, will visit me next week and will go to Leeds. Dellie wrote Mr Wingate on business and said his father failed very fast. Guy said he got sick town-meeting day, but that was all I could learn by him. Guy wished to write you, but night came too soon for him.

Love to Charlie and yourself from your own  
Lizzie

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2252 8/17/1864    *From:* Th. J. Wood

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2201

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 3rd  
Division, 4th Army  
Corps  
Near Atlanta, Ga

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[122]

[Letterhead]

Head Quarters 3rd Division, 4th Army Corps  
Near Atlanta, Ga, Augt 17th 1864

Dr Genl:

I avail myself of Genl Hazen's going to you leaving today to report for duty to send you a few words of greeting, salutation, and congratulation.

I have been anxious since you left us to make you a visit, but, though we have not been doing much, have not felt authorized in the attenuated condition of our lines and the possibility that we might at any time be called on for some service, to go so far from my post of duty. I trust you will find ample reason in this explanation for my not having called to offer you my congratulations in person on your elevation to a higher command, and to assure you of my hearty gratification at the distinguished success which has so far attended you in your new position. Please accept them now.

You have my humble, but sincere, earnest prayers for the continuance of your good fortune, with the supplication that you may be blessed with health and the capacity to render much valuable service in the future to our country. And having rendered such service, may you receive, in ample measure, the reward so dear to a true soldier - the acknowledged approbation of our countrymen, and a large extension of your present well-earned reputation. "He who like the soldier suffers, should reap rewards as well."

I regret much losing Genl Hazen, but could not be guilty of the selfishness of interposing my convenience in the way of his advancement. So far from this, I not only cordially approved his application for the transfer, but did all I could to have it granted. I trust he may be able to render much useful, successful, and honorable service in the position to which he will be assigned. I will be glad to see you at my headquarters whenever you can find it convenient to call.

Pray present my respects to the members of your staff with whom I have acquaintance.

Very truly your friend,  
Th. J. Wood

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

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2253 8/18/1864    *From:* Ella [Howard]

*To:* My dear sister [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2202

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[566]

Farmington Aug 18th [1864] [The year was written in pencil.]

My dear sister

I should have answered your kind letters before, but some one has been sick, & I have been kept otherwise employed ever since I received them. Rowland has had two attacks of Summer Complaint the last of which has been pretty severe, & he is by no means well yet, though he went to Leeds this morning. He has not preached for two Sabbaths. Last night, Dell wrote that his father was growing rapidly more feeble, & that his stomach was entirely closed, so that he could swallow nothing, & could take nourishment only by injections of beef tea, & such liquids. Rowland wanted to see him very much, & though he was not really able to do it, went down this morning, lest he might defer it too long. Grace has been here two or three days, and went back this morning.

I have heard nothing from Mrs. Munger, and perhaps she has given up the idea of having Alice. I find in talking with Alice, that she feels very badly to think she may have to go away. She got the idea from the children some way, that I was going to send her to Leeds, & I found her crying about it, & took occasion to talk pretty plainly with her. She says she has been here so long that she don't like to go to a new place. I told her that so long as she did well I should never send her away, but that I could not get along any longer with her bad temper, & unless I could see that she was trying to overcome that, I couldn't keep her. I think if I can only have patience & firmness, for a year or two, that she will come out a good girl, but the ordeal seems rather severe, I confess.

I think Julia judges her rather too severely. I don't think there is any real bad, in Alice, only as any child would be led away by a "gay & festive" youth like John Ivory! And I don't believe but Julia put her up to talking about him too, for I have made particular enquiries of the girls at Bath, & I don't think she has ever mentioned him there, and she has never been willing to go out into the street at all, when there, even on the Common, with Dadie. It seems at present, as far as I can understand my duty, to be my duty to keep her - at any rate, as long as she continues to do well. When she wont do well, I shall have to let her go. I was quite surprised to find she wanted to stay. I am very much obliged to you for your kindness. I must say I don't want to hear the word "Contraband" mentioned!

How are the children now? Grace seems nicely, and very happy. Wm. Merrick & Sam are coming here tomorrow. He is at Rangely now, with the Abbott party. We were going, but Rowland was not well enough.

Julia's visit did Alice good I think. Rowland will write a line to tell you how his father is, after he gets back. Dadie is not very well. I have cut his hair, & he looks like a real boy now. Goodbye.

Your Sister  
Ella

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2254 8/19/1864 *From:* Lucia L. Curtis

*To:* Dear Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2204

Marshfield

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[40]

Marshfield Aug. 19th 1864

Dear Gen. Howard:

Can you with all your responsibilities listen a moment to a note from your cousin, Lucia Leadbetter, that was. I have been married nearly two years, and have always opposed my husband's going into the army on account of consumptive tendencies. He has, however, about decided to try it. Knowing nothing of military life he, of course, will have to commence as a private and I feel that the hardships may be too much. The thought has occurred to me that perhaps you can give him a better chance - a clerkship or something of the sort.

I believe him competent to fill a responsible place. He is a young man of good moral and christian character or I would not take this liberty. Should it be in your power to confer this favor will you oblige

Your affec. Cousin  
Lucia L. Curtis

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2255 8/19/1864 *From:* Elisha B. Curtis

*To:* Major Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2205

Marshfield, Mass.

Army of the Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[41]

Marshfield, Mass. Aug. 19th 1864

Major Genl. Howard  
Army of the Tennessee  
Sir,

With the introduction in the accompanying letter from my wife I beg to intrude upon your valuable time. I did not intend that she should ask a favor of you without first making plainly evident my character and business qualifications. To this end I sought to obtain a letter from E.S. Tobey Esq. I am unknown to him yet I doubt not he would willingly speak from the representations of men in high standing in the business community. Owing to his absence from home I could not procure his testimony. I have been connected as junior partner with a house on State St. for 5 or 6 years and am familiar with accounts, correct, and can execute any reasonable matters committed to my charge. Should you reply to this please address me at my home in Medford, Mass.

Very Respectfully  
Elisha B. Curtis

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2256 8/19/1864

*From:* A.C. McClurg  
Capt. & A.D.C.  
Head-Quarters 14th  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Before Atlanta, Ga.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2206

Comdg Army & Department  
of the Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters 14th Army Corps,  
Department of the Cumberland,  
Before Atlanta, Ga. Aug 19th 1864

General

General Johnson, who is still upon the extreme right with Genl Schofield, directs me to state to you that his entire front extending over two & one half (2 ½) miles is now held by three brigades only, the remaining brigades having been drawn out of line last night, under the orders of Genl Schofield, and sent to the extreme right as a support to the cavalry. This renders his line so extremely weak and attenuated that he deems it unsafe to attempt to move it forward unless he can send back troops to strengthen his left. This he hopes to do this afternoon. If so he will notify you and will cheerfully co-operate with you in your movement.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt &c  
A.C. McClurg  
Capt. & A.D.C.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg Army & Department of the Tennessee

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]  
McClurg, A.C.  
A.A.G. 14th A.C. Aug. 19th 1864

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2257 8/19/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-2207

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Near Atlanta Ga.

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[179]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Near Atlanta Ga. Aug. 19 1864

My dear Mother

We are very well this beautiful morning and the lines are comparatively quiet. I suppose Charles has told you all about my new command. These changes do not modify my duties much at present. It only gives a little larger command & hence more responsibility.

All your accounts from Father give me a great deal of anxiety on his account. He has always enjoyed such excellent health, that it seems hardly possible he can be so poorly. I hope things will take a better turn than the Drs. predict and that he will yet be well. Is he cheerful in spite of the depressing influence of his disease. He must now be looking up with a prayerful spirit to enable him to endure all things & be prepared for the rest of time & for eternity. Father never said much on religion to me. I hope in his heart he can rely upon his Saviour. God grant, if he cannot, that he may be able to do so.

Probably Guy & Grace will have left you by the time this letter reaches you. I hope they behaved well & afforded Grandma a great deal of happiness. Jamie seemed to be having an ill turn when Lizzie last wrote me. He was better, however, when she closed her letter, than when she began it and I presume it did not amount to much. We are West & Southwest of Atlanta, but the rebels do not seem much inclined to leave that famous city. They have had a force of cavalry on our R.R. but were driven off, and now repaired in less than two days. I hope there will be good news for you before this reaches you.

Give my kind regards to Roland & family, also to Oscar & family and Capt Turner. How is he. I expected to find Warren Lothrop in this Department, but think he is in St. Louis. Does his mother ever hear from him? How are Uncle Ensign & Laura and the baby? I am glad Dexter has reached home and hope by this time that he is completely well. Charles & I have written his new regimental commander in his behalf - as he is a very fine man & good friend of ours. I am hoping he will soon get him promoted. I left his name with the Governor with a request that he would remember him as one able & worthy.

I dont think Dellie's choice of Albany as a place for study a good one. I dont think much of Albany or Troy. The shrewdest lawyer & ablest in Troy was known to be a very immoral man and it now strikes me, I would rather go to any school in New England than there. Give my love to Dellie. If Rowland or Dellie should be drafted I should regret the fact that I have no Maine regiment in my Department. I will help them in getting substitutes provided they get good ones.

Give much love to Father. I hope this will find him well. Is George Bates at home? And how are they on the Hill? I would write you oftener, but Charles seems to write more easily. Harry Stinson is completely well and with us. I try to pray for you all daily, and very much need your earnest prayers in my behalf that I may ever act wisely and uprightly.

Your affectionate Son  
Otis

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2258 8/21/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2208

Hd. Qrs. Army of Tenn.  
Before Atlanta Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[566]

Hd. Qrs. Army of Tenn.  
Before Atlanta Ga.  
August 21st 1864

Dearest,

Charles has been sent to the Valley of the Mississippi via Louisville on duty and I am going to send this note by him to be mailed as far north as possible. I hope you are very well this beautiful Sabbath morning. The Episcopal church is probably the nearest for you during the interregnum in your own. Perhaps Mr McKenzie has found a place to preach in.

The enemy appear to be firing quite rapidly with Artillery this A.M. on Gen. Schofield's front & to our right. I was in hopes to have a quiet Sabbath. Last Sunday we had services at 5 P.M. & had hardly got them under weigh before the enemy opened on our lines with musketry & artillery. The Chaplain came to me to ask if he should close. I told him to go on but to be brief. A novel way of shortening sermons. We had a very pleasant service in spite of the rebels. Our lines are close together, so that the men can fire in many places from one to the other and firing does not always indicate a battle.

An old lady who has a place as nurse in the 16th Corps Hospital came in to see me the other day & said as she sat trembling in my tent "what a battle there must be going on" but it was simply a cannonade such as we often have without results.

I read a letter from Rowland & one then from Dellie last night. Father seems to be growing poorer. I feel anxious & sad about him. I wish something could be done. I hope Jamie got over his ill turn without getting much sick. Rowland mentioned his being unwell after he got home & so did you. In my new duties I do not find thus far any increase of labor. I offered to make Capt. Stinson Major & judge advocate, but he prefers to remain as he is. He & Capt Gilbreth are well.

Guy and Grace must begin & write me. I am very anxious to have them. I will answer every letter as soon after I receive it as I can. Does my black eyed boy remember me. Rowland thinks Chancy very amiable. Give much love and many warm kisses to the children. Charles is waiting for the letter. God bless you my darling.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2259 8/22/1864     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2209

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
Chattanooga

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[125]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee  
Chattanooga Aug 22, 1864

My dear brother

I arrived here about 8 P.M. today after a good many delays. Came through with a Regt. of 4th Corps going out of service, so I was pretty safe. The Conductor was very polite giving me his blanket & place in the Caboose. I took supper with Gen McArthur - who feels that his command is hardly adequate especially to protect from Marietta to Vinings. I shall leave here tomorrow at about one P.M. I found Capt. Monroe A.A.G. with whom I took supper. Capt. Norton was making a call & has not yet come in. I was over to Hd. Qrs. A of Cumberland this evening & saw Capt. Cist. He says Gen. Steadman is going up the R.R. towards Knoxville with some 4000 men tomorrow morning in hopes to catch Wheeler who is reported between the Hiwassee & Little Tennessee & unable to get out on acct of rise of water. I guess he will manage to get out however when he finds Steadman in pursuit. Steadman is to have some of John E. Smith's troops.

Cist says people hereabouts are much disgusted at Hooker & Palmer. He says also that you have left behind you in the Army of the Cumberland the best of impressions. I am rather pleased to hear of Gen. Jeff C. Davis' success but sorry Gen. Wood gets nothing.

Everything is orderly here. Capt. Monroe expects a Leave.

While I think of it I will mention Sladen's case, 1st - His name should go on the Hd. Qrs rolls for extra pay - entitled to 4 cts per day at Hd. Qrs. Geographical Deptmt & Sladen's mother is dependent upon him for support. It will be a great help. 2nd/ I hear that the clerk now in A.A.G. Office (the red-haired boy) is a 3 month's man & goes away soon, if so & it will insure Sladen's promotion as he already knows a good deal about the business. If you can spare him sufficiently he might at least spend a part of his time there. If we could get him a commission in the 33d or any other Regt, it would do just as well & better as then you could always keep him for your own individual use.

I am rather sleepy. Dont think Gen. Steadman makes so good a Post Commander since he has combined the District. Many drunken soldiers & not altogether as I like here in Chattanooga.

I feel very anxious to hear about Kilpatrick. Please write or let some of the young men (Capt Stinson) to Memphis. I will at least get it on my return if I go to Vicksburg.

Col. Morgan and his negro troops got great credit at Dalton.

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Capt. Cist would like to be on your staff.

Chattanooga  
Wed. 23d August 1864 - 6 a.m.

Incidentally I learned last night that Lt. Col. Bowers, Gen. Grant's Adjutant General held the commission of Judge Advocate of this Deptmt when he was assigned as Corps A.A.G with rank of Lt. Col. Capt. Monroe thinks he has never resigned that commission & in fact, as you know, he could not (unless he received some

other) without throwing him out of his Lieut. Colonelcy at the same time. I think this is the secret of Capt. Hickenloper's not getting the appointment as Judge Advocate. And until Lt Col Bowers resigns it will be useless to apply for any one to receive the commission. I am inclined to think Lt. Col. Fullerton would like to join you in that capacity - holding his com. as Maj. & A.A.G. but doing the Judge Advocate duty. Or if for the best there is Col. Sewall, also already holding a commission. Fullerton told me he should leave the 4th Corps & if he could not join you thought he would get a place at Washington. If he would like it, knowing you so well & you him & being at once available, I feel as though it would be wise to give him that duty until there is a vacancy to which some one not in the service can be appointed.

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

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2260 8/24/1864      *From:* CW Asmussen

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2210

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters  
Twentieth Corps,  
Assistant Inspector  
General's Office

Comdg. Dept. of Tennessee

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[128]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Twentieth Corps,  
Assistant Inspector General's Office  
August 24! 1864

General,

I have made an application for an appointment as Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers, basing it upon the following ground:

"Holding a commission as captain of a company, which will be mustered out of the service in a very few months, I would ask for an appointment as Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers, to enable me to remain in the Inspector Generals Department, in which I have served so long, it being necessary to have a commission in the Army or Volunteer force, before I can thus be assigned. I make this application, as I do not desire to leave the service, which necessarily I must, when the company is mustered out, and I ask for this appointment to enable me to remain in that particular branch of the service, to which I have devoted nearly two years."

"Referring to the enclosed recommendations as well as to officer, under whose immediate supervision I have served, I remain  
&c &c"

Will you please send me pr. bearer the promised recommendation to accompany this document? I have the promise of a strong endorsement at Dept Hd. Qrs. Cum. I also ask you to speak for such an endorsement for me at Genl. Shermans.

Awaiting your answer pr. "Boug", I remain, General,

Your obedt servt  
CW Asmussen  
Lt C of all Insp Genl  
20th Corps

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg. Dept. of Tennessee

[Written on the last page]  
Lt. Col. C.W. Asmussen  
Aug. 24th 1864  
Answered

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2261 8/24/1864     *From:* Tayler Lewis

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2211

Union College  
Schenectady

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[127]

Union College Schenectady  
Aug 24 1864

Maj Gen Howard  
Dear Sir

Your former kindness makes me bold to ask another favor of you on behalf of my son Capn Charles F Lewis. He is now home, suffering from the effects of a chronic <hemrhoid> and a sun stroke which he received near Dalton. After being in the hospital a short time, he went back & was in the severe engagement on the 20th of July under Geary. His health after that demanded some change, and so he returned home. He is now better, and is longing again for the military life. I have made the strictest enquiries after my dear boy, and find in all things, a favorable record. Although barely 20 years old he has seen two years hard service. He was badly wounded in the arm at the battle of Chancellorville, where Col Peissner fell. He afterwards went with you to Cumberland army, had a share in the fighting in the fall near Chattanooga, was with you in your East Tennessee campaign and has been in most of the severest fighting since the army started in May for Atlanta. He was at Buzzards Roost, Resacca, Dalton, and in the battle of the 20th July. He was with Col Lloyd of the 119th when he fell.

My son has since received a commission as Major, one in the 178th, and again in the 119, the regiment to which he belonged and which Col Peissner raised. In both cases the regiments were so reduced as to make the commission of no actual avail to him.

He is desirous now of obtaining some position on a Generals staff, where there would be equal exposure in battle, and less of health. It is my strong desire that he should succeed in this, since military life seems to be a passion with him, and I cannot persuade him into my own taste for books & study. Could there be such a position on your own staff, it would greatly please me, and I know of no other place for him that would make me so content with his being in the army. Or could he obtain, through your influence, some similar position elsewhere. I have made sacrifices, heavy ones, in this most righteous cause, but I am astonished at the spirit displayed by our young men. Purer patriotism, I think, never existed than in this ardent boy of mine; and I feel quite confident that he would not dishonor any effort you might make for him.

I endeavored, three years ago, to get him a position at West Point; but my politics were not Democratic enough to suit our member of Congress. I hope my son's two years hard service, may compensate for the want of such military training as he might then have received. I hope, too, it may not be deemed out of place, in urging such a request as I am now making, to state that my own father was in the Revolutionary War from Bunker hill to Yorktown, and I wish Charles to inherit the Cincinnati diploma.

Pardon me for troubling you with so long a letter and believe me  
Yours with high respect and esteem  
Taylor Lewis

Maj Gen Howard

[Written on the back of the letter]  
Taylor Lewis  
Union Col. Schenectady N.Y.  
Aug 24th 1864

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2262 8/24/1864    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2212

Galt House  
Louisville Ky

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126]

Galt House  
Louisville Ky  
Aug 24 1864

My dear Brother

I will send a few lines tonight although I have no answer as yet from Gen. Halleck. The telegraph operator said he would send it at once and that was two hours ago. I found that there was a rule that the telegrams to the Departments at Washington be prepaid, so I prepaid that one – amounting to \$43.05. I can get the money of the Qr. Mr. Dept when I return. If I get my pay here, I shall have funds enough.

I saw Kiensle at Chattanooga & found he had been waiting several days for transportation. Capt. Mourn told me of a good deal of trouble he had had about transportation so I went to see Capt. Smith A. Q. M. I found him (Smith) gentlemanly & he said that there were no privileges granted to the Army of the Cumberland in those matters not granted also to the Army of the Tenn. and that it was certainly false that your order was not as good with him as Gen. Thomas!

One important fact entre nous, Capt Mourn A.A.G. Deptmt Tenn. at Chattanooga has evidently had a quarrel with the Army of the Cumberland people. I could tell you all that was said in the matter by Smith & by Mourn himself but it is not worthwhile to write it. If I were you I would allow Capt. Mourn to have the Leave I wrote to you about. In this way without censuring him in matters in regard to which it is doubtful if he was much to blame, the way to have everything go smoothly between the two Departments may be provided. I do not think it advisable that the Officer at Chattanooga have the power to give your orders for transportation & other matters except under certain general specified rules.

Capt. Smith has written instructions direct from Gen. Sherman – a copy of which ought to be furnished you.

I feel very desirous that in your future arrangement of these things that you will not refer to my report in the presence of Col. Clarke but that you act as if you knew the state of affairs & without giving your source of information.

Capt. Smith said Kiensle should go the first car that offered & seemed astonished that Kiensle with such an order had been compelled to wait. We fortunately (Norton & I) reached Nashville in season to take the morning train for this place. I have mailed Gen. Sherman's letter & those you gave me.

I searched for McDonald & found that he entered Hospital No. 2 at Chattanooga June 26th & they have no further record. They seemed somewhat chagrined that they could not account for him & were to continue the search & report to Capt. Monroe who will send to you. I do not believe they will find any record and I think the matter ought to be reported to Dr. Cooper.

Report here that the Rebels have Cumberland Gap. I think it very probable. I will get away tomorrow.

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

If you have any further orders or will write me a letter, you might direct Care of Capt Miller Galt House Louisville Ky or Care Gen Washburn Memphis Tenn.

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2263 8/25/1864     *From:* N. T. Stratton

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2213

Mullica Hill N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[129]

Mullica Hill N.J. Aug. 25, 1864

My Dear Genl

I was highly gratified on reading your letter to Col. Buell in regard to the lamented Genl Harker. In behalf of his family I tender you thanks for this noble tribute to so brave and patriotic young officer. You state "that you do not know his family or you would try to write to some of them" I will mention that his eldest brother Jn. G Harker, a sister Mrs. Lt. Frank H Cobs, and a widowed sister Mrs Emma Norman (a member of my family) all reside here. A second brother Wm. is at Macomb Ill. Asa & James B Harker, merchants at Portland Oregon & the youngest sister Mrs Dr. Wm. K Smith at Salem Oregon. It would no doubt be very gratifying to all of them if they could get but a line or two from you in regard to the Genl. but especially may I ask you to write to Mrs Smith. The Genl. had educated her and she loved him so dearly. I have just received letter from her acknowledging receipt of my Telegraphic Dispatch concerning his burial.

Genl. Harker was an officer that I have always as proud of as I could have been of an only son.

During a service of four years in Congress from 51 to 55 a vacancy occurred in the Academy at West Point. I was solicited by many personal and party friends for the appointment but I had made up my mind to give the position to some orphan boy if I could find a proper one willing to accept of it. I had entertained the highest regard for the father of young Harker in his life time, for when a friendless boy he had taken me by the hand and spoken words of hope and encouragement and my mind turned to this youth then a promising boy of seventeen years – his father and mother were then dead. The position was offered to him and accepted with many thanks. How well he deserved the position your noble letter most fully proved.

When the telegraph announced his death, I took the earliest opportunity to obtain his body. While I was in correspondence with the Secy of War & Senator Sherman, I received dispatch informing me that Lt. Lamb of his staff was en route with his remains & to meet him at the Continental July 9. My family with Mr Jno Harker met Lt. Lamb at the appointed time and returned home with the remains same day. The funeral was held next day Sunday. He was buried in my family lot in the Episcopal Church burial Ground at the place beside my father & mother. I send you a slip from our County paper containing a notice of the career of young Harker. It speaks the feelings of the community where he formerly lived and was so much loved.

I had kept up a regular correspondence with him since his connection with the service and was always anxious and willing to aid him in any way in my power. When after the Battle at Murfreesboro his superior Officer joined in recommending him for promotion being in Washington attending to my son Capt Stratton who had lost a leg in the service. I called upon Mr Lincoln & stated to him the history of this brave young man saying that he had no personal & political friends to press his claims and away from his native state he could not command if disposed to do so the influence so much required now a days to obtain promotion – but that I only asked him to consult the Official Reports and see what he had done. The President said that if the statements I had made in regard to him should appear to be correct he would ask Genl Halleck to report the same to him and a commission would be made out for him as soon as there was room.

It was for a long time delayed after the President had sent the nomination in to the Senate. I had called the attention of our Senator Tom Eyck & also Senator Sherman to it on the 4th Apl. & on the 7th the confirmation was made. Senator Sherman always wrote of Genl Harker in terms of the highest regard and no one more deeply regrets his early death.

I had charge of his financial matters here and had taken the liberty to say to Lt. Lamb in the absence of any instructions from his brothers on the Pacific Coast that any disposition of his property or effects there which his judgment would suggest would be satisfactory in my opinion. I expect to receive some definite instructions in a very short time. It may be that he has left a will, but of this I have no information. Near a year ago I lend \$900 to his brother Asa. The amount was near \$200 over what was then in my hands but he expected to make a

remittance he said in a short time. I understood him to say that he had made some arrangement with his brothers in case he should fall in battle in regard to his property.

I should be pleased to have a letter from you if you find leisure.

I am dear Genl. Very Truly yours

N. T. Stratton [Nathan Taylor Stratton, Member of U.S. Congress, 1851-54]

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

[Newspaper clipping attached]

(We are obliged to our young friend, F. F. Patterson, Esq. For the following truthful and beautiful biographical notice of the young and gallant soldier, whose death the country mourns.)

#### THE LATE BRIG. GEN. HARKER

It was the writer's privilege to enjoy the early and continued acquaintance and friendship of the late Gen. Charles G. Harker, who fell in defence of his country mortally wounded, at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain in Georgia, on the 27th ult., while heroically leading his command in an assault on the enemy.

He was born at Swedesboro, Gloucester County, in 1835, and at the time of his death had just attained his 29th year. His father, the late Joseph B. Harker, Esq., died when the subject of this sketch was but six years of age, leaving a widow and large family of children unprovided for. His mother, a woman of great energy, independence and self-reliance of character, died in 1852.

The General, after his father's decease, continued to receive such advantages of common school education as offered in those days until he attained the age of 12 or 13 years, when he removed to Mullica Hill for the purpose of engaging as a clerk with Hon. N.T. Stratton in the mercantile business, and in whose employ he continued some four or five years, until he entered as a cadet the Military School at West Point. As a class mate during the early period of his life, I recall vividly those indelible traits of character in his youth which in later years stamped his brilliant though brief career as a Christian, Patriot and Soldier. Modest and unassuming to a fault; an innate sense of that true dignity and honor which abhors a mean or trivial action, with strong reverence for the pure and good, were traits which grew stronger and more fully developed each succeeding year of his life. At an early age he publicly connected himself with the church, designing, when circumstances should admit, to enter its ministry. As a student he joined to quick and comprehensive faculties that energy and perseverance which overcomes every obstacle in the way of acquiring information, and to which end he neglected no opportunity. The range of studies in his school days were limited, being only such as pertained to the common school system of our State at that time. His favorite study then was mathematics, in the progress of which he rapidly and far excelled all class-mates, establishing that discipline of mind which proved the foundation of his future success as a military scholar.

Shortly after his entering the employ of Mr Stratton, that gentleman was elected a representative in Congress, and near the close of his second term was called upon to recommend a suitable person from the District to fill a vacancy in the West Point Military Academy. Though pressed with numerous applications from influential constituents for the place, he wisely determined on recommending an orphan boy, if one deserving and fit could be found willing to accept the position. The appointment of young Harker suggested itself, and Mr. S. in a letter now before me thus alludes to it: "I had supposed and it was the opinion of many of his friends in the church at the time, that he would enter upon the duties of the ministry in early life, and therefore I did not expect that he would long desire to remain in the service after graduating. I went to see the late Brig. Gen. Totten, then in charge of the Topographical Bureau, and stated to him my wishes and told him frankly of my expectations of the future life and pursuits of Harker. He remarked, 'I am glad to hear you say he is a pious youth; it is the good fortune of our country to have many Christian soldiers and officers, and he will make a better soldier on that account.' He further remarked that "although the Government required the cadet on graduating to give his word that he would serve four years, yet it was not really desirable that all should remain in commission; that the object of the Government was to have diffused through the country a large number of well-educated men in military science, whom it could call to its assistance when needed." With this understanding the appointment was made and gratefully accepted.

He entered the Academy in 1854, graduating with distinction in 1858. Gen. Robert Anderson, one of the Board of Visitors appointed by the President to examine the class of that year remarked to the writer that he regarded young Harker as a model of a soldier and one who would distinguish himself should opportunity offer – a

prediction fully verified. Entering the United States Army as a brevet 2d lieutenant of the 2d Infantry July 1, 1858, he was promoted to a full second lieutenancy of the ninth Infantry on August 15, 1858. The regiment at the time was on duty at the frontier, where he at once joined it and remained until the summer of 1861, when he was detailed for special duty at a school of instruction for volunteers, in Ohio. While there, permission was obtained from the Secretary of War allowing him to accept the Colonelcy of the 65th Ohio regiment, and at the same time he was promoted to a Captaincy in the regular line. His brilliant subsequent career from that time to the day of his death is a matter of history which will be recorded and read with pride by every patriot. Joining General Buell's Army of the Ohio, he assisted in constructing the military road in Eastern Kentucky, participated in the battle of Shiloh and siege of Corinth, and commanded a brigade of the force that chased Bragg out of Kentucky. With his brigade he afterwards joined General Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland, and so greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Stone River, that his superior in command recommended his promotion to a Brigadier Generalship, which however, was not then complied with. At the close of the campaign he obtained a leave of absence for twenty days, enabling him to make a brief visit home. It was then he expressed to me an earnest desire to be connected with the troops of his native State, speaking proudly of what she was doing for the suppression of this rebellion, and how gallantly her sons on every field had maintained her honor. With his usual modesty, however, he was averse to his friends making the effort to have him promoted and transferred. At the expiration of his only leave during the war, he rejoined his brigade, assuming command as ranking Colonel, and took part in the Tennessee campaign. Under Gen. Thomas he again shone conspicuously at Chickamauga, receiving credit for being largely instrumental with that officer in saving the army. His command stood like a rock under his inspiring presence at the critical moment, the rebel hordes surging against it like the waves on the sea-shore, only to be broken and scattered. His undaunted courage, coolness and discretion is described by a witness to the occasion as rising to sublimity, so grand did he appear when aroused to his full strength. Though two horses were shot from under him he personally escaped injury, and upon a second and stronger recommendation from his superiors, he received his commission as Brigadier to date from that battle.

At Mission Ridge, on the 7th of May, he had his horse killed and was slightly wounded. At Resaca, on the 14th May, he was again slightly wounded and had another horse killed under him. In writing to a friend, after the fight at Resaca, he dates his letter on the march, near Kingston, Ga., May 22, 1864, and says: "You are aware that the great south-western campaign under Gen. Sherman is in progress. Thus far we have had several quite severe engagements, in which we have been entirely victorious. In the battle of Resaca, on the 14th inst., I was wounded, though not dangerously. I was struck on the leg by a shell, which exploded immediately after passing me, wounding Gen. Manson, and killing my own horse and that of one of my orderlies. It was quite a narrow escape for me. My leg, though slightly cut and painfully bruised, is doing well. I did not leave the field, though unable to exercise full command for about thirty-six hours. You and my family will be glad to learn that I can walk and ride very well now. I am able to discharge all my duties, and hope to be able to conduct my brave little command which has so nobly stood by me in so many severe engagements, through the great struggle or perhaps series of struggles which will doubtless ensue before the fall of Atlanta. The result of the great battle before us cannot be doubted, though all of us cannot hope to witness the great triumph which must crown the efforts of our magnificent army."

You have already published the particulars of his death in his last noble and heroic effort, which are too fresh and ineffaceable to need recounting. In his death the nation mourns the loss of as gallant and true a hero as has fallen on any field a sacrifice to this hell-inspired rebellion. His courage was no offspring of vanity or selfishness, but of that exalted type which called forth every power to the conscientious discharge of a duty; his known military skill and ability commanding the confidence and esteem of his superiors and making him the idol of his subordinates, who were ever animated by his voice as with electric fire, to any deed of daring. "Have we taken the mountain?" were his last words of inquiry as he lay insensible to the fearful carnage and din of war around him. Death had no fears for him, but he could not bear defeat.

His remains were forwarded to the scenes of his peaceful childhood for burial, the spot of all others he would himself have chosen for their resting place; and though no gorgeous pageantry followed them to the grave, a large assemblage gathered without notice to pay the last sad tribute of respect

F.F.P.  
Salem, July 15, 1864.

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2264 8/25/1864 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2214

Louisville

Cmdg. Army & Dept  
Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[346]

South-Western and Western Union Telegraph Companies

Louisville Aug 25 1864 7 P.M.

To Maj. Gen. Howard  
Cmdg. Army & Dept Tennessee

I mail to you Gen. Halleck's reply. He directs that I communicate with Gen. Canby before giving <any> orders from you. Shall I see Gen Canby & <give> him all the papers?

C.H Howard  
Lt. Col. & A.D.C.

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2265 8/25/1864 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Maj. Gen. Halleck

OOH-2215

Louisville

Chief of Staff

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[347]

South-Western and Western Union Telegraph Companies.

Louisville, Aug 25 1864 7 P.M.

To Maj. Gen. [Henry] Halleck Chief of Staff

Gen. Canby is at New Orleans It will take some weeks to communicate with him. Cannot Gen. Sherman's orders already given to Gen. A. J. Smith be carried out if not yet countermanded?

C.H. Howard  
Lt. Col & A.D.C.

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2266 8/26/1864 *From:* H.W. Halleck

*To:* Lt Col C H Howard

OOH-2216

Chf Staff  
Washington DC

Louisville, Ky

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
Louisville Aug 26th 1864

By Telegraph from Washington DC 11 am 186[4]  
To Lt Col C H Howard  
Louisville, Ky

A despatch just received from Maj Genl Canby states that Genl A J Smith's command has already been detached to Cooperate with Gen'l Sherman

H.W. Halleck  
Chf Staff  
(Cipher)

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2267 8/26/1864 *From:* Thomas Blasland

*To:* Rev. J. W. Alvord

OOH-2217

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[132]

Boston Augt 26th / 64

My dear Friend,

I want to ask a favor of you and it is this, that you will be so kind as to write to Genl Howard, you being a personal friend to get him to take Edward on his staff. If you will it will confer a great favor on me.

Respectfully yours &c  
Thomas Blasland

We are all very well and send our best regars to you and family

To Rev. J. W. Alvord

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2268 8/26/1864 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Dear Niece [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-2218

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[567]

Portland August 26 1864

Dear Niece,

You mention in your letter that you may have occasion to trouble me to collect your dividends & Interest on the Coupons. I want to let you know that it is no trouble at all to me, not the least, as I have plenty of time to do all such collections.

I hope the Surgeon will permit Edw'd to come home and stay with us till his wound is fully healed.

Have you any late News from your Dear Good Husband, hope is well.

Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

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2269 8/27/1864    *From:* W. T. Sherman MG    *To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2219

*Source:* Bowdoin

Pattersons  
Campbellton Road  
[Georgia]

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[220 or 130]

Pattersons Campbellton Road [Georgia]  
Aug 27, 64 1050 am

Genl Howard,

I have your letter of this morning. The position of your troops is good. Rest them till tomorrow and then move to New Hope. Crossing the Rail road. <facing sech> troops well <march>. Stanleys Head of Column must be near Mt Gilead –his column is passing here at a strong pace. I will be here some hours. And then go to Mt Gilead. Jeff Davis may get his trains to Mt Gilead, and a part of his troops. Schofield will hardly get out till tonight and tomorrow. He has separate Roads to his position near Trumbles Mill. Thomas will be near Red Oak or I Corps tomorrow, when I want Kilpatrick to free for him. Where is Gunard. Is he at Sand Town. If so tell him to move his Comdg to <> Post Office (Kenardson) until Schofield moves out & follow his movement. I would like to see him.

W. T. Sherman MG

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2270 8/28/1864

*From:* J.S. Fullerton  
Lt. Col & Chf Staff  
Headquarters 4th Army  
Corps

*To:* Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-2220

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131]

Headquarters 4th Army Corps  
Aug 28 6 P.M. 1864

Genl, [OO Howard?]

Genl Stanley, who has just started off to put some troops into position, requested me to write this note informing you that we do not cover any Atlanta and Campbellton road, but he thinks that Genl Schofield covers the road you refer to. It is understood that he is to move up and connect with this Corps tonight.

We followed the 14th Corps taking a road that turns off from the road on which we marched yesterday about 200 yds South of Mt Gilead Church, and which runs East about one mile and one half, and then directly south to Red Oak. The Corps is just now going into position, our right rests about 800 yds from the rail Road & are half way between Red Oak Station and Red Oak Post Office (also on the R.R.). Our line of battle will face toward Atlanta, and will extend along the road on which we marched, so that our left will rest almost on the fork of Camp Creek in lot No. 2. Where our left will rest I cannot exactly tell now. The 14th <Corps from> Atlanta, its left resting this side of the R.R. & connecting with us.

J.S. Fullerton [Joseph Scott Fullerton]  
Lt. Col & Chf Staff

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2271 8/29/1864

*From:* Frank P Blair, Jr  
Maj Genl  
Comg

*To:* Lieut Col Wm F. Clark

OOH-2221

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 17 Army  
Corps  
Near <Sladun> Church  
on the Atlantic  
& West Point R.R.

A.A.G. Dept & Army of the  
Tenn

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[133]

Head Quarters 17 Army Corps  
Near <Sladun> Church on the Atlantic  
& West Point R.R. August 29th / 64

Col.

I have the honor to report that my command has thoroughly destroyed the Atlanta & West Point Rail Road from my left toward Fairburn to the point where the 16th Corps commenced operations.

This destruction has been made complete by burning the ties, twisting and <nailing the rails and filling up the deep cuts with dirt and trash.

Very Resply  
Your Obt Srvt  
Frank P Blair, Jr  
Maj Genl  
Comg

To  
Lieut Col Wm F. Clark  
A.A.G. Dept & Army of the Tenn

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2272 8/29/1864    *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2222

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[42]

Farmington Aug. 29/64

My dear Brother

I am up early this Monday morning for me (5 o'clock) & my first thoughts as my last at night turn to you in the camp. We hear rumors of dissensions among the corps commanders that delay military operations and of the death of Gen Dodge. May God sustain & strengthen you under all these discouragements. How earnestly a minister, old Mr Hanes of Bridgton, prayed for you the other night at a little Tea party where I was! Yesterday was a beautiful & happy Sabbath to me. Rev. H. L. Butterfield here on a visit, addressed a large meeting for the Ch. Com. In the evening & preached us an excellent Sermon in the P.M. His Brother is an acquaintance of Charles in Schofields Corps. Col Hayes two brothers Rev. Stephen, & Gustavus have been to see me this week. They both hope he will be able to follow you at no distant day.

I had a note from Lizzie on Thursday. Chancy had been ailing but was better. Lizzie lent me 125\$, which I hope to pay  $\frac{1}{2}$  in a month & the rest before long. I was glad you were able to do so much for the church, but some of those rich men ought to pay your subscription for you. Farwell says he told McKensie last Summer that "if he did'nt pray for the Country, if he (Farwell) were God Almighty he would destroy his church by lightning." When it was done he wrote to McK & reminded him of his irreverent remark & subscribed 800\$ toward the new one!

Del wrote Friday that father continued to fail. I was down Wednesday & he did not incline to sit up or converse at all. When I said "Father I may never see you again, shall I read & pray with you?" He replied "if you wish to". Louisa is there & feels earnestly for his Salvation, but he seems to have a settled stoicism with regard to a future state. Mr Ames is very kind, helpful & considerate, but not a christian. Aunt Fanny Bartlett is also there. Henry Wingate brought her up & took Gracie home to Augusta last week. Alice is with mother while Ella visits Bath and is of great assistance to her, as she can get no girl. Ella & I have offered mother a home with us just as soon as she may feel to need one other than that at Leeds. Father has planned a good deal of work for "knees" timber & sleepers this fall & some for wood this winter. He showed the same interest for Mother after he gave up living as he would for himself. He has given her 7000\$ in old R.R. bonds that are worth their face & bear interest, 3000\$ in other securities, & 10,000\$ of the new set of R.R. bonds whose value now is very small.

[missing close]

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2273 8/29/1864    *From:* J.W. Alvord

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2223  
*Source:* Bowdoin

American Tract Society  
Instituted at Boston in  
1814  
William A. Booth, Esq.,  
of New York, President.  
Rev. John W. Alvord,  
Secretary  
New York

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[134]

American Tract Society  
Instituted at Boston in 1814  
William A. Booth, Esq., of New York, President.  
Rev. John W. Alvord, Secretary  
New York, Augt 29, 1864

To:  
Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
My Dear Sir

The enclosed I forward to you, as it is from one of my old parishioners in Boston.

If you need a young man of activity, intelligence, & courage I can recommend Edward, a lieutenant formerly & I believe at present, in the 32 Mass.

I watch your progress before Atlanta with deepest interest, & congratulate you upon your accession to the command of the Army of the Tennessee, may God shield you in the perilous hours & give you much of his grace. At West Point the other day I visited the locality of your old Sabbath School & heard the people speak of you with much affection, sending love &c.

I am still at my Army work, though more occupied here in the rear in getting published the large supplies now needed by the Christian Commission (also for the Sanitary Com), going to the front occasionally to superintend & help. Can I get to you this Autumn? It would give me great pleasure to see you, & for a few weeks do something personally for our Western Troops. If you will be so kind as to send me your pass I will come if possible.

Kindest regards to your bro. Maj Howard & all on your staff who know me. In spite of the politicians we are anticipating military success for you. God is with us in this struggle, & I am looking for a great outpouring of his Spirit upon all our Armies & ere long an honorable peace.

Truly yrs  
J.W. Alvord

P.S. I send you our 1864 Rept.

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2274 8/30/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2224

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[43]

Augusta Aug. 30th. 1864

Dearest,

I was very happy this morning to get a letter from you dated as late as the 21st inst. My last letter from you before this one was dated the 11th –think that there is one or more not yet received.

Grace came home very unexpectedly last Wednesday. Mr Wingate took Aunt Fanny out to Leeds and brought Grace home. She is looking very well indeed, and is ready to go back again. I have not heard from Mother's since Grace came from there –seems as if Col. Gilmore could not live many days longer. I wonder if he is a Christian. I wish he would make an open profession.

Mrs Jackson is with me and I take great comfort and pleasure in her society. Her christian character shines forth at all times, and she is much like Uncle Edward I think. I am hoping she will remain with me some time. It is so much better to have such a motherly sort of person. Edward is here (and at camp also). He had quite a serious wound. The Examining Com. is here of which Dr. Palmer is one. He came from Annapolis.

Mr McKenzie has been preaching in the Baptist church but hereafter the morning service will be held in "Meonian Hall" and evening at the chapel. I shall go in the evening for the present –half past two o'clock.

We are all very well now. Chancy is quite well again. I have just taken him from the cradle and put him into bed. He gave a slight hoarse cough which I hope wont amount to croup. Guy has commenced a letter to you. Grace and Jamie have no school to go to now, Miss Woodward is away. Jamie has been very constant up to the present time. I do not and have not missed Isabella scarcely at all. I am very well indeed now that the weather is cooler. I should like to go to Leeds if I could. I am glad Aunt Fanny is with Mother. I think of her a great deal.

How long will Charlie be away from you.

I have been thinking about moving lately and would like to find a convenient house to rent before Winter. Mr Thomas Lambert has sold his house for \$3750.00 I don't think this is any time to buy here. Sometimes I feel like breaking up house-keeping all together. I get so weary look out for so much and so many of us. Nobody will take Julia and her children as we have, and the only way is for her to get married, and I hope she will as she seems inclined to. It would be the best thing for her. The children commenced going to school again this week. Martha can read already, and Fanny can spell quite well.

I am finishing me letter in the morning now. Chancy is with me very happy. You don't know what a big boy he is. I must go down street this morning and seen about my coupons coming due soon. I have money enough. Rowland asked for one hundred and twenty five which I sent him.

Guy is going to school now and will take this to the P.O. I hope you are all quite well. I don't look for you home now.

Your own Lizzie

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2275 8/30/1864     *From:* Sergt J. C. Reese     *To:* General [OO] Howard  
   Cop C 29th Ala Regt  
OOH-2225     Camp Douglas, Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[135]

Camp Douglas, Illinois  
August 30th 1/64

General Howard

Sir as I am detained at this place as a prisoner of war contrary to my expectations I now write you this short epistle reminding you of your promise made to me on the 6th of July (the day that I was captured) at your Head Quarters That if I would go around with you and make you acquainted with certain roads that I could cross the Ohio River and take an oath not to return during the present war. Now I am willing to do so and you will please write to the commanding Officer of the Post and have me released as the law requires and you will oblige your most humble Servt very much.

Respectfully,  
Sergt J. C. Reese  
Cop C 29th Ala Regt

[Written on the back page]  
Sergt. J C. Reese  
Co. C. 29th Ala. Regt.  
Camp Douglas, Ill.  
Aug. 30th 1864  
Answered

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2276 8/31/1864    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2226

Gayoso House  
Memphis Tenn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[137]

Gayoso House  
Memphis Tenn  
Aug 31 1864

My dear brother

It is late, but I will write tonight in order that the letter may go by the first mail. I find that Gen. Washburn had recalled A.J. Smith's command and now intends sending Smith with one Divn as soon as transports can be obtained—he expects in two or three days. But he has sent Gen. Sherman full despatches about the matter. He says the rains made the roads so bad that he did not deem it advisable for Smith to proceed by land marches as indicated by Gen. Sherman. It need take some time by this plan & route.

Steele it seems has called on Gen. Washburn for help which the latter is disposed to grant but now he is disposed to use only Mower's Divn for such a purpose & that not unless it is really needed.

Gen. Washburn has more Generals on his hands than he knows what to do with. He don't think Veatch is first for this place. Prince is already here doing nothing—boarding at this house. Gen. Washburn is favorable to Buckland but I don't understand why the latter allowed Forrest to get in here. I cannot think the troops & pickets were disposed in a very military way. I hear that Buckland has been nominated for Congress & would like to go home. If Morgan L Smith is not needed at Vicksburg why could he not be assigned here? I find that the prospects of this have Col Corkerill (who is a personal friend of Gen. Sherman's & to whom I brought a letter of introduction from Dayton) would be glad to see Morgan L Smith in command. He did not seem very favorable to Veatch.

Gen. Washburn has nothing special to send back but preposes to send despatches by me to Gen. Canby and I will at least go as far as Vicksburg and will do what I can to get those fragmentary organizations relieved. According to Gen. Washburn's latest despatches from Canby I have little doubt that they can easily be relieved.

Gen. W. has taken no measures whatever about including Vicksburg in his command. He learned about Gen. Dana's assignment before your order. I will ascertain from Gen. Dana whether he needs Gen. Morgan L. Smith & inform you, but I have no doubt it would be better to have Smith here & trust one of the more indifferent Generals under Dana.

Gen Morgan L Smith was at Cairo when I left & will probably be here tomorrow. Gen. Veatch has not yet arrived.

The last telegram in the newspapers from Louisville said that Gen. Sherman was making a flank movement to the right with his whole Army.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard  
A.D.C.

P.S.

Gen. Washburn of his own accord would not replace Buckland, but I feel sure Smith would do better.

P.S. No 2. I had a delightful trip down the river on the new steamer "Darling". Capt. Norton went via Chicago & was to meet me at Cairo but failed. It is just as well. I of course could get on just as well alone. He probably will come down next boat. C.H.H.

I reached here about 6 P.M. today.

Latest –Sept 1st Morning

The last news (dated Aug 25) from Canby to Gen Washburn was that he (Canby) was going up river to Arkansas, with a force of 15,000. He ought to be there by this time & obviate all necessity of troops going from here. But Gen. Washburn has a standing order from Canby to keep a moveable force of at least 5,000 men here at all times. C.H.H.

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2277 8/31/1864

*From:* W.T. Sherman

*To:* Genl [OO Howard]

Maj Genl

OOH-2227

Head-Quarters, Military

Division of the

*Source:* Bowdoin

Mississippi

In the Field

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[136]

Head-Quarters, Military Division of the Mississippi

In the Field,

Aug 31 10 PM 1864.

Genl,

I have your Report which is of course very satisfactory, but I am so nervously alive to the importance of the next step that the part of your Battle of today seems a year old. If Hardees command at Lewisboro and Hood remain at Atlanta with a Corps & the militia as in the present appearance of things they will try to effect a junction. I have put Thomas & Schofield on the guard, but I think you could detect the more <Ironest>, you could make your pickets develop a change and then calculate the direction.

We have gained by strategy today great advantage and I don't want to lose it. Please do all you possibly can to follow Hardee the moment he gives ground, as soon as he starts & Thomas can get Stanley & Davis on your left. I will put his Army in pursuit & keep your Right & Schofield left. But tomorrow I think Hardee will try & double on us. If he remains at Jonesboro, with the assistance of Flint River I think we may bag him, but we must be smart. Have the best staff officer you have out tonight & get him to push parties of skirmishers up at points so as to break the Enemys "Shell" Line of Rickets.

If you can only get into Jonesboro, someone then can tell the direction of the Enemy. If he remains tomorrow I am content.

Yrs.

W.T. Sherman

Maj Genl

---

2278 9/1/1864

*From:* C.H. Howard  
A.D.C.

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2229

Gayoso House  
Memphis

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[138]

Later –Gayoso House Memphis  
Sept 1st 1864 Morning

To/  
Maj. Gen. Howard

The mail does not go till towards evening. I have seen Gen. Washburn again & find he has further despatches from Duval's Bluff on White River (Steele; base of supplies) and from their nature has decided to send Mower's Divn at once up White River to that point using the transports which were to convey A.J. Smith. He was thinking somewhat of sending A.J. Smith there also. I cant quite understand why it is that Gen. Washburn has so much to do with Gen. Steele's Deptmt. I talked earnestly to him about the superior importance of Atlanta to the Rebels & also that these were probably mere side issues of the rebels. He now says that Smith shall go to Atlanta by the first transports that can be obtained after shipping Mower. But he must go the round about way, viz. up the Tennessee the North Western R.R. thence to Nashville &c. I saw Maj. Gen. A.J. Smith & Gen. Mower this morning. They both said they would like much to join the Army at Atlanta. But Mower will be off to Arkansas tonight or tomorrow.

I proposed to Gen Washburn to allow Mower to relieve those fragments of regiments at St. Charles on White River & Washburn says if they are not captive when Mower gets there & as soon as the danger is over he (Mower) may relieve them. In this case being replaced by other troops of our own. I will not need to see Canby except perhaps about their transfer to Atlanta. Gen A.J. Smith told Gen Washburn that he would never see the troops again which he is going to send to Arkansas. Why cannot Canby & Steele take care of Arkansas without Gen Washburn's meddling? But the Commanders at Duval's & Helena (neither of them belonging to this Deptmt) keep harassing Gen. Washburn with alarming reports & calls for help!

Respectfully  
C.H. Howard  
A.D.C.

---

2279 9/2/1864

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2230

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[568]

Farmington Sept, 2d / 64

Dear Sister Lizzie

I received the draft or cheque in due time and am very much obliged for it. Ella & Dadie are at Bath, went down a week ago Wednesday. I went down with Wm Merrick Tuesday & returned yesterday. He will be up to see you today probably & tell you about us. I hope Sam can make Guy & Grace a little visit & hope William will stop some with you. He is a capital good fellow & seems to enjoy himself among Marias friends very much I hope the Aunt (?) you were expecting to live with you has arrived. Are you all well now. I saw Del. At the Leeds Depot last night & he said there was no change in Father except the slow gradual sinking.

Charles sent us a piece of sheet music from Louisville Ken. So I suppose he is up there for some purpose. I can hardly hope he is on his way home. I have had no letters since the 10th ult. Alice is at Leeds and Dell says she seems very well contented and is very useful. I had no time to speak with him further, but I suppose Louisa & Mrs Ames are still there, and Aunt Fanny there or at Uncle Ensigns.

I don't enjoy being alone very well, but am glad Ella can have a good easy time & that Alice can help Mother.

With love to all the children & kind remembrance to Julia.

Yr. Aff. Brother  
Rowland

---

2280 9/3/1864

*From:* C.H. Howard  
Lt. Col.

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2228

On Stmr James White  
Near Vicksburg

Comdg Dept and Army Tenn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[2]

[Sep. 1864, written in pencil]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
By telegraph from On Stmr James White 186  
Near Vicksburg 15 via Cairo 18  
To Maj Gen Howard  
Comdg Dept and Army Tenn

My interview with Gen Canby was satisfactory. Start on my return tomorrow stopping one (1) day in Memphis.

C.H. Howard  
Lt. Col.

[Note. The date had been estimated by someone to be Sept. 1864. I estimate it to be Sept 3 1864, because Charles in a letter he wrote from Memphis on Aug 31 said that he was on his way to Vicksburg to speak with Canby. I assume it three days to go from Memphis to Vicksburg and conduct his business, and then to get on the boat to Memphis.]

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2281 9/3/1864      *From:* E Waite

*To:* Dear Niece [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-2231

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[549]

Portland Sept 3d 1864

Dear Niece

We recvd your letter with Edwds yesterday –was very glad to hear from you all. I have written two letters to Edwd which I suppose he did not mention having recvd any. One I sent by a Soldier and one by Mail.

We were in hopes that he would get a pass to come home for 8 or 10 days if no more, and trust he will yet. He seems however to be favored with a New home, by your kindness.

Tell Aunt Susan that we went to Poland Camp Meeting day before yesterday, and had a very pleasant time.

You will probably hear the good news of the capture of Atlanta before this reaches you. See the account in the daily press which I send you this morning.

In haste  
Your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

---

2282 9/3/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2232

Hd Qrs near Lovejoy  
Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[569]

Hd Qrs near Lovejoy Station  
Sept 3d 1864

Dearest,

You will have heard of the fall of Atlanta before this reaches you. By the kind Providence of our blessed Heavenly Father we have been enabled to succeed in this our hazardous campaign even beyond our expectations. My column was very successful, in moving and in fighting a battle on the last day of August, which was rendered more complete on the first day of September by the assault of the 14th Corps.

Charles has not written lately, and I have got no mail, so that I have not heard from home I cannot expect very cheering news from father, and am fearing the announcement of his death in any letter I may get.

Harry Stinson is not well, has had quite a severe hemorrhage of the lungs, but I hope it is only owing to the wound and that he will soon be quite well. I am sorry he did not go home instead of coming back during this prolonged & arduous campaign.

The courier is nearly ready to return. Give papa's great love to his children. I shall look for letters from Guy and Grace pretty soon.

You would think there was a battle going on by the sound, but it is only cannonading & skirmishing. I do not much expect another battle in Georgia.

God bless you & the little ones.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2283 9/4/1864

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2233

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[44]

Augusta, Sept 4th 1864.  
Sunday Evening, 8 o'clock

Dearest,

I will write to you this rainy, quiet, Sunday evening. Chancy is asleep. Jamie has gone to bed "too tired". Grace and Guy are listening to Bible stories that Mrs Jackson is telling them. Edward has gone to our evening meeting at the vestry. Mrs Jackson went with him this morning, and he and I went this afternoon. Guy and Grace went this morning.

I got a letter from Rowland Saturday. Ella and Dadie were in Bath. He returned to Farmington the day before, saw Dellie at the Leeds Depot, "No change in Father except the slow, gradual sinking." Alice is with Mother, contented and useful. I had a visit from William Merrick and Sam yesterday. I was very glad that they came to see us. Sam stayed till night. William left after dinner -two o'clock. I think I shall write more doleful letters now Atlanta is taken, not because it is taken, but because it will not bother you so much to receive letters full of troubles and trials now as before.

I wonder what you are going to do now. When are you coming home? I hope you wont have to come to this house. I fear I am restless and don't know what I do want. I wish Julia was married! As Annie used to say to Guy. I wish you would let us come to you, but I fear you wont be in any suitable place to receive us. I don't love to keep-house really and truly. I don't like neighbors who "don't like darkies" I have little trials upon little trials I don't know what to do, but I think I eat and sleep well as yet, so you need not give yourself great uneasiness about me. Come home and tell me what must be done. I think I better try closing my eyes and ears and let things do themselves. Mrs Jackson is herself useful and is agreeable to all the children as well as to myself.

Grace came home with the expectation of returning to Leeds in a few days, but concludes that she will stay at home awhile. I don't know where to send her to school till Miss Woodward comes back in the spring. If she and Guy are not so near of an age, so near together in their studies, and didn't have so many jealousies I would like her to go to Miss Fuller. I may try the last half of this term to send Grace and Jamie also.

I have not been writing all the time, but now the evening has passed. Julia has come from meeting (Edward came in early). All have gone to bed leaving me alone and I will now leave my writing till morning. Good night. I hope you are well, happy and not working too hard.

Monday morning. I will write a few more lines dearest this bright, sunny morning. I asked Grace what I should send Pa-pa this morning for her. She came and gave me many kisses, saying send that. Guy says "send love" I then asked Jamie, he answered "Send Jamie a little letter" Then I asked Chancy what shall mamma tell Papa. He answered "pa-pa"and walked into the hall to look at your picture. We are all in the Library. The children are all happy now playing cars. I must prepare Guy's things for school and he will take this letter.

Your own Lizzie.

---

2284 9/5/1864

*From:* Mrs Estelle E. Lewis

*To:* Major Genl Oliver O.  
Howard

OOH-2234

Clinton La

Commanding 4th Army Corps  
Army of Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

Clinton La September 5th 1864

Major Genl Oliver O. Howard  
Sir,

I learned from a Soldier who was in the battle of Gettysburg that my husband, Col L. D. Lewis of the 8th La had been killed, & that you had had him buried. Will you please let me know if such is the case. I have been kept in a painful state of anxiety ever since that time hearing several times that he was still living & a prisoner at Davis's Island, New York. Any information concerning him would be most gratefully rec'd, and I assure you it would be a great gratification to me to know that if he had been killed, that he was decently buried. He is reported to have fallen on the night of the 2nd of July while making a charge on the heights.

Please address Mrs Estelle E. Lewis care John Adolphe DeRussy, Esq. Baton Rouge, La.

Major Genl Oliver O. Howard  
Commanding 4th Army Corps  
Army of Tennessee

Please direct to Mrs. Col. L. D. Lewis, care of Major J.A. DeRussy B. Rouge La. Please answer her as soon as possible. Can you say if any thing was found on his person as he went on the battle field with a fine gold watch and chain and his bridal ring. Any information would be so gratifying to his afflicted widow and fatherless child.

[Written on the back. Two lines not readable due to glued remnant.]

Mrs. Estelle E. Lewis

Enquiries concerning her husband Col Lewis 8th La. Inftry supposed to have been killed at Gettysburg.

Answered.

---

2285 9/8/1864

*From:* Th. J. Wood  
Br. Genl Vols  
Head-Quarters, 3d  
Division, 4th A.C.  
Office Assistant  
Adjutant General,  
Near Atlanta, Ga

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2235

Comdg Army of the  
Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[149]

Head-Quarters, 3d Division, 4th A.C.  
Office Assistant Adjutant General,  
Near Atlanta, Ga, Sept 8, 1864.

My dear Genl:

I hope to be able to cheat the doctors. My foot is very sore, but is doing better than I could have expected. I think it may not be necessary for me to leave the field. I will, at all events, remain here till I have written my report and finished all the work connected with the campaign; then, if it should seem that my foot will be a long time in healing, I may ask for a leave of absence.

I will divide my report into sections. The first to embrace the operation of the division while you commanded the 4th Corps, the second the commanders of the campaign. The first I will send to you, the other to Genl Stanley. I will be glad to see you soon. I write this sitting up in my bed.

Very truly your friend,  
Th. J. Wood  
Br. Genl Vols.

To  
Major Genl Howard  
Comdg Army of the Tennessee

[Written at the bottom of the second page]  
Brig. Genl. T. J. Wood  
Comdg 3d Div 4th A.C.  
Sept 8, 1864

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2286 9/10/1864

*From:* Marcus P. Miller  
1st Lt. 4th US Arty

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2236

Box 407  
Annapolis Md

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[141]

Annapolis Md Sept 10th 1864

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Genl.

I received a letter yesterday from Capt F.W. Sisley of my Regiment, informing me that he had been applied for as Inspector of Arty on your Staff, but that he had resigned his commission in the Army, consequently the order was not issued.

Although unknown to you I send this as an applicant for such a position on any others on your staff.

I am the Senior 1st Lieut of my Regiment and will probaly be promoted to Captaincy this month or the next. The vacancy occurred on the 11th of May and I understand that a Genl order of promotions is now being made out.

I graduated in Class of 58, served two years at Ft Monroe, one year in Utah, was Adjutant under Genl. C.F. Smith at Camp Lloyd, came to the States in 61, served in Gibbons Battery four months, was instructor for the Commissioned Officers of the Vol Batteries in the Brigade, was appointed Regimental Quartermaster and assigned to Genl Hunt's staff in February 62, assigned to command of Battery G, 4th Arty in August 62, which I kept till after the battle of Chancellorsville. I then went to the Head Qrs of my Regiment at Fort Washington Md. and have been on duty as a member of the Ex. Board for promotion of Enlisted men Regular Army since the 10th of March 64.

I have with me no letters of recommendations at present, have had flattering ones from Genls Hunt, Howe, Segwick and others. I sent them to Gov of Mass when applicant for a Regiment.

I got one from Dr Palmer this morning, and send an old one given me by C.H. Morgan, in whose Battery I served for a time. Should you desire the services of an Arty officer on your staff, please give my case a favorable consideration

I am Genl  
Your Obedient Servant  
Marcus P. Miller  
1st Lt. 4th US Arty

Address Box 407

[Written on the back page of the letter.]

Annapolis, Md. Sept 10 64

Miller, Marcus P.

1st Lt. 4th U.S.A.

Asks for appointment as Inspector of Artillery for this Dept. & Army.

Hd Qrs Dept. & Army Tenn.

Oct. 24th 1864

Respectfully referred to Maj T.H. Osborne, Chf of Artillery, D. & A. of T.

By order of Maj. Genl. Howard.

[s/]C.H. Howard

Lt. Col. & A. D. C.

[Additional comment.]

Respectfully returned to the General commanding, Maj Sawell having been assigned as Inspector of Artillery for this Army & Department, and there being no reason why he should be relieved it would seem inadvisable to make the application within asked for.

[/s/] T.W. Owens  
Maj & Chief of Arty  
Dept & Army of the Tenn

Artillery Hd Qrs  
A&D of the Tenn  
Oct 14th 64

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2287 9/10/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2237a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee

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[570]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
September 10th 1864

Dearest,

Since my return I have recd two welcome letters from you, but none of a very recent date, the last of the 19th ult. and the next to the last the little one that told of your writing to Mrs Jackson at Uncle Edwards.

My portion of the last movement was to drive out of the works near at Atlanta pass to the rear & extreme right and push ahead first to the West Point R.R. & then on towards Jonesboro. This we did. The first two marches brought us to the West Point road. This was near a place called Sideling or New Hope Church. There we staid a day and spent the time as ordered in turning up & destroying the R.R. The next day we marched in two columns for Renfro place, with an injunction to push for Jonesboro if I thought I could get to the R.R. We encountered strong opposition all the last half of the way. When I got to Renfro place I found it a dry barren hill, no water near, so I pushed on for Flint River three miles distant. We drove the rebels so fast that we saved the bridge, all but a few planks, crossed over our entire corps & entrenched close up to the town, said to be defended by about four brigades. During the night the rebels ran down on the cars as much force as possible. In the morning we had two Army Corps under Hardee. He attacked my lines during the day & quite a battle ensued, but the rebels did not come up so near nor suffer so much as in the battle of the 28th of July. Gens Thomas & Schofield swung around on the R.R. breaking the only remaining communication of Hood. In the afternoon of September 1st the 14th Corps charged & carried the enemy's works taking a 1000 prisoners & 10 pieces of Arty. It was near sundown when the battle began. The enemy fought till night and then retreated to Lovejoy Station where a junction was formed with the portion that had run from Atlanta. Hood secured a strong position & made a bold front. Sherman pursued to this point where we staid two or three days and then withdrew by easy marches to near Atlanta. Atlanta is a handsome place, with wide streets & houses much scattered. My Head Quarters are at or near East Point about four or five miles out of the town.

Charles I heard from Aug 24th and not since. He was then at Louisville, Ky on his way to Memphis, Vixburg and perhaps New Orleans. It will take a month longer before I expect to see him back. I dont know anything as to the future. I have got my reports to make out, which I fear will be voluminous; and also my army to report and reorganize, and I ought to inspect the different posts in the Dept as soon as I can. Every affection of <[Missing Page]>

[Written on the margins of the first page]

I shall send him home as soon as it is safe and he is a little stronger.

God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

Sam is well tell Julia, has'nt heard from his wife yet.

[Missing Opening 4 pages]

[page] 5

and fed, borne with and kindly treated as well as emancipated. God in his wise providence will hold us to it at the north and at the south.

Julia will be much better off every way with a good industrious husband. Who is asking for her? I don't think you would be happier boarding or live easier. No boarding place is fit for the children. Bear up, darling, a little longer. Get two good girls an not one alone. I am grateful indeed to Mrs Jackson for the comfort and

assistance she renders you. You must not lose the family altar, the house. There is always a place there for papa when he comes.

Gen. Sherman asked me lately if I wanted a Brigadiership in the Regular Army, said I must try for one. I told him no. But if it was offered me for services, if they were deemed of sufficient importance to warrant it, I should consider it a high compliment, but I should never ask for it. I told him this was getting to be my profession & I would hardly be of the age or condition to begin another after the war, and probably should accept such an honor if offered. Such was substantially my answer. However, I would about as lief leave the service. I feel ready to follow the indications of Providence, if my life and health are continued to me.

I am glad you are going to have the whole house. Two hundred dollars is not high according to the price of Gold. Did you get my check sent you by express from Chattanooga the latter part of August? You never have mentioned Harry Stinson, so I think you could not have received my letter regarding his bleeding. He has gone home and you will see him before this letter, also Dr Duncan, who accompanies him.

Grace sends papa a good many kisses. Guy must not get too big to kiss papa. I feel afraid he will take too many studies at the same time. I prefer not more than two at a time, and every lesson perfect. Let papa have the rest of time not included in "play time" now & then for a letter. Does Jamie know all those wonderful letters on every side of the blocks [sketch of a block with a letter on each face], and the little boy Chancy, can he know his papa?

The future will be plainer to us before long, let us now my beautiful wife take care of the minutes make them as happy as we can and as useful. A good time of enjoyment is coming "Deo volente"[God willing].

My kindest regards & thanks to Mrs Jackson. Much love to all the children. Sam has not been able yet to communicate with his wife. He is very attentive to me, does his work well, quickly & cheerfully. I have a little short <> with a <cheruby> look, Tom, by name, who takes care of my horse. Guy would be somewhat amused at him.

Good night my darling wife. May god give you his blessing with good health & good hopeful spirits. I shall write to Mother tomorrow if I can.

Your loving husband  
Otis

---

2288 9/13/1864 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2238

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[45]

Leeds Sept. 13. 1864

My dear brother:

The event which we have for sometime been anticipated has taken place. Father has at last gone. He had had considerable pain during the night but for half an hour before he died he was resting and perhaps sleeping. I was lying upon a lounge in the dining room. Mother had gone up stairs to lie down. Aunt Eveline was sitting by him so when she noticed he was breathing short and quick. She came to me to tell me that she feared he was going, and before I could get there he had breathed his last. He is now far from pain and suffering.

Mother bears it heavily and I am in hopes she will not give out. She has been obliged to work pretty hard as have all, but she appears as well as usual this morning.

We are sorry that you and Charles cannot be here. I have written the latter directing the letter to Louisville. I will write you more about it in a day or two.

The funeral will be on Thursday at 12 oclock. Today is Tuesday.

Your aff. Brother  
R.H. Gilmore

---

2289 9/14/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2237b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[570]

[Missing Opening 4 pages]

[I can only estimate the date of the letter. Lizzie first speaks of Julia being married in a letter dated Aug 30, 1864, and then again in one on Sept 4. In the latter letter Otis speaks of Grace sending a good many kisses. This letter must be about 10 days after that, making it about Sept 14, 1864.]

[page] 5

and fed, borne with and kindly treated as well as emancipated. God in his wise providence will hold us to it at the north and at the south.

Julia will be much better off every way with a good industrious husband. Who is asking for her? I don't think you would be happier boarding or live easier. No boarding place is fit for the children. Bear up, darling, a little longer. Get two good girls and not one alone. I am grateful indeed to Mrs Jackson for the comfort and assistance she renders you. You must not lose the family altar, the house. There is always a place there for papa when he comes.

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Grace sends papa a good many kisses. Guy must not get too big to kiss papa. I feel afraid he will take too many studies at the same time. I prefer not more than two at a time, and every lesson perfect. Let papa have the rest of time not included in "play time" now & then for a letter. Does Jamie know all those wonderful letters on every side of the blocks [sketch of a block with a letter on each face], and the little boy Chancy, can he know his papa?

The future will be plainer to us before long, let us now my beautiful wife take care of the minutes make them as happy as we can and as useful. A good time of enjoyment is coming "Deo volente"[God willing].

My kindest regards & thanks to Mrs Jackson. Much love to all the children. Sam has not been able yet to communicate with his wife. He is very attentive to me, does his work well, quickly & cheerfully. I have a little short <> with a <cheruby> look, Tom, by name, who takes care of my horse. Guy would be somewhat amused at him.

Good night my darling wife. May god give you his blessing with good health & good hopeful spirits. I shall write to Mother tomorrow if I can.

Your loving husband  
Otis

---

2290 9/14/1864 *From:* A G Murray

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2239

Canandaigua NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Canandaigua NY  
Sept 14, 1864

Dear General

The accompanying letters will inform you of the fate of our dear son Albert.

Mr Murray having made your acquaintance at West Point and your having spoken favourably of our dear boy, she intended to write and thank you for your christian example, and the interest you expressed and exercised in his spiritual welfare. But as she has not been able to do so, she desired me to express the gratitude and great obligation that we feel to you for the part you have taken in preparing our child for that rest to which he has been called. Although it is hard for us to part with him, we are comforted with the belief that for him to die is gain, and we bow in submission to the wise providence of God.

It would be a great comfort to us to procure his remains. Lt Breckenridge has been very precise in his letter in describing his grave, and it may be possible that an opportunity may present itself for its removal which I feel assured you would improve and have it done, or advise me if it could be done and the manner of doing it. We may be unreasonable to feel so anxious, but it is a long time since we have seen our dear child, and we have not a relic as a memento. Everything belonging to him was taken with his battery.

I congratulate you on the brilliant success of your Army. It has imparted hope to the country and encouraged recruiting so that our depleted armies will soon be strongly reinforced and the rebellion subdued.

I ask pardon for thus trespassing on your valuable time.

Very Respectfully Yours  
A G Murray.

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2291 9/14/1864    *From:* D.C. Porter

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2240

Chattanooga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[142]

Chattanooga Sept 14 / 64

My dear Sir:

I reached here this morning, having been as far North as Cincinnati. I bought about 4000 lbs Tobacco & succeeded in getting Mr Mellin to permit it; it was the largest amount he would pass. The tobacco will be here tomorrow and this is as far as the Express Co are allowed to take any except "soldier's freight".

Capt Gilbert took down a telegram for me asking you to send me permission to ship from here. Col. Easton has I understand prohibited them (the Express) from taking any thing below here & what I wanted was a permission for them to take it. I saw however this morning Capt EK Smith who said he would furnish transportation from here on Genl Howard's request.

I telegraphed to you to day to let me come to the front with Capt Meek who leaves here at 6 P.M. as I could not get transportation on my pass. Genl Sherman's order being to allow no citizen on any pretext to leave Chattanooga for the South. If I can come I suppose it will need Genl Sherman's own order. If you think best send me such papers as may be necessary to come & bring the Tobacco with me. I think Genl Sherman might be induced to allow tobacco to come on the recommendation of Genl Howard, Genl Thomas & Genl Slocum. Papers from the last two, I think I could get & on such papers approved by Genl Sherman I could permit & ship all I want from Louisville. I am very anxious to see Genl Thomas as without new papers from him I will have to stop business here & at Nashville. This personal request is necessary to enable me to get my present permits renewed.

I left Louisville Sunday night. Maj. Allen & family quite well. I shall be much pleased to hear from you, if you can spare the time.

Very truly Yours  
D.C. Porter

---

2292 9/14/1864    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2241

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[78]

Farmington  
Sept 14, 1864

Dear Brother

A letter from Dellie received last evening informed me the [sic] father has ceased to suffer. He died yesterday morning at 6 o'clock without a struggle, had been conscious, but perfectly helpless for a few days past. If Dellie has not written, I will write more fully of the circumstances after my return from the Funeral. I go down today & Ella & Dadie come tomorrow. It is at 12 tomorrow. I will write anyway while there.

We have lost a good, true & faithful friend. I want Mother to stay with us, if she will be contented, after affairs are settled at Leeds, which will not be probably till winter.

We have heard nothing from you except by Gen Shermans Dispatch since the Battle near Jonesboro. The fall of Atlanta helped the Union triumph in Maine vastly. Richmond would aid in the National Contest in the same way & I trust will.

My little family are well. I hope to see Lizzie at Leeds.

Father gave us sign of a discovery of Christ. He is now in the hands of a just God & we can but leave him there. Mother must be very much worn out.

Your loving brother  
Rowland

P.S. I write to Chas at Memphis today.

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2293 9/15/1864      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]      *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2242      Headquarters [Eleventh  
Corps was crossed out]  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Dept Tenn.

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[571]

Headquarters [Eleventh Corps was crossed out]  
Dept Tenn. September 15th 1864

Dearest,

Capt. Stinson expects to start this morning for home and Dr. Duncan will accompany him, certainly as far as Hartford Conn, and probably quite to Augusta. The Capt. Has been gaining, but has now a cough and I am afraid of settled disease. Harry Stinson has been with me now for two years and I assure you a better you man cannot be found. I love him as a brother & hope it is the will of God for him completely to recover. I have offered him the position of Judge Advocate with rank of Major, but it not being according to his taste, he declined

I have procured the appointment of Prof Whittlesey to that position, telegraphed him so yesterday but don't know yet whether he will accept. It becomes everybody to be patriotic now.

I would like exceedingly to go home during the rest or to meet you and the children anywhere, but my future movements are so uncertain that I don't think of either just now.

An officer is now en route from Gen. Grant with Orders for us and Gen. Sherman will not consent for me to leave the Dept. at present.

You will find Dr Duncan very good company and he will give you some idea of our head quarters and probably tell you some incidents of the Campaign that may interest you.

I received a letter from Charles up to Sept 1st from Memphis. He was on the way down the Miss. And well.

I have time to write no more now. I have to make out duplicate reports of the entire campaign and am hard at work. I shall finish by the middle of next week.

Much love & many kisses. I fear poor father has worn out before this. My kindest regards to Mrs Jackson.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2294 9/15/1864 *From:* J. B. Bachelder

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2243

125 Washington St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Boston Sept. 15, 1864  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Sir -

I enclose you a copy of my Isometrical Drawing of the Gettysburg Battle Field which please accept with my respects. I regretted exceedingly that I could not see you personally before its publication, as I was able to do most of the officers of rank of the Army of the Potomac. I was fortunate however in meeting several of your Brigade and Division comdrs which, with the many other officers which I have met together with the corroborative materiel which you furnished me has enabled me to complete the positions of your command; and I have taken the liberty to add your name with the other Corps commanders to the testimonial annexed. If however this does not meet your approbation, I will have it removed if you will apprise me.

At first sight I presume the right wing of the line will appear short to you. You will however take into consideration that the surface over which it runs is foreshortened in the drawing.

If you feel so disposed and your public duties will allow, I should value a letter from you, (which I may use publicly), expressing your opinion of this method of representing military operations and the result of my effort in this.

I am Sir  
Yours with Respect  
J. B. Bachelder, [John Badger]  
125 Washington St.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

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2295 9/16/1864

*From:* J.S. Fullerton  
A.A.G.

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2244

Head-Quarters 4th  
Army Corps  
Atlanta Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[144]

Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps  
Atlanta Ga Sepr 16th 1864 9 P.M.

Dear General,

Herewith please find enclosed Casualty List of the 4th A.C. from May 3d to and including July 26th.

Maj. Morhardt will get up as good a map as he can to accompany your Report. He lost his note book and cannot give the Resacca battle field or anything back of that point. I will try and get what is wanting in his map from Div. Topogs.

44 Commissioned Officers and 1499 enlisted men were captured by the Corps up to and including July 26th. These figures are not very imposing, but the number of prisoners is large when it is considered that the most of them were jerked out of intrenched rifle pits, after some severe and bloody skirmishes. Given that number of our men have been killed and wounded in capturing them.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
J.S. Fullerton  
A.A.G.  
(Over)

P.S. Sepr 17th 8 A.M.

The Report of Casualties cannot be made out before this evening. The one I had prepared is not correct as it shows the No. down to August 1st. The reports from Divs have been made to this office by months. I have sent out to Divns to get a report for the days July 27-28-29 & 30, and the No. shown in it will be subtracted from the report that has been prepared.  
J.S.F.

[Written on the back of the letter.]  
Fullerton, J.S.  
A.A.G.

Sends herewith list of Casualties from May 3 to July 27 inclusive in Fourth Army Corps, &c

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2296 9/17/1864      *From:* T.E.G. Ransom      *To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
                                 Brig. Genl.  
OOH-2245              Head Qrs Left Wing              Comdg. Dept. & Army of the  
                                 16th A.C.                              Tenn.  
*Source:* Bowdoin              East Point Ga.

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[143]

Head Qrs Left Wing 16th A.C.  
East Point Ga. Sep 17th 1864.

General:

To your flattering offer to make me your Chief of Staff, I have given the deliberate attention which it merits, and while gratefully acknowledging the confidence in my ability which such a proposition implies. I have arrived at the conclusion that I can be more useful to the service and give better satisfaction to my superior officers in the position I have heretofore occupied.

No consideration but this, General, would induce me to decline a position which I am confident would in other respects, be a much agreeable one.

I have the honor to be General  
Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
T.E.G. Ransom  
Brig. Genl.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg. Dept. & Army of the Tenn.

[Written on the back page of the letter.]  
[The top two lines are hidden behind a strip of glued tape.]  
Ransom, T.E.G.  
Brig. Genl.  
Declines, respectfully position of Chf. Of Staff to Dept. Comdr.

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2297 9/18/1864     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2246

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[80]

Farmington Sept. 18, 1864

My dear Brother

As we have heard nothing from you since the battle near Jonesboro & as Charles is so far away from you, we are feeling a little anxiety about you. My last letter from C. was dated Memphis Sept 3d. I wrote him & you immediately on Fathers death & Dellie wrote also. I hope those letters have been received.

He died Tues. morn. The 13th. I went down Wednesday. Ella & Dadie went down Thurs morn. & the funeral was at 12 that day. Louisa, Mrs Ames, Roland & family, Arzas family & Francis' children & May F. Lathrop were there. Also Henry Wingate, Laura Ann, your wife & Chancy & Uncle Ensign. There was a large gathering of the towns people. Mother & Rev. Mr Downing, who baptised & married a no. of fathers family conducted the Services and preached from Acts 13.26. He said little directly of fathers character & the little he did say was in praise of his integrity & uprightness.

They sang the hymns & a voluntary. The hymns were: "Why should we start & fear to die" & "I would not live always" The singing was very good, Roscoe Gilbert playing & Salmon Wings daughters & Mr Davee singing. The coffin was a dark colored rich looking one. Father was dressed in his best suit, but looked so much emaciated that I hardly think you would have recognized him.

Mother went thro. All with calmness & fortitude, & we prevailed upon her to come home with us the next day, leaving Mary F. Lothrop to keep house for Dellie & his men who are cutting Ship timber on the bog. Mrs Ames started for Easton the same day. Her presence & assistance have been invaluable thro. It all.

Mother improves every day. Today I exchanged with Bro Hackett of Temple (7 miles) & she rode out there with me & seemed to enjoy the day. I hope she will remain here two or three days. Lizzie wrote up with Henry W. & returned Friday. She seemed unusually well & Chancy waddles about with his little dumpy figure & behaves about as Jamie used to. He is a good boy.

Father was buried next his wife, none of us got out at the grave. Oscar conducted the funeral very quietly & well, & has been with William very kind & obliging during fathers sickness. Orin Bates & wife have also done a great deal for the family in their trouble.

Dellie is full of his timber business. Mother says she don't see how she can leave home this winter, but I am in hopes, after Dellie goes away, she will arrange to make us a long visit & go to see Lizzie. I wish that every thing could be sold & invested in U.S. Bonds for Mothers benefit, but she wants a home of her own where her children & grand-children may visit her. Leeds & our old home have sadly changed as you may suppose. Not a single thing can the eye look upon but is identified with Father & without him all seems changed & lonely. So accustomed had I become to look to him for all home arrangements that it seems almost impossible that anything there should now go right?

Our victories in the field & at the Ballot Box have encouraged & rejoiced our hearts. Our Drafting commences tomorrow. Our quota lacks 16. If I am drafted, would it not be best to telegraph to you & get you indirectly to obtain a substitute for me to serve in some Maine Reg? Fathers death & Dellies expected absence this winter seem to render it still more necessary that I should remain at home & out of the Army as long as is consistent with duty to my country. I do not think Dellie would pass a Surgeons examination. I preach "Fill up the Armies" & I do hope the Draft will be thoroughly enforced.

With love from Mother & Ella & Dadie & myself.

Your Brother

Rowland

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2298 9/18/1864      *From:* Mrs F T Sherman      *To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2247                      Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[46]

Chicago Sept 18th / 64

General Howard  
Dear Sir

I reached home yesterday after an absence of four weeks from Chicago which will account for the long delay of my answer to your kind favor of the 20th of Aug.

I have been on a mission to Washington to procure an order for the exchange of the Colonel which I accomplished with some trouble. The order was forwarded immediately to the proper exchange commissioners to act upon, and I have great hopes that it will be accomplished. I have since my return home heard of a rebel Col reported to have some influences at home who is very anxious to be exchanged. His name has been sent to the rebel authorities to be exchanged for Col [Francis Trowbridge] Sherman.

I was very much surprised to hear that Gen S did not favor this exchange of our prisoners for it seems to me that <common> humanity would prompt the desire to have our brave soldiers released from what they term that boring desk. After all they have suffered in the field are they to be left to die in prison. I pray God not. I think apology should be laid aside when 30000 or 40000 lives are at stake. I found on my return home two letters from the Colonel. The first tidings from him since his capture. You can imagine General the joy and gratitude that filled my heart to know that my husband was safe and in his usual health. He says their sufferings have been very great but since their removal to Charleston their condition is somewhat ameliorated. He says despair nearly overcomes them at times, poor fellows how my heart aches for them one & all. I would consider it a great favor if you would write him a few words of cheer. (his address is Roper Hospital Mil Prison Charlston via Hilton Head) Give my kindest regards to Col Howard. Take many thanks for your kind interest in my husband & myself. With much esteem I am very truly yours &c

Mrs F T Sherman [Eleanor (Vedder) Sherman, wife of Francis Trowbridge Sherman]

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2299 9/18/1864    *From:* William Harrow  
Brig Genl

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2248

Louisville Ky

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[146]

Louisville Ky Sep 18, 64

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Sir

Upon arriving at Nashville, I was surprised & pained to find that ten (10) wounded Soldiers of your command had been put off the train, before daylight and at least one mile distant from any accommodation. They were put out on a platform from which not one of them could reach the ground without aid. They were entirely unattended. The ten men had just 10 legs and twenty (20) crutches to get along with. One in ascending to help himself fell and was seriously hurt.

I succeeded in finding an ambulance which was going to bring Qr. Mr. Jenkins from his sleeping quarters to his breakfast, and compelled the driver, a kind-hearted <> to take the soldiers referred to and go <> to soldiers home, myself I taking charge of some of their knapsacks.

Genl, I know this simple <account> is enough to command your prompt attention without omcment from me. God grant a change may be speedily made.

Rspty  
Yr Obt Servt  
William Harrow  
Brig Genl

[Written on the back side of the letter.]  
Louisville, Ky. Sept 18, 64  
Harrow, William  
Brig. Genl Vols.

States that ten men were left on a platform with only ten legs at least a half mile from any accommodations in Nashville, Tenn.

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2300 9/18/1864     *From:* David P.  
Conyngham

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2251

Atlanta

Commanding Army of the  
Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[147]

Atlanta, Sept 18th 1864

Major General Howard  
Commanding Army of the Tennessee  
General

I am Collecting Materials for writing "Shermans Campaign in Georgia". I have made arrangements with a publishing house in New York for bringing it out.

I intend giving short biographical sketches and engravings of the most distinguished Generals.

Would you do me the favor of letting me have copies of official orders and important documents since the opening of the campaign. Also, a short sketch of your life – perhaps some of the staff could let me have McPhersons life. I would also like to have a photograph for the copy my engraving. Hoping that I am not intruding on your kindness.

I have the honor to be  
General, your obt. st.  
David P. Conyngham, N.Y.H Correspondent  
Atlanta Post-Office

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2301 9/19/1864    *From:* Col Kilburn  
Chf C.S.

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2249

Hilton Head

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[6]

United States Military Telegraph

By Telegraph from Hilton Head

Dated [ca Sept 19, 1864] 1864 [The date had been written in pencil]

To Genl Howard Comdg

I have turned over to Col Remick the cargo of Str Patapsco consisting of two hundred thousand rations hard bread and five hundred thousand rations each of coffee and sugar.

I will also give him three hundred large cattle in addition to what has been sent up to yesterday. The Patapsco I have requested the Qr Master here to send as high up broad river as she can go and there be lighted to McKies landing. The Louise I am afraid will be sent to report at Savannah but the Lewisburg will be given us instead.

We ought to have two boats at least to lightner. The Neptune will ply between Head & Beaufort with cattle. She can make only about two trips daily on account of bad wharf. She will carry about sixty five 65 cattle at a trip. Col Conklin and Col Remick also Capt Owens are here, with the three hundred thousand and over of hard bread in the Harbor at Beaufort. I can easily give your whole army fifteen days supply of meats, hard bread, sugar, & coffee if the Qr Mr Dept will give us transportation to Land.

Col Kilburn  
Chf C.S.

[Written on the back page]  
Hilton Head  
Col. Kilburn chf C.S.

Has turned over to Col. Remick, the cargo of the Patapsco.

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2302 9/19/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2250

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[47]

Augusta Sept. 19th 1864

Dearest

I hope you get letters from me. I have received none from you since the one dated the 25th of Aug. There must be some on the way.

I went to Leeds last Thursday to attend the funeral – Mr and Mrs Wingate and myself – we stayed one night and took Aunt Fanny home with us. Mother is all worn down and looks ten years older than when I saw her in July. I wish she was not going to have so much care this Fall. It is too hard, she ought to have rest.

I sometimes think Charlie ought to come home. Dell is just good for nothing to take care of and watch over Mother. Mrs Ames was of the greatest assistance to them.

I wish everything in Leeds could be sold as some think it might. Dell thinks he can do just as well, and carry on the business as well as his Father. Poor boy he don't know what he has lost.

Mother has worked enough in her life and now ought to be relieved from every care. I wish I could do for her as I would.

Guy is now going to school and I will send best love and close this. We are all well this morning.

Your own Lizzie

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2303 9/20/1864    *From:* W. T. Sherman  
Maj. Genl.

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2252

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[7]

U.S. Military Telegraph

Sept 20th 1864

By Telegraph from Atlanta Sept 20th 1864

To Gen Howard

Genl Thomas will send two (2) of Garrards Brigade to Kilpatrick & order him to <well> down toward Fayetteville & Lovejoys. Support him if necessary only so far as is consistent with the times and to discover what Hood is about. I will have spies tonight at Macon to watch which way he goes. I think he will move back to Macon & Sand Town or to Richmond.

W. T. Sherman

Maj. Genl.



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2305 9/21/1864

*From:* William Vaux  
Chaplain U.S.A.  
Columbian Hospital,  
Washington, D.C.

*To:* Majr. Genl. O.O. Howard

Com'dg Depart. Tennessee,  
Atlanta, Georgia

OOH-2254

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[148]

Columbian Hospital, Washington, D.C., Sep. 21st, 1864.

My dear Genl

I have been appointed by the President, through Brig. Genl. W.S. Ketchum, to this place, where I arrived and entered on active duty on Thursday last, and am grieved to find a "horn in the flesh," in the shape of a malicious opposition from some of the underlings in E. Tenn, who have slanderously denounced me to the Sec. of War, as a rebel, and unworthy my position.

My good friend, Maj. Pelowze suggests that, as you were in Loudon, and saw something of me, you can do me a great service by favoring me with a few lines, in refutation of these reports, which seek the ruin of myself and family.

I add, by way of apology for this intrusion, that my anxiety prompts the course I have here taken, and that a good word from you may effectually served an old servant of the Lord, who desires to do his humble duty.

Praying that a gracious Providence may watch over and protect you, I am, with much esteem,

Your Obliged humble Servt  
William Vaux  
Chaplain U.S.A.

Majr. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Com'dg Depart. Tennessee,  
Atlanta, Georgia

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2306 9/22/1864      *From:* F. B. Gilman

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2255

Boston

Comdg Army & Dept of the  
Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150]

Boston Sep 22 1864

Dear General

Soon after my arrival at home my sister wrote you a few lines which you rec'd as I learn by a letter from Charles.

I have been at home eleven weeks during six of which I have been confined to my room, at first having been sick four weeks and subsequently suffering under an attack of dysentery. I returned from the country day before yesterday and now for the first time find a convenient opportunity to write to you as I have wished to do ever since my sudden departure from Camp at Bit Shanty. At that time I had no idea of returning home. My decision to come was not made without sincere regret at leaving your staff & giving up the opportunity of going through the Campaign.

I have wished to write that I might tell you of the very great pleasure to myself with which I served my short time with you, and the satisfaction with which I look back upon my brief soldiers life as a member of your Staff. I shall not cease to regret my inability to continue in the Service, which by your kindness I would have been enabled to enter under such pleasant & favorable circumstances. With an increased experience and better health I think my highest satisfaction would be to serve with you and do some small part toward finishing the great work of the war. I have wished also to write General and apologize for coming away without any explicit authority from you. I requested Charles to send me such documents as might be necessary, but did not wait for his reply. My impression however was that it was a matter of little consequence, but it has since occurred to me that perhaps I assumed more liberty than I ought. If so, it was from misapprehension of my true relation to you and the service. It was not intentional desertion.

I have rejoiced very much in your success and in that of Genl Sherman's Army. Allow me to congratulate you upon your accession to the Command of the Army of the Tennessee. Your responsibility & labors must be I should think largely increased by the change. I often wish that I could stand at the old desk & do a little writing for you.

Rowland writes me that Col Howard was not with you at the fall of Atlanta. He also writes under date of Sept. 22d that they had not heard from you since the battle of Jonesboro and were feeling anxious about your health. R is going to Worcester next week to attend the meeting of the Am. Board.

He writes of your Fathers death, news of which has doubtless reached you. If Charles has returned, as I hope he has safely, please give my regards to him and thanks for his letter of Augt 6.

We are rejoicing over good news lately from the Shenandoah and Mobile. Gold and prices are falling rapidly. May the hearts and strength of the Copperheads sink with them.

On Sunday Evg. I attended for the first time since my return an evening meeting at Dr. Stone's church. It was chiefly devoted to prayer for the soldier and the Army. Every morning this week at 8 o'clk they have a prayer meeting for this purpose. Dr. S. in speaking of God's hand visible in the War, alluded to the voluntary charge of the troops at Mission Ridge (4th Corps, was it not?) and said, "Who animated those heroic men to go forward? Who ordered that charge? The command came from no human lips, no banner visible to human eyes floated before them, but God Almighty himself led them on, and breathed into them the spirit of victory." He is full to the brim of zeal & love for the Army.

I am going to Portland for a visit and hope to make Rowland a short call at Farmington before I return. My letter is already too long General. I hope it will find you well. If you come home in the fall or winter I hope I may be able to see you. I am now & shall be probably for some months at my sisters, No. 603 Tremont St. Boston. My health is nearly confirmed, but I have not yet fully regained my strength.

I would like to be remembered to Stinson, Gilbraith & any others of the old staff who may be with you. Please give my regards also to Sam & tell him I hope to see him at the North after the war.

Excuse the length of my letter General & believe me very truly yours

F. B. Gilman

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg Army & Dept of the Tennessee

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2307 9/22/1864      *From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2256

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Near East  
Point, Ga  
Army and Dept Tenn.

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[572]

Hd. Qrs. Near East Point, Ga  
Army and Dept Tenn.  
September 22nd 1864

Dearest,

I have not written anybody and have done scarcely anything else since I began my reports. Genl Fullerton came over and patiently assisted me in drawing up the Fourth Corps report which was some 60 pages of Court Martial paper, and then I gave my attention to the Department report. Capt Gilbreth helped me, writing as I dictated, Capt Beebe, Jeanny's cousin, copied. This again made quite a volume. It was more work, as I had to compile from notes, letters, orders & other people's reports, more work for the time before I took command than after. Gen Sherman says the report was much more "life like" after I took command. Now the work is done I feel quite free.

Just as I was closing three letters came, one from you one from Dellie & one from Rowland. I felt sure they contained bad news and put off opening them for some time. I read Delly's first and for a few minutes seemed to realize that Father was dead, but I did not seem to feel much. I am much occupied and I think not really callous. What a good father –how kind –how considerate, what a warm welcome at every visit. I believe father loved me in his way very much. No word of reproach or anger from him that I can remember, and I think I never said a disrespectful one to him.

Gen. Thomas' characteristics are much like those of my father; he, while I was under his command, placed confidence in me and never changed it. Quiet, manly, almost <stern> in his deportment, an honest man can trust him.

Father had strong prejudices or rather strong judgments, if he thought a man once a rascal, he could not credit a reformation. Pure in his intentions for so many years and strictly honest in his purposes, I do not wonder that his character grew so fixed that it did not change on the approach of death. Wh can say that he did not fear God and keep his commandments. That his early training made him see through a glass darkly, that Christ's countenance was not so clearly visible as to give him a full assurance I believe, but I expect to meet my noble father in Heaven. God grant me the ability to live as uprightly as he. I dont think works save, but fruits tell the character of the tree. May he rest in peace.

My poor Mother is again alone, but she will be happy with Rowland for the present. I hope she will now be able to have a peaceful age, and no more care, that God may perfect her spirit, before her rest.

I dont live much in the present, but almost altogether in the future. To me honor & position has come in war, but I long for peace, for home, wife, children, for the time when friends will only fall by <disease> and have time to think of Heaven.

Charles is I think at Nashville tonight on his way back. My Corps commanders are all away and Gen. Sherman will not let me go. I had matured a plan to send Charles for you & the two youngest & if Guy & Grace would stay with Mrs Jackson, to come to Richmond Ind, and meet me on my return from the Miss. Capt. Gilbreth would be glad to take you back after the visit, but the inflexible Sherman says not. I cannot go to the Mississippi, & I do not see how I could leave my command. I hope, however, peace is not far off. The rebs. are plucky, but they are wrong & are giving out.

I agree with you about Julia. I feel badly that you have worked so hard but God will reward you. If all other ladies had done so there would have been less suffering. I am an abolitionist but in every sense a practical one. The negro must be employed & instructed, clothed. [Missing Page]

[See Note.]

My heart draws me towards you & the children, and I am thinking about your coming West, but the school privileges are so much better where you are than anywhere in the West that I hesitate about my proposition to form a new home. I am all the while hoping that peace is not far distant.

There is a great deal of Union Sentiment in Georgia, but every mouth has been shut for a long time by a fearful tyranny. I believe Gen Grant will accomplish his portion of the campaign before winter. If he succeeds matters will put on a different complexion. At present it is hard for me to anticipate where I shall be or what I shall do. Only a small part of the Army of the Tenn. is here, and Gen. Canby has the military control of the forces along the Miss. Whether I shall be able to take some post & control the entire department or remain with this portion of the Army in the field rests very much with Gen. Sherman. If he makes a fall & winter campaign, I shall doubtless command one of the columns under him. So you perceive how uncertain I feel as to future movements. If you were at Richmond Indiana with the children, I could reach you sooner during the lulls in operations. You can think about it & tell me what you think.

I have now got three little visitors, Flora Niles, a pretty little lady one year smaller than Grace, Springson Sylvey & Jerome Sylvey –two boys, twins six years old. They are children of people who were born in the North, at least little Flora is. She talks very freely & prettily and is a nice little lady. We encamped on one of her father's farms near Jonesboro & brought him, Flora & her mother on to this place in an ambulance. We gave three empty wagons to him in which to bring his goods & chattels. He & his wife were from New Hampshire i.e. originally. Gen. Sherman is banishing all the people from Atlanta North an South as they individually may elect. I found the father & mother of a mate at West Point –Mr & Mrs Solomons. They have an elegant house and the costliest furniture. It looks sad to see them at 70 years obliged to leave home & all. At the beginning of the war he says he was worth 175000 dollars for which he was taxed and now he can scarcely raise enough to go to Nashville with. He dont think they have gained much by war.

Guy seems to have a good many studies. Tell him again & again from papa that it is all important to get every lesson he undertakes well. I am glad he had so happy a time during his visit. Yes, Grandma will be very happy with Grace. Uncle Rowland says she is a dear good girl and Jamie how does he train with that troublesome will of his. I hope you & Chancy are well. We have a beautiful Head Qrs. here –an arbor of pine boughs shelters the front along the entire line of tents, and another grotto like is in my front near the flagstaff. Our nights are cool and our days not unpleasantly hot almost always a pleasant breeze. In fact so far as the weather is concerned we have had a delightful summer.

I am afraid now that our communication is again open that the mails will bring us bad news from father. I opened a letter from Rowland to Charles since our return to Atlanta. Father was lying on the bed growing weaker, with a good deal of fortitude, but R fears no faith. I think father an upright man. He had been a true father to me and if his spirit can not seize upon the brightest of the promises & love earnestly the Saviour, still God will lead him & bless him.

Would God I might see him again & talk with him, but I fear not. Atlanta, the draft, the nomination of McClellan will all be familiar to you before this gets home. Much love to all the children. Capt. Stinson is rather weak but does not bleed and I hope is slowly improving.

[Missing Closure]

[Note. The following pages (2 sheets, 4 sides) were glued to the above. However the abrupt change from the preceding paragraph to this one seemed odd. In these pages Otis speaks of the restored communication bringing "bad news from father", that he had not died, and yet the beginning of the letter speaks of his death and Otis goes on to reminisce about his father. I believe these pages belong to an earlier letter. ]

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2308 9/23/1864     *From:* Tayler Lewis

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2257

Union College  
Schenectady

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[151]

Union College Schenectady Sept 23 1864

My dear Sir

I thank you for your attention to my request and your favorable reception of it. I have an extreme reluctance to trouble you in the midst of your duties which you are so nobly fulfilling but you will pardon the interest I feel for this dear boy of mine. I do not know as I mentioned that he had rec'd a commission as Major in the 119th, but it had been so reduced that it was unavailing to him, - the regiment being less than one hundred men.

Although suffering from a sunstroke, which send him to the hospital for a few days, he fought steadily on from the first movement from Chatanooga in May, through all the severe battles, and was in the hottest of the engagement near Atlanta on the 20th of July. After that suffering much in health, he resigned his captaincy, and came home. The Majority has been given to another but it is of no account in the present state of the regiment. Having become strong again, he is <insistent> to return to the army.

I am satisfied that the line service is too hard for him. He dreads no exposure in the battle field, but his youth make me fear for him in the hardships of the camp. His left arm is stiff from the wound received at Chancellorsville, but it does not at all prevent him from managing a horse. I understand your difficulties, but still hope that you will be able to find some position for him on your own staff, or elsewhere.

I trust it will not be deemed impertinent in me to say that I am preparing a little book [Note 1] or pamphlet to which I have given much study & which I hope may be of some service in the present crisis of our beloved country. It is a comparison between the Grecian States and our own, being mainly an attempt to show the mischief which their custom of autonomy, or "State Sovereignty", did, in destroying all true nationality in that ever waning land. The more I study it, the more striking do I find the parallelisms is the effects of the similar pernicious dogma among ourselves. It will be published in a few days, and my knowledge of your own literary & scholarly tastes induces me to send it to you although your unremitting attention to military duties may not allow much time to attend to such productions. You can, at all events, receive it as a testimony of my high regard for your character as a man and as a soldier.

With <respect & esteem>

Yours

Tayler Lewis [Professor of Greek, Union College]

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

[Note 1. The book referred to is "State Rights: a photograph from the ruins of ancient Greece", published by Weed, Parsons and Company, 1865.]

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2309 9/24/1864    *From:* Milton Walsh

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2258

Houlton Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[155]

Houlton Maine Sept 24, '64

Maj. General Howard

My Dear Sir,

I will not take much of your precious time in reading a long letter. You may not remember me but I have observed your career with the liveliest interest since I shook you by the hand on that early morning in Augusta, when you left with the 3d Maine Volunteers. We were born in adjoining towns, (Leeds & Monmouth) fitted under the same teacher, Mr. J.G. True, who by the way has returned to the old school again, graduated at the same College, but since then our lives have been as far different as the acts of war and peace can make them. I followed the business of teaching about 15 years, lost my wife and only child, lost my health, and finally last every cent I possessed by this accursed Rebellion. At the <[torn page]> of the war, I was keeping a book store in Cuthbert Randolph County Georgia which is about 200 miles south of Atlanta, I saved myself but lost everything I had. Since then I have been keeping a little Bookstore in this far away corner of N.E. Maine.

Now you have my story in brief, and with it I wish to make a request. If it is practicable I would like to go to Atlanta with a stock of books and stationery and if possible retrieve my lost property. You know all the difficulties in the way and all the advantages, at this distance. I know nothing about them. If it is not asking too much I would like to have you return the enclosed envelope, and if you have no more time give me a simple answer to the question: Is it practicable?

Very truly yours  
Milton Walsh

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

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2310 9/24/1864     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2259

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[48]

Augusta Sept. 24th 1864  
Saturday Evening ½ past nine

Dearest,

I have just returned from Mrs Stinsons. I went down to see the Capt. Who arrived at four o'clock. I do not think you can possibly leave at present. I know you must have a great deal to attend to and cannot spare the time. Charlie will come will he not? On Mother's account I want him to very much. The Capt. Gave me your message "to return with him." I think I will have ample time to get ready. I fear I wont see you before the next campaign and that must not be far distant. I wish it was all over. I can't help being a little impatient sometimes.

Grace went to Leeds last Wednesday. Mother said she would be a great deal of company for her, and Grace likes to stay. I want to go out again before it gets to be very cold weather. I like to go by carriage best. We are all quite well now and Guy is very happy to know we are soon to have the whole house, but I rather dread fitting up this old house.

I fear if you stay away much longer you will find me not house-keeping. I think I am able to look after and provide for the welfare of the children, but there I would like to stop. Would'nt it be splendid if Mother could be with me and oversee my commissary department, it would be as much as she ought to do, and be enough to keep her busy.

I don't know what to do with Julia and her children but to keep her a while longer. She says she has no idea of marrying this man, hoping to be found by Moses Copeland (colored) who went with Col. Bond one month before she left Athens. I will let it rest hoping something will turn up in my favor before a great while.

I miss Grace very much but as Miss Woodward has given up her school to a stranger and it is not as select as it was, I am willing she should stay all winter. I don't know but it is a wrong feeling but I do feel relieved from care, and have less anxiety when she is alone with Grandmother. I do not like to have her or Jamie play with Martha and Fanny. They are more civilized than they were, and I think Julia does not punish them as severely as she did, but she talks to them in such a way, that I shudder when my children hear it.

Sunday Evening. You will think, Dearest, that I have opened my mind pretty freely to you of late as regards my trials and troubles, but I told you Atlanta was taken and you now must hear them.

I asked Capt S. if you were in earnest when speaking of making a change of home. He thought you were, "If you could get the time, and effect the change &c you would get to see us oftener." I like Mrs Jackson very much, her example is excellent, and she always has a good word for the children. She is worth a dozen Isabella's. I will enclose this with some papers that were left at the door the other morning. I don't think you will have to pay a very large tax. I hear Chancy crying. I will leave this now.

Monday Evening, Sept. 26th. I have allowed my letter to remain here all day waiting for a large envelope to put all these papers into. I have seen Dr. Duncan and shall call on his wife at the "Stanley House" to morrow. I was coming up the hill not long after the cars came in with Jamie. He stoped to pick up something and as I turned I saw this Officer coming behind me, and when he overtook me he asked if it was Mrs Howard and when he found it was and he "was not mistaken", he said he had a letter for me, then I knew he must be Dr. Duncan. He walked home with me, and then I walked down to Mrs S. with him. Mrs S. and I are to call on his wife in the morning and I shall invite them to come and stay with me during the remainder of their visit. He will go over to the Arsenal also. Mr and Mrs Gilbreth were at Mrs Stinsons this afternoon.

Late and I must close. With best love from your own  
Lizzie

If you go on your inspecting tour I shall look for you here. Glad for you Maj Whittlesey joins you. He left Brunswick today.

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2311 9/25/1864 *From:* Marble

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2260

Louisville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[9]

U.S. Military telegraph

Sept 25 1864

By Telegraph from Louisville Ky

To Gen Howard

I require Treasy permits to ship the special Treasy agt as Nashville seems indisposed to allow sufficient to fill transportation. Will forward goods soon as Treasy agts will permit. No money has been recd here to pay the Troops.

Marble

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2312 9/25/1864    *From:* W T Sherman  
M Genl

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2261

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[20]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
Sept 25 1864  
By Telegraph from Atlanta 25  
To Gen Howard

I have no doubt Hood has resolved to throw himself on our flank to prevent our accumulating stores &c here trusting to our not advancing into Georgia. Some Cavy got possession of Athens yesterday. I think I will send a Divn from Thomas to Bridgeport & the balance of the one you have at Rome viz Corsets so as to act in case the Enemy put himself up west of the Coosa. Let Corset get all ready.

W T Sherman  
M Genl

[Written on the back of the telegram.]  
Telegram  
Genl. Sherman  
Sept. 25th 64  
Relating to Hood's movements

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2313 9/26/1864 *From:* L.M. Dayton

A.D.C.

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2262

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[11]

U.S. Military Telegraph

Sept 26th 1864

By Telegraph from Atlanta 26

To Gen Howard

Your Brother is here & I will start him to you at 8 oclock

L.M. Dayton

A.D.C.

[Written on the back of the telegram]

Telegram

Capt. L.M. Dayton

Sept. 26th 1864

In relation to Genl. C.H. Howard

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2314 9/26/1864

*From:* Smith  
Manager  
Atlanta

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2263

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
[Sept. 26, 1864]  
By Telegraph from Atlanta 26  
To Gen Howard

Gold was quoted yesterday in Cincinnati at 175 and in New York at 200 also that Sheridan had continued to drive the Rebels up Valley didnt stop to take prisoners but made it a point to demoralize the Rebel Army It is said he captured 16 pieces of artillery. We are momentarily expecting our usual report when it comes will send it to you in full.

Smith  
Manager

[Written on the back of the telegram.]  
Atlanta Sept. 26  
Press Reports  
Relating to Sheridan's movements up the Valley



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2316 9/27/1864      *From:* Wharton J. Green.      *To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Vol. A.D.C.  
OOH-2265      Depot Prisoners of War      Com'dg. Army of the  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Johnson's Island Ohio      Tennessee

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[152]

Depot Prisoners of War  
Johnson's Island Ohio Sep 27th 1864

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com'dg. Army of the Tennessee  
General

I take the liberty of an old West Point classmate and former friend to request your good offices on effecting for me a special exchange or parole to return South. My reason is in brief, that my health is failing, and the almost certainty of a fatal termination should I be doomed to pass another winter in prison this far north. I was formerly Lt. Col. Com'dg. 2nd N.C. Bat'ln. C.S.A. But on the reorganization of my command was defeated and thrown out. Whereupon I was tendered the position of Vol. A.D.C. on Brig. Gen. Daniel's staff, in which capacity I was serving at the time of my capture in a wounded train, just after the battle of Gettysburg, July 4th, 1863. I have ever since been in prison, and for the last six months suffering from chronic sore throat and a strong predisposition to pulmonary disease.

Should you General evince a disposition to help me not doubting your ability so to do, I feel assured that your overtures will be met in a cordial spirit by our mutual acquaintance General J. B. Hood, Com'dg. C.S.A. of Tennessee.

Regretting the necessity of troubling you, I am Gen. with high respect your obt. Servt.  
Wharton J. Green.  
Vol. A.D.C.  
On late Brig. Gen. Junius Daniel's Staff

[Written sideways on last page of the letter.]  
Depot Prisoner of War  
Johnsons Island, Ohio  
Sept. 27th 1864.  
Green, Wharton Jr.  
Vol. A.D.C. C.S.A.  
Asked that Genl. Howard may intercede for his exchange.

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2317 9/28/1864    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2266

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[50]

Farmington Sept 28/64

Dear Brother

We have heard nothing from you since Charles left, but do not feel so anxious as we would did we not know that you depended on him so much to write. My last letter from him was dated at New Orleans the 13th and as he was to start up river the next morn, he is probably with you by this time unless the rebel raids prevented. I wrote you both as soon as father died & wrote you quite a full acct. of the funeral, which letters I hope you have received.

I enclose a letter from Mother, by which you will notice that her cares, her state of health & her affliction are telling sensibly upon her Spirits. I want if possible everything closed up at Leeds, and Mother come & live with us with frequent visits to her other children. With us her religious & social privileges will always be good and she will be thrown among a class of Christian people that she cannot help loving, but I shall press nothing, leaving the future to be providentially developed.

Sheridans victory & the consequent reduction in the price of gold have caused a very cheerful feeling throughout the country. Volunteers are coming in fast. Our towns quota has been filled without drafting by a very fair set of men. I am delighted with Shermans letters to the Mayor of Atlanta & Hood. He has a way of putting things in writing that is almost as good as a victory at arms. McClellan stock is very low, hardly to be found in the market here. His old friends were disgusted at the platform & Vice President, and the Copperhead per se, has no sympathy with Mac's war & Union talk. Since the Chicago Convention all things seem to work together for good to the Union cause.

Mother has counted somewhat on seeing Charles this fall –will she? Grace is with her Grandmother at Leeds & is both society & help for her. Sarah talks of going to Richmond, Ind. By the middle of Oct. I wonder if the foliage in Ga is as brilliant as here. Ella is quite busy making an album of autumnal leaves. Clara Davis is still in town. Dellie is engaged in quite a large business operation for him & Mother seems to fear that he will not make much, but I think he will do well. Ella joins me in love to you & Charles.

Lovingly  
Rowland

I expect to spend part of next week in Worcester at the annual meeting of the Am Board of the Missions.



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2319 9/29/1864    *From:* J Kilpatrick  
                                 Brig Genl Comdg  
                                 Div

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2268

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[15]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
Sept. 29, 1864  
By Telegraph from Kilpatrick  
To Maj Gen Howard

A column of Rebel Cavalry marched up the Chattahoochee river this afternoon on the opposite side and established pickets on the Sweetwater. I have no news that Hood is crossing the River. If he is crossing he should or would establish pickets on the Sweetwater.

J Kilpatrick [Hugh Judson]  
Brig Genl Comdg Div

[Written on the back side]

Telegram

Genl Kilpatrick

Sept. 29th 1864

A column of rebel Cavalry moved up the Chattahoochee

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2320 9/29/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2269

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
East Point

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[37]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee  
East Point, Sept. 29th 1864

Dearest,

I get so homesick that I can hardly contain myself, particularly while we are lying idle. I have tried to get away to inspect the posts and troops on the Miss, but Gen. Sherman will not consent, not knowing how soon my services may be required. If I went to the Miss, I think I should invite you strongly to take a trip West and meet me at Richmond or Louisville. Something may happen, darling, so <have can> meet this fall or winter. If it were not for breaking up and taking the children away from good schools I should favor a Western trip with them all. I cant help thinking of Gen. Smith (Baldy) and wife meeting at Louisville and then burying their only child. If anything should happen to one of the children in consequence of the move, we would reflect much upon ourselves. Yet it might be not only pleasant but positively beneficial to the children, if I should send home uncle Charles as an escort. Gen Thomas says he has'nt seen his wife for three years and thinks he deserves to do so. He therefore sends for her & Mrs Baird to come to Atlanta. It would be delightful to me if you were included in the party, but I would'nt risk you over this road from Nashville to Atlanta.

Charles has got back, but he finds it a terrible trip. A bad collision occurred on the Nashville and Chat'a road & many were injured but he escaped. Three or more trains move on the same time. The leading one got off the track, the next came up & halted but left no signal out, so that the 3d and 4th came mashing into them causing a frightful disaster. Chas was in the lead and had got out so that he was not hurt. Such gross misconduct will not be punished but that will not cure the broken arms & the mush of cars so much needed. But to the awful carelessness exhibited by engineers and conductors on these military roads is added the dangers from guerillas & parties of the enemy breaking up the track and burning trains. One train of 16 cars was burned just above Marietta, while Charles was en route and as I was expecting him I feared the enemy had taken him off. But he arrived the next day. He heard of fathers death in Louisville, receiving a letter there from Dellie. At present I don't like to spare him but think by & by I shall let him go home.

I will enclose a Draft for 300 on the Asst treasurer –Nr 218 issued from Louisville Ky Sept 16th 1864, payable to the order of Mrs E.A. Howard. You have not written me whither a Check sent you from Chattanooga by Express was ever received. I think it started about the middle of August. I find it was 430 dolls & sixty five cents sent August 4th. I have the receipt from the Express Company.

Give much love to all the children. You and Mother will write me about everything there. How is Mother; is Dellie at home &c.

You were thinking of going to Leeds, when you closed your letter. I have written you since. With much love & and a committing you to the Divine care.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

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2321 9/29/1864

*From:* Wm. P. Mellen  
General Agent  
Treasury  
Department

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2270

*Source:* Bowdoin

Treasury Department  
Office of the General  
Agent  
Cincinnati, O.

Commanding Dept. of the  
Tennessee  
East Point, Georgia

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[153]

Treasury Department  
Office of the General Agent  
Cincinnati, O. Sept. 29th 1864

General:

Your permit to Mr. George F. Marble to establish a Store at your camp under General Sherman's Order of Sept. 17, was this day presented to me by his partner Mr. Porter.

Neither General Sherman's order nor your permit name the monthly amount of goods to be permitted but names two and a half tons per day. This Mr. Porter estimates will amount to \$5,000. or \$6,000. per day, or \$150,000 and upwards per month.

I have granted them authority for \$25,000, per month, which will answer for their present shipment. I also promised to communicate with you and General Sherman upon the subject and if you desired they should have so large a monthly amount, and would so state in your permit, I would give the authority and instructions to permit officers to carry out your wishes.

I have written to General Sherman calling his attention to the matter, and will feel obliged if you will confer with him and inform me by telegraph of the result.

I have suggested that the amount be divided, and the same rule be applied by you which I have adopted in regard to Supply Stores generally; viz, to confine them exclusively to persons who have lost their health or limbs in the service of the Country.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and will carry out your wishes whatever they may be, the amount of supplies per month being stated in your permit.

I am Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
Wm. P. Mellen  
General Agent Treasury Department

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commanding Dept. of the Tennessee  
East Point, Georgia

[Written sideways on the back page.]  
Mellen, Wm. P.  
Treasury Agent  
Cincinnati O. Sep 29, 1864.

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2322 9/29/1864    *From:* C.C. Washburn  
Maj. Gen.

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2276

Memphis

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
(Cypher) East Point Oct 2 1864  
By Telegraph from Memphis Sept 29 1864  
To Maj Genl Howard

Yours of 27th rec'd. I have not Infantry that I can send to East Port. Your staff officer not arrived. I shall send all my Cavalry, about 3000 to morrow in pursuit of Forrest to Middle Tenn as I believe he will press north. Shall cross in Clarence County unless advised to the contrary.

C. C. Washburn  
M. G.

[Written on the back page.]  
Telegram  
C.C. Washburn  
Maj. Gen.  
Oct. 2nd 1864  
States that he has not Inftry that he can send to Eastport.

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2323 9/30/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2271

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49]

Augusta Sept 30 1864

Dearest,

I have been writing to Grace and wish to write you also to-night, but it is almost too late to accomplish much. Dr Duncan came Monday. I have not time to write you all about his stay at Augusta –will leave that for him. He went first to the Stanley House, the same evening started to deliver your letter and overtook Jamie and I coming up Bridge St. I turned to look after Jamie and saw this officer coming and he recognized me by the photograph you have.

I called to see them the next morning, stopping to engage the carriage on my way down to take them to ride in the afternoon but found at the stable the Dr had got ahead of me. I had invited them to come to the house from Mrs Stinsons where we all were to take tea, but soon Mr Gilbreth came in with a message from his wife to spend the night and next day with them. I consented providing he would bring them to me immediately after dinner as I feared they would leave the following morning, and my visit would be very short. I invited Gen. and Mrs Hodsdon, Mr McKenzie, and Mr & Mrs Mulliken to meet them in the evening at supper.

The next morning I persuaded them to remain one day longer. I sent for Mrs S. and Harry to come to dinner, and Maj & Mrs Gilbreth with Mrs S and Harry to supper. I wanted Maj and Mrs G the first evening but could not get word to them till too late for them to accept. I hope his visit to Maine was a pleasant one. Is'nt he an original character? He has a very interesting little wife.

We are well, and Grace still at Leeds. I hope to go out there soon. I wish to see Mother very much. I think Charlie will come home but I hardly expect you at present. I had a pleasant letter from Grace this week.

Good night from your  
own loving  
Lizzie

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2324 9/30/1864

*From:* J.F. Ellison  
Lt. 5th Ind. Battery  
Chattanooga Tenn

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2272

Comdg Dept of Tenn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[51]

Chattanooga Tenn September 30th 1864

General

Having had the honor and pleasure of serving in the fourth Army Corps during the late successful campaign on Atlanta, as well as the entire time you commanded the same, as Lieut Commanding the rifled Section of the 5th Ind. Battery and as the battery is soon to be mustered out of the service, together with its officers and being anxious to still serve the cause in some capacity after a brief visit home, I desire (if agreeable to you) a letter of recommendation to the military authorities of our State.

I am aware that in making this request I ask for more than I could anticipate, but I have endeavored for the last three years and three months, upon every field of strife, and at all times, to truly and faithfully discharge my duties as a soldier and now at the close of my term of enlistment I wish to reenter the service and your letter will assist me in obtaining the desired position in view.

Truly grateful for you many words of cheer and encouragement, upon some of the battle fields of the late eventful and memorable campaign.

I remain General  
Your obt. Servt  
J.F. Ellison  
Lt. 5th Ind. Battery

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comdg Dept of Tenn

[written sideways on the last page of the letter.]

Ellison J.F.  
File

Hd. Qrs. Dept & A. of Tenn.  
Oct 24, 1864

Respectfully referred to Capt Bridges, Chf. Of Arty. Of 4th A.C. With the request that if Capt Bridges deems Lt. Ellison worth he will write a letter recommending him and send it here for my endorsement.

Respectfully  
O.O. Howard  
Maj. Genl.

Head Quarters 4th A.C. Pulaski Tenn. Nov 12 1864

Respectfully forwarded to Hd. Qrs. Army & Dept Tenn.

When Lt. Ellison left this Corps I gave him a letter of recommendation to the State Dept of Ind. I have requested him to send that letter to Maj. Genl Howard for endorsement.

Lyman Bridges  
Capt. & Chf of Arty

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2325 10/1/1864

*From:* Oren M Whitman

*To:* Mrs. L.A. Howard

OOH-2273

Hortonville, Outagamie  
Co. Wis.

Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[574]

Hortonville, Oct 1st 1864.

Dear Cousin L.

Pardon the familiarity I use in thus addressing you; but I have thought much of you and learning from my friends at Auburn that you were still residing at Augusta I have resolved to address you.

More than a year has passed since I rec'd your kind letter. (A year of sad changes to me.) After reading your reply, I was intending to visit you on my way home. Suddenly I was summoned home to meet a dear friend, returning from the Army, on a sick furlough. I started at once, buoyant with the hope of so soon meeting him, of when after six years intimate acquaintance. I considered worthy of calling more than friend. But alas, I arrived just in time to receive a telegram of his relapse and expected death.

It is impossible to describe my own feelings. Even now when I recall these scenes. I can but exclaim Is it real Am I not dreaming . But it is no dream. Yet there is one thing real. A God, who doeth all things well . Thy will not mine be done. This is my support, my consolation.

His remains arrived in a few days after my return. They rest beneath the Pines, in a cemetery near our village. I have a monument which marks the sacred spot . Oh, it is a comfort, a great consolation to me, that I had the privilege of this.

Excuse this narration, but I my mind only wanders over the past. I have not been able to write only to a very few of my friends, since my return. Now I am feeling more resigned. So I have been teaching the Summer in our Grammar school and am now continuing the Fall term, numbering fifty pupils.

Mother often speaks of you, with remembrance of love. Father is Manufacturing Brick & Matches. We reside in a very pleasant so called New England village – mostly Maine people.

We are in hopes to see you and family some day. Would it be expecting too much, to ask for your pictures. Please to write the earliest opportunity and gratify us with the health of yourself and children. Especially the success of the General. Oh, may he spare to you. Again I must beg pardon for prolonging this sheet.

Hoping to hear from you speedily,  
I remain Yours Affect'ly  
Cousin Oren

Address: Oren M Whitman  
Hortonville, Outagamie Co. Wis.

Mrs. L.A. Howard,  
Augusta, Me.

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2326 10/1/1864    *From:* W.T. Sherman  
Maj Genl

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2274

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[15]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
Cipher Octo 1st 1864  
By Telegraph from Atlanta  
To Gen Howard and Cax

I have not yet heard from Gen Grant as to my proposed Campaign but it is well for you to have in mind that if Hood swings over to the Alabama Road and then tries to get into Tennessee I may throw back to Chattanooga all of Thomas men as far down as Kingston and draw forward all else, Send back all Cavalry & Locamotives destroy Atlanta & make for Savannah or Charleston via Milledgeville ard. If Hood aims at our Roads this side of Kingston and in no manner threatens Tennessee I will have to turn on him. Keep these things to yourself. The movement I propose is less by 200 miles than I made last fall and less than I accomplished in February and we could make Georgia a break in the Confederacy by ruining both East & West Roads and not running against a single Fort till we got to the Seashore and in Communication with our ships.

W.T. Sherman  
Maj Genl

[Written on the last page]

Telegram

(Private)

Oct 1st 1864

Sherman, W.T.

Maj Genl

Has not heard from Genl. Grant in relation to his campaign.

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2327 10/2/1864    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2275

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[51]

Augusta, Oct 2d 1864  
Sunday Evening

Dearest

I must wait till Julia comes home before I retire and I will employ myself in writing to you. I would like to talk to you to-night a long time and about a great many things. I think I shall ride out to Leeds next week if I possibly can get away. I think that Grace must be contented and happy judging from her letter. Mother wrote a few lines asking or rather hoping I could go to Leeds for a visit before cold weather. I told Gracie I thought I should go when she went away. I hardly hope to see you before the next campaign. I could not as I am now situated go to meet you far from home this Fall.

Sarah Sargent was thinking of visiting Richmond, Ind. I learn when at Leeds. Would take Otis with her, and wanted Ella to take Frank but she could'nt. Julia has told me rather confidentially that she has given herself away, but she is in no haste to leave, and no time set to be married, but I hope I shall not have to keep them all Winter. It is a common thing to go into the kitchen and find as many as three darkie visitors morning, noon or night, and late visiting in the evening. I cannot stand it anyway.

I have had no time, Dearest, to finish my letter till now – Tuesday evening. I have just received a letter from Grace – to “Guy and Mamma.” She writes that she will be home between now and Nov.

I take pleasure in informing you that Julia will be married D.V. some time this Fall. What a weight will be off my hands.

Otis how would it do for us to go out to Leeds and spend the winter? Would Mother desire it? Guy's school closes in three weeks, and then the vacation comes. Jamie and I went over to meet Guy to-day and Miss Fuller spoke very well of Guy as we walked some together. “is Latin and arithmetic, he does particularly well in.” I have no fear but that I can get someone to do the work in Julia's place. I fear Mother is still alone, I believe I should love to shut up the house just as it is till spring. I hardly feel like doing so much work this Fall, fitting up the house, entertaining this winter. It would save me a heap of trouble and care to say nothing of the expense. Five hundred dollars I think the smallest sum I can name to make ourselves comfortable for the Winter here. Everything may look better in the Spring. I could go to Leeds with or without a girl as Mother thought best. I wonder if you will think this a wild idea.

Dellie said he was going to the Law School in Nov. I suppose you know where. Mary Frances was with Mother when Grace wrote before her next to the last letter. Will Charlie come home. I have been thinking that he will.

Love to  
you from your own  
Lizzie

---

2328 10/2/1864

*From:* W.T. Sherman  
Maj Gen  
Comd  
Head-Qrs Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
Atlanta

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2277

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[163]

Head-Qrs Military Division of the Mississippi,  
Atlanta Oct 2, 1864

Gen Howard,  
Private.

Let Ransom come in slowly and if the enemy approach sully and attack him firmly. Davis will be in close support. I will throw standby across the Chattahoochie and be prepared to put our whole force in motion to interpose between Hood who may attempt to march on Road about Mantilla & his Bridges at Campbelton. Be prepared to send in all yr troops to Atlanta and to follow Stanley.

I would attack the Corps in position but presume it is strongly entrenched.

I am &c  
W.T. Sherman  
Maj Gen  
Comd

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2329 10/2/1864    *From:* W.T. Sherman  
M.G.

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2278

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

U.S.Military Telegraph  
Oct 2d  
By Telegraph from Atlanta 2  
To Gen Howard

There is a flood in the Chattahoochee which has damaged our Railroad bridge & will of course carry away any of Hoods bridges. I want that reconaissance pushed out boldly as soon as it reaches Fairburn. Let me now as I may push it on to the rear of their bridge. All the valuable part of Enemys Corps is over beyond Sweetwater & we can do them damage on this side now. The same cause which produced the rise in the Chattahoochee will affect the Tenn & Forrest will be in danger with a swollen river to his rear.

W.T. Sherman  
M.G.

[Written on the reverse of the telegraph]  
Telegram  
Genl. Sherman  
Oct. 2, 1864  
There is a freshet in the Chattahoochie river.

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2330 10/2/1864    *From:* W. T. Sherman  
Maj. Genl.

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2279

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[20]

U.S. Military Telegraph

Oct 2d 1864

By Telegraph from Atlanta 2d 1864

To Gen Howard

All our Cavalry is across the Chattahoochee. Hood may attempt to swing in between Marietta & Alatoona with 2 Corps leaving Lee to cover his bridge. If so I may turn on Lee and then on the other force. Keep your Command ready. I await the arrival of the Courier.

W. T. Sherman

Maj. Genl.

[Written on the reverse side.]

Telegram

Genl. Sherman

Oct. 2nd 1864

In relation to Hood's movements.



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2332 10/2/1864

*From:* W.T. Sherman,  
Maj. Genl.  
Comdg

*To:* Genl. [Jefferson  
Columbus] Davis

OOH-2281

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters Mil. Div.  
of the Miss.  
Atlanta, Ga.

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[157]

(Copy)

Head Quarters Mil. Div. of the Miss.  
Atlanta, Ga., Oct 2nd, 1864

Genl. [Jefferson Columbus] Davis -

Communicate with Genl Howard, and be prepared to send into Atlanta all your traps, and to move with ten days rations toward Marietta or to Fairburn, as the case may call for. I think Hood has crossed the Chattahoochee with two Corps to attack our road, and has left one Corps on this side near Campbelton. We should interpose.

(signed) W.T. Sherman,  
Maj. Genl.  
Comdg

Official  
A.C. McClurg  
A.D.C. &c

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2333 10/4/1864

*From:* J.D. Cox [Jacob  
Dolson Cox]  
Brig Gen.  
Army 23 AC  
Chatt'a Bridge

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2282

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[21]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
Oct 4th 1864  
By Telegraph from Chatt'a Bridge 1864  
To Genl Howard

The head of my column is just coming in from Decatur. Will you please inform me whether your army has all crossed so that I may determine whether the road will be clear for me. Part of the 17 AC is crossing but I cannot learn what position it has in the column.

J.D. Cox [Jacob Dolson Cox]  
Brig Gen.  
Army 23 AC

[Written on the back side.]  
Brig. Gen. Cox  
Comg 23 A.C.  
Oct. 4th  
Has Genl. Howard's army all crossed &c.

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2334 10/5/1864    *From:* W.T. Sherman Maj Gen.    *To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2284    Headquarters, Military  
*Source:* Bowdoin    Division of the  
Mississippi  
In the field, Near  
Marietta

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[154]

Headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi  
In the field, Near Marietta, Oct 5 1864

Genl Howard

I want you to select a line to connect on your Right with Stanley and the Left to cover the Powder Spring Road. I don't care about your being out as far as Culps. It may be the old Rebel Line this side is equally good, but you can select. I want to advance the Right of our General Line. Cox to the Lewis town road, and will put his left at Stanley's Right (<River top Marten>) and his right forward as far as possible.

Yrs  
W.T. Sherman Maj Gen.

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2335 10/7/1864

*From:* C.H. Howard  
A.D.G.

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2283

Powder Springs [Ga.]

Cmdg Army Tenn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[164]

Powder Springs [Ga.] Oct 7, 64  
4 ¼ P.M. 1864

General

Gen. Belknap's head of column is just starting forward on one of the Dallas roads (after a <> next) following Kilpatrick. The latter sent back word from a fork of the road four miles distant (Almond's) (where the left hand leads to Pumpkin Vine) that he wanted the Infantry, that the opposing force was Cavalry but that he could not drive them from their Earth works. Gen. Belknap intends to move out to that point and back here if he can. He thinks it best to encamp here and he may not push so far as where Kilpatrick now is.

Citizens say no Infantry has been here but that [Benjamin Franklin] Cheatham's Corps ([William J. Hardee's]) has been out there and that some of the Rebel Infantry went from there on towards Lost Mt. I intend to return to camp after I ascertain certainly where Gen. Belknap will encamp and whether Kilpatrick succeeds in dislodging the Enemy.

Respectfully  
C.H. Howard  
A.D.G.

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Cmdg Army Tenn

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2336 10/7/1864    *From:* J Kilpatrick Brig Genl    *To:* Col [William] Clark  
AAG  
Army of Tenn

OOH-2285                      Hd Qrs Cav

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[160]

Hd Qrs Cav  
Oct 7th 1864  
11 am

Col [William Thomas] Clark  
AAG  
Army of Tenn

Col

I am at Power Springs. Enemy left last evening in Direction of Dallas. I am marching now for Pumpkin View & roads south of Dallas. I would respectfully suggest that the Infantry be pushed in direction of Dallas, to protect my right. Hoods Infantry I learn is <moment> to the right of Dallas. Forage in abundance on this side Noses Creek.

Very Respectfully  
J Kilpatrick Brig Genl [Hugh Judson]

[Written on the back side.]

Hd. Qrs. Cavalry  
Oct. 7th 1864  
Kilpatrick, J.  
Brig. Genl. Comg.

States that he is at Powder Springs. Enemy left last evening in direction of Dallas. Suggests that Infantry be pushed out towards Dallas to protect his right flank.

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2337 10/8/1864 *From:* H.M. Stinson

*To:* Dear General, [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2286

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156]

Augusta  
Oct 8d 1864

Dear General, [OO Howard]

I should have written to you before but I wished to be able to tell you the real state of my health and the probabilities as to my returning; this I have only known since Wednesday when I was thoroughly examined by Dr. Hill who is considered very skillful in such cases.

He told me that the attack of bleeding I had while in camp had caused inflammation in a portion of the left lung; that I might recover or it might prove fatal; that under the most favorable circumstances I ought not to think of returning in less than six months. There is a sort of unnatural heating to the heart which throws the blood into the lung with great force. This of course was very bad but lately my pulse does not seem so rapid.

The Dr. has placed me on a low diet and allows me to make no exertion that will put me out of breath; says I can go out during the pleasant part of the day. He says the Western climate would be no better than that of Maine and that I had best remain here.

Perhaps I have written too much about myself but I thought you might like to know just how I was. If I could only be back once more in the army with strength and health I think I would be very happy. My return seems very doubtful and I thought I would ask your opinion as to whether I had better resign at once or hold on for awhile. I intend to wait until I hear from you before taking any action in the matter.

Since I have been at home the time has passed very pleasantly indeed and now I am feeling first rate and can hardly realize that I am unwell. The mail is just about to close and I must close though there is much I would like to add. Will write again soon.

Much love to all the old staff. Will send letter to the Major by next mail.

I am General  
Very Truly Yours  
H.M. Stinson

[Written on the back page.]  
Stinson, Capt  
Augusta Oct 8 /64

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2338 10/9/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest[OO Howard]

OOH-2287

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52]

Augusta, Oct. 9th 1864  
Sunday evening

Dearest

I received a good long letter from you this morning dated Sept 22d. I sent Guy to the Office for I felt that I must have had a letter come in the late train Saturday night. I am glad for you that your reports are made out.

I want to know what you mean by Mother's "living with Rowland" As I have not seen any of the family, excepting at the funeral, I have learned nothing of their plans, or wishes expressed or unexpressed, and I do not understand it. I heard a little about business, getting out timber, which no one seems to approve, but poor Dell who seems to think he can carry on the business as well as his father with his experience of many years. Dell don't realize yet his great loss. Why is Mother going to Rowland? I don't understand it. William Merrick made somewhat the same remark, but I was so astonished I could make no answer, or inquire into it.

My last letter mentioned about going to Leeds, so you see I am ignorant of all plans. I feel badly enough I assure you all alone, with the care of four little children, no father's house, no brother, no sister, no anything but a precious husband far away at the Wars. I hardly dare to go to Leeds now for fear I might say how happy I should be to have Mother with us. There are many reasons why I should'nt speak. Mother write in Grace's letter that she found in talking with Dellie, he had said nothing to me about "my part." I have'nt the slightest idea what sort of a part is mine, or what she could mean –hoped I could go out and stay a few days.

I will get cousin Edward to drive out with me, if he is able to come to Augusta. He is home now, "been very sick, hope he is now improving." I do want Mother to have no more care, and live in whatever way will bring her the greatest amount of happiness.

Mrs Stinson was in to see me last evening. Herbert is established at Newport, for the Navy. The Capt. Is not as well as when he reached home. I fear he has acted too much like a well man. Mr B. is glad he has written asking your advice, knows you will not let him resign &c. There is every reason why he should not.

I thought I would write till Chancy waked, he is still asleep. He is getting to be quite a talker, talks a great deal to "Ju-bee". I hope you will get this letter with the one I wrote a few days ago for it seems to be a part of it. I did get the money from Chatt'a, sorry I neglected to mention it. I shall think no more of coming West. I could not take the small children or leave them with Mrs Jackson. We are all prepared for cold weather and it is not possible to do any thing until the Fall goods are purchased by the merchants and they are going to put off making their purchases for the present –the prices are high and the market uncertain.

I am glad you spoke as you did about a Brigadiership. I hope it will be offered you. Others have spoken about it to me, thought you deserve it, and your humble servant thinks so.

I want to see Grace very much, but I think she better stay with her Grand-mother, if it is convenient, till after Julia is married. She is to marry a man who came here with an Officer, from the south, and I hope will be married by the first of Dec. But Mrs Jackson says many a slip between the cup and lip. I am going to run away from everything burdensome this afternoon and go over to see Mrs Gilbreth. I think Mrs Farwell must be there also. A report came the other day that Lieut. Murphy was killed. I have not heard if it is really so.

I am finishing my letter Monday afternoon just after dinner. Guy is learning his lessons –Chancy amusing himself –Mrs Jackson knitting. Jamie is coming in now. Martha and Fanny are starting for school. It is quite a cold Fall day –the sun not shining and altogether quite a cheerless day. Now I will close my letter and Jamie is waiting to come to the desk to paint "Guy said Ja might have Guy's paints." He has been making Chancy a kite (a piece of paper with a thread tied to it) he is now flying it. Jamie "Sends papa a kiss and Jamie's letter". Guy thinks he ought to write to pa-pa.

Your own loving  
Lizzie

---

2339 10/10/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2288

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Near Marietta

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Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
October 10th 1864  
Near Marietta

Dearest,

Charles is just starting for Alatoona and will take a line for you. For a week we have had our communications cut and probably you have got rumors that may have occasioned you much anxiety. Hood crossed the Chattahoochee below Campelltown and moved up in force between Marietta & Alatoona, breaking the R.R. & attacking Alatoona. He failed to carry Alatoona and we were soon upon his heels. He has drawn off towards the West, and we are fast repairing damages. Slocum was left at Atlanta, which is all right. We don't know what Grant has been doing though we get rumors of good news.

Give much love to the children from Papa & Uncle Charles. Capt. Gilbreth is well. Please write me about the checks you have received. Much love & many kisses and God bless & keep you.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2340 10/11/1864 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Mrs Elizabeth Howard

OOH-2289

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[576]

Portland Octr 11 1864

Mrs Elizabeth Howard  
Dear Niece

I enclose the Certificate of the 6 Shares of Stock in National Bank.

As you did not say whether you wished me to Remit your dividends of Bank Stocks, I await your orders. The whole amount will be \$167.50 I did not know but you intended to make some further investment. If you wish me to collect and remit the money I will do so as soon as I receive your answer.

Edward Francis is still very sick and weak has not been able to leave his Room for 3 or 4 weeks. Some days not able to leave his bed.

In haste, Your Affectionate Uncle  
E. Waite

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2341 10/14/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2290

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[53]

Augusta Oct 14th 1864

Dearest

I have just received your letter of the 29th, but I have received your telegram since. I am very glad to learn that Charlie has at last reached you in safety. I had some fears that the enemy might take him off. I hope you can indeed come home some time this Winter. I shall not think of going anywhere for I am not situated so I can leave, and shall not be. I have a strong desire to go to Leeds, and mean to go with Guy, as soon as his school is finished. I hope Mother is getting rested and looks better than when I saw her. Dellie was going to "Law School" in Nov. I presume he is still intending to go. So you are going to have the opportunity of voting for the re-election of Pres. Lincoln. Will it not be your first vote?

The draft for \$200. came in the last letter. How happened it to be payable to the order of E.A. I will address you as I once did, when you said "please not" if it comes again without sufficient excuse.

Julia's marriage does not seem to be a settled thing yet, but I have decided not to keep her all Winter any way. I feel that I have done enough for them. She could get a rent take in work and support herself. I should feel confined at home just so long as I should have her with me.

I saw Harry day before yesterday. I was at the house. He seems about the same. We have had a great deal of damp, rainy weather which keeps him confined to the house.

Mr Blaine is at home, kept Guy till 7 ½ in the evening yesterday, and then came home with him, so I would'nt blame Guy for staying to tea without permission. Mr Nason sent me a disk of delicious grapes this evening. How I wish you could enjoy them with us. If I could'nt look forward with bright hopes for the future. I don't know what I should do with myself. I try, but I fear I do not try hard enough to perform my daily duties. Oh! I do not do any one thing as I ought. I want your help sympathy encouragement. I am thankful I can at least hope I may have all these some, not very far removed, future day.

I like Mrs Jackson's company and assistance. Edward is still confined to his room at home. I received my dividends from Uncle a few days since.

I left my writing last evening when Chancy waked, and now I will add a few words before Guy goes to school. Rowland was in Boston when I last heard of him, Ella remained in Portland with Lizzie. Guy sends "kisses and love to Papa and Uncle Charlie, hopes he (the latter) can come home." I suppose from what has been said, he thinks there is more prospect of Uncle Charlie's coming home first.

Much love to you both.  
From your Lizzie

---

2342 10/18/1864 *From:* Jeanie H. Grey

*To:* Dear General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2291

Hudson Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[54]

Hudson Ohio 18 Oct '64

Dear General Howard:

Mama wrote you the first week in August on the receipt of Willis's Letter telling us you had so kindly infolded him in your "family military." What a response to our anxious fears for the darling fellow! How just lovely of you to take him under your wing in that horrid place! & then send him to bless his dear mother's longing eyes! God bless you & your generous brother, of whom Willis speaks so highly for your great kindness to him & to us!

I wrote to you shortly after my mother wrote, that I was about send those books to yr brother in Maine. (I sent them by Express –the 17th of August) but I suppose your hearts & hands are full –indeed I never expected you to answer all my letters –only I feared you had not received them, as my cousin Willis does not speak of getting my letters to him in his home letters. I have not heard whether your brother has received the books. I directed the boxes to "Rev Roland Howard Farmington, Maine." Was that right?

Excuse me for sending a hastily <generated> list. I took for fear they should be lost, & I thought you might recover them or at least the Express charges, which I fear the books wont be worth to you! If you had this list.

Oh! How we have rejoiced & praised the "Lord of Hosts," for your triumphal march through the "Dead Man's Lane!" & your (plural) safety through such scenes of horror!

We say with Cowper-

"Let laurels drenched in pure Parnassian dews  
Reward his memory, dear to every muse,  
Who, with a courage of unshaken root,  
In honor' field advancing his firm foot,  
Plants it upon the line that Justice draws,  
And will prevail or perish in her cause.  
'Tis to the virtues of such men, man owes  
His portion in the good that Heaven bestows."

Mrs Col. Taylor of Washington & her daughter Mrs Col. Kingsbury have our cottage till the 22nd of November, when we expect to "ail" from Greystone. We expect to go east as soon as mama is able & while the pleasant fall weather lasts, and oh, how happy I should be to receive our good friends there, Gen Howard and family & Colonel Howard. We heard the other day through Willis's letter to his father that Col. Howard goes home on a leave & mama & I would be very happy to see him if possible at any place we may be. Our movements are so uncertain, that we cannot tell where we shall be, but if mama is well we expect to go to Poughkeepsie till we can get into our house –from here, in about two weeks to Syracuse then to Po'keepsie, then home.

What a tedious letter!"say you! But I could write on forever to him, who I think feels an interest in the widow & orphan he has done so much to comfort. God bless him!

What a badly written letter too? Pray pardon it. Our warmest love to our Willis & our dear friends! My mother's & that of

Very sincerely your grateful and affectionate friend  
Jeanie H. Grey

---

2343 10/20/1864 *From:* S. D. Niles [Samuel Dexter] *To:* Gen. O.O. Howard  
OOH-2292 Lisbon, N.H. Army of Tennessee  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Lisbon, N.H. Oct. 20 1864

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Army of Tennessee  
Dear Sir

After a journey of four weeks we have arrived at my place of destination. I have thought much of your kindness to us during our stay near your Hd. Quarters. We suffered much on our way here. We were ten days in the box car we started in from Atlanta. When we got to Nashville they sent us down to Johnsonville and from there to Louisville by boat several hundred miles out of our way as you will see. The boat was fired into by a hundred Bushwhackers. We all lay down in the boat. One was wounded. Several shots passed through the boat.

I hope you are well. I would write you about that girl at Mr Silveys but I presume she has gone long ago. I bought an Album for Photographs and also your photograph to put in it. It was a perfect likeness of you.

If possible, I would like to have the soldiers who are guarding the rail road near my plantation see to our house and out buildings that they may not be destroyed. Any thing you may be able to do for me in way of saving my property will be remembered with gratitude.

If that girl has not gone I will find a place for her if you will write me at Reading Mass care of William Carter. My wife and Miss Stevens send their kindest regards to you. Flora sends a kiss. I would like to hear from you but do not suppose you can get the time to write. I shall go to Mass. In a few days.

Very respectfully yours  
S. D. Niles [Samuel Dexter]

P.S. Please hand the within to Mr. Silvey as I do not know as a letter would go through to him. N.

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2344 10/21/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2293

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165]

Augusta Oct. 21, 1864

Dear Brother Otis

Frank Gilman has made me a weeks visit at Far. And I bro't him down here yesterday to see Lizzie & Capt Stinson. He is not up this morn. But has almost recovered from his severe illness. Stinson is a good deal better but his voice is quite hoarse, his breath short and he is thin of flesh. He took Dinner with us here & we took Tea with his Mother last evening. I go home today.

I left my little family quite well –was at Leeds a week ago. Mother seemed well & Dellie was prospering in his lumbering operations. They had sold the sheep & prepare to sell much more, if not all the things & perhaps the farm. Mother feels that she wants a home somewhere where she can receive & entertain her friends, and feels undecided as yet whether to keep the old place and live there along with hired persons or what to do. I think she does not want to be a guest or even at home with her children yet permanently. If I could rent her a small house in Farmington, I would like to have her there.

I hope Charles will be able to come home, bring your own views about these things with his own. The “golden mean” is as usual hard to reach. I don't want Mother to feel any longer that she must work like a Day laborer. Nor do I wish to condemn her to what would be harder for her, a life with any care or usefulness.

The last news from you was the telegram of the 10th inst. After Altoona. One great reason that induced me to come to Augusta was the uncertainty that we have so long felt about your & Charles location. I have just learned for the first time that he got thro. From Louisville in spite of R.R. accidents & Rebel raids. God be thanked for his deliverances & that you are again together. Our reports of the movements of Hoods & Shermans Armies are very conflicting. How the former go up so far with so large a force is a mystery & I fear communication will be for some time uncertain. I wrote to Charles at Memphis to Washburns care & to you all the particulars about fathers sickness, death & funeral. I hope the letters did not miscarry as they will all be necessary to complete the history of events & satisfy your minds.

I am writing in the “Study”. Guy is looking at a picture book in the lounge & sends some kisses. Jamie has just been in in his night dress to get a strap to fasten Chancey in his chair. Lizzie has appeared once at the door – solicitous about my writing materials. Mrs Jackson a quiet, modest, efficient woman, kind & attentive & christian has just said “Good Morning”. Frank is just out of bed & I hear him dressing. Julia & the children are well. Chancey looks more & more like a D.D. fat, sleek, sober & short, but still rather long for his cradle his mother says. He doesn't talk much but shows his fathers will occasionally. Guys School closes today & he hopes to go out to Leeds with his Mother for Grace next week. The latter is a great comfort to her Grandma. Tell Charles Ellas sister Lizzie has a little daughter born last Sab. P.M. Both doing well.

We hope that when Maj. Whittlesey arrives & the Rebels leave, Charles may get away, and we will all expect to see you this winter & no doubt we shall. “Let patience have her perfect work” is a good text for you & us. I have gathered from Frank & Stinson many things about the Campaign of which I was before ignorant. I saw Mr Blaine yesterday but Farwell was away.

With much love from all

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

Lizzie is looking unusually well & Frank thinks she has changed very little for years.



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2345 10/22/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2294

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Army of Tenn.  
Near Gaylesville  
Alabama

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[577]

Hd. Qrs. Army of Tenn.  
Near Gaylesville  
Alabama Oct 22nd 1864

Dearest

I received a letter from you dated as late at October 11th 1864 and another of the 5th. Our communications having been cut & the entire rebel Army interposed between us and Chat'a & home, I have deferred writing. Now the wires are all right and I understand the R.R. has been repaired. The last break between Dalton and Resacca was some 18 miles, but it has been repaired in very quick time, & the result is that we can hear from home again. In a few days I expect we shall go on an Expedition which will again cut us off awhile from home communication.

I am glad about Julia. I ought to have told you how to do with her –viz. rent a small house and let her & her children live there, and give them the washing and some sewing &c to encourage others to do so, and Julia who is smart would soon learn to make a living. I am exceedingly sorry you have had so much trouble on their account and shall rejoice if Julia gets a good help-mate.

I would be pleased to have you & the children go and stay with Grandmother this winter. I have heard of no plans whatever excepting that while mother was so lonely Rowland invited her to go up & live with him. No property considerations must ever trouble us.

It is well for Dellie to carry on any business, it does not matter what. The rough edge will all be knocked off in time. Dellie is cut out for a man & not a boy. He never was a boy even in looks. I am glad Gracie writes to Mamma & Guy, but am a little jealous on my own account. I am very happy to hear such good account of Guy from his school. What he does, be it ever so little, papa wants it well done.

It is pretty hard not be able to see you or the children this winter and I feel it, but since Gen Sherman refused to let me go, Hood has moved and we have marched 183 miles and are now away over here in Alabama. The General was right. Now he will not consent to my going even to Chat'a or Nashville. These are really marks of confidence, but those that keep me pretty well confined. Gen Schofield went to Louisville and was cut off. He has arrived today. Gen. Thomas also was caught north of Chattanooga, but fortunately he was needed there.

Maj Whittlesey came through to meet me at Kingston on the only train that succeeded in getting through before the second break in the R.R. He is here and well. Charles is well. I cannot let him go home for fear he could not get back to me before our grand move. I am very anxious for him to go home to help adjust matters, but I feel that he is more needed here. I don't want Capt. Stinson to give himself any uneasiness whatever about the service. I love him too well and regard the service he has done and the sacrifice he has made too much to have him leave on any account. I have not received a letter from Mr Blaine but have had one from Stanton himself. I hope <homes> quiet & comfort will restore him in a short time. If not he knows where to look for strength. He may stay as long as he chooses & God bless him.

Give much love to all the little ones & kisses from papa. I shall have to be introduced to Chancy if not to Jamie if I do not get home this winter. Guy will have to bring in a good deal of wood to keep you all warm at Leeds this winter. God bless you all

Lovingly  
Otis

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2346 10/22/1864 *From:* F.T Sherman  
Col 88th Ill Infy  
Chicago

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comdg Dept of Tenn

OOH-2295

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[162]

Chicago Oct 22d 1864

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comdg Dept of Tenn  
Dear Sir

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of my return home and release from rebel prisons. I am in the position of a paroled prisoner and am ordered to report to Camp Chase Ohio after my short leave expires. My health has been very poor since my return and am at present confined to the house and under the Doctors charge, having been seriously threatened with typhoid fever. All of which I hope has passed away.

I trust ere long to be able in person to thank you for the interest you took in my case, and the kindness shown Mrs Sherman in her lonely position. I can only say General my heart feels more, your kindness and consideration, than I can find language to express. I trust that my Capture (unfortunate for me) will not prejudice me in your good opinion for I have learned by experience that prisoners are not regarded as being worthy of the Confidence of the Government and in many cases of their immediate Commanders. Mrs Sherman joins me in sending our regards to your Brother and other numbers of your Staff with whom we may be acquainted. Permit us to offer our best wishes for your health and continued success. And believe me

I am General  
Truly and Sincerely  
Your Obt Servt  
F.T Sherman [Francis Trowbridge]  
Col 88th Ill Infy

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2347 10/23/1864 *From:* O.O. Howard  
Maj Genl  
OOH-2297 Gaylesville

*To:* Mrs. O.O. Howard  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[580]

The American Telegraph Company

Received at Augusta Oct 25 1864  
By Telegraph from Gaylesville 23d Via Rome Ga 24th Via New York 25  
To Mrs. O.O. Howard

All well. You better go to Leeds for the Winter.  
O.O. Howard  
Maj Genl

1 of collect 3.20

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2348 10/25/1864 *From:* Abby Munson

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2296

Farmington, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[42]

Farmington, Me, Oct [25, 1864?]

Gen Howard

Dear Sir

A line from my Son, now on the Pacific Coast, just received, desired one of your men in the State to see and present a request. That you give him some place on your Staff. Says 'tis not rank or pay, but he wished to see the fight.

He was in our first conflict Bull Run –2d Lt. Vol. Then promoted to the Regular Service. Some time at Fort Columbus, New York harbor. Five years next Dec. He was ordered to his regiment on the Pacific. He has advanced to 1st Lieutenancy.

Present address

Lieut Samuel Munson

9th Infantry U.S.A.

San Francisco, California

He has the best of reputations –a good christian officer.

Dear Sir, you will excuse this intrusion, if it is one. I wish briefly to state the above desire to come East.

The Lord bless all your ways, being ever a present comforter.

Much love and respect

Yours,

Abby Munson

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2349 10/27/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2298

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Near Gaylesville Ga

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[578]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Near Gaylesville Ga 1864 27th Oct

Dearest,

I will write you a few lines this morning. We are all well. Capt Gilbreth has a slight cold however, but it will soon be over. Charles has given up going to Leeds till the close of the coming campaign. We will soon be cut off from home communication except perhaps by an occasional glimmer, through some orderly or scout. I hope you will go to Leeds where you will feel far from care and make yourself & Mother as happy as possible. I will see the paymasters at Rome or at Atlanta forward to you my last two months pay.

I am glad Guy is doing so well in his studies. I hope he will take great pains to spell correctly. Gracie must love Grandma very much. I expect she will know a great deal more about her father than Guy, for Grandma has had so many opportunities to tell her. Jamie will have a nice time at Leeds with all the chickens and cattle, and perhaps Chancy will enjoy keeping him company. From all accounts Chancy is a very happy boy with a very good heart, beats his father & mother in good nature. Do you suppose he will know his father if he stays away much longer.

Hood has gone off somewhere & it is difficult to find out where. Everybody says he is aiming for Tennessee but he has not yet appeared across the river.

I am almost sorry to have the children growing older as I want to see them as I left them. I don't know how it is with you, darling, but I like them little. I said that once to be a friend & he replied, "plenty of opportunity for more". But more is'nt those.

I will write to Harry Stinson today, but if my letter should not reach him, please tell him, that he can stay at home till he is well and I hope he may be well. Dr Hill does not speak very encouragingly about him.

I hope Delly will do well, and I do not doubt it in the least. He must be encouraged to try. Let a young man undertake anything. Guy must never say I cant. I don't think Jamie will ever say I cant for he has a very strong will, but I am a little afraid Guy may get disheartened sometimes. But I pray daily for you all, for strength from on high. Pray for me all my little family for I need strength & wisdom. God bless & keep you all.

Capt Beebe is still with us, a noble young man. Capt Gilbreth has just made me a present of an elegant belt.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2350 10/28/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2299

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[55]

Augusta Oct. 28th 64

Dearest,

I returned from Leeds yesterday with Grace and Jamie. I had a delightful stay with Mrs. Whittlesey, both going and returning. Was very sorry to learn that Maj Whittlesey was cut off at L. from reaching you earlier.

Mrs Wing has a little daughter two weeks old. I called there a few minutes on my way to the cars.

Mrs W. had not heard from her husband since the 9th of Oct. By letter from Chatt'a.

I received your letter from "near Marietta" the 10th and the Dispatch from Gaylesville the 23d inst. Will remain both to Mother this morning. It seems Mother and Father had spoken about my going to Leeds this winter, and Mother spoke of our doing so when I first got to Leeds this time. She will consider what will be for her best comfort. Mother should be thought of first.

Great haste best love to both  
Lizzie

Checks received  
one from Chatta  
one from you  
one \$200.

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2351 10/28/1864 *From:* Jn M Corse

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2300

Head Qrts 4 Div 15 A.C.  
Rome Ga.

Comd A&D of Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161]

(Personal)

Head Qrts 4 Div 15 A.C.  
Rome Ga. Oct 28 1864

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comd A&D of Tenn.

I rec'd your kind personal note yesterday and regret I had not my report ready. I have been so busy that time and space seem to have been annihilated. I assure you "Our Army" has been watched with a zealous interest & have not failed to do whenever & whatever I could for it efficiency & comfort. The report I hope to have ready by tonight or tomorrow when I will send it to you at once.

I sent an officer immediately to Chattanooga to bring up all men & officers fit for duty.

I find it difficult to procure equipments for the convalescents. Guns I have in abundance as I brought up about 800 stand I had picked up on the field at Allatoona. I'll do my best to procure & supply the men as they are ready to go to the front.

In the meantime accept my grateful thanks for your kindness & favor & believe me

Devotedly Yours  
Jn M Corse

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2352 11/1/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2301

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Cedartown, Ga.

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[562]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Cedartown, Ga. Nov 1 1864

Dearest,

I have just received yrs of 14th ult. Glad all are well. I have kept Charles from going. I have just time to say we are all well, and on the March.

Give much love to all the Children & many kisses.

I put Mrs E.A. Howard thinking in case of capture, a less likelihood of counterfeit.

Poor Gen. Ransom, whom to know was to love, has died of dysentery. The Army is healthy.

God bless you all, lovingly  
Otis

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2353 11/3/1864 *From:* C.E. Stowe

*To:* Majr. Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2302

Hartford, Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hartford, Conn.

Nov. 3d 1864

Majr. Gen'l O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

My Sir,

My son, Capt. Fred. W. Stowe, A.A.G. on Gen'l Steinwehr's staff, who was severely wounded in the head, while in the cemetery with you at the great battle of Gettysburg, got his discharge from the army on the 1st of August last, and applied for a pension. We have just been informed by Mr Barrett, Commissioner of Pensions, that there must be a statement of some superior officer sent to the Pension Bureau relating the time & circumstances of receiving the wound before a pension can be granted.

Your very kind letter to Fred, when he was obliged to leave the army in Tennessee, emboldens me to ask whether you will not kindly send such a statement to the Department as is required.

The poor boy suffers intensely from the exfoliation of bone from the wound and has lost entirely the hearing of the right ear. The surgeons say the operation of <tochanning> cannot be performed so near the great arteries, that it will take two years at least for the bones to work <out> & the hearing is permanently gone. He is nervous, sleepless, & restless and generally has a very hard time of it.

He became so excessively wearied and annoyed with doing nothing, that three weeks ago, unknown to us, he enlisted as a private in the first battery Conn. Light Artillery, & has gone to the front at Petersburg, Va. He writes us that he did not feel competent to duty as an officer, but he knew he could handle guns, having been a year first Lieut. Of artillery in the Mass 15th; that as he was at the first battle of Bull Run, and participated in the repulse at Chancellorsville, he means to make up for it by helping to capture Richmond, and urges us not to feel anxious for his safety, since we must remember that cracked pitchers seldom break. But we do feel anxious, and so do the examining surgeons, but the excitement & <> of battle should bring on derangement of the brain, & perhaps brain fever, even if he should escape shot & shell.

I wrote to Mr Barrett about his enlisting a second time as private; and that I thought that under an exhibition of pluck & patriotism, so far from depriving him of his first pension, should rather entitle him to double allowance.

We have written to Gen'l Steinweher but rather at random as we cannot ascertain where he is to be found.

If you can do anything for the poor wounded, suffering, but yet plucky fellow, it will be very gratefully received by yours most respectfully,

C.E. Stowe

N.B. By a paper received form the Pension Office in Washington I find that my son's application is numbered 49, 838.

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2354 11/3/1864 *From:* J.D. Brigham

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2303

New York

Comg. Army of Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[9]

New York, Nov. 3, 1864

My dear General:

I do not know who is now with you, as Chief QM. Col. Garber was appointed to relieve me, but I understand he prefers a station elsewhere. If you desire to have a good chief Q.Mr. with you in the field, you will undoubtedly find one in Capt F. J. Grilly, A. Q.M. who left here yesterday to report to Gen. Easton. He is a regular officer of several years experience, both in the field and Depot. He has been Gen. Van Vleit's principal Assistant here for a year and a half and all speak in very high terms of him. He would like the place, & from my acquaintance with him I believe he will suit you. He has strong recommendations from Gen. Van Vleit, Capt. Reese his classmate & both he and Capt Buell can tell you all about him.

I am on inspecting duty at present in Washington would prefer the West, where I am better acquainted. Treadwell is in Washington, Asst to Chief of Ordnance. I was at City Point Sept 30th and saw Salt Nurgon. He is well, & <>. Lazell is in Washington, but I have not seen him yet. Many express uneasiness about Sherman's position, but I tell everybody he can take care of himself. You are probably having a rough time now. The death of Ransom is a great loss to your army. Hoping to see you again, in the West.

I am yours very truly  
J.D. Brigham

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comg. Army of Tenn.

[Written on the back page.]  
Bridgham J.D.  
New York Nov 3, 1864

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2355 11/4/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2304

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Near Lost Mountain

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[559, 560]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Near Lost Mountain Nov 4th 1864

Dearest,

You remember I am now but 33 and you have gained a year on me. Can you by searching find any gray hairs? Tonight as I was writing an official letter I wrote Nov. 4th and thought as I looked at the figure, "that is Lizzies birth day." I received a good letter from you darling, three days since & answered it hastily as I then had but little time before the courier left for Rome. You write almost as if your courage was giving out. I feel that you do need my aid as well as some better expression of my sympathy than I have made. If I did not feel so strong a presence of public duty I would go home. I mean that my heart pulls me there & I know that you have to struggle on doing my duty & your own for one precious little household, and I know that you are as truly & patiently working for your country as I am and God will reward the favor with abundant fruit by & by.

I have marched my army from near Gaylesville across to near Marietta, separated from all other other troops, distance about 60 miles. A cold "norther" came on and we have had bad roads and exceedingly cold weather. I went on Lost mountain today to get a magnificent view but it hailed and blew as cold as on Mt. Washington, where you <climed>, and tonight the wind blows so hard I can scarcely write. As soon as this storm is over I will look for pleasant weather. I don't speak so freely of our movements as I might, but I am afraid of capture of mails. I have, however, thus far been very fortunate.

Chas. Got a letter from mother tonight which I have not yet read. I wished just to tell you that your wandering husband had not forgotten your birth day and would like to pinch your cheek & give you a loving kiss before you get too old. What you said about renting a place for Julia & setting her at work suits me. Don't let her tire you out. My hands get so cold I can hardly write, but I think my heart is warm yet. I don't dare be cruel to lone wives or little children for I pray God to take care of mine. This "living off a poor country" is terrible. Oh, how much the poor suffer from the wicked machinations of the rich here in the South Charles is well, so is Capt Gilbreth & Capt Beebe. Jeannie Grey wrote me a pleasant note thanking me for taking him, Beebe, on my staff & giving him a furlough. She & her mother were at his father's & have rented their house. Give much love & many kisses to the children. God bless & keep you in health & comfort till & after my return.

Lovingly  
Otis

Mothers letter is of Oct 18th. She says Gracie is there and she cant think of letting her go away. She is so much company for her. Chas says Mothers letter is very sad. I wrote without knowing I had two sheets together turning over two leaves at a time. You must pick it out. What Rowland said about Mother coming to stay with him was to relieve her loneliness. She did not accept. Do what your heart dictates in Mother's case. I wish I was home to help you & her in many thoughts but you must struggle on a little longer. I hope a kind Providence will help us through this year at the furthest. Dr Dunkin has not reached me yet. I fear I shall not be able to communicate with you for some little time after a few days. I do not believe we shall be exposed to as much peril during the campaign as we have been. Charles said love to Lizzie & all the Children, says he is coming home to see them when we get to Mobile bay or some other outlet.

I expect Guy & Grace & Jamie would like to see papa, but poor little Chancey has little knowledge of him (?) Chas says he wishes you would go & stay with mother this winter & I also wish it if you ever make it all right to do so.

Good night again.  
Lovingly  
Otis



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2356 11/7/1864 *From:* F.A. Conwell

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2305

Winnebago City  
(Minnesota Land Office)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167]

Winnebago City Nov 7th 1864. (Minnesota Land Office)

Gen Howard

I have followed and rejoiced at your good fortune ever since my first interview.

And for the last six months I have been engaged in promoting the substantial interest of the Soldiers by aiding them in securing under the Munificence of the Admnst. A Homestead on the Government Lands. I have already entered for Colored men in 9 A.C. 76 white men & officers 359 and have overcome every obstacle, and so far as I know am the only person, who has embarked in the business. I have seen and obtained passes, permissions, and great assistance from Hon. I.M. Edmunds Com. Of Genl L.A. Provost Marshal Patrick: Gen. Burnside and others in P. Army.

I have taken the Liberty of refering to you, which I hope will not be disallowed, as it is a mark of profit to Soldiers who are so situated as to avail themselves of it, and to me. Thus far, I have not made over a paid chaplains compensation, and for six weeks I sought a Com. As Majr. Or Chapl. With the agreement on my part to do this business free to the Soldier. But my Batt not being entitled, and no law authorising the Apt, I was told there was no impropriety in my charging 3 or 4 Dollars to each one whom I <sissed>. The Government charges for surveying 10.\$ expence of Reg. & Receipts 5.\$ revenue stamps 55/100 one Dollar for each Farm platt and other necessary incidental expences. I find 20.\$ to be necessary to make me a mine support, so far, I have done it for less.

If, as I sincerely hope, the Soldiers friends continue to hold the reins of Government, no officer or man will be in danger of losing his Land. I have entered for 6 Cals, 1 Brig. Gen, 9 chaplains & surgeons, Majors &c.

My Reg was discharged and mustered out 5th May. I volunteered to go front with the Battalion, and have done in addition to the Land business the full duty of Chaplain. All my intrests are in the Church and Union cause, in the first I have donated 3 & in the second three years my two sons and committed and working for both, with those causes I hope to live and rise, and if they fail, I see nothing worth living or dying for. But in the first we have the word of the faithful and true witness, and in the second we have grounds for hope and effort.

I am <Honored> Gen

Yours Truly

F.A. Conwell Late Chaplain to 1st Minnesota Reg. Inf. Vols.

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2357 11/8/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2306

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Atlanta Ga.

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[558]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Nov 8th Atlanta Ga. 1864

Dearest

I write you on my birthday –34 yrs. Just to think of it! My voice sounds young & I think my manner is boyish, but if I can believe Dr Duncan I am much more than a year older than you. How Grey! He can mark our coming too, but really I don't care so long as I am given health & strength.

I sent you 1000 dollars in bonds by Col M.C. Garber my Senior Chf Quartermaster to be taken to Nashville and mailed for Augusta. I will send the numbers of the 10 bonds in my next letter.

Believe my heart to be full of love for you & the children. I have work that must now be done. I want to write you a full letter before marching & will do so after it is too late for enemy to take notes. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2358 11/9/1864

*From:* D Remick  
Lut Col and Chief C  
S  
Dept Tenn  
Head Quarters Dept  
Tenn  
Office of the Chief C.S.  
Atlanta Ga.

*To:* Col.

OOH-2307

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[348]

Head Quarters Dept Tenn  
Office of the Chief C.S.  
Atlanta Ga. Nov 9 '64

Col.

You will report on the last day of each month the C.S. and A.C.S. on duty in your Corps what duty they are performing and what they are accountable for. Make this report in tabular form.

You will also report on the 1st 6 10<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> and last day of the month the number of rations each Division Commissary had on hand in Your Command and the number of rations each Commissary is issuing on provision returns to Soldiers and the number of Officers and Servants that each Commissary issues to.

By Ordr Maj Genl Howard  
(Signed) D Remick  
Lut Col and Chief C S  
Dept Tenn

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2359 11/10/1864 *From:* D Remick *To:* Col.  
Lut Col and Chief C  
S  
Dept Tenn  
OOH-2308 Head Quarters Dept  
*Source:* Bowdoin Tenn  
Office of the Chief C.S.  
Atlanta Ga

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[349]

Copy

Head Quarters Dept Tenn  
Office of the Chief C.S.  
Atlanta Ga Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1864

Col

After your wagons are loaded make a report to me of the amount in wagons and in the hands of the troops so that I can report to Col Beckwith the day we move. Keep me well informed of the workings of foraging parties the amount of beef Cattle Sheep & hogs Corn meal flour Salt & vegetables taken, and by whom and how disposed of. Have the Division Commissaries make every proper effort to procure half of the rations from the Country. Allow nothing to be wasted.

Inspect the Stores in wagons every day to see that no. packages are broken open or theft committed. As soon as you can empty wagons, let foraging parties have them to gather Subsistence. On the day you move from Atlanta put into haversacks as follows.

(3) Three days full rations & Bread to last (4) days  
(6) Six days full rations Coffee to last (6) days  
(3) Three days full rations Sugar to last (6) days  
(8) Eight days full rations Salt to last (6) days  
full rations of beef killed every night

Have Division Commissaries keep on hand from Seventy five to two hundred head beef and keep them close to their troops so that they can Slaughter in the evening instead of morning thereby giving Soldiers time to Cook for the next days march.

By Order of Maj Genl Howard  
D. Remick  
Lut Col and Chief CS Dept Tenn

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2360 11/11/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2309

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Smyrna Camp Ground

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[557]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Smyrna Camp Ground Novr 11 1864

Dearest

I have just received your letter mailed Oct. 28 just after your return from Leeds. It was a very short one, but I was very glad to get it. I have sent you a check of a thousand dollars, no not a check but ten bonds of 100 dolls each. I will enclose in this letter the numbers and the series.

From present appearances, we shall be cut off from communication for some little time. I don't know myself when we shall go, but we have stripped for a trip in the enemy's country. You must'nt be anxious if you don't get a letter or have a dispatch from me for a month. I could not spare Charles to leave me very well & thought he had better be with me during this expedition.

I am in favor of any course that will conduce to mother's happiness & your own.

From what we hear Lincoln must be elected as we have the report that all states as far as heard from have gone for him. McClellans pro-slavery proclivities, have ruined him for Providence had to go on with the great work and leave him behind. I don't think he has a bad heart, but he has made a mistake to ally himself with malcontents at such a time as this. I wonder what he will now do –resign or accept a command.

I enclose you a short notice of Gen Ransom, which you may send to the Journal for publication. It is in no way an exaggeration. I don't know a young officer who bid so fair to become a great man as Ransom. He was very handsome and good as well as able. I send you also a copy of my order after his death.

Give much love to Guy. Dr Duncan thought him a very fine boy, says he had many questions to ask about the way we did things here. Grace must receive papa's love. So she has left Grandma. She thought she could not spare her. Jamie won Dr Dunkin's admiration from his perseverance with his new top. I expect he has some adhesive, but I hope he is not so moderate as his father. Chancy cant have Jamies gravity if uncle Rowland does call him a D.D. Mamma must kiss them both and tell them papa sends greeting. I hope yet to give you a visit before the spring.

I am not now responsible for the troops on the Mississippi as the War Department has transferred all that to Canby's Milty. Divn. I am not sorry as it was difficult to conduct affairs there & here at the same time & be in the field. Gen Sherman has virtually put his division under Gen. Thomas while away.

Dr. Duncan sends his Photograph with his compliments, which you will find enclosed, and his "Kindest remembrances".

All our troops are now paid, but a few men, and many are sending home their money to their families. A good many of this army had not been paid for ten months.

Maj Whittlesey is well and often speaks of you. I am glad you were able to visit Mrs Whittlesey. Gilbreth is quite well, got up and dressed yesterday morning before any of us. He seems to have quite a penchant for "May Morrill". He will have to be a very good man to deserve her if she is as good as she is beautiful. Don't be jealous, darling, for you must remember you are my standard of comparison. My kindest regards to Harry Stinson & his mother. I do hope Dr Hill is benefitting him. I shall request him to join me again if I get into a good permanent camp in the right place, but till then he had better have the care of home.

I have established a Head Quarters with Lieut Col. <Chuk> in charge at Nashville Tenn. It may be moved to

Louisville Ky eventually. This will remain so till we turn up.

May God bless you with much of the presence & influence of His Holy Spirit and aid you in all your difficult & responsible duties, and that he may give us a good, a lasting peace & permit me to join you & the little ones at home is always my prayer.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2361 11/11/1864 *From:* Nicholas Vedder  
PMUSA

*To:* Major [Th. J.] Saunders.  
PMUSA

OOH-2310

Smyrna Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[168]

Smyrna Ga Nov. 11th 1864

Major [Th. J.] Saunders.  
PMUSA-

On completion of your payment you will immediately report to Major William Allen Chief P.M. D.C. at Louisville Ky. A train will leave from this station this evening. Gen. Howard assures me that he will see to it, that you are transported to Chattanooga whenever you finish the pay.

Respectfully &c  
Nicholas Vedder  
PMUSA  
in chg pay A of Tenn

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2362 11/12/1864 *From:* Th. J. Saunders

*To:* Maj. General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2311

Vening Station Georgia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Vening Station Georgia,  
Nov. 12th 1864

Maj. General Howard:-  
Dear Sir,

Accompanying, you will find a note, addressed to me yesterday by Maj. N. Vedder, Paymr. In Charge of the Army of the Tennessee, to which I beg the privilege of directing your attention.

Preliminary to other matters, suffer me to State that I had an assignment of five Iowa Regiments to pay –that I was obliged to come upon the field with the rolls in an imperfect condition –that I have laboured since being here, assiduously, and according to orders –and, that in the conscientious performance of my duty, both to the Government and the Soldier, I find myself, this evening, only about completing the payment of the third regiment. I have not suffered myself to be annoyed by what others may have chosen to do, thinking that in the end all would be right. I believe my business to be, to pay the soldier right, and not dismiss him from the table, merely to suit any convenience of my own –and, so believing, and acting in accordance with the idea, I find myself on the field. The position is one which I had hardly anticipated, but I feel inclined to meet it fairly.

May I ask as a favour, if I am to follow the Brigade, adequate transportation for my safe, (containing quite a large sum of money) field-desk and light baggage. Then, when the army shall settle again –or perhaps, while it is in progress –I may be able to complete the order which has been given me by Maj. Vedders.

I might as well say here, if the army is to move tomorrow, early, no process can be instituted that I can conceive of, which would complete the payment of my assignment. I certainly want several days –and, as I expect to have a supervision of all matters pertaining to the disbursement of public funds entrusted to my care, you will see probably, that the thing is impossible, of getting through.

I will thank you to return the order of Major Vedder, and, if not asking too much, to advise me properly.

Very Respectfully  
Yours &c,  
Th. J. Saunders  
Paymr. &c

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2363 11/13/1864 *From:* Grace E. Howard

*To:* My Dear Papa [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2312

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[22]

Augusta Nov 13 1864

My Dear Papa

I have been out to Grandmas a good long while, but have now come home have been home two weeks we are going to go to Leeds to spend the winter. Mamma is laying on the lounge and Chancy wants to bylo with her. Chancy and Jamie are runing from the big rocking chair to the small one. Chancy can say a good many words he cals potatoes and fritters tato and he has a name for most everything.

Nov 27. it is Sunday night we are at grandmas have been out here one day. It is two weeks since I have written any in this letter. There is a school a mile from here that I went to when I was here the last time although I did not study, I do not think I shall go to school this winter perhaps Guy will if we do we shall have to ride. Are you and uncle charlie well. I am going to try too make a comfort bag and send to your soldiers. Many kisses to Uncle charley and yourself. I am writing in grandmas dining room at the table so are Guy and Mamma and Grandma is reading on the other side of the table. Wee brought four trunks besides chancys two chairs. We are going to have a christmas tree here. I am sitting with my back to the fire that makes me very warm. Send my love to Uncle charley so Goodbye

From your Affectionate Daughter  
Grace E. Howard

PS Chancey and jamie are both asleet Lizzie and I brought the cradle up from aunt synthia chancy is in it now  
Goodbye

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2364 11/13/1864 *From:* Guy [Howard]

*To:* Dear Papa [OO Howard]

OOH-2313

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52]

Augusta Nov 13 1864

Dear Papa

It is Sunday afternoon. I went to church this founnoon. It is snowing very hard this afternoon for the first time this Fall. The ground begins to look very white now. We are all in the library this afternoon. How long before you think of coming home. I hope you will come home this Winter. I think we shall have a very good time at school this winter at Grandemothers. I wonder what Chancy will say to the sleighs this Winter. I think Chancy would like to ride in a sleigh this Winter very much. Grace sends her love to you and Jamie sends some kisses too. I can go right on with my studis at Leeds. I shall need no new books if I go to school. Mrs. Jackson and Mother send their love to you. Chancy has the Sunday school paper and is looking at the pictures with mother. He is talking a great deal about it. Julia is going to be married to a negro from the south, whose name is Fred Brown she has engaged two rooms in a house on North street.

Leeds Nov 27 1864

We were in Augusta last Thanksgiving day. I can't write my letters very good to night for I am very tired. I had a good deal to do Thanksgiving day helping Mother settle up the winter business. I had a new pair of skats this winter and hope to have a very good time skating. Jamies birthday is next Thursday. I got him a set of nine-pins and some peperments. He says he wants an engine. He says that he wants to snap some corn. I think he would burn it up and he keeps asking if the snows will be on the ground his birthday. It is some cloudy so I think there will be enough snow on the ground so that he can have a sleigh ride in the new sleigh that granpa bought last winter of Mr Oliver Gilbert but it is as good as new. I send my love and many kisses too. I was out on the ice trying it and wet my feet and cought a little cold. That's why I don't fell quite well. Give my love to Uncle Charley.

From your son Guy.

Mother says Mr Lane has written to know if you still want to buy his farm \$3000.00

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2365 11/14/1864 *From:* D. Remick Lt Col  
QM

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2314

Head Qutrs A Tenn

Commndg Army Tenn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169]

Head Qutrs A Tenn  
Nov 14th 64

Maj Genl Howard  
Commndg Army Tenn

Genl

Genl Corses Commissary came in this morning. He has about ten days rations from this morning of hard bread in wagons and with the men more than that of sugar & coffee. Genl Smith I think will have fifteen days when he arrives from what I can learn. I have issued all salt meat for the troops for the last eight days and we issue two days more to day to the troops that are here and save three days bacon for the two Drivers that are to arrive. We are issuing about six ounces tobaco to every non comm'nd officer and enlisted man. I think we will get away from here with about seventeen days if we go day after tomorrow of H. Bread & twenty seven sugar & coffee & sixty salt. Our cattle will have to be drove out of town under strong guard to graze today or they will starve.

I have the honor to be

Very truly  
Your humble Svt  
D. Remick Lt Col QM

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2366 11/16/1864 *From:* Mrs Lieut L. H. Lee *To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3015

Massillon Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[22, 23]

Massillon Ohio, Nov 16 / 64 [1865? Written in pencil]

Gen Howard,  
My Dear sir

You no doubt will be surprised in receiving a letter from a stranger.

You do not seem like one for I have been so much interested in all your affairs. More like a friend which I will know you will be on Tuesday. Father Lee received a letter from Col. Potts, 99 O.VN. stating that Lieut D.J. Lee, A.D.C. in Gen G.A. Smith staff had been killed, on or near Coosa river Ala, also only one man had escaped to tell the sad tale. That you had said he acted like a Hero. By that we think you and Col Potts have had conversation in regard to him. I am Gen Howard Lieut Lee wife and a more distressed one you have never met. We had been looking for our Darling home when the sad news came by the daily papers. We see that the 17 A.C. have moved on and inclosed you will find all that we can find out in regard to <> death. Do not I pray you pass it over coldly but with <> and tell us all you know for tis terrible, this awfull suspense. We would send but tis impossible to get through and we have telegraph and news come back that it could go no further than Chattanooga. Oh, how dreadful this was is I pray for it <> I hope you will be a friend to me and write and let me know all you can find out about my Darling noble soldier. It seems as though I cannot give him up. I think he still live on at least I try ot make myself believe that he hasnt left me. may my Heavenly father do what he thinks best but O! I cannot commit rest till if find out the truth in regard to him. He has a brother in the 51 Reg camp <YE> by name Albro Lee. I have written to him to get his remains if tis possible and I hope you will give him all the sid in your power. We must have his body at all <> we dont care for money or anything only if tis so he has fell we must have his remains sent home. Oh1 do write and tell me all you know about him if only his Reg had not moved then he could have been seen after or why did they not sent out a flag of truce and brought in their dead or did they Oh! Gen do not think this intending only think what you would want others to do. Write you own dear wife and then decide what or how to help me. We can get no other news. Oh! Do write. Please my prayers shall be for your welfare ever, and all shall be returned to you in days to come. Mother Lee and I are almost wild what has become of my Darling. Do all in your power to get the information and you shall have all that it cost you. You shall prosper for christians prayers are answered. May the God of Battles save you to go safe return to those you love is the prayer of

Mrs Lieut L. H. Lee

I hope you can read this written as it is while my poor heart is broken but I must do what I can.

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2367 11/17/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2315

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[56]

Farmington Nov 17 1864

Dear Brother Otis

Uncle Ensign was in last evening and said Mr Lane had an opportunity to sell the old farm, & that he can have 3000 for the same. Uncle E. says he was to write you when this contingency arose and he will do so soon, but you had better write Lane or us when you receive this, if you wish to purchase it.

Henry Mitchell formally of Leeds, Son of Warren M. now of Industry writes me a letter from Sheridans Army where he is a member of Co. A. 29th Me. Reg. asking my interest with you to get him detailed for some duty that he can do better than that of the line on acct. of a state of his eyes nearly approaching to blindness. I wrote him that I would name it to you but had no expectation that you would be able to do anything with Gen. Sheridan for him.

A man by the name of Blake, a friend of his, writes that cousin Silas Lee died at the Sisters Hospital St Louis, the 24th of Oct of Chronic disease. He was sick at the Planters hotel during Sept & this man was with him. I have forwarded his letter to Sarah now in Philadel. Poor Silas –he only lacked goodness to have been a useful man! Blake says nothing of his Souls preparation for Death. His last letter to Sarah that I saw seemed to express penitence.

Uncle Ensign thinks Dellie is to leave home Monday next. I have written him & Mother to come here for Thanksgiving, & I hope they will come. I want to know more of their plans before he goes away. We have had four days of pretty good sleighing & it has been well improved. We had a meeting & contribution for the Freedmen last night & will have a con. For C.C. Thanksgiving Day. I do not preach. I go to a neighborhood prayer meeting tonight.

I wrote Charles last Monday. I hope the Rebels know as little with regard to your movements as we do. Our accts. Are all so conflicting that I do not know when you left Atlanta nor whither you go. But may God go with you. May he appear unto you as unto Jacob at Bethel. May all your battles be fought & won on your knees before you see your Enemy.

Sat morn 19th. Mrs Patten is here but goes home this morn. She wishes me to give you her love & also Charles. We had a letter from Lizzie last evening. Julia is to be married Monday Evening & L. goes to Leeds then as soon as she can get away. Her family was well. I hope you will have a good Thanksgiving Dinner –taking your bread with cheerfulness of heart.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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2368 11/21/1864 *From:* Watkin Thomas

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2316

Camp Norton  
Indianapolis, Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170]

Camp Norton  
Indianapolis, Ind. Nov 21st [1864, the year had written in pencil]

General Howard  
" General"

I have the honor Sir, to respectfully present the following petition for your consideration & beg Sir, that you will pardon the liberty I take in troubling your valuable time. Not long since, Sir, I wrote to an officer whom I supposed to command the Provost Guard of your Corps, but have reason to believe that I addressed the wrong Officer and hence, my reason for now writing this.

My object Sir in making this petition is to state, Sir, that I was conscribed into the Rebel Army during last Feby & was sent with the 22d Ala Regt to the front of Dalton, at which place I remained until its evacuation by the Rebel forces, at which time I threw down my arms, left the Regt & went over to Dug Gap Valley & surrendered myself as a Deserter to the Commander of Provost Guard of General Howards Corps.

I was then examined by the Commander spoken of above. I told him that I had been shoved into the Rebel Army nolens volens & that being a Native of New York & having all my relatives in the North I had left with the hopes of being allowed to take the oath & sit at liberty. An immediate advance was ordered & I was sent on to Dalton with other Prisoners, through mistake & from Dalton I was sent on to this Prison in which I have been confined every since. I have applied for the Oath here & hope Sir, that by this means I may obtain my much wished for release. As I have stated sir, I have no sympathy with the Rebels, am a Northerner by birth & am very willing to obey & abide by all laws that may be enforced & I humbly request that you will lend your valuable influence Sir, in my behalf, that I may be set at liberty & hope Sir, that I may shortly be honored with an answer to this. Sir, I remain

With Respect  
Your Obt Servt  
Watkin Thomas  
Division No 11  
Camp Norton

[Written in another hand at the top of the last page]  
Watkins Thomas  
Rebel deserter

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2369 11/22/1864 *From:* Ensign Otis

*To:* My Dear nephew [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2317

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[171]

Leeds Novr 22d 1864

My Dear nephew

Mr Lane informed me some ten days since that he had decided to sell his farm as he had said to you and to me he would give you the first offer. He has to day made the terms. For the original farm as it was when he bought (that is the boundaries) with the addition of 15 acres on the south extending the fields 45 rods or more including the spring & the stream (above Mr Boothbys line) which he bot off of Fathers wood lot, price three thousand five hundred dollars.

I regard it as some 200 dollars above what he can readily have, without the addition as above which he recently purchased. Mr Foss offers him 3000 dollars, & an other purchaser is ready to give the same. I regard the Farm as worth much more than the mere value of the land for farming purposes –by this addition the saving of fence & the addition of an abundance of water. Tis probable that the price is some higher on all farms than it was one year ago. Tis generally estimated that real estate has advanced 50 per cent withing some three miles of the R Road in 13 years or since the commencement to build it. The greatest rise on wood land of which this farm has a large share. Some consideration is due to the time Mr Lane must wait to get an answer from you which we have fixed at sixty days as the extent with the understanding that you will give as early an answer as is practicable. We all feel anxious that you should have the Farm and at such price as could be realized readily for it. Partly on your mothers account as she would be like to come into this neighbourhood.

Mr Ramsdell who purchased the old farm of John Harrison has sold it for \$2500 within a few days. It contains 100 acres about 20 bog & the wood under the hill on the west end & small. There has been no other sale of late near here. As Rowland wrote you a few days since I suppose he gave you all the Family & local news that would interest you.

We have much solicitude for you, Gen Sherman & that part of his army with him. Great interest is manifest by the entire community. The result of the election, the tone of the public press & the satisfied demeanor of almost the entire people has inspired me with a confidence and value in our government & institutions which I was never before aware of. Surely our chastising has not been in vain. Is not the time for our deliverance at hand. Gratitude & humility in view of our nation seem to be <missing>.

I have been absent from home of late have not seen your mother for weeks but learn her health is good that Rodelphus would leave today for N. York to be absent six months, that Lizzie & the children would be here the first of Dec, that our friends generally are well.

Silas Lee died at St Louis the 24th ult. That Perry had gone to Sandusky with his Regt. Sarah his sister is absent on a visit at Boston, N. York, Philadelphia & perhaps Sandusky & Indiana.

The season mild have had tiney snow, all gone. No frost in the ground. Some mud. Are sending out vegetables to the 2d Maine cavalry. Some of the boys home on furrow. Warren is comander of the post. One boy who went in the 30th writes of ten has been uniformly well. Keeps us posted of that Regt in Shenedary Army. Laura & the babe are well & both cheerful. The boy has as much action as is consistent with a quiet household. Rail Road is doing well, will earn 160000, 90 to 100,000 net, enough to pay more than 6 per cent on cost is said to have done the best of any road east of Portland.

I have written this for page for you & Charles to look at. If you have leisure, but the other trust you will answer to me your mother & Mr Lane.

Our prayers, our love and affection for you & Charles,  
Ensign Otis



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2370 11/22/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-2318

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[556]

Farmington Nov. 22 1864

Dear Lizzie

We were glad to hear from you & hope Julia is safely married. It seems to me that you have done all & more for her than could be expected. Ella wants to know what you think of Alice's boarding with Julia till she can get a place. If she was there she would be more likely to secure one than here.

I got a letter from Charles last night dated the 10th. I suppose they started for – on the 12th. He sent this & you doubtless got one by the last train. He seemed in good spirits & wrote very approvingly of Otis!

We invited Del & Mother here Thanksgiving, but hear he was to go away yesterday. We still hope Mother will come. I am sorry Dellie went away without seeing me & letting me know what he has done or proposes to do about Mothers business affairs.

Sarah has visited Philad & returned to N.Y. Miss Clara Davis goes to Gardiner to spend Thanksgiving. She has been here since Saturday. She will go to Augusta before she returns, to visit the Hospitals &c. Frank goes to Bath with Horace to recover & will come up to Leeds when he has made his visit in B.

Cousin Silas Lee died at Sisters Hospital Oct. 24th of Chronic Disease. A friend of his wrote a letter to Sarah which I have forwarded. My only fear about you & the children this winter is with regard to keeping warm. I want the house well banked up – great wood boxes in all the rooms well filled by the hired man a no. of times per day.

Ella joins me in love. We hope to see you here soon after you get settled at Leeds.

Wont you please write just a word about Alice's going to Julia's. Love to Guy & Grace & all the little folks

from their loving Uncle  
Rowland

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2371 11/27/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2319

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Me. Nov. 27th 1864

Dearest

I cannot remember the date of my last letter, but I know it has been some time since I wrote you –two weeks or more. I will begin back as far as Julia's wedding which took place last Monday evening. I trust she has got an hones, industrious husband. She engaged two rooms, and as she and the children are well clothed for the Winter. I do not see why they may not get on very well for the Winter. I have her two bedsteads, bedding she had used, table, chairs, tub &c, and from the time she came to me up to the time she went away I paid out one hundred dollars in money, besides sewing for them and giving garments partly worn. I don't feel that I did too much, but only kept them comfortable while with me and did not let them leave me without fixing them up as well as I could for the Winter. I found it best not to let them have too much at a time for neither of them –the mother or children –knew how to take care of their things properly. I don't regret having had them this length of time, but I would not like to go through the same again, and as Aunt Caddy said I hope I wont have any "eturned missionary on my hands"

Julia was married at our house by Rev. Mr. McKenzie. Mr Bosworths family, Guy, Grace, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Partridge and George Stinson, (the Capt. And his mother could not come out in the rain) were present at the ceremony, and Julia had four of her friends come into the Parlor with her & mr Brown. The Bride & Bridegroom came in first followed by the other two couple. They returned to the dining room after the ceremony was over when the table of refreshments was all ready for them. I went out soon after and cut the ice cream and Guy took it into the Parlor to my friend. Grace taking and passing around the basket of cake. Then I returned to the Parlor leaving the wedding party to enjoy themselves. She left that night leaving the children till the next night.

I have just been telling Mother about the Wedding, and what a good funny time we had, and now here we are at Mother's. I regreted somewhat leaving Augusta, and all the good people, but know I shall enjoy being with Mother very much. I feel that we both have very good friends in Augusta. I certainly am very much attached to the people there.

Mrs Blaine gave a very pretty party just before I came away, they have a new Piano, and it being something new for them as they never had one before. It was a musical entertainment –some very fine singers and musicians present. Mr Bosworth invited me to go with him, his wife was not well enough to go. Mr & Mrs Gilbreth were there and took me home for which I was very much obliged as it had snowed during the evening. I was invited over to the Arsenal with the children to spend Thanksgiving day, but I did not accept as I should have had to make a very short, hurried visit.

Julia came back to do the ironing Tuesday and to cook Wednesday, and then I did not have her after that. We had a feast of a sermon in the morning from Mr McKenzie. I will send you a copy when published as I presume it will be. Mrs Jackson stayed till I came away.

We came together on our journey as far as Brunswick. I send Aunt Mary a jar of pickles of my own make. She will think it quite a present.

I received the ten "bonds" you sent, and Guy and I settled all bills before leaving. I did not have money enough as you had invested this last in Bonds so I sole or had a 5/20 bond (4500.00) converted into money. I left three hundred dollars on deposit. I have not taken all the Money Uncle Edward collected and have there one hundred sixty seven dollars. I don't know as you care to know about my finances, but you might. Guy and Grace finished their letters this evening –the letters they commenced two weeks ago.

Morning. I left my letter last evening and will now finish. I don't know what I wrote morning for a few lines above for it is three o'clock in the afternoon. Rowland came down today and will return this evening. I will send these letters by him. Chancy is almost sick- takes cold, getting teeth - and he is crying so I cannot write. Grace has him while I try to finish this.

Mother seems quite well now. She went to Lewiston the day we came out here. She went to Farmington and did not get the letter I wrote her but I wrote to Rowland Thanksgiving day and told him we were coming the next day. One horse was at the Depot and Mr Lothrop let us have his horse and send it back the next morning when the men went for the four trunks.

Good bye. I am in the midst of a small rebellion. May God prosper the Army and take of you both.

With love  
Lizzie

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2372 12/5/1864    *From:* H. M. Stinson

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2320

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[172]

Augusta  
Dec. 5th / 64

Dear General,

Your letter of Oct. 27th was duly received and I thank you very much for the interest and kind wishes expressed. I should have answered it long ago, had I not know that you were out of the reach of letters.

When I last wrote to you I had very little hope of returning to the army, but am happy to say that now I have strong expectations of so doing. My cough is better and night sweats, that troubled me a great deal, have disappeared. My lungs are not entirely right as yet, but I think it is much better for me to be in a warmer climate than this and so I think I shall try to leave here in a month or so if I keep on improving. Should I find myself unable to perform my duty I can resign out there.

The interest in Sherman's movements is intense, and well it might be. At first we obtained very full reports from the rebel press, but lately the news from that source is very meager; they state that they do not wish to give our government any information and are therefore silent. The extensive publication of Genl. Sherman's order brings your name prominently before the public as commander of the right wing. I feel that I have lost a glorious campaign by not being with you.

There is a matter I must write to you about as I promised to do so. Mrs. Munson (mother of Lieut. Munson formerly of the 5th Me. And now of the regular army) come here from Farmington to see me about her son obtaining some position on your staff. I gave her little encouragement and told her that the probability was that there would be no chance for him as there are so many applicants whenever there is a vacancy. Lieut M. is now stationed near San Francisco and is Q.M. of his regiment. While he was in the 5th Me., I was somewhat acquainted with him and should say he is a fine young man and one of good principles. He is anxious to see more active service, and hoped that some vacancy might occur soon or later that he might fill.

I saw Mrs. H. and the children the day they left for Leeds. They all seemed well and in good spirits. Thanksgiving was a quiet day here, and I presume a happy one. An old prison chum of mine took Dinner and spent the day with us, so it was very pleasant for me. The weather has been splendid for a few days. It seems strange to have such days after Winter has set in. All the Autumn it was very unpleasant. Wheels are still in use, there having been no snow yet sufficient to make sleighing.

I long to be well and back with the army. It is very pleasant to be at home, but it is very quiet here and I would like once more to be on horseback. Please give my kindest regards to the Major and Gilbreth, also Maj. Whittlesey. Hoping you may all reach the coast in safety I remain

Affectionately yours  
H. M. Stinson

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2373 12/9/1864     *From:* Leman W. Bradley

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2322

Hudson N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[173]

Hudson N.Y. Dec 9th 1864

Major General O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir:

Your kind letter of March 1st enclosing a recommendation to the Gov. N.Y. was received. It has done me great good. That together with Gen. Hancock, Miles and others procured my promotion. I was commissioned Lt Col May 5th and Col July 14th.

I was in Command of my Regiment at Wilderness, Pr <Rive> and I led it at the charge made by Maj Gen Hancock at Spotsylvania May 12th when I was badly wounded through the right arm which is now partially paralyzing and disabled. This with the wound I received at Fair Oaks makes me a cripple in both arms.

My Regt. Has been so reduced in numbers, and the times of several companies having expired that it has been consolidated into a Battalion. I was mustered out. I have served over three years. The unit <>.

I have been recommended by my friends at home for the position of Commissary General of the State of New York under Gov Ruben E. Fenton. Bishop Tunes of the Methodist Episcopal Church has written a letter a copy of which I will enclose.

Horace Greeley paid me quite a compliment at the meeting of the Electoral College at Albany this week and I was elected the <> the Judge of the United States for the Northern District.

If you can consistently favor me with a letter to Governor Fenton it will be of great help to me. I have so many office seeking politicians to contend with that I am compelled to appeal to military.

My address is Hudson, Columbia Co N.Y.

Most respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
Leman W. Bradley  
late Col 64th N.Y.V.

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2374 12/9/1864

*From:* E.S Janes  
Bishop of the M.E.  
Church  
New York

*To:* His Excellency R.E.  
Fenton

OOH-2323

Governor of the State of New  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[174]

New York, Dec 9th 1864

To His Excellency R.E. Fenton [Reuben Eaton Fenton]  
Governor of the State of New York

Learning that the name of Col. L.M. Bradley of Hudson N.Y. will be presented to your Excellency for the appointment of Commissary Gen. for the State, I take pleasure in certifying to your Excellency, that in my judgement his high moral character and excellent business talents eminently fit him for that office. Moreover Col. Bradley is one of her soldiers of whom the State has reason to be proud, and whose military service and sufferings the State should acknowledge. He entered the military service of the country as early as April 1861, as a Lieutenant of N. York Volunteers. He rose by promotions recommended by his superior Officers, for skillful and gallant services to be Col. Of the 54th Regt. N.Y. Vols. He served with distinguished bravery in such battles as Fair Oaks, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Wilderness, Spottsylvania and many others of less magnitude but of equal severity. He was twice severely wounded, from which wounds his general health has suffered much. Because of his honesty, competency, patriotism and military services and sufferings, I trust your Excellency will see it right and expedient to give Col Bradley the Office for which he is named.

With great Respect  
Your Obedient Servant  
(signed) E.S Janes [Edmund S. Janes]  
Bishop of the M.E. Church

[Written sideways on the back.]

Genl.

This appears to be a private letter to you not connected with the business of the Army. I therefore return it to you not considering it necessary to file with the public letters at these Hd Qrs.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Saml L Taggart  
AAGn  
New Berne NC  
May 6 /65

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2375 12/15/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2324

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Army & Dept.  
of Tenn.  
Ossabaw Sound  
Str Harvest Moon

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[581]

Hd. Qrs. Army & Dept. of Tenn.  
Ossabaw Sound  
Str Harvest Moon Dec 15th 1864

Dearest,

It has been now thirty days since I have had a letter, but the mails are now nearby. We have made a complete connection with the Fleet at last. I sent Capt Duncan with two Scouts down the Ogeechee. He passed all obstructions & made his way to the Vessels. His dispatch went North and I am in hopes relieved you as well as many others from much anxiety. We have invested Savannah but have not yet got into the city. Gen. Hardee has quite a little enemy thre and swamps in his front.

I do hope you & the children are well. I can only write a few words now. Admiral Dahlgren is sending me to reconnoiter up some of these inlets. Charles is well & in this room. Capt. Gilbreth is very well. Give much love to the little ones. Whenever operations cease long enough, I mean to take a trip home. Much kind regards to Stinson. I hope he is well & to his mother. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

Direct –Army & Dept Tenn  
Via Savannah, Ga.

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2376 12/16/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2325

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Near Savannah Ga.

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[555]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Near Savannah Ga. Dec 16 1864

Dearest,

I have just returned from making a sea-reconnaissance and am pretty tired but as Col <Brubeck> has very kindly offered to take any message or dispatch north, I will just write that we are all well, investing the city and having a good connection with the fleet.

You must send word to Mother that we are in good health. Chas & myself. Capt Gilbreth is very well. Give much love to the children & much more to yourself.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

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2377 12/18/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2326

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[61]

Leeds, Dec. 18 / 64

Dearest,

I have missed your letters very much during the past month, but hope soon to hear from you again. We were very happy to see your name in the papers of Thursday last. I mean the first order sent to the "Commander of the Naval Forces" and dated Dec 9th. I can assure you it was with a humble, thankful heart that I read those few words. Many have been the reports we have had about "herman's Army" through rebel sources, and we could hear nothing but that all was well with you.

I hardly know what to write to you I want to tell you so much and I know not where to begin. You will be glad to learn that we are quite well. Mother also. I am very anxious to get letters. Rowland writes to know if I had dispatches at the time the other dispatch came. I have received none and presume none was sent as early as that time. I may get one any time now. We think it must be that Savannah (as the papers report) is captured.

You do not as yet know that we did come to Leeds. We have been here three weeks only, but I should like to take a look at Augusta. I have not heard from there since I left. You will come and see us all before spring wont you? I know not how much hard work you have before you but trust you will get time to make a visit here. I hope you and Charlie are very well and will not fear to come North during the cold weather. The children do not attend the school here but have lessons at home to keep with their classes at Augusta. Isabella teaches the school and if it was near here would let them go.

You will soon if you have not already get a letter from Uncle Ensign with regard to the 'old farm' which Mr Lane offers for sale –at thirty two hundred dollars, with a piece of the woods off – piece was John Otis'. As soon as Rowland learned the fact he wrote, Mother says, to dissuade you from purchasing it. Mother seems to talk as if she had a desire to go there to live, but has lost her attachment to the place. When you come home for good I shall want a home as is a home or some place that is nearly akin to one. Any place where we can all be united under one roof would be home to me.

I do not like the turn conversation takes here –the faults of neighbors – paid ten cents for this and three cents for that.

Mother, Guy, Grace and the hired man went to the Centre to church and returned after the morning service. Mr Richardson not being able to preach in the afternoon. My time is nearly all taken up with the children. I think Chancy has missed something he hardly knows what, but will some days speak often about "Julia" and then want to be amused. She was very kind to him. I hope they are doing well and happy.

Friday Evening. Dec 23d.

I have let my letter remain unfinished for several days waiting for news, and the roads to be "broken out." We have had three severe snow storms –high winds and Ther. Fourteen degrees below zero this morning. I want very much, Dearest, to see you but I should fear to have you here during the coldest weather. Dellie was to have started from Albany this week so as to have reached home to-night, but the 'trains' are very irregular. We don't know what time he can reach here, and Mother did not send the horse for him. The morning train passed here about noon (going to Brunswick).

Wednesday Evening, Dec 28th.

I left my letter, Dearest, last Friday evening when we heard sleigh bells and Dell very unexpectedly came in, having borrowed Mr Lothrop's horse and sleigh to get here. The weather is very much warmer and we can move about with much more comfort.

I was very anxious about the children during those severe days. Jamie has'nt been well since we came –neck swollen –cough &c. I let him go out whenever it is suitable.

I went to church last Sunday, heard an excellent sermon from Elder Richardson, much better than I expected to hear. Guy and I took Dell to the Depot Monday morning. He went to Bath and came home via Lewiston today. Mother and Dell are looking over the books at the table with me.

Children all asleep. Grace sleeps up in the "south chamber" with Mother. I sleep in what was always Mothers "bed room" with Jamie and Chancy. Guy occupies the same room Alvin, the hired man, does, at the head of the back stairs.

Mother's girl went home to stay three weeks and has not yet returned. I doubt if she comes back. Another came and staid two weeks –could not stay longer. We have been alone two weeks. Mother would like to get a good girl but don't just now hear of one. I hope she will be able to for I don't like to see Mother work about house so much. I try to assist all I can and Grace is very handy.

Jamie thinks it a great privilege to be allowed to put the forks, napkins and whatever else I may let him, on the table. Guy brings in wood, feeds the chickens, helps Alvin generally. He has been to school to-day. Built one snow "fort" Guy has wished he was in Augusta when I have been talking alone with him, but he seems happy and Grace is happy when I will let her read all she wishes. Jamie seems to be living very fast and is making the most he can of every day. Chancy is a happy little fellow, talks a great deal to "Gram-ma". Generally repeats the name.

I begin to want to go to Augusta, hope I shall be able to go down some time after the Legislature meets. I wonder if you will be home before Summer and when? We think Charlie will come first, if either of you can get away. I have never thought to tell you that I paid your tax before I left Augusta \$210.00. I had one in my name, returns from the Portland Bank \$32.00.

It is now getting late and I shall not get time to write to you, Dearest, in the morning. Mother is very well for her. Dell said he "ought to write to Charles." I wish I had sent a letter to you so you could have heard from us earlier. I think I have written you but one letter from Leeds before this one. Guy and Grace mailed letters to you last Saturday I think. I wrote the envelope and enclosed both the letters in it. I wish very much to hear again from you. Your letter went to Augusta first, so we got Charlies letter to Mother before we did yours. How happy we were when Capt Oscar Turner brought in Charlie's long letter. We expect a visit from Rowland & Ella next Friday, but only to remain here between the 'trains'. I keep writing but now I must stop. Give much love to Charlie.

As ever your own  
Lizzie

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2378 12/18/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Charles  
[CH Howard]

OOH-2327

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Dec. 18th 1864

Dear Brother Charles

I don't know as my recent letters sent to Nashville will ever reach you & I don't know where they will send this nor how but I mean to direct it near Savannah. Capt Duncans Dispatch from Otis was the first one published & the first news we had from Shermans Army except from Rebel Sources. Since then the papers have been full of rumors of a battle near Savannah & our hearts have been anxious & prayerful for you & Otis & Success.

We look for Dellie at Leeds next Sat. night to spend Christmas. He thinks business make it necessary for him to come. He will stay but a short time & then return to Albany. Miss Rosa Dean spent some time with him at our house before he went to A.

Frankie Sargent came home from a 10 days visit at Leeds last night. He says they are all well but "J" who is croupy. It seems their girl has gone & they are getting one as they can. I suppose I cannot go down till after the new year. I have so much Parish work to attend to.

Uncle Ensign has been to Lizzie to see about Otis buy the Old Farm. If it would make an agreeable & pleasant home for Mother it would be a good place but it is too far from neighbors & she has no attachments there at present. Lane is offered 3000\$ for it, I believe.

Ella could not or thought she could not endure Alice's sullen & insolent moods & slip-shod way of getting on any longer & her Mother got a good place for her in Bath in a Christian family -a Mr Gershorn Palmer. We hear that does pretty well so far, but was the whole day doing a small washing &c! Ella made her a new dress & repaired all her old ones & she went away well clothed, with a little money in the Savings Bank, but her advance in moral & mental character was lamentably small while with us.

We have no religious interest with us & nothing has been said about raising my Salary to conform to the times. If I could only accomplish something needful here -build a vestry, remodel & heat the M.J. & best of all - see another Revival I would willingly seek another field, but I hate to leave this one when everything has so much the aspect of failure. It is like closing a campaign without a victory. My chief supporter & good friend Mr A.H. Abbott has taken a new Episcopal wife from Canada (& the west subsequently).

Sarah is in Brooklyn, will not go west but return home soon after the 1st of Jan. Silas died in St Louis in Hospital in November. Perry is Stationed at Sandusky, O. Ella & Dadie are pretty well except had colds. Our Winter has closed in cold & snowy as ever.

I have preached twice & attended the 3d meeting as usual today. I received 10\$ from you which I have devoted to the cause of Missions.

Dec. 21, 1864

We have now a very encouraging dispatch from Sherman and rejoice & give thanks for your successful march and now look for the early fall of Savannah & if it be so closely invested. I don't see how the Rebel Garrison is to get away this time. Gen Thomas knocked Hood into a cocked hat!

We will look for you considerably if Savannah falls into our hands & the Army goes into winter quarters in that neighborhood. I will send very "Merry Christmas" & Happy New Year in this letter. Us are to have a little S.S. Festival the Monday evening following Christmas. They are having a magnificent Sanitary Fair in Bangor. We tried Davie six times yesterday for a picture but did not succeed at all. He is so grown and looks so boyish with his short hair I hardly think you would know him. I am writing to all our absent Church members & trying to get things ready for a proper commencement of the New Year, spiritually & otherwise.

Yr loving Bro.

Rowland

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2379 12/21/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2328

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[553]

Farmington  
Dec 21 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie

Ella received your note by Frankie. We will hear from Otis so soon now I would neither do nor say anything about the farm. How good the news is from Gen Thomas & Gen Sherman! If Savannah is taken I hope we shall see Charles & perhaps Otis too before long. I expect they will have a bloody fight before the intrenchments and yet they may not. We were sorry to hear that you had to change girls & fear you will be troubled to get a permanent one.

I had a letter from Alice's new "Massa", Mr Palmer –up to the date of it she had behaved very well & they complained of nothing but slowness. That is "put on", for she is naturally pretty quick.

I hope Jamie is all over his croup by this time. The closing of one year & the opening of another gives me much additional labor. I am writing to all our absent Church members & sending Circulars about Father Rogers "Donation" Jan 2d to many others. Mr Abbott has not paid my note yet –if he continues to neglect it, I shall remind him of it. When he pays it I will send something to you. It was due Oct 1st but he is very forgetful.

I will preach a Christmas Sermon next Sab. And a New Years one on the following Sab. Ella & Dadie are both suffering from severe colds & I believe I have one coming on now. The cars have been late for two nights, but they bro't good news when they did come. We tried for Dadie's picture yesterday but did not succeed in keeping him still once.

Frank likes his School very well. We will not be down to Leeds next week nor probably week after. I attend an association the 3d of Jan. & must be at home to a childrens meeting on the afternoon of the following Sab. We will come as soon as we can & will be glad to see you at any time you will wish getting thro' in decent Season by the cars.

Ella joins me in sending much love to you, Mother & the children. We always like –long to hear from you, if it be but a single word. I suppose you will see Dellie Sat. night. Give my love to him & tell him we will be glad to see him if he has time while at home to visit us. If he cannot I must try to go to Leeds for a day & talk over business matters with him.

Yr. affectionate Brother  
Rowland

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2380 12/21/1864 *From:* W. J. Johnson

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-2329

Granite Natl Bk  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[554]

Granite Natl Bk  
Augusta Dec 21 / 64

Dear Mrs Howard

I think you will find on reviewing your amount with this Bank, that you still have \$100 here.

Very truly yours  
W. J. Johnson Cashier

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2381 12/22/1864 *From:* Sarah B.F. Greble

*To:* My very dear Friend  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2330

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[552]

Philadelphia Dec 22nd /64

My very dear Friend

The summer months have flown quickly by, and I have again returned to my winter home, and altho' I have thought very often of you, and watched always daily for the name of your noble brave Husband still I have not sent you one line of love or of West Point news which I know you are always anxious to hear. I found the other day a little book which I thought would please Grace. Clara calls her "her little God-sister". I have been working a pair of rectangles for the Genl & wanted him to have them by Xmas, but now I think I will keep them until he goes thro' our city when he can have them. I feel very proud of them as they are the first pair I ever attempted to make, and they are for the bravest of our officers –morally as well as physically.

It seems a long long time since I have seen you and I long to see your little ones again, & the new little treasure to whom I have never been introduced. Kiss each one for me. I was detained at W.P. until two weeks since. Sister Clara Pennington had a little daughter born on the first day of December to be called Annie Estelle Pennington. Sister Mamie has been at School at Troy this winter. Father has been much troubled with his throat. Mother has been anxious and worried all summer. Brother John is still in the field on Genl Potter's staff. Col Pennington has charge of a brigade & is Col of the 3rd N. Jersey Cavalry. Col Leech my sister Hannah Greble's husband has been a prisoner since the early part of August. She has not heard from him for nearly four months & is expecting daily to be confined. Brother Edwin Greble went off with the hundred days men from here & was brought home at the end of the time very ill with typhoid fever. He is though now I thank God quite himself again. He behaved nobly, he refused the bounty, and gave his pay to our Union Refreshment saloon. Papa Greble went to Fortress Monroe a fortnight since & has gone off on Genl Butlers staff. We hope he will be home for Xmas –it will seem sad to be without him. I hope that Genl H. will be able to come home soon altho' he seem so busy & useful that I do not see how he can be spared.

Maggie Blunt is at Wilmington where Maj Blunt is now stationed. Mrs Benet is at our Frankford Arsenal. Mrs Mendall is again at West Point. So are the Balch's. Sam Benjamin is there and has Mrs Fry's cottage in which his Mother & Sisters are living with him. Mrs Henry Kingsbury has had Miss Jeannie Greys Cottage this summer. The Church's are as loveable & lovely as ever. These are very few of your old friends at W.P.

I went to Schenectady last June and spent three weeks with Clara Paige & we went together to Troy for three days & staid with the Willards at the Seminary. I also spend a week with Mrs Thomas Williams at her Father's home near Lake Mahopac back of Peekskill. Miss Blanche Berard has a School of the little girls at W.P. I have my hands full this winter –my Sunday School class has 182 children in it. The School at W.P. was doing nicely when I left. Dear good Genl Howard was the one who set that school going well. Gen. Andy Hoff is in N. York he with Annie and the two children came to see us last Summer. His wound will not disfigure him –it looks like the impression made by a pair of tight spectacles from the eye back to the ear. I hear that he suffers with his head –the injury may be internal.

I meant only to write a few lines for I am very busy preparing for Xmas. Good by dear friend, with the dearest love and the very best wishes of this holiest and happiness season of all the year believe me ever to be most lovingly your friend.

Sarah B.F. Greble

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2382 12/23/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2331

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[551]

Farmington Dec. 23, 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie

I want you to have a visit from Santa Claus at Mothers & fearing he might slight you, this cold weather & not get thro. The drifts, Ella & I send a few things for the Stockings. Ella sends the "Cross" with much love. It was cracked a little in making but we hope will not get broken on the way. It will do for the parlor mantle if no way can be devised of suspending it. Ella & I send the headdress for Mother & hope it will suit. Ella has made some candy bags for each of the children & we send a few nuts which you may portion off as you see fit. There is a portfolio (cheap!) for Guy & one for Grace, & I want them both to write me a letter on the paper enclosed. In Guys Portfolio are two little books, one for Jamie & one for Chancy. I would have a fire built in the parlor and each package of things put by itself & the doors fastened till after Breakfast & you may be Santa Claus.

Tell Guy I was sorry to miss his Birth Day & will try to be more thoughtful next time. If I don't find anything to send Dellie it will be, tell him, because he is too big! I got a letter from Charles yesterday dated the 13th. I hope Mother will send me hers as soon as she reads it. Mine was short & contains but little more probably than he wrote in her long letter. I hope you have heard from Otis too.

A Merry Christmas to you all! Our prayer meeting tonight was in the house where Issie Greenwood whom Mother may remember as taken sick in Portland lay dead. Her funeral will be on the Sab. Did Mother know that Mr Tarbox's little girl (Katie) died of Diptheria a week ago last Sat. after a sickness of only 5 days?

I expect a wedding & Funeral next Sab. So our cup is "mingled". But how thankful we ought to be for Otis & Charles.

Lovingly,  
Rowland

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2383 12/24/1864 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2332

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[479]

Boston, Dec. 24, 1864

My dear General

How glad we were when your scout arrived down the river & communicated with the fleet. We followed you daily with our prayers, & yet we can hardly say "followed", for we did not know for a long time where you were, nor where you were going. Our Genls & our Government seem to have found out the secret of keeping their own Secrets. You just moved off beyond the circle of our horizon, into the unknown, & left us to wonder, to doubt, to believe, to guess. But, God be praised, you are out of the woods in the sense that we can see you, or hear you, or hear from you almost every day. How I shd like to have been with you on that unparalleled march - that is the making of some new history. I pray God to spare you to enjoy the pleasures & the rewards of it. It will be something bye & bye to have been, & to be, associated with Genl Sherman.

My letter in ansr. To your long & kind one, was a mere note, written on hearing the news of yr appointment to the Comd of the Army of the Tenn., & an expression of good wishes & of more anxiety than was needful perhaps. But Genl. It came pretty near, to have you thus jumped over Hooker - we know all about the correspondence between Sherman & <the> Govt - & made so prominent & so responsible too, & we began to feel as if we had some responsibility in the success of the Western, now, eastern, army, & of course felt, a good deal, probably, as you did. It comes over us now at times, after all your success over Hood, & all your success thro Georgia, "the Lord help our dear Genl. & guide him in all movements to a successful issue, & spare him, shielding him against the missiles of the enemy & against disease, & keep him simple, pure, devoted as ever." It is all the utterance of personal affection, dear Genl., & expressed in one good, hearty, emphatic, "God bless you".

And now when you have made a few more marches, captured Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington & done a few other little things of that sort, you may like a change perhaps, not a rest, because such work requires no exertion - you go right along of course, same as <the> stars in their marches, so just telegraph your little wife to mee you at my house in Boston, No 638 Tremont St & come right along. Your room is ready, & all things. We understand she is with your Mother, & so can leave on such a summons. Bring any of the children, or all of them, if you like. Suit yrselves, & we are suited. Thereof make return, & fail not to present yourself & yrs. Give my love to your Brother, Charles, "Major" or whatever, & to Whittlesey, if he is with you & tell them my door is open to them at any time for an hour or a week.

Fraternally,  
E.B. Webb [Edwin B. Webb, D.D.]

My wife wld send kind messages, as well as join me in all this, if she knew of this writing. I shall be delighted to receive a line or a letter when other cares will permit.

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2384 12/24/1864 *From:* Cameron F. McRae *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2333

St John's Church  
Savannah

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[199]

General,

I am the Pastor of St John's Church in this city.

I am assured by a gentleman who conversed with General Sherman on the subject that the authorities now in command here, will not dictate the terms on which I will be permitted to celebrate Divine Worship, but that I will be allowed to conduct it according to the dictates of my own conscience. It has, of course, been my custom to use the prayer for the President of the Confederate States. I am unwilling to do anything offensive to those in authority, & propose to omit the prayer for Civil rulers. But bearing in mind the painful scenes that have occurred in other Episcopal Churches, may I ask you to give me the assurance that proper precautions will be taken to prevent their recurrence here; that my people may come to God's house without fear, & unite with you in the celebration of His nativity who was emphatically, "the Prince of Peace".

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient Servant,  
Cameron F. McRae

Savannah,  
Dec. 24th 1864

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2385 12/24/1864 *From:* C B Reese

*To:* Capt Sam L. Taggart

OOH-2334

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters Dept of  
Tenn  
Engineer Office  
Savannah Ga

A.A. Genl Dept Tenn

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[178]

Head Quarters Dept of Tenn  
Engineer Office  
Savannah Ga Dec 24th 1864

Capt Sam L. Taggart  
A.A. Genl Dept Tenn

I have the honor to submit the following brief report of Engineering Operations of this Army since leaving Atlanta Ga Nov 15th 1864

The duties of the Corps and Division Engineers have been mostly with their Command Div. Engr where there have been any have done little else than to superintend the Repair of Roads; Capts Kossak and Klostermann officers of the 17th and 15th Corps have done considerable reconnoitering and have attended to the surveys of the route pursued by their respective Commands. All of these officers have been under the immediate Command of their Corps & Div Commanders.

A Bridge train of about 600 feet Canvass Boats, accompanied the Army and the mass of the labor of the Engr Regt. "(1st M Vol Lt Col Tweeddale Comdg)" has been with this: Capt Buzzard 1st M. Engr with his Company and a Company of the 14th Wis. "(in all about 170 men)" Commanded this train upon starting upon the Campaign. These were all of the men that had received instruction in the Bridge drill, and that from actual service with it before the recent march across the State of Georgia.

At a subsequent day "(Nov 23d at Gordon)" the whole Engr Regt was put on this duty, and it and the Pontoon Train divided into two Sections and one assigned to each Corps.

Bridges were laid as follows.

On the 18th at Nutting Factory across the Ocmulgee two bridges each about 240 ft in length, the first one was laid in a little over two hours after the arrival of the Head of the Train on the river bank. These bridges were dismantled on the 20th. The last removed bed taken from the river and loaded for the march in an hour and twenty minutes, Capt Buzzard had charge of this dismantling.

Both sections were laid across the Oconee at Balls Ferry on the 26th and taken up after the passage of the Army on the 27th.

The 2nd Section 17th Corps was laid across the Ogeechee apposite station 9 1/4 for the passage of that Corp on the 30th inst.

The 1st Section 15th Corps was laid across the Ogeechee at points opposite stations 7 1/2 on the 2nd Dec. and A 2d (or Jenek's bridge)" on the 4th Dec. both these for the purpose of throwing across small bodies of the 15th Corps as a demonstration or to Communicate with the left Column of the Army.

A part of the 1st Section 15th Corps Maj Hill Comdg bridged the Canoochee on the 9th Dec for the purpose of crossing Genl Hazens Command to the Gulf R.R. and again on the 1th for the passage of Genl Kilpatrick's Cavalry.

The 2nd Section 17th Corps stretched their bridge across the Ogeechee at Dillons Ferry just above the Canal on the 9th Dec upon which the 15th Corps crossed, this remaining down until the 18th inst.

The average length of the bridges across the Oconee and Ogeechee rivers, was 220 feet.

There being but a small number of drilled men on duty with the Train I considered its management satisfactory and that the bridge was laid with as much celerity and with as few accidents as possible.

I will speak of the Repair of Kings Bridge over the Ogeechee 3/4 of a mile above the R.R. crossing.

This Bridge is of Trestle and about 5 or 6 hundred feet of it in the centre had been destroyed, the flooring all of the stringers and the Caps were gone, the Trestle legs were standing. The bays were 30 feet in length requiring heavy stringers.

Orders were given by the Comdg Genl for the repair of this bridge on the evening of the 10th Dec.

I assigned to Lt Col Tweeddale the work of Repair, and to Lieut Stickney the task of getting the material; work was fairly begun at noon on the 11th, and at daylight on the 13th it crossed Genl Hazens Div to take Fort McAllister.

After the partial investment of the City the Corps Engineers were generally busy in constructing offensive batteries and assisting to the complete investment of the City. I was engaged several days in making important reconnaissances, once with the Comdg Genl to Vernon River to examine the enemys left flank, and there with Capt Poe Chf Engr M.D.M. to establish a line of works covering a considerable area about Fort McAllister.

I am very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servt  
C B Reese  
Capt of Engrs  
Chf Engr D.T.

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2386 12/24/1864 *From:* C.H. Asmussen

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2335

Savannah, Ga

Comdg Right Wing  
Army of Georgia.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[177]

Savannah, Ga, Decbr 24 /64

General,

I called yesterday to see you, but did not find you at home. I will therefore briefly state my business.

You are of course aware, that I received my appointment as Major and Asst Adj Genl U.S. Vols, but you know at the same time that I must be confirmed by the Senate.

I would ask you therefore, General, to use your influence with your friends and particularly with Hon. H. Wilson from Mass, chairman of the military committee and see me out of the woods.

Thanking you, General, beforehand for any act in your power you may do on my behalf.

I remain your  
most obedt. Servt.  
C.H. Asmussen  
Lt Col Asst <> Gen  
20 A.C.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg Right Wing  
Army of Georgia.

[Written on the last page]  
Asmussen, C. H.  
Lt. Col. & A.I. G.  
Savannah Dec 24 / 64

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2387 12/24/1864 *From:* Thomas C. Upham

*To:* Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2336

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[175]

New York, Dec. 24, 1864

Major Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

My nephew, Rev. N.L. Upham, Chaplain in the Army, proposes to resign his office. The reason is, the state of his wife's health. I understand that her health is enfeebled, & that she is suffering much. I hope his application, which is a trying one to him, will meet with your favorable consideration, if it can be done consistently with honor & the good of the country's service. I am confident, that there is a real & urgent foundation for his request.

I rejoice with you in the brightening prospects of the nation, & in the kind Providence, which has watched over yourself personally.

My kind remembrance to Prof. Whittlesey. Rev. Mr Sewall of Lynn takes his place for the present.

Most respectfully & sincerely yrs  
Thomas C. Upham

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2388 12/24/1864 *From:* J.T. Conklin

*To:* Capt. S. L. Taggart

OOH-2337

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Dep't  
and Army of the  
Tennessee  
Savannah, Ga

A.A. Genl Deptmt & Army of  
the Tenn.

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[350]

Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee  
Savannah, Ga Dec 24th 1864

Capt. S. L. Taggart  
A.A. Genl Deptmt & Army of the Tenn.  
Capt.

I have the honor to report, that in obedience to S. F. O. No 213. I have examined the shores of Wilmington River from Fort Barton to Thunder-bolt and the Kiddoway River (Burnside) at Wimberly and find as follows:

At Fort Barton there is a small Pier, but only Five feet and ten inches of water at low tide, and the banks of the River at that point and in the vicinity are of such a nature that it would require a great deal of labor to make a landing. The same is the case at Bona-Venture. At Thunder-bolt the banks are good, and the channel of the River is close to the shore, so that there are twelve feet of water, within twenty five feet of the land. At Wimberly the ground is very marshy and water scant. I have not yet visited Beau-lieu but shall do so on Monday. I am informed however that there are good landings in that vicinity.

I am Captain very respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servt.  
J.T. Conklin Col and Q.M.

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2389 12/25/1864 *From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* My Dear Papa [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2338

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[60]

Leeds, Dec 25 Christmas 1864

My Dear Papa

It is Christmas in the afternoon. We have all had a great many presents from Santa clause. Jamie has had two books and Chancy Guy and I have all had one My books name is Anna on passages from home life. One of Jamies books is named Little bo peep. The other is the scripture Alphabet and guess what Uncle Rowland sent me? A portfolio and I am writing in it and Guy is writing in his. Wont you come home at Leeds this winter with Uncle Charley. Uncle Dell came home last Friday. He and guy and Mamma went to church today and I and Jamie and Grandma staid at home at half past eleven I put Chancy to sleep but before I put him to sleep I gave him his milk and water and cracker. He slept until half past twelve.

Monday morning

Mamma came home at half past one from church. I hope you and Uncle Charley are well? Jamie sends a kiss to you. And I send a lotts of kisses to you and Uncle Charley. Uncle Rowland sent the presents in a valise. There was a box. All of our presents came in it. Jamie has got the box now. We took off the pieces of leather that held the cover on all but two Jamie has got it now for his trunk mamma sens double love to you, and the same to Uncle Charley. Uncle Rowland sent me some envelopes and writing papers and I am writing your letter on it now. We have been out here at Leeds nearly a month. I wish you a happy new year I cant wish you a merry christmas but I can say I hope you have had one. Jamie has got for his birthday present a set of ten pins and a little hatchet the ten pins were my present the hatchet Guys. And Mamma gave Jamie some candy and nuts. I have got some blotting paper and two pockets in my portfolio.

Goodbye from Grace  
goodbye

---

2390 12/26/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2339

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Savannah Ga.

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[550]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Savannah Ga. Dec. 26th 1864

Dearest

I have now been in the vicinity of this beautiful city & in it since the 21st inst. I am troubled that I do not hear from you. I hav'nt had a letter since I have been here and I am feeling pretty bad about it, but I think my letters have gone towards Nashville, where I had a reserve Head Quarters. I have heard through Capt. Gilbreth's letters that you have gone to Leeds and are with mother for the winter. The weather is so beautiful here that it is hard to realize the thermometer down to zero with you and when I think of it I am consoled with the thought that Charles & I did not freeze up in our babyhood. I want to see the loving faces, your & the children's so much that I am really homesick. I went to General Sherman & told him, "Now let me off. I don't ask but two days at home." He said "General I would give a million of dollars if I had it to be with my children, would you do more than that". I told him I should say nothing more, and I have given up for the present. We may get to some place before spring, when the operations will admit of my going.

How is mother this winter. She cannot help enjoying your stay & that of the children, and I hope she is very happy. I am very eager to hear all about you.

We find Savannah a delightful city, and everything is very orderly. There are some misdeeds committed but probably as few if not fewer than in the days of the dirk and the bowie knife.

I went to Rev. Mr. McRae's Epis. Ch. Yesterday with Chas. Capt Beebe and Mr Marshall - staid with his sister to the communion, and enjoyed the day exceedingly. These Marshalls are two young men Theodore & George who formerly went to school with me in Hallowell. Theodore I knew very well. He had amassed a large fortune, had a wife & child, but both are dead. George married a Miss <Pred> of Augusta, Me. His wife has been here about five years ago & their sister about four.

Gen. Hardee's brother met me & presented a letter from Gen. Hardee. He says Anna has gone to Charleston. Miss Dummett is in Florida with the other children. I hear the Gen's young wife is not beautiful, but rich. Madam G.W. Smith is here. I have not been in to see her yet & don't think I shall.

I am living in the house of an old English consul; a magnificent establishment. Charles may go home. I think I shall send him to Washington on duty & possibly home. I have much I would like to write to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy. I brot in a flock of little children last night -seven little girls & boys & had a nice time with Carrie <Einstein> an accomplished little girl 10 yrs old promised to come & play for me on my piano some time. Thamy was very sweet but wouldn't give me a kiss - "Not allowed to kiss people". So I must go home to get sweet kisses.

God bless you darling & all the rest.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2391 12/28/1864 *From:* Wharton J. Green

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3129

Depot Prisoners of War  
Johnson's Island Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[219]

Depot Prisoners of War  
Johnson's Island Ohio, Dec. 28th 1864

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.  
General

General,

Your communication from Gaylesville Ala. of Oct. 23rd was duly recd. wherein you express your willingness to aid me in procuring a special exchange, if you only knew my assimilated rank. It is needless to say that I thank you sincerely for the offer, and will never forget the fulfilment of the promise. Since losing my original rank as Lieut. Col. in the Confederate army and taking the position of Vol. A.D.C. on Brig. Gen. Daniel's staff I have supposed that my grade was, so far as the question of exchange is involved, that of other aides on a Brigadier's staff viz. 1st Lieutenant.

As such I doubt not that Col. Auld or other authorized party on the part of my Gov'nt. would consent exchange for me. In this connection I deem it not inappropriate to add that Capt. Puffer A.D.C. on Gen'l Butler's staff wrote to the Hon. Benj. Dean of Boston of date of Nov. 1st stating that Gen. B. had directed Col. Mulford to tender me in exchange for any officer of like rank that we hold of your's. As I have since heard nothing of the matter, I fear that in the press of business incident to active operations it has been overlooked. Trusting that you General (for the sake of old classmates and my declining health) will take the matter in hand.

I am very resp'ly Your Obt. Serv't  
Wharton J. Green [USMA Class of 1854; withdrew during first year.]

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Green, Wharton J.  
Prisoner of War  
Johnsons Island  
Dec. 28, 1864.

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2392 1/1/1865

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2340

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Jan 1, 1865 [1865 was written in pencil]

Dear Bro. Otis

I wish you a Happy New Year & Ella who sits behind me joins in the same wish heartily. It has been our communion Sab. and we have had a very good New Years day. This A.M. I preached on "Joy in the Holy Ghost" & this P.M. on "They gave him wine mingled with mirrh, but he accepted it not," deducing the principle that we are not to accept the stupefying drafts that the world offers us in our trials but drink the cup our Fathers hand offers & prepares –knowing that all things will work together for our good at last. I have just returned from our evening Concert of prayer for the conversion of the world. I have now the Abbott School of 60 & some 25 Students of the Normal School in my meeting & these are an interesting class of young persons.

We congratulate you on the taking of Savannah & sympathize in your disappointment at the loss of Hardee & army. We would give something to know what you will do next. We fear a concentration that will outnumber you if you march overland & do not embark. But God will direct. Our 300,000 more are in danger of being conscripts & substitutes to too large an extent. Nothing much short of a miracle can save me from a Draft this time, but I dont worry any –if God thinks I can serve my country better some where else, He will send me.

Ella Dadie & I made a little visit to Leeds on Friday & found Mother, Lizzie & family all quite well. They were without a girl & poor Lizzie was at work about house, but Ella thinks she prefers even that to the wear & tear of housekeeping in Augusta with such girls as she has had. It is almost impossible to get a girl for Mother that will stay "for love or money" Mother is peculiar & spoils her girls by talking to them & "paying them attentions" and she is too old to change –especially in her own home. Colored girls dont seem to suit us Yankees very well. Alice has a good place at Bath which I hope she will be able to retain. Julia is enjoying wedded bliss in Augusta.

Chancy is such a sweet little fellow, so fat quiet & good tempered that everybody loves him. He says but few words but seems glad to see Uncle Rowland. "J" is the sauce as usual. He & Grace & Dadie & Guy had a fire in the South Chamber & kept that for a play house & had good noisy times there.

Your little wife grows more & more lovely in character. Her trials have been a blessing. Mother thinks she must sell the place, I believe, or that she cannot get on there alone. Uncle Ensign is anxious to have you buy our old place. If you were rich enough "to keep it in the name" & to buy it for nothing else, I would farm it. Mr Lane is offered 3000\$ I believe & cousin Theresa Howard's husband wishes to purchase it. We are in hopes to see Charles, if not you, & talk over these things before long.

Tell Charles, I received his letter of the 17th ult, and took it to Leeds for the rest to read & Mother has sent me hers. I dont see what has become of our letters sent to Nashville. The failure at Wilmington will encourage the Rebels again for a while, I suppose.

We have had one week of the very coldest weather, with snow piled into awful heaps, but last week was mild & rainy.

I send off 50\$ today to the Am. Board. In it was included 10\$ from Charles. Dont forget our great Religious & Benevolent Societies. Help us what you can occasionally that we may go thro. the war, keeping up our Christian outposts in heathen lands. I mean to expend a 10th this year in Benevolence & to be systematic about it. If I am not, the "World, the flesh & the Devil" get the first appropriations & Christ gets none! Sometimes I have feared that my patriotism was getting uppermost of my Christianity, but I try to feel that what I do for Country, I do for X, since such precious interest of his Kingdom seem bound up in our land.

Davie has been to Church today & behaved very well. Frankie Sargent boards with us –his mother is visiting in Brooklyn. I saw Uncle Ensign & Laura. They were well & take much pride in their little "Ennie" Uncle E. is town liquor agent! But I will take too much of your time. Be assured of our love & prayers in your behalf.

Rowland

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2393 1/1/1865

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2341

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me Jan 1st 1865

Dearest,

I will begin the New Year by writing a letter to you. A happy New Year to you! May peace come with the New Year, and you home to remain with us. I will be hopeful of the future, and trust we are to be reunited before many long months. You had not learned that we came to Leeds. I hope your letters will soon be directed to here. They go to Augusta first now, making them one day longer en route.

I suppose it is all for the best that we are here. Shall try to be as cheerful and happy as I can, that others may be around me. I have a great desire to keep well that I may be able to look after and take proper care of the children. I have not heard from Augusta since I left, only once through Dea Turner who said our house looks lonely. If we were only as far away as Winthrop I could drive down and not call it a journey. I think we wont try to go much of any where as it is, but be happy at home and glad to see whoever takes the trouble to come to see us.

Dellie is home as yet. He brought Miss Rosa Dean here to spend a few days, in fact she is to remain until he goes away. They seem very happy together, and as he keeps her mostly to himself I know her very little. He asked me yesterday one question, "How do you like Rosa?" which took me by surprise and I could'nt think of anything to say but that "She seems like a very pleasant girl" where upon he remarked that "She doesn't talk a great deal".

We had a delightful visit from Rowland, Ella and David last Friday. They arrived at the house at quarter before eleven and left same day at half past three. Jamie and Dadie had a good time playing horse with Dadie's new reins.

Mrs Greble remembered us at Christmas, and sent me a long letter and Grace a book. She has also a pair of rectangles for you that she has worked.

I could not prepare for Christmas before I came here, and therefore Santa Clause did not visit us. (Dellie brought the children books and Rowland sent them presents)

I would'nt live in the country all my life if I could have my choice. We started to go to Church today –tipped over getting into the road –Mother, Guy , Jamie and myself. Nobody hurt, and Mother proposed to go with Guy. I did not dare to trust them but sending the children back got in myself and started. The roads are full of holes. We went as far as Mr F. Lothropps and turned back because we were very late and had to walk the horse and the weather was growing colder.

Mother has raked up the fire and gone to bed, and I will not sit here alone but finish my letter in the morning if I can send to the Depot. Good night.

I left my writing last evening and resume it again this evening, Dearest, after all the children have gone to bed. Tonights paper gives you a new command the "Dep't of the Missouri" I hope it is not true on some accounts. You would come home before you took command, that we should <believe>.

Give much love to Charlie and tell him his last letter to Mother came just the right time. She had been baking in the brick oven, some men been in to settle for their work on the "timber", which hindered her somewhat, but Dellie was here to do the most of it. I in the mean time had let the children take care of themselves (sometimes they would dispute then look cross or cry), so I could wash the dishes, and finish ironing. Just as all was finished and Mother was about to make the toast for tea, without having had time to take a rest Charlies letter came. I cannot tell you how much it seemed to refresh her. She sat down and read it aloud to us all. Charlie did'nt know he was writing for my pleasure when he told about the boquet on your table. It was very pleasing to Mother indeed. Mother puts great confidence in his coming home before spring.

She often speaks of selling in the spring. I want her to do as she thinks best. I don't know of but a man who has expressed a wish to <[CHECK ORIGINAL left edge glued> the farm Mr Ramsdell –Uncle Ensign's nearest neighbor. I don't suppose you will purchase the old farm as none of the family will advise it. I am anxiously waiting your answer to Uncle Ensign. You would miss Col Gilmore very much indeed were you to come here this winter. His vacant chair looks lonely even sometimes it seems as if he just came in. And at other times that I shall soon hear his voice in the dining room.

It is quite sickly in town the diptheria is being quite fatal among children. Our turn may come, we know not.

I had to punish Jamie to-night I would have as soon have been punished myself. He is the very essence of mischief. He is always sorry as soon as he hurts Chancy but he cant let him alone.

Wednesday Jan 10th. I find this unfinished letter in my port-folio and do not know why I have not sent it. I have written another letter, on the 8th and will enclose all and send you.

Charlie's arrival we saw in the Boston Journal. He may be here to night. Rowland will be here on his way from Portland. Chancy is crying and the man is waiting for these letters.

Ever you own  
Lizzie

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2394 1/3/1865

*From:* M.R. William Grebe

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2342

St. Louis, Mo

Comdg. Army and Deptmt.  
Of the Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[3]

St. Louis, Mo, January 3d, 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg. Army and Deptmt. Of the Tenn.  
Genl:

Having been dismissed of the service of the United States by sentence of a Court Martial for accepting, a challenge to fight a duel "and for having fought a duel" and being now unable to enter the service again I most respectfully beg of you to grant my application which I will send with this same mail to Gnl. Wm. Clark, your Adjct. Genl.

Gnl., I served two years and a half in the army of the United States, tried always to do my duty and was shortly after leaving you appointed and commissioned as Major. I was not the cause of the unfortunate duel and tried to avoid it. My opponent himself confessed when before the Court Martial that he had caused the Duel and that he had wronged me. He also begged me to excuse him and we are friends now. Genl. John B. Gray, Adjct. Genl of Mo. who has the kindness to write a few lines in my behalf will give you the prove that although I acted against the articles of war, which I deplore, I hardly could avoid it and that I acted as an officer and a gentleman in the old country has to act.

You know yourself, Genl., that I have been only a very short time in this country and that I have been educated in an other country, where manners and habits are different.

Gnl, take my best congratulations for the honor you have gained by gallantry making through the heat of Rebellion and by taking Savannah. My best wishes for your further success are always with you and I never in all my life will forget the time, when I had the honor to be a member of your staff.

Gnl, hoping you will excuse my writing and wishing you would grant my request, I remain, Gnl

Your most obdt svt  
M.R. William Grebe

My address is: care of Hermann Meyer  
United States Savings Institution  
St Louis Mo. Corner markes and 2nd street

[Written sideways on the back page]

Grebe, Capt.  
St Louis Mo. Jan 3, 1865  
(1 enclosure)

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2395 1/3/1865

*From:* John B Gray

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2343

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters, State of  
Missouri,  
Adjutant General's  
Office,  
St. Louis

Savannah

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[2]

Headquarters, State of Missouri,  
Adjutant General's Office,  
St. Louis January 3d 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Savannah  
General

Captain Grebe 4th Mo Cavalry Volunteers late of your staff has been cashiered for fighting a duel.

It is my impression that thru ameliorating circumstances connected with the affair which will show that Grebe was forced into it, and compelled under the ideas of honor to accept the challenge.

I sincerely hope that if you can do anything for him in procuring a mitigation of this sentence, you will do so.

Very Respectfully  
Your obt Servant  
John B Gray  
Adt Genl of Mo.

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2396 1/4/1865

*From:* Thomas S. Dewing

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2344

*Source:* Bowdoin

The U.S. Christian  
Commission,  
General Sherman's  
Army  
Hilton Head, So  
Carolina

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[6, 7]

The U.S. Christian Commission,  
General Sherman's Army  
Jan F. 4th 1865  
Hilton Head, So Carolina

Major Genl Howard  
Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I am a delegate of the U.S. Chris'n Commission, sent to this Department with instructions to connect myself with Gen Sherman's Army & to follow in its wake.

Please inform me whether I may attach myself to your head quarters in the same capacity in which Mr Lawrence has acted.

There is a Mr Hitchcock who wold like to act in the relation. We have a supply of stationery & reading matter, pens, pencils, thread &c &c, which we are anxious to bring with us.

Please reply at your Earliest Convenience.

Yours very respectfully  
Thomas S. Dewing

[Written on the last page in another hand.]

Dewing, Thos. S.  
Christian Comm.  
Hilton Head, S.C.  
Jan. 4th 1865

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2397 1/4/1865

*From:* JG Foster

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2345

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Department of the  
South  
Beaufort, S.C.

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Headquarters, Department of the South  
Beaufort, S.C., Jan 4th 1864 [i.e. 1865] 1 A.M.

Gen Howard,  
General,

I learn that you are here. Please hurry off the steamer as fast as they are unloaded.

I have landed my cargo and go for another. I did not find any landings at Thunder-bolt, as you promised. The "Crescent" in consequence, could not get off the bank after being loaded, and was thus stuck, when I left, with 1200 men on board. I have provided steamers to bring your wagons, teams &c; but it will be absolutely necessary to have two or three landings made in order to embark them with anything like the necessary celerity.

Yours in haste.

JG Foster [John Gray Foster]  
MG Vols

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2398 1/4/1865

*From:* Arth. Barclay

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2346

Savannah

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[10]

Savannah,  
Jany. 4th, 1865

Dear Sir,

Miss Johnston, of this City being desirous of an interview with you, I beg leave to introduce her as the sister of Mrs. Molyneux the wife (I should rather say, the Widow,) of the late Edmund Molyneux, British Consul at this Port.

I have the honour to be,  
Dear Sir,  
Your obedient Servant  
Arth. Barclay

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2399 1/6/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2347

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Savannah

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[583]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Savannah, Jan. 6th 1865

Dearest,

I have just written by the hand of Lt. Sladen a letter to Charles, but I can never afford to write you by other hands, while I have one hand left. I have been really unfortunate having received from you, only one letter since arriving at the coast. I really don't feel like writing, I want to go home so much that writing letters is dreadfully unsatisfactory, don't you think so Lizzie. I saw Gen & Mrs Saxton at Fort Royal (Beaufort S.C.) Mrs Lee's (C.G.) house. Oh, how lovely the place is and how neat & orderly the Gen. keeps his post & Colony. It seems almost like sacrilege to allow my rough soldiers to disturb their quiet and order.

Whom do you think I met on the wharf at Beaufort? It was Whiteman Adam's brother who has transferred his jewelry store from Bangor to that place. He is not very lame now. He inquired for you and the children, very affectionately. I had but a moment to see him after we found each other.

As I wrote Charles I shall (Deo volente) go down there again Monday and probably begin soon to operate from that quarter. The climate is so delightful here and everything so pleasant that I cant help constantly wishing you were here to share them with me, but there is a good time coming, darling.

Guy and Grace wrote papa real good letters and I mean to get them two finished in reply before the mail goes. As I cant see Jamie & Chancy I steal little children in the street sometimes & bring them in to have a good play with.

Mrs Gordan who came from Chicago originally having married a southern young gentleman, seems to be very glad to have been brot. Within our lines. She is about your age the niece of Gen. Hunter. (Paymaster H. you know at Augusta.) She sent two little girls Nellie & Daisy in to see me. I had a very good time with them. I think Jamie would like to play with them.

Mrs GW Smith is here. I have not called to see her and do not think of it. I suddenly met her at Gen. Sherman's the other day and she smiled very pleasantly and looked very beautiful as ever. I have heard that she said such bitter things north that she had to be sent beyond the lines and that she had by no means behaved well. So that though I would have you to see GW, had he been here, I would not Mrs G.W. If she is a good woman & I am mistaken I am really glad of it.

I have sent you some money by Charles. Uncle Ensign has written me about our old farm at Leeds that Mr Lane will sell at \$3000. I am willing to buy and have delegated Charles to talk with you about it. I can pay Mr Lane by instalments. I am having a copy made of my last official report to send to Mother for a present to her. I thought it would please her.

Give much love to all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2400 1/6/1865

*From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-2348

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Savannah, Ga.

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[413]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Savannah, Ga. Jan 6th 1865

My dear little daughter

I have just finished a letter to your precious Mamma and will now say a word directly to yourself. You hardly know what a really pleasant place this is. While you have snow & cold, bleak fields with the wind whistling through the trees, we have it warm & sunny. The trees here are many of them always green. One kind is called the live oak. Almost all the streets in Savannah are bordered with these oaks. The leaves are small, of a dark green color and very numerous.

I went down the river (perhaps you can find the Savannah river on the map) I went down it the other day in a steamer with as many troops as the vessel could carry. We went out a little way on the ocean –this is what the Sailors call “going outside”. We kept the land in sight all the time –after skirting along for forty miles we turned up into the Beaufort river. On the left hand just as we entered the river we saw “Hilton Head”. We entered the river just after dark. I went to bed and so did the Soldiers covering the deck and stairs and alleys of the Steamer. The Steamer went on up to Beaufort stopping about 9 o'clock. We slept till daylight and then went on shore. Come to think I went ashore on our arrival at night and was challenged by a negro soldier on my way back to the boat, by “Who comes there”.

The next day I breakfasted with Gen. Saxton and then we rode off for ten miles on a beautiful broad straight-road. On our right & left we saw neat little huts where the negroes live. The negro men are soldiers mostly and look very nice. When we returned a negro band played on some very bright brass instruments. How clean and nice their instruments & their clothing looked! The children were clean & pretty well dressed on the whole every body in Beaufort & near them looked happy.

Just at evening I visited the hospitals where some of our own poor wounded soldiers were. How glad they all were to see me. I then got a little steamer the “Enoch Dean” and went down river and back to this city Savannah getting in in the morning.

We had a little boy from Boston & his mother on board. He had just come from Boston. He & I had a fine time. His father was Capt of the Str.

Now Good night my darling little daughter. Much love to all –not forgetting Grandma. Tell me what present papa sends by Uncle Chas. God bless you. Kiss Guy, Jamie & Chancy for me.

Aff. Yr. father  
OO Howard

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2401 1/6/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [CH Howard]

OOH-2349

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Savannah, Ga.

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[382]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Savannah, Ga. Jan 6th 1865

Dear brother,

As I feel a little tired I will write you by the hand of Sladen. We miss you very much but hope you are having a good time on the journey, at Washington and at home. I have just returned from Port Royal Island at which place I have already concentrated the 17th Corps. I find everything beautiful and orderly there under the command of Gen. Saxton. Could I have anticipated the beauty and appropriateness of the place I would have made arrangements when we first arrived for Lizzie and the children to meet me there but I shall probably be far on our journey before she could come in answer to this letter.

I find Mrs. Saxton a very modest and pleasant lady who materially aids her husband in his benevolent labors. I am still at Mr Molyneux's. We have just heard of his death.

I shall leave for Beaufort Monday. A letter came for you from Rowland which I opened and will enclose to you as there may be something in it you would like to know.

Genl. Sherman gave an entertainment yesterday evening in which were preset all the General officers and their staff, or nearly all, the Admiral, his Staff and several naval officers besides. A few ladies graced the entertainment.

I recd a letter from Mr. Webb of Boston yesterday. You must see him on your way back as also Frank Gilman and our cousins at Mr. Hazards and give them all our kindest regards. I shall be glad to know how Lizzie and the children and Mother enjoy their presents. Lizzie must look out and not lose Jamie and Chancie in the snow banks and Guy will have to move very lively to keep Jack Frost from biting him. I believe with the hair and the bonnet little girls never do freeze their ears so Gracie can take heart, but the boys are in great danger. I have known their ears, nose, fingers and even their little toes to ache so hard as to make them cry. I ain't sure but I might have cried myself when I was so little that Uncle Jack treated me with disrespect. All well.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

[The above was not written in Otis' hand, although the signature was his.]

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2402 1/7/1865

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear boy [Guy  
Howard]

OOH-2350

Savannah, Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[604]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Savannah, Ga Jan 7th 1865

My dear boy

As last night's mail arrived, Col. Markland, who has it in charge for the whole army, brought me a nice looking letter from home, directed in Mamma's hand and mailed Dec. 27th. On opening I found it contained two little letters enclosed once from you and one from Gracie directed, "My dear papa". Your dear papa was very glad to get them and glad to find you & his dear, precious children so happy.

Your presents were very nice. Papa's could not get home by Christmas and he is a little afraid yours might freeze up on the way but the leather part surely will not freeze. Papa hardly has a right to claim the present as it came from members of his staff.

So Jamie thinks he can write & I would'nt wonder if Chancy had some such notion. Guy when you write you must not begin quite so many words with capital letters. Let us see. A Capital should begin every book, chapter, note & sentence. Also the names of persons and places. The pronoun I & the interjection O should be capitals. You must look up the rule in the spelling book. You spelt just with an e thus: jest. That is the way many people pronounce it, but it is just. Gracie put an a for an e in hatchet spelling the word hatchat. But the two letters were very nicely spelt. Gracie must make her letters a little smaller so as to write what is called a lady's hand.

We are to have a review of the 15th Army Corps before General Sherman today, and this will end the reviews for the present. I wish you & the children could be here to enjoy it.

You must give much love to Mamma. I hope that Guy really loves his mamma. He can never know how much his mother loves him. How many night she has watched over him and how tenderly, anxiously, she has cared for him. Give love to Grandma. She is papa's mother, who once watched & cared for him, a little boy with the same love.

Papa is very glad you are all so well & so happy. Dr Duncan says it is a standing order to send his kind regards to Mrs Howard & the children. Do you remember him. I am hoping you are always a truthful, frank good boy and that God will keep your heart warm & guide you by His counsel.

Your loving father  
O.O. Howard  
M.G.

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2403 1/7/1865

*From:* J. W. Royce

*To:* Major General Howard

OOH-2351

Principal Grammar  
School No 37  
New York

Commander of the Army of  
Tennessee

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[11]

New York Jan'y 7th 1865

Major General Howard  
Commander of the Army of Tennessee  
Dear Sir:

Charles D. Miller, son of the late Col. Miller of Pennsylvania, who fell in the battle of Fair Oaks is desirous of obtaining, through your influence, an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Master Miller has been a pupil in Grammar School No 37, in the City of New York, for the last four years, and has during that time advanced, steadily, from class to class until, at the precocious age of eleven years, we find him fully prepared for admission to the "Peoples' College"- our own Free academy

His habits are all good, and his attendance to business, and the various duties assigned him are exemplary in the highest degree! So much so, that I am confident, if appointed to the position he solicits, he will prove himself deserving of your patronage and distinguished consideration.

With the best wishes for your personal welfare and the success of the great enterprise in which you are engaged, I remain, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,  
J. W. Royce  
Principal Grammar School No 37

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2404 1/7/1865

*From:* J.W. Chickering

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2547

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

New York  
Jan 7, [1865]

Dear General

The prompt reply of your Secretary reached me here, just as our Committee had voted to authorize me to add to my first request of you the additional favor & benefit of presiding at the Saratoga Conventions.

I can imagine, my dear Sir, what your modesty may incline you to say to this.

But you are a man of conscience also; & I am sure that if you knew the importance of our having a Christian man –a man known & a military man in that position, you c'd not decline if other duties permit you to attend.

Such men as Dr. Cuyler, Wm E. Dodge, Wm A Booth, & my humble self, feel that your name w'd almost ensure attendance, while your presidency w'd give just the character we wish to the whole thing.

I write in haste & <haste>, in a <counting> -corner, <hearing> shouts for Grant, - but hope I have made my wishes plain, & the case clear.

You will need a week at Saratoga by that time –Aug 1st - & your million proteges will be all the better for it. At least so thinks

Yrs very truly  
J.W. Chickering

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2405 1/8/1865

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2352

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62]

Leeds, Me. Jan. 8th 1865

Dearest

I do not write to you very often. The days are so short and I can keep employed usefully all the time and not do anything for you or other friends. We have had no girl but now Mother has succeeded in getting one.

We did not get our mail yesterday but called on our way home from church for it. We learn by one of the papers that Charlie passed through Washington last Friday, so we are looking for him here any day now. I wish you were. I mean I should wish you were coming too if it was not so cold here. I do think the country is much colder than the towns in the same climate.

There is precious little comfort going so far to church - like the services when we get there as well as we can under the circumstances, so cold when you get there that you can think of nothing but how to get warm for a long time, and when you get home tired, cold and hungry, find the children impatient - wanting their dinner and all out of sorts generally. Now don't you think I have nearly so important a command as you? I don't always keep cheerful and as patient as you. The children will get to church but a very few times this winter.

I don't believe you have ever received the letter Uncle Ensign wrote you about the old farm. I have been trying to come to some conclusion as to what you will do about purchasing it. Rowland has written against it, and Mother has lost apparently all interest in the farm and neighborhood. I cant think you would ever intend to live here and I know we have not money enough to-day that at the present price and a pleasant home besides. I have not doubt you will do what is best about it.

With love from Grace, Jamie and the rest I close

Your own Lizzie

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2406 1/9/1865

*From:* Wm Smyth

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2353

Bowd. Coll. Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

Bowd. Coll. Brunswick Jany 9th ~ 65

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

My Son, Lieut Wm H. Smyth, of the 15 Me, U.S. Infy. Has at length been paroled after a confinement of nearly fifteen months in the Libby, Macon, Charleston and Columbia prisons. He has had the usual experience of great privation and suffering at the hands of the Rebel authorities. He returns, however, as I trust, with constitution unimpaired, and will soon be ready for active Service again, upon which he is desirous to enter with the least practicable delay.

He still retains an earnest desire for a place on your Staff. I can, with greater confidence than I made the application before, recommend him for that or any similar situation. In the campaign under Rosecrans to the battle of Chattanooga, in which, through the blundering of the officer in command of his Brigade, he was unfortunately taken a prisoner, he acquired a distinguished reputation for bravery, efficiency, and all the qualities of a good soldier. Those best acquainted with him, and competent judges in the case, are, I believe, unanimously of the opinion that he is abundantly qualified for, and is deserving of some higher position than the mere command of a company, the position which he held in the battle of Chattanooga, and to which by the changes in his Regiment, it is probable he is now permanently advanced. I think, my dear Sir, you would find him a young man after your own heart, modest, brave, and efficient in the discharge of duty. His Major, one of the best officers of his grade, who fell by his side in the bloody conflict at Chattanooga, placed the greatest reliance upon him in every emergency.

It is a sore trial to my son that he has lost the opportunities of your recent brilliant campaign, and I am the more desirous on that account to secure for him the desired situation on your Staff, or some similar position; and I shall be very grateful for any assistance you may be able, and deem it proper to render him.

You made an application, I think for him, before your transfer from the Army of the Potomac, which failed to be granted. In the change of circumstances I think I could now secure the success of the application. My son's regiment still in Thomas' Corps, and at last advices was at Look-out mountain.

I may seem, my dear Sir, to have spoken somewhat strongly of my own Son. I should not have done so, except upon testimony spontaneously furnished me, so ample as to leave no doubt on the subject. You may be pleased to know that I have now three sons in the Service of the country, - all of my boys of age for military duty, with the exception of Egbert, who has put in the field a good and faithful substitute. I have observed with the greatest interest your own invaluable services, and pray that you may be preserved unharmed to the end of this wicked rebellion which your gallant army has recently given so staggering a blow.

Most truly and respectfully yours  
Wm Smyth

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2407 1/9/1865

*From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Dear Genl. [OO Howard]

OOH-2354

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13, 14]

Boston. Jany 9, 1865.

Dear Genl.

Next best to seeing you, is seeing your Brother, the Colonel. Charlie reached my chh about ¼ before 11 Sunday Morn'g – reached the City about 8 in the morn'g – left the pony at Newport on the Steamer. Pony comes along to-day at 11 o'k, & is to be forward to-night if possible.

The Col. goes to-day, or to-morrow at farthest, he says: took a little cold on the Steamer, is otherwise well.

We are glad eno' to hear all about you: you history-makers: & to have a host of questions ans'd – what a campaign – what a success. How favored of God in your march. How nobly Genl. Howard did Savannah!

But now Genl. hear a fool – a fool in Military Maters – dont let success make you venturesome, or rash, or reckless. You have done one thing new under the sun, dont be too sure that you can repeat it. When Napoleon started on his northern campaign, he consulted the records of 40 years & found that the cold weather had been such in all that time but once as to defeat his campaign. But the cold killed him. The snows covered his stiffened dead.

In <moving> north, you must encounter terrible rains – your march thro' Geor'a was remarkable in this respect – free from rains. Lee is detaching forces & sending them South, it is said – has recalled everything from the Shenandoah – the rains, the hostile forces, the distance from a base – troops worn out with marching & fighting, animals exhausted, it will require wisdom & energy more than human for such work. Now Genl. dont think me a croaker. I have the most unlimited confidence in Genl. Sherman & Genl. Howard, but there are some things that cannot be done. History shows that they have not been done. Be wise, be sure, so says the fool. And God bless you is the prayer of us all.

Do one thing for me, cant you? Send me a copy of your report from Look-out-valley to Atlanta; from Atlanta to Savannah? Do & I'll send you anything you want.

Cant I send you anything by the Col. or do anything thro' any channel that will be of service to you?

Yrs to command, friend, brother, fellow-worker, with love, & admiration.

E.B. Webb

Love to Whittlesey.

O.O. Howard  
Comdr. Army of the Tenn'see

Always come to my house, going or coming, by night or by day.

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2408 1/9/1865

*From:* D.H. White

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2355

Waltham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[15, 16]

Gen Howard,  
Honored Sir,

Will you please have the kindness to forward the enclosed as directed and oblige one of your many Maine Union friends. I rejoice that Savannah is in such good hands.

Any kindness shown to old poor uncle & daughter will be received with gratitude by their Northern friends.

I used frequently to hear my cousin Maud Tupper speak of you. And my sister Mrs E.J.G. Hooper had had the pleasure of meeting you.

With much respect  
(Miss) D.H. White

Waltham Jan. 9 / 65

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2409 1/9/1865

*From:* Mrs. C.S. Wilson

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2356

*Source:* Bowdoin

at Mr. H Gillums corn.  
Liberty &  
Habersham Street  
Savannah Georgia

G.S. Army  
Head Quarters  
Near the Park  
Savannah  
Ga

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[17]

Mrs. C.S. Wilson  
at Mr. H Gillums corn. Liberty &  
Habersham Street  
Savannah Georgia  
Jan 9th 1865

Gen Howard  
Dr Sir -

With gratitude I acknowledge the receipt of One Hundred dollars (in a U.S. Treasury Note) from your honorable hand on the 7th Inst & which, as soon as I am able to do so, I will refund with interest.

Very Respectfully  
C.S. Wilson

Gen Howard  
Dr Sir

I cannot close this note, without saying to you: that I can never forget your kindness to me. It has rarely been my lot to meet with such a christian gentleman as in yourself and then your charm of manner and conversation that passes all description –so cheerful –so unassuming –so free, and easy, and frank, and kind, and gay) –that I at once forgot my embarrassment, and felt myself by the side of an old and familiar friend.

Respectfully & Gratefully  
C.S. Wilson

Gen Howard  
G.S. Army  
Head Quarters  
Near the Park  
Savannah  
Ga

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2410 1/11/1865 *From:* Charles D Miller

*To:* Major-Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2357

New York

Commanding "Army of the  
Tennessee"

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[18]

New York January 11th '65

Major-Gen Howard  
Commanding "Army of the Tennessee"  
Dear Sir,

Your note of the 2nd of May 1864 to Colonel McKeen was forwarded to me by his relatives. He was killed before it had time to reach him. I cannot thank you too much for your kindness in granting me your recommendation to West Point at large. I am now about to avail myself of it. I herewith send you the recommendations of my school teacher and my pastor, hoping they will be sufficient.

I am but 15 years of age, but could easily pass for 17, and am as stout as most boys of that age. I will be 16 next September which is 3 months, I believe, after I would be required to enter the Academy should I get the appointment. I shall do my best to do honor to your recommendation.

Please forward the recommendations to me sealed and directed to the Secretary of War. If convenient please send them immediately. The reason for my wishing to have it sent to me is that I wish to concentrate all my influence, and send it in one batch to the Secretary. Address reply to Chas. D Miller 84th St. between 1st and Avenue A South side

Yours Very Respectfully  
Charles D Miller

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2411 1/12/1865 *From:* E.A. Nason

*To:* Maj. Gen. O O Howard

OOH-2358

Augusta, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[19]

Augusta, Maine, Jany 12 / 65

Maj. Gen. O O Howard

Dear Sir,

My brother Henry Nason is about visiting Savannah intending to engage in business there.

As he will be a stranger, & among strangers, I take the liberty of giving him a letter of introduction to you.

He is & ever has been a truly loyal & patriotic man & an earnest supporter of our government, and will not abuse any confidence you may place in him.

He is a native of Augusta, but has been an active business merchant in New York city for many years, and is well calculated to succeed in plans, which he can make known to you.

I will add what I know will be of interest to you, that he is a professed follower of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

We all rejoice at the success of your great expedition which has opened Savannah to our people, & which bids fair, with Gods blessing to do so much towards bringing this wicked rebellion to an end.

Hoping that such may be the case, and that soon you may be permitted to return to your family & home, long to enjoy the blessings of peace, for which you have made so great a sacrifice.

I am respectfully yours,  
E.A. Nason

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2412 1/12/1865 *From:* Lindsey Matchett

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2359

Colchester McDonough  
Co. III

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23, 24]

January 12th 1865  
Colchester McDonough Co. III

General Howard  
Dear Sir,

It is with sorrow that I take pen in hand to write you this letter. I have just received the sad news of the death of my only Son –George W. Matchett, Company D 6th Mo. Vol. In Detached as Scout for General Howards Head Quarters.

Dear Sir I thought it possible that my Son was personally known to you.

I know but little of your Personal History. It is enough for me to know that you are a Union Soldier fighting to uphold the Government of our beloved Country. Therefore in great confidence I look to you to Sympathise with the Bereaved Parents & Sisters of the fallen Soldier. We recd a letter from an Officer of his Company informing us that he was killed about the 1st of December at Gordon Ga when in the discharge of his Duty –Shot by a Citizen.

Dear General if you could give me any of the particulars concerning the death of my dear son whether any of his comrades were with him when shot, whether or not he was killed instantly, if he was decently Buried, it might be a comfort to our acheing hearts. Also if you can give me some Testimonial of good conduct on the part of my Boy.

I suppose that you are pressed with the cares & the responsibility of your high Command. We read in History that the great Napoleon in his flight from Russia found time to interest himself in the Private matters of one of his lowest Soldiers.

Dear sir, my son entered the Army at the beginning of the war being then about 19 years of age. I don't know whether he had money or property at the time of his death by him or not. At the commencement of the war I was living at the Wilson Creek Battle Ground J.W. Mo. We left there in the summer of 62 after being robbed & driven by the Rebels and came to this place. My Daughters walking most of the way.

General I bring my letter to a close hoping that it may find you in the enjoyment of health & happiness & from the dept of my heart wishing you great success in the defence of our Government. I hope and believe that this war will soon be over. Yet there is many Tears to be shed, many hearts to be broken and many Graves to be filled. Therefore allow me to Exhort you to be prepared for Death.

Yours in sorrow  
Lindsey Matchett

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2413 1/13/1865    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2360

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C.

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[805]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C. Jan 13th 1865

Dearest,

I have been running back & forth from Savannah for the past week, as my troops are being transported to this place. Now I have my Head Quarters here and I wish you were here too. I got a good long letter from Rowland yesterday and he told me how nicely you all were. I had the two from the children with your own tiny note.

Mrs General & Mrs Capt. Saxton took me to ride yesterday afternoon as they said to take me from official duties. We went to visit two negro schools in full operation. We found the children quite as far advances as white children of this same age. There were two white teachers one for each school, a Miss Botume of Boston & Miss Danby from Massachusetts. The children sang for me. They all sing out with great zest & enjoyment swinging their bodies to keep time.

The weather, cool but not cold, really delightful. These old trees, green & luxuriant, how very much you would enjoy it here & how delighted you would be to come. This I keep saying, but I am so short a time here, that I cannot ask it.

Mrs Saxton (Gen.) is a lovely lady & wants to see Mrs Howard. Gen Saxton has taken me personally right to his house, give me a room and allows me to enjoy the luxuries of his table. I hav'nt yet given up the hope that things may so turn, that I may run home before spring. I am sometimes very homesick, but generally so much taken up with duties that I dont get burdened with it. I am sitting in Mrs Saxtons reception room and writing at the general's desk. This is that I may be less disturbed by comers & goers.

I have called on Prentiss Whitman and he shewed me his shop & some beautiful mocking birds and a town owl. He wished he had a chance to sent you one. I fear the cold North would stop his singing. As it is these birds dont sing here in winter.

I shall leave here tonight for the front. We are going to lay a bridge at Port Royal Ferry and try to secure some points of the Rail Road near Pocatigo tomorrow or monday.

Give much love to the children. Mother's present is'nt quite done. I wonder if Uncle Charlie succeeded in getting home the pony. Are you really doing hard work? You must'nt wear out, darling, with working, for I really cant spare you, though it does seem as if I never could get home. Are the snows very deep yet?

I miss Charles a great deal. Tell him Col Clark is a full Brigadier, and has got back to us, and wants to stay with me till he is confirmed by the Senate. Col Wilson has come back a full Colonel. Van Deveer is back but dont want to see me, has gone to Savannah to see Gen. Sherman. The Sec. of War says he & the President think "I am the right man in the right place". He spoke warmly & even affectionately to me the few moments I saw him at Savannah.

May God bless you all.  
Lovingly Otis

Give my love to Mother and remember me to all the neighbors.

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2414 1/13/1865 *From:* James Q Gilmore

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2361

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[20]

Boston Jany 13 1865

Maj Genl Howard

Sir,

I wrote you a few days since recommending the papers of a young man who wished to commence business at Savannah. I now have the pleasure of introducing him to you in person and can say that you will find him trustworthy in all respects and ready to fulfill all he promises as a man of honor and loyalty.

Any assistance you may render him in attaining his wishes I shall consider as a personal favor.

Asking your pardon for intruding upon you I remain

Your Obt

James Q Gilmore

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2415 1/13/1865 *From:* Henry Nason

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2676

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[232, 233]

New York Jany 13 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Dr Sir,

Allow me to take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter from my Brother EA Nason of Augusta Me, which I expected to have had the pleasure of delivering in person but now understand through the papers that no permits of the kind I require will be granted only through Maj Gen Sherman or by his approval & therefore I write you to acquaint you with my object & if consistent with your many duties to ask your aid in getting the necessary Permit from Maj Genl Sherman. I have sent all the necessary papers & credentials to Washington & they will be laid before Hon W P Fessenden today, but hearing that they will be granted only by recommendation or approval of Maj Gen Sherman, I write you at once rather than waiting the result of the application at Washington to <lore> the present Mail to you as wish to procure the Permit as soon as possible.

My object is to go to Savannah with a Permit to trade there to a limited extent & under proper restrictions through the winter with a view of becoming acquainted with the customs & localities of the South & procuring a Plantation where a party of men of the right stamp can test the question of raising cotton by free labour stimulated by Northern enterprize. Probably the letter from my Brother will satisfy you more fully than anything I can say in regards my being a firm supporter of the Union & Administration & will only say that no one who knows me will doubt of my being thorough in this respect, & I think that I have the prudence & judgment requisite to enable me to be of service to my Country in promoting that union of feeling amongst Southerners so reverential to the future happiness & prosperity of our Country & if I go South it will be with a desire to do all in my power to promote this object so dear to the hearts of all true Patriots.

If you can procure a line from Maj Gen Sherman recommending or consenting to my having the proper Permit for the purpose of trade in Savannah under suitable restrictions, it will be a favor which will be fully appreciated by my Brother Edward & myself. I believe you are acquainted with my Brother Wm Nason of Chicago who will probably join us if we succeed in establishing ourselves in the South permanently so you will see that we shall take men of the right stamp to be of service to our Country.

Your career & that of the Army with which you are connected has been as glorious & successful as the most ardent supporter of the Union course could wish to you have been the means in the hands of God of doing very much for this great object to which you have devoted your life & energy & if the prayers of Gods people in the north will do aught towards bringing about that substantial Peace which we trust will be for the Glory of His Cause, then you will most surely have success & it must be a source of comfort to you to know that in this War the Praying men are also the most fervent in acting in every way in their power to promote this glorious object.

If you can reply to this at an early date it will very much oblige.

Yours Very Respectfully  
Henry Nason  
No 3 Boating Green

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

July 13, 1865, New York [Note]

Nason, Henry

[Note. This letter was filed with July 1865. The date at the end of the letter written in a different hand reads "July", but the date at the letter head reads "Jany", and the content is more like Jan. The "I" in July might be bleed-through. There was a letter dated Jan 12 1865 from E.A. Nason. I believe this to be Jan 13, 1865.]

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2416 1/14/1865 *From:* B.F Barton

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-2363

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[586]

Augusta Jan 14, 1865

Mrs Howard

Your little Boy came to our store on Thanksgiving day and said he wished to leave some money to pay a small bill at Mr Brooks' Store as Mr Brooks was closed on the day, and you were to leave town on that or the following day. The little fellow had a bill of the goods to which he said should be added a pair of Scates and left the money accordingly. When I called to pay Mr Brooks he informed me that the Boy paid for all but the Scates. So I enclose to you the balance. Should have sent it before but did not learn your address until today.

Yours Truly  
B.F Barton

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2417 1/14/1865

*From:* Geo. F. Marble

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-2364

Washington DC 368  
Penn Avenue

Com'dg A & D of Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[25]

Washington DC Jan 14th 1865  
368 Penn Avenue

Maj Genl OO Howard  
Com'dg A & D of Tenn.  
Dear Genl.

Very unfortunately I was among the number blockaded at Chattanooga while the Rebel Army lay before Nashville, consequently did not get away until the first of the present month since which time I have been using every possible exertion to meet you Command with Supplies of which I have on hand a large amount consisting of Officers wear Sutlers Supplies &c (everything being strictly Military Goods). I arrived here yesterday and immediately presented my papers to the War Department, Asst. Sec. Dana says the Department will only Act upon things by an order from Genl Sherman allowing me the privilege of coming to his army and whenever I can present such authority the Department will give me the privilege of Shipping.

Will you be so kind as to send me the necessary documents specifying the money value of goods I may be allowed to bring through. Our Stock stored at Nashville will probably amount to (\$75.000) Seventy five thousand dollars which is in readiness to ship at any moment whenever we are allowed to do so. I would also like to know whether I can ship them by Government transportation from New York.

If it is my good fortune to get to your department nothing shall be as I think no one will have reason to complain of Trade at Nashville has been very light at Chattanooga there has been little or none.

Accept my heartfelt thanks for the very kind interest you have taken in my behalf –be kind enough to present my best regards to those of your Staff of my acquaintance and with a sincere wish that I may meet with you soon and assurance of the gladness every one fills for the grand success of your Campaign through Georgia.

I am Genl  
Your Very  
Obt Servant  
Geo. F. Marble

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2418 1/15/1865 *From:* N. H. Swayne

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-3177

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[56]

Washington Jany 15, 1865

Major Genl O O Howard,  
Commr Fr. Bureau  
My dear Sir,

Will you do me the favour to send the letter enclosed herewith [See OOH\_3178] & give some thought to the Educational subject to which it relates?

I will Endeavour to call on you in the course of a few days.

Your absence & the constant pressure of my Engagements have prevented my seeing you as yet during the Winter.

With great Respect  
Your Obt Servt.

N. H. Swayne [Noah Haynes Swayne, Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court]

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2419 1/15/1865

*From:* H.M. Stinson

*To:* Col. O. Brown

OOH-3182

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[29]

[Letterhead]

War Department,  
Bureau of refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington,

Jan 15th 1865. [Written in pencil: Jan 15 1866. See note.]

Colonel,

I have the honor to sen you inclosed by direction of Genl. Howard, an extract from a letter just received by him from an old friend, Maj. Craighill, who was formerly in the Engineer Dept. if there is to be a vacancy, the General would be pleased to have Mr. Craighill appointed, provided that you find upon investigation, that it can be done with advantage to the Bureau.

I am Col. Very Respectfully  
Your Obd. Svt.  
H.M. Stinson,  
A.D.C.

Col. O. Brown.  
Asst. Com. for Virginia

[Note. The year should have been 1866. The letter from Maj. Craighill, OOH\_3175, was written January 12, 1866 inquiring for a position for his brother, a surgeon, in Virginia.]

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2420 1/18/1865     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2362

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[21, 22]

Leeds Jan. 18 1865

My dear brother

I reached home day before yesterday (Weds). Met Rowland in Portland doing business for Mother & he came here with me. Little Jamie was the first to open the door and welcome me with "Uncle Charley" and a kiss, then came sweet little Grace, then Guy almost ready to shed tears for joy, then little Chancey came toddling along saying "Farley" "Farley". Mother and Lizzie were well. They had expected me the day before on acct. of a notice in the telegrams from Washington in the Boston Journal saying I had been in W. on my way home.

Mr. Webb wrote you while I was with him. I was a good deal hindered by the pony. Had to leave him at Newport & wait for him in Boston. I also left him and "Wash" in Portland. They came in the freight train yesterday all safe & sound. We did not tell Guy what his present was to be. I got a saddle in Boston. Guy went up to the train with me at 2 P.M. but the train not coming on time we returned to get Rowland and Guy remained at home but "Wash" arrived with the pony so all hands could see him before dark. Guy was crazy with delight. He went down almost at once to speak for oats from Uncle Roland <G>.

Mother seems a good deal blue with her cares. I shall try to relieve her in every possible way. It will not do for her to attempt to live on the farm & care for it herself.

Lizzie & I have talked over the farm business –(Mr. Lane's) and concluded that if you were here you would not buy it at present. I do not think you will have difficulty in getting it hereafter if you desire. Mr. Lane asks \$3500 and it would cost you a large sum to fit it up so that Lizzie could live there. Then there is the matter of schools & church –the latter of no small importance while you are absent. The want of society and many many considerations –none of which may have escaped you but which appear to us almost insuperable objections to taking the farm just now in your absence and with your present income.

Mother says that she would be just as well contented anywhere else as upon the old farm or in Leeds –if only with those whom she loves. If you left the farm just as it is for the present and did not attempt to have a home there, still it will be only a source of expense, not by any means paying the interest upon the cost or even (we think) self sustaining.

Our (Mother's) business is in pretty good condition. I go to settle the last debt out of the family today - Mr. Bishops \$800 –about.

We all saw the pony this morning. They pronounce him a very handsome pony. Lizzie says she can ride him. She looks younger & better than I have seen her for for a long time and her character grows more and more Christian & lovely, it seems to me. Jamie is a beautiful boy. Grace is a great scholar for one so young. I brought them all presents from their father –much more pleasing than if from anyone else.

I have not time to write more just now.

My regards to Col. Strong, Maj. Whittlesey, Capts. Gilbreth & Beebe & all the rest of our family & staff. I will go to Augusta next week. Hope you will send me word if you hear from your Washington communications. "Wash" sends his respects to Sam & tell him "I am getting on mighty well."

Yours Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Do not do too much for Messrs. M-C brothers from SC. Their father is said to be a bad Rebel & I fear duty will not warrant even the saving of their cotton.

P.S. 2. Grace sends kisses & love.

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2421 1/20/1865     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2365

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C.

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[608]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C. Jan 20 1865

Dearest,

I propose to send Capt. Beebe to Maine, to concert with Charles & if possible raise a regiment for us there. He is Jeannie's cousin and a higher loved nobler young man is not to be found. I commend him to you especially. You must get acquainted with him.

I am still here, am going to Hilton Head for today and then back –probably shall start for a further forward movement on Monday next. Gen & Mrs Saxton have taken me into the family & fed me with great kindness and if I did not feel so homesick, the change would make me quite contented. The next time we strike the camp I mean to go home at any cost. Wilmington is said to be ours, though at considerable cost. This will help us a great deal.

(Steamer Enoch Dean enroute to Hilton Head)

About the purchase of the farm I am not particular. I can invest more profitably elsewhere, but if Mother would like the place for a home, and you for a place occasionally to return to I am willing to buy. All the peculiarities of the people I remember, and it must always be our stripe wherever we are, to lead & not to follow. An enlarged mind & a pure heart will always rise above all petty and trivial affairs. When the main business is to make money it is very difficult to free social intercourse from the dollars & cts. Uncle Ensign has always towered above such things, and a good many of the Leeds people have lived very good & useful lives.

I understand you, darling, that it is not yourself you care for, but Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy. All sort of experience is necessary for them. Yet they cannot be too carefully guarded against anything that is small-minded. I feel that nothing need be done ever with a view to my public interest, for God has his own Work for me to accomplish and I feel persuaded that he will guide me step by step. He has indeed honored me above measure.

I am writing Charles by the hand of Sladen at the same table. There is a little of the sea-smell that has sometimes made you so sick. If anything should happen to prevent my meeting you, I must have you come to me next time. Had I known it, Beaufort would have been a charming place and we could have been very happy there, but you would have been very pale & trembling had I left as I did at 10 o'clock at night for Pocotaligo.

Captain Beede copied the most of my report with his own hand for Mother. I want to send you a map that she may read it with more interest.

We are getting troops of negroes free, and they are being organized & and colonized under Gen Saxton's supervision. Yesterday I visited five Colored Schools, where I found the children sparkling with intelligence the teachers noble women who have devoted their strength to this work. The school bears the look of our best New England village schools the order, the reading, the enthusiastic & the singing strike you with wonder. The "American" & "Rally around the flag boys" rings out with such heart & harmony as to imbue you with enthusiasm, and you cant help saying that is not the stuff to make slaves of.

On St. Helena's Island, Miss More & the Misses Muncy who are wealthy ladies, have devoted themselves & their income to this work. They have a school house formed with three rooms opening together thus: [sketch of 3 rooms in a line with the middle room larger than the outer two]. When they sing the doors are open and the children in the wings face inwards. The small children are in the body of the house. They sing on the right, then on the left, than all together, and such singing, little ones about two feet high sing away in perfect time and with great zest & joy.

The school house is opposite the church. By this church is a grave-yard, filled with tomb stones. The name of Tripp is very common. I am constantly reminded of Mrs Lee by the name & by the dialect of the negroes, which is the very facsimile of her peculiar language. Capt Ruel says he thinks C.C. Lee was killed somewhere [Charles C Lee, USMA, 1856, died 30 Jul 1862, Battle of Glendale, VA].

The boat is rather unsteady in crossing the bay and you need not mind a pulsed looking hand. I have just got your letter written before you had heard from us directly. I should have sent you a dispatch but I wrote that one from the Savannah Canal in such a way that I thought you would know all was right and I ordered Capt Duncan to swallow the paper containing the message if he were caught by the rebels and I didn't wish to give him too much paper.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy. I hope the Pony has made his debut before this and been acceptable. Prentiss is well, but don't come to see me often. He fixed my watch. Don't let Charles forget my coat. I shall be glad to see Stinson. I wish he had come to Beaufort while we were there. He thinks he is much better. Guy cant ride much in winter, without freezing his toes & ears, to say nothing of his fingers. Warm days can undoubtedly be used. When I get home I shall borrow the pony for my little daughter, so she must have her riding dress all ready and I will try to find a side-saddle.

We are are now almost at our destination. Give love to Mother, Chas, Dellie, and remember me kindly to Oscar, Melvin & families. How does my friend "Bell" get on, any little bells &c. Our boat <reves> & pitches uncomfortably but we will soon be along side the wharf. May God bless you and keep you & direct you in all your ways, is your husbands constant wish. You were never devoted more than now & he will be happy & thankful to join you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2422 1/21/1865

*From:* Wm O. Stroud

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2366

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C.

Com'dg Army of Tenn.

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[27]

Head-Quarters Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C. 1865 January 21st

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com'dg Army of Tenn.

General,

I have the honor to state that the means of transportation of this Army is as follows, Viz.

15th A.C. 790 Army Wagons  
17th A.C. 460 " "  
Hd Qurs. Of the Army 26  
Signal Corps 8  
1st Mo Engineer Regiment 24  
In 15th Corps 23 -2 horse Wagons  
In 17th Corps 1.  
In Engineer regiment 1

Total 1308 Army Wagons and 25-2 horse wagons

The above included everything, Hd Qurs supply and ammunition trains.

We carry 200 rounds of Infantry ammunition per soldier and 350 rounds of artillery ammunition per gun.

We propose to carry 30 days rations of sugar, coffee, salt, and from 15 to 20 days bread stuffs.

We have no corps supply trains. Ordnance and supply trains are distributed equally among the Divisions.

Respectfully  
Wm O. Stroud  
Lt. Col.

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2423 1/22/1865 *From:* Guy [Howard]

*To:* Dear Papa [OO Howard]

OOH-2367

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65]

Leeds Jan 22 1865

Dear Papa

I began a letter to you last Sunday and did not finish it now will copy that first then write more. I thank the Officers very much indeed for my Pony. I could not have received a better or a nicer present. It is just what I have been wanting so long. Wash is a very nice man and takes good care of my pony. I do not know what to name the Pony. I have been on him three times; once I went as far as Capt. Turners. I don't go alone Wash leads him. The Pony likes to play and stand up on her hind feet and put out her fore feet towards Wash. Grace and I are teaching Wash to read. I hope he will stay with us a long time. I am glad you got all my letters before you left Savannah. Mother thinks you may not get these letters for some time. Jammie says he must have a letter from papa soon. No one went to church last Sunday the roads were not broken out. We had a very plesent time at home Uncle Charly was here; he is coming home from Farmington to-morrow in the train. Today is very pleasant. Grand-mother and the girl and the hired man went to church. It is now half past four. Capt Turner has just come in. Chancy and Jamie are sitting in his lap. Wash would like you to give his respects to Sam and tell him that he is well. Please give my love to Dr. Duncan. I just read your letter aloud to Mother. Are you going to bring that nice horse home that was given you on the March? This letter will go tomorrow with Mother's. Good night, with much love from

Your son

Guy

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2424 1/22/1865      *From:* C.R. Agnew

*To:* Dr M M Marsh

OOH-2368

394 5th Ave  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[35]

394 5th Ave  
New York  
Jan 22nd 1865

My dear Doctor:

I'm very anxious to see at an early day some formal acknowledgment by Genl. Howard & others of the value of the corps of the Uncas –the first corps. Your letter read at the meeting of the Exec. Com'tee on last Friday Ev'g., giving an account of the benefit conferred makes me anxious to obtain the above vouchers for record and public use.

When we distributed the anti-scorbutics in the Army of the Potomac last Summer we pursued the following plan. We made up a lot of stores e.g. for the 15th Corps consigned them to the Corps Commander sent an agent along bearing a note from our Inspector at City Point & thus elicited a written reply. These replies from Genls Burnside, Smith, Ricketts etc. etc. have been of first value.

Now I would ask you as far as possible to do the same. Your work has spoken for itself, but the time may come when formal acknowledgments of the value of special <times> of work in great emergencies may be of great use to us with our friends or against our enemies. Dr Jenkins has been instructed to send to you some printed blank requisitions, to be filled by Surgeons & others drawing stores from us. The use of these blanks will enable us, having them on record, to turn at once to a history of our issues.

In the Army of the Potomac nothing is issued except upon such blanks, unless in cases of great emergency, & then only as "Special Relief".

Recently the Surgeon General of Massachusetts said that Regiments from his State had not received much, if any relief. By turning to the files of requisitions in the Washington office we will be able to show that scores of Regiments from his State, have received immense amounts of supplies & receipted for them by responsible officers. I would suggest that these vouchers when received be recorded upon a book & monthly sent to New York or Washington as D. Jenkins may suggest. This action is not intended to increase your labors or to imply any criticism upon your past methods, the Board fully sympathizes with you as regards the onerous characters of the your labors and for the highest appreciation both of your methods and labors.

I am sorry to hear you complaining again of your health. I hope nothing unfavorable is recurring in that direction. Please present my best respects to Mrs Marsh & believe me ever yr sincere friend.

C.R. Agnew

Dr M M Marsh

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2425 1/23/1865 *From:* John W McClure

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2369

*Source:* Bowdoin

General Sherman's  
Army  
99th Regt. 2nd Div 13th  
Army Corps

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[234]

The U.S. Christian Commission,  
General Sherman's Army  
99th Regt. 2nd Div 13th Army Corps  
January 23d 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Several times have I attempted to write this letter, and my heart has as of ten times failed, not knowing in what light it may be considered. But I have concluded to write –let the events be as they may. If they meet your approbation the desired affect is produced, and if not I do hope you will hard on and excuse the author and oblige.

I have presumed to Solicit your kind condescension to grant me permission to visit my home, in LaFayette Indiana, for this reason. My mother, oldest and youngest Brothers have died since I left home. My oldest brother whose age was 19 years, was the mainstay of the family, during my absence. This leaves my father, young brother and two Sisters to the cold waves of adversity. My father is poor, unable to work and is near Sixty year old.

If I could be there a few days, I could make arrangements, which would keep them from feeling the Stings of want, until the expiration of my term of enlistment.

Hoping you may consider my circumstances, I remain your

obedient Servt,  
John W McClure  
Sergt Co "F" 99th Ind Vols Inftry

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2426 1/23/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [CH Howard]

OOH-2370a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Dep't  
and Army of the  
Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C.

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[587]

Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C. January 23d 1865

My dear Brother,

I have agreed to Beebe concerting with you and trying to raise a regiment - with a view to getting it at my Hd. Qrs. As Provost Guard. The latter, however, had better not be too sanguinely nor too publicly promised for I might fail of it. I think the governor will see that it is for your interest & for the public interest to comply with my request. I have no Maine men in my command & I would very much like to have a good regiment. You will want hearty men and as many veterans as possible. I don't know but I am putting a hard task on you. If so you must not accept my proposition. I have written you recently & quite fully, and also a letter to Lizzie. Lizzie, Mother & the children will be glad to see & know Capt. Beebe. Give much love to all. I send Mother's present, How goes the Pony & Guy. My love to Rowland & Ella & Dady.

Your Aff Bro.  
Otis

[A letter from Charles to Lizzie written on Feb 5, 1865 followed this on the spare sheets.]

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2427 1/23/1865

*From:* John H Pilsbury

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2371

Treasury Department,  
Fourth Special Agency  
Beaufort, S.C.

Comdg. Army of the Tenn.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[51]

Treasury Department,  
Fourth Special Agency

Beaufort, S.C.  
January 23, 1865

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg. Army of the Tenn.

General:

I have seen Genl. Clark and he will remain. General Rany an have one nice large room (the parlor on the first-floor) and two chambers. And if we can accommodate them in any way about our mess will gladly do so. I desire to accommodate in every way possible & I have no doubt that this arrangement will suit all concerned.

Will you be so kind as to inform Genl. Rany about this. I regret exceedingly that you personally should have been at all annoyed and beg to remain.

Faithfully Yours  
John H Pilsbury  
Asst. Spec. Agent

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2428 1/23/1865 *From:* W. Harrow

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-2372

Savannah, Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[28, 29]

Savannah, Ga. Jany 23, 65

Maj Genl OO Howard  
Dr Sr,

Upon arriving at Hilton Head I met Maj Gen Osterhaus, and learning from him that Maj Gen Logan was at this place I came immediately here, & reported to Gen Logan. He at once directed me to report to Gen Sherman, doing so, he directed me to report to yourself. Before getting off, I met Genl Clark, who informed me that a report to him & am awaiting orders here, was all that was required or expected, & hence my not seeing you in person, at Beaufort.

I have written so much, that you shall not feel that there was any discourtesy on my part, in not seeing you and "dwelling over matters" in the language of Genl Sherman.

Your order to report to Genl L. was what I expected & so informed Gen Clarke.

Gen S. orders me to report to Adj Gen. at Washington, and gives me a private letter to Secy War, saying I was not relieved from any want of confidence in myself. I believe you feel the same way, & am I full certain, that yr order did not proceed from any other reason, that yr unwillingness to offer me a command, which I could not <take>.

I shall, <put up> without doubt go out of service, on my arrival at Washington, but should feel grateful to have some expression from yrself. I hope combined success may attend yr noble army & that you personally may meet the high expectations of the country.

Respty yr obt Servt  
W. Harrow  
Brig Gen Vols

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2429 1/25/1865 *From:* C.B. King

*To:* Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2373

Savannah

Comdg Army of Tennessee  
Beaufort S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

Savannah Jan 25 1865

Major Gen. Howard  
My dear Sir,

I regretted after learning of your departure from our city, that I had not obtained from you some letter of introduction to the future Military Governor of Savannah. Supposing that on going back into the Union, Savannah would receive, according to the promises made us, the benefits of our original Government did not anticipate the trouble & distress we now experience. We are refused simple passes to go two or three miles into the country to my farm for wood &c. The colored people living there are in great distress not being allowed to come in & go out with food. I cannot send out for wood, & can get none from the public yard. Under these circumstances you can readily imagine what must be our condition.

For years past, my farm has been the chief means of supporting my large family & I hardly think it can be the intention of the Government of the Union to deprive me, without a cause, of this means of living, & thus reduces us to want & beggary.

Knowing you personally, General, I write entreating your influence & in <trafsion> with Gen Sherman, the Commander in Chief, 1st. That he would grant me the right to continue with my farm as usual, heretofore, under his protection. 2nd That he will grant me a pass to & from the city to it, & to my church during the summer. 3rd And also give two passes for my hired colored servants to pass to & from the city & their home at my farm two miles South of Savannah.

In asking these privileges I can imagine no possible soil or harm to the military authorities; while it would be of immeasurable benefit to a large & helpless family & to a number of poor colored people in making an honest livelihood.

You know me, General, well enough to be assured that both my honor & my principles as a christian gentleman, would not allow me to make the least improper use of any privileges granted me as a citizen & minister of the gospel. I presume, from his former kindness, that friend, Major Whittlesey of your staff, will act for you in this matter procuring as speedily as possible for our relief, the above mentioned permits & protection from Gen Sherman.

With kindest regards to the Major, & to yourself personally, in which my family joins me. I remain, dear Sir

Your sincere friend & Obedient Servt  
C.B. King

[Written sideways on the back side.]

Major Gen Howard  
Comdg Army of Tennessee  
Beaufort S.C.

Asks General Howard to secure passes for himself an negroes in and out of Savannah.

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2430 1/26/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2374

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[31]

Leeds Jan 26, 1865

My dear Brother

I believe I hav'nt written you since Charles came home. You don't know happy it has made us all & what a comfort it was to Mother. I came down yesterday AM to marry Cyrus Lane to L.L. Lathrop's daughter this morning. Ella & Dadie came down with Charles Monday & will return with me. Your family are all well. Guy having a troublesome cold. Charles is setting up the business & we will see a man today about buying the farm. Ella enjoys Chas visit with additional relish because he talks over all his love matters with her.

Charles and I will go over to "the City" today & see Rosa Dean –Dels girl –about whom he seems terribly in earnest. Everybody likes Charles man Wash –he is faithful & unoffensive. Mother has a pretty good girl & Wash keeps the fires going & it seems more comfortable here than usual in cold weather. David is very fond of his cousins. I send a picture of Jamie which I brought from Farmington yesterday. We hear of you at Pocotoligo & another report locates you in the rear of Wilmington!

We will see Uncle Ensign & Laura today. The snow drifts are as deep as ever you saw them. The Pony stands the climate very well & Guy is the envy of all boys. The old mare never looked so well as now & "Wash" will keep her so. Charles had a very good Audience in our M.H. at Farmington Sabbath Evening and we took a collection for the Freedmen & C. Commission.

All the children (8 o'clock) are up & chatting away like black birds, but Charles must have the ink, so goody bye with Gods blessing.

Yr aff. Brother  
Rowland

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2431 1/27/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2375

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Near Pocotaligo

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[58]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Near Pocotaligo Jan 27 1865

Dearest,

Night before last & last night I stopped at an old house near the Pocotaligo river, but tonight our field head quarters have come up and my staff & myself are again in the field under flies. The water froze last night and it has been freezing cold all day today. Nothing like 14° below zero, but every body feels as cold on account of the sudden change. I have thought much about you and home of late and long very much to see my way clear to get there.

Next Monday we shall probably swing off again and trust to a kind Providence. We do so many things that are wrong in this living off the country in the way we do, that I do not like it, and I am afraid of retribution. I am particularly made to feel this when we reach a loyal place like Beaufort. It is almost impossible to keep the soldiers from siezing every horse & mule and appropriating sundry other things that don't belong to them. I hope indeed some wonderful thing will soon happen, so as to let us return to peace & propriety.

I was treated very kindly at Beaufort at Gen Saxton's & was made to enjoy everything I could away from you & the children for which I feel very grateful.

I have sent Beebe to join Charles. I am only afraid Chas. May give him the slip, having gotten away before his telegraph reaches him. It is a good deal to think of a regiment of a thousand men to leave their homes and go into the field & so few of them ever to return, but I offer to get for them the pleasantest and safest possible place & am a little afraid I might not effect it. I am now getting ahead far enough to be envied & to be lied about to some extent, and may therefore not accomplish all I wish.

Who will get up the wood and take care of the Pony. I suspect Jamie will be perfectly delighted with Guy's pony. Isnt Guy a little bit afraid his Mamma may have to sell the pony? I want to know all about him & his reception.

This is a very peculiar country here. A great many swamps and very little hard ground therefor. There are knolls on which the live oaks are grown of immense size, and then there were houses but now chimneys mostly. There are large rice fields. They are redeemed from marshy swamps when the tide comes in by deep & long ditches. I am in hopes before long we will get out of the swamps. These broad oaks with the moss hanging in somber draping from every limb would strike you singularly. It makes you feel sad to go through a long avenue of these trees & moss – so much like a cemetery style. The shade trees are always green and the moss always grey & dark.

Give much love to Mother. I hope she is very well and happy. Give kisses to all the children. <Mine> are many for thee darling.

Yr loving husband  
Otis

[A typed version was found, ooh\_2376, in addition to the hand written version. There are a few differences.]

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2432 1/29/1865

*From:* M. M. Marsh  
Medical Inspector  
for Comm.

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2377

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Sanitary  
Commission,  
Department of the  
South,  
Beaufort

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[33, 34]

U.S. Sanitary Commission,  
Department of the South,  
Beaufort Jan 29 1865

Maj. Genl. Howard  
Sir

The inclosed received, a ½ hour since, I forward you, as it explains itself. Dr. Agnew is a prominent member of the Standing Committee of the U.S. Sanitary Commission Board. The object is, to show the public that the contributions made by the public are appreciated: thus hoping to continue the liberality of the North alive to the interests of the Soldier until that soldier reduces the revolted territory to obedience to law. Any testimony that yourself & others may give, will be appreciated; & can be addressed to me at Beaufort S.C.

On the 12 Inst. I forwarded to N.Y. a Steamer exclusively for vegetables, for your Army, which I fear may be a day or two too late to be enjoyed. I will keep them as long as vegetables will keep in the latitude after shipment, 10 to 13 days, subject to your order: and if it is possible to inform me when to send, & where to deliver, I will have a Steamer's Cargo of supplies at your disposal, as frequently as every 3d week while the Army may be within striking distance of the coast.

Most respectfully  
M. M. Marsh  
Medical Inspector for Comm.

[Written on the back page of the letter.]

Beaufort Jan 29, 1865

Marsh, M M

Insp. Surg. For U.S.C.C. [This should have been U.S.S.C]

Hd. Qrs. Army of the Tenn.  
Med. Dir. Office  
Near McPhersonville S.C.  
Jan'y 31st / 65

The troops of this command have been freely supplied with many articles by the U.S. Sanitary Com'mn both at Atlanta and at Pocatigo, wh. Have administered much to their comfort.

D.L. Huntington  
Asst. Surg. USA  
Act. Med. Dir.  
A.T.

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2433 1/29/1865    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2378

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Pocotaligo

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[584]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Pocotaligo Jan 29th 1865

Dearest,

Tomorrow we break loose again from our base and launch forth on an uncertain campaign, but the same God is my trust and I hardly feel a misgiving yet anything is possible. I did wish to see your lovely face and enjoy the children for a short time at least but it did not come about. I am made happy by the thought that you do not give way to anxieties but that you are cheerful & happy & render the children so that is the atmosphere for them to grow up in. Give much love to all.

I am writing out of doors and at night. The weather has moderated and though I can see my breath, it is not very cold. This time nobody has any tents, only flies. I enclose you two hundred dollars & hope it may reach you in safety.

I am glad Charles has decided not to let me buy the farm at present. For I perceive that the school & church privileges are not such as I should choose and as for contrary reasons, they are of no particular account. Doubtless a kind Providence has some house in store for us elsewhere.

Tell Chas. Clark has been assigned to troops. Capt. Taggart left behind at Beaufort with the office. Woodhul made the Adj. Gen. of 15th Corps, a new man Capt. Van Dyke acting A.A.G. for me. Col Garker at Gen Sherman's for the field, Gen. Osterhaus gone on leave –the promotion he will see in the paper & have from Beebe. Bedford is to be mustered out & I have quite a small establishment but everything is working well! All but Corse's Div'n succeeded in getting over to Beaufort by Stmr. He will follow the left wing. Gen. Sherman is not far off, in good spirits and confident. We have spent today quietly at Hd. Qrs. But have had no services.

Give much to him to Mother and the rest. Mrs. Whittlesey has had a little daughter born on the 11th inst and he got the news yesterday or day before –everything a little before expectation but doing remarkably well. My love to Dellie. We have very beautiful campfires, but the back & shoulders get a little cold while Maj W. says about his face a "leettle too warm". I expect Chas would like to look in upon us. He can describe it all to you, this row of flies, of fires, of chairs, the big live oaks, with their drapery hovering around –only our flies are all new. Everything else is natural as life. You would not mind a peep but it is not for ladies to enter such sanctums. It would be better for me to peep into the beautiful house life –where is our Guy & Jamie and Gracie & Chancy. God keep you all.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

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2434 1/30/1865 *From:* E.S. Stinson

*To:* My dear Mrs. [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-2005

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[583]

Augusta Jan 30th 1865 [filed with Jan 1864.]

My dear Mrs. Howard

I have been hoping for a long time to receive a letter from you, but as none has come I will not wait any longer but send one to you thinking that you may like to hear from us all, and very sure that we want to from you.

Before I say another word, let me say how delighted we all are at the splendid termination of Shermans campaign in the taking of Savannah. How much I would like to see you and talk it all over. How proud (if one of your meekness can have such feelings) you must be of your husband and how thankful that he was carried through unharmed. Have you heard often from him and do you expect him home? If so you know, if you come to Augusta, we shall most certainly hope to have you stay with us. I cannot tell you how much I miss you. I have never been past your house but once and then it looked so lonely and shut up, that I wished I had not done so. What are you doing this winter?

The Sabbath school had trees in the chapel at Christmas the same as they had last year; they were very pretty the only trouble being the lack of room. We have had a furnace put into the cellar which is a great improvement on the stove. The next day some of the young ladies took the trees and adorned the chapel so that it looks quite pretty and Christmas like.

A week last Sunday Mr McKenzie gave us a most beautiful Christmas sermon. Last Sunday Marion McArthur and a young Mr Webster, a soldier united with the church; it was very interesting indeed. Our pastor is to be married the 25th of this month; they are to board at the Stanley House. I think they do not come directly here but go on a journey. Mr Blaine who has been home for the holidays left for Washington yesterday. Mrs. B. does not go this winter owing to her situation. I trust she will do well, and if so I think she may be better than she has been for a long time.

You will want to know how Harry is. He said the other day if it was possible for any one to stand still it seemed as if he had done so, but I do not think so exactly, as he has entirely recovered from his night sweats. I cannot but think, that is a great gain. His cough is about the same. I think he has felt it very much that he was unable to be with the Gen. this winter. I cannot tell you how quietly and patiently he bears it all. I often think of the words "they also serve who only stand and wait." I do not think the climate here very good for him. I hope he will be able to go where it is milder before our trying Spring weather comes on.

Can you realize that our old depot is no more? I trust that the crowd which daily gathered there, is so entirely broken up that when we have a new one we shall never have like trouble again. The damsels do not care to wait an hour or more on the platform.

Wallie has just come from school and wants me to send his love to Gracie and tell her all his warts are gone. He has not one left. Since school he has been over to Dr Snell's and had a large double tooth out. He says he did not scream or shed one tear.

How do all the children do? I must not forget that Walter sends a kiss to Gracie. George says "Tell Guy, that the scouts are still in being." Will you not write me very soon and tell me all about yourself and family? I believe your friends here are all well. Mrs. Morrills little Lottie was very dangerously sick with diptheria, so much so that they thought she could not live and telegraphed for her father, but she is mainly now.

With much love to all the family and also Mrs. Gilmore, I am

very affectionately your friend  
E.S. Stinson

Caddy says, "Give a great deal of love to Mrs Howard for me and that I want to see her very much indeed."

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2435 1/30/1865

*From:* John Peck

*To:* Maj Gen O. O. Howard

OOH-2379

*Source:* Bowdoin

Department of the East,  
Headquarters Maj.  
Gen. Peck,  
No. 37 Bleecker Street  
New York

Dept & Army of the  
Tennessee  
in the field

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[36]

Department of the East,  
Headquarters Maj. Gen. Peck,  
No. 37 Bleecker Street  
New York, Jany 30 1865

My dear General,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of Dec 31st 1864 in reply to mine of the 22d Decr, on the spring campaign of 1863. You will please accept my warm thanks for your prompt, and manly response.

Referring to a previous note, you say "the truth of the matter was, that I was somewhat in doubt as to origin of your strong vindication of the interest of your command." When I gave my letter of Sept 25th, 64 to the press, Genl Hooker was at the Astor House, and I seized the occasion to draw his reply, which has not yet been made. At that time I had not seen or conversed with or heard from an officer of his army. My letter was based upon principles of the military art, and upon evidence in my own possession. It was bold in view of the silence and mystery with which the campaign was invested immediately after Chancellorsville. In view of that I knew it was not so bold. At the proper time I had determined to clear up all the mystery, and present the facts to the world without disturbing the operations of the Government.

The same mail brought a second letter from Maj Genl Slocum, official and for publication. It covers all I claim and more. Maj Gen Warren has responded in very strong terms. Maj Gen Hancock referred me to Genl Wm Hayes U.S.A. who was taken on the 3d and passed through Lees Army. Hayes letter is long, clear & decisive. Not a man of Longstreets army joined Lee until some time after the 10th May. His rear-guard left the vicinity of Suffolk on the 11th for Richmond.

In a few days I will send you some additional memoranda, for your information. You will be surprised at the amount and influence of the same.

I am yours  
Very truly  
John Peck

Maj Gen O. O. Howard  
Dept & Army of the Tennessee  
in the field

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2436 1/30/1865 *From:* Joshua T. Owen

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2380

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37, 38]

Washington  
Jany 30th 1865

My Dear General

I have been watching with great interest your victorious march through Georgia, and have been regretting that I was denied the honor of accompanying you. Confessedly Sherman's Campaign in Georgia is the grandest of the War, grand in conception, and successful in execution. You, my Dear General, have been fortunate in sharing with General Sherman in the glory of this achievement, and your fame is heralded with loud acclaim by your numerous admirers.

I regret to say that in the Army of the Potomac, matters have not been so successful as could be desired. To be sure in our late Campaign from Culpepper to Petersburg we were in the main successful through the wonderful tenacity of Gen. Grant, yet we were dis-spirited by a succession of failures. The only real success attending our numerous conflicts with the Enemy, was that obtained by your Old Corps, the Second, on the morning of the 12th of May near the Landrum House, where we took the Rebels by surprise and captured some 4800 prisoners and Seventy guns. Our fighting was almost continuous, and our losses very heavy. My old Brigade, (and, by the ways yours) was badly cut up. It behaved well every time. But we were unfortunate in our Division Commander, a man without any heart in the cause, and lacking in personal courage and capacity. You remember him, Gen John Gibbon, whom I consider a very poor as well as a very bad soldier. We were shown of <our phony> as a Division, and the officers and men lost their pride and ambitions. John Gibbon destroyed the best Division in the Army, one which Sedgwick and you had commanded, and always found true in the hour of trial.

Every thing is changed in the Army of the Potomac. Most of the old officers are dead or sent of the service. None, or but few of the familiar faces which were wont to gleam with animation and courage on the field of Battle, are now met.

I have been out of service for some three months and am now engaged in the practice of law here. My health has been poor, but I am improving greatly now. In all probability I shall return to the Army in the spring. I should like very much to come and serve under you. All of my old command are out of service.

It would gratify me very much to receive a letter from you.

Please present my regards to your Brother Charles and <> Hayes, and such other members of your staff as are known to me.

May God bless you, my Dear General, and preserve you from all harm is the earnest prayer of

Yours Truly  
Joshua T. Owen  
Late Brig. Genl. Vols.

Major Genl O.O. Howard

[Written sideways at the bottom of the second page.]  
Joshua T. Owen  
Washington Jan. 30th 1865.

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2437 1/31/1865

*From:* Sam L Taggart

*To:* Maj Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-3232

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Dep't  
and Army of the  
Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C.

Comdg Army of the Tenn

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[39, 40]

Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C. Jan 31st 1865

Maj Gen'l O.O. Howard  
Comdg Army of the Tenn  
General

To say that I am deeply mortified at the necessity of your issuing General Field Orders No 8. will scarcely convey to you my feelings on the subject. I labor under the impression that you have been misinformed in regard to these medals, and being known to the whole circumstances connected with them, I beg leave to state them for your information.

The idea of getting them up & awarding them by a "Board of Honor" originated with Gen'l Clark, or as he was then Lt Col. & AAG 17th AC, and subscriptions to a fund for their purchase were taken up to which Gen'l McPherson & Staff were very largely, contributors. The Medals were ordered in anticipation of a liberal amount being raised to purchase them, and more procured than there was money to pay for, and the consequence was Col. Clark was obliged to pay for them. The Medals were awarded by the board, as per enclosed order No. 13. Hd Qrs 17th A.C. Apl 4/65, to which Col Clark added paragraph IIII also enclosed, which it is proper awarded by the board.

There were six medals still left and Gen'l Clark deeming them his own, gave them to me to award to the boys in the office, and to give them the same authority to wear them as the others. I published the order, in which I am unable to find anything wrong, although it was perhaps too small a matter to publish in a general order. The young gentlemen mentioned certainly deserves the medals for their faithfulness & efficient service. It would be very gratifying to me to have the boys keep the medals, and if possible the order, publishing the award, allowed to stand.

I would give you further reasons & write you more fully on this & other subjects but the Captain of the Louise is very anxious to get off.

Respy Your Obt Servt  
Sam L Taggart  
AA Gnrl

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Beaufort, S.C. Jan 31 65

Taggart, Saml. L.

Capt & A.A.G.

Explains concerning medals of honor

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2438 2/1/1865

*From:* Mary Duncan

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2004

Care of Mssrs Duncan  
& Sherman (Bankers)  
New York City.

Dep'mt of the Tenn.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[48]

Major Genl O.O. Howard

Dep'mt of the Tenn.

[Jan, 1864? was written in pencil] [Probably Feb 1, 1865. See Note.]

Dear Genl.

By a communication from the War Dep'mt dated December 12-64, I was notified of your approval (in general Order No. 38) of the sentence of my Father's murderers was made as you confirmed the decision of the Court, & gave orders that said assassins should be shot to death on 1st day of January 1865 at Natchez Miss.

Now, it would seem that there has been some delay in the arrival of your order at Natchez, for I left said town on 24th December, & up to that date the order referred to had not been received at Headquarters, & it seems very certain that the execution has not taken place. Understanding that it will be necessary for a new order to be issued by you, I am induced to thus present myself & claims to your notice pleading for justice to the memory of an old & honored Father, who was murdered under his own roof near Natchez in the most barbarous & cold blooded manner by a gang of five Federal Soldiers (the corporal of the regiment of 28th Illinois - being included in the gang) despite the "protection papers" of Gen Grant. Two of the murderers escaped soon after the ghastly deed, but the other three were tried, found guilty, & condemned to death.

It is now more that 8 months since my darling Father met his fate, & more that 6 months have elapsed since the assassins were sentenced, & yet nothing has been done in way of punishment & one of the condemned trio was allowed to leave jail by the connivance of his friends. In fact - the "detective" at Natchez told me not long since that he had been offered a large bribe to assist the remaining two to make their escape. So it seems highly probable that unless the sentence is speedily carried out, all concerned in the murder will have attained liberty.

I do not seek revenge, although the cruel murder of that aged parent has crushed us to the dust, but I do ask justice & I entreat you Dear Genl to take one hard case into speedy consideration, for the delay has already been great & it should seem that your orders have not been executed, (owing probably, to their arrival at Natchez after the day appointed.)

My Father, Mr Sargent, was the son of a distinguished officer of the war of the Revolution - Gov Winthrop Sargent, - (first Gov of the Miss. Territory by the appointment of Genl Washington) & it is hard that the son of an old soldier should have been murdered (for the avowed purposes of plunder) by the troops of the U.S. - & that three of the murderers should have made their escape.

Feeling assured, Dear Genl, that you will yet have your orders carried out & obeyed, - & with profound respect, I remain

Yrs very truly  
Mary Duncan

A line in acknowledgment would greatly oblige me, & my address is "Care of Messrs Duncan & Sherman (Bankers) New York City".

[Note. The date is probably close to Feb 1, 1865. According to the Memoirs of U.S. Grant, p. 535, two of the murderers were executed on March 4, 1865. The murder of George Washington Sargent occurred on May 10, 1864. Eight months after his death would place the date of the letter to be about Jan. 10, 1865. Since the correspondent said at least 8 months had elapsed and not 9 months, I assume it was written about half way in between. On Feb 17, 1865, U.S. Grant wrote to Maj. Gen Dana inquiring about the status of Order No. 38 which had been enclosed.]



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2439 2/3/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2382

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Rivers Bridge [S.C.]

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[59]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Rivers Bridge [S.C.] Feb 3d 1865

Dearest,

I write you just a line to say that all at Hd. Qrs. are safe thus far except Lieut. Taylor who was wounded at Whippy Swamp. Our roads are badly obstructed & the swamp troublesome, but thus far there has been no delay in my command on this account.

Much love to the children & all, and a heart full to yourself. I hope Mother is well and enjoying <the> <wint>  
much love to Mother & God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2440 2/4/1865

*From:* W.M. Stone

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2383

*Source:* Bowdoin

State of Iowa  
Executive Department  
Des Moines

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[49]

State of Iowa  
Executive Department  
Des Moines, Feb 4th 1865

Dear General:

Yours of the 17th ult. is before me. My impressions as to Gen Clarks claims for promotion were mostly formed from what I heard of him among his fellow officers, but I have said nothing about it since my return, and shall not. I think he will be confirmed without doubt.

I am glad you wrote me as you did. It is but another evidence of your good heart, and kind intentions.

May God preserve you long in the service of your country.

Truly Your Friend  
W.M. Stone [William M. Stone. Governor of Iowa 1864-1868]

[Written sideways on the back side.]  
Gov. W.M. Stone  
Des Moines Feb 4th 1865

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2441 2/5/1865

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-2370b

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[587]

[The following letter from Charles to Lizzie was written on the spare sheets of one from Otis to Charles written on Jan 23, 1865.]

Augusta Feb. 5 1865  
Sunday Evening

Dear Sister Lizzie

For fear I may not be able to see you & dear Mother before leaving I will write. I have been waiting every day this week & expecting a telegram from Sec'y of War in answer to Gov. Cony about the Regiment referred to in this letter of Otis to me. I should have come to Leeds but for this hourly expectation or should certainly have written. I hope to hear tomorrow. I do not care much to raise the Regiment as I thought the Governor not very eager for it & I like the position of Inspector better. However as Capt Beebe came on & he was to be Lieut. Colonel, I thought I would try it if the Sec'y of War thought favorable.

I have stayed here with Mrs. Stinson all the week & spending one night at Hallowell. All well. Mrs Stinson & "Aunt Caddie" have been very kind. They send their love to you & have wished audibly many times that you had come down with me. I enjoyed much hearing Dr. Shepard of Bangor today. Have seen Mr. Foster of Bangor but his daughter is still in Boston. I think of going right on, (if I hear tomorrow), seeing Dellie one night at Albany & taking the Steamer from N.Y. next Friday but I may not get off, so soon. If it were not for taking that Steamer I would come to Leeds again. Mr. Berry went off before I anticipated or I should have sent mother's present from Otis which Capt Beebe brought. If I go I will leave it here (Otis' Reports & map) to be called for. The forage will take no harm here until called for even though not till your return.

I saw Mrs. Stinchfield today. She & her daughter Eunice inquired about you & your family. Love to all & to Mother.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Please preserve this letter of Otis', and be sure and send Dellie's last letter (which I left on the clock I think) to me, care Rev. E.B. Webb Boston, getting it into Tuesday's mail without fail as I need it to find Dellie.  
C.H.H.

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2442 2/5/1865

*From:* Rev. John W. Alvord

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2381

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Tract Society,  
No13 Bible House,  
Astor Place  
New York

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[47, 48]

American Tract Society,  
(Instituted in Boston, in 1814,)  
New York Depository,  
No13 Bible House, Astor Place  
N.Y.

William A. Booth, Esq., of New-York, President,  
Rev. John W. Alvord, Secretary  
John G. Broughton, Depository.

New York, Feb 5th, 1865

To  
Major General O.O. Howard  
My Dear Genl,

I was charged by Genl Littlefield at Hilton Head, who is <enlisting> officer for Genl Saxton –to get formed in New York a Trust Fund Co for the bounty money of the negroes.

From his statement it seemed that large <sums> are coming into their hands, for which at present most of them have no use, and also that much of this will never be called for by themselves or claimed by their heirs –owing to their want of funds (in many cases) to <> on battle fields in hospitals &c &c. Now the plan conceived is that such a Company or Bank shall be composed of Christian gentlemen of high & well known standing who shall take these deposits (to be very large if the war goes on & the plan works) saving interest to the depositors & the principal when called for, who shall seek diligently for the heirs in case of death at a distance or without a will, - and <when or> where such heirs cannot be found & the deposits after a certain number of years remains unclaimed –shall by their charter use this money for the elevation and education of the African race.

The thing is to have the benevolent intention of an ordinary Savings Bank but to go farther & lay a hard foundation for this now degraded people - & it is hoped that the trustees could be bound to turn it over always to the purposes of a Christian Education.

It is supposed the negroes would be much in favor of such an institution, & that when it was properly explained, would always prefer placing their money where, if it could not benefit themselves, it would go for the improvement of those of their own color.

This is the outline of the plan. In accordance with my promise w Gen S I have had a company of gentlemen together (of the very highest standing in this city) a number of times at the American Exchange Bank –whose names are transmitted to him, with a copy of their <proandings>, & the thing strikes all good men with great favor, & is ready to be consummated.

Now you ask “hy write to me about it” I know how cheerfully you would help along such a benevolent & christian plan. I know also your intimacy & influence with Genl Saxton. I wold have consulted him in the matter before leaving but had not time. I have however written him recently –as also Genl Littlefield. But neither of these officers may know me well enough to have confidence that I will manage this business with energy & judgment. It is possible the former, who is a <man> supreme in such matters, does not think well of the project. He may prefer the Friedmans Savings Banks now in operation &c. He may doubt the men I have selected. I wish therefore you would drop him a line, or, if you are not too far away when you meet him next, will you be so kind as to continue the subject, commending it if you think proper & especially say that I am an honest man –a long time friend of the negro, with some knowledge of men & of business affairs.

Don't stretch the truth, but I long to see this thing go into operation. It will be well for the present <primitives> of their unprotected ones. It will lay a blessed foundation for them in the future. Am sorry to trouble you, but may I hear in reply in due time.

Yours in <Christ>  
J.W. Alvord

P.S. The whole north have been <CHECK ORIGINAL Written on the foldbetween the two pages> by <> have done in Georgia. They are full of expectation from the present campaign. I hope to see you again before it closes. May the Lord preserve you, to give us a speedy peace through victory.  
J.W.A.

[Written at the top of the last page]  
Rev. John W. Alvord  
New York Feb. 3d 1855

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2443 2/5/1865

*From:* John Newton

*To:* Major Genl O. O. Howard

OOH-2384

Key West, Fla.

Comdg Army of the Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[50, 51]

Key West, Fla.  
Feb 5th 1865

Major Genl O. O. Howard  
Comdg Army of the Tenn.

General

My brother writes me from Norfolk, that he has two boxes of Silver ware, stored at Raleigh, N.C. and in the event of your getting there, I would be obliged if the same could be secured from pillage –until it could be lawfully restored to its <owners> - who are himself, myself and brothers, who share in the estate of my mother.

It is stored at the State Lunatic Asylum in care of Dr Fisher with the address of C.W. Newton in their tops.

It was sent to Raleigh at the breaking out of the war without any knowledge or consent.

If it falls in your way, to protect this property from pillage, you would place me under obligations.

Very truly &c  
John Newton [Major General John Newton, USMA class of 1842]

[Written on the back page in another hand.]  
Brig. Genl. John Newton  
Key West Feb. 5th 1865

Answered

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2444 2/7/1865

*From:* S.M. Bowman

*To:* Maj. Genl. O O Howard

OOH-2385

Military Hd. Qrs. Dist of  
Delaware  
Wilmington Del.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52, 53]

Military Hd. Qrs. Dist of Delaware  
Wilmington Del. Feb. 7, 1865

Maj. Genl. O O Howard  
General,

I am now preparing an article entitled "Sherman's Atlanta Campaign" for the U.S. Service Magazine –a campaign of which you are a part. I dont do this because I feel myself fully equal to do the subject justice, but because it is urged upon me by Prof. Coppie the Editor, and because being so urged, and also by Gen. S's friends, who seem pleased with my sketches of him in the August & Sept. No.s of the same work. I cannot well refrain from trying. I have now on my table a compilation of all the general matter for it, but I lack particular facts and incidents which can only be obtained from such as participated in the campaign.

You will probably recollect me while in command of a Brigade at Stoneman's switch. My recollection of you are very agreeable. I have followed your career with great pleasure and have rejoiced in your successes and honorable distruction and I desire to give you such records in that campaign as you deserve.

My object in all this is to induce you to hand this to some officer who was with you. And request him to give me such particular facts as will aid me –facts especially pertaining to your command and relating to the general plans and operations of the campaign. This ill enable me to revise and correct what I have. Copies of orders, such as are proper, reports of battles, diagrams of the battle fields with explanations &c.

A little care now will prevent errors passing into history, and anything published in that work will probably be regarded as reliable.

It may be you are like Genl Sherman who always said "Wait till I am dead" - but the world wont wait, and if truth is not written about our great officers and great campaigns error and fiction will be.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with the hope that your health and life may be spared for still greater usefulness, I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully  
Your friend & obt st  
S.M. Bowman  
Col &c &c

P.S. The campaign from Atlanta to Savannah will be taken up in a separate No. Any thing in regard to that will also be very desirable.  
SMB

[Written on the back page in another hand.]  
Col. S. M. Bowman.  
Feb 7th 1865

<[The first two lines of this paragraph are too faint to read.] And if he will go to the W D and get the reports of <our> he will get more complete records of incidents &c, than I could write him as I have not my records with me.

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2445 2/11/1865

*From:* J.S. Fullerton

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2386

Head Quarters Fourth  
Army Corps  
Huntsville Ala.

Commg Dept & Army Tenn.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[54]

Head Quarters Fourth Army Corps  
Huntsville Ala. Feby 11th 1865

My Dear General,

A few days ago I received from Col. Kelton a copy of an application which you made to The Adjutant General to have me transferred to the Army and Department of the Tennessee, as A.A.G. of the same. I have replied asking him to use his influence to have the transfer made.

I am not only very much obliged to you for the interest you have taken in me, but am also highly complimented by this action on your part, in asking to have me transferred to your command. I speak from the heart when I tell you that nothing would please me more than to serve with you; and I speak from experience when I say that my relations have been so pleasant with no officers in the Army as with you, when you commanded this Corps.

I am afraid that Genl. Thomas will object to the transfer. Therefore, I wrote asking to Kelton to try and have it made without referring the application to him.

Rember me very kindly to every member of the old staff.

Sincerely your friend  
J.S. Fullerton

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commg Dept & Army Tenn.

[Written sideways on the back page.]

Lt. Col. J.S. Fullerton  
Huntsville Alabama  
Feb. 11th 1865

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2446 2/14/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2387

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[44]

Farmington Feb 14 / 65

Dear Brother Otis

Will it offend you if we take the liberty of naming this our second son [Oliver Otis Howard] for his somewhat distinguished Uncle? Not indeed because of the distinction but for the love we bear you and the hope that we cherish that he will resemble you in all christian virtue. Ella is nicely & the baby, now three hours old, is fat & healthy.

Your family were well last Saturday (11th).

With much love from both Ella & myself.  
Rowland

---

2447 2/17/1865    *From:* Henry Hiscock

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2388

Columbia S.C.

Army of the Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[60]

Columbia S.C. Feb'y 17, 1865

We the undersigned now prisoners of war at the North College Hospital Ward 5, most humbly request (from the kind treatment received at the hands of Dr. Thos. J. Rawls whilst under his care as Physician) that himself family and property be protected from molestation by the federal troops.

To. Maj Genl. Howard  
Army of the Tennessee

Signed  
Henry Hiscock  
Cap Co. G. 1st Mo. Lt Art'y  
St. Louis Mo.

Alex. M. Briscoe  
2nd Lt Co I 1st Maryland Cavalry  
419 Saratoga Street  
Baltimore Md.

Guards and Patrols:  
Will pass Dr. Thos. J. Rawls on any of the streets in the City of Columbia without molestation.

By Command of O.O. Howard  
Maj General

Signed H.E. Stone  
Adj't and Ins. General  
and Chief of Staff

Headquarters 1st Prev. Brigade MD.D.S.  
Columbia S.C. June 21st, 1865

Personally appeared Dr Thos. J. Rawls before me and made oath that the written is a true copy of a recommendation addressed to Maj Genl. Howard on the 17 Feby 1865

Signed  
Geo. F. McKay  
1st Lt. & Adj't 55 Mass Vols.  
A.A.A. General



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2449 2/26/1865    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2390

Leeds Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

Leeds Me. 26th Feb. 1865 [Sunday]

Dearest

Guy has begun a letter to his dear Papa, and I will add a note, writing it while Chancy is asleep. The children have been very good and happy to-day although the weather is rainy and we are all at home. Where are you to-day, and when are we to get our next letter from you? Your short letter of Feb 3d was received some time since, and not much even by the papers since. The rebels are no longer permitted to give in their papers the movements of Gen Sherman, so we shall not hear from your Army nearly as soon or as often as we have heretofore.

It does not now seem to be Gen Sherman's object to reach the coast of S. Carolina, but through the interior of the State moving towards the north into N. Carolina. I hope you may sweep clean as you go purifying the land. Your visit home must be delayed longer than I have been hoping. It is not impossible that you may come by the way of Virginia.

I find the Maine Legislature has tendered you a vote of thanks, and a sword. I think they had better have left out the latter. Your friend Barker introduced it.

I passed a very pleasant day at Lewiston last Thursday, taking Guy with me. 'Wash' drove us down and he attracted much attention as we drove through the streets, one man remarking as he passed, "there is a contrast." Wash was as undisturbed as he was unconscious of it all. I made some purchases of Mr Clark whom you have seen, and he took me to see a picture of you just finished nearly as large as life. I call it a crayon drawing from the Photograph you had taken at Auburn and is quite natural as you then looked. I met Judge Morrell, Lawyer Goddard, Dr Wiggan and talked with the latter some time about you, had many questions to ask, said this campaign had proved the same you planned to him over a year ago with the exception of the taking of Mobile –thinks you "are the right man in the right place", as others have spoken.

I called to see Uncle Hicks, who has again gone into business. He is not at all well. Saw Cousin Fanny, Aunt Betsy, and other friends and saw many familiar faces. Guy and I sat for Photographs. I did not get one as good as those at Augusta. I shall try again soon.

Best love as ever,  
Lizzie

Monday. I have just returned from Mrs Berrys and Guy has not finished his but I will not wait for him. We hope to hear from you soon. Lizzie

---

2450 3/3/1865

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2391

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort

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[57, 58, 59]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Beaufort Mar 3d 1865

My dear brother

I suppose you have been thinking of me as in Maine raising the Regiment, but your kind application in our behalf did not result so favorably. The Gov'r was unwilling to com'n Capt. Beebe and seemed to feel rather reluctant to raise the Regt. For me at any rate on acct. of his having refused so many times to raise any more new organizations. He however would have done it for your accommodation had the Sec'y of War consented. I waited a week for this consent & then decided to return as my Leave was about expiring. I did not feel inclined to take the Regt. Without Beebe especially as the Gov'r put it altogether on the ground of a favor to you.

I was in hopes to reach you but not arriving here till the 15th Feb'y or thereabouts we were of course too late. I regretted it more than I can tell you, not to be with you in this Campaign. You know I have never been absent a campaign since the War before. I know it is all Providential, however, and trust it will not be any detriment to you in the end –if it be somewhat unfortunate for me.

It has led to a new sphere of action for me. Gen. Saxton invited me to take command of a colored Regt. At first I told him I could not decide until I had seen you but he urged me afterwards a good deal –promised to give me the first Regt of the Corps he is to raise thus securing me the first rank –to give me the privilege of selecting all my officers - and finally going to Charleston with him the other day I found that recruiting was very easy & that there would probably be a full Regt. Ready by the time the appointment could be procured from Washington.

I thought you had about made up your mind to part with Beebe & me & the former consented to go in as Lieutenant Colonel. Gen. Saxton proposed that I go to Washington to get the appointment & attend to other business for him, connected with the raising of the Corps. I proposed (unsolicited by Gen. S.) to have his youngest brother who is now 1st Lieut. In a Colored Regt. As one of the Captains. Intend to get some officers from Army of the Potomac.

I think if I had rec'd the appointment of Inspector as you requested I should probably not have taken the Regt. Still it opens a new field –will compel me to make new efforts, take responsibility, study, open a field for a work of humanity to which otherwise I would not have access. I think I am qualified morally for such a position, better than most young men –having as you know no special prejudice against the black man and disposed to regard all men as God's noblest work and to be treated as such.

Besides I have reasoned that this may open a life-work for me, that there will be at farthest but one more campaign for you in the field and that then I should have to decide my profession. I doubt whether I am not unfitted by the habits of four years to return with profit to the Ministry & whether Providence designed I should do so. But if I should decide upon the latter course I can leave this service as well as any & meanwhile will have acquired valuable experience & knowledge.

Another thought suggested by Gen. Saxton is very pleasant for me to contemplate. He desires much that you be assigned to command this Department, having it extended to embrace the whole of North & South Carolina, Georgia & Florida. He says then something worth thinking of could be accomplished for the negro. Gilmore, he thinks, has no sympathy in the work. He (Gillmore) does not seem to encourage or cooperate well with Gen. Saxton.

I thought it would be a place you would like after active campaigning were over, such an opportunity for enlarged benevolent, humane, & Christian endeavor, not only in the matter of raising troops & thus providing

permanent employment for the negroes, but in the great educational movement which must be undertaken and the providing of homes for the blacks, inaugurating free labor in these states.

I believe I wrote you once or twice from home. I never enjoyed the society of your dear family so much before. I hope Mother will remain always with Lizzie so that my home may be with you all, since my heart is altogether bound up in the little children. And Lizzie seems more like our own loving sister than ever before. She seemed all goodness & amiability and if there is anything more expressed in the word I would add that her character seems to be a mirror of all Christian virtues. I only wished you could have been one of us. But I trust you will soon have the joy of not only meeting but abiding with your darling family.

I have some little hope of hearing that you are at Wilmington or perhaps Newbern while I am North & in that case I will try & visit you on my return from Washington & then will not perhaps be too late to renounce my new undertaking, if you disapprove of it. I had no one to consult for advice, but think my motive was to do the will of God. I trust He will add His blessing. I have had some anxiety about you, a great deal at times.  
(see margin Page 1)

Lately we have had much rain. News by the Steamer today places Sherman's Army at Charlotte but I do not believe you are so far from the Coast. I imagine Kilpatrick may have gone to Charlotte. But we are all much in the dark. Have some fears that Lee will evacuate to Richmond & pounce upon Sherman before he secures a base, but trust it is already too late for this. Do send me a letter. I will remail it to <Portland>, if you have not time for both.

Your affectionate br.  
C.H. Howard

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2451 3/12/1865 *From:* Guy [Howard]

*To:* My Dear Papa [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2393

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[19]

Leeds, Mar. 12, 1865

My Dear Papa

I wish to writ you a letter to day and tell you what we are doing. I went to Lewiston one day last month with Mother and Wash in a sleigh. I saw Judge Morrill and Jonny. We went in to uncle Hicks new store; they are all well and glad to see us. Cousin Fanny has a little Girl named Grace. She has black eyes and looks like a little doll; cousin Adams had part of his shop burnt in a fire that was in Lewiston this winter. The Pony is getting along very well; he had one cold this winter but is all over it now. Wash has ridden her to the Post Office a few times. I am beginning to ride the Pony with out Wash leading him not on the rode but to the spring under the birch tree and back again. He has a very pretty and easy little trot; Wash was going to ride her one day and Jamie ran out one day and Wash put him on; Jamie talks a great deal about riding the Pony. Wash would like you to give his Love to Sam, and tell him that he is well. Jamie says that he wants you to come home. Mother got a letter from Uncle Rowland last night. He says that they call the baby Otis most of the time and is a good baby. Chancy is a big boy, and puts three or four words together if you ask him who he loves he will say, "love papa." Papa when do you think you will come home? We hear from Uncle Charlie pretty often at Beaufort. Gen. Saxton offered him a negro regiment.

From your affectionate son  
Guy

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2452 3/13/1865    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2392

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
Fayetteville NC

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[618]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee  
Fayetteville NC 1865 (ca March 6, 1865) [Date was written by someone other than the author. OOH made his headquarters at Fayetteville from March 13-16, so I estimate the date to be 3/13/1865.]

Dearest,

I am so impatient to see you that I hardly have the heart to write you a letter. A little tug Str. Made its way up the river (the Cape Fear) & and has thus connected us by a slender thread with the world again, for it seems as if we had been out of it for some time.

It is no small work we have done to accomplish a march of four hundred miles through the heart of the enemy's country without base of supply, through rain, mud & swamps not to be excelled, but no news, no letters from home, no papers except the few rebel that we capture. This aggravates suspense & lengthens the campaign. But how much more anxious must you all be at home, because you do not know as we do here the exact state of things. I learned today that one of my scouts Sergt. Quick got through to Wilmington. He had a telegram from me to send you. Our success has been very complete. My wing has till lately had to bear the brunt of the fighting. We took Pocotaligo, faced the Salkehatchie, the south & north Fork of the Edisto, the Saluda, the Broad, crossed the Congaree, the Lynch, the Lumber & are now crossing the Cape Fear. Gen. Hardee with 20,000 men gets out of the way. We have taken Orangeburg, Columbia, Cheraw, & Fayetteville. So much, darling, for ourselves. I have missed Charles very much & he has missed a long link in history.

Now, how is my precious wife? It seems to me my heart is full and that I should be very peaceful, quiet & loving if I could get home. How are the children. I am much afraid they will clean forget me, but they have you my loving wife & their <> the mother to remind them of papa far away.

This time we have not been altogether deprived of ladies society. We brought from Columbia quite a number of men, women & children, who have tagged along in wagons, ambulances or on mules, horses or on foot. We have had two families at these Head-quarters, who have completely mastered all the discomforts of military life & enjoyed the novelty. A Gentleman by the name of Halpin, wife & daughter and a Mr Soule with his bride were our Guests. The bride of Columbia Miss Boozer with her mother Mrs Foster were entertained by Colonel Conklin Chf. Qr. Mr. I have mentioned them because we have seen so much of them for the last three weeks and I have learned that ladies can campaign. Mrs F & daughter were burnt out by that terrible fire at Columbia and though rich were suddenly reduced to poverty. She went from Phila & returns thither.

I don't know where Charles is. If you are at Leeds give much love to Mother. I am hoping she is very well & very happy with the children. If I get time I mean to go home if not you must prepare to meet me somewhere so get ready with Chancy for a campaign. God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2453 3/13/1865    *From:* Mrs. M. Oneill

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2394

138 Atlantic Street  
Brooklyn  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

Major General Howard  
General,

Being one of a committee of Ladies about to get up a Fair to enable the Sisters of the Poor to extend and enlarge their present Hospital so as to accommodate the numerous applicants chiefly Widows and Orphans of those men who have died in battle during the present war. I would therefore most respectfully solicit your "Autograph" confident it would enable us by the same to add considerable to the funds for this very charitable purpose.

Very Respectfully  
Mrs. M. Oneill  
138 Atlantic Street  
Brooklyn  
New York

March 13 / 65

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2454 3/15/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2395

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Near Fayetteville NC.

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[593]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Near Fayetteville NC. Mar 15th 1865

Dearest,

Before I retire tonight I will just write you a few lines. I am quite well. My command has already started & I will follow & soon get to the head of the Coleman tomorrow. We will breakfast at 2 a.m. & move at 3 ½. Early isn't it? We do not generally start so early, but I staid back today to look after the rear.

I saw a train of some 6 or 7 thousand negroes men, women & children, start for Wilmington & freedom. Bundles on their heads, children in arms, men on mules, some in old wagons, all poorly clad & many with little to eat. They will do anything, suffer anything, for freedom. They go they know not where. I can only think & say to myself God will care for them.

I hope to be in regular mail communication with you in five or six days at the farthest. Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & Chancy and to Mother. I am hoping she is enjoying the winter with the children about her & do not feel the loneliness she would if you had not gone to Leeds.

I doubt very much whether operations will cease long enough to let me home this spring. Our work must be followed up rapidly in order to save life. We have just got word that Sheridan is expected through to join us in a few days. When you next hear from me we shall probably have shaken hands with Schofield.

As soon as we have reached our base of supply I can tell how long we may be idle and if I may not go home. Many kisses & a heart full of love to yourself, Lizzie.

Lovingly  
Otis

P.S. I hope Chas is well. I don't know where he is. Capt. Gilbreth is well & also Maj. Whittlesey.

Remember me affectionately to Dellie Roland & Cynthia & the rest. Send Rowland & Ella word that I am well.

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2455 3/19/1865    *From:* Everett H. Bridgham    *To:* Mr O O Howard

OOH-2396

Galloups Isle

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[60]

Galloups Isle March 19th 1865

Mr O O Howard

Dear Sir

I am in trouble and have no other source than to appeal to you. Some four weeks since I enlisted in a company of infantry at Augusta Capt Montgomery. Since that time I have suffered more than all that I ever endured before up to that time. We are now at Galloups Isle Boston Harbor. How long we shall remain here is entirely unknown to me.

But as a friend as well as connection I intreat you by all the powers above if it is possible to have me detailed to some place different from this. Any chance the most horrible position would be very thankfully excepted.

I rcd your very kind letter nearly a year since. From the reading of it I thought it not adviseable for me to go on. Pleas excuse me for not answering it. But now my prayer is that you will give me some kind of a chance and that as soon as convenient I shall only have to go to the hospital if I stay in the company. If we should leave here before I can get an answer from you I will write you again or your answer may be forwarded to me from here.

Pleas do something for me this once. We are supposed to go to the Me 12th now at Savannah.

Pleas direct in care of Capt Montgomery.

Respectfully yours

Everett H. Bridgham [Cousin of OO Howard]

[Written in read across the first first page]

Answd

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2456 3/21/1865 *From:* Wm Smyth

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2397

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[61]

Brunswick March 21st 1865

Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I forwarded to the Secy of War your letter requesting that my Son, Lieut Wm H. Smyth of the 16th U.S. Infy, might be detailed for service on your staff, and was informed by the Adgt. Genl. That the request was not favorably considered. On inquiry, by Senator Fessenden, I learn that the request was not granted because, at the time, there were on your Staff as many Officers as were allowed by the Rules and Regulations. I infer from Senator Fessendens letter to me that the appointment would have readily been made, if there has been a vacancy known to the Department.

Contrary to all expectation, the exchange of my Son has not yet been declared, though I think it cannot fail to be soon. His heart is much set upon seeing some service under you, and if there is now a vacancy, or one should occur soon, he would be much gratified to fill the place. And an application in such case, would, I think, be favorably received. I feel so confident that you would find him an efficient and acceptable aid, that I venture to renew the application in his behalf, while at the same I cheerfully submit to whatever your convenience, the necessity of the case, or the good of the service may require.

(over)

We are rejoicing exceedingly at the heavy blows your Army is dealing at the very heart of the rebellion, and are looking forward, hopefully, to the speedy and right termination of this terrible war. It may, perhaps, interest you to know that my fourth Son, Newman, who graduated commencement before the last, entered the Service under the last call for troops, and proved himself worthy the Lieutenants Commission received from the Governor, by good conduct in the two days fight at Hatcher's Run.

Thanking you, my dear Sir, for past acts of kindness,  
I am most truly & respectfully  
Yours  
Wm Smyth

---

2457 3/21/1865 *From:* A.P. Mitchell

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-3370

Wheeling W. Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[189]

Wheeling March 21 1865

Major Genl O O Howard:  
Respected Sir,

Excuse the liberty I take in addressing you again. But though I have given up my appointment I thought I would like to know for sure. And if it is not asking too much would you please drop me a line informing me whether the appointments have been made.

I remain your humble servant &c.  
A.P. Mitchell  
Wheeling W.Va

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2458 3/25/1865 *From:* J. Conklin

*To:* Maj. Gen OO Howard

OOH-2072

New Bern, NC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[22]

[LETTERHEAD]

United States Military Telegraph

By Telegraph from New Bern [NC]

Dated March 25th 1864

To Maj. Gen OO Howard

Comdg <army>

Col Howard is not here. I understand he went north again from Charleston [SC]. I sent for him immediately on my arrival at Morehead. Have not yet heard from them.

J. Conklin

Col Qr

[Summary written on back page, in a different hand]

New Bern March 25 1865]

Conklin J.S. Col & Ch. qr. mr.

Col. Howard has gone north.

[Note. The year is different between the telegram and the summary. It makes more sense that it is 1865 because Charles Howard was in Beaufort S.C. as the Colonel of the 124th U.S.C.T. regiment. In March 1864, he was in the Lookout Valley, Tenn area, which does not agree with the telegram.]

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2459 3/26/1865 *From:* J.T. Conklin

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2398

Newberne

Comdg Right Wing

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

U.S. Military Telegraph

[Mar 26] 1865

By Telegraph from Newberne 26 1865

To Maj Gen O O Howard

Comdg Right Wing

I telegraphed you yesterday that I sent for Capt Taggart immediately upon my arrival at Morehead. I cannot tell when they will be here –he has the mail with him.

J.T. Conklin

Col. & Chf qm

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2460 3/26/1865 *From:* J.T. Conklin

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2399

Newberne

Comdg Right Wing

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24]

U.S. Military Telegraph

[Mar 26] 1865

By Telegraph from Newberne 26 1865

To Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Comdg Right Wing

The camp & garrison equipage can come by cars will send it as soon as it arrives

J.T. Conklin

Col &c

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2461 3/26/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2400

Leeds Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[66]

Leeds Maine Mar 26 / 65

Dearest

I have received one letter from you at Fayetteville but and have looked for others but none as yet have arrived. I cannot very well keep track of the Army, and then the different 'wings' are not always mentioned. I keep wondering now when you are going to rest and where. I think you stay in one place about long enough to breath and that is about all. I want you to come home, and so would have a resting spell for all. I feel quite hopeful, the 'end is not yet' but near. How happy we all should be to have you here before we return to Augusta. On Mother's account I should most desire it. I shall go to Augusta just as soon as I can to see after the house, and try to engage a girl. I should be there three or four days and not take either of the children. I am waiting for Isabella to come here, so I can leave. We have been entirely alone nearly four weeks but get on very much better than I should have thought.

'Wash' makes himself generally useful, and seems contented. Jamie lives out of doors - every day he goes out in the morning comes in to eat his dinner and then out again. He is nearly as dark as a mulatto and I cant help it. I think it has made him more robust being out so much more than usual this Winter. He has enjoyed his rubber boots hugely, and they now look rather the worse for wear.

When Isabella comes I shall leave the children here and go to Augusta. Chancy is a great big boy. You would be surprised to see how much he understands of everything we do or say. Guy and Grace are about the same - snap at each other occasionally, and one might think they would bite the next time. I shall send this to Curtis Corner in the morning by 'Wash' who has letters for Mother to Dell. He cannot now ride. Snow all gone in places.

I shall write to Charles when I think he has arrived at Beaufort S.C. I think he must be near you at the present time. Much love to him. All doing well at Farmington.

As ever your own  
Lizzie

---

2462 3/27/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2401

Farmington Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Me Mch 27 /65

Dear Brother Otis

All our accts of your locality & the way of reaching you since you arrived at Fayetteville have been so conflicting that I have felt discouraged about writing. Miss Kearney of Brooklyn sent me 2 N.Y. Heralds containing quite circumstantial accts of your Campaign thro' S.C. So we struggled with your brave soldiers thro' the swamps &c of S.C. and blushed with every decent man in your army over the Scenes at Columbia.

The children & your dear wife were all well when she wrote this morning. She mentioned going out to see you, but I can form no idea at what point you may finally stop long enough at to enjoy a visit from your wife. She will not go back to Augusta for 6 weeks at least. Mother will dread her going away very much. Charles man "Wash" proves a great blessing to them all especially to Mother who finds him industrious & faithful. I hear that the old horse & Guys pony flourish especially under his administration. We will look for Lizzie & Grace up here soon.

Ella sits up now all day & has been down stairs with assistance once. Your little name's sake is 6 weeks old today and is a good healthy boy weighing 10 lbs. Dadie loves him & is very tender of him and says many big words about him. Ellas Aunt Jane Frost & her Son Will are with us now. The nurse left today.

God has been blessing us with a number of conversions & some few of our church seem to have been revived. & till tonight I have been looking for a somewhat extended work of Grace, but my lecture tonight was thinly attended; & no earnest spirit was manifested, so that I am a little depressed in spirits & weakened in my faith for immediate results, but God helping me, I will continue to "sow beside all waters" & trust God for the harvest.

You have never been so completely severed from us all as during this Campaign and Charles absence. I trust the Lord Jesus has been with you "sticking closer than a brother." The unconscious influence of your companions & of the scenes thro' which you are passing must have a deleterious effect on your faith. O may God give you Grace to resist temptation & get the crown of life!

Our roads are becoming snowless, but the fields still afford a nice crust for purposes of coasting, & the maple trees are yielding their Sweetness. Our waiting eyes are unto God. I wonder if he will send a Reverse to humble us before Fast Day (Apr. 13th)

Ella sends you ever so much Love. Come & see your new nephew & pray with us for his Salvation as soon as you can.

Affly  
Rowland

I could go with Lizzie by & by if Providence opens the way for her to visit you.

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2463 3/27/1865

*From:* J. W. Alvord

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2402

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Tract Society  
New York Depository,  
No. 13 Bible House,  
Astor Place, New York

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[62]

American Tract Society  
New York Depository, No. 13 Bible House, Astor Place, New York  
March 27th 1865

To  
Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I take the liberty of sending you, by this mail a copy of the Act incorporating our "Freedmans Savings & Trust Company".

You will at once see its benevolent design. It is national & contemplates branches at all the great points in the Southern country.

We hope, in this way, to do much for these poor people, by the general elevating influence of such an institution, by furnishing a safe place for their bounty monies, pay, & earnings; & so enabling them to provide for themselves & families when the war is over. You will observe that unclaimed deposits (as many may die unheard of) are to go for the education of the race.

May we have your patronage in this good thing? I hope to see you at your new base ere long & should have done so (D.V.) before now only as getting this Bill through has detained me.

We are doing largely still for all the armies not only by our own distribution but through the Christian Commission. Now that your army makes its appearance as in connection with Washington & New York, I am making arrangements to reach it with our gospel material as heretofore.

Kind remembrance to all my friends on your staff. The whole north is full of interest in your magnificent movements, & we trust the end is near. The Lord keep you & guide you as ever.

Yours very truly & Respectfully  
J. W. Alvord  
Sec. &c

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2464 3/27/1865 *From:* JT Conklin

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2403

New Berne

Comdg Right Wing

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

U.S. Military Telegraph

Mar 27 1865

By Telegraph from New Berne 27 1865

To Maj Genl Howard

Comdg Right Wing

I cannot imagine why Taggart does not arrive. I have telegraphed to Morehead City to see if he can be found & to send Steamer for him. I am afraid they have met with some accident in last storm.

JT Conklin

Col & q.m.

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2465 3/28/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2404

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

Leeds, Me. Mar 28th 1865

Dearest

Your letter and 'message' just received, and I am so sorry to tell you that I cannot go to you. Mother is entirely alone and you would say could you see how we are situated that it is utterly impossible for me to leave. I should enjoy the journey very much – should take Guy or Jamie if I concluded you could raise no objections.

Isabella was to have been here long since. Should she come and could stay with Mother and the children then I could leave if you thought best, but I must not think of it now. I hear that Isabella has engaged a school in Yarmouth to teach this summer, beginning in May, so she could remain with us but about a month. Rowland has doubted whether operations would admit of your coming north this spring.

I cannot write more for there is a slight rebellion here and Chancy is crying for Momma. When I close my letter it will be "all right" as Chancy says. Here comes Grace as cheerful as can be.

I wish I could go to you as easily as this letter. I will hope it will not be many months before we can see you. You would have to walk from the Depot if you should come now. Ha. Ha. Grace sends a kiss to Papa. Mother says she is rejoiced to hear you once more.

Your own Lizzie

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2466 3/28/1865 *From:* S. May Thengi

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2405

Davenport Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[63]

Davenport Iowa Mar 28 [1865]

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Sir,

I take the liberty to adress this letter to you, and hope that you have not forgotten me, who had the honor once to serve upon your Staff, knowing that your time is limited I come to the point at once.

I was honorably Discharged the service last December but not being contented with civil life. I wish to reenter the service, and thinking that probably the organization of some troops may come under your supervision. I respectfully ask you for a position, in a Cavalry Regiment if possible.

Please give my regards to such of your Staff as I have the honor of knowing. I hope General that my request will meet your approval wishing you all the success imaginable.

I remain your obedient Servant  
S. May Thengi

---

2467 3/28/1865 *From:* J. T. Conklin

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2406

New Bern NC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

U.S. Military Telegraph

March 28 1865

By Telegraph from New Bern NC 28 1865

To Maj Gen Howard

A steamer has been sent to Beaufort for your Hd Qrs.

J. T. Conklin

Col & Qr. Mr.

[Written on the back of the letter in a different hand.]

New Berne N.C.

March 28th 1865

Conklin, J.T.

Col. & Chf Q.M.

Steamer has been sent to Beaufort for the Hd. Quars

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2468 3/28/1865 *From:* J. T. Conklin

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2407

New Bern NC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27]

U.S. Military Telegraph

[March] 28 1865

By Telegraph from New Berne 28 1865  
to Maj Gen O O Howard

Your mail went out to you today from Beaufort. I am doing my best to get a steamer to go down for Capt Taggart & understand that he will be up this week at any rate. Sent orders for him to come up as soon as I arrived at the coast but it seems that he did not get them.

J. T. Conklin  
Col & C. Q.M.

---

2469 3/28/1865 *From:* D. Remick

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2408

Kinston NC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[28]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
March 28 1865

By Telegraph from Kinston NC 1865  
to Maj Gen Howard

Genl Breckwith will be up tomorrow and then I will come to Goldsboro and attend exclusively to my own Dept.  
Will supplies come by Wilmington Road soon.

D. Remick  
Lt. Col & C.C.S.

[Written on the reverse in another hand.]  
Kinston N.C.  
March 28th 1865  
Remick, D.  
Lt. Col. & Chf. C.S.  
Genl. Breckwith will be at Kingston soon.

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2470 3/31/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2409

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70, 140]

Farmington Mch. 31, 1865

Dear Brother Otis

Lizzie received your dispatch from Goldsboro the 27, & sent it up to me & I went down yesterday to consult & arrange with her about complying with your request. I found them all well, but destitute of a girl as they have been for 4 weeks. Mother very much worn out with work & care, and Lizzie feeling that it would not be right to go away & leave the children for her to care for. Ella offered to take Guy & Grace, but the length of the lonely journey, the uncertainty of your remaining much time at Goldsboro & the fear that the attempt might end in disappointment to you both made Lizzie think that she would not try now.

The roads are at their worst. I went to Leeds Center Depot, took Bridle & Saddle along, borrowed a horse & walked him down thro the alternate snow drifts & mud. The post is coming out & no carriage can move in Leeds with any safety to life or limb. But as Isabella was making them a little visit, Lizzie determined that if it were possible she <?> Depot & go to Augusta & visit her house & stay till Monday. The roads are absolutely dangerous for man or beast, being full of frost-made holes & water gullies –alternating with deep soft snow drifts so much inclined that a carriage would tip over. It is thus in Leeds. Here our Sandy soil is getting settled, where it has been relieved of the snow.

Let it fill your heart with gratitude that Lizzie is so well & appears so well in all respects. The war had done more for her character than for any of us I think. She has developed & matured <inety> & Spiritually under the severe discipline that she has had.

I have thought lately that the Catachism might be changed in one respect & in answering what is the chief end of man? It might be truly answered To Kill Women. The perplexing cares & troubles of their household life are far greater to them than the broader activities of ours. The bearing & care of children –so little relieved as it is in most cases is almost continuous torture to their sensitive nerves. I know the compensations, but after all the burden is heavy & their joys are purchased at a vast expense. Health, strong trust in God, & contented disposition &c will do much to mitigate the evil, but it is our duty to help them all we can.

Ella is slowly recovering from her terrible illness. She goes down stairs, but is very weak in her limbs, has headache & feels the care of the baby since nurse went away. She sends a great deal of love to you & will be much disappointed if you don't love your little namesake a great deal, since he has given her so much trouble. He is a nice, good little boy of six weeks now. Dadie is well & is a <ruse [wise?]> & funny little fellow with a big head & white cheeks, very tender of his little brother.

Guy is tanned & has lost his front upper teeth & wears his old clothes in the barn & mud, & helps "Wash" & plays with "Johnny" (the latter was 9 yesterday). He looks a little "hard" for a Maj Gen, but as well as either you or I at his age. Gracie has lost some teeth too & the march winds & Sun has given her many freckles & a little tan. She <worked> as quietly as a lady on a dress that she was making & grows more & more dutiful & lovely. Guy & Wash have three trees tapped. Jamie is about the color of Wash –spends his time out of doors, is not mindful of his personal appearance, tries to gratify himself as well as he can. He is as always a noble boy. Chancey has improved more rapidly of late than any. His figure is still that of Dr Tappan –his head as round of all as his belly –his cheeks ruddy –his appetite for "tato" <undernourished> –his spirits even & excellent –his feet & tongue wonderfully active. Dadie sent them down some maple candy which they enjoyed hugely.

I read your & Charles letters. His last was from Fortress Monroe. There are now no applications for the farm & Mother is oppressed by her care for the work, the cattle, the land, the timber &c &c as she always will be while she remains there with no one to lean upon. When Charles & I go home for so short a time, it takes it all to make us understand the matters & we have no time or ability to perform anything. Dell writes, advise &c by the bushel & at times get quite peremptory in style seeming to forget that mother is not a business man in his office

or country Room, but a poor woman whose whole mind & will is often on the point of yielding to the severe pressure of care

We all need more sympathy. I don't mean that which expends & exhausts itself in tears or beneficence but which is patient & careful of the interests & thoughtful of the happiness of our friends. Especially might we who care strong to bear the infirmities of the weak, but you & Charles have your whole emotional nature taxed to its utmost limit where you are, but Dellie & I might do more for our friends.

The trouble in my case is that nearly all my power of this kind is expended on my people & little is left for my family, but preaching aside, God has been blessing us with a no. of conversions & the Church is in a better state than for some time & my own heart is more prayerful.

Love to Chas if with you & kind remembrance to Maj. Whittlesey. Mail time now.

With much love  
Rowland

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2471 3/31/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2410

Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

Leeds Me Mar 31st 1865

Dearest

I do not write with the most pleasant feelings since I have to tell you that I cannot go to you at present. I say at present for I hope if again you should be resting and I could leave the children, I should hope to go to you. I did not think so much about it at first. I saw that I could not go and told you so, but I begin to feel that I have met with a great loss, and am more and more disappointed.

Isabella after keeping us in suspense for four weeks came yesterday to tell us that she could not come at all. She has taken a school in Yarmouth – begin in May. She is still keeping house for her father; they are all to move to New Gloucester next month. I feel a little homesick now, not to get back to Augusta exactly.

We had an expected visit from Rowland yesterday. He brought his saddle and bridle with him in the cars, and came on horseback from the Depot at the Centre – he returned the same afternoon. He don't think you will feel willing Charles should leave you.

Mother has "caught at the straw" which Charles has mentioned that Gen. Saxton said he would "Like him to take the Regiment even if he took it only long enough to organize". Rowland read the letters when here and noticed that. I am in hopes you will not have to remain in the field a great while longer, and so wont miss him as much as if he had left you long ago.

Grace is going to Farmington in a few days. I desire it very much – to have her attend the children's meetings and sings they are now having there.

I will enclose Ellas kind not that you may see how much she wishes me to take the journey spoken of. Mother is not willing the children should go away from her, and I don't think she is desirous I should leave. Mother would seem much older to you should you be here. She is in hopes you, or has been hoping, you would come to us here before our return to Augusta. We hope to have settled travelling by the middle of April. Sleighs are no longer used.

Jamie has written a letter for 'pa-pa' and says mamma must send it, so you will find it enclosed. I asked do you want to send your love to papa. Chancy looks up and says "Love papa" But I cannot write more. It is supper time and I must remove my writing from the table.

Guy has just come in with baskets full of boxberry groves and some of the berries, and says "I have torn my pants Mother jerking over the "bars". I told him it was a great misfortune to tear those pants with patched knees, and then they all had a laugh.

Good by with love, as ever  
Lizzie

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2472 4/1/1865

*From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2411

Head-Quarters, District  
of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md.

Comdg. Dept.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[64]

Head-Quarters, District of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md., April 1st 1865

My dear Genl,

Some of my friends have presented my name for a Brevet, and may I ask you for such a letter as you think proper to give me. I do not claim it for any distinguished service in the field, but think that I am entitled to it for faithful and diligent services. You know how I served up to the time I left my former Regt, said then I believe I have secured a good record at the War Dept.

I have been in command of this District about two mos. It is a place of work, and I like it much.

Let me congratulate you on your well earned promotion.

I have often wished myself with you in your recent campaigns. We at the rear feel that you are dealing the last blows to the rebellion. May God aid you.

Give my kindest regards to Maj. Whittlesey and to Col. Howard if he is with you.

I am Genl. Very Respectfully  
and truly Yrs.  
F.D. Sewall  
Col. 3d Regt. <V.R.C.>  
Comdg. Dis. Of Annapolis

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg. Dept.

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2473 4/3/1865

*From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2412

Albany N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65, 66, 67]

Albany N.Y. April 3, 1865

My dear brother:

We have not heard from Charles for a long time. Have you seen him? He wrote me about the time he was to start from Washington with a Commission of Colonel of a Colored regiment to be a part of Gen. Saxton's colored Corps. He was going to the Army of the Potomac, then to you, with the view of getting some officers for his regiment. Mother wrote me a day or two since. She had not heard from him and was anxious to know his whereabouts. I had a letter from Rowland about the middle of last week. He had not heard from him.

Since Charles left you of course there has been no means of knowing your situation except through the newspapers and frequently they have been very much in error. A new, and I fear quite a taxing duty, will devolve upon you now that Charlie is gone and that is to write to your brother. While Charles was with you he did all the correspondence for you both and I used to write wholly to him, but now I can hear nothing from you unless you can get the time to write yourself.

You are probably aware through Lizzie and Mother that I have been here since the last of November except a fortnight about Christmas time when I went home.

Once since I came here I have been to West Troy and that was with Charles. He made me a flying visit in February when on his way to join your army at Beaufort S.C. We visited the Arsenal and one of the Officers kindly showed us the works and the house where you used to live. I knew the house & the Arsenal itself from the painting of it in our house, which I think was by the Artist, O.O. Howard.

My name being Gilmore I have taken no pains to hunt up any of your friends and acquaintances.

Rev. Dr. Alvord, the Tract man was here some two or three weeks ago. In some remarks in the Church he spoke very beautifully of you. After the meeting I was introduced to him by a mutual acquaintance and I took the opportunity to thank him for his kind words in regard to my brother. He informed me that he would join you as soon as your army might be heard from. Rev. Dr. Palmer whose church I attend told me of meeting with you at J.B. Browns in Portland soon after you lost your arm. I think it was at the June meetings. Mr. P. has an unbounded admiration for Gen. Howard especially since Mr. Alvord was here and stopped at his house.

Perhaps mother or Lizzie have written you news from Leeds. Mother does not write to me in very cheerful manner. The care of the farm and all connect with it is too much for her. I fear unless there is some change she will inevitably break down under it. Then we are now threatened with a lawsuit in regard to one of father's alleged obligations. I think we can defeat every attempt to do anything which will result to our injury still, we may not and that is a source of anxiety to her.

I wish you would write me as cheering letters as you can. They will have great effect in making me happier. I cannot leave here very well before the 26th of May at the close of the term. I hope then to go home though it is possible I may go to Richmond, Indiana, as soon as I leave here, to study in the office of Mr. Liddal's a lawyer of Uncle Henry's acquaintance. I am hoping to get into some practice there, perhaps enough to pay my board.

Lizzie is, I suppose still with mother. I hope she will remain there as long as she can for it will be very lonesome as soon as she and the children leave her. I hope they have all enjoyed the winter very much. They have of course missed society, but the children certainly have not been in or seen any bad society. Mother in her last said she hoped you would be able to go home before Lizzie and the children went to Augusta. If you do go to Maine I wish you would inform me, and if you were to remain any time, say one day in New York City I would go down there to see you. We can go down now in the Steamer to New York very cheap.

Of course you would inform me where I would find you.

Is Prof. Whittlesey with you now? If so please remember me to him.

Capt. Whittle, formerly of your staff passed through here a few weeks since and I happened to meet him. He wished me, in case I wrote you to remember him to you. He thinks his regiment is with Gen. A.J. Smith in the vicinity of Mobile.

A letter directed simply to Albany will reach me in due time.

Your affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore

[Written on the last page in another hand.]  
R.H. Gilmore  
Albany N.Y. April 3d 1865

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2474 4/3/1865

*From:* Alf. H. Terry  
M. Genl.

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2413

Head Quarters 10th  
A.C.  
Faison Depot [NC]

Comdg Army of Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

Head Quarters 10th A.C.  
Faison Depot [NC] April 3d 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Comdg Army of Tennessee  
General,

Captain Edward F Wyman, formerly of the 9th Me Vols. But now a Commissary of Subsistence, was delivered for exchange at Wilmington in February last. I suppose that by this time he must have been exchanged.

At the time of his capture he was serving on my staff in the Army of the James.

Very Respt Yr Ob. Servt  
Alf. H. Terry  
M. Genl.

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2475 4/5/1865

*From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2414

Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69, 70]

Baltimore April 5th 65

Dear General

I arrived here yesterday morning, Tuesday. Could hear nothing of Mrs. Howard. Could not learn that any dispatches had gone through to or from her. I at once telegraphed to Mrs. Whittlesey. She replied that Mrs. H had not left home, was undecided about coming, & would telegraph me today. I am waiting to hear from her. If she is on the way I will wait her arrival. If not I will return as fast as possible. In either event I fear you will be on the new campaign which the fall of Richmond must inaugurate before I can reach Newbern. I shall probably find orders from you at Newbern. I wish I had authority to advise Mrs. Howard to stay at home until something more can be known of your movements. But it is impossible to communicate with you by Telegraph in time to arrest her progress if she has started.

I found Pease at Norfolk & directed him to report at once to you. Nothing has been heard from Gilbreth.

The whole land is jubilant. Let us not forget to give God the praise which is his due.

With much respect

Yours truly

E. Whittlesey

Maj. &c

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Maj. E. Whittlesey

April 5th, 1865

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2476 4/5/1865

*From:* Nicholas W Day

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2415

Morehead City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[29, 30, 31, 32]

U.S. Military Telegraph

April 5 1865

By Telegraph from Morehead City 1865

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard

The following Extract from N.Y. Herald of April 1st is the latest news from Genl Grant. The Second 2d and fifth 5 Corps moved from their works on last Wednesday morning their place before Petersburg being supplied by portions of the army of the James from the North Side of James River Sheridans Cavalry also participated in the same movement. The route of march was to the southwest for some distance & then diverged to the northwest towards the South Side Rail Road. The Second Corps met with no opposition. Slight Resistance was made however to the fifth Corps on reaching Gravelly run but the Enemy was soon driven away & the Stream crossed. A Short distance beyond it the rebels were found in a strong position and one division of the fifth Corps soon became engaged in a sharp fight which lasted about an hour and a half and resulted in driving the Enemy from the field. Genls Grant, Meade and Warren were present during the engagement. Union loss 250, one hundred 100 Rebel prisoners were taken. The Rebels were believed to be in strong force in the vicinity of Gravelly Run and a heavy battle on the next day Thursday was expected. May firing in the direction of the front was heard on that day at City Point from half past ten a.m. till half past one p.m. indicating that this anticipation had been realized but the latest dispatches received give nothing definite regarding the matter. General Sheridan was last heard of at Dinwiddie Court House supposed to be arriving at the South Side Rail Road. He had met with but little opposition.

Very Respy

Nicholas W Day

Col Comdg Post

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Morehead City

April 5th 1865

Day. N.W.

Col. Comdg. Post

Press Reports

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2477 4/6/1865

*From:* Wm E Strong

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2416

Howards Hd Qrs

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

United States Military Telegraph  
By Telegraph from Howards Hd Qrs  
Dated April 6th 1865  
To Maj Genl O O Howard

The Genl in Chief has just sent his compliments to you with the information that a portion of our Army occupy Richmond & that the Remnant of the Rebel Army is retreating towards Danville. Genl Grant in chase pursuit.

Wm E Strong  
Lt. Col & A I G

[Written on the last page in another hand.]  
April 6th 1865  
Strong, Wm E.  
Lt. Col. & A.I.G.  
Concerning the Federal army occupying Richmond Va.

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2478 4/6/1865

*From:* Nicholas W Day

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2417

Morehead City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[34]

United States Military Telegraph  
By Telegraph from Morehead  
Dated April 6th 1865  
To Maj Genl O O Howard

Norfolk Papers of the 4th received today, state that Richmond & Petersburg are ours. 25000 Prisoners and 500 Guns are captured. Sheridan is in the rear of Lee & Grant pushing him.

Nicholas W Day  
Col Comdg Post

[Written on the last page in another hand.]  
Morehead City  
April 6th 1865  
Day, Nicholas Col.  
In relation to the Capture of Richmond &c

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2479 4/7/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2418

New Berne N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[594, 595]

New Berne N.C.  
April 7th 1865

Dearest,

I came down here expecting you in with Maj. Whittlesey. I didn't get any answer to the dispatch I sent asking you to come, and I had Capt. Gilbreth telegraph you on his way home & Maj Whittlesey, went to Baltimore to meet you. I received your letters yesterday one in the morning written the 29th and the other in the afternoon written the 31st. I do feel much disappointed, because I was hardly prepared for it.

I found Gen. Sherman would halt but 16 days and meanwhile I was obliged to make out my report & make preparation for another campaign. The General was unwilling to have me meet you in Baltimore for fear I should not get back in season. I expected you would take the two eldest for company and leave the other two with Isabella & Mother. My heart can hardly give up the idea you will come, but after all it is probably for the best.

Gen. I. N. Palmer, who is in command here and of the old army has his wife & family living here. He very cordially invited me to stay with him while you were here. Our time for moving was fixed for next Monday, but the news from Richmond may modify the General's plans materially. I think it will <> will now be likely to form a junction with us instead of our forming a junction with him.

I was so sure you would be able to come that I have not written you a line since I sent the telegram, but I am in hopes Charles letters to Mother informed you of everything. I wrote Jamie one day and you must tell me how he liked his letter.

Richmond with 12,000 prisoners and several hundred pieces of Artillery, ought to make us rejoice and feel very thankful. The end cannot be far off. We only got the news yesterday. I received the vote of thanks of the State, on parchment with the Seal of the State and in the shape of a commission, with a very handsome letter from the Governor. I had written the Governor on noticing the resolution in the newspaper.

I have not yet received official information of my appointment as Brig. Gen. in the regular Army though I have seen it announced in the Gazette. I believe I can detect some little ill feeling on the part of old Army friends. They probably suspect me of maneuvering to get the <[CHECK ORIGINAL-blot]> and cannot easily forgive me for ranking them.

I have had a good visit from Charles. He left last night for Beaufort S.C. I am reconciled to his going for his own good. He sees others, whom he regards as hardly his equals, promoted, and I rather stand in his way than assist him, and again he is obliged to be directed so much by me when we are together that he is not fully himself. Where he is now going good men are needed, men of principle and men who are interested in doing good to their fellows whether white or black. I expect during my life to have a great deal to do with the negroes, particularly that I have so high range in the regular service, for, both on account of the increased demand of the Government for soldiers and that the Government will be obliged to support & govern a large number of these people, so suddenly set free. General officers will be obliged to organize & superintend this new department of the service. The negroes here at New Berne seem inferior to any I have seen. They mostly look haggard, worn & unhappy; probably this is owing to the nature of the climate and country. The yellow fever is wont to <prevail> here. The city is pretty with beautiful shade trees, but the land is low, sandy or marshy for miles & miles.

Give much love to Mother. I am hoping she is cheerful and happy. I shant dare to telegraph you to come next time, but will take the cars, boats &c and trip home. Much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie and Chancy and may God bless & keep you all.

Lovingly

Otis

2480 4/8/1865

*From:* Hon. Samuel Cony

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2419

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

[71, 72]

[Letterhead]

State of Maine  
Executive Department  
Augusta

Unofficial

Apr 8, 1865

Maj Gen OO Howard  
Dear Sir

Yours of the 31st ult came to hand last evening. I will state that some time since about the middle of March I commented to you officially the Resolutions of the Legislature of the State, recognizing your eminent merit & services. You of course had not received the same at the date of yours. My communication has been in some way delayed & I hasten to reply that you may know the proper transmission of these resolutions has not been neglected. Should not after the lapse of a reasonable time the copy of which I sent be received, I will forward another to the end that the same may be duly & officially acknowledged.

Genl the war is coming rapidly to a conclusion, the past week has been "big with the fate of Caesar & of Rome". Grant has annihilated Lee's Army captured the confederate capital & stricken the rebellion in a vital part. We are now holding our breath to hear from Genl Sherman. We have no fear or doubts, you will be triumphantly victorious. I trust & do not doubt the South will now be rapidly subjugated –that is the word exactly. We went down on our knees to avert this conflict but they would accept no humiliation & appealed to the sword & now let them perish by the sword.

The only unionism I have thus far been able to see is that enforced by federal bayonets. They are to be taught that we have a nation powerful enough to preserve <it also> to punish those would overthrow it. The idea that we are to have peace, one which is to stand upon the immutable basis of God's justice does as it ought, fill every loyal heart with joy. We thank our Generals, we thank our soldiers but above all we ought to bow in reverence & gratitude before him who has been the author of our triumphs & the preserver of our country.

Yours very truly  
Saml Cony

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Hon. Samuel Cony  
Augusta April 8th 1865

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2481 4/8/1865

*From:* Guy [Howard]

*To:* My dear Papa [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2420

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73]

Leeds Apr 8, 1865

My dear Papa

I have been writing a letter for Wash. The Pony is getting very tame. We put him in the sheep yard plesent day's I always lead him to the Barn nights and put his halter on in the yard. The snow is most all gone here now. I should like to see you very much do not you think that you can come home this summer. Wash and I went to the store at Green depot to buy some things for Grandma in a wagon.

Chancy is playing with Jonny in the back room; Chancy says wate Jonny. I will enclose a letter to go to Cpt. Pearson water. Grace went to Farmington a week ago yesterday. I led my Pony to water this afternoon. There is water in the tub now.

From your  
affectionate  
son Guy

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2482 4/9/1865

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Master James Howard

OOH-2421

Goldsboro N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Goldsboro N.C.  
April 9th 1865

Master James Howard  
My dear little boy,

I have sent for your dear mother to come to me and I think she is now on the way perhaps with Guy and Grace and I think you Jamie are left with Grandmother and it may be, Isabella & Chancy are keeping you company. Papa did want to see you very much indeed, but General Sherman thinks he cannot spare me long enough to make the journey to Maine.

By & by papa hopes the war will be over, so that he can go & stay with his little boys and Gracie all the time. Tell Grandma that Uncle Charlie is here and very well. We have a very pretty little dog, called "Tip". [sketch of a dog] He has a very bright collar on and flies about the room just touching the floor with the tips of his toes. He belongs to the <westerners> to Lieut Mills and is often called "Tip Mills." Papa would like to buy him to send him home but it is too far and I fear Lieut Mills would not sell him.

You can hardly think what a great number of little black children papa has seen [sketch of a group of black children] The little bits of ones are sometimes called "picaninnies". You must ask "Wash" about them. Papa thinks "Wash" a very good man. He is glad Chancy treats him so well. "Sam" was very glad to hear from Wash. Sam is a very good man. He helps papa wash & dress ever morning. He has his boots shining, [sketch of boots] after breakfast when it comes time to put them on.

Give much love to Grandma & and give her a good kiss for your papa. Once, not long ago I was her little boy and running about her house as you now are. I hope you are a very good boy, that you help Grandma & are very kind to little brother. Grandma will tell you about the Blessed Saviour when he was a little boy and the Star Stood over the place where he was. Give kind regards to Isabella.

And may God bless you my little Son. Your loving Papa.  
O.O. Howard

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2483 4/11/1865

*From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-2422

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Newbern

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[73]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Newbern, April 11, 1865

Dear Genl.

I returned last night. Mrs Howard telegraph'd me that she could not start till this week. I replied advising her to remain at home, as I feared she would not see you here this week.

The journey would have been a very hard one for her; & though I regret your disappointment, I think it all for the best.

I shall finish up my work here tomorrow - at the latest, & go at once to join you.

With much respect

Yours truly

E. Whittlesey

Maj.

P.S. Grant is using up Lee fast. Had another battle (can't tell when or where). Captured 15000 more men & 19 General Officers!! A salute being fired here this A.M. E.W.

[Overwritten on the last page in red ink.]

E. Whittlesey

Judge Advocate

Newbern April 11th 1865

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2484 4/11/1865

*From:* A. Toomer Porter  
Rector of the  
Church of the Holy  
Communion  
Charleston  
Raleigh

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2423

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

Raleigh April 11th 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Genl,

Lt John A McQueen 15th Ill Cavalry of your escort will hand you this. He has been a friend to me, & mine, & it has afforded me much pleasure to assist him in getting back to his home. He came to the house at which I was staying in Columbia, & saved it, with much effort, from the flames, in the fearful night of the 17th Feb. He staid with us, & did all that a man could do to relieve us. From there, he went to Camden, & spared the aged, & blind Bishop of this Divine (Loca) all interferences in disturbance. He did the same for several families, & extended many acts of kindness, for which the recipients are grateful. He was wounded, & left at the home of a Mr Duvose, in Darlington Dist, who treated him with much kindness. He was brought to Camden & placed in a Hospital. I heard of it in Anderson & you can judge of his <Disease> by the efforts we have made to effect his release. I walked 36 miles, & took the rail for near 100, got a wagon & rode 30. The authorities appreciating him, turned him over into my hands. I brought him over to Chester, & thence to Smithfield, all the Authorities consenting. There failures to see Genl Johnston I brought the matter to Gen Hardee's attention, who kindly obtained Genl Johnston consent, & you find him with the proper papers. I am very glad to have made his acquaintance, as I have found him a Soldier, a Gentleman, & a Christian.

I am Genl  
Respectfully  
Your obt Sv  
A. Toomer Porter  
Rector of the Church of the Holy Communion  
Charleston  
South Carolina

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2485 4/11/1865

*From:* D. Remick

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2424

Pine Level N.C.

Comdg A Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Personal

Pine Level N.C.  
Apl 11th 1865

Dear Genl

I feel a thousand times thankful to you for the very kind and favourable mentions you make in your report of Commissaries during our last campaign. Usualy commissaries get no credit let them work as hard as they will day and night, expose themselves in all ways, and many commanders think that we have simply done our duty and no more, while some other officers who are not exposed to bullets no more than we are are praised very lavishly, but we commanded by a General who appreciates our services, and we are all determined to continue to perform our duties in such a manner that we shall still enjoy your good opinions and merit your good report, which we prize more highly than any other honour that can be bestowed upon us in the service. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and most sincere regards and may God bless you in your every undertaking.

I speak for all the comms of your Army. I have the honor to be  
Your Humble Servt  
D. Remick  
<Subul Peafles> A Tenn

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comdg A Tenn.

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2486 4/14/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2425

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Augusta Apr 14 /65

Dearest,

I came here to see Capt. Gilbreth and to open the house, to find all the dust &c, but I find every thing in good shape to leave longer if I choose. I am so sorry I could not leave to join Maj. Whittlesey. It was too hard. I shall start with Capt Gilbreth next Monday, via Baltimore and if I ought not to go farther than that, you must telegraph me there, and I will turn back to Phila. but I should'nt want to though. I know not when you will get this but if I should get to you I dont believe you would be sorry to see me.

Mr Blaine has just returned from Richmond and I will ask him what he thinks. I return to Leeds to-day. I have been here two nights. Mrs Stinson sends love and Aunt <Candy> and dont I say and they say Capt Harry resign. He ought not if he <never> is able to do more during the war. I almost know you will think he ought not, knowing all the circumstances.

I am going to the Bank to get some papers to send to Uncle Edward.

Every body I have seen, has received me so warmly. I think you have some very good friends here. I met Mr Thomas Lambord at Brunswick and put myself under his protection. His carriage was at the Depot and he took me to the Arsenal. I was very grateful indeed.

I write in great haste but thinking ever of you and hoping if I go to you you will return with me. I should go without either child. Mother wants them with her. All say go but I hesitate. If I am sure the army remains at Goldsboro 'till next Monday I think I shall start. I dont want you to meet me any where, I want to go to Hd Qrs some.

Now I must go down street to the cars. I can close this after I get started in the train, so good by for the present. Charles letter to Mother "Baltimore April 9th" was remailed to me here yesterday. Rowland writes I fear Lizzie ought to have gone, and adds why dont she and Mrs Whittlesey start along. Mrs W. sent me the Maj's dispatch from Baltimore. I shall spend one day in Boston at Mrs. Hazards. I should have to go to Boston this spring and might as well go now. I will finish in the Cars.

On Board Train.

Capt Gilbreth met me in <Breeman hants>. Mr Blaine send you wishes and I told him that you knew had heard of your appointment as Brig Gen as soon as there is a Vac as Brig Gen. I wish I could go to you if it would be right and fast. We may see you here.

Good bye  
Your Lizzie

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2487 4/14/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2426

Leeds, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

Leeds, Me. April 14th 1865

Dearest

I returned to-day and received by the mail on the train a long, most welcome letter from you. I could cry a great deal more for disappointing you so much. I do want to come now but do not regard it to be safe to do so since you were not to let me go to Goldsboro if I had gone earlier. If Isabella had only done as she said she would and come. This letter of yours was written one week ago to-day the next day after Charles left you. Mother received a letter from him in Baltimore written Sunday last.

I am anxious now for Johnston to surrender and then you would come home soon, would you not? Could you not obtain a leave immediately after?

I took dinner with Alice to-day and called on Mrs Whittlesey afterwards –had a delightful call as I always do there. They were well as far as I could ascertain. The dear little baby was down stairs. It is a beautiful babe. How much the Maj must want to visit. You were very naughty –no just a little naughty –not to let him come to Brunswick. Miss Anna Topham was with Mrs W. for a few hours, between trains.

When I reached here I found the children all very well and happy, but very glad to see 'mamma'. When will they see dear papa? I will hope that pleasure we will have very soon. I could not let other letters go without sending a short letter to you.

Roland came for me, and forgot to mail some letters for Mother, so Wash will have to go to the Depot in the morning. I am now alone one after another left as their bed time came. I rather write you as this is now my meat and drink. Jamie was perfectly happy over his letter and I think it is as good to him now as at first. "It is Jamies own" he says "but I had another little letter once".

I was glad to learn that Maj W. went to Phila. I would not see any ill-feeling on the part of old army friends. What will they say when you are promoted to Maj. Gen.? Webb of B. wanted the latter now, but not yet, ought I to tell you this? I know you did not try to get the position and would not do so, and so don't mind what some few may suspect.

I would write more but not to-night. I wonder if you are sleeping. Don't let Harry think of resigning. He may be detailed to take care of me till you come home for good, or we go to you. Grace is still in Farmington, happy as can be. I may go as far as Boston when Gilbreth returns as I shall have to go soon. I do think there is better prospect of your coming home now since the surrender of Lee. Johnston will do the same, or he will get badly whipped.

Goo night, every your Lizzie

I have sent you Guy, Grace's photographs and mine not at the same time. Have you received them?

---

2488 4/14/1865

*From:* Anna D. Hardee

*To:* Gen O. Howard

OOH-2427

Hillsboro, N.C.

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hillsboro, N.C.

April 14th 1865

Gen Howard  
U.S. Army

Perhaps General I have faded from your recollection, but the remembrance of the many pleasant hours passed with you at West Point is still so fresh within me, that I am encouraged to make a request which I feel that you as a Christian soldier and gentleman cannot and will not refuse. My friend Mrs John Kirkland with her daughters will remain within your lines at this place, and I ask that you will afford them protection from your soldiery. I am under many obligations to the family for their kindness to my brother whom you may remember and who died at their home just three weeks ago of a wound received at the battle of Bentonville. For any kindness that you may have it in your power to extend to them I shall feel greatly obliged.

Very Respectfully

Anna D. Hardee [daughter of Confederate General William J Hardee, USMA Class of 1838, Commandant of Cadets, USMA, 1859. ]

To  
Gen O. Howard  
U.S. Army

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2489 4/14/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]  
Farmington

*To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-2428

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[598]

Farmington Apr 14/65

Dear Lizzie

You didn't send Charles letter & I hardly know what to say about your going South. Charles wrote me that Otis was greatly disappointed, but that he had said that he "was almost sorry he had sent for you, when he found that the Army must move so soon." Now it may move no more, & Otis may come home soon. If he does not expect you now, wouldn't it be better to stay away till matters are settled. If he does –go by all means.

We will take Jamie as long as you wish. Grace is very well, has been visiting yesterday & today with Ella & our children. So mother will buy the Oxen. Dellie has sent an order to Capt Patten to collect for the knees & she will have something there before long.

We are all well as usual, will look for you Monday. Give much love to Mother & the children. Tell her I am trying still to find a buyer for the farm.

Affly  
Rowland

I got a Doz Photographs for Gracie & her friends must take the choice in <binds>. She has had no time to sit again for a Vignette.

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2490 4/15/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2429

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[76]

Leeds April 15th 1865

Dearest

What a sad day has come upon our dear country and how many sorrowing hearts there are to-night all over our stricken land caused by the sudden death of our beloved President. Who can fill his place? And now Sec Seward is reported gone; the two to-gether seem an irreparable loss. God has permitted this great calamity is all we can say. He can lift the dark cloud and show us its silver lining. Oh! That he may do so.

I feel as if I wanted to go to you to be with you. I ought not to have but I cannot help having increased anxiety for you. You are I know in the hands of God and striving to do His will. May he in mercy guard you and all others in position of trust and responsibility at this time. Pres. Johnson seems like a stranger, and he cannot at once take the place, if ever, of Pres. Lincoln in the hearts of the people. I will not dwell on this longer but it comes very near to my heart, dearest, when I think of you as a general officer in the southern states and now advancing to meet the army of this barbarous enemy. You are very precious to us as you well know. It is too bad I could not have seen you of late. I do not get over the feeling of regret at all. You said you would not dare telegraph me again to come to you. But I think you were not really in earnest, at least I do not like to think so. I firmly believe if you should again send, I should leave everything whatever the circumstances, and start.

Sunday Noon. I will devote what time I can to you. Mother has gone with Wash to attend the funeral of a very old lady near the Center I have forgotten the name.

Chancy has just gone to sleep. Guy is reading "he Tanner boy or the life of Gen Grant." Jamie feels the restraint of Sunday a little, and asks "if little boys can't <leave> on their things and only go out in the word house sundays." Since then I have been reading little Sunday stories and be became quite interested and asked many questions. Wants to go back to "gusta" and go to Mr. Kenzies church. Grace is still in Farmington. I shall go there soon for a day or two. The spring terms of Guy's school begins two weeks from to-morrow and if he goes at all he ought to go the first day.

Now that it is decided that I am not to go to you, I must think about getting back to Augusta. I shall be very sorry to leave Mother here alone. May be I shall not keep house much this summer but go back and forth many times. I will do what I and all the rest think is for the best. I heard about Julia when at Augusta. She is doing very well. I should be glad to hear of your coming here any day you could be spared by Gen. Sherman.

Dellie will be here by the first of June. I am now writing in the evening and it is nearly ten o'clock so I will not write much longer. Capt. Gilbreth leaves Augusta to-morrow morning for Goldsboro for the 'front'. I wonder where he will find you. I don't think I have any thing more I ought to tell you but much I would like to tell you, but is too late to-night. I send your letters to Ft Monroe now but I do not see the objet of having all letters for Shermans army left so far from you. Hoping to open communications via Danville maybe. I hope everything will move on as usual and for the best good of the country. I brought your reports and map from Augusta for Mother. Mother is very much pleased with them. I think it a great and invaluable present. When you come home that will be the best present of all.

With best love, your own  
Lizzie

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2491 4/16/1865

*From:* A. B. Dyer  
Brig Genl  
Chief of Ordnce  
Ordnance Office  
War Department  
Washington

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2430

*Source:* Bowdoin

Comdg &c  
Via Newbern  
N.C.

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[77]

Ordnance Office  
War Department  
Washington April 16th 1865

My dear General,

Upon my return to this city a few days since I found your letter of the 29th ult.

I wish to have Captain Buell relieved from duty with your army as soon as it can be done without detriment to the public service, and will take steps to have him replaced by another officer of my Dept very soon.

If you can dispense with his services before an Ordnance officer can be sent to relieve him, I shall be glad to have him ordered to report in person to me.

Captain Mordecai is senior Ordnance officer with Genl Thomas, and I regret that I cannot send him to you.

I hope however to send an officer who will be entirely acceptable to you professionally and personally.

Respectfully  
Yr Obedt Servt  
A. B. Dyer  
Brig Genl  
Chief of Ordnce

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Comdg &c  
Via Newbern  
N.C.

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2492 4/17/1865 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2431

Albany N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[78]

Albany N.Y. April 17, 1865

My dear brother:

I have commenced this letter to you with some misgivings, for I am going to ask of you a favor which I never had occasion to ask before, viz a loan of money. An officer in the field is usually among the last to have much money about him, but I hope that when this reaches you, you will be particularly well supplied. Mother has lent me all the money she has and is now actually borrowing money of Lizzie until she can get her pay for the ship timber sent to Bath.

I am now in debt here over \$30 and as I am out of funds, I am a burden to my friends. I can offer you no security except an And. R.R. Bond. The chances for my success alone constitute the security. If I live and succeed the amount will be refunded with interest. If I should not live your chances for compensation would be poor. I will give my note on demand or on time and send it either to you or Lizzie. I would be glad of \$120, but if I had \$100, I could make it serve me well. I have put myself in debt to mother \$250 already and she has use for all the money she can now get.

You will pardon me, my brother, for making this request and I trust if you have not the money by you, you will not hesitate to say so. I feel a reluctance to borrow this of a stranger.

The awful news of the murder of the President has created a profound gloom all over the land. Such a shock was never before felt. We, however, feel that having trusted, so far, to an arm of flesh, we must now rely upon the strong arm of God who will never desert the cause of right.

In great haste  
Your Affectionate Brother  
R.H. Gilmore

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2493 4/17/1865    *From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-2432

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Raleigh N.C.

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[98]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Raleigh N.C. April 17th 1865.

My dear mother,

You have probably seen by the papers before this time that we are in Raleigh. I would give you a little description of our campaign and dwell upon our bright prospect of peace, were it not that my whole mind and heart keeps returning to the terrible news that has just reached us. I cannot realize it, yet it comes so straight I cannot doubt it. President Lincoln has been everything to the nation, and the nation will never cease to do him honor. But to me personally he has been a friend, though dealing with thousands, he never forgot me after our first interview. When at Savannah, the Secretary of War took my hand in both his and assured me in the kindest manner of the Presidents sincere regard and appreciation of my services. I anticipated a real pleasure in serving under his administration after the war was over cherishing the same complete confidence in Mr Lincoln that I would in my own father and knowing that he would sustain me in every right course. The prospect of peace and home had filled all hearts with enthusiasm and everybody was generous; but the revulsion will be sudden and overwhelming. I am afraid of the spirit it may awaken when it is known that men have been set on foot to murder those so much beloved and trusted as Lincoln, Seward, Grant, Sherman and others. I can only say of these blind fools "God forgive them for they know not what they do."

Give much love to all around you. It wont be many days before I will be amongst you. I hope your health is good and you are enjoying the society of Lizzie and the children very much. I was disappointed in not seeing her, but now see that it was all for the best. I have not heard from Charles since he left for Beaufort. The more I can hear about yourself, Lizzie, the children, Wash, the pony, that is, about home people and home matters, the less trying is the separation. God bless you all.

Affectionately yr son  
OO Howard

[Note: except for the signature, this letter was written by someone else.]

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2494 4/18/1865    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2433

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
Raleigh N.C.

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[592]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee  
Raleigh N.C. Apr. 18th 1865.

Dearest,

I dictated a letter to Mother yesterday, as I could write so much faster that way, Harry Stinson acting as amanuensis, but I don't think one could write to his wife by dictation unless some terrible necessity should impel him. Yesterday the dreadful news came to us of the death of our beloved president. He has sealed his great work with his life. The grief is almost universal and completely depressing amongst the officers. I have seen more than one General officer shed tears in speaking of Mr Lincoln. But he has gone to his reward. Would God he might have lived to enjoy in this life the fruits of his faithful labor.

Gen. Sherman and Johnston met yesterday between the lines to arrange terms of settlement. They did not quite agree and I am afraid that Johnston cannot sufficiently control his subordinates to effect the terms most likely to lead to peace, but I believe his disposition is good and that he will do the best he can.

It seems, darling, almost too much that the end is so near and the prospect so clear of getting through with our hard task, but it is true, yet oh! How our Father allows the madmen to temper our rejoicing. I do hope Mr Seward may live to see the end and to help us in our foreign relations, for we have not an able or better diplomat. I think now we shall be most likely to march to Richmond if Johnston capitulates and it will probably be two months before I can get home.

Charles says I have been applied for to command the department of the South. I hardly know whether I want it or not. Perhaps it is a field of peculiar controversy when a steady hand might have a good effect. The change from a system of slavery to freedom needs very judicious measures particularly in that department.

I am glad now you did not start for New Berne, as I could have seen you but a very few days & as the prospect of a longer visit is so near.

Maj Whittlesey is quite ill and I am afraid will have a hard time, a sort of dysentery.

Give abundance of love to all the children and heart full to yourself. May God keep you.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2495 4/22/1865    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2434

Camp 128th U.S.C. Infy  
Beaufort S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[79, 80, 81]

Camp 128th U.S.C. Infy  
Beaufort S.C.  
April 22 1865

My dear brother,

Well settled with my new Regiment. I know you will be interested to hear how I find matters. No steamer was going South from Ft Monroe, so I had to proceed via Baltimore to New York. I attended church part of Sunday in Baltimore and at night took the cars arriving in N.Y. about 6 a.m. Went immediately to the Qr. Mr. who told me no steamer would go to Port Royal or Charleston before the following Saturday. I was greatly disappointed and decided to go home to Maine meanwhile.

But hearing of an excursion steamer ("Oceanus") going to Charleston I hastened to the dock. Found it was a private party, chiefly from Brooklyn, that all the tickets had been engaged long before hand. It was now half past 11 a.m. & the Oceanus was to sail at 12 M. Finally I saw one of the Committee of Arrangements and succeeded in getting passage by paying for it.

It was a splendid boad, built however for running on the sound and not quite so steady as the ocean steamers generally. We had fine weather and I was not a particle sick. The company was very agreeable. Rev. Theodore Cuyler who has written such excellent articles in the Independent was one whose acquaintance I was pleased to form. He wished me to tell you that though he had never seen you he felt the greatest sympathy for you and had often alluded to you in his sermons and Church meetings. There were many agreeable ladies. We had speaking every evening, generally closing with prayer. Of course every one was jubilant over the news received in N.Y. the morning we left - of Lee's surrender. We had a Band on board of high order - a good pious etc. etc.

Reached Charleston 13th inst, bringing to this Department the first new of Lee's surrender. The anniversary of the first blood of the Rebellion at Charleston brought the news of the finishing stroke by the U.S. forces. Of course Charleston was a gay place. The celebration at Sumpter you will have seen described in the papers. It was a complete success.

I hope you will have opportunity to read Beecher's oration. Maj. Gen. Anderson seemed like a good Christian in all he said & did. There was a great meeting of the Colored people next morning. I was much gratified in listening to George Thompson of England. He is a powerful orator, one of the best it has ever been my fortune to hear.

I got somewhat acquainted with him and with Theodore Tilton Editor of N.Y. Independent who is a very promising young man bidding fair to make a second Wendell Phillips.

Wm Lloyd Garrison spoke well, with a fatherly and Christian spirit, quoting much scripture. He appears like a pure and upright man. Henry Wilson was very earnest & his speech was calculated to do good. The house was crowded and the people full of enthusiasm. Not half could get into the building so another meeting was held upon the green. Whenever President Lincoln's name was mentioned there would be a perfect storm of applause, unbounded. I never saw anything equal to it. What a blessing to have one's name so embalmed in the hearts of a poor oppressed race, now beginning to know something of freedom!

I reached Beaufort on Sunday night, having services on the boat on the way down. Lt. Col. Beebe met me at the dock, seeming much pleased to have me back.

Every report about the Regiment had been good. It is full to the maximum - 986 men, and present in Camp already 26 officers. The camp looks neat. I have been here a week nearly. Drill at battalion drill once a day. I

assure you I am delighted with the proficiency of the men in military matters, with Col. Beebe's previous arrangements and work and the prospect of making a first class Regiments.

The news of our great national calamity, in the death of President Lincoln, cast a dark cloud over our spirits. It came on Tuesday. The distinguished visitors from Charleston were here and were to speak. Gen. Saxton had invited me to <move [CHECK ORIGINAL - right edge of page 4], the meeting to be upon the Common. But the sorrowful tidings reached us just before the appointed hour and everything like public meetings or rejoicings came to an end spontaneously. The visitors did not every stay to take their dinner which was in readiness but left for Port Royal & thence for the north that night. Nothing of this Rebellion has so filled my heart with sorrow. The loss seemed so irreparable, so unexpected and so terrible in the manner of its occurrence. Then so many forebodings for the rule of Johnson. But I felt that iw as in the right place and that my experience of four years had not been lost, that the Army's mission was not yet, perhaps, over, and that we (of the Army) had learned in this War how to deal with traitors. I do not think it was a feeling of vindictiveness that took possession of my heart but with the great sorrow came a determination to push to the very wall the remnant of this Rebellion in executing, as I feel, the holy justice of Almighty God.

There was very little light or relief to my heart until yesterday when at the close of my battalion drill I learned of the crowning success of our (Sherman's) Army and of the fall of Mobile & Montgomery. This is truly something to be thankful for and I was thrilled with gladness at so great results.

Gen. Saxton talked with Wilson & Beecher (who (the latter) also was here as a sort of inspector & agent of the Sec'y of War) about your assignment to this Dept. There is a talk, however, of offering you the bureau at Washington (Colored). I did not think you would like this, and of course felt a selfish interest in having you come down here where I cold see you occasionally & above all I have felt that something great & good might be accomplished by you here. Gillmore came near breaking up the colored people's meeting in Charleston. Did not attend it.

The drum sounds for early morning drill (Squad) and I will superintend it at 7 a.m. I rise earlier than I used to, you observe. The climate seems very pleasant - good breeze almost every day. Rev. Mr. Peck conducted prayers a Dress Parade for me night before last, sends his respects to you. The two young men, Quimby & Bedell, got left in N.Y. & I expected them on the Fulton. Cant conceive why then did nto come. Most of my officers had to be appointed here. I fear it is too late to get a Regiment for Maj. Whittlesey at present unless he can raise one in North Carolina which Gen. Saxton would like. Wish you might take Lizzie & make an excursion to this Department next month or at some time. Gen. Saxton would like very much to have Maj. W. take a Regt.

Your loving brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S.

Beebe has received this order relieving him from duty on the staff. We were disappointed that no compliment was made to him in that order, perhaps you did not dictate it. C.H.H.

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2496 4/26/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2435

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
Raleigh N.C.

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Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee  
Raleigh N.C. Apr 26 1865

Dearest,

Gen. Sherman's terms were not approved at Washington. I go with the Gen. to meet Johnston today and expect other terms will be arranged.

I have just re-read your letter of the 14th and feel sorry that I grieved you about telegraphing. I doubt not I shall telegraph again in an emergency, but do you think wives obey orders as well as soldiers?

Gen. Grant came back with Maj. Hitchcock (Sherman's messenger to Washington) was present at the review of the 17th Corps day before yesterday and yesterday he visited & rode amongst the Corps of the 15th. The men received him with great enthusiasm.

I cannot get over the effect of the death of Mr Lincoln - even the people here believe they have passed into severer hands, and have a sort of appreciation of the fact that they have lost a friend and not an enemy.

I must now go to breakfast preparatory to my journey. I received the photos, and am thankful, but hav'nt gotten Chancy's. I sent you money by express to Augusta. Much love to Mother & the children. I shall probably not get home before July. God bless you.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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2497 4/26/1865    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2436

Camp 128th U.S.C.I.  
Beaufort S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82, 83]

Camp 128th U.S.C.I.  
Beaufort S.C.  
April 26 1865

My dear brother

I have a few moments this morning before the Drill which begins at 7 a.m. We have heard of the surrender of Johnson's Army to Sherman but seen no newspapers yet. It came (the news) by an officer of Gillmore's staff. I hope you will write me about it all. I imagine you may now be on your way to Maine. There could certainly be nothing to prevent.

I am much pleased with my Regiment. Have not yet got those officers asked for from our Army & the Army of the Potomac. Even those two young men Quimby & Bedoll have not yet arrived & I do not understand it at all. There was no Govt boat coming & I left them in the morning with understanding that I should go to Maine & return to take the Fulton the next Saturday. This was Monday. I directed them to take passage on the Fulton Saturday whether I arrived or not. A few moments after parting from them I learned of the excursion boat "Oceanus" just about to sail. I ran down to the dock and just had time to get on board. I wrote to Capt Stinson the Quarter Master relating to the two young men, fearing their papers might not be adequate. They had your order for transportation to Beaufort and a Pass from me for New York until the leaving of the Fulton. They may have been crowded out from that boat and may come on the next.

One principal thing I had in mind in writing this morning was to ask if it were not possible for you to let me and Lt. Col. Beebe have two of your horses - the mare that I sold you for me, and your other fancy Chestnut-bay horse for Beebe. I find I have to pay \$400 here for horses not so good nor so handsome as that mare, and Beebe has always had a great desire to get the other horse. I thought perhaps a boat might be coming or obtained by you from Wilmington or Morehead City and that possibly if the war is over you would not care to retain these horses. I suppose it would be too great an expense to take them home.

I have now engaged the use of a good horse for the remainder of this month.

I found that General Saxton had started two other Regiments here & at Charleston and had engaged to give Briant of Maine a third if it could be raised. So I fear there is little chance for Major Whittlesey at present. Gen. S. does not seem to have any hopes of getting up the Corps now.

There is some intimation that he (Saxton) will have command of everything down here, i.e. the Department, but I doubt it much and he says he would prefer for you to have it. But I think I wrote you that there was talk of putting you at the head of the Colored Bureau at Washington. I told Gen. Saxton I did not believe you would like it & doubted much if you would accept it. I have a greater detestation of Washington than ever before now, since the murder of President Lincoln.

If this reaches you in Maine give much love to all your dear family & to Mother.

I go out to superintend the company drill now. The social privileges down here are not very extensive but I trust I may be made the means of doing some good. I have a hospital tent pitched and a school 3 hours a day for my N.C. officers - two colored teachers from the north - teaching them to read and write. My tent is double & has a good floor. Shall be very comfortable in this respect.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard



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2498 4/27/1865    *From:* Jas. K. McCullough    *To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2437

Burlington Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[84, 85]

Burlington Iowa Apr 27th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Gen.

You may think it strange to get a letter from an entire stranger and one of whom you have never heard. My attention was first called to you at the battle of Chancellorsville when you commanded the 11th Corps, under Maj. Gen Hooker again at Gettysburg Penn. And again by your manly & Christian address before the U.S.C.C. at Phil on the occasion of its anniversary. Your sterling qualities as a Soldier, your goodness of Heart, your noble actions and manly bareing on all occasions, led me to name our son for you. Allow me to say, that only your trust in God led us to so name our son.

The country will never forget the "Christian Gen" O.O. Howard, that is not ashamed of Jesus!! Let me assure you that you will live forever in the hearts of the Christian people of this nation. Your name is engraved on every loyal heart!

God bless you and your namesake is all I can ask. If consistant with your time and duties and you are so inclined we would be glad to read a letter from your pen.

Your truly  
Jas. K. McCullough

Howard is 16 months old.

[Written on the last page in another hand.]

Burlington, Iowa Apr 27 65

McCullough, Jas.K.

States that he has name his child, 16 mos. Old after Gen. Howard  
Answered.

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2499 4/27/1865     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2439

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee,  
Raleigh N.C.

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[601]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,  
Raleigh N.C. Apr. 27th 1865

Dearest

I am now just starting with my Army northward expect to reach Petersburg by the 19th of next month. If you can arrange matters so as to leave home with two children, say Guy & Jamie or Gracie & Chancy and meet me in Washington about the first of June I shall be most happy.

Since I have been here in Raleigh I have been entertained by Mr & Mrs R.S. Tucker, people young like you & me. I have been treated with the most marked conviviality and have acquired a great friendship for them. Mrs Tucker has three beautiful little girls. Maggie is like Gracie a year ago. She has a little niece the age of Guy the other children correspond in age to Jamie & Chancy. They have a beautiful home tasty grounds with walks & flowers. Gen. Hardee staid here just before we entered with wife & Miss Anna. Miss Anna wrote me this morning from Hillsboro. She says Willie (16 yrs old) was killed or mortally wounded at the battle of Bentonville. He died at the house of a Mr Kirkland and she besought me for protection for her friends, recalling old times.

There is no more war. I am deeply sorry for the abuse Gen. Sherman is getting at the hands of the press. He meant right & the reasons for offering generous terms are not rightly set forth. How <wrong> it is to impute wrong motives. He has now gone to Charleston & will meet us at Petersburg or Richmond. I expect to reach Washington by the last of May. I have'nt the remotest notion of what will be done with me after my army shall have been mustered out of the Service. My great objection to the Army is - "no home" or rather a moveable one.

I feel very badly about your working so hard, drudging along. Is it possible that money will not hire servants? I don't want you to wear out, my darling. Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & Chancy & hasten the time when I shall see you all & be with you. I hardly realize that there is no more war. Mrs Tucker wanted you to come here. It would have been delightful to you here, while peace was drawing. Oh how much we should be thankful to God for his blessings. With a loving husband's love for you. Should you happen to be at Leeds, give much love to Mother.

Aff.

Otis

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2500 5/2/1865

*From:* Wharton J. Green

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
U.S.A.

OOH-2440

Esmeralda, near  
Shocco Springs  
Warren County N.C.

Com'dg. Army of the Tenn.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[77]

Esmeralda, near Shocco Springs  
Warren County N.C. May 2nd 65

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.  
Com'dg. Army of the Tenn.  
General,

Whilst a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island last winter you were so kind as to write and promise me your influence to secure my liberation by special exchange. Acting upon that promise I take the liberty of an old classmate to write and request that if not incompatible with your orders that you will be so kind as to furnish myself and neighborhood with a small guard to protect us against the marauders and bad characters who always follow in the wake of a large army.

If you will deign to honor my house by a personal visit, it will afford me pleasure to extend it's hospitalities to Gen. Slocum and yourself as well as staffs.

In addition to the above request if you will kindly forward me a passport for my wife and cousin (Miss A.B. Currin) to Boston, their native city, your politeness will never be forgotten. I suppose you are aware Gen'l that the two Lees (Custis and Steph.) and Ab Smead are the sole surviving representatives South of the class of '50. Consequently you will not be bothered by many such applications.

I am Gen'l very resp'ly your obt. Servt.  
Wharton J. Green

[Note. G. W. Custis Lee, Stephen D Lee, Abner Smead and Wharton Jackson Green were all members of the USMA Class of 1854, having entered in 1850. Green left the Academy before graduating. There were at least 21 additional members of the Class of 1854 from the South, who according to this letter had died.]

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2501 5/2/1865

*From:* Wm. F. G. Shanks

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2441

The Herald  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[86]

Private

The Herald  
New York May 2 1865

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Comdg &c  
General,

I am engaged in writing a series of Sketches or Recollections of our Generals for Harper's Magazine. Sketches of Sherman and Thomas have appeared in the April and May numbers of the magazine. Those of Gens Grant and Sheridan will be in the July and June numbers. I would like if you can furnish me with any additional data - my own material is very scarce - to write up a similar sketch of you for the August or September numbers. As a portrait will be published with it, it will be necessary to go to press a month and a half before the date of the issue, hence if you can send any material please do so immediately. Anything sent will be carefully preserved and returned to your address.

Very truly &c  
Wm. F. G. Shanks

[Written on the back side in another hand.]  
The Herald  
New York, May 2nd 1865  
Shanks, W. F. G  
Desires Genl. Howard's history for an article for Harpers Magazine

No answer

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2502 5/2/1865

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2442

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87, 88]

Farmington May 2 65

My dear Brother

Your letter of April 9th was gladly received by us all. Since then, I have thought very much about you and conjectured a great deal as to your situation under the unpleasant circumstances that have since transpired.

Nothing has given us such a shock - save the Presidents death - as Shermans arrangement with Johnston. But I have hopes that neither his general or Army would be involved in the matter, and that the quickness of the Government in remedying the evil would present much mischief. How glad your army must have been to see Grant!

My family went to Bath a week ago Sat. and will return day after tomorrow. Ella writes that they are all well. Your little Guy came up and spent Sat. & Sun. with Frankie Sargent. He left yesterday for Augusta, expecting to meet his mother and Chancy at Leeds & Mrs Jackson at Brunswick. Mother will miss them very much. Guy says Wash is plowing & sewing &c.

When you wrote to Lizzie to come, I went to Leeds to encourage it, but Isabella couldn't be had & Mother saw great obstacles & Lizzie decided against going. Guy says his School was to commence today. Our Spring is Early, but white patches of snow are still seen on many of the hills & an overcoat is needful out of doors and a fire within most of the time.

We will look for you home now all the time.

Charles wrote me on the 18th ult from Beaufort S.C. that his Reg. was full. I dread the hot Summer there for him.

Our next Sab. Is communion and a no. are to unite with the Church. God bless you & lead you aright.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

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2503 5/3/1865

*From:* H.W. Beecher

*To:* My dear Mr Stanton

OOH-2443

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94]

Brooklyn May 3, 1865

My dear Mr Stanton

I presume that you have thought of General Howard, for the Freedman's Bureau.

During Sherman's March he could not be spared, but, I presume, now that he can be had, if he is just the man.

I conversed with Saxton, & others, in the South, & found them very clear in favor of Howard. He is, of all men, the one who would command the entire confidence of christian public, in the service and, I do not know of any one who would also, to such a degree, unite the secular public. I hear, he is pleasant to work with, a gentleman, courteous, respectful & cooperative. He is very truly a christian, he would give his whole strength to his duties disinterestedly without second thoughts, either for himself or any section, party or sect. Unless you have found some new thought of man, it seems to me that he is of all men yet mentioned the very one.

I am anxious to have the bureau in operation. We are in danger of too much northern managing for the negro. The black man is just like the white in this - that he should be left, & obliged, to take care of himself, & suffer & enjoy, according as he creates the means of either. He needs to be extricated from Slavery, to be guarded from imposition, to have the means of Education, & to have, in the case of plantation slaves, a small start, in tools land &c. Beyond this, I think nursing will only pamperize him. I see in the movements about here a tendency to dandle the black man, or at least, to recite his sufferings so as to gain sympathy & money from the public. All this will be checked by your bureau.

I was favorably impressed with what I saw at St Helene & around Hilton head. The 40 acre plan is good & works well. We cannot extend it back, through all the interior. No one plan, probably, will answer all purposes. One thing may be good in Carolina East, & another in Carolina West. Brisbane's idea of making slaves laborers, on wages, to white landholders will be wise as the alternative, or rather supplementary system. But the Main System, it seems to me, should be that which makes small farmers of the ex-slaves. There will still be enough loose hands for hiring.

I do not think it desirable to aid in any way, in keeping up the large plantation system of the South. That was an outgrowth of slavery. It enriched a few, but at the expense of States, or communities. The cry will be that want of laborers, is destroying Southern industry. The old kind of industry must be destroyed. We must aim at State-rights, industrially - instead of class a plantation right. Every year that sees the division of lands, & encouragement of small farms, will see States enriched tho' certain classes grow poor. The great fight has been between farms & plantations. The farms have whipped. If the southern land had been held as the northern & western is, in farms of 100 to 160 acres, we should never have beaten the south; but, then, there never would have been any occasion to try. The <Variety> of the nation will depend on its land system.

I congratulate you on the great <triumph> of civilization in the suppression of rebellion. I believe your part in this great war to have been preeminent - nor shall I feel satisfied, until I have a chance, publicly to express my judgment of your great ability in administration <produced even,> sound moral & political principles. It is in my bones, & I know it will come out by & bye.

I trust that your family are all well. I am grateful, that my eldest son, has been spared, without even a scratch, though he has seen no inconsiderable amount of fighting & some of it, as at Cold Harbor very severe.

I am very truly yours,  
H.W. Beecher [Rev. Henry Ward Beecher]

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2504 5/4/1865

*From:* Wm Sampson

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2444

Independence Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96]

Independence Iowa May 4th 1865

Maj Gen Howard  
dear Sir

Please pardon my boldness, but your name is, in our home, a household word. We here your army is about to be mustered out of service and am afraid my son Lieut J. P. Sampson from desire to see his noble wife and child & having seen the end of the war "feels conscientiously his duty to come home". No objection but fear haste "to resign" would be to have his name blotted out. Can you in the place of a father advise for the best. Perhaps a little longer service may help him & his family could visit him. If he has been as worthy a soldier as he has been a son & husband may be you can help him.

I desired to committ the care to you also he gets no letter from me. I have perfec confidence in your judg't.

I am truly  
Wm Sampson

Tell my son I write you I cannot get access to him.

[Written on the back side of the letter in another hand.]

Independence, Iowa  
May 4th 1865  
Sampson, Wm  
Recd. May 16th 1865

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2505 5/4/1865

*From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2445

Albany N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[97]

Albany N.Y. May 4, 1865

My dear Brother:

Your letter of the 25th enclosing \$100. was received day before yesterday. As was also your other letter, written a week before, received in due time. I was very glad to get the letters and especially the money. I will send a note to Lizzie, preferring to do so, in case anything should happen to either of us it would be better that there should be some evidence of my indebtedness.

I was sadly in need of the money and having been paying my debts with it, I needed no more than you sent and that will pay all my bills from here to Leeds. I shall go home in three or four weeks. If you go home before I, do please write me and I will join you in N.Y. City and go with you. I shall leave here on the 26th or 27th inst.

I had a letter from Mother and one from Rowland yesterday. Lizzie had already sent two the children to Augusta and was herself going immediately. Probably gone ere this.

Rowland was alone, his family being at Bath. Mother wrote in most excellent spirits and courage. She must be improving in health.

Last night I applied for Admission to the Albany Bar and was examined with 19 others three hours and I was so fortunate as not to miss a question being the only one of the twenty so fortunate. This morning I was admitted and "sworn in". So I am now a Lawyer.

Hoping I may see you very soon.

Your affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore

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2506 5/7/1865

*From:* H W Halleck  
Maj Genl Comdg  
Richmond Va

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2446

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
May 7 1865  
By Telegraph from Richmond Va 1865  
To Maj Genl Howard

Your command will be encamped at or near Manchester & not be permitted to enter Richmond till prepared to march through the City.

H W Halleck  
Maj Genl Comdg

[Written on the reverse side in another hand.]  
Richmond Va  
May 27th 1865  
Halleck, H.W.  
Maj. Gen.  
Genl Howard's command will be encamped near Manchester Va.

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2507 5/7/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2447

Head-Quarters Army of  
the Tennessee,  
Petersburg VA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[596]

Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee,  
Petersburg VA, May 7th 1865

Dearest,

We arrived here last night, some four days earlier than we anticipated on setting out. Maj. Whittlesey proposed that Mrs Whittlesey accompany you on a southern trip. I shall most likely start soon for Alexandria and reach that place by a week from next Saturday. Now if you can come and take two of the children & with Mrs Whittlesey be in Philadelphia by two weeks from Wednesday next (ie May 24th) I have no doubt you will meet there your respective lords. Major W. says no other escort is needed but Mrs W. Telegraph me Alexandria Va. On your arrival at Philadelphia and if we are so circumstanced as to make it possible & pleasant for you we will beg you to join us in Washington. If anything should render your coming improper or impracticable, I shall find my way home, "Deo Volente", as soon I can get away from Alexandria or Washington.

Give much love to Mother if you are still with her and many kisses to the children. May we be truly grateful to God for his preservation.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2508 5/11/1865

*From:* L.M. Dayton  
Maj. & AAG

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2448

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters, Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
In the Field

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[93]

Headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi,  
In the Field, May 11th 1865

Maj Genl Howard  
Comdg &c  
General

The bearer Private Ward, Genl Sherman desires to send to Washington as his orders will explain & along with you.

Please obtain from Genl Rawlins a receipt for the communication addressed to him and give to Ward that he may comply with his orders.

This being the only paper the Genl is particular about your taking charge of Ward will see to the balance.

I am Genl  
With respect  
L.M.Dayton  
Maj. & AAG

[Written on the reverse side in another hand.]

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div. Miss.  
In the Field May 11, 1865  
Dayton L. M.  
Maj and A.A. Genl.

Friendly letter - asks Gen. Howard to forward a communication to Gen. Rawlins.  
Recd B. of F.R <19> May 1865

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2509 5/13/1865

*From:* F. D. Sewall  
Col. 3d Regt. V.R.C.

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2449

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters District  
of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md.

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[95]

Head-Quarters District of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md., May 13th 1865

My dear Genl,

I will not now attempt to congratulate you, on your return at the head of a victorious army. I hope to do so personally. I trust I shall be able to see you at an early day.

My name has been presented to the War Dept. for a Brevet, and I desire an expression from you in relation to my early service, on your staff, and as Col. Of a Regmt. In your Division. If you think I served with any merit, may I ask such a letter from you.

I fear my duties may not allow an absence sufficiently long to permit me to visit you if you go into Camp South of the Potomac, but if you are in Washington, I shall certainly avail myself of a few hours absence from my Station to meet you.

Please remember me kindly to Maj. Whittlesey. Perhaps he will drop me a note or telegram stating when you and he will be in the City.

I am Genl very  
Truly yrs  
F. D. Sewall  
Col. 3d Regt. V.R.C.

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2510 5/13/1865 *From:* J.D. Webster

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2450

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Washington 13 May 1865

Dear General,

Permit me to introduce to you Rev. Mr. Ferril, long known to me as a zealous laborer in behalf of the "Contrabands" and "Freedmen."

His great experience in this department of benevolent effort peculiarly fits him for further work in the same direction.

Any further particulars necessary to be known in his case will be communicated by Mr. F. in person.

Very truly yr friend and Servant  
J.D. Webster [Maj. General]

Maj. Gen. Howard

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2511 5/14/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2451

Head-Quarters Army of  
the Tennessee,  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee,  
May 14th Washington D.C. 1865

Dearest,

I wrote you from Petersburg that I hoped you would come on & be in Philadelphia by the 24th inst. I expected then to march across the country, but a telegram from Gen. Grant ordered me to come on by water & report to the Sec. Of War. I arrived here day before yesterday and delayed writing you, till I could say something definite. I enclose the order from the War Dept. I have visited the Sec. of War three times and now think I have a fair understanding of what is coming.

I hope you have made your preparations so that you can come on to Philadelphia by the 24th or earlier if possible as I can now meet you at any time. I want to see you and talk about the future. I presume I am now fixed here in Washington for a year at least. The only sorrow I feel is on account of the children. I don't see a proper place for them - no good house - no good schools. This however may be remedied.

I am now at the Metropolitan, and find it a very pleasant place. Mrs Hancock, Mrs Sprigg Carroll and Mrs Col Markland are here. Mrs Gordon niece of Gen Hunter with Gen Hunter & family, just out of Iowa, whom I described at Savannah as having father, brother & uncle in our Army & husband in the rebel Army is with her friends. On Gen Hunters account, I was able to befriend her & her children. She wants to know you & hopes you will come right on. Mrs Vincent, Webb, Benton & others of your old acquaintances are here. I called on Mrs C, Sprigg's mother last night, but not being well she excused herself.. Her two daughters, Miss Cany & another, were home but so affected that [it] nearly killed me.

I want to go to you at once, but the leave would be so short till I get my new Dept. in order, that I would rather <[you]> would come on. I hope you will bring two of the children, the others we will go for as soon as we get located. I wish you could bring them all and would'nt even if I though it would not hinder you too <[much]>.

A telegram will reach me at the War Dept. Major Whittlesey will be here this week Wednesday or Thursday over-land. I want him with me in some capacity. He is hoping Mrs Whittlesey may come on with you.

Give much love to Mother if you are with her and many kisses to the children.

May God bless & direct us.

Lovingly yr husband  
Otis

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2512 5/15/1865    *From:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard    *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
OOH-2452                      Augusta Me.                      Washington  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[35]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated Augusta Me. May 15 1865  
Rec'd Washington 15 1865  
To Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Will leave home Monday next

Mrs Howard

5 Col 195

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2513 5/15/1865    *From:* George E. H. Day    *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2453                      Washington DC May  
    15, 1865

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100, 101]

Washington DC May 15, 1865

Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I am glad to learn you are placed at the head of the new Bureau of Freedmens affairs because I have confidence in the <human> & tender sympathies towards the oppressed race possessed by you. Sir, I speak as a friend of that race, having donated my time for four years to them, to be extremely careful in the selection of persons to have charge of them. Most of those placed in charge of them <have have> been cruel severe inhuman in their treatment o them. I do not ask for myself any office but as I know all who are or have been laboring with this class in this vicinity, I desire an interview with you, not for my own sake but to enable you to get such men as will be an honor to Gen Howard & a blessing to his difficult & delicate & responsible work.

May I have the honor of an interview at your earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be your obt Servt  
George E. H. Day

I refer to Senators Wilson, Wade, Sumner, Hanlan, Ramsay and any one who knows me.

---

2514 5/15/1865    *From:* Geo. H Stuart

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O, Howard

OOH-2454

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Philadelphia

Chief of Bureau for Freedmen  
Washington City, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[109]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Philadelphia, May 15th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O, Howard  
Chief of Bureau for Freedmen  
Washington City, D.C.

My Dear General

The Anniversary of the U.S. Christian Commission is to be held in Boston on Tuesday Evening, May 30th, two weeks from tomorrow. It is the unanimous & earnest desire of the Boston Committee that you should address them on that occasion. Mr. Tobey has just telegraphed me on the subject.

It is only within a few days that any one supposed you could find opportunity for such a service. But the rapid changes & glorious successes, & national affairs rapidly settling into welcome peace, permit us to hope that you can make leisure for this advocacy of a cause that has already profited so much by your counsel & cooperation.

I need not say how great will be the personal gratification if you can accept this service. But I shall use neither appeal nor argument, for I know your heart is in the work, & that you will gladly do what you can.

In Christian love,  
Yrs Most Truly  
Geo. H Stuart

Please favor me with an early answer.

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]  
Phila May 15, 1865  
Stuart Geo H.  
Friendly Letter

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2515 5/15/1865    *From:* Geo. H Stuart

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2455

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[109]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Philadelphia, May 15th 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard

My Dear Brother

I have just seen in the N.Y. papers of today your appointment to the Head of the Bureau for Freedmen. Allow me to congratulate you on a promotion in which the Government has honored itself & the country. I know that the parties most nearly interested, - the new-made freemen themselves, - will most heartily endorse this action, - the more heartily as they shall come to know you better. I assure you of my sincere pleasure in seeing one so widely & well known as a Christian man put into a position of such delicate duties, large responsibilities & great Christian opportunities.

I shall be beforehand in saying to you that I had commended Maj. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk for this post, - his name having been mentioned to me. But I shall not disparage our excellent & heroic Christian friend when I say that I am fully satisfied. I shall take pleasure in saying to him, - & he will indorse it, - that if there is a better man for the trust than Gen. Fisk it is Gen. Howard.

Yours Most Truly  
Geo. H Stuart

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]

Philadelphia Pa  
May 15, 1865  
Stuart Geo H.  
Friendly Letter  
Recd R of F.R &c May 1865

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2516 5/15/1865 *From:* Thos H Hubbard

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2456

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[103]

Washington D.C.

May 15th 1865

General:

It give me great pleasure to introduce to you Rev. Lyman Abbott, to whose family I am indebted for many kind offices.

Mr Abbott is connected with the Freedman's Bureau, and comes from New York, in company with Dr Thompson on business connected with the Association.

I think it very probable that you may already be acquainted with members of Mr Abbott's family, so well known in Maine.

Very Respectfully

Yrs

Thos H Hubbard

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

[The following note, in a different hand than the above, was written immediately after the above.]

Dear Sir,

We will call on you this afternoon at five oclock. If it is not convenient for you to meet us then, can you make an appointment & oblige

Yours Truly

Lyman Abbott

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2517 5/15/1865 *From:* W. H. Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2457

*Source:* Bowdoin

SOUTHWARK  
FOUNDRY  
Philad'a

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[104, 105]

SOUTHWARK FOUNDRY  
Merrick & Sons,  
J. Vaughan Merrick  
W. H. Merrick  
John E. Cope

Philad'a May 15 1865

My dear Otis

I am truly rejoiced & I presume you are still more so that there is at last a reasonable prospect of our settling down once more in the paths of peace.

What an inglorious termination to the career of the late President of the so called southern Confederacy - a fitting one too begun in treason & ended in infamy.

He must be blind who cannot see Gods hand in every event of the past four years - let us trust that we shall learn the lesson.

May we not see you on your way North after the grand review is over. I know that you are anxiously looking for the day when you can be at home, & I would not ask you to lengthen the interval, but if you can so arrange it we shall be very glad indeed to have you spend a night with us on your way home. Charley being included of course if he is with you. I believe Father intends writing you himself confirming this invitation.

Under any circumstances if you cannot stop here telegraph me when you will pass through & I will try to meet you, unless it be Wednesday when I shall be in Baltimore.

Very sincerely yrs  
W.H. Merrick

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2518 5/15/1865 *From:* S. V. Merrick

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2458

Phil

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[106]

My dear Sir,

After your long and glorious march <> which <> happily brought <war> to a close, you will allow me to offer my sincere congratulations and to hope you will not pass through our city without giving us an opportunity to personally thank you for the part you have taken in crushing this rebellion.

I can fully realize your anxiety again to be with your family but nevertheless entertain the hope that you can spare us at least one night.

We are now in the Country about half an hours ride and would pleased to see you & your brother.

If you can come advise W.H.M. at what time he may meet you at the Depot.

Your truly  
S. V. Merrick

Phil 15 May [1865]

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2519 5/16/1865 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs. O.O. Howard

OOH-2459

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[600]

Portland May 16 1865

Mrs. O.O. Howard

Dear Neice

I recvd a few lines from you yesterday enclosed with a letter from Sister Susan. I learn by your letter that you intend soon to visit your Husband at Washington. If you wish me to attend to any business for you in your absence or before you go, you will please let me know.

Your New Certificates of Bank Stock are now all ready except the Merchants bank. I will send them to you by mail before you leave, if you wish, or will keep them safe for you till you return, if you choose. I was fortunate in obtaining for you the highest premium on your U.S. Cupons –amt was \$65 for the three. The Premium on the Cupons was all the Same –say 4.7 pr cent making \$21 66/100 on each.

Edw Francis says he thinks he will go to Augusta next week.

I think it would be no inconvenience to meet you in the Cars on your way through the City. You can let me know if you please.

In haste much to all

From your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

all well

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2520 5/16/1865    *From:* Gussie P. Whittlesey    *To:* My Dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-2460                      Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tuesday morning 6 o'clock  
Brunswick May 16, 1865

My Dear Mrs Howard

I was greatly surprised to receive your letter & equally so to get two from Mr W both urging the same thing – to accompany you on south. I can go provided the baby's cold does not turn into a lung fever or some such calamity befalls us. My girls both urge it strongly & I know of no other reason for staying at home. I presume I shall take Georgi. I wish you would take Guy too. I can leave better on Monday than Friday – shall we take the first train to Boston & then the boat to N.Y. reaching Phila at 12 Tuesday or stay in Boston Monday night.

I wish I could persuade my Father to go on with us, but I shall hardly be able to. If you hear anything to cause a change of plans, please write. How lovely it is this morning, & how beautiful we shall find the country all the way along. Let me hear from you in regard to the trains we shall go in – it is wholly immaterial to me.

I have a good many things to do to leave my family in comfort, which accounts for my early rising. But good bye

Your affectionately  
Gussie P. Whittlesey

Are you not rejoicing over the capture of Jeff. Davis?



I have the honor to enclose copies of the orders of march.

Respectfully

Wm. E. Strong

A.I. Gnl and Chf. Of Staff

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2522 5/16/1865    *From:* A.C. Frissell

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2462

New York, 13 Bible  
House

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112, 113]

New York, 13 Bible House,  
May 16th, 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
My Dear Sir,

I have just opened your letter to Rev. Mr. Alvord, making inquiries in relation to freedmen &c., and as he has left the office expecting to see you in Washington tomorrow, I beg to say a word or two upon my own account.

You may remember me as the minister, who received a call to the Presb. Ch. At Buttermilk Falls, as you was about leaving West Point, for active operations in the field.

My family is still there, and I consent to see their pulpit supplied until they can fasten upon some one who will remain with them as a pastor. I was compelled to relinquish labor in that field, on account of some trouble with my eyes. Some changes have taken place in that field, which I know you will be gratified to learn at some suitable time.

I give whatever power I have myself, to the American Tract Society (Boston) in connection with Rev. Alvord.

The field for Christian effort is at this moment, very hopeful and attractive.

I rejoice God has spared you to take the trust which has been placed in your hands. It is full of interest. Gods people will remember you in their prayers, in your new position, as they have in the past, amid scenes of deadly conflict.

You enter upon a noble service, and you will find many warm hearts and sound heads, willing, yea anxious to cooperate with you in your good work for the colored race.

Rev. Mr. Alvord is delighted with your appointment, and whatever he can do or the Institution which he in fact represents, will be done with great pleasure.

God bless you, dear General, and give you great success in your new field of effort.

I trust you will pardon me for this interruption.

Yours, always,  
A.C. Frissell

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2523 5/16/1865

*From:* A. Beckwith

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2463

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
In the Field, Alexandria  
Va

Commanding Army of Tenn.  
Now at Washington  
D.C.

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[114]

Head-Quarters Military Division of the Mississippi,  
In the Field, Alexandria Va May 16th 1865

My dear General

I will be obliged to you, if you will recommend Lt. Col. Remick for some promotion by Brevet. I have long contemplated taking some action in the matter, and will cause a recommendation to be made in his case through the Chief of my Department. Please send any recommendation you may think proper to make to me in order that I may send it in with the one made by the Commissary Department.

I observe that many officers in the Eastern Armies have received Brevets. It is proposed to recommend Col Remick for thee Brevets. Viz: Major, Lt. Colonel and Colonel of Volunteers.

Your obt. Servant  
A. Beckwith  
Col A.D.C. to C.S.

Over-

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commanding Army of Tenn.  
Now at Washington  
D.C.

---

2524 5/16/1865 *From:* W.T. Sprole

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2464

Newburgh, NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110, 111]

Newburgh, NY  
May 16th 1865

To  
Maj Genl. Howard, U.S.A.  
My dear Friend,

This will introduce Miss Hedges, who is on her way to Richmond Va for the pious purpose of reclaiming if possible the remains of her beloved nephew, Lt. Col. Townsend, who was slain in the battle of Cold Harbor. The object I have, in commending her to your notice is, that you may give her advice in relation to the proper course to be pursued, and, that she may obtain from you a letter, or letters, to some one of the officers in Richmond who may aid her, in her mission. Miss Hedges is a particular friend of mine, and most worthy of any assistance you can render her. Kindness to her in this behalf, I will take as a favor conferred on me.

The best of blessings attend you. I have watched your movements with growing interest, and have thanked God, for all the success, that has attended you, both as a soldier of your country and the cross. Wife & children desire to be kindly remembered.

Your friend  
W.T. Sprole [Chaplain, Professor of Ethics and English Studies, USMA]

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2525 5/16/1865 *From:* Allen Greely

*To:* Oliver O. Howard Esq.

OOH-2465

Turner, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[115]

Oliver O. Howard Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your name, & some what of your history has been brought before me by a printed paper. You cannot tell, for I cannot, how I felt, when I read it over, which I have done repetedly. If there is any mistake on my part, you will correct my error. Your locality is named the Burea of Freedmen's affairs. This account has brought to my mind many thoughts & feelings which I have not time now to speak of.

If you make a reply to this, as I hope you will, let it be void of all pecuniary pay, let it be only a few post-office stamps.

As ever  
Yours truly,  
Allen Greely  
aged 84

Turner, Me,  
May [16?] 1865

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2526 5/17/1865 *From:* C.P. Kingsbury

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2466

*Source:* Bowdoin

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.  
Post Office  
Davenport, Iowa

Comdg Army of Tennessee,  
Near Washington,  
D.C.

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[188, 189]

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.  
Post Office  
Davenport, Iowa, 17th May, 1865.

My dear General:

The papers just received, announced that you have accepted the appointment of Chief of the "Freedman's Bureau". I know but little of the particular duties with which you will be charged, but I doubt not they will be performed under the blessing of God, to meet the wishes of the country, to the advancement of the best interests of the unhappy race just born into manhood, and to the increase of your already high reputation.

Since we last met in the Army of the Potomac, I have watched your career with interest and admiration, and have often thought of almost the last conversation we had together on "H" street, touching the disposition that had been manifested in certain quarters to injure your professional reputation. The minds of Him "who spoke as never man spoke," have been eminently verified: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake." You have reached the eminence in your profession of which any one might be proud, and your enemies—where are they?

But you are doubtless much occupied with your various duties, and I will not annoy you with a long letter. I desire to congratulate Mrs. Howard on your safe return to your family, and to express the hope that long years of usefulness and happiness are before you both. And with my best regards to her and yourself, I remain, very truly your friend,

C.P. Kingsbury

Major General O.O. Howard,  
Comdg Army of Tennessee,  
Near Washington,  
D.C.

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2527 5/17/1865    *From:* Saml. F. Colt

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2467

*Source:* Bowdoin

The General  
Assembly's Eastern  
Committee  
For the Religious  
Instruction of the  
Freedmen  
Pittsburgh Pa.

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[122]

The General Assembly's Eastern Committee  
For the Religious Instruction of the Freedmen  
Philadelphia  
Rev. W.P. Breed, Chairman  
Rev. Saml. F. Colt, Secretary & Superintendent  
William Main, Esq., Treasurer  
Morris Patterson, Esq.  
John McArthur, Esq.  
Wilfred Hall, Esq.

Pittsburgh Pa. May 17th 1865  
Major General Howard,  
Sir,

Just advised of your appointment as Commissioner or Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau, I hasten on behalf of our Committee to express our ardent desire that you will be led of God to accept the position, and that He will guide you wisely and well through with its manifold and perplexing responsibilities, for we have confidence both in Him and you for the elevation and evangelization of the freed.

The Genl. Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (O.S.) in the U.S. of America, meets in this city tomorrow (18th) to continue it sessions through next week probably. Our Report on "the whole subject" and if what has been attempted by us in the experimental year, will be presented at an early day - & its consideration will likely be had early next week.

General, I have taken the liberty of sending you a copy, and respectfully solicit for it your attention. We desire to bring the Assembly, and through it the Churches to devise and to carry out a liberal scheme in some measure commensurate with the vastness of the claims of these millions upon us.

A few favorable words if received from you in time would greatly aid us in the Assembly. In the name of Christ and his poor people I earnestly desire such words from you. Any message will reach me here "to care of Rev. Dr. Paxton, Genl. Assembly." As soon as practicable after the G. Ass. Adjourns, I shall be happy to call upon you at any time you may assign.

Very Respectfully &c  
Saml. F. Colt

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2528 5/17/1865

*From:* Geo H Gordon

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2468

Head Quarters District  
of Eastern Virginia,  
Norfolk, Va.

Washington  
DC

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[116, 117]

Head Quarters District of Eastern Virginia,  
Norfolk, Va., May 17 1865

My dear Howard

I congratulate you my dear fellow upon your past present and what I see in your future. I am glad you have the position of Head of Negro affairs.

Capt Brown has been under me and I know his worth. He has just shown me your letter.

With the happiest memory of our past association and feelings of sincere friendship for yourself I am truly yr friend

Geo H Gordon

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Washington  
DC

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2529 5/17/1865 *From:* L.A.Chase

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2469

43 Washington St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[123]

Boston May 17 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
My dear Genl,

I have the honor in behalf of the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston to invite you to address them at their next Anniversary which occurs on Sunday Evening 28th inst. We have noticed with great satisfaction your career as a Christian Commander, alike successful in all the various ranks you have been called to fill, and are very desirous to have you make a short address to our young men.

I would advise you that it is not a money making scheme and that we write after consultation with your friend Rev. E.B. Webb.

Very Respfy  
L.A.Chase  
43 Washington St.

[Written on the backside in another hand]

Boston, Mass

Chase, L.A.

Inviting Gen. Howard to lecture before Young Mens Christian Assn in Boston on the 28th inst.

Answered

Recd F.B.H. May 18th 1865

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2530 5/17/1865     *From:* Silas Hawley

*To:* Major Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-2470

St. Paul, Minn

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124, 125]

St. Paul, Minn, May 17th, 1865

Major Gen'l Howard,  
Washington  
My Good Old Friend:

The telegraph makes me glad by the announcement, that you are appointed the head of the Freedman's Bureau. Nothing, in this line, could have given me more heartfelt pleasure. You are the right man in the right place.

Doubtless, the mighty events, struggles, and sufferings of the last five years, have so filled your mind that you have not once thought of your humble Peekskill acquaintance; it is natural and I blame you not. Still, I have not for a moment lost sight of my valued and distinguished West Point friend. I will not tell you how often, in the circles of my friends, I have pointed, and with just pride, to the high and glorious career of the once Prof., but then Gen'l Howard. I must not do this.

I merely write now to express my gratification at your appointment, and to learn something, as one deeply interested, in the general plans of your department. We have just organized, for the State of Minnesota, a Freedman's Commission, and I have the honor to be one of the directors of the Commission. We shall be most happy to co-operate with you in the great and Christian Work, to which by Providence and your Country, you have been called. Please to understand, that we, in this far North-west, are ready, are eager indeed, to aid you in the holy and patriotic endeavor.

If it is not asking too much, please communicate your views and your poses.

Yours very truly,  
Silas Hawley

[Written on the last page in another hand.]

St. Paul, Minn  
May 17th 1865  
Hawley, Silas  
Recd May 27, 1865

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2531 5/17/1865    *From:* C.W. Asmussen    *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2471                      Philadelphia Penna

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126, 127]

Philadelphia Penna  
May 17, 1865

General,

I have seen a notice in the papers, that General Grant had ordered the Corps Commanders to recommend officers for positions in the regular Army; and it being my earnest desire to remain in service, I would ask you to assist me with your influence.

I labor under the disadvantage of having as a Corps Commander a General, who only lately took the command, and is consequently but little acquainted with me. I shall however write to him, and ask him to send in my name. In that letter I will refer to you, for which I ask your pardon, but I have served with you the longest, and knowing your intimate acquaintance with Genl. Mower I took this liberty.

Perhaps you know more about this order, if so you would exceedingly oblige me, if you would spare me a few lines.

In a day or two I shall be well enough to rejoin the Corps, and "close the job". I should be pleased, General, if I should find a letter from you, when I arrive at Headquarters, but perhaps your time will not allow it.

Thanking you for all past kindness shown me

I remain  
your most obedt servt  
C.W. Asmussen

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Philadelphia, May 17, 1865

Asmussen, C.W.

Lt. Col. & A.I.C. 20th Ill.

Asks for letter of recommendation for position in the regular Army.

On my staff for long time as Insp & Chf of S. Energetic & <cap> officer

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2532 5/17/1865

*From:* W.T. Sherman

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-2472

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters, Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
In the Field,  
Dumfries, Va.

Washington DC

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[118, 119, 120, 121]

Headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi,  
In the Field, May 17 1865  
Dumfries, Va. 9 PM

Genl OO Howard, Washington DC  
Dear General

Your letter of May 12 enclosing General Orders, War Dept No 91 of May 12 [See Note] reached me here, on arrival at Camp about dark. Col Strong is camped just behind me. Logan about 2 miles back and the 15th Corps at Acquia Creek 8 m back. Copies of Order No 91, are begin made and will be send back to them.

I hardly know whether to congratulate you or not but of one thing you may rest assured, that you posses my entire confidence and I cannot imagine that matters, that may involve the future of four millions of souls, could be put in more charitable, or more conscientious hands. So far as man can do, I believe you will, but I fear you have Hercules' task. God has limited the power of man, and though in the kindness of your heart, you would alleviate all the ills of humanity, it is not in your power. Nor is it in your power to fulfil one tenth part of the expectations of those who formed the Bureau for the Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Estates. It is simply impracticable, yet you can and will do all the good one man may, and that is all you are called on as a man and Christian to do. And to that extent count on me as friend and fellow soldier for counsel & assistance. I believe the Negro is Free by act of <master> and by the Laws of War, now ratified by active Consent and Review. The demand for his labor, and his ability to acquire & work land will enable the Negro to work out that amount of Freedom & political consequence to which he is or may be entitled by National Right and the acquiescence of his fellow men (white). But if fear that parties will agitate for the Negroes Right of Suffrage & equal political status, not that he asks it or wants it, but merely to manufacture that number of available votes fo politicians to work on. If that be attempted be aware a new and dangerous element, Prejudice, which right or wrong does exist and should be consulted. There is a strong prejudice of man, which over a whole country exist. The Negro is desired a vote in all the northern states, save two or three, and those qualified by conditions not attached to the White Race, and by the Constitution of the U.S. to states is left the Right to fix the qualification of voters. The U.S. cannot make Negroes vote in the South any more than they can in the North without Revolution, and as we have just emerged from one attempted Revolution, it would be wrong to begin another.

I believe the Negro is Free Constitutionally and if the U.S. will simply guarantee that Freedom and allow the Negro to hire his own labor, the transition will be comparatively easy. But if we attempt to force the Negro on the South as a voter, "a loyal citizen" we begin a New Revolution in which the North just may take a different side, from what it did, when we were fighting to vindicate our Constitution.

I am more than usually sensitive on this pint because I have realized in our Country that one class of man makes war, and leaves another to fight it out. I am tired of fighting and if the theorists of New England impose this new condition on us I dread the result.

The Country is now deeply in debt. The South is exhausted and can contribute little or nothing toward its payment no matter how soon the laws of taxation may be made, and the sale of her land & plantations will not receive one tenth part the money required to pay the troops that will be needed to enforce the laws and maintain possession to the purchasers.

I know the people of the South even better than you do, and you at least cannot doubt the sincerity of my opinions. I do believe the people of the South realize the fact that their former slaves are free, and if allowed reasonable time, and are not harassed by confiscations and political complications will very soon adapt their

condition and interest to this new statue of facts. Many of them will sell or lease on easy terms parts of their land to their former slaves, and gradually the same political state of things will result as now exists in Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri. The rest will not submit to the taxation necessary to maintain separate colonies of Negroes or the Armies needed to enforce the rights of Negroes dwelling in the Southern States in a condition antagonistic to the feelings and prejudices of their people. The result of which will be internal war, and the final extermination of the white or black <majority>.

But I confess I am not familiar with the laws of Congress which originated your Bureau and repeat my entire confidence in your power & exalted character.

As to Mr Stanton I expect nothing. My orders announcing to the Troops the terms of our convention (first) at Durmas Station was addressed to the troops & not to the world. Mrs Stantons official Bulletin published to the world conveyed false information, for it contained matters that he knew I did not posses, and he thereby initiated a public attack on my motives. But what reason did my "orders" give for his sanctioning and endorsing Hallecks orders to violate my truce, attack an enemy in the act of surrendering, when he knew Genl Grant was present. (Apr 27), and orders to my juniors to disobey my orders. I don't yet understand his motives and dont care. I did succeed in doing spite of him all the good my office demanded within the limits of Johnstons command, and could as easily have extended them on the <whole smith>. Stantons 8 Reasons against my terms are all bad, and he knows it. His assertions that he could have made as good terms any time in the past four years is simply untrue and you know it. And as a lawyer he knows that my terms did not make us liable for the Rebel debt, or in any manner recognize the Southern Confederacy any more than the Dix-Hill Cartel, or any of the many "terms" <both into> made between Army Commanders.

But I will not bother you with such matters. Stantons & Hallecks conduct to me was an insult public & private and I shall present it as such when I choose.

We will all be near Alexandria on Friday and I know you will call to see us. Don't let the foul airs of Washington poison your thought towards your old comrades in arms.

Truly your friend,  
W.T. Sherman  
Maj. Genl

[Note: General Orders, No. 91 War Dept., Adj. General's Office, Washington, May 12, 1865.  
Order organizing the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

I. By direction of the President, Major General O. O. Howard is assigned to duty in the War Department as Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, under the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees," to perform the duties and exercise all the rights, authority, and jurisdiction vested by the Act of Congress in such Commissioner. General Howard will enter at once upon the duties of Commissioner specified in said Act.

II. The Quartermaster-General will, without delay, assign and furnish suitable quarters and apartments for the said bureau.

III. The Adjutant-General will assign to the said bureau the number of competent clerks authorized by the act of Congress.

By order of the President of the United States:

E.D. Townsend,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.]

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2533 5/18/1865

*From:* J. D. Webster

*To:* Maj. Gen Howard

OOH-2473

*Source:* Bowdoin

The United States  
Sanitary Commission,  
Office, 244 F Street,  
Washington, D.C.

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[128]

The United States Sanitary Commission,  
Office, 244 F Street,  
Washington, D.C. 18 May 1865.

Dear General,

This will be handed to you by my friend Mr. Frank Fowler, of whom I spoke to you this morning.

You can depend upon him as a reliable, honest and intelligent man, of excellent character in every respect. I hope it may coincide with your views of duty to give him a position in your new Bureau.

Very respfy yrs  
J. D. Webster

Maj. Gen Howard.

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]

Washington, D.C.

May 18, 1865

Webster, J.D.

Friendly Letter

Recd. B of F & R May 1865

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2534 5/18/1865 *From:* Anna C. Park

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2474

Bennington Vt.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[129, 130]

Bennington Vt. 18th May, 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard:

May a stranger, while thanking you for the influence of a Christian character, connected with unquestioned bravery & efficiency in a soldier high in his country's confidence, ask for your autograph, with, if possible, a few words above it?

If I did not honor you above many of your confreres in the army, I would not presume to trouble you; but the object to be attained, invites the impertinence. We among the mountains far from the strife that shakes our land, love to speak your name as that of a fearless soldier of the "reat Captain of our Salvation" whose record may be placed beside that of "Howard the Philanthropist" with no dimming of its lustre.

May God preserve you long to serve Him in serving your country, prays ever,

your friend  
Anna C. Park

[Written on the last page in a different hand]  
Bennington, Vt. 18 May 1865  
Park, Miss Anna C.  
Asks for the General's Autograph  
Recd Wash'n May 27 1865

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2535 5/18/1865

*From:* James B. Bradwell

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2475

*Source:* Bowdoin

North-western Fair of  
the  
Sanitary Commission  
and Soldiers' Home,  
Rooms, 66 Madison  
Street.  
Chicago, Ill.

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[131]

North-western Fair of the  
Sanitary Commission and Soldiers' Home,  
Rooms, 66 Madison Street.  
Chicago, Ill. May 18, 1865

Gen Howard  
Dear Sir

Enclosed find Circular of Com. On Arms Trophies & Curiosities for our great Sanitary Fair.

We wish your Autographic letter & as many of your Photographs as you may think well to send for the good of our brave boys. Also any rare documents, trophy or Autograph you may have in your possession & willing to send for the good of our brave boys.

Yours Respectfully  
James B. Bradwell  
Chairman of above Com.

[Written on the back side in another hand]  
Chicago, Ills.  
May 18, 1865  
Bradwell, James B  
Chairman N.W. Fair of Sanitary Commission  
Asking Autographic letter for Sanitary Fair  
Recd Bureau F.R. & A.L. May 27 '65

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2536 5/19/1865

*From:* J.R. Waterbury

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2476

Brooklyn and Long  
Island Christian  
Commission

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133, 134]

Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission  
May 19th 1865

Major Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

It gave me great pleasure to learn that you were appointed Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau. My deep interest in the present and future status of the long abused race must be my apology for taking so small a portion of your valuable time as is necessary to read this sort letter. I herewith enclose two of my little books written expressly for Freedmen. Having devoted my time and labor to improve the religious condition of the Army, not only as Cor. Sec. of this Commission, but by writing and publishing some ten or twelve small books for their benefit; I now feel that our principal work must be in behalf of the Freedmen. The "Counsels &c" have been pretty extensively circulated; and as this class acquire the ability to read, I hope to furnish still more. My aim has been, as you will see, to write in the simplest jargon, not only that it may be easily understood; but that it may wean the Negro from his peculiar dialect, and elevate him to a higher standard. I have sought to make the Books also Christian & practical.

Our great work, is with the poor blacks. All theories of reconstruction & reformation, which do not assign as the controlling element, evangelical religion, it seems to me, must prove a failure. I have no doubt you feel the same. I hope, dear Sir you may under God plan the instrument of great good to these poor people. You may command my services in any way for this object.

Yours  
J.R. Waterbury

My address is Rev. J.B. Waterbury, Cor. Sec.  
Brooklyn & L.I. Christian Commission  
Brooklyn N.Y.

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]

May 18th 1865

Brooklyn N.Y.

Waterbury, J.B. Rev.

Congratulates Gen. Howard. States that he has written several books for the benefit of the Freedmen.

May 21st 1865 Recd. Wash'n.

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2537 5/19/1865     *From:* Edw P. Smith

*To:* Brig. Genl. OO Howard

OOH-2477

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
11 Bank Street,  
Philadelphia

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[135, 136]

U.S. Christian Commission  
11 Bank Street,  
Philadelphia  
May 19 1865

General Howard,  
Dear Sir,

It has occurred to me that an experience of three years in organizing the field work and directing the labors of others might be turned to account in some part of the large work on your hands.

Mr Stuart Chairman of the Commission & Mr. Demand of Boston propose to call upon you next week.

They have known all my army work & can say better than I what kind & amount of responsibility, if any, you could entrust to me.

I am Very truly  
Yr Obt Servt  
Edw P. Smith  
Sec'y U.S.C.C.

Brig. Genl. OO Howard  
Chief of Bur. Of Freedmen

[Written on the back page in another hand.]  
Philadelphia, May 19, 1865  
Smith, E.P.  
Field Secy of U.S.C.C.  
Recd Wash'n May 29, 1865.  
Answered  
See letter in book dated May 27th

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2538 5/19/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2478

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Army of  
the Tennessee,  
Metropolitan Hotel  
Washington D.C.

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[599]

Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee,  
Metropolitan Hotel  
Washington D.C. May 19th 1865

Dearest

I am afraid this letter will not reach you, but will try. If you start Monday and make the connection in Boston you will be in New York Tuesday morning and by keeping straight through can get here Tuesday evening about 9 P.M. I had intended to meet you in Philadelphia, but the big review coming off Tuesday & Wednesday will prevent it. Our army will be reviewed Wednesday and I am hoping you may be here to witness it. Major Whittlesey has not arrived yet but if possible he will meet you & Mrs Whittlesey in Philadelphia Tuesday night.

I am very anxious to see you & the children. Many kisses to them & yourself.

May God bless & keep you.

Lovingly yr husband  
Otis

P.S. If you should get through without my knowledge, take a carriage to the Metropolitan.

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2539 5/19/1865

*From:* John McGould

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2479

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 29th  
Maine Reg't Infy.  
Dwights Div'n.  
Mount Olivet Cemetery  
D.C.

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Comr. Freedmen Bureau

[132]

Head Quarters 29th Maine Reg't Infy. Dwights Div'n.  
Mount Olivet Cemetery D.C. May 19 1865

General,

The papers announce your appointment as Commissioner of Freedmen's Bureau; I do not know your duties nor your authority, but thinking it may be possible for you to benefit me I ask permission to visit and confer with you, provided you judge best.

I have long had a desire to help the Freedman, but having no knowledge of farming it does not look right to me to undertake any of the good works which I would if I had that knowledge, still I hope there is some work I can do. If you are willing to see me a few moments in private, please signify when and where it shall be; but if it does not lie with you to assist me, the interview will be unnecessary. It is not for position or salary that I am asking, for I have a good position awaiting me now. It is hard though for me to believe that God has preserved me the past four years only to enable me to engage in my strictly worldly duty.

I am sir, Yours &c  
John McGould  
Major 29th Me Vols

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr. Freedmen Bureau

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2540 5/20/1865     *From:* Jos. P. Thompson

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2480

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Union  
Commission,  
No. 14 Bible House  
New York

Bureau of Refugees and  
Freedmen

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[147, 148]

American Union Commission,  
No. 14 Bible House  
New York, May 20th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard,  
Bureau of Refugees and Freedmen  
General

Though I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with you, I feel that I know you not only through your admirable military record, but from having seen you in the fight at Resaca, where I ministered to the wounded of your corps, in the service of the Christian Commission.

I am happy now to find you at the head of a Bureau, which, hardly less than war itself, calls for sagacity, energy, experience, patience, hope.

Your first circular shows that you intend to administer the Bureau in the interest of no class or school, but upon the broad basis of the Act of Congress, and for the social, industrial and educational wants of the entire South. This construction of the Bureau is the more gratifying to me, personally, because I had –not through my own seeking, but in an indirect way - not a little to do with the action of Congress in constituting it on this basis. Having been led by personal observation and by my official position, to study the question of social re-organization in the South, I drew up the enclosed memorial, which was adjusted by our Commission, and was carried by me to Washington. At that time Senator Sumner's bill for Freedmen was on its passage through both Houses, but was strongly objected to by many, because it proposed to create a new Department, in the civil service, with large lee-way for abuses; and also, because it was exclusively for the blacks. Gen. Schenck to whom our memorial was referred, had introduced a bill in the House, <>, Refugees and Freedmen under one Bureau. This failed at first, by one or two votes. A day or two after, the meeting of the Union Commission was held in the Hall of Representatives, and the facts there submitted gave a new interest to Gen. Schenck's bill, so that on being again called up, for substance, it passed the House, while Senator Sumner's failed in the Senate. The diligent circulation of our Memorial, with personal interviews with members of both Houses, led to the framing of a bill embodying the main features of the memorial, which drew to it support many Democratic members, because it was not exclusive. This accounts for the naming of Refugees first; and but for this combination no bill for Freedmen could have passed the last Congress. Hence your construction of the Bureau is in entire accordance with the design of Congress in founding it.

The elevation of the masses in the South, white and black, by proper industrial and educational aids, up to the point of self-support in freedom, is not the great task before the nation. Our Secretaries, D Miles and Mr Abbott, have already placed the Union Commission at your service for this work. The ignorance of the poor whites furnished fighting material to the rebellion. We must educate their children into patriots. I think, also, that to secure for the negro his true status as a citizen, we must soon drop the name "Freed-man", as we have dropped "Contraband" and know him only as a man. I rejoice to hear, General, that you will address our meeting in Boston next June. Command me.

With high regard,  
Your obt Serv  
Jos. P. Thompson, Pres't

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2541 5/20/1865

*From:* W.T. Sherman

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-2481

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters, Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
In the Field  
Camp Near Alexandria,  
Va

Chief, Bureau of Refugees &c

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[151]

Headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi,  
In the Field  
May 20 1865

Camp Near Alexandria, Va

Maj Genl OO Howard,  
Chief, Bureau of Refugees &c  
Dear Genl,

I am this moment in midst of your communication of this date and I thank you for your generous act. I do think it but just to Logan, and notwithstanding his modest reply to us last night I know he will prize this act most highly. I will deem it a specific honor & pleasure if you will ride with me at the Review of Wednesday next. I will be at the head of the Column at 9 am of Wednesday near the Capitol and beg you will join me then. Your personal staff can ride with mine.

As ever your friend.  
W.T. Sherman  
Maj. Genl.

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2542 5/20/1865    *From:* W H Merrick

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2482

Philada

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[36]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated: Philada May 20th 1865  
Recd, Washington: May 20th 1865  
To: Maj Gen OO Howard

If you wish me to receive your wife telegraph me the Day & train she will arrive.

W H Merritt [should have been William Merrick, not Merritt]

17/78 Pd

[Written on the back side, in a different hand]  
Philadelphia, Pa  
May 20, 1865  
W.H. Merritt  
Telegram to Genl Howard in relation to Mrs. Howard  
Recd B. of F.R. &c May 1865

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2543 5/20/1865

*From:* W.L.B. Jenney

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2483

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd-Qrs. Mil'y Div'n of  
the Mississippi,  
Office U.S. Engineers  
Alexandria, Va

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[137]

Hd-Qrs. Mil'y Div'n of the Mississippi,  
Office U.S. Engineers  
Alexandria, Va May 20th 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

I have the honor to inform you that, at my request, Major E.F. Hoffman, A.D.C., has been assigned to Engineer Duty with General Shermans Army.

Permit me General to thank you for your kindness in recommending him, as his services will at the present time be particularly useful to the Chief Engineer, in reducing and compiling, the surveys made by the several Engineer officers during the recent campaigns.

Very Respectfully  
Your obt serv  
W.L.B. Jenney  
Cpr. A.D.C. USA, In charge

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2544 5/20/1865     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2484

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[138, 139, 140]

Farmington May 20, 1865

My dear Brother

My first tho't was to send this letter by Lizzie, Monday next, lest you would not get opportunity to read it otherwise, but as it will reach you a day or two earlier I will send it by post.

Had you heard of Ellas affliction. Her dear Brother Albert [Capt. David Albert Patten, b. 18 Feb 1839] died on the Coast of Africa & was buried at sea Feb 14. He died of fever. The news reached us two weeks ago today. His father & mother feel it deeply and at times Ella seems very sad, but I do believe their trust is in God. His letters & those of his mates (he was Capt) testify to a distinctly religious change in him. His bible was a constant companion during his long sickness and we must now leave him with Him who is the God of the Sailor as of the Soldier.

Lizzie will tell you all the home news and I needn't dwell upon it. Mother is as well as usual and finds Wash very useful on the farm. I dread the Washington climate for you & your family, for you because you are so accustomed to the open air, for them because of their northern birth & habits. Wouldn't it be as well to have them spend the Summer at the North? I only wish we –Mother, Lizzie & myself –could concentrate our forces a little a live nearer together. We are to have Telegraph here this Summer. I hope your friends in Augusta will present you with a house & then you will have a Northern home to flee to.

Lizzie sent me the order assigning you as Commissioner of Freedmens Bureau. The honor conferred on you thus unsolicited was gratifying to us all, not only your family but your many christian friends in Me are rejoicing over it. But when I reflect on the responsibilities of your new position, its perplexities & temptations I feel that you need sympathy & prayer far more than praise. It is a new mode of life for you. You must now live among politicians, contractors, office holders & office seekers, sycophants & flatterers. May God send you sense true, warm-hearted personal friends to be near you & advise you amid the thousand perplexing questions that will rise, advise you with wisdom, candor, forecast.

It is exceedingly unfortunate for public men to have to retract anything. It is still more injurious, of course, to persist in an injudicious course. Mr Lincoln was a model of slowness, I think, in making up his mind. He took time to hear all sides & candidly weigh all evidence.

But my dear Brother I only meant in this letter to express my heartfelt sympathy with & prayers for your success. May you not “fall among thieves”. May you not be overrun with selfish corrupt office seekers & land & cotton speculators. May you not be bored to death with benevolent but unwise & unpractical Clergymen. (Horace James (Rev. & Capt.) of N.C. Is one of the best men in every respect that you will have under you) I feel to be one of the last named! But I would like to have gone on with Lizzie & had a good free brotherly conference with you & to have observed your circumstances & surroundings. I am to address our State Conference next month on “The Facilities of Evangelizing the South” & I hope to get some light on that subject from you & Charles. I believe I will preach on it next Sabbath.

I wonder if you have time to read some of my ideas: (1) It is a missionary work. It must be accomplished without any dependence on existing religious organizations at the South. The Southern ministry, with but few exceptions, must be got rid of. They are the worst of Secessionists, so long as they have any place or power the country is unsafe, and Religion will again be made the efficient hand-maid of Rebellion. We must seek to use whatever of piety remains at the South but its Church & ministry must be abolished as far as possible. (2) To this end all social-political-money and religious influence must be taken from the lat Slave-owners. They must be reduced either to poverty, or expatriated. Or else they must give convincing proofs of Repentance, not only for Secessionism & Rebellion, but of slave-holding. They must exhibit a renewed & enlightened conscience on that Subject. (3) The other whites taken from under the influence of their ministry & leading men

must be instructed in Secular knowledge to be sure, but certainly as to the morality of Slavery & all its associated vices. Their Religious notions must be corrected. Their defiled consciences set right. To this End they must have a pure ministry. (4) The Freedmen are to be treated with no regard to color, & very little respect for the notions, beliefs & prejudices of their former masters. As to Suffrage, it seems to me that that should be granted with great caution, not on acct. of color, but ignorance, degradation, subjection to outside & concept influence. To fit them for citizenship, to make them industrious, self-reliant, reflective or at all educated, must be a slow process at best. (I wish military Governments could be maintained at the South till these slowly evolved changes could be effected) The landed Estates of Rebels should be sold to Freedmen, northern Emigrants & soldiers. (5) The men to effect these changes must mostly come from the North. They must be teachers, ministers, farmers, superintendents &c, who are faithful & conscientious, & who are actuated by motives of humanity, patriotism & Religion.

All our benevolent efforts for the Army must now be converted to this End. Our money, our ministers, our young men must go into the field to plant & sow, to hoe & dig, cultivate & harvest for our Country & our God. He allowed this war to overthrow Slavery. He has accomplished that purpose. In the process of overthrow the <?tiated> & corrupt religion of the South has been made manifest. The whole land has been swept with the besom of destruction. Now He will help rebuild on right foundations. He has put you at the head of this matter, in the most responsible & important place of modern times, because he sees you to be a Christian man, incapable of narrow & selfish policy. Now he expects you to do as Christ would and blessed be his name, He will help you. We must fill up our Churches with converts, our Seminaries with ministers, must send forth our surplus of men & money. We must have Colleges Churches Schools, Business at the South as much as possible under the influence the pure principle of the Gospel. If there be any good at the South now (& I do not doubt it) let us appropriate it as we move forward . Again, may God bless you my brother as a Leader in this high & holy work.

Ella sends love & the babies are both well.

Affly  
Rowland

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2545 5/20/1865 *From:* Henry Heath

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2485

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[141]

Washington May 20 '65

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dr Sir

I am compelled to return to N.Y. to-night, and every moment of my time has been so filled, that I have not been able to avail myself of your kind permission to look over your letter book, in aid of our history of "Sherman's Campaigns". I expect to return next week, and should then be glad to make use of the privilege if agreeable to you.

Very respectfully yours  
Henry Heath

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]

Washington, May 20, 1865

Heath, Henry

Has not had time to look over Genl Howards letter book but will avail himself of that privilege shortly.

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2546 5/20/1865

*From:* Thos. J. Morgan

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2486

Head Qrs. 1st Colored  
Brig. A.I.  
Chattanooga Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Head Qrs. 1st Colored Brig. A.I.  
Chattanooga Tenn. May 20 1865.

Dear Sir,

I was greatly pleased by the announcement that you had been placed at the head of the B for Freedmen. I have heard but one expression among the friends of the colored people, that your appointment was the best that could be made.

It is eminently proper that one who fears God & loves justice should assume the high duties of looking after the interest and rights of four millions of slaves. I shall watch your course with interest, with hope & with earnest prayer for your success.

I am, General, Most Sincerely  
Your Friend & Ob. Servant,  
Thos. J. Morgan  
Col. 14th U.S.C. Inf  
Com'dg Brigade

To  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

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2547 5/20/1865    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2487

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
No. 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

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[147]

U.S. Christian Commission  
No. 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia May 20 1865

My Dear General

I have read your kind letter of May 16th, with very great interest, and am glad to hear from you again, with respect to your appreciation of the great work of the Commission now drawing to its close. The enclosed circular will communicate to you the action of the Executive Committee at its meeting on Thursday after solemn and careful deliberation.

I cannot help again expressing my gladness at your new and deserved position. I trust that you may be able to inaugurate and carry forward a work which will equal the wants and necessities of the classes for whom the Bureau was designed. I shall be very glad indeed to give you any advice or assistance lying in my power and think that I may be able to do so to some purpose, in advising with reference to those, who having been engaged in our work, are adapted to aid you in yours. However I shall see you in Washington, next week; as I intend going there to see the Review; I hope then to be able to talk with you about what you have mentioned in your letter.

In the meantime, with very great respect, and warm personal regards,  
I am yours in Christ,  
Geo. H. Stuart  
Chairman U.S.C.C.

Will you be kind enough to drop me in the enclosed envelope, your card or address. I do not know whether I could have any better opportunity of seeing the review than the mass of spectators, but as Mr. Demond, probably one or two other members of the Comm'n, and my own family are going I have written Gen. Grant to know if I cd have any privilege in that direction. Perhaps you yourself know of some means by which the ladies cd more conveniently, than commonly, have a sight of the grand spectacle.

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Philadelphia May 20 /65  
Stuart, Geo. H  
Recd W'n May 27, 1865

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2548 5/20/1865 *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2488

Head-Quarters District  
of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

Head-Quarters District of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md., May 20th 1865

My dear Genl.

I thank you for your kind note of the 17th inst.

Pardon me for again to imposing upon your time.

I did not intend to ask you to recommend my promotion, but simply to give as brief statement of my service while in the field. In what capacity I served under you, and the manner of my service as A.A.G. & Col. of the 19th Me. You will recollect that during Genl Sully's absence I was in command of the Brigade. Will you please state that.

I dislike to trouble you, but I am desirous of receiving the next rank to which I think I am entitled.

I hope to see you as soon as my duties will permit me to leave my station.

We have great reasons to acknowledge the goodness of a kind Heavenly Father all thro. the last four years. May His blessings be continued to you and yours.

Yrs. Very Truly  
F.D. Sewall

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2549 5/20/1865 *From:* W. H. Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2489

Southwark Foundry  
Philad'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112]

[Letterhead]

Southwark Foundry  
Merrick & Sons,  
S. Vaughan Merrick  
W. H. Merrick  
John E. Cope  
Philad'a May 20 1865

My dear Otis

I have your note of 18th & would with very great pleasure come on to see you if I felt that it would be right to leave while we are in such confusion from the fire which destroyed about one third of our place on Thursday night.

To see 200 000 men march through Washington on their way home after four years of such war as we have had would be a proud moment for any American but I am afraid I must deny myself the pleasure.

I telegraphed you today that if you wished me to take care of Lizzie on her arrival I would do so with great pleasure if you would notify me when she would arrive.

We should be glad indeed of the opportunity of showing you both some of the beauties of our part of the country and can very readily accommodate you all. I hope the children will come with her. My little girls will be very happy to see them & I want Father & Mother to know them.

I received a letter from John Otis a short while ago which I enclose for you to read –please bring it on with you. It was in my drawer in the office & got somewhat damaged at the fire.

Very sincerely yrs  
WH Merrick

[Written at the bottom of the second page in a different hand.]

Philadelphia  
May 20th 1865  
Merrick, W.H.  
Recd May 27, 1865

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2550 5/20/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Dear Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2490

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152]

Boston May 20 1865

Dear Genl Howard

God bless you, & give you many, many years to enjoy the fruit of your bloody toils & sacrifices. How I long to see you! Are you not coming this way for any purpose? Shall we not see you at our house at Anniversary? Has Lyman written you? Come if possible, & stay with us of course.

Genl Howard at Washington, over the Freedmen's bureau is the right man in the right place. So the christian, philanthropic community will decide.

There is in the city of Washington, a family of my congregation, & your admirers as wld be natural. Mr Charles Carruth, wife & children. They want to see you, & shake your hand. They are among the best people in Boston. If they call, see them for a few minutes & oblige them, & me.

And if you do not come to Boston, I do not know but that I shall come to Washington.

Mrs Webb joins in love to you, & Prayers for your fullest, richest success.

Ever fraternally  
E.B. Webb

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2551 5/21/1865 *From:* B C Ludlow

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2491

Head Quarters  
Peninsula District  
Williamsburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[153]

Head Quarters Peninsula District  
Williamsburg May 21st 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
General,

Allow me to congratulate you upon the closing of this great Rebellion, and add my testimony to that of others, to the noble and useful labors of yourself, and to the immense influence your aid, has had in bringing this war, to so successful an end.

Allow me also to thank you, as a man who loves religion & virtue, for the bright example you have ever set, as a Christian Soldier.

I congratulate the Colored Race of this Country, that it has a man so eminently fit, as yourself, as the Regulator of its future destiny, and I feel confident that He who rules, has had its good, under His continued care, in this last proof of His favor.

I have not been officially informed of your appointment, but suppose I soon will be.

My position as commander of this district gives me control of about 20,000 Colored people. Their progress in education, morality, and their sense as to the requirements of good citizens, and their endeavors to comport themselves accordingly, give me satisfactory proof, that no great difficulty will be encountered in directing their future usefulness, so soon as they can be brought under the control of well-established regulations.

The present difficulty is to bring to their direct knowledge the duties of their situation, and to overcome the ignorance, pride, prejudice, and every other bad quality of the present holders of the Lands of the South.

With every confidence in your judgment, sense & goodness, I have the honor to be

Very respectfully  
Yr Obedt Servant  
B C Ludlow [Benjamin Chambers Ludlow]  
Maj & Brevet Brig Gen  
Comd District

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2552 5/22/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

OOH-2492

*Source:* Bowdoin

Farmington

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

Freedmens Bureau  
War Dept.  
Washington

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[183]

Farmington May 22/65

My dear Brother

I am acquainted with Mr Woodard and know him to be a man excellent reputation in all respects. He has for a no. of years been the efficient Supt. of the Cong. Church Sab. School, in Winthrop and a worthy member of the Church.

I have no doubt that he will prove himself worthy of any place that you may see fit to give him in connection with the Freedmen.

Your Brother  
Rowland

To/ Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Freedmens Bureau  
War Dept.  
Washington

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2553 5/22/1865     *From:* A.E. Newton

*To:* General O.O. Howard

OOH-2493

*Source:* Bowdoin

Penn'a. Freedmen's  
Relief Association,  
No. 207 I Street,  
Washington, D.C.

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[203]

Penn'a. Freedmen's Relief Association,  
No. 207 I Street, Washington, D.C.  
May 22, 1865

General O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner, &c,  
General:

In compliance with the request contained in your circular No. 2, I herewith forward you a copy of a recently published Bulletin of the Penna. Freedmen's Relief Association, in which (pages 34 to 38) you will find a report of the Schools maintained by that Association in this city, Georgetown and Alexandria; also a list of the Officers of the Association (page 40).

I would take the liberty to add that all the Schools taught by this Association at this point are very poorly accommodated, both as to room and the proper conveniences for school-teaching. Numbers of applicants for admission are turned away every week for want of room to receive them.

I would therefore respectfully request –if I am right in supposing that the matter comes within your province - your aid in obtaining the use of some of the public buildings (barracks or hospitals) which it is presumed are about to be vacated at this point, for schools for the children of freedmen, under the auspices of this Association.

It is believed that the Pennsylvania Freedmen Relief Association has a larger number of schools and teachers here than any other one Society; and its efforts for the education and elevation of the freedmen people might be largely facilitated and extended by aid in the way I have indicated.

Very respectfully,  
Your Obt. Servt.  
A.E. Newton,  
Supt. Schools, Pa. F.R.A.

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2554 5/22/1865    *From:* Joseph A. Pond

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2494

*Source:* Bowdoin

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
State House  
Senate Chamber,  
Boston

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[154, 155]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House  
Senate Chamber,  
Boston  
May 22d 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces, I have the honor to invite your attendance at our annual convention, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, commencing on Wednesday, June 7th and concluding a Sunday evening.

It is the earnest and universal desire that you should address the convention at some time during its sessions, convenient to yourself.

From these associations, as you know, sprang the U.S. Christian Commission and they are doing much for the freedmen and it is thought desirable that this subject should be brought definitely before the convention.

We shall have a public meeting in aid of the Christian Commission, also a great Sunday School meeting and a grand farewell conference on Sunday evening.

I trust you may find it consistent with your engagements to attend and address the convention gathered from all the loyal states and the Canadas.

If you will indicate your preference as to time in correspondence with Geo. H. Stuart Esq or P.B. Simons chairman of the Com. of Arrangements, at Philadelphia, I can assure you a cordial & joyful reception and a glorious occasion.

Very Respectfully  
Yr Obt Servt  
Joseph A. Pond,  
Chairman of Executive Committee

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2555 5/22/1865     *From:* W M Beebe Jr

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2495

Beaufort, S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156, 157]

Beaufort, S.C.  
May 22d 1865

My dear General:

I have been intending ever since I became separated from you military family to write to you and express the obligations I feel for your constant and universal kindness to me while I was a member of your staff. I assure you General, it is appreciated, as well by my parents as myself.

I suppose to Col has kept you informed of the rapid progress of our regiment in drill, and efficiency as soldiers. Its organization was attended with, perhaps, less difficulty than is usual, but it was an entirely new business to me. Recruits came into camp sometimes in detachments of two or three hundred, and more rapidly than we could provide quarters for them. Genl Gilmore would allow us nothing at first but shelter tents, and it was only after informing him that there were but four hundred shelter tents in the Department that he would allow the Qr. Mr. to issue common tents to protect the need. When the Col. returned I was glad to turn over to him a regiment full to the maximum & mustered in as an organization.

The progress in drill has been surprising to us and we now have Battalion drills that would do credit to many white veteran regiments. We find the men very tractable and anxious to learn and already have very excellent discipline.

Some unfortunate appointments were made of officers, but they were easily disposed of by the Col. Two Captains have already left us, one having resigned and the other returned by Genl Saxtons order to his reg't. Both were 1st Lts. From the 26th Colored Infy. stationed here. Incompetent Lieuts. were ordered before an examining board of which I am senior member, and were found deficient. We now have nearly the full number of good officers.

I cannot express the deep sorrow with which all here received the news of our beloved Chief Magistrates assassination. The joy which filled all hearts at the proud success of our Armies and the prospect of a speedy return of peace to our land was suddenly minced into bitter <>. I trust that it was intended by a just and kind Providence for our Nation's good.

I must not close without offering my congratulations upon your recent appointment to the charge of the Freedman's Bureau. I hope the duties of your office will be pleasant to you and I feel sure that the same success which has attended you in the command of an Army will follow your efforts now

I enjoyed my visit to Maine very much and although an entire stranger was received and treated as a member of your staff with kind consideration by all with whom I came in contact. I became somewhat acquainted with a member of the legislature from Belfast, Dr Monroe, who was formerly a surgeon in the Army and had met you at your Head Quarters. I am promised a leave of absence in July, when I shall visit Maine again and perhaps, General, I shall ask of you a <fashionable> introduction to the Doctor, as I am deeply interested in a member of his family whom I met in Augusta, and they of course know but little about me.

Trusting again that you will always be prospered and blessed in all your undertakings. I remain, dear General, with sincere regard

Your Ob't. Servant  
W M Beebe Jr  
Lt. Col.

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2556 5/22/1865     *From:* Seth May

*To:* Maj Genl. Oliver O.  
Howard

OOH-2496

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158, 159]

Auburn May 22d 1865  
Maj Genl. Oliver O. Howard  
My Dear Sir,

Permit me first to congratulate you on your success as a Military Commander and, as a citizen of our common country to thank you for the manifold and honorable services which you have rendered in defence of its life and integrity. For the dangers you have braved for the victories you have won, for the honor you have brought upon the state which gave you birth, as well as for that unflinching Patriotism, and christian character which have marked your successful career. Maine thanks you –her loyal citizens thank you, and her churches and ministers love you.

We also rejoice in your unsought appointment to the Freedmen's Bureau. Your love of righteousness, and your regard for their temporal and spiritual interests, accompanied as we know they will be, with your best efforts to raise them up from degradations to manhood, and to secure to them all the personal rights of humanity and freedom, make us all rejoice in your appointment to the position which the President has assigned you. May God bless you in the administration and performance of the responsible duties now imposed upon you –and may you be as successful in these as you have been in the more dangerous ones through which the good Providence of God has brought you.

So much for yourself. And now you will permit further to say that I am informed that Mr Henry Woodward of Winthrop Me would like some place in your Bureau. I have known him for years. He is a man, as I judge between 35 and 40 years of age –of sterling integrity –a member of the Congregational Church at Winthrop and for a few years past the Superintendent of the Sabbath School connected with that church in which position he has given good satisfaction. He has long been the friend of the colored race, and still wishes to devote his energies to their improvement and elevation. He is and long has been a temperance man in efforts as well as habits. He is a man of industry and perseverance, a gentleman of probity and intelligence commanding the esteem of all good men who know him, and in my judgment, a man possessing all the essential qualifications to fit him for usefulness in almost any place connected with your Bureau. He is no office seeker, and so far as I know never has been. He is a lover of truth –a lover of righteousness, a lover of his fellow-man irrespective of color, and a friend of Christ.

Now I wish to say that if you can find it consistent with your duty to give Mr Woodward a place in your department, his appointment will give great satisfaction to his numerous friends. In a letter addressed to me, he says "he position that I think I should like would be subordinate to one of the State Commissioners where I might be directly and actively employed in behalf of the Freedman" I cannot doubt that he would discharge the duties of such a position not only to the satisfaction of the community, but in a manner to meet the approbation of the Head of that Department.

With high regard, I am most  
sincerely your friend & humble Servt  
Seth May

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Auburn May 22 1865

May, Seth

Writes a friendly letter and recommends Mr. Henry Woodward for position in the Bureau  
Recd Wash'n May 27, 65

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2557 5/22/1865

*From:* Geo. W. Balloch

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2497

Head Quarters  
Twentieth Army Corps  
Near Alexandria

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[160]

Head Quarters Twentieth Army Corps  
Near Alexandria May 22d 1865.

Dear General

I has been suggested to me by Col Beckwith, that you will need, in your new position, some officer of the Subsistence Department. He requested me to see you in relation to it, but I am expecting to go home for a few days & I shall not be able to do so. I hope you will not think me selfish General if I confess that I should like such a situation. I cannot forget the many happy hours I have spent in your military family. I suppose our Corps organization will not continue more than a month or so longer. I have conferred with Col Remick on the subject and he has no wish for the situation, as he wishes to leave the service. I would wish you to act perfectly free in the matter, but if you want me I shall be as ever happy to serve you to the best of my abilities.

Very Respectfully  
Your obdt Servant  
Geo. W. Balloch Lt Col & C.C.S.

To  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]  
Alexandria, Va  
May 22, 1865  
Balloch Geo. W.  
Lt. Col & C.C.S.  
Applies for position in Freedman's Bureau

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2558 5/23/1865    *From:* J.W. Marsh

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2498

Blomingdale N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161, 162]

Blomingdale N.J. May 23d / 65

Dear General

I take the liberty to address you this note although, I never met with you but once. That was at Livermore Falls upon a fourth of July occasion. I was at that time settled in Jay, as Pastor of the Baptist Church. Perhaps I can mention a circumstance by which you can recolect me. When I went upon the platform from which you & others addressed the people, I was introduced to you. My had was in a sling and, you remarked, you also are in the same condemnation. After remaining in Jay about three yrs. I entered the service as Chaplain of the 28th Maine Reg, under the command of Col Woodman. I remained with the Reg untill my health was completely broken down and I was obliged to resign. Since that time I have been settled in this place as Pastor of the Baptist Church which position I still hold. I have two Sons still in the service, and have been for nearly the whole length of the war thus far. One of them was fearfully wounded at the battle of Antietam. The other is in the regular Army.

I perceive by the papers that you have been apointed Commissioner of the Freedmens Bureau. Can you not my Dear Sir give me employment in your Department, where I can still serve God & my country, bu serving you in the week time and, on the Sabbath preach the blessed Gospel to the poor. I have been impressed to write you this letter an, have followed my convictions in writing you, whatever may be the result.

I have never before asked an office at the hands of my fellow man. And in this instance instead of having recourse to political strategy, & working through friend I have felt like writing you directly. I have had many & severe trials thus far on my pilgrimage, having burried a Wife & four children. Still I feel I have not lived altogether in vain. I am a little more than fifty yrs of age, but I am still vigorous and capable of performing as much or more labour as ever at any time of my life. I am personaly acquainted with the Hon John P Hale, was in the Academy with im at Exeter N.H. I am also acquainted with Hon Mr Clark, Senator from N.H. I can bring you as good referrences as you can desire. Now Sir, if you shall find it in your heart to give me employment, I shall feel grateful indeed to God & to you. And your Pettitioner will ever pray.

Yours Respectfully  
J.W. Marsh  
Bloomingdatle  
Pompton Township  
N.J.

To Major General O.O. Howard

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2559 5/23/1865

*From:* R.R. McBurney

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2499

New York Young Men's  
Christian Association  
No. 161 Fifth Avenue

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[164]

New York Young Men's Christian Association  
No. 161 Fifth Avenue  
23d May 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir:

The Anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city will be held Monday evening June 5th.

Ex-Governor Morgan will preside.

We anticipate an occasion of very deep interest and most earnestly desire that you will favor us with an address.

I doubt not you will remember that the United States Christian Commission was organized by the efforts of our Asson. and in our former Rooms in the Bible House.

By this mail I take the liberty of forwarding to you a few documents published by the Association and would call your attention to the one entitled "The Work &c". Our efforts are directed to advancing the social, moral and spiritual welfare of the thousand of young Men who crowd our city.

We feel assured you will be happy to aid us by your presence and influence in this work of our Master.

I am, my dear Sir:

Very truly yours,  
R.R. McBurney  
Cor. Secretary

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2560 5/24/1865    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2500

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. "Camp  
Stanton"  
Beaufort S.C.

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[172, 173, 174, 175]

Hd. Qrs. "Camp Stanton"  
Beaufort S.C.  
May 24 1865

My dear brother

I was very happy be assured to get a letter by your own hand from Petersburg and two others by Major Stinson mailed at Washington but all reaching me last Sunday evening, one week after the last was mailed. It seems you are in charge of the Freedmen's Bureau. I think it is well though beforehand I hoped you would not have it believing it might be distasteful to you to be located in Washington and have so much to do with papers as I imagined you might.

You ask for any suggestions I may have about the interests of the Freedmen. It is so general and comprehensive a matter that I would not undertake to offer anything at present. I mean however to make it my study down here and assist you all in my power. I will talk with all persons I meet who are in any way connected with the present system of treating the Freedmen.

If I should offer anything off hand, I should say that the best general measure for the Freedmen in this Dept. would be to put Gen Saxton in command of the Dept. and still there may be much to be said against such a course that does not now occur to my mind.

I feel quite confident some changes ought to be made. From what I have seen and heard from other trustworthy sources, Gen. Grover at Savannah & Gen. Hatch at Charleston are not the right persons to care for the Freedmen's interest as the same is probably true of Gen. Potter now in command of this District with Head Quarters at Hilton Head. Gen. Gillmore seems suddenly to have changed his policy (at least in all outward expressions it is so indicated) and to be in favor the Governments doing what it can for the Freedmen. So Chief Justice Chase (with whom I conversed) was impressed by his intercourse with Gen. Gillmore.

I should again say, in an off hand way (without having had time to reflect much on the subject) that you would do well to make a tour of inspection, especially to and down the Mississippi River. If you could it would of course be the pleasantest thing in the world for me to hope you come on such a visit to this Department. Cant you do it next Fall?

I have not seen the Bill constituting the Freedman's Bureau. Wish you would send me a copy and write me freely asking all the questions upon which you think I can get any light or information in this Dept.

Do you have a Leave. I trust you are now enjoying one & will not enter upon the new dutes until refreshed by a home visit of some respectable length. I enclose two orders, showing you a little of my situation.

I might write you much about my Regt. I am very proud of it and I pray I may do good in it, making a model Regiment in military matters and elevating the men physically, mentally, morally. It seems to be a vast field. Oh for grace & wisdom adequate to the work before me. Lt. Col. Beebe will have a leave by the 1st of July of 30 days. Possibly I may think it wise for me to take a respite in August but I do not now think it probable.

I wish I could remain here at Beaufort and Command the Post - i.e. I think it would be better for my Regiment. But there is another Colored Regt. here and when same is reported by Gen. Saxton as ready for duty I expect to be ordered away either to Savannah, Charleston, Florida or elsewhere.

If Gen. Saxton gets the privilege of completing two other Colored Regiments which he had started when recruiting was stopped, he will desire to keep me here in charge of the Camp of instruction. I hope he will get

the privilege because I believe it the best treatment of the Colored men to get him with the Army, thus providing steady labor under good regulations for bodily health and at the same time for his pecuniary profit & moral well being.

What staff do you retain? I was pleased at Col. Strong's promotion.

Please give kindest love to Major Stinson. I have written him several letters which he had not received. Please tell him that of course, I do not insist upon his taking that horse but would like for him to sell him advantageously for me if he can.

I found your old black of no value. Am about purchaseing a horse here, but they ask \$300 or \$400 for anything decent. I suppose as the Army marched through you will return your horses.

Did Lizzie come to Philadelphia as contemplated. I suppose you will take her with you on your travels now in these piping times of peace.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S.

Many are anxious to know what is to be done with Colored Regts. Can you give us any light? If mine is mustered out we shall claim the exit bounty and return to our homes with happy hearts. If not mustered out I shall for the present do my duty where Providence seems to have assigned me as faithfully as I can looking unto Heaven for help. Yr. Br. C.H.H.

P.S. No. 2

I do not remember Capt Dumont Bunker of whom Maj. Stinson worte. Not appts. to negro Regts unless Gen. Saxton is allowed to complete those two.

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2561 5/24/1865 *From:* James Tupper Jr

*To:* My Dear Uncle [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2501

*Source:* Bowdoin

Fort Delaware,  
Officers Barracks, Div  
39

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[197]

Fort Delaware, May 24th 1865  
Officers Barracks, Div 39

My Dear Uncle, [OO Howard]

I regret very much to trouble you again. Altho I consented some time since to take the amnesty oath I see no favorable chance of my getting out here, except through a special release, a good many of them have arrived here lately for officers. I think you will find no difficulty in obtaining me one.

I would not ask the above favor if my health were not very bad. Remember me very kindly to all of your family.

You Affectionate Nephew  
James Tupper Jr  
1st Lieut 27th S.C. Inft

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

To be answered by Sladen - a kind letter.

[written in a third hand.]

Cannot answer till the General sees it again as his intercession is asked in the case of a prisoner.

[Note. Otis and family were very friendly with a Tupper family living in Brooklyn, NY, when Otis was teaching at West Point, but I know of no other possible relationship.]

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2562 5/24/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Dear Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2503

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165, 166]

Boston May 24 1865

Dear Genl. Howard

"My kingdom for a horse." It is too bad to trouble you, & that while you must have so many things to think about in your new position. But pardon the intrusion. I have thot that you might have a noble charger—a fellow who has carried the Genl., seen the battle & joined in the victory, & that you might have another, i.e. a number, one of wh you wld like to send me by some Quartermaster's returning, empty Boat, one wh wld go in the Carriage a little as well as under the saddle mostly.

Now, business. I want a splendid 1000 pound, well built, sure footed, magnificent, grand, glorious, war horse. Oh. I mean I want a first rate saddle horse, & one that is kind so that I may take you & your family out in my carryall when you come along, & perhaps you have one for me. I shd like to pay you what he is worth & meet him at the wharf here or at the Fall river, or at such other place as you can send him to.

Possibly Whittlesey, or some one of your old staff may want one also, & wld come along with them.

You see what I want.

I wrote you last week. I hope you recd the note. I trust you will answer Lymans not affirmatively & that we may have you at our house at the anniversary time.

Wish I cld have seen that review yesterday.

In haste, but sincerely & fraternally  
E.B. Webb

[Written on the back page in another hand.]  
Boston, May 24/65  
Webb. E.B.  
Friendly  
Genl.  
Recd Wash'n May 27, 1865.

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2563 5/24/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Dear Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2504

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167]

1865 May 24

Dear Genl. Howard.

J.C. Bodwell Jr. a member of the Mass. bar, called on me this afternoon to get my recommendations for an appointment in your department.

Exactly what I have to say is this –I know the young man's father –I know several of those who have recommended him. I think their recommendations are as reliable as any.

He wants to go to Beaufort & make that his future home.

Yrs as ever  
E.B. Webb

---

2564 5/24/1865 *From:* R.S. Tucker

*To:* Maj Genl O Howard

OOH-2505

Head-Quarters Army of  
the Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170, 171]

Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee,  
May 24 1865

Maj Genl O Howard  
Genl.

I see from the papers that your army has just reached Alexandria, and I take this moment to write you.

We are all getting along as well as we could expect. The Military authority are doing all they can to preserve order, &c, and I am happy to say that there is comparative quiet throughout our borders, little or no quarreling and the people disposed and anxious to work, to build up our lost fortunes, and to strengthen our government.

My Brother is now on his way to N.Y. to settle up our old business and to buy a stack of goods. He will stop at the St. Nicholas Hotel. I often think of and will ever appreciate the justness & kindness of your heart, and the many favors you did myself and my fellow citizens whilst you remained with us. May Heaven reward you both in this and the world to come.

My good little wife & children desire to be kindly remembered to Genl Howard, and should you ever feel inclined to visit our quiet little City, with your family. I should be most happy to have you stay with us.

My regards to the members of your staff.

At your leisure moment I should be pleased to hear from you.

Yours truly  
R.S. Tucker

P.S. Do you recognize the paper on which I am writing?

[Written on the last page, upside down, in a different hand.]  
To be answered by dictation.

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2565 5/24/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2506

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[179]

Farmington May 24, 1865

My dear Brother

I hope your good wife is safely with you by this time and that you are very happy. Mother writes that you hope to be home some time in July. Please don't make any engagement elsewhere for the 4th but come & spend it with us & we will have mother here to meet you. Tell Lizzie we have got a new childrens bed & can now accommodate an indefinite number of little folks.

Our baby is quite unwell & I am suffering temporarily from a severe cold.

Ella sends much love to you & Lizzie & Mrs Whittlesey if she is with you. "David wants me to tell you that our little carriage is mended for little brother" and a no. of other equally sensible messages."

I suppose you have a file somewhere, or as Ella says "a drawer in you Bureau" for the names of applicants for "positions". I have been requested to suggest the following. Capt N.C. Goodenow, whom you knew in Coll &c. He is now in the Cavalry Service at St Louis. Also Henry Woodward of Winthrop, who has written you enclosing a note from me.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

---

2566 5/25/1865

*From:* R. Saxton

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2502

Beaufort S. Ca.

US Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[168, 169]

Beaufort S. Ca.  
May 25th 1865

My dear General,

I cannot forbear expressing to you the great satisfaction with which I learned of your appointment as the head of the bureau of Freedmen's Affairs. The need of such a head has long been felt by the friends of freedom and I feel thankful that one so true to the freedmen in purpose as yourself, has been selected for this important post. One of the greatest obstacles in the way of the little I have tried to do for the freedmen here, has been the want of a bureau at Washington where all questions at issue and conflicts of jurisdiction with the other military authorities could be referred. I rejoice greatly that this want is now supplied.

I think time will show that your work is the most important in the nation, for it is only by doing justice to the oppressed that its future can be made prosperous. It seems a mighty task to shape the future of these millions of emancipated freemen but it is one that will prove simpler than it seems. There is a great deal of recuperative vitality in the race so far as I have been able to judge of it. They only need to be educated and protected in their rights and all will be well with them.

For this great work, if rightly performed, you will have the sympathy and co-operation of every friend of humanity, and better than all that, we cannot doubt the blessing of God will rest upon it. I shall be happy to give all the information and assistance I can to such commissions as you may appoint for this Department.

I have not seen the act of Congress as yet; but I understand it provides, for the appointment of two commissioners for each state which seems to me a wise provision, as a more extended jurisdiction cannot be as thorough or efficient.

My wife desires to be remembered. She rejoices as much as myself at your appointment. I see Col. Howard daily. He has a splendid regiment, it will be equal to any in the Service white or black.

I am General  
Truly your friend  
& obt Servant  
R. Saxton

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
US Army

[Written at the bottom of the back page in another hand.]

Beaufort May 24th 1865

Saxton, R.

Brvt. Maj. Gen.

Friendly Letter

[Written across the last page in a third hand.]

Answered H.M.S.

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2567 5/25/1865 *From:* L. A. Prescott

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2507

Farmington, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[180]

Farmington, Maine  
May 25 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Sir:

The citizens of Farmington & Franklin County are making extensive preparations for a celebratin in the coming Fourth of July.

The committee selected to secure speakers for the occasion were instructed to extend an urgent invitation to you to be with us on that day.

We pledge you an audience of twenty thousand loyal people.

Very respectfully,  
L. A. Prescott  
for the Committee

P.S. I send "Chronicle" containing proceedings of our citizens.

---

2568 5/25/1865 *From:* Henry Woodward

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2508

Winthrop

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181, 182]

Winthrop May 25, 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Will you allow me for a moment to intrude myself upon your attentino.

I learn by the papers that you have been appointed Commissioner of the Freedmens Bureau.

From the first mention of that Bureau I have for various reasons felt a desire to obtain some place in it where I might have opportunity to aid in the elevation of that long abused race.

I do not claim that considerations of philanthropy alone actuate me but that as between a situation in that department and one elsewhere equally advantageous I should very much prefer the first. For such reasons you will please excuse me therefore in taking the liberty to apply to you, if you shall find it consistent with your duty, to give me a work to do in your department, either of yourself, of through your subordinates.

Not having seen the law establishing the Bureau and of course knowing almost nothing of the machinery of it I am not prepared to particularly designate any place as desirable to me.

And should you decide adversely it would be of no consequence.

Enclosed I send a note from your brother Rev. R.B. Howard with whom I am acquainted.

Desiring nothing but what shall be consistent with your duty to all concerned I sincerely hope you may find it in accordance therewith to favor me.

With high considerations of esteem I am very respectfully yours  
Henry Woodward.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Winthrop May 25, 1865

Woodward, Henry

Would like position in Freedmen's Bureau

One enclosure

Recd Wash'n May 27, 1865

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2569 5/26/1865 *From:* L.J. Harwell

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2509

Washington

Commission of Freedmen

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[184]

Washington May 26th 1865

Genl O.O. Howard  
Commission of Freedmen  
Sir -

Allow us to introduce Harrison Reed Esq of Florida, who is here to confer with the administration in relation to the interests of the freedmen & the restoration of civil Govt. in that State.

Mr Reed was formerly a resident of Wisconsin where for many years he was a prominent Editor & associate in the public affairs of the State.

He designs establishing a press in Florida where his character and experience eminently fit him for usefulness in the great mission of civilization now committed to your charge.

An acquaintance of over 20 years enables us to commend him as a gentleman of integrity, & ability, and in whom you may rely as a true friend of freedom & the Government. Mr Reed may refer to the Hon John F. Potter, Gens. Washburne, Shurz & Payne, the Senators & Members of Congress & the public man of Wisconsin generally, who will cheerfully give him an unqualified endorsement.

With much respect we are Sir  
Your Obt. Servants  
L.J. Harwell, Ex Gov of Wisconsin  
Alex W. Randall, 1st Asst P.M. Genl  
James Lewis, Gov Wis.

---

2570 5/27/1865 *From:* David H. Hall

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2510

Newark  
New Jersey  
(Box 146)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[185, 186]

Maj. Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

Since my late return from New Orleans, where I have spent a couple of months, on a special mission for the Amer Bible Soc, inquiring into the moral condition of the Freedmen there, and their accessibility to Christian work, it has occurred to me, that the facts gathered in regard to the, and my careful observations among that interesting people may be of service to you.

For the sake of it, kind intentions, pardon my assurance, as a stranger, in saying that if I can serve you & the cause of humanity by any information in my power to communicate, on the subject referred to, I will cheerfully report myself at your office, whenever you may appoint.

I am most humbly  
Your Obedt Servt  
David H. Hall  
Newark  
New Jersey  
(Box 146)

May 27 1865

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]  
Newark N.J. May 27 1865  
Hall, David H  
Friendly Letter  
Recd May 30th, 1865

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2571 5/27/1865 *From:* Jack G Kennedy

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2511

*Source:* Bowdoin

Census Office,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington

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[154]

Census Office, Department of Interior,  
Washington May 27 1865

My dear General

I take the liberty to introduce the Marquis de Chambrun –grandson by marriage of La Fayette –who is greatly interested in the question of freedmen and who will be gratified for any printed documents bearing on that question.

Faithfully yr friend  
<Jack G Kennedy>

Maj Gen. Howard

---

2572 5/27/1865

*From:* Chas K. Long

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2512

Head Quarters 1st Reg.  
N.H. Hvy. Arty.  
Fort Reno D.C.

Freedman's Bureau.  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[187]

Head Quarters 1st Reg. N.H. Hvy. Arty.  
Fort Reno D.C.  
May 27th 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard:  
In charge Freedman's Bureau.  
Washington D.C.  
General:

Having had the honor of serving as Captain, (Co. G. 5th Reg. N.H. Vols.), under your command, and having passed examination before a board of Officers of which you were President –I take the liberty to request of you, a certificate of former service, if you are disposed to give it, for use in preparing my military record.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very respectfully  
Your obdt. Servant,  
Chas K. Long  
Col. 1st Regt. N.H. Hvy. Arty.

---

2573 5/27/1865

*From:* Jack G Kennedy

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2513

*Source:* Bowdoin

Census Office,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington

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[190]

Census Office, Department of Interior,  
Washington 27 May 1865.

My dear General,

Permit me to introduce H.J. Hubertus Esq of Quebec an earnest inquirer after information relative to the African race.

Mr H is connected with the Toronto Globe & will appreciate your kindness in giving him any information on a subject in which he is to deeply interested.

Very truly yours  
<Jack G Kennedy>

Maj Genl Howard

---

2574 5/28/1865

*From:* Wm J Albert

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2514

*Source:* Bowdoin

The American  
Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse  
Lines  
Balto

Washington

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[38]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated: Balto May 28 1865

Rec'd, Washington May 28 1865

To: Maj Gen OO Howard

The undersigned have been appointed a Committee on behalf of the ladies of the Christian Commission of this state to invite you to be present tomorrow night at the Closing Scenes of their Floral festival held for the benefit of our sick & wounded soldiers, the ladies earnestly desire your presence and we assure you it will give great pleasure to all our loyal citizens to have you in our midst, should you come please notify SM Shoemaker Adams Express Balto by telgh as early as you can on Monday morning

Wm J Albert  
SM Shoemaker  
Committee

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore Md.

May 28th, 1865

Shoemaker, S.M. et al.

Answered immediately by Capt Cole A.D.C.

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2575 5/29/1865 *From:* J.G. Blaine

*To:* Maj. Gen. Howard

OOH-2515

Willards [Hotel,  
Washington]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[191]

Willards [Hotel, Washington],  
29 May /65

Dear General

Major Norris will call upon you again in regard to the appt of Assistant Commr for Alabama.

As I understand it, these assistant Commissioners are appointed with your advice & consent.

May I, as a favor personal to myself, invoke that advice & consent in behalf of Maj. Norris?

Ever Sincerely  
Your friend  
J.G. Blaine

Maj. Gen. Howard

---

2576 5/29/1865    *From:* R B Johnson

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2516

476 "H" St  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[192]

Washington D.C.  
May 29 1865

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I am instructed by the Sunday School Missionary Society connected with the Cavalry Baptist Church of this city, to invite you, and earnestly urge you to accept the invitation, to address the above society next Sabbath afternoon at three and a half o'clock, upon the subject of missions either Home or Foreign as adapted to such organizations.

Allow me to say that the desire to hear from you is unanimously expressed, and I hope to have the pleasure of announcing that you have accepted the invitation.

With the assurance that our people hold you in high esteem,

I am very truly  
R B Johnson  
Vice Prest Society  
476 "H" St

---

2577 5/29/1865 *From:* R.P. Buck

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2517

New York

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[193]

New York May 29th 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Not Transcribe. Invitation to speak]

Very truly yours  
R.P. Buck

---

2578 5/30/1865

*From:* M.D. Leggett

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2518

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 3d  
Division 17th Army  
Corps,  
Army of the Tennessee,  
Washington D.C.

Freedmen's Bureau

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[195]

Head Quarters 3d Division 17th Army Corps,  
Army of the Tennessee,  
Washington D.C. 30th May 1865.

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Dear Genl

I did not send my son to you as you proposed, as I was informed by Genl. Grant that he had called the Presidents attention to the matter but too late, as all vacancies were filled.

I feel very grateful General to you, for your kindness, and so does my son.

Should you need his services for a time upon your staff he would be glad to serve with you, but not unless his services can be made useful. He hold the rank of Capt and A.D.C., assigned by order of Sec of War to the Staff of Maj Genl Blair, but by my request made Engineer Officer of my Division. Don't let this matter or his desire embarrass you in the least. If you cannot use him so as to make him serviceable to yourself & the Government, then I don't want him there.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Serv't  
M.D. Leggett [Mortimer Dormer Leggett]  
Bvt Maj Genl

[Written on the last page upside down, in a different hand.]  
Washington 30th May 1865  
Leggett, M. D.  
Maj Gen.  
Asks position for his son on General Howard's staff.  
Answered.

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2579 5/31/1865 *From:* H. Tupper

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2519

113 Clinton Street  
Brooklyn N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[196]

113 Clinton Street  
Brooklyn N.Y. May 31, 1865

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
My dear friend

I now desire to express to you my sincere thanks for your kindness to my unfortunate friends south –now that peace is restored we must love those who have been enemies. How many young men have been misguided and have lost their lives! I pray God that the living may now repent and seek salvation.

I rejoice to observe that the public and the Government appreciate your valuable and Christian services, may God reward you eternally!

I have just received advice of the death of my brother Tristram in Charleston S.C. in his 76th year, also of the death of my Nephew Fred. Tupper at Hospital near Balto, of a wound. He was son of my unfortunate brother of Savannah. I have also recd the enclosed. Can you consistently with your duty & without too much trouble obtain his release? I believe he is a worthy and quite young man. With best regards to Mrs H.

I remain my dear Sir,

Yours sincerely  
H. Tupper

---

2580 5/31/1865

*From:* J.W. Chickering,  
Senr.

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2520

22 Bulfinch Ln  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[198, 199]

22 Bulfinch Ln  
Boston, May 31 [1865].

Dear General,

One brief word, which please read & answer.

Can you not August 1st do the great moral good, perhaps, of your useful life, by being, at least one day, at our National Temperance Convention, with if possible also your noble subordinate in rank & associate in good words & work – Gen Fisk.

We mean to make it Christian & Patriotic.

Your name as “expected to be present” will help make it; as your comments & words will greatly aid it.

And you can say a most effectual word for your special proteges –to the thousands of Saratoga visitors – can you say “Yes” by Saturday or Monday – to me “Care Dr Marsh 5 Beckman St. New York” and greatly oblige yours truly

J.W. Chickering, Senr.

---

2581 5/31/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2521

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[200]

Farmington May 31, 1865

My dear Brother

Mr Demond of the U.S. Ch. Com. writes that he would like to have me go out to the Army for them for four weeks. And if I can get the consent of my people I would like to go, starting from home June 8th. By going I will miss our State Conference where I was to speak & also our "National Council" in Boston June 14th that I had hoped to attend. The great motive of my going is to see you & get what information I can with regard to the Southern States, Freedmen &c, that I may learn something of the proposed policy of the Govm't and the openings for Christian & philanthropic labors at the South. It would be pleasant to say some parting words to the Soldiers about Christ and to let those in the Hospital know that our sympathy holds out as long as their suffering.

It would be pleasant also to visit our old friends at Gettysburg under the present happy circumstances and to be there with you on the Anniversary of our parting July 4th 1863, and took over the fields then devastated by war. Will you go to Gettysburg? Do you think I had better come? When probably can you come to Maine. Can I do anything for you or Lizzie before starting if I go? When will she return? I wish I could hear from Augusta. It will be 8 days before I get away & I hope to receive a few lines from you or Lizzie as soon as you receive this.

With much love to her

Yr aff Brother  
Rowland

---

2582 5/31/1865 *From:* Edward Maynard

*To:* [May M. Hollowell]

OOH-2628

Nashville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150]

Extract from a letter from Edward Maynard dated Nashville May 31 / 65 [Probably directed to May M. Hollowell, Secy of Relief Assn. for Union Refugees]

“ Gov. Brownlow directs me to say, that he hopes you will present his warmest thanks and kindest regards to those noble ladies who have formed themselves into an Association to relieve the destitute and suffering portion of his state.

In regard to the Orphan's home I am sorry to say there is no such Institution in E. Tenn.

Many children of deceased soldiers are now suffering and would be incalculably benefitted by such an establishment.”

---

2583 6/1/1865

*From:* James N. Glenaster

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2522

Brooklyn

Freedmens Bureau  
Department

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[2]

Brooklyn June 1 1865

Gen Howard  
Freedmens Bureau Department  
Hon Sir

From your known status throughout the Country on the question of humanity, and of Eminent loyal service to the Country, we cannot but rejoice at your recent appointment at the head of Freedmen affairs, as Colored men.

Some of us for along time have looked forward with hope, when things in behalf of the Freedmen would take some definite permanent shape, and the many abuses under which they have suffered be satisfactorily adjusted.

Early in the war your correspondent with several of his brethren, made the subject of the Freed people a matter of deep inquiry, as far as we had then the power, and then we were fully persuaded of the fact, that the Government had a vast accumulation power on its hands, and if but rightly directed would result to the Government, in much eminent service, subsequent events have shown, that our impressions were correct, and what has failed on the <score> of advantage to the Government must be attributed to the lack of experience, and in some cases to the want of humanity, and moral honesty, in those who have heretofore had the care, and control of these men.

The report of the Commissioners of Enquiry into the condition of the Freed people as appointed by the war department, Robert Dall Owen, Col James MacKay and Dr Howe and subsequently the reports of W.E. <Teabman> Esq of their condition along the valley of the Mississippi justify all and more than I have said.

Immediately after the Published report of the Commission I submitted in connection with Professor W.J. Wilson now Principal of one of the most successful Freedmens Schools in Washington the results to our Joint investigations into the condition of the Freed people and earnestly solicited those gentleman in their presented plan of a Freedmens Bureau to give the appointment of Resident Superintendent to intelligent, experienced, educated, upright colored men. They answered that though they had not the appointing power, yet would, nevertheless unanimously recommend it and we rejoiced to say, it was also recommended by Senator Sumner, Hon J.P. Chase, Judge Underwood of Virginia, then President of the Freedmens aid society of Washington.

But in the recent measure of a bureau, the Claims of such Colored men, we fear has been entirely overlooked. At the same time we are free to say, that to give the now proposed Bureau, a permanent Glorious success, Colored men to it, in important responsible positions, are an indispensable element.

And in this view we are joined by some of the most eminent thoughtful men of the Country. We do hope sir that such are your matured views, and in proper season that they will be called to fill such positions.

Sir, allow me to say in connection with the papers sent you, that I have not only been identified, with the cause of the Freed people as the papers indicate, but was one among the first to <move> in the matter of Colored troops and visited our Excellent Lamented Chief magistrate the President, with a Committee of Gentlemen from New York, introduced to him by Senator Sumner. The President invited Hon S. P. Chase to an interview, our object was to make a tender of (10,000) black men as a neuclus to (100,000) who would respond to the call of Government whenever it was the settled policy of the Government so to receive them. Our meeting on the part of the President was literal, frank and cordial, and I need not say to you sir that the result to the country has been glorious.

Thus you will perceive sir that I have not been a stranger to our necessities as a country or to the Freedman, as my redeemed <master>.

Most respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
James N. Glenaster

---

2584 6/1/1865

*From:* E.P. Popwell

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2523

Adrian Michigan

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

Adrian Michigan  
Jun 1, 65

Major Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

[Not transcribed. Invitation to speak.]

Yours sincerely  
E.P. Popwell  
Pastor of Plymouth Ch.

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2585 6/1/1865

*From:* Mrs Matilda Burtwell

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-2524

Care Mr Levi Wade  
Murfreesboro  
Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[6, 5]

Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
1st June 1865

Gen'l O O Howard  
G'l-

The kindness of heart attributed to you by those who know you best, the sympathy ever felt by the noble & brave for a vanquished foe, and above all, the high regard entertained for you by my deceased brother, Cadet Levi L Wade of this state while at the Academy [USMA, class of 1854], embolden me to appeal to your generous & sympathetic heart in this hour of trial in behalf of my husband, Col Jno R B Burtwell, a graduate of West Point [USMA class of 1860] & late of the Rebel Army. Having just seen the Presidents Proclamation, I hasten to write not being aware of my husband's whereabouts – tho' he has been surrendered by G'l Dick Taylor [son of President Zachary Taylor]. My haste is actuated by a feeling of grief that only a wife can feel for a husband in the hour of sorrow.

Your name has been familiar to me for many years. I've had in my possession since the death of my brother, a bible presented to him by yourself whilst at the Academy. He <read> it daily prior to his death, & the leaves are still folded where he last read. I regret very much, G'l, that I couldn't see you while the Army was <>, but I was not aware of your being attached to the Army of the Tenn until you had passed through our state. I should certainly have sought an opportunity of seeing you. I saw G'l Rice frequently. He was exceedingly kind to me. I deeply deplored his death.

Gen'l, will you be so kind as to send me an immediate reply & if possible pardon for my husband? I assure you mine would be a life-time debt of gratitude. If this is favorably recd I will write in full. Our family desire to be presented most kindly to you.

With respect Gen'l your <> & friend  
Mrs Burtwell

My address -  
Mrs Matilda Burtwell  
Care Mr Levi Wade  
Murfreesboro  
Tennessee

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Murfreesboro Tenn.

June 1, / 65

Bentwell Mrs. M. [Note the difference in the spelling of the last name.]

Desires Gen to assist her about getting a pardon for her husband, Col Jno RB Bentwell, late of Rebel army.

Asks an answer.

Sladen,

Please ascertain from Maj Knox the process of getting a pardon. The Genl desires it. I called to see Knox but he was not in his office. <Balluth>

Rec'd B of R F & AL June 22d

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2586 6/2/1865

*From:* O Brown

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2525

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters Asst.  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Va.

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[7]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia  
Richmond, Va.,  
June 2d 1865.

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Dear General

I enclose herewith the order of Genl Terry published to day with the editorial of the "Richmond Times" for the purpose of showing you how readily our Southern friends "on't see the point" of an order where brother Sambo is involved.

I am General  
Truly Your  
O Brown

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]  
Richmond June 2 1865  
Brown, O.  
Col & Asst. Comr  
Friendly letter

---

2587 6/2/1865

*From:* Wm Scott

*To:* Gen O O Howard

OOH-2526

New York

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated New York June 2nd 1865  
Rec'd Washington 2nd 1865  
To: Gen O O Howard

I give a reception to Gen'l Sherman friday will be happy to see you.  
Wm Scott

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

New York June 2nd 1865

Scott, Wm.

Invites Genl. Howard to be present at his reception of Gen. Sherman.

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2588 6/2/1865

*From:* John R. Hotaling

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2527

Rochelle  
Ogle Co.  
Ills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8]

Rochelle June 2nd 65

Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

[Not transcribed. Desires a position.]

John R. Hotaling  
Late of Logans Staff

Direct  
Rochelle  
Ogle Co.  
Ills

[Written on the back page in another hand]  
By direction of Sladen

---

2589 6/2/1865

*From:* E. H. Powers

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2528

Camp near Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[9, 10]

Camp near Washington  
June 2nd 1865

Maj Genl Howard  
My Dear Sir -

Pardon me for trespassing upon your time by sending you this note. My object is to say that I am ordered to make ready my regt to start for Louisville Ky. And shall probably go in a few days. As I suggested to you once before, I should be pleased to be detailed into your Dep'tment provided you considered it practicable; and the prospect of an early departure from this Dep'tment & which would probably render such detail wholly impracticable, or at least improbable, - has prompted me to send this note.

With my best wishes for a continuance of your success. I have the honor to be

Very respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt  
E. H. Powers  
Lt Col 55th O.V.I.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]  
Camp near Washington D.C.  
June 2d 1865  
E.H. Powers  
Lieut Col 55th O.V.I.  
Applies to be detailed into Freedmen's Bureau  
Recd Bureau R F & A.L. June 3d 65  
Brief & record file

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2590 6/2/1865

*From:* J.H. Wilson,  
Bvt. Maj. Genl.  
Hd. Qrs. Cavalry  
Corps, M.D.W.  
Macon, Ga

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2529

*Source:* Bowdoin

Chief of Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington D.C.

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[11]

Hd. Qrs. Cavalry Corps, M.D.W.  
Macon, Ga June 2nd 1865.

General,

I desire to introduce to your acquaintance, and commend to your kind attention Col. O.H. La Grange, 17 <Vive> Cavalry, and Comdg. Officer of the 2nd Brig. of McCook's division.

The Colonel can give you much valuable information in regard to the condition and feelings of the people, in Georgia and will express my views in regard to the Freedmen.

With great respect I am very Truly Your Friend and  
Obedient Servant  
J.H. Wilson,  
Bvt. Maj. Genl.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington D.C.

---

2591 6/2/1865

*From:* A.H. Dashiell Jr.

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2530

Field Hospital First  
Division 9 Army Corps.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12, 13]

Field Hospital First Division 9 Army Corps. [June 2, 1865]

Major Gen. O.O. Howard &  
General

I take this method of bringing to your notice a matter, which has engaged my attention through the suggestion of some of my friends in Massachusetts. It is some special aptness which they think I possess for work among the Freedmen.

I may say, that I am by birth a Southern man, but educated at a Northern College, and for ten years was Pastor of the Church in Stockbridge, Mass. My father was President of a College in East Tennessee and is not unknown to President Johnson. His large family of children are still residing in Tennessee. My sisters (two of them) living near the battlefield of Stone's River and have maintained their loyalty. My father at the disruption of the Presbyterian Church came North because of his conscientious views on Slavery, having always been opposed to the System, and thus escaped the horrors & desolation which the Rebellion has brought upon the State. I have been in the Army as chaplain of the 57th Mass. V. Inf. Since April 64, having been obliged to resign my charge previously on account of dyspepsia. Such are my antecedents & it has been supposed that from my early education & knowledge of the Negroes from my family connexions. My Northern experience as a Pastor, and my experience in the Army as a Chaplain, I might be useful in the great work, which you have undertaken in reconstructing society in the South.

I am no office-seeker, and I am not disposed to encroach on your time by a presentation of my views or claims I may have on your attention. Should you desire an interview with me in view of the possibility of needing my service I will be happy to wait upon you at such time and place as you may appoint.

As I am a stranger to you, and you may desire references as to character and qualifications I would refer you to Hon John Z. Goodrich Collector of the Port of Boston (formerly my parishioner), John C. Smith Pastor Fourth Presb. Church Washington D.C. Brig. Gen. W.F. Bartlett formerly the colonel of my Regiment. Dr Adams Med. Inspector of the 9th A.C.

I entered the Army to aid in suppressing the Rebellion. I have been detailed since the battle of the Wilderness to the Field Hospital of the First Division 9.A.C. And have ministered to thousands of our wounded Soldiers, and as my regiment may soon be mustered out, I am ready to enter any field, which Providence may open. The sedentary life of a Pastor may provoke the return of my malady, and some post in your department may furnish me occupation, where I may do something to repair the wastes and build up the institutions of our beloved country.

Very respectfully  
Your obedient Servant  
A.H. Dashiell Jr.  
Chaplain 57 Mass. Inf.  
Field Hosp'l 1st Div. 9. A.C.  
Near Georgetown D.C.

P.S. I would also refer you to the Hon David Dudley Field of New York.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Field Hospital 1st Div 9th A.C. near Georgetown D.C. <[CHECK ORIGINAL - very faint]> with any of the Asst Commissioners <PWG>  
A H Dashiell, 57 Mas  
Asks a position  
Referred by letter to Asst Commissioners

Ans June 21  
Recd B R F & AL Jun 2/65

---

2592 6/2/1865

*From:* Geo. H Stuart

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2531

*Source:* Bowdoin

The Young Men's  
Christian Association  
of Philadelphia,  
1009 and 1011  
Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia

Washington D.C.

---

[14]

The Young Men's Christian Association  
of Philadelphia,  
1009 and 1011 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, June 2d 1865

Dear Sir,

[Not transcribed. Invitation to speak at the annual convention.]

With high esteem  
We are  
Very truly Yours,  
Geo. H Stuart  
Peter B. Simons  
Jno Wanamaker  
Geo W Eddy

To  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

---

2593 6/3/1865

*From:* Henry Leavitt

*To:* Hon O.O. Howard

OOH-2532

Huntsville Ala

Freedmens Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[17]

Huntsville Ala June 3d 65

Hon O.O. Howard  
of Freedmens Bureau  
Sir

Please send me a copy of the law establishing a "freedmans bureau" June 1, 2015also any instructions or orders relative thereto which may have been issued from your office.

Respectfully Yours  
"Henry Leavitt  
Huntsville Ala."

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]

Huntsville June 3d 1865

Leavitt, Henry

Asks for circulars orders &c from this Bureau.

Answered by fulfillment of request. Sladen

Recd June 11th 1865.

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2594 6/3/1865

*From:* Ed. M. McCook

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Brig Gen

OOH-2533

Hd Qrs 1st Div Cavalry  
Macon Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[15, 16]

Hd Qrs 1st Div Cavalry  
Macon Ga. June 3, 1865

Dear General:

Allow me to congratulate you upon your appointment to so important a position as that of Superintendent of the Bureau of Freedmen. It is a position where you can do more for philanthropy, and the country than any other in the Army. Since our first kind meeting at Cleveland, and that terrible Atlanta Campaign we served through together, I have followed your career, and with pleasure from Fortune her favors. How I envied you and all the soldiers of Shermans Army that glorious march to Savannah!

I have just returned from Florida. I suppose you of all others will feel most interested in hearing of the condition of the Country and its people. I received the surrender of some 8000 troops to that state and found the people acquiesced in the new order of things with apparent cheerfulness. When I announced to the Negroes their freedom, they seemed to in many instances to think it meant freedom from all future labor. The Negro population there you know far outnumbers the whites, and while they seemed to fully realize the change in their status, they did not appear to feel that any new responsibilities & cares devolved upon themselves.

It will require a wise and firm Course to ensure sufficient labor to gather the coming crop and I fear very much that in the hand I left it in, neither wisdom nor firmness can be looked for. Only the most Energetic and decided administration of affairs in that state can prevent untold suffering on the part of both white and black.

I wish to see you and have a long talk with you about this. I am going North provided I get a leave of absence to marry a young girl who has waited patiently for me until the war was over. I am going to take her to Washington and know that her pretty face and guileless heart will make you her friend if you see her. I wrote this because I thought you ought to have your attention directed to the Country through which I have passed.

Very truly Your friend  
Ed. M. McCook  
Brig Gen

Maj Gen O.O. Howard.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Hd Qrs 1st Cav Division  
Macon Geo. 3 June  
McCook E M Brig Genl  
Letter friendly & admiring  
No answer required  
Rec'd July 21st 1865, Hd Qrs RF AL

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2595 6/3/1865

*From:* H. Hayes  
Lt Col C. Qr Mst  
Corps

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2534

*Source:* Bowdoin

Board of Examination  
of Quartermasters,  
"For the District  
comprising the  
Departments of  
Tennessee,  
Cumberland and Ohio."  
Louisville Ky.

Freedmens' Bureau,  
Washington DC.

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[18, 19]

Board of Examination of Quartermasters,  
"For the District comprising the Departments of Tennessee, Cumberland and Ohio."

Louisville Ky. June 3d 1865.

My Dear Sir,

Since the Armies split last fall near Gaylesville Alabama, the old Corps. (Fourth) which you commanded a year ago has moved hither & thither auxiliary, I suppose, to the main design, fighting well towards the close of the year, and since then marching and changing stations often. Finally I believe it is to come here to Louisville to be paid & mustered out, along with two other Corps, which you have also commanded.

I shall go back to the practice of law and strongly meditate settling South. After finishing my duty as a member of the Examining Board (upon which I have been since March) I want to make an actual observation of some parts of Georgia and Alabama in view of a suitable place.

It occurred to me to ask you whether my services could be rendered by me in the way of communicating information relative to the matters which you have in charge, or of doing ought else, in the advancement of the public policy towards the Freedmen.

The status of this class becomes one of the great questions to be settled. Without presuming to have opinions worth mentioning. I am for giving them citizenship and privileges as fast as earned by industry, good behavior and intelligence under the most favorable conditions that can be given them.

Very respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
H. Hayes  
Lt Col C. Qr Mst Corps

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Freedmens' Bureau,  
Washington DC.

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]  
Louisville Ky June 3 / 65  
Hays, Hiram  
Lt. Col & Chf Qr Mstr  
4th A.C.  
Friendly Letter  
Answd

[In OO Howard's hand]  
Brig Gn. Wild will be on duty in Ga. Go to see him. O.O.H.

[In another hand] Sladen dictate

---

2596 6/3/1865

*From:* Frans Geo. Shaw

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2535

*Source:* Bowdoin

National Freedman's  
Relief Association,  
New York

Bureau of Freedmen, R &c  
Washington D.C.

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[20]

National Freedman's Relief Association,  
New York, 3d June 1865.

Major General O.O. Howard  
Bureau of Freedmen, R &c  
Washington D.C.  
Sir:

I have the honor to present to you the bearer, Revd J. P. Chown, of Bradford, England, who comes to us highly recommended by friends there, not only for personal qualities & extended influence, but for deep interest in our work.

Mr Chown wishes to obtain information respecting the system inaugurated by you as Head of the Bureau, in order that he may make it known to the British Public on his return & will be much obliged to you, as shall we, for any facilities which you may extend to him in furtherance of this object.

I remain, Sir,  
with much respect & esteem,  
Yr obt Servant,  
Frans Geo. Shaw, President

---

2597 6/3/1865

*From:* John S. Sayward

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2536

Augusta

Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[21]

Augusta June 3 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard:

Dear Sir:

Allow me to recommend to you Lieut P.A. Gatehell of the 1st Maine Heavy Arty. As a most worthy young man, who has been promoted for his brave deeds. He is an elegant penman, and should you require a man of clerky habits, a man of honor and good morals, trust-worthy and correct in business and in life, you will find such an one in Lieut Gatchell.

He is a resident of Lincoln in Penobscot county. He was pursuing his college course when the war broke out and left the college for the army.

I know him well and have the fullest confidence in his ability, probity, and moral worth. He would like employment in some place in your Bureau, and I trust that you will find it convenient to give him a place.

Lieut. Gatchell, while a Sergeant of Infantry was on duty in this city as a clerk in the office of Major Gardiner and won approbation for his intelligence and devotion to business.

I do not deem it necessary to make to you an argument in favor of employment being given to those patriotic & capable young men who have been actively engaged in the service of their country, in the battle field. You understand all that & the whole country cannot fail before long in all places to act accordingly.

I feel that in this request I am equally ~~saning~~ both yourself and Lieut Gatchell.

Your truly with prayers & wishes for you success

John S. Sayward

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

[Written on the back in another hand.]

Augusta Jun 3, 1865

Sayward, John S.

Would like a position in Freedmen's Bureau.

Answered

Sladen answr

I have already 3 men from Maine in my enfordy & the Mre Dfr will grant no more &c.

June 7th 1865 Recd.

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2598 6/5/1865

*From:* Milton Welch

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2537

State of Maine Council  
Chamber  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

State of Maine Council Chamber  
Augusta June 5 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I wish for something to do in the cause of the Freedmen and if you have a situation that I can fill to your acceptance should be very glad of it.

You will probably remember me as a Monmouth boy and a graduate of Bowdoin College. The most of my life since 1845 has been passed in teaching High Schools and Academies in Maine. I have been a member of the State Board of Education and think I have a tolerable acquaintance with the wants and ways of children.

Previous to the breaking out of the Rebellion & had been in Georgia about three years and in leaving there in 1860 I lost the earnings of my life, I would like to return to that state and assist in some capacity in the education of the black children. I think my heart is in the work and I believe I can bring to your notice satisfactory certificates of fitness for the situation. I do not know what has been done or is doing in this direction, but I would like the privilege submitting my testimonials for your considerations.

If there is anything for me to do, a line addressed to me at Houlton Maine will be promptly attended to, and if there is not I shall be content.

Very truly yours  
Milton Welch

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2599 6/5/1865

*From:* John P. Roe

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard, U.S.V

OOH-2538

*Source:* Bowdoin

24th Wis. Col. Inf. 1st  
Brigade 2nd Div. 4th  
A.C. Nashville,  
Tennessee

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[24]

24th Wis. Col. Inf. 1st Brigade 2nd Div. 4th A.C. Nashville, Tennessee.  
June 5th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard, U.S.V.  
General

The people of Wisconsin propose to erect a permanent "Soldier's Home" for the benefit of disabled soldiers. In furtherance of which the State has appropriated Five thousand dollars (\$5000) and in obedience to a proclamation from Gov'r Lewis a State Fair is to be held at Milwaukee commencing June 28th Inst to raise funds for the same. The "Home" Committee having appealed to the several Wis. Regts. in the field to contribute "Trophies" &c. I have undertaken in behalf of the 24th Wis. V.I. To procure an autograph letter from each of the distinguished Generals under whom we have had the honor of serving, who, so far have responded in a most gratifying manner. Presuming that you have not forgotten the 24th Wis. as a portion of those gallant heroes whom you so nobly led on the "Atlanta" campaign, and also that you heartily sympathize with the benevolent object in view, I most respectfully request of you, General, an autograph letter to my address Milwaukee Wis. in aid of our "Soldiers Home" Fair.

I have the honor to subscribe myself General,  
Your Obedient Servant  
John P. Roe Chaplain 24th Wis V.I.

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2600 6/5/1865

*From:* W B E Bickford

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2539

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Twentieth Army Corps,  
Office Chief  
Commissary,  
Washington D.C.

Commissioner of Bureau  
of Freedmen & c &c

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[25]

Headquarters, Twentieth Army Corps,  
Office Chief Commissary,  
Washington D.C. June 5th 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Bureau  
of Freedmen &c &c  
General -

I am informed that considerable numbers of Officers of the various departments and arms of the service are being detailed for duty in your Bureau.

I had thought to leave the service whenever this corps organization should be discontinued, but if I can be ordered to report to you I will cheerfully work on in whatever capacity you may find me most useful.

I am with great respectfully  
Your obedient Servant  
W B E Bickford  
Capt and c.l.

---

2601 6/6/1865

*From:* Mrs. J.B.  
Richardson  
Washington

*To:* General O.O. Howard,  
  
Commissioner Freedmans  
Bureau

OOH-2540

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[26]

Washington  
June 6th [1865]

Major General Howard,  
Sir,

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you some three weeks since, I have received an appointment to a clerkship, in the Treasury at the salary of \$50.00 per month. I find however that that sum will not pay for the board and working of my child and myself, and unless I can obtain some other means of support, I shall be obliged to resign the clerkship, and try to live at home on my pension of \$30.00 per month. If I could receive my pension in monthly payments I might be able "make both ends meet", but it is only payable twice a year, in March and September.

I write to you in hopes that it may be in your power to give me some writing from your Department, which I could take home with me, and do mornings and evenings, and which I assure you I should try to do faithfully and well.

I am sorry to have trespassed so long on your valuable but I trust you will take the matter into consideration, and give me a favorable answer. May I hope to hear from you at as early a moment as possible as all my movements depend upon your answer.

I am

Most Respectfully Yours  
Mrs. J.B. Richardson

General O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner Freedmans  
Bureau

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2602 6/6/1865

*From:* W.M. Beebe Jr

*To:* My dear General [WB  
Hazen]

OOH-2541

Beaufort, S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[85, 86]

Beaufort, S.C.  
June 6th 1865

My dear General:

I received your very kind letter, and I assure you, your approval of the step I had taken in accepting my appointment gave me more pleasure than that of any other friend would have done.

Not only because I regard your friendship so highly, but I knew of your former prejudices, and the working out in your own mind the true policy of Government in regard to these people, and overcoming a prejudice against color which years of education had implanted convinces me that thinking men everywhere, will eventually become of the same mind. And officers of Colored Troops may feel that their position is respected by reasonable and good men.

Nothing of interest has transpired in the Department since the Capture of Jeff. Davis. The old residents are returning to Beaufort every day – crest-fallen and penitent.

You will perhaps feel interested to know how we are getting on with our regiment. We have had our arms – Springfield rifles – for two or three weeks, and the progress of the men in the “Manual” is surprising. Our Battalion drills are very good also.

I had the pleasure and honor of commanding the regiment on the occasion of its review by Chief Justice Chase, a four weeks since. His daughter was also present.

I am very happy to hear from Capt. Cole of Genl. Howards staff who arrived here yesterday, that you are commanding the 15th Corps., and there are strong probabilities of its being retained in the Army as an organization, for some time at least.

Col. Howard received this morning two brevets, as Lt. Colonel and Col. of Volunteers, dated the day previous to his appointment as Col. of this reg't. Captains Stinson and Gilbreath have also each been brevetted –Majors. Will you think me troublesome and unreasonable General, if I ask you for your influence to obtain for me a similar recognition of services? I do not think that I am particularly entitled to it, but I do feel that I have rendered as faithful and constant service as either of these officers. For the time I served with Gen'l Howard, I have not received any recognition of services, the Order relieving me being simply to relieve me “o accept an appointment in a new Regiment” done doubtless by Taggart without the Generals' knowledge.

I feel that I am taking a liberty in bringing these matters before your notice but you know General, how much such matter & influence a mans life, and the fact that I am the only officer of Gen'l Howard's personal staff who has received no recognition of past service will have its influence among all to whom I am known. If I could obtain a brevet as Major, upon my old rand as Captain it would be of immense important to me just now.

Boards for the examination of Officers desirous of remaining in the Service are being convened in this Dept. and I expect, daily, to be ordered before the one of which Brig. Gen'l. Potter is President.

My friends at home continue to speak of you in all their letters.

Trusting that I have not taken too great liberty in asking your influence to obtain the long wished for brevet. I remain, with sincere regard

Your obt. Servant  
W.M. Beebe Jr

128th U.S.C.I.

[Note: This letter was probably written to Major General William Babcock Hazen, who was commander of the 15th Corps during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.]

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2603 6/6/1865

*From:* Perry [Samuel  
Perry Lee]

*To:* My own Lizzie [Elizabeth  
Lee]

OOH-2542

Lytle Barracks

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27]

Lytle Barracks Wednesday June 6th 1865

My own Lizzie [Elizabeth (Fiske) Lee]

I will just write you a few lines this morning to tell you the news about the examination and ask your advice about going before the board. It is command by order of Gen Harker to examine Volunteer officers for the regular army and Col Wisewell was detailed as president with instructions to appoint the other members of the board and he appointed Col. Palmer and a Capt. McClary (a volunteer officer here) and Lieut Hayat of the V.R.C. Col W says all officers of the V.R.C. that want to remain in services must be examined now. If I go before the board I feel satisfied that W. & P. would not recommend me for a higher position than Lt. or Capt. as I think they have some <pet> to recommend in my place, and the question that arises in my mind is shall I humiliate myself to an examination when their minds are made upon before hand. I have been examined once and should not object to be again before a board of disinterested officers. What shall I do my Lizzie, not go before the board and be mustered out in a month or so, or go and accept a lower appointment. I leave it for you to judge and will do just as you say about it. I think the sea better than a life in this regt. Write me as soon as you get this. Col. P. is very <airy> now and thinks he can dispose of an officer as he thinks fit. One thing is certain the scamps are all right they will take care of their own lot. I am not in a writing humor this morning so I will say good bye. As you can imagine my feelings at the turn things are taking. Write me what you think. Give much love to mother and take heaps for your self

from your own loving  
Perry [Samuel Perry Lee]

[Written at the bottom of the second page in a different hand.]

Lytle Barracks  
June 6th 1865  
Lee, S. Perry  
Friendly letter.  
A.  
R. June 14th 1865.

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2604 6/6/1865

*From:* WH Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2543

*Source:* Bowdoin

Southwark Foundry  
Merrick & Sons  
Philad'a

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[28]

Southwark Foundry  
Merrick & Sons  
Philad'a  
June 6 1865

My dear Otis

I see by the papers that you are to be in Phila on Friday to address a meeting. Please do not let Geo Stuarts detectives get hold of you to the exclusion of your friends.

I have the sad task of informing you that Uncle John Vaughan died quite suddenly last night. He had been very sick during the morning but at noon when I was there, was thought to be very much better. He had a relapse however & died at 10 o'clock. As you know he was fully prepared for the great change, but to Aunt H the blow is a most severe one.

We had a very pleasant visit from Lyman Abbott on Sunday. I think he is in a fair way of getting a good organization for his new enterprise here as Father & three or four other gentlemen will probably take hold of it.

Hoping to see you & your wife soon.

I am Yrs sincerely  
WH Merrick

[Written upside down on the last page in a different hand.]  
Attended to.

---

2605 6/7/1865

*From:* Winthrop Tappan

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2544

1939 Chestnut St  
Philadelphia

Cor I & 19  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[40]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated: Phila 7 1865

Rec'd: Washington June 7 1865

To: Maj Gen OO Howard

Cor I & 19

Rev Dr Vaughans funeral Thursday afternoon at three at church of the Covenant family desirous to have you present Mrs Howard is at my house

Winthrop Tappan  
1939 Chestnut St  
25/Coll 110

[Written on the back page in another hand]

Philadelphia

June 7, 1865

Tappan, Winthrop

Desires to have Genl Howard present at Rev. Dr. Vaughn's funeral.

Has been answered

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2606 6/7/1865

*From:* O.H. Howard

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2545

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div of the  
South West  
New Orleans La

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[32, 33]

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div of the South West  
New Orleans La  
June 7th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
General,

In your letter of the 9th of September last, you kindly gave me the privilege of calling upon you as a friend, whenever you could be of service to me.

Major General Sheridan has just written a strong letter to the Secretary of War, asking that I may be made a Major in the Signal Corps. There are two vacancies in that grade, in our Corps. Since the personal difficulty between Mr Stanton and Col Meyer, Mr Stanton has neglected to fill any vacancies in the Corps.

I have good reason to believe that Gen'l Sheridan's letter will be "pigeon-holed" unless some one, whom Mr Stanton might wish to favor, should ask, basing his request upon the General's letter, that the appointment be made, in which case he would do so, notwithstanding his hostility to the Signal Corps.

Perhaps you have acquaintances whose influence would secure my promotion. Should Mr Stanton feel so inclined he has simply to nod his head and the thing is done. It is a matter of no consequence to him, but of considerable importance to me, expecting as I do, to remain permanently in the service.

I feel that I have fairly earned my appointment, and had I the good fortune to belong to any other Corps in the Army, this begging letter would be unnecessary. Unless some influence other than the General's letter will exert, is brought to bear, I shall not get my appointment, simply because Mr Stanton is "ugly" to the Signal Corps.

Very Respectfully & very truly yours  
O.H. Howard [Ocran H. Howard]  
Capt. Signal Corps  
U.S.A.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

New Orleans, La.  
June 7, 1865  
O.H. Howard  
Capt. Signal Corps. U.S.A.  
Requests assistance for promotion  
Recd. (Bu. R. F. and A.L.) June 17 1865

[Written in Otis' hand.]

I am a poor <defender> having already presented so many names, and if there is a difficulty with Col M, the Chf Sig. Offr., there is little chance of my success in that quarter. I will do what I can when an appointment offers.  
Sincerely &c

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2607 6/7/1865

*From:* Willard Warner

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2546

Head Quarters Post  
Charlotte N.C.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[34, 35]

Head Quarters Post  
Charlotte N.C. June 7 1865

General,

Pardon me for troubling you amid the manifold duties to which you have been called, much to my gratification, but I desire to say that I have been recommended for promotion by Generals Cox & Schofield and to ask your aid with the Secretary of War if consistent with your sense of duty and propriety.

My position of Past Com'd't brings me in practical contact with the great Negro question. My success in dealing with both masters and slaves has been much greater than I anticipated considering the wonderful transition which the Negro has undergone.

A little good sense with a great deal of patience and firmness has enabled me to make the change from master and slave to employer and employed, with the good feelings of both parties.

I shall be in Washington about the 15th inst.

Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Willard Warner  
Col. 180th O.V.I.  
Com'g Post

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Charlotte, N.C.

June 7, 1865.

William Warner [should have been Willard Warner]

Col. 180th Ohio Vols.

Comdg. Post.

Requests assistance for promotion

Recd. (Bu. R.F. And A.L.) June 12 1865.

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2608 6/7/1865

*From:* Carl Schubert

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2548

Charleston

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[36, 37]

Charleston June 7th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
General,

You will please excuse me for taking the liberty in addressing you to day upon a subject of this kind, but being assured that you are desirous of seeing justice done to every one I would crave your assistance in this. You will remember in passing through the country where I reside near Midway S.C. you gave me a guard to protect my property, until your Army had passed & they remained two days & half. They had scarcely left when five men (USA Soldiers) entered my House under pretence of searching for arms, and took of with them numerous articles, many of which I have labored for years to obtain, articles which I could not do without, particularly in the Country. I showed them the letter which you kindly gave me, but they did not pay any attention to it. I will give you a list of the articles taken, and Dear Sir, will you be so kind as to assist me in procuring pay for the same, for I know not what I shall do. I will not be able to obtain the necessaries of life, for you will be kind enough to remember, I told you, that I had been living in Charleston, but knowing that I would have to go in the C. Army I endeavored through a friend to get a passport for the country for being a staunch Unionist I was determined not to fight against the Union. I am truly thankful that I have escaped, but now having lost so many things without which I cannot live in the country, and to go to the city now I am afraid on account of sickness, until frost. Therefor my reasons for appealing to you trusting that you will endeavor to do all that you can for me. My little daughter if you recollect who played when requested on the piano ask you to be so kind as to all that you can for her father & Mother so that she may be enabled to get her education and the name of Genl. O.O. Howard will ever be remembered with gratitude by little Anna Schubert.

Yours Obedently  
Carl Schubert

P.S. Please direct to me care of  
Mr. M. Byer  
464 King St  
Charleston S.C.

The List of Articles Taken

One Buggy & horse. They burned the buggy.

A lot of Bacon (200 lbs)

1 doz Silver Spoons,

1 gold & two silver watches

1 valuable Music box

all the valuable clothing belonging to us.

I also had five bales of cotton stored in Charleston, which has been taken by the U Satate forces and sent north. Will you be so kind as to see to that also for me if possible. By attending to this request Dear Sir you will confer a favour on a family who really needs the above assistance, and will be received with lasting gratitude by Carl & Mary Schubert

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Charleston S.C.

June 7, 1865

Schubert Carl

Requests assistance about recovering some property. Reference to Mil Authorities who <> the cotton.

Ans. 21 June

Recd B. F.R. & AL June 21, 65



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2609 6/7/1865

*From:* Lemuel Moss

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2549

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Philadelphia

Commissioner of Freedmen,  
&c

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[38]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Philadelphia June 7th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedmen, &c  
General:-

Mr. Stuart wishes me to remind you of your engagement for Friday evening next, - to speak at the Academy of Music, on occasion of the Anniversary of the Ladies Christian Commission. He takes this precaution, lest your numerous & pressing public duties cause you to overlook this more distant service.

The Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States & British Provinces are now represented here in their annual Convention. It may be practicable for you, as it will be greatly for their gratification & advantage, to remain in our city long enough to visit & address them.

Further, I am requested to suggest, that in your address on Friday evening, inasmuch as the special work of the U.S. Chr. Commission is drawing to a close, you may be able to say a word that will more deeply interest the ladies & others in the noble work among the Freedmen.

Mr. Stuart expects you for his guest during your stay in the city, & is holding in reserve accommodations for yourself & Mrs. Howard.

Very Truly Yrs.  
Lemuel Moss, Home Sec'y.

Please telegraph us, on receipt of this in what train we may expect you, - tomorrow if practicable.

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]

Philadelphia June 7th 1865

Stuart, Geo. H.

Friendly letter

Recd Wash'n June 8th 1865

[Written in a different hand.]

Will start for Phila tomorrow at 11 A.M. My wife is not here. Have promised to stay with Mr. Wm. Merrick.

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2610 6/8/1865

*From:* Henry Rowntree

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2550

Springdale, Cedar Co.  
Iowa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[41, 42]

Springdale, Cedar Co. Iowa.  
6th Mo. (June) 8th 1865.

Major General O.O. Howard  
Respected Friend

My; attention has been directed to the appointment of a Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c. I rejoice on behalf of suffering and oppressed humanity, in our President's good selection.

I am desirous of obtaining employment in the great and useful work embraced in this Bureau.

I have long laboured for the elevation of the coloured people, endeavouring to raise up in them a higher standard and more consistent views of Religious, Moral, and Civil duties, to themselves, their country, and their God; in this way by mental cultivation and training, prepare them to enjoy and appreciate their liberty and blessings, that in due time, they may take their rank in the great human family designed for them by our great Creator.

I fully endorse the language of the Commissioner "That the negro should understand he is really free, but on no account, if able to work, should he harbor the thought that the Government will support him in idleness."

Whilst amongst them the greater part of years '63 & '64, which I spent in the valley of the Mississippi, I taught them this, adding that their future welfare and happiness depended mainly on their individual industry, in mental and temporal application.

My knowledge and acquaintance of the negro, with their habits, customs, manners &c, has not prepared me to unite with the radical Theories of some, but confirmed me in Practical common sense being best influenced by circumstances as actually existing in the immediate vicinity.

I am 50 years of age, healthy and active, born of Quaker parents, and have been for over 20 years, an ordained minister amongst them, as this portion of the christian church does not make any provision for the support of its ministers, but expects them to earn their own livelihood, I am also well conversant in mercantile business, having for 23 years, been an Importer in New York city, can keep books, accounts, &c.

Two of my Sons have been engaged in putting down the late wicked rebellion, one a commissioned officer in the Navy, the other was in the 35th Iowa Inf. Col. Hill.

To find a more extended field, and enlarged opportunity for usefulness, in advancing the true interests of my fellow man in every good way, is the cause of my request for some minor appointment, such being my motives, I do trust that Major General Howard will kindly overlook in me any irregularities in the mode being ignorant of any other way.

If I am furnished with any proper form &c for an application, I shall feel much obliged, and would endeavour respectfully to comply with such requirements.

Should Major General Howard have no places to fill, may I very respectfully ask him, to furnish me the address of Major E. Whittlesey Asst Comr for state of Mississippi, where most of my time was spend, and where I am well known, or of any of the other Commissioners, who would be likely to be in need of such assistance as my abilities, and business qualifications offer.

I am strictly temperate, not knowing the feelings of the drunkard. I am ignorant of all gambling and never in my life practised it, or entered a house or the arms of a woman prostitute. I am free from all debt and I hope at

peace with all men.

Very respectfully asking the favourable consideration of my application, as also the answering me at early convenience of the esteemed Commissioner. I await his kind reply and remains

Very truly  
Henry Rowntree

My address is  
Henry Rowntree  
Springdale  
Cedar Co  
Iowa

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Springdale June <>

He Rountree

Wants an appointment

A.

Recd B of R F & AL 22 Jun

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2611 6/8/1865

*From:* James H Foote

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2551

Wake County N.C.  
Near Raleigh

Washington City D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[39, 40]

Wake County N.C. Near Raleigh  
June 8th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington City D.C.  
Dear Sir,

Permit me to trouble you with a few lines. Just after the surrender of Johnson to the invincible Sherman, a considerable quantity of Forage (corn & fodder) was impressed in this neighborhood for the use of the Army, and in many cases receipts were given to those from whom the forage was taken, some signed by the Quarter Master and others by forage masters with the promise that it would be paid for. The forage was taken principally for the 15th & 17th Corps of your brave command. Now will you be so kind as to inform me whether the said recs can be collected and if so how shall we proceed to do so?

They seem to be informal or irregular & not proper vouchers of payment in their present form. I presented them to Col. Boyd Genl. Schofields Chief Q. Mast. who advised me to write you concerning the matter, saying that he thought it was the intention of the authorities to pay for forage taken about this time after the cessation of hostilities. The parties presenting these claims will be able to show that they are true and loyal citizens and strongly attached to the Union.

If these claims can be paid, General, it will greatly aid this community in raising their crops, and relieve them greatly from their present prostration, and cement their affection for the Government which knows no rival.

Fearing that I have troubled you to much already, I close, presuming upon you kindness which was so largely extended to us in protecting us while in our midst.

Please write me at Raleigh and render us under renewed and lasting obligations.

Your obt. Svt.  
James H Foote.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Being so far from Raleigh & can not decide the individual cases. The approval however of Gen. Schofield or of either of his Corps Comd to a formal voucher will be sufficient evidence to secure payment. The army of Sherman is mostly in Lou. Ky.

Ansd

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2612 6/9/1865

*From:* A F Stewart

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2552

*Source:* Bowdoin

Clerk's Office, Select  
Council  
Philadelphia

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[23]

Clerk's Office, Select Council  
Philadelphia, June 9th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir-

You are specially invited to be present at the reception of the returning Philad'a Regiments to take place to morrow 10th inst. Rooms have been provided for all the guests of the City at the Continental House, and Carriages will be ready at 12 oclock M to convey the guests to the reviewing stand.

By order of the Committee  
A F Stewart  
Clerk of <Committee>

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2613 6/9/1865

*From:* Carrie Borden

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2553

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[43]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington June 9th, 1865

Gen Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I came up to your Quarters this morning to present to you and Mrs. Howard, the compliments of Col. and Mrs. Richard Borden, my good Father and Mother, with a cordial invitation for you to pay us a visit when you are again in New England. It would afford us all very great pleasure to welcome you to our quiet home, in Fall River, and we should enjoy so much the expression of that friendship in which the service of our beloved Country has entwined the earnest loyal hearts. My good Mother wishes very much to see you. Since the dear old Flag suffered the expulsion, but not the <martyrdom> of Sumpter, she has scarcely ceased her prayers and her toils for the soldiers. It has been a great comfort to us that while our noble men were in the Field enduring the terrible labor of redeeming our Country we at home might minister to their wants in so many ways.

If you have not shared in the supply of our hands dear General, you have I trust received a richer portion in the wisdom and blessing which our Heavenly Father has been pleased, to bestow in answer to the prayer of faith.

Now please, do come and see us with Mrs. Howard and the children, and very soon if you can. Gracie will remember little Hattie Borden. Mrs. Borden will be very happy to see you at her home with Mrs. H.

I am yours with highest regard and esteem.  
Carrie Borden

Miss Carrie Borden  
Care of Harris, Shortrid  
Philadelphia, Pa

[A calling card was attached.] Miss Carrie Borden

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2614 6/9/1865

*From:* T.A. Meysenburg

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2554

City Engineer's Office  
St Louis

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[44, 45, 46, 47, 48]

City Engineer's Office  
St Louis, June 9, 1865

Dear General,

A long time has elapsed since I wrote to you last and during this period many things have occurred of great moment to the Country. With the greatest interest have I followed up your movements through the heart of the Confederacy and have enjoyed your achievements the same as if I had been with you. Your slow and steady promotion is the surest sign that it was well deserved, of which I for my part have been long ago convinced. It was not the momentary impulse and exaltation over one act, but a promotion on reflection, which it seems to me, makes it of much more value.

And even if the government should not have regarded your merits, the opinion of the people is but one and that is that the one armed soldier stands among the first of the nation.

You know very well General, that I am not disposed to flatter a person, but excuse me for having said so much and for allowing my candid feelings this expression. Believe me, if I assure you that I regard the period of my life which I spent in your association, one of the brightest, which will remain inscribed on my memory for ever.

Now I must trouble you with a matter relating to the old 11th Corps. It is about the books and papers of the same. You remember General that, when the 11th Corps was dissolved, two books were retained by you which you intended to send to me. The remainder of the papers &c, I kept until I could send them altogether, not wishing to have any of the books missing on examination at the War Department.

Now as you are stationed in Washington, I have taken the liberty to send the box containing all the books & papers in my possession to your address, so that, after adding the books with you, I would ask you to have them turned over to the Adjutant General office. For a long time have I had the desire to comply with the order requiring the transmission of these documents which, without any fault of mine has been delayed inexcusably. I must apologize for charging your officers with something which should be done by me, but under the circumstances I am in hopes to be excusable.

Now and then, I hear from the officers formerly connected with the 11th Corps. Among them is Col Balloch who undoubtedly is the same good man. He speaks of you always as the kindhearted good General, which in the mouth of Balloch is really meant so.

You have probably heard of my resignation in December last. In short, I will give you my reasons for doing so. My last campaign and career was attended with so little success, that no matter whose fault it was, it gave me a disgust for a life without activity as I had to lead for several months last year. Another reason is that my aged father wished me here and that it so happened, that before tendering my resignation a position in this office was offered me by my former chief.

Although I have many times felt a desire to be present when active operations of the army were in progress. I am now pretty well satisfied with my condition.

A great part of my leisure time I spend in adding to my little knowledge of my profession, Civil Engineering and all other time that can be spared I apply to general studies, which is the greatest satisfaction that I have found so far.

Excuse my encroaching upon your time with such a long letter containing so many useless remarks.

With the greatest respect and my best wishes

I have the honor to remain  
Yours, sincerely  
T.A. Meysenburg

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
St. Louis Mo.  
June 9, 1865  
Meysenburg, T.A.  
Friendly letter

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2615 6/9/1865

*From:* James Wood

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2555

*Source:* Bowdoin

Camp of the 136th  
Regt. N.Y.V.I.  
Near Washington D.C.

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[189]

Camp of the 136th Regt. N.Y.V.I.  
Near Washington D.C. June 9th 1865

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard,  
General:

I annoy you once more, and for the last time. The war is over. The rebellion is crushed. The flag of the Union waves proudly & triumphantly, over every foot of territory, subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Those who abandoned the peaceful pursuits of civil life, for the stern realities of bloody war, can once more return to the way of life so abandoned. Those who survive, with hearts filled with gratitude to God for his protecting care & mercy, those who have faithfully discharged their duty, with the proud consensness that they have aided in upholding the Government of their fathers, against the assaults of the most formidable rebellion the world ever saw. These are comforts and convolutions to the Christian soldier, of which no human authority can deprive him. But it must be conceded, that the officiants of the Govt, do not, and perhaps cannot, distribute the rewards of service with any thing like even handed justice.

In my case, I have discharged my duty faithfully, zealously, and allow me to add, efficiently. In my judgment, I have been treated with great injustice. As a personal favor I ask you to read carefully the enclosed paper. Having done so, I think you will say I am right. I am well aware, that I have been thrown into my present unfortunate position, by the force of fortuitous circumstances. It was my misfortune (at least I so regard it) that my Regt. Was assigned to the 11th Corps in the fall of 1862. It was a greater misfortune (I mean to myself and my military advancement) when the 11th Corps was broken up and its commander (who had been with it long enough to become acquainted with relative merits and capacity of each and every officer in it) transferred to another Corps. My chances of promotion were utterly destroyed, when Genls Butterfield & Hooker left the army & Genl Slocum succeeded to the command of the Xxth Corps. There indeed arose a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph.

In a military hierarchy, as you are aware, it is the person of the Superior office to present the services of his subordinate, however mentions, from being acknowledge or rewarded. In our service, the subordinate seems to be in the power of the Superior. Hence the Superior is bound by the highest of all honorable and moral obligations, to do justice to his subordinates. Now I respectfully submit to your good judgment; have I been treated justly, fairly? Have I not been, without cause a <parraction>, humiliated and degraded? Have I not been compelled to suffer from palpable favoritism?

I write you, because I have served under you longer than any other Corps Commander; because I know you abhor injustice; because I believe that if I had continued under your command I should have been subjected to no such unjust treatment; and because I have no doubt that, with your aid, even now, justice can so far be done, that I can go home with honor. You may say that the consciousness of having faithfully discharged his duty, is the good man's reward. Indubitably this is so. Earthly power cannot deprive him o this. It is his support & consolation under injustice contumely & oppression. But this, I apprehend, is no reason why he should be subjected to injustice contumely and oppression. It is the successful man that carries off the henna. The meritous ought to be successful, but you know that merit & success are not always companions.

I undertake to say that the assignment of Cogswell to my brigade cannot be justified. It was against every military usage. It was in violation of the practice and policy of our military service. It has been pronounced unjust & unwarranted, by every military officer in the Corps to whom the facts have been made known, but to add to the injustice (I will not now qualify it by fit terms) Genl Slocum has put in circulation the Statement that the 3d Brig of the 3d Div o the 20th Corps was the best brigade in the Corps that Cogswell had brought out its merits & qualities. You know that this (in regard to Cogswell) is not so. You know its discipline, its efficiency, and its reputation, one older than Cogswells commission as a Colonel. The remark was intended as reflection upon Cogswells predecessors, and you know that in that respect, it was (to me no harsher term) unwarranted.

If there is any think I have the right to be proud of, and I am proud of, it is the conduct of the Regt I brought into the field as you were pleased to say of it on another occasion "it never turned its back to the enemy". The conduct & services of my brigade on that terrible campaign against Atlanta, was equaled by few & excelled by none. Look at its record. It is written in blood. Its march from Buzzards Roost Gap to Atlanta can be traced by the graves of its dead heroes fallen in battle. I cannot think of it, if the sacrifices I have made, of the services I have rendered, and the treatment I have received, without feeling indignant. I dislike to leave the army with such feelings of oppression & injustice weighing on m mind. Perhaps I ought not to entertain them, but is it in human nature to do otherwise?

I have so much confidence in the President & Sec'y of War that I believe that they would when <> from my present position if my case could be placed fairly before them. I am aware of the difficulty of accomplishing this, in the immensity & pressure of the public business. If any officer in the Service can do it, I respectfully submit, you can. Under you, I have served, and with your name & fame I am associated. Together we have rejoiced in <perpenty> & victory; and together we have walked in the dark Shadow of adversity. I labored at all times, and in all places, to the utmost of my ability, to the extent of my capacity, to maintain & uphold the hour of the Corps & its Commander. In view of "these things" I am now emboldened to appeal to you in the day of my adversity with which as a Commander you are not associated. It is my last effort to obtain redress from the military tribunals. This failing my defence (and I am placed on the defensive) will come from my own voice & pen. With your permission I will have a personal interview with you to day or to morrow.

I am with great respect yours &c  
James Wood

[Written across the last page in red pencil in a different hand.]  
Col. Wood  
No answer.

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2616 6/9/1865

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2556

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Camp  
Stanton  
Beaufort S.C.

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[181]

Hd. Qrs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S.C.  
June 9 1865

My dear brother

Capt. Cole surprised me much by stepping into my tent last Monday evening. He brought a brief letter from Maj. Stinson. The only words in your hand-writing were Beaufort S.C. upon the exterior of the envelope containing my Brevet appointments. These (the Brevets) were a complete surprise and of course gratifying.

I walked down to Gen. Saxton's with Capt. C. that evening. The Genl was glad to have some word from you. He had nearly decided to visit Washington.

I can hardly tell you how glad I was to see some one from you – from the personal staff. Capt. C. gave me some idea of your situation and how you are occupied. I am very glad to know Lizzie is with you.

I have so much to say that I hardly know where to begin. Besides I have been in the habit, you know, of having long talks with you during the past 4 years so that pen & paper seem a very inadequate means of communication. I was sorry Capt. C. could not remain longer. He left next morning for Savannah. But he came back to my Camp at Reveille and I had a Dress Parade & Drill (Battalion) for his inspection about which he will tell you.

I think you could not have done better than to appoint Gen. Saxton to the position you did. Will it not be permitted him to have control of some troops? You know the execution of every measure now depends and will for some time depend entirely upon the military. If the Colored troops in these two states could be organized into a Divn and Gen. S. assigned to command it, although it would probably be advisable to distribute it in garrisons yet Gen. S. would then have power to carry out any policy. It would give him more respect of the existing military authorities also more deference from the inhabitants. With a military organization & command come also staff officers and many prerogatives, as you are well aware, which would facilitate his operations much. I am convinced, were you in his place, you would consider it highly important to have some (4) troops under your control at least for a year to come. There seems to be a propriety in giving a military man who retains his rank some actual command if it is deemed, also, for the good of the cause.

Gen. S. now has under his control these two Regts. 128th & 104th – (the latter not yet mustered in & some fear that it will not be thought it seems to me better that the Govt. accept a Regt. just organized & full to the maximum, which it has cost so much to recruit. Besides it is undoubtedly better to provide for as many colored men, & families as possible by getting the men into the Army.

My men are learning to read and write. Have become quite neat and soldierly in appearance and you would certainly say are much improved from what they were as recruits.

(5) I expect my Regt. will be turned over to Gen. Gillmore for duty soon. Gen. S. will ask to have it returned here and the 32nd U.S.C.T. sent away. This (if accomplished?) will give me command of the Post here and even if Gen. S. has no control of troops by any arrangement from you, we shall work very harmoniously together of course as I see you have permitted his Hd. Qrs. to remain here. This is certainly the most advantageous place – easy of access to the islands and about mid-way between Charleston & Savannah.

Capt. Cole says Maj. Whittlesey is to have Florida. I am pleased at this for I may see him sometimes.

(6) The Lieut. Col. of 32nd U.S.C.T. came to me this morning about applying to you for that State. He will see

Capt. Cole. I know nothing about him.

Dont you think you will come down here this Fall? Sometimes I think it would be well for me to take a respite & go North in August. I get rather weary here sometimes & they all say it will be intensely hot in August. Still I have not settled to go. I do not trouble myself any about the healthiness. I think I will be well. But it sometimes seems that I would come back to my work with more vigor & would really accomplish more after a little relief & contact with the vitalizing thoughts & feelings of friends a the North. I do hope that you will visit us if you can & bring Lizzie. I (see margin Page 1st) suspect Mrs. Saxton would be almost beside herself with delight at such a prospect. She named her horse (which Gen. Blair gave her) Gen. Howard . (See Page 7th)

(Page 7th) There is one important matter that I wished to mention. I hear from different sources that Gen. Grover at Savannah seems almost in sympathy with Rebels. He has even prohibited the Drum Corps of the 33d U.S.C.T. to play a certain air which he considers incendiary . It makes one think of the dark age of Slavery to see that word incendiary . He is certainly not in sympathy with those who are laboring for the Freedmen. Rebel officers record their names at the hotels as Captain so & so of C.S.A .

Hatch at Charleston & Potter of District Port Royal are complained of as of the same stripe. Lt. Col. Beebe is to have a Leave in July and would (8) visit Maine if you & your family were there. He may do it at any rate as he has a special attraction at Belfast – Dr. Monroe's daughter. You may remember Dr. M. He used to be surgeon 20th Maine & was in the legislature last Winter.

We are all expecting to be brought before an Examining Board. Some of my officers are resigning on this acct. Perhaps I had better but I think I will wait & see. Do you suppose Gillmore will remain here? He has been doing much apparently to <con?iate> the Freedmen interest of late.

Induced Chief Justice Chase to think he (Gillmore) was as good a friend the black man could have. He appointed several officers of Colored Regt on his staff. Woodford you will remember. Gave you the reception speech at the Astor House when we first came through with 3d Maine. He is Bvt. Brig. Gen. & Chief of Staff for Gen. Gillmore.

<[CHECK ORIGINAL, sideways writing on page 7 hidden by tape.]> What can I do to deserve such a favor?

Yr affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. You have my warmest thanks for remember me, to secure the Brevets. C.H.H.

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2617 6/9/1865

*From:* Royal E Whitman

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2557

*Source:* Bowdoin

Quartermaster's  
Department,  
Thirtieth Reg't, Maine  
Veteran Vols.,  
Savannah Geo.

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[48]

Quartermaster's Department,  
Thirtieth Reg't, Maine Veteran Vols.,  
Savannah Geo. June 9th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
My dear General

You are undoubtedly aware of the assignment of our Divn to this Dept. I had the honor of calling at your Head Qrs. before I left W. and found you absent. As we shall probably remain here or near here for a considerable time, it occurs to me I may possibly be of some service to you in furnishing you with informations statistical or otherwise in lieu of a more valuable correspondent. Please to command me at any time I can be of Service to you, only do not overrate my abilities. I simply claim to be a yard Soldier so far as I have had opportunities to learn. With best wishes for yourself and Mrs. H.

I am Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Royal E Whitman  
Lt Col. 30th Me Vols

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Savannah, Ga,  
June 9th, 1865  
Royal E. Whitman  
Lieut. Col. 30th Me. Vols.  
Proffers his services in furnishing information statistical or other.  
Recd. (Bu. R.F. And AL.) June 15, 1865

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2618 6/9/1865

*From:* Robt Goodenow

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2558

Farmington Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49, 50]

Farmington Maine  
June 9 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I address you at this time, to ask you, if you can and will detail or appoint my son Capt Nathan C. Goodenow, now at Louisville Ky, acting ordnance officer of the Calvry Depo at that place, and formerly on Genl Stonemans staff to some duty in your department?

My son has been in the army now nearly three years, first apptd a Lt in a mounted Battery in Illinois, and very soon after a Capt. In the 16 Illinois Cavalry. He was with Genl Shermans Army to the taking of Atlanta and after that was ordered back to Ky to attend to the duties pertaining to the refitting several Cavalry Regiments. In November last he applied for orders to join his regiment, instead of which he rec'd orders assigning him to duty at Louisville, where he has since been. On the 14 Decr last he was taken suddenly and violently ill at Louisville, and was confined to his room for 53 days with fever and rheumatism, which terminated in his recovery, with the loss of the sight of his right eye, and depriving him of the oppy he had hoped for, the more active duties of the service. I have understood he has a good reputation for energy and ability in the duties he has been assigned to and that Genl Stoneman has spoken well of him as an officer.

I have good reasons for believing his habits of temperance, sobriety and good morals are well established, and I know him to be more than ordinarily capable in business. He has two motherless boys depending on him, and it seems to me he is among the thousands who being earnestly and patrioticy given their services to the country from pure motives, and are entitled to consideration. For you personally, I know from letters to me two years ago, he has the highest respect and admiration. If you can therefore, assign him to some duty or place in your department, I should be grateful to you.

If need be I think I could furnish you with testimonials from many of your personal friends.

With the highest respect  
Yours truly  
Robt Goodenow

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Farmington Me June 9,/65  
Goodenow, Robt.  
Asks to have his son detailed into the Bureau.  
June 12, 1865 Recd  
Ans  
Either of the Asst. Com. might employ him.

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2619 6/10/1865 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2559

Richmond Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[51]

Richmond Ind.  
June 10, 1865

My dear brother:

You see by the enclosed circular that I am into business. I have done something at it already. Can you immediately send me a copy of the laws passed during the last two sessions of Congress. I suppose they are bound & ready for distribution & if you could send them to me without the expense of purchasing them you would do me a favor. If they are not some of the perquisites of your office, I can get them in Cincinnati, to which city we are sending nearly every day.

I saw by the papers that Mrs. Gen. Howard was at Washington a few days ago. Is she there now? If so give her much love from her brother Dell. Are there any of the children with her.

I am enjoying life very much and am rapidly getting acquainted with the people.

Mr. Siddall, in whose office I am at present located, is a pleasant man.

Uncle & family are nicely.

Your aff. brother  
R. H. Gilmore

P.S. Mr. S.R. Deane, who is the father of a certain young lady in whom your brother is somewhat interested, has requested me to write you inquiring whether you know of a Freedman & his wife who would like a good situation, such as Mr. D. could give upon his farm, & if so would inform him or me immediately. R.H.G.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Richmond Ind.  
June 10, 1865  
R.H. Gilmore

Requests copies of the laws passed during the two last sessions of Congress.  
Ansd by sending the Report  
Recd. (Bur. R.F. and A.L.) June 15 1865

[Enclosure. Printed Circular.]

PENSIONS,

BOUNTY AND BACK PAY

The undersigned has taken a license as  
U.S. War Claim Agent

for

INDIANA,

And will give particular attention to the collecting of Pensions, Bounties, Arrears of Pay, and all other demands against the Government of a war nature.

Advice and information in regard to claims FREE.

NO CHARGE UNLESS SUCCESSFUL

OFFICE OVER CITIZEN'S BANK,

(The Office of J.P. Siddall, Esq.,)

Richmond, Ind.

R. H. GILMORE,

Attorney at Law.

REFERENCES:

Major General O.O. Howard, Chief of Freedman's Bureau, Washington, D.C.

Hon. Ira Harris, United States Senator, Albany, New York.

C.H. Strickland, Esq, Richmond, Indiana

J.P. Siddall, Esq, "

Col. John A Bridgeland, "

Wm. Parry, Township Trustee, "

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2620 6/10/1865

*From:* C.A. Whitlan

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2560

Head Qrs Cmd of 2nd  
A.C.

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[41]

The American Telegraph Company  
North, South, East and West

Dated: Head Qrs Cmd of 2nd A.C. [June 10] 1865  
Rec'd, Philadelphia  
To: Maj Genl O O Howard

The 69th P.V. is a veteran organization & will not be mustered out of service.  
C.A. Whitlan

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]  
June 10th 1865  
C.A. Whitlan  
States the 69th Pa. Vols a Vet. R.C. Will not be mustered out.

---

2621 6/10/1865     *From:* M.H. Wright

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2561

Madison, Ga

Chf. Frdmn Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[53]

Madison, Ga  
June 10, 1865

My Dear Friend:

Perhaps the mad current of Evintos which has swept over our land for the last four years, has not so entirely washed my name from your memory, as to render the above caption less true than I was want to mean it - & that I may still claim it without being considered presumptuous.

The fierce struggle is over –the will of God is plainly stamped on our destiny, & I pray that His Grace may be sufficient to sustain us all, in our prosperity & success, alike in our misfortunes & adversity.

I cheerfully acquiesce in His wise decrees & am more than willing to aid by whatever fate may be mine in this world, looking, through faith, alone to the world on High as the goal of all genuine happiness.

This fearful tragedy has been <reached>, surely it was the working of a Higher Power than mortals & all must admit that the part borne by the South was a essential to the consummation of the ends obtained, as was that of the National Government –may God sanctify the results to the good of all His people.

You most likely have not learned of my marriage, which took place Sept. / 63 near Atlanta, Ga, when I was married to Miss Sehon, daughter of Rev. E.W. Sehon of M.E. Church, & Missionary Secy of the <>.

My wife is all that man could desire & in her I am signally blessed –a most affectionate wife & an earnest, zealous member of the Churhc, & in our Precious Boy of 10 months, we have a great treasure, and earnest pledge of God's love for us.

Please present my kindest regards to Mrs. H & the Children.

I could, nay I would write much more –but not now –I must await & see, if I can still subscribe myself,

Truly Yr. friend &c  
M.H. Wright  
(Col –Paroled)

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chf. Frdmn Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

P.S. I shall remain in Madison until I fully understand my status; & know what I am to do, or is to be done with me. Should you have the time & inclination to write me, it will give me great pleasure to write you fully. M.H.W.

---

2622 6/11/1865 *From:* Amelia Feaster

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2562

New York  
Astor House

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[54, 55, 56]

New York June 11th [1865]  
Astor House

Genl Howard  
Dear Friend

In reply to your kind inquiry of what you could do to assist me, I beg leave to suggest that you would have an interview with Sec Stanton urging his attention to my case. If I could have remained some time in Washington it would have been of advantage. As we were under the care of Mr Weed we felt bound to return when he did. Could there be any arrangement made for my spending some time in Washington it would be advantageous. I have no doubt no one seems to realize our painful position. I feel that my heart is breaking and my anxiety in regard to my children is very great. Does it not seem hard after having suffered so much for the cause, and braved all dangers to succor and assist our brave men who perilled their lives to save their country, that I should have become beggared so suddenly deprived of wealth of a home of luxury and comfort, and to become a houseless homeless wanderer. Many wise men who examine the matter agree in thinking the Sec has the power to grant relief. Will you not add your influence, see him in person and urge my necessities. Do you think it would be of any advantage to see the President in my behalf. Mr Sec Seward expressed much sympathy for me and would add his influence. If you have an opportunity to speak with him on the subject I would feel grateful. I hope much from your interview with Mr Stanton. One fourth of what I expended on the prisoners would now make me comfortable, which is all I desire. I beg my friend you will be able to propose some way of relief that may meet the Hon Secs views. Mr Weed has done nothing since our return. He is awaiting a promised letter from Mr Stanton and I fear the whole matter has escaped his memory, and will you not revive the matter, and keep up his interest. I have received many letters from the Prisoners. Would like you to see them. My daughter sends kind remembrances. We both indulge in hopes of ultimate success and feel your influence will be great and will not be withheld. I hope to be able to come to Washington again. At the suggestion of Mr Weed my daughter wrote to Mr Stanton to day.

Respectfully  
Amelia Feaster

If this matter has to be referred to Congress could there not be some relief granted by an advance or a requisition on the quarter master department. I am so anxious to have a home for my family. I cannot bear the thought of separation. The convent is the only Asylum I see at present and I shudder at the thought. I know that I expended one hundred thousand dollars on the prisoners in four years. This they will vouch for. It cost a mess of <four> one hundred dollars to get a dinner. One fourth of what I expended would now place me above want. It would be a mite to the Government and so much to me at present. I feel that I need not urge you to speak in my behalf. Your Native goodness of heart will prompt you to do all you can for me and my dear little ones. Poor little tutu is now sheltered in the convent to relieve me of expense. I have been waiting so patiently for some action. My hopes are again excited. God grant success may crown the efforts of my friends. Much of that hope rests upon you my kind and good friend. Would others felt as you do I would soon feel comparatively happy.

Truly yours  
A F

[Written in red at the top of the 4th page, in a different hand.]  
Mrs. Feaster

---

2623 6/11/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Lee]

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO]  
Howard]

OOH-2563

Milford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[57]

Milford June 11, 1865

My dear Cousin

I truly beg your pardon for troubling you again, knowing how very busy you are and will be brief as possible.

I take the liberty of sending Perrys letter which tells the story [See letter dated 6 June 1865, OOH-2542]. And ask a favor of you, for which I should <con>feel very grateful as I do for your many past acts of kindnesses. Can you not detail him so he might be examined in Washington before an impartial board.

I do not think it just for a Col and Lieut Col to examine their own Officers. Col W. had the making of the Corps before and I know of many & many a field officer who if they could would protect against his making it over. Gen Fry and he have had interests together are friends so he will support him in everything.

Perrys position is and has been very trying but it has proved to me his noble principal.

If the poor fellow had not an empty stare I should wish him to leave the Army, but his profession is gone (he cant take the <seas>) and he has little business experience.

I fear the sympathy of most business men does not include heart and purse.

I feel he has earned his positions and that two men ought not to be able to make him give it up.

His life has been one long struggle and I do think he feels discouraged. Will you not please give him a few lines of comfort and advice.

Fearing you might be home & this not reach you I am going to write to my old friend Gen Underwood who is President of a Court Martial to see if you are not in the city & he can detail Perry to please do so. I write these without his knowledge remembering the fable of the mouse who freed the Lion from the snare. I may at least try & help him.

With a great deal of love for you & yours I am ever lovingly your affec coz  
Lizzie [Elizabeth (Fiske) Lee, wife of Perry]

---

2624 6/12/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO]  
Howard]

OOH-2564

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[59, 60]

Farmington June 12 / 65

Dear Brother Otis

I have received a letter from Mr. J. L. Schick of Gettysburg who, you recollect gratuitously entertained me and gave his house for a Hospital for Perry Lee & others, inviting me to spend the 5th with him, and saying that "e would be proud to have you accept of his hospitalities while in Gettysburg" If public arrangements will not permit you to gratify him by accepting his invitation, I do hope you will be able to call (or see) & thank that noble Christian patriot & his wife, for all that they so generously did for us & the Union wounded. He met with Charles & wants him to come. I wish we could all meet there.

I go to Boston this week and a letter will reach me addressed to Fr Gilman, 107 <H> Street. Ella & the children go to Bath. I expect to be away 10 days at least.

Mother was up & spent last Thursday night with us. She seemed pretty well & cheerful, but is quite lonely there at Leeds alone.

With love to Lizzie if still with you.

Affly  
Rowland

P.S. I have not heard from you since your new apptment.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Farmington June 12, 1865  
Howard, Rowland

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2625 6/12/1865 *From:* J. Whoveney

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2565

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[61]

Washington, D.C.  
June 12th 1865,

My Dear Sir,

Mr Wm. S. Hine line the bearer, has just been selected as Departmental and local reporter for the Daily Chronicle. I cordially recommend him to you and will be greatly obliged if you will give him any daily intelligence or items that you may think proper to publish from your Department.

Yours Very Truly  
J.<Whoveney>

Major General Howard

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2626 6/12/1865      *From:* S. Louis Johnson      *To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2566                      Camp Stoneman, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62]

Camp Stoneman D.C.  
June 12th 1865

Maj Genl Howard  
Sir:

Pardon me for the liberty I take in thus addressing you. I wished to know if your brother the Co'l has command of a Col'd Regt and if so, could you assist me to obtain a position in it. I was acquainted with Charles when at Brunswick where I reside and would write him if I knew where to direct. I have served three years in the old Fifth Me and am now in "Hancock Corps."

If you can assist me any General I should be under the greatest obligation to you.

I am sir  
Very Respectfully  
Your obdt ser'vt  
S. Louis Johnson  
Co "D" 8th Ret 1st Corps  
Camp Stoneman DC

P.S. I can furnish the best of recommendations as to character, ability &c.

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2627 6/12/1865

*From:* Mrs. J. B.  
Richardson  
Washington, D.C.

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2567

Commissioner Freedmen's  
Bureau  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

Washington, D.C.  
June [14? added in pencil, probably 12] 1865.

Genl. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I wrote you a note some days since, begging you, if it were in your power, to give me some writing from your office. As I have received no answer to it, I can only suppose it has never reached its destination. Since I applied to you for a clerkship in your Bureau I have obtained the appointment to one in the Treasury Department, at the sum of \$50.00 per month. After most earnest endeavor I find that I cannot obtain board for myself and child for less than \$48.00 per month in this city. Pardon me for writing these particulars to you, but I merely wish to state that that sum is totally inadequate to my support, and that I must find some other employment. If you could give me some writing from your Bureau, which I could take home with me, and do nights and mornings, I assure you I should not only be most truly grateful to you, but I think you would feel that you had assisted one who was really in need. I hope it is needless for me to state that I should try most faithfully to do my duty to your satisfaction.

I am not accustomed to asking favors and I hardly know how to word my request, but "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and if in your kindness, you do see fit to grant my request, the blessings of Him, who had promised to befriend the widow and the fatherless, will I am sure cast upon you. I will call again tomorrow morning to get an answer to my request.

With the utmost respect.  
Mrs. J. B. Richardson.

Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington

[Written sideways on the front page in pencil, in a different hand.  
No answer.

[Written sideways on the back page in red, in a different hand.]

Washington June 1865  
Richardson, Mrs J. B.  
Recd June 13th 1865

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2628 6/14/1865 *From:* David Barker

*To:* Genl O O Howard

OOH-2568

Exeter, Maine

Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

Exeter, Maine  
June 14, 1865

General,

I see it stated in the papers that you are to deliver the oration at Gettysburg on the 4th proximo.

Will you oblige me by saying if that announcement is correct.

Very respy  
Your obt servant  
David Barker

Genl O O Howard  
Washington  
D.C.

---

2629 6/14/1865     *From:* W. French

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2569

Beaufort, S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65, 66]

Beaufort, S.C. June 14, 1865

Dear Sir,

I desire to express, to you, my gratitude to a kind Providence, who has placed you in charge of so many of the very important interests of the freedmen. I pray that you may be endowed with wisdom for the great work, & that you may be able to find men preeminently fitted to aid you, without meaning the work. The real elevation, having anything like a symmetrical development, of this people, is a slow work. Men of weak faith in God, or who cannot do this work heartily as unto the Lord, are very apt to soon grow weary of it. The cross of the colored man's cause, is not without its odium, true christian love & a certain amount of courage, are requisite, or not only will the cause suffer, but the laborer himself will sustain moral damage, as has too often occurred.

Genl. Saxton desires me to make out a code of regulations relative to the marriage relations. I hope to have them ready by next steamer. I find it a very important, & also very difficult work.

There is another field of immense importance to be provided for. I refer to the settlement of the estates of deceased freedmen & the care of their minor children. Even if the states were reorganized, their laws ignore all the interest of the freemen. All their courts are barred against them.

Once case, which I will give, that occurred on one of the islands a few weeks since will at once illustrate the wants I refer to. A freedman died, leaving two motherless children, one a babe of a few months, the other perhaps three years. There was no one to look after either his children or property. The property, by military order was sold for nearly \$500 & this deposited in the Freedmen's bank. Who shall be guardian of the children & expend these funds for their education? Several thousand similar cases will occur before one year. Would it not be well to establish something like a "Commissioner of Estates" department? He could oversee this whole field.

A court of some kind, in which the freedmen shall be allowed to give testimony is absolutely necessary.

Necessity is being laid on us by Providence, through the force of stubborn facts involving equally the white man's interest, to do some sort of justice to the colored man.

I trust I shall be excused for naming another matter, Genl. Grover has been relieved of the command of Savannah, by Genl. Gillmore. Brig. Genl. Woodford has been placed in command of the Port & Genl. Birge of the District. Genl Grover was the favorite of all the disloyalists, as is generally understood. His restoration cannot aid, in any way, the interests of the freedmen. I think Sec. Stanton knows this & between you, the Secretary and other friends, I trust Genl. Grover will be assigned to duty elsewhere.

I pray that God may give you all needed wisdom for your work, & good men only to aid you. Pardon my <freedom> & believe me

Yours truly

W. French [Winsor Brown French]

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Beaufort S.C.

June 14, 1865

French W Gen.

Recd B of R F & AL 23d June



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2630 6/14/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2570

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington D.C.

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[606]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington D.C. June 14th, 1865  
(Wednesday night)

Dearest,

I presume you are quietly at home by this time and I hope quite well. I shall look for a letter tomorrow or next day. I came straight back in the 12 m. train reaching here about 6 P.M. Col. & Mrs Markland had joined the mess and we are now living quite pleasantly. Col Markland & wife, Gen. Strong, Col. Fullerton, Capt Taggart, Maj Stinson, Maj Gilbreth & Lt Sladen will all be in. They do not all room here yet. I am now getting along well with my business. Capt Cole has just returned from Beaufort S.C. from Saxton & Charles. They are well and Saxton sends a good report. Col Markland & Gen Strong have started for the West on duty. Stinson has gone to Richmond. Oh, there is much, much to tell you, but it is too late tonight. I have written four pages of my 4th of July Oration and it is near 12 midnight.

Give much love to the children.

God bless you all  
Lovingly  
Otis

---

2631 6/14/1865    *From:* Wm. A. Leech

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2571

302 Walnut Street  
Philada.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[182]

302 Walnut Street  
Philada. June 14th. 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
General,

I called to see you when I was in Washington some weeks ago and again when you were in this city last week but on each occasion I was disappointed. My object in calling upon you was the natural desire I felt to see an old friend, but this was not my only object. I wanted besides to enquire of you whether as "Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau" you had in your gift any office or appointment that I could fill. As you are aware I entered the service of the very commencement of the war and after participating in most of the engagements I was finally taken prisoner last August on the Weldon Rail Road. Last spring I was released and soon after, my term of service having expired, I was mustered out. I at once opened an office for the practice of my profession, the Law, but times are not now what they were, when I abandoned my business and took to the field. After a trial of some months I find myself with scarcely any business on hand, and very little prospects at present of getting any. Thinking that perhaps in starting a new institution you might be in want of assistants I thought I would apply to you.

I am general  
With much respect,  
Your old friend  
Wm. A. Leech

---

2632 6/15/1865 *From:* H. Wilson

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2572

Natick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[179]

Natick, June 15th, 1865.

Major General Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I send you enclosed papers. I hope you will do all that can be done for the protection of the poor negroes. God have mercy on them for this nation seems about to abandon them to the hatred of their disloyal masters.

Yours ever  
H. Wilson

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2633 6/15/1865 *From:* H.W. Beecher

*To:* Genl. OO Howard

OOH-2573

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67, 68]

June 15, 1865

Genl. OO Howard

My dear Sir

The bearer, Surgeon Macy, is lately returned from Charleston. He has been in my brother's regiment. He knows the makings of things in the middle & the outside about Charleston.

I doubt not, you desire important information from him.

I am very truly yours,  
H.W. Beecher

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

June 15, 1865

Beecher, H. W.

Introducing Surg Macy

Recd. July 17, 1865

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2634 6/15/1865 *From:* David Wells

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2574

Gettysburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69, 70]

Gettysburg June 15, 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
My Dear Sir,

Having accepted the invitation extended to you by the Board of Managers of the Soldiers' National Cemetery to deliver the Oration at the laying of the Corner Stone of the monument to be erected therein, I write to you an invitation to accept the hospitalities of my house during your sojourn here on that occasion.

Our late lamented President was my guest on the 19th of Nov. 1863 at the time of the Consecration of these grounds and also Mr Everett who too has been called away from earth since.

Mr Everett came here four or five days before the day on which he delivered his oration so as to have a view of the Battlefield & also to have some rest after the fatigues of travel.

I shall be pleased to have you with me and to hear from you what day you will be here.

I am, with high regard,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
David Wells  
President of the Soldier's National Cemetery  
& Chairman of Com. of Arrangts.

I have written to the Secretary of War to order on here from some point, some Infantry, Cavalry & Artillery to make a military display and have yet received no reply. May I trouble you to use your influence by bringing the matter to his notice & request that it be done.

D.W.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Gettysburg, Pa.

June 15, 1865.

David Wells

Prest. Soldier's National Cemetery

Extends invitation to his house on the occasion of the forthcoming anniversary.

Recd (Bu. R. F. & A.L.) June 16, 1865

Answered

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2635 6/16/1865 *From:* MH French

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
U.S.A.

OOH-2575

Head Qrs. 8 A. Corps  
Baltimore Md

Washington City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[71]

Head Qrs. 8 A. Corps  
Baltimore Md  
June 16, 1865

Dear General,

May I ask of you your assistance to have my son Frank's name brought forward for a brevet.

He was wounded severely at Balls Bluff and has been with the Army until after 'Coal Harbor.'

Should you think him worthy of such consideration it will be highly appreciated by me.

With great regard  
Very sincerely yours,  
<MH> French  
Lt Col. 2d Art.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
U.S.A.  
Washington City

[CHECK ORIGINAL, 1st page on the left additional writing.]

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2636 6/16/1865

*From:* J. T. Ware

*To:* Maj. Gen Howard

OOH-2576

*Source:* Bowdoin

Superintendent's Office  
West Jersey Rail Road  
Company,  
208 South Delaware  
Avenue,  
Philadelphia

Chief Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

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[72, 73]

Direct  
Superintendent's Office  
West Jersey Rail Road Company,  
208 South Delaware Avenue, (Up Stairs)  
Philadelphia, June 16th 1865.

Maj. Gen Howard,  
Chief Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir,

I noticed in to day's, a card issued by you in regard to the "homeward march" of union reffugees. Unfortunately I come under the above head.

I am a native Georgian, of the ill fated city Atlanta, loving the old flag under which I was born so well to fight against it. I sought reffuge from rebel tyranny, beneath its protecting folds.

My father was an old citizen of Atlanta, and was an upholder of the constitution up to the time of his death, which was two years ago. He left me with a widowed mother, and about twenty thousand dollars worth of property. Our residence stood directly opposite Col La Dukes Hd Quarters, which were in Mr Peter's house. To day Gen our house lays in ashes, and Peter's stands, although he was a bitter "secesh," and fled long before we were greeted by your "first shells."

I kept clear of rebel service by being in the employ of <M&W.R.R.>. I married when I was twenty years old, just six months before the noble army of which you had the honor to command a portion, reach Atlanta. We remain in City during the whole bombardment, those missiles of death and destruction caused many sleepless nights to pass over our heads but I was determind to remain so long as one brick lay upon "another". The long summer days and nights rolled slowly by but at last we were greeted by the appearance of "Sherman's Grand Army", but I have no thought our part of the conflict ended, but alas! how different. Scarce had two months passed when Gen S deeming prudent to evacuate the City and march through the heart of the rebellion of Georgia I should have said. His forward movement compelled us to leave Atlanta, and seek shelter in the "northern clime". I have been a "wanderer" ever since.

We received a letter from Mother yesterday, written from Atlanta, written June 5th in which she says every that we possessed is "destroyed". We are anxious to go home but are not able to bear our own expenses. Gen we would be under lasting obligations, if you will give me an order for transportation, for my wife and myself, to Atlanta Ga.

I have letters from Col Parkhurst of Gen Thomas' staff, that will establish the truth of my assertions, if you should desire to see them.

I am very respectfully your obt. Servt.  
J. T. Ware

Care,  
West Jersey R.R.



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2637 6/16/1865    *From:* Saml. F. Colt

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2577

*Source:* Bowdoin

The General  
Assembly's Eastern  
Committee  
For the Religious  
Instruction of the  
Freedmen.  
Philadelphia

Com. Bureau R. F. &C

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[44]

The General Assembly's Eastern Committee  
For the Religious Instruction of the Freedmen.  
Philadelphia, June 16th 1865  
Rev. W.P. Breed, Chairman  
Rev. Saml. F. Colt, Secretary & Superintendent  
William Main, Esq., Treasurer  
Morris Patterson, Esq.  
John McArthur, Esq.  
Wilfred Hall. Esq

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com. Bureau R. F. &C  
My dear General

By Lt. Col. Wittlesey we applied for passes fo Messrs Turpin, Memson and Hedges to North Carolina, and for Rev. Johnathan C. Gibbs to Charleston South Carolina.

The last named is ready to start and would take the steamer from New York tomorrow were the pass on hand, and the others will go to Newbern by first vessel.

Our obligations will enhanced by dispatch.

Very truly your obt. Servt.  
Saml. F Colt  
821 Chestnut St.  
Phila.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Philadelphia June 16/65  
Colt, Rev. Saml F.  
Answd.  
Col W left no mention of subject. No passes necessary.

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2638 6/17/1865 *From:* Sam. L. Harris

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2578

Beaufort, S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75, 76]

Beaufort, S.C.  
June 17, 1865

General Howard  
Dear Sir,

I have hastily written this evening, at the suggestion of your brother Col Howard, answers to some questions.

It occurs to me that upon one or two points I may not have made myself sufficiently clear and may perhaps not be understood.

Respecting the ballot, I am of opinion that it should not at present be granted to either whites or blacks. That was the idea I intended to convey in answer to his question. But if it is to be granted to any and the civil power to be resumed in the several states, rather than that the whites of the South with their present feelings should come in power, I should say make the ballot free, but it would be better to continue control, as at present, until gospel influences could be extended and the people, white and black, be harmonized upon at least one front, and compacted in some degree in a mutual effort for the prosperity of themselves and their country. Six months with the right man to supervise the educational work in each state would make all safe for the future.

While on the main, I was among the people connected with five different churches, while traveling a circuit of about 150 miles. At Beech Grove Church, I addressed a gathering of about 200 whites, all there were in the neighborhood, and about 300 blacks, representatives from the different plantations.

I permitted white and black, at the close of my address to ask me questions, and my answers were given to the assembly. It is true that the colored people were apparently the best satisfied with my remarks, but I was treated respectfully and considerately by all. I feel convinced that there is an urgent necessity for some one to visit the different plantations, counsel with and advise the freedmen, and thus assure them of their position and their rights, and this would give the opportunity for influence upon the late Masters.

The great changes through which we are rapidly passing can hardly be understood, but by personal contact with the people.

May the Lord guide all who shall in any manner labor for the welfare of the South and may his Presence especially be granted to you Sir in your very responsible position.

The South waits for Genl Howard's action –many prayers are offered for him –and many hearts wait anxiously –some with right purpose, others with selfish, for the orders that shall effect them.

May abundant wisdom be granted you of the Lord and as in the past so in the future may His blessings be constantly vouchsafed to you.

I have the honor to be Genl  
Very Respectfully  
Your obedient Servant,  
Sam. L. Harris

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Beaufort SC  
June 17, 65  
Saml L Harris  
Recd B of R F & AL June 22/65  
File



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2639 6/17/1865

*From:* J.W. Chickering  
Senr.

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2579

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[77]

Boston, June 17, 1865.

Dear General,

Rev. Royal Parkinson, formerly of Me., now of W. was for a time Chaplain of the 23d Regiment, U.S.C. Infantry.

He felt obliged to resign on account of the difficulty of leaving his family for the new Texan campaign.

But he & his talented wife are much interested in the colored people, whom she wants to gladly instruct if he could have some appointment in your department.

I do not know what appointments you make, or whether any in Washington or its neighborhood, where Mr. P. would like to be on account of a deaf & dumb son, now fitted to enter an Institution there.

But I can recommend him as a faithful, industrious man, who would be useful in any work requiring sociality & shrewdness rather than building of character.

If you can do any thing for him & for the public good at the same time you will gratify a worthy family & oblige

Yours truly  
J.W. Chickering Senr.

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2640 6/17/1865

*From:* Richard Realf

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2580

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Post of  
Nashville,  
Nashville, Tenn

Chief Commissioner  
Freedmens Bureau

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[78, 79, 80, 81]

Head-Quarters Post of Nashville,  
Nashville, Tenn, June 17th 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Chief Commissioner Freedmens Bureau  
General,

Being on the eve of honorable muster out of service, I have the honor most respectfully to solicit an appointment to some subordinate position or agency in the Bureau of which you are Chief, and to enclose copies of endorsements on a recent application for appointment in the Regular Army, which by reason of the general rush for such appointments will probably be unsuccessful.

I am an Englishman by birth, liberally educated, and by previous occupation a lecturer and writer upon literature and belle lettres. My term of service dates from August, 1862, during which period I have participated in all the battles and campaigns incident to the operations of the Army of the Cumberland. I entered the service as a private soldier, rising through regular gradations to the position of Regimental Adjutant in the Command of Colonel Frank T. Sherman, who was for some time your Chief of Staff during the period in which you commanded the Fourth Corps.

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to add that I have always been identified with the Anti-Slavery and Republican parties, or that I am desirous that under the changed status of affairs, they who were so recently slaves shall be led through fairly rewarded industry and systematic education to usefulness, competence, and fitness for all the duties of men and citizens.

I venture to express the hope that the favorable endorsements which I have the honor to enclose will satisfy you as to my character, capacity, and fitness for any position your courtesy may confer.

I have the honor to be  
General  
Very Respectfully Your Obedt Servant  
Richard Realf  
Adjutant 88th Ill Inft, and  
A.D.C. Staff of Brvt Maj Genl Miller

My P.O. address is Furnessville, Porter County, Indiana.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Nashville Tenn  
June 17, 1865  
Realf R. Lt 88th Ills Vols.  
Asks to be assigned to Bureau of R F & AL  
Recd Bureau Refugees &c June 21 / 65  
Referred by letter to Gen Fiske A C for K & T.  
Ans June 28, 1865

Head-Quarters Post of Nashville  
Nashville, Tenn., May 2nd 1865

I have the honor to recommend Lieut. Richard Realf for appointment in the Regular Army of the US to a position not below First Lieutenant. Mr Realf is one of those young officers now in the Volunteer Army who has by long service and a natural aptitude for the profession become well qualified for such a position, and in my judgment will render most efficient service to the country. Mr Realf is an officer of exceeding great ability, and his

gallantry in action has won the applause of all who know him.

(signed)

Jno. F. Miller

Brig Genl U.S.A.

Head Quarters 1st Brig. 2nd Div. 4th A.C.

Camp Harker, Tenn. May 4th 1865

Lieut. Realf has served under my command and personal observation in some of the most important operations of the War: viz. the Campaign of Atlanta, the battles of Franklin Nov 30th 1865, and of Nashville Dec. 15th & 16th same year. And I have pleasure in recommending him for his manly worth, his bravery, and efficiency as an Officer. I hope the Government may retain his services by appointment in the Regular Army.

(signed)

E. Opdycke

Brevet Brig Genl U.S. Vols.

Comdg

Head Quarters 1st Div. 4th A.C.

Camp Harker, Tenn., May 4th, 1865.

I most heartily concur in the recommendation of Gen. Miller. Lieut Realf served as Adjutant of the 88th Ill. Infty under my Command during the Campaign which resulted in the capture of Atlanta. I know him to possess all the qualifications necessary to make the good Officer. He will be an honor to the service, and I do most sincerely hope that his application may be successful. The Lieut. is every way worthy and well qualified for the position.

(signed)

Nathan Kimball

Brevet Maj Genl U.S. Vols.

Comdg.

Head Quarters 2nd Div, 4th A.C.

Nashville, Tenn, May 4th, 1865.

Lieut. Realf's record in this Division is good, and he would undoubtedly prove worthy of an appointment in the Regular Army.

(signed)

W. L. Elliott

Brig. Genl. U.S. Vols. Comdg.

Head Quarters 3rd Div. 4th A.C.

Nashville, Tenn, May 5th 1865.

I take pleasure in recommending 1st Lieut Richard Realf, 88th Ills. for the promotion asked for. He has served in the same Corps with myself, a part of the time the Corps being under my command. He always bore himself well, a good officer, a gallant soldier, and a worthy gentleman.

(Signed)

T. J. Wood

Maj Genl U.S. Vols.

Head Quarters 4th A.C.

Camp Harker, Tenn, May 5th 1865.

I take pleasure in recommending Adjutant Richard Realf, 88th Ill. Infty, for an appointment in the Regular Army. I believe him to be well qualified, and I remember with gratitude his doing me an excellent service under fire at the severe battle of Franklin.

(signed)

D.S. Stanley

Maj Genl

Head Quarters Department Cumberland

Nashville, Tenn, May 5th 1865.

Respectfully forward, approved, and appointment recommended.

(Signed)

Geo. H. Thomas

Maj Genl U.S.A.

Head Quarters Post of Nashville, Tenn.

May 6th, 1865

The above and foregoing are true copies of endorsements on Lieut. Realf's original application.

(signed)

L. Howland

Captain & A.A.G.

I certify on honor that the foregoing is a true and literal copy of original endorsements in my possession.

Richard Realf

1st Lieut 88th Ill. Infy. and

A.D.C. Staff of Genl. Miller.

Nashville, Tenn.

June 17, 1865.

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2641 6/17/1865

*From:* Jos. Dickinson

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2582

No. 21 Harford Avenue  
Baltimore, Md

Chief of Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82]

No. 21 Harford Avenue  
Baltimore, Md June 17th 1865.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.  
General,

May I presume to ask of you one of the many appointments in your gift as Chief of the Freedman's Bureau?

From your knowledge of my services in the army, I am led to believe you may consider me worthy and competent to fill any position your may see fit to honor me with, assuring you I will use my best endeavors to merit your confidence and esteem.

Most Respectfully Your Obt. Svt.  
Jos. Dickinson,  
Late Lt. Col. & A.A.Genl. A. of P.

P.S. You are aware, I presume, I resigned on acct. of wounds received at the Battle of Gettysburg. J.D.

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2642 6/18/1865    *From:* W.B. Hazen

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2583

Louisville Ky.

Commr. Of Freedmen  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[83, 84]

Louisville Ky.  
June 18, 1865

My dear Genl.

The enclosed letter from my friend Col. Bebee was received today, and I thought best to send it to you, and by reading it you will at once see what he wishes, and can perhaps without trouble to yourself gratify him.

Any letter that I might write about it to the Dpt. would probably fail in its object.

With the expression of profound gratitude for your uniform kindness and consideration

I am your  
Sincere friend  
W.B. Hazen

To  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commr. Of Freedmen  
Washington

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Hd Qrs 15th A.C.  
Louisville June 18  
Hazen Maj Gen.  
Asks the Genl to promote Lt Col Beebe  
Recd B of R F & AL 23rd June

A-

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2643 6/18/1865 *From:* EB Ward

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2584

Office of E.B. Ward  
Detroit Mich

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87]

Office of E.B. Ward  
Detroit Mich June 18 1865

Genl Howard  
Dr Sir,

Though unacquainted with you I wish to introduce to you Rev. Wm King of Canada formerly of Louisiana.

Mr King has had an experience with the colored men both south and north that few have enjoyed and his experience in my opinion would be eminently valuable to your Bureau. He does not want office but wishes to give you such information as no other man can impart and I hope you will be enabled to give him an attentive hearing.

Respy  
EB Ward [Eber Brock Ward]

<>

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]  
Detroit Mich.  
June 18, 1865  
Ward, E.B.  
Introducing Rev Mr King of Canada.

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2644 6/18/1865

*From:* May M. Hallowell

*To:* Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2585

*Source:* Bowdoin

Secty Relief Assn. for  
Union Refugees  
No 2121 Arch St  
Phila.

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[88]

Phila. June 18th 1865

Major Gen. Howard

I appeal to you on behalf of the Union Refugees from E. Tennessee, and respectfully ask your assistance, in obtaining transportation for some of them to return to their homes.

I directed a note to you at the Continental Hotel, and enclosed resolutions forwarded to me by the E. Tenn. Relief Assoc. at Knoxville as an evidence of my interest in the matter, which I hope may yet come to hand.

Your very Respectfully  
May M. Hallowell

Secty Relief Assn. for Union Refugees  
No 2121 Arch St

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2645 6/19/1865 *From:* H.H. Boody

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2586

8 Wall St  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89, 90]

8 Wall St  
New York June 19, 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
My dear Sir,

Allow me to introduce my classmate, Rev. C.M. Blake, late Hospital Chaplain at Chattanooga.

Mr. Blake has served through the whole war, with, I believe, great acceptance. He is by the usage & experience of his life a teacher; but has a good deal of aptitude for the administration of other officers.

He desires to be connected with that most important department of labor which <> falls under your supervision; and if you can find it compatible with the public interests to give him employment, you will I have no doubt find him an efficient co-adjutor & will oblige both him and I.

Yours truly,  
H.H. Boody

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York, June 19, 1865.

Boody, H. H.

Introducing Rev. C. M. Blake, late Chaplain at Chattanooga, who desires to become connected with the Freedmens Bureau.

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2646 6/19/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2587

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[607]

Washington, D.C.  
June 19th 1865

Dearest

It is Monday morning before breakfast. I received a letter from you Saturday evening, and I was happy to learn that you had arrived safely and that the children were very well and glad to see Mamma back and glad to get their presents. I am much obliged to Mr Webb.

I had no intention of going to Gettysburg without some kind of preparation, so that I immediately set to work and wrote some thirty or forty pages of manuscript. Maj Stinson is revising, correcting, <?phing> and rewriting the same. Whether I shall memorize it or not is a question soon to be solved. If you were here to help I think I should do so. I hav'nt spoken from notes since I lost my hand and will find it inconvenient. I introduced by speaking of my last visit, then of the consecration of Mr Everett and Mr Lincoln. Then I made my theme, the "private volunteer soldier" giving you glimpses of him from my own different point of view. Stinson who is a good writer and truthful says the speech is a good one. I closed with a reference to Gen. Reynolds and a very brief one to Gen. Meade. I think amidst the multitude of 4th of July orations that will be delivered mine may escape without unusual criticism. I shall let pass all controversy and say nothing of the freedman's bureau. The business at the office is quite extensive, but I think I am disposing of it with comparative ease.

Osborn has again met with an R.R. accident and broken his arm. He was in Oneida N.U. Col. Whittlesey has gone to North Carolina with his eagles on his shoulders. Yesterday I went to Dr. Gurley's church [New York Avenue Presbyterian Church] in the morning and heard a clergyman by the name of Fealy from the West. After dinner a gentleman came for me to take me to a Sunday School at Georgetown, when I told him I would go provided I was not put in the news papers. I found it an Anniversary occasion and neighboring schools invited in and a printed program, a large church and a full house. My name was left out so I could find no fault, though I did not anticipate it was so grand an occasion. The children hundreds of them listened to me attentively. I wish Guy had been there and remembered how much he appreciated a story, he said he never heard me tell before, one evening that he went to the vestry with me. I thought of Gracie and the little ones as I saw so many children. They sang as well as those in Philadelphia and there were very many beautiful faces amongst them.

Give all the children much love from papa. He knows now not to send any more kisses, but intends by the blessing of God to go home before many days and thinks he will do his own kissing.

General & Mrs Casey came to see you also Mrs General Grant & Mrs Lieut Col Porter. Mrs Markland was here on my return. I gave her your message, and she says tell Mrs Howard, "I will try but she knows that "Mrs Dr Walker" comes to the office." She must explain.

We are having a very pleasant mess but I want Lizzie and the children. God bless you & them. Lovingly  
Otis

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2647 6/19/1865      *From:* Emlen N. Carpenter      *To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2588

Phil-Ellena [St]  
Germantown [Pa]

Chf. Bureau Refugees  
Freedmen &c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[91, 92]

Phil-Ellena [St]  
Germantown [Pa]  
June [19 written in pencil] 1865

Genl. O.O. Howard  
Chf. Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c  
General,

I have the honor to acknowledge the communication of L Sladen of inst desiring me to write "fully & freely" to you what I knew & thought of Mrs Feaster & daughter. With the belief that this communication is to be strictly confidential I will endeavor to give you the correct idea.

Mrs. Feaster sought me out about ten days before Genl Sherman entered Columbia. She predisposed me in her favor and gained my confidence, by telling me she had seen me when I was a little boy, and knew my father & mother and other members of my family. She then pressed money upon me at different times to the amt of sixteen hundred \$1600 in confederate money. When her house was burned I felt a great deal of sympathy for her. Her house I saw and it was handsomely furnished. There was also a store or warehouse, said to be stored with tobacco, salt, leather &c t the amt of \$150,000 in gold. This I did implicitly believe, but I neither saw it or know it to be so.

The night before Gen Sherman entered Columbia while the rebel soldiery were evacuating the town, finding I was unsafe in the streets, I went to her house, about 9 PM. I remained there till about 4 am and then Mrs. F. sent a black boy who took us out of her house into one next door. Capt McChesney of 1st N.Y. Cavy, the officer who was with me when I reported to you, was with me, and is the only officer besides myself, that I saw at her house during the few hours I was there. When her house was burned I thought I could find no worthier object of sympathy than an old friend of my father & mother & aunts.

When we arrived in Phila., I found I had been imposed upon and deceived. The ladies were invited to Phil-Ellena. They were here five weeks. I found that they were not acquainted with my family & friends. Being visitors here helped to introduce them into society. Mrs. Feaster's accounts of her trials and losses were magnified according to the frequency of their relation and the size of her audience. These statements have all been repeated to me, I did not hear them.

When she left here she returned to the Continental Hotel were she commenced a course of conduct that was ridiculous. She magnified accounts of her services to prisoners, stating that she had disbursed \$500.000 to prisoners. Among others I had received from \$2500 to \$5000 in gold. Through her solicitation also, you tendered me a position on your staff. She represented that she concealed large numbers of Union Officers at her house. This course had the desired effect at first and so many gentlemen of Phila felt sympathy for her & would have aided her, but she ruined her cause by letting her feelings get the better of her judgment. In endeavoring to injure me she injured herself, until finally many of her statements were found to be untrue.

About this time she left Phila for N.Y. When I found that in the first place my confidence was gained by misrepresentation, secondly that the aid extended to be was not disinterested, & finally that upon her finding that I had discovered the imposition that she aspersed my character. I lost most of my sympathy for them and severed all connection with them. I cannot help pitying the poor woman, although she has behaved very badly, & I doubt whether her motives were disinterested, but then she has lost her house and she certainly did aid officers, prisoners of war.

As I said before it is with the belief that this will be strictly confidential that I have written as I have, mentioning several things which are necessary only as tending to throw some light on the subject. I intend to visit Washington before long & I would like to explain more fully than I can on paper many little things which have transpired since the departure at Fayetteville.

With earnest wishes for your welfare,  
I have the honor General to remain  
Respy. & truly  
Yr obt Svt  
Emlen N. Carpenter [Col Emlen Newbold Carpenter]

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila Pa

June 19, 1865

Carpenter, E.N.

Answers letter relating to Mrs Feaster. Thinks she has exaggerated &c &c.

Rec'd B of R F & A L June 22d / 65

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2648 6/19/1865     *From:* Alfred Colburn

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2589

Bradford N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[93, 94]

Bradford N.H. June 19th 1865

Major General Howard  
Dear Sir,

My only plea for asking a few moments of your attention is founded on my distress, & your well-known humanity.

I am Pastor of the Bradford Bap't Church. My Son, Alfred H. Colburn, is a member of Co. G. 18th N.H. Regt., Col. Livermore. In May last year, he enlisted in the 134th Ill. (100 Days) Reg. & a few days after, was taken sick & sent to the U.S. Hospital at Columbus, Ky. where he remained till the 1st of Aug, when at the request of the Surgeon, I went out and brought him home, barely alive. His sickness was very severe, & lasted till Nov.; indeed, he never fully recovered from it. It broke down his constitution which was always slender from a child; and when his zeal tempted him to re-enlist last Feb. in the 18th N.H. his friends were utterly surprised that the examining surgeon should accept a boy so feeble and unfit for the hardships of a soldier's life.

For several weeks past, as we learn from reliable sources, he has been sick much of the time, & is fast growing weaker; and tho' in his letters home, he puts on a brave front, he is evidently sinking into a state from which we have every reason to fear it will be impossible to raise him.

He is an only son –and of course, we are distressed about him. Indeed, his mother's anxiety has brought her to a sick bed.

Application for a furlough has been made by my son personally, & by myself by letter strongly endorsed –but thus far, without success. It is reported here, that the Colonel is incensed against his men, because they expressed gratification when he became disabled by a recent fall from his horse; and it is useless to expect an favor at his hands. But whether this is so, or not, I do not know.

At my suggestion, my son petitioned the Surgeon to send him to the hospital; but he merely released him from duty for a few days, & put him back in the ranks when he had scarcely strength to sit up. I do not know the Surgeon's name.

I have no reason to suppose that you have official jurisdiction in this matter; but not knowing to whom to apply, bewildered & distressed, I have ventured to lay it before you, trusting that your kindness will prompt you to do whatever may lie in your power for our relief.

Hoping you will pardon this trespass on your time and praying for your health & abundant success in that most important Department to which Divine Providence has called you,

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
Alfred Colburn

(over)

I take the liberty to add that my application for a furlough (of 60 Days) addressed to Col. Livermore was endorsed by Hon. Jos. Gilmore, Gov. of New Hampshire, Hon. Leonard Chase, member of the Council, and J.H. Gilmore, Gov's Private Secretary who appended their signatures to the following testimonial:

“The undersigned would respectfully endorse and approve the within application, knowing Mr. Colburn to be a reliable and most patriotic citizen who is fully worthy of any favor which may be conferred upon him.”

Note to Comdg officer of 18th N.H.

If other testimony were needed, it might be readily obtained from the most prominent clergyman of our denomination in N. England. But it will be sufficient to say that I am Secretary of the New Hampshire Bap't State Convention –a position that necessarily implies the confidence of my brethren in the ministry.

[Written on the last page, upside down in red ink, and in a different hand.]

Bradford NH

June 19, 1865

Colburn R.A.

Asks assistance in procuring a furlough for his son belongs to 18th NH who is sick.

Recd B of RF&AL June 22, / 65

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2649 6/19/1865 *From:* S.P. Gamage

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2590

Holtsville Long Island  
New York

Chief of Bureau of Freedmen  
&c

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[95, 96, 97]

Holtsville Long Island New York  
June 19th 1865

Major General Howard  
Chief of Bureau of Freedmen &c  
General

I would most respectfully solicit an appointment to some position of usefulness, if only connected with a very limited compensation, in the department of labors for the benefit of the Freedmen and their children.

I formerly held the position of chaplain in the 75th Regt. U.S.C. Infantry, but resigned for the purpose of recruiting my health, which having secured through the Divine blessing, I am desirous to be employed for the benefit of the colored people in your department.

Enclosed please find copies of testimonials from the Colonel Commandg my regiment, and from Charles A. Peabody Provost Judge and now District Attorney at New Orleans.

References are also kindly permitted to the Rev'd Drs Chas. Thompson, & Tyng of New York and Storrs, with others at Brooklyn.

Trusting that this brief and humble application may receive your kind consideration.

I have the honor to be Sir  
Your Obt. Servant  
S.P. Gamage LL.D  
Late chaplain 75th U.S.C.I.

[Attachments]

Head Quarters 75th U.S. Col'd Infry,  
Morganza La 16 Feb 1865

Rev'd T. P Gamage  
Late Chaplain 75th U.S. Col'd Infry  
My dear Sir

In view of the recent severance of your official connection with the regiment, under my command, and of your early departure from our midst, I beg leave to convey to you some feeble expression of the sentiment which the occasion inspires.

You came to us some fifteen months ago, upon a mission from which most men shrink in which many fail, and which a very few, like yourself, prosecute to a happy and triumphant success.

I believe I do but utter the sentiments of every Officer and Soldier in the regiment, when I aver that your labours, with us have been crowned with success, in a most eminent degree.

Success being the criterion of most in the army as you know, it is then no slight testimonial of worth that is conveyed in this declaration. No other consideration than that the state of your health demands it, would have induced us to consent to your resignation.

Besides this official recognition of your valuable services, allow me my dear Sir to acknowledge my

indebtedness personally to you, for your uniform kindness and counseling to me under the many and varied circumstances in which we have been brought in contact.

Trusting that the kindly feelings which have attended an intercourse in the regiment may still continue and wishing you a prosperous homeward voyage, and a speedy recovery of your health.

I subscribe myself  
Sincerely and truly  
Your very humble friend  
Jno. L. Rice  
Lieut. Col. Comding 75th U.S.C.I.

[Attachment]

I am happy to certify, that the short acquaintance I have had with the Rev'd T. P. Gamage, has given me the most favourable opinion of him, as an humble, upright, loyal, sincere man and Chaplain, and I hope that his services may long be retained in our Army.

New Orleans La  
March 31st 1865

Charles A. Peabody  
Provost Judge &c

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2650 6/19/1865 *From:* A.M. Van Dyke

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2592

Head-Quarters Army of  
the Tennessee.  
Louisville Ky.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99, 100, 101]

Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee.  
Louisville Ky. June 19th 1865

Dear General

You are doubtless apprised of the fact that the Army of the Tennessee has all concentrated at this point, the last of it having arrived several days since. The time occupied in the transit was remarkably short and I think that the Quarter-Masters Department deserves great credit for the energy and ability displayed by it. The camps are pleasantly situated, but rather too near the city, affording easy opportunities for the display of the lawlessness contracted during the recent campaigns.

The 2d Div of the 15th Corps starts for Arkansas and Stolbrans Brigade of the 12th Corps for Saint Louis in a few days.

Our Staff now presents quite an array of leaves, eagles and stars, and every officers Official address commences with "Brevet". Though there is not much that is "substantial" in a Brevet appointment, we are all well pleased at even this tardy recognition of our services. I am inclined to think that in case of another War, that those who have served of "Staff" during this war will not accept Staff appointments for as a general rule their claims for promotion did not depend upon their merit or their services, but entirely upon the personal favoritism, I may say the whims of the Commanding General. Congress may pass an hundred acts every session to "promote the efficiency of the Staff", when instead of necessarily promoting such efficiency it simply affords to the General Officer an opportunity of providing for some personal favorite a "soft place" or a "good thing".

I gathered the impression that during the time I served with you, that, in the discharge of my Official duties, I gave you satisfaction. I do not see that this faithful discharge of duty was any recommendation of me to you, or that my efforts were made by you to advance me, simply because I was not personally a favorite with you. Nobody questions a mans right to consult his own personal likes, but a great many question the propriety of allowing such a privilege in all cases.

What incentive can a man have to do his duty faithfully, when he knows that at any moment, a gentleman from another army or a young exquisite from Washington, whose principle merits are that they are personal favorites, may step in, and you step back with your finger in your mouth, and are condescendingly allowed by this favorite gentleman to assume the dignity of Chief Clerk, and are, like a boy at school, to ask him when you want to go out.

The only feeling of satisfaction that one can have, is that he has conscientiously tried to do his duty, and of course I am pleased to know that you expressed yourself pleased with the manner in which I performed my official duties. I have been very much displeased however to learn lately that your recommendations in my behalf were not cordial or were withheld because (as you thought) I "drank too much whiskey". General there were three men on your staff who drank less whiskey than I did, and not one who did not take an occasional drink, and as you think, and justly too, that even one drink is too much. They were as unworthy of promotion as myself, but they all received it at your hands. I served with you only three months it is true, but in that time we saw and learned more than falls to the lot of most mortals in as many years, and the only unpleasant recollection I can have of the campaign is that I was accused by my General of being a drunkard, or at least of having so little control over myself as to be in danger of becoming such, and that told not to me personally, so that I might be able to vindicate myself to you, whose good opinion of me as a soldier and a gentleman I always hoped to have and to deserve.

I asked you to recommend my appointment in the Regular Army. I now desire to recall my application as it is

against the wishes of my parents that I should remain in the Army, as well as against my own inclinations. I meet every day, some officer of the Regular Army, appointed from Civil life, and it's my opinion that most of them are of very little credit to the profession, and my ideas of self respect will not allow that there shall be the slightest possibility that I should be commanded by such an item as Brv't Maj W. C. Ide U.S.A. and others of that ilk.

Do not think General that I am "bilious" or have the dispepsya and that what I have written is a mere ebullition of ill-humor. I write you with the kindest of feelings and with a desire to vindicate myself, and I assure you that whenever I think or speak of you it with feelings of the highest regard and respect.

I am very truly yours  
A.M. Van Dyke  
A.A. Gen'l

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Louisville Ky.

June 19, 1865

Van Dyke Capt A. M.

A.A.G.

<quite> friendly letter & desires his recommendation to a position in Regular Army recalled.

Rec'd B of RF&AL June 22d 1865

File. Ans.

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2651 6/19/1865 *From:* Alex. E. Drake

*To:* Maj Genl Oliver O.  
Howard

OOH-2593

No. 2107 Brandywine  
Street  
Philadelphia Penn

Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[104, 105]

No. 2107 Brandywine Street  
Philadelphia Penn  
June 19th 1865

Maj Genl Oliver O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
My dear General

Presuming upon the kindly feeling so long subsisting between us I take the liberty of solicity a favor at your hands.

Having been placed on the "retired list", I have, since February 1865, been on duty, here, as "A.A.Ins.Gen'l Rendezvous for Drafted Men" The termination of our protracted struggle indicates an early closing of these Rendezvous, which will relieve me from duty, and place me on my retired pay. With not only my own family, but that of my widowed sister's, dependent, almost wholly, on me, and making a sum total of some fifteen, you will readily appreciate what my struggles, and privations must be even on my full pay. What then would be my condition, with my large family, on my retired pay. I have therefore deemed it well to ask you to have me placed on duty in your Bureau. You will find, I am sure, well disposed to favor me, not only Brvt. Brig. Genl. Mussey, Mil. Sec; but also his Excellency, the President, who has on more than one occasion given me tangible evidence of his kindly feeling. Recognized as a member of the old Emancipation party of Kentucky, our family giving substantial evidence of our feelings on the subject by the manumission, on the part of my Grandfather, over thirty years since, of the only two slaves we ever owned, there can certainly be no inconsistency in my application for such duties. May I hope your favorable consideration?

I am, General  
With sincere respect  
Your Most Obd St  
Alex. E. Drake  
Capt. & A.A.Ins.Genl.  
U.S. Army

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Pa.  
June 19, 1865  
Drake A E Capt.  
Desires to be assigned to duty in Bureau  
Recd Bureau of RF&AL June 20/65  
Ans. June 21, 1865

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2652 6/19/1865    *From:* W. T. Sprole

*To:* Maj. Genl. Howard, USA.

OOH-2594

Newburgh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105, 106]

Newburgh June 19th, 1865

To.  
Maj. Genl. Howard, USA.  
My dear Friend,

You will excuse me, if in the multiplicity of your duties, I crave a moment of your time to do me a favor. My youngest saw Henry Warner, rec'd more than a year since, an appointment to the naval academy, which, after a very short trial, he resigned. I was induced to sanction it, under the impression that his health, was unequal to rugged life of a midshipman but on his return home, discovered that his whole difficulty arose from that mental distress which most lads are apt to experience, in leaving home and exchanging its quiet scenes, for the roughnesses of a sailors life. The ill-health of Saml. who about that time, was compelled to resign his position in the army, and who was completely broken down, both in mind and body, prevented me from looking into Henry's case as closely as I should have done. Had he remained in the naval school another month, I am now satisfied, he would have overcome all his troubles, and gone forward successfully. Shortly after his return he discovered the mistake he had made, and became as anxious to return, as he had been to leave. Through my friend Atty Genl Bates I made the application to have him reappointed, but thus far have failed.

Now my dear Genl. can you help me in this matter. I know that Sec'y Wells, has placed his name on the list again, of those seeking reappointment, but am very doubtful of success. May I not ask you, to see the Sec'y of the Navy, and speak a word in my behalf. Henry is a most excellent youth, fully prepared to prosecute the studies of the school, and should his life be spared, would, I am satisfied do credit to himself, and good service to his country.

Considering the manner in which I have been treated by the wretched [Jefferson] Davis, I think, I am entitled to some little consideration by government. If you can aid me in this behalf, by soliciting the Hon Secy to grant my request you will confer a lasting favor, on your old friend.

W. T. Sprole

P.S.  
Henry's age is such, that should he not be reappointed before next September, the limitation of the law of Congress, will necessarily cut him off.

Many thanks to you, for your letter to my friend Miss Hedges, to Genl Patrick. She succeeded in recovering her nephew's body, and last Sabbath, the funeral services were performed, in Newburgh.  
W.T.S.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Newburgh N.Y  
June 19, 65  
Prof Sprole  
Ans  
<Sub> taken personally to the Secy of Navy. OOH.

[Written on the last page, in OO Howard's hand.]  
Attended to  
O.O.H.  
M.G.

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2653 6/19/1865 *From:* Rev. Geo. Whipple

*To:* Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2595

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Missionary  
Association,  
No 61 John Street  
New York

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[98]

American Missionary Association,  
No 61 John Street  
New York, June 19, 1865  
Rev. Geo. Whipple, Sec.  
Rev. M.E. Strieby, Sec.  
Lewis Tappan, Treas.  
W.E. Whiting, Asst. Treas.

Major Gen. Howard  
Commissioner &c &c  
General,

Permit me to invite your attention to the accompanying petition from Northampton, Ms.

I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with Mr Hunt, but I do know some of the signers of the application, and I have all confidence in their testimony. No man could wish more satisfactory endorsers than sign this paper for Mr. Hunt. I trust you will give it due consideration.

Yours respectfully  
Geo. Whipple, Ga. Sec.

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2654 6/20/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2596

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[183]

Boston June 20 / 65

My dear Brother

I was glad to get your note & the enclosed "orders" giving me some idea of your work. I will remain here till next Monday & then return to Maine hoping to meet Ella in Portland where our State Conference is to be next week. I hope you will have a very good time at Gettysburg and not get sick under your great pressure of work.

I hope you will be home about Commencement time as Dellie will be here then. John Sewall says your class holds its 15th Anniversary this year. Dr Chickering wants you to preside at a Convention to promote Temperance at Saratoga some time & pressed me to write you about it. I am enjoying this great meeting of earnest Christian men very much & wish you could sit quietly and take in their thoughts with me.

Mr. J. L. Schick will be most happy to see you at Gettysburg.

May God help you day by day to do wisely & righteously all he lays upon you.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Frank sends a great deal of love and is most happy to supply you with the articles you mention. He had forgotten them & feels glad that they are useful.

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2655 6/20/1865      *From:* TS. Goodwin

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2597

Port Richmond, Staten  
Island N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[107, 108, 109]

Port Richmond, Staten Island N.Y.  
June 20th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Ex. Gov. Coburn of Maine is a friend of mine. I have repeatedly seen and heard you at Skowhegan. This is now my permanent residence. I formerly caried on a plantation with slaves in the south. A volume mailed herewith to your address will attest my position.

I write simply to call your attention to an article in the "Macon Telegraph" of May 30th reprinted in the New York Times semi-weekly, June 13th 65. If I have not lost my former acquaintance with southern idioms, it discloses a plan susceptible of immediate and universal application, characterized by all that infernal sagacity for which the "master class" are proverbial, for the practical reënslavement of the blacks, and the practical restoration of the old order of things.

The premises occupied are two. First, the making and administration of local law will soon be back in southern lands. Second - "The theory of Republican democracy, is nonintervention with trade, labor and domestic economy +++ It keeps out of the kitchen and the meal-tub+++."

The principle to be put in action on these premises is that by which "apprentises" and coolies are fatally and immediately enslaved in the West Indies -viz:- piling up charges for food and clothing and medical attendance, which charges, under the master's administration of law, their victims can liquidate to the tenth generation.

To meet this plot I would suggest that every five hundred or thousand negro families, being registered, have a government supervisor whose expences and salary should be payed by a pittance from the earnings of each family, who should have from the War Department, power to annull all oppressive contracts and exorbitant charges. The negroes would fall into this arrangement spontaneously. Their would-be masters will fight against it with all the sagacity and force to be waked up this side of Perdition.

But one word more. Unless by confiscation or some other process, the large landed estates in the south are broken up and made attainable by the actual cultivation of the soil, the Despotism that has ruled that section with a rod of iron in the past, will be measurably restored.

Yours respectfully  
TS. Goodwin

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]

Goodwin T.S.

To be answered when the book referred to has been read. [Perhaps "The Natural History of Secession"]  
Rec'd Bureau of RF&AL June 21, 65

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2656 6/20/1865     *From:* Wm E Shord

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2600

Racine Wisconsin

Comr Bureau of Refugees  
etc.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110, 111]

June 21, [1865 written in pencil]

Dear Genl,

I arrived at home safely yesterday evening. Will be in Racine until the latter part of this week when I leave on my inspection tour via St. Louis.

The weather is delightful and I am having a good time among my friends.

Please say to Mrs H that I left the Colonel in Chicago and that he was well and in excellent spirits. Thought he should be in Washington in ten days.

I met Genl. Sherman and lady at the Tremont House in Chicago, and had a pleasant visit with them. The Genl is well and wished to be remembered to you when I wrote, said he should write to you soon.

I am fearful that Genl S. is injuring his reputation by the course he has pursued since coming west. He has written and said too much already, and he is becoming very unpopular on account of his associations with a class of politicians in Chicago who have ever been bitterly opposed to the administration.

Genl. Sherman told me that it was very probable that the Veteran troops of 14th 15th and 17th Corps would be mustered out at the service soon. If my regiment should be mustered out of service before I get back to Washington, could you not in some way manage to have me retained in the service for a time? I would like very much to remain in the army until I can make arrangements about going into business –that is if you think I can be of any service to you and worthy of it.

I talked with Genl. Rawlins about it the day I left <vt> and he said Genl. Grant would attend to the matter without any doubt, if you desired it.

I will write you fully from St. Louis and all points along the Miss.

Remember me kindly to Mrs Markland & all members of the staff.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully and truly yours  
Wm E Shord  
Insp. Genl. etc.

Racine Wisconsin  
June 20th 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau of Refugees etc.

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2657 6/20/1865

*From:* J.M. McKim

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2625

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of the American  
Freedmen's Aid Union,  
130 Nassau-Street.  
New York

Com'r Bureau, Freedmen &c

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[146]

Bureau of the  
American Freedmen's Aid Union,  
130 Nassau-Street.  
New York, June 20 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau, Freedmen &c  
Dr Sir

I enclose you a corrected proof of the proposed address.

Mr Shaw who will hand it to you, will receive and duly note any suggestion you may have to make on the subject.

He will also show a copy to Mr Stanton, and put another in the way of reaching the President.

I am dear sir  
Yours very respectfully  
J.M. McKim  
Sec. A.F.A.U.

---

2658 6/21/1865 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-2598

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington D.C.

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[609]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington D.C. June 21st 1865

My dear Guy,

Your kind letter and present came in good time and I am grandly wearing the cravat. Sam and I both understand the process exactly of putting it on. Tell Mamma I am not quite so hard pressed with business as I was when she was here, that I find the house very cool this hot weather; the repairers are white washing and painting and I am having the gas pipe in my room mended. We have a good cow and I am having the hay made so as to put it in the barn. The ground looks neater since it was mowed. My oration is written for Gettysburg but I am afraid I shall not get it committed. Give much love to Mamma & all the children.

May God bless & keep you all is papa's prayer.

Affectionately  
O.O. Howard

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2659 6/21/1865 *From:* H Wilson

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2599

Natick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[153]

Natick, June, 21st, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Major Thomas H. Dunham of the 11th Regt Ms [Massachusetts] desires a position in your Bureau. He is represented to me to be a good officer in all respects worthy of entire confidence.

Yours truly  
H Wilson

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2660 6/21/1865    *From:* Mrs Bethune

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2601

1629 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and Abandoned  
Lands

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[114]

Major General Howard  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands

Mrs Bethune acknowledges receipt of Permit and begs leave to return her thanks to General Howard for his prompt and kind attention to her application; at the same time she desires to call his attention to the omission of permission, for her Daughter, Josephine Bethune aged about Fifteen, to accompany her.

On applying to Colonel McKim, Mrs Bethune was referred to Captain Bowman, who did not feel authorized to make any addition to the Permit for Transportation; and recommended Mrs B. to renew her application, including her Daughter.

The advanced Season renders it dangerous for Absentees to return to Florida, and Mrs. Bethune prays that the indulgence of Transportation may be extended to her until the June heat will have abated.

Mrs. Bethune offers her expression of regret for repeated intrusion, and reiterates her thanks for acquiescence to her wishes.

June 21st 1865  
1629 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia

[Written on the back of the last page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Pa.

Bethune Mrs.

Requests to have transportation given her daughter be extended until the warm season is over.

Ans.

Rec'd B of RF&AL June 22

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2661 6/21/1865 *From:* J. G. Blaine

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2602

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112, 113]

Private –Excuse haste and blots

Augusta  
21 Jun 1865

Dear Genl

If you have any unfilled place connected with your Bureau requiring a man of brains and great practical resources let me say that you will find him in Bvt Brig Genl Alexander Cummings now Com of Camp Cadwallader near Phila.

You can find out all about him by inquiring of the Secy of War or Gen. Townsend.

I drop you this hint for your official benefit but I do not want you to act on it without consulting others. I merely feel interested in you securing capable assistants in your great work.

You need not quote me to any one as making the recommendation –for I want you to get your <> information from other quarters if you conclude to call for Gen. Cummings. I do not pretend to know whether he would be willing to accept a post in your Bureau. I merely direct yr attention to him as a man of great ability, and rare capacity for administrative duty.

In great haste  
Always yr friend  
J. G. Blaine

Maj. Gen. Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Augusta June 21st 1865

Blaine, J.G.

Mem. C.

Recommends Gen Cummings as an officer well fitted for some position in the Bureau.

Recd June 25, 1865, Wash'n.

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2662 6/21/1865 *From:* Henry T. Johns

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2603

Pittsfield, Berkshire Co.  
Mass.

Chief of Freedman's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[116, 117]

Pittsfield, Berkshire Co. Mass.  
June 21, 1865

General,

I am 37 yrs of age – have wife and three children – was born and reared among the Quakers of Philadelphia –admitted to the bar (Rochester N.Y.) Sept. 1850 – entered the ministry (N.E. Church) June 1852 – enlisted into the 49th Regt Mass. Vols. August 1862 – mustered out with the reg't Sep. 1, 1862 – (it was a nine months regiment, but the exigencies of the siege of Port Hudson made it a one-year's reg't) – re-enlisted into the 61st Mass. vols. as private and was duly promoted to 2nd & 1st Lieut. respectively – mustered out with the same, June 4, 1865 in pursuance of Gen. Or. No. 26 Hd Qrs A. of P. dated May 17, 1865.

I have the honor to apply to you for a place in the work over which you have command. I do it reluctantly. My Anti-Slavery convictions led me into the army. In the 49th Mass. Vols. I was Q. M's clerk, a position which honorably exonerated me from the dangers of the field, but those convictions led me to take part in every forlorn hope, battle and skirmish, in which my comrades engaged. The war over, I hoped to remain with, and train up my little ones. If you can give me a position that will enable me to be with my family and that will comfortably support us, duty will lead to a prompt acceptance thereof. If you give me only the duties of which will require my separation from my family –I will know not what to do. I have been much troubled on the subject. The future of the freedmen and the future of our country awakens much of my anxiety. I feel that I could be useful in your department. I dont want to leave my family, am doubtful if I ought to. Thus troubled, I have determined to lay that matter before you, almost concluding to consider your decision as the voice of Providence to me.

I would prefer to serve as a civillian, for duty, never inclination, transformed me into the private, the officer. As the latter, I was mainly engaged as Judge-Advocate, but was privileged to be with my reg't (61st Mass. Vols.) before Petersburg, April 2, 1865, in the one battle of their history. For the services of that day, I was recommended for Brevet promotion. That recommendation passed through Brigade Hd Qrs. I have heard nothing of it since.

If I could get a position in Kentucky, Tennessee or Missouri, I should seriously think of settling there. Climate would better suit my health. Civil and military recommendations, of the very best, I can furnish you. I know I am a good business man and my friends give me credit for executive energy. Excuse the apparent egotism –it is but apparent. I enclose pamphlet, not <> a specimen of my mind, but that you may know me better, and know that I am not now assuming views that I might reasonably presume to harmonize with those of the Chief of the Freedman's Bureau.

Hoping to receive an early reply. I remain  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Henry T. Johns  
Late 1st Lieut 51st Mass. Vols

Major General O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedman's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Pittsfield, Mass.  
June 21, /65  
Johns H.F.  
Desires an appointment

-a-

Recd B of RF&AL 23rd June

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2663 6/21/1865    *From:* John C. Caldwell  
Brig. Gen.

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2604

Washington D.C.

Commissioner of Freedman's  
Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[118, 119]

Washington D.C.  
June 21 1865

My dear General:

Permit me to introduce to you my friend Col Stewart who, as the agent of Jay Cooke, has recently been in the Southern States.

He has taken great interest in the condition of the Freedmen in the States he has visited, & can, I doubt not give you valuable information.

I have taken great interest in his statements, from the fact that Col. Stewart has been a slaveholder & has lived all his life amidst the institution of slavery, & cannot, therefore, be considered a witness prejudiced in favor of the negro.

The Colonel is a lawyer by profession, has been in the Maryland Legislature, & was a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of California.

I have been surprised & gratified by the accounts he gives of the conduct & capacity of the negro.

I am, General  
Very truly Yours  
John C. Caldwell  
Brig. Gen.

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedman's Bureau

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington  
June 21, 1865  
Caldwell, J.C.  
Brig. Genl.  
Introduces Col. Stewart  
A.  
Recd June 22, 1865

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2664 6/21/1865    *From:* W. E. Boardman

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2605

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office,  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Commissioner &c

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[120]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office,  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia, June 21, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General,

I have seen a few of the leading men interested for Freedmen and others south. Not enough to decide the question of a union of all. Enough however to confirm my faith in the practicality of effecting it. All think highly of it. None as yet see insurmountable obstacles in the way.

Yesterday I was seized by slight illness and enjoined by my physician to keep entirely quiet at home for a short time. This stops me, but I hope very soon to have the Dr's assent to a trip to New York and if need be to Boston, which must I think decide the feasibility of our plan.

May God bless you and give you health strength wisdom and grace for the great work before you.

Very respectfully and truly yours  
W. E. Boardman

P.S. My address for the present is 425 South Broad Street.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila June 21  
11 Bank St.  
Boardman W.E.  
Secy Chris'n Comm.  
Thinks a union of commissions can be effected.  
Recd Bureau of RF&AL June 22nd

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2665 6/21/1865 *From:* H. Wilson

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2606

Natick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[121]

Natick, June 21st, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I am told that Mr James has or will recommend the Rev Mr Fisk now at Morehead city as head of the Schools in North Carolina. I write to say that Mr Fisk had one of the best schools for boys in this state and is regarded as a most able teacher. I have known him for many years and know him to be a good and true man.

Yours truly  
H. Wilson

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2666 6/22/1865

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
M Genl

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2607

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands.  
St. Louis

Freedman's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

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[130, 131]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.  
St. Louis June 22d, 1865

General

I have the honor to report my military affairs in Missouri closed and off my hands.

I shall give a brief look at Freedmen's affairs in Louisville and reach Nashville on Monday 26th inst.

I am pained to hear of the accident to Col. Osborne. If it meets your pleasure I will undertake Alabama in connection with Ky and Tenn until the Colonel recovers from his injuries.

I congratulate you upon the L.L.D.

Very Respectively  
Your Obt Servant  
Clinton B. Fisk  
M Genl

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Freedman's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

St Louis Mo.  
22 June  
Fisk Gen C. B.  
Friendly letter  
Recd B of RF&AL 25 Jun 65

[Attachment, newspaper clipping from The Democrat]

The Democrat  
Thursday Morning, June 22, 1865  
Correction – The Degree of LL.D. Conferred upon Major General Howard.

By a typographical error, our correspondent from Shurtleff College was made to say in our issue of the 20th inst., the degree of D.D. was conferred upon Rev. G.S. Bailey, of Ill., and Major General Sam. Graves, of Conn. The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Oliver Howard.

Sam. Graves is a clergyman, and pastor of a Baptist church at Norwich, Conn. The Major General who has thus received the highest honor in the gift of one of the best of American colleges, is Oliver O. Howard, Commissioner of the Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Lands. It is rare indeed that honors of this kind are more worthily bestowed. Gen. Howard was graduated first from Bowdoin College and afterward from the military academy at West Point. He was for some time instructor in mathematics at West Point, at which time he also prosecuted a liberal course of study in sacred theology. In literature, science, christian theology, and the art of war, Gen. Howard, though yet young, stands among the first of public men of our nation. Shurtleff College has honored itself in placing the laurel upon the head of Oliver O. Howard.



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2667 6/22/1865 *From:* Thomas Wingate

*To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2609

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126]

Philadelphia June 22nd 1865

Sir,

I have just received your letter of June 21st 1865, enclosing an order for passage for me my wife and brother from Philadelphia to Georgetown South Carolina. We are a thousand times obliged to you for your kindness and assure you that we will always remain faithful to the old flag and loyal to our country.

With respect  
yours &c  
Thomas Wingate

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila Pa

June 22d /61

homes Thos

Letter of thanks.

Recd B of RF&AL 23rd June

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2668 6/22/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2610

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[611]

Washington D.C. June 22nd 1865

Dearest,

Your welcome letter of the 18th I have just received. It is so cool and pleasant here now, that I wonder whether it will last. Col. Markland has'nt returned & Mrs M. is quite lonely & looks for letters with much solicitude. I wonder if you are ever worried because you do not get letters? I will enclose you Susan's letter.

My duties are not very hard, but require attending to. Harry Stinson has gone up to Loudon Co. Va. I am afraid he is not strong, coughs much at night, never complains, wants to do much work as much as any body. Sladen is a little unwell today, had a little fever. Gilbreth, Fullerton & Taggart are all well.

We have a very pleasant mess and I really wish you & the children were here to enjoy it. I want the children to play with out of hours.

I think the ladies of Washington do just as they please, visit just as much & just as little as they like.

I had a telegram from Col. Whittlesey to-day from Raleigh, a letter from Rowland from Boston another from Dellie from Richmond Ind. Also letters from Uncle Henry & Freddie.

I am giving you an after dinner letter, that is writing without much thought or order. I sent Guy a short answer to his letter and my photograph.

I had a long friendly from Moses H. Wright cadet when you knew him. Now Rebel Col. paroled. He accepts the present state of things as the Divine <Arbitration> and writes me affectionately, wants to know what will be done with him, has an excellent wife & lovely child, sends kind remembrances to you.

Col. Osborne met with a severe R.R. accident, cars tipped over breaking his arm off near the shoulder after he had started back from a short leave of absence. I am very sorry for him. You know he broke his leg just above the ankle on a Government R.R. train between Atlanta & Nashville when he was on his way home on a leave of absence. Dont he have bad luck! I wrote him he must give his heart wholly to his master.

I suppose Guy & Grace are anticipating their trip to Washington with much pleasure. I want to see them all very much & I believe little Chancy as much as any. Give much love and accept not a little from your loving husband  
Otis

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2669 6/22/1865

*From:* James E Yeatman

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2611

Western Sanitary  
Commission,  
No. 10 North Fifth Street  
St. Louis

Washington City

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[125]

Western Sanitary Commission,  
No. 10 North Fifth Street  
St. Louis, June 22nd 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington City  
Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will a draft of a circular for the Freedmens Memorial. You will perceive we require the approval of the President of the United States, Secretary of War, Lt. Genl Grant and yourself. I enclose a copy of certificate of approval, which you will oblige provided you think favorably of the monument by procuring the required certificates. Have just received two additional subscriptions –this has all been done without solicitation. I wrote you on yesterday.

Very respectfully  
Yr Obt Svt  
James E Yeatman

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2670 6/22/1865 *From:* Sarah F. Smiley

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2612

Norfolk

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[127, 128, 129]

Norfolk 6.22.1865

To Genl. O.O. Howard -

Thy kindness in our brief interview in this city encourages me in asking thy attention to a subject that had claimed my most earnest thoughts for many months past – the separated families of Freedmen.

Their strong national affection is no more figment of northern sympathy. In my missionary labors among them I have seen such deep and lasting sorrow from these forced partings as cause them to be generally spoken of as the one great trial of life; and most intense happiness I have witnessed too in the many reunions affected since the fall of Richmond.

Each Sabbath little papers of touching interest are read in their Churches inquiring for the lost, but this resource is in most cases hopeless.

Such a work to be thorough must be national, and wold it not seem the plain duty of our Country in putting away the sin of slavery to find a remedy for one of its practical wrongs. I have waited anxiously for the right time to move, and have watched with thankful heart the opening doors, in the recovery of the entire Slave territory, the establishment of the new Bureau, the appointment of a Christian as its head – and now the census of the race which I am told is on the point of being taken. The latter fact removes an obstacle which has almost appalled me as I have pondered various plans by night and day, the enormous expense of the undertaking, to which I feared neither our Government nor the various Associations would respond. It may be that this subject has already claimed the attention of the Bureau, but shall I suggest the plan that has occurred to me? The Census Agents might be required to insert in their Books – (or separate Books would be better) the following items -

- 1 Former owners in order of time
- 2 Residence of each of these owners
- 3 Names of Parents or Children (if separated)
- 4 Name of wife or husband (do)
- 5 Their owners and residence at time of sale
- 6 Approximate date of separation

<6> would be a very great help but that I know from experience to be usually so inaccurate as only to mislead. The <listings> of the owners names – the chief clue – could be prepared, one for each state so that there would be a Virginia Book, a Georgia Book etc. This would save an enormous amount of labor in searching the whole.

I have just been consulting with my friend Major Carney (for some time the Gen. Supt. of Negro Affairs in this state) and while I have been writing this he has sent me a more elaborate form which I will enclose. The Returns once in the Office, official notice of readiness for applications could be spread through the Country and simple Blanks could be furnished to all Agents. Teachers &c for the use of those asking information – and calling for all the information on record of both parties. These blanks with any additional clue that could be found should be sent to the office and thence to the neighborhood where the other party is traced for identification and the answers transmitted through the office to the first enquirer.

Allowing for many failures if a few thousand could thus be reunited or put in communication by letter would not the effort be amply rewarded.

No doubt there are difficulties in the work; but surely a special blessing might be expected to crown with success such an act of justice & mercy. Many prayers have already asked for such a blessing and now with full confidence in thy judgment & Christian sympathy. I commend to thy thought and care, this past sorrow of the Slave.

All that I can offer, whether time or strength, my little influence with those who have more influence, or whatever

else I may possess is solemnly pledged to this work.

Very truly thy frd  
Sarah F. Smiley

Genl. O.O. Howard

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2671 6/22/1865    *From:* Charles K Graham  
Bvt Maj Genl

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2613

Portsmouth, Va

Chief of Bureau Freedman's  
Affairs

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[132, 133]

Portsmouth, Va  
June 22nd 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Chief of Bureau Freedman's Affairs  
General,

As the last act of my military official life, for I leave for the North tomorrow preparatory to being mustered out, I desire to recommend to your favorable consideration for an employment in the management of negro affairs in this state, Captain C.B. Wilder, A.Q.M., late Superintendent of the Peninsular District.

I was Presiding officer of the Court before which Capt Wilder was tried, a few weeks ago, for malfeasance in office with aggravated charges. After a protracted & most sifting enquiry into the charges, Capt Wilder was honorably acquitted, there not being a particle of evidence affecting his management as an officer, or his character as an honorable man. In fact so thoroughly was he vindicated, that several members of the Court expressed their indignation that a man of his advanced years, high standing in society, <> exemplary character should have been subjected to a prosecution, which in their judgment, could have been avoided if the officers under his control had been examined into, dispassionately, by an officer who had the necessary time to devote to the inquiry.

Capt Wilder is an entire stranger to me, but I entertain the belief that some reparation is due to him for the effort made to destroy his reputation & likewise that it will be to the interest of the Government to employ a man, who produced so pure a record.

Respy & truly Yours  
Charles K Graham  
Bvt Maj Genl

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Portsmouth Va.  
June 22, 1865  
Graham Charles K.  
Recommendation of Capt, C. B. Wilder &c  
Rec'd June 30th 1865

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**2672** 6/23/1865    *From:* J. R. Shepherd

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2614

Care Geo Whipple  
61 John St  
New York

Freedmens Bu  
Washington

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[42]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated N York June 23 1865  
Rec'd Washington June 23 1865  
To Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmens Bu

Can I see you at your office tomorrow. Answer

J. R. Shepherd  
Care Geo Whipple  
61 John St

9/75

New Your June 23 1865  
Shepard, J.R.  
Desires to see Gen Howard  
File with private papers  
Rec'd Bureau F.R.&A.L. June 23d / 65 at 10:20 am

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2673 6/23/1865 *From:* J.T. Headley

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2615

Cedar Lawn  
Newburgh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[122, 123, 124]

Cedar Lawn  
Newburgh Jun 23 [1865, written in pencil]

Dear Sir

I am engaged in writing a book on the campaign of Grant & Sherman & shall include in it (as is to be large) biographies of their chief generals, their battles, &c. [See Note]

My object in addressing you is two fold.

First I desire a chronological statement of the battles you were engaged in after that of Antietam together with the kind of service you performed – also the exact date of your appointment as Major General. Up to Antietam I think I have every thing necessary. If any of your personal friends or subordinates have presented incidents anecdotes &c I should be extremely thankful if you would give me their address. But the second & main object I have in view is a matter of more total interest. It is well known that you serve a higher master than an earthly one & I feel that I have no right to give your service under one without giving that under the other.

Besides, the church, christianity have a right to it - the glory of our common Master requires it. The written accounts of Havelock & Hedley Vicars have done more for the world than their actions did.

What I want I am afraid nobody can give but yourself & I am the more late in asking it because I do not wish it for my benefit nor for yours but for Christianity – i.e. a history of your religious relations to the soldier & the army from the time you prayed with your Maine Regiment to the close of the war I know at the first blush there seems some indelicacy in this, but when we remember that even the private <secret desires> of God's people have been published to the world & form the <> to the church, we see they can be done. Whatever good we do is not of us but “Christ that dwelleth in us” & he & his church have a right to ask that the world should hear our testimony. You may think that I overrate the importance of this but I know that I do not. What might be said of me, writing in the ordinary <contine> of life would be of small account but the outward practical testimony of one who ranks among the first military chieftains –who has done more than face death without flinching – faced steadily the temptations of a camp life & the immorality of an army is invaluable. I have thought much of it & feel that even I worthless as I am could do some good by making a Christian hero stand out in bold relief in a group of mere military chieftains. Acts of fidelity to our common Master – that glorying in the cross, without which a religious life in the army is impossible, have a power over the consciences & hearts of men that we little dream of. In the ignorant private they may be called fanaticism but not in the great & well poised leader of an army. Besides the very events with which they are put in juxtaposition, give them a prominence & strong relief they otherwise would not possess. Across the gloom & carnage of war they shoot like sunbursts through the cloud rifts that blacken the stormy deep.

I dont know as I have made myself thoroughly understood. I dont know as the motive that truly actuates me stand out clearly or it ought to in what I have said. But to sum up the whole I want to do good with your biography, not merely write a thrilling military sketch & I believe good will be done if you can in any way give me, or put me in the way of getting a full account of your public testimony while in the army to the truth of Christianity.

As I said before I am the more bold in asking it because I feel that the Church & Christianity have a right to it as much as they had to that of Havelock & Vicars.

Please think of it, for I feel quite sure if you look at the matter in all its bearings you will view it somewhat as I do.

I know how your time is occupied, but perhaps you could put me in the way of getting what I want without encroaching very heavily upon it.

At all events pardon me for trespassing so much on your patience & believe me

Most truly & <nisculy> yours  
J.T. Headley

[Note. The book referred to here is probably the one entitled "Grant and Sherman. Their Campaigns and Generals", published in 1865 by E.B. Treat & Co., New York and written by Joel Tyler Headley.]

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2674 6/23/1865 *From:* S. L. Smiley

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-2616

Norfolk, Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[134, 135, 136, 137]

Norfolk, Va  
6-23-1865

It gives me much pleasure to forward this little package to Gen. Howard and to add some little explanations which may increase its interest.

The Pen-wipers were made by Harriet Whitehouse a young woman and a cripple who suffers a living martyrdom from the inhuman treatment she received from her master when a child. One of my young friends has taught her to make these little articles, and she has employed the intervals of pain so well as to earn in this manner about \$10 in four months.

The Photographic group I have had taken expressly for Gen Howard and his little son –for whom I am sorry I can find at present no more appropriate gift. The five persons in the group were related from the woman under my charge this winter in my Industrial School and Mothers Meeting –as types of different classes.

The first one standing is the daughter of a man who after praying for freedom for 40 long years has nicely improved the gift. He is the head of quite a settlement of children and grandchildren –has built his own home, made improvements in this & others, and aided in the support of all through the expenses of sickness and death, with an honest <> in never having cost a penny to that Government to which he owes so much. Three of his daughters have been with me in such moments as they could spare from their children and have thus earned \$20 with their needle and <> in its use.

The second figure with crutches is a lame girl whose christian cheerfulness knows no cloud. Walking as often as she could a long mile to the school, she is now (nearly) able to support herself with her needle –her little apprenticeship yielding has a profit of \$10. In her lap is a block of the Bed-Spread designed for our beloved President –now being finished for the benefit of his monument, and to be purchased by the subscription as a present to John Bright.

The woman with a turban is the mother of the little girl, and a soldiers wife. In his absence she has managed her household of five young children with rare discretion. All her fuel is brought by herself and elder children from the woods round Norfolk. Her hands wield the axe and her shoulders bear the heavy load, while the little ones can carry chips, and this with a most thankful heart. The little girl has been my little orderly taking round comforts to the sick and so earning her dresses, while at the School she has been busy with patchwork.

The last in the group is old Aunty Neaton one of the sweetest spirits I ever met. She is 80 years old, and has had a life of grinding toil. When I found her in her log hut with the <keen> winds blowing through the chinks, and said “Why Aunty isn't it very cold here?” - her cheerful answer was “I thank the Lord –the roof is pretty tight, honey.” And such is her life –the Security of all that is above her and over her, more thought of than the trials around her. I had her home made comfortable and did not see her again till two months after she came walking in to the Hall. “I could'nt rest honey, till I found you again, but I was feared to come at first case my eyes couldnt see to sew, but they tells me theres stockings now and it pears like if I could jus come and sit near you and knit I'd be so mighty happy honey.” Treble pair of well knit socks has been the fruit of her labor –now <comes> in a nice new dress.

Such quiet facts speak louder than the contentious tongues which so often tell me - “hey will not work. I assure you they will not work.”

Gen. Howard may rest assured that the prayers of many of this new-born Nation whom it is his privilege to protect through this perilous infancy of freedom, will follow him and call down a blessing upon his work, and also I think upon himself, and such is the earnest desire of

his friend,

S. L. Smiley

I am sorry to find that the Photographs are not quite ready as promised. I will send them on by mail. Very truly  
-S. L. S.

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2675 6/23/1865    *From:* John Dessauer

*To:* Major Genl. O.O.  
Howard U.S.Vols.  
Washington, D.C.

OOH-2617

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters  
Department of  
Washington,  
Office of Judge  
Advocate

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[138]

Headquarters Department of Washington,  
Office of Judge Advocate  
June 23rd 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard U.S.Vols.  
Washington, D.C.  
General,

I most respectfully request you, General, for permission to pay you my regards and respect in person; as I had not yet the honor to make your acquaintance, but I have always esteemed you though as the benefactor of my deceased brother, Captain Frances A. Dessauer, of your Staff.

I have the honor, to be, General,  
Most Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
John Dessauer  
late Captain 39th N.Y. V Vols. and  
Asst Judge Advocate 44th AC

“Address” Captain John Dessauer  
care of  
Major Th. Gaines Judge Advocate  
Dept. Of Washington  
Washington  
D.C.

[Written on the back page, written in a different hand.]  
Department of Washington  
June 23d 1865  
Dessauer John  
Friendly Letter  
&c  
Recd June 28, 1865

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2676 6/23/1865

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* My Dear Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2618

No. 136 Amity St.  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

No. 136 Amity St. Brooklyn  
Friday Morning, June 23d 1865

My Dear Friend,

Again in addressing you I take the liberty of introducing my eldest Brother, who explains in this accompanying letter his desire for your attention. When I wrote you before, I had no expectation of troubling you again, but trust to your expressed kind feeling to excuse the liberty I now take.

My Brother is a man about your own age, and thoroughly principled. If in your power to grant me this favor, I shall ever feel very grateful.

I learn thro' Mrs. Sargent that Mrs. Howard is with you give much love to her for me, and with warmest regards for yourself. Believe me dear General

Yours sincerely  
Thomasine M. Kearny

P.S. I think I should add, that I have no intention of presuming again upon your friendship, and thank you most kindly for the reception of my former note.  
T.M.K.

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2677 6/24/1865    *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2619

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[140]

Raleigh June 24th 1865

My dear General

I have not been long enough in my work to find material for an official report, but as an opportunity occurs to send directly to Washington, I will write a few lines. In the three days since my arrival, I have had interviews with the Gov, Generals Cox & Ames, & many prominent persons. All receive me with many kind words, & seem glad that somebody is sent to take from their shoulders a work & responsibility which they do not know what do do with.

I have looked at the condition of Freedmen & Refugees in & about the city. A good beginning has been made by Capt. Beal in their behalf. About 600 poor blacks (women & children) are gathered in log huts about 2 miles from town, & doing well. They have gardens, & a field of corn which will yield a part of their support.

The whites are in a worse state. I have drawn some Hospital tents, & will have a camp for them today.

I have not yet assumed the work of issuing rations to whites, as I have no officers to help me.

Medical attendance is much needed, and Surgeons are not to be obtained. The Medical Director seems ready to help me, but says his force is reduced very much below the wants of the Army. I have however got the promise of a Hospital Steward today.

Reports from the western part of the state represent all guilt in the country. Freedmen are at work, having made some bargain with their former masters.

At Fayetteville some suffering & disorder exists. I have applied for an officer to be sent there at once.

I propose to visit Newbern, Roanoke, Beaufort & Wilmington next week, after Capt. James arrives.

Under Gen. Scholfield's orders a large amount of supplies is being issued to poor whites. I think four times a much as the blacks tho' I cannot give the figures.

Yours truly,  
E. Whittlesey

P.S. & Private

I don't know Col. Granger's object in visiting Washington; but I am convinced that he is not the right man for the Post he now fills, nor for any position in this bureau.

I see very suspicious indications, & fear that he will give me trouble if he gets promotion, & remains commandant of the Post.

E.W.

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2678 6/24/1865    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2620

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. qrs. "Camp  
Stanton"  
Beaufort S.C.

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[184]

Hd. qrs. "Camp Stanton"  
Beaufort S.C. June 24 '65

My dear brother

Gen. Saxton has offered to take a letter to you and as he goes by Ft. Monroe you would get it much earlier than the letter I wrote yesterday which is in the mail. I made it a speciality in that letter to express to you my conviction of the importance of giving military power into the hands of asst. Commissioners of Freedmen. I enclose an extract from newspaper showing the bad feeling existing, certainly in South Carolina, among returned Rebel Officers & other old citizens and their determination to do for the Freedmen only what they are compelled to do. Now I do not think the force will actually need to be used if it is at hand but should your agents undertake to carry out any regulations or orders distasteful to these people, without military power within call at least, I believe they would meet with great difficulty and that finally military force would have to be actually employed. But should it appear that these agents have the military power at hand, it would I think not only facilitate all operations but prevent actual shedding of blood in the future.

If I could see you I could in a short time express what is difficult to bring out upon paper.

I find that the Department of the South has been virtually broken up since South Carolina is in Meade's Mil. Div'n, Georgia in Thomas' and Florida in the Gulf Dept. So I suppose there will be or has been an entire reorganization and perhaps So. Carolina will constitute a Department by itself. If not, Gen. Saxton could as well and better than anyone exercise the military command which is becoming of less and less importance (merely as military) and his operations for the Freedmen's interest would be incalculably facilitated. As it is it operates not only negatively against him but the military authorities now here are a constant and positive hindrance to him as he will undoubtedly explain to you in person.

These two Regts. (128th & 104th under my command) (which he expected to retain had he continued to raise his Colored Corps) are to be turned over to Gen. Gillmore. This will not be very agreeable to me personally as I will be brought under men who know nothing of me or my past military experience and record. Besides it will occasion probably my removal from Beaufort which will neither be so pleasant for me nor so advantageous for the Regt. at present. We are just finishing some fine quarters for the men, have a school house or rather tent with nice writing benches &c &c arranged. No corrupting influence of a large city for the officers & men. Good drill ground and in that every thing in good running order.

Gen. Saxton has asked me to take the position of an agent or asst. Com'r for him to be located, say at Columbia or other important point. I think I would accept such a place if I could see the means at hand for executing orders & carrying out your plans & wishes. But I am not willing to be a do-nothing. I always desire to accomplish something & especially what I undertake.

If I could go & take my own Regiment along and thus have it partially at least under supervision or could see the means at hand, (readily to call without begging for wks to execute your plans. It would seem right for me to go.

I felt much tempted to ask for a Leave to accompany Gen. Saxton to Washington & then go thence with you to Gettysburg. Rowland wrote me he would meet me there if I would. How much I would have enjoyed this & Lizzie along too & you so much of a public character & your attention so taken up as to make me more acceptable and appreciable to the latter than I otherwise might <be>. Wouldn't I take her a stroll through the Cemetery & show her where her husband & I & a few other choice spirits slept one night with our heads against a marble monument! Wouldn't I show her where we stood when the shells flew like hail and when one burst near us and tore my coat and took the least bit of cuticle from my back and a good God kindly & mercifully shielded us when many many were cut down never to rise again! I should like so much to have met Rowland

there & talked over the battle-times. But if I had gone now I could not have gone latter & it is better for me to stay till Lt. Col. Beebe returns & then have 30 days. By that time I hope you will be ready for a vacation at home.

I have feared you were undertaking too much of late & your health or strength might fail. I do not see, hardly, how you could consent to be the orator at Gettysburg – having so much upon your mind & hands in your new Bureau. The preparation may look as a recreation & respite from your usual work however. You are succeeding a very finished orator Edward Everett. But many thought he was hardly up to the occasion. You will hardly be able to bring in the battle much it seems to me, else it will be, magna pons <gui>!

Love to Lizzie. If she would only write me one page of note size occasionally since you are too busy to write. I shall forget I have such a sister or imagine her among the things that were if she don't write or prompt you to sometimes.

Your loving brother  
C.H. Howard

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2679 6/24/1865

*From:* D. Remick

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2621

Louisville Ky  
Head Quarters Army  
Tenn

Freedmens Bureau  
Washington

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[141, 142]

Louisville Ky  
Head Quarters Army Tenn  
June 24th 1865

Dear Genl

I take the liberty to address a few lines to you. All of your old friends are anxiously watching the movements and progress in the Freedmens Bureau. Some <favor> one thing and some another, but we who know you think and believe that you will do what you conscientiously think is right and that you are not a fanatic nor will not allow yourself to become one and that you will not and that you will not <over rush> measures that would be detrimental to both white and black but wait for the black to progress and when the proposed time comes you will advocate that they be permitted to take part in the Govt by voting &c but probaly that time will not come for two years yet. We all pray and hope that you will succeed and believe that you will.

Our Army is here, a portion of them being mustered out and paid of. We have the 14th, 15th 17th and a part of the 20th A.C. in all about 67000 troops.

The 2d Divn 15th A.C. is ordered to Little Rock Arkansaw and starts tomorrow morning. Genl <Stubmis> brigade go to St Louis. The staff remains abut as they were when with you. Col Max Woodhull is the Adj Genl and a fine gentleman he is. Col Conklin is here as formerly.

They have sent me a Brvt rank of Col. I don't feel very much flattered with that kind of promotion when officers all around me are receiving full Colonelcy.

There is Capt Read CS with General Thomas as Chief C.S. has received his full Colonelcy and he done no duty until six months ago at which time he was assigned as Chief Commissary of that department. Also his Quarter Master received full Colonelcy. The Quarter Master in this department is a full Colonel and other departments the same but they exclude me for some reason and for what I cant continue. I have worked faithfully and have the highest recommendations from Genl Beckwith and also from youself and Genl Sherman endorsed me but all without effect. Genl Logan said he was going to write abut it that why I should be excluded when there was provision by law to make Army Chief Commisary rank of Col and they were doing it in other departments both Quartermasters and Commisary departments that I should be excluded he could not continue. If I had not arranged and sysmatised the foraging parties the men in ranks would have starved and I worked constantly to keep up <proper> organizations to keep them moving.

Genl Logan advised me to write to you to ask you to see the Secretary of War personaly and he believed if you would see him he woud readily accede to my having the rank that I am entitled to under the law and practice to others of Quartermaster & Commisary depts.

Is Col Bullock with you. Please give my kind regards to all of my acquaintances on your staff. I saw Col Hays to day. He wished to be remembered to you. All of our officers feel gratefull to you. May God bless you.

I have the honor to be Dear Genl  
Very Truly Your Humble Svt  
D. Remick  
Chf CS A. Tenn

Maj Genl Howard  
Freedmens Bureau  
Washington



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2680 6/24/1865    *From:* Wm. Hobson

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2622

Saco, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Saco, Maine, June 24, 1865

My dear General;

I am desirous of obtaining a Colonelcy of Colored Troops, and would like your influence in my behalf.

I have just been honorably discharged as Lieut. Col. of the 17th Maine, because my services were no longer required, and because of disability arising from wound received April 6.

As I suppose you know, I taught the High School in this town for nine years before entering the service. The people here desire me to take the school again, but the life is too confined for me. I imagine that the fact that I had been a successful teacher would be an additional recommendation for the office I desire.

If necessary, I will send documents to show my standing as an officer in the 17th. I had command of the Reg. for five months previous to being wounded. During that time, your brother Charles visited us, and if you happen to see him, you may ask him concerning the appearance of the Reg, and my standing in it. Your cousin, Dexter, was under my command for some time, and can tell you how I was regarded in the Reg.

An early answer will much oblige.

With all wishes for your success, I am

Very truly yrs  
Wm. Hobson.

[CHECK ORIGINAL. Writing on back page of letter not scanned.]

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2681 6/25/1865

*From:* John A. Brown  
Frank. E. Andesson  
Frank W.  
Vondersmith  
Willie F Polhemus  
Wm H. Allen  
New York

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2623

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[144]

New York June 25th 1865

Dear friend,

It is with feelings of the deepest respect, that we have read the record of your consistent christian walk and conversation, during these years of war, now, happily, past, and while our people and government have gratefully acknowledged your services, as a soldier in the cause of Liberty, we would desire you to receive at our hands, an humble testimonial, in the form of a Certificate of Life-Membership to our Society, of our appreciation of your services, during the same period, in wielding the Sword of the Spirit as a good Soldier of the Lord Jesus, and of the godly influence which you have ever exerted upon the brave men under your command.

“ Remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said  
“ Thou shalt in no wise lose thy reward.”

We beg to subscribe ourselves most truly yours

John A. Brown  
Frank. E. Andesson  
Frank W. Vondersmith  
Willie F Polhemus  
Wm H. Allen

Teacher Male Class No 14  
S.S. First Baptist Church

To  
Major Genl O.O. Howard

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2682 6/26/1865

*From:* G. E. Forbes

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2624

*Source:* Bowdoin

Clothing and Equipage  
Office,  
Fort Monroe, Va.

Commissioner Bureau of  
Freedmen  
Washington D.C.

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[145]

Clothing and Equipage Office,  
Fort Monroe, Va., June 26 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
General;

On the 20th instant Hon. Henry Wilson made an application to War Dept. for my appointment as A.Q.M. with some of Captain. During the war I have filled the position of chf. clk. in this office and now retain that position. I have acquired a thorough knowledge of the organization and working of the Q.M. Dept. and if appointed I should be pleased to be assigned to duty in the dept. now being organized and perfected by you. Should you deem it expedient to recommend me after seeing Mr Wilson's application now on file in War Dept., please to add your request to his for my appointment. I can give bonds if required and enter upon such duties as you may be pleased to give me, immediately,

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant  
G. E. Forbes  
Chief Clerk

Maj. Gen O O Howard  
Commissioner Bureau of Freedmen  
Washington  
D.C.

[Written sideways in the margin on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Recd June 28th 1865

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2683 6/26/1865

*From:* S.V. Benét

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2626

Frankford Arsenal,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Wash.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[147, 148]

Frankford Arsenal,  
Philadelphia, Pa.,  
June 26 1865

My dear Howard,

I have been intending, for some time back, to tender you my hearty congratulations on your promotion to a Brig Genl of the Regular Army. As the only Ordnance Officer who has risen to that high position, & whose long & faithful services so richly merited this mark of the Nation's acknowledgment, I for one, think of you with pride. It seems but yesterday that we parted at West Point, yet how different our lives have been since then. In the tented field, mid dangers, toils & privations, you have lost an arm in the defence of our nationality, but place your name high on the roll of our successful Generals. In the more peaceful pursuits of the Ordnance Profession, I have labored long, & steadily, & faithfully, in aiding the armies with those munitions, without which, battles could not have been fought nor victories gained - services only appreciated by soldiers, but which carry with them no éclat - seldom, recognition. I am glad that the future of the negro has ben placed in your hands. In my opinion, this war has been permitted by Providence, with the purpose in giving freedom to the slave. I believe in twenty years, the South will with one voice thank Heaven, that the stain of slavery has been thus washed out, & in their increased prosperity from the labor of freedmen, see the workings of an all wise God. In the endeavor to raise the status of the negro, religion must form part of the motive power, & the Havelock of the Army is the proper instrument. I lay claim to little religion myself, but I honor the man who while saving the States, forgets not to serve his Maker. I again congratulate you on your success, so well deserved.

We, of the Ordnance, have gained nothing by the war, except the happy consciousness of two or three persons who have been in the field, not even the empty honor of a brevet have been given us, & while the War Dept has time & again expressed its high appreciation of our services, nothing has been done for us. Whether Mr Stanton has had his attention called to the matter I know not, but I trust we may yet get our due. To the world at large, the Ordnance must seem a failure, otherwise why are all the others brevetted, & we remain with the same rank, with which the war found us. I am the 2d Capt on the list, & one of the oldest in the Army.

I did not intend touching on my own personal matters, but it is a sore subject, & just now rather uppermost in our minds. I only intended to write, that your career had been followed by me, with all the interest of old comrades, & that your promotion had given me unalloyed pleasure.

Should you ever have the time & inclination, I hope you will come to see me. I shall welcome you with open arms.

Yours very sincerely,

S.V. Benét [Stephen Vincent Benét, USMA Class of 1849. He was the grandfather of the writer with the same name.]

Genl Howard  
Wash.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Philadelphia Pa.

June 26th 1865

Benet S.V.

Congratulation on Promotion as Maj. General Regular Army &c.

Recd B.R.F.&A.L. June 18th 1865.

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2684 6/26/1865 *From:* M.M. Hallowell

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2627

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[149]

Philadelphia June 26, 1865

Major General Howard  
Dear Sir

I thank you for the information regarding the transportation of Refugees, and if any cases come under our notice whose welfare will be enhanced by returning home all the facts will be represented to you.

Those for whom we particularly applied have been reduced from affluence to penury and a prospect of regaining lost property induced our assn. to furnish means for them to return without delay.

Our attention has been particularly directed to E. Tenn. and we are now forwarding supplies to the upper counties where much distress prevails.

The policy of establishing an Orphan's Home in Knoxville has been under consideration, and if transportation for two of our agents can be obtained to take charge of the matter I think much good will result.

Very respectfully yours  
M.M. Hallowell, Secy.

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2685 6/26/1865 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Hon E.M. Stanton  
Secy of War

OOH-2629

Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152]

Washington DC June 26th 1865

Hon E.M. Stanton  
Secy of War  
Sir

In behalf of the Christian Young Mens Association I have the honor to request that the negatives of the photographic views of the interior or exterior if there are any of Fords Theatre be turned over to the President of the Association (Mr Thompson) or to me, President of the board of trustees for the purchase of the theatre with the view to being used for the benefit of the Christian Young Mens Association as a source of revenue.

Very Respectfully  
O.O. Howard  
Maj. Gen.

[This response was written on the back side of Otis' letter of June 26, 1865.]

The <> negatives were turned over yesterday to the artist who took them. If this application had been made in season before the order had been given, it would have been granted.

Edwin M. Stanton  
Secy War  
June 29 /65

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2686 6/27/1865 *From:* Charles H. Fox

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2630

New Orleans La

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[151]

New Orleans La June 27th 1865

Maj Genl Howard  
Dear General

Having been fortunate in having been under your command for several months and under your command at Wauhatchie and Mission Ridge I have the honor to request from you a statement or recommendation in regards my services as a Colonel of a Regiment. Being located in the City of New Orleans in the Custom House, believing while under your command my conduct was such as to merit your confidence.

A communication as above requested would be valuable to me.

General if consistent with your views please accommodate me.

I am sir with respect  
Your obt. Servt  
Charles H. Fox late Col  
101st Ills Vols Infty  
Box No 58  
New Orleans La.

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2687 6/27/1865 *From:* R.T. Brown

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2631

Cheraw, South Carolina

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169, 170]

(Private)

Cheraw, South Carolina

June 27th 1865

My Dear Sir

I have been unable to remove my family, as yet, to Virginia, and beg leave to solicit your kind interest in the matter. I wrote to Capt. Buel, some weeks ago, but am afraid that he did not receive my letter, tho' our mail communications have not been re-opened, and we have great difficulty in forwarding and receiving letters.

It was my wish to return to my old home and parish in Fairfax, but understand that my house near the Court House was destroyed some time ago. I am so much attached to that part of the State, that I am exceedingly anxious to return, if possible. The war, I believe, has sadly desolated that part of the country; most of my former parishioners are dispersed, and probably will never again be gathered in earthly folds. God knows how earnestly I have humbled myself before Him for my share of the sin contributing to such sad results. He who hath smitten will heal.

I think with the assistance of friends I may be able to settle again in Fairfax; if I can procure a suitable place near Washington your would greatly aid me if you could secure me a clerkship in your Department, or some other Dpt, which I would only retain long enough to give me a start in life again; as it is my desire to devote myself solely to the ministry. I am conscious of taking a great liberty in thus intruding upon your time and thoughts, but our interview when in Cheraw with the Army convinced me that you have a heart to feel for other's woes.

In addition to the distressing situation of my family, I am very anxious in behalf of our two sons lately returned from the Army, who are without employment, having been forced from school by our unnatural conscription. It would fulfil a desire very dear to my heart to establish them in a position in which they could perform their whole duty to our now re-united country.

My Dear Gen. Howard, please excuse me for troubling you upon a subject of this kind; but in my situation, I assure you it is asking a cup of water in the name of a disciple, and I believe it will not go without its reward. I am very anxious to remove my family from South Carolina; we have a sorrowful time here; it is my earnest prayer that God will permit me to return to Virginia.

If you have time to write please address me at this place, under cover, to the Rev. J. M. Green, Charleston, who will forward my letters until the mails are resumed.

Yours very truly and respectfully  
R.T. Brown

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

<Cheraw> S.C June <30>, 1865

Brown R.G.

Desires to return to his home at Fairfax CH, Va.

Recd July 15, 1865

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2688 6/28/1865    *From:* Edwin M Stanton

*To:* Brevet Major General  
Oliver O. Howard

OOH-2632

War Department,  
Washington

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[185]

War Department,  
Washington, June 28th 1865

Sir:

You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you, for gallant meritorious services during the War, a Major General by Brevet, in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the thirtieth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five. Should the Senate, at their next session, advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

Immediately upon receipt hereof, please to communicate to this Department, through the Adjutant General of the Army, your acceptance or non-acceptance; and, with your letter of acceptance, return the Oath herewith enclosed, properly filled up, subscribed and attested, and repost your age, birthplace and the state of which you were a permanent resident.

Edwin M Stanton [The signature was a different hand than the above partial form letter.]  
Secretary of War.  
(152)

Brevet Major General Oliver O. Howard,  
U.S. Army

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2689 6/28/1865 *From:* <W. N. Howard>

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2633

Detroit

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

Detroit June 28, 1865

Dear Sir

Tho' personally a stranger to you I venture to introduce the Rev'd Wm King of Canada, a gentleman of education & great experience in the management of colored persons. I think you may derive useful ideas from his conversations & beg to commend him to your friendly attentions.

Very respectfully  
Yr obt srvt  
<W. N. Howard>

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2690 6/28/1865 *From:* T.W. Osborn

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2634

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N.Y.  
June 28th 1865

My Dear General:

I was glad to rec. your kind note & thank you for you kind expressions of sympathy for me.

I am still confined at Oneida where the accident occurred with a fair prospect of remaining here several days yet. The arm is doing well but the fracture is of such a nature that it does not admit of substantial dressing & the surgeon object to my traveling until the function is complete enough to permit the splints to be taken off. This will require from one to two weeks yet. A sister is with me & I am getting on very nicely. The townspeople too are very kind & considerate.

I regret this necessity of being compelled to remain away & that an other officer should be required to go to Ala. on account of it. I shall try however to reach Washington as soon as possible & will then be ready for wh'ever duty may be required of me.

I suppose your labors of the Bureau & the approaching anniversary of Gettysburg must give you a large allowance of work for the present.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs Howard

Very Respy  
Your obt Sert  
T.W. Osborn  
&c

---

2691 6/28/1865    *From:* Geo. H Stuart

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2635

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office,  
No 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

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[157]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office,  
No 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia, June 28, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington, D.C.  
My Dear Friend,

It is with very great pleasure that I endorse the request of Captain Beath, to be detailed for duty in the Freedmen's Bureau. My intimate knowledge of Captain B. gained by my observation of his conduct and character while a Scholar in the Sabbath School of which I am Superintendent, and my persuasion that the good qualities he then and there exhibited will be equally well shown wherever his duties may call him, are the reasons why I cordially second his application. I feel confident, that in case you accede to his request, you will have opportunity to test the confirmation of my statements. Captain Beath will doubtless avail himself of the opportunities thrown in his way to make known that religion of which he is a Consistent professor, a feature of his character which I know you can appreciate.

Hoping that you may have it in your power to grant his request, which I will consider a personal favor, I am

Yours very Truly  
Geo. H Stuart

I have refused several applications for letters & only give this because of a sense of duty having a long & intimate knowledge of Cap. Beath.  
G.H.S.

[Written on the back side, in a different hand]  
Office U.S. Christian Com.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
June 28, 1865  
Stuart, Geo H.  
Chairman U.S.C.C.  
Recommends Capt. Beath for detail in Bureau R.F.&A.L.

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2692 6/28/1865    *From:* Fran's Geo. Shaw

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2636

*Source:* Bowdoin

National Freedman's  
Relief Association,  
No 76 John Street,  
New York

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[155, 156]

National Freedman's Relief Association,  
No 76 John Street,  
New York, 28 June 1865

Dear Sir:

As my unexpected departure from Washington yesterday evening deprived me of the opportunity for another interview with you, I beg to express my gratification at having become personally acquainted with you & to thank you for the readiness with which you met my official requests.

Allow me also to thank you, as before inadequately, for your kind invitation to accompany you on your projected tour of inspection. At any other season I should most gladly have availed of your kindness to visit under your auspices those places so interesting to me in every respect, while to some of them possess to me a stronger attraction than to most who have never seen them, & I beg you to believe that my having declined to do so was not accompanied by any want of appreciation on my part.

Believe me, Dear Sir, with great esteem & respect,

Yours sincerely,  
Fran's Geo. Shaw

Major General O.O. Howard

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]  
New York  
June 28th 1865  
Shaw Fran's. Geo.  
Friendly letter &c.  
Rec'd June 30th 1865.

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2693 6/29/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2637

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[610]

Washington D.C. June 29th 1865

Dearest,

I am at the house and in our room though you did not even christen it by sleeping here one night. I have now some pillow cases though no sheets till you superintend. I dont need them as I wear very nice cotton drawers and <really> no other clothing could be required this weather.

I have just got two long letters from Charles and he insists that you are <dear> and are sadly neglectful in not writing to him.. I was delighted to get a telegram that Guy was coming on to Gettysburg, will see how hearty he looks before deciding to keep him awhile. I should be delighted if by some accident you happened to come on. But I supposed I am to expect no such joy so soon, but I do hope, darling, you are very well. Give many sweet kisses to Gracie, Jamie & Chancy. I am thinking of taking a trip to Hilton Head, Charleston, Savannah & back after the 4th. I dont much think Charles will come up now. I may bring him back with me.

We have a woman cook –Sam is steward and a little boy with Moses for waiter constitutes our working force. We have now Col & Mrs Markland, Col. Fullerton, Maj Stinson, Maj. Mathews temporarily, Capt. Taggart and Lieut. Sladen, Maj Gilbreth when here. I make nine and when Mr Alvord is here, he makes up the ten. We have a 3 pc bed stead that Maj Mathews will leave to me in the little room opening out of this.

I think we will take this little room for two children and take the front upstairs room for the other two. Stinson & Sladen use the room opposite the parlor and keep it very nice. The North west room opening out of the dining room is not used. We have as pleasant a place as there is in Washington and I think is much <retired>; very few visitors have found the locality. Maj Gilbreth & I bought Mill's black horses & I swapped away Col. Markland's carriage for a nice one with more room. When you come we can have some nice rides.

I ought to write to Mother and I am afraid she is lonely. Dellie writes from Richmond. He, Uncle Henry & Freddie want me to give Freddie a place so that he can travel South &c. I dont see how people look at things. I must get to regarding everything as bringing so much money. If it were for money for myself vs my friends, I would not have taken this post, nor would I stay here a day.

Give my kindest regards to Charles Mulliken & for Mrs Stinson. Harry wont complain, but he is slender. Remember me to Blaine, Mr McKenzie & others. Congratulate Mr McKenzie for me for getting a good wife –nothing like a good wife dont you think so? I dont really think my Oration amounts to much and must seem diminutive by the side of Mr Everett's, but I dont think it is in bad taste and I believe you will read it with some interest.

God bless you & the children. Pray for me, darling.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

P.S. 31st Am quite well this morning.

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2694 6/29/1865 *From:* F. Gutekunst

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2638

*Source:* Bowdoin

F. Gutekunst's  
Imperial  
Photograph Galleries,  
Nos. 702, 704, 706  
Arch Street,  
Philadelphia

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[160]

F. Gutekunst's  
Imperial  
Photograph Galleries,  
Nos. 702, 704, 706 Arch Street,  
Philadelphia, June 29, 1865

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

By Adams' Express I forward an Imperial of yourself which please accept with my best wishes. With it is an Imperial of Gen'l Fiske for himself which you will have the kindness to hand him.

Most Respect'y  
F. Gutekunst  
Rev T.G. Gayly

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2695 6/29/1865    *From:* Wm Detmold, M.D.    *To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2639

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161]

New York June 29th 1865

Maj. Genl. Howard  
General

Permit me to sent you for trial a knife and fork as I have improved it for the use of persons who have lost an arm to enable them to cut up their own food, which the knife will readily do by a little rolling pressure the fork being attached to the back of the knife.

If you find the contrivance useful will it be asking you too much in the interest of the men who have lost an arm in the service of the Country to express you opinion on the subject to Surg. Genl. Barnes to whom I have also sent such a knife, with the suggestion of introducing it into the U.S. Hospital, and furnishing the men with one on leaving.

As I am probably entirely unknown to you, General, allow me to add that I am a Surgeon and Professor Military Surgery in New York, and that I have no other interest or motive in the matter, than to diminish (be it in ever so small a degree) the discomfort of a large class of men who have suffered for their Country.

Very respectfully  
Wm Detmold, M.D.

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2696 6/29/1865 *From:* David Wills

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2640

Gettysburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152]

Gettysburg June 29 65

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
My Dear Sir,

Genl. Geary is not here and in his absence I will answer your telegram. There will be connections made from Hanover Junction on the Northern Central R.R. on Monday with every train on that road north & south.

I would advise you to leave Washington at 6.30 A.M. so as to connect with the 9.20 A.M. from Baltimore reaching Gettysburg at 1 P.M.

Telegraph here what train you will come on.

Yours sincerely  
David Wills

[Written on the back page of the letter, in a different hand.]

Gettysburg Pa.  
June 29th 1865

David Wills

Writes regarding Rail Road Connections from Washington to Gettysburg  
Rec'd July 1st 1865.

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2697 6/29/1865    *From:* John M. Oliver

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2641

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
15th A.C.  
Steamer Rose Hite  
Miss. River

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[113 middle digit not clear]

Head Quarters 2nd Div 15th A.C.  
Steamer Rose Hite Miss. River June 29th 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

In command of the 2nd Div 15 AC I am ordered to Little Rock Ark to report to Major Gen J.J. Reynolds. Since the last eight months the friend who had my money in charge went into the oil speculation with it and his own so far with no success, leaving me at the close of 4 years service without means, instead of the little independence I had. I am desirous of being appointed Asst Commissioner or to some position like that in the Freedman's bureau for the state of Arkansas under yourself. I make this application thus frankly because you know my qualifications well and because I am fully assured of your sympathy with your old army friends. I do not know how such applications should be made, but if it requires any form will you be good enough to have your clerk furnish me with what is necessary.

Any references needed I will at once furnish. I do not wish to plead poverty with you for this position for I am well & strong. I only state the fact you may see that my whole interest would be in the success of my work & my whole energies given to it. I believe & hope too that I will bring to this work a faith in & a hope for its full accomplishment that very many lack.

Hoping for your continued health & success  
I am Truly Your  
Obedient servant  
John M. Oliver  
Brig. Genl Vols

P.S. Lest references might be needed at once I would respectfully refer you to Hon J. C. Braman M. C. 1st Dist. Michigan, Adrian, Lenawee County Mich.; Hon. J.P. Christiency, Judge Superior Court Michigan; Hon. Frank Johnson, Judge of Circuit Court for first district Michigan. Residence at Monroe Mich. Don't forget this letter is written on a shaking old transport.

Truly Your Friend & Servt  
J.M. Oliver

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2698 6/29/1865

*From:* John L Hodsdon  
Adj. Genl.

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2642

State of Maine,  
Head Quarters,  
Adjutant General's  
Office

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[154, 164]

State of Maine,  
Head Quarters,  
Adjutant General's Office,  
June 29th 1865

My Dr Genl

I shall want to see you personally at Gettysburg, about the practicality of Capt. Fritchell late of 7th Batty, Me. Vols. obtaining any place in yr Dept. in the South. He is the most perfect & unexceptionable man in morals & capacity, within my knowledge.

If you are restricted to officers in service, nothing remains to be said, for he is out.

Yrs most truly  
John L Hodsdon  
Adj. Genl.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.  
Washington, D.C.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Augusta Me  
June 29, 1865  
Hodsdon, John L.  
Adj. Genl of Maine  
Friendly letter  
A. by meeting him at Gettysburg  
Rec'd July 1st 1865.

---

2699 6/29/1865

*From:* Ch. W Asmussen  
Lt Col & Asst Agent  
War Dept.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2643

War Department  
Washington City, D.C.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165]

War Department  
Washington City, D.C.  
June 29 1865.

General -

I gratefully accept the invitation you have been pleased to extend to me, to accompany you to Gettysburg on the 3 of July next.

Respectfully your  
most obedt svrt  
Ch. W Asmussen  
Lt Col & Asst Agent  
War Dept.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the back page of the letter, in a different hand.]

War Department  
Washington D.C.  
June 29th, 1865

Mussey Thos. W.A.S. [Ch. W. Asmussen, was written in pencil and is a correct transcription.]  
Accepting invitation to accompany Gen Howard to Gettysburg &c  
Rec'd June 30th 1865.

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2700 6/30/1865

*From:* H. Kendall

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2644

*Source:* Bowdoin

Presbyterian Rooms,  
150 Nassau-street,  
New York

Pres't of the Freedmen's  
Bureau,  
War Department.  
Washington D.C.

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[167]

Presbyterian Rooms, 150 Nassau-street,  
New York, June 30th 1865

Genl O.O. Howard  
Pres't of the Freedmen's Bureau,  
War Department.  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

The Committee of Home Missions in the Presbyterian Church, in the U.S.A. having just appointed Rev. H.H. Garnett of Washington D.C. And Rev. John B. Reeve of Philadelphia, Pa. colored ministers in our church, exploring agents in the South and South West for the period of a few months, beg of you to furnish them free transportation (if it be consistent with your regulations) within the Army lines and any other facilities which may be in your power for the successful prosecution of missionary work among the Freedmen.

Any aid of this kind bestowed on these gentlemen will add to their safety and gratification and will be appreciated by the Committee. Certificates if any be issued, may be sent directly to this office, or forwarded respectively to the parties themselves.

In behalf of the Committee.  
H. Kendall, Secy

Edw'd A Lambert, Treasurer  
<J.F.> Ivy, Ch'n Finance Com'ee

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Presbyterian Rooms

New York

June 30th 1865.

Kendall H. Sec.

Writes asking for Transportation for Revs. H.H. Garrett and Rev. John B. Reeve &c  
Rec'd July 1st 1865

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2701 6/30/1865 *From:* Lt John A. Mills

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2645

Lewis, Cass Co., Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[168]

Lewis, Cass Co., Iowa  
June 30th 1865

Dear General

I arrived safely at home on the 28th and found my friends much better than I expected, but I find that I can not consistently remain in the service any longer and have tendered my Resignation by telegraph last night. Will you be kind enough to favor me, with getting it accepted. General I would on many accounts prefer staying in the service, but our business at home will not admit of my staying away any longer. I told Maj Gilbreth how matters stood before I came away I thank you for your kindness to me while I was on your Staff, and shall feel an interest in your prosperity. Hoping that you may be successful in all your undertakings I remain

Your Most Obt. Sevnt  
Lt John A. Mills

P.S.

Genl, perhaps I am asking to much, but if you feel that you would be justified in doing so I wold like to have a testimonial of your regard.

---

2702 6/30/1865 *From:* Wm. Atkinson

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2646

North Anson

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[171]

North Anson June 30 1865

Genl Howard:

I see that B W Norris of Skowhegan hs been appointed to superintend the sale of confiscated property at Mobbille. This is a responsible position requiring a man of unquestioned integrity and busniess capacity. It would be well to inquire if not too late, whether Mr Norris has those qualities. I would refer you to Hon Wm Rowell of Skowhegan President of the Bank of Somerset and to Hon John S Tenny, of Norridgewock, late Chf Justice of the S.J.C. and to A.H Wine, Esq of this place for information with regard to his management of the affairs of the Skowhegan Oil Cloth Company of which he has been agent, and in regard to his integrity and business capacity.

It is currently reported that when agent of said Company, and when the company was in failing circumstances, he rased money in the Companys notes and dealayed a dividend, and that in a capital stock of only \$12000, the Company sustained a loss of over \$100,000 through his profligacy & mismanagement.

Saml D Arnold Esqr of Skowhegan a member of said Company might give you valuable information as to Norris' capacity & integrity if he would. Arnold told me last March that Norris had <misused> him.

Confidentially yours  
Wm. Atkinson

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2703 6/30/1865 *From:* Fran's Geo. Shaw

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2647

*Source:* Bowdoin

National Freedman's  
Relief Association,  
No 76 John Street,  
New York

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[166]

National Freedman's Relief Association,  
No 76 John Street,  
New York, 30 June 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Sir:

I have the honor to state that, the opportunity having occurred, I have inserted the words "when practicable" in your letter of 16th ins, addressed to the Associations, & borne by Mr Boardman, as requested by you.

With much respect,  
Yr Obt Srvt  
Fran's Geo. Shaw  
Pres.

---

2704 6/30/1865    *From:* J.L. Hodsdon

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2648

Augusta Me

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[43]

Office U.S. Military Telegraph  
War Department

The following Telegram received at Washington 9.30 AM June 30 1865  
From Augusta Me June 30 1865  
Maj Gen OO Howard

Guy leaves with me this morning for Gettysburg  
J.L. Hodson [John Hodsdon]

[Written on the reverse side, in a different hand.]  
Telegram  
Hodsdon, J.L.  
Augusta Me  
June 30th  
States that Guy leaves with him today.  
Recd June 30th, 1865

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2705 6/30/1865

*From:* Barnes & Burr,  
Publishers,  
Booksellers, &  
Stationers,  
New York

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2649

Nos. 51, 53 &55 John  
Street  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[172]

Barnes & Burr,  
Publishers, Booksellers, & Stationers,  
New York  
Nos. 51, 53 &55 John Street  
New York June 31 1865 [Assume June 30, as only 30 days in June]

Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

We have taken the liberty of sending to your address, the following school Books for your examination, with reference to their adaptation to the Colored Schools under your charge, in "Packer & Watsons Reader & Speller", "Monteith & McNallys Geog", "Monteith & Willards History" & "Clarks English Gramr"

Our agent Mr Hulse informs us that you will take pleasure in looking at these Books, and also place them in the hands of Capt'n Taggart for examination.

Yours very Respy  
Barnes & Burr

---

2706 7/5/1865

*From:* Saml. H. Lockett

*To:* Maj. General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2654

Marion Ala

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[199, 200]

Marion Ala July 5th 1865

Maj. General O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.  
Washington D.C.

General

I take the liberty of writing to you, hoping that the late bloody war between our respective sections has not destroyed all the personal friendship that once existed between us. My brother who has just returned from Prison at Johnson's Island met Major S.P. Lee in Cincinnati who very kindly remembered me, and sent me word, that, if I needed the influence of any friend to secure for me the especial pardon promised by Pres. Johnson in his Amnesty Proclamation, to those belonging to the excepted classes, I might safely address myself to you as such a friend. I therefore take the liberty of asking that you will forward the enclosed application for executive clemency, and endorse it as you may think proper, hoping that what you know of me may enable you to do so in my favor. I have nothing to offer in my own justification, for the part taken by me in resisting the authority of the United States, beyond the plea that I conscientiously believed I was right in the course I adopted. I had been educated to believe that the allegiance of the citizen was preeminently due to the State of his nativity or residence, and when my state, Alabama, declared herself an "Independent Sovereignty" and called for her sons to rally to her standard I felt bound to do so by the promptings of patriotism as true and sincere as those that have animated and sustained you through the brilliant yet trying career that has made you one of your country's heroes.

You were successful, and a grateful nation sings your praise, and feels itself honored in bestowing honor upon you. We failed and though our aims were as high, our motives as pure, yet I am a "Rebel" and a "Traitor" I have not yet brought myself to accept these terms applicable to me, but I am still willing to yield to the stern logic of facts, to own that once more my true and faithful allegiance is due to the United States, and I am perfectly sincere in wishing to return to the ranks of dutiful citizens, to do good and faithful service, for that Government which has shown itself so able to protect me and mine in the enjoyment of life and the pursuit of happiness.

Feeling thus I have no hesitancy in taking the oath of allegiance, and will do so freely, voluntarily, and honestly, fully resolved to be always true to its obligation.

I take the liberty of saying General that I watched with great interest your bright career during the last four years and saw with sincere pleasure your name rising day after day, higher and still higher up the hill of fame. I am sorry you lost your arm, but it is almost worth a life to gain so bright a record as you have made. I hope you will live long to enjoy your reputation and to do good to your fellow man, who always was your greatest pleasure.

My family is here with my father, Nelie, and our two children are well and we are all comfortable, happy and as prosperous as could be expected.

With many kind wishes for your future welfare, and with the warmest sentiments of friendship from Nelie and myself to you and Mrs Howard.

I am General  
very respectfully & truly  
yr friend  
Saml. H. Lockett [USMA Class of 1859]

[Written sideways on the last page.]  
Letter to Genl. Howard

If Genl. Howard is not in Washington, please forward the application to the Atty. Genl.

Respectfully forward for the decision of the Attorney General. I would recommend as favorable.

Recd July 12th 1865

Marion Alabama

July 6th 1865.

Lockett, Saml. H.

Inclosed application for pardon with the request that it may be forwarded with endorsement.

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2707 7/6/1865

*From:* P.S. Perley

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2650

Henry, Illinois

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[194, 195]

Henry, Illinois, July 6, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

My Old friend and Chum,

Last month I telegraphed you asking you if you had any place any where for me and asking you when and where I could see you. On June 12, 1865 you telegraphed me, dispatch received, wait reply by mail . I have not heard from you. I think I construe the telegram rightly that I should wait an answer by mail from you. After I had telegraphed you I saw that all your appointees were military men and I concluded you could not give me any place. I have received no letter from you. I know you must have been very busy and must have had more than two men could do and I dont wonder you overlooked me if you did or had to push me off. I have waited patiently knowing you had more than you could do in your bureau and knowing too you were to deliver the Oration at Gettysburg on the 4th of July. And I should wait still but yesterday morning my house worth a couple of thousand Dollars went up in flame and uninsured and it makes me feel a little more like straining a point to secure some pecuniary advantage to myself if that were possible. I dont know what you may think of me with these years lapsed between us. I write altogether in the dark but I believe Howard you cant feel unfriendly to me and if I am writing you a solicitous and self-seeking letter I am going to say right here at the risk of hurting myself in your regard that I am proud of you and have been these years gone and right glad of your success, right glad of your record that it has been what it has, right glad that you survive and have now for yourself and wife and children and kindred and friends a name in histor a place inly just below Grant, Sherman Thomas and Sheridan.

And I make for you a little extract from my 4th of July speech in this connection - And our Heroic Dead. I bow my head low as the dust in which they lie in grateful remembrance and honor of them, and I take the shoes form off my feet as I tread above them, for it is holy ground where they sleep. Who can do them justice, who can pay to them in words, or tears or silence the nation's <need> of homage – not you nor I nor my old chum Howard as he speaks today at Gettysburg on the field where he and so many of them fought so well and were so many whom he led sleep so gloriously at last – in sight of their graves, inspired by the thrilling memories of the glorious struggle not he nor any man however gifted. Everetts polished periods fell far short of it and where he failed who shall hope to succeed?

But my heart is full and in broken words I bless them. May God bless them and those that love them and weep for them, forevermore.

I enclose you one more extract which had it not been made my friends and I think I would not be homeless now. I have been living here now for ten years and the place is only about 2500 and is not growing. I have been wishing to go to a city, some large place for some time and when I telegraphed you I thought if you could nominate me to or help me get some place in your bureau that would take me to any Southern city and pay me a pretty good salary for a year or two I could get acquainted and meanwhile have my partner come and open a law office and make a living for myself while I was getting acquainted and then practice my profession with better success than to go and get acquainted and break in in a new place and a new practice without it would be a great favor to me and a kindness I know I should appreciate but I have come to the conclusion from your not writing me and what I have been of your nominations or appointments that you cant do it. It is all right if you cant. I am not a place seeker nor an office hunter. I would have been in the war if I could have been. I have edited the Republican organ of this County for years, did the last campaign and I think vigorously and ably but I have never asked anybody for an office. I was in Peoria just before I telegraphed you and saw our M.C. E.C. Ingersoll and incidentally told him you and I were classmates and college chums and he told me to write you and he would procure for me any confirmation of any nomination you could give me and told me to write you and send the letter to him and he would write to you but I dont do it. I dont want to get out of my profession and into politics or any place but a position that would pay me a good salary that I could make some money in sure

for a year or two would help me much and I should like such a one. I have lots to do and I am very tired and send this to you without hardly knowing what I have written but you will gather from it what I want. I have very little hope you can help me now and it is all right if you can't so you would be glad to if you could. I have not written you because I have supposed you had better business than to be writing letters to me but I tell you truly I know what you have done and many and many a time I have mentioned you in my Editorials and war speeches and I have made hundreds of them and with pride and pleasure and warm approval. I am glad chum you are what and who you are. I am glad you stand high in the approval and love of all loyal good men.

Yours ever in haste,  
P.S. Perley

[The following appears to be in Peleg Perley's handwriting, but wasn't explicitly referred to in the body of the letter.]

(25) Green as the <days that are altho> the victor brows of our returned heroes of the 86th and 47th – green as the grass that grows above the dear heads of the unreturned and unreturning sleepers, green as their memory and their lives in the hearts that love them best and long for them most, so green is the slime that mouthed, in these gone Summers, the malarious peace pool – so green the copperhead scum on the world's swill-tub on o so they shall remain forever, one green with glory evermore renewing one green with infamy evermore undying.

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2708 7/6/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2651

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[612]

Washington D.C. July 6th 1865

Dearest

Guy arrived Safely with Gen. Hodsdon meeting me at Mr Will's, where we staid. Gen Hodsdon was very kind and I did not more than half thank him, and I did not offer to pay him for anything he may have spent for Guy. I you should see him please tell him this and that I will make amends. Guy enjoyed himself at Gettysburg. Mrs Wills entertained, I should think thirty people all together among whom were Gov. Curtin [Pennsylvania] and Gen Meade. My oration was easily delivered, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour in length. I experience the difficult in remembering it and was satisfied with the delivery. The soldiers who were present were much interested. In the evening I went with Mr Bachelder, the author of the "birds eye view of the battle field", over the ground of the first day's engagement. I should think there were ten-thousand people present. I will not attempt description of anything at Gettysburg, for I want to take you up there and have you see for yourself. Mrs Geary was delighted to hear from you and hoped to meet you at Gettysburg. I gave her your message.

We left the morning of the 5th dined with Mr Deford in Baltimore and rode around to take a look at the city. We started for Washington in the 6 o'clock train and reached here about 8 P.M. Mrs Markland will go with Guy on a shopping trip. I could'nt find anything ready made in Baltimore, but there is plenty here.

We are all quite well. I cannot write more this morning. I wrote mother on the 3d. Give much love to the children. I dont expect to be home till the last of this month or first of next. I may leave for Hilton Head next Saturday, but am not sure yet. Guy thinks he would like to stay here, till I come back. I am anxious to have him with me, but am a little afraid of warm weather. God bless you & all the children.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

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2709 7/6/1865

*From:* T.W. Osborn

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2652

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N.York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[196]

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N.York  
July 6th 1865

My Dear General:

The surgeon who has the charge of me says I can leave here so as to be in Washington on the 20th inst. & he will not consent to my traveling before that time. I assure you I shall be there if there is no hindrance unlook for at present to prevent. The arm is doing as well as could be expected for such a fracture & I think will be sound.

Trusting that your health remains good. I remain

my dear Genl your  
obd. Servt.  
T.W. Osborn

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2710 7/6/1865

*From:* F.N. Northrop

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2653

Utica N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[197, 198]

Utica N.Y.

July 6 / 65

Maj Gen Howard

My dear Sir

Reading your Oration has brought you back to me. My Boy was a former soldier in the 19 '<ohio>' 3d division 4th Corps. Those Boys did not like you being taken from them and I thought Gen Sherman was wicked to take you from that blessed old 4th Corps. But it was your gain and their loss.

I see you in your Oration had not forgotten them and I am glad for when they read it they will think that their old Genl remembers them for they think the Army of the Potomac gets all the praise. He is with the Corps on their way to the Rio Grande but will receive his discharge which I <procured> from Washington after 4 yrs Service from <15 to 19>.

Very Truly

F.N. Northrop

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Utica N.Y. July 6, 1865

Northrop, F. N.

Writes a congratulatory letter concerning the oration at Gettysburg

Recd July 9, 1865.

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2711 7/7/1865

*From:* W. P. Grace

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2655

Memphis Tennessee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[201]

Memphis Tennessee July 7th 1865

Genl Howard

Dear Sir;

Along with this I send you the outline of a plan I have drawn up for the employment and education of the freedmen of the south which I wish you to examine and make such suggestions as you may think fit. I do not think there will be the least difficulty experienced in the formation of such companies. I have applications every day by parties wishing to take stock, and get information &c. You will notice I provide for the education of the young blacks. I know of no practicable plan by which those who are now men and women, can as a general thing be educated.

I wish you would inform me what assurances we can have from your department, provided the company is formed and the experiment tried, that we will have your sanction and cooperation. If we can have the sanction of your authority, that the hands will remain for the period of one year or during the term of their engagement upon the condition that they are well treated and promptly paid, we do not fear failure.

I have written to the President on the subject.

I have the honor to be your  
most obedient servant.

W. P. Grace

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Memphis Tenn.

July 7, 1865.

Grace, W. P.

Sends outline of a plan drawn for the education & employment of the Freedmen.

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2712 7/7/1865

*From:* Max Woodhull

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2656

Head Qrs Army of the  
Tennessee  
Louisville Ky

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[202]

Head Qrs Army of the Tennessee  
Louisville Ky July 7 '65

General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 1st inst, with reference to the Muster out of the 12th Me Regt of Infy and in the temporary absence of Gn Lafaro from Hd Qrs, would respectfully inform you that, under instructions from the Adjutant Genl of the Army, the entire Army of the Tennessee is to be mustered out.

I would invite your attention to copies of G.O.s no 24 & 26 & of circular 9 C.S. From these Hd Qrs. From these orders it will be seen that the 12th Me goes out of service, as soon as the necessary rolls & papers can be completed.

I am General  
My Great Respect  
Your Most Obt Svt  
Max Woodhull  
Bvt Col & AAG

Maj Genl Howard  
Bureau & &

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Hd Qrs, Army of Tennessee  
Louisville, July 11 1865  
Woodhull, Max  
Col & A.A.G.  
Encloses copies of orders.  
Recd 12 July 1865

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2713 7/7/1865

*From:* Jas. E Yeatman

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-2657

Western Sanitary  
Commission  
No. 10 North Fifth Street  
St. Louis

Washington

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[204, 205]

Western Sanitary Commission  
No. 10 North Fifth Street  
St. Louis, July 7th 1865

Major Genl O O Howard  
Washington  
Dear Sir

I telegraphed you on Monday to know if the Presd't, Secretary of War & others would approve the proposed plan of a Freedman's Monument to print circular. If any thing is to be done it is important that it should be done speedily. I presume they will not object, but we are unwilling to commence without their approval I wish that you wd give us your own approval as well as obtain that of other parties named in the paper sent you some time since.

Genl J W Boardman now at Vicksburg I understand has been recommended for the position of Asst Commissioner for Texas. I have known the General for some length of time. He has impressed me most favorably, as an earnest, industrious man, and a man far advance of the officers of the Army on the negro question, and has given evidence of kindness and humanity with good executive ability. I should consider the appointment a good one, and would cordially join in recommending him. His experience both before and since the breaking out of the rebellion with the institutions of the south will be of great advantage to him in these new duties, in case he should receive the appointment.

I have the honor to remain very Respectfully  
Jas. E Yeatman

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
St Louis, July 7, 1865  
Yeatman, J.E.  
In regard to Freedmen's Monument Assn.  
A. by Genl, H.  
R. July 11, 1865.

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2714 7/7/1865

*From:* S. V. Benét

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-2658

Frankford Arsenal,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[206, 207]

Frankford Arsenal,  
Philadelphia, Pa.,  
July 7, 1865

My dear Howard,

As you kindly offer to interest yourself in Ordnance matters as regards brevets. I desire to make a few points.

1st. The important duties of the Dept, necessarily keep its best & most experienced Officers at Arsenals. When we consider the sudden increase of the Army from 26 to 100 thousand men, & the keeping them supplied with all their fighting munitions, improvising material that could not be purchased in markets, ransacking Europe for arms that the U.S. could not supply & are improving our war material, adding rifles guns & using larger size than has ever been used in any other service, &c &c doing all this, without let or hindrance to the operations of our armies, & without material complaint from the users, shows that the Officers of the Dept did their duty to the utmost. And yet, Paymasters, Surgeons, & others have been rewarded, the Ordnance have only received empty commendations.

2d. Is personal to myself. A subalterne, has been ordered here, who is a Bvt Lt Col for distinguished services in the field. He richly deserves the honors. I know him to be capable, energetic &c but he has too much rank to be the Sab of a mere Captain. To the world at large, he has the merit. I have the age, merely, otherwise why have I not the rank?

I believe I have done the state some service, or why should I be commanding one of the most important Arsenals with my preset rank; & it is hard after sixteen years of service to find myself ranked by men, who were in "bib & tuckers" when I left the Academy.

The Secy expressed himself to me in such favorable terms, not many months ago, that I think he would consider my case favorably. It will be a great point gained, if his attention be called to the subject. Men, who feel that they have done well, dislike to be overlooked. A few brevets are much to a soldier, & nothing to the country, as they now carry no pay.

I regret to trouble you in the midst of your new & important duties, but a word from you may go far towards justice being done to an important Dept of the Army.

I have just read your fine address at Gettysburg – that battle was the turning point of the war, & your tribute to John F. Reynolds touched me deeply. I knew him well. He would have grown up into a first class General.

Yours very truly  
S. V. Benét

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2715 7/8/1865

*From:* O. Brown

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2659

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters Asst.  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Va

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[208, 209]

Personal

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia  
Richmond, Va, July 8th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General,

I avail myself of the privilege you so kindly gave me to "address you as a friend" to do so in relation to affairs in Genl Hartsuffs District.

The relations existing between Genl Hartsuff and myself are entirely friendly but I fear trouble will arise if he attempts in connection with the Officers of the Bureau to manage Freedmen affairs.

I had hoped the appointment of Capt Soly as A.Q.M. with orders to report to me for duty would fully satisfy the General. I fear however now, from the order received to day from Capt Barnes that such will not be the case.

It appears to me that trouble can only be avoided by assuming the management and control of affairs as in other Districts.

If Capt Soly can be appointed as Gen Hartsuff wishes all the better.

If you will General be kind enough to intimate any wish you may have in this matter aside from the official record I will most cheerfully be governed by it. And let me ask one more favor General. Will you be free to admonish or advise me when my course does not meet your approval, and may not in your opinion require official closure. By so doing, you will place me under additional obligations.

Allow me General to congratulate you on your Gettysburg speech, and to thank your for your letter of advice to Asst Commissioners.

I am general  
truly Yours  
O. Brown

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Richmond Va, July 8, 1865

Brown, O

Col & Asst Comr

Personal letter

Recd July 11, 1865

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2716 7/9/1865

*From:* Wm Scott Downey

*To:* Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2660

New York City, No.  
202, 6th Ave.

Freed men's Bureau,  
Washington City, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[210, 211]

Private

New York City, No. 202, 6th Ave., July 9th 1865

Genl. Howard  
Freed men's Bureau,  
Washington City, D.C.  
General:

Report leads me to believe that your highest ambition is to do good. I am, therefore, gratified to find it in my power to congratulate you in your appointment by the president, to the Important and highly responsible office of Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau.

God in His wisdom has placed us so that we are dependent one upon another. It is in my power to serve you, if you permit me. to be definite, I beg leave to acquaint you that I have labored indefatigably in the West Indies, as a minister of Christ for many years I have there witnessed negro Slavery –an apprenticeship of 4 years served by the negroes to their former masters; which was really more cruel than slavery; and, praised be the Lord most High, I was spared to behold the result of Emancipation.

You are, doubtless, aware that in 1834 Her majesty's "Benevolent Government" emancipated 900,000 negroes in the British W.I., at a cost of twenty millions sterling, or about \$100,000,000 The negro was free, and, as no man is willing to starve, he was forced to labor for his bread, while his former owner must either pay the freedman adequately for his services, or do the work himself. My duties increased seven fold, in as much as I had to attend to preaching Sabbath schools, evening adult schools, Day schools, and visiting twice every week the different sugar and coffee plantations I attended at the latter places to effect a conciliation between the freed man and his late master, Please understand that I then lived and labored in the vicinity of a dense peasant, or negro population.

I discovered soon after emancipation, that there existed no christian feeling between the employer and employed, the negro ever looked at his former owner with the eye of suspicion, whom he considered unwilling to remunerate him for his labors. The white man on his part, was ever ready to portray the negro "lazy and dishonest." I have known many negroes to go away miles off from their old homes to labor for strangers, always telling me "old massa been so long used to get work done free of charge that now we are free he wont pay, and when he does he cheats us of half our due". In may cases I found this report true. All the negro wanted was to occupy his cottage and garden and receive about 1.6 stg, or 37ct pr day. On some large sugar plantations they preferred "job-work." One received about 32 sterling or \$10.00 per month. I was at one time instructed by Sir Lionel Smith, then Captain Governor of Jamaica, to make a tour throughout the Colony, and to report faithfully on the lack of negro labor. I reported thus –The negroes were cunning and miserly. They hoarded their earnings, but, with few exceptions were willing to labor when regularly paid. Therefore there existed no want of labor where prompt payments were made.

The proprietary body, soon after Emancipation erroneously believed that they could do without negro labor, and raised a large sum for the Emigration scheme. Emigrants were brought out from Ireland and Germany to cultivate the chief staples of the Colony, namely Sugar, rum and Coffee; but, alas! this proved a gross failure; because Europeans could not bear the tropical sun and climate; again they drank freely of new Rum which "killed them off". To make things better Coolies were bro't out from Madras, Calcutta and Bombay; but I beg leave to tell you, most Solemnly, that fully 2/3 were mere Clots to the plantations. They could not perform half the work of an able bodied negro. You will find it to the advantage of the planters to adhere to their old laborers. Let them remember that "good masters make good servants." They must lay aside all invidious feelings, and give cheerfully a fair day's wages for a fair day's labor.

Please understand, Gen., that U.S. of America is my adopted country. I am in poor circumstances, but can be

of service in your department. I can tell you much more than I am willing to write, because no man of my age, 47 years, is better acquainted with the negro character. Will you allow me to labor in any part of your bureau? I have only a wife, an American, but no children. I am willing to earn my daily bread and can give satisfaction for any remuneration bestowed upon me –also proper references.

I may add that I have been often asked whether the negro Emancipation of Jamaica led to its impoverished state or not? I now reply –I think not. You are to understand that soon after the negroes were made free the British markets were thrown open to slave and foreign grown produce - therefore the free grown produce of the British Colonies could not compete with those of Cuba. Again the Navigation Laws compelled the planters of the British West Indies to ship their produce in British ships.

In enclose for your perusal two anecdotes or incidents of my Eventful life. Please peruse them, and deign to answer my letter at your earliest convenience.

With my whole heart, I wish you, and yours, the choicest blessings of Almighty God.

Respectfully,  
Wm Scott Downey,  
minister of X to Gospel  
Author of Proverbs, &c

P.S. I once owned a small coffee plantation but soon after Negro Emancipation I found myself too poor to pay the negroes adequately to labor and the negroes were too cunning to work for nothing, my land was sold by small portions to them, for ¼ its value. Please your answer.  
WSD

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2717 7/10/1865 *From:* David Wills

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2661

Gettysburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[215]

Gettysburg July 10th 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

My dear Sir,

On behalf of the Board of Managers of the Soldier's National Cemetery I am instructed to return to you the thanks of the Association for your eloquent Oration delivered at the laying of the corner stone of the Monument in the Cemetery July 4th and to solicit of you a copy for publication. I am directed to have all the proceedings published in pamphlet form and desire a correct copy of your Oration.

With high regards,

I remain Your Obedient Servant,

David Wills

President of

The Soldier's National Cemetery

[Written on the back page, sideways, in a different hand.]

Gettysburg, Pa.

July 10th 1865

Wills, David

Pres. Sol Nat Cemetery

Thanks Gen Howard for the 4th of July oration and requests a copy for publication.

Recd July 12 1865

2718 7/10/1865

*From:* D.C. Haynes

*To:* Maj Gn. O O Howard

OOH-2662

National Freedman's  
Relief Association,  
New York

Bureau of Refugees &c

*Source:* Bowdoin

[216]

National Freedman's Relief Association,  
New York, July 10th 1865.

Maj Gn. O O Howard  
Bureau of Refugees &c  
My Dear Sir,

Accept my thanks for your reply to my letter of inquiry as to a position in your Bureau.

If you need my services, will you permit me to suggest, that there are two ways in which the difficulty if no appropriation to pay employees can be overcome. I can wait for pay until the appropriations are made, and they must be made sooner or later. Or you could have me appointed Chaplain and detailed for your work. I hold a Commission from the Gov. of New York as Chaplain of the Brooklyn 13th and served as such with the Regiment for 3 months at Suffolk Va at the end of which time the Regiment was mustered out. Of course my commission is of no avail now except as it is proof of some experience.

I hope I was not annoying you, but I feel a deep interest in the work for the freed people and it is that chiefly which prompts me to seek the situation. I presume that the voluntary associations will become of less and less consequence as your Bureau takes its true place.

We had an ovation all over England. I say we –my son Foster at Oswego N.Y formerly 1st Leus Lt of the 4th Maine Battery. L.M.S Haynes was with me. There is no limit to the enthusiasm of some of the English people in behalf of the freedmen of America. Any amount of money can be raised there. My son formed twenty ladies societies in Paris and the best women in Paris as in England are now making up clothing I should have remained longer but for the death in my absence of my youngest son 2d Lt of the 4th Maine Battery who hardly got home to die.

I have a high appreciation of your work. Alas how much is to be done for the freed people and how little any of their friends even appreciate what will yet be necessary.

If you have occasion to write me again will you please say if you design to accept the invitation to the Temperance Meeting at Saratoga which Dr Marsh informs me you have received as I have been invited to speak at it and may be there if it is to be a success.

I have the honor to be &c  
D.C. Haynes

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
New York, July 10th 1865  
Haynes, D.C.  
Desires employment in the Bureau.  
Recd July 12, 1865.

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2719 7/10/1865      *From:* Henry B Carrington      *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2663

Columbus, O.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[218, 219]

Unofficial

Columbus, O. July 10th 1865,

General,

I write you, though slightly acquainted, at the desire of several Clergymen of our church who have been actively engaged in the religious and social well being of Freedmen, particularly, Rev. Messrs Nixon & Hyde of Indianapolis, to say that if in any branch of the Bureau, under your charge, my services can avail for good, I shall feel it an honor to co-operate in the work. During the war I have been unfortunate, as a mere question of personal ambition, to have been on detached duty, of great care and importance, as it resulted; but, separating me from my command, and the consequent sympathy of friends in the Army whose opinion I value. It was not my choice; but I am content, knowing I conscientiously did my duty; and that will last, when honors fade.

Now, it may be, that my legal experience and other studies, would prove adaptive to the peculiar wants of the Bureau. I know how gradually and under what embarrassments such labor must develop; but it seems to me, that, under God, there is opened up a field of duty, where just and humane treatment, with Christian fidelity, and ample protection from imposition, will give to the Freedmen an established status which may reconcile both white and black to this new relation, and end in great good to both.

On account of illness I delayed writing before, and Mr Nixon, as chairman of a committee of Clergymen has just sundered his connection with them. He informed me that your plan was to include as far as possible only Christian officers in the work; and thought it my duty to engage in it. Just before leaving Indianapolis, I also received a note from Mr Chase, who was then just leaving Columbus for the east, that he had communicated to you respecting my engaging in the work. It will be some months before my regiment can be restored to its original strength; and, while I do not count renewal of Bureau labor, in which I have been so much engrossed, I should deem it due to my long established connections of our duty to the Blacks, to so labor if desired. Mr Dennison, Judge <Swague>, Genl Ekin, Gov Wright, Mr Chase and many others at Washington know my personal relations to the church and bar, as well as the Army & whether, (as they know better your views,) I could be useful in that special labor.

With consideration  
I am Your Obt Servt  
Henry B Carrington  
Brig. Genl.

[Written on the last page, sideways, in a different hand.]

Columbus 8 July 1865

Carrington, Henry B

Brig. Gen.

Desires situation in the Bureau.

Recd. July 16th 1865.

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2720 7/10/1865

*From:* <Athuos> F.  
Learned,  
Ass't Ag't Ass'd  
Press.

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2664

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of the New-York  
Associated Press  
No. 145 Broadway, Up  
Stairs  
New York

General Sup't Freedmen

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[220, 221]

Office of the New-York Associated Press  
No. 145 Broadway, Up Stairs  
New York, July 10, 1865

General:

I take the liberty of asking your attention to the following:-

The New England Soldiers Relief Association of this city will expire, as an institution, on the 1st of November next. The Matron of the New England Rooms, Mrs. E.A. Russell, is solicitous of engaging her services in some manner suited to her capacities. As a member of the Committee of the above Association, I can from personal observation testify to the great faithfulness, the pious tenderness, and the almost motherly care with which she has discharged her duties and great responsibilities of her position as Matron of our rooms.

Mrs. R. is eminently fitted to take charge of any depot for freed people, and would discharge the duties appertaining thereto with fidelity, honesty, and to the satisfaction of yourself and the government.

I have no hesitation in referring you to His Excellency, Gov. Andrew, to Hon Barkin D. Eliason, New Hampshire Military Agent in Washington, to Col. Gardner Tufts, Massachusetts State Agent in Washington, to Col. Howe, Superintendent of the New England Rooms or to any of the one hundred and twenty eight thousand soldiers who have sojourned at our institution during the war.

If there is any position within your province which you think she can fill she would be happy to hear from you on the subject, either directly or through me.

On the breaking out of the war Mrs Russell was obliged to leave her position as teacher in the Academy at Florence, Alabama, because she was of New England origin, and because her patrioteism made a residence among traitors both repugnant and unendurable.

She being an intimate friend of my family, and my position as a member of the New England Committee, is the reason for thus writing you, which is also done at the suggestion of Adjutant General Schouler, of Mass.

I am, General  
Your obt Servt,  
<Athuos> F. Learned,  
Ass't Ag't Ass'd Press.

To  
Major Gen O.O. Howard.  
General Sup't Freedmen

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York July 10, 1865

Learned, A.F.

Recommends to the notice of the Bureau Mrs. Russell –Matron of the New England Soldiers relief Assn

<A. S. B.> p 33

Recd. July 11, 1865

Enclose circular 6 and ask Mrs Russell to inquire of either Asst Commissioners by letter. I would forward this letter if I knew where she would prefer duty provided she could get it. O.O.J. M.G.

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2721 7/11/1865

*From:* Davis Tillson  
B. Gen Supt &c  
Office Sub Dict  
Memphis Tenn

*To:* Major Gnl O.O. Howard

OOH-2666

Chief Bureau R F Ab L.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[212, 213, 214]

(Confidential)

Office Sub Dict Memphis Tenn  
July 11th 1865.

Dear General

I beg that you will pardon me for presuming to again address you personally, but after reading your Circular No 6 and careful reflection I cannot well refrain from so doing. Upon reporting at Nashville to Genl Thomas I found him anxious that I should go on duty in your Bureau. This may have resulted from an opinion on the part of the Genl that I had some qualifications for the position, or because he had nothing for me to do. He send for Genl Fisk and consulted with him. Genl. F. also seemed desirous to have me serve under him. I consented and have been assigned to this Dist, composed of that portion of the State lying West of the tenn River and in which it is said there were 300,000 colored people prior to the war.

I notice by your circular that most of the Asst Commissioners are officers below my own rank, and I can easily understand that they have been, very properly, purposely so selected to save unnecessary expense. I can't help feeling that there is a want of fitness of things, an evident <impropriety> in my being assigned to the position of Supt of a Dist. and that I might be made to figure in a very unsatisfactory light should all the matters undergo an investigation, as they not unlikely will, at the next session of Congress.

Several cases have arisen in the short time since I have been here, which have suggested to me that experience may yet show that it would be better in some instances to locate the Asst Com'r and the dist with reference to centers of population rather than Geographically. This is the most important city between St Louis & New Orleans, and the natural center of population for West Ten North Miss and Eastern Ark. In this way a District might be made up containing a vast number of Freed people who could best be provided for from this point, and containing a sufficient amount of Abandoned land to afford a practical solution of the question of the final disposition of that portion of the freed people who from age sickness or other causes are unable to obtain employment but who could do something for their own support if settled on land set aside for that purpose. Unfortunately there is scarcely any abandoned land in this Sub Dist as will be seen by the list of abandoned lands which I have forwarded to Gen Fisk. In my investigations of this matter I found some maps of abandoned land below the dist on the river, and thinking they might be valuable to you, judging from your telegram of 26 ult to Gen Fisk, I have mailed them to you. If a Dist could be made up in the manner I have suggested and I could have control of it with the authority of an Asst Com'r and the right to report to you directly I should rather like to take charge of it, and I have an impression that I could manage it to the satisfaction of the Chief of the Bureau. I know I could try very earnestly I am well aware however, that such changes cannot be made to suit individual wishes except in pursuance of a general plan. I feel compelled to say that my serving with my present rank in the position I now have would very likely prove in the end an embarrassment to the Bureau and unpleasant to myself. You may therefore think it best under the circumstance that my detail to serve in this position should not be confirmed. While on the subject allow me to make one or two suggestions. I find the freed population of this city and vicinity estimated at from 15 to 30,000. Such information is of no value and I propose to ask for a temporary detail of <some> comm'd officer or soldiers in the Dist, competent for the purpose and proceed to make a complete census of the Colored population & refugees, obtaining all the information necessary for the Bureau. This can be done without expense to the Bureau or Government and if extended over the country wold afford information of great value to both and especially to Congress at its next session. The order to turn over to the Bureau all abandoned lands houses funds & seems to indicate that the funds so arising may be expended for the necessary wants of Refugees & Freed people. If this is the intention the question arises at once for what purposes and in what way shall money be expended? Of course the account must be kept and the returns made as required by the Army Regulations, but expenditures must be made, unknown, in providing for the wants of the Army, and for which the Regulations make no provision, and point out no mode of accounting for. Will it not be necessary therefore, in order that accounts may pass the scrutiny of the Auditors

office, that there be issued from your office regulations prescribing for what purposes and under what limitations funds may be expended. As for instance whether or not to fit up school rooms provide fuel, &c pay wholly or in part teachers & superintendents, to purchase medicines and pay for medical attendance and the necessaries for sick Refugees & freedmen to repair buildings used as hospitals, to expend nails & glass or in building huts for those settled on abandoned lands who are unable to provide for themselves &c and for many other really necessary purposes which will readily suggest themselves to you. Of course this matter cannot be left to the discretion of the Asst Comm'r but must be uniform throughout the country. I will bring some of these matters before you officially through the usual channels and also several important questions about the property ordered to be turn over to your Bureau some of which has improperly and illegally in my opinion been turned over to the former owners since the date of the Presidents order No 110.

Begging to be excused for troubling you with so long a letter I remain

Yours very truly  
Davis Tillson  
B. Gen Supt &c

Major Gnl O.O. Howard  
Chief Bureau R F Ab L.  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Memphis July 11, 1865  
Tillson, Davis  
Brig. Genl.  
Writes a confidential letter.  
Recd July 16, 1865.

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2722 7/11/1865

*From:* Julien Soule

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2667

D Hosser 145 Bdway  
N York

Chief of Freedmens Bureau  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[45]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines  
Washington, D.C.

Dated N York July 11 1865  
Rec'd Washington July 11 1865  
To Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedmens Bureau

Please telegraph me  
The Address of Maj Dayton Genl Shermans Staff. Wife joins me in affectionate regard thanks to all. We are well & comfortable.

Julien Soule  
D Hosser 145 Bdway

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]  
New York July 11, '54 Telegram  
Soule, Julien  
Asks address of Maj Dayton

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2723 7/11/1865

*From:* Wm Clark  
Brig Genl  
Washington D.C.

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2668

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[225]

Washington D.C. July 11 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
My Dear Genl,

Permit me to introduce an old friend Mr Jas A Buchanan, Atty and Solicitor of this City.

Mr Buchanan desires to present certain claims, and I bespeak for him an indulgent hearing consistent with the merits of his case.

You may rely upon him as the soul of honor. I knew him at the Bar of Iowa when he was distinguished not only for his ability as a lawyer, but for his integrity and highmindedness as a gentleman.

Your Friend and  
Obt Svt  
Wm Clark  
Brig Genl

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2724 7/11/1865    *From:* Ira Harris

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2669

Albany

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[226]

Albany July 11, 1865

Dear General,

Though I have been seriously ill since I had the pleasure of seeing you in Washington, I have not been so ill as not to know something of what has been going on. My wife has read to me your oration at Gettysburg. I am delighted with it, & it is a pleasure to me to tell you so. Your picture of The Volunteer, his hardships, his sufferings, his patriotism, his cheerfulness, his endurance, his courage, is admirable. I think it is the finest thing of its kind that has been produced during this war.

I am still confined to my chamber, & write this by the hand of my daughter. But I could not help congratulating you upon your new triumph, at Gettysburg.

Yours sincerely

Ira Harris [Senator from New York, 1861-1867]

Maj. Genl Howard

[CHECK ORIGINAL – the Bureau writing on last page not copied.]

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2725 7/11/1865     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2670

Hilton Head S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[222, 223, 224]

Hilton Head S.C.  
July 11 1865

My dear brother

The Steamer leaves tomorrow & I do not like to have it go without a letter to you. Col. Ely came down & has been at Beaufort. I saw him on the boat coming down here this morning on his way to Charleston – thence to go by R.R. to Orangeburg – to reach Columbia S.C. He seems a good sensible officer. Capt. Young sent up to Branchville & that vicinity by Gen. Saxton – found that the military were not very cordial in their cooperation. All in Gen. [John Porter] Hatch's District. They seem in a measure to have resigned themselves to be “nosed” about, as father would have said, by the native planters – former “Secessionists.” Gen. Hatch as nearly as I can ascertain has no very firm ideas himself & was formerly pro-slavery. He got the notion (which seems very absurd to the most of us) that the negroes were going to “rise” in insurrection on the 4th of July so instead of making a glorious Independence Day for whites & blacks he prohibited every kind of celebration & 4th of July, as it probably had been for 3 years past, was like a funeral day in Charleston S.C.

I had a celebration at Beaufort at rather short notice however as I was not assigned to command the Post until July 1st. We had Review – reading Declaration Independence &c &c some speaking –all going off admirable to my mind. I was the chief manager of course.

My Post extends up to Pocotaligo where I have 5 Companies 26th U.S.C.T. At B. I have 105th & 128th & two batteries. One, a white battery, (Rhode Island) will soon go out of service.

I am down here daily upon an Examining Board – examining all officers to grade them in accordance with a War Dept. Order. We finish here today & will now sit at Beaufort. My duties are quite arduous & responsible for me at B. regulating civil matters a good deal as well as military but my Regt. is pretty likely now I think to remain there & of course it is more agreeable to have Command of the whole on some accts. I am now organizing Provost Courts. Col. Guernsey 26th U.S.C.T. will be my Provost Judge. He is a lawyer. He has with his Regt. been doing almost solely the business of the Freedmen's bureau – in absence of your officers in that section.

I am thinking a grand movement should be made for education in the South. What do you think of the proposition to have the Confiscated lands devoted to this purpose? Would it not have a double purpose of establishing the institution for education so much needed & also in a manner reconciling the people to the individual loss by showing them it is all for the public good?

Your oration came in the Herald – of course I was delighted to see it. I read it aloud to Miss <Botum> (whom you may remember as a teacher of Colored Children) and one or two others (one her niece Miss Longford) and with great satisfaction. I am glad you drew so largely from you own experience because it will be immeasurably more valuable in time to come. And what you do not write down now will probably slip away & be lost from your mind & heart. The poem was good. I hope you will write me a word or two of your enjoyment of the 4th whether it was all you could desire. The papers say you are coming down here – I hope so – but thought perhaps you would first take a little respite & go home as now you had seen Gen. Saxton.

I still adhere to my strong belief that the Bureau cannot reach its proper efficiency unless the agents have the military in some immediate control. From a telegram from you to Gen. Saxton received since he left I judge Gen. Grant has given his consent to just what we want –if the matter can only be properly arranged with Gillmore. The latter (to speak frankly my opinion to a brother as I would not elsewhere) is ready to do almost anything for the sake of retaining command of his military Dept. which will now only embrace S.C.

If you do not think of coming down before the first of September (the first of October they say is healthier) I am thinking strongly of asking for a Leave when Lt. Col. Beebe returns the last of this month – say 30 days – & if

you go home at that time it would be doubly pleasant.

The people are hastening North on every steamer & there are beginning to be cases of Fever but I do not anticipate sickness at all. You know 4 years campaigning has pretty well hardened me & I have too much to do to get sick. My Regt. was doing finely & I was reluctant to leave it. As it is, it is not far off. I agreed to accept a position as Asst. Com'r to Gen. Saxton but now that Col. Ely has come for Columbia I do not know as the Gen. will desire it and perhaps it is better for me to remain at Beaufort. I do not like to forsake the Regt. unless I can give Lt. Col. Beebe a chance for promotion.

We are having it 105° in the shade. Is not that melting hot? Scarcely ever any time. I do not write to Stinson this mail –it is because I will not get any time. I improved a spare moment while waiting for the boat for this. Hope for a few words in return. Your last letter tho brief was a great satisfaction.

Your loving brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S.

Tell Maj. Stinson that I will gladly call it "square" on the horse question. My regards to Col. Fullerton, Maj. Gilbreth & the rest your family

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2726 7/12/1865

*From:* John. H. Mills

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2671

Lewis Cass Co Iowa

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[227, 228]

Lewis Cass Co Iowa  
July 12th 1865

Maj Genl Howard  
Dr Sir

The mail this morning brings me an honorable discharge from the service of the United States. Genl I thank you very much for your kindness in my behalf, and I am realy sorry that I could not remain any longer. Genl may I ask one more favor from you? It is this.

If you can consistently do so I would like in your own handwriting a few lines in regard to my services while with you. I know that you are very busy, but hoping that the Request may meet your approval I have taken the liberty to make it.

My health has improved very much since my return home. Genl I thought I knew the Responsibility of the Position you occupy, before leaving Washington, but I am convinced since traveling through the different States that it is even grater than I had before supposed and no one can wish more sincerely for your success than myself. Hoping that I may be honored with a reply, I remain most Respectfully Yours

John. H. Mills

To Maj Genl O O Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Lewis Cass Co. Iowa  
July 12, 1865  
Mills, John A.  
Friendly letter  
Recd July 20, 1865

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2727 7/12/1865    *From:* J.B. Sewall

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2672

Bow'd Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[229, 230]

Bow'd Coll.  
July 12, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
My good & honored friend

At the approaching Commencement <Scalan> we wish to give a welcome to all Bow'd graduates & students who have taken part in the war –congratulate them on the successful conclusion of the bloody strife, & on their save return - & indicate our sense of the honor they have done themselves, their country, & also the College, in their brave & noble course. Cannot you be present? It would gratify us very much, & all who may be here, & I write not at my own instigation surely, but by that of other members of the Faculty. Commencement day is Wednesday Aug 2.

Allow me to add the great pleasure & satisfaction I have taken in following your course in the war from the time you took the 3d Maine from Augusta till the present. I have become proud of the ability you have shown & the honor you have attained, & especially of the bearing which you have ever maintained of a Christian man & Soldier. Your testimony to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere has not only been doubtless a means of great good in the Army, but a cause of gratitude & stimulus to the Chhs at home. I hope to take you by the hand some day & tell you the same by word of mouth. May it be at the approaching commencement.

I forgot to add that a part of the business at the meeting of welcome is to inaugurate steps for a memorial monument to those who have bravely fallen.

Yours very truly  
J.B. Sewall [Jotham Bradley Sewall, Bowdoin Class of 1848]

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Bow'd Coll.  
July 12 1865  
Sewall, J.B.  
Friendly letter  
Recd July 17th 1865

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2728 7/12/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2673

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[613]

Washington D.C.  
July 12th 1865

Dearest,

I find Guy a little thin and not very strong. On Saturday last I let him play with Jessie Ward at Georgetown and the next day he did'nt seem at all well and he staid at home Sunday to rest & slept considerably. Monday he was better and went to the office with me. Monday night, however, a fever came on after the old fashion, but was quite gone by morning. I called in our Bureau surgeon Geo Horner. He ordered him to take a solution of quinine that I already had. This morning Guy seems entirely well. <More> blotches on his body show that his blood is not quite good.

I hope you are all well at home. I was a good deal worried about Guy night before last, but now I think the ill turn has passed by. Genl. Fullerton & Guy have taken quite a fancy to each other. I am not going South, am intending to send Colonel Fullerton instead. We have a Maj. Andrews here who came with Gen. Greene from Savannah & when Green wished me to allow to remain with me temporarily. He occupies the little room opening out of this (my bed room). He will evacuate on your approach. I have spoken for a Cottage set of Furniture for the little downstairs room. I shall hire in them I think during the hottest of the weather and when you come perhaps you will find it convenient to keep that room for two of the children and have it also as a sitting room for yourself. We shall need all the room there is over the kitchen &c for the servants. Dr Horner who is my Bureau Surgeon has his family with him, and the children & the lady seem like people that you & I like, that is not proud & pretentious but good & home-like. I hope I will get a line from you today, darling, for I am getting anxious about you.

There is the breakfast bell. Guy has read a Chapter & we have prayed together for you & Grace, Jamie & Chancy. So Good by

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

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2729 7/13/1865      *From:* Louis W. Stevenson      *To:* Col. C.A. Howard

OOH-2674

Camp "Fry"  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[231]

Camp "Fry"  
Washington D.C.  
July 13th 1865

Col. C.A. Howard:  
D. Sir,

I wrote you some time since in regard to a colored regiment, & the prospects of entering one, but presume the letter never reached its destination at the same time I stated that I had received an appointment in the V.R.C. as 2d Lt.

Indications are at present that the V.R.C. is going to be mustered out, hence I again take the liberty, of addressing you a line, if there is a chance of an appointment in the Deptmt. you are in, or if you think a position could be obtained in the General's bureau.

Casey's board has been dissolved. The rapid dissolution of the Army, has, I am told caused such a scarcity of clerks, that the authorities are obliged where they can, to detail officers. Citizens of course can be had, but there is no provision to pay them.

So long as retained in the service, I would like to hold such a position, if possible, now that the war is over. Would it be too much to ask a letter, to aid me in getting such a place?

I appeal to you frankly, as I <take> it, when you said to me to write you after passing the board –you meant what you said. As I told you, I am not particular about the rank, & if there is an opening in any of the colored regiments I'm ready to go before the board. My foot has so far improved that, I think it would not be any obstacle in my way.

I would prefer, though, were it possible being detailed in the Freeman's Bureau.

Trusting that this may reach you safely, & that it may be in your power to confer the favor asked,

I remain  
Your obt. Srt.  
Louis W. Stevenson  
Lt. 10th Regt. V.R.C.

[Note: The Veterans Reserve Corps was made up of wounded soldiers who were deemed unfit to return to the field, but could still serve in less physically demanding positions. Camp Fry was a VRC camp.]

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2730 7/13/1865      *From:* W A Eaton

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2677

Louisburg Franklin  
County No Ca

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[4, 5]

Louisburg Franklin County No Ca  
July 13th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Dr Sir

Allow me to address you on a subject, which I hope lies deep in the heart of every one who is a well wisher to the negro race in this Country, ie both of their intilectual and moral condition, seeing their destitute condition, and no one that I have heard of has offered to make a perminent improvement in that condition has induced me, to offer my feeble services in their behalf. And I know of no one to whom I could apply better than yourself holding the high position you do for aid in a noble cause. Ane one in which I am sure you would give most willingly your aid and support.

I propose to erect here on my plantation an assylum a home for those who are unable to support themselves, and also a school to instruct the young and teach the grown morality. When this home is completed I would place it under the care of a good and pious instructor, where the negros shall daily hear God's word, read and expounded to them. The school I think can be gotten up on a very cheap plan, let it be made a manual school allow the grown ones to have so many hours in the day for the improvement of the mind and so many hours for labour, in that way I think it could be made in a very short time to support itself. I think the place will contain about 2200 Acres. Lay it off in 20 or 30 Acre lots. Build on each lot a comfortable house that would accomodate a family of 8 or 10, and have them taught to improve these lots and in a very short time they would be in a condition to contribute to the support of the general government instead of being a charge to it, and instead of being a curse to society, I think they can be made acceptable citizens.

I propose for the sum of \$45,000, to give 2200 Acres to erect on it 50 comfortable houses for families and to erect 10 houses of instruction, to have the lots all layed off and put in good condition, to receive its inmates. I and some that such an institution would save the government more than the sum asked, before the coming winter is over. I was in Raleigh a few days past, and if the negros that were there now are permitted to stay there during the coming winter the fuel alone would well nigh cost the government \$45,000. And if my proposal should meet your favourable consideration, and we can enter into terms in a short time, I could by the approach of winter be prepared to receive a great many into the assylum. There are hundreds of negro men strolling about the County unemployed show would gladly go to work here for their bread. And a great many who are now draining rations from the government stores, that could be sent here to make their own support, with a small out lay in guano, I think from <about> 10,000 bushels wheat could be grown on the place, with favourable seasons, and then should it be desirable the place could be enlarged, so as to accomodate any desirable number.

I was born and raised with negros, and have made it my study to learn their character & dispositions. I was told by one of your officers, that mine was the most inteligent family of negros he had met with in Southern states. I have always tried to make their condition as good as I could, and to give them all the instruction posible under the laws of the country. And now Genl if I can gain your assistance in doing them a final and lasting good, I shall be most thankfull both to you and the government. As I see you are Commissioner for the freedmen of the United States I hope yuo have it in your power to do whatever is best for them.

Allow me to beg an answer to this letter, at your earliest convenience. The institution might ple place directly under the control of the general superintendant of freedmen of No C.

With high Consideration yr obt St  
W A Eaton

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2731 7/13/1865 *From:* Samuel Knowlton

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2678

Toronto

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[6]

Major General Howard  
Sir

My son James I Knowlton 15th Army Corps USA enlisted in the 6th mo vols Inft July 18 <61> at St Luis served thro all the Difculties of the rebellion untill the 24 of Jun 1865. He got a commission as 1st Lieut and Adgt 10th day of February 1865 when he fell sick of a severe Desintery on <Chance Dinchen> which held him for 5 months by vertue of Leave of Absence to go north. By order of General Howard he wrote for his mother who brought him to my Home in search of Better health. His sickness Bafeled all Doctoring and he Departed this Life the 24th of June last. His Doctor and medsne Bills with his Interment is no small sum. I am a poore man 74 yeares of age and removed of a Good son. I hope you will fains somthing to be don in matter of his Back pay or any thing he might have left sent me. I have his commision leave of absence by order of Major Howard his muster in roll dated the 30 March and 5 other peapares connected with his office. He belonged to the 1 Brigade 2n Division 15th Army Corps.

Be so good as to favor a reply to be sent to me at 314 Richmond street west Toronto Canada west and you wuld do an act of Charety for a lonesome Father of a Good son

Samuel Knowlton

Toronto, July 13th 1865

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Toronto C.W.

July 13th 1865

Knowlton, Saml.

Relative to the back pay of his son

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2732 7/13/1865

*From:* JK Barnes

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2679

Surgeon General's  
Office

*Source:* Bowdoin

Washington City, D.C.

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[7]

Surgeon General's Office  
Washington City, D.C.

July 13 1865

General

I have the decision of the Attorney Genl and it is adverse to Proxies. Shall we call a meeting for first Wednesday in October now, or wait until September to do so –yourself, Admiral Davis and myself are the only members of the Com present.

Very respectfully yrs  
JK Barnes  
S.G.

Maj. Gen. Howard

[CHECK ORIGINAL –back of first page has more information.]

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2733 7/14/1865 *From:* Wm E Strong

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2680

Vicksburg Miss.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8]

Vicksburg Miss.  
July 14th 1865

Dear General,

I arrived in Vicksburg last evening, and shall commence work in this District this afternoon.

I have been quite unwell for several days, and am hardly able to be around. Caught a terrible cold coming down the river from Little Rock, and it has settled on my lungs. I hope it is nothing serious, however, and that I shall be well again in a few days.

I have written you several long letters. One from St. Louis. One from Memphis and two from Little Rock. I hope you will get them. I will write you as to matters here before I leave for Natchez. I shall be in Vicksburg till latter part of this week, or first of next.

George Reed and Henry Taylor my orderlies who are taking care of the horses in Washington belong to my old regiment the 12th Wisconsin, and as the regiments will be mustered out of the service before I return, they return, they will all probably be compelled to go out too, and wish you would be kind enough to ask one of the staff officers to see that my horses and property cared for until I get back to Washington, I think Capt. Gilbreth or Lieut. Mills would attend to it. My boy "oe" could assist in taking care of them.

Genls Slocum, Osterhaus and Morgan L. Smith are here. Smith has resigned and goes up the river tomorrow. I do not know what Command Osterhaus is to have.

Genl. Woods and brother passed down the river this morning en-route to Mobile. I saw them for a few minutes.

I have just been reading your oration at Gettysburg. I think it is splendid –wish I could have been present and heard you deliver it. I passed the 4th of July in Memphis and it was the driest dullest day I have ever experienced.

Regards to Mr and Mrs Markland and all the staff. I wish I were in Washington. I am quite sick and disgusted with this part of the Country. It doesn't seem as it used to.

Good Bye  
Ever Truly Yours  
Wm E Strong

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Vicksburg Miss.  
July 14th 1865  
Strong Wm E  
Bvt Brig Genl  
Friendly letter  
Recd July 27th 1865

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2734 7/14/1865

*From:* R. Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Saratoga

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2681

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[10]

Saratoga July 14 1865

Dear General,

I have been greatly benefitted by my visit here and am happy to be able to report that I shall return to my post on the Arago which leaves N.Y. on the 28th inst. If you should desire to communicate with me before I return please direct to No 211 Spruce Street Philadelphia where I shall be until the 26th when I leave for New York to take the Steamer.

I am with much respect  
Yours truly  
R. Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl

Maj Genl Howard

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2735 7/15/1865    *From:* T. W. Osborn

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2675

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N. York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[2]

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N. York  
July 15th 1865

My Dear General,

Your kind note by Sladen reached me a few days since. I am sorry to be compelled to write you to day that the Surgeon in charge of me refuses to consent to my going to Washington as early as next week. I had fully intended to leave her on Monday or Tuesday of next week but today in dressing the arm he told me that I could not have his consent, as a Surgeon, to make any extensive journey such as going to Wash. The arm is not painful, though from the shoulder to the elbow it is entirely helpless. I can not move it more than an inch or two without the assistance of the right hand. The fore arm & hand are good. The bone has united & only requires more time for the fracture to become sufficiently strong to admit of traveling & bearing the unavoidable jar of traveling. A week or two more I am confident will be sufficient. I not only regret this additional delay but I am disappointed I wished to go to work.

If this additional delay will be a serious detriment to you I will give <orisy> to some other officer or if you should think best you might send some one of your own selection forward as an assistant to me with full instructions to go to work until I reach the field. I could then retain him as an ast, or assign him to a district. If Maj. Morais is within reach of order he might do, or I would suggest, if Maj. Von Dighe could be reached soon enough he might do well to open the way on his own responsibility though a little head strong in a subordinate position. Or even Genl. Foster who I see is assigned to the Comd. of Florida might put some good men at work temporarily.

But you will of course adopt the best course for the interests of the Bureau & that will be perfectly satisfactory to me.

Please write to me as soon as you have concluded what to do or if you require my services at once telegraph me here & I will be ready.

Very Recfly  
Your Obt Servt  
T. W. Osborn  
Col.

P.S. I wish Capt. Sampsons assistance while traveling & have written him to that effect. He is on a leave of absence from Genl Logan procured before his assignment by the War Dept. with me.

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2736 7/15/1865 *From:* Charles <Sahny>

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2682

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[11]

Boston 15th July '65

Dear Sir,

I have known Col. Pratt for sometime as very devoted to the freedmen, & anxious to promote their welfare. He is of the stuff for the humane & difficult service over which you preside.

Col. Pratt is of the 36th U.S. Colored Infantry, & is now in hospital at Fortress Monroe. Of course, he would like an assignment to service, so that he might report for duty at once before proceeding to Texas.

Faithfully yours,  
Charles <Sahny>

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2737 7/15/1865 *From:* J.B. Simpson

*To:* Esteemed Miss Blanche  
[Berard]

OOH-2683

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[28]

Saturday July 15th [1865]

Esteemed Miss Blanche [Berard]

When you reply to Gen Howard's letter please tell him I would like (if possible for him to give it me) the position of an "Agent" in some "Sub-district" under the supervision of a "Supt" assigned such district. But should it not be in his power to give me that I'll accept of any thing he might think me capable of filling. Any position which will give me an equivalent for services rendered.

With many thanks for your kindness, I remain very respectfully yours

J.B. Simpson

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2738 7/15/1865     *From:* G.S. Newcomb

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2684

Kingston, Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12, 13]

Kingston, Mass  
July 15, 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
D'r Sir,

Pardon the liberty an old fellow-student at Bowdoin takes in addressing you.

Our life-course have widely diverged since College days, when we sat at the same table at the Grows Club. You by hard study, unflinching patriotism, brave warfare & bloody sacrifice have gained a height of fame, to which few mortals can ever hope to climb.

All through the war, I watched your course with intense interest. I have admired your course as a good soldier of the Union; but for more as a soldier of the Cross. I thank God, that you have been enabled by his grace in all your arduous campaign life, to hold high aloft the banner of the Cross, & thus, while fighting manfully for Union & liberty, to fight the good fight of faith, & lay hold on eternal life.

But while you have thus been contending on the bloody arena of civil war for God, for truth & liberty, I have lived in quite obscurity in this little town four miles from Plymouth Rock. My circumstances seemed to me to forbid my enlisting in our patriot army, as I longed to do from the first gun at Sumter. A wife with poor health & six helpless children dependent on my daily labor & care, I thought I could not leave. However, I hope I have done something for the good cause in a humble way at home. It was not the duty of every man to become a soldier.

After leaving College, I taught 10 years in Academies & High Schools. Becoming incapacitated for that work by the partial loss of my hearing, I gave it up, & came here to assist my brother in his Cotton manufacturing business. But the work is not to my taste, the life too confined, the sphere too narrow. I flatter myself that I could fill some wider sphere. I long for an opportunity to do more for my Saviour than I am doing or can do, here. And I make bold to ask you, if you can do any thing for me. Is there not some position, which you can secure for me, where I an do more good, & at the same time support my family? I am aware that offices of trust & emolument ought to be given to those, who like yourself have made sacrifices for the Union; but perhaps there is some place for me, too.

You "are about a great work" & I shall not be offended if you do "not come down" to notice my letter. Still I hope to hear from you. I pray God that you may have wisdom from above to direct you in the duties of your responsible office. You seem to me to be in the place of a father to 4 millions of helpless fellow mortals. May you have grace given you to be able with a father's devotion to protect them for injustice & oppression is the prayer of

yr old friend

G.S. Newcomb [Guilford Snow Newcomb, Bowdoin College, Class of 1848]

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2739 7/15/1865    *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2685

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[14]

Leeds July 15, 1865

My dear brother:

This must be mainly a business letter. Just before leaving Richmond I called upon Mr. William Bell, the Insurance agent who insured your life. I learned from him that either half or three quarters of the \$100 extra premium that you paid for being in the army will be remitted to you on your next payment, or it will go toward paying for another & extended insurance which he can now make, say for \$3000 more. Please write him the date of your appointment as Commissioner of Freedmen &c & if not more than three months had elapsed since the last payment they will remit \$75 but if it had been more than three months they will remit \$50 to go on your next payment or you can have your insurance policy enlarged and it will be paid on the premium.

The other matter of business to speak of is: Mr. Deane, whom I think you used to know, and who is the father of the young lady in whom your brother is interested would be very glad to have a negro and wife to assist him on his farm. It is possible I mentioned this to you before. If you are so situated that you can either send or bring with you when you come east the last of the month, two individuals answering to my description who will in your judgement be good servants you will confer a favor upon me, personally. Mr. Deane is a kind hearted man and will do well by a man and Mrs. Deane would be a good person to have a negro woman with her. Why you would confer a favor upon me personally is that, my friend Rosa is very anxious to go to school but her departure from home is delayed, I imagine, by Mrs. D. who is Rosa's stepmother, who really needs her assistance in the house unless they can get a servant which is not easily done here you are aware. I am continually writing you and asking favors and I hope you will not think me importunate.

Cousin Sarah is here today and says, "Give much love to Otis." Mother says, "Tell Otis, that I am all the time thinking about writing to him." We are all going to Farmington today to remain a few days. When shall we expect you here?

With much love  
Your brother  
R.H. Gilmore

P.S. Mrs. Deane was formerly Miss Victoria Turner, a grand daughter of Uncle Stillman's. R.H.G.

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2740 7/15/1865

*From:* Joshua Gastito

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2686

*Source:* Bowdoin

Corresponding  
Secretary's Office,  
Young Men's Christian  
Union  
Lockport, N.Y.

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[15]

Corresponding Secretary's Office,  
Young Men's Christian Union  
Lockport, N.Y. July 15 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir:

I have the honor to inform you, that the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Union of this City, desire to secure your services as a Lecturer, upon their Course for the Winter of 1865 and 1866. Please to communicate to us as soon as possible your answer, and if favorable, your terms, and the date on which it will be convenient for you to Lecture here.

Yours, Very Truly,  
Joshua Gastito  
Cor. Sec'y Y.M.C.U.

[CHECK ORIGINAL –Writing on back of page 1.]

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2741 7/16/1865

*From:* Wm Duncan

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2665

Hd. Qrs. Army of the  
Tenn Louisville Ky

Chief of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[29]

Hd. Qrs. Army of the Tenn Louisville Ky  
July 16th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Chief of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Sir

I have the honor herewith to recommend Myron J Remick of my company for preferment to a military education, and I would most respectfully ask your assistance in securing the same.

Myron J Remick has served through the entire rebellion just closed. He has been a good dutiful and fearless soldier. He was captured at the Battle of Pea Ridge by the enemy but exchanged for by Genl Curtis in 1862. He was detailed as clerk in the Adjutants office at Genl Carlins Hd. Qrs and for his services while there received special mention. His services at Hd Qrs Army Tenn you are familiar with and appreciated. He being very anxious to secure a military education at the West Point Academy I feel it my duty to render him every assistance.

I am Sir very respfy Your Obt Svt  
Wm Duncan  
Capt Co "K" 15th Ills Cavy.

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2742 7/17/1865 *From:* Caleb Tompkins

*To:* Maj'r Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2687

*Source:* Bowdoin

Champaign City  
Champaign County  
Illinois

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[16, 17]

Champaign City Champaign County  
Illinois, July 17th 1865

Maj'r Genl Howard  
D'r Sir

I am with much anxiety of mind desirous to address you upon a subject which my whole future destiny depends on. If you remember on the first week in October 1864, I had the pleasure of an introduction to you, on the Piazza at Cartersville Georgia by Genl John E Smith, & your Chief Engineer, a German I think but do not recollect his name. As you all were in a hurry the Army was blocked up. Not having Roads sufficient that was know to those having Command, I as an old Resident, was by Genl Smith, the Commander of the post, called on, to Pilot or find some other Road, for your troops, to pass over, and after a genial consultation with the Engineer, I showed him on the map, the Tennessee road, which I proposed to take the Troops over, from Carterville to Casvill, thence to Kingston, & beyond. I started the corps, in motion on the Tennessee road, & In the mean time, I procured a man, who I furnished to go, & did go the whole distance, & was absent 4 days Who Informed me that my engagement was completed as agreed to at the Juncture and state of things I came to the conclusion, from the advise

those in command, It would be best for me to go north with my family which consisted of myself & 2 young ladies, my niece & a Lady from New York, who was shut in by the war, & could not return & had to remain with us, 4 years. So I arranged my affairs, as well as I could & left there, about the 28th of October, being detained in consequence of the RR being torn up from Resacca, to Tunnel Hill, 20 miles or more we passed up when the army were encamped near Dalton since which time we (myself & niece) has been without a home (for the Lady I sent to her brother in New York) at that time we were in Philadelphia, myself & niece came to New Castle Delaware where we were both taken verry sick, so much so, life was uncertain,, & near deaths door. After Our Recovery, we made our way to Washington, I was there some 2 Months & during that time I made an effort to to (& did) place my Claim before Congress for property destroyed. Are the evacuation of Cartersville but the session of Congress being near its Close nothing was done, so I procured my papers again, & having furnished the Army on all occasions what ever. I had, that they wanted from the first of the armys coming to Carterville, which was on the 20 day of May 1864 until I left provisions, lumber, sundry things as Inumerated in a bill I have which you can find recorded & filed in the different departments by the war department all the facts are set forth in due form & affirmed to, but the war dept furnished duplicate of the a/c which they wished me to get Genl Sherman or some other Genls signature to them as It could not be paid, without Vouchers, the parts of the army who procured what was taken were of the diferant were sent on the north side of the Etowa, River to forage & the infantry Stationed at the River & about our Vilage. My papers of loyalty in the War department, & all my papers that I left there, was approved by the War department as being as right, except my Vouchers so you see all that I lack is your or some Genls name to procure the the amt of damage from the Treasury.

I now appeal to you, as a Christian Brother. In my present embarassed circumstances, to do, or advise me to do, what is for the best Course for me to persue, as I am 65 years of age, Inform in health, & without means of a Support, for my self & family, always having been loyal and having Rendered services, for my country, I hold I have a Claim on my Country, Generals your self being one of that noble Class, & whose Corps I escorted from Carterville. Could you Honour me, with your Signature? I presume it would be Satisfactory with the War department if so please reply at your Earleyest Convenience & I will forward you the papers.

Having understood you were at the head of the Freedmens Bureau & In as much I have a desire to go into the State of Mississippi to Grenada or about that latitude I would be glad to Render my assistance the Government might desire me to Render. Hoping to have the honour of hearing from you Soon, with Regard to the Contents of this letter.

I am  
Yours most Respectfully

Caleb Tompkins

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Champaign, Ill.

July 17, 1865

Tompkins, Caleb

Desires vouchers for property destroyed at Cartersville, Ala.

A.L.B. 53

July 21st 1865

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2743 7/17/1865

*From:* Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vols &  
Supt RFAL  
Office Supt R.F.AL.  
Sub District  
Memphis

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2688

*Source:* Bowdoin

Chief Bureau R.F.&AL.  
Washington D.C.

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[18, 19]

Office Supt R.F.AL. Sub District  
Memphis July 17th 1865.

General.

General Roberts of the old Army, with whom I have been messing since I came here, will call upon you in Washington. The General is well acquainted with affairs in this city and vicinity and can give you much information that will be of value to your Bureau, especially about property in this city which the commanding General of this Dist has ordered turned back to its former disloyal owners, and which if done will paralyze the efforts of some of the benevolent societies engaged in promoting the welfare of the Refugees and Freed people. I have examined the laws and orders on the subject and am quite sure that Military Commanders are not empowered to judge of the intricate questions of law fact and loyalty involved, and order property upon which the U.S. has a claim, turned over to any person except the Treasury Agents and officers of the Bureau of R.F.&AL. I have refrained from bringing up particular cases through official channels to avoid giving offense to the Commanding Generals of the District, whose continued hearty co-operation it is very desirable to secure.

I beg pardon for again alluding to my private affairs. It is unpleasant for me to think that it may very likely seem to you that I have forced myself into your Bureau and am pushing for a place, but I assure you this is not so. I simply consented to accept this duty because General Thomas desired it. I know that when engaged in good work, selfish considerations are not of place, but doubtless an officer of suitable rank can be found to take my place who will do as well or better. As I wrote you, there is a very evident impropriety in my holding this position with my present rank, which may result in unnecessary humiliation to myself and even embarrassment to your Bureau. Under the circumstances I shall not feel annoyed much less hurt or offended if my detail to serve in the Bureau should not be continued at the War Dept - or if already confirmed - if I am relieved and ordered to serve other duty, or ordered to be mustered out of the service. If some such action has not already been had, will you please give the subject your early consideration and greatly

Oblige

Yours Very Respectfully  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vols & Supt RFAL

Major General O.O. Howard  
Chief Bureau R.F.&AL.  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Office. Supt. R.F.&A.L. Sub Dist  
Memphis July 17, 65.

Tillson, Davis  
Brig Genl Supt &c

States that General Roberts, will call upon Genl Howard in Washington in a few days, & that Genl. R. can give much information concerning the affairs of the Bureau, in Tenn, especially about the restoration of property to disloyal owners in Memphis. Also alludes to the apparent impropriety of holding his position with his present rank.

FILE

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2744 7/17/1865 *From:* J.W. Chickering

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2689

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[20]

Boston

July 17 [1865]

Dear General

If you cannot, as I still hope you may, be with us at Saratoga, can you not write a word, of regret & endorsement, especially as to the army bearings of the subject?

Truly yours

J.W. Chickering

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

July 17, 1865

Boston, Mass

Chickering, J.W. Rev'd

Desires Gen. Howard's attendance at Saratoga at the Temperance meeting.

July 21st 1865 Recd

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2745 7/17/1865

*From:* Charles Lowe

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2690

Rooms of N.E.F.A. Soc.  
8. Studio Building  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24]

Rooms of N.E.F.A. Soc.  
8. Studio Building Boston  
July 17, 1865

To  
Maj Genl Howard:  
Dear Sir:

I am instructed by the Exec. Com. of the New England Freedmens Aid Society to recommend to you for appointment to some post in connection with your Department, James Redpath, who has been, during four months, our efficient Superintendent in Charleston, S.C.

We have had ample opportunity of knowing his capacity for usefulness, and the only reason why we do not retain him in our service is that the policy of our Society in regard to salaries forbids our offering him the sum which his abilities warrant & which is necessities oblige him to ask. He has shown remarkable energy & sagacity, & nuturing enthusiasm for the cause. He acquired a wonderful influence among the whole colored population of Charleston. And we do not know a man who could have done so much for the establishment of our schools.

We wish to give our exact impression in regard to Mr Redpath in thus urging him upon your notice, and therefore deem it fair to say that we have sometimes feared that his influence among the blacks was too exciting to be wholesome & that his enthusiasm might carry him too far. Yet, induced as we were because of this apprehension to watch his course very carefully, we can say that his course was in most cases judicious & his influence salutary. And that the danger to be feared from his impulsiveness (especially when in a position under a Department like yours) is nothing to counterbalance the value of his experience & his rare qualifications which make him a person whom the cause cannot afford to lose.

If you should decide to act upon the suggestion which we thus respectfully submit, and wish to confer with Mr Redpath, his address is Malden, Mass. Or he could be reached by directing to the rooms of this Society.

I am, Sir, with great respect,  
Very truly yours  
Charles Lowe

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Boston July 17, 1865  
Lowe, Chas.  
Cor Secy, N.E.F.A.Soc.  
Recommends James Redpath as Supt of Schools in this Bureau  
Recd July 20, 1865

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2746 7/17/1865 *From:* SP Chase

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2691

Concord, N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[21, 22, 23]

Concord, N.H. July 17, 1865

General,

Your telegram in reply to one from me reached me in Rhode Island. I thank you for your attention though the reply is not what I desired.

My commendation of General Carrington, it is due to him to say, was not at his suggestion or that of any of his friends. I had learned from him that he had been ordered to Columbus; probably to be mustered out of the volunteer service, and I thought he might be usefully employed under you. Hence my action.

Your telegram shews plainly enough that you think I have commended an unworthy person, and as I am quite convinced of the contrary, I must believe that you are either misled by erroneous information, or imperfect observation. At any rate it is simple justice to put you in possession of the grounds of my opinion.

My acquaintance with General Carrington began when he was a partner in law practice with Governor Dennison now Post Master General. My impressions were favorable, though we did not then agree politically. Afterwards when the circumstances of the country led to new political organization & I became Governor of the State of Ohio, he became Adjutant General. Our military condition was then anything but what it ought to be. I attempted a reform & my advances were most efficiently seconded & promoted by him. Almost without compensation he was unwearied in labors & eminently judicious. He contributed as much as any many to prepare that better condition from which Ohio advanced easily to those efforts & work which have made he part in the war sufficiently honorable.

His integrity was as scrupulous as his labors were constant as a member of a Christian Church his walk was without reproach.

His moral & religious character, his services in the military office I put him in, and his diligent &, as I supposed still suppose, successful prosecution of military studies led me, when the new regiments were organized to recommend him as one of those who were to be commissioned from civil life. In some way General Pratt had received a favorable opinion of him & he accepted kindly my suggestion, & General C. was commissioned as Colonel.

For some reason he was never sent into the field; but employed in other duties. I always heard him well spoken of, except that he was once charged with having been intoxicated. I felt assured that if there was any truth in the charge, it must be that the intoxication was the consequence of some unusual conditions. I knew that the use of alcoholic stimulants had been prescribed to him for lung disease. I supposed it possible that under great fatigue or to some peculiar circumstances he might have been overcome. That he was guilty of habitual or even occasional excess or that he ever knowingly transgressed the bounds of temperance, I did not believe nor do I now believe. It would contradict his whole life.

That he filled his post creditably & that he performed his responsible duties with great honor to himself & great usefulness to the country I was completely assured by Gov. Morton & others, while almost equal capacity & opportunity of correct judgment.

Lately I have heard that some charge touching his administrative integrity was made sometime since. If any such charge can be made good, I give him up, but I know no man in respect to whom I should be more certain that such a charge cannot be sustained.

I have no more to say. I hope you will find time to read this & let me know that you have used it. I have nothing to ask.

The most important position under the President is yours. No man can desire your complete success more ardently than

Yours truly respectfully

SP Chase [Salmon P. Chase, Senator and Governor of Ohio and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.]

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written at the bottom of the last page in red, and in a different hand.]

Recd. B.R.F. & A.L. July 19 1865

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2747 7/17/1865 *From:* Blanche Berard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2692

West Point

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[26, 27]

West Point July 17th 1865

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington  
My dear friend

If Gen Hayman should be connected with the Bureau of which you are Chief, my addressing a letter of the character of the enclosed to him instead of to you, might strike you as more than a little singular. To avoid such an impression which I should not like to exist in your mind, I send the letter through you with the following explanation.

My brother-in-law Gen Vogdes, sent a message to me a few days since, to the effect that I had better write to Gen Hayman, and ask him if he could give my brother Robert a situation in the bureau <[torn page]> which he is connected, this <[torn page]> afford him a living without his being worked to death, which is about the condition of things with him now. Gen. H is a cousin of my brother-in-law and I knew him quite well during his Cadet days. There was therefore no impropriety in my addressing him, and for reasons which I cannot very well state in a letter I concluded it to be altogether best to act upon Gen V's suggestion.

Perhaps you may be surprised that I should seek for a situation of this kind for Robert, thinking him not adapted for it. But I feel strongly that if his untiring industry, energy and capacity (for he has a good deal of this last) could only be applied to one certain routine of business, instead of being pressed beyond measure by demands which no one man (especially without so it all) could possibly fulfill, <[torn page]> the case now, he would do <admirably.[torn page]> He would be useful and happy in his work & have the prospect of a longer life than I fear will be the case if he continues much longer as over-wrought as he is now.

I feel therefore, that whether successful or not, I ought to make this application for him. It may be the opening, the way which God has prepared in answer to my prayers. And it may not be His will so to answer them. He who ordereth all things well do what is best for us and I strive to leave all in humble submission to His will.

I enclose [OOH-2683, 7/15/1865] a note from John Simpson, which may give you some idea of the kind of work he would like.

Knowing as I do how fully your time is occupied, and how great must be the pressure of correspondence, I beg that you will not feel at all obliged to answer this letter. Gen Hayman will of course furnish me with some sort of reply to the note to him and that will answer all purposes.

I am animated by no hope of success in this application and only make it because I feel it is my duty to do it. Not, my dear friend, that I doubt for one moment your willingness to confer such a benefit, if in your gift and power, but that I think it altogether probable that there will be no post vacant, and besides, for years, disappointment has been my lot in all efforts for Robert & Charles and I cannot indulge hope now.

With love, when you write, to Mrs Howard, and the little ones, I remain

Every truly yr friend  
Blanche Berard

---

2748 7/17/1865 *From:* JT Ford

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2693

Balto

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[46]

The American Telegraph Company

Dated: Balto July 17th 1865

Rec'd Washington 17th 1865

To Gen O.O. Howard

As I was leaving the Hotel for Balto. At 11 oclock today a note of Mr Ballantynes was placed in my hands requesting me to call on you. I will return to Washington on Wednesday, when, if it is your desire, I will be happy to call at any convenient hour after ten 10 oclock. An answer here by telegraph, or to the Theatre, tenth st. will reach me.

JT Ford

---

2749 7/17/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2694

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[614]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, July 17th, 1865

Dearest

I enclose you 200 dollars just drawn. I am intending to try for home as soon as Col. Fullerton returns from the South. I hope Chas will be able to return with him & go on with me to Maine.

Guy is quite well. He barked his chin a little and has a little sore which the Dr is fixing up, otherwise well. His blood is not quite right.

Much love to the children & yourself. I hope I may get home before the first of August.

Lovingly in haste your husband  
Otis

---

2750 7/18/1865

*From:* W.E. Boardman

*To:* Major Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2695

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

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[31, 32]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia, July 18th 1865

Major Gen Howard  
U.S. Commissioner &c  
Dear General

Today for the first I find decisive measures taken to bring about a general combination of agencies as proposed by you for voluntary aid to the Government in its work for Refugees Freedmen &c. The active workers of both Christian and Sanitary Commissions will be invited to combine with those already in the Freedmens associations and make a national strong and efficient body which will command respect and call forth general and generous contributions. The Freedmens Aid Union are to meet the 24th inst to issue the invitation.

With much to encourage there hast has been much also, of minutia to discourage until now.

The prospect opens. God grant it may open more and more, until our best hopes are realized.

I go immediately west to help on the matter there.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
W.E. Boardman

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York  
July 18th, '65  
Boardman W.E.  
Friendly letter

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2751 7/18/1865 *From:* Ira. LeBaron Jr

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2696

Woodstock Vt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

Woodstock Vt July 18th 1865

Gen Howard

Dear Sir

I would like the agency for Vermont to raise funds to purchase Fords Theater for the Young Mens Christian Association Washington DC. If you will give me the appointment, & send me the necessary documents, I will commence operations immediately, by publishing articles through the press of Vermont & by Canvassing &c. I think that I could do well for you. It is most certainly a worthy cause & no doubt its friends will be numerous.

Respectfully Yours

Ira. LeBaron Jr

Pastor of M.E. Church

Woodstock Vermont

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2752 7/18/1865 *From:* Anson Blake

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2697

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33, 34]

New York 18th July 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Dear Sir

I am duly favored with yours of the 15th inst., in reply to my letter of the 13th.

I have not, at this moment, sufficient knowledge of the financial condition of the Pacific R.R. Co., or the intentions of the Directors of that Company as to pushing on their work, to enable me to write such a Programme as I have conceived, peculiarly fitted, to promote our advantageous settlement of Freedmen, and a conversion of Lands, into work on the Road for which they were donated.

General Dix, will in about two weeks probably, become President of the Road; and I am to have a full consultation with him on the subject in about one week from this time, and shall then be better able to judge what the Company can do.

In the meantime I would say that it is probably a large portion of the Freedmen will remain near where they have always lived, and that another portion, will choose to emigrate, and settle where they can establish communities by themselves, on Lands of their own, and to be paid for in their own labor.

This latter class are embraced in my plan, and I hope a way will be found, to let them have a fair chance to work on the Pacific R.R. and to settle their families on the Lands along the route, by devoting 50, or 100 miles of said Road, more or less, according to their numbers, exclusively to their labor, and not permit any other nationality to interfere with them in their work.

The same, or a greater, or less number of miles, might be appropriated to Irish, and also to German, laborers, but neither of the latter class, will work kindly with the Freedmen.

These laborers should be allowed to settle on the Lands of the Company, like the old mode of preempting, and when paid for, have title.

A very liberal price should be put on the Land, and on the labor of the Freedmen, and they should be encouraged to clear up the Land, and have Schools and Churches.

One-half price of Labor would subsist them, and the other half would pay for 40 acres, in about a year, if they worked well.

They ought to preempt 160 acres, and pay for 40 acres each year.

Personally, I feel much interest in this matter, but at 75 years of age, I can't do much. I have sufficient of this world's goods, and therefore, what I can do to aid this much injured class, will be done freely, and as a matter of duty.

After another interview with Genl. Dix, will trouble you with another letter.

Very Respectfully & Truly Yours  
Anson Blake

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York, July 18, 1865  
Blake, Anson

Writes in regard to employing negroes on Pacific R.R.  
July 22nd 1865, Recd  
File

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2753 7/18/1865

*From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2698

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office  
No. 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[177]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office  
No. 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia, July 18, 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
My Dear General

I have very great pleasure in introducing to you, Rev. W.D. Howard D.D. Of Pittsburgh, Pa. He is the Chairman of the Executive General Committee on Freedmen of the General Assembly of the O.S. Presbyterian Church. He occupies a distinguished position as a minister in that body, and is a very intimate friend of my own. He wishes to consult with you in reference to the work among the freedmen, and I cordially commend him to your Christian Confidence and Courtesy.

With many assurances of personal regard, I am

Yours Very Truly  
Geo. H. Stuart

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Philadelphia Pa.  
July 18 1865  
Stuart Geo H.  
Chairman U.S.C.C.  
Introducing Rev. W.D. Howard, who wishes to consult with Genl Howard.

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2754 7/18/1865 *From:* Saml A Duncan

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2699

Wilmington

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[47]

Office U.S. Military Telegraph,  
War Department.

The following Telegram received at Washington 940 am July 19 1865  
From Wilmington July 18 1865

Maj Gen OO Howard

Have caused a search to be made of all records at Fort Fisher & can find no such name as Barrow. Will cause search among the graves & report.

Saml A Duncan  
Bt Br Gen

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Wilmington <>  
July 18th 1865  
Duncan Saml A.  
Bvt. Brig. Genl.  
States that he can find no record of Barrow at Fort Fisher

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2755 7/19/1865 *From:* T.W. Osborn

*To:* My Dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2700

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37]

Allens Hotel  
Oneida N.Y.  
July 19th 1865

My Dear Genl,

I had rather hoped to hear from you to day to know what course you had concluded to take in my case but I have recd. no letter yet. I will write this though at a venture & you will treat it as you have concluded to treat my case. Capt. Sampson is here & will remain until I can go as far as Washington. Upon reaching W. he intends to resign & enter business. This takes the land of the officers who were assigned to me excepting Maj. Morris who I suppose was assigned but I never recd. notice of it. I understand he is south. If you still intend that I shall go to Florida or elsewhere I would like you to apply that Dr. S.L. Merrill Ast. Surgeon 17th U.S.C. Infy. now at Nashville be assigned to duty with me. I should like Merrills services besides as I shall have the use of but one arm for a long time yet. I wish him to accompany me. Consequently I make the application now.

The arm continues to do well, as well as could be expressed from the nature of the fracture which was just below the socket of the shoulder simply breaking of the head of the bone.

Very Resply your  
Obt. Servt.  
T.W. Osborn

P.S.

If Merrill is detailed I would like Sladen to send him a copy of the order direct & request him to be at Wash. on the 1st of August. Direct to the Regt. at Nashville Tenn. O.

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2756 7/19/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2701

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands  
Washington

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[615]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
Washington, July 19th, 1865.

Dearest

I will write you a few lines this morning to let you know that we are well. Guy is going to ride out to Mr Blairs to see the grey horse this morning. He seems to be enjoying himself, plays well, sleeps well. He is a good deal of company for me. I am almost always too busy to talk with him, but I enjoy having him about. Night before last we went over to Freedmen's village. The white people there are afflicted with chills and find difficulty in preventing them.

I shall try & start for home monday after next. Perhaps leave Washington in the night train sunday evening. I dont feel sure yet of being away 30 days, but will try for it.

I didnt quite understand your indignation at the meddling of other people; probably you saw something in the papers that I did not see. I sent you two hundred dollars by the last mail which I hope you received. Give much love to the children. Thank Mrs Jackman from me for all the interest she has manifested in us and for her great kindness.

God bless you. Lovingly,  
Otis





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2758 7/20/1865    *From:* T. E. Stone

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2703

*Source:* Bowdoin

Middlesex Mechanics  
Association  
Incorporated 1825  
Lowell, Mass.

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[45]

Middlesex Mechanics Association  
Incorporated 1825  
Lowell, Mass., July 20th, 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard:  
Dear Sir -

As Secretary, and in compliance with a vote, of the Lecture Committee, I find special pleasure in inviting you to speak before the Middlesex Mechanic Association, during its 10th annual series of lectures, which will be commenced November 1st, 1865. The Committee understand very well that you are not a public lecturer; but you have been so prominent in the eyes of the people the last four years; your devotion to our country, and your patriotism and bravery having made every class in New England familiar with your name, well all want both to see you and to hear you speak.

Can you not, then, during the approaching Fall or Winter, when you will surely be going to your home, pause over one night in Lowell? Lowell is only 25 miles, by rail from Boston; or you could come directly from New York here, without going to Boston, and go on in the morning to Maine, thus saving a night in Boston without extending the miles of travel.

I hope to receive a favorable reply to this invitation; and trust you will not answer it until you have given the subject deliberate consideration, when, I doubt not, you will find no obstacle in the way of your visiting our somewhat famous city.

We have three lecturers for the course engaged already: Dr. A.S. Stone of Boston; John B. Gough, of Worcester; Geo. Wm. Curtis of New York; besides Prof. Cooke, of Cambridge Harvard College for a series of four scientific lectures. I assure you, you will be in good company if you grant me the pleasure and privilege of adding your name to the list which is as yet incomplete.

Hoping to receive, in due time a favorable reply, I beg to assure you I am  
Very respectfully your obt. Ser't.  
T. E. Stone, for the Com.

Maj. Gen. Howard

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2759 7/20/1865      *From:* J.S. Fullerton

*To:* My Dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2704

Hilton Head S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44]

Private

Hilton Head S.C. July 20 / 65.

My Dear Genl.

I arrived at Charleston yesterday, remained a few hours and then took the Steamer for this place where I arrived at 2. o'clock this morning. I saw Gen Saxtons agents at Charleston, Mr Thomlinson (or Tomlinson) and Mr Pillsbury. I had not time to make a thorough examination of affairs pertaining to the Bureau in Charleston and I will return there for that purpose in a few days. This evening I will go to Beaufort where I will remain a day or two, thence to Savannah, thence to Charleston. It will hardly be worth while for me to go to Florida, but I will if I can. The Asst Comr of the Bureau for that State should be there now. Personally I do not wish to go to Augusta as there is almost a certainty of taking the fever (so it is said here) in going up the river, but it may be necessary for me to go and see Gen Steadman comndg the Dept of Georgia. It is reported that <Geolvied> is really running wild, and that he proposes not only to conduct the affairs of this Bureau, but also military and civil, as well as political affairs in the State of Georgia.

Gnl Saxton has been traveling to Charleston &c with Secy Chase and making such speeches to the negroes on the subject of suffrage as are likely to make them discontented and to lead them to think that unless they get certain imaginary rights they are not free. I have every reason to believe the reports of the military authorities here that General Saxton pays more attention to such matters than to his legitimate duties as Asst. Commr. Of the Bureau. I will not make a definite report of Gnl Saxtons official Conduct though until after I have seen him or examined ore thoroughly into the workings of his system – if he has any. I can say this much now. Gnl Saxton has but little administrative ability and he has too much to do, so but very little has been done. The State of South Carolina is as much as he can attend to and I think a good man should be appointed for Georgia – not <Geolvied>, (who might take a District).

I must say that I was quite disgusted when I arrived at Charleston and found that so little had been done by the offices of this Bureau in S.C. The two Citizen Agents at Charleston are confined principally to issuing rations hearing a few complaints and attending meetings. Not an application has been made to the Agent of the Treasury Department for Abandoned or Confiscated Lands or for money arising from the same in the hands of said Agents. I asked Mssrs Thompson & Pillsbury why nothing had been done in this matter and they said that they were a little in the dark, and were waiting for instructions to be given by Gnl Saxton upon his return.

I have had a very satisfactory interview with Gen Gillmore who says that he wishes to do everything that he can to assist you in the matter of freedmen affairs. Gnl G. is radical enough to suit any person, except upon the sufferage question, and in reference to this he says that he will be glad to see the negro have universal sufferage as soon as he is prepared for it. The want of harmony between Gnls Gillmore & Saxton, so far as Gnl Gillmore is concerned, is, I think, on account of several very radical men of strong prejudice whom Gnl S. has assigned to duty in his Department. One of the men is Mr Pillsbury in Charleston and another Maj Delaney 104 U.S.C.I. Maj Delaney is <conspicuous> in throwing obstacles in the way of the military authorities. Whenever an order has been issued by military authorities that he does not like he calls a meeting of Colored Citizens to consider it, and he is the chief orator at such. He has told the negroes in public speeches that the lands that they have been working upon belongs to them and they should have it. This irritates and discontents the negroes, and makes them in some cases refuse to work for the owner of the soil at any price, and in some other causes them to brake contracts that have been made. Gen Gillmore told me that Saxton told him that Delaney is a very bad man and was doing much damage. Today I telegraphed you about him, & if I gain any more information on the same subject at Beaufort, will write to you.

I left N.Y. City on Saturday last & almost before I was out of the town I cast my bread upon the waters , and from that time until we arrived near to Charleston was quite sick & confined to my berth.

Please excuse haste.

Truly your <>  
J.S. Fullerton  
AAG

[This could be the ending of another letter with a missing opening, or the continuation of the above letter.]

While in Charleston I was informed that Mr Preston and Mr Chesnut, both leading men of this State, are now hiring their former slaves and making contracts with them. Since my arrival here, I have heard of many other men who are or were men of political and social influence who have adopted the same policy. This will have a very good influence, for as the leading men do in the South, so do the people.

In the matter of detail of Agents for this Bureau for the State of South Carolina, Genl. Gillmore proposed to allow each of his District and Post Commanders to act as such, ex officio. This, on your behalf, I objected to as these officers could not leave their posts for the purpose of inspecting, or for any other duty, unless upon permission of their Military Commanders, and then all orders from the Assistant Commsr. of the Bureau for this State would have to be transmitted to them through Military Commanders. They would make very good Agents of the Bureau and very poor military officers or vice versa. They could not be both. Genl. Gillmore then said that he would give one officer for every county or parish or considerable town in the State if he had them to spare, but he cannot as he has hardly more than enough to perform the required military duties. He has agreed therefore to give as many as he can, and also to detail intelligent Non. Com. Officers and enlisted men for like duty. I think though, even in this case, he will not be able to detail quite as many as are needed, as the most of his regiments are composed of colored troops.

After I see Gnl Saxton or his Agent I will again return to Hilton Head to talk with Genl. Gillmore about this matter, and I think a very satisfactory arrangement can be made with him.

Very Respy  
Yr Obt Servt.  
J.S. Fullerton  
Bvt Col & A.A.G.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Hilton Head, S.C.  
July 20th, 1865  
Fullerton, J.S.  
Bvt Brig Genl.  
Relative to Freedmens affairs in Dept. Of South.

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2760 7/20/1865

*From:* Chas. H. Hart

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2705

1819 Chestnut Street  
Phila

Com. Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[46]

1819 Chestnut Street  
Phila July 20th 1865

My dear Sir,

If your Oration at Gettysburg on July 4th has been printed in pamphlet you will be conferring a very great favor, by informing me where I may obtain a copy.

If you have delivered any other addresses &c which have been printed I would also be obliged by knowing where you they may be procured.

With sentiments of high esteem.

I am veery respectfully your obd. & hum. Servt.  
Chas. H. Hart

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com. Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington

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2761 7/20/1865

*From:* Th. J. Wood

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard,

OOH-2726

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Third  
Division, Fourth Army  
Corps,  
Assistant Adjutant  
General's Office,  
Indianola, Texas

Chief of the Freedmen's  
Bureau

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[76, 77]

Head-Quarters Third Division, Fourth Army Corps,  
Assistant Adjutant General's Office,

Indianola, Texas, July 20th 1865.

My dear General:

I write to say to you that if no Commissioner for Freedmen has been appointed for the state of Texas, I would be glad to have the appointment. In the present saddened state of our divisions and corps there is very little for General officers to do, and a very limited field for usefulness.

There is perhaps no state in the Union in which an active and intelligent officer would be so useful in regulating and putting on a proper footing the Freeman and carrying out the policy of the Government and Nation toward them, as in this state. From the first that this state has put in a very slight degree the disorganizing influence of the war. The system of slavery has been very little disturbed, and in many parts of the state the negroes are nearly in the same condition as before the war.

There is certainly a wide field for work here in the Freedmen's Department.

The problem of disposing wisely, justly and humanely of the African man is a great one, which must be met and solved. The Nation can not avoid it if it desired to do so.

Previous to the war I had served six years in this state, much the greater portion of the time in the most densely populated parts of the state, (I was on staff duty) around Austin, San Antonio, Galveston, &c. in this way I formed a larger acquaintance with the people of this state than is probably possessed by any officer of this army; and this acquaintance would probably give me greater facilities for working with the people of this state than any other officer could command.

If appointed, I could, of course, enter on the duties of the position so soon as furnished with the proper instructions. Let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

With the kindest regards,  
I am, very truly your friend,  
Th. J. Wood

To/ Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Indianola, Texas

July 25th 1865

Wood T.J.

Maj. Genl.

Would like appointment as Commissioner for Texas

answr LB

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2762 7/21/1865    *From:* M. B. Lakeman

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2706

47 Long Wharf  
Boston

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[47, 48]

Boston July 21st / 65

General  
Dear Sir,

Being about applying for a situation in the Custom House here, and it being requisite to have certificates of service and merit, I take the liberty of applying to you as the only General officer now living except Genl Ward, who knows of my service and the working of the Regt.

I have a good recommendation from Gov Cony [Maine], in which he speaks of the 3rd being originally your regiment, and I think if you can give me a certificate it would assist me verry much in obtaining a situation which I am much in need of, as I am now and have been for seven months at a great expence on account of the sickness of my wife, who I regrett to say cannot long be here with me. She is suffering from an inward cancer for which nothing can be done but to make her as comfortable as possible, which I use my utmost endeavor to do.

Be assured General that anything you may do for me will not be misplaced, as I have after so long delay excepted your kind advice and am proud to say that I am a Temperance Man, and by the grace of God shall remain so.

Wishing you great success in your new undertaking, and with the kindest regards for you and yours,

I remain as ever  
Yours Very truly  
M. B. Lakeman  
47 Long Wharf

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Boston July 21st 1865  
Lakeman M.B.  
Requests recommendation for position in the Custom House.

Answ.

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2763 7/22/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2707

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[616]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, July 22nd 1865

Dearest,

It is very hot here in Washington this morning and I am greatly affected by the heat and wish I was with you at Augusta. Our house is a cool & pleasant as any in town but that is not saying much just now.

Col. Markland is intending to take his wife to Cincinnati starting Sunday night, to be gone some two weeks. Mrs M. has been very attentive to Guy, has taken him to the Capitol, Patent Office, and other public places. Today they go to see the market. Sam has gone to work as Steward of our mess and has done well. This he has done in addition to his work for me personally, which is comprized in a little aid in the morning and evening at dressing & undressing.

Guy is quite well and I think getting into even better condition than when he came. He is a very good boy, obedient, kind and intelligent. Col. Markland thinks very highly of him. I think Col. M. feels badly that he has no children. Before Guy came he kept saying how much he wanted my children to come & play in the yard to keep it alive.

All matters about servants, housekeeping &c I will leave to talk over with you when I come on I shall surely bring you on when I come back at least part way where I can see you occasionally. I feel too much like a stranger to my family. Everything is so remarkably uncertain now in army and political life, that we must be together when we can and lose not a drop of comfort we always derive from each others society. I need your sympathy and society, and I feel it is wrong to make you struggle along without mine. I hope you are very well, darling, since your happy visit to Washington & Phila. The enjoyment of your visit to me was greater than any other during our wedded life. It almost seems like a dream. Your own freshness and <> affection dwells daily in my heart. I get away from thoughts of responsibility & care by devoting my thoughts to you, and here I find no difficulty in dwelling with pleasure. Our wedded life has surely been happy but it seems wonderfully short and I cant help feeling as if there was danger of our getting old & moving off the stage, before we have had a fair portion of life.

How is Harry Stinson. I do hope he will be improved and strengthened by his visit. Gilbreth is always a source of anxiety to me. I think he is inclined to dissipation and is very worldly and my poor influence dont quite <nachliness>. Give my kindest regards to all my friends. My love to Mrs Jackson. And much love & many kisses to the children. Love to mother if you write. I hope we shall soon be together. God bless & keep you.

Lovingly Your husband  
Otis

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2764 7/22/1865 *From:* L.J. Putnam

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2708

Bedford L.I.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49, 50]

Bedford L.I. July 22, 1865

Dear Sir,

I avail myself of this method to call your attention to the subject of this letter which will convey to you some ideas that may serve the interest of the Freedmen in the southern states. In reflecting upon the history of these people & the relations & the power of the Bureau to control it, I cannot but hope, that my efforts will be fully considered & will be approved by you.

The Plan to give the Freedmen Homestead Right to lift them above the position of tenant at will originated from me as you will see by referring to the Washington Morning Chronicle of the 22 of April 1864 in which a communication was published written by me as the way mark to reach the solution of the great problem which is demanded alike for the white man & the colored man who must depend upon the policy of the Government as the guide to the future.

The power vested in you as commissioner of Freedmen, will open to you the way to treat the subject with the seriousness its importance demands as all that they will be in the future may come from the decision to establish these people in a permanent position on all the plantations in the southern states. The first requirement is protection with a field open to them that they may become the industrial class of the south. How can they obtain this without the agency of the Government <say> what Plan will it adopt to lead to that result. To answer the question in a useful manner & without any presumption on my part that would infringe upon its dignity with right, of your Bureau is the object of my solicitude. It has been my determination to make a mark in the history of the colored people & I believe that I have nearly reach the object of my ambition. The contents of the circular herewith transmitted is the key to the principles by which I am governed in writing you this Letter which will served as a link to the efforts to protect my people in the transition & open the way for their elevation. For I cannot but think that their destiny to some extent is in your hands as I will endeavor to show & which will be determined by the plan you may adopt in their behalf.

The surrender of the abandon lands to those who may claim them is the turning point & may become the subject of the highest importance if the condition to provide for the Freedmen to retain their homes for three or five years & be supplied with means to plan provisions for their families under the guidance of you should be adopted. It will enable them on the other hand to cultivate the remainder of the Plantation for any owner wh will need the labor to carry on the culture of the Land until the Government can fix upon the Plan to establish them in a permanent position.

The vitality of emancipation depends upon a national organization of the freedmen into an industrial class to cary on the agriculture of the south & at the same time manage their own affairs on the homestead. In every case where the owner of any land either from opposition to the Government or other cause fail to cultivate the soil, the colored people for self preservation must carry it on as the only means to sustain the system of industry necessary to establish the great principle of self elevation to govern them. To keep them from the allunements of the cities & beyond the reach of whisky & the Police office & other degrading features of civilization would be the greatest blessing that could be conferred upon a people exposed to the pernicious example of the dominant class.

I make the reference not in an offensive sense but it is referred to as a vice that would be decidedly against the moral & the intelligent work that must be done for the elevation of the Freedmen.

While Congress is the source from which success must come, yet, the foundation for its proceedings upon this important subject may depend upon the means by which you are governed & I hope that under the guidance of Providence you will be able to supply.

I am, sir

yr obt servt  
L.J. Putnam

To Maj. Gen. Howard

P.S. The circular will not be printed before next week whn a copy will be sent. Should it please you to see me in reference to the subject of this letter I will be happy to anseswr any demand you may be pleased to make.  
L.H.P.

Herkimer St near Ralph Ave.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Bedford L.I.

July 22d 1865

Putnam L.H.

Gives views in regard to Freedmen

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2765 7/22/1865 *From:* W. Reynolds, Jr.

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2709

Dept of the Interior  
General Land Office  
Washington City D.C.

Super't Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[51]

Washington City D.C.  
July 22d 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Super't Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
General

I would respectfully ask if it be possible for you to give Capt Wm. H. Goodrel of the 15th Iowa Regt 3d Brig'd 4th Div 17th Army Corps, and appointment of some kind in the Bureau, under your charge, either here or in the West. I apply to you per request of Capt Goodrel who is busy now at Louisville Ky, in arranging for the mustering out of the men of the Regiment, and as soon as he is mustered out he wishes to get some employment, until he can get a permanent position. Allow me to say that Wm. H. Goodrel's service commenced with the Wilson Creek Battle Mo, under Genl Lyon, in the 1st Iowa Regt as a private in which engagement he was severely wounded. After his recovery, he re-enlisted for the war (with three brothers) in the 15th Iowa. After battle of Corinth & Juka was promoted to 1st Lieut and has been with your Army from thence via Atlanta Savannah up to Richmond and Washington D.C. He was recommended for promotion to a Captaincy by his Commanding Officer Genl Belknap for the bravery and skill displayed in deploying and manageing the advance skirmish line at Bentonsville –he being Picket Officer. Enough has been said General to give you an idea of the services performed by one of your many brave boys, and now after over four years hard service, coming into a life as it were, & to enable him to look around, he wishes me to apply for him to you for a position. He is a young man about 26 years of age & has a wife, good, steay, upright and honest, and I think would make a good an faithful assistant.

If necessary he will forward papers of recommendation from Brvt Major Genl Belknap, Brig'd Genl Hedrick, Gov. Stone of Iowa, Adj't Genl Baker of Iowa & Ex Gov Kirkwood and others which he informs me have volunteered to assist him in this way, when out of the Service. For the favor of a reply to the above request that I may forward the same to him I will be under obligation.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
W. Reynolds, Jr.  
P.O. Box 455

Dept of the Interior  
General Land Office

P.S. I inclose W.H. Goodrel's correspondence, & official orders

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington D.C.

July 22d 1865

Reynolds H. Jr.

Genl Land Office

Recommends Capt. Wm H. Goodrel 15th Iowa Vols for position in Freedmen's Bureau

Answd

[Attached 3 clippings from newspaper articles.]

From North Carolina.

Correspondence of the Daily State Register.

Headquarters 4th Division 17th Army Corps

Goldsboro Mary 27, 1865.

We have, after fifty-eight days of weary marching, arrived at our destination, where we are preparing for another and last campaign. Our march through South Carolina was a perfect success, compelling the Rebels to evacuate Charleston, destroying all their railroad communications, both north and south. We arrived before Columbia, South Carolina, on the 19th of February. During the night of the 16th, Col. Kennedy, 18th Iowa, Lt. H.C. McArthur and Lt. Wm. H. Goodrell, of the 15th Iowa, and A.D.C. to Gen. Belknap, fitted up an old boat preparatory to crossing the river the next morning. The 15th Army Corps was on our left, fighting for the bridge across Broad River. We however crossed without opposition and with nineteen men and the colors of the 18th Iowa Infantry, advanced through the city until we came to the main street, where we captured a horse and buggy, in which we mounted our color-bearer with the colors, Col. Kennedy and Lt. McArthur as passengers, and Lt. W.H. Goodrell as conductor, started on the "double trot" for the State House. We arrived in about one square of the Capitol building when we were attacked by a squad of Wheeler's Rebel Cavalry, and one feminine. As usual, they fired their one round and "skedaddled." We gave them the contents of one gun, the only one we had with us, and proceeded on our way, amidst a crowd of "darkies" (dancing, shouting and performing all kinds of gymnastics,) citizens, &c., which had by this time surrounded us, thinking, no doubt, that the army was at our heels following us in. Col. Kennedy, Lt. McArthur, and the color-bearer started for the old Capitol building; the soldier that carried the banner and Lt. Wm. H. Goodrell proceeded to the new Capitol building, and planted the banner of the 18th on the Capitol of South Carolina. The colors of the 18th Iowa were planted and waved over Columbia an hour before any other troops reached the city. The town surrendered to Col. Stone, 25th Iowa, and he with his Brigade took possession of the city, with the exception of the Capitol building. The 15th Corps occupied the city first, notwithstanding the statements of correspondents to the contrary. At dark whisky was found, and the consequence was that citizens, darkies, and soldiers even, were on a general jollification, and the next morning the city of Columbia was nothing but smoking ruins. No one can be to blame, save the citizens themselves. If they had taken the precaution to destroy the liquors, all would have been right. Our march was through swamps, wading sometime waist deep, the men ragged, and a great many barefooted, but all was endured without a complaint. We lived on chickens, turkeys, and whatever the country afforded, must to the disgust of the Old Ladies who prize their poultry very highly.

We have traveled five hundred miles through the very hot-bed of Secession, and are all packed, clothed, and fitted up for our onward march—probably via Raleigh, and hope to be in reporting distance of Gen. Grant soon. I send you herewith the report of our march by Brig. Gen. W.W. Belknap, and Brevet Maj. Gen. Giles A. Smith's order relative thereto.

Yours truly, G.H.W.

Headquarters Third Brigade,  
4th Division, 17th Army Corps,  
Goldsboro, N.C. March 25, 1865

Captain: I have the honor to make the following brief report relative to the movements of this brigade on the late campaign:

Leaving Savannah on the 6th of January, it moved from Pocotaligo, on the 29th of the same month, entered Orangeburg on February 12th, and Columbia, the Capital of the State of South Carolina, on the 19th of February. Camped near Cheraw, S.C., March 3d, near Fayetteville N.C., on March 11th and entered Goldsboro, N.C. on March 24th, having been transported 60 miles, and marched 484½ miles; corduroying the roads, rebuilding bridges, and traveling much of the distance through swamps, which had to be waded by the men.

On February 7th the 11th Iowa Infantry under Lt. Col. Ben Beach, marched from Midway to the bridge over the Edisto River, which was defended by the rebels, and compelled them to evacuate their position and destroy the bridge.

On February 16th, a detachment of the 18th Iowa Infantry, under command of Lt. Colonel Kennedy, accompanied by Lieuts. William H. Goodrell and H.C. McArthur, of the 15th Iowa, of my staff, crossed the Congaree River to Columbia, while a portion of the enemy were in the city; marched through town and planted, in advance of all others, the colors of that Regiment on both the old and new Capitol buildings. Col. Kennedy and his men deserve great credit for the successful accomplishment of this movement.

On March 20th, near Bentonville, N.C., the brigade went into position, and on the 21st a new line being established, the skirmish line was ordered to advance, which they did, driving the rebel skirmishers from their

pits and actually charging a heavy line of battle of the enemy, only retiring when opposed by an overwhelming force. Our loss on the skirmish line was 25. Few fields show more traces of severe fighting than the ground occupied by this gallant line.

My thanks are especially due Lieut. Wm. H. Goodrell, brigade picket officer, for the manner in which he handled his men on that day.

On the campaign the following amount of Railroad has been destroyed: Feb 8th, 3½ miles of S.C. railroad, between Midway and the Edisto River; Feb. 18th, two miles of the Columbia Branch S.C. railroad, near Orangeburg; Feb. 18th, 1½ miles of the Charlotte railroad, between Columbia and Winnsboro; Feb. 19th, one mile of the Charlotte railroad; Feb. 20th, one mile of the same road; Feb. 22d, two miles of the same road. Total 11 miles.

The duties of the campaign have been performed, and the trials of the march endured cheerfully by both officers and men for which they have my thanks.

I am, Captain, very respectfully,  
Your ob't servant,  
Wm. W. Belknap,  
Brig. Gen. Comd'g 3d Brigade.

Headquarters 4th Div., 17th A.C.,  
Near Columbia, S.C. Feb. 17, 1865

Brig. Gen. W.W. Belknap: - Sir: Allow me to congratulate you and through you, Lt. Col. J.C. Kennedy, 13th Iowa Vet. Vols., and the men under his command, for first entering the city of Columbia on the morning of Friday, February 17th, and being the first to plant his colors on the Capitol of South Carolina. While the army was laying Pontoon bridges across the Saluda and Broad Rivers, three miles above the city, Lt. Col. Kennedy, under your direction, fitted up an old worn-out flat boat, capable of carrying about twenty men, and accompanied by Lieuts, H.C. McArthur and Wm. H. Goodrell, of your staff, crossed the river in front of the city, and boldly advanced through its streets, sending back the boat with another procured on the opposite shore for more troops and on their arrival, with seventy-five men in all, drove a portion of Wheeler's cavalry from the town, and at 11½ a.m. planted his two stand of colors, one upon the old, the other upon the new Capitol.

The swift current of the Congaree River, and its rocky channel rendered his crossing both difficult and dangerous, and the presence of the enemy, but in what force unknown, rendered the undertaking still more hazardous.

Lt. Col. Kennedy and his regiment are entitled to great credit for its successful accomplishment.

I have the honor to be very respect'ly  
Your ob't servant,  
Giles A. Smith,  
Brevet Maj. Gen. Comd'g.

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2766 7/22/1865

*From:* A. Hickenlooper

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2710

Hd. Qrs. 3d Brig'd 4th  
Div.  
Near Louisville, Ky

Washington City

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[53, 54]

Hd. Qrs. 3d Brig'd 4th Div.  
Near Louisville, Ky  
July 22d, 65

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington City  
Genl

I have the honor to acknowledge this receipt of your Communication of the 15th.

I was not aware that my Battery was mustered out, and since writing to you I have rec'd a letter from it, which states that a portion only (the non veterans) was sent home, rather indicating that the organization was to be retained. I suppose however that it is liable to be mustered out at any time.

The last regiment of my brigade will be mustered out tomorrow, or next day, when I will be ordered to Cincinnati and to report from thence to the Adj. Genl for muster-out, or assignment. Of course I do not wish to go back to my battery now, and if it remains in service, will resign in preference to doing so.

I was only desirous of remaining in service at the present time, with a wish of going into the new organization. I have passed the examination required by order for Corps Hd. Qrs. and have been recommended by the Board for a Majority in Artillery and if there is any prospect of securing a position, I did not wish to enter into business 'till that was decided.

The proposition which you mention as having made, you will recollect was very indefinite, as you simply remarked to me, in your room at the Hotel, that if I suddenly found myself a citizen or out <ga> position to remember that you had made an application for me.

I assure you that I feel under deep obligations for your universal kindness, and can only hope that I may at some future time have an opportunity of reciprocating.

Very Respectfully  
A. Hickenlooper

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Near Louisville Ky  
July 22d 1865  
Hickenlooper A.  
Bvt Brig. Genl.  
Friendly letter  
File

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2767 7/22/1865 *From:* SP Chase

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2711

Concord N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[55]

Concord N.H. July 22, 1865

Dear General

Your reply to my last letter is received and is satisfactory. Accept my sincere thanks for it.

I cannot believe that the impressions of Gen. Grant – though my confidence in him is perfect – concerning Gen. C [Carrington] are quite correct, but you could only act as you have done.

So far as I personally know the Assistants selected they are well chosen; and I feel a strong assurance that under your administration the Bureau is to be a first blessing to the colored citizens and to the whole country.

Very cordially & respectfully yours  
SP Chase [Salmon P Chase]

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

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2768 7/23/1865    *From:* Mrs J. J. Dana

*To:* Major Genl Howard

OOH-2712

119 Prospect St.  
Georgetown

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[56]

Mrs J. J. Dana

presents her kind regards Major Genl Howard and would be glad to see him with his son tonight at 6 P.M. to commemorate Louisa Miller's birth day and meet the children of his friends in a cool & pleasant place.

119 Prospect St. Georgetown. Last house but one in the St. next to the residence of Mrs Southworth the novelist.

Monday July 23d [1865?] [Monday July 23d occurred on 1866. Keep it as 1865, because Guy was in Washington with his father at that time.]

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2769 7/23/1865 *From:* Royal E Whitman

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2713

Savannah Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[57, 58]

Savannah Ga Jul 23d 1865

My dear General

I have delayed writing you for some time hoping to have something of interest to communicate but my opportunities for observation here have been limited to the city and its immediate surroundings. And I presume that what could be said of the status of the freedmen here would apply equally well to all Southern Departments. I have noticed them closely, and it seems to me what is most needed by them is an increased number of men appointed by the Government whose duty it is to provide employment for them at proper wages and homes for the poor unfortunates who are unable to work. By mixing freely with the people here I <am> noticing the <instindios> hatred they almost universally manifest for the negro free and the swearing way they speak of all efforts to enlighten and instruct him. I have been able more fully to appreciate the great weight of responsibility the Government has put upon you. There seems to be a determination on the part of former Slaveholders to withhold their support of the Government in an indirect way, by allowing their estates to lie idle, and as they have lost many of their best hands to drive the balance after them to be supported by the Government. There are hundreds without clothing or employment that draw their Subsistence from the Commissary of this post who seem to be entirely without the encouragement or opportunity to labor which ought to be afforded them. This idleness although compulsory in a great degree is an argument used against them. And the ignorance and stupidity of the poor creatures who have hardly ever before been outside the boundaries of their own plantations is another. I have had my sympathies so warmly enlisted in their favor and have so much faith in the effect of kindness & encouragement, with a proper system of labor and remuneration, that were I out of the service I would make application to have a <planton> myself and give the subject a fair trial.

Bvt Maj Genl Brannan is in command of this District is generally liked I believe. I hardly think his sympathies have kept pace with the policy of the Government in relation to the negro. My Regt is permanently attached to this post. Col Hubbard has resigned which leaves me in command. You will be kind enough to inform me when I can render you any service.

I am General

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Royal E Whitman [First cousin of Otis' wife Lizzie (Waite) Howard]

Lieut. Col. 30th Me Vol. Inf.

To

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Savannah Ga

July 23d, 1865

Whitman, Royal E.

Lt. Col. 30th Me Vols

Friendly Letter

No answer required. Col Whitman's regt mustered out.



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2771 7/24/1865 *From:* Ch. J. Dalloz

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2715

*Source:* Bowdoin

New Orleans Tribune,  
No. 21 Conti St.,  
New Orleans

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[72]

New Orleans Tribune,  
No. 21 Conti St.,  
New Orleans, July 24, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard, Commissioner  
of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
General,

From this day forward the N.O. Tribune will be sent to you. I take the Liberty to State that the Tribune takes a particular interest in the welfare of the freedmen, and is the only paper in Louisiana that exposes the wrongs perpetrated against them. We hope that you will find in it a faithful picture of facts – as they are.

I am, General, your  
Obedient Servant,  
Ch. J. Dalloz,  
for the editorial corps of the N.O. Tribune.

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2772 7/24/1865 *From:* A. Chester

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2716

General Land Office  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[63]

General Land Office  
Washington July 24, 65

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

I have rec'd from Boston a package of Pamphlets under the "frank" of Hon Senator Wilson, with a request that I should make such disposition of them as I deemed best. As they constitute a series of five different pamphlets, I have taken the liberty of enclosing you one set of them. Their character you will discover at a glance, and it may be of interest to you, if not already in possession of them, to have them at hand, as I understand they, with others not yet in print, will be extensively circulated throughout the Country.

With great respect  
Your Obt Servt  
A. Chester  
Vice Pres National <Union> League

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2773 7/24/1865 *From:* James G. Brom

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2717

Dalton Ga

Freedmans Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

Dalton Ga July 24th 1865

Maj Gen OO Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
General,

I have the honor to state that I have written you twice, and respectfully to ask whether you have received them.

General  
Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
James G. Brom

---

2774 7/24/1865 *From:* Wm. H. Morris

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2718

Home Journal Office  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

Home Journal Office  
New York 24th July '65

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear General

May I have the honor of using your name for the last page of the enclosed circular?

Gen Swaine was kind enough to say he would give you a set of my books for me, as he would see you. If he did not, I will take pleasure in sending you another set.

I am, dear General  
Very cordially yours,  
Wm. H. Morris

[Written upside down on the last page in a different hand.]  
New York July 24th '65  
Morris W.H. B.G.  
Asks approval of his tactics for Infty  
Answd

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2775 7/24/1865 *From:* Myron J. Amick

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2719

Chicago Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

Chicago Illinois  
July 24th 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Sir,

I have the honor herewith to make inquiries concerning my anticipated appointment in the Regular Service, also a communication sent to you in regard to a Cadet-Ship in the Military Accademy at West Point - neither of which I have not been able to hear from.

I am now at home with my Friends. They are all glad to see me. They have heard through the Journals of the services I have rendered, but have failed to see where the Government has appreciated them. I may be making bold in claiming military preferment, but I think that I claim nothing more than my services demand and what I hope I am qualified to fill.

I do not wish you to think that I would sensure you in not trying to secure my promotion, as I have looked upon you as one of my best Friends while I had the honor to be in your command, and this is the reason why I have made so bold in addressing you upon this matter.

If the choice is left to me I would prefer a Cadet Ship.

In a few days after hearing from you I think I will be in Washington.

For the interest you have taken in my behalf I hope I may never prove ungrateful.

I am Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Myron J. Amick

[CHECK ORIGINAL -writing on the back of page 1.]

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2776 7/24/1865 *From:* P.S. Perley

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-2720

Henry, Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69]

Henry, Illinois, July 24, 1865.

My Dear Howard,

Your letter of the 10th instant was duly received and I was glad to hear from you and to learn that you had written me before though I did not get your letter. I was glad to see set down over your own signature that you had not changed toward me under your changed circumstances. If you have not forgotten me in these years of war you never will. I meet men here every day who have served under you and hold you in high regard, as soldiers do every good officer and it does me good to hear them commend you as a good officer, a pet of Shermans, and the best engineer in the army. I did not really hope you could do anything for me, had but little hope at any rate and so am not much disappointed. A clerkship at Washington I would not have if it paid twice what it does. I am boarding now – I at one place and my wife and Bruce and girl baby at another. He well. How many children have you now and where is your wife? Do you ever see Perry in Washington? Jennings O. was a Union man, was here last fall, and lives now at Little Rock Ark. I shall write you sometimes.

Yours as ever and truly,  
P.S. Perley

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Henry, Illinois  
July 24th 1865  
Perley, P.S.  
Friendly letter

---

2777 7/24/1865 *From:* B. F. Perry

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2721

Willards Hotel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70, 71] [CHECK ORIGINAL –Entire letter difficult to read due to the handwriting and bleed through.]

Willards Hotel  
July 24 1865

General Howard  
Dear Sir

I desired to have an interview with you very much to ascertain your views in regard to the Freed men of South Carolina.

I should like to have instruction from you in regard to my duty as Provisional Governor in relation to the Freed men - <> see that they have justice done them by their former owners. I believe that this <tone> is the <general> feeling of the State. My anxiety is to preserve the peace of South Carolina & prevent any collision <> between the two classes.

I will give you <> <> I leave in the morning for South Carolina - my head quarters will be Greenville Court House S.C. where you can address me.

As to any general <cooperation> all over the state it would be unequal as their labor is more solvable in some portions of the State than in others. It seems to me that General Schofield advised in North Carolina on the best here soon.

I am with great respect your &c

B. F. Perry [Benjamin Franklin Perry]  
Prov. Gov. SC

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington  
July 24, 1865  
Perry B.F.

Pro. Gov. of South Carolina

Requests instruction in regard to his duty towards the freedmen of South Carolina

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2778 7/24/1865    *From:* Francis C. Barlow  
Mgr Gen.

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2722

Brookline  
Massachusetts

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[65, 66]

Brookline Massachusetts  
July 24 / 65

My dear General

I do not know whether the news papers give a correct account of affairs in the Southern states but if they speak the truth some of the military commanders do not believe much in the "darkey" & do not give your Bureau much assistance.

You know the interest I have always taken in these Freedmens affairs & I have just written to the Secretary of War asking him to assign me to a command in the Southern states & suggesting that at the same time I might be made Superintendent of Freedmen in my District. If you think of any way in which I can help your general plans by holding a military command or otherwise. Will you let me know or see the Secretary or the subject. I should prefer being assigned to South Carolina or Georgia.

My address is  
Brookline Massachusetts

Truly  
Francis C. Barlow  
Mgr Gen.

Major General Howard  
&c &c

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]

Brookline Mass  
July 24th 1865  
Barlow Francis C  
Friendly letter  
Adopted

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2779 7/25/1865

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2723

Office Supt R.F.&A.L.  
Sub District Memphis

Chief Bureau R.F.&A.L.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73, 74]

Office Supt R.F.&A.L.  
Sub District Memphis July 25, 1865

Dear General

Your kind letters of the 17th & 210th both received yesterday for which please accept my thanks. I begin to fear that I may have troubled you unnecessarily, especially by my last letter sent by Genl Roberts. I supposed from the orders before me, that my own was an exceptional case, that no one with my rank was similarly placed, and that it was simply an oversight which if not corrected might be humiliating to myself and embarrassing to you. If as you state this is not the fact, I have no unwillingness to serve in my present place. In fact I very much prefer an important Dist which I can have under my immediate observation, to a larger field of duty in which I should be compelled to trust more to the discretion of subordinates. I prefer success in a small sphere to failure in a larger one. If the War Dept knows and understands what I am doing and approves of so I am content. I am very far from allowing any ambitious desire for place or power to <> trouble <sive>. I cannot but regard my assignment to duty as Providential, and if not relieved in a similar way, I shall hardly feel at liberty to decline to serve in a place where so much ought to be done, especially from any motives of personal ambition.

My object in my former letters recommending the enlargement of my Dist by adding northern Miss. & Eastern Ark, was first to make my Dist correspond to my rank and afford additional reason for serving in such a position should it be calling in question, and secondly because Memphis is the commercial centre of the country. The employees come here and the freed people also. More than one half of all the applications for assistance and information I have have come from the States names. Their citizens, for very evident reasons, declare their preference for doing their business with the Bureau, at this city and in several instances have stated their intention of writing yourself or Presdt Johnson asking to be set off to this Dist. Frankly General, if this can be done I really believe it would be for the best interests of the Bureau, and I would rather have the Dist so made up, than to be Asst Commr of a State. Personally I am pleasantly situated here and would rather have such a Dist than the the whole State of Tenn and go to Nashville to make my Head Quarters.

My relations with General Smith are very cordial. He is an honest just man, disposed to see facts in their just light and in their true proportions. I enclose a slip from the Memphis Commercial & also from Argus showing that my efforts to maintain pleasant relations with the civil authorities have not proved unsuccessful. I have reached this fortunate result by trying earnestly to be governed by, and to exhibit a spirit of fairness and justice. I have great confidence in the good effects that will flow from a display of good temper and firmness, and endeavor to govern myself accordingly.

Please have the medical officer promised in your letter of the 20th sent to me as soon as possible. I need his services very much. I should also like very much to have a supply of blank contracts to be used by the employers of the freed people at your earliest convenience.

I am Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servant.  
Davis Tillson  
Brig. Genl Vols & Supt &c

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Chief Bureau R.F.&A.L.  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, written in a different hand.]  
Memphis Tenn.  
July 25th 1865  
Tillson D

Brig. Genl.  
Friendly letter

---

2780 7/25/1865 *From:* J. G. Blaine

*To:* Maj. Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2724

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89]

Augusta Me,  
25 July 1865

My Dear General,

Among those who early cast their influence in favor of elevating the negro to a man in this war was Brig. Gen. H.G. Thomas of Portland.

He has achieved a gallant reputation as a soldier and is a refined & educated gentleman.

I am sure he would prove a most valuable adjunct in your labors for the Freedmen, and I commend him with confidence to your friendship & yr favor.

Always Sincerely yours  
J. G. Blaine

Maj. Gen Howard  
&c.

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2781 7/25/1865 *From:* Mrs V. Duncan

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2725

Norfolk

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Norfolk July 25th 1865

Gen Howard

Dear Sir

Words cannot express my feelings of gratitude to one who has been so kind and prompt in restoring my little property. It would be doing violence to my feelings not to express my obligation to you and should an opportunity offer the favour will be most cheerfully returned.

As soon as my means admit I shall ask the acceptance of some token as a remembrance of my regards towards you.

I remain

Most Respectfully

Mrs V. Duncan

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2782 7/25/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2727

Hd. qrs. Port Beaufort

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd. qrs. Port Beaufort  
July 25 1865

Dear brother

It is too late & I have no time to write except to say that my military duties prevented my going North this steamer but if I can get a Leave I intend to go upon the next, in 8 days & hope to meet you in Maine.

Col. Fullerton has gone to Savannah & possibly to Florida as he has been gone ever since yesterday. Hope Gen. Saxton will come soon & with new vigor for his Dept. is sorely in need of new energy.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

---

2783 7/25/1865 *From:* Annie P Lee

*To:* My dear Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-2728

Charlotte

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[79]

Charlotte July 25th 1865

My dear Mr Howard

I received your letter some time ago and wold have answered it ere this but my time is very much occupied as I have to work very hard washing, cooking and all sorts of things, since the Freedmens arrangement has prevailed to such a large extent among the poor deluded negroes, my only servant left me, which proved his extensive gratitude for past favors, but which did not surprise me at all and now my situation is a poor one, not a cent in the world, no provisions, and two little children to feed, clothe and educate, unless some of my old army friends at the North will assist me I shall want to starvation I must for my little ones by the kind assistance of old friends at the North to whom I shall write and by them to aid my Inn write to you to find out upon what terms a person can get their lands back that have been taken from us, for all I own is some Land at Port Royal So Ca. which belongs to my children and if I can get this in possession I will sell it and use the money for their especial use, I will do most anything before I will see them fall heir to the fate I see plainly staring us in the face, please write me what ever you can on this subject for I am anxious to know as we are without everything in this world.

Give my love to Mrs Howard, I remain your friend,  
Annie P Lee

---

2784 7/25/1865     *From:* W.M. Beebe Jr

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2729

Beaufort, S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[80, 81]

Beaufort, S.C.  
July 25th 1865

Dear General:

I arrive here only yesterday from my leave of absence, and found your letter concerning mine to Gen'l Hazen on the subject of promotion awaiting my return.

I am grieved beyond expression, General, that I should have written any thing to Gen'l Hazen, or indeed to any one which should seem like a complaint of neglect. I will acknowledge that when I heard of one officer after another with whom I had been associated, receiving brevet promotion, it seemed to me that my friends would think my services had been considered of less value than those of my comrades. There were never friends in whose estimation I deserved to stand as high as possible, firstly, and who, I knew would be pleased with such a mark of past services.

Whatever my feelings were, expressed in that letter, or whatever you may have inferred, I trust General you will forget. I never can forget, or fail to be grateful for your kindnesses to very dear and near friends, and never will, if I ever have, fail to remember your kindness, and friendly interest in me while under your command.

I had the pleasure of reading your very kind letter introducing me to Dr Monroe, for which accept my thanks. My visit in Maine was a delightful one. I regret that I could not see you during my visit North.

I spent last evening with Col. Howard at his house. He is quite well and busily engaged upon an examining board, before which I am shortly to appear. He will go North soon I think.

With high esteem, I am,  
General, Your obt Servant  
W.M. Beebe Jr  
Lt. Col. &c

[Written on the last page, in a different hand. Some comments were written in pencil, partially unreadable, so it was not transcribed.]

Beaufort S.C.  
July 25, 1865  
Beebe W.M. Jr  
Lt. Col. &c  
Personal Letter  
A.B. p.110

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2785 7/25/1865

*From:* George P. Ihrie

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2730

Irving House, N.Y. City

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82, 83]

Irving House, N.Y. City  
25th July, 1865

To  
Genl. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.  
In charge &c &c  
Washington, D.C.  
General:

If you wrote me last Friday, in reply to my second communication, (of Thursday the 20th inst.) you will see from the enclosed scrap, your letter has probably been so damaged by water as to preclude its delivery.

I much regret this accident but hope you will not find it inconvenient to duplicate your answer.

The promptness and courtesy of your first reply causes me to believe you were similarly prompt in answering the second.

Respectfully yours  
George P. Ihrie  
Late Col., A.A.D.C. & I.G.  
U.S.A.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

N.Y. Leitz  
25 July 1865  
Ihrie George P  
States southern mail lost.

---

2786 7/26/1865 *From:* Wm. E. Strong

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2731

Natchez Miss

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[84, 85]

Natchez Miss  
July 26th 1865

Dear General -

I am going down to New Orleans this evening on the Steamer Fashion. I have finished my examination of Col. Eaton's Dept. all except visiting Helena. Will stop at it on my way up the river. I will not be in New Orleans more than two or three days. I am not well and I dare not stay on the river much longer.

I shall see Conway will give his books and papers a thorough looking over, and will see every thing he has to show me in and around the city. I do not feel able to go into the interior of the state.

I wrote you a long letter yesterday evening, as to the condition of the Freedmen in this Dist. I hope you may receive it as well as the other letters I have written from different points.

I see by the papers that my regiment (12th Wisc) was mustered out of the service on the 18th instant, so I judge from the decision of the Adj. Genl. of the Army that I ceased to be an Officer on that day. I presume my orderlies Henry Taylor and George Reid have gone home before this time and that there is no one to care for my horses. I do not wish to trouble you with such small matters, but if you think of it, please ask Captain Gilbreth or some one of the Officers to have some one to take care of them until I return.

My kindest regards to all.

Respectfully Yours  
Wm. E. Strong

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Natchez Miss.

July 26th 1865

Strong Wm. E.

Brvt. <> Brig Genl

States he is going to New Orleans having finished examination of Col Eatons Dept except Helena. Will spend two or three days in N.O. &c.

Recd Aug 5 1865

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2787 7/26/1865

*From:* Chase A Stevens

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2732

Claim, Land, and Loan  
Agency  
Office, 273 F Street,  
Washington, D.C.

Supt. Bureau of Freedmen

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[86]

Chase A Stevens, Attorney,  
Claim, Land, and Loan Agency  
Office, 273 F Street, Washington, D.C.  
July 26th, 1865.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.,  
Supt. Bureau of Freedmen:  
General,

Please find enclosed a Circular, and after perusal, please express in a written form your views upon the utility and practicability of the plan, that we may have the benefit of your distinguished name. I have just returned from the Eastern States, and from frequent inquiries of prominent citizens there, as to the opinions you entertain upon this matter, I believe you will render your friends and the general community, as well as the Company, a valuable service, by such an expression of your views.

Your obedient servant,  
C.A. Stevens  
General Agent.

---

2788 7/26/1865 *From:* Richard L. Shelley

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2733

New Orleans

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87]

New Orleans  
July 26th 1865

Major General Howard  
Dear Sir

Permit me to presume on a slight acquaintance formed whilst acting as Special Correspondent of the N.Y. Tribune with your Army in N.C. And call your attention to some recent despatches; in reference to your Bureau, which I have sent to the N.Y. Tribune.

Slavery is at War with you <here> and unless there is a radical change in the Civil State government I do not know what will become of us.

I am much pressed for time, but will write you at greater length soon.

Your obedient Servant  
Richard L. Shelley  
Special Cor. N.Y. Tribune

P.S.

I think Conway wrong in removing Plumly. No man has done more, or is as capable of extending the benefits of the School system as Plumly.

R.L.S.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

New Orleans La.

July 25th 1865

Shelly, Richard L

Cor. "ribune"

Calls attention to articles written for the "ribune"&c.

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2789 7/26/1865 *From:* G.F. Shepler

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2734

Portland Maine

Supt Freedmens Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[88]

Portland Maine  
July 26, 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Supt Freedmens Bureau  
General

Brig Genl H.G. Thomas informs me that he would like to be assigned to duty in connection with the Bureau under your command.

I have been so situated as to be able to speak confidently from personal knowledge and observation of those qualities as the character of General Thomas which I think peculiarly fit him for such a command.

He is uncommonly energetic and industrious and possesses much executive and administrative ability.

He is firm and decided yet even in his temper and just and impartial to subordinates.

He has commanded a Brigade of colored troops and I found him to be a remarkably successful Brigade Commander as evinced by the good discipline and general good condition of his command in all respects.

I can say with sincerity and confidence that I consider him eminently well qualified for the discharge of the peculiar duties imposed upon an officer having charge of the interests of the Freedmen.

With great respect  
I have the honor to be  
Yours &c  
G.F. Shepler

---

2790 7/26/1865 *From:* F. McRae

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2735

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[90]

Phila July 26th 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Sir

I am in receipt of the transportation you were so kind to grant me, and for which you will accept my sincere thanks. I shall ever feel myself indebted to you for furnishing me with the means of reaching my Home & Family from whom I have been so long seperated.

Respectfully Yours

F. McRae

---

2791 7/26/1865    *From:* John Mendenhall

*To:* Maj General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2736  
*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Light  
Artillery Reserve, Dept  
Tenn.  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Washington City, D.C.

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[91]

Head-Quarters Light Artillery Reserve, Dept Tenn.  
Chattanooga, Tenn. July 26 1865

Maj General O.O. Howard  
Washington City, D.C.  
Dear General

In the event of an increase of the Regular Army I intend to apply for promotion such as my services and standing in the Army ought to entitle me to.

If you can send me a letter addressed to the Sec'y of War which will add to my claims for promotion I will be under lasting obligations.

I am General  
Very truly yours  
John Mendenhall  
Maj Comdg Lt Arty Res  
& Capt 4th U.S. Ifty

[Written in pencil in the margin of the first page, in a different hand.]  
Answd <shkr> Genl absent –would lay before him on return

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Chattanooga Tenn  
July 26th 1865  
Mendenhall John  
Major  
Requests commendation for position in regular Army

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2792 7/27/1865

*From:* Wm O. Otis

*To:* Gen O. O. Howard

OOH-1666

Care Baker & Raymond  
Austin City

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[015]

Austin July 27th [1862?] [see note]

My Dear Otis,

I suppose you will think it almost like hearing from the dead to get a letter from me, for while the papers keep me posted on all your movements, I suppose you have not heard of me since we met three years ago. The truth is that the war without diminishing my affection for my old friends, separated us so long and so completely that we have never got back to our old relations again, and I doubt whether I should have plucked up resolution to write even now except in my own interest. The truth is I am for the first time in my life completely discouraged. It seems to me that this Texas is becoming a perfect hell on earth.

When I came here from the North after the "break up", everything looked promising and I thought I had only to count out the lost years of the war and begin life again where I left it, but things have been rushing on from bad to worse – til now. Have you seen the report of the convention on Disorder & Outrages? More than a thousand people murdered in thirty counties in the last three years! Massacres, highway robberies, mobs, murders, organized bands of scoundrels holding whole counties in terror, and driving hundreds from their homes. Even here in Austin, the quietest place in Texas, three highway robberies have been committed in less than two weeks. The convention has been in session for two months without taking a step towards forming a constitution. The civil authority is a nonentity and the military does nothing, while every-day things grow worse. Of course all business is prostrate; people almost fear to travel. The country is overcrowded with professional men and teachers, while the industrial classes to support them are scared away. Though well known here and with many friends I can find nothing to do and see no present prospect ahead.

I write to ask you to give me a clerkship or some other temporary means of support until times alter. I can send you any amount of recommendations from the Governor and other officials here, though I believe you make it a general rule not to patronize your relations, and I am not very hopeful about the success of my request. Of course I write this in confidence, and do not wish it spoken of to our friends, for it is rather a humiliating confession to make. Of course I prefer something here in Texas, if you have anything here at your disposal.

Give my love to your wife and family

Your Affec. Cous.  
Wm O. Otis  
Care Baker & Raymond  
Austin City

Gen O. O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

[Note: The year was written in pencil as 1862? and enclosed in brackets. The text of the letter is better suited to be after the war, when OO was in charge of the Freedman's Bureau, so it is probably 1865.]

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2793 7/27/1865    *From:* Jeannie H. Grey

*To:* Dear friend General  
[OO] Howard

OOH-2737

Buttermilk Falls

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[92, 93]

Buttermilk Falls  
27 July 1865

Dear friend General Howard,

Do you remember among the best & most faithful friends of Jesus, (the methodists of this Village) one lady a Mrs Ryder? If ever there was a christian, she is one.

Well, she had two boys when you were here, the eldest not twenty, the younger Isaac, a fine little fellow, used to read to my poor papa before he went away. The eldest enlisted in Sept 1861 and was killed before Petersburg the 7th of April '65. "ky"enlisted on West Point, for five years –in February & was not seventeen till the next July! A mere boy you see! Now this bereaved mother yearns to have her remaining son back safely, as she nobly says, "ince his country does not need such a child any longer, she wants him!" He is at or near Petersburg. I know your heart will feel for him but cannot do more? Cannot you bring influence to bear to send him home? He is so much under age he can learn a trade by the time he is twenty-one. If you only could help her! & restore her darling to her arms, it would make her so happy. Her splendid boy is imburied before Petersburg –give her the consolation you have in your power!

If J.J. Davis or Charles Sedgewick of Syracuse are at Washington it may be they could aid in this, I know they would if you will tell them, & mention my name as asking it, I presume you can do it yourself. May I hear from you as soon as convenient, as a mother's tears are falling and her prayers are rising to God for the restoration of her boy to her arms.

How and where are your precious ones Is Mrs H. well? Our best love to her, & for you both.

Our most affectionate & grateful remembrances! I have not heard from Cousin Willie in quite a month and do not know where he is. Do you? You see I am reckoning on an answer to so many questions.

Ever truly grateful.  
Jeannie H. Grey

P.S. Mama says,  
Our most fervent prayers shall always follow you, for heaven's richest & choicest blessing on you & all you love.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]  
Buttermilk Falls  
July 27th 1865  
Grey Miss J.H.  
Requests efforts be made for the discharge of Isaac Ryder.  
Answrd

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2794 7/27/1865 *From:* F. H. Lafon

*To:* Maj. Genl Howard [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2738

Columbia, So. Ca.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Columbia, So. Ca. July 27 1865

Maj. Genl Howard:  
My Dear Sir -

Your very kind and never-to-be-forgotten, answer to my Letter of application will never cease to be remembered by me. You state that there is no way in which citizens would be compensated for their labor as enlisted men of the Army is to do the duty I thank you kindly for your trouble, in my behalf, also accept my mother's prayers for your welfare. The fact alone, of you replying to my letter is characteristic of a gallant, noble, veteran Soldier of many a hard-fought Battle field, to a poor insignificant being like myself. You did render me service –yes great service on the eventful night of the burning of Columbia So Ca. And remember when you are far away, and your name –the name of “Howard” is mentioned in conjunction with the burning of that once proud city –remember that you have at least one representative to stand up and cry: Genl Howard, never was, nor never will be guilty of a mean action. I hope you will pardon me for trespassing upon your few leisure moments. I've made application to the President of the U.S. for the office of Post-Master of the city of “Columbia” and if you can aid me in any way Gen'l, I'll be very thankful to you for your kindness. I can give the best of references, among which is Hon Geo. M. Botts and other distinguished men of Va and also this State. Hoping you will do all in your power for me, tho' a stranger to you, I will be under an everlasting obligation to you. I've filled the place of Post-Master at Rockbridge Alum Springs Va and that too to 1700 people satisfactorily.

I have the honor to be  
most respectfully your  
obed't serv't &: friend  
F. H. Lafon

Columbia, So. Ca.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Columbia, S.C.

July 27th 1865

Lafon F.H.

Desires recommendation for position of Postmaster of Columbia

Answrd L.B.

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2795 7/27/1865 *From:* Wm Bell

*To:* Gen OO Howard

OOH-2739

Richmond

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95]

Richmond 7th month 27th 1865

Gen OO Howard  
Respd friend

I am in rect of thine of 22d inst. N our mutual friend CH <Shieltun> suggesting the matter to me I wrote the Co whose Secy replied that they would deduct the <adjustment> on the risk off next payment of prem'n. The amount of which I shall advise thee of in good time and now as that war has ceased would it not be advisable for thee to increase thy Insurance to \$5000 as originally proposed? All that will be necessary for thee now to do in order to obtain a policy for the additional of \$3000 is to obtain a Certificate from a medical man thy health has not been impaired having been in the Army or something to the effect. If thou conclude on this addition I shall send thee a Blank to get filled or if thou wouldst prefer the nonforfetry or Tenzene plan I can furnish thee with all the necessary information.

<I am> Respy  
Wm Bell

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2796 7/27/1865

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* My Kind Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2740

No. 136 Amity St.  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96, 97]

No. 136 Amity St. Brooklyn  
Thursday Afternoon

My Kind Friend,

I desire to express sooner to you my appreciation of your courtesy and to assure you that I applied with the greatest reluctance, realizing perfectly your besieged position, and my want of claim - only a Brother's urgent need could have tempted me to the effort.

When your answer came, I concurred in it with my whole heart, for I felt that the soldiers had the best right. Then I would have written, but my Brother had decided to go to Washington, and ask a favor of you, and I would not seemingly importune further.

Need I tell you how my heart was "delighted" by your kindness and that I shall welcome any opportunity of reciprocating it. I feel very sure that my dear Brother possesses many traits of character calculated to win your respect - he is so thoroughly conscientious in word, and deed - and strictly temperate. He seems to lack <mettle [CHECK ORIGINAL- Glued edge]>, even to other than a Sister's partial eyes - save that which you and I consider "the one thing <?ful>". You have aided others to seek, and find it. Oh! General Howard, will you not say a word sometimes in your intercourse with him?

Mrs. Sargent wrote me a day or two since, and spoke of your Mother's hope of having all her children with her next month. I trust her desire may be realized, and how much will your pleasure be enhanced by the thought of the restoration of peace to our beloved Country, in which our Heavenly Father "counted you worthy" to bear so signal a part.

With kind remembrances to all your family

Believe me your sincerely  
with warmest esteem  
Thomasine M. Kearny

July 27th 1865

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Brooklyn N.Y.  
July 27th, 1865  
Kearney Miss T.M.

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2797 7/27/1865 *From:* C.C. Augur

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2741

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters  
Department of  
Washington,  
22d Army; Corps,  
Washington, D.C.

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[93]

Headquarters Department of Washington,  
22d Army; Corps,  
Washington, D.C., Jul 27, 1865

Dear General,

I have been to see you this morning, but found you out. I have communicated with the mayor of Alexandria, and he expresses himself perfectly willing to transfer all cases affecting colored persons to a Provost Court, and states that if such a court is established the Virginia Courts will not take cognizance of any such cases. I propose to establish such a Court and think it will settle all the difficulties. Will this be satisfactory to you?

Respectfully yours,  
C.C. Augur

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Hdqrs. Dept of Washington July 27th /65

Augur C.C.

Maj Genl.

States that he proposes to establish a provost court at Alexandria

Recd July 29 1865

[Written in a third hand.]

<lt> will be perfectly <sf> & just what <ln> <> will instruct Coms to bring all such cases before it.

---

2798 7/28/1865

*From:* J.M. McKim

*To:* Major Gen'l OO. Howard

OOH-2743

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of the American  
Freedman's Aid Union,  
69 Nassau St., New  
York

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &c  
Washington, D.C.

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[105, 106]

Bureau of the American Freedman's Aid Union,  
69 Nassau St., New York, July 28th, 1865

Major Gen'l OO. Howard,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir:

Please accept my thanks on behalf of this Union for copies of your orders kindly sent me from time to time upon their issuance.

You will be interested to learn that the work, so auspiciously begun when Mr. Jay & I called upon you, of gathering into one National body all the Freedmens Associations on the basis of the American Freedmens Aid Union & progressing hopefully toward completion.

We have arranged with the Rev. Mr. Boardman, Gen'l Secretary of the Christian Commission for the transference of himself, and auxiliaries which he can control, to the service of the Union. His location to be the city of Philadelphia.

We have made in part similar arrangements with Dr. Joseph D. Parrish, one of the leading men in the Sanitary Commission; he to be located in Washington to serve – for your convenience & for the good of the cause – as intermediary between your Bureau and our “Union”.

We have invited Fred'k Law Olmsted – now in California – with a promise of a liberal salary to become Gen'l Secretary of the American Freedmen's Aid Union; to be located in this city, and to have the chief charge of the movement.

We at this time embrace in one harmonious whole all the leading Freedmens Associations on the Eastern Slope of our Country; and are in cordial & cooperative relations with all the principal Freedmens societies in the West.

At present the Constituent Associations of the Union are united by a representation of delegates; we are now digesting a plan by which they will be made one by consolidation; including as I have said the auxiliaries of the Christian and Sanitary Associations.

Until this consolidation takes place & perhaps afterward we shall be governed by the original constitution, a copy of which I enclose.

The officers of the Union as at present constituted are:

Hon H.L. Bone –President

J.J McKine –Secretary

Executive Committee:

John Parkman

John Jay

O.B. Frothingham

Francis R. Cope

E.M. Irish

Evans. Rogers

H. L. Bond

D.M. McKim

[In addition to bein on the Executive Committee, the last two on the list were Ex. Officio]

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir,  
Yours very truly  
J.M. McKim  
Sec A. F.A.U.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York July 28 / '65  
McKim J.M.  
Sec A.F.A.U.  
Reports progress in consolidating freedmens societies.

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2799 7/28/1865

*From:* F.W. Gilbreth

*To:* C.C.W. Foster

OOH-2744

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[126, 127]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, July 28th, 1865.

Col Foster  
A.A.G.  
Col.

Gen Howard desires me to ask you to send to this Bureau the numbers of the Colored regiments engaged at Fort Fisher. Also where those regiments now are.

Very Respy.  
Your Obt Servant  
F.W. Gilbreth  
Bvt Maj & A.D.C.

[Written on a separate page (127), in a different hand.]

H. 163. <>

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees &c  
July 28th 1865.  
F.W. Gilbreth  
Maj & A.D.C.

States that Genl Howard desires to know the numbers of the Colored Regiments engaged at Fort Fisher & their present whereabouts.

Recd A G D July 28 65

[Written in a middle column on page 127, in a third hand.]

<[CHECK ORIGINAL top line obscured by glued edge.]

Aug 1, 1865

Respectfully returned to Bvt. Major F.W> Gilbreth, Aide-de-Camp, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c, Washington, D.C.

The following named regiments of U.S. Colored Troops, now serving in the Department of North Carolina, formed a portion of the force engaged in the attack upon Fort Fisher to wit: 1st, 4th, 6th, 30th, and 37th Regiments U.S. Colored Infantry.

The 5th, 27th and 39th Regiments of U.S. Colored Troops are supposed to have been <engaged [CHECK ORIGINAL, top line obscured in glued edge], although the records of this office do not show that they were.

By order of the Secretary of War:

C.C.W. Foster  
A.A. Genl. Vols  
E.B. Col. 3 at Page 504.

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2800 7/28/1865 *From:* Dan'l N. Haskell

*To:* Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2745

Transcript Office,  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Transcript Office,  
Boston, July 28th 1865

To Major Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

We received, & have printed your Circular, taking the occasion of its appearance in the columns of the Transcript, to express our views of the able manner in which you have thus far discharged the difficult duties of your "Bureau", & asking for it the patience & confidence of the public.

With the best wishes for your complete success in your new position, we remain,

Your Obt. Servant  
Dan'l N. Haskell,  
Editor

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2801 7/28/1865 *From:* S.G. Catlett

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2746

Near Catletts Station  
[Virginia]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100]

Near Catletts Station [Virginia]  
July 28th 1865

Maj Genl. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Now that the War is over and we have had time and opportunity to realize our situation I feel it a duty owing my family to endeavour to obtain some indemnity for my losses from the Government. I have concluded to address you on the subject and ask your advice as to how I shall proceed in the matter, and also your influence. Your former kindness & consideration while encamping on our place, encourage me to believe that you will excuse the liberty I take in doing so. All I have lost in the way of buildings, fencing, timber, stock & provendu, has been entirely by the U.S. troops, indeed we have little else left except what was in our house. If I had taken any part whatever against the Government I should ask nothing, but I have remained at home during the war, and always shown all the hospitality in my power to the US troops. If it is not asking too much, I will be glad to receive a communication from you.

Mrs Catlett & Lottie desire to be remembered particularly to you. Lottie still remembers you with the warmest affection. We are truly glad that you have been spared amid the dangers of military life to your family & friends. Nothing would give us more pleasure than to see you at our house again. Please present our kindest regards to your Brother. We shall remember you both with gratitude as long as we live.

Very Respectfully &  
Truly yrs.  
S.G. Catlett

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Catletts Sta. Va  
July 28th 1865  
Catlett S.G.

Asks advice related to obtaining payment for property lost during the war.

Answd

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2802 7/28/1865     *From:* B.H Cadbury

*To:* Esteemed Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2747

*Source:* Bowdoin

Birmingham and  
Midland  
Freed Men's Aid  
Association

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[102, 103, 104]

Birmingham and Midland  
Freed Men's Aid Association  
Chairman and Treasurer, Edward Gem, Esq., J.P., Charlotte Street  
Corresponding Secretary, B.H Cadbury, 29, George Street, Edgbaston  
Corresponding Member, Arthur Albright, 30, George Street, Edgbaston  
Recording Secretary, William Morgan, Waterloo Street

7th Mo: 28th 1865

Esteemed Friend

On the 4th Inst I received a packet of printed papers from thy office containing Circular Nos 2, 3, 5 & 7 also "Act referred to in General orders No 92 (AGU) 1856".

And to day a similar one containing Circular N 8, all very interesting to our Association, & perhaps more so to us than any other from the extent of our operations in this work of mercy.

The object of my writing is to inform thee that I was disposed to have refused each of them as we had to pay 4/- for each packet, but as they came from the "Official" I feared to do so least they might contain matter connected with the transmission of Goods we are forwarding free of duty and Freight for the use of the Col'd: people. We are working our Assns on this side the water without paid agency to any great extend, makes us jealous of laying out money in this way. If they have been open at the ends this would have cost only one penny to us & a trifle to yourselves, as it is a Government packed I suppose it would have been free.

"Multitudes of civilians are pressing & clamorous for appointments, but General Howard assures me his selection shall be made very carefully, & that he will have no heartless, profane, & irreligious men around him" May thou be long spared for the great work that is before thee & be permitted to perform it with the single eye in which thou hast commenced it, is the earnest desire of many earnest workers in this side the waters for these Colored People.

I have read with great interest a paragraph in the fourth Report of the Comr of Representatives of New York yearly meeting of Friends as per enclosed.

Thine truly  
B. H. Cadbury

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Birmingham England  
July 28th 1865.  
Cadbury B.H.  
States that 4s was paid on packages of orders.

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2803 7/28/1865

*From:* John M. Oliver  
Brig. Gen.

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2748

Headquarters, 2d Div.,  
15th Army Corps,  
Little Rock, Ark.

Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[107]

Headquarters, 2d Div., 15th Army Corps,  
Little Rock, Ark., July 28th 1865.

Dear Sir,

The kindness of your letter to me almost compensated for my disappointment in not being able to get the position I desired. I am truly grateful for your many kindnesses to me & hope still that something may occur that will place me under your command again. Should you need any more employees in your bureau do not forget me. I am not particular in what part of the country I serve but I would like to do something for these people who have always been friends, who have always been true, & who would have done much more than they did to help the Gov't if our own prejudices had not prevented them. I think as the country gets settled & the plantations worked that you will need commissioners in every state. The interests involved now both of labor & capital are very large and are rapidly growing larger.

I have been much pleased to see the strong desire they have that their children should be educated. There will be a wonderful improvement in the race and its status in the next five years if we only start right now. Hoping that I may soon hear from you again I remain,

Very Truly Your  
Servant & Friend  
John M. Oliver  
Brig. Gen.

To  
Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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2804 7/29/1865 *From:* J. Medill

*To:* Major Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2749

Office of Daily Tribune,  
Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110]

Office of Daily Tribune,  
Chicago, July 29 1865

Major Gen Howard  
Dr Sir

I have taken the liberty of enclosing you an article from my paper which explains itself. It is probable that you have already corrected this outrage and taught Col Atkins his proper duty. But if not I respectfully call your attention to it. You have a great and a difficult task to perform. It is some thing like the job of a faithful hatch dog to keep ravenous wolves from devouring a flock of sheep. The poor freedmen among the rebels are as helpless as sheep among wolves, and what adds to the misery of their situation is the heartless and pro slavery disposition evinced by many federal officers towards them. But sleepless vigilance on your part will do much to mitigate the evil and institute useful and enduring reforms, which will elevate the blacks high above their present down trodden condition.

Whatever the Chicago Tribune can do to aid you, with way of expressing wrongs and keeping public sentiment right will be done to the utmost of our power and competence.

Yours Truly  
J. Medill [Joseph Medill]  
Ed. Tribune

[Written on the first page in a different hand.]  
Chicago, Ill  
July 29  
Medill J.

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2805 7/29/1865      *From:* Thomas W. Conway      *To:* Major General OO. Howard

OOH-2750      Head Quarters Asst.      Commissioner etc. etc.  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Commissioner      Washington D.C.  
Bureau Refugees  
Freedmen &c  
State of Louisiana  
New Orleans

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[108, 109]

Head Quarters Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c  
State of Louisiana  
New Orleans July 29th 1865

Major General OO. Howard,  
Commissioner etc. etc.  
Washington D.C.  
General:-

Upon further information of a reliable character I find that not only should Maj Plumley have been removed from his office on the Board of Education, at the time he was removed, but that he ought to have been removed long before. His private life has been so revolting that good men have come to me expressing their surprise that he was retained in his situation. He has remained all night in company with a United States Army officer, in one of the most disreputable restaurants in this city, drinking repeatedly according to Mr. Plumley's own acknowledgement.

There are many reports concerning his habitual visits to other places which have even worse name than this restaurant. My knowledge on the subject brought me to consider most anxiously, that justice both to the Bureau and myself required a change, even though it would bring upon me any amount of the most violent bitterness and malice.

As I expected, petitions to you are reported. These are made for my removal. I am informed that a few evenings ago a meeting of a few dissatisfied men in company with Mr Plumley met together and amid the drinking of wine and loud threats and promises, a petition to you was fixed upon.

You will find by consulting Mr Chase, the chief Justice, who knows Mr. Plumley very well, that his removal (by the order of Gen'l Canby) will help us rather than inflict any injury whatever.

I am under heavy bonds and bound by the sacred obligations of my oath of office and if I am tenacious of the good character of the Bureau and the success of our work, I am convinced that you will be the more pleased. I have done right. My action is fearless and conscientious, I feel perfectly safe in entrusting the schools to Capt. Pease one of the most faithful officers of the army.

I write merely to impress you with the feelings that have prompted the change.

I have the honor to be, General  
Very Respectfully  
Your obt servant  
Thomas W. Conway  
Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau Ref Freedmen &c.  
State of La.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New Orleans, La.  
July 29th, 1865

Conway Thos  
Asst. Com.  
Relative to the character of Maj. Plumley

File  
Recd Bureau Rf&AL Aug 11/65

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2806 7/29/1865

*From:* A.F. Moses

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2751

Goldsboro N.C.  
July 29 / 65

Washington City

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[111, 112]

Goldsboro N.C.  
July 29 / 65

Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington City  
Dear Gen'l,

Permit at this lat Hour to Say to you, that had I have known your whereabouts, before, I should have troubled you with a line. Your very kind & welcome note of the 9th April last, was handed to me at Knight on that day by your faithfull orderly, containing \$100. You left the next morning before I had time to see you in Person and tender you my thousand thanks. You certainly confered on me and my Good Wife a never forgetfull favour, one that I should be much pleased to reciprocate. With that favour, I clothed myself & Partly my better half, but for that we should have faired badly for a time.

All me to Say a word to you touching my Situation, the 1st of March last. My Property was Estimated to be worth in Good money \$100,000. I had every thing that heart could wish in this world –made it by the sweat of the brow. I was able to feed the hungry & clothe the naked, & it is a consolation to me to know, that I did it. Now in my old age 74 years, I am not able to feed myself & wife. Ever Since you left Goldsboro, I have been living on the charity of my friends. I have returned to my Plantation to try my luck with what darkies remained on it. They have turned the cold Shoulder, & refuse to help me, not a chair to Sit on, nothing to eat, no Bed to lie on, my house completely gutted of all the fine & costly furniture it once contained - & what a contrast. It seems to me I cannot bare it. But I have to. I think it will be the death of my wife.

I have no money to buy with, that is worth a copper. I have about \$35,000 of this so called confederate stuff that I hate to look at. I have nothing left now, but a naked plantation that will not bring me in any income for the next two years, on acct . If its being in Such bad repairs. My Situation is a bad one, a lamentable one.

Now what to do I dont know. I am not able to till the Soil. I would willingly work, rather do it, if I was able.

I know you Genl and I think you know me well enough to believe what I say, therefore I have taken the liberty to unbosom myself to you.

The Government of the U States has taken all I have, without any cause on my part. I have done nothing to justify such treatment. I took no part in the late rebellion. It is a well know fact, here, that I was opposed to this war from the beginning.

Allow me to ask you if it would be any thing amiss for you to state my case (as a special one) to the President, and lern of him if he has any discretionary Powers to cause me to be Partially reinstated So that I can live again in a way half or comfortable as I used to do. A Porter of a competency will satisfy me.

You are the only man in Washington City that I know at this time. I hope your days may be long and happy.

Mrs Whitford, of this place is dead - the lady at whose house you Stopped at during your stay with us.

I am sorry to Say that I have not herd a Sermon Preached Since you left for want of a Buggy & Harness, not able to purchase, too far to walk. Our health at this time is quite feeble.

I shall be pleased to hear from you, any thing that I can do for you in this section will be done with pleasure.

I am Sir, yours most truly  
A.F. Moses



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2807 7/30/1865 *From:* Wm. E. Strong

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-2752

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Department of  
Louisiana and Texas  
Office Provost Marshal  
General.  
New Orleans

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[113]

Head Quarters Department of Louisiana and Texas  
Office Provost Marshal General.  
New Orleans July 30th 1865

Dear Genl,

Your letter dated 15th of July and telegram of the 14th instant were rec'd by me on arrival in New Orleans three days since. I am extremely grateful to you for your kindness in writing to me. I had almost begun to think I was quite forgotten by you all in Washington. Your telegram of the 14th was the first intimation I had rec'd that I was still in the service. I supposed from the ruling of the War Dept. before I left Washington that you would not be able to retain any of your officers after the Commands to which they belonged were mustered out of the service.

I shall remain in the City until Tuesday or Wednesday of this week, and will then move on Washington. It will be necessary for me to stop at Vicksburg one day, and for two days at Helena, and a short time at Memphis. There are two or three matters which I was not able to investigate fully while on my Iowa trip, but which I shall now be able to clear up successfully.

I am spending my time with Mr. Conway and am seeing a great deal which interest me. I propose to pass tomorrow and next day visiting the colonies adjacent to N.O. I have already examined his books of account and financial papers thoroughly, and will be able upon my return to tell you all about Mr. Conway. Gen's Banks and Canby have told me about him, and I have studied him pretty well myself since I have been here.

He is honest and intends to do just right, but in my judgement he is in very deep holes and will drown before long. I mean to say, that I am fearful he has a greater burden upon his shoulders than he can carry. I may be mistaken as to Conway's ability, but when I see you can tell you what I know about him and what I have seen much better than I can write it.

I have seen Genl. Canby several times and he has treated me with the greatest kindness and courtesy. I am invited to dine with him to day.

I am better than when I wrote you last, but am not yet well. I have had a tough campaign on the river, and shall be delighted when I get north of Cairo.

Love to all the good people at the house.

Ever Yours Truly  
Wm. E. Strong  
I. Gnl.

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2808 7/31/1865    *From:* Thos. I Hunt

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2753

*Source:* Bowdoin

Care of Edw. Shippen  
atty at law  
S.E. Cn. 6th Walnut  
Philadelphia

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[115]

Phl. July 31 1865.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commander of the "Freedmen's Department."

General -

I am now preparing for publication, containing a short sketch of the lives of "Our Generals".

It is my design that each sketch should be prefaced by an authentic steel engraving of the individual to whom the Chapter is devoted.

I therefore request that you send me your "Carte de Visite", and also your autograph with a short sketch of your life, from your own pen.

With an apology for this intrusion upon your time and attention, I have the honor to be,

Your most Obt. Servant.  
Thos. I Hunt  
Care of Edw. Shippen  
atty at law  
S.E. Cn. 6th Walnut  
Philadelphia

An early answer is requested.

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2809 7/31/1865     *From:* Jos. Segar

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2754

Roseland, near

Comm'r Freedman's Affairs  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[116, 117]

Roseland, near  
July 31st '65

My Dear Sir,

I venture to enclose you the orders made by the Court of my County, (Elizabeth City) whih, I am sure, will be regarded with interest by the Freedmen's Bureau.

As one of the Commission charged with Conference with the Military Authorities, I had concluded, before seeing the plan adopted in Alexandria, to suggest a similar one for our County, more interested in the subject perhaps than any other County or locality in the state, owing to the very large number of Colored population among us.

It seems to me, in all deference, that this is about the best possible disposition that can be made of this delicate and perplexing subject. And a single reason seems to me conclusive of the question.

By the assisting laws of Virginia, negro testimony is excluded, and many other enactments inconsistent with the preset state of the negro, remain on the statute book unrepealed. Doubtless, the Legislature will in time make many and material modifications in the premises, certainly in referral to negro testimony.

But until these modifications be made, the old laws remain in force, and the civil authorities are bound by oath to respect them. For example, when a case comes up, how, with negro testimony forbidden by positive state enactment, can the state official admit such testimony? The laws of Congress are generally and, I think, conscientiously regarded as not reaching the state tribunals, and to enforce them by military power upon those tribunals, certainly would not promote conciliation.

But the whole difficulty is met by turning over the whole matter, Civil and Criminal, to a Provost Court. This would be a United States Court, and being a United States Court, would administer United States laws, those relating to the testimony of Colored people, as well as others. Thus, a most troublesome and disturbing subject would pass, I dare think, with almost universal acceptability, from state to federal jurisdiction.

But to render the plan effective, you will readily perceive, I doubt not, that it would be necessary to constitute these Provost Courts of men of the first order of character and ability, and of considerable legal acquiescence. Perfect impartiality and uniform justice – I think only to be had at the hands of persons of this description – will be indispensable to the success of any system that shall be adopted.

It strikes me, on the whole – and I speak from much observation – that, in the radical change in the status of the Colored people, it is wholly impossible to administer a policy by any other than federal authority and agency. No divided jurisdiction can avail.

I am,

With great Respect

Yr. Obt. Servt.

Jos. Segar [Joseph Eggleston Segar, U.S. Representative from Virginia]

Gen. Howard

Comm'r Freedman's Affairs

Washington

[Written sideways on the back of the last page, in a different hand.]

Rosland

July 31st 1865

Segar J

Advised establishment of Provost Courts

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2810 8/1/1865

*From:* J.M. McKim

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2755

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of the American  
Freedman's Aid Union,  
69 Nassau St, New  
York

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[118, 119]

Bureau of the American Freedman's Aid Union,  
69 Nassau St, New York, Aug 1 1865

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Bureau Refugees &c  
Dr Sir

Sen. <Murphys> note from the White House & proof of address, coming through you, is duly rec'd.

That address, drawn up by Mr Jay, has not been & will not be published.

In consolidating and enlarging this Union Dr Parrish will not be located at Washington, as had been contemplated, but will be stationed most probably in this city.

When our plan of organization shall be completed & ready to be put into action we shall submit it to you for your consideration & approval.

Most truly yours  
J.M. McKim  
Sec. A.F.A.U.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York  
Aug. 1st 1865  
McKim J.M.  
Sec A.F.A.U.

States that address will not be published and that Dr. Parrish will not be located in Washington.

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2811 8/1/1865

*From:* Thomas W. Howard

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2756

West Point Lowndes  
Co Miss.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[120, 121]

(ca Aug 1, 1865)

Genl Howard

Though possessed with a real eagerness to write to you my being entirely unknown to you makes me loth to do so. Because in writing to you without the proper letters of introduction I can but feel that I am exercising an undue liberty & at the same time subjecting myself to a charge of presumption & folly which necessarily forces upon me a still greater apprehension that of incurring your displeasure which I can truly say so far from my wish.

Should this reach you Genl I know that it will occasion some surprise & I doubt not that it will seem very imposing to you. But permit me to say thought there are many inconsistencies which I am forced to ascribe to this letter. I hope you will lay all prejudices aside and looking not at my impropriety but at your own excellent nature & entering feelingly into that which prompted me to you let counsel from thine own good virtue direct you what to do.

I now purpose acquainting you with myself as follows. My name is Thomas W. Howard born & raised in the State of Mississippi. My Fathers name was Groves Howard of whom I have no recollection, the same having died during my infancy. My Grandfathers name was Abel Howard who I am told was a native Virginian. I am now 22 years of age. I entered the Rebel Army a private Soldier in the spring of /61 and after 12 months service as such I was appointed to & recd the commission of 2d Lieut & assigned to duty in a Battalion of Sharp Shooters in the Army of Tennessee which won the pride & admiration of the whole Army. I was a participant in every battle the Army of Tenn was engaged in up to the time I rec'd my second wound which was at New Hope Church near Dallas Ga, during Genl Johnsons Ga Campaign. I was first wounded at Missionary Ridge, the ball passing through my left leg below the knee. I recovered from this however in 60 days & immediately rejoined my command at Dalton Ga. During the Ga campaign I recd as stated above my last wound in my right hip which disable me from service. I was classed as one of the Invalid Corps. & papers sent me from the War Department at Richmond honorably retiring me from the service of the Confederate Armies. As soon as I recd these papers & had sufficiently recovered from my wound to travel. I betook myself to Davidson College North Carolina to finish my education which had been interrupted by the War. The Reputation I carried from the Army in regard to my conduct as an Officer & a Gentleman was all that an ambitious boy, for I was nothing more, could wish, in addition to this I was indorsed by some of the best & influential men in Miss. So I had nothing to do but apply my self diligently to my books, conduct myself as I had done & had the Confederacy succeeded. Finally I could have got any position that I wished. But alas all my noble aspiration were cut short by the downfall of our cause. And my political aspiration they too lie in the deep sea of forgetfulness never more to be fished out by the grappling irons of recollection. Few can depict the grief of a high spirited boy whose soul was wraped up, in a cause which in the presence of Almighty God he would have endeavor affirmed was just to see that cause now lost and the remaining defenders of it subjugated. Oh it is a deep grief & harder still for the heart to overcome than the mental pangs of dying of President Davis was to day condemned to die by the US Authorities I care not by what made it would be the happiest moment of my life to know that I could be permitted to offer my life as a sacrifice for his preservation. Think not that these are mere idle words. They are the sentiments of a true southern heart.

But the only alternative now left us is to humble ourselves & submit. And we must not sit down & fold our hands to grieve over the past but show by our actions that we are willing & able to adapt ourselves to the new order of things & with a hearty good will redouble all our energies to make good, true, & substantial citizens. We may hope to win favor not only of the world at large but also from the supreme Ruler himself. I have made up my mind so to act, have taken President Johnson's Amnesty oath & having made a good Confederate Soldier I shall strive as hard to make a good U.S. Citizen. And in order to begin as early as possible I have written to you thinking that you would appreciate my situation & being of the same name as yourself would manifest some interest in my behalf. What I ask you to do Genl is to make some effort to secure me a position as private secretary to some Gentleman who character & mental ability is of real worth which situation would be of great benefit to me as I could discharge my duty to my Employer & could thus have access to a good Library & the

privilege of reading at night. Do not fear that I shall fail to merit such a position. If you can secure me such as one upon good & sufficient recommendation dispatch to me forthwith & I will give you or the parties interested ample satisfaction on that score. Do not think that I wish an easy position. I love to work & desire to be employed all the time. I assure you I can do my share of it. Had the confederacy triumphed I would have been as well of as heart could wish. But all I have was invested in Negro property which is now gone up. My mother (Mrs. N.W. Moore), Step Father & Brother the latter older than myself are all living in Miss on a good Prarie Section of Land belonging to my Mother. They have perfected a contract with her Freed Men & Women & every thing at present is getting on as well as could be expected. But all around them every thing is in confusion. As the Negros show no disposition to work even for good wages & I cannot predict what tomorrow may bring forth. But I do not feel willing to throw myself upon my relation for a support I have business qualifications which will amply support me & I wish now to secure a position under such an Employer as I have name above whose recommendation will always be of value to me. If I can get a position of the above mention I can soon establish a reputation that will secure me Friends & wages. I can do a little of most any thing, I never drink intoxicating liquors of any kind, never played a game of cards in my life & never use bad words nor <Gobdees> & if there is any thing I do feel proud of it is a good & pure character. All of which I will I will take pleasure in substantiating when call upon to do so. There is no chance to secure a position here. Because every body is in the same fix as myself got nothing. I do not wish to clerk in a store if I can do otherwise for I followed clerking in a Dry good house four years before the war & I dont think that it would be of any improvement to me. But if I can not secure such a position as I first wished for why I am willing to take one in a business house until I can establish myself. I would like very much to be with the Hon Vallandigham of Ohio, because I have a high regard for his Statesmanship. But having been a rebel I feel a delicacy in proposing to him. For no doubt many public Men North could not bear to tolerate the idea of taking a person in their employ who had been a participant in The Rebellion till such I would say may they never have to feel what we do. I feel satisfied there is that within me which if properly cultured would make me known among the great men of the earth but I have no means of doing it. & those who are near & dear to me are like myself have to commence life anew. I would like to hear from you immediately upon receipt of this & if you can effect the object for which I write you will do me a truly grateful & lasting kindness I have the credentials now in my possession which will satisfy you that I am what I represented myself to you. My Post Office is West Point, Lowndes Co. Miss. on the M. & O.R.R. I live 6 ms. from the place. Hoping that you may be led to a proper appreciation of my Motive for writing & that you will pardon the many imperfections this hasty written letter embodies & that you will favor me with a reply. I have the honor to subscribe myself General.

Your Obt. Svt.  
Thomas W. Howard

West Point Lowndes Co Miss.  
Aug. 1st 1865  
P.S. My Post Office is West Point, Lowndes Co. Mississippi

2d P.S. Gen I would prefer an answer directed to me at this place care of W F Franks instead of being sent to the care of Cyrus Johnson, I have come to this conclusion after consulting a U.S. Captain who is station at this post. He informs me a letter will go through with out any difficulty by sending it through the Military mail, so upon the whole I would prefer a Letter directed as follows

T.W. Howard  
Care of W.F. Franks  
West Point Lowndes Co  
Miss.

I thought best to acquaint you with this as the mail facilities here are very bad.

Yours with respect  
T.A. Howard

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2812 8/1/1865

*From:* B.G. Northrop

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2757

*Source:* Bowdoin

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts,  
Office of Board of  
Education,  
Boston

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[122, 123]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Office of Board of Education,  
Boston, Aug. 1 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir,

It would very much help the cause so near your heart, if you would be at New Haven on Wednesday Aug. 9 & express your views in reference to our duties to the Freed men.

The Am. Institute of Instruction is the oldest & most influential Educational association in this country. Its doings are annually published. Thirty five volumes of its "Proceedings" form a valuable portion of our Educational literature.

At this meeting of our association national in its character, your words, even if by reason of the weighty cares & duties pressing upon you but few, would greatly help & encourage the Educators of the country in these critical & eventful days.

We have strongly hoped that on your return from Augusta you w'd be willing to take New Haven by the way.

Very truly yours  
B.G. Northrop

P.S.

If any other day of the session better suits your convenience, we should be happy to change our programme and welcome you at any time, Day or Evening.

[Written on the last page in a different hand, possibly OOH's.]

Mr Northrop  
Answered

[Written on the last page upside down, in a different hand.]

Boston, Aug 1st 1865.

Northrop B.G.

Desires Genl. Howard to deliver an address in New Haven Conn.

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2813 8/1/1865

*From:* E. Turney

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2758

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124]

Washington, D.C.  
Aug 1st, 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Sir -

I have prepared the statement which you desired, and which I leave at your office. I have just read in the Chronicle the following with regard to the state of things in North Carolina. According to my observation the witness is true .

The testimony of Gen. Turner at Richmond with regard to the demonstration of Southern feeling and purpose in that city you have doubtless seen.

Yours with great respect  
E. Turney

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington  
Aug 1st, 1865  
Turney, E.

Has prepared the statements as desired, & encloses slips from the Chronicle relative to the state of things in North Carolina.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand, possibly OOH's.]  
Mr Turney – Dont require answer.

[Several newspaper clippings were attached.]

[Clipping #1]

FROM NORTH CAROLINA

The Pardoning Power – The State Convention  
Raleigh, July 25 [1865]

The Raleigh Progress continues to denounce the reckless use of the pardoning power in North Carolina: This misplaced leniency, it says, is making the leading rebels of the State, who are daily receiving pardons, still more defiant and disloyal. Composing the public men of the State, they have all been designated as delegates to the coming State Convention, which body it is known they will control. The negroes and Union men, whose protection depends entirely upon the enforcement of the confiscation law, which disarms only the disloyal, are special objects of the hatred of these men, who will be beyond the reach of the Federal authorities as soon as the new State Government is inaugurated. It is understood that this element who held State securities for upwards of forty millions of dollars, contracted since the rebellion for war purposes, will make a strong effort to have the same assumed by not providing against it in the new Constitution, but leaving it to future legislation. Owing to this unexpected exhibition of disloyalty and vindictive arrogance, the Union men are endeavoring to have the call for a State Convention, delayed until after Congress meets, which will save time as well as great expense, as the proposed new Constitution is destined to be repudiated by the people. It is very apparent that it will be of an obnoxious character, judging from the material designated to compose that body. Three treacherous leaders who have been pardoned through Governor Holden's recommendation are now organizing in every county, and openly assert that their party is strong enough to defeat Mr. Holden or any other candidate for Governor who fails to identify himself with them. Governor Holden drafted a call for a convention some time since, and sent it to President Johnson for his ratification. Since then the opposition to an early convention has assumed formidable proportions, and is daily gaining strength.

## THE MALCONTENTS

Raleigh, July 31. - William A. Graham, ex-member of the rebel Senate, and a political leader of this State, who is to be a delegate to the coming State Convention, says, under no circumstances will he consent to the return of North Carolina into the Union, if the negro suffrage question is to be made a condition.

J.F.J. Russ, of this city, who recently received a Federal appointment, and who has been designated to represent this district in Congress, and also in the approaching convention, defines his position on the slavery question by saying if he had the power he would enslave every slave who is now free.

Some of the county meetings, which nominated rebel leaders for candidates to the State Convention instruct them to favor, by constitutional or legislative enactments, the binding out of liberated slaves to their former masters for term of years.

The Union men are alarmed at these fresh developments of disloyalty, and are organizing for the purpose of demanding the immediate enforcement of the confiscation law, which they claim will drive these rebel leaders from the political field, and enable men of clear records to present a Constitution and delegation to Congress which that body will consent to accept.

The reckless manner of pardoning the leaders of rebellion in North Carolina – such men as Graham and others – is exciting the apprehension of the loyal citizens of this State.

[Clipping #2.]  
(Extract.)

V. Whereas satisfactory evidence has been furnished at these headquarters that, at the election held in the city of Richmond, on the 25th instant, for municipal officers, voters were excluded on the ground of having lost their residence by reason of their absence as soldiers, in the United States army during the rebellion, when no such ground was taken as against soldiers absent in the rebel army; and whereas, with but few exceptions, all of the officers elected at said municipal election have been prominent and conspicuous in inaugurating and sustaining the rebellion; and whereas, the issue was distinctly made and openly avowed at said election, as between those men who had aided and abetted in the war against the United States authority, and those who had, with their lives, defended the flag of our country;

Therefore, justice to the thousands, who have fallen on the battle-field or by disease in their efforts to put down this rebellion, and to those who are now returning to their homes in this district, after four years of suffering, toll, privations, and dangers incurred in fighting treason, demands that these persons who were so lately contributing all their efforts to sustain treason, and overthrow this Government, should not be installed into office and entrusted with power;

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2814 8/1/1865

*From:* D.C. Gilman

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2759

Yale College,  
New Haven, Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[128, 129]

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Sir,

The Committee of Arrangements for the approaching anniversary of the American Institute of Instruction have requested me to invite you to be present on that occasion. The meetings will be held in this town during three days & many eminent men are expected to be present. The whole community feels so much interest in the great work with which you are especially charge, of looking after the Freedmen, that any remarks which you would make on the subject would not only be welcome, - but useful in promoting a right appreciation of the difficult labors to which you are devoted.

I am, dear sir,  
With the highest respect,  
Yr. Obedient Servt.  
D.C. Gilman  
Chairman of  
Comm. On Invitat.

Yale College,  
New Haven, Conn.  
1 Aug. 1865

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2815 8/2/1865

*From:* J. T. Champlin

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2760

Waterville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[130]

Waterville  
Aug. 2, 1865

Gen. Howard  
My dear Sir

I hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing you at our Commencement next week (Aug. 8 & 9th), & of hearing from you at our Commencement dinner.

And with your permission I will call you out on that occasion on the following sentiment - "The education of all classes, black & white".

Mr Milliken wishes me to say to you, that he will be happy to entertain you at his house while here.

Very truly yours,  
J. T. Champlin [James T. Champlin, President Waterville College]

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2816 8/2/1865

*From:* J. M. Forbes

*To:* Horatio Woodman

OOH-2761b

Naushon Island

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[153]

[The following letter was enclosed in the note from Horatio Woodman dated Aug 7, 1865.]

Naushon Island

Aug 2, 65

My Dear Sir [Probably Horatio Woodman]

I have your note about Secy Stanton. If I have any infirmity it is in drawing my charges specifically & persistently & if the Secretary remembers me at all it must be my attempts at reforming a basis of his subordinates. The outside public however cannot always give definite information & the next best thing is to put him on his <>.

The enclosed article from the Respectable Daily is of his character.

I was sorry not to get up to Club last Saturday.

Yrs very truly

J. M. Forbes [John Murray Forbes]

"Constant vigilance is the vice of Liberty"

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2817 8/3/1865

*From:* Mrs E A Callahan

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2762

*Source:* Bowdoin

Care of Mrs Harley  
Corner Broughton &  
Montgomery Sts.  
Savannah Ga

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[131]

Savannah Augt 3rd 1865

Genl O.O. Howard

Respected Sir

Will you pardon my intruding myself once more on you. I have never seen my eldest Son since the 9th Decr. Then he left No 2 CR.R station Eden Effingham Co. Ga. as guide to the 15th Army Corps I think enroute for Fort McAllister. Being family educated & a good boy I can only suppose he has fallen victim to disease or accident. The persecutions of the Rebels continued till Isas [or I & as] left without one head of cattle stock or horse. The crop I made taken from me & I forced to come into the City. I became teacher of the Cold. schools not able to procure a place in the City I came down weekly till now my mule is stolen & the School being closed by Millitary orders I am without one particle of support for myself or four children. Have offered myself in any capacity in vain. My months salary & as owing as fast as I earned it. & this moment I know not where to look for a weeks supply rations suddenly stopped unless under God you are enabled to continue these Schools for the Freedmens children all we have taught them is lost by 2 months vacation. Revd C.McRae advised me to apply to you. He has done much to purify public opinion, on the subject of Educating the negroes & the sentiment is becoming more healthy in that direction. Hoping you will find time to give this consideration.

I am with intense respect & admiration

Your obt. St

Eliza A Callahan

[Written on the back page]

Mrs E A Callahan

Care of Mrs Harley

Corner Broughton & Montgomery Sts.

Savannah Ga

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Savannah Ga

Aug. 3d 1865

Callahan Eliza A.

States that she has heard nothing from her son; that school has been closed by military authority and that she is without support.

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2818 8/3/1865

*From:* E.W. Woodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2763

Hd Qrs 2 Regt Cavalry  
Barrancas Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[132, 133]

Hd Qrs 2 Regt Cavalry  
Barrancas Florida  
Aug 3 1865

Dear Cousin

I am aware that you are too busy to attend to friendly letters. Therefore I am unwilling to write you only when I have an excuse.

Yesterday Maj Cutler rejoined the Regt. having been sent to Montgomery Ala. where a detachment of this Regt was on duty. He informs me that Major Miller of this Regt was detached to serve under Brig Gen Levain Asst Comr of the Bureau of Freedmen, that Mr Norris of Summersett Co Me brought this about, they being old political friends &c.

I realize how much your success in carrying out the Policy of <> depends on the employment of men of correct principles & habit therefore take the liberty to inform you that Maj Miller is in my opinion unfit for the duties of his position, as I understand it. He gets drunk, is as clay in the hands of schrewed & designing men. He is a politician in every sense of the word. I have no confidence in him for any such position.

Please do not think I am prejudiced against him for I am not—we are friendly.

I hope you will excuse me for taking this liberty & I assure you I would not if I did not feel that the South is being overrun with men whose only aim was money, & stand ready to lend themselves to those who can afford to pay.

I was very glad to see Maj Cutler, who I regard a very excellent young man.

Hope you & family are well. I would be very glad to see you Mrs H & the children. My love to them all.

My health is quite good. This Regt is much scattered occupying five different stations. I get nothing to indicate when this Regt will be discharged. I am inclined to settle at the south, if the policy of improving the Negro is established on a firm basis. What do you think about it?

I would be very happy to hear from you at an early date. Would give much to see Jamey & Chancey.

Yours very truly.  
E.W. Woodman

Confidential

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Barrancas Florida  
Aug 3, 1865  
Woodman  
Col 2d Me Cav.  
Advises that Maj. Miller be not employed in Bureau  
Rec'd Aug 15 1865

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2819 8/3/1865

*From:* P H Sheridan  
Maj Gen

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2764

Head Qrs Military Div of  
the Gulf  
N.O. [New Orleans]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[134, 135]

Head Qrs Military Div of the Gulf  
N.O. Aug 3d 1865

My Dear General,

It is very important to extend your bureau to Texas as soon as possible.

There are a great many Freedmen in Texas, and but few rights will be given to these people until you can extend there. We have to keep them on the plantation for their security and welfare, and the planters combine <against> their rights secretly. I have thought it best to give but few directives as I think it best for you to commence without having many changes to make.

My very kind regards for your self and family  
Respectfully  
P H Sheridan  
Maj Gen

Maj Genl Howard  
in Charge of Freedmen &c

[Written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]

New Orleans La.

Aug. 3d 1865

Sheridan P.H.

Maj Genl.

Thinks an asst. Commissioner should be appointed for Texas.

Recd Aug. 13 1865

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2820 8/3/1865

*From:* C.J. Watson  
Capt & A.Q.M.  
Harrisburg Pa.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comm. Freedman Bureau

OOH-2765

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[137, 138]

Harrisburg Pa.  
August 3, 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comm. Freedman Bureau  
General,

Knowing the interest you have always taken in the success of Maine soldiers and especially those formerly connected with the old 3rd Regt. I have taken the liberty of asking for the aid of your influence.

You may hardly remember me, but I originally was a private in the 3rd and afterwards Quartermaster until it was mustered out of service. Last summer I was appointed Captain and Asst. Quartermaster, and have since been on duty here. I am now ordered to turn over the property in my charge, (the Depot being no longer needed here) and report to the Adjutant General by letter from my residence.

Not wishing to leave the service at present, I would ask your aid in having me ordered to duty at some place. Possibly you may have a position in your Bureau that you can have me ordered to.

Pardon me for intruding myself upon your notice, but my anxiety to remain in the service, has prompted me to it, it being very inconvenient at present for me to engage in my former business.

Will you be kind enough to inform me what you can do?

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
Your obed't servt  
C.J. Watson  
Capt & A.Q.M.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Harrisburg Pa.  
August 5th 1865  
Watson C.J.  
Capt. & A.Q.M.

Desires to be assigned to duty in Freedmen's Bureau or elsewhere.

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2821 8/4/1865

*From:* J.M. Armour

*To:* Maj. Gen. OO Howard

OOH-2766

506 L St Washington  
DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133]

506 L St Washington DC Aug 4th 1865

Maj. Gen. OO Howard  
Dear Sir

After some conversation in regard to the probability of obtaining a grant of Abandoned, or Confiscated lands, as property, in aid of a College, for the Freedmen of our Country, to be located in the South, you were so kind as to propose to give a reply in writing. Your opinion or advice in regard to the following points, will be thankfully received.

- 1 Should we petition Congress for a grant of certain lands or property?
- 2 In that case might we hope that you would favor our cause?
- 3 Should our Board of Education, prefer to apply directly to you, (rather than to Congress) would you feel justified to entertain & act upon their application?
- 4 In any case, may we not rely upon Govt protection in carrying forward this work?

Sincerely hoping you may be able to give a reply, which will be encouraging to those who are laboring in this good cause.

I am Dear Sir  
Yours Truly  
J.M. Armour

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Washington  
Aug 4, 1865  
Armour J.M.

Asks opinion and advice of Genl. Howard, on points within stated, concerning the probability of obtaining a grant of land in aid of a College for Freedmen.

[Written on the back page, in the hand of OO Howard.]  
J.M. Armour  
Answered

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2822 8/4/1865

*From:* M E DeGraffenreid

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2767

Millbury Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

Major General Howard  
Dear Sir

As I have received no letters from my friends South since I arrived North conclude that mails are not yet established at Chester therefore fear my agent will not receive your Duplicate as my letter requesting him to call on Col. Ely for mules.

If it will not trouble you too much will be greatly obliged if you will request General Gilmore or Colonel Ely to reserve twenty mules & two horses for me & I will send for them as soon as I return South. Expect to be there the first of Oct. if not sooner. If there are no mules to be disposed of in S.C. trust you will procure for me some of those that are to be sold during the present month at Washington.

Do not wish fancy horses but those suitable for carriage & also to work on plantation. Fear that I am troubling you very much but trust that my great need is sufficient apology for my importunity.

Very Respectfully &c  
M E DeGraffenreid

Millbury Mass. Aug. 4th 1865.

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2823 8/5/1865

*From:* A.J. Alexander

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2768

Knoxville Tenn

Washington City D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[140, 141]

Private

Knoxville Tenn Aug 5 / 65

Major Genl O.O. Howard

Washington City D.C.

General,

As the time approaches for the reorganization of the Army, all officers who desire to remain in the army are collecting such records of their past services as may have a bearing on their promotion. With this view I write you to request if you have leisure to write to the Adjutant General of the army what you may recollect of my services as Adjutant General of the <4th> Army corps during the Atlanta Campaign and in pursuit of Hood as far as Gaylesville Ga.

In this connection I desire to remind you of the fact that Genl Ransom who was in command of the Corps was sick in an ambulance during the entire march from Marietta Ga to Gaylesville the control of the Corps devolving upon me entirely. I would also recall to your recollection the fact that when it was proposed to place Genl Stoneman in command during Genl Blairs temporary absence Gels Leggett & Belknap expressed the wish that I should carry on the business of the Corps & conduct its marches. Genl Ransom to whom I should have applied for this part of my recored unfortunately for the country died as you recollect at Gaylesville.

If you recollect my services and think they are worthy of mention I will be much obliged to you if you will address a communication to the Adjutant Genl.

I was in all the battles in which my Corps was engaged about Atlanta. But as I was not under your personal eye & only did my duty I do not desire any mention of them.

I conclusion I desire to say that if you have the slightest objection to comply with my wishes in this respect please do not hesitate to decline as I fully recognize the fact that I have no claims upon you except such as every subordinate soldier has upon his commander.

I have the honor to be

Very Resply

Your Ob St.

A.J. Alexander [Andrew Johnson Alexander]

Capt 3d U.S. Cavalry

Bv Brig Genl Vols

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Knoxville Tenn.

August 5th 1865

Alexander A. J.

Bvt. Brig. Genl.

Desires recommendation for promotion

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2824 8/5/1865

*From:* C.J. Watson  
Capt & A.Q.M.

*To:* Brig Genl. J L. Hodsdon

OOH-2769

Depot of Clothing and  
Equipage,  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Adjt Genl. State of Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[142]

Depot of Clothing and Equipage,  
Harrisburg, Pa., August 5 1865

General,

Knowing the interest you take in the welfare of Maine boys I take the liberty of asking a favor. The necessity for a Depot at this place no longer existing I am ordered to close up, and proceed to my residence and report to the Adjt. Gen. U.S.A. by letter for orders, which is equivalent to a muster out. And not wishing to leave the service at present, I wish you would see General Howard, and ask him if he cannot give me a position in his Bureau, and get me ordered accordingly, as he has to have a good many officers.

I will be under great obligations if you will assist me thus much.

I am general  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obed't Servt  
C.J. Watson  
Capt & A.Q.M.

Brig Genl. J L. Hodsdon  
Adjt Genl. State of Maine

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Harrisburg Pa.  
August 5, 1865  
Watson C.J..  
Capt & A.Q.M.  
Desires a position in Bureau R.F.&A.L.

[Written on the back page, by OO Howard]  
Attended to

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2825 8/6/1865

*From:* A. Merrell

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2770

Geneva

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Geneva, Aug. 6th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

My dear Friend,

I thought you would like to see the change a little time has made in the looks of our dear boy Howard. The photograph does not give his usually pleasant expression as he was growing tired from repeated sittings, but it is more distinct than we have been able to obtain before.

Very respectfully

<Jarv>

A. Merrell

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Geneva, Aug. 6, 1865

Merrill, A.

Friendly Letter

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**2826** 8/7/1865      *From:* Horatio Woodman      *To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard.

OOH-2761a                      Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152]

Mr. Horatio Woodman takes the liberty to refer the enclosed letter from Mr. J.J. Forbes and the extract from the Daily Advertiser to Maj. Gen. Howard.

Boston, Aug. 7 / 65

[The letter from J.M. Forbes, dated Aug 2, 1865, was enclosed in the above note from Horatio Woodman.]

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2827 8/7/1865

*From:* William Alexander

*To:* George Gibbs Esq.

OOH-2771

New York

355 H. St. North,  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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144, 145, 146]

New York, Aug. 7, 1865

My Dear Sir -

It seems to be now generally conceded that the rebellion, of which negro slavery formed the chief <break>, was organized to extend and perpetuate the political power of the persons (politicians) who put it into operation. These politicians having failed to obtain foreign aid, and having on their appeal to arms been conquered, now wish to be "conciliated", i.e. restored to work continued in political power. They will be content with nothing less, and it is now their aim to excite dissatisfaction among the people at home and to bring about a political combination with all all disaffected elements in the loyal states so as again by means of it to ride into place with power. They can only be "conciliated" by giving them office. As giving office to traitors is out of the question, how can they be frustrated in their scheme of agitation? The answer is plain. They can be broken down politically at home by simply hiring out the freedmen equitably –by distributing them among the mass of the people, and especially among those who have not been slave holders at all, or, who have not seen large slaveholders before. Through the planters, of whom the rebel politicians are, or, to whom they belong, would arise a huge out-cry because they would not be allowed to monopolize as heretofore the labor of their respective State, this course of procedure would certainly set the majority of the people against them, would build up a controlling party loyal not only through principle but from interest. The freedmen would certainly be better treated when hired to those who would work along with them, and the subdivision of labor would come the production of, in the aggregate, larger crops. As a matter of course the planters and politicians would bitterly oppose the equitable distribution of the freedmen among the people at large. Accustomed to hold a monopoly of labor and of political power, they would spare no effort, no expense to keep up their cherished system of monopolies. They would even try to convince the powers that be that unless their lands be cultivated by negroes hired by themselves no sufficient crops could possibly be produced. When it is borne in mind that land is "a doing" in the hitherto slave states, and besides, that if they can't cultivate their own lands they will be compelled to sell, or, to rent them in order to subsist, this objection will have its proper weight.

The whole matter of reconstruction is, in my judgment, easily controllable by means of the Bureau of Freedmen. There is no need of putting the programme suggested into print. If it be quietly adopted and carried out the result will be the building up of a loyal party which will out-number and put down at home the baffled traitors who having failed in their resort to arms have betaken themselves to systematic agitation to effect as far as may be their original purpose.

In haste  
Very Sincerely yours  
William Alexander

George Gibbs Esq.  
355 H. St. North,  
Washington, D.C.

P.S. I am sorry Mrs Chase had left before you recd my letter.

Can you get the suggestion mentioned in the letter to which this P.S. is appended before Gen Howard? If so, use it. My belief is that the Freedmen's Bureau can, by doing only what is fair, rush right in itself, save us from a terrible and unnecessary struggle. At all events, it ought not to be an instrument for carrying out any monopoly.

I am still writing here to close up if possible a matter of Texas business, and do not expect to start southwards until some time next month. You shall here from me as to the matters in Texas in which I wish soon to be interested before I leave.

None of the best people of Texas have arrived here, as yet.



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2828 8/7/1865

*From:* S.D. Bowker

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2772

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[147, 148]

Augusta Me  
Aug 7th 1865

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I have already informed you of the existence and character of Lincoln College. It is named for that great christian emancipator Abraham Lincoln and is designed To commemorate the principle of Freedom over Slavery and to serve as a standing memory of those who have assisted in achieving that victory.

To give a practical bearing to this Memorial of our National Conflict, it is proposed to establish free scholarships with special reference to educating the children of those who have sacrificed their lives in defence of their country.

These scholarships it is designed to name for men who have distinguished themselves in fighting for the restoration of the Union. If this enterprise meets with your approbation it is proposed to endow a scholarship to be named for yourself as one of those whose services have contributed so largely to the success of the armies of the Republic.

Most Truly Yours  
S.D. Bowker

P.S.

If in reply you feel to endorse the general plan of the college it may be of some service to me in my work. And as to the special object of endowing and naming a scholarship for yourself you will, of course, say as much or little as you deem best.

A reply would reach me this week at Portland Me.  
S.D.B.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Augusta Me.  
Aug 7, 1865  
Bowker S.D.

Concerning the proposal to establish free Scholarships in Lincoln College, for the benefit of children of Soldiers.

[Written on the last page in OO Howard's hand.]

Answered  
S.D. Bowker

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2829 8/7/1865

*From:* Wm King

*To:* Maj Gen O O. Howard

OOH-2773

New York

Washington D C

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[149, 150]

New York  
7 Aug 1865

Washington D C  
Maj Gen O O. Howard  
My dear Sir

I expect to leave here on Saturday on my mission to the east. My design is to address the public for the purpose of informing them of

- 1 The sad condition & destitution of our afflicted Country at the South
- 2 The present condition and future prospects of the Freedmen
- 3 The inducements offered at the South for emigration; expense & profits in cultivating Cotton & Rice

My purpose I find meets general approval here, and I truly hope may do good. I do not wish you <will> <> to endorse my opinions, as you cannot be fully acquainted with them; but a Letter from you, so well known, & so <> interested in the well being of the Negro Race, approving of my proposed course of giving information at the North would materially facilitate the success of my labours. I am thoroughly opposed to slavery & always have been, and if I know my own heart I earnestly desire to arrest the great evils which now hang over the Negro, and to fit him better for the duties of life, and thus advance the general happiness & prospects of our Country. I have many letters of commendation but none will be as valuable to me as one from you –if perfectly agreeable to you to aid me with such a Letter; be pleased to send it to me at your earliest convenience (if only a few lines) address to the “Care of Ralph King Esq No 59 Beaver Street New York” .

I truly hope you will not allow your large plantation (of 3,000 000 Negro) by its necessary cares & responsibilities to wear you out.

I remain Genl  
very respfly Yr ob Ser  
Wm King  
of Savannah

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2830 8/7/1865

*From:* Philip Leidy

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2774

No 538. North , 11th St.  
Philad'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[151]

No 538. North , 11th St. Philad'a  
August 7th 1865

My dear General,

Excuse the familiarity I take in writing you.

I am anxious to secure the appointment as "Examining Surgeon for Pensions" in the City.

I have been mustered out of the service, after serving nearly four years as Surgeon, as for order of the War Dep't reducing the Armies.

I will forward my application to Joseph H. Barrett, Esq Commissioner of Pensions, and would like to have a letter of recommendation from you to forward with it, as it will give it more weight.

Hoping it will meet with your favorable consideration

I remain very Respy

Your Ob't Serv't

Philip Leidy USO

Late, Asst. Surg. 106th R.I. - Surgeon, 119th R.I.

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2831 8/8/1865

*From:* Sidney Perham

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2775

*Source:* Bowdoin

United States of  
America  
Thirty Eighth Congress  
House of  
Representatives  
Paris

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[155]

United States of America  
Thirty Eighth Congress  
House of Representatives  
Washington City [Washington City was crossed out] Paris Aug. 8, 1865.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard,  
My Dear Sir,

Lieut C. W. Keyes, who has lost a foot in the service, would be very glad to obtain a place in the Freedmen's Bureau. He is a good man, and I hope you will be able to give him a place.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
Sidney Perham [Representative to U.S. Congress from Maine, 1863-1868]

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2832 8/8/1865

*From:* Lyman Abbott

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2776

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Union  
Commission  
15 Bible House  
New York

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[154]

American Union Commission  
15 Bible House  
New York, Aug 8 1865

Dear Sir,

I have written to arrange for a public meeting in Portland for the purpose of setting before its citizens the duties which the Northern States owe to the people of the South, in reconstructing Christian civilization there. If successful in the arrangements as I have every reason to expect to be the meeting will be held on the 1st Sabbath of Sept in the evening.

I write to invite you to be present & address the people on such occasion on the general subject, but especially on the wants of the Freedmen & Refugees. I should be glad to receive your reply as soon as convenient. I am very sure the citizens of Maine will be very glad if you will give them this opportunity of hearing you. And if your answer is in the affirmative I will go to Portland & make the necessary arrangements for such a meeting myself.

I have to-day rec' the enclosed letter from Gov. Brownlow. We are prepared to send a teacher of experience, a graduate of Yale College, a devoted Christian, studying for the ministry, or at least intending eventually to enter it, to take charge of this Academy if it can be surrendered & made fit for use. Remembering your assurances that you would give every facility to the work of education, I call your attention to this letter in the hope that you may be able to secure its release, for its original purposes, & perhaps its repair or partial repair by the military authorities by whom it has been used.

Please return Gov. Brownlow's letter to me.

Yours Very Truly  
Lyman Abbott

To  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written sideways at the bottom of the back page, in OO Howard's hand]  
Answered

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2833 8/9/1865

*From:* A. v Steinwehr

*To:* My dear General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2777

Wallingford, Con.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159, 160]

Wallingford, Con. Aug. 9th 1865

My dear General,

More than a year has passed, since we parted in Lookout Valley; - & much as I regretted the circumstances, which forced me to leave that army; I have always followed with profound interest its subsequent movements, so large & conspicuous a part of which fell to your share.

I have lived, since I returned to the north in complete retirement on our old Yankee farm about 10 miles from New Haven. As soon as I began to doubt, that I should be reassigned to an active command in the field, I resumed my geographical studies & set myself vigorously to work to complete a book, which I had begun before the war, a text-book of comparative Geography on Carl Ritter's principles.

The book is now nearly finished & the maps are in the hands of the engravers. In about 6 or 8 months it may be ready for publication. It will give me much pleasure to send you a copy.

I have written lately to Mr Kennedy the late Superintendent of the Census bureau for a copy of the Census report (Quarto edition); but not receiving a reply, I doubt whether he is still in Wash. Yet I need this report very much, and -(please pardon the hardihood of my request) venture to ask you to procure a copy for me & forward it to me. Of course I do not ask you to give yourself any trouble about it. I fact, unless one of your Aids can get it without the least inconvenience, I do not wish to make the request at all.

I few days since I met Gen'l Underwood at N. York. He looks remarkably well. It is wonderful, that he should have recovered at all; - & I am glad to see that his faithful services are appreciated. How your old command is scattered over the country. Schurz makes critical observations in southern sociology. Who will doubt their profundity? O. Smith is rail-road engineer. Buschbeck is said to be teaching in Philadelphia & I am buried & forgotten on the hillsides of Connecticut. Gen'l Hooker lives comfortably at the Astor House, where I met him a few days since. He looks hale & hearty & if I mistake not, more erect than ever, - "ver inch a General" as Mr. Jenkins once affirmed, & as we all believe willingly.

Give my best regards to your Brother who is doubtless still with you; - to assist you in duties that are unquestionably more delicate & difficult, than agreeable.

How wonderful & complete the collapse of the confederacy has been; & what an aera of prosperity dawns upon the country! But how difficult to fix by laws the social conditions of the two races in the southern states! In the northern states there is at an average one colored person to 83 white inhabitants, -in the late slave states 1 colored to 2 whites. Can society be regulated by the same principles in both sections? And if so, what will be the consequences? But I loose myself in speculations, & have already written more than you may be willing to read. Please give me the pleasure to send me a reply however short.

Every truly yours  
A. v Steinwehr

My wife desires to be remembered to you, & sends her best regards.

[Written across the top of the first page in a different hand.]

Answrd

Books sent

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2834 8/9/1865

*From:* J.E. Bryant

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2778

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office Sub  
Commissioner  
Freedmens Bureau  
Augusta Ga

Commissioner Freedmen's  
Bureau

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[156]

Office Sub Commissioner Freedmens Bureau Augusta Ga Aug 9th 1865

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner Freedmen's Bureau  
Sir -

I have the honor to forward to you at the suggestion of your friend Mr Strickland now in this city a letter written to the Editors of the N.Y. Tribune. The letter will explain itself.

I came South with no expectation of being connected with the freedmen's Bureau. I am not an office seeker. I do not desire to be connected with the Bureau one day longer than I can be a benefit to the cause.

I am a Maine man. I served three years as a Captain in the 8th Maine Infantry. I was at one time a school mate of your brother Charles. If you at any time desire to make inquiries concerning me I respectfully refer you to Rev. Dr. Torsey, President of the Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Female College, with whom I believe you are acquainted.

I should not have taken the liberty to address to you this communication but for the unpleasant position in which I have been in connection with the Freedmen's Bureau which is quite fully explained in my letter to the N.Y. Tribune.

Many of my friends in Maine are readers of the Tribune. I have been assailed by that paper and of course my friends feel a deep interest in all I do. I have not time to explain to each of them the reasons that caused me to do what may seem to them wrong being unacquainted as they are with the condition of these people.

I wish that they shall be informed that I have not forgotten the lessons taught by the good men of our State.

I fear the freedmen among whom I labor will not receive that assistance from the friends at the North that they would receive if those friends had confidence in me, and I fear that the article in the Tribune copied as it no doubt has been into other Northern papers will cause them to place but little confidence in me unless it is satisfactorily answered and that I have attempted to do.

At the same time I do not wish to publish an article that does not meet with your approval therefore I send it to you. If you think it proper I desire that my letter shall be published. If you do not think it best it is not my desire that it should be. I also send herewith an article which was published first in the Southern Cultivator and copied into most of the rebel papers in this State.

You will see that I am assailed at the North for favoring the planter and at the South for favoring the colored man I have intended to do justice to both freedmen and planter.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
J.E. Bryant  
Sub Com Freedmen

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Office, Sub. Comr. Freedmens Bureau  
Augusta Ga.  
Aug 9, 1865

Bryant, J.E.

Sub. Com Freedmen &c.

Forwards at the suggestion of Mr Strickland, letter written to N.Y. Tribune, also slips from Local papers.  
(3 enclosures)

[Stamp] Bureau R.F. & A.L. Washington Rec'd Aug 26 1865

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2835 8/9/1865

*From:* John Jones

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2779

(Near) Hampton Va

Washington City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156]

(Near) Hampton Va  
Aug. 9, 1865

Sir

In the settlement of war ordinary transactions it is usual to commence by ascertaining the facts of the case, and if this is necessary how much more desirable is that this should be the course in the important position which you hold. I would therefore respectfully suggest that you visit Old Point and the neighboring community.

We cannot promise you as many of the creature comforts as at an earlier period but you will find that we know how to be courteous.

You will remember the writer of this when you are reminded of a short interview while you were quartered near his residence in Warrenton N.C. and that he is the father of Thos. M. Jones.

Very respectfully  
Your obt svt  
John Jones

To  
Gen O.O. Howard  
Washington City

He was labouring under the <near infraction> of having been whipped when he saw you, this has worn off somewhat. J.J.

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2836 8/9/1865

*From:* John Ealan

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2780

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[157, 158]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, Aug. 9th 1865

My dear General:

You have statements from various sources of the quiet progress of the Bureau.

Col. T. telegraphed you in regard to Genl Gresham's declination &c.

Major S. sends you today a N.Y. Herald. An article in it will doubtless impress you anew with the importance of some action for that state - the <outline> of the article is against its own object.

I have asked Col. T. to give you if possible a journalistic synopsis of events.

Doubtless many things which would come in if you were here do not reach us, but all so far goes quietly.

Col. Osborn waits for Col. Fullerton's return.

Genl Fiske asks that Northern Miss. be assigned to him & <Mr.> Courday that the section of La. Now under Col. Thomas be assigned to him. I have said to Col. <Taggart> the cutting off of north Miss. would be decidedly against the grain as the state gets organized & that the La. question can be easily settle when the present crops are gathered and the <trades> & contracts now reached at Vicksburg & Natchez have ended & new ones are to be made.

Mr. Knowlton declines the supervision of Education for the Dist, indeed his physician has prohibited his going South. I am altogether in doubt & the more so as I see that Mr. McPerkins is one of Teachers of Colored Schools under the act of Congress. I wish you would name the man for the place. Today we are going into Campbell Hospital, changes for school rooms &c, all ordered. We are seeking the other rooms needed for the cities. I have been out to Camp Distribution. I am puzzled. The camp buildings &c are good strong - would give cottage accommodations for nearly three thousand people, but where will they find employment? The land around is called barren, the distance from work in the cities is about three miles, but we will do our best.

<I ordered> Mr Shipherds urgent approval. If I am not mistaken you have not been much in the state. Such a visit, under the circumstances would be a labor indeed but it would greatly strengthen your bonds that give the Bureau <Western> sympathies & accomplish also the special object of securing funds for educational purposes. Mr. Tusshird can manage it delicately & efficiently. If you chose you could take the <Lakes> & by more time not tax yourself so much. It would give you a good opportunity to declare your views at length & in a way secure not only wide circulation but approval.

Hope you are resting. Sincerely your friend  
John Ealan

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2837 8/10/1865    *From:* Henry Heath

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2781

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of  
The United States  
Service Magazine,  
540 Broadway,  
New York

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[161]

Office of  
The United States Service Magazine,  
540 Broadway,  
New York, Augt 10 1865  
C.B. Richardson, Publisher  
Henry Heath, General Agent

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

In our book "Sherman & his Campaigns", we shall introduce condensed biographical sketches of the Army & Corps Commanders, and for this purpose find that we lack reliable data in regard to yourself.

Will you have the kindness, therefore, to give us such information as you are willing shall be used. An answer at your earliest convenience will greatly oblige us, for the book is now in press.

Very respectfully yours  
Henry Heath

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]  
New York  
Aug. 10th 1865  
Heath, Henry  
Desires data for book  
Ansd.

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2838 8/10/1865 *From:* Charles H. Fox

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2782

New Orleans

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[163, 164, 165]

New Orleans August 10 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear General

Having had the honor to serve with you and under your orders, I take the Liberty of addressing you, giving you my information concerning the condition of officers in this City particularly the freedmen. I have seen published an order requiring Quartermasters &c to turn over all confiscated and abandoned property to the Freedmans Bureau upon application to Mr Conway in charge of said Bureau in this City. I was informed that the Dwelling Houses both furnished and unfurnished were for Rent to responsible parties, and the proceeds applied to the benefit of Freedman. Having my family here and being in reduced circumstances dependent upon a situation for their support, I obtained a list of said Houses from Capt. Armstrong A.Q.M. for Freedman, and proceeded to make an examination of the same. The following is the result: The best Houses in the City are occupied by "officers" consequently paying "No Rent" and in many instances are only places of Prostitution. Upon the authority of Capt Armstrong I presumed I had a right to visit any House upon his List for which he had receipted for and upon application to those houses I was confronted by an officer a major or a Lieutenant or Pay Master and rudely treated for making the enquiry. To illustrate I called at a House well furnished that should rent at least for One hundred dollars per month, and of sufficient capacity to comfortably accommodate fifty persons, which I found occupied by a Colonel and his Wife and servants, the only occupants. Again at another good house found occupied by a Major and Lieut sole occupants. And so it is all over the City. General permit me to suggest that under the present existing circumstances, I would not give Government One hundred dollars for all the Revenue they will derive from Confiscated Houses for the Freedmans <Beunevides>, and in my opinion it is unjust.

Government is in earnest for the benefit of the Freedmen. Their efforts are Noble, Humane, and Philanthropic and the Amount of Blood and Treasure that has been spent in the great result of Emancipation should not be lost or in vain from the acts of those who are wearing its uniform or holding Commissions under the same. The Freedmen of this section of the Country need all the assistance and protection from the Government they can obtain in promoting Education, Cultivation &c. They have been downtrodden and persecuted long enough for no other reason than God deemed proper to give them a Black Skin, and when I saw published in the Paper the Order assigning you as Commissioner of the Freedmans Bureau of the U.S. I said thank God Government is in "earnest" in this matter. Not only Emancipating this unfortunate race, but providing for their Cultivation by Education thereby preparing them for self Government, and no better guarantee could be given than by your appointment. Again when the Order was published that Rebel property should pay the expense of training the Freedman, I shouted "good" "good". It made the Rebels here look "sorrowful". So many pardons had been granted, so many had their property returned to them that they were buoyant with hope and defiantly declaring publicly that in a short time Louisiana would as heretofore be Governed by Louisianians, and Northern men could have a leave of absence from this City and state.

But General with all your humane and generous efforts the Freedman of this state are in a deplorable condition and need the strong arm of the Government in their behalf. For instance I have resided here about ten months and during that time have carefully observed the political condition of this City. I have united and assisted in Organizing an Republican association in this City the first one created here, have addressed them at a public meeting to a large audience, consequently are prepared to give an opinion based upon close observation. When I first arrived the Rebels and the Copperheads (which are one and the same in principle) determinedly opposed the Free State Constitution, declaring it was an usurpation and they would neither respect or obey it. But the Constitution of 1852 was the only legitimate Constitution. But recently and quite suddenly they are out in praise of the Constitution of 1864, and why! By its provisions there will be an election for Governor, state officers &c next November, and as the Rebels have surrendered and returned home, they will all vote this fall, and thus the Copperhead & Rebels will have a large majority elect all their kind, enact such Laws as will make the condition of the Negro more burdensome than before emancipating. I am reliably informed that in some of the Parishes of this state now, a Union man cannot live one day and that slavery is being carried on as

successfully as before the war and if Congress admits the Delegates this winter and withdraws the military from this section, Nothing has been accomplished by the War.

In conclusion permit me to say that you should place in charge here a man of judgment and <furnip> and one who is not afraid of the Rebels, and has no friends to reward or enemies to punish, one who understands the workings and principles of the Military and is acquainted with order and their interest who being himself Loyal and having served his Country upon the Field can and will deal firmly with the charge reposed in him feeling the importance of the great work assigned to him and heartily and energetically from his duties aiding the Freedman in every loyal manner for the accomplishment of the purpose of the Government at the same time making the effort self supporting by a fund raised in contemplated by the Law of Confiscated property and compelling Rebels to feel that their own conduct and acts had produced the result <thereof> giving to posterity the important lesson that Treason is a crime and must and will be punished. There is enough "Available Confiscated" property here if Judiciously managed to create a large fund.

General I have written plainly and earnestly for I feel the importance of the work and if any part of this Communication appears improper, or an attempt upon my part to give you advice please pardon me as the Animus of this communication is to inform you how I view matters and <here>, and from one who feels honored at having served under your command.

Truly yours  
Charles H. Fox

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New Orleans, La.  
Aug. 10th 1865  
Fox, Chas H.  
States views in regard to matters concerning Freedmen in N.O.  
Recd Aug 20 1865

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2839 8/10/1865 *From:* H.M. Stinson

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2783

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[162]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, August 10th 1865

Dear General,

Your letter of the 7th reached me yesterday; many thanks for it. Col. Taggart tells me that he has telegraphed to you about Gen. Gresham.

When Maj. Matthews left there was about half of the regulations to be copied in order to have it in duplicate. I was to see that it was done and Col. T. said one of his clerks could copy it, but it has not been completed, not because of negligence but because Colonel Taggart is strongly opposed to having it published in its present shape. He thinks it should be thoroughly revised before being printed so that he decided to wait until Col. Fullerton returned.

On the important subject of marriage, it is silent.

I think that the Colonel was right in delaying the publication but if you desire to have it sent to the printer without change this can be done very quickly.

Col. Fullerton has just arrived, and will send you a note today. Mr & Mrs Markland made their appearance yesterday, and as Col. Osborn is in the mess we are able to fill six chairs.

Gilbreth left Monday morning and Col. Balloch Tuesday. We expect Col. Osborn will start for Florida tomorrow. Nothing heard from Strong lately.

Very Respectfully  
H.M. Stinson

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2840 8/10/1865

*From:* Samuel L. Tuttle

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2784

American Bible Society  
Bible House Astor Place  
New York

Chief of the Bureau of  
Refugees, Freedmen &c

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[71]

American Bible Society  
Bible House Astor Place  
New York Aug 10 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chief of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c  
Dear Sir:

Your letter of inquiry in relation to the labors of the American Bible Society in connection with Freedmen &c, has been received in this Office; and at the request of the Rev Dr Taylor our Domestic Corresponding Secretary, I write you to day that the officers of this Institution are much gratified that you have given them the opportunity to put your Department in possession of the facts pertaining to this important portion of our work; and that we have accordingly forwarded to you some of our official documents, in which these facts are recorded, for the use of the Bureau over which you have been called to preside.

We would particularly refer you to the following places which we have marked: to wit, Annual Report for 1862 page 33; do for 1863, p 37; do for 1864 p 37; do for 1865 p 62; our circular pamphlet entitle "he American Bible Society and the South" p 3; and a circular just sent out by us called "he Jubilee Year" a part of which, "o the People of the U. States" is from the pen of the Rev Wm Adams D.D. of this city. From the last you will see that this Institution is making the Freed People a very special object of concern during their fiftieth year of it history.

These various references will serve to show you that this Institution has, not a little appreciation of the great responsibilities which divine Providence has devolved upon it in connection with Freedmen and other classes at the South; and that it is the desire and purpose of the Board of Managers to meet all these responsibilities with promptness and fidelity as they shall have the means to do so. In our appointment of Agent to superintend our work in the Southern States, and in the instructions given to our agents there, the Managers, and especially mindful of the classes with which your Department is more particularly concerned; and we have much reason to believe that the various agencies, and instrumentalities which we are establishing in connection with the Bible work at the South, will, in the end, with the blessing of God, eventuate in incalculable good to that entire portion of our land.

I need scarcely assure you, Dear Sir, that you have the earnest sympathy of all the Officers and Managers of the great National Society, in the important work committed to your hands, and that we shall all greatly rejoice to hear, from time to time, of your eminent success in it prosecution.

And while on this subject will you permit the inquiry whether it would be consistent with the authority rested in you as the head of the Bureau, to grant free passes over the national roads at the South for the use of the Agents of the American Bible Society in the prosecution of their official works, in number not to exceed one for each of the States recently in rebellion.

If such an arrangement could be made by you, I assure you it would be very gratifying to the Custodians of this Institution, and very greatly aid them in carrying out their benign, Christian and most liberal intentions towards towards Freedman, and all other classes in the desolated Southern portions of our Country.

With much Christian respect and esteem  
Samuel L. Tuttle  
Assist Cor Secy Am Bib Socy

For  
Rev Dr Taylor  
OOH

N.B. Dr Taylor desires me to write to Gen Howard that he sent him a communication on the 26th of June last, and has received no answer.

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

New York City

Aug. 10th 1865

Tuttle Saml. L.

Acknowledges receipt of Genl. Howards letter of inquiry, in regard to the labors of of the Am. Bible Society in connection with the Freedman, and states that he will send some of their documents showing what they are doing.

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2841 8/10/1865 *From:* J.T. Champlin

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2785

Waterville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[166]

Waterville  
Aug. 10th 1865

General Howard  
Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Trustees of Waterville College conferred on you the honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at their meeting yesterday.

I need not say that it gives me great pleasure to be the organ of communicating this fact to you.

I am, Sir,  
very truly yours  
J.T. Champlin [President of Waterville College, which was renamed to Colby College]

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Waterville, Maine  
August 10, 1865  
Champlin, J.T.

Informs Genl Howard that the Trustees of Waterville College, have conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws

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2842 8/11/1865 *From:* H.F.T. Merrill

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2786

Portland

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167, 168]

Portland, 11th Aug. 1865

Dear Sir:

Though formally a stranger, I venture to address you on subject of considerable importance to myself, trusting that the acquaintance which formerly existed between yourself & our family may be some excuse for thus intruding upon your notice.

I am in search of employment, & have been advised to apply to you.

My Father the late Jas. L. Merrill, died in June last, and as he left nothing, my Mother and younger brother are mainly dependent on me for their support.

I graduated at Bowdoin in 1864, & should, had not the condition of my Father's affairs prevented, have commenced at once upon the study of a profession, but was obliged at the time to give up my intentions and provide for my own maintenance, hoping to resume my studies, as I undoubtedly would had my father lived, this coming Autumn. His death however compelled me to again defer them & to provide some means of support for those dependent upon me.

It is has occurred to me that perhaps you could assist me to employment in your department. Should such be the case, any favor in that direction which you may grant me, will be gratefully received & appreciated, by myself, & mother as well.

Respectfully

Yours

H.F.T. Merrill

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Augusta

Aug. 12

P.S. I hope that you will not consider us unfortunate or intrusive. At the time of writing the above I was not aware that my sister Mrs. Hodsdon had written in behalf of her husband, or even that she had any intentions of doing so. As I have written this letter I will send it though I fear I am trespassing on your time & patience.

H.F.T.M.

[Written on the last page, in OO Howard's hand.]

Answered

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2843 8/11/1865    *From:* Edward E. Hale                      *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2787                      Milton, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169, 170]

Milton, Mass.  
Aug. 11, 1865

Gen O.O. Howard, &c &c &c  
Dear Sir -

At the request of the Editors of the North American Review I have undertaken to furnish for that journal for October a paper on the Education of the Freedmen.

As you will readily judge, it will be a very great assistance to me, if you will kindly order sent to me a set of your Bulletins, instructions to agents, general orders or printed reports, so far as they may with propriety be made public.

I venture to ask this great favour at your hands therefore hoping I may be able to render some slight service to the Freedmen and to the cause, by my use of them.

As I am an entire stranger to you, I take the liberty of saying that I have been from the first a Vice President of the Educational Commission, a Freedmens aid Society of New England. I am the neighbor and friend of Rev. Mr. Webb, of Boston, who is I think a friend of yours. I believe I am known to all our Massachusetts members of Congress if any of them happen to be in Washington.

I have the honor to be  
With great respect  
Your obedient Servant  
Edward E. Hale

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Milton Mass.  
August 11, 1865  
Hale Ed. E.  
Requests circulars & regulations may be sent to him.

[Written on the last page in OO Howard's hand.]  
answr

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2844 8/11/1865    *From:* Wm Fowler

*To:* Maj. Genl O. O. Howard

OOH-2788

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[180]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, August 11, 1865.

Maj. Genl O. O. Howard  
General,

General Fullerton desires me to forward the enclosed circular for your consideration.

The wording of Circular No. 13 seems to have caused some misunderstanding, and this communication was prepared for the purpose of removing it.

I am General  
Very respectfully  
Your obt serv't  
Wm Fowler  
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

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2845 8/11/1865     *From:* M C Garber

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2789

Madison, Ind.

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[171, 172]

Madison, Ind. August 11, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington  
Dear General,

I have been unlucky in any services in your command, I hardly know how to write you. I would not, if I did not know that it has all been either my fault or misfortune.

I have just been relieved by Genl. Sherman and ordered to report by letter to the Quartermaster General. General Sherman has given me a very kind letter, acknowledging my services while on his Staff. I would like to have something of the kind from you.

I hardly expect to remain in the Service. My Contract expired with the Rebellion; but if my services can be made useful without serving on the frontiers, I have no objection to remain in the Qr. Mr. Department. Have you any use for me?

Indiana is overrun with Freedmen; particularly the border counties. These need looking after. The Rev. Mr Blythe, a chaplain at the General hospital here, has been spoken of in this connection. He is a good man better qualified for the place than any one I know of. He has been giving the matter some attention, probably has written to you. You can rely upon his statements. Mr Blythe is a zealous, hardworking, christian man, and always a consistent antislavery man. He was so from the first, when I was only a Free Soiler.

The Freedmen in Indiana are in a deplorable condition. At Evansville, in consequence of an outrage committed by one or two colored men, some innocent men of this class have been murdered; and the public prejudice, strong enough before, much increased against them all along the border.

Very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
/s/ M C Garber

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Madison, Ind.

Aug. 11 1865

Garber, M.C.

Desires complimentary letter and would like position in Freedmen's Bureau.

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2846 8/12/1865 *From:* Jacob S. Willets

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-2790

Croton Point  
Westchester Co. N.  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[211, 212]

Croton Point Westchester Co. N. York  
8th Month 12th 1865

Major Genl O O Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Esteemed friend,

Leaving Indianapolis about ten days since in company with an invalid wife to spend a short time with our friends in this vicinity, I had not time previous to leaving to reply to Queries in a Circular addressed to me as Cor. Secty & Gen Agent of the Indiana Freedmen's Aid Commission, but requested by son W.P. Willets who will represent me in my absence, to reply as far as he could give the desired information. The annual meeting of our Com. will be held early in next month, after which we can reply more definitely for the past year.

I may state that the operations of our Com. have been mainly confined to Clarksville & vicinity Ten. In conjunction with the Western F.A. Com. of Cincinnati, we sent the first teachers there in Jan. 1865, & have maintained several there up to the present time, in conjunction with the W.F.A.C. And the Executive Com. of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Plainfield Ind. These having been from 6 to a doz schools in progress at Clarksville, Providence, and the Contraband Camp, a radius containing a large number of Freedmen, and very interesting fruits have long since appeared.

In April of last year the Contraband Camp was first commenced & in June Capt Wm Brant was placed in Command, an earnest and faithful laborer, using great exertions to improve the condition of the Freedmen & at the same time to make the camp self sustaining. Commencing so late in the season last year, but little benefit could be obtained from cultivating the land but this year he has several hundred acres under cultivation. Feeling the necessity of instructing the people in the various employments and duties of life as well as in literature, Am Com mission has this year appropriated a large amt, in furnishing tools and agricultural implements, to enable them to cultivate the land profitably, and also tools and leather to establish a shoe shop, which Capt. Brunt in one of his letters says "is a complete success".

I suppose Capt. Brunt has given thee a statement of the condition & prospects of the Camp, but I thought, proposing to give thee a brief outline, & suppose at the present time it is or was in a prosperous condition, and we were looking forward with much interest to the close of the present season when after the crops were gathered to see how the accounts would stand. But a day before I left home I rec'd a letter from Capt Brunt who says "I write in haste. I have just had a long interview with Col Barnard, who brings imperative orders that the Camps must be broken up forthwith, and no rations can be issued after the 15th of August." "What will become of the poor people I do not know. Set your friends at work to find places for as many as possible. I can send them to Evansville or Louisville if you can send agents there to receive them." &c. He enquires what to do with the tools and implements &c that we have furnished, and feels much <straitened> to know what to do, and laments for the sufferings that many will have to endure in this being hastily sent away.

He does not state the number but in the sprint, there were from 12 to 1400, the larger portion women & children and infirm men, but the larger portion so employed as to be earning something & attending schools &c. Altho he so earnestly entreated us to find homes in Indiana there is no prospect of its being done.

In a letter received from my son dated the 8th, he says "I rec'd a letter yesterday from Capt. Brunt, who says without further orders he cannot issue any more rations after the 10th. He says many of the Freedmen are going back to their masters in Kentucky, and hard masters they are. I wish thee would write to Gen. Howard in regard to that Camp, for it cannot be known to him how near it is self-sustaining. If they could issue rations a short-time longer they can support themselves."

I write thus particular to call thy attention to this subject hoping thou may see it right to countermand the orders for immediately breaking up this Camp, for we fear great loss will be sustained in various ways. Our Com. has

taken a great interest in sustaining this establishment, believing it to be of great value in instructing the people in the various duties of life, and <not> a few have already been prepared, as teachers and mechanics to instruct others. Commissions buildings have been erected for residences, and workshops, & school rooms and teachers dwellings. A large amount has been expended for tools and implements by our Com. and others on which great loss must be sustained if so suddenly thrown out of use, which if generally known to the community will have a discouraging effect on our future collections.

Thou will excuse me for thus pleading in behalf of this establishment, believing if thou would suspend the order for a time, thou might have an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with its character of management, and if not disposed to continue it as a school of instruction, at least give sufficient time to close it with less sacrifice.

I contemplate visiting Washington before my return and would do so next week, if I could render any service that would be of use in behalf of the Freedmen's Refugees. A letter would reach me directed to the care of Geo. Underhill & Co New York.

Respectfully  
Jacob S. Willets Cor Secretary  
and Gen Agent of I.F.A.Com.  
and Indiana Union Refugee Relief Assn

[Written sideways in red, overwriting the letter on the last page, in a different hand.]

Croton Point, Westchester Co

NY

Oct 12th 1865

Willets Jacob

Answers queries given in Circular from this Bureau relating to the society of which he is Cor. Secy.

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2847 8/13/1865 *From:* HW Beecher

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2791

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[225]

Copy

Brooklyn Aug 13 65

Genl Howard

Dear Sir

Col. Harrison White, now in the 6th NYV Cavalry, desires to continue a military life, & I do not know where you could find a young man who would be more faithful industrious, discreet, & eminently conscientious, for superintendence in any field in the south where you need a true man.

He is one in every way to be relied upon, & has earned by four years and scores of battles, a high reputation for courage skill & prudence.

I am very truly yours  
Signed HW Beecher

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2848 8/13/1865 *From:* H. T. Newton

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2792

Portsmouth Scioto Co  
Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[184]

Portsmouth Aug 13th / 65

Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

The anxiety of a Parent to learn the whereabouts of his Son from whome he has not heard since your Army was in Richmond Va. Will I feel assured be sufficient excuse for my troubling you with this note. My Son Edwin T. Newton has for some time been at your head Quarters. His Regiment the 27th Ohio Infentry having been mustered out of service, and not having heard from him as above stated, I thought I could possibly obtaine some information concearning him, by writing to you. If you are aware of his where abouts, and it will not cause you to mutch trouble, I will ever feel graitfull to you for any information you may afford me concearning him.

Youres Respectfully  
H. T. Newton  
Portsmouth Scioto Co Ohio

Genl O.O. Howard

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2849 8/13/1865      *From:* Edward B Hubbard      *To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2793                      Kane McKean Co. Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[173, 174]

Kane McKean Co. Pa.  
Aug 13th 1865

My Dear Sir -

I am expecting before long to go on to Washington for the purpose of getting an appointment in the Regular Army. I was a Cadet at West Point when the war broke out, but left there and went home to Ohio and accepted a Lieutenancy in the 2nd Ohio Vol Cav. I served until last Sept. when poor health compelled me to resign.

My class has all graduated.

I have excellent recommendations now in the War Dept'mt - from Maj Genl <Y. Stute> and others. My application has been filed for some time but as yet have never heard from it.

I have been in the Army so long that I now cannot feel satisfied out of it. I wish to make it my profession.

While at West Point I received special attention from you. I think you will remember me when you see me. If it is of no use please let me know.

Truly Your Obedt Servt  
Edward B Hubbard [USMA Class of 1864]

To.  
Maj Gen OO Howard  
U.S.A.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Kane Pa.  
Aug 13, 1865  
Hubbard Ed. B.  
Desires opinion whether it is best for him to proceed to Washington to obtain position in regular Army.  
Recd Aug. 16, 1865

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2850 8/15/1865 *From:* Andrew Morrill

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2794

Elmira, U.S.A. Hos.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[175]

Elmira, U.S.A. Hos. Aug. 15th 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Friend,

Adj. Gen. Thomas, while recently here to arrange for closing this hospital, offered me a position as Surgeon of some colored regiment, in which he believed there were several vacancies. I am to write him soon if I desire one.

As my duties here will soon terminate, I will thank you very much to inform me of the status of a Surgeon of a colored regiment. Is it regarded a respectable position? Are the officers generally intelligent christian or moral men & are there hopes of promotion for merit?

Do you suppose I could be located so far north as to render it safe to have my family with me & would we be likely to have any social or religious privileges outside the Army?

If you can spare time to give me any information or advice, it will be received with many thanks, as I am entirely ignorant about this new branch of the service.

My application for the Geneva P.O. was unsuccessful & therefore it was not best for me to have it. I thank you for any effort you may have made for me in that direction.

Very respectfully  
Your ob't serv't  
Andrew Morrill  
A.A. Surg. U.S.A.

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2851 8/15/1865 *From:* John D. Baldwin

*To:* Maj. Gen. O. M. Howard

OOH-2795

Worcester, Mass.

Commissioner of the  
Freedmans Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[176]

Worcester, Mass.  
August 15, 1865.

Maj. Gen. O. M. Howard,  
Commissioner of the Freedmans Bureau, Washington, D.C.  
Sir,

I write this to introduce to your acquaintance and favorable consideration Mr Thomas J. Harrington, of Millbury, Mass., who visits Washington to see you on business of Mrs. Mary E. De Graffenreid, of Chester, S.C., who accompanies him, and whom he will introduce. Mr. Harrington is one of the most respectable and loyal of our citizens, and what he may state in behalf of Mrs. De Graffenreid may be relied on as correct.

Mrs. De Graffenreid is a Massachusetts woman who became an inhabitant of South Carolina by marriage. She is a widow. Such correspondence as she could maintain with her friends here, during the war, showed that her sympathies were on the side of the national government. She will explain her object in visting you; and I commend her case to your most favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be  
Your Most Obedient Servant,  
John D. Baldwin,  
Representative of the  
Massachusetts 8th Congressional District

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2852 8/15/1865    *From:* Susan T. Hillard    *To:* Major Gen. Howard

OOH-2796                      62 Pinckney St Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[177, 178]

62 Pinckney St Boston  
August 15th / 65

To Major Gen. Howard  
Sir

May I trouble you with a request regarding a young man formerly a Slave in whom I am interested? I am very desirous to learn some tidings of him to communicate to his worthy and anxious relatives in Boston and will take the liberty to state to you what I know of him hoping that if it be in you power to procure any intelligence of him you will have the kindness to forward it to me.

John Page about twenty one years of age, was sold by Mr. James Garrison of Norfolk Virginia about eight years ago to Mr. Chamberlain residing in the town of Lumkin in Georgia. No tidings of John have been received since the war broke out.

I enclose an envelope with my address upon it and should there be any response to the enquiries you may institute, please enclose the information and forward the same to yours respectfully.

Susan T. Hillard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston, Mass.

Aug. 15, 1865.

Hillard, Susan

Desires to ascertain the whereabouts of John Page (Colored).

Recd Aug. 17, 1865

[Written on the first page, in a different hand.]

Answd Aug. 17th.

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2853 8/16/1865 *From:* J.A. Anderson

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2797

Lambertville,  
Hunterdon Co. N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[185, 186]

Lambertville, Hunterdon Co. N.J.  
August 16th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Sir -

Our Aid Society are engaged in securing funds for the erection of a monument to our deceased soldiers. The first local effort of the kind so far as I have heard. The Ladies have been working for the living soldiers for nearly four years under the generalship of Mr Geo. H. Stuart, and propose to conclude their labors in this direction in the manner stated. On 30th inst, the Ladies will hold a festival in our grove for the purpose of adding to their funds. They have desired me, in their behalf, to invite you to be present and address the people who will be there in immense numbers if your name is announced. I have supposed that your engagements would prevent your acceptance of any such invitation, but am led, from some considerations, to hope that I might be mistaken.

I know that the object is one that you would gladly aid if in your power, and Mr Stuart (who expects to be present) has promised to endorse our request. More important than all is the fact that this is a section in which sound sentiment on the great questions of the day, especially those with which you are now practically engaged, does not much prevail, and some of the earnest and powerful utterances which we have heard from you elsewhere, with delight and profit, would do much to set the people right.

We do not invite you to any "grand reception", as we have no great people here, but simply to a quiet day in the woods.

As you may remember that Brig. Gen. Fisk announced our state as "out of the Union" we do not know but you may feel it to be a duty as an officer of the General Government to assist in restoring us to our "proper constitutional relations" to the Govt. If you visit us however you will find some good American Citizens here.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
J.A. Anderson

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2854 8/16/1865

*From:* J.S. Fullerton

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2798

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

Augusta Me

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]181, 182, 183]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, Aug. 16, 1865

My Dear General,

I have first received your letter of the 12th inst. I will write you but a few lines this morning, as I have not yet worked off all of the papers that have accumulated in my desk.

I telegraphed to Baird to know about assigning him to Ga. Have rec'd a letter from him asking for information of the duties that would be required of him. I have answered his letter, and in a day or two will get a telegram stating whether he will accept. I think he will.

Herewith I inclose two letters from Gen Tillson. I wish more could be done for him. He is doing good work where he is. Gen Thomas told me that he is the best organizer, and a man of the best administrative ability in his Department. It would be well, if possible, to attach North Mississippi to his west District. All of the R.R. in North Miss. center at, or start from Memphis, and it is the point to which the people from that part of the State go to transact business. If Conway "is found wanting", Gen. T might have Louisiana. Mentioning Conway a report has been rec'd from B. Rush Plumley at N.O., this morning, stating that Conway has not the capacity for the position. Gen Strong I suppose will report fully in this case when he returns.

Gen Wm Birney now says that he would rather go to Maryland than Ga, as the officer who goes to Ga, should be one who knows the military authority of the Dept. & <Mil.> Div., and one who could cooperate well with them. He does not know either Genls Thomas or Steadman. Judge Bond & Henry Winter Davis wish Gen B. to go to Maryland. The Secy. Of War has been spoken to in this matter, and he also wishes him to go to the same place – so Judge Bond says.

I wish you to enjoy your trip as much as possible, and therefore will not write to you any more than I can possibly help on business matters.

Things progressing as usual. A fine article in this mornings Chronicle on you &c. I include it herewith.

My kindest regards to Mrs Howard. Rembr me to Guy.

Truly <yr frd>  
J.S. Fullerton

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Augusta Me

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington  
Aug 16, 1865.  
Fullerton, J.S.  
A.A.G.

Concerning affairs of the Bureau in the absence of Maj. Genl. Howard

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2855 8/18/1865 *From:* Wm E. Strong

*To:* Dear Genl. [OO Howard]

OOH-2799

Racine Wisc.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[187]

Racine Wisc.  
18th August 1865

Dear Genl.

I arrived in Chicago a day or two since on my way to Washington, and not feeling well, I decided to come up to Racine and spend two or three days on the Lake shore, thinking the change might benefit me. I have not been well since I left Little Rock over a month ago.

I will spend the sabbath in Racine with my Mother and sister and will leave Chicago for Washington on Monday next.

Love to all.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
Wm E. Strong  
Inspector Genl.

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2856 8/18/1865

*From:* J.S. Fullerton  
A.A.G

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2800

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

Augusta Maine

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[188, 189, 190, 191]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, Aug. 18, 1865

Dear General,

I inclose herewith copies of papers on which are endorsements of the President. These papers are self explaining.

The President sent for Col Eaton this morning and stated to him that complaints have been made of the action of the Agent of this Bureau at Pulaski Tenn; also, concerning the Agent in Ga. (Gen Wild & Chaplain French). He said that he did not wish to have an Agent in East Tennessee. Genl Fisk will be written to concerning the Tennessee matters today. And in reference to Gen. I am momentarily looking for a telegrams from Genl. Baird stating whether he will go to Georgia at once. If he says no, I will <use> your name, ask for G. Tillson. Good reports are coming from East Ten. of Tillson.

I fear Conway will bring us into trouble. He is working, it appears, against the Presidents policy in the restoration of Civil Government in Louisiana. The article included in Gov Wells letter, was a newspaper report of a universal negro suffrage speech that Mr C. made in N.O. It was a harangue that would cause discontent if not stir up quite an excitement. He, like some other Agents of the Bureau, may be endeavoring to make it (the Bureau) the vehicle for carrying out certain political designs. Mr Johnson is very kindly disposed towards you & the Bureau, but if we attempt to work agains him or oppose his policy, thus "look out for breakers".

Will you go to Chicago? If so how long will you be away. Please telegraph to me a reply.

I have not written to Saxton yet. Col Osborn has gone to relieve him of Florida. I think my visit has had the effect of awaking him up, and he is now doing something in South Carolina and Georgia.

Very Respectfully  
Yr Obt Servt  
J.S. Fullerton  
A.A.G

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Augusta Maine

P.S.

The Adjutant Genl. has reduced me from Lt. Col. to Major. I do not know whether it is a hint from him that it is time for me to leave the service.

Remember me kindly to Mrs Howard & Guy.

Yrs truly  
JS Fullerton

P.S. 2d.

Col. Whittlesey says that he was promised a leave of absence, & he would like to have it as soon as he can leave his work for a time if agreeable to you.

J.S.F.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

War Dept. Bureau R.F. & A.L.

Washington Aug. 18, 1865

Fullerton, J.S.

A.A.G.

Encloses copies of papers on which are the Presidents endorsements, also giving statements concerning affairs of the Bureau in the absence of Genl Howard

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2857 8/18/1865 *From:* G. M. Kimbark

*To:* Gen O Howard

OOH-2801

Chicago

Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[186]

Chicago, August 18th 1865

Gen O Howard  
Freedmen's Bureau

You are most cordially invited to attend the Inauguration Ball of the Board of Trade in the new Hall, Chamber of Commerce Friday Evening Sept. 1st 1865.

Committee,  
G. M. Kimbark, H.D. Booth, H.C. Ranney,  
G. H. Wheeler, Howard Priestly, Geo. C Walker,  
J. E. Maple, S. J. Glover, D.C. Scranton,  
C. B. Pope, S. A. Kint, H. Botsford,  
J. P. Clarkson E. D. Cogswell, W. M. Wills.

Tickets can be procured of the Committee.

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2858 8/19/1865

*From:* J. S. Fullerton  
A.A.G.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2802

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

Commr Bureau R.F.& A.L.  
Augusta Maine

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[192, 193, 194]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, Aug. 19th, 1865

Genl,

I do not recollect whether I mentioned to you the fact that Genl Birney (Brig. Genl) wishes to be detailed for duty in this Bureau, in a letter which I wrote to you two or three days ago. I did not keep a copy of it. Judge Bond of Maryland called at the office to request that he be detailed and assigned to duty in said state. Gnl B. also says that the Secy. of War desires that such assignment be made.

Herewith I inclose a report of Surg. DeWitt of this Bureau to Surg. Horner, showing the condition of affairs in the medical department in the Sea Islands. Is it wonderful that 15% of 25,000 on some of the Islands, did in four months? There has been a criminal neglect of the freedmen by the philanthropists in the Dept. of the South. The preservation of life should have been the first thing to consider. Sveral Agents, and traveling Agents, and Clerks &c have been hired on account of their peculiar fitness for duty in said Dept. by the Agent of this Bureau, and have been paid out of the cotton fund, when good and suitable men could have been just as well detailed from the Military Service. Yet not a single detail had been asked for, (until after my visit). Why could not a few physicians have been hired in the place of such agents, and their places supplied by details from the Army.

I also inclose herewith a copy of a telegram rec'd last evening from Gnl <Sprague> dated the 15 inst. I also inclose one of the 4th inst rec'd while I was away – before I ret'd to Washington. The former explains the latter. I have telegraphed to Gnl S. to know whether these stories of great numbers of negroes murdered by whites in South Alabama are true.

Please telegraph when you will return.

I suppose I will of course get an answer from Gen Baird today.

Very Refy  
Yr obt svt,  
J. S. Fullerton  
A.A.G.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commr Bureau R.F.& A.L.  
Augusta Maine

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington  
Aug 19 1865  
Fullerton J.S.  
A.A.G.

Concerning the affairs of the Bureau in the absence of Maj. Genl. Howard.

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2859 8/20/1865 *From:* Nath. Paige

*To:* Major Gen. Howard

OOH-2803

New Orleans

Commissioner of Freedmen

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[195, 196]

New Orleans  
Aug. 20th 1865

Major Gen. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedmen  
General,

You will remember me as having been associated with A.D. Richardson as Correspondent of the Tribune when you commanded a Division under Gen. Couch. I was quite frequently at your Head Quarters when encamped back of Falmouth & not far from you when you participated in the bloody attack upon the heights of Fredericksburgh.

Since that time I have been in the Department of the South & the Gulf, & during the past eighteen months have been interested in the Cultivation of three large plantation in this state & have had in my service something over two hundred negroes all the time.

My object in writing to you now is to represent the embarassment the planters are laboring under from not having competent & practical business men in the Freedmen's Bureau in this city. Mr. Conway, the present assistant Commissioner is constantly throwing obstacles in the way in the successful cultivation of the Plantations. With undoubtedly good intentions he has no practical talent & cannot understand or fairly decide one half the questions that come before him.

We are sincerely anxious that there should be a change in this Bureau & as the friends of Col. F.A. Sturring are about to present his name to you to fill the position now occupied by Mr. Conway, I desire to recommend him as a man in every way qualified ot fill the position. Col. Sturring was Provost Marshal of this Dept. under the administrations of Gens Banks Hurlburt & Canby & still occupies that position under the latter General. He has given almost universal satisfaction & for executive ability we think has no superior in the Dept. His record as a soldier is also an excellent one having participated in most of the great battles of the west prior to the grand "March to the Sea".

As an old friend of the negro & advocate of Free Labor & now a planter & citizen of Louisiana I trust you will assist me in the <expressed> by the appointment of Col. Sturring or some other equally capable man.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
Nath. Paige

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New Orleans  
August 20th 1865  
Paige, Nath.

Suggests that Mr. Conway be removed. Recommends Colonel F. A. Sturring

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2860 8/21/1865 *From:* C. F. H. Campbell

*To:* Bvt. Maj. Genl. O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2804

Hamilton St. & 33d  
Philada. Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[197]

Hamilton St. & 33d  
Philada. Pa.  
August 21, 65

General

Will you kindly furnish me with a Certificate as to the manner in which I performed my duties as Med. Director of the 11th Corps, under your Command, during the mos. Of July, Aug, & Sept. 1863, as also the nature of my deportment whilst on your staff? By so doing you will greatly oblige.

Most Respy  
Your Obt. Svt.  
C. F. H. Campbell  
Late Surgeon <U.S.A.>

Bvt. Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.  
Chief Bureau Freedmen

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2861 8/21/1865 *From:* Robt. R. Carson

*To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2805

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[198]

Philadelphia, Aug. 21, 1865.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Committees of the "Union Volunteer" and "Cooper Shop Volunteer" Refreshment Saloons of this City, have, after four years' labor, decided to formally close these institutions on Monday next, 28th inst. Appropriate ceremonies will be held on the evening of that day, at the Academy of Music, at which you are earnestly requested to be present.

Be kind enough to inform me whether you will be able to accept this invitation.

I remain,  
Very respectfully yours,  
Robt. R. Carson  
Cor. Secy. joint Comt.

[Written crosswise at the top of the first page, in a different hand.]  
Answered.

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2862 8/21/1865 *From:* Charles <Suhny>

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2806

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[218]

Boston 21st Aug '65

My dear General,

You already know Dr Lieber by reputation. I beg to present him personally. I am sure that you will be glad to confer with him on the very interesting question of yr bureau, & I know nobody whose mind is here full of the resources which you will read & enjoy.

He has resided for a long time in S.C. & knows slavery in its real character, & he knows the masters.

Very faithfully yours,  
Charles <Suhny>

---

2863 8/22/1865 *From:* C. W. Strickland

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2807

Newberry 6 House S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[199, 200]

Newberry 6 House S.C.  
Aug 22 1865

Maj Gen O O Howard  
Sir,

I landed at Savannah Ga. with no time to go to Hilton Head, but came directly to Augusta Ga. There I stopped for a few days & made the acquaintance of the military authorities & among the rest of Capt Bryant of Maine who is the Agent of the Bureau there appointed by Gen. Saxton. He has no military Corps having resigned as he told me, but is on a Salary to be paid by Gen Saxton from some fund he has. He seems a very thorough efficient man & a good friend of the Freedman, but I think him ambitious & he means to settle in Georgia finally. He told me he could control them to a very great extent, & had a society among them with extensive ramifications throughout the State. This of course is private. He speaks very highly of Gen Wilds who is now travelling through the state gathering information with regard to the Freedmen, & who in some way has the expectation of being appointed as Commissioner for Georgia. Capt Bryant has come lightly in contact with the military authorities at Augusta, but I advised him to be patient & quiet & to cause no outbreak. His quarters are besieged daily by hundreds, if not by thousands of Freedmen.

After a week in Augusta, I came into South Carolina, by the way of Edgefield, Newberry, Abbeville, &c. In all these places competent men are detailed to have charge of the affairs of your department. Here at Newberry, I find a Gen Van Wyck of 56th NY Volunteers. He has a furlough to go North & will leave in a few days. He has been a Lawyer & Member of Congress & I should judge, a radical abolitionist, of that you can inform yourself. Since he has been relieved he has been holding meetings through these Districts, talking to black & white defining the duties of each to the other & educating both parties in regard to their near relations. I think he has met with fair success. Both parties say he has acted fairly & impartially & told the truth. I think he would like for you to send for him, when he is North & have an interview with him. Certainly he can give you as much information, with respect to the State of affairs, as any one. He is a politician but you can judge of his ability, certainly he has the information. I think he would like to be appointed as assistant commissioner for So Carolina, & his heart is evidently in the work.

With regard to matters generally, the people seem to accept their present condition gracefully, but it seems to me, to be a patient waiting for their restoration to the Union, with a power to make laws for themselves & a removal of the military. God pity the black man when that takes place. Formerly they had a property in the black man & their <punishment> was with a view not to disable him, but that fear is now <renewed>, and the <punishment> would now be a wreaking of the vengeance they properly owe master men, upon the black race. We of the North are really the only friend the black man has, and often fearing him, it will be barbarous to leave him in the hands of his enemies unprotected. He does not labor well now, but better than could have been expected under all the circumstances.

I am not sure, but colonization will have to be resorted to in the end as a goal for the black man. I hope you will call Gen Van Wyck to you at Washington for information. His address is "Middletown Grange Co. N.Y."

I think cotton in large fields will never be raised here by black labor, as the risk of Capital is too great. If a Planter worked 100 hands at the critical time for the crop they could all leave him, & his <fears> labor is lost, but the land will be divided in small lots & cotton raised on them, as we in the North farm our lands. You are engaged in a great labor, & God gives you success, but I fear the black man is doomed to gradually die out, but still he may have the power of recuperation, that will advance him in the scale of civilization. We will hope for the best.

It will be some weeks before I come home.

Very Respectfully yrs



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2864 8/22/1865 *From:* Epes Sargent

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-2808

Nassau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[201, 202]

Nassau Aug 22 1865

Dear Otis

You doubtless have almost if not quite forgotten there is such a person in existence as myself. It is a long time since we met still you have not been forgotten nor could you when your noble heroic and christian deeds have been almost daily heralded in public print. I see in the New York Herald of the 3d that you have been promoted to Maj Genl in the Regular Army. Truly in my opinion no one has been more worthy of it. I have eagerly followed you through the whole of our unholy war (in the papers) have rejoiced in your victories and felt the deepest sorrow for your irreparable loss of limb and poor Perry [Lee] he has been likewise unfortunate. I spent a week in Washington last spring a year ago while he was there, and enjoyed my visit very much, was called there by the government to give evidence against some rascally Nassau rebels. Since the war commenced I have been instrumental in sending between thirty and forty of the worst of our blockade runners to Fort Lafayette, and blocking the game of a great many more. This place is now paying the penalty of the past villainous acts. The business of the place and most of the merchants are about ruined. The sacrifice of the immense unpaid for stock they had on at the sudden ending of the war more than consumed the profits they had made. It is a just retribution. I have lost all trace of Perry. Where is he now? I hope he may be retained in the regular army. His unfortunate loss of his arm will in a great measure unfit him for most any other business. How long will you remain in Washington? I would like to send you on some of our oranges if there will be any chance of your getting them. If you will send me your address I will forward them to Bacons care in New York who will send them to you. The next Steamer leaves New York for Nassau on the 7th of October. Make my kind regards to your wife & believe me

Yours Truly

Epes Sargent [Brother-in-law of Otis's cousin Perry Lee]

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Nassau N.P.

Aug 22d/65

Sargent Epes

Friendly letter

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F. & A.L. WASHINGTON RECD SEP 30 1865

Ans Oct 3rd 1865

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2865 8/22/1865 *From:* <T.Y. Whytet>

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2809  
*Source:* Bowdoin

Assistant  
Quartermaster's Office,  
Augusta, Me.

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Assistant Quartermaster's Office,  
Augusta, Me., Aug 22, 1865

General,

The money value of

372 lbs oats @ 70¢ per lbs.  
& 434 lbs hay @ \$12 per ton

is \$10.73

That is about as much as they will give.

Very Respy  
<T.Y. Whytet>

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2866 8/22/1865     *From:* P. P. Brown Jr

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2810

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qurs. 7th Regt.  
First Army Corp  
Philadelphia Pa

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[205, 206]

Hd. Qurs. 7th Regt.  
First Army Corp  
Philadelphia Pa  
Aug 22. 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
General,

Feeling very thankful for the various acts of kindness which you have done me since I first came under your command in the Eleventh Corps, I venture to ask another, if you think you can conscientiously grant it.

As you are probably aware, it has been my fortune since entering the service, to serve under quite a number of commanders, but under no particular one long enough to particularly engage his attention. This has been the case particularly during the last year, a condition for which I of course was not responsible. I believe, however, without exception all have when occasion required given favorable testimony, to my fidelity, and fearlessness in the discharge of duty.

I see that those officers who have served faithfully during the war are receiving a proper recognition by brevet promotion. On account of the frequent change of my commanders I can hardly expect my name to be recommended for promotion, and still feeling that I have always tried to do my duty, I have thought perhaps some of my commanders might not be unwilling to give me such recommendation. I would therefore solicit the favor of you if, in conscience, you can grant it.

I am at present commanding the 7th Regt in Hancock's Corps now on duty in this city and vicinity. I received my appointment from the Sec of War, July 15, and was immediately assigned and entered upon the discharge of my duty.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very respectfully  
Your ob't serv't  
P. P. Brown Jr  
Col. 7th Regt. 1st A.C.  
Late Col. 157th N.Y. Vols.

Philadelphia  
August 22 65  
Brown Col. P.P.  
7th Regt. 1st Corps  
Desires recommendation for brevet appointment.  
Recd Aug. 24 1865

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2867 8/23/1865    *From:* S. P. Lee

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2811

4th Regt V.R.C.  
Johnsons Island  
Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[209, 210]

Johnsons Island Aug 23d / 65

My dear Cousin

I hear all kind of rumors about the disposition to be made of our Corps (Reveran Reserve) the last is that it is to be consolidated into 6 Regts and the surplus officers mustered out. I would like to know if possible if I am soon to be a Citizen so I can be making some arrangements to get a living as I cannot be idle many weeks. If you can give me any information about it you will do me a very great favor. What rule will be adopted in selecting officers to be retained. Will they pick out the strong healthy officers who have never been in a fight or been disabled. (Those are the kind who have received favors.) but got into the corps through Political influence. As I have never had any of the comodity if they adopt that rule I am sure to go by the board, but if they select from those who have been <> been disabled and always tried to do his duty and as yet after 4 yrs since no one has ever found fault with me in not doing my duty well and cheerfully. I think in that case I may be retained although since I have been in the Corps I have never been fortunate enough to be placed on duty in any position where I have been brought under the notice of the department, and I have never asked my friends to trumpet my claim into their notice as I have been urged to do repeatedly, but I have felt that I had rather plod steadily on and rise on my merits rather than by political influence. Consequently I am still a major and many of my juniors have been promoted over my head. I do not complain of this for I can see how it was done. I only <despise> those who used such means to get into positions that they are not entitled to and should blush to wear the uniform of an officer & gentleman.

I hear another rumor that the surplus officers are to be assigned to the freedmans bureau. If that is true you will probably know something about it. I would like very much to know something definite and as I am here in one corner of the country where I can get no news, I thought I would trouble you if you can give me any information about it.

I am expecting my little wife here next week. She has been home with her mother for three months, and I have been very lonesome without her. Her face & Heart is always cheerfull and when she is with me I am always happy.

I have been in Command of this post since the 10th July but now it does not amount to much as I have only 24 prisoners and about 70 men in four companies. I have not heard any news form any of our relatives for a long time in fact I write very little. My little wife writes all my private letters and I leave it to her to correspond with my relatives and <friends> as I think she can write much better letters than myself. Where is Charles now. Give my love to your Lizzie (I like mine best) and the children and accept much

from your affectionate  
Cousin  
S. P. Lee [Samuel Perry Lee]  
Major 4th Regt V.R.C.  
Johnsons Island  
Ohio

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2868 8/24/1865    *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2812

Hd Qrs 3rd Regt. V.R.C.  
Brattleboro Vt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[211]

Hd Qrs 3rd Regt. V.R.C.  
Brattleboro Vt Aug 24th '65

My dear General

Pardon me for again troubling you. But my desire to serve again with you is my apology.

If I can be of any service in your Bureau, I would like to be assigned to you.

I am at present with my Regt, and think I can be spared.

I have but little choice as to the nature of my duties, so that I have something to do.

Mrs. S is with me at present and joins in her kind regards.

Very Truly Yours,  
F.D. Sewall  
Col. 3d V.R.C. And  
Bvt. Brig. Genl. Vols.

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2869 8/24/1865 *From:* E Opdycke

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2813

New Orleans La.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[212]

New Orleans La.  
Aug. 24th 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
My Dear General

I am on the point of leaving for home under General Orders 130 War Department; and I write to ask if you have a position for me in your Bureau.

I have faith that I could meet your views in almost any state, although I would prefer any state to Texas, Louisiana, Florida.

Would you be kind enough to write me at Warren Trumbull Co. Ohio, I should feel very thankful.

I am General

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
E Opdycke [Emerson Opdycke]  
Brig. Genl Vols.

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2870 8/25/1865 *From:* Lyman Abbott

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2814

Portland Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[221, 222]

Portland Me. 25 Aug 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I recd your reply to my last letter a few days ago. I fully concur with you in your views as to the duty of govt. I earnestly oppose all attempts from whatever quarter to demand of govt. recompense for the necessary inflictions of war. I simply thought that the quarter master at Knoxville might have the means to make some partial repairs, of benches & woodwork, which would greatly help the people to recommend their school, without involving govt in much, if any, expense.

I thank you much for your suggestion as to teachers. We shall comply with it.

I write to renew my invitation. A public meeting will be held here Sabbath eve'g 3d Sept. I have had a conference with some citizens here & they are very anxious to hear from you. Our object is to set before the people in every practicable way the importance of the duties which the new era lays upon them. If you are in the State I still hope you may be able to spend the Sabbath in Portland. You will probably receive an additional invitation from one of a committee appointed here to arrange for this meeting. A letter addressed to me care of J. W. Perkins & Co Portland Me will reach me.

I do not wish however to add anything to your voluminous correspondence. And it is not necessary for you to answer this. Suffice it to say if you are able to speak to the citizens of Portland on this subject a week from next Sabbath I am sure you will be very warmly welcomed by all the people –by none more so than by -

Yours Very Truly  
Lyman Abbott

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.

Portland, Maine

August 25th 1865

Abbot, Lyman

Requests address at meeting to be held Sept 3d, 1865.

[Stamp] Bureau R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON RECD AUG 31 1865

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2871 8/25/1865

*From:* H Hayes

*To:* My Dear Farwell

OOH-2815

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of Examining  
Board of  
Quartermasters  
Louisville Kentucky

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[27, 28]

Office of Examining Board of Quartermasters  
Louisville Kentucky  
August 25, 1865

My Dear Farwell,

I just took out your note of the 21 inst. I had written two letters since I heard from you, and wondered where you could be. Absent in Washington that great vortex of sin, sorrow, swindling, & swagging and their opposites I suppose, as rectitude enjoyableness, integrity, straight-forward-dealing &c &c in which latter category, you and I count, because we have found to be happy is to be virtuous.

A few days ago I sent in my resignation, offering thus to close out the business upon which I entered three years ago very much with your help. The service presents no regrets, my duty has been well performed. I have never asked for preferment. And my department has been such as to admit of no brilliant doings. Yet no engagements devolved upon me, has been unperformed. No movement has been defeated by my shortcomings or neglect, or of those under me. I have had greater responsibility than most Major Generals and my Command has embraced more than seven miles of continuous transportation with many hundreds of men and scores of subordinate officers. The enemy has in three years captured only one of my wagons, and it took the whole of Hood's army to do that, aided by the blundering of our own side. Hence I have been lucky, and though not distinguished in newspaper-sense I am happy, self-satisfied and don't care.

My accounts have been well rendered. The Government has nothing to collect off of my bond. Nor have I made a cent except my legitimate pay, while I have cursed scoundrels & <sharpeys> who sought to make gain through my connivance. I am not aware that my name has once been honorably mentioned in reports nor has it been dishonorably coupled with the slightest suspicion of misdealing. Pretty good for a Quartermaster to say isn't it?

"In medio tutissimus ibis", which means steer between Scylla & Charybdis.

And now to go in to business is my great anxiety, the subject of some correspondence, and no little prayer, which is the means of correspondence with the Divinity that shapes our ends, and whose will prescribes the lot of his creatures.

I want to see you and have a good talk, get your notions, of things I take inter alia. When I got your letter this morning, the following things occurred. Railroads, Mining, Agriculture, Law, Politics, Petroleum, Immigration, Lands, Contracts &c, or something of the kind he has got into his head. Idaho? Idaho?? I asked where is it, but by reference to say who I find. "Extent from Eastern Boundary Oregon to 27° Long W. from Washington, & from Lat 42° to 46° – 125,000 sq m. Florence is largest town 3000 or 4000 Pop. Gold on Salmon & Nez Perce Rivers. Good wagon road from Ft Benton to Walla Walla 624 miles." It is to be a state this winter is it not? Somebody must be Senator & Member in Congress. Will you go? To tell what I have thought, it may be said that some plan of going to Chicago entered my head, - to commence a miscellaneous business there at first. I had thought to get the agency of several Insurance Companies – some old demands against Illinois people, held by Eastern men to do what I might, in fact. My experience had been against small places to settle in. One soon gets to the end of the rope and if, of not easily satisfied temperament, chafes, wears a deep path on the perimeter of his tether, is apt to get seedy, get babies, get rusty, moss covered, and the dry-rot. Hence I had rather <pinch> in activity & excitement than have a full belly in a quiet place. This comes of soldiering, and the irritability of the times, and is a predisposition with men of any parts, who have taken a hand in this war of principles – not yet closed – simply because one party disarmed the other. The spirit of animosity would still eject itself from the mouths of guns and steam from the point of the sword – were not the guns & swords taken from the South..

I know them, damn 'em. To crush rebellion does not crush the sentiment, so history says. They are now making the fight on the negro, and the North must stand to the negro, judiciously – but not to the extent to create reactions they ought not to have. Write me fully, if you will.

Yours very truly  
H Hayes [Hiram Hayes]

Is there not a large Life Insurance Co at Augusta with heavy Capital & good <bottom>. Do you suppose I could get an agency for it? For I <dahr> go elsewhere>. I mention that because I am picking up information of such business.

Mrs Hayes is visiting at <Supenn>, our old place – will return soon. I have applied for leave to go to Washington to settle my <afs>, and will write you after. Kind regards to Mrs Farwell.

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2872 8/25/1865 *From:* H. E. Paine

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2816

Milwaukee

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[213, 215, 216]

Milwaukee Aug 25 1865

General

This will be presented by Mr S.S. Booth of this city, and early and eminent advocate of your principles in this state, one of the defendants in the widely know "lover Rescue" trials and a man of marked energy and ability.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
H. E. Paine

Gen O.O. Howard

[Enclosure]

Newhall House  
Kingsbury & Johnson  
Proprietors  
Milwaukee, Aug 25, 1865

Maj Genl OO Howard  
Sir

The bearer of this Mr S S Booth of this city is desirous of some position in the Freedmans Bureau. Mr Booth has suffered long imprisonment for his efforts in behalf of the bondman in years past. He is a man of great energy, & activity and thoroughly devoted to the cause. I hope it may be in your power to grant his request or to aid him in the matter.

Very Respectfully  
L Cutler [Lysander Cutler]  
Late Bvt Maj Gnl  
in Army Potomac

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Milwaukee  
Aug 25th 1865  
Paine H.E.

Introducing Mr S.S. Booth, and recommending him to the favorable notice of Genl Howard. Enclosure from L. Cutler (Late Bvt. Maj. Genl) to same effect.

[Note. Sherman Booth was a defendant in the case of Joshua Glover, an escaped slave from Missouri who was arrested in Milwaukee under the Fugitive Slave Act. Booth organized a large group of citizens to protest the arrest. The group was able to free Glover, who escaped to Canada. Booth was charged with aiding and abetting the escape. He was imprisoned off and on for many years in association with this affair.]

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2873 8/25/1865 *From:* Francis Lieber

*To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2817

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[219]

[ca. Aug 25, 1865] [The date was written in pencil.]

Sir

I did myself the pleasure of leaving the letter of our common friend Senator Sumner.

My bureau is F Street between 18 & 19th Street

I hope I shall have the pleasure of your acquaintance.

Accept kindly the <accompany>.

Respectfully  
Francis Lieber

---

2874 8/25/1865 *From:* John T. Lockman

*To:* O.O. Howard  
Maj Genl

OOH-2818

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of C.F & E. De  
Witt  
No. 88 Nassau Street,  
New York

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[217]

Office of C.F & E. De Witt  
No. 88 Nassau Street,  
New York, August 25 1865

General

Having retired from the profession of army upon the mustering out of my regiment, I desire as a memento an acknowledgment of the services rendered by me while under your command and shall if you be pleased to grant the same, regard it as a mark of your favor and esteem.

I remain very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
John T. Lockman  
Late Col 119 NYSV

Please direct as above

O.O. Howard  
Maj Genl

---

**2875** 8/25/1865 *From:* W E Boardman

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2819

Phila.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[220]

Phila. Aug. 25, 1865

Dear Sir & Brother:

Enclosed is a proof of a call for a convention to organize what might appropriately be called a Christian Commission for the Masses.

Before issuing it we desire to add your name, with others.

Please signify your pleasure at your earliest convenience.

In christian bonds,  
W E Boardman

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

---

2876 8/26/1865

*From:* Jacob McLellan

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2820

Portland, Me.

Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[223]

Portland, Me. Aug't 26th 1865

Dear Sir:

Two years since the people of this City instituted a course of "Independent Lectures" devoted solely to the discussion of questions connected with the "State of the Country", for the benefit of the "U.S. Sanitary Commission", which were attended with such cheering results that they were continued through the past winter, also with eminent success, both pecuniarily and politically, as shown by the amount of money thus gathered for the relief of our sick and wounded Soldiers, and in the increased vote cast on the side of morality, law & order, and for the utter stamping out of the rebellion and removal of its exciting causes.

This year the people, still believing that this educational process may be profitably continued, is indeed demanded by the exigencies of the times, and that questions still exist, and are likely to arise during the coming Winter, the discussion and proper understanding of which by the people are essential to the maintenance of our Government and the perpetuity of Liberty, have charged the undersigned with the duty of making needful arrangements for a similar course of lectures on the "State of the Country", to take place during the coming Fall & Winter.

We therefore cordially invite and earnestly urge you to deliver one of the lectures in this proposed course on Friday Evening January 12th 1866.

Should you be unable to comply with our request at the time indicated please name some other Evening (avoiding Wednesday Evening) on which you will meet the citizens of Portland for the purpose herein contemplated.

Arrangements will be made for your entertainment at the "United States Hotel", and although one of the objects of the course is, as heretofore, charitable, we shall be able to make you such compensation as shall be satisfactory.

Soliciting the favor of a reply by early mail.

We are Dr Sir

Yours with Sentiments of high regard Lecture Committee

Jacob McLellan, Mayor

I. Washburn, Jr.

Benj. Kingsbury, Jr.

Oliver Gerrish

M.A. Blanchard

Gen. O.O. Howard

Washington

D.C.

---

2877 8/26/1865    *From:* Rice Rutter & Co.    *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2821                      Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

Philadelphia Aug 26th 1865

Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

We are desirous of publishing a finely engraved Portrait & brief Biography of yourself in our National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans, & to do this in a manner that will be satisfactory to yourself & your numerous friends we find it necessary to have your aid. What we want is an original photographic likeness taken from life. Copies will not answer to engrave. We send you by this days mail a no of the Portrait Gallery that you may know the Style & character of our work, we are obliged to have the size & style somewhat uniform. An experienced photographer can give the exact size portrait of President Lincoln or Trumbull, which you will find in the no we send you. We are very anxious ot get the best Portrait that can be taken, & we are desirous to get the plate engraved as soon as possible. We intended to have seen you on this Subject the last time you were in this city but we were at the "Continental" just as you was about to leave.

We have to ask to have the kindness to put us in correspondence with some one competent to write a Biography to accompany the portrait.

An early reply will greatly oblige  
Yours Very Respectfully  
Rice Rutter & Co.

[Note. The engraving and short biography appeared in Vol 4 of "The national portrait gallery of distinguished Americans: with biographical sketches by celebrated authors" by Rice, Rutter & Co, published in 1865.]

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2878 8/26/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2822

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[224]

Leeds Aug. 26 1865

Dear brother,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Henry Ward Beecher relative to Col. Harrison White, 6th NY Cavalry [See OOH-2791, dated 8/13/1865]. His brother gave it me for you in New York but it got laid aside & I failed to deliver it. He will probably call to see you & deliver the original letter but he feared that might come too late if he waited your return to W.

I know nothing further than this letter of Mr Beecher's.

I found mother well & I go to Farmington tonight. Will see Mr. Stanwood about the farm today.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Leeds Me.

August 26th 1865

Howard C.H.

Col. 128th U.S.C.T.

Encloses copy of letter from H.W. Beecher recommending Col. Harrison 6th N.Y. Cav. for position  
Recd Aug. 31, 1865.

---

2879 8/26/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2823

Boston U.S. Hotel

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[617]

[ca - Aug 26, 1865]

Boston U.S. Hotel

10 PM

Dearest -

Portland train delayed 15 minutes. Hack driven down fast, but axel tie broke. Got to Worcester Depot just in time to see the train disappearing. Went to Mr Webb's, found him gone. Will leave in the 4.45 AM train. I hope Chancy will not cough so hard tonight. <> Providence has stopped me. God bless you – love to all.

Affectionately yr. husband

Otis

---

2880 8/27/1865    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2824

Sherman House,  
Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[619]

Sherman House,  
Chicago, August 27th 1865

Dearest,

I arrived here about 11 P.M. yesterday and am well. It is about 6 P.M. I went to Church this morning & heard Mr Gulliver of Connecticut at the "New England" Chapel—a Congregationalist Church. In the afternoon I have visited two large Mission Schools, in extension buildings, much on pen poor. I addressed the children at both. Much that impressed & affected me occurred that we can talk over, but I do wish you could have been along. I heart runs towards you & the little coughers. I got thro. at the same hour I would if I had started the night before from Boston. Letters & old friends pour in. Perley is here & Geo. P. Goodwin. Perley inquires kindly for you, has two children a boy & girl. He looks well. Three who have been staff officers for me met me. I had a Grand reception & was conducted in military style from the cars to this place, Sherman House. I shall speak this evening at 7 ½ & receive a reception from the Board of Trade tomorrow and start back via Richmond Ind. tuesday morning at 6 —Deo Volente.

Give smart kisses to the children. Ask Jamie if he loves papa. Love to Mrs Jackson. God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2881 8/28/1865 *From:* C. W. Strickland

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2825

Augusta Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[2]

Augusta Ga Aug 28 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Sr sir,

This will be handed to you by Col. J.S. <Brielywd>, a neighbor of mine at Richmond. If you will assist him in any way he may wish, with regard to my missions here, you will greatly oblige me.

Very Respectfully Yrs  
C. W. Strickland

---

2882 8/28/1865    *From:* John F. Anderson

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2826

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[4]

Boston, Aug. 28 '65

Major Genl Howard  
Commissioner &c  
My dear General

I take the liberty of enclosing you a letter I have just received from my friend Mr J.P. Gardiner, concerning Mr John G. Eustis of New Orleans.

Mr Gardiner is of the firm of Mrs John L. Sandman & Co one of our leading commercial houses, the members of which occupy the highest positions, both in business, and socially. Mr Eustis I understand, desires his friends to <secure> for him a hearing before you and if not trespassing too much upon our acquaintance, I would most respectfully solicit it for him.

Very truly  
Yr. Obt Svt  
John F. Anderson  
Late Lt Col & A.D.C.  
Genl Fosters Staff

---

2883 8/28/1865 *From:* A.S. Cole

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2827

Kenosha Wis

Sherman House Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[3]

Kenosha Wis Aug 28th 1865

General,

Since my return home circumstances have occurred which will interfere with my trip to Washington with you. A chance for business has presented itself that I think I shall like. With many thanks for your kind offer of assistance and regards to the gentleman of your staff. I remain

Your Respy  
A.S. Cole

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Sherman House Chicago

---

2884 8/28/1865 *From:* J.M. Walden

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2828

Cincinnati

Sherman House

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[48]

Western Union Telegraph Company

To Maj Gen OO Howard  
Sherman House

From Cincinnati  
Dated Aug 28  
Rec'd Aug 28 1865 11 45 A.M.

You are respectfully invited to visit Cincinnati and address our public. May we expect you and when.

J.M. Walden  
Cor Secy WFA

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]  
Cincinnati, Aug 28, 1865  
Walden, J.M.  
Invites Genl Howard to visit Cincinnati Ohio

---

2885 8/29/1865

*From:* H.M. Stinson

*To:* Col. C.W. Asmussen

OOH-2829

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[207]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, August 29th, 1865.

Dear Colonel,

Col. P.P. Brown 7th Regt Hancock's Corps and late Colonel 157th N.Y.V. writes to the General from Philadelphia requesting a recommendation for brevet appointment.

Will you have the kindness to state what you may remember as to the way in which he performed his duty while with the 11th Corps? Was he at Chancellorsville & Gettysburg?

Very Respectfully  
H.M. Stinson  
Bvt. Maj. & A.D.C.

Col. C.W. Asmussen

---

2886 8/29/1865    *From:* C.W. Asmussen    *To:* Maj. H.M Stinson

OOH-2830

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[208]

(Confidential)

[ca. Aug 29, 1865]

[To: Maj. H.M Stinson. In answer to request for information about P.P. Brown.]

Respectfully returned. I dont know but very little about Col Brown; the Regt was a 9 month Regt. I remember however that Col Brown was well spoke of at Chancellorsville. I also remember that he was placed once in command of a Brigade, altho' his Regt did not belong to the Brigade, but whether this was done on account of military ability or because he could not get along with his Brigade Comdr I cannot tell. If you desire to hear more particular I will refer a letter from you to Meysenburg.

My private opinion about his military capacity is not very great.

C.W. Asmussen

---

2887 8/29/1865 *From:* ER Wise

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2831

Geenfield Washington  
Co Pa

President Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[6]

Geenfield Washington Co Pa  
Aug 29th 1865

Maj Gen Howard  
President Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

Pardon if you please this note should it be an intrusion but to you I am under the impression it will not be passed needlessly by. Situated as I am in this world now with but one arm and a wife and mother dependent upon me for support renders it indeed hard. You I am well aware know how difficult it is to do many things with the loss of a limb and to you I make this appeal to use your influence either in obtaining me a situation under yourself or in some one of the departments. From where I am writing is not my address. Being for a time appointed as Asst Assessor have been ordered here in taking the yearly income tax. I have sir the honor Genl to refer you to the Hon Edgar Cowan and the Hon John Cavode now I believe in Washington. Any position you may think I am most competent to fill will be thankfully received by your most humble and Obt Servt

ER Wise

P.S. If Successful please address me  
Pittsburg Pa  
Yours &c  
ER Wise

[Written at the top of the first page in a different hand.  
Answd

---

2888 8/29/1865 *From:* Sarah N Sims

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2832

New Orleans La.

Commission Bureau  
Refugees Freedmen &  
Abandon Lands  
War Dept  
Washington City D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[5]

New Orleans La. Aug 29 / 65

To Major General O.O. Howard  
Commission Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandon Lands  
War Dept  
Washington City D.C.

General, I have th honor to address you upon the subject of my Mother's portrait which hangs up in my house now held and occupied by your Bureau. This portrait cannot benefit any one but myself. I have applied for it here but was referred by Captain Armstrong to yourself. I do hope you will order it to be restored to me as soon as possible.

Yrs Respectfully  
Sarah N Sims

---

2889 8/29/1865

*From:* Chas. C. Leigh

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2833

*Source:* Bowdoin

National Freedmen's  
Relief Association of  
New York  
Bremen, Georgstrasse  
59

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[7]

National Freedmen's Relief Association of New York  
Bremen, Georgstrasse 59 Aug. 29, 1865

[This letter OOH\_2833 was written in German. A translation was provided as OOH\_2834, which is transcribed below.]

[8]

Translation  
Dear Sir

As I shall go from here to Hamburg and other points in Germany where sympathy is manifested for the freed slaves in America, I take the liberty of earnestly soliciting for those four millions of needy colored men, your help also.

The accompanying pamphlet gives you some details of their unfortunate situation, showing how much they need the support of all friends of humanity etc, etc.

With the closing remark that such contribution as you may feel disposed to devote to this noble purpose may be sent either to Joseph B. Collins 40 Wall Street New York, or to my address, No 59 Georgen Strasse, Bremen. I subscribe myself

Very Obediently  
Chas. C. Leigh  
Agent for Europe of the Nat'l Freedman's Association

---

2890 8/30/1865     *From:* Jas. C. Lynch

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2835

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters 183d  
Regt. P.V.  
1st Brigade, 1st  
Division, 2nd Army  
Corps.  
Philad'a Pa

Chief of Bureau of Freedmen  
& Abandoned Land

---

[12, 13]

Head-Quarters 183d Regt. P.V.  
1st Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Army Corps.  
Philad'a Pa Aug 30th 1865

Dear Sir

I recall with pleasure having been the subject of commendation from you at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Va, Dec. 13th 1862 when I was a Lieutenant in the 106th Pa Vols and you commanded the 2nd Division 2nd Corps. Perhaps you will recollect that my company was very active in occupying and holding some houses (very close to the celebrated stone wall which baffled the assaults of our forces.

I have been urged by my friends and neighbours to apply for a civil appointment under the National Government and they are desirous of having their petition backed by letters from some of my former commanders.

Remembering your kindness on a previous occasion when I was an applicant for a position in the regular army (which, by the way, was not offered me until I had obtained a captaincy in the Volunteer service) and hearing on every hand of your liberality to those who have fought to preserve the Union, I have made bold to ask you for a line in my favor if I am still borne in goodly recollection. Since that time I have risen to the rank of Colonel in the 183rd Pa. Vols and for some months previous to my muster out commanded the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Army Corps.

Begging pardon for the trouble I am giving you, I am with much respect and many wishes for your welfare.

Your obedient servant  
Jas. C. Lynch  
No. 440 North 4th St.  
Philadelphia  
Pa.

To  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Chief of Bureau of Freedmen & Abandoned Land

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Philadelphia Pa.

Aug. 30, 1865,

Lynch, Jas. C.

Desires a line of recommendation from Genl. Howard to assist him in obtaining a civil appointment under the National Government.

C.B. 113Js

[STAMP] BUREAU R.G.&A.L. WASHINGTON RECD SEP 4 1865

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2891 8/30/1865

*From:* Emily B. Ames

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2836

Oregon, Dane Co.  
Wisconsin

Supt. of Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[14]

Oregon, Dane Co. Wisconsin  
Aug. 30th 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Supt. of Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

There are several in this vicinity who would like to engage as Teachers in the Freedmen's Schools at the South. Will you please inform me what is required of Teachers in that Department, their average wages, and to whom they shall apply for situations. Is there not a local Agent in every state.

Very Respectfully  
Emily B. Ames

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Oregon Dane Co. Wisconsin

Aug 30th 1865,

Ames, Emily B.

Desires Situation in the service of the Bureau as Teacher

C.B. 109P

Ansd.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 5 1865

---

2892 8/30/1865    *From:* Marcia Hammond

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2837

Cape Vincent

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[10, 11]

Cape Vincent Aug. 30 65

Dear Sir

Although a stranger, I take the liberty of writing to express to you my desire to devote myself to teaching the negroes. I want a location where there is a probability of a permanent school in a decent school-house, and then I want to settle down to the business, without the fear of being shot by some southern patriot. A school room is my home, and my pupils are my family & friends, I have taught 2- seasons. I want no better work, & have no earthly ambition, but to be a good teacher. If I should earn good wages should probably give a share to the negroes to which I was devoting myself. If colored children can learn and behave as well as white ones I think I can love them as well.

I'd not shed a tear and I never would past.  
Because their skins were so black  
Or so wooly their hair.  
And if I should fear  
Or need any protection  
Twould be from the white  
And not dark complexion.

From Wilmington the other day  
At last its as the papers say  
Two ladies were going, with <>  
To Land themselves, in Fayetteville  
Where they were sent to teach a School  
For negroes, There up starts <about>  
Called a Sheriff, from off the stand,  
Saying to them, "hey could not land"  
" But as they were females they might stay  
Upon the boat, till 'twas away!"  
" Had they been men they would treat them  
As they did such before the war." Beat them  
Of course, that we all may know  
That meddlesome Yankees cannot go  
And set up schools, to teach the letters  
Gainst the law, or wish of their betters,  
In Sovereign States. Now this potion  
Is hard to swallow, as we've a notion  
To teach such schools, But I guess  
Its best not to be afraid, unless  
Such sheriffs have a power to back 'em  
I guess that Uncle Sam will crack 'em  
And give them a lesson the Chivalry!  
If they don't mind and let us be  
Now it's another notion of mine  
"We must fight it out on this line"  
Victory on the line of Educational  
Will bring the final restoration  
Bury the rebellion it will & must  
When it has fallen in the dust!

Pardon this intrusion, as I know of no one having special charge of an educational department for the colored

people. I hope you will give me some needful information or refer me to some one who can.

Yours very respectfully  
Marcia Hammond

---

2893 8/30/1865 *From:* Sydenham Gait

*To:* Maj. Gen O O Howard

OOH-2838

Camp Carrington  
Indanapolis

Chief of Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[9]

Camp Carrington Indanapolis  
August 30, 1865

Maj. Gen O O Howard  
Chief of Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Sir

You will please pardon the liberty I take of enquiring if officers of the Veteran Reserve Corps are taken for duty in your department, and if so whether an official application could be made for that purpose and to whom it should be made?

I think Sir I could do more good in that way now than any other, and am anxious to do what little I may be able towards a successful solution of what some seem to consider the negro problem.

My own opinion has always been that it only required the will to find all the means necessary, and I think I should now feel the same pride in being one of the agents to show beyond all dispute that negroes are man, and capable of becoming worthy citizens of this Republic as I have taken in helping to show the rebels that we have a Government capable of subduing them.

Hoping for your early answer, I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully  
Your Obdt Srvt  
Sydenham Gait  
1st Lieut Co. "K" 2nd V.R.C.

---

2894 8/31/1865 *From:* James C Bucher

*To:* Bvt Maj Gen R. Saxton

OOH-3583b

Hd Qrs 2nd Sub Dist  
M.D.C.  
Summerville S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter was enclosed in OOH-3583a, dated 15 June 1866.]

[159]  
Copy

Hd Qrs 2nd Sub Dist M.D.C.  
Summerville S.C.  
August 31st, 1866 (i.e. 1865)

Bvt Maj Gen R. Saxton  
Genl,

In order to make report from my command it is of course necessary that I have reports from the agents of R&F B on Edisto, Johns and Wadmalaw Islands. Also from any one claiming to act under the Bureau on the Main land.

My order for such reports is not complied with by any of these agents.

In any other case I shd simply arrest the parties for disobedience of orders and expel them from the Dist. As it is I respectfully suggest that an order be issued to these men to report as ordered so that I may know what they are about & be able to report accordingly.

Very respy yr obt servt  
James C Bucher Col Comdg

[Summary of the copied letter written sideways on the left third of the back page, in a different hand.]

Hd Qrs <2nd Sub Dist M.D.C.[CHECK ORIGINAL –hidden by discoloration at right of page]  
Summerville S.C.

Aug 31st

Bucher Jas. C.

Col 35th U.S.C.T.

Comg 2nd Sub Dist & Sub Asst Comr

Respectfully requests that the Agents of B.R. & F in this Dist. may be ordered to report.

COPY

[Summary written sideways on the middle third of the last page, in a different hand.]

<[CHECK ORIGINAL –two lines or more hidden by discoloration on right of page.]

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands

So. Carolina Georgia & Florida

Beaufort S.C. Sept 5th 1866

[Written in red ink] E.B.73 Asst Com'r B.R.&F. Bft

[Written in red ink] J.B."B.R.F&A.I Bft 65

Resp'y ret'd to Col Bucher. The Agents on Edisto, Johns and Wadmalaw Islands are not under Col Buchers jurisdiction. To all others in Col Buchers vicinity orders will be issued to report as desired. Enclosed is copy of Gen Shermans field order for information.

By order of

Bt Maj Gen Saxton

(signed) Stewart M <Gayhr>

[Written in red ink] Recd A.A.G.O BR&AL Sept 21st 1865

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2895 9/1/1865

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-2839

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[621]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, Sept 1 1865

Dearest Lizzie

Only a minute. Work, work, am well, back - sorry for Chancy - hope he will not cough very hard. I enclose \$300 three hundred dolls. I will send more if you need it before you start. Will soon write more fully.

Respectfully  
O.O. Howard  
Maj. Gen.

P.S. I wrote my official signature by mistake.  
Lovingly  
Otis

---

2896 9/1/1865

*From:* I.N. <Borney>

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2840

Washington, D.C.

Chief of Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

Washington, D.C.  
September 1st 1865.

General,

A very distinguished Episcopal clergyman, Rev. B.A. Rogers, now preaching at Downington, Chester County, Pennsylvania, to a large congregation, of which he is the idol - a gentleman who was born in New Hampshire, and resident for several years in Texas - from which he was compelled to fly, after purchasing a fine property, desires to return to that state and writes to know whether he could not be connected with the Freedman's Bureau there. He is known to Secretary Stanton <[Ink blot]> his learning and loyalty, and I can certify that the articles he has contributed to my paper in Philadelphia on Texas, have done the cause great good. May I ask your early and favorable attention to his case?

Yours Truly  
I.N. <Borney>

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedmen's Bureau

---

2897 9/2/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2841

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[620]

Washington D.C.  
Sept. 2d 1865 (Sunday evening)

Dearest,

I went to Dr. Gurley's Church this morning and listened to a sermon from a young man I did not know. The weather was oppressive in the extreme, but we have had a shower and now it is cooler. This afternoon I called upon General Baird at Willards. Mrs Baird was with her husband. I offered him Louisiana, relieving Conway. He has not decided yet to take the place. I shall send Tilson to Ga. if I can and have him report to General Saxton. Our mess is quite pleasant now. All are here but Maj Gilbreth. He is inspecting in West Virginia. Harry Stinson coughs a good deal, but looks quite well & does not complain.

I sent you three hundred dollars & you must acknowledge receipt. If you need any more before starting you must call. I want your companionship & that of the children very much to relieve me from work, I mean to enable me to change the current of thought.

Last night I took a ride with Mr Alvord & Mr Markline. I went to the book stores & bought some books bearing on my work.

I feel anxious to hear that Chancy "coughs easy" again. The children will be better to start south, but not till this terrible dry heat has passed. I have a good deal of perplexing labor still, but think I take matters easier than I did at first. The President receives me with great cordiality. My Augusta & Chicago speeches seem to have pleased him. Every body inquires for Guy. Miss Paris at Church wished to know if he came back.

We have discharged Charlie & his mother, the cook & Sam is running the mess, boarding all hands at so much per head. Sam could'nt find his wife, got out of money, lost his trunk & had to make many shifts to get back.

You must take your time to get ready. I can meet you on the arrival of the boat in New York and may send on soon an Orderly to bring the pony.

Give much love & many kisses to the little ones. And God bless & keep you. Don't forget me to Mrs Jackson with kindest regards.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

2898 9/2/1865

*From:* M.B. Lawler, Brevet  
Majr. Genl. Vols.

*To:* Majr Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2842

Equality Illinois

Superintendant Freedmens  
Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[16, 17]

Equality Illinois 2d Sept 1865.

General,

In the month of June, I sent to his Excellency President Johnson through Head Qrs Dept of the Gulf, an application for appointment of Superintendant of Freedmen for the State of Louisiana. From observation I believe the government gave preference to men who were, or had been in the military service. And furthermore, I intended to locate in Louisiana and the appointment would give me facilities to select a location. I wrote to two of my former comrades, Governors Storr of Iowa and Oglesby of Ills to recommend me for the position. Being an agracuturist by profession, and having the benefit of two years observation of the culture and products of La. I considered myself competent to fill the Position, and it would materialy aid me.

Since making the application, I have bought a plantation in the Parish of East Baton Rouge to which I intend to take my family in October or as soon thereafter as possession can be had.

I deem it proper to say that when I get possession of my plantation, I shall not be dependant on an appointment, and hope by frugality and industry to obtain a competence.

Having never served in the same Department with you, I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance. Not being a politician, my name only appears in official reports, and I respectfully call you attention to the part of Gen Grants report of the campaign around Vicksburg that relates to the assault and capture of the enemy at Big Black Bridge 17th May 1863.

I am General Verry Respectfully  
Your obt servt  
M.B. Lawler, Brevet  
Majr. Genl. Vols.

Majr Genl O.O. Howard  
Superintendant Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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2899 9/2/1865

*From:* C.J. Watson  
Capt & A.Q.M.  
Bath Maine

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2843

*Source:* Bowdoin

Commissioner of Freedmans  
Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

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[18]

Bath Maine  
September 2nd 1865

General,

Having concluded my duties at Harrisburg Pa where I have been in charge of a Depot of Clothing and Equipage for the past ten months, and that Depot being discontinued, I have been ordered to my residence, to report to the Adjutant General U.S.A. for orders, by orders from Hd. Qrs. Middle Military Department, and have already done so.

I cannot tell whether I am to be ordered on duty again, or discharged, but would prefer to remain in the service. I was recommended to be retained a short time ago from Hd. Qrs. Dept of Pennsylvania, then commanded by Maj. Genl. Cadwallader.

I would like very much to be ordered to duty in your Bureau, either in my present Department, (the Quartermasters) or in any other, where I can be of service to the Government, having always taken a deep interest in the successfull working of the Bureau, and also having had an acquaintance with you at the commencement of the rebellion, when I entered the service in Third Maine Infantry.

If you will make the application to have me ordered to your Bureau, no doubt it would be successful, and you would confer a favor upon me.

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
Your obed't servant  
C.J. Watson  
Capt & A.Q.M.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

---

2900 9/2/1865

*From:* Will. H. Seward

*To:* Major General Howard

OOH-2844

Department of State,  
Washington

Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[19]

Department of State,  
Washington, 2nd Sept 1865

To Major General Howard,  
Freedman's Bureau  
General,

Allow me to present to you the Reverend Dr. King, of Canada, who has been introduced to me by the Honorable William McDougall, Secretary of State of that province. Dr. King wishes to confer with you on matters connected with the business which you have in charge.

I am General,  
Your very obedt servt,  
Will. H. Seward [Secretary of State, 1861-69]

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2901 9/2/1865

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
Brig Genl  
War Department,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Ass't Com'r for  
Ky., Tenn. and  
Northern Ala.  
Nashville, Tenn.

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2845

*Source:* Bowdoin

Washington  
D.C.

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[20, 21]

Personal

War Department,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Ass't Com'r for Ky., Tenn. and Northern Ala.  
Nashville, Tenn., Sept 2d 1865.

Dear General

I have an attack of "Brevet" on the brain. I want to be made Brevet Maj Genl of U.S. Vols. I have never cared much about it until now. I understand that the War Dept are about to publish a list of all Breveted Officers, and I should dislike to be left out of the meritorious class. I have served four years in the Army, and have done as well as I could. My Superior Officers and the Governor and all my State representative in the Senate & Congress recommended me for promotion to full Maj. Genl two years ago. It was not consistent at that time to promote Genl Osterhouse and myself, both from one state, and my claims were therefore not pressed.

I spoke to Mr Stanton on the subject when I was last in Washington, and he assured me of his willingness to Brevet me, if I was about to leave the service, but he feared the clamor that might be raised by the opponents of the Bureau at placing so much rank in it. I notice many Officers are being Breveted –many of them I know have not done one half the service that I have, and am doing. Should you feel at liberty to ask the President to give me a Brevet? My friends think it strange that I have not secured it before this time, but this is the first letter I have even written on the subject to any one. You may tell the Secy of War that I will leave the service any how that you can find a good man to take my place, or I will remain a little time longer if desired. I shall be very grateful to you if you can secure for me an early Brevet.

I am hard at work and doing some good I trust. The Bureau duty is not easy as you have doubtless discovered.

My good wife often writes of you, & sends her love. I had hoped to have gone home a few days about this time but can not well be spared from duty here.

Will you please write me at your early leisure, whether I may hope for a Brevet or not. I would like it so much, before the 20th of this month if possible, for certain reasons, in which vanity I fear figures a good deal.

Pardon my familiar letter, but believe me to be

Your faithful friend  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Brig Genl

Maj Genl Howard  
Com'er  
Washington  
D.C.



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2902 9/3/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-2846

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[187]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Sept 3 Washington 1865

My dear Mother,

I had a very warm journey West. I will send you an account of my reaction & doings at Chicago as soon as I can get copies. I have been hard at work since my return putting things to rights. I want a careful description of Wash's wife. Chas. had better come here on his return. I shall put Tilson in Ga. but under Saxton. I hope you are well & praying for your son, that he may do right. God bless you. Aff.  
Yr. Son Otis

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2903 9/4/1865

*From:* Mrs R A Heuvlin

*To:* Gen O O Howard

OOH-2847

Petersburg Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[22, 23]

Petersburg Va  
Sept 4th 1865

Gen O O Howard  
Dear Sir,

The more I reflect upon the plan presented to you by myself on Friday last, so well approved by you, the more determined I am with yur aid influentially to put this plan in execution. If I cannot prevail upon Mr Jenkins, to take a sufficiently small sum to secure a title to my former plantation, I know of plenty of places that can be bought in this way, which will afford ample land to give my now former Servants, land to make them comfortable homes for life. This remember is my object in the main, tho I was and am willing could sufficient land become procured to make the place a kind of a Depot for other homeless ones, until they might do better. Now if you will be pleased to write out this principle in your were succinct and concise style approved by yourself and Col Whittlesey of the Raleigh Department, I know to a moral certainty I can desire means amply sufficient to carry out my main object, by subscription, and from those who would never miss any small amount. After that myself or Husband will be willing to remain in the business until Christmas, placing in your hands all funds that could be raised over \$600. My heart and soul is in this cause and I have the hearty co-operation of my husband and in whatever we <consider> to be right. During my travels in New England I found Gen O Howard a universal favorite. In conversation with a friend in New York he remarked we have perfect confidence in our chief of the freedmen's bureau. I mention this to show you how much your influence will be <realized>.

Now my dear Sir I have only to say that I am acting <> conscientious I believe it to be my duty to extend a helping hand to these servants who have watched over me in sickness, and in my darkest hours of the late cruel war, when my husband was conscripted they wept with me in sorrow. In my own room the prayed with me for his safety, and when he returned safe greater joy could not be manifested than shewn by them. Be pleased to let me hear from you at the earliest possible moment, and if possible provide either one of us a ticket of transportation, would be glad for it to extend as far North as Boston. I have many friends there, and believe a large amount can be raised in that city.

In conclusion allow me to ask if you are not a relative, of Mrs C I H Nichols, (she was a Howard) formerly Editress of the Vermont Windham County Democrat one of the best of ladies, an old friend and correspondent of my former Husband. These Servants for which I am trying to make provision, were left me by him together with those of an only own brother deceased which render them doubly dear to me not as property but as tried friends.

Humble tho I am do not forget to write me as early as practicable. Our present address is Hendersen Greenville Co S.C. Care of R A Jenkins, and it will be forwarded immediately.

With sentiments of respect and esteem  
I am Very Respectfully  
Mrs R A Heuvlin

To  
Gen O O Howard  
Commander  
of  
Freedmens Bureau

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 6 1865

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2904 9/4/1865

*From:* R Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
USA

OOH-2848

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina, Georgia  
Beaufort, S.C.

Commissioner

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[24, 25]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina, Georgia  
Beaufort, S.C., Sept 4th 1865.

General,

This letter will be handed to you by Bvt. Brig. Genl C.H. Van Wyck Col 56th N.Y.Vols. General Van Wyck has been for a long time on duty in this Dept. and has always been one of the firmest, truest, most consistent, ablest friends the freedmen have had. There is no one who has a clearer or more correct idea of the service required of the freedman's bureau, and there is no one who can give you a truer account of the status of affairs in South Carolina. I am anxious that you should have an interview with him. His regiment will soon be mustered out of service, but I feel very unwilling to have him leave the state at present. In the present critical condition of affairs he can render most invaluable service to the bureau. His large experience here, his thorough knowledge of the freedmen as well as of the whites, his common sense & statesman-like views, peculiarly fit him for this work. I beg, General, that you will request the War Department to promote him to the full rank of Brigadier General when his regiment goes out of service, and assign him to duty with me for the present. I am so impressed with the necessity of securing, at this time, agents for this work who are in sympathy with it, and appreciate its importance, that such a request seems to me but reasonable and proper, as I feel assured it is for the best interest of the service and the government.

I am General  
Very respectfully yours  
R Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Asst Comm.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard USA  
Commissioner

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Hd. Qrs. Asst. Comr. S.C. & Ga.

Beaufort S.C.

Sept. 4, 1865

Saxton R.

Bvt. Maj Gen. Asst. Comr.

Wishes the bearer of this letter Bvt. Brig Gen C.H. Van Wyck to have an interview with Genl Howard –also requests Gen. Howard to endeavor to have Gen Van W. retained in service after his Regt. is mustered out.

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2905 9/4/1865

*From:* Geo. W. Smalley

*To:* Major Gen. Oliver O.  
Howard

OOH-2849

Office of the Tribune  
New York

Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95, 96, 97]

Office of the Tribune  
New York Sept 4, 1865

Dear General:

You were so kind to me in other days that I shall venture to hope you have not forgotten my name.

I wish to introduce to you the Rev. George O. Glavis of Newark, N.J. now a chaplain in the army & who for two years past has done constant and excellent service. He wishes an appointment in your bureau. I know him personally and I know what he has done, and what he is able to do. If you have any better man you are fortunate, but this I can say of Mr. Glavis that for intelligence & devotion I should have to look far to find his superior. I can most cordially recommend him to you for any post where you want an officer whom you could trust to do such work as you would do yourself. And I understand from Mr. Glavis that he is ready & desirous to accept any assignment & duty in any quarter where he may be most useful. I could better repay your many good offices to me than by bringing you in connection with my friend, if you have, as I suppose you must have, need of first-class assistants in your work.

I send you my best wishes, & trust you will believe me always

Sincerely yours  
Geo. W. Smalley

Major Gen. Oliver O. Howard  
Freedmen's Bureau

[Written along the side] Mr Greeley has written you on the same subject.

[Written on the last page]  
(a.)

[Stamp at the bottom of the last page.]  
BUREAU R.F. & A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 18 1865

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2906 9/4/1865

*From:* A. B. Farwell

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2850

Augusta Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[26]

Augusta Me. 4 Sept 1865

My Dear Genl.

A few days since I mailed under cover to you, Senator Morrills letter to the Secy. of War, favoring the retaining of Major Lee.

I now take the liberty to hand you a letter which I have recd. from Col. Hiram Hayes, and I should be glad if you could find time to read a part of the first and the second pages.

You may remember that I took great interest in Hayes as I know you did, hence I am very anxious that his services should be recognized by a Brvt if nothing more. As he served with you in 4th Corps, I thought it not unlikely you might feel at liberty to ask Gen. Meigs to Brvt. him if you though him entitled to it.

If I can aid you in any way in assisting your wife, in getting ready to move please command me and I will respond at sight.

So far as I know, your folks are all well <nime>.

I am

Thankfully & Sincerely

A. B. Farwell

Maj. Genl. Howard

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Augusta Me.

Sept. 4, 1865

Farwell, Hon A.B.

States that a few days ago he mailed under cover to Genl Howard Senator Morrills letter to the Secy. of War, favoring the retention of Major Lee, also Encloses letter fro Col. Hiram Hayes, and recommends that his name be mentioned to Genl. Meigs for promotion.

(1 Enclosure)

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 6 1865

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2907 9/5/1865

*From:* Nathan Kimball

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2851

Victoria, Texas

Freedman's Bureau  
War Department  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[31, 32]

Victoria, Texas,  
Sept. 5, 1865

General:

In consequence of the late General Orders from the War Department, my duties here are ended; and I shall, next week, return to my home in Indiana.

Having served with and under you, I take the liberty of writing you now to say that should there be, in the Bureau of which you have charge, a position to which you would be pleased to have me assigned, with my rank as Brigadier General, I would be most happy to serve under you again.

Should such be the case, I need not say to you, that I would do all in my power to carry out the intentions of the government; and I believe my experience in the south since the commencement of the rebellion, would enable me to do so to your satisfaction.

I should be very much pleased to hear from your, General; and with a heart full of thankfulness to Him who determines the fate of Nations that He has been pleased to preserve our country from ruin I am,

With great respect,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
Nathan Kimball

My address will be Indianapolis, Indiana.

Major General O.O. Howard  
Freedman's Bureau  
War Department  
Washington

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Victoria Texas.

5th Sept '65;

Kimball Brig Gen.

Friendly letter, also asks for a position

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 23 1865

Ans Oct 2d 1865.

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2908 9/5/1865

*From:* O. Brown

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2852

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands.  
Head Quarters Asst.  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia,  
Richmond, Va.

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[29, 30]

Unofficial

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands.  
Head Quarters Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia,  
Richmond, Va., Sept 5th 1865

To Maj Genl O O Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General

I beg leave to lay before you a little matter that occurred yesterday.

One Bt Brig Genl Hall a Colonel I think of the 11th Maine Regiment (in company with an assistant Superintendent of the Bureau) called on a gentleman and requested his influence in procuring for him the position of Asst Commissioner in the Bureau for Virginia.

He stated that "He was an old friend of General Howard who desired to give him a place; that he could bring a strong political influence to bear, in his favor and he had no doubt but he should succeed."

My object in writing this General is to state that I have neither the time or disposition to ward off attacks of this nature.

I will try to do my duty faithfully and have confidence that General Howard will if I make mistakes point them out to me and do me the justice to believe that I try to do my duty.

I am General very Respectfully  
Your obdt Sert  
O. Brown [Bvt Brig. Gen. Orlando Brown]

[Written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]

Hd. Qrs. Asst. Comr. State of Va.

(Apply to Gen)

Richmond Va

Sept 5, 1865

Brown, O.

Col. & Asst. Comr.

Relative to one Bvt Brig. Hall, endeavoring to procure influence to assist him in obtaining the position of Asst. Comr for State of Va.

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 8 1865

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2909 9/5/1865

*From:* James Redpath

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2853

Malden Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

Malden Mass  
Sept 5/65

Maj Gen Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General:

I write to remind you that you promised to see what you cd do in securing me a Salary as Supt. Schools of S.C. & Geo.

The N.E.F.A.S. have elected me their Secy but I prefer to go South, and Gen Saxton is anxious that I shd go.

I learned yesterday fm Col Whittlesey that you had arranged to pay a Supt in N.C & conclude, therefore, that you have over looked my papers.

Respy  
James Redpath  
Supt Schools SC &c

P.S. I open my letter to request that if you can make any arrangement for me, you will greatly oblge me by enclosing a pass so that I can go forthwith to S.C.

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2910 9/5/1865

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
Brig Genl.  
Asst. Com.  
War Department,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
Office Ass't Com'r for  
Ky., Tenn. and  
Northern Ala.  
Nashville, Tenn.

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2854

*Source:* Bowdoin

Comr &c  
Washington D.C.

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[34, 35]

War Department,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Office Ass't Com'r for Ky., Tenn. and Northern Ala.  
Nashville, Tenn., Sept 5th 1865

General

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter from Maj Genl Thomas to the Secy of War recommending my promotion.

I think about as much of this letter from the good old Soldier as I should if this Brevet, and will thank you to return the same to me if it is not regarded with favor by the War Dept.

I wrote you in relation to a Brevet for myself on the 2nd next & Genl Thomas this day was so well pleased with the results of my labors here that he voluntarily sent the enclosed letter to my office. I shall be greatly pleased if you can secure for me a Brevet.

Very Respectfully  
Your obt Servt  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Brig Genl.  
Asst. Com.

Maj Genl Howard  
Comr &c  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Nashville Tenn.

Sept. 5th 1865

Fisk, Clinton B.

Brig Genl. Asst Comr.

Encloses letter in reference to his promotion, from Major General Thomas.

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 11 1865

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2911 9/6/1865

*From:* Jas. R. O'Beirne

*To:* Maj Genl O. O. Howard

OOH-2855

New York City

in Chge  
Freedman's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[36, 37]

New York City Sept 6 / 65

Genl

Referring to the occasion of my visit to you the day before yesterday when I had the honor to ask you to be detailed in the Freedman's Bureau, I saw Genl Fry as you requested stating that "f I was retained in the Veteran Reserve Corps, after consolidation & Genl Fry would endorse me, you would perhaps make application for me & assign me to duty in Georgia." To this the Genl replied that the matter of consolidation was in a state of contingency & not decided, that probably it would not take place as a great interest in it had been taken of members of Congress Senators & Governors among the most influential of the various states & that probably it would be held "neb curea" until after the meeting of Congress. The Genl then further said as I remember, that if he was applied to for information &c as requested my antecedents &c, he would gladly give it. I have the honor therefore Genl to make formal application to be detailed in the Freedman's Bureau in such capacity as I may be of service to the public good & the Government, according to the opinion of my superiors.

I have served in the War from its first commencement in the different grades from private to my present rank first in the 7th Regt N.Y.S.N.G. Subsequently in the 37th NY Vols "rish Rifles"& finally in the Vet Res Corps. I have participated in all the campaigns from the 1st Bull run to Antietam. Have been mentioned in Genl orders by the late Genl Phillip Kearney for distinguished gallantry at the battle of Fair Oaks, (then in the line) Have been wounded in action, receiving a ball thro my body piercing the upper lobe of my right lung. Have been on duty in the Pro Mar Genl's Bureau for more than a year & a half & finally acted as Pro Mar D.C. From the first of Jan'y 1864 to the closing of the Office & the turning in of the records to the War Dept. Joined my Regt & am now on 30 days leave of absence. Am well known in the War Department & generally throughout Washington as also personally by his Excellency the President. I refer with pleasure & pride to my testimonials now on file in the War Department. Brig Genl Fry is conversant with my past history & antecedents.

Hoping to receive the honor of your consideration for the foregoing & if consistent with your views an assignment to duty in the Freedman's Bureau.

I have the honor to be

Genl

Very Respy

Your Obt Servant

Jas. R. O'Beirne

Maj 22d Regt V.R.C.

late Pro Mar DC

P.O. Address

Washington D.C.

Maj Genl O. O. Howard

in Chge

Freedman's Bureau

Washington D.C.

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 8 1865

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2912 9/6/1865

*From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2856

Hd qrs. 3d Regt V.R.C.  
Brattleboro Vt.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

Hd qrs. 3d Regt V.R.C.  
Brattleboro Vt. Sept 6th 1865

My dear Genl,

I wrote you some days since in regards to service in your Bureau. I would very much like to serve with you, if I can be of any assistance.

It is rumored that the Regts. of this Corps are to be consolidated, and if so, I would much prefer to remain in the service, and perhaps would be more liable to be retained, if upon detached service with you.

I have reason to believe that my record at the War Dept. is good. I am quite sure that Col. <Fairmont> and Lt. Col. Buck A.A.'s G. with whom I have a personal acquaintance, and both of whom have taken occasion to express their appreciation of my services, will aid in my assignment to you, if you wish it. Tho' of course I would not ask personally any assignment at the Department. I address you as a valued personal friend and a former beloved commander.

I know Genl you will pardon this intrusion. I am aware how overwhelmed you must be with your official duties.

Mrs. Sewall joins in her kindest regards to you.

I am Genl, very respectfully  
and sincerely yrs  
F.D. Sewall  
Col. 3d Regt V.R.C.&  
Bvt. Brig. Genl. Vols.

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2913 9/7/1865

*From:* R.D. Musser

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2857

Executive Mansion  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39]

Executive Mansion  
Washington D.C. Sept 7th 1865

Major General Howard  
Commissioner &c &c  
Dear General

The President would like to see you tomorrow morning (Friday). Can you come over about 9 o'clock?

Very Truly Yours  
R.D. Musser  
MilSec

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2914 9/8/1865

*From:* C.H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Oliver [OO Howard]

OOH-2858

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[40, 41]

Augusta Sept 8th 1865

Dear Oliver

Your welcome letter enclosing the amount of your subscription to our Parish - \$30. - came duly to hand, and was glad to hear of your safe return to Washington. Remember me to Harry Stinson. I saw his mother yesterday, all well. Guy was in the store within a day or two and says "His Pony he does not ride but hopes to". Mr Blaine has been quite sick but I understand is better now. We have had considerable sickness in town lately particularly among children.

Nothing especially new, our wednesday evening meetings are very pleasant & have been better attended than earlier in the summer -lately. Mr McKenzie has got fairly established in his new boarding house on the East side of the River in the "Redington House" kept by Mr Littlefield where the Unitarian & Episcopal ministers board. The Sabbath School children go over to his house next Saturday afternoon -if pleasant -to a friendly gathering having tea there -each one carrying some contribution towards the supper.

My Mission School is flourishing and I hope & pray profitable. I cannot but think it is. They seem to enjoy it and if an be the means in God's hands in awaking those people to a realizing sense of their accountability to their Maker particularly the younger portion it will satisfy me and be of lasting benefit to them. I shall carry Mr McKenzie out soon to talk to them.

Somewhat in haste Oliver I write you this morning but you know I should like & enjoy a letter from you whenever you can find time to write and believe me,

Ever truly your friend  
C.H. Mulliken

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Augusta Me.  
Sept. 8, 1865  
Mulliken, C.H.  
Friendly Letter

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2915 9/8/1865

*From:* C.G. Baylor

*To:* Maj. Gl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2859

Metropolitan Hotel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[42 43]

Metropolitan Hotel  
Sep. 8th 1865

Maj. Gl. Howard  
Sir:

I am indebted to Mr King of Georgia for the enclosed letter of introduction.

The simple policy is for the Southern people themselves to give the negro by state action all the rights of citizenship. Among these is the right of suffrage. Give the negro the ballot, and he will protect himself.

I have been exerting my influence in Georgia in this direction and I am happy of the opportunity of informing you, that we are prepared in Georgia to carry this policy, if, assured that it concurs with the wishes of the powers that be.

Believe me this is the policy of wisdom of duty and of interest. It is the major proposition which embraces all the others.

The industrial community & financial prosperity of the South, resting mainly upon its tropical productions, is another question. It is one peculiarly of political economy and administrative ability. I believe the elements are ready to restore the wanted prosperity of the plantation states of the union upon the basis not only of free labor but of citizens labor. With your permission I may return this subject more fully hereafter.

If I can be of any service to your Department it will always afford me pleasure to respond to any demand you may make upon me.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
C.G. Baylor

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Metropolitan Hotel,  
Sept 8. 1865.  
Baylor, C.G.

Concerning the policy of enfranchising the negroes of the South.

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2916 9/8/1865

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2860

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[44, 45]

Leeds Sept 8 1865

Dear brother

Your letter to mother did not reach here till last night. You say I had "better" come to Washington but I doubt if I have the time. I could (I suppose) make a flying visit from New York but the expense would be something. If you think it important for me to visit W. before returning to Gen. Saxton please telegraph to me, Howard Hotel, New York.

If I should find that I had a long time to wait in New York for a Steamer for Hilton Head I may decide to go to Washington at any rate.

I inclose a Description of Wash's wife & the situation of the plantations where he and where his wife lived.

If I had the time I could go down there and find her (if living) I have no doubt. I should think some member of the old staff would willingly do it.

Farm not yet sold. Messrs. Sprague & Pratt of Green show some inclination to buy it and take a second look at it today. Wish you would write me a letter to Howard Hotel – N.Y. If we go tomorrow morning, Mother will go to Easton & I shall go out there to spend Sunday with her. Last Sunday I was at Farmington. My leave expires 19th Sept. when I should be in South Carolina. I do not yet know whether I have been detailed for the Bureau in compliance with Gen. Saxton's request – or not. I am glad you arranged to have an officer for Georgia for the present to report to Saxton.

A paper containing your Chicago speech came to mother. I liked it much. Think it even a happier effort than the one at Augusta – more telling points in it perhaps.

My regards to Stinson, Gilbreth & Sladen – and to Gen. Fullerton if he is at W. Where is Gen. Strong? I would like much to see him and all my old comrades at Hd. Qrs.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Leeds

Sept 8, 1865.

Howard C.H.

Friendly Letter.

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2917 9/8/1865

*From:* Spencer Parnsey

*To:* Maj. Genl O O Howard

OOH-2861

<> of Young Mens  
Assn.  
Troy

Washington

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[46]

<> of Young Mens Assn.  
Troy 8 Sept 1865

Respected General,

Our association & Citizens would be glad to have an opportunity of listening to you if you could make it convenient to pay us a visit during the coming winter. Our Assn is one that stands high & we have as good a Lecture course as can be obtained. I have cherished the hope that Gen Howard, a name dear to every lover of his country & his God, might be induced to appear before our Assn & give us an opportunity not only of seeing but of hearing from his lips, some thing which might do us good.

I have thus made bold to address you & shall hope for an affirmative answer.

As early a reply as will be convenient for you to give, will be thankfully received by

Your humble servt.  
Spencer Parnsey  
Cor Secy Troy YMA

To  
Maj. Genl O O Howard  
Washington

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2918 9/9/1865

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister [Lizzie  
Howard]

OOH-2862

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[622]

Farmington Sept. 9 / 65

Dear Sister

As "misery loves company" it may be some satisfaction to you to know that we are all sick except Ella & she is so near it that she don't seem like herself. The whooping cough has not become very severe yet but is quite active especially nights. Anna was taken delirious Thursday afternoon & remains very sick. A little girl, that Ella had to help for a day or two vomited all night that night & we sent her home. I have been sick of Cholera morbus two days, but am better today. One of our neighbors is in helping Ella this morning & Anna has watches every night. We had a minister to tea last night & expect William Merrick tonight, but he will go to Sarahs till we are better. He is to stay a week here & then visit the Kennebec. I have a letter for Charles from Bangor which I will send to Leeds with his other things Monday.

We are anxious to hear how the children (yours) get on with their cough. Our baby seems very cheerful but we see yet some <weakness>. I will go to Leeds Monday if possible, but doubt if I am able to leave home. I have some one to help me Sunday.

With love to all the children from Ella & me & to Mother & Charles if with you - & yourself.

Yr. aff. Brother  
Rowland

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2919 9/9/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2863

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[no number stamp]

Washington D.C.  
Sept. 9th 1865

Dearest,

We agreed, all except Mrs Markland & Gen Strong, to have breakfast a half hour earlier and I therefore get a little time here at the office, before the work of the day commences. I received a letter from you yesterday and I thought you felt a little backward about coming to Washington. It wont do darling if we we are ever to live together again with a common interest, sympathy, and work you must come. I cannot entirely live without you. I need your sympathy every day. I cannot be much help to you, but you can aid me in the great work committed to me by your sympathy & love. They will rest me when tired and cheer when <disponded>. I do not care for our social status –you are infinitely superior to any woman I have seen here and at Washington more than any where else in the world people do just as they please. I am going to send a boy on for the pony, one I can trust.

I wanted to find Wash's wife first if possible and send her on, so I am waiting to get a description from Mother. Harry S. is gaining in flesh, but coughs hard still. Gilbreth is well & here. If you could rent a portion of the house of somebody you know & could trust, so as to correspond about it, and could shut up the rest I think it would be well. As soon as warm weather comes again you will undoubtedly go back to spend the summer.

I called on Judge <Ohan> and afterwards the President last night. Mr Johnson is giving up the land pretty fast and I begin to tremble with anxiety for the freedmen. This is entre nous.

Give papas love to each of the children. We have got some new steps at the house and I now have the carriage brot. there so as to keep it clean. Sam boards everybody and is doing so admirably.

Give my love to Mrs Jackson and ask if she is well and if she has heard from her son. The weather has now become considerably cooler. I long much for you, Dearest. May God bless you & our dear family as He always has.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2920 9/9/1865

*From:* M. S Brigham

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2864

Old Cambridge, Mass.  
Cor. Of Putnam &  
Green Sts.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[447]

Old Cambridge, Mass.  
Cor. Of Putnam & Green Sts.  
Sept. 9th 1865

General,

Permit me to intrude upon your time which I am aware is fully occupied.

Some time in July last I made an application through Surgeon McLures, U.S.A. to you, soliciting an appointment as teacher of schools for the Freedmen and their families; at the same time I forwarded testimonial as to my moral character and ability; - not having learned whether said letter was received I again take the liberty to renew my application with further testimonials as to my ability and standing in society here, and in so doing am induced by a notice in the Boston Newspapers which state that schools are about to be established in the City of Washington for the education of Freemen and their families. Feeling a deep interest in the cause of education and more especially of the colored race, I earnestly hope that you may give this application a favorable consideration and by so doing much oblige.

Your Obt. Servant  
M. S Brigham

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2921 9/9/1865

*From:* John T. Lockman

*To:* O.O. Howard  
Maj Gen

OOH-2865

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of C.J. & E. De Witt,  
No. 88 Nassau Street  
New York

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[43]

Office of C.J. & E. De Witt,  
No. 88 Nassau Street  
New York, Sept 9th 1865

General

Your letter of 6th inst received this date.

I sincerely thank you for the kind expressions contained therein and will cherish them as a memento to which I can always refer with pleasurable pride.

Yours respectfully  
John T. Lockman  
Late Col 119 NY

O.O. Howard  
Maj Gen, Commissioner &c

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2922 9/9/1865

*From:* Lewis A. Hall M.D.

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2866

Mount Holly, New  
Jersey  
Burlington Co.

Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[49, 50]

Mount Holly Sept'm 9th 1865

Gen. Howard Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

Honored Sir! The matter contained in the following lines must plead my excuse for addressing you.

First: The primary rudiments of an education for the colored population under your care, is engaging some of the best Minds in our Country. How is this to be effected in the Shortest time, and with the least expense? These two questions I feel fully prepared to answer, at the proper time and place. Having in my youth been largely engaged in Teaching. I have been importuned by many philanthropists to have an interview with you, and explain the whole subject. To those importunities I have answered - that my impressive way, that there were many minds, and much Talent, now engaged in Teaching in the South, as well calculated to instruct as I <can>. Many months having passed and many good instructors having devoted their time, and talent, to the instruction, and no doubt have done the Blacks much good, and yet, not one of them have proposed; or used (so far as I can learn) the method best calculated to impart to the pupil, the most information, to the greatest number, in a given time, at small expense.

The same good that is done for 50, or one hundred Scholars now may be effected by my method to one thousand Fifteen hundred by one Teacher, and I could govern Several Schools of such numbers, by having one Such Teacher for every Thousand Scholars. No paper, or Books, are required by my Method, until the pupil can read. This item of expense now, amounts to enough to pay a Sub teacher for instruction for every 1000 taught by your present plan.

Any thing that I can do, to assist you, Howard Sir, in educating both White and Black, and restoring harmony, and good feeling in our beloved Country, will most cheerfully be done if requested, by

Your humble contributor  
Lewis A. Hall M.D.  
Late Surgeon U.S. Army  
Mount Holly, New Jersey  
Burlington Co.

NB. Should you consider an interview desirable, I can be in Washington the day following the announcement of your wishes.

L. A. Hall

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Mount Holly N.J.

Sept 9, 1865.

Hall, Lewis A. M.D.

Desires to cooperate and aid in education of the peoples of the South both Black & White

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON RECD SEP 11 1865

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2923 9/9/1865

*From:* B.G. Northrop

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2867

*Source:* Bowdoin

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts,  
Office of Board of  
Education,  
Boston

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[55]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Office of Board of Education,  
Boston, Sept 9 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Your excellent letter to me was read at the Am. Institute of Instruction & was heard with great satisfaction. It has been widely printed, & its just & noble sentiment have awakened a cordial response in the minds of many thousands.

Enclosed please find the "proof" of a circular which I am about to issue. I propose to add one or two questions to the list & what I sh'd be most happy to add w'd be "Education of the Freedmen" or "Education in the South" (or any kindred topic) by Maj. Gen. Howard.

Your field of "Superintendence" is far wider than that of any of our State Sup'ts of Schools. I can think of no one in the Country who w'd be able to write a paper so timely, practiced & weighty on such a subject.

I feel encouraged by the very kind spirit of your letter of Aug 4 to hope that you will consent to help us at this meeting in Washington.

I have left a blank as you see, for the room or place of meeting, for the reason that I knew not where we c'd meet without expense. As an Association we have no funds. The State Supts generally are, I suppose, not burdened with money. Economy is a necessity. Is there in your department, or in any other a room wh. w'd accommodate - say sixty or possibly one hundred men wh. c'd be had without charge. The meeting is called to meet what seems to us a call of Providence. We have no party or selfish purpose to answer.

I write freely because I know you full sympathize with every such effort. If you can favor me with a reply within ten days, please direct to Caldwell N.Y. If later, to State House Boston Ms. As I wish to print the circular in full, an early reply will be a special favor to

Yours most truly  
B.G. Northrop

[Stamped on the back page] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 11 1865

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2924 9/9/1865

*From:* James A. Ekin

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2868

Quartermaster  
General's Office  
Washington, D.C.

Freedmans Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[53, 54]

(Unofficial)

Quartermaster General's Office  
Washington, D.C., Sept. 9, 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
Washington, D.C.  
General,

I respectfully desire to present to your kind consideration for appointment, or Agency to the Freedmen, the names of Rev. W. D. McConnell, and Rev. W.M. Richie, christian ministers of good standing in the United Presbyterian Church, a church which, in proportion to its numbers, has contributed more aid to the government in suppressing the rebellion than any other.

The appointment of the gentlemen named would be most acceptable to the Christian community in which they reside, and would be but a deserved compliment to the patriotic christians of whom they are the honored representatives.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very Respectfully  
Your obt. Servant  
James A. Ekin  
Bvt. Brig. Genl.  
In charge 1st Div.  
Q.M.G.O.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Q.M.G.O.

Washington, Sept. 9, 1865

Ekin, James A.

Bvt Brig. Genl. in charge 1st Div.

Requests the appointment of Rev. W.L. McConnell, & Rev. W.M. Richie to positions in Bureau R.F. & A.L.  
Sept 11, 1865

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2925 9/9/1865

*From:* E. D. Townsend  
A.A.Genl.

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2869

Comr. Freedmens Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[57]

Dear General,

You were speaking of an asst. comr. for Georgia & of transferring Genl. Tillson there from Tenn. It occurs to me to suggest that you see the President & have a conversation with him on the subject. He is of course familiar with Tenn'ee affairs & perhaps would like you to confer with him on the matter of Commissioners generally. In the absence of the Secretary I think it would be well for you to step over this morning, when you would be likely to find an opportunity to see the President on sending your name up.

Yours truly

E. D. Townsend  
A.A.Genl.

Maj. Genl. Howard  
Comr. Freedmens Bureau  
Sept. 9, 1865  
Saturday

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2926 9/10/1865    *From:* Alfred. P. Sears

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2870

Fernandina, Fla.

Chf. Commissioner of  
Freedmen's Affairs

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[53]

Unofficial

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chf. Commissioner of Freedmen's Affairs

Fernandina, Fla.  
10th Sept. 1865

General,

I take the liberty of sending you a copy of my address to the people in the Pine Woods of Florida.

I beg to invite yr attention to the remarks on pages 18 & 21 that I have marked; they contain some of the results of experience with free negroes.

In addition, it is proper to say that we shall not send north this winter for white hands, but employ black laborers, with white masons brought here from the Eastern states.

I have the honor to be  
General  
Very Respectfully  
Yr obt Srvt  
Alfred. P. Sears, Engineer Fort Clinch.

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2927 9/10/1865     *From:* J.S. Fullerton

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2871

Lenox Mass.

Commr. Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[59, 60, 61]

Lenox Mass. Sept 10 / 65

My Dear General,

I am better. My general health has been much improved since I reached Lenox. All owing to large quantities of good, pure country butter and milk that has been at my disposal. If I can remain here a few days longer I think I will be able to say "Richard is himself again!"

When I left Washington I told you that I would be gone about four or five days, but owing the distance that I have traveled, the precarious condition of my health and other circumstances "too numerous to mention". I will not be able to keep my word. I also consider it to be my "Official duty to remain here a few days longer, as I have found several young ladies from Boston and other parts of New England who are quite ignorant of the condition and wants of the "Freedmen" of the South. They are anxious for light, and I believe that I am the only person here that can illuminate the subject. For the good of the cause I must correct false impressions and try to direct the bewitching lassies in the path of duty. Some of them have been sewing for the freedmen, and if all information that I have been able to gain is correct, the work that they have done is more than useless. Gauze under shirts, hem stitched handkerchiefs with letters worked in the corners and paper collars are very poor articles for field hands, you know. I think it would be very advisable for me to remain in Lenox until the latter part of this week in hopes of meeting the aforesaid charitable young ladies in a sewing circle, then and there to give them my views of the wants of our constituents. If you think otherwise please telegraph me. I am living just above the telegraph office, and can hear the tick of every message received – a dispatch would be received soon. After you receive this letter I will listen to said ticks with fearful interest; they will sound to me as sickening almost as the rap of a coffin hammer –not that I do not wish to get back to the Office in Washington, and the house on the hill, but on account of my health and of the good that I may do here for our cause.

It is really refreshing to be where the people are not only patriotic, but where also they do not turn up their noses and become nauseated by the person of an A.A.G. of a "egro Bureau"- as our friends in the south facetiously call it.

What do you think of the propriety of my remaining here until next Friday for the purpose of delivering a lecture (free lectures) on that night in the Town Hall – subject "Views and Experiences of an Officer who has worked for three months in the Freedmens Bureau".

I have just counted my clean shirts and find that I have enough to last until the latter part of the week, so do not order me back on account of my wardrobe.

I am gaining strength for the fall campaign, as well as useful information, amongst the hills of Massachusetts, but I do not wish to remain here on that account alone. If I am needed at once in Washington, please let me know and I will leave on the next train after receiving your despatch – otherwise I will remain here until the last of the week.

Truly your friend  
J.S. Fullerton

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commr. Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Lennox Mass.  
Sept. 10, 1865  
Fullerton J.S.

A.A.G.  
Friendly letter

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2928 9/10/1865 *From:* L. G. Townsend

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2910

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Washington Sep 10th 1865

Maj Genl Howard

Dear Sir

In the long and painful suspense and the severe trial to which I have been subjected since troubling you last, I have often desired to address you, but well knew the constant pressure upon your time, and that you must be informed of some of the leading facts of my case.

I drop this, only to say in thankfulness, my confidence was not misplaced, that God would bring me safely through, and suffer no dishonor to fall upon me or mine. If my application to the President, to be again restored to office, meets with the favor that is promised, I shall soon be able to report for duty, with the hope of yet proving myself worthy of the confidence and affection of my friends.

Very Respectfully  
Your Humble Sevt.  
L. G. Townsend

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2929 9/11/1865

*From:* Horace Greely

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2872

Office of the Tribune,  
New York

Frem's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[98]

Office of the Tribune,  
New York, Sept. 11, 1865

Dear Sir:

The bearer, Rev. G. O. Glavis, of Newark, N.J. Has been throughout the late struggle a most devoted patriot and an earnest judicious friend of the colored Race. He would gladly serve the cause of Nationality and Humanity in your Bureau, and I commend him to your favorable regard as one who in any capacity will <render> your <> and brave worthy and faithful.

Yours,  
Horace Greely

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Frem's Bureau

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2930 9/11/1865 *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2873

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62, 63]

Brunswick Sept 11, '65

Dear General

I reached home last Tuesday, having delayed a day in N.Y. - another in Boston, to work a little for the Bureau. In N.Y. I did not succeed, but in Boston our friends promised \$1000. for building a school house in Raleigh. I think the N.Y. people will do the same.

My family are all well except George, whose lameness has so much increased that I shall be obliged to take him to Philadelphia. And as he must have his mother's care, I shall take her & the rest of the children. This breaking up will keep me very busy, & may delay me two or three days beyond my leave; but I shall make every effort to be in Wash. by the 20th.

The College tired of my long absence, has quietly dropped me overboard, having declared my place vacant, & then filled it by electing Chamberlain. It is all right, tho' it throws me out of employment when our Bureau breaks up, or my Regt. is mustered out.

I hear nothing from Raleigh but I presume our work is going on as usual.

With regards to all the Bureau.

Yours truly,  
E. Whittlesey

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2931 9/11/1865 *From:* Fitzhugh Lee

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-2874

Ravensworth, Fairfax  
Co. [VA]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[186]

Ravensworth, Fairfax Co. [VA] Sept 11, 65

My dear Oliver O Howard

Four years of war rolling away leaves you I ascertain at the head of a piece of furniture known as 'Freedmens Bureau', and rolls me out too as a "eaceful citizen" of the "est government the world ever saw" Our paths widely dimmed, at one time, at this day are once more within striking distance –not that I am going to do any more now than strike you with surprise at the reception of this letter, though you know Oliver I always could throw you down. I am also told you are in charge of all abandoned lands & taking advantage of our proximity I write to say that my father has a few hundred acres near here known as "airfax Station" and which has been in possession and constant occupation of your troops since the commencement of the war save an interval of a few days. Lately the troops had all been removed & when arrangements were about to be made by us to retake it, we are informed that it will probably be taken to locate a portion of your big bureau on the choice having been limited to 3 places in the County & my place being one of the 3, and rather the favorite.

Now I write to you Mr Howard to say there are just 3 trees left on the place & if you put the dear little blessed duckys on it, they would have a most uncomfortably hot time and get terribly sun burnt. Still if it is the best place why go ahead I shant complain. Sir I ready think if capital punishment is resorted to, the Lees ought to commence the hanging "ne of whom I am which" as Fran use to say about the relief at West Point.

I hope you will receive this (& I know you will) in the spirit it is written. Political differences are not allowed to affect my private feelings, especially towards old Army friends.

Hoping soon ot hear from you

I am

yrs sincerely

Fitzhugh Lee [USMA Class of 1856]

My address is to the care  
of John Dangerfield Alex. Va

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Ravensworth, Fairfax

Sept. 11th 1865

Lee, Fitzhugh

Friendly Letter

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 18 1865

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2932 9/12/1865 *From:* J. H. Roberts

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2875

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

Boston Sept 12th 1865

Maj Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

In behalf of the Committee for the Old Bay State Lectures, I would invite you to deliver a Lecture in our course. These Lectures are under the auspices of a Temperance Society although not Temperance Lectures. We had a very successful course last season and by them we are enabled to do a vast amount of good. We pay one hundred dollars (\$100.) I should be pleased to have you speak Oct 19th or Nov 16. Please let me hear from you by return mail as it is time our tickets were out. For the character of our Society we would refer you to the Hon H Hamblin.

Yours Respectfully  
J. H. Roberts  
Chairman of Com.  
81 Haverhill St.

P.S.

If you speak for us please give your subject. The Lectures will be in Tremont Temple, on Thursday Evening of each week.

J.H.R.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston Mass

Sept 12, 1865

Roberts, J.H.

Chairman of Committee

Inviting Genl Howard to deliver a lecture in Boston.

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 14 1865

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2933 9/12/1865    *From:* Rich'd Delafield

*To:* Major Genl. O.O.  
Howard, U.S.A.

OOH-2876

Engineer Department  
Washington

Chief of Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, etc.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[66]

Engineer Department  
Washington Sept 12th 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.  
Chief of Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, etc.  
Washington D.C.  
General

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. in favor of conferring a Captaincy, by Brevet, on Lieut. O.J. Ernst, Corps of Engineers and to inform you that I have forwarded it, with concurrent remarks, to the War Department and recommended the subject to the favorable considerations and action of the Secretary of War.

Respectfully Your obed Servt  
Rich'd Delafield  
Genl & Chief Engineers

[Written in pencil on the back page in a different hand.]  
Sladen  
Private business

[Written in ink on the back page in a different hand.]  
Engineer Dept.  
Washington Sept. 12, 1865  
Delafield, Rich'd.  
Genl. & Chief Engineer

Acknowledges receipt of Communication of 9th inst. in favor of conferring a Captaincy by Brevet on Lieut O.H. Ernst, Corps of Engineers, & states he has forwarded it with concurrent remarks, and recommended it to the favorable consideration of Secy of War.

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2934 9/12/1865

*From:* H.L. Dox

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2877

*Source:* Bowdoin

Freedmen's Aid  
Commission,  
of the State of Michigan  
No. 28 Larned Street,  
West  
Adrian

Commissioner of Bureau for  
Freedmen

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[67, 68]

Freedmen's Aid Commission,  
of the State of Michigan  
No. 28 Larned Street, West  
Gev. Geo. Duffield, D.D., Pres't.  
Rev. H.L. Dox, Cor. Sec'y & Gen. Agt.  
David Preston, Esq., Treasurer  
Adrian, Sept. 12th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Bureau for Freedmen  
My Dear Sir,

Some time since I made a brief statement in writing which was placed in the hands of Mrs. L.S. Haviland, who has acted efficiently in behalf of our Commission, and is especially interested in our "Home", which bears her name. That statement was intended to be placed at your disposal, and to give you some idea of our general operations and of the design of our "Home" in particular. Mrs. Haviland has informed me that she was successful in obtaining an interview with you while at Chicago, and that you were kind enough to look over the documents placed in your hands with attention and to speak of our efforts favorably. I am thus encouraged to trouble you with a few things more, though I will be studiously considerate of your time. I am anxious to obtain information by which our plans may be shaped so as to harmonize with the general movement.

Will the consolidation of the different Commissions involve a cessation of their distinctive operations, so that in organization and action they will become one? If so – and it is undoubtedly the true policy – how will the machinery be worked, by the Bureau, or by the Commission, as reconstructed? In other words, what is to be the relation between such organization, and the Bureau, which proposes to employ it in carrying out the idea of relieving the Freedmen?

For about two years I have toiled for these poor people by night and by day, though I have never been south to see them. I have longed to look upon their condition myself that I might more intelligently, and perhaps more forcibly plead for them, but I have never felt that I could spare time or means from the great work. My energies have been overtaxed, and my health is much impaired. My efforts must be changed or suspended. Can I not render some service and at the same time make a tour of observations, under some appointment of yours? You are troubled no doubt greatly with such applications. A temporary engagement is all I contemplate.

Wising you all success, I am yours truly –H.L. Dox

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Adrian Mich.

Sept 12, 1865

Dox H.L.

Gen agt F.A.C. Michigan

Asks what is to be the relation between this Bu of R F & A L & aid commissions & such organizations.

Hold for Gen.

Letter sent 20th Sept.

F.W.G.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 19 1865



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2935 9/12/1865

*From:* Chauncey M.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Depew

OOH-3379

Office of the Secretary  
of State

*Source:* Bowdoin

Of The  
State of New York,  
Albany

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[176]

[Letterhead]

Office of the Secretary of State  
Of The  
State of New York,  
Albany  
Sept 12 1865

Dear Sir,

May I take the liberty of introducing to you Wm C Whittemore Esq of New Haven. I was in College with Mr. Whittemore and commend him to you as a gentleman every way worthy of confidence and consideration.

Yours v Respy  
Chauncey M. Depew [Yale University, Class of 1856]

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

[Note: This letter was enclosed in the letter from Whittemore, OOH-3378, dated 22 Mar 1866.]

2936 9/13/1865

*From:* E. Mc. Catlett

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2878

Near Catletts Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75, 76]

Near Catletts Station  
Sept 13th / 65

Genl Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Mr Catlett addressed a letter to you several weeks ago, asking your advice in a matter of much importance to us, which I fear has not been submitted to you. It reached your Hd Quarters as we afterward learned through the politeness of Major Stinson, during your absence.

We are anxious to obtain some recompense frn the government for injuries sustained during the war from the U.S. Troops, and know that it will be almost useless to apply without the assistance of some Influential friend. I feel it is taking a great liberty to call on you in this matter, but as your Corps was encamped here longer than any other Command at one time, a good deal was necessarily destroyed by it, and you also had an opportunity of witnessing our disinterestedness during the contest. Testimony to this effect from one in your position would of great assistance and anything more you can suggest will be gladly received. Our circumstances are so much <[CHECK ORIGINAL - tape on page 2]> that any indemnity we can obtain will be most acceptable. I have hesitated to call on you knowing how much occupied you must be with business, and at one time determined to go down and talk with you about it, but found it so exceedingly inconvenient to leave home. I wish very much you could see Mr Catletts letter, perhaps Major Stinson still has it.

Nothing would give us more pleasure than to see you at our house, could you not arrange it, so as to come? The distance in the cars is very short, and you would find our mountain breezes very refreshing. Mr Catlett and Lottie join heartily in the invitation, the latter still retains a devoted remembrance of you. With sincere regard, and

Highest Respect  
Yours,  
E. Mc. Catlett

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Catletts Station, Va.

Sept. 13, 1865

Catlett, Mrs. E. Mc.

Desires assistance in obtaining indemnification for losses during the war.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.I. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 16 1865

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2937 9/13/1865    *From:* Geo. T. Balch

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2879

Charleston Arsenal  
Charleston S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69]

Charleston Arsenal  
Charleston S.C. Sept 13, 1865

My dear General,

Since my arrival here some weeks ago, a case connected with the business of your bureau has come under my notice, which from its nature has enlisted my sympathy and on which I desire to say a few words with a view of calling your attention particularly to it.

Mr Charles H Bailey is at present a clerk in the office here, and his younger brother is at work in the armorers shop cleaning arms. These two young men, now aged 19 & 18 respectively were orphans at the opening of the war, and living on the estate left them (& 2 sisters) by their Father on Edisto & Wadmallow Islands near this city, which estate of course was in the hands of their guardians. In Nov 1861 upon an order from the rebel authorities, the[y] left their home, and have now returned to it. On their reaching the age of 16, both were conscripted in the rebel army and served as privates un til after the surrender of Lee & Johnson.

As soon after the disbanding of these armies as he could get here Mr Charles Bailey came to this city, not only without money, but with only a few rags on his back ad almost without a relation or friend. He at once took the oath of allegiance and with the determination of earning his living with his own hands and unmindful of the precept and example of many of his old associates, who were too proud to do so, he set about seeking employment. This he finally obtained in the Commissary Dept. In this city, in a very humble position, where the work was very hard, and the pay very small. So hard was the work for so delicate a young man (being very small & slight) and so disagreeable the associates whom he was forced to be with, that he sought employment elsewhere, and hearing immediately that men were being hired here, he sought work, of any kind from Capt Jeb Grau 54th Mass, who then had charge of this post. Finding him to be a man of intelligence and refinement, with a good education, and satisfied of the sincerity of his loyalty, Capt G. took him as a clerk and he has been here in that capacity for some three months.

I have made myself thoroughly acquainted with his case and have had frequent conversations with him to elicit his views of his future prospect and position. Brought up like all the young men of his class in this state, to look upon labor as dishonorable, he now expresses his determination to make his way in the world by his own exertions and <[CHECK ORIGINAL tape page 2]> the error and folly of the principles which have been inculcated heretofore, & which too many of his associates yet cling to. He is now nobly grappling with misfortune, utterly without resources except his daily pay here (1.70 per day) and with his two sisters of 17 years, almost entirely dependent on him, because, altho they desire to they cannot as yet earn anything, he is animated with the wish to retrieve his fortune and do it with the work of his own hands.

At my suggestion he has recently stated his case regarding the condition of the estate left himself and his brother and sisters by his Father, in an official letter to your Bureau, which has been duly forwarded through General Saxton's Office. To that paper I wish to call your attention, and to request that as a favor to an old friend you will give it an attentive perusal. I do not propose to discuss the events of the case, as that is a matter exclusively for your jurisdiction, except to say, that to me it seems wrong to hold these minors accountable for the forced abandonment of their property and for their forcible detention in the rebellion.

But be that as it may, the main object I have in view in writing is to bear testimony to the noble manner in which these young men, are bearing their misfortune & to show how truly they accept the result of the war. In my opinion it is to such men, young men growing up with the regeneration of the state, that we are to look for a successful reorganization of society, labor and the rebuilding of the material interests of the south, and by every means in our power should they be encouraged. Let us visit all the penalties of the law of confiscation on those bitter, unrelenting, rebels who have encouraged their country men in their rebellion from first to last, such men as Freuholm, Ripley & hundreds of others here, who though anxious for pardon are as defiant and unrepentant

as ever - but to such as these young men, who have undertaken with the sweat of the brow to sustain the dignity of honest labor - in the state of South Carolina, let us lend a helping hand - and if a pint is to be strained do it for them. And in such hands we may safely leave the good of the state.

I may add as an evidence of Mr Bailey's personal popularity among the negroes who used to work on the estate that many of them have been here to offer him their services, and hope to work for him if he can regain the land. I have applied for a leave of absence with a view of visiting Wash'n to see about the acceptance of my resignation and shall then take the opportunity of seeing you further on this subject.

I remain very truly yours

Geo. T. Balch [USMA Class of 1851]

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2938 9/13/1865 *From:* O. H. Howard

*To:* Maj Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2880

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div. Gulf  
New Orleans La.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[77]

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div. Gulf  
New Orleans La.  
Sept 13th 1865

General,

In common with the remainder of the officers of the Signal Corps U.S.A. I expect to be mustered out of the service.

When I become a civilian can you give me a position under the Bureau of Freedmen Refugees & Abandoned Lands? Or, can I be assigned to duty in your Bureau and be thus retained in the service?

I have the honor to be General  
Very Respectfully  
Your obt servt  
O. H. Howard [Ocran H. Howard]  
Bvt Maj & C.S.O.  
Mil Div Gulf

Maj Gen'l O.O. Howard  
Commissioner

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2939 9/13/1865     *From:* Th. J. Wood

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2881

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Central  
District,  
Department of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Ark.

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[78, 79, 80]

Headquarters Central District,  
Department of Arkansas  
Little Rock, Ark., Sept 13th, 1865

My dear General:

I tried to open communication with you when I was at Green Lake in Texas, but when my letter reached Washington you were absent, and it was answered by one of your aides, Capt Stinson.

What great events have occurred since we parted nearly eleven months since at Gaylesville in Ala! The 4th Corps returned to Tennessee to look after Mr Hood, and you went back to Atlanta, to commence thence soon afterward the great modern Anabasis. Since we separated the <armed> part of the rebellion has been crushed, and the work of settling the country into a peaceful and normal condition and the dispensation of rewards have been inaugurated. It is of the dispensation of promotion by brevet that I propose to write to you this evening. I write to ask that you will give me the friendly assistance of your high official position and influence in a matter which I feel vitally touches my professional reputation.

<Lately> the Government has, with very few exceptions so far as I am informed, conferred two brevets, in the regular army, on all officers of the regular army who have been General of Volunteers. Beside my own case, I have heard of no exception to the rule of giving two brevets except in the case of officers who are already Brigadiers in the regular army, and who therefore, as the law now stands, could receive but one brevet, that of Major Genl. On my arrival at this place a few days since from Texas I found awaiting me a notification of my promotion as a Brigadier General, by brevet, in the regular army.

I hold that this promotion is no fit, permanent recognition of my rank in our provisional or war army, nor of the services I rendered in suppressing the rebellion. First, because I am a Major General of Volunteers, and secondly because during the whole war I exercised the command of a Major General, - (even when I was only a Brigadier, ) and fought it successfully through some of our most important battles. But I will not be guilty of the egotism of reciting the history of my services to you. We were comrades in some of the most interesting parts of the war, and you are entirely familiar with the record of my services. I will content myself with remarking that I feel that I can justly claim, without exposing myself to the charge of egotism, that a brevet as a Brigadier General in the regular army is not a fair recognition of my services, and that the only fair, permanent recognition of them that could now be bestowed would be a brevet as a Major General in the regular army.

I claim further that as the Government has established the rule of giving two brevets whenever possible - (and in my case it is possible, for I am only a Colonel in the regular army), as a permanent token of the estimation of the Government of the services of officers of the regular army, holding commissions as General officers of volunteers, in the suppression of the rebellion, I am entitled to the benefits of the rule. Not to give me the benefit of the rule is to make an unjust, injurious, and invidious distinction to my prejudice. I am willing to submit the record of my services during the war to the most rigid professional scrutiny, feeling well assured that they have at all times come fairly up to a high <coverage> of the services of every class of General officers in the army.

Being on duty in Washington you have more facilities for aiding me than any other professional and personal friend to whom I could apply, and I therefore earnestly request that you will bring the matter to the notice of the Honorable Secretary of War and his Excellency, the President, and if necessary lay this matter before Genl Grant, with a view to having the inequality, to call it by the mildest name, with which I have been treated remedied.

I am emboldened to make this request by the remembrance of the generous and hearty appreciation and

approval which you ever extended to my services as my commander, and the kindness and cordiality you ever displayed to me as an associate and friend. Let my hear from you fully in regard to this matter.

I left Texas about three weeks since, having been assigned by Genl Orders, No 130, from the War Dept to duty in the Department of Arkansas and The Indian Territory.

Wishing you much success in the important and arduous position which you now hold,  
I am, Genl, very truly  
your friend,  
Th. J. Wood [USMA, Class of 1845]

To:  
Major Genl O.O. Howard

P.S.  
In New Orleans, on my way hither from Texas, I met your assistant Comr of Freedmen for that state. I had a long conversation with Genl Gregory and gave him all the informatino desired frm my former service in Texas, as well as many suggestions which he though would be useful to him.  
W.

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Little Rock

13th Sept / 65

Wood, Maj Gen. T. J.

Friendly letter.

Also asks assistance in getting promoted to MG by brevet in US Army

Not entered in. LB.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 28 1865

ANS Oct 3, 1865.

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2940 9/13/1865 *From:* J.N. Morris

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2882

Washington City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[81]

Washington City Sept 13th 1865

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

Sir

Will you be kind enough to answer the following interrogatories

1st What is the average number of contrabands receiving rations from the Government at Quincy Illinois?

2d What has been and is now the average monthly cost of said rations?

3d Who and how many persons have been and are now engaged in and about issuing said rations, and superintending said contrabands, who are paid by the Government, and what has been or is the average compensations paid, and the gross amount thereof, to such person or persons?

4th What has been the gross amount of cost to the Government of said contrabands at Quincy?

Your early reply will oblige me.

Respectfully

J.N. Morris

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington City

[Written upside down] Sept 14 1865

Sept 13, 1865

Morris, J.N.

Asks within questions concerning the cost to Government of subsisting Contrabands at Quincy Ill.

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2941 9/13/1865      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2883

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[624]

Washington D.C.  
Sept. 13. 1865

Dearest,

I am alone this evening, Col. And Mrs Markland & Mr Alvord (who now lives with us) went to Balto. This morning. Gen Strong dined out. Gen Fullerton is in Mass. and Sladen and Stinson have gone to see Artemus Ward. I am really homesick and half in mind to start off to meet you at Augusta. The weather is warm, but not a member of our household has an ailment and I think there is very little sickness in Washington. I believe you have fixed the day two week from tomorrow on which to start. I would by all means ask Wm Merrick, if he would not like to accompany you to Phila. I would then meet you there.

I have sent to try & get Wash's wife, if I succeed I shall send on with her some one who will bring on the pony.

I got your letter of last Sunday and feel badly that you are not well. I hope it is not that prostrating attack, from "carrying trunks" &c up stairs, and poor little Chancy's cough urges you to hurry to papa, who will help him cough easy and Jamie too. The sea trip would do them good even if they were all sick, if mamma did not jump overboard. Why don't you run down to Uncle Edwards and let him take you over to the Islands, be gone three days with Chancy & Jamie. It would take up their attentions. Let Mrs Jackson do it. She could be gone four days with them! I am glad you have secured the good <American> Emma. We can easily make room. Only hurry darling, & even Augusta drains you with sickness & Washington beckons with husband & father & health. The weather is warm but beautiful; we had a nice shower this evening. Do you not want some more money before you leave? I cannot find any place that suits so well as this. We can keep here my horses, Guy's pony and the carriage by adding a little shed to the barn between it and the fence.

I found the Sec. Of War away when I returned to Washington and he has not come back yet. I have had more frequent interviews with the President and am quite apprehensive, that the freedmen's rights will not be cared for so much as I could wish. Yet the President is cordial to me and so are his household officials (a test of good will).

I don't think you ought to delay a day beyond your time fixed and do not believe there is one particle of danger from this place. It will be plenty cool I think before your arrival. Col. Markland will start for California the first of October and may take his wife to be gone two months. She wants to go with him, but he thinks she had better not. It seems queer that mother should be kept at Leeds on a place that they ask less than three thousand dollars for when I have to pay almost as much as that for rent. I found a house in Georgetown that suited me better for two thousand - four hundred dollars cheaper but now I only pay 300 dollars per quarter 100 per month for my part, so that my commutation allowance more than covers it. When a part of the hyoung men leave us still it will be better than the change. Then I think it will be esier for you here.

Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & Chancy. Papa bears them on his heart. God bless & keep you & send you on to me. I think I shall go to Richmond next week. Harry seems to be quite well now though he coughs. Mrs Markland sends her love to you. Col. & Mrs M have just returned. I do hope you are well and that this will find you well. If Wm Merrick cannot comem with you I will meet you in New York. My kind regards to Mrs Jackson.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2942 9/14/1865 *From:* E.D. Simons

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2885

Sand lake N.Y.

(Freedmen's Bureau)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[85]

Sand lake N.Y.  
Sept 14th 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
(Freedmen's Bureau)  
Dear Sir:-

Will you please inform me, whether lady teachers are being employed by your Bureau, for the instruction of children of Freedmen? If so, upon what conditions and terms?

Very Resp'y  
E.D. Simons  
Pastor Bap Ch  
Sand lake  
N.Y.

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2943 9/14/1865 *From:* Wells W. Leggett

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2886

United States Mil  
Academy  
West Point N.Y.

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[82]

United States Mil Academy  
West Point N.Y. 14th Sept 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear General,

Thinking that you would like to hear of my progress in this Academy, I thought I would tax your attention, for only a few moments. By the kind intercession of yourself, and others. I was enabled to get her, and commence my course 1st in the "Plebe Camp", and then in my studies, after entering "Barracks." The first, was a little galling, as I had come from the position of an officer in the Army, but I soon found that the "plebing course" only served to render the future life in barracks a pleasure, or relief, rather than a prison.

I was very agreeably surprised today by a few hours visit from Father, on his way West from Connecticut, but the visit was so short, and unexpected, that I hardly had time to enjoy it. He is now quite well, and wished to be remembered to you.

I am getting along very well in my studies, and if I am blessed with a continuation of good health, I have no fears, but what I can pass through, as my "plebing course" is over and I am rooming with a young man who wishes, and intends to come out well - hence am undisturbed in studying.

Thanking you very kindly for the assistance rendered me in obtaining my appointment, and at the same time, for the compliment extended me as an officer. I will close.

I would be very thankful General for some good advice.

I am Sir,  
Very respectfully,  
Your most obedient servant,  
Wells W. Leggett  
Cadet

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

U.S.M. Academy  
West Point N.Y., Sept 14 1865  
Leggett, W. W.  
Cadet

Friendly Letter

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 18 1865

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2944 9/14/1865

*From:* D. Remick

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2887

Chicago, Burlington &  
Quincy Railroad Co.,  
Quincy, Ills

Washington DC

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[84]

Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Co.,  
Quincy, Ills Sept 14th 1865

Dear Genl

Please find enclosed paper for yourself & Lady over the road that I represent (one of the best roads in the west or world) and should you come to Chicago again be sure and come and see the length of this great and beautiful tract of country being on this thoroughfare. I have the honour to be dear Genl

Very Truly  
Your Humble Servt  
D. Remick

Maj. Genl Howard  
Washington DC

P.S. Please give my kind regards to all of my old friends of your staff. D.R.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Quincy, Ills

Sept 14 1865

Remick David

Friendly letter enclosing passes on the Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R.

Hold for Gen

Letter sent

Dr Rem to thank you very kindly for your kindness & courtesies

I shall take great pleasure in availing myself of your invitation but more we envy you.

Affy yours

ans sent Oct 1st 1865

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2945 9/15/1865    *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* My dear Genl. [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2884

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[86, 87]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston Sepr. 15, 1865

My dear Genl. Howard

I was charged with a message & letter to you to be delivered at Brunswick. I am afraid they did not make much impression on you. The substance of it is this - The Young Men's Christian Association are desirous of obtaining a lecture from you this coming Winter. They are to have but few - & they want those that will draw.

Personally it w'l'd give me great pleasure to see you here & to have you at my house. Can you, & will you promise to come - say in December or January?

Please answer as soon as possible.

Charlie called yesterday. We were out - i.e. I was & did not see him. Am expecting him again to-day, on his way South I believe.

If there is any opportunity for me to visit the fortifications about Petersburg in connection with yourself, or with any Government officer to whom you c'l'd properly introduce me, it w'l'd give me great pleasure to see those sights before they are levelled.

I have just returned from my vacation. It is excesing hot, & I with myself in the sea every day. But I trust we are to have weather for work soon.

Truly & fraternally  
E.B. Webb

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston MA

Sept 15, / 65

Webb Rev EB

Writes Genl to deliver a lecture in Boston this coming winter.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 16 1865

Ans Sept 20, 1865

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2946 9/15/1865 *From:* Cutler Edson

*To:* General O.O. Howard

OOH-2888

Claremont N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[91, 92]

Claremont N.H. Sept 15th 1865

To General O.O. Howard  
Dr Sir

No doubt you will think it a little curious that the old Bugler in Co E. 5th N.H.V. should presume to address your honor, but thinking perhaps you might be able to do something for me I venture to wright you a few lines to let you know my whereabouts &c.

I inlisted in my countrys service a well healthy man but before my term of service expired my health faled me and I was discharged. I never have recovered my health so that I can perform hard labor and learning that you were employing help for the government I thought perhaps you might give me a chance where I could support myself & family by over seeing and looking after others and not be obliged to work beyound my strength as I now do.

I think I shal be able to furnish you with a reccommend both of my buisness talents and my Christian caracter sufficient to insure me a good position where I may be of use to my fellow men. I would be glad to here from you soon if you think me worthy of your notice.

(G.M. Davis my sone in law spoke of writing to you on this subject wheather he has I don't know)

I am your Obedient Servent  
Cutler Edson

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Claremont N.H. Sep 15, 1865

Edson, Cutler

Desires employment in the Freedmens Bureau

C.B.r164

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 18 1865

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2947 9/15/1865 *From:* S.P. Fowler, Jr.

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2889

Danvers, Mass

Chief of Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99, 100]

Danvers, Mass  
Sept 15th 1865

To Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedmen's Bureau  
General,

I desire to enter the service of the Freedmen's Bureau, as superintendent of schools.

As to my qualifications for the work, I beg leave to say that I am an alumnus of Amherst of the class of 1861, and a graduate of the last class at Andover Theolog. Sem. From some army experience in N. Carolina, my interest was more specially awakened in behalf of the freedmen, and I became more acquainted with their wants. I take the liberty to send you, sir, an exact copy of a letter of introduction from an acquaintance of your's - Prof. Egbert C. Smyth of Andover Theolog. Sem.

Andover Theolog. Sem.  
Sept 5th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howad  
My Dear Sir,

Allow me to introduce to you Mr. S.P. Fowler, Jr. a recent graduate of this Seminary & an alumnus of Amherst. Mr. F. Informs me that he wishes to take part in the efforts now making to promote the moral & religious welfare of the Freedmen, & desires to serve under the auspices of the Bureau at whose head you have been placed. He will personally explain to you his preferences so far as needful. I will only add, therefore, that it gives me pleasure to commend him to your favor believing that he will prove a christian workman who will not need to be ashamed.

Permit me to add that your present efforts in behalf of the Freedmen seem to me, most auspicious. You may be sure that now, no less than when braving the perils of war, many a christian heart remembers you in its daily intercessions.

If we can be of any service to you here in Andover, please command us.

Y'r's Faithfully  
Egbert C. Smyth

I do not wish to go to Washington wholly upon uncertainties, and hence I write. If I knew you could do nothing for me, I would endeavor to go under the auspices of the N.E. Freed. Aid Society. I hope, sir, you can get me into the Bureau as superintendent of schools. Will you please, general, favor me by an early attention.

Please direct to  
S.P. Fowler, Jr.  
Danvers, Mass.

Maj. Gen. Howard

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2948 9/15/1865 *From:* C.E. McKay

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2890

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[88, 89]

Auburn Sept 15th 1865

Maj. Genl. Howard,  
Dear Sir -

I have the honor to request your attention, and kind consideration to plans which I have in mind for rendering some assistance, (such as I can) to the Freedmen of Petersburg, Va.

I hoped to have been able to state them to you, when I was in Washington, on my way from Petersburg, the last of June, and spent several hours at your Hd. Qrs. for that purpose, but was not able to see you. Previously to that time I had been in the "air Grounds Hospt'l" nearly all the time after our troops entered the city, and became considerably interested in the colored people there, and acquainted myself so far as I could with their condition.

I propose to return there and operate among them in the same manner as I did, to some extent before I left, viz, by assisting families who are suffering, advising and helping them so far as I can to employment.

In order to do this to advantage I shall be very glad if Government can assist me to the extent of furnishing quarters, and the use of an ambulance or any other means of transportation about the city. For the rest, I can take care of myself, and shall depend for means to work with on the generosity of friends at the North, of whose aid I have ample assurance. Will you be so kind as to let me know if you can put me in a way to receive such assistance from Government as I may require.

Dr. Wiggin kindly offers to enclose this to you.

I remain General,  
Yours very respectfully,  
C.E. McKay

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Auburn Me.

Sept 15, 1865

MacKay Mrs C.E.

Requests Gov't aid for herself as teacher & nursing for Freedmen

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 20 1865

ans Sept 21, 65

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2949 9/15/1865 *From:* Henry Wilson

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2891

Washington D.C.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[93]

Washington D.C.  
September 15th 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Genl,

I desire to introduce to your favorable notice, Major Ira Russell, a personal friend of mine and a gentleman in whom I have the most perfect confidence in every respect. I have known him for many years, and I consider him one of the most reliable of all my acquaintance.

Any attention or courtesy I can thus obtain for him at your hands I shall consider a personal favor.

I am General, Very Respectfully  
Your obedient Servant  
Henry Wilson

---

2950 9/15/1865 *From:* Charles Sumner

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2892

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Boston 15th Sept. '65

My dear General

I have already written you in favor of Rev'd Mr. Glavis, our Hospital Chaplain, & of the very stuff for service among freedmen. Before he is mustered out, would it not be well to detail him for yr bureau?

I enclose letters from Mr Greeley & <Thos Welby> which have been furnished to me.

Faithfully yours,  
Charles Sumner

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Boston 15th Sept. 1865

Sumner, Charles

Recommends Chap. Glavis for position in the Bureau.

2 Enclosures

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 18 1865

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2951 9/16/1865

*From:* M.J. Hewitt

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2893

*Source:* Bowdoin

National "Freedmans'  
Savings and Trust  
Company,"  
American Exchange  
Bank Building,  
No. 87 Cedar Street,  
New York

Washington D.C.

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[101]

National "Freedmans' Savings and Trust Company,"  
American Exchange Bank Building,  
No. 87 Cedar Street,  
New York, September 16, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Freedmans Savings and Trust Company held in the Directors Room of the Am. Exchange National Bank, Sept 14th 1865 the President, Wm A Booth in the Chair "EA Lambert Esq. Chn. Agency Com. nominated Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, as a Corporate member of this Board. When after balloting, the President declared Maj. Gen O.O. Howard unanimously elected".

Dear Sir. In handing you the above extract from the minutes of our board, permit me to say that their earnest wish is that you may find it consistent with your other laborious duties to serve as a member of this Board.

I have the honor to be  
Your Obt Servt  
M.J. Hewitt  
Vice Prest

[Written sideways on the back side, in a different hand.]

New York City, 87 Cedar St.

Sept 16, 1865

Hewitt M.J.

Vice Pres. NFS&TCo.

Notification of election as Trustee of the National Freedmans Savings & Trust Co.

ans Sept 19, 1865

Recd BRF&AL Sept 18

Think it very much better for me not to identify myself with the Savings Co. I can better encourage deposits therein and facilitate its operations by not being so identified. Thanking you & your board most cordially for your action. I respy decline honorable distinction conferred.

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2952 9/16/1865 *From:* Juliette A. Kinzie

*To:* Major Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2894

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[71, 72]

Chicago –Sept. 16th 1865  
Major Genl. Howard, U.S.A.  
Sir -

Though personally a stranger, I presume upon the friendship you have shown to my dear daughter, Mrs Gordon of Savannah, to address you upon a subject of deepest interest to her.

Her dear Uncle, Gen Mercer, who, except for his being a rebel, is one of the <truest> Christian gentlemen that ever breathed, has been arrested and sent to Fort Pulaski, at the instance it is said, of Maj. Gen. Carlin.

The charges against him are, his having caused the execution of certain soldiers formerly of our Army, a short time before the surrender of Savannah.

The statement sent to me alleges that these men although they have been prisoners at Florence, S. Carolina had then enlisted at their own request, into the Confederate Army, thus expressing themselves indignant at the refusal of our Government to exchange them. They were formed into what was known as Brooks' or the Foreign Battalion, and fought zealously against the Union troops in Carolina before being sent to Savannah. Gen Mercer knew nothing of the origin or composition of this Battalion. They were clothed and rationed and paid exactly like the other Confederate soldiers, and sent to his command while conducting the defence of Savannah.

At the approach of Sherman's Army, the men began to show uneasiness, as they naturally might, knowing that if taken in the rebel uniform they were likely to meet with "a short shrift and a strong cord" At length about twenty deserted in a body to join their old Comrades and Commander, where they told I suppose that story, which may possibly differ materially and yet truthfully from the representations which Gen. Mercer received.

As Gnl. M's position was a critical one, the whole defence of the City resting upon his prudence and conduct, he <> to send the rest of the Battalion to the city where there would be less temptation to their fidelity; and accordingly the order was given for them to march at 10 o'clock at night. About dusk, one of the officers of the battalion came in great agitation to Gen Mercer to inform him that a plot was discovered –that these soldiers had determined when ordered to fall in, in order to march to Savannah, to rush upon their officers, seize and bind them, killing them if they made resistance –spike all the cannon upon the ramparts, kill or capture the pickets and escape to Sherman's Army. Gen. Mercers line was so attenuated that he could spare but few men –he sent his aid de camp to Gen Wright for a guard, and dispatched at the same time his Senior Colonel to take such measures as he should deem necessary. The arms were seized as well as those of the mutineers who were pointed out as ring leaders –a military Court was organized forthwith –the men were condemned to be shot they confessing their guilt, and they were summarily executed. Gen. Hardee and Gen. Wright approving the sentence.

Poor Nelly is almost frantic. She seems convinced that Gen Mercer has no chance if tried by a Military Court –she is sure that time will not be allowed him to send and find the witnesses who are able to prove the circumstances under which these men were executed, or to establish Gen. Mercer's entire innocence of any part in their enlistment. She sees that it is indisputably necessary for the survivors of this battalion to swear vehemently against her beloved relative, and she conjoins me to apply to every military power to secure moderation and justice for him.

I was certain, my dear Sir, not less from your well-known qualities as a Christian Commander but from my grateful remembrance of friendship shown my darling child in her hour of distress, that you would give your influence to save her uncle from any <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> in the manner of conducting <> so fraught with severe Consequences to him. I <> feel emboldened to ask you to write to Gen. Steedman with whom, I am told, the chief authority in the premises resides and give him such information, or make such suggestions as you own good judgment may prompt.

I do not know Gen. Mercer personally, but his loving sympathy with our sorrows, when we were called to mourn for our dear Son, killed in the fatal explosion of the [USS] Mound City, has drawn my heart towards him - <with> his paternal tenderness to my Nelly in her hour of desolate separation from her home, demand my utmost exertions in his behalf. May our merciful Father help and prosper the efforts you may kindly use –and may He bless you for having used them.

Very respectfully

Juliette A. Kinzie [Juliette Augusta Magill Kinzie was an American writer and historian.]

[Written crosswise over the writing on the last page, in a different hand.]

Chicago Ills

Sept 15, 1865

Kinzie Mrs.

Requests the genl to assist Gen Mercer late of the Rebel army in getting an impartial trial for certain curious charges against him

[Faint writing in pencil not transcribed.]

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 20 1865

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2953 9/17/1865

*From:* Francis Barlow  
Maj. Genl.

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2895

Brookline  
Massachusetts

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[103, 104]

Brookline  
Massachusetts  
Sept. 17/65

My dear General

Major Henry L. Wigginson late of the 2d Mass. Infantry & 1st Mass Cavalry & Lt. Col. C. J Morse 2d Mass. Infantry (which Regt. was in your Army I believe) are going into the Southern States with a view to buying & hiring land of your Bureau & raising cotton &c. They are both good officers & good fellows with sound Massachusetts principles & are just the people whom it is for our good to settle in the South. Can you send me a sort of Circular letter introducing them to the various officers of your Bureau in the South & asking them to give my friends such assistance as they can. I shall esteem it a great favor if you will do so.

Sometime ago I wrote you saying that I wished to get assigned to a command in the <South> & to be made Superintendent of Freedmen in the District where I had Command. Do you think this would be possible? I have not yet been ordered anywhere but hope to when Gen Gran goes back to Washington.

If you can do anything for me or my friends will you write me to Brookline, Mass.

Truly & Respectfully  
Francis Barlow  
Maj. Genl.

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
&c &c

[Written sideways along the left margin of page 1.]

As these two officers may not be going together I will thank you if you will make two circulars instead of one.

[Written on the last page, overwriting the letter, in a different hand.]

Brookline Mass

Sept 17, 65

Barlow Maj Gen

Requests letter of introduction for his friend & asst commr &c.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 21 1865  
ans Oct 3.

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2954 9/18/1865      *From:* John B Cresson      *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2896      1618 Mt Vernon St.  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Philadelphia Sept 18 1865

To Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

About the 4th or 5th of last Month (Augst) I took the liberty of writing thee on behalf of my Son Col Charles C. Cresson, late of the 73rd Regt P.V. 2nd Brig, 2nd Division 20th Corps, to ask thy influence to get him appointed to assimilated Rank in the Regular Army.

I have felt more free to ask this of thee, in consideration of a most flattering endorsement of a Recommendation thee gave him while under thy command in the 11th Corps (Bushbecks Brigade) also the willingness thee kindly expressed to Col Cresson late Brig Gen, (P H Jones) to do all thee could for him.

In January 1862 my relative, Hon Thos E Franklin of Lancaster, obtained from Hon Simon Cameron (the Secry War) the appointment of my Son (then 2nd lieut, in the old 30th afterwards 66th P.V.) to be 2nd Lieut in the Regular Army, the transfer was to of been made about the time of the change, when Hon E.M. Stanton, succeeded Gen Cameron this prevented its accomplishment, owing to an order from the War Department, that no transfers were to be made from the Vols to the Regulars. I called on Hon Edwin M Stanton in March or April 1862, and he told me, that he did not think anything could be done in relation to transferring my Son then, but, if (then) Lieut Cressons record should prove a good one during the War, there would be no difficulty whatever in getting him appointed to assimilated rank, in the Regulars, at the close of the War.

Lt. Col. Chas C. Cressons Application written by himself, together with a number of most excellent Recommendations (the one endorsed by thyself amongst them) were some time back sent to the War Department.

If thee would kindly be willing to bring the matter to the notice of Hon E M Stanton, I believe the matter will be accomplished.

Maj H M Stinson, wrote me on Aug 7th that he had recd my letter & paper, that thee was then on a visit to Maine, & on thy return he would lay them before thee.

Respectfully  
John B Cresson  
1618 Mt Vernon St.

Please direct to Care Poinons & Weightman 9th & Parrish St.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Phila Pa.

Sept 18, 1865

Cresson Jno B.

asks recommendation for his son Col Cresson.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 20 1865

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2955 9/18/1865

*From:* Thos A. Walton

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2897

Quaker Bottom,  
Lawrence County, Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[107, 108]

Quaker Bottom O.  
18th Sept. 65,  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Sir,

There are a number of Freedmen in this County whom have left the Slave States. They are industrious and saving, but came here without anything to start on, and consequently have bought no land.

The Copperheads are opposed to their staying here among us and the Freedmen wish to go where they can enjoy full Liberty, and own land and have a home in safety. What a chance is there for them in the South.

On what terms can they get land, and transportation to it in some of the Southern States.

Please answer,  
and oblige  
yours &c  
Thos A. Walton,  
Quaker Bottom,  
Lawrence County,  
O.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Quaker Bottom Ohio

18th Sept 1865

Walton Thos A

asks information concerning lands at South for col'd people.

8B1E53

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 28 1865

ans Sept 28 65



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2957 9/18/1865

*From:* Caleb Tompkins

*To:* General O.O. Howard

OOH-2899

Champaign City Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[111]

Champaign City Illinois  
18th Sept 1865

General O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I wrote you some time since, to procure your signature to a claim account against the Government for Supplies, furnished the Army, during their stay in that part of Georgia, in which I resided, which account is now & has been for some time past, in the War Department & Offices, for payment, which claim, was properly authenticated in due form, but owing to the movements of the Troops, & my ill health, there was no Vouchers, asked for, or given.

Now as I am reduced, almost to want as a good Union citizen of the United States, am I to sustain all the <tass> that I have without a friend to render me that assistance to see me again righted?

It seems to me to be right, that I should sustain no less, more especially under these painful circumstances. That I left the South, & compelled to come North Homeless, which our troops evacuated the Place where I lived - & by Genl Sherman's orders -destroyed by fire, my Home & Property there. In a christian spirit I ask your assistance to call on the War Dept. If the whole, or part of my account, there represented, can not be paid at once, for its the duty of the Government, according to the constitution, in Article 5th last clause of the Amendments, to the Constitution, that no private Property shall be taken for Public use, without just compensation. And further, I call upon you to furnish me Transportation, as at the head of the Refugee & Freedman's Bureau to return South, from this Place (Champaign) to Cairo -to Columbus Ky -thence by Railroad, to Corinth, & the Ohio & Mobile RR, to Macon Mississippi -the place selected for my future Home. I wish transportation for myself & Niece, and all our Baggage, the Entire distance as I received a letter from General Sherman himself in his own hand writing, to go south soon as possible after receiving my transportation from you, as he had no authority to give transportation himself, having made the generals acquaintance in Cincinnati the past summer, while he was there.

I am a mason, & a christian, & as such I wish to be treated & respected.

Hoping that you will give proper attention to my desires of my affairs, at the War Dpt & especially of our Transportation South immediately, as tis getting late in the season, & that I shall hear from yourself personally regarding the contents of this letter.

Most respectfully &c  
Caleb Tompkins

PS Please send the transportation in reply for I cannot go South except you give us this Transportation as I cannot pay my way there but I can do well after there CT

[Written sideways in red on the back page, overwriting the letter text in a different hand.]

Champaign City  
Sept 18, 1865

Tompkins, Caleb

Asks transportation & assistance in obtaining compensation for property destroyed

ans Sept 21, 1865

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2958 9/18/1865     *From:* H L K Wiggin

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2900

Auburn

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[90]

Auburn Sept. 18th, 65

Dear General

The enclosed letter of Mrs McKay's speaks her wish, I have only to add, that Mrs McKay, sister of the Rev Mr Adams wife [Note], has proved her large heartedness. Her deep regard for suffering humanity by her increasing and unwearied efforts for the last for yours, in the field & camp in behalf of our sick and wounded soldiers, no woman has done more, none is more highly appreciated by those who have known of her efforts. You may recollect her. She was with the 9th Corps, until it was merged in the 2d. Afterwards with the latter.

Mrs McKay is an intelligent Christian woman, possessed of a warm heart, great energy & character, an indomitable perseverance, whatever she undertakes she will mos likely accomplish.

Respectfully  
Your Ob't Servant  
H L K Wiggin

To Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Note. The Rev Mr Aaron Chester Adams was married to Harriet Sargent Johnson. Her sister, Mrs McKay was Mrs Charlotte Elizabeth (Johnson) McKay. A widow, she volunteered as a nurse during the War, writing of her experiences in 1876, in a book entitled "Stores of Hospital and Camp".]

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2959 9/19/1865 *From:* Edgar M. Levy

*To:* Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2901

Newark N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[119, 120]

Newark N.J. Sept 19th 1865

To  
Major Gen. Howard &c  
General,

I have the honor to mail to your address copies of sermons which I delivered nearly a year ago. The discourses possess no special merit, other than, perhaps, the fact they contain the sentiments of one who was born in the south—a native of Georgia, but who has ever remained true to our common Union.

I feel deeply interested in the present & future welfare of the Freedmen, & if I could be of any service to them or in any wise aid you in the interesting department of which you are the head, it would afford me much pleasure.

I was born in St. Mary, Georgia—have lived in Savannah, I have a large circle of acquaintances in that state, outside of the politicians. I have, however, lived north long enough to appreciate the difference between freedom & slavery. I would refer you to Dr. Grant, with whom I believe you are acquainted, & who is one of the friends residing in this city to whom I am much attached.

Praying that God may assist you in the important & interesting duties of your office.

I am Yours Truly  
Edgar M. Levy  
Pastor of the South Baptist Church  
Newark N.J.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Newark N.Y.

Sept 19, 1865

Levy Rev E. M.

Letter transmitting a sermon delivered by him.

RB 176

[STAMP] R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 20 1865

ans. Sept 20, 1865

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2960 9/19/1865    *From:* B.S. Green

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2902

Cleveland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39]

Cleveland Sept 19th / 65

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Chief of F. Bureau W.City  
My Dear Sir,

Allow me (as President of the "Union Freeman's Aid Society" of Cleveland Ohio, to congratulate ourselves, in that we have a Christian man at the head of our F. Bureau.

Our Society has just celebrated its Sixth Anniversary (Sept 13th) and we had an interesting time, reviewing the providential dealings with us a a people, since our organization, our Society, is composed mostly of colored people. Several well educated teachers have been sent out by us, and scores are standing ready to go, as soon as we have the means to send them.

We desire to raise the means ourselves by appeals to people of color (and others) who may choose to aid us. Ohio, "Western Penn", and Canada, compose the territory we canvass.

In behalf of the Society, permit me to ask from the "Chief of Bureau", a pledge that he will extend to us, the same cooperation and facilities, with the same protection, given to any other commission organized to aid the Freedmen.

Enclose please find a copy of our Circular Appeal.

Be kind enough to tell us whether the "Government" will continue to supply our teachers with school houses and rations? An ans is desired immediately with such documents as you may thing we need.

B.S. Green, pres.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 28 1865

ans Sept 28

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2961 9/19/1865

*From:* Saml L Taggart

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2903

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Washington

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[115, 116]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Washington, Sept 19th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Commissioner and c  
General,

In conformity with my intentions of leaving the service (heretofore expressed to you) I now request to be relieved from duty in this Bureau and directed to report to the Adjutant General of the Army for orders and in this connection allow me to express the gratefulness I feel for your encouraging kindness towards me while under your direction and which I feel has not been wholly merited for while generally desiring to serve you and the government, to the extent of my ability, I am painfully conscious of having in several instances given you good cause for complaint. I sincerely hope my brief connection with you and the example of your Christian, charitable and hopeful character and life may, as I believe it will, make me a better man.

With feelings of gratitude and earnest wishes for your further success and happiness in this life.

I am General  
Respectfully & truly yours  
Saml L Taggart  
Bvt Lt Col and AA Genl

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Washington, Sept 19th 1865

Taggart, Saml. L.

Bvt. Lt. Col. & A.A.G.

Asks to be relieved from duty, thanks Gen Howard for his uniform kindness to him, whilst he had the pleasure of serving on his staff.

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2962 9/19/1865 *From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2904

Hilton Head

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[117, 118]

Hilton Head  
September 19th 1865

Dear General

I arrived here last night. This morning early I procured a boat and went to Beaufort but had the mortification to find that Genl Saxton had left the day before for Augusta Georgia. I endeavored to telegraph him, but found the wires down. I shall hurry through to Savannah and telegraph Genl Saxton from there if possible.

We are having a severe gale which may impede my movements, but I hope not. I shall go unless the Qr Mr. refused to send the boat on account of the Storm. We had a most delightful trip from New York.

Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vol.

P.S. Genl Devens comdg at this Post has very kindly consent4ed for me to use his privage boat and I expect to start for Savannah this P.M.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Beaufort S.C.  
Sept 19, 1865.  
Tillson Davis B.G.  
Announces his arrival at Beaufort.  
Rec'd Sept 25 1865.

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2963 9/19/1865 *From:* J.W. Parker

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2905

Boston

Chf Freedmans Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[113]

Boston Sept. 19, 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Chf Freedmans Bureau,  
Genl,

I have the honor to ask of you the appropriation of such part of the Le Overture Hospital in Alexandria Va. as may be needed for a school for the Freedmen, now under the charge of Miss M .J. Emerson & Miss M.A. Collier under my direction as Secy of the N.E. Freedmans Aid Comsn.

The portion required can be removed if need be by the people for whose benefit it may be used. Can the stores go with the building, as they will be required for winter use.

I am  
Gen. Very Truly, &c  
J.W. Parker  
Cor. Secy &c

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.

Boston Mass

19 Sept / 65

Parker J. W.

Request that Le Erution Hosp be assigned to Messrs Emerson & Collins.

[BUREAU R.F. & A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 20 1865

ans Sept 20th 1865

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2964 9/19/1865 *From:* Sam L. Taggart

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2906

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Washington

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[402]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Washington, Sept 19, 1865

Dear General

I can not express in words my thankfulness for you kind, recommendatory letter of this date, and am afraid I have not wholly merited the expression of your satisfaction with my conduct, but believe me General, it is my purpose to lead such a life in the future as to deserve the approbation of good men.

Truly Yours  
Sam L. Taggart  
Asst Adj Genl

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2965 9/19/1865    *From:* Benj. Kingsbury, Jr.    *To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2907

Baltimore

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112]

Baltimore, Sept. 19, 1865

My Dear Sir,

Being here temporarily, I have just received a letter from the Committee on the Independent Course of lectures in Portland, requesting me to see you personally on the subject. I believe Gov. Washburne made kindness to you the purpose of the course.

I hope to be in Washington Saturday evening, and shall do myself the pleasure to call on you Monday morning.

I am commissioned also to invite Judge Holt to give us a lecture the coming winter. If you can help me in the matter, the good cause (as well as myself) will be indebted to you.

With great respect,  
Yours Truly,  
Benj. Kingsbury, Jr.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Washington.

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2966 9/19/1865 *From:* Gid. I. Pillow

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2908

Willards Hotel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[351]

Willards Hotel  
Septr 19th 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chf. Com. F. &c  
Genl,

I have just reached the city on important business with you. I see from the Papers that you leave the City in the morning. Is it possible to have a personal interview with you before your departure.

I have an important official paper for your consideration and a private letter from Gen Fisk.

With great Respect  
Gid. I. Pillow

---

2967 9/19/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2909

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[623]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, Sept 19th 1865

Dearest,

I received a short letter from you Sunday morning. I do feel as though you could be happier & healthier with me than in Augusta. It is now cold weather and the children will not be unfavorably affected by the changes. I am going to sen Thomas Bubin after the Pony with full instructions. I am about starting to Virginia on an Inspection – shall be gone one week – will meet you in Phila. if Wm Merrick can accompany you. I think with Guy for a Beau you can get to Phila safely if I cannot get as far as New York. Chas. is now on his way South. He is inspector for Gen. Saxton.

Much love to all.

Lovingly Yr husband  
Otis

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2968 9/20/1865

*From:* J.S. Backus

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2911

*Source:* Bowdoin

The American Baptist  
Home Mission Society  
Room 7, No. 132  
Nassau Street  
New York

Chief. Com. Freedmens  
Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[121]

The American Baptist Home Mission Society  
Room 7, No. 132 Nassau Street  
New York, Sept 20 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chief. Com. Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Hon & Dear Sir

We are Sending Teachers and Preachers with special Commission to do what they can to educate and elevate the Freedmen in different Cities and States South.

This we do in full sympathy with you in your department ever ready to do and to have them do what they can to sustain you.

We also desire your sympathy and support in our work and believe we have it.

We wish to know whether rations or transportation or both will be furnished and if so what is necessary on our part to obtain the same.

J.S. Backus  
Corr Secy

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2969 9/20/1865      *From:* Mrs. Julia S. Kellogg      *To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2912

235 S. Clark st.  
Chicago, Ill.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[122, 123]

Chicago, Sept. 20th 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard:

I would rather bonnet and shawl myself this eve. & call upon you in person and tell you my errand, so long waiting to be made known to some one interested in the same great work, which for Five years more or less, has occupied me –The Teaching of Col. People in this city.

I now wait to go South to any place where I am most needed –where I may be most useful.

Can I be sent out by the Government?

Indeed, sir, Teaching the slaves of men & of Poverty brings no surplus money. Indeed they may be poor, but I will not regret it, for 250 Adults have learned to read & write at our school. These now compose the Bible classes of their Sabbath Schools, & transact business in quite a scholar-like manner.

If I can only go – only arrive at – only reach some place where col. people live & need a Teacher, they will do as their race has done here – support their own school – bread & butter their own Teacher.

Will you help me to give them the privilege?

References –The Pastors of the Col. Churches here, 2 of whom are Patrons of our school. &c &c &c 10 years of my life were spent in a S. clime, & I want to go again, away even from the sore-throat-<> of our own loves sake.

I regret I did not see you when you were in Chicago.

My Father was a clergyman, my Husband was a merchant. To-day I am an orphan & a widow.

Hoping I may be aided in my wish to go away to some more extensive field of usefulness.

I have the honor to be sir, your most obedient,  
Mrs. Julia S. Kellogg  
Address  
235 S. Clark st.  
Chicago, Ill.

Maj. Lowell started in my school room –gave me your address.

During your visit here I was absent with a sick lady in the country, or I should have seen you.

[Written upside down on the last page, on top of the existing writing, in a different hand.]

Chicago Ills

20th Sept 1865

Kellogg Mrs J.S.

Asks <sustenates>

LB150

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 25 1865

ans Sept 25, 1865

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2970 9/20/1865 *From:* R.S. Cheves

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2913

Abbeville

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124]

Abbeville Sep. 20th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing you – your time must be so much occupied with applications of a similar nature, that I should scarcely have ventured to trouble you had I not been encouraged by a grateful recollection of your sympathy and kindness to myself and daughter in Columbia, at a time when we were so much in need of it. We are now entirely destitute of any means of support, our land on the Ogeechee, near Savannah being our sole dependence; it never was abandoned as my husband did not enter the Army until compelled to do so by law, and we remained there as long as we possibly could, that is until he was obliged to be absent under orders, and when I left Savannah, which I did for want of means of support, I was recognized by the Federal authorities as the wife of the owner of that property –we are now impoverished to the last degree, and I write to request your interest in having our land restored as we have no other resource in the world. I would gladly take an equal share of the burthens and penalties, but I believe that is contrary to the laws of the bureau. My husband has been in Savannah, and absent from me for some months, and communication between this place and Savannah is so tardy & difficult that I seldom hear from him, but when he last wrote he had not been able to effect any thing with regard to regaining our land. If therefore you will be kind enough to assist us I shall feel truly grateful to you – you have the power, and I trust also the will to add this kindness to that we have already experience at your hands during your stay in Columbia & for which I still retain a thankful remembrance.

Respectfully your Obd. Svt.

R.S. Cheves

My address is

Mrs. J.R. Cheves

Care of C.T. Haskell Esq.

Abbeville, So. Ca.

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2971 9/20/1865 *From:* Edward F. Waite

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2914

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[125]

Portland, Sept 20, 1865

Dear Sir,

If you can spare the time from your arduous duties could you write me a recommendation to Ex-Governor Washburn now collector of this port so that I could obtain a situation in the Custom House.

I furnished a substitute for the army and afterwards enlisted and was wounded and it seems no more than fair to me that discharged soldiers should have situation under the government rather than those who have never shouldered a musket.

Please direct reply to Box 2194.

Your obedient servant,  
Edward F. Waite

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2972 9/20/1865 *From:* Shipherd

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2915

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126, 127]

New York  
Sept 20 / 65

Dear General:

I hope to get off for Washington tonight, & yet this may reach you sooner than I shall see you.

At our meeting yesterday it was agreed to request General Howard to nominate a member of the Commission for the State of Maine. Please be turning it over in mind as we shall want the name for publication at once.

The first meeting of the Commissioners is to be held at Phil'a on the 11th October. I am directed to request General Howard to confer the highest kindness upon the Commission by meeting with the Board for unreserved conference – unreserved so far as he is willing to communicate his views. Every word from his lips will be golden.

Au revoir  
Shipherd.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York 20 Sept / 65

Shipherd

Announces his intention to visit Gen Howard &

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 21 1865

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2973 9/20/1865 *From:* A.B. Sweeney

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2916

Camp Douglas, Ill.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[123]

Camp Douglas, Ill.  
Sept 20th 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Washington D.C.  
Genl,

I have the honor to request that my application made through you, to be transferred to Colored troops be withdrawn, as I understand said troops, are being mustered out of the service.

I would prefer remaining in the V.R.C. and serving in your department as you suggested.

My application was made to the Secretary of War about the 20 of Aug, and handed to you at the Sherman House, Chicago.

I am  
Very Respectfully  
Your most Obedient Servant  
A.B. Sweeney  
2nd Lieut. Co. K. 8th Regt VRC

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2974 9/21/1865     *From:* Mrs R A Heuvlin

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2917

Foust Cottage  
Greenville Co NC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[160]

Foust Cottage  
Greenville Co NC

[ca Sept 21, 1865] [The date was written in pencil. It is about right since the letter was received 22 Sep 1865.]

Dear Sir

I wrote you two weeks since from Petersburg Va and have been anxiously awaiting a reply. Our former Slaves are still desirous of securing homes with us, seem willing to follow us and we are very desirous to so arrange it so as to give those with families land and enable them with what little assistance we can give them to gain an honest livelihood. Then we can hire the young able bodied ones. I am confident of success in raising funds by subscription with the plan written out & sanctioned by you for every one I conversed with regards the subject seemed to admire the spirit. In fact I omitted inadvertently, however, telling that several friends have subscribed something, but I found many strangers. I would need the influence and sanction of those in authority. I hardly think we can succeed in purchasing the old homestead of Mr Jenkins for a less sum than first proposed for the first payment which if you recollect was \$1500 but we can get plenty of land to give our own former servants good homes for less than half the sum. Therefore if you will be kind enough to forward me the requisite papers, and if possible a transportation ticket, I believe I can raise the sum needed by us, and a surplus if desired by you for the benefit of the "Freedmens Bureau". Am perfectly willing to do this.

At all events pray let us hear from you. Letters and papers now come to the County seat therefore letters will reach us from our old Post Office.

Sassafras Fork  
Greenville Co  
N Carolina

With Sentiments of Esteem  
I Am Very Respectfully  
Mrs R A Heuvlin

To Maj Gen O O Howard

[Written in red in on the first page, in a different hand.]

Greenville Co NC

No date

Heuvlin Mrs

asks assistance

LB<>

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 22 1865]

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2975 9/21/1865 *From:* Fred. Tiedemann

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2918

Philadelphia

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131]

Philadelphia Sept 21 / 65

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington  
General,

You would oblige me very much by informing me, what reply Gen. Slocum sent you when Capt. Maitlinning of the Indiana Cavalry acting as A.D.C. on your staff brought him the news that the 1st & 11th corps were fighting at Gettysburg.

I am writing an acct of the Campaign which led to the Battle of Gettysburg, and any official information would be of great importance to me; I remain your obedient

Servant

Fred. Tiedemann

late Capt & AAG to Genl. Schurz

box 2098 Phila. P.O.

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2976 9/21/1865 *From:* Chas. W. Keyes

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2919

East Wilton Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[129]

East Wilton Me Sept 21st 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard,  
Sir

In accordance with your permission I wrote Maj Gilbreth of the Freedmen's Bureau in relation to what steps it was necessary for me to take to obtain a Commission in a Colored Regt, but have received no reply.

My friends are making an effort to have the order under which I was mustered out revoked. My recommendations as a Soldier & as a man endorsed by Governor Cony are in the hands of Senator Morrill who is now in Washington – any assistance you may see fit to render me will be endorsed by the Gov. & Adj. Gen. & appreciated by one who has suffered in the countrys defence.

I am Gen Respectfully  
Your Obt Servant  
Chas. W. Keyes

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2977 9/21/1865 *From:* Julian K. Larke

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2920

New York

Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[130]

New York Sept 21 1865

General Howard  
Freedman's Bureau  
&--  
General,

Being engaged on a work entitled "Grant and his Generals", as editor, writer and compiler, and in which appears a sketch of your own military career, I take the liberty of applying to you for a copy of the Army and Navy Registers for 1865, or if not ready the Blue Book for 1865, such works being very necessary for the proper transaction of any editorial duties and only to be procured from gentlemen high in authority like yourself.

Trusting you will comply with my request, I remain

Your obediently  
Julian K. Larke A.M.  
author of  
Grant and his Campaigns  
Life of Sheridan, Sherman &c

Please address  
Julian K. Larke  
care of Fox Brothers  
114 Nassau Street  
New York City

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

New York City,  
21st Sept / 65  
Larke J. K.

Requests any Registers or Blue Books in 1865

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 22 1865  
ans Sept 23 / 65

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2978 9/21/1865    *From:* Geo. O. Glavis

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2921

Newark, N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[134]

Newark, N.J. Septber 21 '65

Major General O.O. Howard  
Sir,

Permit me to thank you for the effort you made to have me ordered to the Freedman's Bureau. I should like to have served under you, and aided the good cause with all my might. But it was evidently not the Lord's will – at least not for the present, and I bow in submission.

However I cannot help but to think with my friends that the <action> of the War Dept was as unrivalled for insult, and at a meeting which we held to night in honor of Genl. Schimmelpfennig [Alexander Schimmelpfennig died Sept 5, 1865], the audience seemed to think much the same way.

Wishing you God's blessing in the discharge of your solemn duties.

I have the honor to be  
Very faithfully yours  
Geo. O. Glavis

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2979 9/21/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2922

Richmond Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[625]

Richmond Va. Sept. 21st 1865

Dearest,

I started from Washington with Gen. Strong & Lieut. Sladen yesterday morning before 7 a.m. and arrived here by 3 P.M. We came by the way of Aquia Creek in a Str. down the Potomac that far & thence by rail & stage through. There is now only about three miles of staging, just before reaching Fredericksburg extending across Rappahannock by a ponton.

I am feeling very anxious about you & the children. Thomas Bubier started for the Pony Tuesday evening. I told him he might bring through any boxes you might have ready. If you start Wednesday you will be in Phil'a by Friday. I will meet you at the Continental. You will probably get there first. I shall go from Norfolk probably rather than go back to Washington.

I think everything in Va. is as well as could be expected. Richmond has waked up & gone to work in business fashion, but the old <> of hate, Secession & love of Slavery is still here & can be felt almost in the atmosphere. Col Brown is well. I have'nt seen his wife yet.

Give much love to Guy. You must bring on some of the most readable of our books. I am going to hve Grace and Guy read to me this winter. Uncle Chas says Gracie can do it well. The weather holds very cool.

Very pleasant indeed this A.M.

Lovingly yr husband

Otis

Much love to all.

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2980 9/21/1865    *From:* W Q Gresham

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2923

New Albany Ind.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[132]

New Albany Ind.  
Sept 21st 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Washington D.C.  
General,

I take the liberty of calling to your favorable notice a gallant & deserving officer of your old command – Lieut Col Thos. G. Morrison of the 66th Ind Vols. Col. Morrison was severely wounded at Richmond, Ky, in the fall of 1862, and last fall near Big Shanty, Ga, he was still more severely wounded in the right arm near the shoulder. This last wound he received when Hood was marching North. He has lost the use of his right arm – has a wife and five children and, you will see that the future to him is <more dimming> than cheering. He is a man of very moderate means, but he is honest and his capacity for business is far above the average or rather it was, before he lost the use of his arm. He is a man of education and intelligence and it has occurred to me that he might be useful to you in the Freedmens Bureau. He is sound on that and all other questions and a great admirer of your as an officer. If you can find employment for him you will do a favor for a deserving and worthy gentleman and greatly oblige

Your obdt Servt  
W Q Gresham  
Brig Genl

Lieut Col Thos G Morrison  
New Albany Ind

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New Albany Ind  
21st Sept 1865  
Gresham Brig Genl  
Letter recommending his friend Col. Morrison.  
LB  
Recd BRF & AL 20th Sept 65  
ans Oct 3rd 65.

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2981 9/22/1865 *From:* Eliza M. Pease

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2924

New Haven

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73, 74]

New Haven Sept. 22. 1865.

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I have just read in Hours at Home a memorial article on Brig. Gen. Ransom, by J.P. Thompson, D.D., which stimulated my resolve to write to you upon the same subject.

When my husband said to me, "Gen. Ransom is dead," my heart swelled with emotion and I exclaimed, "dear child!", my mind at once going back to the time – 1839 & 40, when he, a sweet little boy, came daily to my school in Norwich, Vt. The affection that I cherished for the lovely child then, continued during the lapse of years, and I wept and mourned for him as I would have done then, had he died in the midst of those days.

Greenfield Ransom was a beautiful boy. I remember well his sweet face, beaming with smiles as he came in to school timidly, wearing his clean, blue calico apron.

He was quick to learn, and always a good, happy boy. The second season he was often permitted by his mother to lead his little sister to school as a visitor. I can never forget how delighted he looked as he led her to me that I might give her the necessary attention. His bright, pleasant eyes were never visible when he laughed.

A few years later I chanced to meet him and found him the same dear boy, modest and gentlemanly in his bearing.

After the war began I heard of him as a brave, gallant officer periling his life for his country. I knew he would do his work well.

I read with peculiar interest every thing with which Gen. Ransom's name was connected; proudly saying, as I had opportunity that I was his first school teacher. I often resolved to write to him hoping I might receive a letter in return; but I delayed until it was too late. My next plan was the only testimonial I could offer to the good boy and brave soldier – to write to you, sir, with whom I knew he served in the field. I have delayed from time to time, lest in the midst of the oppressive duties of the war while it was raging, you might not have leisure to give my letter a reading, much less an answer.

I value, too, the opportunity which this delay affords me of bringing to your mind the memory of one whose beautiful character does not fade away. Gen. Ransom made a short visit in Norwich, Vt., his native place, in the summer of 1864, and spent the evening at the house of my brother Mr. Norris. He was very familial and happy with his old friends who were boys with him. He had then just come from a visit to Gen. Grant, and was soon to report to Gen. Sherman. Alas, how soon he died! How soon his labor of love for his country was ended.

If I have taken too much liberty in thus addressing you, please grant me pardon, remembering that every patriotic man and woman feels a peculiar freedom in addressing those who by their skill & valor have accomplished much for our common country.

With sentiments of regard  
I am yours,  
Eliza M. Pease  
Care of /  
Thomas H. Pease

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 24 1865



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2982 9/22/1865    *From:* Edward W. West

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2925

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of Blossom Bros.  
No. 159 Front Street,  
New York City,  
Box 1622 N.Y. Post  
Office

Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington City, D.C.

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[135]

Office of Blossom Bros.  
No. 159 Front Street,  
New York City, Friday, 22 Sepr. '65  
Box 1622 N.Y. Post Office

General,

When of Gen. Casey's staff, as A.D.C., I had the honor of making your acquaintance at Washington at the Commencement of the War when you temporarily reported to Gen. Casey. I remained in the service about three years & served on the staffs of Gens. Casey, Hooker & Heintzleman. I rec'd an honorable discharge.

I desire to become a cotton planter on the Red River or the Mississippi in one of the south western states. I control from \$15000 to \$20000 capital. I wish to hire or buy an abandoned plantation. If convenient to you may I ask you for any information general or particular on the subject & any of your Orders, Regulations, Instructions &c now in force & any advice you may find it convenient to give.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very Respy, Yr. obdt. Servant,  
Edward W. West

P.S. An early answer wd. Oblige. E.W.W.

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner, &c.  
Freedman's Bureau,  
Washington City, D.C.

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2983 9/23/1865

*From:* A.F. Moses

*To:* Maj'r Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2926

Moseley Hall  
Lenoir County N.C.

Washington City

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[136, 137]

Moseley Hall  
Lenoir County N.C.  
Sepr 23 65

Maj'r Gen'l O.O. Howard  
Washington City  
My Dear Genl

Your verry kind letter of the 8th is duly at hand, contents particularly noticed.

I thank you for your advice. I will rent out my plantation as soon as an opportunity offers. Send me a renter, if you please.

You informed that you had commended my lamentable case to Mr Mason of Raleigh N.C. That he would aid me all he could –how he can do so without an appropriation from his private sources, I am at a loss to know, which I could not allow. I am acquainted with his character –he is a gentleman of high order.

Notwithstanding my loss pecuniarily –I am now looking at things calmly, and have come to the conclusion that the late War was all right –altho I was opposed to it in the beginning. It has made us feel more dependent on our Good God. I now love him more and more and will try to serve him better & better. I love his work, I love his people. I believe you to be one, I am bound to say so to you, I have told you so. I dont flatter. I profess to be a christian, I hope I am one, and as you once told me, I try to be one.

My time is but short below. I trust, I shall soon be where the sound of musketry & cannon will not salute my cars any more, where I hope to meet, Genl Howard.

Genl excuse this familiarity of language. I assure you my motives are of the purest order. Pardon me for trespassing on your valluable time.

In conclusion permit me to say that in the event of my going back to Goldsboro to live, (I think I will) could you not give me something to do there for you that would pay. I flatter myself that I could fill any office that you might think propper to confer on me with entire satisfaction to you. You have officers there perhaps that want to go home. I feel certain that I could and would to the verry letter –all your orders would be strictly obeyed.

Most truly yours  
A.F. Moses

P.S. About 25 years ago I imported a Verry fine double barrel Fowling Piece, from London, that with all the apparatus, was taken from me on the 25th last March by the army that passed my house. If that could be or one as good returned, it would afford me great pleasure & profit. I am passionately fond of gunning –a good shot yet, - that & the Gold Locket, I hoped you might procure for me would be a pleasing site to this old man. Dont you think an application to the Powers that be, might be successful. Please try for me. I would gladly reciprocate the great favor.

A.F.M.

[Written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 30 1865  
ans Oct 5th 1865

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2984 9/23/1865 *From:* Stedman Clark

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2927

Providence, R.I.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[2 stamps 133, 139]

Providence, R.I. Sept 23d 1865

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

Sir,

If there is any need of more teachers to go south I am ready to give my time and labor. I have served three years in the Army and five years at Antioch College under the late Horace Mann and have taught school in Ky. and Mo.

Stedman Clark

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Providence RI

23rd Sept 1865

Clark, S.

asks situation as teacher

LB. 189

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 25 1865

ans Sept 25, 1865

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2985 9/23/1865 *From:* Richard Irby

*To:* My dear Sir [Thomas Branch]

OOH-2928

Nottoway Co. Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169, 170, 171, 172]

Nottoway Co. Va.  
Sept 23 / 65

My dear Sir, [Thomas Branch]

Understanding that Gen. Howard Supt. of the Freedman's Bureau is about to visit Richmond and knowing that you feel an interest in all that concerns the welfare of the Country I venture to ask that you will see him in person and advise with him of the Condition of the Freedmen and what is to be done to secure the welfare of white and Colored.

It is obvious to any one conversant with the present condition of this part of the state that labor at present is completely paralysed. Large numbers of men formerly steadily employed in industrial pursuits are now huddled together at public places or sauntering over the Country. Those who are regularly employed do not perform more than one third as much as they did formerly. I venture the assertion that the production of this Country at present season (which has <> one very favorable) will not be one half as great as the average of former seasons. In fact there are many owning good farms who will not have as much of farm produce at the end of the year as they had at the beginning. It is not to be wondered at then if landed proprietors are seeking white labor and hesitating to employ "freedmen" for the coming year – for if next year they are not able to make more, their occupation will be abandoned. I will not stop here to do more than do advert to the serious injury to the general prosperity of the country, resulting from the loss of one crop in one state – or more for all the southern states. If it ever was important for individual and national interests for full crops of cotton and tobacco to be raised, it surely is more so now.

What then will best remedy the present ills and bring about the desired results.

Some system of general operation which will enable the employer to count upon the <securing> the labor he hires. The employer ought to give fair remuneration for faithful work and when that is done he should be enabled by proper regulations to secure a faithful performance of the contract. Any sensible man would prefer to give full wages for faithful work, to giving half wages for half work, for in one case he gets the proper yield from his Capital, and in the other, he gets only half.

It may be asked why landed proprietors do not rent out their lands to freedmen so as to stimulate them to do something more than they are doing now. This is simply impracticable. The farms in this part of the state have not been arranged to be worked except as wholes and Capital and time are both needed to work them differently. Moreover were farmers to rent out their lands to freedmen, they have no assurance that they will be worked any better than they now are and can get no surety that the rents will be paid. The freedmen except in rare cases have no capital to stock the farms and hire the necessary labor. The improvidence of the race whether natural or acquired must be done away with before they can become proprietors, or managers of labor.

Something must also be done to improve their religious condition. Previous to their freedom the freedmen attended the regular preaching of the Gospel as well if not better than white people. Now they have ceased attendance pretty much entirely except when the preacher is of their own color. It must be apparent to every candid observer that such preaching as a general thing is not such as it ought to be. In many cases it is worse than no preaching. Negro preachers, like the wizards of the barbarians <of yore> are frequently designing and less to be trusted as a class than any other. They are ignorant and unlettered and superstitious.

They should be regularly commissioned and licensed by some proper power, and be held to observe proper rules of conduct and tenets of faith. Until this is done people will regard the building of a church for freedmen as a local calamity – but if the matter is rightly managed every christian man will regard it as his solemn and imperative duty to build their churches and promote their spiritual welfare. Every patriot and philanthropist must regard this aspect of the present revolution as very important – and will if a way is opened do all he can to

advance the freedmen in religious culture. Houses for worship will not be wanting when the people become convinced they will be used aright.

With these views hastily and imperfectly expressed I take leave of the subject hoping that some course proper and advantageous may be reached by those who have these important trusts in charge. I am

Yours very truly  
Richard Irby

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2986 9/24/1865 *From:* Jennie D. Chase

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-2929

Stanford Ville  
Duchess Co.  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

Stanford Ville Sept. 24th 1865

O.O. Howard  
Sir -

A young lady friend and myself desire situations as teachers in your schools for Freedmen. If you desire recommendations they will be furnished you. Please answer immediately and tell me what compensation you give.

Address  
Jennie D. Chase  
Stanford Ville  
Duchess Co.  
N.Y.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Stanford Ville  
Sept 24, 1865  
Chase Jennie D.  
Desires a situation as teacher  
8.b.187.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 25 1865  
ans Sep <26> 1865

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2987 9/25/1865 *From:* Z. Richards

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2930

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[141, 142]

Washington Sept. 25. 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir:

During the month of August, I had the privilege of attending the two Educational Conventions; viz the "American Institute", at New Haven; and the National Teachers' Asso. at Harrisburg. At each of these meetings, the subject of education among the Freedmen, and people of the South, was freely discussed, and entertained with a feeling of general interest. The questions most prominent were 1st "What will the Government do for the education of these people?" and 2nd, "Will the Government be inclined to establish anything like a National Bureau of Education".

I have long felt a deep interest in these questions, and have believed that there should be, at least, a "Bureau of Educational Statistics", designed to furnish reliable information upon matters of general education, in each of the States of our Union, as well as, of other countries. I have been the bearer of petitions to Congress, praying for such action.

At the Educational meetings, to which I have referred, action was taken, and measures adopted to bring the subject before the next Congress; but with what success it remains to be seen. My impression is that Congress will be slow to adopt the plan of establishing an Educational Bureau, independent of any other branch of Government, but I have thought, that with proper effort a Division, designed to collect and preserve educational Statistics, reports and papers, could be attached to your Bureau; or to that branch of work belonging to your Bureau, which relates to the education of the freedmen.

There should be a place, in the capital of our country, for the collection of such educational documents and statistics, as would enable any one to obtain a full and correct account of public and private educational institutions in each of the States of our own country, and also, as far as possible, of foreign countries. If Congress can be induced to engraft this idea upon your establishment, would it not be a good beginning of an Educational Bureau, without being subject to the objections usually urged against such a plan?

I have made the forgoing statements, for the purpose of calling your attention to a subject upon which I desire to converse with you, if your duties will permit, and if you consider the suggestions worthy of consideration.

There is a strong conviction resting upon the minds of the great majority of the friends of Education in our country, that our National Government ought to do something to foster and encourage Public Instruction; as well as to foster any other public improvement, as agriculture in particular.

Why should not our Republican Government be the foster father of all the great enterprizes, which tend to develop its growth and power, and especially, the educational enterprise, which more than any other, tends to increase its preservative power? But I am sure I need not argue the question, with you. I have said this much, with the hope that you may be induced to second our efforts to induce the Government, to, at least, initiate a movement for the benefit of public education; to which my study and life has thus far been devoted, more than to any other. I shall be pleased to have an interview with you at an early period.

Yours Respectfully  
Z. Richards

(over)

Oct. 2, 1865

P.S. Since writing the forgoing, I have received a programme of the Order of Exercises for the meeting of School Superintendents to be held in this city; and in a letter from Mr. Northrup he refers to you, when speaking

of the place of meeting. I am happy to learn that you are to give them a paper on that occasion, but can there not be a better or more convenient place for holding the meeting? I think we can secure a good Room, without any charge to the Association. I hope to see you soon.

Yours truly  
Z. Richards

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington, Sept 25, 1865

Richards, Z.

Thinks that it would be a good idea to connect with the Bureau of F.R.&A.L. a Bureau of Educational statistics.  
C.B.231.

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2988 9/25/1865 *From:* Wm. L. Dunlop

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2932

Geo. Town D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[146]

Please inform me, on the receipt of this, of your acceptance.

Geo. Town D.C.  
25 Sep. 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dr Sir,

The 21st anniversary of the <Inv.> Missionary Soc'y of Bridge St. Church S. School, of this place, will be held next Sabbath afternoon (Oct 1st) at 3 o'clock, in Bridge St. Church.

You will confer a favor on the managers of the Soc'y if you will make an address (of ten minutes) to the children on that occasion on the subject of missions.

I enclose you a programme of the exercises, & hope that the great subject of the Soc'y will move you to encourage us by your presence.

Very respectfully  
Wm. L. Dunlop,  
Secy Bd Manger

---

2989 9/25/1865 *From:* EM Forbes

*To:* Gen. Howard

OOH-2933

Ellicotts Mills, Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[147, 146]

Ellicotts Mills Sep 25 [1865]

Gen. Howard  
Sir

I saw with pleasure that you had visited Bp Johns of Virginia and had encouraged him to form Sunday and Parochial Schools for Colored Children promising pecuniary aid. I am the Rector of the Episcopal Church in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and I have started a Parochial school for Colored children but I fear it will fail because we are not able to sustain it. My Teacher who is a Colored man is willing to do all he can but he looks to the school for a support. Will you then be kind enough to aid us in carrying on the good work. I am willing to do all I can but I am not able to furnish means. I am here for my health and will return about the middle of October to my parents and I wish to make it one of the prominent parts of my duty to instruct the colored people of my parish. I have been engaged in this business for many years before the war and part of my business in Baltimore is to see if I cannot get Catechisms, which I have written for the Colored people, published. For several years I was engaged as a Missionary among the Colored people belonging to Josiah Collins of North Carolina and I am anxious to do every thing to elevate their moral character. I shall be glad to hear from you and to receive any assistance either in enabling me to publish Catechisms for their instruction or to pay my Teacher for his services. If you favor me with a letter before the 6th of October you can direct to here EM Forbes Ellicotts Mills Maryland, care of Rev CM Parkman. If after that time to Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Yours with respect  
EM Forbes

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Ellicotts Mills

25th Sept.

Forbes Rev E.M.

Pastor of PE Church

Elizabeth City N.C.

Asks assistance for school for Col'd children

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 26 1865

[Written in red] Ans October 2d 1865

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2990 9/26/1865 *From:* M R Casler

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2931

Annapolis Md

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Annapolis Md Sept 26th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Sir

I have the honor to make an application to you for situation for teachers in Freedmen's Schools for Misses Elizabeth Snyder and Helen E Heath daughters of staunch Union men in the State of N.Y. and whose sympathies are and have been with the cause in which you interested from the beginning. Both have taught school, and I know them to be in every way qualified to teach. They can forward you references from Hon Roscoe Conklin M.C. [U.S. Congress 1859-1882] and Hon Ward Hunt, Judge of Court of Appeals both from Oneida Co. N.Y. Both ladies are relatives of mine, and I take pleasure in recommending them to your notice although a recommend from me perhaps is of small moment. I was a Captain in the 121st NY Inf Vols under Col E Upton, and was wounded and disabled in the service and have perhaps as great an interest for the success of the plan for the instruction of the colored people, as any man living. Hon F.E. Spinner [U.S. Congress 1855-1860] can inform you who the ladies are as well as myself and would no doubt be pleased to recommend them. The school about to be opened in Annapolis, is not supplied with teachers, and if possible Misses Snyder and Heath would like situations there, if you consider favorably their applications.

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
M R Casler

Address Box 176, Annapolis Md

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Annapolis Md.

25th Sept 1865

Casler N R

Recommends two young ladies for teachers of col'd schools.

[written in red] JB193

[written in red] Rec'd BRF&AL 27 Sept

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2991 9/26/1865

*From:* E.W. Woodman

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2934

Hd Qrs Sub Dist W  
Florida Barrancas

Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[144, 145]

Hd Qrs Sub Dist W Florida  
Barrancas Sept 26 1865

Dear Cousin,

Permit me to introduce to you the bearer, Brig Gen Asboth, my late Com'dr.

You will find him to be an agreeable gentleman and an intelligent officer. He take a lively interest in the cause of freedom, and will be able to give you a correct idea of the State of Society in this State.

Respectfully &  
Truly Yours  
E.W. Woodman

Maj Gen OO Howard  
Washington DC

over

Rumor says that the 2d Me will be mustered out soon, and should that be the case I might want a position under you, if you have a place where I can be useful.

This I would not ask for on a/c of relationship and would not want unless I can serve the casue which you are engaged in.

My best regards to Mrs H & love to the children.

Your cousin  
EWW

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Hd. Qrs. Sub. Dist. W. Florida

Barrancas Sept. 25 / 65

Woodman, E.W. Col.

Introduces Brig. Genl. Asboth.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 23 1866

[Note. The stamp gives 1866 as the year received. This was probably a mistake – as both the letter and the summary of the letter give 1865 as the date, and it probably was not a year late in delivery.]

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2992 9/26/1865 *From:* Wm E Ford

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2935

Washington R.I.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[149]

Washington Sept 26th [1865] [The year was written in pencil.]

General Howard

Sir feeling very anxious about my brother in law (Edward B McDonald) I thought that I would write you to see if the report of his death was true or false. There is a report of his death here at his home but it is not very credible but nevertheless it may be true.

There is a report that he died at Chatanoga Hospital on the 7th of July. As he was with you so long I have taken this liberty to write you as you would be likely to know wheather he is dead or not.

My sister wrote you about it and receiving a answer from you that your brother was going to Chatanoga and would inquire about him and she not hearing from you thought perhaps that you had forgotten to write or perhaps you had been so busy that you had not had time.

We wold be very much obliged to you if you look into this case and write me what you can learn about the report. We would be very happy to have you write as soon as it is convenient for you to do so as we are quite anxious to know the truth of the case.

Yours Respectfully  
Wm E Ford  
Washington R.I.

William E. Ford  
Washingtonville R.I.

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2993 9/27/1865      *From:* A. Paull Mitchell      *To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2936      Wheeling West Virginia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[227, 228]

Wheeling West Virginia  
Sep 27th 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir.

I feel confident you will excuse the great liberty I take in addressing you when I explain my motives, Mrs Dunlap my Sister being absent I am forced to take the liberty of addressing you myself. There is a prospect of a vacant cadetship to the U.S.M.A. at West Point from the "Second Congressional District" (Col Latham). There is a notice in the paper this morning's paper to the appointee to report before the 17th of Oct or there will be a vacancy. From what Genl Dunlap said I inferred the President half promised me the next vacancy. Allow me Sir to offer you my sincere thanks for your efforts in my behalf, and whether successful or not in getting an appointment I shall always remember the name of Genl Howard with gratitude.

I remain with much respect your humble Servant  
A. Paull Mitchell

Wheeling Sep 27th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard

[Attached clipping from a newspaper]

The Intelligencer  
Campbell & M'dermot  
Editors and Proprietors  
Thursday Morning, Sept. 28  
Union Ticket  
State Senate  
Gen. I.H. Duval  
House of Delegates,  
Col. Wm. R. Curtis  
Jacob Hornbrook  
Joseph Bell

There is a vacancy in the West Point cadetship in the Second Congressional district of this State, (Hon. Geo. R. Latham's) as we are informed from Washington. The appointee must report at West Point on or before the 17th of October.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Wheeling West Va  
27 Sept 1865  
Mitchell A.P.  
Asks assistance in getting apptd cadet at West Point  
Recd Sept 30, 1865  
ans Oct 3d

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2994 9/27/1865 *From:* Shipherd

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2937

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[154, 155]

Washington Sept 27 65

My dear General:

I came here the day after you had gone, & must leave tonight – just before you return, and now they frighten me with the possibility of your undertaking a long southern tour before I can return again.

Let me entreat you not to do this last. I have already written you of the meeting of the full Board of Commissioners at Phila'a on Wednesday & Thursday Oct. 11th & 12th. No meeting during the next 12 months will be of equal moment to our work & to yours. For your absence from it I do not know what could compensate. For there & then are to be discussed in the full Board the probabilities of the freedman's future, by men of the largest information & shrewdest sagacity, who after interchanging opinions will determine a line of policy for the great organization (as it is sure to be) which has undertaken to represent the philanthropy & christianity of the entire country toward the ex-slave.

What can such a convention do without your constant presence at all its sessions? Can you safely leave them to ignorance of your views & preferences?

And then, we desire to make no public demonstration until your official circular is ready, recognizing our organization & defining its relations to the Bureau & the Government. Give us your hand for a fair start, & then you shall set out on your journey with one heartiest God speed.

Faithfully yours,  
Shipherd

If you can get us that building on 14th St, it will be a good turn which we shall be prompt to reciprocate? We prefer the one described – next to the church – to any other in the block. I am inclined to think that the stores from the Sanitary Com'n had better be turned over to the F. Com'n than to the Bureau, if I could only see you to compare notes about this.

[Written in red overwriting the letter on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington Sept 27

Shipherd LR

no answer required

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 28 1865

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2995 9/27/1865     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2938

Beaufort S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150, 151, 153, 152]

Beaufort S.C.  
Sept. 27 1865

Dear Brother

Arriving last evening after a pleasant voyage I found Gen. Saxton all packed up and off for Charleston at 10 P.M. He talks a little discouraged about the loss of the lands & the property in C. (which he expects to relinquish). But he refuses to give up the lands on the Is. which have been distributed in small lots to the Freedmen & the title conferred. I trust these pledges will be upheld. Let the matter be deferred till Congress meets & I am sure a permanent title will be given to the actual settlers on these islands.

It will not do to deceive the Freedman thus. It is wrong. Gen. S. thinks things will work well in Georgia. He has just returned from Augusta. The murder of those two officers was a terrible thing. I wish we had a Department Commander in S.C. like Stedman. Returned Rebel soldiers (I learn from a Col. of a Regt. just from the interior) lounge about the hotels, swearing, chewing tobacco & drinking when they can get liquor and they are perfect desperadoes.

The murderer of one of those of officers for whom the Col of the Regt. offered \$10,000 reward rode up to the Hotel just after the troops had left there with three revolvers on his person –one in his hand and declared to the Colonel that he was the man for whom he had offered the reward & dared him to take him. Several of those desperadoes sitting on the Hotel piazza started up and said they were the friends of that man –all armed and the Colonel was helpless.

Gen. S. says Gov. Perry is no such a man as Johnson of Georgia. I intend to go & see Perry & then I will write you. He is certainly behind the age but ahead of South Carolina, I think, even now & this is hopeful.

Surgeon De Witt talks discouragingly all the time. Seems to be a man to do everything one way, Regulation way, & if that fails seems to have no other alternative. Gen. S. now feels sorry he said go to C. dont relish breaking up his home probably. But I think it wise. I am glad you are coming down in person. Gen. S. (tell Gen. Fullerton) says he has sent the reports as far as obtainable – the one about lands went by last Steamer.

Maj. Taylor A.A.G. goes North on 30 days Leave & you might use his name if you think proper as one to be mustered out. & get Ketchum in his place. Capt. K. is too valuable to lose. I hear more about Taylor's colored mistress for whom I hear he has provided a house here paying a year's rent.

I hope you will not have granted the transportation to Redpath as Gen. Saxton's Supt. for Gen. S. has countermanded that & selected one for each state – evangelical & highly satisfactory – I think my Chaplain Noble (Congregationalist & formerly Teacher High School at Augusta Me) will be the Supt. for S.C.

All my Regt. remaining here at B. have learned to read. Have had 4 hours schooling a day of late. Chaplain Noble superintending but teaching chiefly by a Colored man – in a Chap. Tent furnished by the C.C.

I fear you will not have time to read it but I have much more to write. Two companions at Paris Island have been taught by one of the Sergeants. They (the Regt.) have put fifty five thousand dollars (\$55,000) in the Beaufort Savings Bank. Is not this a lesson for white spendthrifts and a good example for all honest black men?

Devers commands the Dept. in Gillmore's absence. I do wish the latter would not return. But God will order all for the best.

The house I am in (I go to Charleston in a day or two) belonged to Dr. Sams, deceased. His heirs are here to claim it. Was sold for taxes more than two years ago. Now in Capt Low's hands for the Bureau. Must it revert

to the heirs and be lost to the Bureau?

My Cook, Aunt Sallie Sams (colored) thinks she has claims upon the property here for two reason, Viz: 1st she is a daughter of said Sams - 2nd He was the father of her daughter, now living.

Will the U.S. Gov't in the face of these facts, with eyes open, continue to incur the displeasure of Almighty God by withholding simple justice from this soul-crushed woman? She is intelligent and morally capable if not already (as may be) possessing a high Christian Character. Would enjoy and bountifully & charitably dispense the riches her father wrongfully accumulated. But these are only speculations – idle perhaps. They deal with facts abhorrent to all the better feelings of human nature.

Charleston people are clamorous for their property –even those not pardoned. Let somebody – say Harry - write if you cannot.

I must tell you about Gen. Seymour who came down on Steamer with me. He returns to his battery as Captain – rather cutting to his sensitive nature. He seems a man of much more than usual culture. Has traveled in Europe & profited by it in taste & information. I fear is a little awry morally, tho' he says his father is a Methodist Clergyman. He says he himself was always an abolitionist, but they have mixed him up with Gov'r Seymour & many regard him a Democrat which he never was.

Is terribly bitter against Saxton, says the latter is dishonest, a liar & he can prove it. I am led to fear there is truth in what he told but Gen. Saxton may have been purified by the Holy Ghost since Seymour knew of those sinful doings. I would not for the world talk so harshly about any human being as Seymour did against Saxton. But Seymour has a high sense of honor, seemingly, in most things & seems above all things to hate lying.

Dr. Wakefield in charge of Freedmen's Hospital here has just been in to see me. He repeats what Dr. DeWitt had told me, that the Commissary Dept. has cut off the rations for his hospital. This is terrible! What is to be done? He is obliged to turn off dying patients, & to break up the Hospital. How is this that the Medical Dept. by Circular 14 agree to supply everything else & the Com'y Dept. annuls everything by cutting off all food?

I will go to see Gen Devens about it tomorrow. Gen. Saxton asked for Capt Bench as C.S. Why has he not been assigned? If he is not another should be sent at once and Col. Balloch had one (he told me) in view.

I should not write in this way if it were not important for your attention.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Write a cheerful letter to mother when you can I fear much for her health and mind! C.H.H.

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2996 9/27/1865

*From:* Edward R. Baird

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2939

*Source:* Bowdoin

Laytons Landing  
Rappahanock River  
Essex Co. Va.  
Via Baltimore &  
Steamer Matilda

Chief Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[153]

Laytons Va  
Sept 27th /65

Maj Gen O O Howard  
Chief Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Genl,

In view of the conflicting interpretations placed upon orders on the subject & the different opinions of the different local authorities I have been induced for my own satisfaction & that of various others in this locality to request if not inconsistent with your established course on such subjects an answer to the following questions.

1. In the event of the service of a freedman (for many your slave) becoming undesirable to give an account of a superfluity of hands – in capacity to find him objectionable conduct his post or any other reason, are you compelled to retain him contrary to your wishes until the 1st of March 1866 or can you discontinue even paying him at your option?
2. In the event of a Freedman having poor employment whether by voluntary agreement between the parties or contrary to his employers wishes, are you not at liberty to refuse him permission to return should he desire to do so? [Ans.] Yes. [The answer to this question and others following was written in pencil in another hand.]
3. In case he should return & endeavor to remain upon your place contrary to your inclination, is it not the duty of the military authorities to forcibly remove him & if there is no military force at hand – may not the civic authorities remove him & in case of both these means failing are you not at liberty to protect yourself? [Ans.] If a man forces himself upon you appeal to the local
4. In cases of stealing on the part of Freedmen, if there should be no military force at hand, is it not admissible to try such offenders before the Civil Tribunal & if convicted punish them under the laws of the State? [Ans.] They can be allowed to testify as other people.
5. In event of an the efficient portion of the Freedmen (formerly your slaves) having left you contrary to your wishes, leaving the whole set of chargeables, their wives, children &c, are you not a liberty to discontinue the support of person's whose natural protectors have deserted them & rendered their support in most cases a grievous burden to the <> practicable. [Ans.] When women have been kept for unclear purposes and are only <> very frequently they are not their wives & children.
6. If we are required to keep him whether we wish it or not, what means are available to secure the proper amount of labour and obedience on their part? [Ans.] The husband cannot be <responsible> otherwise they are different compensate they can be obliged to <> endure the <> keep the matter contracts.
7. When required to keep them contrary to our own inclinations are we also required to compensate them or not & if so in what terms & will not the support of the chargeables be allowed as an offset against the labour of the efficient, to be deducted from their wages?

Satisfactory information on these points is most earnestly desired by the most intelligent of our citizens for the proper adjudication of their conduct according to Laws & for the solution of questions constantly arising in our intercourse with what was formerly the Slave population & knowing that such information could more certainly be obtained from your Hd Qrs than elsewhere the foregoing questions are respectfully submitted for your consideration.

As early an answer as convenient is respectfully solicited.

Direct to  
Edward R. Baird  
Laytons Landing  
Rappahanock River  
Essex Co. Va.  
Via Baltimore & Steamer Matilda

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Layton's Landing Va

27th Sept / 65

Baird, Edw'd R.

Propounds seven questions. Asks information concerning the rights of employees & employers

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 29 1865

Ans Oct 2nd 1865

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2997 9/28/1865 *From:* Thomas H Bubies

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2940

Greene, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Greene, Maine, Sept 28 [1865] [The year was added in pencil.]

To your honor Major General Howard

I now will try and inform you of my unfortunate luck. I went to Portland, <> and went to the wharf and they told me that they could not let the ferry go till next Wednesday and I went to the quartermaster and got her Capt tell them they had a boat load of solgers to cary to new york. I did not no what to do so I came home this morning and shall haft to weight.

Respectfully yours  
Thomas H Bubies

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2998 9/28/1865

*From:* T.W. Howard

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2941

West Point Lowndes  
Co. Miss.

Washington City  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

Maj Genl Howard  
Washington City  
D.C.  
Genl

In good faith and confidence I beg leave to submit a proposition for your private consideration. I propose that you purchase one, two or more good cotton plantations together with Stock and provisions sufficient to cultivate the same. Let me take charge of one plantation and put the other under charge of any one you see fit. Get one of Your Sons or Some one upon whom you can rely to act as your general Agent. That is to hire the necessary Laborers to cultivate said farms, to adjust all difficulties that may arise upon said farms between the Junior Agents and the freedmen, and in fact to superintend the whole affair. Plant all these farms in cotton, and it will prove a great fortune to you. Cotton will be worth twice as much next year as it is now for there will not be as much made by one half. Besides it is something that will always bring the gold whenever it is made and put in the market. Good Cotton lands can be bought here now from two and a half to five dollars per acre (in gold) and the same lands five to one hundred dollars per acre. Every thing of pertaining to a farm in proportion.

My real motive in writing to you in regard to the above, is simply this. I want to make some money. I have been raised in a cotton country in fact on a large Cot farm until seventeen years old. I know all about raising it. If you will get the Lands, put the right kind of men in charge of them and the right sort of a man to supervise the whole affair, you can make plenty of money and then pay me good wages for my services. The reason that planters dont go into such arrangements here. There are few who have the means, and farthermore they fear if they hire Freedmen about the time the crops need work they will quit. Now here is a previntive for such. Your Senior Agent can always be able to have such vacancies filled, if he is a real active business man. Besides I dare say that you could procure a great portion of white labor, which would be better.

Now what say you to my proposition. You get the Land furnish every thing & pay me out of the crop. What say you?

I rec'd your answer to the Letter I wrote you not long ago. I return you my thanks for the same, Gen., but I must be permitted to say however, though it was no more than I expected the language in which your answer was couch was "rather cool". I had some little hope of receiving those few lines, from your pen, in order that I might be able to form some idea, of you. But as it is, I dont feel willing to express myself upon anothers writing and for all I know his diction. My first Letter was intended as a private one. I regret to learn however from your answer, that it was termed an "Official" one I presume you had a motive for it however as I had one in directing it to the care of "The Hon Wm H. Seward". All I have to say is Gen. that as a true Soldier I entered the Army, and fought for the rights of my State. And although subjugated, & cripple for life, I still believe that I was right. At all events I feel the proud consciousness of having done my duty to my State. We have been honorably defeated. Let us accept the terms of our conqueror. I only hope Gen Howard that you were as honest in your principles as I was in mine. If you were, I know you are like myself in one respect, have nothing to be ashamed of.

Pardon me my dear Sir, & do not think that I talk so because I think by so doing to hurt your feelings, or simply to fret you, in any way. I did this Genl because my feelings sometimes get the better of me. I have expressed thoughts to you in this letter, over which, I have frequently shed tears feelingly and fast. I close with the hope that time will prove all things; and that you may learn to think more kindly of us.

My best wishes for you & yours.

I have the honor,  
to be Genl, Yours &c  
T.W. Howard

West Point Lowndes Co. Miss.

Sept 28th 1865

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2999 9/28/1865 *From:* Laura J. Haines

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2942

308 So 11th St.  
Philadel'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161]

308 So 11th St. Philadel'a  
Sept 28th 1865

Gen. Howard,

Will you please inform me if there is a vacancy in any of the Colored Schools in the South? There is a colored boy whose mother as well as himself who have worked for us, who is very finely educated that, could you procure for him a suitable situation, you would confer a great favor upon me. About a year since I obtained a situation for him as Office boy also to keep the books of the Office which situation he now holds. He can bring you excellent recommendations. His mother has worked very hard to educate him.

Gen. Howard, I have not seen you for a number of years. Although of your own State, I have been absent from my Native hills for a number of years. I shall never forget the morning we received the telegraph that your regiment was about to leave. Many dear friends were among the No. I will refer you to the Hon. Hannibal Hamlin who has known me from Infancy.

The young colored man of whom I speak I know to be honest and upright. Please do all you can for him. Please answer as soon as you possibly can.

Respectfully  
Laura J. Haines

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3000 9/28/1865

*From:* Francis H. Smith

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2943

Virginia Military Institute  
Lexington V.

Supt. Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[162]

Virginia Military Institute  
Lexington V. Sep 28, 65

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Supt. Freedman's Bureau  
General,

I was sorry that your other arrangement prevented you from visiting Lexington at this time. I felt sure the visit would have done good to the important cause you have in hand.

Since I saw you I have received a letter from my Agent in Mississippi, left in charge of the estate of Gen. <Arke> there. He writes discouragingly. He says the negro soldiers have greatly demoralized the freedmen, that the tendency of their conduct is to induce insurrection, that the contract which I had made with our servants, 400 in number, & which reached through the year 1866, giving a share of the crop to them, had been cancelled by the Agent of the Bureau, and altogether, he feels that no hopefulness exists among the people, of securing steady work for the negroes. He writes from Columbus Miss. dated 26 August 1865.

A gentleman from Atlanta, Geo. gives the same account, & he says great apprehensions are felt in Geo. of <insurrection itself> prompted by the conduct of the Agents of the Bureau, & the character of the troops there.

I mention these things to give for your information & guidance & shall be glad, if your future arrangements may bring you here.

I am, General,  
Very Res.  
Francis H. Smith

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 5 1865

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3001 9/29/1865    *From:* Alonzo J Pope

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2944

Sigourney Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[163, 164]

Sigourney Iowa Sept 29th 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
General -

I have the honor to forward herewith copy of the Constitution & Laws and list of Officers of the "Order of the Blue Arrow", the first annual meeting of which is to be held in the city of Chicago Ills on the 15th day of November 1865, that being the anniversary of the commencement of "Shermans march to the sea".

By direction of the President I am instructed in behalf of the members of the "Order" to respectfully extend to you a cordial and earnest invitation to attend the said meeting, assuring you that it would be a source of infinite pride and pleasure to us should the esteemed chief of our glorious old "Army of the Tennessee" honor our meeting with his presence.

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
Alonzo J Pope  
Cor. Sec. "Order of the Blue Arrow"

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS  
OF  
"THE ORDER OF THE BLUE ARROW"  
ESTABLISHED JULY 18TH, 1865.  
[By-laws of the order not transcribed.]

OFFICERS of the Order,  
President.  
Maj. Gen'l Wm. W. Belknap, Keokuk, Iowa.

Vice-Presidents  
Brig. Gen'l W.Q. Gresham, New Albany, Indiana  
Brig. Gen'l B.F. Potts, Carrollton, Ohio.  
Col. Isaac C. Pugh, 41st Illinois, ---, Illinois.  
Col. John E. Gurley, 135th U.S.C. Infantry, Shellsburg, Wis.  
Lt. Col. Justin C. Kennedy, 13th Iowa, Elgin, Illinois.  
Maj. W.Z. Clayton, 1st Minn. Art., Vinona, Minn.

Recording Secretaries  
Lt. Col. J.T. Herbert, 16th Iowa, Marshalltown, Iowa.  
Lt. R.M. Woods, 64th Ills., Springfield, Illinois.  
Lt. F.Y. Headley, 32d Illinois, --- Ills.

Corresponding Secretary  
Maj. A.J. Pope, 13th Iowa, Sigourney, Iowa.  
Treasurer  
Lieut. Col. George Pomutz, 15th Iowa, New Buda, Iowa.

Historians  
For the Division -Maj. Gen. W.W. Belknap  
For the 1st Brigade -Col. R.H. McFadden, 53d Illinois.  
For the 2nd Brigade -Brv't Gen. Cyrus Hall.

For the 3d Brigade –Lt. Col. Geo. Pomutz, 15th Iowa.  
For the Artillery –Maj. W.Z. Clayton, 1st Minn. Art'y.

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3002 9/29/1865

*From:* J. B. Van Petten

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2945

Head Qrs Post Harpers  
Ferry  
West Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165, 166, 167]

Head Qrs Post Harpers Ferry  
West Va. Sept 29th 1865

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Commissioner Freedmens Bu.  
General

I have the honor to transmit to you a communication from Capt Deitz. I would earnestly recommend Capt Deitz to be retained in the Service and assigned to duty in the Freedmen's Bureau and made superintendent of Freedmen's affairs in the Counties of Jefferson and Berkeley with Head Qrs. at Harpers Ferry. The Captain is well qualified for the position and there is great need of such an officer. There is a large number of freedmen in this locality and in view of the bad animus toward them there is a pressing necessity for a Sterling man to look after them.

I would further state that in view of the great paucity of officers in this vicinity and the amount of duty to be performed consequent upon the many detachments into which the few troops are divided that another suitable officer is scarcely available.

Guards have recently been ordered by me for protection of your agents at Charlestown and Martinsburg West Va and there appears to me to be an immediate and pressing demand for the labors of an efficient Asst. Superintendent of your Bureau.

You will please therefore to secure the appointment of Capt Deitz and send to him requisite orders and instruction.

I have the honor to be  
Your obdt Servt,  
J. B. Van Petten  
Bvt Brig Gen Comdg

[The letter from Dietz to Van Petten on Sept 29th 1865 was enclosed with this letter.]

Office Asst Com Musters  
Harpers Ferry West Va.  
Sept 29th 1865

Bvt Brig Genl J.B. Van Petten  
Commanding Post  
Sir:

I have the honor to state I have been detailed by an Order from War Dept., Freeman's Bureau, as Superintendent of Freedmen's affairs for this station and vicinity. Said order was referred to the Adjt Genl of the U.S.A. For the purpose of having it, if permissible, approved retaining me in service (as my Regt has been mustered out) when relieved as Asst Com Musters, said order has not yet been received. In the meantime orders have been issued that all Officers retained as Mustering Officers will muster out. It is respectfully asked which I shall do in the dilemma these conflicting orders place me. shall I remain here for further orders from the War Dept or shall I proceed to muster out?

I am, Genl,  
Very Respectfully Your Obt Servant  
Lewis Dietz  
Capt and Asst Com Musters

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 1 1865

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3003 9/29/1865 *From:* Jeannie H. Grey

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2946

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[79]

Sept 29th '65

My very dear friend, Gen. Howard!

Last week I was the happy recipient of a picture that gladdens our eyes whenever we enter our little parlor! I wrote to thank your brother for it, as Genl Fresill said he has sent it. No matter from whom it came, it is equally acceptable.

Another proof your <> goodness came to make us very happy last night. Mr Ryder the father of the boy about whom I wrote you some months ago, came to tell as his son was "ree"once more! His voice was husky with emotion, and his eyes overflowed many times. The boy had had a leave granted him on the 18th inst & was home five days, & when he parted from his mother he was so broken down that she said "Iky, I feel as if you would find your discharge waiting for you when you get back!" She saw a sad smile flit over his face for he had no faith, although the Army had written to Preston King two days before & Mr Nelson was going to do several things, but when Iky returned to his post he found his discharge had arrived the day after he left! He flew home wild with joy & came to see me but I was in N. York, but mamma saw him, and made a long preach to him, and he made many good promises, and went home and went to bed sick! Poor fellow it was too much for him! He was seventeen 1st July last, and a wonderful penman they tell me, and has a first rate common-school foundation for an education and "Good" is written, regarding his conduct, on his discharge. I fancy if joy don't kill the boy he will not be a carpenter all his life. I saw in the paper yesterday about the many vacancies in the Cadetships, and almost wished I had the power of placing the little hero among the candidates! His discharge speaks of the battles he had been in, thirteen I <think>. A grand number for such a little red-haired chap!

Now my dear friend, this is the seventh or eight letter I have written to you since the "Surrender of Lee" and have only been honored by one autograph letter in return & that a profoundly formal one in answer to the one about Mr Hedley. Do I deserve utter neglect? I am not quite resigned to it yet! My mother sends her warmest love, while I subscribe myself

Very very gratefully and affectionately  
Your friend -  
Jeannie H. Grey

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3004 9/30/1865

*From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2947

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[626]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston Sep 30 1865

Dear Genl.

I have submitted your letters to the Young Men's + Association & they wish me to say in reply that Wed'y eve'g is the eve'g of the week on wh they have determined to hold their lectures, & that while they are exceedingly happy in the prospect of having your lecture they wld be glad if on your return from Portland you cld lecture for them on Wednesday eve'g.

When you have arranged your programme & fixed your time, please let us know.

You will, of course, consider my house your home while you are in town. And do spend a Sabbath with us, if possible, & a Friday eve'g.

Do the Freeman need my efforts & influence? For what end? What shall I & my people do to be of the greatest real service.

One day with you at Petersburg is not just what I want Genl., but a good long tour & time to see, & hear, & talk.

We are all pretty well, & getting fixed down, & up, for winter & work.

With kind regards to Mrs Howard in wh Mrs W. wld join were she in the study. As ever,

fraternally  
E.B. Webb

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington

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3005 9/30/1865 *From:* Thos Branch

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2948

Richmond

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[163]

Richmond Sep 30th 65

Genl Howard

I very much regret that you were not here on the receipt of the inclosed, that I may have had a personal interview with you on the interesting subjects embraced in it. Should it be your pleasure to give this letter your consideration & will address Mr Irbey to the care of the <> of this city it will be forwarded. You may prefer sending it through Genl Gibbon at Petersburg. If so let it be directed to Blacks & Whites both of <Va>. I am well acquainted with Genl A Ames, <> slightly in with Genl F. Blair & his brother. <Hon [smudge]> Montgomery Blair of W <like>.

Your obedient Servt  
Thos Branch

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Richmond Va. Sept 30 1865

Branch, Thos

Encloses letter from Mr Irby of Nottaway County.[OOH-2928]

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 3 1865

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3006 9/30/1865 *From:* John B Cresson

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2949

1618 Mt Vernon St  
Philad'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[173, 174]

Philad'a 9 Mo 30 [1865] [The year was written in pencil]

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

I have taken the liberty of writing several times on behalf of my Son Col Chas C. Cresson late of the 73rd PV2d Brig Ind Div 20th Corps, who is desirous of getting into the Regular Army. I wrote thee on the 5th of Aug'st, enclosing a Recommendation from my sons Brig General PH Jones, of NY. I felt emboldened to use this liberty, from willingness I was informed thee expressed to aid Lt Col Cresson all thee could. Not having rec'd an answer I fear I have unwarrantedly intruded. If so, please return me the Reccomendation & accept my sincere regret & apology for the trouble I have given, I enclose an answer to my 1st letter (recd at Washington, while they was absent in Maine) from Maj. RM Stinson.

Please direct to JB Cresson care of Powers & Wrightman 9th & Parrish Sts Philad'a.

Respectfully thy

Most Obedt

John B Cresson

1618 Mt Vernon St

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Sept 30, 1865

Cresson John B

Asks for recommendation of his son Col. C.S. Cresson for position in the regular army

[BUREAU R.F.&A.L WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 3 1865

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3007 9/30/1865 *From:* William D. Hale

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2950

Camp Howard  
Paducah Ky

Chief Bureau Freedmen and  
Refugees  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[175, 176]

Camp Howard Paducah Ky  
September 30th 1865

General:

I have respectfully to inform you that by an order of which the enclosed is a copy, I announced the name of the camp of my Battalion (4th U.S.Col. Arty Ky) recently stationed at this Post, to be "Camp Howard" in honor of yourself.

The camp is beautifully situated on the plateau one mile below the town near and overlooking the Ohio river. My men are working with great alacrity, and no little skill in constructing really excellent barracks from the abandoned material collected in the camp of Vol. Troops at this place.

Hoping, Sir, that you will not consider discourteous this use of your name without first asking your consent and that it will meet your approval.

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
William D. Hale  
Major 4th U.S.C. Arty Ky

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Chief Bureau Freedmen and Refugees  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Camp Howard  
Paducah, Ky Sept 30, 1865  
Hale, Wm D.  
Maj. 4th U.S.C.A.

States that he has name his camp in honor of Gen Howard  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 7 1865

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3008 9/30/1865 *From:* Ellis Yarnall

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2951

Philad'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[178, 179]

Philad'a Sep 30, 1865.

Dear Sir

The Penn'a Freedmans Relief Association is charged with the duty of arranging for a public meeting to be held in this City on the evening of Wednesday the 11th of October to inaugurate the American Freedmans Aid Commission. The Commission is to assemble here on that day & will remain in session perhaps two or three days. We have engaged the Academy of Music for the evening meeting & it is hoped the Right Rev Bishop W Haine of Ohio will preside. The Episcopal General Convention will be in Session in this city at that time.

We have to ask the favour of you to be present & take part in the proceedings on the evening of the 11th. We hope to make the occasion one of importance in every way. As yet the speakers for the meeting have not been determined upon. Mr Beecher Mr Custis & Mr Sumner are to be applied to. Other names also we hope to be able to announce.

Trusting that you will be willing to favour us with your presence.

I am

<yrs> very respectfully

Ellis Yarnall

Chairman Com of arrang.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Pa

30 Sept 1865

Yarnall Elias [The first name should have been Ellis.]

Asks Genl to address a meeting on the 11th of Oct in Philadelphia

<[CHECK ORIGINAL Very faint writing.]>

Recd BRF&AL Oct 1

ans Oct 2d 1865

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3009 9/30/1865 *From:* H.B. Scott

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2952

Bureau R.F&A.L.  
Richmond

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

Private

Bureau R.F&A.L.  
Richmond September 30, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General

I desire to renew to you in writing the desire I expressed to you at my interview with you here to be transferred to Florida.

In my original application for detail in the Bureau I asked to be sent to that state, and I still urgently desire it. My health is not good here, and would be much improved by the change. I intend, when mustered out of the service, to make Florida my home and by taking a plantation, show how the experiment of free labor may be made to succeed in the South. One assistant from the Invalid Corps has already reported here who can fill my place in Colonel Brown's office, and another can be obtained if required. Finally, General, if four years constant service in the field have given me any claim upon the consideration of the Government, I have that claim.

I am General with great respect  
your obedient servant  
H.B. Scott  
Lieut Col. 4th Mass Cavalry  
Ins. Genl. Bureau RF. & AL

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3010 9/30/1865    *From:* Louise M. Skinner    *To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2953

Woodstock, Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181]

Woodstock, Conn.  
Sept. 30th 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard,

Will you please write me at your earliest opportunity to whom I should apply for transportation from New York to New Orleans, as I am quite anxious to leave for teaching. I sent your order to Gen. Van Vliet was replied that they were moving in <Government> Transports between the two places. Consequently am obliged to again refer to your

Very respectfully,  
Louise M. Skinner  
Woodstock  
Conn.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Woodstock, Conn. Sept. 30 1865  
Skinner, Louisa M. [From her signature, her name was Louise.]  
Desires transportation to New Orleans  
C.B.215  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 3 1865

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3011 10/1/1865 *From:* Chas. Hamlin

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2954

Bangor

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[184]

Bangor 1 Oct 1865

Dear General,

My good friend Rev. Mr. Leonard who was Chaplain of your old Regt. the 3rd Maine and mine the 1st Maine Henry Artillery wishes to go abroad a Consul or resident Minister to some port in the continent. One of his chief objects in going abroad is to find time in which he may devote himself to literary pursuits which he can do more successfully than here.

I have undertaken with others to aid him in procuring him such an appointment.

I occurs to me that you can materially assist him by giving him a letter. There is little need of telling you what his services and reputation are but as I know him well. I cannot refrain from attending to his fine abilities as a write both of prose and poetry. The late Starr King, E.H. Chapin who have been his warm friends have spoken of him in this respects very highly. Some of his writings which I have seen and read are worthy of either of the above gentlemen as authors.

The grounds, in general, on which his appointment will be urged are his services and qualifications.

If you can find time amidst your labors to turn aside and aid one whom I know is your friend you will greatly oblige him and me.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
Chas. Hamlin

Major General Howard  
Washington D.C.

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3012 10/2/1865 *From:* C.C. Augur

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2955

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters  
Department of  
Washington,  
22d Army Corps,  
Washington, D.C.

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[135]

Headquarters Department of Washington,  
22d Army Corps,  
Washington, D.C., Oct 2nd 1865

General Howard  
Dear Sir,

A few days since you asked me to recommend you some good officers for duty in your dept. I take great pleasure in stating that Colonel Ingraham, Provost Marshall of Defenses North of Potomac, and who is about to be mustered out of service, is one that I can recommend heartily and with full confidence that he would give entire satisfaction to you, in whatever place you put him.

Respectfully yours,  
C.C. Augur

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington Oct 2nd 1865

Augur, C.C.

Maj. Gen.

Recommends Col. Ingraham for position in B.R.F.&A.L.

[STAMP] BUREAU B.R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 2 1865

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3013 10/2/1865 *From:* E.S. Tobey

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2956

Boston

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[186, 187]

Dear General,

Will you kindly allow me the privilege of introducing by this to yr favorable notice the bearer Captn. C.C. Soule who has been in command in 55th Regt Mass Vols & has been within a few days honorably mustered out. He now designs to engage in business as a civilian in Charleston S.C. & wishes to obtain reliable information from you as to the condition in which confiscated lands in So. Carolina can be purchased by loyal citizens.

He & his family are intimately known to me & I therefore shall esteem it a special favor if you wd place him in possession of any valuable information which may be consistent with your official duties.

Capt Soule who was in the senior class at Harvard when the war commenced nobly waived the usual graduating degree & entered promptly as a private into the military service of the country. He is a young gentleman of most exemplary moral character, fine abilities and has evinced a remarkable degree of patriotism & self denial. I therefore beg to commend him to your confidence & usual kind consideration.

With great respect

Yr. ob. Svt

E.S. Tobey

Maj. Genl Howard

Washington

Boston Oct. 2d 1865

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3014 10/3/1865

*From:* Jno W Corse

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2957

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters, District  
of Minnesota,  
Department of the  
Missouri,  
St. Paul

Bureau of Refugees etc.  
Washington D.C.

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[183, 188]

Head-Quarters, District of Minnesota,  
Department of the Missouri,  
St. Paul, Oct 3d 1865.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Bureau of Refugees etc.  
Washington D.C.  
General,

Your very kind letter of July last (with flattering recommendation) after going to two or three places was finally resurrected from the dead letter office and mailed to me at this point, from whence I acknowledge recpt and profound thanks for your interest and generous sympathy in my success.

I am sure there is no superior for whom I entertain a more profound respect or kindly feeling than for yourself, and I am truly proud of your good opinion and sensible of the debt I owe you for the manifestation of the same.

I hardly know whether or not the reorganization will be of a sufficient increment to the old army to insure of my retention but Genl Sherman thinks it will. He says congress ought to retain out of the Vol. Force at least 20 Maj. Genls & 40 Brig. Genls. But a fit of economy which sometimes seizes our government may reduce it very much. There is nothing I should like more than to be retained, but if the circumstances do not authorize Congress to add to the expenses of the Government so largely, I shall assuredly be among the first to forego my hopes and aspirations in the military & quickly subside into a sober quiet citizen. However nous verrons.

I have been studying faithfully to familiarize myself with the new duties imposed upon me in this command & I flatter myself I am becoming somewhat familiar with our Indian history and relations. While I do not apprehend any outbreak of a serious character at present, I am conscious of the fact that the different tribes in my district are very much discontented and are liable at any moment to rise up & massacre thousand of helpless women & children, before much resistance could be offered on my part. With a frontier of over seven hundred miles and only a Regt and three fifths to guard it, it will be almost impracticable to stay anything like general reprising without large reenforcements. These of course cannot arrive until after all damage is <done> & then commences a war of extermination which from the nature of the the country must be protracted as are all Indian Wars for years. It seems to me the Government does not appreciate in this instance the force of the old adage that "n ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The only feasible remedy I can see is to put the whole Indian question into the War Departments hands. If you have any influence with the Government you can-not exercise it more humanely or in a more christian-like cause than to attain the end I suggest. But I forget you have your time all employed & cannot vex yourself with affairs that do not pertain to the glorious task to which you have addressed yourself. May God in his infinite goodness give you wisdom & health that you may accomplish it. With renewed thanks for your kindness. I am as ever.

Devotedly Yours  
Jno W Corse  
B. M. G.

[Written sideways on the last page, overwriting the text, in a different hand.]  
St. Paul, Min. Oct 3, 1865  
Corse Jno W.  
Brev. Maj. Genl. USV  
Friendly Letter



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3015 10/3/1865

*From:* Rev. Geo. A.  
Perkins

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2958

Farmington, Maine

Chief of the Freedmen's  
Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[189, 190]

Farmington, Maine, Oct. 3, 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

You are aware, perhaps, that after spending a few years in Turkey as a missionary of the A.B.C.F.M., I returned to this country in 1859 on account of the ill health of my wife; and in the spring of 1863 went out again as a Professor in "Robert College of Constantinople". Having resigned my position in the College, and having been so much reduced by ill health that it was inexpedient to reenter the missionary work immediately, I left Constantinople in June last, and have been some two months in this country. My health has much improved since leaving Constantinople. My lungs are not now diseased, the inflammation having been removed, but my throat is not yet in a good condition, and it does not seem best for us to return to Turkey at present, - if at all. I desire, however, to engage in some work in which I may be useful, and by which I may support my family; and perhaps a climate somewhat warmer may be better for me than that of Maine in the winter. Your brother, the pastor of the Cong. Church in this place, mentioned me to you, some time since, when I inquired how I would do as Superintendent of Schools in Washington. As several weeks have passed, it is altogether possible that that office has been filled. If so, do you know of any other similar situation which I can obtain? Or of any position that would not require -at present -continued use of the voice or pen? If any should occur to you, can you tell me what salary will be paid? I will be glad to obtain a salary sufficient for the support of my family; but if I cannot find such a position, I may be glad of one, for a time, that would give a partial support, if the work required should also be moderate.

It would be agreeable to me to remain here a few weeks before entering upon any business, but I write now lest I should lose by delay a situation now obtainable. As your time must be fully occupied, I will not trouble you to reply to this letter, if you have nothing favorable to communicate.

Please accept my high regards for yourself, and my desires for abundant success in your labors for the welfare of the Freedmen.

Very truly yours,  
Geo. A. Perkins [Bowdoin College Class of 1849]

Address

Rev. Geo. A. Perkins,  
Farmington, Maine.

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Farmington Me.

Oct 3, 1865

Perkins, G.A.

Desires position of Supt. of Schools in Washington D.C.

C.B. P237

[CHECK ORIGINAL, Faint writing]

Recd B.F.R.&A.L. Oct <>

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3016 10/3/1865    *From:* Will [William Oliver  
Otis]  
OOH-2959                      Hallowell  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[191]

Hallowell Oct 3d [1865, written in pencil]

Dear Otis,

I spoke to you about sending Dispatches by me to Texas. There are no mails yet established, and I think it may be convenient to you as well as to me. I do not care about the <amount> and am ready to leave immediately. The regular steamers for N.O. leave N.York and Boston every Saturday and if I do not hear from you I shall take one of them on the 19th. I want to go to Galveston, Houston Austin and perhaps Bonham, which will be nearly all over the state. I shall write to you when I get settled and shall be much obliged if you can throw any business into my hands.

I have just received a letter from John he writes everything is going on smoothly in Texas. I suppose he is now in Houston.

My love to Lizzie and the children.

Your affect coz  
Will

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington  
D.C.

[Note: The author is probably William Oliver Otis, who had moved to Texas after the death of his father, Congressman John Otis, in 1856. He had been graduated from Bowdoin in 1851 (A.B.) and in 1854 (A.M.). The reference to John was probably his brother, John Otis, Jr, who had also moved to Texas before the war.]

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3017 10/3/1865    *From:* James. J. Woolsey    *To:* Maj. Gen. Howard  
OOH-2960                      N.Y. National                      Comr. Of Bureau for Fr.  
*Source:* Bowdoin              Freedman's Relief  
   Association  
   Rooms, 76 John Street,  
   New York

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[192]

N.Y. National Freedman's Relief Association  
Rooms, 76 John Street, New York

New York, Oct. 3d 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Comr. Of Bureau for Fr.  
Dear Sir,

Suffer me to inquire respecting Atlanta, Ga. as a proposed place to establish schools among the Freedmen?  
We have a few young Ladies who are disposed to go there provided the field is open & proper facilities can be  
afforded. Any information or suggestions you may be pleased to give us will be most thankfully received.

Very respectfully yours,  
James. J. Woolsey  
On behalf of the N.F.R. Association

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]  
National Freedmen's relief Association  
New York Oct 3d, 1865  
Woolsey, James J.  
Secy of Finance Comm.  
Desires to know if Atlanta is an available place to send teachers.  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT <5> 1865

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3018 10/3/1865 *From:* E. Turney

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2961

Washington D.C.

Commissioner of the Bureau  
of Freedmen, &c.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[193]

Washington D.C.  
Oct 3, 1865

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of the Bureau of Freedmen, &c.  
Sir -

Appended are a few notices of our educational work which will indicate in what light it is viewed by men of the first influences among American Christians. With the recommendation in the terms employed by such men as Drs Wm B. Williams, H. Atalcom and others whose names appear, we can not but be confirmed in our conviction that we are engaged in the right thing.

You will notice the points which we are occupying with our schools. Its they have been gathered under the hand of the Government through the Freedmen's Bureau, we ask its continued funds in aiding us to <> them in the highest degree efficient for good.

Yours with great respect  
E. Turney

[Attachment]

From Rev. B.T. Welch, D.D., President of the American and Foreign Bible Society.

“ Sept. 14, 1865

“ I take great pleasure, in view of my long acquaintance with the Rev. Edmund Turney, D.D., the important positions of public trust which he has occupied, his extensive experience as an educator, and his special adaptation to the work to which he is now devoting his energies, in commending him in the presentation of the claims of this enterprise, to the fullest co-operation and aid of the Christian public.

“ The National Theological Institute for Colored Ministers, with the centre of its operations at Washington, and a plan of organization at once practical and comprehensive, is engaged in a work of immediate and pressing necessity. I regard it as a work which in its nature is second to none in importance in its bearings on the intersts of the Colored people of this country, and one which deserves the largest liberality of a Christian nation.

B.T. Welch.”

We fully concur in the views expressed by Dr. Welch.

D. Moore, Jr., Pastor of the Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Brooklyn.

J. W. Sarles, Pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Brooklyn

J. R. Thomas, Pastor of the Pierrepont St. Baptist Church, Brooklyn

J. Dowling, Pastor of the Berean Baptist Church, New York

P. Church, New York, late Editor of The Chronicle

W.S. Mikels, Pastor of the 16th St. Baptist Church, New York

H.C. Fish, Pastor of the 1st Baptist Church, Newark

H.G. Weston, Pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York

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3019 10/4/1865 *From:* Jos. Parker

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2962

Philad'a  
American Tract Soc.  
1210 Chestnut St.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[194]

Philad'a Oct 4th 1865  
American Tract Soc. 1210 Chestnut St.

Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

It is contemplated holding a public meeting in this city in the 16th evening of the present mont for the purpose of forming a branch of the American Union Commission.

The call will be Signed by a large number of prominent citizens, among others Major Henry , Ex Gov Pollack, Norton McMichael Esq, Rt Rev. Bishop Stevens, M W Blackim, Geo H Stuart, Caleb Cope, Saml V. Merrick Esq.

I have been request on behalf of these gentlemen, and also at the earnest solicitation of the Rev J. P. Thompson DD of N. York president of the Commission to extend an invitation to you to be present on the occasion, and aid him, and others, in the advocacy of this important national Institution.

Should you find it convenient to comply with this request you will confer a favor upon these gentlemen, and also upon myself.

Jos. Parker  
Agent of Commission

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3020 10/4/1865

*From:* George L Stearns

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2963

Union League House  
Broad Street  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[196]

Union League House  
Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Oct 4, 1865

My dear Sir

I am more and more impressed with the importance of sending pamphlets to the South through your Bureau, and want to impress the people of this city with the necessity of aiding in the good work. Therefore if consistent with your ideas of right please address me a letter of commendation, setting forth the advantages of such distribution, and send it under cover to Robt R Carson Esq of this city.

Truly Your friend  
George L Stearns

Maj. Genl Howard

If you have a copy of Gn <Marvins> speech please send it to me for I intend to print a pamphlet immediately. Send this to Boston.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Philadelphia Oct 4, 1865

Stearns, Geo. S.

Desires that pamphlets be distributed through the mediumship of the Bureau  
Recd Oct 6th 1865

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3021 10/5/1865 *From:* Mrs Dr Whelan

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2964

Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[195]

Mass. Oct 5th 65

Major Genl Howard

Sir -

I took the liberty of writing you a note some days ago in behalf of the bearer (Thom Cook) but in yr absence he gave it to some office of yr Department. I venture again to hope that you may be able to furnish some employment in yr Departm't proper, where the education he has already acquired may be of advantage to him & where he may gain still more for future useful <needs [CHECK ORIGINAL -tape on right side of page 2].> He is a boy of good capacity strictly honest, can read & cipher quite well & has a good home in the District where he had always lived & has always been <>. His Father, a most worthy man is not able to support him & quite a family & so <he> is anxious to support himself. He w'd like to learn a trade, but his color prevents & is <her> received in the private workshops of the District. I thought you might employ him in some of the schools for freedmen perhaps, or in some capacity where he w'd have something to look forward to as a stimulus for his ambition.

He has lived in my family & his Father was for 12 years in the Medical Bureau of my Depart'mt while Dr Whelan was the Chief & prior to that with Dr Harris in the same place.

Excuse the length of this note from my interest in the future well being of this boy.

My respects

Mrs Dr Whelan

Major Gen. Howard

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3022 10/5/1865    *From:* J.A. Brown

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2965

Gettysburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[198, 199]

Gettysburg Oct. 5th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
My dear Sir,

Your favor was received some time since, and I would have acknowledged your kindness, in the use of your your name, but have been very much occupied, and desired to see a little how the affair would succeed. Not wishing to obtrude your name in any doubtful way before the public, I have in a quiet and rather private way made some efforts among my friends. The measure I have found commands itself to all - not an objection having been made by any one, even where they could not give. In a very short time, and without any public appeals, I have secured a considerable part of the amount needed, and entertain no doubt of entire success. Indeed it is now considered by us as a fixed fact that there will be in this Seminary, "The Gen. Howard Professorship of Theology". Almost daily I have occasion to point out the field, where you acted a prominent part in the most memorable battle in the world's history; and now I am glad that your name is to be linked with this place, as the Christian soldier.

My object in troubling you again is twofold – 1st to acknowledge yours and report very encouraging progress in our design – progress that authorizes me to say it will at a comparatively early day be completed. 2d. To inquire whether it would be distasteful to your feelings, or against your judgment, when I shall have done a little more in a private way, to publish a card in the papers, inviting any and all who may desire to contribute to this object? I do not deem this absolutely necessary, but it might give some an opportunity, who would really desire it, and not otherwise enjoy the privilege; and it might aid one design, by giving proper publicity to the deed – a public monument. Still I am disposed to be influenced very much by a regard to your feelings and wishes in this matter. If it meets your <aim> and feelings I may after a little more personal effort, extend such a general invitation to Christian patriots.

I will be glad to hear from you at your convenience, on the points mentioned, and also to receive any suggestions or advice you may have to offer.

I am very respectfully yours  
J.A. Brown [James Allen Brown]  
Prof. Of Didactic Theology in the  
Seminary at Gettysburg.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Gettysburg, Penn.

Oct 5th 1865

Brown, J.A. Prof. of Didactic Theology

In regard to the Gen. Howard Professorship of Theology

C.B. p233

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 7 1865

I appreciate kindness & delicacy as soon as he has no doubt of its success I should have no objection to it. I feel very much honored.

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3023 10/5/1865

*From:* R. H. Wilbur

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2966

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters  
Department of  
Washington,  
Office Commissary of  
Musters  
Washington, D.C.

Freedman's Bureau

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[299, 201]

Headquarters Department of Washington,  
Office Commissary of Musters  
Washington, D.C., Oct 5th 1865

General,

I have taken the liberty to write a short sketch of your military life, which you will find in the Mag'n herewith enclosed.

Having served on the Staff of Gen Geary from the time he first took command of a Div, (soon after Antietam), down to the close of the war, I had opportunity for being personally familiar with your course as a Military Commander during that period, as well as obtaining some knowledge of your private life, from those who were near you.

I trust you will pardon any slight inaccuracies of fact, or dates, that you may discover.

The most of the latter were kindly furnished me by Col Ballock, formerly of the 20th Corps Staff, but now associated with you.

The "Sketch" has been very favorably noticed by some of the New York papers, and if it meets with your approval I shall be most happy to receive a note from you to that effect.

I have the honor to be  
Your Obedient Servant  
R. H. Wilbur  
Major and Asst Com Musters  
Dept Washington

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedman's Bureau

[Written sideways, on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington, Oct 5, 1865

Wilbur, R.J.

Major & A.A.G.

States that he has written a short sketch of Gen. Howard's life for the magazine "Hours at home."

[The following is the sketch of Gen. OO Howard. It has been transcribed from "Hours at Home: A Popular Monthly, Devoted to Religious and Useful Literature", Vol 1, No. 6, October, 1865, pp 565-569. Ed. J. M. Sherwood. Published by: Charles Scribner & Col, New York]

MAJOR-GENERAL HOWARD

[Written by Major R.H. Wilbur]

MAJOR-GENERAL OLIVER O. HOWARD, who now stands so prominently before this nation as Chief of the Bureau of Freedmen, was born in Leeds, Maine, November eighth, 1880. He graduated at Bowdoin College in 1850, and the same year entered the Military Academy at West-Point, where he graduated in 1854, standing No. 4 in his class.

He was assigned to the Ordnance Department, and served for a period in Florida, but was soon ordered to the Watervliet and Augusta arsenals as Inspector of Ordnance. Relieved from this duty, for several years previous to the war he had been stationed at West-Point, in the capacity of Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

At the breaking out of hostilities, he applied to the War Department for leave to command a regiment from his native State, which application was not granted. Thereupon he tendered his resignation, which was accepted. He was soon after appointed Colonel of the Third Maine Volunteers, and left with his regiment for Washington, and participated in the first battle of Bull Run, where he commanded a brigade.

His gallantry and modest worth having been made apparent in that disastrous engagement, he was, on the third of September following, appointed a Brigadier-General of Volunteers, and assigned to the command of a brigade in General Casey's Provisional Division, then on duty in and around Washington. On the first of December, 1861, his brigade was detached from General Casey's command, and assigned to that of General Sumner, by whom it was made the First Brigade of that justly celebrated division known as the First of the Second Army Corps.

In the spring of 1862, General Howard's brigade formed a part of the magnificent army that accompanied General McClellan to the Peninsula. In this campaign, General Howard's Brigade was first engaged at Fair Oaks, June first, 1862. It was here, while leading a charge that broke and checked the enemy's advance, that he lost his right arm.

Weak and fainting from hemorrhage, and the severe shock which his system had sustained, the next day he started for his home in Maine. He remained there only about two months, during which time he was not idle. Visiting various localities in his native State, he made patriotic appeals to the people, to come forward and sustain the Government. Pale, emaciated, and with one sleeve tenantless, he stood up before them, the embodiment of all that is good, and true, and noble in manhood. He talked to them as only one truly loyal can talk — as one largely endowed with that patriotism which is a heritage of the New-England blood. Modesty, sincerity, and earnestness characterized his addresses, and his fervent appeals drew hundreds of recruits around the National standard.

Before he had recovered from his wound, and against the advice of his surgeon, he returned again to the field, and took part in the second battle of Bull Run, commanding a brigade in the Second Division of the Second Corps. His own brigade was at this time temporarily commanded by General Caldwell. At the battle of Antietam, General Howard was still in command of the same brigade until General Sedgwick was wounded, when he assumed command of the division. He was thereafter permanently assigned to this division, and was in command of it at the battle of Fredericksburgh, in December, 1862. In this sanguinary action, the troops of Howard's division were the first to effect a lodgment in the town, and the last to leave it.

On the twenty-ninth of November, 1862, General Howard was commissioned a Major-General of Volunteers. He remained in command of the Second Division until April first, 1868, when he was assigned to the command of the Eleventh Corps.

He had been at the head of this corps only thirty days at the time of the battle of Chancellorsville, on which occasion it had the misfortune to acquire an unenviable reputation. Various causes combined to bring this temporary disgrace upon the corps, but it was chiefly owing to the discordant elements of which it was composed, and the want of harmony and concord among its several parts. Having just assumed command, General Howard had not become fully acquainted with his subordinate officers, and had been unable to reorganize the corps in such a manner as to make it efficient.

At the battle of Gettysburgh, two months subsequently, it redeemed its reputation signally, and demonstrated the marked ability of its commander. During the period immediately succeeding the battle of Chancellorsville, when the Eleventh Corps and its commander were temporarily beclouded, President Lincoln had uniformly expressed his unshaken confidence in General Howard. Against the clamor of certain parties for a change in the corps commander, he had persisted in saying that "Howard would bring it up to the work, only give him time." The subsequent history of the corps proved the sagacity of the President, and his marvelous power to measure the worth and capacity of individual men. The part taken by General Howard and his corps in the battle of Gettysburgh has become matter of history.

The first day's battle of Gettysburgh was fought, on the part of the Union forces, by the First and Eleventh Corps exclusively, commanded respectively by Major-Generals Reynolds and Howard. In the absence of the Commander-in-Chief, who was coming up with the main army, the two Generals cooperated harmoniously, and made such disposition of their troops, as secured the admirable position against which, for two days and nights, the superior forces of the enemy were hurled without success. The gallant and lamented Reynolds became a martyr on the soil of his native State, but an omnipotent hand preserved General Howard for other scenes of trial, and for the great work of freedom and humanity in which he is now engaged. Fully appreciating the important services rendered by General Howard in the conflict at Gettysburgh, the President sent him an autograph letter, thanking him in the warmest terms. Congress also gave him a vote of thanks.

In September following, gloomy tidings of disaster came northward from Tennessee. The battle of Chickamauga had been fought, and the Union army was unsuccessful. Rosecrans was shut up in Chattanooga, far from a base of supplies, and the surrender of his army, or an ignominious retreat, was imminent.

The Army of the Potomac was then front to front with General Lee on the Rapidan. The Eleventh and Twelfth

Corps were detached from it, and ordered to the assistance of Rosecrans. Howard commanded the Eleventh Corps and Slocum the Twelfth, and the two, united, were placed under the command of General Hooker. Twenty thousand of the Potomac men were going to the relief of their imperiled brethren of the West, and were about to stand with them, shoulder to shoulder, in the struggle for a permanent foothold among the mountains that cluster around the "Hawk's Nest"

The men of the West had somehow imbibed an opinion that the Potomac men were inferior to them in fighting qualities. They had been told that the soldiers of the East wore paper collars and white gloves, and enjoyed the luxury of butter! How could men fight who were accustomed to be pampered with such delicacies? Now it was that the valor and respective merits of the troops from the two sections were about to be tried simultaneously, each in presence of the other; the trial to be repeated thereafter on many an ensanguined field.

Arrived at Bridgeport, in Alabama, and on the Tennessee River, thirty miles below Chattanooga, General Hooker at once made a brilliant and successful move up the river, and opened communication with the beleaguered army. In effecting this, a terrific battle was fought at Wauhatchie, within four miles of Chattanooga, during the night of October twenty-eighth, 1863. The attack was made by a portion of Longstreet's corps and was intended to be a surprise. A part of General Howard's command was engaged, but the brunt of the assault fell upon a few regiments of Geary's division, of the Twelfth Corps, commanded by the latter General in person. General Howard, accompanied by a few mounted men, penetrated the enemy's lines in a forest at the dead hour of night, and reached Geary's small command in safety. The enemy having possession of the ground between him and Geary, the experiment was one of extreme hazard. His presence inspired hope and confidence in the hearts of the sorely-pressed men of the Twelfth Corps, to whom he brought the assurance of succor near at hand. Ere the promised relief arrived, the enemy beat a hasty retreat, and the river and railroad from Bridgeport to Chattanooga were ours indisputably.

Meantime Grant had finished his work on the Mississippi, and reaching Chattanooga only a few days before, had assumed command of the army.

Four weeks later, the battles of Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, and Ringgold were fought, and the rebel army under Bragg was driven many miles from

Chattanooga, never more to flaunt its colors from the wild and rocky heights that encircle the town Lookout Mountain, dipping its feet in the waters of the Tennessee, and towering thence upward nearly three thousand feet, flung to the breeze that played around its summit, the starry flag of our fathers, and the lesser heights of Mission Ridge were not behind in demonstrations of loyalty.

In this series of battles, the Potomac men had been placed on the two flanks of the combined Union army. Hooker and Geary, on the right, had assaulted and carried Lookout, while Sherman and Howard, on the left, had attacked Mission Ridge, and were equally successful in the part allotted to them.

It was here that Generals Sherman and Howard first met. Sherman's greeting was characteristic of the man—frank, cordial, and blunt; Howard's was quiet, modest, and dignified.

Temperaments so widely contrasted could not but fraternize, so prone are men to be attracted by those qualities wherein others differ from themselves. From that day they became warm friends, and the confidence bestowed by Sherman upon his more youthful lieutenant increased to the end of the war.

Immediately after these successes, Howard's corps accompanied Sherman to Knoxville, to relieve Burnside from perils similar to those which had environed Rosecrans at Chattanooga. It was a long march, in the month of December, and the troops suffered greatly from hardships endured.

The siege of Knoxville being raised and Longstreet forced to retire, General Howard, with his corps, returned with Sherman to Chattanooga.

When, early in the spring following, General Sherman organized his army for the grand campaign that had for its object the taking of Atlanta, the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps were consolidated, under Hooker, and became the Twentieth Corps. Howard was then assigned to the Fourth Corps, which he commanded with signal ability during the long and arduous campaign succeeding. Fighting was well-nigh continuous, during a period of one hundred days, embracing the entire summer months.

The fidelity and Christian fortitude of General Howard were most conspicuous on this campaign. He prayed with his command, and fought with them, alternately. His unostentatious piety commanded the respect of all. Men loved him because of his humility as a Christian, and his bravery as a soldier. His higher trust was in God, with whom he was wont to commune daily in the seclusion of his temporary quarters in the forest.

". . . Pure Sincerity Delights to kneel in solitude, and feels God's presence most, where none but God beholds." Profanity closed its lips in his presence, and gambling and drunkenness were abashed, and turned away to hide themselves at his approach.

On one occasion, a wagon-master, whose teams were floundering through the bottomless mud of a Georgia swamp, became exasperated at the unavoidable delay, and indulged in such a torrent of profanity as can only be heard in the army and among men of his class. General Howard had quietly approached, unperceived by the offender, and was an unwilling listener to the blasphemous words. The wagon-master, on turning round, saw his General in close proximity, and made haste to apologize for his profane outburst, by saying : " Excuse me, General ; I did not know you were here." The General, looking a reprimand, replied : " I would prefer that you abstain from swearing from a higher and better motive than because of my presence."

The perils and fatigues of the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta have never yet been written. During the heat of summer, in a semi-tropical climate, and through an all-abounding forest but recently surrendered to civilization by the Cherokees, the army fought its way step by step, against a force nearly equal, for a distance of one hundred and thirty miles. There was abundant need of Christian fortitude, and faith in God and the right. Many thousands who left Chattanooga with that patriot army, and penetrated the undeveloped region, now sleep in obscure graves in these pine solitudes. But God was there, as everywhere, and such as called on him prayerfully were heard and answered with sustaining power.

These were among the dark days of the country—days when good men had need to pray as well as fight—days when peace with a Union preserved, seemed a long way off. But "the night is long that never finds the day." On the second of September, 1864, Hood's army having been defeated and put to rout, the Union forces under Sherman entered Atlanta in triumph.

During a severe battle before Atlanta, on the twenty-second of July, the lamented General McPherson was killed. By his death, the command of the Army of the Tennessee became vacant, and General Howard was by Sherman appointed to the position. It was a marked honor to confer upon one of the youngest major-generals in the service, and besides, it was setting at naught the prejudices of the Western men, by placing over them a general from the Potomac army. There were other generals in Sherman's command technically entitled to precedence over Howard, but their claims were ignored by the Commander-in-Chief for reasons satisfactory to himself. The Army of the Tennessee was composed exclusively of Western troops, with whom Howard had not been immediately identified; and the writer of this remembers with what anxiety the friends of General Howard contemplated the result of this apparent innovation. But it may be said that the rank and file of the Union army have generally fought well under any leader, and when it has been otherwise, it has usually been owing to the incompetency of officers placed over them.

On the evening of July twenty-seventh, General Howard joined his new command, and on the morning of the twenty-eighth, he formed them hastily in position, to repel an attack of the combined rebel army led on by Hood in person. For eight hours in full view of the spires and house-tops of Atlanta, the battle raged with impetuous fury. The rebel commander, finding it impossible to break through Howard's lines, withdrew within the fortifications of the city. After the battle had ceased, our newly-appointed army warrior, small in stature and bereft of an arm, rode along his lines to congratulate his men on their stubborn and successful resistance of the attack. His officers and soldiers, elated by their victory, greeted him with unbounded enthusiasm and applause. During the twelve hours he had been in command, he had secured their entire confidence. They had tried him and were satisfied. Thenceforward the relations between the body and the head were most amicable, and the attachment increased in degree, down to the period of final separation at Washington.

On the thirteenth of December, 1864, General Howard was commissioned Brigadier-General in the regular army.

Few men have acted a more conspicuous part in the war than he, and none have come out of it with a more enviable reputation. "The record of illustrious actions," says Daniel Webster, "is most safely deposited in the universal remembrance of mankind." General Howard, we are confident, will command the respect and admiration of posterity, as he now has the gratitude and confidence of the country he served so well. Kindly-tempered and courteous, with a form slight and suggestive of effeminacy, and manners denoting the polished gentleman, he greets you with a simple, quiet friendliness that captivates the heart. There is in him none of that frigid austerity we are apt to associate with the ideal soldier, nothing of that brusque, semi-barbarous manner which indicates the professional warrior, whose business it is to kill and be killed.

Plutarch describes Coriolanus as terrible, not only for the force of his arm, but also for the power of his voice. Neither of these elements of power are largely developed in General Howard. His strength consists in a well-balanced mind, unswerving fidelity to truth and rectitude, and a conscientious discharge of duty as it is made apparent. He is emphatically the soldier's friend, and does not lose sight of the fact that all heroes do not wear shoulder-straps or lead regiments. Above all, and better than all, he is a devout man ; one who believes that the gates of heaven are low-arched, and we can enter them only upon our knees.

The duties of Howard's present position are most arduous and embarrassing. There is perhaps under the government no more difficult work to be done than that which has been assigned to him. His anti-slavery opinions are well known, but it is equally well known that they are free from a blind fanaticism. In speaking of the great work in which he is engaged, he says: "We must do what we can to overcome prejudice and opposition, by carrying with us the spirit of Christ into every nook and corner of the South, rejoicing over every foot of ground gained, and being never discouraged at contumely or failure."

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3024 10/6/1865 *From:* Unknown

*To:* Major General O O  
Howard

OOH-2967

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[183]

Major General O O Howard  
Dear Sir

You are as <announced> in our paper to speak here on the 11th.

Allow me to say that <Toeworth> is still open and will give you a cordial welcome during your stay, if it suits your convenience.

I need not say how much pleasure we should receive if our friend Mrs Howard should accompany you.

Let me know your movements that I may provide conveyance.

Yours respy

<>

6 Oct 1865

Stuart has sold his country place.

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3025 10/6/1865

*From:* Geo. Whipple

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2968

American Missionary  
Association,  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[292, 293]

American Missionary Association,  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York, Oct 6, 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
General

I am instructed by the Com. of Arrangements for the next Annual Meeting of the American Missionary Association, to invite you to be present and make an address.

The meeting is to be held in the Plymouth Church, (Henry Ward Beecher's) Brooklyn, Oct 25 and 26th.

We have thought that such an occasion might furnish you an excellent opportunity to lay before the christians and philanthropists not only of New York and Brooklyn, but of the whole Union and I may say of the world, your views of what the providences of God, and the exigencies of the present time, demand of them in relation to the Freedmen of the United States.

Our meeting will commence Wed. P.M., with the Secretaries reports; a sermon Wedy. Evening by Rev. D. Kirk of Boston. Thursday P.M. the communion of the Lords supper will occupy a part of the time, the rest of the day will be devoted mainly to a consideration of topics connected with the work among the Freedmen. Thursday evening we devote to public addresses. Rev. H.W. Beecher will make one of them.

Permit me to express the earnest hope that you will avail yourself of this occasion, to arouse the christian mind in relation to this great work. I feel the more free to present this request, because our organization tho' christian and evangelical in character, is not denominational.

Please favor me with an early reply.

Yours truly  
Geo. Whipple, Sec.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Am. Miss. Asscn.  
New York, Oct 6th 1865  
Whipple, Geo. Secy.

Invites Gen. Howard to address the Am. Miss. Assn. in Rev. H.W. Beechers church on the 25th or 26th of Oct 1865

C.B. p239

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 7 1865

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3026 10/6/1865 *From:* John W. Sullivan

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2969

Boscawen, N  
Hampshire

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[115, 116]

Boscawen, N Hampshire,  
Oct 6, 1865.

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir:

While absent from my home in Boston, I have seen in a recent number of the Commonwealth, an article which states that "Gen Saxton has lost one of his best officers, (Gen Wild) who has been relieved by Gen Grant, and gives as a reason for this, the greater partiality of Gen W for negroes, & earnestness to secure for them their personal rights, than for rebel white men, within his district."

I beg to say to you that Gen. W is my son in law & since he has in all hands been acknowledged to have been a self sacrificing & faithful officer during the war, and cannot probably be charged with any higher than that of sympathizing with the oppressed. I have strong hope that through your influence he may have the same justice meted out to him at the hands of the Government as has been recently accorded to Maj Gen. Palmer who stood accused of similar partiality for the negro, & aversion to the men.

And he I see it is noticed was called to Washington to state his own case, & in a hearing of the same was fully justified & acquitted by the Government.

If you can procure it for him, I pray you to give Gen Wild a like opportunity, & I feel certain you will rejoice in the result of so doing.

With a deep & lively interest in the ground work in which you are engaged & the highest respect & consideration for yourself, I seek for you & for your Bureau, the continual favor & blessing of Almighty God.

Very truly yrs,  
John W. Sullivan

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Bokawen N.J.

Sullivan, Jno. W.

Asking that his son-in-law Gen. Wild may come to Washington and represent his own case.

60. C.B.

Recd Oct 9, 1865

Answered

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3027 10/7/1865 *From:* James E Rhoads

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2970

*Source:* Bowdoin

Penn'a. Freedmen's  
Relief Association,  
No. 424 Walnut Street,  
Philada.

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[204, 205]

Penn'a. Freedmen's Relief Association,  
No. 424 Walnut Street, Philada.  
10 mo (Oct) 7, 1865

To Major General O.O. Howard,  
Dear Friend,

A sense of the good to the cause of the Freedmen which may result from thy presence at the meeting in Philadelphia here, on the evening of the 11th inst. induces me to add a word to the invitations of the Committee. Our whole community almost has shown much apathy about the cause of late, the excitement of the election will be over, and the fact of the meeting not being till after the election, will strip it of all suspicion of political character, and leave an opportunity for what is really needed to inform the public mind and arouse the public conscience regarding this great cause to the nation, to humanity and to religion. When our people are made to see that a great work must be done; - has sound and strong claims upon them as christians and patriots, they are ready to help freely; but now they seem to feel that the war is over, & the country must take care of itself. Come and help to enlighten & arouse them to their duty. We will gladly pay any expense which thy coming may involve.

Pardon the Alert I thus take and believe me,  
Most respectfully and truly thy friend,  
James E Rhoads Cor Secty Penna Freedmen's Relief Assn.

To Major General O.O. Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Oct. 7, 1865

Rhoades, James E.

Invites Gen. Howard to be present at the Phila. meeting on the 11th inst.

C.B. p248.

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3028 10/7/1865

*From:* Wm Coppinger

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2971

Colonization Rooms,  
Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[120]

Colonization Rooms,  
Washington, D.C. October 7, 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir

I enclose for your acceptance and perusal a small tract, containing the testimony of several Naval officers who have visited Liberia in the performance of their duties, and who would have readily seen the least tendency to a relapse into barbarism on the part of the American people of color settled in that Republic. The evidence presented is the very reverse of this, and encourages us to persevere in our efforts to improve and elevate the African race.

I judge that you do not give evidence to the charges against Liberia to which you alluded this morning, yet it may strengthen your faith in Colonization to know that the truth is supported by impartial and intelligent witnesses.

Yours most respectfully,  
Wm Coppinger  
Cor. Sec. A.C.S.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Washington Oct. 7. 1865  
Coppinger, Wm.  
Cor Sec. Am. Colonization Assn.  
Encloses tract concerning colonies of blacks established in Liberia

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3029 10/7/1865 *From:* Ellis Yarnall

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2972

Philad'a.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[206, 207]

Philad'a. Oct 7, 1865

Dear Sir

A paragraph in the Press of this date states that you have it under consideration to attend a meeting which is to held here – they say on the 12th. It is barely possible you may be under a misapprehension in regard to the date at which the meeting is to be held – it is really the evening of Wednesday the 11th.

Bishop McIlvaine of Ohio who has accepted very promptly our invitation to him to preside at the meeting expresses his strong desire that you should be present. He alluded in the conversation I had with him to his knowledge of you long years ago at West Point, and also to his having met you once since in the field. I told him I would inform you of the desire he had thus expressed.

Mr Beecher & Dr Bellows of New York have agreed to be present –also of course Bishop Simpson.

Trusting your other duties may permit your being with us –I remain

Yrs faithfully  
Ellis Yarnall

To/ Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Oct. 7, 1865

Yarnall, E.

Invites Genl Howard to attend a meeting of the C. Com. In Phila. on Wed. evening Oct. 11th.

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3030 10/9/1865

*From:* D. C. McCallum

*To:* Railroad Managers

OOH-2974

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Office of  
Director and General  
Manager of Military Rail  
Roads, U.S.  
Washington

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[208]

War Department  
Office of  
Director and General Manager of Military Rail Roads, U.S.  
Washington Octr 9th 1865

Railroad Managers  
Gentlemen.

The Bearer of this Maj Genl. O.O. Howard and personal aid, are travelling on business connected with the Freedmans Bureau.

The mileage paid by Government comes far short of paying the expenses the General is obliged to incur. And inasmuch as the mission of the General is one of more than ordinary character and one in which we are all deeply interested, may I bespeak for him the courtesy of a free Pass of your line.

I am very Respectfully  
Your Obt Sevt  
D. C. McCallum [Daniel Craig McCallum]  
Brev. Brig Gen Directr & Genl Manr M.R.R.U.S.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington Oct 9th 65

McCullum D.C.

Bvt Brig Gen.

Recommends that Railroad managers pass General Howard and aid free passes enclosed.  
3 enclosures

[The following are three separate railroad passes.]

Pass free to Gaston and back to Petersburg. Maj Genl O.O. Howard and his aid.

C O Sanford

Pres. Petg RR Co

Oct 10, 1865

Pass free over the R.&G.R.R.

Genl O O Howard and his aid

Octo 12th 1865

R.N. Lasseter

Predt. R & G RR Co.

Vicksburg, Nov 9th 1865

Conductors will pass free Maj Genl Howard & aid from Vicksburg to Jackson.

C.A. Reading

Supt.

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**3031** 10/11/1865 *From:* W. King

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2976

New York

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[209]

New York 11th Oct 1865

Washington D.C.  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
My dear Sir

I returned last night from my journey for over a month in the N.E. States. This visit has been a most gratifying one to me in its results, and I think will be no less gratifying to you. You will be sustained in whatever course that you may think most advisable to regulate the labor of the Freedmen.

Be pleased to inform me (directing to the "Care of Ralph King Esq No 59 Beaver St New York"). If you will be in Washington the next week and I will immediately make you another visit an probably Mr. Edward S. Tobey of Boston will accompany me on a visit to you. Please advise me by earliest mail.

Very respy General  
Your Ob Sevt  
W. King  
of Georgia

Should Genl Howard be now absent from Washington will Genl Fullerton inform me when will he return.

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3032 10/11/1865 *From:* Geo W. Hoxie  
J. F. Lyman  
J. D. Pray  
OOH-2977  
*Source:* Bowdoin  
Hamilton Literary  
Association  
Brooklyn NY.

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*To:* Gen. Oliver O Howard

[210]

Brooklyn NY.  
Oct 11th 1865

Gen. Oliver O Howard  
Dear Sir

On behalf of the Hamilton Literary Association of the city of Brooklyn we hereby tender you a cordial invitation to lecture before the people of Brooklyn at the Academy of Music at any time during the ensuing season which to you may be the most convenient.

Although the Association is literary in character, the topic, whether literary, political or otherwise is left entirely to your choice.

The times suggest many questions in regard to which the people of this city would be rejoiced to hear the views of one whose genius and patriotic career as well as philanthropic labors have made a name so illustrious as your own.

Hoping to receive an early and an affirmative reply. We are with sentiments of the highest regard.

Very respectfully Yours  
Geo W. Hoxie  
J. F. Lyman  
J. D. Pray  
Lecture Committee of the Hamilton Literary Association of the city of Brooklyn

P.S.  
Our address is 60 Wall Street New York city.

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3033 10/13/1865 *From:* Ellis Malone M.D.

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2979

Louisburg NC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[213]

Louisburg NC Oct 13th 1865

To Maj. Genl. Howard

Dear Sir

I wrote some days ago to Major Whittlesey at Raleigh, (I did not know until recently that he was the same identical Major Whittlesey who was at my house with you & others last spring), inviting him to come over to my house on a visit & notifying him if he would let me know the morning he would be at the depot I would have my carriage there to meet him.

I see by Raleigh papers that you had arrived in Raleigh. Can you spare time from your perplexing duties to come over & see us. I wrote you at Washington City some time ago, but know not whether you received the letter before you left the city. I should like to have some hours with you. You & Major Whittlesey impressed me & my family more favorably than any of the officers of the Federal army we have seen & if convenient should like to see you again under more <quiet> circumstances

It can give you some information which might be of service to you in your office & to others who are out of office. Please let me hear how you – many care & trouble, and <anxieties> treated me since I saw you.

Yours respectfully &c

Ellis Malone M.D.

P.S. If you can come & bring the Major with you. Come if possible in-cog - as otherwise you will be so besieged that your visit will be of little pleasure to me or yourselves.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Lousburg N.C. Oct 13 65

Malone, Elliss

Desires Gen. Howard to call upon him whilst in Raleigh N.C.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 19 1865

[Written in a third hand.]

Private letter to Gen Howard from Ellis Malone M.D.

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3034 10/14/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2980

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Headq'rs Southern  
District of N.C.,  
Wilmington, N.C.

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[627]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Headq'rs Southern District of N.C.,  
Wilmington, N.C. Oct 14 1865

Dearest

I meant to have written you from Raleigh, but I really could not get time opportunity or strength. Being separated from you & from servants bother me considerably. I am getting spoilt by receiving too much assistance at home <>. I had on the whole a very pleasant visit at Raleigh. The convention was in session and I had the privilege of addressing that august body & of pleading the interest of my charge. Some men have come to see me.

Good bye & God bless you. We are quite well. Love to the children.

Lovingly  
Otis

---

3035 10/14/1865 *From:* Randal Ross

*To:* Dear Gen [OO Howard]

OOH-2981

San Antonio De Bexar  
Texas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[214]

San Antonio De Bexar Texas  
Oct. 14th 1865

Dear Gen.

We expect soon to be mustered out of the service, as we hope so. I will then be at liberty to engage in some other vocation than that of Chaplain of a Regiment.

I feel that the great duty of Christians and good men and women not claimed men as Christians, is the speedy elevation of the Colored people now free in the Government.

As a Christian Minister I am willing to do my part in this work. I have in my discharge of duty as a private soldier for two years in Virginia North Carolina and South Carolina, done what I could in preaching to the colored folks and distributing spelling books among them. And for the last two years as Chaplain in the Cumberland Army I have paid special attention to this race wherever opportunity offered in which I have distributed over 5000 spelling books. I love the work and these people and would feel honored by having an opportunity of assisting in this work. If you need my humble services in any part of the work I am at your service. I send you such testimonials as I have at hand that you can use if my services are needed.

I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing Gen Gregory. The Colored folks of San Antonio have organized a school on their own responsibility. Many negroes have been carried to this state from other Southern States thinking to save them from freedom. But it overtook them even here, and the colored folks are left here to shift for themselves.

Very respectfully yours &c  
Randal Ross  
Chaplain 16th D.V.V.I.  
1st Brig. 3D Div 4th A.C.

P.S. I will be glad to hear from you if convenient.

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3036 10/17/1865 *From:* W. E. Boardman

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2982

334 S 12th St.  
Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[216]

334 S 12th St.  
Phila Oct 17th 1865

Dear Bro,

The meeting of the American Christian Commission to organize add to its number and enter upon its work, is to be held in the room of the American Board of Commissions for Foreign Missions Bible House, New York at 19 A.M. Wednesday Oct 25th.

The great importance of the meeting renders it highly desirable that every member should be present.

Very respectfully and truly yours,  
W. E. Boardman  
<Tempay> Secy

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Oct. 17th 1865

Boardman, W.E.

Gives notice of a meeting of the Am. Chris. Com. in New York Oct 25 inst.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 20 1865

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3037 10/18/1865 *From:* Saml. M.  
Warrington Jr.  
OOH-2983 Wilmington Del.

*To:* Maj. Gen'l. O.O. Howard

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[217]

Wilmington Del. Oct. 18. 1865

Maj. Gen'l. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Executive Committee of the Wilmington Institute, a copy of whose annual report is herewith sent, to invite you to deliver one of a course of lectures in this city during the coming season.

Permit me to assure you of a cordial welcome and a warm hospitality, due to your gallant services in the field, and to your <pensive efficient> and <fluceant of efforts>.

I trust that you can reply naming time and terms, will signify your acceptance.

Very Truly Yours,  
Saml. M. Warrington Jr.  
Chm'n Lect Com.

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3038 10/19/1865 *From:* Calvin Holley

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard,

OOH-2984A

Vicksburg, Miss

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181]

Vicksburg, Miss, Oct, 19th 1865  
Sir Major, General, Howard,

I wish to ask your advice in regard to getting up a Colored Bank or place of safety where, col. people can deposit their money so they can have something to fall back upon on case of need.

And we want to get the privilege to manage this thing ourselves.

We are thankful fo our friends for all they have done for us and Still ask their cooperation to help us get those rights we need to protect our person and property, and we do believe that our interest is best Secured when we can help manage and manage our own business.

You will please suggest the best place to form Such an association, I have written to Chief Justice Chase, and Secretary Stanton in reguarde to the matter you will please consult, and if it meets your approbation you will please give me an anseer as soon as convenient

Calvin Holley, of Shelby Co O. Privte on detch Lut at Col Thomas hed. qur. address Vicks. Miss Box 2d C.  
Holley.

Your most Respectfully,

[Enclosed was a letter to Mr Stanton, dated Oct 19, 1865.]

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3039 10/19/1865 *From:* Calvin Holley

*To:* Mr. [Edwin] Stanton

OOH-2984B

Vicksburg, Miss

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter was enclosed in a letter to OO Howard, dated Oct 19, 1865.]

[182]

Vicksburg, Miss, Oct 19th 1865.

Sir, Mr. [Edwin] Stanton,

I wish to ask your advice, in regard to getting up a Colored Bank, or place of Safety where Col. people can deposit their money, So they can have Something to fall back upon in case of need.

And we want to get the privilege to manage this thing ourselves.

We are thankful to our friends for all they have done for us, and Still ask their cooperation to help us get all those rights, we so much stand in need of to protect our person and property, and we do believe that our interest is best secured when we can help to manage and manage our own business.

You will please suggest the best place to form Such an association. I would suggest Vicks. Miss. If it meets your approbation, Calvin Holley, of Shelby Co. O. privt, on detch, Leut. at Col Thomas head qur. I have written to Chief Justice Chase and General Howard concerning this matter you will please consult, and give me an anseer as soon as convenient.

And dress, Vicksburg, Miss.

Box 2d C. Holley,

Yours most Respectfully

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Vicksburg Miss

Oct. 19, 1865

C. Holly

Writes respecting the organizing of a Bank in Miss. to be exclusively managed, and controlled by col'd persons.

H. 2347 Nov. 2nd/65

Freed. Bureau

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D NOV 3 1865

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3040 10/19/1865 *From:* Jno D Myrick

*To:* Major Gen O O Howard

OOH-2985

Norfolk Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[213]

Norfolk Va  
Oct 19th 65

Major Gen O O Howard  
My Dear Sir

I recd my pardon this morning –and permit me to return my many thanks for the kindness you extended to me. If you should want any thing done in the South that I can attend to for you I will do it with great pleasure. Again I return you my many thanks. One of your staff I saw in N York, & he says he will accompany me to Florida this winter. I would be pleased to have the pleasure of your company.

I am Gen.  
Vy Resly  
Jno D Myrick

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Norfolk Va  
19th October  
Myrick J.D.  
Letter of thanks.  
Recd Oct 23rd 1865  
Ans. Nov 24

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3041 10/19/1865 *From:* William Whaley

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2986

99 Broad Street  
Charleston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[219]

99 Broad Street  
Thursday 19 Oct [1865]

General

I have the honor to acknowledge your informing me of your intention to restore the lands upon the terms agreed upon. I trust that full justice will always be done to the people by the Land owners, and that you will never have cause to regret it. With many thanks for kind consideration.

I am your faithfully  
William Whaley

General Howard

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Charleston Oct 19th / 65  
Whaley, William

Acknowledges receipt of Genl Howards communication informing him of the intention to restore the Sea Islands.

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3042 10/22/1865 *From:* Jno D. Myrick

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2987

Norfolk Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[221]

Norfolk Va.  
Oct. 22nd 65

Maj Gen O O Howard  
Gen.

I have arrived at the point my book, which I will publish in a month or so. Where I am discussing the Slavery Question, you will recollect I spoke to you when I was in Washington, & you recommend that there should be a meeting of delegates of all the Southern States, who should meet at some place to discuss, & consider the question. What place do you recommend? Richmond, Montgomery or Columbia? In speaking of the convention shall I make it as a suggestion from you? Or myself. I would rather use your name in this question. It will have more influence? Write me your view if you please in order that we may agree.

I am General  
Most Resply  
Your obt svt  
Jno D. Myrick

P.S. Let me use your name. I will not in any way commit you. For your <sentiments> mine on the <> agree in full.

[Written sideways on the back page in a different hand.]  
Norfolk Oct 22 1865  
Myrick, John D.  
Concerning a convention to settle the labor question.  
Recd Oct 23rd 1865  
Ansd Nov 24 1865

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3043 10/23/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2978

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Charleston, S.C.,

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[628]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Charleston, S.C., Oct 23rd, 1865

Dearest,

It is very late & I have just finished some important letters. Our boat broke today & we put back and may be detained here owing to a strong wind, if so I will write you tomorrow. We are all quite well. Glad to get your letter. You will be more contented when the house is clean & your husband is home again. Is it not so. Gen & Mrs Saxton have made my stay here very pleasant. Much love to the children & yr self.

Lovingly yr husband  
Otis

---

3044 10/23/1865 *From:* Alfred T. Goodman *To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2988

Hon W. H. Miller,  
M.C.Harrisburg, Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[222, 223]

Harrisburg, Pa.  
October 23, 1865

My dear Sir,

I am directed to write and ask whether your engagements are such as will permit you to favor the citizens of Harrisburg with a lecture or address during the coming season. We are endeavoring to inaugurate a course of lectures, and our people would be delighted to hear you. I have no doubt you would enjoy a visit to our State Capitol. The proceeds of our lectures are to be applied to benevolent objects. Please have the kindness to favor me with an early reply, stating what evening either in Nov'r, Dec'r or January you can be with us –also your terms, subject &c.

Hoping to receive your favorable answer, I remain  
Very truly a friend  
Alfred T. Goodman

Address  
Care Hon W. H. Miller, M.C.  
Harrisburg, Pa

Gen. Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Harrisburg Pa  
Oct. 23 / 65  
Goodman, A.T.

Inquires if Genl Howard can lecture in that place during the coming season.

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3045 10/23/1865 *From:* Esther Graves

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2989

Barnwell Island Box 74  
Beaufort SC.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[224]

Barnwell Island Oct 23d 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard

Having the honor to address you asking a favor. Your staff has made appropriation for army nurses. I wish to apply for my services, as I left the hospital impaired in health & low in purse. If you can conscientiously give a testimonial in my favor, I would esteem it a great kindness.

I will state I was in hospital different kinds near three years since I left having given what time I could to the soldier.

Yours most respectfully  
Esther Graves

Address Box 74 Beaufort SC.

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3046 10/26/1865 *From:* Wm Heyward

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2995

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[154, 155, 156] [Note, the letter has a tear, ink blots, and tape making some of the words difficult to read.]

Augusta Oct 26th / 65

To  
Maj. Gen. Howard  
General

I can be expected that you will recall the incident of your travel through the country, which have no doubt been <> and frequent.

I am induced to call to your recollection an occurrence in which I was concerned on the occasion of your leaving the So. Ca. R.R. Depot on the morning of the 20th inst. On entering the Car and about to take my seat, I observed to a friend, that I thought the Negro was doomed to be driven out. You addressed yourself to me, rather reprovngly, I thought, and seeming to understand me that I wished the Negro driven out; but I hope you were satisfied with the correction I then made. I was not aware that I had the honor of addressing Gen Howard; and I am not sorry that I was unconscious of the fact. My hearing is bad and my memory is worse; but something I said <induced> you to say - that I should pray for my enemies and it was so often repeated, that I thought I had encountered a saint in disguise. You may recollect that I expressed myself not very forgiving towards my enemies; and I wish to be so understood now.

When I discovered who you were, I had every inclination <to have> another opportunity to converse with you on < matters > which you, and all of us are so deeply interested <about> a painful affection of the fate incapacitated <> making the attempt. I could not but observe that you were quite accessible to all.

We have heard much of Gen. Howard, and are glad to <find> that he has been ordered on a special personal <inspection> of the affairs of his department.

We are willing to think, that one enjoying a reputation of honesty and candour can otherwise than <> by the observations he might make of <the> working <of> the new system . May I ask if Gen. Howard ever <addressed> the working of the old system? If he did, <is he> yet prepared to say which he thinks the better of the twain? If he should answer, that he <never has> not yet had time to develop itself. I will ask what prospect he has of future improvements.

The Negro has been more than 200 years in this Country in a state of slavery. Has he improved, or otherwise, his original condition? How is it with those liberated <in> the Islands of St Domingo, and Jamaca, the one 65 the other <> years since? Can we believe the accounts of the evident barbarism into which they have lapsed? Do you believe that the Negro can live with the white man in any other than a subordinate, and menial position? Do they enjoy any other in the former free states? By what right are we inflicted with the curse of equality so repugnant to our feelings & ideas of comfort and happiness? But I will ask – is the Negro benefited by this pretended philanthropy?

I defy any person to point to me a single instance in his experience where the Negro has been benefited, and I will show him a hundred where it has been a curse.

The slave trade was conducted by English and Puritan Capital, and enterprize, and continued adverse to our wishes. And these are the people who having been enriched by the infamous trafic in human flesh , now that the barbarian has been Christianized and Civilized, and has given evidence of kind treatment by unprecedented increase that he is satisfied and happy, have waged a Demonic war against those in every way their superiors in honor honesty & integrity, professedly to protect the national honor, and to liberate the slaved African, but in truth to gratify a malignd envious hatred towards a people in every noble attribute their superiors, and to crush an Aristocracy they <desired> but to which they could not attain. The deed is done, and we accept it as God's work, at the hands of an ignoble race. His chosen people, you will recollect General were of old oppressed and conquered by those He had doomed to extermination. If we had been conquered by a fair and equal warfare, I

hope I could have generosity to admit and admire the superiority. But it has been by no such means. With an overwhelming Army, contributed by the whole world not excepting our own slaves, with all the mechanical inventions of Modern warfare, with the commerce of <North's> whole world, of which we were deprived, you have conquered us, but it is an empty conquest, so far as valor is concerned.

Our men in good faith have sheathed their swords and surrendered their arms. Exhaustedly the means supporting their families as before, they react to every honorable means to sustain their hungerous wives and children. But, as in the old Revolution our women are true, and the rising and future generations will be taught to despise a Nation who gloats in having conquered by brute force alone.

You admonish me to pray for my enemies. I am inclined to think, that your precept is in <advance> of your example. Did you pray for a bloodless <war> before you invaded our happy country and <desolated> it with more than savage warfare, and unequalled Atrocity? If you did, I fear, you were not sufficiently in earnest. You tell me to pray for my enemies\*. (\* I acknowledge no other enemies but Yankees.) I <tell> you plainly that I shall curse them with the last breath of my existence.

With thousands I have lost my property (others have lost more than that, and you will have to answer for that blood) by fire and sword, but would rather it so, and would not for the worlds wealth be numbered among your people.

I had almost omitted to mention that I charged that your people had violated the Constitution in not securing to us our property in slaves, guaranteed to us by that instrument. Am I correct when I assert that I understood you to say that there was no such guarantee? Do you think the expression people held to service did not mean slaves? If you do so assert General, I am amazed.

In the course of conversation you charged that our people had murdered yours, and did not credit the News Paper statements of the execution of a Citizen at Newberry, So Ca. By Negro-troops, with the sanction of Col. Trobridge, but promised to inquire into the matter. I hope you will do so. I charge that every instance of murder, and they are numerous, that have been committed by the Negroes of the country on the white inhabitants are chargeable to your people, and that they will have to answer for the blood of thousands.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Wm Heyward  
Of So Carolina

I beg leave to enclose for your inspection a slip from an Augusta Paper of this morning.

[Stamp on the last page.] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D DEC 20 1865

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3047 10/27/1865 *From:* Wm. H. Morris

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2990

No 50 Public Square  
Cleveland Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[220]

Cleveland, Oct 27th 65

Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I am requested by the Freedmans Aid Society (Colord) to correspond with you extending an invitation to Lecture during the Season and if favourable about what time and upon what terms, our object is to send clothing and Teachers among our destitute Bretherin in the South hoping a favourable reply,

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly  
Wm. H. Morris

No 50 Public Square  
Cleveland Ohio

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Cleveland, Oct 27 65

Morris, Wm H.

Invites Genl. Howard to lecture in that place.

Recd Oct 30th 1865

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3048 10/27/1865 *From:* H.W. Cobb

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2991

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[225, 226]

Office A. U. Comn. 90 Washington St.  
Chicago Oct 27th / 65

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

When you were in Chicago, perhaps you will recollect we talked with you about returning Refugees to their homes in the South. Your answer was something to this effect. If we should have any of that class who could be cared for at their old homes, you would secure a gratuitous passage for them. We have one family of that class, a widow with three children, she formally lived in Chesterfield County South Carolina, near Society Hill.

Will you please send the "Pass" on immediately so the Family can return before cold weather sets in, name, "Mrs Rebecca Winburn, & three children."

One thing more. We are in receipt of letters from Arkansas almost every week saying the Refugees of which there is about 2700 and all the Union Soldiers families in five counties and perhaps more, will perish for want of food and clothing unless the North West sends with a liberal hand. Can you secure Government transportation for Boxes of Clothing, and large quantities of wheat, corn &c. we find it hard work, to rouse up the northern people to noble deed of charity, after having done so much during the War, for our Soldiers, now the War is ended, and excitement died away, We as a people feel like lying down and resting awhile, therefore the slowness to take hold of new enterprises, or even caring for the poor & need of another State, but we hope to stimulate them to good works and not shut their ears to the cry of the perishing.

Please be particular about the Transportation matter,

Yours Truly  
Mr. H.W. Cobb Cor. Sec'y

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Chicago Oct 27, 1865  
Cobb, H.W.  
Cor. Secy. Am. U. Com.  
Asks for transportation for Loyal refugees.  
Rec Oct. 20, 1865  
Ansd Oct 31 / 1865

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3049 10/28/1865 *From:* G. Weitzel

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Maj. Genl.

OOH-2992

Headquarters Twenty-fifth Army Corps,  
In the field, Texas

Superintendent of  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington City  
D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[189, 190]

Headquarters Twenty-fifth Army Corps,  
In the field, Texas Oct 28th 1865

My dear General

Col. and Bvt Brig General Samuel C. Armstrong is very desirous to be placed on duty in your bureau and assigned to duty in South Carolina if possible.

He is the finest colonel I have in my corps, but his regiment is mustered out. He is in addition a most accomplished scholar and gentleman, whose whole heart and soul is interested in the welfare of the colored race.

He will be a valuable acquisition to your bureau if appointed.

I hope that he will be. With sincere regards

I am, Truly Yours  
G. Weitzel [USMA, Class of 1855]  
Maj. Genl.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
U.S. Army  
Superintendent of Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington City  
D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

In the Field, Texas

Dec 22nd 1865

Weitzel, G.

Maj. Genl.

Recommends for a position in the Bureau –Col. & Brevet Brig. Genl. Saml. C. Armstrong

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**3050** 10/28/1865 *From:* Otto Botticher

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2993

No. 458 Broadway  
Room No. 3  
New York

Chief of the Freedmen  
Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[229]

No. 458 Broadway Room No. 3  
New York October 28th 1865.

Major General O.O. Howard  
Chief of the Freedmen Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Sir!

I ask hereby to present to you a copy of my historical picture of

“ Sherman at Savannah Ga”

When I at the same time avail myself of the opportunity to say with pride, that I served under you at Gettysburgh and at Missionary Ridge, the spirit will be better understood, that moved me in the composition of the work hereby enclosed.

I have the honor, to remain  
the Major Generals  
devoted Soldier & obedient servant  
Otto Botticher  
Bt. Lt. Col. N.Y. Vol.

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3051 10/30/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2975

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Tallahassee Fla

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[329]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Tallahassee Fla Oct 30 1865

Dearest

I get pretty tired before I attempt to write you. Last night we rode all night from Jacksonville here. I do hope you are all well. Chas. is with me, goes back tomorrow & takes this letter. Harry, Mr Alvord & Rowland are with me. We will go by St Marks if we can get a Steamer, as rather get one off that is now ashore. Have much I could tell you about our visit at Charleston, Savannah, Fernandina, Jacksonville, Lake City & this place, but will reserve it to talk over, after I get home. I shall hasten home from Mobile, probably by the way of New Orleans.

Give much love & many kisses to the children.

I met Mrs Gen Newton here –took tea with Gen N. & family tonight. She is a nice lady, with three boys. God bless you all. Regards to all you, Gen. Sladen Gilbreth &c.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

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3052 10/30/1865 *From:* Mrs R. N. Hallowell

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2994

Sentry Fancy Depot  
2121 Arch St  
Phil.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[230]

Major General Howard  
Sir

If it accords with your views to forward a few of your autographs for the benefit of the Great Fair, the favor will be most Thankfully received and ever cherished with the most grateful remembrance.

Very respectfully  
Mrs R. N. Hallowell  
Sentry Fancy Depot  
2121 Arch St  
Phil. Oct 30, 1865

[Transcription of the attached newspaper clipping.]

The Great Fair for the Soldiers and Sailors Home, RACE and CROWN Streets to be held at the Academy of Music, October 23, 1865. The Chairman of the Fancy Department, assisted by a number of Ladies of the Pennsylvania Relief Association, earnestly solicit contributions in Money or Fancy Articles, which may be sent to the following addresses:-

Mrs. M. Hallowell, No. 2121 Arch street.

Mrs. David Weatherby, No. 150 N. Twentieth street.

Mrs. Wm. B. Webb, Tenth and Spring Garden sts.

Mrs. J. Canby, No. 806 Cherry street,

Mrs Henry J. Morris,

Mrs. JOHN CARROW, Chairman of Fancy Department, No. 2015 ARCH street.

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3053 11/1/1865 *From:* Henry Heath

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2996

*Source:* Bowdoin

Publishing Office of  
C.B. Richardson,  
No. 540 Broadway,  
New York

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[1]

Publishing Office of C.B. Richardson,  
No. 540 Broadway,  
New York, Novr 1 1865  
Henry Heath, General Agent

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dr Sir

I have the pleasure of mailing you with this a copy of "Sherman & his Campaigns" which please do us the favor to accept.

Although prepared with great care, we cannot hope to have escaped all errors, and shall feel under great obligation to you for the correction of any such you may notice –that they may be avoided in future editions –as well as for your judgment of our work.

Very respectfully yours  
Henry Heath

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]  
New York, Nov 1st 1865  
Heath, Henry  
Sends copy of Sherman and his Campaigns.  
Ansd Nov. 24, 1865

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3054 11/1/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2997

On Board Steamer  
Conovy  
Off St. Marks Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24 & 669]

On Board Steamer Conovy  
Off St. Marks Florida  
November 1st 1865

Dearest,

I begin to get very anxious to get back to you. So many delays & hindrances occur that progress tomorrow seems uncertain. We came down here yesterday morning from Tallahassee twenty miles by cars & eight miles in a small boat expecting to meet the Str. McCallum that had put in to Apalachicola to coal, but she the Str. did not make her appearance. We found a Steamer the Conovoy had been so (stuck in the mud for two weeks). Now we have succeeded in getting her off by using an old rebel tug called the Spray, so that we hope to get on the road for Mobile tonight. After I see Gen. Swayne in Alabama I will hurry on to Washington just as fast as I can. There are now only two ways, one by the Mississippi river to Cairo and thence to Washington by cars or by a Steamer to New York. I am now uncertain which will be the best route. It will take eight or nine days either way. I do hope everything is going well. The <boat> will try to leave now. Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & Chancy. Rowland is with me. We are all quite well. Mr Alvord & Harry are here. Chas. has gone back. With very much love for your own dear self. I am

lovingly yr husband  
Otis

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3055 11/1/1865

*From:* Philip C. Garrett

*To:* Yardley Warner

OOH-3118

*Source:* Bowdoin

Instruction Committee  
Friend's Freedmen's  
Relief Assocn.  
Philad'a

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[188]

This is to certify that Yardley Warner is appointed to act as Superintendent of the Freedmen's School under the care of this Association at Danville, Va. & all places in North Carolina; this to remain in force until the appointment of a Successor. Teachers will please look to him for authority & advice, for board & supplies, & report the statistics of their schools through him to this committee.

Philip C. Garrett Chairman  
On behalf of Instruction Committee  
Friend's Freedmen's Relief Assocn.  
Philad'a 11th mo. 1865

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3056 11/2/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2998

On Canonicus from  
Beaufort to Charleston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[3, 4, 5, 6]

On Canonicus from  
Beaufort to Charleston  
Nov. 2nd 1865

To/  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Brother

I sent you two telegrams from Savannah –forwarding one from Woodhull & one from Sec'y of War to Mobile.

I write particularly today on a matter of business.

Why should you not make application (to the proper authorities –to Congress if necessary) for the “Cotton Fund” so called –i.e. the proceeds of the Cotton captured in this Depot and raised the next year after the military took possession? This is now I believe in the hands of Collector Barney of New York or to some extent in his care. This would give quite a fund to the Bureau and seems to be a legitimate and proper claim for you to make under the law.

And if you do not make make and urge the claim of course the Bureau will not get it.

Again; The law providing for the sale of property for Taxes provided also that one quarter (¼) of the proceeds of such sale should be devoted to Colonization of the negro (to be turned over to the State for such use as soon a a loyal Govt should be reestablished). Now it seems to me that you might very properly ask of Congress that this fund be turned over to the Bureau -: or if nothing better could be done ask of the States each to turn it over to the Bureau as soon as they receive it. Some states might do it. I think it better, however, that Congress this session modify that law so as to give the 1/4 directly to the Bureau in as much as the states cannot be trusted to expend it for the welfare of the negro.

What think you of these two proposition? ¼ of Tax sale proceeds was also devoted to reimbursement of loyal union sufferers –this, also to be done by the State Govt which of course cannot be trusted so to disburse it.

Genl Sickles is doing better at Savannah I will not take up more space on other subjects in this letter because I desire your special attention to these two matters of Bureau Revenue.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

Subjects

Two important sources of revenue to the Bureau

1. “Cotton Fund”
  2. ¼ proceeds of Tax sales.
- C.H.H.

P.S. Nov. 4 1865

One other matter (no 3) to which I will call your attention at this writing has been presented to me by Judge Wording Tax Comr. It seems that Pres. Lincoln authorized the sale to negroes (head of families) of land (not exceeding 20 acre lots) in St. Helena Parish, bought in by Govt at Tax sales. This has been <close> to <> extent and is doing.

And now Prest Johnson has been requested to authorize a similar sale to negroes of land similarl situated on Hilton Head, Daufuskie, Bull and other islands.

Your influence might induce the Pres't to adopt this course and thus give some homesteads to such negroes as are able to purchase. This would save the relinquishment of the land upon which the village of Michellville is located near Hilton Head Dock. If it is not done soon however, the lands will necessarily be leased to any persons who apply & most will go into the hands of ex-Rebels not friendly to the negro. The matter has been presented to Pres't Johnson, I believe, but some further influence is needed to secure his action in the case.

Matter No 4 for attention of friends of Freedmen is as follows. The president is authorized by law to issue a "Patent" (Equivalent to a Deed) to all who have purchased land under Tax-sale. He has not yet done it. It is highly desirable that the Freedmen who have duly & lawfully bought land and have now merely the certificates of the Tax Commissioners should receive these "Patents" unquestionably their due.

The Tax Com'rs could easily furnish your office lists of such Freedmen and (if the Pres't consents) you might procure their "Patents" for them.

I remain Your Affec. Brother  
C.H. Howard  
Bt. B.G. Inspector

Subjects

1. Extend Pres't Lincoln's privilege granted to the negroes to buy lands.
2. Ask that the "Patents" from the Pres't as titles for land sold for taxes be issued at once.

C.H.H.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Charleston Nov 2, 1865

Howard, Chas. H.

Brevt. Brig. Genl.

Friendly letter

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3057 11/2/1865    *From:* Jos. P. Thompson    *To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard  
OOH-2999                      American Union                      Washington D.C.  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      Commission  
   14 Bible House  
   New York

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[7]

American Union Commission  
14 Bible House  
New York, 2d November 1865

Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

We respectfully invite you to attend and address a public meeting, to be held in the City of New York on the 13th. Inst. at Cooper Institute, for the purpose of setting before the people the wants of the suffering masses in the South, and arousing a public interest in measures for their relief, and especially for the restoration of industrial & educational system.

His Excellency the President of the United States, Major Genls Grant, Sherman, Meade, Hon. W.H. Seward, Hon. E.M. Stanton, Hon. James Pollock, Hon. Jno. A. Andrew, Hon S.P. Chase, Hon Geo. Bancroft, Wm. C. Bryant Esqr, & others have been invited to attend & participate in this meeting.

Believing that you recognise the importance of the object to which we desire to call the attentions of the public, and that you sympathise in our endeavr thus to assist in the restoration of the Union by promoting that general good feeling and popular intelligence which must underlie it.

We are, Very Respectfully Yours,  
Jos. P. Thompson, President  
Geo. W. Lane  
Lyman Abbott, Gen. Sec.

[The last page is a synopsis of the goals and organization of the American Union Commission.]

[Written on the back of the first page, in a different hand:]

New York, Nov 2nd 1865

Thompson, J.P.

States that a meeting of the Am. Un. Com. is to be held at Cooper Institute, N.Y. on 13th inst. and desires Gen. Howard's presence.

Recd' Nov 5th, 1865

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3058 11/4/1865

*From:* P.B. Randolph

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-3000

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office General  
Superintendent of  
Education  
of Freedmen and  
Refugees.  
New Orleans

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[38, 39]

Office General Superintendent of Education  
of Freedmen and Refugees.  
New Orleans, November 4th 1865

General Howard

Feeling that you are a true friend of the colored man; and knowing that the Progress of my People depends upon its moral and intellectual advancement; and feeling that if the present Schools go down, that civilization itself will suffer; I, a teacher of one year's standing in the schools, beg you to exert your best effort to sustain them. As at present managed, under Capt. Pease, they are tolerably good. But their administration might be better. But good or bad, and there is room for the correction of abuses, they should not go down.

My friend, the late President Lincoln, by whose personal advice I abandoned my profession – M.D. – and came here to teach, said to me “Randolph, the elevation of the colored people depends solely upon their moral and intellectual cultivation. Go Down South and do your duty.” I have done so, and now fear the work will stop unless you step in to aid us through your efforts with Congress and our wise President.

We, the Colored People are willing to be taxed per capita \$2. and the fund thus raised will support all the schools of this state.

I beg to remain  
General  
Your Humble Servt.  
P.B. Randolph  
Principal  
Lloyd Garrisons School

We beg that Capt Pease may be sustained & retained. He is a good man.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

New Orleans Nov 4, 1865

Randolph, P.B.

Gives information concerning schools in N.O. Asks that they may be sustained.

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3059 11/4/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-3001

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Str. Convoy, Lake  
Ponchatrain

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[631]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Str. Convoy, Lake Ponchatrain  
November 4th 1865

Dearest

The Steamer shakes so much that I find it very difficult to write, but as it is your birthday, my darling I will attempt to jot down a few words. We arrived off Mobile on thursday, but a sudden storm came up and we could not cross the bar into the Bay, so that we turned back and skirted along the shore till we found comparative calm, and then anchored. The next day friday we started our way across the outer bar and after much dilidalying for a pilot, found a sea-Captain on a Str aground who took us up to Mobile. We reached the city between one & two P.M. found Gen. Swayne gone to Washington.

The secession feeling is very strong at Mobile. I addressed the Negroes in the evening at the College –a full assembly –called upon Dr Nott who had visited me on business at Washington, found him a very different man at home, clearly hostile against the Government, against the Bureau and the negroes, not willing to grant them one privilege, not even that of having a school. You would have had a good deal of rough <fare> & dirt to put up with, had you accompanied us, yet we have been really favored by a kind Providence with good weather for the most part. We left Mobile about ten this A.M. and are going inside across the Mississippi <ground> thence across the Lake Pontchatrain to New Orleans. If I can get away Monday morning we will leave for Vixburg & Cairo by Strs & thence home as fast as cars can carry us. I shall send this by the way of New York & think it will reach you three days before I do.

Our life is hastening away so fast that I feel that I must get home or we will get old before we are full aware of it. I want to be with you very much. This is the last time I mean to leave you for any length of time if I can help myself. Guy & Gracie can track papa's journey this time –Richmond, Petersburg, Raleigh N.C., Wilmington, Florence, Charleston, Columbia, back to Charleston, Hilton Head, Savannah, Ga., Fernandina Fla., Jacksonville, Tallahassee, St. Mark's, Mobile & New Orleans. I hope Guy is having good luck with his pony and Jamie with his drum. I feel as though Jamie was almost estranged from his papa and long to get more fully acquainted with his peculiar disposition & wants. Chancie is more transparent, more like Guy. Give papas warmest love to them all. May god keep us all in health, happiness & affection till your next birthday.

Lovingly yr husband  
Otis

Rowland is quite well & enjoying himself. Harry dont seem quite so well as usual –coughs & raises a good deal. He seems very sober & taciturn even for him.

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3060 11/4/1865

*From:* J H Warren

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3002

Coldwater Mich

Freedmans Bureau  
Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

Coldwater Mich  
Nov 4th 1865

Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
Washington DC  
Sir

Mr Branch Leacher of Freedmens School at Mobile visited our place some weeks since, and desired the Supt of the various Sunday Schools to cause the Sunday School Papers in the hands of children here to be collected and donated for the use of Freedmens Children at Mobile. We have collected some hundreds and find our package too large to send by mail without paying a considerable sum. We desire to ask if there be any way we can send our Papers without incurring the expence charged by the Post. Your aid is respectfully solicited by the Various Sunday Schools here, by whom I am charged to address you.

Your Obedient Servant  
J H Warren  
Supt Baptist Sunday School  
Coldwater Michigan

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3061 11/4/1865 *From:* Wm. P. Hubbard

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3003

Bangor

Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[11]

Bangor November 4th 1865

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard  
Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Executive Committee of the Bangor Freedmen's Aid Association, to inquire if you will visit Maine at any time in course of the winter. And if so if you will deliver a lecture or speech in behalf of the Freedmen.

Please write me if you will come and at about what time.

Yours truly  
Wm. P. Hubbard  
Secretary

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3062 11/5/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Rev. G. E. Kinney

OOH-3004

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C.

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[75, 76]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C., Nov. 5 1865.

Rev. G. E. Kinney  
My dear Sir

This is to introduce Dr. A.A. Gifford who offers his services for the Freedmen and proposes to settle in the South.

He has sufficient credentials and knowing you were needing a good Physician I recommend him for Fernandina. I wrote to Col. Osborne concerning him who will undoubtedly order his Med. Officer Surg J.J. Applegate to contract with Dr. Gifford in such manner as to issue to him all requisite medications & Hospital supplies.

By General Howard's order I have arranged for you to attend to the neighboring County of Georgia & you will either be paid by Gen. Tillson or by Gen. Saxton & will be notified as to which one you will look for your Salary.

I remain with best wishes  
Yr obdt Servt.  
C.H. Howard  
Bvt. Brig. Gen.  
Inspector General  
for S.C. Ga. & Fla.

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3063 11/6/1865

*From:* William Rice

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3005

*Source:* Bowdoin

CITY LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION  
ROOMS,  
Springfield, Mass.

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[15]

CITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ROOMS,  
Springfield, Mass.  
Nov 6th 1865

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I am requested by the Board of Directors of the City Library Association of Springfield to invite you in their behalf to deliver a lecture in their course the present season. The time which would best accommodate us would be Wednesday January 10th. If more convenient for you either Monday the 8th Tuesday the 9th or Friday the 12th or Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday of the following week in January –(viz the 15th 16th 17th or 19th).

If none of the days mentioned would be convenient for you, could you favor us with a lecture at any subsequent time?

As we must complete our arrangements for our course, soon, in order to secure our State, you will greatly oblige us by favoring us with a reply at your earliest convenience.

With great respect  
I am very truly yours  
William Rice  
Secretary of the C. L. Ass.

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**3064** 11/8/1865 *From:* B.B. Russell

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3006

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[16]

Boston Nov 8. 65

Maj. Genl. Howard

Dear General -

Will it be possible to arrange with you to deliver a Lecture in City Hall Portland on the Evening of our National Thanksgiving Dec. 7th. If so on what terms will you come and how soon must we let you know.

Very Truly Yours  
B.B. Russell

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3065 11/8/1865

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Col T. W. Osborn

OOH-3007

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau Refugees  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands  
South Carolina and  
Georgia  
Charleston S.C.

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[90, 91]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands  
South Carolina and Georgia  
Charleston S.C. Nov 8 1865

Col T. W. Osborne  
Asst Comsr Fla.

Colonel.

I have rec'd a letter from Gen Tillson in which he informs me of an arrangement to have citizens of the counties respectively appointed as Agents of the Bureau and hence as this was an agreement with the Provl Govr & the Legislature he does not think it possible to employ Mr Kinary for Camden County.

Gen Saxton will pay Mr Kinary till the end of November, but as it is entirely beyond his jurisdiction he does not feel that he can do so longer. You will therefore be compelled to pay or if you please, notify him of his release at that date.

How are you proceeding relative to next years contracts? Do you <leave> the matter as heretofore with some military agents?

There seems to be a reaction against the Presidents yielding policy in the North and promises good results.

I remain  
Your friend  
& obt servt.  
(signed) C.H. Howard  
Bvt Brig. Genl.  
Inspector &c

A true copy  
S. L. W Henry  
A.A.G.

[This copy was not in C.H. Howard handwriting.]

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3066 11/9/1865 *From:* Mr John D Myrick

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3008

Norfolk, Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[17]

Norfolk, Va  
Nov. 9th 1865

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Genl

I would respectfully ask your opinion with reference to a question. I am discussing in my Book - which I expect to publish some time this winter - It is this. I am recommending the necessity of a standing Army for the Government. As you know we have many that are disaffected, & the negroes are not under proper discipline & control. And many are emigration to this country with peculiar ideas. Give me your views.

I am very Resptly  
Mr John D Myrick

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Norfolk, Nov. 9, 1865

Myrick, John D.

Concerning a standing army.

Recd Nov. 11th 1865

Ansd Nov 24/65

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3067 11/10/1865 *From:* Frank E. Howe  
S. N. Stebbins  
OOH-3009 The New England Society,  
*Source:* Bowdoin Of the City of New-York  
New York

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

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[18]

The New England Society,  
Of the City of New-York  
New York Nov 10th 1865

Dear Sir

The Committee of Arrangements of the "New England Society in the City of New York" respectfully invite you to be present on the occasion of their 60th Anniversary on Friday 22d day of December next.

The Dinner will be given at Delmonicos, Corner of 14th Street and Fifth Avenue at 6 o'clock P.M.

Earnestly hoping that you will honor us with your presence on this occasion and soliciting an answer at your earliest convenience,

We are, dear Sir  
very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servants  
L. B. <>  
Frank E. Howe  
S. N. Stebbins

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

---

3068 11/12/1865 *From:* M.A. Blanchard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3010

Portland Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[19]

Portland Me, Nov 12, 1865

Dr Sir,

Enclosed I have the pleasure to hand you advertis'ment of "Independent Lectures", in which we have taken the liberty to announce you for the even'g of January 12 / 66 (Friday), being the Even'g Suggested in our letter of invitation, and trust that this arrangement will meet your wishes and convenience in the premises.

The Freedmens Assoc'n mentioned in the advertis'ment, is a Society formed in this city for cooperation with the "National Freedmens Aid Commission" recently incorporated at Philadelphia, of which Bishop Simpson is President.

With great respect  
I am Yours very truly

M.A. Blanchard  
for the com.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Attached newspaper clipping]  
Independent Lectures!

On the

State of the Country,

In Aid of the

Portland Freedmen's Association!

The third Annual Course of these favorite and popular lectures will be delivered in  
City Hall

Commencing On

Friday Evening, Nov. 17th, 1865,

And be continued weekly thereafter, by the following distinguished Lecturers:-

Nov. 17, Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell, of Mass.

Nov. 21, Hon. Richard H. Dana, Jr., of Mass.

Dec. 1, Mrs. Frances W. Harper, of Maryland.

Dec. 6, Frederick Douglass, Esq., of N.Y.

Dec. 15, (to be announced)

Dec. 19, Rev. J.M. Manning, of Mass.

Jan. 1, 1862, Rev. A.L. Stone, of Mass.

Jan. 5, Hon. James Harlan, Sec. of the Interior

Jan. 12, Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.

Jan. 19, Geo. William Curtis, Esq., of N.Y.

In addition to the above, the Committee feel justified in saying that they have good reason to expect Maj. Gen. Kilpatrick, of N.J. and Hon. Lyman Tremain, of N.Y.

Music under the Superintendance of John L. Shaw, Esq.

Tickets admitting the bearer to the Course \$1.25. Tickets admitting to one lecture, Twenty-five Cents; for sale at the Bookstores, Paine's Music Store, Crosman & Co.'s and Lowell & Senter's.

Committee of Arrangments

Jacob McLellan,

Israel Washburn, Jr.,

Benj. Kinsbury, Jr.,  
Oliver Gerrish,  
M.A. Blanchard,

Portland, Nov. 6, 1865

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3069 11/12/1865 *From:* Hermann Bokum

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-3011

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133, 134]

Washington D.C. November 12, 1865

To General Howard  
Present,  
My dear Sir,

On Thursday last I fell in in the cars with a Mr. W. King, a dealer in real and personal estate in Savannah, who claims that the course he pursues is endorsed by you. It seems that he has had interviews with Garrison, Phillips, Beecher, Sumner, Governor Andrew and with Generals Sherman and Schurtz and that these gentlemen have consulted him with regard to the treatment of the blacks. He thinks that they ought to be kept in a State of tutelage and under strict authority until they are able to take care of themselves. In further canvassing with him, he expressed the conviction, that the proposed tax on Cotton, Navy Stores and Tobacco will call forth a hurricane of excitement in the South, and that the United States Government has no right to tax the South to pay a portion of the debt incurred by the United States in consequence of the war, unless it pays the South for their negroes. If this be not done he is of opinion that the South will combine with the West, and repudiate the debt. They may be kept out of Congress for a time, but they must be admitted at last and the delay would only make them more determined to carry their point. He justified his view of the case by stating that if they are to be considered as in the Union they have a right to claim the protection of constitution; of as out of the Union, the United States Government has no right to tax them.

The generous words the President has spoken with regard to the confidence we ought to place in the South have found a warm response in my heart, but this confidence can, of course, find no place where disloyal sentiments are so openly expressed.

I have addressed a line on this subject to the President. Here my agency in this matter ends. I am, dear Sir

Your obedient Servant  
Hermann Bokum  
Bureau of Immigration

November 14th

On maturer consideration I have arrived at the conclusion that I ought to write to the President only if you request it. I shall be obliged to you if you will inform me of your return to this city.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Washington <>

Bokum, Herman

Concerning Wm King Esq of Savannah Ga.

Recd, Nov 18, 1865

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3070 11/13/1865 *From:* Josiah Warren

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3012

*Source:* Bowdoin

Polytechnic College, 3  
Tremont Row, Boston  
Mass.

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[137, 138]

Polytechnic College, 3 Tremont Row, Boston  
Mass. Nov. 13, /65

Dear Sir

I have just returned from a visit to the Freedmen's Village at Arlington and from some interviews with Capt. Spurgin, Gen. Eaton and Mr. Torey Supt. of the Soup house East of the Capitol. My object in going to Washington was to learn the real condition of the sufferers under your charge, and if conditions admitted of it, to take my position among them and offer them instructions in building the very best of houses very cheaply with their own hands; and how to work iron, make leather, make their shoes, bard and spin wool, cut out and make clothing; in short to help them to be self sustaining, so far as the climate would admit; but, to my great regret and disappointment, I found the first indispensable requisite wanting, i.e. land for permanent homes. We could do nothing to much purpose till they should have land in fee simple, where each could look forward with some degree of security for the permanent enjoyment of the fruits of his labor. Unless this can be attained, the future of that suffering and abused, though superior people as drudges for an adverse race is gloomy indeed.

I have on hand, tools for working iron and wood, for laying stone, making bricks, plasting, lathing, painting and glazing, sign painting, printing, stenotyping, and engraving. I can show them by example how to use all these to advantage - how to make their leather, and their shoes, their soap and several other necessary articles, and can procure for them any branch of the most useful information that they might want from time to time. If they had land of their own, each one his home, free from all external control, I would at once take my position among them asking no aid or salary for myself but should depend like like them, on my own exertions for support. I should introduce several branches of small manufactures and get them to help me, and endorsing which, they would learn to conduct there themselves.

I should prefer a location near Washington north of the Potomac for reasons which can be given when needed. Water power is not needed. If there is timber, they can save all the lumber they need by hand with a peculiar kind of <[CHECK ORIGINAL page 2 tape right side> which renders a mill unnecessary to them, and there is a cotton spinning machine which spins six threads all at once, turned by a crank with one hand – this has been made in Cincinnati and sold in the South for forty or fifty years. It would have been used north but it requires cotton with seed in it.

This proposition will be met by the ignorant with the vulgar old same of jack of all trades and good at none but there never was a greater or more fatal error – nor a more formidable obstacle to the relief of suffering and the adjustment of human affairs than the blind unchallenged admission of the necessity of the commission apprenticeships. I can give overwhelming proof that they are unnecessary and that, opportunities being opened the destitute can sustain and make themselves comfortable, and I am ready to assume the responsibility of making this statement publicly, and to take my position and all the risks of settling and conducting business with that gentle, docile susceptible race as a test.

The principal objects of this, are to place before your mind a few facts which you could not, otherwise be aware of, in behalf of the sufferers under your charge, and to point out the sine qua non (the Land) upon which the whole depends. Having the land, very little if any aid would be needed from government over and above what would be rendered voluntarily by the benevolent.

Very respectfully  
Josiah Warren

Please address me at Cliftondale, Mass.

Refer to Prof. C. C. Hewett, formerly of the Smithsonian Institution, now Supt. Boston City Library, or to A.C.L. Arnold, Politechnic College 3 Fremont Row Boston.

P.S. After having read this, please pass it to Charles Sumner. I was the person of whom Prof. Clemmets spoke to him.  
J.W.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston Nov 13 1865

Warren, Josiah

Proposes a plan for carrying on a colony of freedmen and teaching them the trades.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D NOV 15 1865

Ansd Nov 21 1865

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3071 11/14/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3013

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia  
Charleston, S.C.

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[196, 197]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia  
Charleston, S.C., Nov. 14 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Brother

The bearer Lt. Dewhurst is one of the Directors of the Florida Land & Lumber Co. He is well known to me. Is a gentleman of integrity and I thought you would like to know about the scheme of his Company for Colonization in Florida. It is eminently practical. In fact they seem to make it as much a financial as a philanthropic success. Mr. Dewhurst is an ex-Lieutenant of the 3d U.S. Colored. He is on his way to Maine to purchase a Saw mill for his Company

I send by him, some papers for you inclosed to Maj. Stinson. One pertains to Mr. Huddleton's property at Georgetown.

We are all rejoicing at the success in Elections –especially for New York.

Bureau matters seem to be progressing well here. I am waiting to hear from you in answer to some recent letters.

Your affec. Brother

C.H. Howard

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3072 11/15/1865 *From:* John A. Mills

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3014

Lewis Cass Co Iowa

Bureau of Reffugees &  
Abandoned Lands  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[20, 21]

Lewis Cass Co Iowa  
Nov. 15th 1865

Dear General

Please allow me to trouble you a little. I have a note against Maj Gilbreth for one hundred and fifty dollars due almost a month ago, and as I am in pressing need of it I would very much like if you will have the kindness to receive the money from the Maj and after paying yourself for your trouble send me the balance by Adams Express to Lewis Cass Co Iowa.

My health is quite good and I am getting along nicely. Please pardon me for making the request.

With many kind wishes for your welfair. I am Sir Your Obt. Servant  
John A. Mills

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Bureau of Reffugees & Abandoned Lands  
Washington D.C.

P.S. Please find note within.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Lewis, Cass Co, Iowa  
Nov. 15, 1865  
Mills, Jno A.

Asks Genl. Howard to collect a bill against Maj Gilbreth A.D.C.

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3073 11/16/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3016

Darlington S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24, 25, 26]

Darlington S.C.  
Nov 16 1865

Dear Brother

I dont know but you will think I am writing more letters lately than you can afford time to read but there are still one or two pressing matters I wish to lay before you.

I saw by the Newspapers that Gov. Perry had made some application to you about the school-buildings at Charleston. We now retain only two of them which is considerably less than is due the Colored children according to their proportionate number in the city. We give up the largest and one of the best school houses to the authorities on their application some two months ago and they have not used it. We broke up one school in it crowding the scholars into the other two schools.

The schools we now have are crowded. The 800 pupils in the normal school are more than that building can well accommodate. I inspected that school a few days ago and find it <withall [Tape]> the most prosperous and profitable condition. It would be a crying shame to break up that flourishing school. It must not be done; and no one ought to entertain the thought of driving it out of that house which contributes so much to its efficiency until another equally good is provided.

I have no doubt that in time the people of the north would contribute & build school houses but meanwhile the present thriving schools ought not to be disturbed especially as there seems no prospect that the building will be immediately used for white children.

We decided that the City of Charleston ought to give a fair proportion of its school-houses for use of the blacks and had a census taken to know the number of colored children and of whites. I can furnish these figures from our office. We have in possession less than the due proportion of the buildings.

I am here on inspecting duty. Many of the planters refuse to make contracts. They are looking for the removal of the U.S. Troops when they may have matters their own way. Gen. Richardson who now commands this Mil. District & Brig. Gen. Nye agree that the Negro will fare hard indeed if the Military are withdrawn and all agree also that the Bureau cannot exist anywhere here without the troops.

But what is singular the people –including all the ladies in one County have petitioned Gen. Nye to allow his garrison to remain. They did this on hearing that he was going to withdraw it.

We have suspicion that some of the property in Charleston was furtively transferred by certain unpardoned Rebels to Frazies & Company (with which Firm the Rebel Sec'y Freuholm belonged) in order to take it out of the hands of the Bureau.

Frazies & Co aim to own half of Charleston and one house which was supposed to belong to Old Barnwell Rhett is of the no. It is our "Teaching Home" accommodating 20 teachers. I do wish it might be permanently secured for this use.

We will hire it at "moderate rates" retaining it under your order for the present. But will not old Barnwell Rhett's property be confiscated? If not I do not conceive how any property can be.

Tell Lizzie I saw Capt Jordan 29th Me at Florence & will see him again Saturday. He attended your wedding you remember I had not seen him since the wedding. He wished he had known of your being at Florence as also did Gen Nye & other Maine officers. I go to Cheraw tomorrow.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

[Written in a different hand.]  
Darlington S.C. Nov. 16 1865  
Howard, Chas H  
Brevet Brig. Gen.  
Letter of information  
Recd. Nov. 26th, 1865

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3074 11/18/1865 *From:* I. F. Woodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3017

New Orleans

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

New Orleans Nov 18 /65

Dear Cousin

I regret troubling you when you have the many cares about you. But having interested myself in behalf of Wm M Perkins (the Gentleman I introduced to you for the purpose of obtaining possession of his dwelling house you directed possession to be given. Yet it has not been able to obtain it. Will you do me the favour to ascertain if his pardon has been signed and Telegraph me to the care of Wm M Perkins or to Mr Perkins that he may be able to get the use of his house. It is not occupied by any one. It his pardon has been Signed, a dispatch from you would enable him to get his house. This is the first time I have trouble any one, or asked for the benefit of any one, and would not in this case had I not have known him as a gentleman. I have no doubt the pardon has been issued but is months sometimes before the <come>

your affect Cousin in haste

I. F. Woodman [Ivory Fenderson Woodman]

I heard from Warren and think he will remain south. Remember me to your family & mother  
W.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

New Orleans LA

Nov. 18, 1865

Woodman I.N.

Recommends as restoration of the property of Wm M Perkings

Refer to <>

Nov 29 1861

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3075 11/18/1865 *From:* H. Bates Johnson

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3018

Hillsdale Coll.  
Hillsdale Mich

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

Hillsdale Coll.  
Hillsdale Mich Nov 18th / 65

Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Can you deliver a lecture before the Amplitigon Society of this College? If you can favor us please inform us when & your terms. I am informed that several Sec. Com's, in this part of the State are corresponding with you, hence I write.

Very Truly  
H. Bates Johnson  
Cor. Sec. &c &c

Gen. Howard

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3076 11/18/1865 *From:* L. Maphiny

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3019

Davenport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[29]

Davenport Nov 18th 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Sir,

Having received from the War Department permission, to appear before the examining Board, for Officers in colored Regiments in pursuance of the application you had the kindness to forward, I appeared and was examined, the examination was very slack, and I must hope that I passed.

Before leaving Washington I asked Col Foster when I would hear of my case, he told me that at the time there was no vacancy, but if I am permitted to mention that a word from you, to him, would very soon find one, please General forgive me for troubling you so much.

With many respects for you and Staff I remain your obedient Servant.

L. Maphiny

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3077 11/20/1865 *From:* H. Wodson

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3020

Natick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

Natick Nov. 20th, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard,

I am glad to see that you have returned to Washington. Will you drop me a line and tell me how you found the condition of the freedmen. Gen Wild, just from Georgia, tells me that their condition in that state is hard indeed. It seems to me we have been giving up the cause of the freedmen, for the past five months. It is time to halt, and to face the issues. I have great confidence in your disposition to do all you can for Liberty, Justice and humanity.

Yours truly  
H. Wodson

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3078 11/21/1865 *From:* Wm Oland Bourne

*To:* Major General O.O  
Howard

OOH-3022

*Source:* Bowdoin

New York,  
Office of the Soldier's  
Friend

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[34, 35]

New York, Nov. 21, 1865  
Office of the Soldier's Friend ,

Major General O.O Howard,  
General,

I have sent you copies of The Soldier's Friend , which I publish and which I hope have reached your hands. Whether in the press of your duties you have been able to spare time to examine them I am in doubt.

Permit me to call attention to a feature which is attracting a good deal of interest. It is the Premium to the Left-Armed Soldiers for original essays and Specimens of Penmanship. You will see by the prospectus that I have enlisted an eminent Committee of Award.

I desire the influence of your name and character to this effort on behalf of our Soldiers. Already many specimens have been sent in, and from the accuracy made I hope for a very honorable representation of the moral and intellectual character of the Army.

While I hesitate somewhat in asking you for your contribution to the work, I still feel that with the generous spirit you have manifested, and your Christian sympathy with all the concerns the best interest of the rank and file, as well as the lowly and the oppressed, you only need to have your attention called to this effort, in order to secure your favor.

I would deem it a privilege, not less than an honor to have from your pen, a narrative of your work in the Army, and an essay on any one of the great practical topics of national or Christian reform in which you are interested.

I am endeavoring to make my paper a practical and serviceable instrument for the Army and Navy, and for the masses of the Community, North and South. I want the cooperation of true, earnest, Christian men in my work.

I know you will excuse my freedom in this application, and I trust you will find it within your power to spare an hour or two to the opportunity of thus aiding a benevolent undertaking.

I am very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Wm Oland Bourne  
Ed. Soldier's Friend

[Newspaper Clipping]  
Premium \$500  
To The  
Left-Armed Soldiers of the Union.

There are many men now in hospital, as well as at their homes, who have lost their right arms, or whose right arm is so disabled that they can not write with it. Penmanship is a necessary requisite to any man who wants a situation under the Government, or in almost any business establishment. As an inducement to the class of wounded and disabled soldiers here named to make every effort to fit themselves for lucrative and honorable positions, we offer the following premiums:

For the best specimen of left-hand penmanship	\$200
For the second best specimen	150
For the third best specimen	100

The specimens of penmanship must be written with ink, on fine letter-paper of the ordinary size (eight by ten inches) and not to be less than two pages.

The literary part of the work may be original or selected. Brief essays on patriotic themes, and especially narratives of the writer's experiences in the service of the country incidents or sketches of the war, are preferred. In all cases the writer must give his name in full, his company, regiment, and rank; list of battles in which he was engaged, as complete as possible; the place where he lost his arm, with the date; and his post-office address. An inch margin must be left at the sides and top and bottom of the paper. Should a sufficient number of specimens be sent in, they will be placed on exhibition; and the proceeds, if sufficient, will be devoted to the publication of a memorial volume containing the prize essays, a list of contributors, etc., a copy of which will be sent to each competitor.

The undersigned has the honor to announce that the following gentlemen will act as the

Committee of Award,  
His Excellency Reuben E. Fenton, Governor of New-York  
Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D.D. President Sanitary Commission  
William Cullen Bryant.  
George William Curtis  
Howard Potter, Executive Committee, Bureau of Employment, New York.  
William E. Dodge, Jr.,  
Theodore Roosevelt,

After the award shall have been made, the editor of The Soldier's Friend is to have the right to publish such of the contributions as may be best adapted for publication, and the manuscripts will be bound up and preserved as a memorial of the brave.

The manuscripts must be sent in on or before the 1st of January 1866. Time will thus be allowed for the men wounded in the last battles near Richmond to enter the lists as competitors.

The manuscripts must be wrapped around a wooden roller, to avoid folding or crushing in transportation, and must be addressed to

Wm. Oland Bourne,  
Editor of the Soldier's Friend,  
No. 12 Centre-street, New-York

Editors of newspapers through the country are respectfully requested to republish the above.

[Written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]  
New York, Nov. 21, 1865  
Bourne, Wm. O.  
Desires a contribution from Genl Howard to Columns of Soldiers Friend.  
Recd. Nov 24th 1865  
Ansd. Dec 1st, 1865

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3079 11/21/1865 *From:* Theo. S. Cuyler

*To:* Maj Genl O.H. Howard

OOH-3023

136 Oxford St  
Brooklyn

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37, 36]

136 Oxford St  
Brooklyn Nov. 21, 65

To Maj Genl O.H. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear General

I feel already so well acquainted with you that I cannot address you as a stranger.

I write to inform you that you have been elected as one of the Vice-Presidents of our new "National Temperance Society & Publication House".

We expect to do a grand work & on a good pecuniary basis.

We have some thought in our Board of Managers of making Gen. C. B. Fisk our working "Secretary" at New York.

It is said that he proposes to withdraw from the Freedmen's Bureau –that he would be a most efficient organizer in our new Society & probably would be willing to accept the appointment.

I only know the General by reputation & have written to him today to ascertain whether he would entertain such a proposition.

Any information you can give our Board of Managers through we would be most welcome.

With kind regards to your brother Col. Howard –if he be with you.

I remain, Dear Genl,  
Cordially Your friend  
Theo. S. Cuyler  
Pastor of Lafayette Ave. Church

[Written on the back of page 1, in a different hand.]

Brooklyn N.Y.

Nov. 21st 1865

Cuyler, Theo. S.

Informs Genl Howard that he has been elected Vice President of National Temperance Society. That they desire Gen. Fisk for Secy.

Recd. Nov. 22nd 1865

Ansd Nov. 23 "

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3080 11/21/1865 *From:* Francis Wharton

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3024

Brookline, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49, 41]

Brookline, Mass.  
Nov. 21, 1865

My dear Sir,

I send you two circulars, and a report, referring to the organization of the P.E. Freedman's commission. It was elated at our meeting, by one or two questioners who had seen you, that you would give your full support to such a work. I will be much gratified if you could, if you think proper, give any suggestions as to the plan and working of such a society.

Sincerely yours  
Francis Wharton

Gen Howard,

Rev. and Dear Sir,

The Protestant Episcopal Freedman's Commission met at the Rooms of the Domestic Committee, New York, on Friday, Nov. 10. The following members were present:-

Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter, Rt. Rev. Bishop Odenheimer, and Rt. Rev. Bishop Stevens:  
Rev. Drs. Dix, Dyer, Eccleston, Haight, Howland, Littlejohn, Montgomery, A.H. Vinton, Washburne, Wharton;  
Rev. Messrs. Anthon and Aspinwall; Messrs S. Brown, Minturn, Morgan, Welsh, and Winston.

Rev. John A. Aspinwall was elected Recording Secretary, to the Commission.

The following Executive Committee was then appointed:-

Rev. Dr. Haight, Rev. Dr. A.H. Vinton, Rev. Dr. Littlejohn, Rev. Dr. Eccleston Hamilton Fish, Esq., F.S. Winston, Esq., G.D. Morgan, Esq., and John Welsh, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Wharton was elected Secretary to the Committee, and Robert B. Minturn, Esq., Treasurer.

At a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee, it was resolved:-

- 1.- That the clergy be requested to take up a collection in ai of the Commission, on the coming day of National Thanksgiving; or if this interfere with diocesan regulations, at the earliest period practicable.
- 2.- That contributions of clothing be earnestly solicited, to meet the destitution among the Freedmen that now exists.
- 3.- That this Commission heartily invites the formation of auxiliary societies, diocesan or parochial, to aid in its important work.

By the instruction of the Committee, these proceedings are now forwarded to you, in the trust that they will meet with an immediate response. The Committee will see that whatever clothing is entrusted to them, is promptly and wisely distributed; and competent teachers are now waiting at the North, ready, with the hearty co-operation of the Southern clergy, and with the support of the Chief of the National Freedman's Bureau, to enter upon the instruction of the Freedmen, as soon as the requisite funds are supplied.

Contributions of clothing to be sent to the Rev. John A. Aspinwall, Domestic Committee Rooms, to be marked, "Goods for Freedmen."

Remittances of money, to be made to Robert B. Minturn, Esq., (Grinnell, Minturn & Co.) New York.

Communications as to the general working of the Society, to be addressed to the Rev. Dr. Wharton, Brookline,

Mass.

Sincerely yours,  
Francis Wharton , Secretary.

Nov. 11, 1865

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3081 11/22/1865 *From:* Matthew Prine

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3025

Camp Morten  
Indianapolis, Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[42, 43]

Camp Morten  
Indianapolis, Ind. Nov 22d

Genl Howard  
General

I have the honor to present the following petition for your notice & hope, Sir, that you may recollect that I deserted to your command, near Dalton when Genl Johnston, retreated from that place. I deserted & came over to the Provost Guard of Your Corps & was taken to your Head Quarters. I there stated that I had been forced into the Rebel Army in February 1864 & was assigned to an Alabama Battery & that being a Northern man & having no sympathy with the Rebels I had deserted, & wished to take the oath of Allegiance & be set at Liberty. I was told, Sir, that I would be a free man when I reached the North. I have been confined in this Prison since last May & am very anxious to be allowed to take the Oath & hope Sir that you will kindly intercede with the Authorities in Washington, that I may be released. Hoping Sir that you will pardon the liberty I have taken. I remain with Respectfully Your Obe Ser'at

Matthew Prine  
Division 11

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Prine, M.  
Rebel deserter  
Indianapolis Nov. 22, 1865  
Answered

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3082 11/22/1865 *From:* Hezekiah Watkins

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3026

43 Wall St. N.Y.

Chief Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[44]

43 Wall St. N.Y.  
22nd Nov. 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chief Freedman's Bureau  
General -

Parties in this city desire to place in my hands as large amount of Southern claims for collection. I beg leave therefore to ask you for information upon two points: ast to the personal safety and security of one travelling through the South as a Collector, and second, as to the ability of the Southern states to discharge, at present, any large proportion of their southern indebtedness.

Your kind attention will greatly oblige,

Yours, with much esteem,  
Hezekiah Watkins  
Late Lieut. Col. 143d N.Y.V.  
Robinson's Brigade -  
Williams Division -  
20th Army Corps

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3083 11/22/1865 *From:* F.F. Stockwell

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3027

Boston, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[45]

Boston, Mass. Nov 22d 1865

Dear Sir -

I take the liberty to address you asking for a little information. I want to know the proportion of White & Colored population at the South supported by the government since the war. Whenever I have had occasion to speak upon the subject. I have always maintained that there were more white people, that drew rations from the government, then colored, but I had no official proof that such was the case & drew my observations from the conflicting reports from the various parts of the South. At your convenience, Sir, it would give me great pleasure to learn the correct statement directly from you.

Very truly & sincerely  
Your Obedt. Servt.  
F.F. Stockwell

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

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3084 11/22/1865 *From:* Maria Wheaton

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3028

1223 Spruce St Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[46, 47]

1223 Spruce St Phila  
Nov. 22d 1865

Major Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

You will be surprised at receiving a communication from me, but having seen by the papers that you were in Washington, I write at the earnest entreaty of friends, to ask of you to do what may be in your power to get an appointment in the Army for a young friend. His name is William McClure, son of William McClure an eminent lawyer of Harrisburg Pa. long since deceased. This young man joined the Anderson Cavalry, full of patriotism, before coming of age, and served as a private three years. He was one of the 300 who went into the fight when the rest mutinied, and never took a furlough. I need not tell you that it is often most humiliating for a gentleman to serve as a private, especially treated as the Anderson Troop were, under such officers as they had. And you know full well that those young men who entered the Army so early, gave the years most important to them for preparation for usefulness in after life –to their Country

Mr Mc'Cs mother is a widow, now in straitened circumstances, and he is a youth of sterling principles, and irreproachable character. (I do not mean a christian.) the family think a word from you to Mr Stanton would ensure his appointment. If you can speak that word it will give a great deal of happiness. He wants a First Lieutenantcy of Infantry, and is led to apply for it to Mr Stanton & through me to others by a notice in the papers of a Board about to convene in Washington to examine the Claims of applicants for commissions in the regular Army.

I cannot let pass this opportunity of congratulating you upon the career of usefulness, which has been permitted you. I have watched with pride and pleasure your course. I know that the military glory which has been added has been no part of your ambition. May your true reward be that of those who turn many to righteousness –a glory which fadeth not away.

Please give my love to Mrs Howard when you see her.

I hope in the multitude of your cares & duties you will not think me intrusive.

Very sincerely yr friend  
Maria Wheaton

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Phila. Nov 22nd 1865

Wheaton, Maria

Desires that Gen. Howard will use his influence to secure Wm McClure a position in the Regular Army.

Recd Nov. 23, 1865.

[The following note was appended to the above letter.]

A sisters earnest longing for her brother's good leads her to add a word to her friend Miss Wheaton's letter –and to beg of Genl. Howard to use his great influence in getting for him an appointment in the U.S. Infantry. He can furnish any number of testimonials from citizens as to his integrity of character –but being a private he has no military friends.

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3085 11/22/1865 *From:* L. D. Warner

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3029

Portville Cattaraugus  
Co. N.Y.

Chief of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[68, 69]

Portville Cattaraugus Co. N.Y. Nov 22nd / 65

General,

Having made application for an appointment in the Regular Army, and judging, that you know something of my services, and fitness for such position, I take the liberty of asking the favor of a letter from you, with such recommendation, as you can consistently give.

Although not under your command during the last year of the war, yet you undoubtedly know enough of my military career, to judge of my fitness for the position for which application has been made.

So far as attention to duty is concerned, I think I can say what but few volunteer officers can, with equal truth declare, that during the three years I was in the service, I was never absent a day from my Regt, except when in Winter Quarters.

Although, for the larger part of the time, I held no higher rank than Major, yet I was in command of the Regt for nearly one half of my entire term of service, and I do not think, the reputation of the Regt suffered thereby.

I was mustered as Lt. Col. last January, and Commissioned as Colonel in February, but was unable to muster in that grade, in consequence of the reduced strength of the Regt. Any endorsement you can consistently give will be gratefully received. My pecuniary circumstances are my excuse for applying for either a Military or Civil appointment with the Government.

I am General Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
L. D. Warner  
Late Lt. Col. Comdg  
154th N.Y. Vols.

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Portville N.Y. Nov. 25 / 65

Warner, L. D.

Late Lt. Col.

154th Inf. Regl.

Desires recommendation for position in the Regular Army

Recd Nov. 24, 1865.

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3086 11/23/1865 *From:* [Harry] Stinson

*To:* Capt. A P Ketchum  
AAG

OOH-3030

U.S. B.RF&c  
Wash'n

Charleston SC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[140]

U.S. B.RF&c

Wash'n Nov 23rd [1865?]

Capt. A P Ketchum  
AAG Charleston SC  
Capt

Your letter of the 10 has been received & I am directed by Gen Howard to reply to your questions as follows -

Your action in regard to Col. Pritchards plantation is fully approved & you will pursue the same course in all similar cases.

The restoration of land will be made in the following manner. As soon as the board of supervisors is formed for any island or locality, the owners fair estate must make an agreement with the freedmen upon said estate that shall be satisfactory to the board of supervisors.

The order of restoration will then be given upon the owner signing the obligation & producing proper proof of title & pardon.

It is not necessary to form all the boards before restoring the property in a locality where one is in operation. The action relative to the abandoned rice fields included in Genl Sherman's order will be the same as that pursued with regard to Edisto Islands.

Very resp.  
Yr ob serv  
[Harry] Stinson  
Brev. Maj. & ADC

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3087 11/23/1865 *From:* B. P. Aydelott

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3031

Cincinnati

Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49]

Cincinnati, Nov 23d / 65

Major Genl Howard,  
Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir,

I was encouraged to send you a little volume just issued here, and entitled "The Christian's Duties in the Temperance Cause" in seeing your name among the officer of a Society recently organized in N.Y. to restrain intemperance & its kindred evils that are now coming in like a flood upon us. The consideration too that your position cause you such great opportunities thus to promote the welfare of our beloved <comm> induced me to send you the volume.

I pray God to give you grace to be faithful in your most responsible office & to bless your efforts to serve Him.

Yr. Bro & Part in Gospel Bonds  
B. P. Aydelott  
N. 361 W. 6th St.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Cincinnati O. Nov 23 / 65  
Aydelott, Rev. B.P.  
Friendly letter accompanying certain books.  
Recd. Nov. 27th 1865

[Enclosed Pamphlet]  
No. 45  
A Popular Delusion Exposed.

All the infinite and eternal blessings of God's salvation are ours through faith we have no title to them on the ground of what we have done; but it is Gods delight to give them on the ground of what Christ has done. They are the give of His grace, through faith on our part.

How unspeakably important, then, that our faith should be real and genuine –the true faith of the Gospel! How many fancy they believe, when in reality the do not! Alas! they deceive themselves. If people generally believed the plainest declaration of God's Word –if they believe the judgment of God pronounced upon sin, "he soul that sinneth it shall die" –"he wages of sin is death –could go on as they do, from day to day and year to year, without ever having an hour's trouble or anxiety about their sins? You know it would be impossible. Were you to see a criminal under sentence of death –a sentence which might be executed without a moment's warning –interested about a thousand trifles, but perfectly unconcerned about his impending doom could you credit the profession that he really believed in the awfulness of his situation? You could not. And is not this a picture of the world around us, pursuing its easy, careless, infatuated course, utterly regardless of the dreadful judicial sentence, "f ye die in your sins, whither I go, ye can not come."

As to the glad tidings of the Gospel, similar delusions prevail. When the truth is set forth, how often do persons reply, "believe every word you have said; I have always believed it;"while, in reality, they are unbelievers! If you owed a large sum, and were apprehensive of being arrested for it, and tidings came that another, in munificent grace, had paid it for you, would not all your apprehensions be instantly allayed? If, on the contrary, you had fears on account of the debt, would it not be indisputable proof that you did not believe the debt had been paid? Undoubtedly it would. It would prove that you were, as regards the payment of the debt, an unbeliever. So is it with the tidings of the Gospel. Nothing is more common than the fashionable profession of belief, because to be regarded as an unbeliever is discreditible. But let the sifting question be put, "o you then enjoy peace with

God, in the assurance that your sins are blotted out?”and how melancholy the extorted confession! The truthful voice of conscience gives the lie to the language of the lips. They who do not believe that their debt is paid, do not believe that Christ has paid it. They who do not believe that their sins are gone, do not believe that Christ has borne them away. Such persons may, indeed, believe in the death of Christ; but they do not believe in the value of that death. They do not believe in the efficacy of his atoning blood. As regards the great fundamental truth of the Gospel—that faith which can say with assurance, and which does day, in a transport of worshiping love, “he Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”(Isa. Liii, 6) “his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,”(1 Peter, ii, 24), and bare they away forever.

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3088 11/23/1865 *From:* S.V. Merrick

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3032

Phil

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[50, 51]

[The handwriting is quite difficult to read, and there are probably many mistakes in the transcription.]

My Dear Sir

I should much like to know your views, if you have time on the proposed session of the Union Commission & Freedmans Aid.

The F. Aid have proposed a <sumation> which the U.C. have acceded to if the two parties can agree upon a firm basis and the matter is in the hands of a joint committee.

It is clear that a united effort will be more effective than one divided, if one can agree to produce the same object.

The principle difficulty is in the Name. They are strongly incline to insist on the word Freedmen being kept. Tho it is understood that their President and several prominent members are <> it its perpetuation.

One objection to the name is <> services as the more charitable parts of both associations has been temporary we have to consider education <as our> main object. In the absence of your Bureau which must rate as a power capable of giving protection before very long. They cannot carry on schools for colored people without the consent of the Southern people and unless they strongly change that course will not be again while carried on under a title so odious to them as persuasion.

Our object is the enlightenment of the ignorant classes by governmental education so as to form an intelligent barrier against the power that now rules the South.

In this object we have a powerful sympathy <amongst> them under our present name but if we adopt the term they desire that sympathy would be lost as we fear.

We are willing to take any simple title US Union Aid Com, Southern Aid Com, American Aid Com. National –or the like –any name in fact that does not “butt” against old feeling or prejudice.

I should be much pleased to know your views as that doubtless will have great weight with these radical men.

Very respectfully  
S.V. Merrick  
Phil 23 Nov 1865

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3089 11/23/1865 *From:* S.G. Merrill

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3033

Washington City D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52]

Washington City D.C.  
Nov 23, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard U.S.A.  
General

I have the honor to inform you that by a vote of the Soldier and Sailors National Union League of this City you have been duly elected an honorary member of their association. Trusting the interest of the Soldier and Sailor who has fought to maintain the honor of this Nation may ever receive your hearty cooperation.

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Svt  
S.G. Merrill  
Rec Secy  
S. & S. N.U.L.

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3090 11/23/1865 *From:* C.H. Messinger

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3034

Fort Leavenworth,  
Kansas

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[53]

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
Nov 23d, 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
Genl:-

Permit me to call your personal attention to the application of Mr. F.C. Messinger, - my father. I hope and believe that it will meet with the just consideration, which experience under your command, teaches me characterizes you. It is unnecessary for me to speak of his qualifications. They are evident in his communication. From the uniform Kindness tendered me while Chief Signal Officer upon your staff during the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. I can not but feel that it will not pass unnoticed.

With much respect,  
I am Genl. Your obt. Serv't  
C.H. Messinger  
Signal Officer U.S.A.

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3091 11/23/1865 *From:* F.C. Messinger

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3035

Leavenworth, Kansas

Chief of Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and Abandoned  
Lands,  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[54]

Leavenworth, Kansas, Nov. 23, 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Chief of Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, D.C.  
General:

On the 5th of June last past, being then in the Military service of the United States at Athens, Ala., I addressed to you an application for appointment to the superintendency of a Colony or Farm. Your reply, dated the 16th of the same months informed me that inasmuch as Congress had made no appropriations for the Bureau, very few if any civilians would, for the present, be employed in it, but that my letter would be filed and my name registered on list of applications; and that should occasion require, my application "ould be favorably considered."

Almost immediately after writing the application referred to, I was detailed as a Clerk in the Office of the Provost Marshal for the District of Northern Alabama, at Huntsville, where I remained until recently, when my Regt was mustered out and discharged, and I returned to my home in Wisconsin.

On my leaving Huntsville I was offered by Maj. Goodfellow, then in charge of your Bureau affairs at Huntsville, a situation as Clerk at a salary of seventy-five dollars per month, which I declined on the ground that the pay was not sufficient. I therefore beg leave to renew my application for service in the Bureau in some one of the counties in Alabama, or wherever else you may need the services of a competent person to adjust the differences between the two races, and aid in the establishment of a thorough and permanent peace in our land on truly Christian principles.

Allow me to say that my experience in the discharge of my duties in the Office of the Provost Marshal at Huntsville, previous to the arrival of Maj. Goodfellow, assures me that I shall bbe able to discharge, to you entire satisfaction, any duties you may require at my hands.

Please address me at Leavenworth, Kansas, where I am now located.

I have the honor to be  
Most Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.  
F.C. Messinger

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3092 11/23/1865 *From:* Amos H. Mylen

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3036

Lancaster Penna

Comm'er of Bureau of  
Freedman &c.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[56]

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comm'er of Bureau of Freedman &c.  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

I am induced to address you because you are interested in the welfare of the Freedmen and from observations made during your late tour through the Southern States, can most likely give me the information I desire respecting the social problems now in process of solution in the South. I have recently been thinking very seriously of settling in the South either where I could profitably cultivate cotton and sugar or both including Indian corn, tobacco, rice, etc, - a system of mixed husbandry as practised in most of the Northern States.

An outline of my plan is to lease or purchase a plantation, and to till it by the help of Freedmen as workmen. If my success in the cultivation of the soil would warrant and in default of my provision on the part of the state to educate the Freedmen at public expense I would give my workmen & their families the benefit of common & Sabbath school education & churches. I am a firm believer in the value & superiority of educated free labor, it's <better> for the laborer & his employer.

I do not expect from the present attitude of the States that they will make any provision to educate the negroes. To remedy this defect in my own vicinity & plantation I would to a certain extent like to appropriate a reasonable share of my plantation profits. I can live here in comfort and plenty, and my desire to settle there would be to do a little good; that's my ambition, can I do it?

In addition to the above, I believe the Freedmen should be treated humanely but firmly, according to the best usage given to our Northern white laborers, holding out similar inducements <[torn page]> to become valuable <citizens> of the community. By this means and no other, do I believe this labor can be made profitable to the employer & employee, besides, an example would thereby be set from which much good might result in removing the prejudices of the Southern planters to a speedy and faithful adoption of the civilization of the North. This is my plan in brief - & in respect to the foregoing I would like to have these questions answered.

1. Can plantations in Miss. La. or Ark. be readily leased or purchased?
2. Is there a disposition on the part of freedmen to work faithfully for wages?
3. Can they be relied on when engaged for a year's service?
4. Do they prefer to work for Northern men?
5. How great a hostility among the Southern whites is there against Northern settlers and against such a system as I have proposed?
6. Is the country free practically from Guerrillas?

If not encroaching upon <[torn page]> & official duties too much I <desire to> have a reply because you are no speculator nor am I but interested alike with yourself in the Freedmen's welfare.

Very Truly Yours  
Amos H. Mylen  
Lancaster Penna  
Nov. 23d 1865

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3093 11/23/1865 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3037

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[58, 59]

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nov. 23, 1865.

My dear brother:

I see by the newspapers that you have returned to Washington. By a letter received recently from Uncle Henry I found you had been at Richmond. They enjoyed your visit very much. I am glad Rowland was able to take the trip he did with you and suppose he enjoyed it. Has he returned to Maine.

I have not heard from Lizzie & the children since they went to Washington? How are they?

I had a letter from mother a few days ago which was written in rather better spirits than usual, though I think her health is still poor. The farm still remains unsold except that I have sold it to Charlie, in order to prevent any trouble on the part of the R.R. auditor. I am not anxious to have my property what little I have left sacrificed for R.R. debts.

Here I am doing pretty well. Today I have made six dollars and I have made this week about ten dollars so far. On Saturday I am engaged to try a case in the country, which will advertize me as it is to be in a school house and is considered quite a neighborhood matter which will draw together quite a crowd. During the four weeks that I have been in practice I have made about \$55 which for the first month I am satisfied with.

Uncle Henry has told you probably in very flattering terms all about this section of country. I consider it the finest portion which I have seen of the West. Here is the same New England pure air which I longed so much to see and breath when in Indiana. The society here is better than at Richmond. Education is more thoroughly disseminated among the masses and the mind tone of society is high –as high as in most New England villages. In fact the majority of the people are from New Eng. and northern New York where the Puritan element is strong. We have Congregational Churches all about us, indicating origin of the people. Here for the first time since I left my New England home I found a New England Christian Sabbath. The shops are all closed and the sabbath is a day of quiet instead of a holy <day [tape right side pg 2]> as it is in most of the West. The people are thoroughly loyal and true to one national government. Copperheads are a variety seldom seen. We have very many elements of growth. The Cedar Valley is one of the best wheat growing portions of the State. We have an abundance of Oak wood for fuel. The country for three miles from the River is somewhat hilly and thickly wooded. At the City is the best waterpower in Iowa, which has not yet been thoroughly improved. We have to [two] R.R.s to the Mississippi and Chicago, one via Clinton & one by the way of Dubuque. A R.R. is being constructed to St Paul, Minn. and one to connect with the North Missouri R.R. at the Iowa boundary line, which will connect us directly with St Louis making us the largest R.R. center in the State.

I hope some day to see you and yours out here on the prairie. In a few years I trust I shall be engaged sufficiently in business to have a home and place for all my friends. Now I have a little office which I own. The front room is 12 feet square and the back room is 11 feet square. Fred [probably his cousin, Frederic Strickland] & I sleep in the back room and try to enjoy life there.

Give much love to Lizzie and the children.

Will you be kind enough to ascertain for me whether there is any truth in the report that the 3 years soldiers who did not enlist can now obtain \$200 additional bounty & if so by what authority. This with me is a very important matter and intimately connected with my getting my daily bread. I wish you would set some one to making inquiries in regard to it and inform me immediately.

Please write me when you can.

Your aff. Brother

R.H. Gilmore

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Cedar Rapids, Ia. Nov 23/65

Gilmore, R.H.

Friendly letter

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3094 11/24/1865 *From:* A. Burwell

*To:* Col. Joseph E. Davis

OOH-3021

Vicksburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158 ½]

To the Elder Bro: of Jef. Davis [handwritten]

B-191- Vol. 2.7871

[STAMP] RECEIVED O.O.H. APR 17 1871

[The following is transcribed from two printed pages from an unknown source.]

Vicksburg, November 24th 1865.

Col. Joseph E. Davis,

Sir: Your impertinent and ungentlemanly note of 15th was received by me, late on Saturday evening from the Post Office. I would not under ordinary circumstances notice any such communication. Events which you have perhaps contributed as much as any man in the country to bring about, have given you a position which requires me to reply, to insinuations which only the impotent malice of natures, like yours, could indulge in. (Your note is as follows:)

Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 16th 1865

A. Burwell, Esq.,

Sir: Your note of late yesterday evening, withdrawing as counsel for the Freedmen, against the Freedmen's Bureau, is received.

The obligations of counsel and client are the most sacred in social life. After a long experience, you are the first that I have known, after possessing himself with the facts and circumstances, at the hour of trial, has deserted his trust.

Your Ob't Servt J.E. Davis

The facts are: That on the 14th you applied to me to represent certain freedmen, who had made complaints against the Bureau, informing me that neither you nor they had any money with which to pay me a fee. You left me with certain copies of petitions and letters, all of which I read; and about 4 P.M., I proceeded with you to an office, in which I found three officers organized, as a board of investigation. Arriving there, I ascertained that the Board had been engaged for a week or more in the business. I also learned that at least one of the freedmen whom I appeared at your instance to represent, had been examined before the Board, and had declared that he had no complaint to make. The case was fully in possession of the Board, and all the papers which you had submitted to me were on file and reference was made both by the President of the Board and by Judge Merwin, who appeared for you, to other papers on file which I had never seen, or heard of before. Your statement that I was possessed of the facts is false. Your insinuation that I deserted a trust, or violated the sacred relations of counsel and client, false and malicious. No confidential communications were made to me; nothing was imparted to me, which I could not easily have learned by application to the proper office in which all the papers were on file. You have made an effort to have them all published in a newspaper and failed.

You may as well know the plain truth now as at any future time. You represented yourself as acting for and on behalf of some sixty freedmen. I agreed to appear for them, not for you. When I got to the place of trial, I found not one freeman present. For you and to subserve any purpose of making mischief and stirring up strife, which you may have had, I could not have been induced to leave my office—to prosecute a claim for redress made bona fide by Freedmen, I would appear as counsel, with a very distant prospect of compensation. As none of my expected clients were present, I was forced to conclude that the whole prosecution was your affair and a pitiful device resorted to by you to give vent to the undying hatred which you entertain against the United States and all its Departments of Government. To any such scheme I can never be a party, and I took the earliest and promptest means of retiring from such a case. This I had a perfect right to do. Your experience may be long, but it has not learned you everything. Among other things it has not taught you to feel an act as a gentleman. The only regret which I have is that I did not use plainer terms in my note of withdrawal and assign all the

reasons which influenced me. Your experience does not establish rules of practice for attorneys and counsellors at law. When I think my services no longer required, or that they cannot be rendered profitably to others or pleasantly to myself, I claim the right to withdraw, abandoning of course all claim to any compensation. This right I have exercised, and should do it again, taking care however to express my withdrawal in the most offensive, <and not> the most polite terms in consideration of the character to whom I was forced to address myself.

I found present at the Board the following gentlemen: Hon. W. Brooke and D.O. Merwin, B. Sloan and Wallace, Esqrs, and I left them before the Board when I retired. Not a single witness was present or expected that day. It seemed to me a great diminution of my self-respect to take the fifth of a frivolous case, which had been progressing for more than a week. No real clients were present. As to your setting up as the special friend and guardian of free negroes, I could not suppose you would do so. No other conclusion remained but that you were using their names for your own seditious purposes, to make a petty war of litigation and strife, against an odious Department of an odious Government, which you have done all in your power to destroy. I thank God you have failed, signally and ingloriously. You have all the venom of the poisonous adder, but without its power to strike. Perhaps no fitter employment could be found for you, and men like you than this petty and seditious prosecution of alleged suits in favor of free negroes, against a department established for their benefit. You have shown yourself as incompetent to manage a great popular revolution or to succeed in a great enterprise. You must find some channel through which to vent your pent up malice. Complaints against the Departments is perhaps the only one left to you, and if had the power I would stop them in very short order.

I wish you to understand me distinctly. I charge that you, and men like you, have been the means directly and indirectly of the loss of life and property to many millions of people in the United States. No punishment, in my judgment, is adequate to the armies of which you have been guilty. Your age may have prevented you from rendering all the service to treason which you desired. But you have done all in your power by counsel, advice and money to inaugurate rebellion and to aid and abet it. You may declare your innocence as strongly and as often as you please. You have been a prime mover and instigator of the late "ad, foolish and wicked" acts of secession and rebellion. No more guilty man breathes in America than you. Instead of repenting of your crimes, and seeking some obscure place to hide your disgrace in, you seem disposed to obtrude yourself before the public in a new character: the special agent and representative of freedmen. I must have better evidence of your right to appear in this strange character than your mere assertion. The character, in some respects, may suit you. It did not suit me to appear as counsel to aid you, and I claim the right to withdraw at once and forever from all connexion with the affair.

I would not give this extended notice to your note, but for the fact that efforts of the same kind to injure and traduce me, both as a man and in my profession, have been repeatedly made since the surrender of the Rebel armies. I wish to say once for all, to you and to others, of the same envious and malicious dispositions, through you, that I have adhered through evil and good report to the Government of my fathers and would pursue the same line of conduct again, with one change: instead of temporising and arguing with traitors, I would urge the most prompt and effective measures of force to quell and exterminate them. I would anticipate and prevent civil war, by strangling treason in its very birth. As matters now stand, I see no alternative but that of general forgiveness, even of men deeply criminal. The contempt of mankind may punish some; their own reflections will punish others.

I find myself a mark for the malice of those, who with lip professions of loyalty and repentance, in every word and act of their lives show that they are as bitter in their hatred to the Union and Government in their secret hearts, as they were six months ago, when they had armies in the field, which most of these persons took special pains not to join. Why so much of this envy and malice should be directed against me, I am at no loss to perceive. All I ask of you, and all who share your sentiments, is to come out plainly and boldly. What you have to say about or against me, publish to the world. I am disgusted with sly and secret insinuation and slander.

I ask no favor. I appeal to the public for a fair hearing and impartial judgement. No man of sense believes that the withdrawal of a lawyer from an unpleasant case, in which he had never seen his client and in which he had received no fee, would, (except for special reasons,) call forth such a volley of virtuous indignation as you have seen fit to fire in your note. I can find these special reasons in the fell spirit of treason, which still lurks about the hearts of some persons, of whom you are the fit representative. To you and to them, through you I say: that in no act of my life, am I blamable, except in extenuating your offenses, and pleading for forgiveness; when severity would have been the truest mercy, not to you, perhaps, but to the great mass of deluded, misguided and ignorant victims. I intend to continue the practice of my profession, withdrawing at my will and pleasure from any case, at any stage of it, holding myself responsible for all damages which may be incurred. The Courts are open to you. If injured, a jury of the county will redress your wrong. In invite you to sue me, instead

of the Freedmen's Bureau.

I desire to be distinctly understood. For the gallant men who fought and suffered in a cause which I believed wrong and wicked, but who now come forward and accept the irresistible logic of events, with all its legal, moral and natural consequences, I have great respect. Most of them I have reason to believe are my sincere friends and if they are not, it is matter of regret to me. For the litigious, sly, unseen, dodging half-way man, I have a different feeling. Many of our best men have laid down their lives on one side or the other of this controversy. The sacrifice of a little property seems with some to be a much sorer trial than the deaths of kindred. With this class I have not, and God forbid that I should have, any sympathy.

I conclude by this summary of the whole affair: 1. I withdrew as counsel because I claimed the free, full and undoubted right to do so under the circumstances above stated. 2. I set you, and all other traitors like you, at open defiance, and ask you to attack me openly and through the public press instead of sly and secret slander. 3. I ask the public to believe no slanderous report which may be made in regard to me, but to call for proofs when anything is said about my past career and present proceedings.  
A. Burwell.

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3095 11/24/1865 *From:* J. W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3038

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office General  
Superintendent of  
Education  
of Freedmen and  
Refugees.  
New Orleans

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[60]

Office General Superintendent of Education  
of Freedmen and Refugees.  
New Orleans, Nov 24th 1865.

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard  
General

I have the honor of saying that the Schools of this City & State are in a critical condition.

The leading Creoles refuse to be taxed insisting first on representation. Genls Baird & Canby hesitate. You doubtless have their telegrams. Could not the old tax (equal on both colors) suspended now be ordered forward to collections? Its partial payment is already causing trouble. This would give satisfaction to the negroes of all grades, & as the blacks pay their assessment of tax for the white schools, it is only just that the whites pay this assessment for the Col'd Schools. The complaint of the latter is without reason.

I write thus, because it will be said to have 15000 children progressing, so finally as are these (I have examined them thoroughly) turned into the streets.

As an expedient, I am causing the northern Associations to be appealed to in this emergency, as many of these teachers have had no pay for the last 2 months. All that can be obtained will be needed notwithstanding what either tax may produce.

I am kept here by these matters & the perfecting of the Savings Bank. Expect to go to Mobile first of the week. The legislature have opened their session. There is a spirit every where manifest which indicates much disloyalty & hostility in no part of the State, can be safely withdrawn.

Yours very Respectfully  
J. W. Alvord  
Inspt &c

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**3096** 11/24/1865 *From:* M A Blanchard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3039

Portland, Me.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[61]

Portland, Me. Nov 24, 1865.

Dear Gen.

I have yours of 21st inst. The postponement of your lecture from Jan 12th to Feb. is all right. We shall endeavor to accommodate ourselves to your convenience. Please inform us as early as possible of the day on which we may expect you.

Very Respectfully  
Your obt Servant  
M A Blanchard  
for Com. Box 1844

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

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3097 11/24/1865 *From:* G.S. Griffith

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3040

*Source:* Bowdoin

Maryland Union  
Commission  
89 and 91 West  
Baltimore Street  
Baltimore

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[62]

Maryland Union Commission  
89 and 91 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Nov. 24 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

It is proposed by the Maryland Branch of the American Union Commission, to hold a meeting on the evening of Thanksgiving Day Dec 7th in one of the churches of our city. We should be very much pleased if you would favor us with your presence and address the meeting on that occasion. By so doing you will greatly add to the interest of the meeting & the favor will be highly appreciated by the Commission. The purposes and aims of the Commission, are well understood by you & have no doubt your sanction. Enclosed please find circular.

With respect  
Yours truly  
G.S. Griffith  
Pres. Md. Br. H. Com.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore Nov. 24th 1865  
Griffith, G.S. Prest.

Invites Genl. Howard to be present at the meeting of the Md. Branch, of the Am. Union Com'sn Decr 7th 1865.  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D NOV 27 1865  
Ansd Nov. 24th 1865.

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3098 11/24/1865 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Dear Son Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3041

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[63, 64]

Leeds Nov 24th 1865

Joseph Brown son of Maj Armisted Brown Wash's master Virginia Culpepper County West Point P.O. Slate Mill's. Mrs Jane Brown daughter of Widdow Mary Ann Allen was the mistress of Wash's wife, Wash's wife before marriage was Maria Barbour, at the time the eleventh Corps went west, heard from her, then she was at Lynchburg, where they said she would remain till the Yankees left, and then return, or be brought back. She went to Lynchburg in the care of Edward Burgess who married Miss Betsey Allen sister of Mrs Jane Brown Wash's wife was a negro, a little lighter colour than himself.

Joseph Brown went into the confederate service and died in Richmond Vir.

The old man Brown had been dead some time. Joseph Browns wife, and his sister Mrs Caroline Porter were left on the plantation. Maj Brown's house was five stories high Brick painted red, with tin roof, 16 miles from Culpepper Court House, 12 miles from Mrs Allen's house to Culpepper. These plantations laying west of Culpepper Court house.

Washington Camp had three brothers and one sister came to Washington City D.C. Jackson Camp, Moses Camp <> Camp and Mrs Sarah Jane Munday wife of George Munday.

Mr Steward Tell a coloured man of Alexandria gave Washington Camp some information in regard to his wife at the time he was on his way to Tennessee with the 11th Corp this Mr Tell was just then from Culpepper one of Mrs Allen's slaves. Wash has had a letter from Alford Coles Capt Gilbreth's servant, but none from Sam. Wash wishes he would write him. I have thus tried to describe Wash's wife from what he tells me. If we should sell the farm I think Wash with his good industrious habits, would do well and if we do not I think he would be better contented if he could have her with him.

I received Lizzie's good kind letter of the date 16th also Grace's on the same sheet for which I am much gratified and shall write them soon. I heard from you, all, through Rowland's letter written at Washington. He passed Leeds depot last evening. Wash was there and saw him. I do not know whether his family were with him or not. I am glad he is safely returned to Farmington again. My health is good and I am well provided, and contented to stay here as long as the farm remains unsold. Today I have helped Wash put on the outside windows which makes it seem so suny and warm.

Your Aunt Lucretia came to see me last week with her son Rodelphus who is a resident of California. Came to see his father and help take cre of him in his last sufferings which were very agonizing. His tongue was cut off at the roots for some time before he died, with a cancer. We think he starved to death. Your Aunt requested me to remember her to you in my letters. Her farm is for sale and she leaves Maine soon.

I began this letter without any address, but it is to you my Dear Son Otis, and with much love and many kisses to your wife and Guy Grace and Jamie and Chancy. I remain your affectionate Mother,

Eliza Gilmore

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3099 11/25/1865 *From:* D.F. Crane

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3042

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65]

Boston, Nov. 25, 1865

Dear Sir,

The Baptist & Orthodox Societies of East Somerville (2 miles from Boston) are to have a course of lectures this winter.

We are all exceedingly anxious to see & hear you.

Can you come & what are your terms.

Fred Douglas speaks Dec. 18. If you can come before that date it will suit us, or at any time which you are in New England. I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance though I have seen you often. Your brother & myself were class mates at Kents Hill.

Come if possible. The lectures will be in the churches. They will seat 500.

Please write by return of mail. I have waited till your return to Washington before writing.

I am respectfully yours  
D.F. Crane

Maj. Gen. Howard

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3100 11/25/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3043

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C.

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[66, 67]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C. Nov. 25 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard [this was written crosswise at the top of the first page, not by C.H.Howard.]

Dear brother

I have received good long letters from Rowland from Vicksburg & from Cairo but nothing from you since your arrival at Washington. You will have found several letters from me quite important to us here and I trust you will dictate answers to them. A brief official note was rec'd by Gen Saxton yesterday regarding the Middleton property at Georgetown. There was certainly no misunderstanding for I investigated the whole matter thoroughly and the letter from Gen. Saxton inclosed to Maj. Stinson embodied my report.

Mr. H. A. Middleton was a kind of Gov. Aiken style of "nion Man" but insulted our military authorities & got his house burned in consequence. Instead of remaining in our lines as a loyal man would he walked a hundred miles to get into the Rebel lines where he stayed til the surrender.

But I gave this subject a full treatment in that letter signed by Gen. Saxton.

Gen. Saxton has been doing admirably of late & Gen. Sickles is very hearty in his support. It is truly refreshing.

I have seen much of the people of this state since you were here, and am entirely convinced that humanity demands the agency of the Bureau to remain. And it is equally certain that the Bureau can not better do without the military than when you were here. Cases of violence to freedmen are frequent. A freed woman was shot in Anderson last Sunday. Thousands have been forced from their homes in the upper country & are flocking to the Coast. We are making a special effort to stay this migration by the renewal of Contracts, establishing of schools & other means, but still there will be thousands to suffer and to starve unless provided for by the Bureau. I made it my special business in my late tour to try to check this breaking up and moving to the Coast.

I believe Mr. Whaley's regard for the negro is only a white wash. he has recently shown the old Cloven foot in refusing absolutely to have anything to do with a Board having a Colored man upon it & in his expressions of the old prejudice against the black man. I trust that Gen. Saxton will be retained as all things considered the cause could not be benefited by his removal. Our schools are all prospering, except that we desire assurance that <we> may keep the buildings.

Yr affec. br.  
C.H. Howard

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3101 11/25/1865 *From:* A. v Steinwehr

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3044

Wallingford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70, 71, 72]

Wallingford Nov 25th 1865.

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
My dear General,

Your kind letter of Septbr 8th has been in my hands for some time, but I deferred an answer until you should have returned to Washington. I now see from the papers, that you are again at the seat of government, and I trust, that the duties of your bureau will not soon compel you to change the comforts of civilized life with the semibarbarous surroundings of Mississippi. et in omne genus.

Accept my most sincere thanks for the kind and friendly sentiments, of which your letter was the welcome bearer. Be assured, my dear General, that as long as I live, shall I cherish the recollection of my intercourse with you during more eventful times, which now belong to the past.

Your offer to aid me in regard to my book, I accept most gratefully, and as soon as it is out, I shall send you a copy. I shall at the same time indicate the problem which I have attempted to solve, so that you may judge in how far I succeeded or failed. Of course I am well aware, that the most earnest endeavor is not always a guaranty of success.

I see however some encouragement in several publications, that have of late appeared, as translations of two of C. Ritter's <smaller> works by Gage, - the future policy of America by Dr. Draper, - the republication of Burkle's history of civilization in England. These works convince me, (or rather the fact they have been issued in this country) that my undertaking is timely, and that, if I do not signally fail in the <>, - my book will have some friends.

Major R. E. Beecher, formerly A.A.G. on my staff, is now staying at our house, and revises my text as to language and expression. <Hollieb> was also with us and reduced my larger maps for a primary and common school geography, which my publishers desire to issue with my larger book.

A few days since I wrote a few lines to Major Stinson of your staff in regard to a private matter of mine. My wife has a small capital in Mobile, for which a Mr. A.E. Ledyard is trustee. The interest due thereon amounts now to several thousand Dollars. About six months ago Mr. L. wrote to us, that he then could not remit but would do so monthly. Since then we have written several letters to him, but received no answer. We think it possible, that Ledyard has either removed from Mobile or has died. For, we can see no other reason, why he should not have written to us. Those persons in Mobile whom I could have written to in this matter, fell in battle during the rebellion, and so I thought that perhaps the officer of your Bureau in Mobile might make an inquiry about Mr. Ledyard, and let me know the result. If I knew the name of that Officer I could write to him directly and obtain the desired information. I never was a good financier, and I regret to say, that I am so seriously embarrassed, that unless this money arrives soon, I shall be in a most painful position. I view of these facts, I wrote to Maj. Stinson, Ledyard was very wealthy before the war, and has been throughout the rebellion loyal to the U.S.A. - indeed so much so, that, I am informed, he was repeatedly in jeopardy of his life. As he had no faith in the success of the rebellion, I am inclined to think, that he has saved a portion of this fortune & placed it beyond the influences of events which have not transpired, and which he doubtless anticipated. Or is it true that every one lost his all, and that not one is left in the South, who retains something of his former property? No doubt the southern people are poor at present and their available, ready means must have been lost. But I cannot believe, that they are altogether as badly off, as might be concluded from the newspaper accounts.

We continue to live in our quiet way. An occasional visit from some of our New Have or Hartford friends is the only interruption of our rather monotonous existence.

Mrs. v St. joins me in the best wishes for your health and for your further success in your responsible and arduous office and I remain as ever

Very truly Yours  
A. v Steinwehr

P.S. Present my best regards to your brother and the other officers of your old staff  
St.

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3102 11/26/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3045

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73]

Farmington Nov. 26, 1865

My dear Brother

I arrived home safely Thursday night. The baby was too sick to come & so I am alone. I am sorry to say that a beautiful mug struck my fancy in N.Y. & I paid the upper price \$20.00. It was however the admiration of Grandpa & all the baby's friends to whom I didn't tell the secret of the selection of course. Somebody sent those packages separate by Express & I paid \$2.55 to get them to the owners. I have enjoyed my Sermons & Evening meetings today. Everybody is anxious to hear about my trip & I give a Lyceum lecture before our Library Asso. next week. I have sent for Mother to come up & keep house for me a while if she can leave home.

We have nice dry roads & pleasant weather yet. We seldom have mud here you know but, the mornings are pretty sharp after the Gulf of Mexico. It poured & blew so when I arrived in N.Y. that I gave up going to the meeting with Gen Fiske. He was a delightful traveling companion.

With much love to Lizzie & the children & kind regards to Harry & <Lt Fazzard [crossed out]>  
Yr aff bro. Rowland

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Farmington, Me. Nov 26, 1865

Howard, Rowland

Recd Nov 29th 1865

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3103 11/27/1865 *From:* Wm. P. Hubbard

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3046

Bangor

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

Bangor Nov. 27 1865

Genl. O.O. Howard

Washington D.C.

Dear Sir -

Fearing that a note I addressed you at about the time of your departure on your Southern tour may not have reached you. I am tempted to write again and repeat the request that I then made –that you will some time in the course of the Winter deliver a lecture in Bangor in behalf of the Freedmen.

We are about to make an effort to raise funds for the relief of those who are now undergoing the suffering incident to a transition state.

As one means we have projected a course of lectures. If your name could be positively announced as one of the lecturers it would help us very much in the sale of tickets.

You will pardon me, Sir, for alluding to the fact that our people take a very deep interest in your character and person, and what you might say would be received as true and would go far toward removing what remains of prejudice against the colored race.

Hoping you will be able to name an early day when you can consistently comply with this request.

I am dear Genl.

Your most obedt Sv't

Wm. P. Hubbard

Secty Bangor F.A. Association

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3104 11/27/1865 *From:* Sam B. Barniz

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3047

Wheeling W.Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27]

Wheeling W.Va  
November 27th 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
My dear Sir and Bro. in Jesus

The teachers and scholars of our large, Eng. Evan. Lutheran Mission S. School, having heard of the deep interest you manifest in the S. School cause, as well as every other good work, earnestly desire your presence at their regular anniversary on the evenings of the 23rd and 25th of December. Our School has been working for the orphan cause, and also in the effort to endow a "Genl Howard Professorship" at Gettysburg.

Your presence, General, will cheer us in our work and stimulate us to nobler deeds of self-denial for the future. Hoping to receive a favorable reply.

I am very truly  
Yours in X  
Sam B. Barniz

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Wheeling, West Va.

Nov. 17, 1865

Barniz, Saml. B.

Asks Gen. Howard to be present at a S.S. Anniversary on 23 of Dec. 1865

Recd Nov 29, 1865

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**3105** 11/27/1865 *From:* Jaris H Smith

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3048

Norfolk Va.

Supr. Freedmen's Bureau,  
Washington City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Norfolk Va. Nov 27. 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard, U.S.A.  
Supr. Freedmen's Bureau,  
Washington City  
General,

My friend Mr Robert B. Pegram, late a commander in the C.S. Navy, has been pardoned by the Pres't & he has not been able to recover possession of his property in Norfolk, which is <> by the Freedman's Bureau. This case is one of great hardship & I am sure, I only need to call your attention to it, to ensure its immediate release.

I am General, very Resy  
Jaris H Smith

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Norfolk, Nov. 27, 1865

Smith. J.H.

Recommends restoration of the estate of Mr. Robt. B. Pegram late Comdr. C.S. Navy.  
Recd. Nov. 18th 1865.

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3106 11/28/1865 *From:* Hermann Bokum

*To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3049

Department of State  
Bureau of Immigration  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[76, 77]

Department of State  
Bureau of Immigration  
Washington November 28th 1865.

Sir,

I acknowledge your favor of Nov. 24th which sets the question of W. King at rest.

During a late visit in Philadelphia (where, by the way I spent an evening in the company of Mrs Grebel.) I was brought in contact with Mr. Koradi, the Swiss Consul, a very worthy man. He stated to me that he had reason to believe that statements unfavorable to the Freedmen's Bureau had been made through the Press in Switzerland and that in consequence of it he had received a letter from a Swiss Gentleman desiring information from him with regard to the character of those who are at the head of the Bureau (the chief actors), and in what manner contributions could be most effectively made whether by money or by articles. I have addressed a letter to the Consul in my own name in which I pledge myself to the fact that the Bureau (Freedmen's) has been placed in charge of persons the most reliable. If you think best to add any thing I will convey it to the Consul whom I expect to see next Saturday.

I am Sir,  
Your obedient Servant  
Hermann Bokum

My address is  
Rev. Hermann Bokum  
Bureau of Immigration

I am not the head of the Bureau.

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Dept. of State  
Bureau of Immigration  
Washington Nov. 28th 1865  
Bokum, Hon. Herman

Desires information in regard to the Bureau, that he may correct false statements that have been published in Swiss papers.

Recd Nov. 29th 1865

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON NOV 29 1865

Ansd Dec 5th 1865

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3107 11/28/1865 *From:* S.P. Lee

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3050

Johnsons Island Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[78, 79]

Johnsons Island Ohio  
November 28th 1865

My dear Cousin

It is a long time I have heard from you and I thought I would send you a note to let you know that Lizzie and myself are well. All the news we have heard from you for a long time has been through the news papers, and I see that you have been very busy. Where is Charles. I have not heard from him for a long time.

I have been in command of this post since July last. And have just been relieved by its being made the Hd. Qrs. of the 2d Regt of the V.R.C. So now I have nothing to do as the detachment of my regiment under my command consists only of 8 officers and four enlisted men in three companies.

I hope soon to be ordered away where I shall have something to do, as I dislike to be idle.

When I had the choice offered me to go out of service or remain I decided the latter, as the loss of my arm disqualifies me for my old profession of the Sean. I hope it will soon be deided what they will do with us, as the uncertainty is not pleasant.

How & where is Lizzie & the children. I hope she is with you and you are once more enjoying a home. My Lizzie joins me in much love to you all. She is the same good little devoted wife as ever has been with me since September and bids fair to make a good Soldiers wife. She thinks I ought to be Brevetted as all my old comrades are, but I tell her it requires friends at Court which I have not got. If you should require a real smart Major in your Bureau please remember me.

I have not heard from Sarah for a long time. When I did she was well. As you are very busy, tell Lizzie I hope she will favor us with some tidings if you will.

With much love I remain  
Your affectionate Cousin  
S.P. Lee

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Johnson's Island, Ohio  
Nov. 28th 1865  
Lee, S.P.  
Friendly letter  
Recd Dec 1st 1865

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3108 11/28/1865 *From:* Andrew B. Cross

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3051

Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[80, 81]

My dear Sir

In the midst of so many calls as you must have in your Bureau, it may seem unkind to interpose another, and yet we are here to work untill the day is done, and as the Providence of God opens the way.

I have been wanting to get you or Genl Fiske among us on some occasion when we could have the opportunity of letting our people see that men can be christians and engaged in benevolent works, who have been warriors.

My object in writing now is to know if you could not sometime in December or in January make us an address on Temperance. I send to you a small pamphlet in Tract form containing an address to our people with proceedings of a convention and some hand bill tracts on temperance, which I had issued for the purpose of stirring our people up to do something to reduce the number of Liquor Shops.

We cant make such a blowout as our friend Geo. H. Stuart did on the commission –but we will find you a good audience, and may hope that you will do good.

You will see by a little item on one of the hand bills that we have 2066 Liquor shops in our city to war against. We need to realize our work, and feel like those of Macedon “ome over & help us.” if you can, we shall be greatly obliged to you and will give you the opportunity to sow beside our waters, as we dont know whether this or that shall prosper.

I also enclose you a copy of my account of the Battle of Gettysburg &c –with an account also of the com. work until we had reached the Battle of Hatchers Run. I think I gave you a copy of the Article on Gettysburg at the Commission meeting in Phil'a , but I send you it in connection some other matters.

Will you please let me hear from you?

Yours, aff.  
Andrew B. Cross

Baltimore  
Nov 28/65

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore, Md. Nov. 28/65

Cross, Andrew B

Writes friendly letter and would like Gen. Howard to be present at a Temperance meeting in Dec or Jan.

Rec Nov 30, 1865

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3109 11/28/1865 *From:* T.M. Harris

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3052

Head Quarters Dist.  
N.E Va.  
Fredericksburg Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82, 83]

Head Quarters Dist. N.E Va.  
Fredericksburg Va. Nov. 28th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Having understood that the loyal citizens of this town are making an effort to have Capt. Bohannon retained in the Freedman's Bureau Department at this place I feel it my duty to say that in so doing they are actuated simply by a desire to promote the best interests of the colored people here and I most fully concur in the best they can say as to his peculiar fitness for this duty and urge the importance of retaining him in this position if he can by any means be retained in the Service after the muster out of his regt.

The great importance of this Step arises from the fact that there are very few officers in the service, who are fit for the important duties of this station.

I am Genl  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obed Servt  
T.M. Harris  
Brig. Genl.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Fredericksburg, Nov 28, 1865

Harris, T.M.

Brig. Genl.

Recommends retention of Capt. Bohannon as Agt. of the Bureau at Fredericksburg.

Recd. Nov. 30th, 1865

Ansd Dec. 4th, 1865

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3110 11/28/1865 *From:* E.P. Tibbals

*To:* Maj Gen'l. O.O. Howard

OOH-3053

Post Office 3500  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[84, 85]

New York, Nov 28th [1865]

Maj Gen'l. O.O. Howard  
My Dear Sir

You may think this a strange note to receive, but knowing that you are deeply interested in good works I venture to write it. I write on behalf of the Sabbath School missionary Society of the Allen St Presby'n church of N.Y.

We hold our anniversary on the 3d or 4th Sabbath Evening of December next. Thinking that you might possibly be coming to N. York about that time I write this to inquire if such be the case and if it is whether you would be kind enough to attend our anniversary and favor us with an address. Short or long as you please—a favorable answer would delight us, and we would do every thing possible by way of arrangement to such your convenience. We have this year helped the Sabbath School of poor East Tenn & “Out West” “About home” Soldiers &c &c. If not too much trouble will you please answer soon and very greatly oblige yours.

Respectfully  
E.P. Tibbals  
Post Office 3500  
New York

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York, Nov. 28 / 65

Tibbals, E.P.

Invites Genl. Howard to address the “Sabbath-School Missionary Society” in that City.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REQ'D NOV 29 1865

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3111 11/29/1865 *From:* S. L. Brown

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3054

Quartermaster  
General's Office,  
Washington, D.C.

Commissioner of Refugees  
&c  
War Department

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[86]

Quartermaster General's Office,  
Washington, D.C. Nov 29, 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Refugees &c  
War Department  
General:

I have the honor to inform you that the Committee of the Young Mens Christian Association, having in charge the exercises connected with observance of Thursday, Nov 30th, as a day of fasting and prayer, have chosen you to preside at the meeting to be held at Rev Dr Gurleys Church, to-morrow evening at 7 ½ oclock.

If circumstances will allow of your presence you will greatly favor the Committee by notifying me of your acceptance.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
S. L. Brown [Samuel Lockwood]  
Bvt. Brig. Genl. 2 A C Dept.

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3112 11/29/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3055

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C.,

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[87, 88, 89]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C., Nov. 29 1865.

My dear brother

I think I will write you a few words tonight though I have written pretty often of late & have some fears that you have hardly time for so many letters from one source.

I thought I would write this evening on account of listening to a Conversation between Capt. Ketchum & Mr. Whaley this morning.

Mr. W. said he was going to Washington & seemed to be rather excited. Capt Ketchum however was sufficiently cool. The fact is that Mr. W. is much annoyed that the lands (Islands) did not come back into the hands of the old owners just as he had expected. You know of course that there has been delay resulting from the telegram of the Sec'y of War & yours, from Mobile. Lately Capt Ketchum has been pushing the matter but Mr. Whaley objects to the Colored member of the board although some have no objections to him & he is really a worthy man –intelligent & disposed to be perfectly fair & reasonable.

Gen. Sickles said to me this afternoon that he thought it advisable to retain the Colored man on the Board. He is one of those who called upon Gen. Sherman –in that celebrated interview in Savannah. I think it likely that Mr. Whaley in his irritation may bring objections against Capt Ketchum. The fact is he & many of these people dont like any one they cannot manage in their own way. No one is better adapted to deal with them than Capt Ketchum for he will hear them patiently but will take a deliberate view of every question and do what is duty without regard to the desires of any one. I could not help observing (although ostensibly engaged with other papers & business) how well he answered Mr. Whaley. Mr. W. was defeated for Congress & this makes him very sore.

Capt. Ketchum would have interfered to to have had a white citizen selected for the Edisto Board had he received your telegram of similar instructions before it was formed. But the Colored people were allowed to make their own choice & as you have not yet required a change none has been made. I think with this colored man as a member the Board will be much more likely to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement to the negroes than any other Board could . I fact I doubt if any other Board could do any thing with them.

I find that the ex-Rebel citizens of this state are a very wily & untrustworthy people ready to take advantage when they can. At first I hoped that conciliation & kindness would induce them to take just & fair grounds but I do not now believe we may expect much more than an exterior of politeness put on for their <own sakes>. They are incapable of doing justice to the negroes & of any true loyalty to the Gov't.

It is certainly a mistake to give them political power again so hastily –especially if the negro is to be left to their mercy without the ballot to defend his own rights with. I heard that the “lack Code” had been submitted to you. At first reading that might seem fair & as much as you could expect from South Carolina. But it is utterly

rejected and allowed by the Colored by the Colored people.

They claim that the laws of the land for the governance of whites are adequate to their cases also and that this legislating against color should end with slavery. Gen. Sickles will get on admirably with Gen. Saxton. You ought to see the new <phaze inputs> upon the Military in reference to the Bureau. But I am rather tired & it is late & I will close.

You mentioned that you would ask again the promotion of Capt. Ketchum on your return to Washington. I do think he deserves it. No one could fill his place in charge of your business (of the restoration) here. Gen. Saxton still hopes Congress will give those islands to the Freedmen or lease them for them to buy at some future time.

Give much love to Lizzie & the Children.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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3113 11/29/1865 *From:* Geo C Round

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3056

Wesleyan University  
Middleton Conn.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[90, 91]

Wesleyan University  
Middleton Conn.  
Nov. 29th 1865.

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to convey to you the unanimous request of the members of the "Literary Societies of the Wesleyan University", that you be invited to deliver the Annual Address before them at our next Commencement, on the evening of Tuesday, July 16th 1866.

I presume, General, that you are well acquainted with the general character of our University, but perhaps a word in regard to it will not be out of place. It is the chief literary institution of the Methodist Church, which church we have the high authority of Edward Everett for saying "as done more for the cause of education in America than any other denomination." That you may be able to judge of the character of those who have addressed us in the past, I would mention such names as Edward Everett, Wendell Phillips, Geo. Wm. Curtis, and Geo. Thompson of Eng.

I would add moreover the infant solicitations of "The Army and Navy Union, of the Wesleyan University" composed of those who have tried to do their duty at the post of danger during the past four years.

Among this number I am proud to rank myself, having just returned to the University after an absence of 4 years & 4 mos at the front. Having served the first three years in the Army of the Potomac and afterward in Gen. Sherman's army, in the capacity of a Signal-Officer at the Head Qrs of Maj. Gen. Schofield, I had ample opportunity of learn to admire and to love you.

Having borne musket and sword under you we are anxious to see your face once more.

If your public duties should prevent the preparation of anything new, I would respectfully suggest that a repetition of your address at Gettysburg would be very satisfactory.

I am, Sir,  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Geo C Round

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Middletown, Conn. Nov. 29th / 65

Round, Geo. C.

Invites Genl. Howard to deliver the annual address before the "Literary Societies of the Wesleyan University"  
July 16 / 66.

Recd. Dec. 6th 1865.

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3114 11/29/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3057

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[92]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston Nov 29, 1865

Dear Genl

In fulfilment of a promise made to a good christian brother, I have to ask you if you can, & will, the night before or after you lecture at Jamaica Plain to secure a paying course & clear a relgs society from debt?

They think that your name w'd lift the load.

I hope you are all very well, & nicely settled. I suppose we shall know more about the designs of Government soon.

Yrs Fraternally,  
E.B. Webb

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

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3115 11/30/1865 *From:* F.E. Heath

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3058

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[93]

Portland Nov. 30th 1865

To Maj. Genl. Howard

Sir

I am thinking of applying for an office under the Genl. Govt. (not military) and would like very much to have a letter of recommendation from you. I do not expect it unless you can give one conscientiously. If you can however please let it cover the time I served in your command, as during that time I passed through the grades of Lt., Capt., Lt. Col & Col.

I have first returned from a journey among our southern bretheren and heartily endorse your views concerning the non-withdrawal of our troops.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

F.E. Heath

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3116 11/30/1865 *From:* Thomas W. Conway *To:* Major Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3059

*Source:* Bowdoin

742 B'way, Care Genl  
Clark  
New York

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[31, 32]

Nov. 30th 1865

Major Gen Howard;  
Commissioner,  
Genl:

I have written to Gen. Fisk in order to save time and expense. I expect to hear from him any day.

I am pressed by leading citizens and by the best friends of the Bureau to proceed to England in regard to the subject which I presented to you personally when I saw you.

I am sure I can do ten times more for the promotion of the objects of the Bureau than by remaining. The results will tend greatly to give you pleasure in seeing satisfactory results of your ardent endeavors.

Should you deem it best, my present relation can remain (giving Gen'l Fisk a knowledge of the circumstances) so that my mission might have an official character, and with a view to aid the Bureau in a moral point of view.

My sincere regard for you and my lack of any unhappy feeling at some aspects of my removal in Louisiana, enables me to say that I am ready to make the best use of my time in the hope of seeing a successful consummation of your work. I am anxious that you give any turn to my mission (if I undertake it, as I presume I will) which may secure the greatest good.

Already there are pleasant indications of pleasure at the prospective results. The citizens who have brought this matter to my mind, will be glad to have such letter of advice or instruction from you (as may be deemed best by yourself) placed in my hands.

I have already written to New Orleans and I think I will be able to procure copies of such material as will enable me to give you a final report.

On hearing from Gen. Fisk, I presume I will forward my resignation, except that you would desire otherwise. I ought to leave here in a few days on my mission to Europe.

With assurances of my most cordial esteem and good-will,

I am, respectfully your obt servt  
Thomas W. Conway  
742 B'way, Care Genl Clark

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

New York, Nov 20, 1865 [should have been Nov 30.]

Conway, Thos. W.

Relative to his going to England for the purpose of encouraging capitalists there to engage in the cultivation of cotton in the South.

Rec'd Dec. 2, 1865

Ansd. Dec 2, 1865

[Clipping from Evg Post Nov. 30th. 65

A Useful Enterprise.

Mr. Conway, late Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and abandoned Lands in Louisiana, is, we hear, about to proceed to England for the purpose of encouraging English capitalists to

engage in the cultivation of cotton by the help of the freedmen of the southern states.

This project is important not only to whites and blacks in the South, but to our general commercial interests. It is well known that for want of capital not one-half the rich lands of the states lately in revolt can be cultivated this year. It is likewise well known that the inability of most southern planters to pay the freedmen frequently and in full, is the principal cause of the distrust and disaffection in the minds of the laborers, and of the annoyance and distress experience by the employers.

The freedmen, in addition to their natural dislike of those who held them as slaves, become restless and uneasy because they are not paid regularly, and the two things working together cause vexation and difficulty, which can only be remedied by the introduction of abundance of ready capital. This can be had in the northern states and in England. Our people here have had the opportunity to become fully aware of the facts connected with this subject, but it is not so with men on the other side of the ocean, and hence the importance of Mr. Conway's mission.

From Mr. Conway's long experience in the South, among both planters and freedmen, we believe him fully competent to represent the subject so as to interest practical men, and especially the many friends of the freedmen in Europe.

We understand that Mr. Conway will leave in a few days, and that he will take with him letters from many of our leading citizens, who are cordially in sympathy with his effort. The Chamber of Commerce will probably take special notice of it, and recommend Mr. Conway to the attention of its corresponding bodies abroad.

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3117 12/1/1865 *From:* Wm King

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3060

Marietta Cobb Co Ga

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Marietta Cobb Co Ga  
1 Dec 1865

Washington D.C.  
Maj. Genl. Howard  
My dear Sir

I wrote to you on the 18th ult. while in Virginia, and asked the favor of your writing to me, at your earliest convenience, directing to Savannah, informing me of your determination on the Labor System. On my arrival here, finding things in such an unsettled condition, that duty requires me to remain here a while, probably some weeks, to place my family in a condition of greater comfort, before leaving there. If you have not yet written to me, may I ask the favor of your addressing your Letter to me at this place - "Marrietta Cobb County Geo:" mail via Lynchburg Va.

Allow me to trespass on your kindness for a personal favor. My brother-in-Law Richard H Macleod and Mrs King's cousin Jacob Waldburg, both of Chatham County Gen, transmitted to the president their applications for pardon last July & August and not having yet received them, they are becoming very anxious, to enable them to make some disposition of their Landed property in time for the coming year's crops, which is important to be done before the 1st Jan'y; will you oblige me by obtaining their pardons of the president and transmitting the Vouchers to me here for them as early as practicable -no objections can be made to either of their applications I think, for neither has been in the confederate service, and Mr Waldburg an old gentleman of 73 years and always opposed to secession. You will greatly oblige me still farther by granting an order for Mr Jacob Waldburg ot have restored to him his Landed property, known as St. Catherines Island Liberty County Geo: he owns the whole Island, about 20,000 acres; Mr. Waldburg is to pay me a fee of \$500 if I can get him placed in possession of that Island before before 1st January next -a sum much needed by me now, and which will refund my expenses while at the North the past summer and fall. If you can bestow upon me any office of profit (not for honor I seek) in this state, I should be pleased to accept it for a while the future still being very dark.

Very respy General  
Your Obt Serv  
Wm King

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3118 12/1/1865 *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3061

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96, 97, 98]

Raleigh Dec. 1st 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear General

I am glad to see that you have returned to Washington & are nearly ready with your report for the information of Congress. The Govt seems to have been stiffened by the elections North & South. In this State the result shows the temper of the people, tho' the defeat of Holden is rather due to his old party record than to his present position. But it is evident all over the south, that the colored race cannot be safely left in the hands of the late Masters or the Southern people. Just as sure as that is done such oppressive laws will be enacted, that the blacks will be driven to desperation & the scenes lately witnessed in Jamaica will be reenacted in many sections of our own country. I do hope that Congress will grasp the whole subject, & show itself master of the situation.

No Legislation "for freedmen" should be allowed; it is not consistent with a republican form of gov't. All laws should apply to all races alike. Give equal rights to white & blacks; impose the same taxes, the same duties, the same penalties for crime, and then execute the laws with simple justice, and the result will be peace, safety, prosperity.

But the white people in this State are not yet ready to treat black men justly. Therefore the Federal Government ought ot retain control. Our military force ought to be increased, not reduced. For some districts I could not now safely travel in U.S. uniform. As our troops disappear & bayonets are no longer feared the smothered hatred of Union men begins to break out. Yesterday a woman (white) appealed to me for redress against an army of rebels, who tore down her house, beat herself, & had some months ago killed her husband because they were "damned yankees." Last week a young man was stoned & threatened in Graham because he had opened a "nigger school". Without a larger military force it will be impossible to protect our teachers even from violence.

By a new muster out of Regts, I lose 9 of my officers, but I hope to fill their places soon.

After Jan 1st I mean to make you a visit; & then if we are to continue this work, I shall make a strong effort to get rank equal to that of some of the younger men who are doing less work, & have comparatively no responsibility. I have many offers of a business kind that would be worth twice my office, but I am disposed to work this problem out first.

Some of Maj. Fowlers endorsements & orders are so perplexing that I am obliged to send them back. I am too much of a soldier to disobey orders, but in some instances the orders involve principles & precedents which would cause me great trouble. Yesterday I was ordered to Annul a lease of the Gaston House in New Bern. The lease was made by Col. Heaton last February & will expire in Feb. '66. the Lesser Mr. Fisher claims that he made the bargain & has paid the rent in good faith, that he made all his contracts for clerks, servants &c needed in a large Hotel for the year, & that his ejection now would do him great damage. Major F. has not heard his side of the story. I have not in any case annulled or cancelled a lease, & shall not do it, except upon your imperative order.

I enclose with this, but on a separate page a request that you will use your influence to get a pardon for Gen. Bryan Grimes of this city. My reason is that Gen. Gaines has a large farm, & is willing to settle down quietly upon it, & employ some 60 or 70 freedmen at good wages. But without his pardon he feels that it is unsafe to undertake any large business.

I must bring this long letter to a close. Please remember me to your family & all our friends at the "Freedmen's Boarding House."

Yours truly  
E. Whittlesey

P.S. I think Capt James will resign soon. I will put Capt. Seely in his place. Both those officers ought to have increased rank. Nothing has been heard about Beecher promotion. E.W.

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3119 12/1/1865 *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3062

Brattleboro Vt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Brattleboro Vt Dec 1st 1865

My dear Genl -

I understand that the officers of the V.R.C. are to be ordered to their respective places of residences, I suppose with a view to the discharge of such as have no duties to perform.

I, as I have before written you, much desire to remain in the service, and if you can secure a detail for me in your Bureau, or for other duty, I would much like it.

I dislike to trouble you so frequently, as I know your attention and time must be much engrossed.

I shall go to Bath, and my P.O. Address will be there for the present.

I am Genl. very Respectfully  
and Truly Yrs  
F.D. Sewall  
Col. V.R.C. &  
Bt. Brig. General

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3120 12/1/1865 *From:* Wm. W. Thayer

*To:* Major Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-3063

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100, 101]

Boston Dec 1" 65

Major Gen'l O.O. Howard  
General

I am directed by Major Geo. L. Stearns of this City to request you to forward to him at your earliest convenience a list of the assistant Superintendents of the Freedmen's Bureau together with their addresses in order that I may send to them through your hands, copies of the paper "The Right Way" every week.

If I can have such list I can write the addresses on wrappers and send them to you in packages of one hundred each, for you to distribute, or have distributed. Please direct either to Major Stearns or to "The Right Way".

Resp.  
Wm. W. Thayer, Publisher

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Boston Dec 1, 1865

Thayer Wm. W.

Asks for addresses of Asst. Comms.

Recd Dec 3d 1865

Ansd Dec 4th 1865

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3121 12/2/1865 *From:* H. Balling

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3064

New York City  
Clinton Hall

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95]

New York City  
Clinton Hall Dec 2d 65

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

For a year and a half I have been engaged on a very large painting representing Genl. Grant and his principal Generals. You are of cours in the composition and I saw you on the grand review in Washington but my whole time there was taken up to get studies of Gen. Sherman. I went to Richmond this summer but found you gone. I made my studies of Gen. Terry who I requested to remember me to you. I am now about finishing the work, and although Officers that know you well, consider your portrait good, even Gen. Grant, who visited my studio the other day, was of the same opinion, yet I would desi'er, if you should not come here before long, to have a card photograph of you with hat on –you are all on horseback, - and a mi'nut discription of colors, hair, eyes, baird &c. I wish to be as corect as possible and hope you will oblige in this.

Your most respectfully  
H. Balling [Ole Peter Hansen Balling]

[Attached calling card]  
H. Balling  
Artist  
Clinton Hall  
(Room 14) Astor Place

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3122 12/3/1865     *From:* J. W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3065                      Office Assistant  
                                    Commissioner, State of  
*Source:* Bowdoin            Alabama  
                                    Bureau of Refugees,  
                                    Freedmen, and  
                                    Abandoned Lands  
                                    Montgomery, Ala

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[142]

Office Assistant Commissioner, State of Alabama  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
Montgomery, Ala, Dec 3rd 1865

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
General

I have the honor of enclosing to you clippings from the papers here, showing actions of the Legislators on the subject of Freedmen &c.

Genl Swayne is doing much to put and keep things right – his theory being admirable & himself a thorough, excellent man. But it is apparent, on all sides, that the planters do not intend to loosen their grasp upon the negro practically. Their talk on trains, in hotels, & discussions in the legislature, show fixed purpose to oppose his elevation. The military alone hold them back from violence. All contracts & leases are to be crippled as you see, and schools will be crushed if possible. There is a much lower condition of negro <pauperism> here than on the coast. Your Bureau must be continued. It is the Freedmans only hope.

Yours &c, very Respectfully  
J. W. Alvord

I go to Atlanta & so on to Augusta tomorrow.  
J.W.A.

[Written Sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 3/65  
Alvord, J.W.  
Friendly letter of information  
Recd. Dec. 7th, 1865

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3123 12/4/1865

*From:* Hermann Bokum

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3066

Department of State  
Bureau of Immigration  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[102]

Department of State  
Bureau of Immigration  
Washington, December 4, 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard,

Rudolph Koradi, Esquire, the Swiss Consul at Philadelphia has handed me a Series of remarks, made by a Swiss Gentleman, in a Swiss newspaper in the German language. I enclose a translation. They are good, indeed! Will you be kind enough to send me some reply to the inquiries I took the liberty of addressing to you the other day in the name of Mr. Koradi?

1. A testimony with regard to the reliability of the officers connected with the Freedmen's Bureau?
2. Would it be best to make the proposed contributions in money or in goods purchased in Europe?

If it should not be proper for the United States to receive gifts in this way, is it in your power to point out to our Swiss friend the best channel for these contributions.

I am, Sir,  
Your brother in Christ  
Hermann Bokum

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3124 12/4/1865 *From:* John D. Myrick

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3067

Norfolk Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Norfolk Va  
Dec 4th 1865

My Dear General

Yours of the 24th came duly to hand – and I was glad to learn that you had been touring through the South for your presence in the South always is followed with a great deal of good. And I am in hopes you will meet the South very often. The Southern people admire you very much & your policy. All know you are doing every thing for the best. And that you are equal to the emergency. I am sorry that my business arrangements are such, that I can not attend the cotton convention in New York. It would give me a great deal of pleasure. But I marry on the 20th a Spanish Creole in Montgomery. I wish you were along. I will then go to my plantation in Florida, and remain a short time & then return. All of my negroes are still with me. Not one has left. On my return from the South, I will publish my Book. Enclosed I send you a picture of the Lady to be the companion of my heart.

I am Genl.  
Most Respetly  
Your friend  
John D. Myrick

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Norfolk Dec 4, 1865  
Myrick, Maj. J.D.  
Friendly letter  
Recd Dec 6th, 1865

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3125 12/4/1865    *From:* Godfrey Rider Jr    *To:* Mg. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3068                      Custom House, Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[106]

Custom House, Boston,  
December 4th 1865

Mg. Genl. Howard  
Dr. Genl

I have no papers from any Genl in relation to my labors in the War and as I was under you a long time and you know me as well as anyone I would like some kind of a testimonial from you, for future use, or for my children to look upon in the future. As you are greatly loved and esteemed, as a soldier & christian, I consider your approval entirely sufficient.

I am a clerk in this office, and when you arrive here to lecture to us, I hope to see you.

My regards to your brother Charles.

I hope you are well General

Your Obt Servt  
Godfrey Rider Jr  
Late Comdg 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt Mass. Vol. Inft

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Custom House, Boston  
Dec 4th, 1865  
Rider, jr. Godfry [sic]  
Desires a recommendation to keep in his family.  
Recd. Dec. 6th 1865

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3126 12/4/1865

*From:* R. Saxton

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3069

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia  
Charleston, S.C.

Commissioner

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[107]

Personal  
Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia  
Charleston, S.C. Dec 4th 1865

Dear General,

I received this morning your message from your brother with regard to my probable removal from my present position in South Carolina and asking me in what western state I would like duty in the bureau. I greatly regret that my administration in South Carolina has not met with the approval of the President. I can only say that in all respects I have endeavored to act strictly in accordance with my orders and in those cases where a discretionary power was left me from conscientious convictions of duty. Were I assigned to any other state I could not act differently. I am content to remain in this work here as long as I am wanted, but should it be deemed for the best interests of the service that I be relieved from this Department I do not think it would be best to assign me to any other.

In the event of my removal it would of course be pleasant for me to be ordered to report to General Grant for duty with my present rank, as I suppose the only other alternative is my Captaincy in the regular army but even that is preferable to commencing the whole work over again in a new state. With the record I have had in this state and during the war I should be no more acceptable to the late slave holders elsewhere than I am here.

With many thanks for having so kindly shown your interest in my case.

I am very truly  
Your friend  
R. Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Asst Comm.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Charleston S.C. Dec. 4th 1865  
Saxton, Rufus  
Maj. Genl.  
Friendly letter.  
Recd. Dec. 9th 1865

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3127 12/4/1865 *From:* L M Monel

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3070

Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169]

<> Mass

[ca Dec. 4, 1865] [the date was written in pencil.]

Dear Genl,

Allow me to trouble you to read the enclosed.

I think Col. Sewall a competent office, but dont have as you have any use of him.

Respectfully yours

<L M Monel>

Maj Genl Howard

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3128 12/5/1865 *From:* Wm Henry Trescot

*To:* Major Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3071

Columbia [SC]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13, 14]

Private & Unofficial

Columbia

December 5, 1865

My Dear General

I received your telegram yesterday in reply to mine in reference to Captain Ketchums action and the exchange of General Saxton. I regret very much that the exchange has not been effected and the more as I learn by letters from Charleston today that Captain Ketchum refuses to compel contracts unless the owners are willing to lease or sell to the freedmen. If this is so it is a direct violation of all that I understood from the President's orders and your instructions. I have neither desire nor intention to censure your conduct which I have in all our intercourse found consistent and true but I am forced to infer that you have been overruled that the experiment which you proposed to make has been abandoned and that a policy of continued spoleation instead of gradual conciliation has been resolved on. I believe the consequences will be miserable. I am sure that if the Bureau had not perseveringly interfered against the planter that this question of labour would have adjusted itself gradually. The planter would have found that free labour has great advantages and once the negro understood that he must work, he would have worked. Of course for some years there would have been difficulties, the negro would not do as much as he could, the planter would expect more than he ought. But it would have come right. A great deal that you do not understand and a great deal that we do not understand would have explained itself to both of us. I had determined to try the experiment fairly even if I leased my lands to my former slaves for the next year without profit. I was willing, perfectly willing to loose a year to ascertain upon what true basis our future relations could rest. But what can we do with this persistent bitter determination to excite and exaggerate the antagonism between the races? I will not stop now to argue the individual injustice or the vocation of general right unsolved in the administration of the Bureau in S.C. but let me ask you –putting us out of the question to consider as a statesman what must be the consequence of giving their lands to the freedmen.

1. You add to the antagonism which recent events have naturally execute but which time will as naturally mitigate, all the bitterness which unjust and tyrannical spoleation must and will provoke. You put the state and the freedman at arms length. And yet in that state he must live and you make a condition of things requiring a perpetual, costly and contentious interference on your part.
2. You willfully destroy the productive energy and capability of the richest portion of the state by leaving laborer without the help of capital for capital will not invest in negro industry or negro enterprise. Either the negro will be supplanted by capital (the only difference between which and us will be that it is not ours –for in no cause will it be his or will drag out a bare existence creating barrenness all around him.
3. You place the negro on the sea coast which the interior needs for its commercial development and from which this necessity will drive him or where he must stand, stopping every rail road, chopping up every harbour and neither using the advantages which God has given the country, nor permitting us to use it.

Do you suppose if Hayte was a sea coast county of Massachusetts or New York that its existence would be tolerated for twenty years. Do you not know that the enterprise of their great commonwealth would sweep such an encumbrance away, and rely upon it that to give the negro possession now will be merely to dispossess us to make way for other white men who will benefit by our loss. If this is what you mean –if this is the mode of punishment –so be it–but say so.

I regret all this for I really thought that your honesty and sincerity would aid us to get through this crisis unto better times. I wish the experiment of free black labour to succeed. I have been brought up among negroes, have lived among them, and owe them much of the comfort and pleasure of my life. Their labour has given me wealth, leisure and opportunity. I do not wish to see them perish from the fore to which they are so much attached and for which they have done so much. But if a mistaken policy will have it so, it must be so for yours

is the power but so also will yours be the responsibility.

Believe me with all our differences of opinion

Yours respectfully  
& kindly  
Wm Henry Trescot

Major Gen Howard

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Columbia Nov. 4/65  
Trescott, Wm Henry  
Concerning the restoration of the Sea islands.  
Recd Dec. 12th 1866

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3129 12/5/1865    *From:* Ella P. H. [Patten  
Howard]

*To:* Dear brother Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3072

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[81]

Bath Dec 5th 1865

Dear brother Otis

You will pardon me for so long neglecting to thank you in the name of your little namesake, for that beautiful cup. The little fellow has been so sick that I have done little but try to make him comfortable, but he is getting nicely now, & I am very thankful.

The cup is so handsome, that I was tempted to keep it just for ornament! But at length I concluded, as it was his, & given him to drink from. I would allow him to use it, very carefully –and may it never contain anything more injurious than that which he receives from it now - although the outside is very suggestive of the “juice of the vine”.

I thank you too for those pretty pictures. Dadie produces them whenever a visitor comes, with the explanation - “My Papa brought them –this is Mamma’s, & this is mine. Uncle Otis sent them.”

Rowland came home looking in good condition, after his long journey. I am very glad you took him along, & hope you made him useful! He will spend Thanksgiving here, & I hoped the baby would be well enough to take home with him, but I believe I shall wait another week. Mamma invited your Mother to be with us also. I wish you & Lizzie & the children could come too!

I hear you are to lecture in Portland soon. I wish Lizzie could come on with you, I suppose your time while there, will be more than occupied, or I should urge you to call on my sister Lizzie, who lives No. 22 Gray St. I think very likely my father & mother will be there, & they would all be delighted to see you.

Rowland’s stories of burglars, & other annoyances in Washington, have quite reconciled me to living away back in the country, among the snowdrifts! Since he has been home, when troubles arise in the parish, he consoles himself with the thought - Otis’ vexations are a thousand times worse! - & so becomes quite contented. I suppose the children enjoy Washington.

I hear Guy is becoming quite a man - & manages the pony very skillfully. And Grace is happy with her books anywhere. Jamie goes on in his own independent way, I suppose. Is he any less like Pres. Johnson? And Chancey is as lovely & loveable as ever.

Dadie says - “Tell Jamie I’ve got a gun & a wooden sword, & a dog.” Dadie grows in mind & body daily. I wish he wouldn’t grow in naughtiness!

Aunt Jana & Abby are both here now & both send their love to you & your wife. Abby particularly speaks of the children. She remembers with a good deal of satisfaction, her stay at Augusta. Horace envies Guy his possession of a real –live –pony.

My father & mother wish to be kindly remembered to you & Lizzie, & with all these “remembrances,” love, & good wishes, including a heap of each, from myself. I will bid you goodbye.

Your sister as ever

Ella P. H.

Papa wishes me to ask you, if they should invite you to lecture here. Would you come?  
E.P.H.



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3130 12/5/1865

*From:* Jno E Smith

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-3073

Head-Quarters, Dist.  
West Tennessee,  
Memphis Tenn

Washington D.C

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[139, 140]

Head-Quarters, Dist. West Tennessee,  
Memphis Tenn Decr 5th 1865.

Major Genl O O Howard  
Washington D.C.  
General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind letter of Nov 14th correcting an error of the Author of a Work entitled "The Great March to the Sea" and in behalf of the Gallant Soldiers of the 3d Div 15th Army Corps Army of the Tenn that I had the honor to Command to whom you have so nobly done justice. I beg to return you my sincere thanks, not only for this but for the Consideration you have at all times shown me while I had the honor of being under your Command. Will you permit me to share the pleasure with my old Command, that your letter gives me by furnishing Copies to the officers?

Please accept my sincere wishes for your health and happiness and all success in your sphere of usefulness to our fellow Creatures.

I remain Very Truly  
Your Obdt Servt  
Jno E Smith  
Bvt Maj Genl US Vols

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Memphis, Dec 5 1865  
Smith, Jno E.  
Maj Gen. U.S.V.

Asks permission to publish the letter from Gen. Howard correcting the mistake made by the author of the work entitled Shermans March to the Sea.  
Recd Dec 11th 1865

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3131 12/6/1865 *From:* H. N. Howard

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3074

Dexter Me

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[111]

Dexter Me Dec. 6th 1865

General,

I hear you have difficulty in finding suitable numbers and kind of medical officers for the Bureau of Freedmen of which you are Chief. If such be the case, and my experience in the Army will enable me to be of service to you and to the country, I would be glad of the position of medical officer in that bureau.

Dexter offers good inducements for me to locate here, but like all persons who have been long in the Army, I am not quite content with civil life in the country.

Father and Mother are very well, and would be kindly remembered.

Mrs Warren Mower resides near me, and often speaks of her step-brother Genl. Howard.

With kind regards to Mrs Howard,

I am very respectfully yours  
H. N. Howard [Horatio Nelson Howard]

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written on a side flap of the first page, in a different hand.]

Dexter Me. Dec 6/65.

Howard, H. N.

Would like a position as Surg. In Freedmen's Bureau.

Recd. Dec 10th, 1865

Ansd Dec 12 1865

[Note: H.N. Howard was a second cousin to Otis. Mrs. Warren Mower was Louisa Jane Gilmore, the daughter of Otis' step father Col John Gilmore and his first wife, Huldah Alger. ]

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3132 12/6/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3075

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C.

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[112, 113]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C., Dec. 6 1865.

Dear brother

I was glad to get your letter though a week old. I am going to start for a tour in Georgia early in the morning –probably go to Brunswick & Thomasville & perhaps to Tallahassee (across by land). Rev. Mr. French arrived today goes to Savannah with me. I wish you had seen him, but he says he wrote you & I think you will find some, at least, of his suggestions very valuable.

I hardly think the Secy of War was pleased that you accomplished anything towards the restoration of the Sea Island. Perhaps he don't care so that he dont have to shoulder the responsibility.

Gen. Saxton had been feeling very secure after your letter to him but now is half expecting to be removed & feels rather uncomfortable. He said in answer to your question about his being willing to go West, that if he cannot suit the President here he could not anywhere & if he leaves here he thinks he had better leave the Bureau altogether. I suspect there will be a powerful element in Congress supporting Gen. Saxton & opposed even to restoring the Sea Islands. I think Chief Justice Chase & his Coadjutors will advocate a purchase of them.

I am glad you took some action about the school buildings. It would be a shame to break up our fine schools. This is one of the greatest arguments in favor retaining the Bureau.

I thought Gen. Saxton's bill quite incomplete but he only intended it as suggesting to you & giving his views on certain points. Capt. Ketchum went to Edisto with the planters today & found a better feeling existing than he feared—but many will never contract with the old owners on that island & if the Secy's condition that they "should not be disturbed in their present homes" is adhered to it will prevail the restoration and this would please many at the North as they believe the good faith of the Govt to the negroes demands it.

I was glad to hear of all the family. Give my love to them. I got a letter from Rowland today –home again & at work. Quite a Religious Interest in West Leeds. I was delighted at your good full letter. I have been inflicting good many of a semi-business nature upon you. If you object I will drop business except in regular official communications but I suppose you like for me to write as I would talk, on what interests us most. There seems to have been some conflict between Strong & Gregory. Tis it true. A Kiss to "J" & Chancy & not forgetting Guy & Gracie nor Lizzie. God bless them all.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. I need not say that I think Capt. Ketchum is doing better than anyone else you could have got. I have already said as much.

C.H.H.

[Written in red ink on the last page of the letter, in a different hand.]

Charleston S.C. Dec. 6 1865

Howard, Chas. H. Brevet Brig. Genl.

Letter of information.

Recd. Dec. 12th 1865.

[Transcription of the enclosed newspaper clipping.]

Headq'rs District of Western S.C.,

Fourth Separate Brigade,

Columbia, S.C., December 1, 1865.

General Orders No. 34.

I. Before a Military Commission, which convened at Headquarters, District of Western South Carolina, Fourth Separate Brigade, Columbia, South Carolina, November 30th, 1865, pursuant to Special Orders No. 37, dated Headquarters, District of Western South Carolina, November 11th, 1865, and of which Lieut. Col. N. Haughton, 25th Regiment Ohio Veteran Volunteers, is President, was arraigned and tried:

James Egon, citizen of Lexington District, South Carolina.

Charge.

Murder

Specification: in this, that the said James Egon, citizen of Lexington District, State of South Carolina, did feloniously, and with malice aforethought, kill and slay, by shooting, one Freedman, named General Egon.

All this, on or about the 24th day of September, 1865, in the District of Lexington, State of South Carolina, pleaded as follows:

To the Specification, "Not Guilty."

To the Charge, "Not Guilty."

Finding

The commission having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, James Egon, citizen of Lexington District, South Carolina, as follows:

Of the Specification, "Guilty,"

Of the Charge, "Guilty,"

Sentence.

And the commission do, therefore, sentence him, James Egon, citizen of Lexington District, South Carolina, to solitary confinement for life, and the Albany Penitentiary, State of New York.

II. The proceedings and findings in the forgoing case of James Egon, citizen of Lexington District, South Carolina, are approved. The sentence is confirmed, and will be carried into effect at the Albany Penitentiary, State of New York.

The District Provost Marshal will turn the prisoner over, with a copy of the order, to the Provost Marshal-General of the Department.

The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary transportation.

By order of

Brevet Major-General A. Ames,

J.A. Clark, Capt. 15th Maine Vols., A.A.D.C., and Act.Asst. Adjt Genl.

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3133 12/6/1865

*From:* Thomas C.  
Slaughter  
Corydon, Indiana

*To:* Hon. Henry S. Lane

OOH-3076

U.S. Senate

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[114, 115]

Corydon, Indiana,  
Dec 6, 1865

Hon. Henry S. Lane,  
U.S. Senate,  
Dear Sir:

I trust you will pardon my frequent trespasses on your patience. My apology for troubling you now, is my desire to serve a young friend of mine, and I know no other channel through which I can do it, Mr. William H. Timberlake, of this County, who has served for several years in the army –at one time Adgt. of the 81st Ind. Infantry, and more recently a member of the 16 Ind. Cavalry. He desires some kind of employment in the Freedman's Bureau. I learn from him that he is in some way related to Gen. Howard, and thinks it possible, if he can properly do so, that he would be willing to secure him a place. He has capacity and is certainly most loyal. He needs employment. He would make a good Clerk. I am anxious to serve him, but a letter from me to Gen Howard –who of course knows nothing of me –could do him no possible good –unless I was endorsed by some one in whom he can rely. If you feel at liberty to do so, please endorse this letter & forward to Gen. Howard, and thus lay me under renewed obligations for yr many kindnesses.

Very Respectfully,  
Thomas C. Slaughter

[Appended to above on the last page.]  
Genl OO Howard  
Dear Sir

The writer of the within letter is a Gentleman of the highest character & I have entire confidence to his statements & shall be pleased if anything can be done for his friend.

H. S. Lane  
USS

[Written sideways on top of the last page in a different hand.]  
Corydon, Ind. Dec 6/65  
Slaughter, Thos. C.  
Desires to secure a position in Bureau of Freedmen &c for Wm. H. Timberlake.  
Endorsed to Genl Howard by Hon. H.S. Lane, U.S. Senator.  
Recd Dec. 19th 1865

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3134 12/7/1865

*From:* C. C. Townsend

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3077

*Source:* Bowdoin

The Orphans Home of  
Industry  
Iowa City, Io.

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[116]

The Orphans Home of Industry  
Iowa City, Io. Dec 7th 1865

Genl Howard,  
Dear Friend,

I am thankful to you for that special providence which has conducted you, in safety, through so many privations and dangers, to your present eminent position of usefulness. My heart has been with you all along, and I now sympathize in your present work. The "Home of Industry" has prospered, and its interests are safe. The "House of Reception" on Staten Island has been adopted by a Committee of church Ladies of the Island, and, as early as next Spring I wish to do something in the cause you advocate and over which you preside. I rejoice that our church has turned her eyes upon the Freedmen, and organized for their benefit. In the Ozark Mountains in Northern Arkansas, near Fayetteville Washington County, I have a Mission property 20 acres and buildings, which I wish to devote to the Lord for the benefit of the Orphan and Freedmen.

At small expense, I could fit up an orphan's Home & school and for "The Home of Industry" I supply the Managers, nurses & teachers. Can you aid me in carrying out my wishes and suggest any plan?

Let me hear from you soon, and please direct to me "Care of Sam'l Barber, No 112 Water St New York". I shall go to N.Y. in a few days.

If in your answer you can enclose a contribution for the Orphans, under my charge, 150 in number—the Lord will repay you and you will place under new obligation.

Your old Friend,  
C. C. Townsend

[Written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Ansd Dec 12, 1865

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3135 12/8/1865 *From:* S.S. Greene

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3078

Providence

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[117]

Providence Dec 8 1865

To Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
My dear Sir;

At the meeting of the National Teachers' Association held at Harrisburg Pa in August last, a committee was appointed, of which I was Chairman –to take any steps - such as a memorial to Congress –or any other that should be deemed advisable for the purpose of advancing the cause of education at the South –among the States lately in rebellion.

Perhaps no educational body could better represent the wishes of the whole country –excepting the states above referred to than ours. Can we do anything to serve a good cause by appearing with a memorial –praying for the establishment of an educational Bureau –as a means of reaching the desired object?

There was a strong disposition apparent at the meeting to do something.

Shall I be asking too much of you, sir, if I seek your candid opinion upon this matter? Can you guide us in giving shape to any useful measures? Can we help you in any good plan for promoting the cause of universal education at the South?

An early answer is desirable as I must consult the other members of the Committee as to what shall be done.

I am, very truly,  
Your obt Servant  
S.S. Greene

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3136 12/9/1865 *From:* Albert Q. Broune

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3079

Salem

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[118, 119]

Salem Dec 9, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
General,

I am requested by the Trustees of the Salem Lyceum to ask you to deliver a lecture before said Institution at your convenience.

Noticing that you are to speak in Boston the ensuing season, it may suit you to come to our quiet little city at that time. As you are aware, it is a place of Historic interest, and it will give pleasure to our friends to show you all that is worth seeing.

I am here for a brief-period recovering from malarial fever contracted at the south, and shall return in a few days. If you will signify your acceptance of the invitation to H.I. Cross Esq corresponding Secretary of the Lyceum, we shall be greatly obliged.

Mrs Browne and my daughter would be pleased to receive you as their guest should you visit Salem.

I have been at the South for two or three years past, and taking an especial interest in the negro race shall be pleased if I can render your Bureau any service.

My address is at Savannah Georgia,

Your obt Svt  
Albert Q. Broune  
Supering Special Agt Treasury Dept.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Salem, Mass.

Dec. 9th 1865

Brown, Albert G.

Treasury Dept.

Desires Gen. Howard to lecture in Salem

Recd Dec. 13, 1865

Ansd Dec 16, 1865

Cant go

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3137 12/10/1865 *From:* Mrs. L.M. E. Ricks

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3080

Youngstown Ohio.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[120, 121]

Youngstown Ohio.  
Dec. 10th 1865.

Gen. Howard,

I see by the papers there is to be a consolidation meeting in Washington on the 13th Dec. to unite the aid societies.

I will be in Washington in a few days, certainly before Christmas.

Before handing over the results of my mission, I wish to see, and converse with you, confidentially.

Some things have occurred that have annoyed me greatly.

For instance –a circular was sent me from Washington stating that in the D.C. there are 39,000 suffering Freedmen.

A recent Cin. Commercial states you have written a letter saying that there are only 300.

Now, I am certain I wish to act honestly in all things, if I have been deceived I wish to know it.

I have sent home many boxes of clothes and three hundred in money. I have several trunks full of new articles, and some money which I will bring with me. The Fields have all be canvassed, and, yet I think my native state has done pretty well. Had not difficulties been thrown in my way I think I would have done much better.

I desire to continue in the commission, but, would prefer to act under your name alone, if possible. The reasons I will tell you when I see you.

Truly yours in christian Hope.  
Mrs. L.M. E. Ricks  
Agt. N.Y.A.Ass.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Youngstown Ohio  
Dec. 10th 1865  
Ricks, L. M. E.  
Letter of information  
Recd Dec. 14th 1865

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3138 12/11/1865 *From:* William J. Maynard

*To:* Frdk S Winston

OOH-3081

Ann Arbor Mich

Pres N.Y. M. Life Ins Co

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[190, 191]

Ann Arbor Mich  
Dec 11th 1865

Frdk S Winston Esq  
Pres N.Y. M. Life Ins Co  
Dear Sir

I take pleasure in recommending to you Revd. Samuel Day, late U.S. Chaplain & Com. Sanitary Supplies for Michigan. I have been well acquainted with him pervious to, and during the War and with his services, in the above capacity, & he has always sustained a good christian <> character is energetic and of good capacity peculiarly qualified as a <lecturer>, and business man for any place requiring correct business tact and habits.

Respt Yours  
William J. Maynard  
Mayor City of Ann Arbor

[Appended to the bottom of the above letter.]

From a personal acquaintance with rev. Mr. Day, & a special knowledge of his extraordinary success as a Commissioner of Supplies &c I fully endorse the above.  
E.O. Haven, Prest of Un. of Mich.

[Appended to the above.]

From an acquaintance with Mr. Day of about three years, & considerable knowledge of his remarkable success in soliciting aid for the Sanitary Commission, I have no hesitation in saying that he is remarkably qualified for the position mentioned, & that the Company could not possibly, in my opinion, make a better appointment in the State.

T.M. Cooley  
One of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Mich.

[Appended to the above.]

I heartily concur in the above recommendation.  
Stephens Felch  
Ex. Gov. Mich.

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

See Harmon Judge of Probate

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3139 12/11/1865 *From:* J.W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3082

Savannah

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[122, 123]

Savannah Dec 11, 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear General

I drop you an occasional line to let you know I am not idle. Have been with Genl Tillson for the last four days. He is acting with great vigor on as I think a right plan.

The planters are coming to terms on the subject of wages. They will offer 12 to 15 Dolls per month (& food) in many cases and this we think a fair price for first class hands. It is hoped that even the latter price will become the standard on at least the large Sea coast and rice plantations. He had a very interesting meeting with the planters, also one with the leading men of the colored people on Saturday.

Our Self Supporting Schools here are doing well as when you was here. Genl Tillson helps them out of debt with the money in Genl <Thomas> hands as you directed, & the people are full of joy & very grateful to you for this help. I shall make a good report to you of this class of school throughout all the route I have taken. In connection with simply arranged normal schools preparing colored teachers for the <intension> this alone can better the system of popular education for the negroes at present throughout all the South. We will thus bring the great majority of the young very soon into a knowledge of the common things of a common education, which must do for the time being. Let the associations of the north bring us better schools so far as they can, but I am persuaded that the masses must depend upon their own color for some sort of education at least during this chaotic period of reconstruction. You saw what could be done in the school you visited while here in Savannah. I will add, a portion of these schools are soon to be excluded from the building they now occupy, but Genl Tillson has ordered that another shall be prepared for them.

The Bradley case is a bad one. I forbear to comment upon it until after the trial. The man will make capital out of what he will call pretentions. I have no doubt, Genl T. & Col Sickles are acting judiciously in the case I think.

My Banks are destined to prosper so far as I can judge – all friends of the negro hail them as just the thing. The negroes will be drawn to them almost universally. I am placing them at all points. This is what detains me so. All say that now is the time to start them, as the crops and money are now coming in. Your brother Charles was here Saturday on his way to the lower coast. He is full of zeal & doing well. I go to Beaufort tomorrow for the transfer of the Bank there, & then to Charleston. If you have any commands please send them to the latter place.

Kind regards to Mrs Howard & all the dear family. See you are fetching up nobly in Washington. Strike, in your new Bill for all you want. The Divine blessing is upon us. Let us move forward hopefully, gratefully.

Yours as ever  
Very Respectfully  
J.W. Alvord

P.S. General Tsillson assures me that there is not to be the great destitution and suffering in Georgia which Mr French spoke of in his public meeting in New York. In November there are 1870 persons only, fed by the Government in all Georgia – 763 of these were in Hospitals and 372 of them were whites. In Alabama also, so far as I could learn, the destitution will be far less than was estimated by Genl Swayne.

Genl Tillson says that if his plans for labor and contracts succeed he will not have, out of hospitals, a single person to feed in the whole state after a month or two. Sure I am he is striving very hard to reach the very desirable end.

Yrs &c

J.W.A.

[Written sideways on the last page of the letter, in a different hand.]

Savannah, Dec 11 1865

Alvord, J.W.

Letter of Information

Recd Dec. 21st 1865

[Attached newspaper clipping.]

White Labor Agency

Rates of Hire of White Labor

Laborers

Men, per year \$150.00

Women per year 100.00

Children, of 12 or 14 years of age, per year 50.00

House Servants, per month 15.00

Payable at the end of the year.

They contract for one year, to do the same work as the negro, live in the same cabins, and on the same rations; clothe themselves, and pay their own doctor's bills. Time lost by sickness deducted from wages.

One in every six of Germans agree to speak English.

Cost of transportation, \$20 per head, to accompany orders, but to be deducted from wages.

Dillard, McMinn & Co.

Agents

An order will be forwarded to New York every Saturday.

Dillard, McMinn & Co.

[Another clipping]

What the Radicals say of the Alabama Senators -

The most encouraging sign that any Southern State has yet given, we take to be the election of George S. Houston and Lewis E. Parsons to the United States Senate for Alabama. Mr. Houston was a Union man in 1861, and we believe he never took any part in rebel politics. We heard, occasionally, all through the four years of the war, of his speaking his mind with much freedom upon the iniquity of secession. From the pugnacity of his nature we make no doubt he is now a radical.

As for General Parsons, his position is clear. These manly words from his message to the Legislature mark him as the man for the hour:

The people of Alabama in convention assembled have forever prohibited slavery; in doing so they have forever established liberty. Let us boldly, watchfully, and with unflinching purpose pursue the grand idea. - Wash. Republican

[Another clipping]

and Sykes.

The Senate took up the Senate bill to provide more effectually for the distribution of food among the destitute families of this State, which had been amended by the House by adding two sections. The Senate concurred in the amendments, and the bill passed finally.

The Senate took up the House bill entitled An act to protect the freedmen of the State of Alabama ; which was referred to the Committee on Freedmen.

A bill to incorporate the Alabama Emigration White Labor and Real Estate Agency was taken up.

Mr. Wilkinson made an earnest speech in opposition to this bill. He argued that the white labor proposed to be introduced would be of poor character, and less valuable to the cotton planters than the labor of the freedmen, all ready to hand who cannot and should be driven out. The freedmen are worth more to us as laborers than any

set of men in any country.

Mr. Huckabee – Considered that the parties seeking the passage of this act could do nearly all that the bill gave them the power to do without it – it merely added something of dignity to their business and gave them power to hold their agents responsible for monies in their hands. He denied that we had labor enough. There was lack of labor before the war and the supply had been very much diminished. The same amount of labor that he formerly performed, could not now be obtained by the individual. We cannot now depend upon more than one fourth of the productive labor that we formerly had, and labor is our means of wealth. There were other interests besides cotton raising to be considered, and we ought to encourage the introduction of fresh labor by every means.

Mr. Wood thought we needed no foreigners among us unless they brought wealth or intelligence.

Mr. Barnes favored the bill. He hoped to bring the factories to the side of the cotton fields, to develop the wealth of the State by enterprise and labor within her own borders, to have the men of the State no longer overseers and agents for people without its limits. He believed this was a white man's government, and while willing to do all that any man would reasonably ask for the protection and welfare of the negro, he favored the introduction of all the labor that could be brought. He wanted competition in the field of labor, that every man might have the choice of such labor as he might deem the best for his interests.

Mr. Felder commented upon the provisions of the bill to show that there was nothing objectionable in it.

Mr. Drake eloquently opposed the bill.

Mr. Lindsay continued the debate in an earnest speech in reply to the Senators from Madison and Pike.

The bill passed by a vote of 20 to 13.

A message from the House was received stating that the House requested the return of the bill to protect freedmen, on which the House had voted to disagree to the report of the Conference Committee.

The Senate returned the bill.

Mr. Kilpatrick, from the Judiciary Committee to allow the Commissioners' Court of Morgan county to issue County treasury notes. Passed.

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3140 12/11/1865 *From:* Mrs. Dr. Wren

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3083

Montgomery, Alabama

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124]

Montgomery, Alabama  
Dec 11th 1865

Gen. Howard  
Respected Sir

You may recollect me as matron of the 61st Regt N.Y.V.V. serving under your Command at Fort Worth Va. The last few months I am residing with my Daughter – a Reb in Montgomery Alabama.

They are trying Hard to get white Laborer – and the Enclosed Paragraph will show at a High Rate. Now I take this liberty, to Justify as an impartial Witness that the Cry of the Dorkeye not being willing to Hire, & to work – when they are engaged is all false. I have been Hiring –and have been watching the Course of Events the last five years among them and own that I have oftener come in contact with but one Nancy Dorkey & she was a Northerer.

Many Here are now suffering for want of Homes & Food, and I do Hope & Pray, if it is in your Power, you will Prevent them, Deluding the Poor Confiding Germans to come Here, to be Hired & Ruined.

Ever your well wisher - Dear General -  
Mrs. Dr. Wren

P.S. We have at the Present time a good cook at \$4.00 per month, and a House Girl at \$5.00 what more can be wanted.

I ought to tell How shamefully they charge the Poor Negroes for rent – a Poor Barn with no fire place \$20.00 per month & every thing in ratio – indeed the Southerners seem determined to Exterminate them. My own Daughter Crys is send them away or kill them. No Reason any of them.

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Montgomery Ala. Dec. 11, 1865  
Wren, Mrs. Dr.  
Writes concerning treatment of negroes in Ala.  
Recd Dec. 16th 1865.

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3141 12/11/1865 *From:* Chas G. Halpine

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard,  
U.S.A.

OOH-3084

Citizen Office, N.Y.

Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[125]

Citizen Office, N.Y.  
Decr. 11th, 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard, U.S.A.  
Freedman's Bureau  
My dear General:

I write in the case of a worthy & gallant officer, Captn Thos. Leddy, now of the 16th V.R. Corps & formerly of the 69th N.Y. Vols, who was present in ten battles of the A. of the P., & badly wounded twice – at Fredericksburgh and Malvern Hill. He is now about being mustered out, & I wish for him if possible a place in the Freedmans Bureau. He is of excellent character, of sober & steady habits, has the highest recommendations possible, & I think would make a capital officer – one firm & yet gentle.

Begging an answer at your earliest convenience,

Believe me ever (with pleasant memories of Gettysburgh)  
Your friend & Servt,  
Chas G. Halpine  
("MO'R.") [He wrote under the pseudonym, Miles O'Reilly.]

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Citizen Office  
New York Dec. 11, 1865  
Halpine, Chas. G.  
"MO'R"

Recommends for detail into the Bureau of Capt. Thos. Leddy, 16th Regt. V.R.C.  
Recd. Dec. 12th, 1865  
Ask form next list [written in pencil]

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3142 12/12/1865 *From:* Ed. S. Meyer

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3085

Hd. Qrs. Battery  
Barracks,  
New York City

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[129]

Hd. Qrs. Battery Barracks,  
New York City, Dec. 12, 1865.

General:

You will forgive me for making so bold as to seek your attention for a few moments, to which your enviable reputation, not only as a great soldier, but also as a warm hearted and devoted Christian prompts me. My desire is to receive from you a note of recommendation to the Hon. Secy of War, for appointment to one of the vacant 1st Lieutenancies in the Infantry Arm of the U. S. Army.

I enlisted as private in April 1861, and have served in the field since that time –the last four years have served as a commissioned Officer serving under your Command as senior Captain of the 107th Ohio Vol. Inf. in the 11th Army Corps. I soon, after the Regiment was transferred to the Department of the South, rose to the command of my Regiment, which I retained until honorably discharged, when I immediately accepted my present position in General Hancock's Corps.

You will probably recollect me as the Captain who at Chancellorsville received the wound which caused the amputation of the Lower jaw, and the insertion of an artificial structure. This wound has however not in the least disfigured my face nor has it injured my voice in common conversation; though it has incapacitated me for my former profession, the Practice of the Law, and therefore I desire to remain in the Army. Another, and more important reason for my desiring to so remain is that while lying wounded for twelve days upon the battle field in the hands of the enemy, it pleased Almighty God to convict and extend to my sinful heart, as I earnestly trust, the grace of Conversion, which prompted my espousing, as soon as well enough, the cause of our blessed Master in an <audible> profession of Religion by uniting with the Baptist Church. For so doing my father (the Hon. J. Meyer, of Ohio) who is a rigid Roman Catholic, in his misguided sense of his christian duty, at once disinherited and disowned me. But thank God, I have imputed to me strength to bear it for the blessed cause, knowing it is His holy will who "oeth all for the best."

Asking your forgiveness for the freedom I have taken in this letter, and hoping for the assistance of your valuable influence, I have the honor to be, General,

Very respectfully  
Your most obdt svt  
Ed. S. Meyer,  
Major 5th U.S.V.O.

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York City, Dec. 12th 1865  
Meyer, Ed. S.  
Major 5th U.S.V.O. Hancocks Corps  
Desires recommendation for appt in Regular Army  
Recd Dec. 13th 1865

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3143 12/12/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3086

Darien Ga.

Com'r Bureau R.F. &c  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[135, 136]

Darien Ga.  
Dec. 12 1865

Dear brother

I wrote you just as I was starting on this tour. Have since met Gen. Tillson in Savannah and Mr. Alvord. The former had come down to facilitate the renewal of Contracts. I heard him talk an hour to the planters & was much pleased at his manner of dealing with them. He is fearless in his claims for the just rights of the Freedmen.

But his project of civilian opposites of the Bureau is not yet fairly in operation. I have many fears about his being able to obtain reliable friends of the negro for this work. Will report further after my tour. Here & in the vicinity very little has been done for the freedmen. The officers tell me they had orders from Gen. Brannan not to interfere at all with Freedmen's affairs but refer them to Savannah, but this being 100 miles distant is the same as no relief whatever.

The white troops (12th Maine) returned today to relieve the Colored & the Freedmen say that when here before the White troops did them constant injury – robbing & maltreating them in every way. Some good union citizens (traders from the north – Mr. Davis & Mr. Gillson) say that the Colored troops have behaved better than the White but today by Gen. Brannan's order & in accordance with petition of the ex-Rebel citizens the 12th Maine troops return & relieve the Colored.

But I did not write this time to report these things only I know you like information. I have thought since leaving Charleston that I would like, if you think it desirable, to visit Washington as soon as I get through Georgia. I shall probably go to Tallahassee & have recently been through the interior of So. Ca.

I thought I could perhaps give valuable information to yourself & such of our friends now in Washington as desire to inquire about the state of things. Besides, in thinking over the matter of the biography (of yourself) on which I have lately been engaged in my leisure hours, I have very much wished to rearrange & rewrite certain portions. If published it will be my first appearance in real substantive book form & this is to be a very elegant & valuable work. I owe it to myself & to you & to the publishers to put it in the best possible shape. Now if you think the course may be subserved by ordering me temporarily to Washington – say to remain a week – I would like to have it done – and have the order sent either by telegraph or otherwise to meet me at Charleston on my return say about Dec. 25th or 28th inst.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau R.F. &c  
Washington D.C.

P.S. There is some chance of my Regt. being mustered out or consolidated with 33d U.S.C.T. & in the latter case a chance of my & Capt. Ketchum being mustered out.

C.H.H.

[Written in red ink, in a different hand.] Recd. Dec. 20th 1865

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3144 12/12/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Dear Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-3087

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[137, 138]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston Dec 12, 1865

Dear Gen'l Howard,

I have engaged you to lecture at Jamaica Plain – you are to give the lecture – they are to pay your expenses to & from Washington. The cause is worthy. Now let me know for the sake of the Young Men's X Association when you will lecture for them & so when for this refs Society.

The Young Men of Boston must have you first in this neighborhood – i.e. before you lecture in the vicinity. Next after the lecture at Portland they expect the lecture in Boston.

Just name the evenings & places at the earliest moment so that the halls can be engaged.

Hope you are all well.

But what means this return of rebels & surrender of lands by the Freedmen to their old, guilty, blood-stained, impertinent Masters?

I shall take no collection for Freedmen whom the Government displace, & deprive of the means of subsistence, & turn adrift for the sake of reinstating men who are the cause of all our woe. Let us have a little justice as well as such mercy to the white man & such awful severity to the Black man.

These may be difficulties, I doubt not there are, in the way of the right course, but let Congress make a way. So far as some of us are concerned we are disposed to let Government feel the pressure of the misery wh acts if pardon & restoration are causing till something is done for the freedmen by the govt. itself.

One white man who has forfeited land & life had better be landless & lifeless than 100 negroes who have forfeited neither, & in many instances deserve both life & land.

Fraternally,  
E.B. Webb.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston, Dec. 12th 1865

Webb, E.B.

Sladen answer

Recd Dec 14th 1865

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3145 12/12/1865 *From:* Thaddeus Stevens

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3088

Washington

Com. Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

Washington Dec. 12. 1865

Maj. Genl Howard  
Com. Freedman's Bureau  
Sir,

Allow me to recommend to you Lt. Jones, and ask that he may be assigned to your department. He desires to be ordered to some Southern Post or position. He is a gentleman of much intelligence, good morals, sober and industrious.

I think he would be useful to you.

Thaddeus Stevens

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Washington, Dec. 12th 1865  
Stevens, Thaddeus M.C.  
Recommends Lt. Jones for employment in the Bureau.  
Recd. Dec 13 1865.

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3146 12/12/1865 *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3089

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[140, 141]

Raleigh Dec. 12, 1865

Dear General

Your letter is this morning received. I will comply cheerfully with your request to visit you in January, & shall be glad to talk over our affairs with you & other friends in Washington.

The slip from the Boston Commonwealth is rather hard on Barnett. I saw his "Address to freedmen" some time ago and wrote to him a sufficiently severe reprimand. He was not chosen by me for the place he fills – you know that we cannot often select our officers, we must take such as are given or none. But after all his blunders in that foolish address, he is a vigorous officer, & has worked hard, & done more to protect the freedmen, than a thousand such foolish fanatical scribblers as the writer of that article in the Commonwealth ever did or ever will do. They all look upon him as their friend & defender, while the ill disposed whites fear him as a just & swift avenger of wrong. He has enforced more fines & penalties upon men for abusing freedmen than any officer in the State.

Let fools prate, we need not heed them. We are doing a good work, & trying to do good to all, not excepting even Sinners & Slave holders & traitors. I don't think we shall ever be rebuked by our Master for this.

Very truly yours,  
E. Whittlesey

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Raleigh, N.C. Dec. 12, 1865

Whittlesey, E. Col. & A.C.

Friendly letter

Extract for Commonwealth

Recd Dec 14th 1865

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3147 12/12/1865 *From:* F. D. Sewall

*To:* Hon. L. M. Morrell

OOH-3090

Bath Me.

U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170, 171]

Bath Me. Dec. 12th 1865

Hon. L. M. Morrell  
U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

Recent orders from the War Department, send nearly, if not quite all of the Officers of the Vt. Res. Corps, to their homes, there to await further orders. This I presume is with a view to their discharge.

Some however, have, as I am informed, been retained on duty in the Freedmen's Bureau and elsewhere.

If practicable, I desire to remain in the service. I prefer it to any other occupation, and an absence of four years has quite destroyed my former practice, which I find will be difficult to recover.

There are yet various duties, which call for the employment of officers, and I would be glad if such a detail could be secured for me, either in the Freedmen's Bureau, or on any duty where I can be of service to the Govt. I am not unmindful of the fact, that the Officers of the regular army are opposed to the employment of Officers of Volunteer organizations in time of peace, except in some very subordinate positions.

If the organization of the Vt. Res. Corps is to be broken up, and the regular army increased, will there not be some provision for the appointment of Officers of Vols. with equal rank into the army?

I dislike to trouble you, for I am sensible of various calls you have, and of the occupation of your time, but if without trouble assist me in securing an assignment to duty for the present, or a permanent assignment in the future, I shall be under many obligations to you.

I believe my record is such in the War Department, that at present I require no letters of recommendation.

I am Sir Very Respectfully  
Yr. Obedt. Servt.  
F. D. Sewall  
Col. Vt. Res. Corps

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3148 12/12/1865 *From:* Nelson A Miles

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-3091

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Military District  
of  
Fortress Munroe Va

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[131]

Hd. Qrs. Military District of  
Fortress Munroe Va  
Dec 12th 1865

Dear General

Will you please write me a line to inform me if there is any prospect of an increase of the regular army that would give me a position such as I would like, and if you will at your leisure give me a testimonial or statement of your opinion of my abilities to command troops or reputation as a Soldier which would be of service to me in case I should wish to volunteer my services in any foreign war either on the staff of a foreign General or in the line. If I do not receive an appointment in the regular army I expect soon to be relieved & return to civil life. I should also prize such a testimonial from you very highly to keep with the former recommendations of Generals & my Commissions.

Hoping this may find you well I have the honor to remain

With the highest respect  
Your obt Servt  
Nelson A Miles  
Major Genl U.S. Vols.

Major Genl  
O O Howard  
USA

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Fortress Monroe, Va  
Dec. 12th 1865  
Miles, Nelson A.  
Maj. Gen. U.S. Vols.

Desires to know the prospect of increase of the Regular Army, and if recommendation, or a recognition of his services, from Gen. Howard.

Recd. Dec. 13th 1865.

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3149 12/13/1865 *From:* John M. Oliver

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3092

Monroe Michigan

Comr Freedmans Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Monroe Michigan  
December 13 1865

Dear General

A few days since I recd an appointment as Bvt Maj General of Vols through your kind endorsement. I am truly grateful although I do not wish you anything but good fortune, I do hope, that I maybe able, to show my gratitude to you, more than by mere words.

When I was in Washington I had some conversation about the army & my getting a position if possible. I have a fair position in Arkansas offered me & one where I could make some money, but in the next three years my boy & girl will have to be educated if at all. I hardly think much of the Educational facilities of Arkansas. So I still prefer the army especially if there is to be active service. I understand that best. Major Gen Logan, who is no friend of yours, will assist me & I shall ask Bowers to get recommendations from yourself & Gen L. Would it be asking too much of you to interest yourself personally in my behalf. You know I want a Lt Col of infantry if I can get it if not a Majority in some arm of the service, cavalry first infantry second. Should I go to Ark I will be glad to do any freedmans business that you may desire me to attend to.

Give my best respects to Mrs & family.

With much Respect Truly  
Your Friend & Servant  
John M. Oliver

To  
Major General O.O. Howard  
Comr Freedmans Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

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3150 12/13/1865 *From:* J. W. Sprague

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3093

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of  
Missouri and Arkansas.  
Little Rock, Ark.

Commissioner &c  
Washington  
D.C.

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[127]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of Missouri and Arkansas.  
Little Rock, Ark. Dec 13th 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Washington  
D.C.  
General

I enclose herewith my application to the Adj. Genl for a position in the "Regular Army" if consistent with your views and feelings. I shall feel grateful for your favorable endorsement – if for any cause you should feel unwilling to thus commit yourself, or if you regard my success as very doubtful I would prefer not to make the application – some commendations in my behalf will perhaps be sent to you from Ohio – I will thank you to do with them and treat the whole matter as you think will be for my best interest.

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Srvt  
J. W. Sprague  
Brig Genl Apr.[Asst.?] Com.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Little Rock, Ark.  
Dec. 11th 1865.  
Sprague, J.W. Brig. Genl.  
Encloses application for position in Regular Army.  
Recd Dec. 25 1865.

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3151 12/14/1865 *From:* P.A. McMoore

*To:* Hon. O.O. Howard

OOH-3094

*Source:* Bowdoin

Fort Ann  
Washington Co. New  
York

Comr. Freedmans Bureau  
Washington City  
D.C.

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[144]

Fort Ann New York  
Dec. 14th 1865

Sir - Will you please send me by return mail a copy of the Annual Report of the Comr. Of the Freedman for 1865

Also please send me if convenient copies of the Reports of the Supts. of Freedman Affairs in the States of N.C. Alabama, Miss., & Louisiana.

Also please send me a copy of Oration delivered by you at the dedication of the Gettysburgh Monument July 4th 1865 & much oblige.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

I am yours Truly,  
P.A. McMoore  
Fort Ann  
Washington Co. New York

To Hon. O.O. Howard  
Comr. Freedmans Bureau  
Washington City  
D.C.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Fort Ann, NY.

Dec 14th 1865

McMoore, P.A.

Desires copies of the Commissioner's report.

Recd Dec. 16th 1865

Ansd Dec, 16 1865

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3152 12/14/1865 *From:* E.J. Chandler

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3095

20 Winthrop St.  
Charlestown Mass

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[145]

Charlestown Mass Dec 14th 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

I am requested by the members of the Army & Navy Union of Charlestown to write to you and request you to give us a statement in regard to the character and ability of Capt Wm E. Jarvis as an Officer while under your command in the 3rd Maine Inf. Reg't.

Capt Jarvis being now a resident of this city, any information you can give us so that we can form a correct opinion of Capt Jarvis will be thankfully received by the members of this Union.

Respectfully Yours  
E.J. Chandler Sec A & N Union  
20 Winthrop St. Charlestown Ma

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3153 12/14/1865 *From:* John F. Pitman

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.

OOH-3096

Boston

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[146, 147]

Boston Dec 14 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard U.S.A.  
Washington D.C.  
Sir

On behalf of the Freedmen's Society of Old Cambridge, I write to enquire if your engagements are such as will permit you to speak before the Society in the Shephard Congregational Church Old Cambridge on the Sabbath evening following your address before the Young Men's Christian Association of this city.

Genl Banks addressed the Society a short time ago, and I assure you, it would be a great pleasure to the Society to hear you.

Your Obedt Serv't  
John F. Pitman

Please address  
John F. Pitman  
Care "Traveller" Office  
Boston

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston, Dec. 14th 1865

Pitman, John F.

Desires Genl. Howard to address Freedman's Society of Old Cambridge, on Sunday evening following his address to the Young Mens Christian Association

Recd. Dec. 16th 1865

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3154 12/15/1865 *From:* C.C. Townsend

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3098

“The Orphans Home of  
Industry”  
Iowa City, Io

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[162]

“The Orphans Home of Industry”  
Iowa City, Io Dec 15th 1865

Dear Friend,

Your esteemed favor of 12th inst enclosing a contribution of five dollars, was received today while I was writing earnest appeals to some friends for aid. In three orphan houses, we have more than 100 needy little ones of all ages. I am very anxious to put my Arkansas Mission House to some benevolent practical use, and, next spring, God willing, I shall go and see it, and decide upon some plans of its dedication to the Lord, in a practical work of charity. May the Lord reward your deed of kindness to our needy ones, and long spare your life and usefulness.

Truly Yours &c,  
C.C. Townsend

Maj Gen Howard

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3155 12/15/1865 *From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3099

*Source:* Bowdoin

On Board Steamer  
Emily  
Near St Simons Island  
Geo.

Comr Bureau R F & A L  
Washington D.C.

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[157]

Confidential

On Board Steamer Emily  
Near St Simons Island Geo.  
Dec 15, 1865

Dear General

I have been to Brunswick to make an appointment of an agent of the Bureau for Glynn County and to confer with the people about making contracts with the freed people for next year, and am now on my way to Darien for a similar purpose.

So far I have been quite successful. At Brunswick I appointed Col Thomas Bourke a class mate of Harry Wayne – well acquainted with Dr Cuyler & Judge Wayne – this I learned from him after I made the appointment which seemed quite satisfactory to the people black and white. Through Col Bourke I made arrangements to appoint one or more agents for Camden County, and intend while at Darien to complete my arrangements for appointing the agents for all the counties along the coast of the State. I like to see the agents and personally instruct them as to the <distinpence> of wages &c and talk to the people in their presence. I called this morning to see Mr Eaton, Genl Saxtons agent for St Simons and other Island extending as Mr E informed me for some ninety miles along the coast. I had previously learned that negroes on the main land were still being encouraged to go to the Island and that land was being surveyed and set apart for them. I enclose the statement of Messrs King, Bourke Dubarin & als. Of course while this is going on it will be impossible to make contracts with the freed people for next year either along the coast or on the Island.

Mr Eaton who seems to be a very fair minded honest man states that he has until within a very few days been surveying and setting off land for the negroes on the Islands, who from time to time were coming from the main land. He says that he has done this in compliance with the orders he first received from Genl Saxton which have never been countermanded or changed. The latest instructions given him were dated in August last and directing him to carry out the orders previously given. He says he has twice written Genl Saxton to know if there had been any change in the orders or policy of the Bureau and whether or not he should continue to parcel out land among the negroes, but has received no answer.

I informed him that Gen Shermans order had been countermanded and requested him to discontinue his policy as it was evidently against the interest of the negroes themselves and was preventing the freed people on the main land of Georgia from making contracts, and inducing a belief on their part that land is to be given to them. To this Mr Eaton very kindly consented. Mr. E. informed me that the negroes made nothing worth mentioning last year and that he was feeding on St Simons Island some 200 and on Sapelo Island some 721. It is certainly bad policy and worse economy to feed able bodied men who are doing little or nothing, when they can easily get fifteen dollars per month and board. I regret that I omitted to ask Mr Eaton how many people he was feeding in the remainder of his district but on the two Island mentioned alone, nearly as many rations are being issued as I am issuing in the city of Savannah.

I see no reason to suspect any thing dishonest but the policy pursued is evidently increasing lavish and unnecessary expenditure and exercising an unfortunate influence over the negroes. I think this matter demands your attention. It is plain to the most careless observer that things are in very bad shape along the coast and rapidly growing worse. Mr Tiffing Gnl Saxtons agent in the Ogechee Dist is about resigning, disgusted I suspect with the unsatisfactory working and results of the system pursued last year. The government should decide at once upon some definite policy or it will soon be too late for the whites or blacks to do anything for next year.

Pray do not understand that I want the control of the Coast of Georgia taken from Genl Saxton and turned over to me. On the contrary it has been mismanaged to such an extent that I should hesitate to undertake the works of putting thins in working shape for the future. I only feel it my duty to tell you that with the present plan of masterly inactivity every thing is drifting to ruin

I am Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Gnl Vols  
A.A. Com.

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau R F & A L  
Washington D.C.

[Enclosure]

Brunswick Glynn Co [Georgia] 14 Dec 1865

I certify that I am at present residing at <Hansboro Marlo> at the distance of 65 miles from the coast. That during the past summer Mr Eaton, Spt. of Freedmen on St Simons Island had his agents throughout the country, extending even beyond the point at which I live, offering every inducement for negros to leave the crops – promissing them lands and rations – and telling them that if they did not come at once they would lose their chances in the lands. By these means preventing labor from being obtained – some at high wages – and materially losing the last years crop.

Mathey P. King

This state of affairs still exists – and the negros are in consequence flocking to the coast and Islands under the above mentioned promises.

M.P. King

This is to certify that I am a resident of Brunswick and am perfectly aware that the above statement is correct.

Thos Bomke

Mr John Dubignon  
Mr James Posten  
Dr L.P. Anderson

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3156 12/15/1865 *From:* Wm Heyward

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3100

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153]

Atlanta Dec. 15th /65

General

What is written on the other pages was with the expectation that you would visit Augusta, when I promised myself the satisfaction of calling on you in person. Observing by the papers that you had visited Savannah & New Orleans, we fear you may not think it material to return by this way. I am sorry that it proves so. It would have been a satisfaction to invite you to visit and inspect what is called here a "pen" for the comfort of the poor Negroes who have left their former masters. They admit that they were well cared for at home, but they were told they were free, and they seem to be enjoying the practical benefits of such liberty. About 100 men, women & children are gathered in a building in space 100 by 30 ft. You can make your own calculation how much room that gives for each. Not a board covers the sides of the building, a lofty but light roof protects them from the rain & dew. The wind has free access. The divisions for each family are the filthy rags they hang about that. Of course no fires can be made in a house without chimneys. I did not discover a fire even out of the house, and my first visit was on an icy morning. I saw the sick, and asked what provision was made for them - was told that no person had charge of them, that each provided <for> themselves. They were free.

I am willing to think that your benevolent heart would bleed to witness such suffering, and still I fear it is not the most aggravated instance of the misery of these deluded people; I have heard of worse from several quarters. If it was the grand object of your people to destroy the happy relation existing between the master & slave - I say happy - I need not repeat the motive - you know it well - you have accomplished your purpose most effectively. The Negro, no longer willing to work for his master, is no longer a claim for protection and care, in any way - and the often fanatical teachings of your licensed incendiaries Redpath & French, have taught him to be insulant, where he was once respected and respectful. You abolish slavery and tell the Negro that he is the equal of the white-man, and can enjoy his liberty as well. You know all of you that that is simply a lie. You must, and do know, that the Negro never has, & never can attain to civilization without the influence and example of the white man. You all know that in a state of slavery he has been elevated from the brute to civilization. And now that you have destroyed one of the most benevolent of Gods appointed institutions that has ever existed, to gratify a fiendish impulse, you would have the world believing that it is for a holy purpose. Do your people believe in the hereafter, that there is a searcher of heaven, that there is an eternity - a Hell? It is a pity that you're philanthropy is so partial, I might have begun nearer home. Why have you not looked at the evils attendant on your Factory system. To the coal mining pits, some of the operatives who never see the light of the sun. Are they as well off as the most abject slave? Are they any less the slave to enrich the capitalist? In belief prevents you seeing the beam in your own eye, while you would cast out the snake. Suppose we had sent amongst you incendiaries like Redpath-

Phoebus! What a name

He was Christened(?) in blood,

And his path is the same -

to derange your labor system, how long would you have endured such interference?

By the time you have returned to Washington, you will, I hope, have satisfied yourself with the prospect of the new state of things. It will gratify me to hear Gen Howard's private, honest, opinion, whether he thinks Christianity, Civilization & the Negro have been advanced by the convulsions and new order of affairs.

The promptings of duty influenced me to visit my former home, and to inquire into the welfare of those who were once my slaves, and who are left in comfort at my plantation. As I had heard, every plantation-building had been burned, including those at my own residence. A perfect desolation existed, where cheerfulness, and industry, once enlivened both master and slave. A days ride from this place brought me on the track of Sherman's march. I am told General that you commanded a wing of that Grand Army. It may therefore be superfluous for me to tell you that I saw all the evidence that relentless, revengeful savages, had burned and ravaged a peaceful happy people, all to satiate an envious thirst. I saw through two entire days rides nothing but chimneys erect and alone, buildings burned, all burned. And you tell me to pray for such enemies? My poor human nature

revolts at the thought.

I visited Beaufort & Hilton Head where my people (175) had been forcibly carried. I left them on the 15th Jany well supplied for a year or two. Their houses were as comfortable as my own. With blankets and clothes such as the times could afford, in abundance - all, all, had been taken from them, and they were forced to leave their home. I found some of them in and near Beaufort, but the most of them at Hilton Head. Some were so haggard from care and want that I did not know them. All approached me, and greeted me most kindly. They informed me that they were living in earth huts; a contrast to their roomy wooden houses. They told me that the very poor land assigned to them, had not enabled them to make provisions but for a few months, with some not to carry them the winter. They told me that in instances where the white Yankees had in a measure <[ink blot]> their labour they were stimulated more to make cotton wherewith to traffick. I found them all anxious to return to their old homes. As most of them had grown up under me, and the right of property no longer existed between us, I claim that a disinterested impulse prompted me to advance their purpose. Accordingly I applied to the agent at Beaufort, Mr Judd, representing to him the circumstances under which these people had been removed from the mainland. That they had been forcibly taken from their homes in <Felytash>, and were obliged to leave their provisions, clothes, and comfortable houses. That they were now anxious to return with the little provisions they had made, and to prepare for a better crop the next year, and to occupy their comfortable homes, all of which had not been burned. He was told I had not the means to assist them.

In answer to the reasonable request that he would afford me the use of Flats for the removal, was, that he had none, and did not consider himself responsible to aid in their removal although he had granted it to others. Baffled at this point, I hastened to Hilton Head, and applied to Captain Morford at that Post to grant me transportation by steamer or otherwise to remove those suffering people, representing a steamer might go, and return in two days. The answer was even more repulsive from the other. In perfect despondency I was obliged to leave the people to fight their own battles with their <>. Arrived at Savannah I represented the matter to Col. Sickles for his opinion, relating to him all the circumstances of their removal. He sustained the other officials in their decision. Consequently I now appeal to you, the highest authority, to fulfill the assurance you have made to the Freedmen that you are their best friend.

At Beaufort I found the Negroes all quite civil, and all greeting the arrival of their old masters; but none of them were willing to contract for work the next year; at least not before the 1st Jany, when, or before, they were expecting some event. All were more desirous to plant their own crop, and as they chose. They seemed still to expect that lands were to be apportioned to them. They had phantoms of 10 & 40 acre in their conception. The order of the 19th Oct Circular No. 5 had not been promulgated to them. Many of our Planters willing & anxiously waiting, under all the discouraging circumstances to embark under the new order of things, are repulsed at every point. No labourers are to be had, and no security that if contracts are made, that labour will be enforced. And so it is wherever I have seen or heard from. Our country is paralyzed, and our people disheartened - desperate. If the planters are not prepared for actual work by the 1st of Jany, it will be a hopeless attempt for any but a very small crop. The vandal host having burned every house on the plantations. The earth remains only because they could not destroy or consume that also. More Hellish friends ever invaded any country; and all for that envious hatred, for reason that we were superior. Now that the deed is done, we can discover that there is a desire on the part of those in authority to shift the responsibility of those famished on their old masters, who can ill afford to support them although the feeling is strong to do so. I submitted to Mr Judd the following question - suppose as an extreme alternative, a planter, for want of means to hire & support the freedmen, is obliged to engage with them for the hire of his land, to take a certain amount of the product and when the period arrives to be paid, no more than the quantity agreed on has been made. How am I to be paid? Take what you can find, was the answer. What? Take all? He will starve. Yes take all, he will then learn that he must work. It gave me an opening for remarks, but I refrained.

From what I observed while at Beaufort, I am induced to think that Mr Judd, with the shop-keepers generally in the town, are most thrifty cotton-dealers and I am credibly informed that the freedmen are duped and cheated in every possible manner and all by Northern traders. But that the carcas is nearly consumed, and the vultures are about to leave.

In its place I omitted to give you the evidences how many have suffered. Will it surprise to tell you that in 7 months from the 15th Jany 15 percent of mine had died. And I can tell you of an instance of much greater mortality on the Ogeechee river Geo., where on a formerly well conducted plantation 158 negroes had died out of 340, and that in nine months. I think Gen. that I am not far from the fact when I assert that they are a doomed people. Thank God he has not made us the instruments of such cruelty with the hypocrisy attendant. In his omnipotence he has ordained that a people should be trained for such a work. We thank him that our portion with that unfortunate race is evidence we were unsuitable for such a purpose.

I am informed that there are instances where you have addressed the Freedmen & given them advice. That shoulder strapped stependiaris have followed in your track, to undo your work. Can we doubt the motive of such men? It is no wonder that you advise the continuance of the Bureau, when such officials are the assistants.

I need not repeat to you how completely private as well as public property has been destroyed.

But I will point to the imperishable mounds of earth which have been fortified for the defence of our beloved country. They can never be leveled with my consent. Let them remain as memorials, confirm history and tradition. That when "slavery was killed there liberty was buried <... willow [torn page]> now rooted and nourished <by ... [torn page]> thousands of our Martyrs - flourish. Although <> has assumed the ground where the laurel once <lived> & bloomed, in its turn it will again yield to the <adored> emblem, and may that period be not far distant.

If you ever take the trouble to read what I have written, I trust General that you will make me some acknowledgment, if it is only in <a few> lines. I have the kindest feelings towards your cause I believe that you are sincere & honest, but <.ionary>, excuse me for the freedom of the expression.

But if I am in any-way persecuted for this effusion, you may be certain that no one will more cheerfully suffer and even die for our cause than I shall. Even Stephen in all his Glory did not eclipse me.

I have the honor to be  
Yours respectfully  
Wm Heyward  
Of South Carolina

[Written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]

Augusta Georgia  
December 15th 1865  
William Heyward  
of South Carolina

Enunciates extreme Southern opinions with reference to the political questions of the day, and the status <and> prospects of the <Negro> people.

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON RECD DEC 20 1865

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3157 12/16/1865 *From:* Clinton B. Fisk

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3101

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
States of Kentucky,  
Tennessee and Nor.  
Alabama  
Assistant  
Commissioner' Office  
Nashville

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[165, 166]

Personal

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
States of Kentucky, Tennessee and Nor. Alabama  
Assistant Commissioner' Office  
Nashville Dec. 16th 1865

My Dear General

My circuit-riding in West Tennessee gave me a severe attack of quinsy, from which I am just recovering.

My attention has been called to the "Bureau Afloat" in a late number of "The Independent". I am pained at its appearance. Our good friends know but little of the hindrances we of the Bureau meet at most every step. I will write Theodore Tilton a private scolding letter. I know him very well. He cannot fight in-line always on the skirmish line. It is enough for us to catch it from the coppers. Our friends should touch us lightly, and not pound the administration over our burdened and weary backs. I hope Congress will come to our rescue with new powers and appropriations.

When I left you in Washington I figured you were feeling a little despond and, somewhat disheartened, and I really thought you had some reason for discouragement after I learned from your brother the kind of reception the Secy gave you that morning but you must not be discouraged Genl - stand squarely up to the cold shoulders of any and every body. God will stand by you. I know that you have the most difficult, delicate & important work on hand, that is committed to any government official, and you will succeed certain. Three months more will see most of the Fried people well settled and hand at work. I think the message is on our side. I was delighted with your telegram to Thomas of Mississippi. I hope Thomas will judiciously ride down that new barbarianism. We are steadily gaining ground in Tenn. I think our Legislature will pass the testimony bill after the holidays.

Please remember me with love to your blessed wife and children. If I can do anything for you with anyone in the east do not hesitate to let me know who and where.

I am glad Conway goes to Europe. Providence is kind in those directing his foot-steps.

Yours faithfully  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bv Maj GENL

P. S. My brevet finally came along. Many thanks to you for your good agency in the matter.  
F.

Recd Dec. 21st 1865



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3158 12/16/1865 *From:* S.S. Brooks

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3102

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[163]

Augusta Decr 16, 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

The last & final instalment on the New Church is now due & I am requested by the "Building Committee" to solicit the balance of your subscription (\$150). You can remit me a chk on N.Y. if agreeable. The outside of the Church is nearly completed & the inside will soon be finished.

Very Respectfully

S.S. Brooks

[Written in a different hand.]

\$150. sent Dec. 23d in a draft on N.Y.

H.M.S.

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3159 12/16/1865 *From:* H.W. Crozier

*To:* Major General O. O.  
Howard

OOH-3103

*Source:* Bowdoin

Ohio Wesleyan  
University  
F. Merrick President  
Delaware, O.

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[164]

Ohio Wesleyan University  
F. Merrick President  
Delaware, O. December 16th 1865

Major General O. O. Howard,  
Sir,

As corresponding secretary of the Red, White and Blue Association of the Ohio Wesleyan University I have the honor of informing you of your election as an honorary member of this Association.

This Association is composed of students who have served in the U.S. Army during the late war, and who have been honorably discharged; and its object is to commemorate the principal marches, battles and victories of the national troops during the late war.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant.

H.W. Crozier  
Corresponding Secretary of  
the R. W. and B. Association

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3160 12/18/1865 *From:* Chas. P. McIlvaine

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3104

Cincinnati

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167, 168]

Cincinnati Dec. 18 / 65

My dear General

I wrote last Saturday (16th) to Mr Stanton asking for a Brevet for my nephew Francis E. McIlvaine whom I believe you know. He was in the Service from the first danger of Wash'n, till after Johnson's surrender –6 months as a Capt of Volunteers & 3 ½ years a Capt in the 19th Regulars; served with the campaigns from Chattanooga to Atlanta & back to Nashville as Commissary of Musters –on the staff of Gen. Wood of Scofield's Corps. In all that time he was absent on leave but thirty days, though he had a wife, children in NY. - & except those thirty days was never a day off of duty. I think a Brevet Lieut Colonelcy is the least he should have. His character is as high for bravery, zeal, devotedness, intelligence & Christian example.

I have said to Mr Stanton that you knew him & perhaps he will ask you about him. Gen Wood is well known for his neglect of his officer's brevets & therefore no justice, in the way of recommendation was to be expected of him, & now he is too far off to be reached.

You would oblige me very much if you would forward my application in any way in your power.

Warmly feeling with you in all your Freedman's work, I remain

Your very true friend  
Chas. P. McIlvaine

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Cincinnati, O. Dec. 18, 1865

McIlvaine [sic], C.P.

Bishop

Desires Gen. Howard to use his influence to get his nephew brevetted.

Recd. Dec. 21st 1865

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3161 12/18/1865 *From:* M.A. Blanchard

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3105

Portland, Me.

Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[172, 173]

Portland, Me. Dec. 18th 1865.

Dear Sir:

In answer to yours of 16th inst I am requested by the Com. to say that, the evening you appointed - Monday Feb. 5th, 1866 - on which you will be pleased to deliver one of the lectures in our course, is perfectly satisfactory, indeed you could not have selected one more in conformity with our convenience, or that would accord better with our arrangements.

We are therefore happy to expect you for the evening above named, and will announce you accordingly.

We should be pleased to announce you to the public the subject on which you propose to speak, and have therefore to request that you will notify us of it say a week or two prior to that time.

I am Dr. Sir  
Yours Very respectfully  
M.A. Blanchard  
for the Com.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Washington  
D.C.

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3162 12/18/1865 *From:* M Blair

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3106

Wash'n

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[174]

My dear General

I am very unwilling to trouble you about Mrs <Southerons> affairs again, but as those public as well as her private interest require the speedy return to her of the property. I again appeal to you to order oBryan to give it up - leaving her a hundred bushels of corn & other <> in small quantities to be charged to her on a part settlement.

She can not get ready for the spring work unless she has speedy possession.

Yrs truly  
M Blair

Wash'n Dec. 18. 1865  
Maj Genl O.O. Howard

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3163 12/18/1865 *From:* W F Gray

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3107

Fortress Monroe VA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fortress Monroe VA  
Dec 18th 1865

Dear Sir

Enclosed I send the Norfolk paper Old Dominion read article on Emmigration. I shall write the Commiss'r of Emmigration at Castle Garden to oust Doct'r Bell from the Castle. The whole affair is rotten and the Commiss'r are allowing under this sanction the Emmigrants & Freedmen to be imposed on. I wish you would write & forward the enclosed to the Commiss'r Emmigration Castle Garden New York. I send you this Copy all I have.

Should you reply to my letter from Norfolk do so to Baltimore.

Yours,  
<W F> Gray

[The summary frequently written by the Bureau staff had been torn off and not readable.]

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3164 12/18/1865 *From:* D.F. Crane

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3108

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[177]

Boston Dec, 18, 1865

My Dear Sir -

The people of Somerville insist upon my writing you again.

Is it not possible for you to speak at Somerville during your visit to Boston.

All the citizens there are exceedingly anxious to hear & see you.

We will do as well by you as country people can possibly.

Respectfully yours  
D.F. Crane

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Boston Dec. 18th 1865

Crane, D.F.

States that the people of Somerville insist upon Gen Howards visiting that town on the occasion of his visit to Boston.

[Written in a third hand] Yes

Recd. Dec. 20th 1865

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3165 12/18/1865 *From:* Geo. Whipple

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3110

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Missionary  
Association  
No. 61 John Street  
New York

Washington  
D.C.

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[179]

American Missionary Association  
Rev. Geo. Whipple, Sec.  
Rev. M.E. Strieby, Sec.  
W.E. Whiting, Asst. Treas.  
No. 61 John Street  
New York, Dec 18th 1865

General,

I found it impossible to give any thought to the Independent, Saturday.

To day I find it too late to get in an article this week.

Yours truly,  
Geo. Whipple,  
Cor. Sec.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington  
D.C.

---

3166 12/18/1865 *From:* Royal E Whitman

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3111

Auburn Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[178]

Auburn Me Dec'r 18th / 65

My dear General

I dislike very much to trouble you with an application for assistance , but having been mustered out with my regiment in August and not having found any satisfactory employment I take the liberty of asking a position with you if you can give me one where my services will be satisfactory and the salary sufficient for the support of my family. I will accept any position you will choose to give me that has any chance for a fair remuneration or advancement.

With regards from Mrs W and myself to Mrs Howard and hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
Royal E Whitman

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Auburn, Me. Dec. 18, 1865

Whitman, Royal E.

Desires employment in the Bureau of R. F & A. L.

Dec. 26 1865

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3167 12/19/1865 *From:* N.G. Suelher

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3109

Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[175]

Respfully referred to Gen. Howard –that he may see how Lt. Goble proposes to gobble up the Freedmen. He is a decided subject for the discipline of the Bureau, in my judgement.

N.G. Suelher  
Baltimore  
19th Dec '65

[Written in a different hand on the back page.]

Baltimore Md.

Dec 18, 1865

Suelher, N.G.

States that Lt. Goble is engaged in gob(b)ling up the freedmen and ought to be disciplined by Bureau.

Recd. Dec. 20th 1865

[Clipping from newspaper.]

Rockingham Register

Harrisonburg, VA.

Friday Morning ... December 15, 1865

We have a company of U.S. troops now stationed at this place, under command of Lt. Col. John C. Gilmore, of the 93d N.Y. State Volunteers. These troops reached here Saturday week last. Their object is to collect animals properly belonging to the United States, and to afford protection to the Freedmen's Bureau and the Christian Commission who have undertaken the duty of educating our negro population.

We do not know, but we do not believe there are many animals in Rockingham to which the U.S. has any just right. Already our county has been pretty thoroughly scoured and raked by Federal soldiers for U.S. horses, and we believe they really got more than the Government ought to have taken, considering all the circumstances of the case. It is known that a great many valuable horses were taken from our people by the Federal authorities during the war, without rendering any kind of compensation; and since the surrender of our Armies in Virginia the people of the valley have been called upon, over and over again, to "urrender" animals which they had obtained honestly and fairly. We are very glad to know that Col. Gilmore, who commands the Post at Harrisonburg comes to us endorsed as a high-toned, intelligent gentleman, and we are sure that he is not disposed to transcend the unpleasant duties he is required to perform. Our people who have intercourse with him will find him a reasonable, kind and courteous gentleman.

On the subject of the Freedmen's Bureau, we are pleased to state, that the Government of the U.S. has nothing in the world to do with compensating the teachers of the negro schools. Their compensation is derived solely from the Christian Commission. We therefore conclude they will not be kept up long; for whenever the education and care of the "Freedmen" begin to cost much money, the enterprize will be abandoned by the philanthropic Abolitionists.

We wish to be understood. We are in favor of educating the negroes; but we think it ought to be done by those who are now and have always been their real friends –their late masters and mistresses in the South, who know them better than anybody else, and who really care more them than anybody else.

The agent of the Freedmen's Bureau here is Lt. Goble, who is disposed to do, we believe, exactly what is right as far as he can. He is not here to encourage negroes or "Freedmen" in vagrancy and idleness; so far from it, he is instructed to hire out to good men such as can show no visible means of support. He comes with no foolish prejudices against the late owners of negroes; and will, we are sure, be of great service in restraining vicious "Freedmen" and in making the indolent earn an honest subsistence. If there are any idle, vagrant "Freedmen" about, we advise respectable white gentlemen to let Lt. Goble know the fact, and he will see that they be at once "gobled" up and put to work. We think all good citizens ought to help Lt. Goble to assist the

“Freedmen” in taking care of themselves.

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3168 12/19/1865 *From:* C. J. Townsend

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3112

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees  
Freedmen &c  
Sub District of  
Richmond  
Richmond Va

Supt Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[177]

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c  
Sub District of Richmond  
Richmond Va, Dec 19th 65.

Maj Genl Howard  
General,

Knowing that you understand my position and the influences that surround me, and believing you will appreciate fully the motives that influence me. I have taken the liberty to address you, and ask your advice in a matter that has attracted my attention, and prompted me to exert myself in behalf of the people, who, on account of their present condition, are dependent in a great measure upon the charity of northern men.

Quite recently, and without my knowledge, till the order came to hand, I was placed in charge of the Freedmen of this City; and entering upon the duties of my office I have felt a sympathy for them, I never experienced before, and been led to realize my inability to meet the responsibility that has thus been placed upon me. Confident however, that through my own exertions, and the influence I may have with friends in the North, in my own church and Sabbath school, and elsewhere, I can accomplish much to alleviate the suffering and supply the wants of some of them during the coming winter. I have felt an ardent desire, and I might say a duty, at least to undertake to assist those in my own immediate charge.

Being brought in immediate contact with them, in my present position, I believe I can be instrumental in doing much good, if I may be allowed to render them such assistance, as I can succeed in obtaining, and that without encroaching upon my time as an officer of the Bureau.

I would not desire to make it a general thing subject to the abuse of the indolent and for the unworthy to take advantage of, but give to such as from personal knowledge I consider needy.

Feeling a delicacy in taking such action on account of my office, lest my superiors should misconstrue my motives, or think I was assuming to do what my position and rank would not warrant me in doing, I have presented the matter plainly, General, that I may have the privilege of contributing, what I can through my own feeble efforts as an individual providing it meets your approbation, and is consistent with existing orders.

I have the honor to be, General  
Most respectfully, Your obdt servt  
C. J. Townsend, Lt 20th M..B.  
Supt Sub Dist of Richmond

Maj Genl Howard,  
Supt Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Richmond, Dec. 15th 1865  
Townsend, E. Z.  
Lt H Sub Agent  
Asks to be ordered North to collect supplies  
Recd. Dec. 21st 1865.



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3169 12/19/1865 *From:* Francis Fessenden

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3113

Washington

Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[6]

Copy of Gen. Fessenden's Letter

Washington, Dec. 19, 1865.

General,

Mr. Wm Wirt Piper formerly of Biddeford, Me., and recently an Assistant Surgeon in one of the Regiments of Colored Troops, desires employment under the Freedmen's Bureau.

Mr. Piper is a young gentleman of good character and education, and is well recommended. If employment can be furnished him consistently with Public Interests, it would be well bestowed.

I am, General, very respectfully,  
Your Ob't Servant,  
Francis Fessenden,  
Maj. Gen. Vols.

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Freedmen's Bureau.

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3170 12/19/1865 *From:* Nelson A. Miles

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3114

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Military District  
of  
Fortress Munroe Va

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[180, 181]

Hd. Qrs. Military District of  
Fortress Munroe Va  
Dec 19th 1865

Dear General

Your letter & testimonial were duly received and allow me to return my most sincere thanks. So prompt a reply was unexpected. Our old friend Dr Vogell is stopping with me. He has been South with a view of going into business but found none, which suited him. Can you assist him to a position either in your department or any other. He would prefer a position abroad if he could get one. I think him worthy of assistance and would be pleased to aid him were it in my power.

I have the honor to remain  
With the highest respect  
Your obt. Servt  
Nelson A. Miles  
Major Genl U.S.Vol.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Dist. Ft. Monroe,  
Decr. 19th 1865.  
Miles, Nelson A.  
Maj Genl.

Acknowledges receipt of letter and desires that Dr. Vogell may be assisted to a position in the Bureau.

Dec 21  
Favorably considered.

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3171 12/19/1865 *From:* Wm. M. Burrows

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3115

No 396 E. St. North  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[182, 183, 184, 185]

No 396 E. St. North  
Washington D.C.  
December 19<sup>th</sup> 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I have taken the liberty of addressing you unofficially, as, on account of your preoccupation this morning, I was unable to present my case to your notice, as I had intended. Hoping you will deem me worthy of your attention for a few moments, I will endeavor to show you, in as concise a manner as possible, upon what I base my claim for position under the Government.

At the first call to arms in April 1861, an elder brother gave up a lucrative position in a commercial house in Philadelphia and volunteered for three years; entering the field as a private in the 71st Regt. Penna. Vols. under the leadership of Col. E.D. Baker. At the earnest solicitation of my parents, I remained at home, in order to contribute to the support of the family; my father being past the age allotted to man, and physically unable to furnish that pecuniary aid which is expected, from a father to his family, who in this case, were in comparatively straightened circumstances, all the previous earnings having been devoted to the education of his children, three boys and one girl. Under these circumstances, and full of patriotic ardor, for, I had been taught by a Christian mother, that next to my God, my duty was to my country, I was induced to remain at home, having but a month or two previous, quitted school, and enter into mercantile pursuits, in order to support as far a possible those parents.

In the engagement at Ball's Bluff, Va. my brother was a participant, but was missing afterwards. Unable longer to restrain the promptings of patriotism, and overlooking my duties toward my earthly parents in the intense desire to serve my country, in that dark hour to the nation, I left my home, travelled to the Potomac, and there enrolled myself in the company of which my brother had been a member. In this organization, I served as a private soldier in West Virginia on the Peninsula, under McClellan, through the first Maryland Campaign, and was thrown upon my back, after the battle of Antietam by disease contracted in the Swamps of the Chickahominy. During ten months I was confined to my bed, and was not out of it except to be brought from the hospital at Harper's Ferry to my home. Convalescence was rapid, but while unable to walk, without the assistance of a cane, I was placed, contrary to my wishes, in what was then known as the "Invalid Corps". As soon as able to undergo physical examination, I appeared before Gen Casey's board, was examined and was recommended for a Second Lieutenancy, in Colored Troops, in which capacity I served four months, when promoted, and served eight months as a First Lieutenant, (five months as Act. Asst Adjt. Genl 2d Brig, 2d Div. 25th A.C.)

Four months after the battle of Ball's Bluff, my brother was released from "Libby Prison", was paroled and exchanged, again entered the field, serving in the "Army of the Potomac", until wounded in one of the battles of the "Wilderness", a few days before the expiration of his term of service. Upon his arrival home, a younger brother, just sixteen years of age, volunteered for the three years, and was mustered out, after having served nearly a year and a half. Since his discharge, his health, which previously was excellent, has become miserable, unfitting him, for the present, for active employment.

Thus, were the only male members of my family, given to the support of our Government at great pecuniary expense to the household; and upon these considerations, do I claim what I have a right to ask, a position under the Government which my clerical ability will enable me to fill, to the satisfaction of my superiors in office.

My father though a soldier of the "War of 1812", my two brothers and myself, soldiers of the war just closed, have never received patronage from any political sources. My father, originally a "Whig", has been a faithful member of the Republican party since its organization; and since my brother and myself have attained the age, have voted as members of that party. Politically we claim consideration from those, whom we have assisted to

place in power, supported by the disinterested service we have given our country in her time of trial.

I have been thus lengthy, in order to lay before you, a plain statement of the facts in my case, to show you how much depends on my effort, and that it is not for myself alone, that I desire immediate employment.

The claim for support, of a mother and invalid sister, who now lies in a very critical condition, in this city, away from her home, among comparative strangers renders me thus urgent.

As a secondary consideration for myself, I have in contemplation the study of medicine, in which, with the absence of ample pecuniary means, the difficulties under ordinary circumstances, would be insurmountable.

Hoping, that, in this instance, you will put aside the official capacity, considering my case in your character of a Christian and gentleman, I shall endeavor to possess my soul with patience, feeling that you will not belie the reputation which you sustain for benevolence, in directing it toward that, which, next to the cry for succor from the widow and the fatherless, as the result of the late war, is deserving the attention of the Government.

I am, with great respect,  
Your obed't servt.  
Wm. M. Burrows

[Written at the bottom of the back page, in a different hand.]  
Recd. Dec. 20th 1865.

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3172 12/20/1865 *From:* W. French

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3116

Charleston, S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[160, 161]

Charleston, S.C.  
Decr. 20, 1865

My dear General,

I have been ordered by Genl. Saxton to this place, and mean to make a tour into the upper part of the state, where there is much confusion.

I find the Sea-island question a very difficult one to be managed. The former owners are practicing all their well known acts of diplomacy &, I fear, of misrepresentation too, in many cases, to obtain possession of the plantations. The sin of rebellion, the cruel, yea, barbarous, treatment of Union prisoners, seem to have passed out of their minds.

I am more & more convinced, that God had more to do in the disposition of the Sea islands than most seem to be aware of. I am glad to perceive by your orders, so peculiarly, cautiously worded, that you seem to appear to be guarding the interest of Providence, against the enemies of the poor negroes, whom God has come to avenge. I sympathize with you, & trust you will have both the wisdom & the opportunity, to do right by these freedmen. I saw, when in conversation with the President, how anxious he appeared for peace, & a just peace too, as I thought. But he needs to stand on Mt. Sinai, with God & look at this great question.

Capt. Ketchum, like yourself, has a most difficult position. Had he not a most thorough acquaintance with the whole question, as well as a clear mind, legal knowledge, & a strong determination to do right, keeping himself strictly within the letter of your orders, he would fail in some cases. It is providential that one so well fitted is in the place. A weaker or less wise man might spoil the whole matter.

Allow me to suggest, General, that as a friend both to you, & Capt K, as well as from a strong desire that the cause of humanity & the country be faithfully served that Capt Ketchum should by all means, be kept in his present position. Perhaps I have no <reason> for saying this at all, but the boasts & threats, and assertions as to promises obtained by the Secesh from you, are my excuse for saying what I have.

I know of only one power that can solve this problem, & that is Congress, & I do pray most earnestly to God, that he will incline the President to leave the whole matter there.

Rev. Alvord is making good progress in establishing the bank here.

Dark clouds hand over us, but God reigns. I have written in great haste, as we start in a few minutes on our tour.

With great respect,  
Truly yours,  
W. French

P.S. Your brother desired me to write you often & freely, as you see I do.

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3173 12/21/1865 *From:* Yardley Warner

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3117

*Source:* Bowdoin

On the train from  
Lincolnton to Charlotte  
N.C.

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[186, 187]

On the train from  
Lincolnton to Charlotte N.C.  
12/21/1865

To Genl O.O. Howard

The demands of my business on my time are such, that, I often forced, as now, to write under unfavorable circumstances.

I have been amongst the Freedmen & people of N. Carolina 1/3 of a year, in the business of educating, and elevating the Colored men; endeavoring to impress them & the white people with a just and true sense of the requirements, capabilities & the duties of the former, as well the interests of the latter. I think that the experience of this third of a year, has accumulated testimony, which it is important for the Head of the Bureau to consider and digest. To this end I propose a conference; and I do so now, in order to save time. I expect to be in Washington City on the 29th Inst on my way to Philad'a. My labors began in this state in the 7th mo last; and I am sure that there are claims on the part of the Freedmen which should be heard in Congress, fresh from the scenes where those claims are exemplified. They bear on these two primary points; 1st the continued judicious protection of the Bureau. 2nd the appropriation of material aid in the work of education. I intend, immediately on reporting to our board in Philad'a, to propose a petition short & strong, to those ends. But I cannot pass you by at Wash'n, without an effort to prepare the minds of those properly concerned in the movement, for its success.

Would it be practicable to get a meeting of the members of the two houses present at Wash'tn on the 29th, or an interview with the President, Stanton & thysel to consider the matter. I think that I can detail a plan, which can be seen through in 5 minutes, as one tending to impress the whole south with an impulse for a united effort, to put the Freedman in his right place at present viz the intelligent working man of the south. To effect this, I would ask for the appropriation of one million dollars or two, as furthering to the control & distribution of the Commissioner of the Bureau at Washington.

For any steps preparatory to the interview above alluded to, I shall feel obliged as a representative of the Executive Board of Philad'a Assn of Friends for Relief of Col'd Freedmen and as a representative of the interests of the Col'd men in the Western Dist of N. Carolina. My work however has been from Newbern to Lincolnton. We have now over 30 educational posts, between Goldsboro & the latter place; and every day the way is growing brighter, and difficulties vanishing. Of these I may speak when we meet.

Respectfully  
Yardley Warner  
Supt of Feedmens Schools  
in West N. Carolina & S. Va.  
For Friends of Philad'a.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Charlotte N.C.  
Dec 21, 1865  
Yardley Warner  
Writes concerning condition of freed people in Va & N.C.  
Recd Dec. 23rd 1865

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3174 12/23/1865 *From:* R. P. Cowles

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3119

Office "Young Men's  
Institute"  
New Haven Conn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[198]

Office "Young Men's Institute"  
New Haven Conn Dec 23d 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear General,

Our President Mr Edwin Marble informs me that he had an interview with you in Washington & that you thought you should be able to address us some time in February. We understand you are to speak in Boston Feb. 16th if so would it be convenient for you to speak to us either the 13th, 14th, or 15th of Feb'y. Should prefer the 14, or 15th. If not some evening the following week. Should prefer to skip Tuesday evening as our religious meetings are held then.

Very truly Your humble Servant  
R. P. Cowles, Cor Sec'y.

P.S. It is desirable to make our engagements early in order to secure our best Hall.

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3175 12/23/1865 *From:* G. Williams

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

Dewhurst

OOH-3120

No. 871 Washington St.  
Boston, Mass.,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[194]

No. 871 Washington St.  
Boston, Mass., 23d Dec. 1865.

Maj. Genl. Howard,  
General,

I have the honor to enclose a letter which I brought on from Charleston at its date when you was absent, and a Prospectus of our Company. I intended to present these in person when I return through Washington, but some paragraphs of your late Report seem so fully to present the policy we will pursue, that venture to put these in the mail, simply requesting that when an opportunity occurs you will direct capital or other facilities to make this experimental association a success, so that from our good report a hundred greater companies may soon spring up to engage in the same work.

It is of vast importance that the appointments to be made of Land Agents in the States you mention, should be persons who will do their utmost to facilitate the settlement of colored men under the Homestead act upon the public land. Very much depends on the willingness of the land officer. I think J.H. Fowler, chaplain 33d U.S.C.T., soon to be mustered out, has applied to be Land officer (Registrar or Receiver) at St. Augustine Fla., and no truer man could be selected.

By means of our sawmill, using up a small part of the capital, we will give employment to many of our men, and, with the remainder, advance upon short mortgages, the money which will enable them to build neat little houses, thus securing a neater & better settlement than if they had it all to do alone.

Having served with them for three years we have their confidence and they ours.

Very respectfully  
Your most obedient servant,  
G. Williams Dewhurst

[Written on the backside, in a different hand.]

Boston Dec. 23. 1865

Dewhurst, G. Williams

Enclose prospectus of "lorida land & lumber Co. and give his views in regard to settlement of negroes in Florida. Encloses letter of introduction from Brevet Brig Genl. C.H. Howard

Recd Dec. 29th 1865

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3176 12/23/1865 *From:* C. Van Santvoord

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3121

Schenectady N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[191, 192, 193]

Schenectady N.Y.  
Dec 23 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Though I have not the honor to know you personally, I seem to know you so well, as to make it unnecessary to apologize for the liberty I am taking in writing you this note –its object being to ask some information in regard to a point connected with the character of the late Gen. J.B. McPherson.

I have lately returned from St. Louis, and besides having access to the papers of Genl. McP. through the courtesy of General Sherman, obtained also Gen. Sherman's reminiscences of Gen. McPherson, from the time of the fine acquaintance between the two, till the lamented death of the latter before Atlanta. It is a very interesting paper and is to appear in the "tories at Home" a periodical published by Mr Scribner of New York. I am preparing a biographical sketch of Gen. McP. to appear in the number before that containing the reminiscences. In regard to Gen McP's religious character I have been able to learn but little. Mrs. McPherson, the late Generals mother to whom I was introduced by Gen. Sherman, and whom I visited at Clyde, informed me that her son, when a boy, had joined the Methodist Church, but could not tell whether, he had retained his connexion with a church or not, after leaving her home for West Point, and during his subsequent honorable career. Can you give me any information, upon this point –anything to throw light upon his religious character during the time you was connected with him in the same army? This I shall be very grateful for, to round off the character of a man, universally considered as one of rare nobility & excellence. And if I could get it by the 10th of January, near which time I have agreed to have my article ready, my obligation to you will be much enhanced.

I have had suggested to me, the preparation of a more extended biography of Genl. McP. - one say, covering 300 or 400 pages duodecimo - and Gen. Sherman has given me letters of introduction to Genl Grant as well as to yourself with a view of ascertaining what materials might be obtained for this purpose. May I ask your opinion in regard to the advisability of this, judging from the materials you may know to exist for this work. I have not found time to visit Washington as yet to present my letters, and will only add, as to myself, that I have served nearly four years in the Army as Chaplain, two or three of them at Nashville Tennessee and connected with the Ref. Dutch Church and am known well to most of its ministers, and to the editor of the N. York Times, for which paper I have been a regular correspondent for the two years preceding the end of the rebellion.

Any aid you may be kind enough to render besides favoring much the object of my work, will do the farther service of making more complete the sketch of a more deserving the highest honors that friendship & patriotism can confer.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your obedt Servt  
C. Van Santvoord

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Schenectady N.Y.  
Dec. 23. 1865

Santvoord, C. Van

Is preparing a biography of Gen. James B. McPherson and desires some knowledge of his religious principles.  
Has letter of introduction <> from Gen. Sherman.

Recd. Dec. 29th 1865

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3177 12/25/1865 *From:* Edw. C. Darlington

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3122

Yorktown, Va.

Supt. Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[200]

Yorktown, Va. Dec. 25, 1865.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Supt. Freedmen's Bureau  
Sir:

As it seems probable the Freedmen's Bureau will be continued another year, I take the liberty of suggesting a change in the local superintendent for this (York) county.

I came here from the North six years ago; and having carefully studied the characters of the inhabitants, both white and black, I speak with some confidence when I say that R. Churchill, (the Supt.) is a most unfortunate selection to represent the Bureau in this locality, where the large number of freedmen congregated would require a man of more than average tact and administrative capacity.

Mr. Churchill has deemed it his duty, from the beginning to put himself in a hostile attitude to the white inhabitants, and has rendered himself peculiarly obnoxious the whole tendency of his administration has been to widen and deepen the ill-feeling naturally existing to a certain extent between the white and colored people, necessarily, in the end, to the disadvantage of the latter class.

When orders came, some weeks ago, for the appointment of a "Freedmen's Court," the citizens elected a worthy man to represent them. The freedmen thereupon elected a colored man from Massachusetts. The white man, as a matter of course, declined to serve in conjunction with the colored one, when Churchill and the negro proceeded to hold court. This, naturally tends to render the Bureau obnoxious, and in the end will do vastly more harm to the blacks than to the whites.

I have been employing sometimes as high as 150 colored men: - and during the past three years have had not less than 1,000 different individuals in my employ. I have also, about 800 residing on my <land>. From these extensive means of forming an opinion, I have arrived at the conclusion that the operations of the Bureau here have been decidedly detrimental to the best interest of the colored population. They have become more and more reluctant to hire out; until now it is almost impossible to hire one, while their thieving depredations have become almost intolerable. We are wholly without redress, as our county court is afraid to meddle with the negro in any form, and Churchill is not disposed to curtail his thieving privileges.

A man of enlarged views and good administrative capacity might do much good if clothed with the authority of the Bureau, where one of narrow mind and strong prejudices against the White inhabitants, would do great evil.

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant  
Edw. C. Darlington

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3178 12/25/1865 *From:* E.B. Gardner

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3123

Buckport Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[200, 201]

Buckport Maine  
Dec 25th 1865

Maj Gen Howard  
Dr Sir

My brother Samuel S Gardner was stationed at Selma, also as Asst Sup't of Freedmen – we heard from him quite often and regularly until July last – since then have not heard from him – we supposed he had written but from some cause the letters did not reach us and have waited from time to time with the expectation of hearing from him. We judged that at your office they would know if he had left Selma and when will you please cause any intelligence the office may have of him to be forwarded me

and oblige  
Yours very truly  
E.B. Gardner

[Written on page 3, in a different hand.]  
Office Assistant Commissioner  
B.R.F. and A.L.  
Montgomery Ala. Jany. 5th 1866

Respectfully returned with the information that Chaplain S.S. Gardner is on duty at Selma Ala. as Supt. R.F. and A.L. For that District, and when last heard from, Dec. 31st was in good health.  
Wager Swayne  
Bvt. Major General

[Written on the last page (4), in a different hand.]  
Rockport, Me. Dec 25, 1865.  
Gardiner, E.B.

Desires to get information of Saml S. Gardner who was Supt. of Freedmen at Selma, Ala., till July last.  
War Dept. B.R.F.&A.L.  
Washington Dec 29th 1865.

Respy referred to Maj. Genl. W. Swayne to know what has become of the within named individual. This letter to be returned to this office.

By order of Maj Gen.  
O.O.Howard

Lt. Sladen –Lt. & <Prd> Secy  
Recd Dec. 29th 1865

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 11 1866

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3179 12/27/1865 *From:* Geo Ward Nichols

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3124

Harper Brothers  
New York

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[202, 203]

Confidential

Harper Brothers  
New York  
Dec 27 65

Maj Genl Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Genl

I have the honor to enclose an article upon Genl <Schurtz> reports, from the pen of Mr Godwin of the Post. His article offers it seems to me one of the most feasible of all schemes for the disposition of this <> question, which I assure you is creating serious divisions amongst good men here at the north. If you will propose that the freedman be settled upon these public lands you will find the Post and the unanimous press of the north in your support. I write you this not at the suggestion of several of our best men who look to you with confidence in your judgment and the utmost faith in your honesty of intention

I remain  
Your obdt svt  
Geo Ward Nichols

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York, Dec. 27. 1865  
Nichols, Geo. Ward  
Suggest the settlement of public lands by the freedmen.  
Recd. Dec. 28th 1865

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3180 12/27/1865 *From:* FW Emmitt

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3125

Kennebec Arsenal,  
Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[204]

Kennebec Arsenal,  
Augusta, Me., 27th Dec 1865

My dear General,

I left the city Thursday evening and reached Boston Friday evening.

I remained over at Springfield one train & Col Balloch took charge of the colored people I was also obliged to stop in Boston until Monday morning as my cousin Miss Flowers could not get ready to join me until that time. I arrived home Monday evening just in time for the Christmas dinner.

I found all at home well & very glad to see me. I have your letter to the Conductor of the train at Brunswick and he said he would give his personal attendance to Mrs H & children.

Mother & Father send kind regards to Mrs H & yourself with great respect

Your obt servt  
<FW> Emmitt

---

3181 12/27/1865 *From:* H de Mareil

*To:* Monsieur le General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3126

Le Messenger Franco-  
Américain  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[205]

[Letterhead]

Le Messenger Franco-Américain  
Journal Quotidien

New York 27 Decembre 1865

Monsieur le General,

J'ai l'honneur de vous remercier du rapport que vous avez bien voulu m'envoyer. C'est un document d'un grand intérêt, et je suis convaincu que les journaux de Paris reproduiront l'analyse que je ferai paraître dans notre M'r du demain matin.

Ainsi, je vous prie, Monsieur le General, d'assurance du respect avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Votre très humble serviteur,  
H de Mareil

[Translation]

General,

I have the honor to thank you for the report that you kindly sent me. It is a document of great interest, and I am convinced that the newspapers in Paris will reprint the analysis that I will make appear in our M'r tomorrow morning.

So, please, General, be assured of the respect with which I have the honor of being,

Your very humble servant,  
H de Mareil

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3182 12/27/1865 *From:* O Brown

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3127A

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters  
Assistant  
Commissioner State of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Va.

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[297]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters Assistant Commissioner State of Virginia  
Richmond, Va., Dec 27th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner &c  
General

The accompanying communication was received by me to day. I have felt it my duty to forward this to you under the permission that I received from you that, I might "address you in confidence". Believing it to be important I have to request that it may be in the strictest confidence.

The communication came to the Maj General Comdg the Department yesterday by telegraph in cipher from the Lieut. General, addressed to General Terry. Genl S-- has sent a copy to each District Commander and to myself. It will be impossible for me to obtain the information called for in less than two weeks, and then my report will of necessity be so mixed with that of the District Commanders that it will have but little value.

I may be mistaken in my notion that this report is called for to furnish arguments against the continuance of the Bureau, if so no harm can be done by my communicating the information to you under the seal of confidence.

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
O Brown  
Col Assoc Com

[Attachment: 12/27/1865 Letter from E. Smith to O. Brown]

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3183 12/27/1865 *From:* Edw Smith

*To:* Col. O. Brown

OOH-3127B

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Qrs. Department  
of Virginia  
Richmond Va.

Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and Abandoned  
Lands

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[This letter was attached to 12/27/1865 letter from O. Brown to OO Howard.]

[298]

Head Qrs. Department of Virginia  
Richmond Va. December 27th 1865

Col. O. Brown  
Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Col.

The Maj General Commanding requests that you report as early as possible all known cases of outrages which have occurred within this Military Department since the surrender of the Rebel Armies, committed by white people upon blacks, and blacks upon whites. The statement in each case should give whenever practicable, the date and locality of the occurrence and the circumstances as fully as possible.

It is important that the report be received here by the end of the present week.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt  
(Signed) Edw Smith  
Asst. Adjt General

Official  
James A. Bates  
Capt & A.A.A.G.

---

3184 12/28/1865 *From:* Thomas W. Conway *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3128

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[211]

New York Dec. 28 1865

General:

Just as I had procured my ticket for passage to England, letters were received from there setting forth that, at their writing, it was deemed too late to do any thing for the coming season at the South. Although I had every thing in readiness, I at once gave up the mission.

I am at work on my Report which will be more lengthy than any I have made to either Generals Banks, Hurlbut or Canby.

The News Papers promise us a report from Gen. Fullerton. If he has made one, I would be glad to have a copy.

I read your report with great pleasure. I am fully convinced that if you were allowed to act your pleasure in the south, matters would not be in the shocking condition which I find represented, not only in my letters from there (from all the states) but also in the southern papers. I fear the present public policy is like a sponge that swallows the "sweet water and the bitter."

I enter in full sympathy with you in the great work. I yearn and pray for your triumph.

Will you be kind enough to send me your Report in such form as you may have it?

I will not complete my Book till the work is more advanced than it is at present. Your Report will aid me much.

I have seen a letter from Mr. Plumley, written last summer, in which he states - "I will give myself no rest till, in some way or other, I get Comony out first, then Canby, and then Capt. Pease." I suppose, from what I learn from New Orleans, that this wretched man is now devoting his whole energy and time in the persecution of one of the best officers in the Bureau -I mean Capt. Pease the Supt. of Education in Louisiana.

The letter of recognition of services which you promised me in your letter, I will be glad to have.

Respectfully

Thomas W. Conway

Care Gen. Clark, 742 B'way

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

New York Dec 28th 1865

Conway, Thos. W.

Has given up the proposed trip to England. Desires copy of Genl Fullerton's report, also copy of Gen. Howards report. Desires the letter of recognition of services.

186 C.B.

Recd Dec. 29th 1865

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3185 12/28/1865 *From:* J.M. McKim

*To:* Major Gen. O O Howard

OOH-3130

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[209]

Private

Major Gen. O O Howard  
Commissioner &c  
My dear Sir

You will see by the circular on the other side that we are in the act of fusing the two commissions.

An application has been made to Mr Abbott & myself by Mr M.T. Conway, late Asst Com'r in Louisiana, for an appointment as canvasser for this commission. Before acting on this application we desire to hear from you. Will you be good enough to indicate to us your opinion as to his fitness.

These appointments are matters of great delicacy, forbidding haste & demanding circumspection & inquiry.

Mr Conway we take to be a good man & a true friend to the cause. Our inquiry refers rather to his probable adaptedness to this particular work. A canvasser is, to an extent, an exponent of the character of the movement for which he works.

An answer at your convenience will oblige Mr Abbott &

Yours truly  
J.M. McKim  
Cor. Secy  
Dec 28 / 65

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3186 12/29/1865 *From:* A. Baird

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3131

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Louisiana  
New Orleans

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[75]

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Louisiana  
New Orleans, Dec 29th 1865.

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedmen &c  
General -

The bearer Mr Charles De Goalon introduced to me by Mr I.M. Lapice one of the oldest most intelligent and liberal planters of St. James Parish, goes to Washington in relation to a matter which has for some time occupied the attention of intelligent men in this section.

They regard the supply of labor as insufficient and then wish to introduce German labor, and French Canadian labor and Coolie labor, to supply what is wanting, as well as to introduce a competing element, so as to stimulate the Negroes to greater exertion.

Mr Goalon is interested in regard to the Coolies –not those from China –but from the East Indies –a superior race –and wishes to know the feeling of the Government and of prominent men in relation to such an enterprise.

With this <news> I beg to introduce him to your notice and consideration.

Most Respectfully  
Your Obt. Svt.  
A. Baird [Absalom Baird]  
Bvt. Maj. Genl  
Asst. Comr for La.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.& A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 18 1866

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3187 12/29/1865 *From:* Sarah B.F. Greble

*To:* My dear Friend [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-3132

Phil'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82]

Phil'a Dec 29th 1865

My dear Friend

On Christmas morning, just as our Santa Claus (in the person of Papa Greble) was distributing the gifts, the Postman brought the beautiful gifts from you. Clara's ring is very acceptable, the young lady has been wishing for one because Edwin had one. It is an exquisite one I think. The marker for my Bible is chaste and beautiful. I thank you sincerely for it & the sweet thought which prompted you to send just that, so that I can think of you at that dear Supper where we are brought into communion through our blessed Lord and Saviour. Edwin was much pleased with his book from Jamie, the children often speak of him and wish that he could be here to play with them. Need I tell you that we often speak of you and wish that your visit could have been longer.

Mamma received your letter and thanks you for it. She has spoken of writing several times but Christmas with its duties and pleasure must be her excuse for not doing so. Your Husbands letter telling us of your safe arrival, &c, brother Edwin has filed amongst his autograph treasures.

On Thursday Holy Innocents day we had a nice festival for our 550 children at Trinity Chapel. It gave perfect satisfaction to every one. I feel rather tired from my exertions as I had the entire responsibility of it. We dressed the church beautifully too. I put popped corn all through the greens. It looks like wax flowers.

I received a nice letter from Clara from California to-day, also one from West Point. Mrs Dunster has a little daughter. The Roberts (Mother says) are the "intellectual movers there". They have not told me any news. On Tuesday night Mrs Webb had a beautiful Christmas tree for the children. There were twenty children and over two hundred gifts on the tree. I hope the Santa Clause was very kind to you and that he remembered to fill all of the childrens stockings. I received a new dress, hood, pr of gloves, night caps, ten dollars, two pictures, photographs of pictures framed in blk walnut. Edwin & Sallie each received matches, Aunt Martha Sue, Mama & in fact the whole family desire me to send warm Love to you and to your noble Husband.

Monday is the great gathering day in the house. We dine about forty. I wish you could have seen little Clara when she saw her little bed. It looked very cunningly with it ruffled pillow cases &c.

Good night dear friend – with love to the Genl and kisses for the dear children and the very best wishes of the happy season & the happiest of New Years for you with all your dear ones around you. Believe me ever to be

lovingly your friend  
Sarah B.F. Greble

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3188 12/29/1865 *From:* Mrs. L.M.E. Ricks *To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3133

*Source:* Bowdoin

Commercial College  
481 9th Street, Bt. D. &  
E.  
Washington D.C.

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[213, 214]

Confidential

Commercial College  
481 9th Street, Bt. D. & E.  
Washington D.C.  
Dec. 29th '65

Gen. Howard,  
Kind sir,

Since I saw you, I have been quite sick with a violent cold. For this reason, and from the fact that I cannot, amid the multiplicity of calls in your office, speak with you as I wish to, I address you on Paper. I have made several efforts to see Mr. N. Dubois, but, in consequence of sickness in his family I have failed to see him.

I have had some applications of pressing need – shall I supply them? The persons who gave me the articles expressed a strong wish that I should distribute to the suffering with their blessing and write and inform them how distributed.

There is in the West much distrust. And, many think that their charities have been abused. Without your name, I could not have obtained any thing. Therefore I think, you have a right to dictate the disposal.

As the suffering here is comparatively small – after dispensing some gifts here to the most needy I would like to go down south and distribute some. Beside, there is now at the Depot, large quantities of goods for the Freedmen – marked to the address of Mrs. J.S.G. And I think what I have would do more good farther south. I saw myself fifteen bbl and eight or ten large boxes.

Now, Gen. Howard, you may well imagine how I feel – if I am, as I hope I am, possessed of Charitable and honorable principles.

During my tour in the West, ministers gave me their pulpits on Sunday. Often as many as seven hundred persons listened to me, for an hour and a half with wrapt attention. People gave to me, although they had just given to some one else. The laboring man and the Widow, the poor Widow, came with their offerings to, “send to the Lord”. With such names on circulars could I dream of deception? If I have misrepresented, I did it in good faith, but, still I do feel deeply mortified.

Now, the only atonement I can make is to distribute with my own hands, what has been given for the needy – to the truly needy. I would feel gratified if I could have one uninterrupted conversation with you. If there is, an a clean, golden wedge in the camp, I do not want it in my tent.

I am anxious to go over to the Freedman's Village – Carriage here is expensive. Could I have an ambulance.

I wish also to go to Alexandria and to Georgetown.

It is reported that there are places at each of these towns; where second handed goods are sold, at high rates, to the Freedmen.

I could, if I had a conveyance at my command, in a quiet, manner find out, possibly something.

I do not wish to judge – nor, do I wish to meddle with other persons affairs but, if I have been made accessory to a swindle – it is just and right that I defend myself.

If you can, next week, place an ambulance for a few days at my command – I will consider it a great favor. I find a great many likely looking persons willing to go West.

I write in haste, in the midst of company. Truly yours in Christian Hope.

Mrs. L.M.E. Ricks  
482 9th St  
Bt. D & E

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3189 12/29/1865 *From:* D.F. Crane

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3134

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[215, 216]

Boston Dec. 29, / 65

My dear sir -

We are much pleased to hear that you can be with us February 15 / 66. Our church will seat 600. We wish, if agreeable to you, to know your subject that we may announce it, and your price that we may have the necessary funds.

I will meet you in the afternoon of the 15th at any place in Boston, accompany you to my House to Tea, if agreeable to you & then you would have a short time for rest before time for Lecture.

Thanking you for your acceptance of our invitation

I remain yours truly  
D.F. Crane

Maj Gen Howard

P.S. Please reply  
D.F.C.

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3190 12/29/1865 *From:* Wm C. Hickok M.D. *To:* Major Genl [US] Grant

OOH-3135

Burlington Vt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24]

Burlington Vt  
Dec'r 29th 1865

Major Genl Grant  
Sir

The Legislature of Vermont have organized an Agricultural College to be connected with the University of Vermont. The Trustees are enquiring for names of suitable men for President. Some gentlemen wish to present to them the names of Col. E. Whittlesey, Assistant Com. for Freedmen at Raleigh N.C. In your Report you have made honorable mention of him. The object in writing to you, is to enquire if you are personally acquainted with him, if so, will you be so kind as to state more fully than in your report, your opinion of his character, energy capacity, manners &c and his fitness for such a situation.

By so doing you will greatly oblige many friends of Co. W. and admirers of yourself.

Very respectfully  
Your obt Servant  
Wm C. Hickok M.D.  
Burlington Vt

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3191 12/29/1865 *From:* Wm C. Hickok M.D. *To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3136

Burlington Vt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[217]

Burlington Vt  
Dec'r 29th 1865

Maj. Genl Howard  
Sir

A few friends of Col. E. Whittlesey, Ass. Com. of Freedman's bureau at Raleigh N.C., wish to present his name to the Corporation of the University of Vermont, for the office of the President of that Institution. We wish to get the opinion of gentlemen who know him as well as yourself of his qualification, as an highly educated, energetic, courteous, man with good administrative powers &c. Will you be so kind as to give your opinion of his qualifications for such an office. There is to be a meeting of Alumni on the 12th of Jany, where the names of candidates will be presented.

I have written to Rev G.A. Howard of Cattskill a dear friend of mine to get me some letters & requested him to get one from you, but fearing he might not get my letter I have taken the liberty to write direct.

I am very respectfully  
Your obt Servant  
Wm C. Hickok M.D.

---

3192 12/30/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1996

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[83]

Farmington Dec. 30/65 [1863] [The year had been written in pencil as it wasn't clear, but it must be 1865. See Note.]

My dear Brother

We received very thankfully your good long Christmas letter. It was the best of presents. I have had the pictures you gave Ella & Dadie framed & hung up in the Sitting room, and had Otie's [Note] mug marked at Bath. He is now quite well & playful and is a great "comfort"! I am glad Charles is to come to Washington & hope it will be so that he can come on to Maine with you. Now I want you to come and see us if you possibly can, and to ensure it, I want you to engage to give your Lecture here. Come to Leeds, & take Mother along the next day up to see us and then mother Ella & I can hear your Lecture, as we all very much wish to do. Will you come?

Tell Harry to write me "yes" if you haven't time and I will arrange everything else. We have no Lyceum association & you won't get much pay, but you must charge them the more in the big places. All our people would be delighted to hear you and it would help me & do good to have them do so. Name the night if you can, if not now, do it when you can.

I give my Lecture on "a late trip thro. the South" at Bath Jan 31st. I am glad you gave Stanton to understand that he can't always bully.

Here come Dadie with "who are you writing to?" Uncle Otis. "Let's see, what can I say to him & all his children?" Tell him I've got a gun shaped just like a big gun & a sword shaped just like a big sword".

I am sorry if I was indiscreet in my observations in Gen Fiskes presence. He seems to have as much vanity & ambition as the rest of us. He has sent me three or four papers with the acct. of his Bvt. marked in each. I read your report with great interest. I thought Fiske would be disappointed, not to be praised more as he is used to it.

So Tilton didn't write the Independent article. I wish you could see the letter I wrote Webb, about it. Your Report will commend itself to the good sense of the people and will not impair their confidence in you. I am looking for an entire reorganization of the Bureau.

Perry left here this morning & expects to be in Washington with his wife by Friday or Sat. of next week. (Jan. 5th or 6th). He received his orders from the Dept & from you also. I hope he will do well, i.e. allow his wife's conscience to guide him, as I think he is rather disposed to do.

I was down to Leeds Tuesday. Mother was getting on well with her increased family. She thinks of having Wash "keep house" in the Kitchen and to hire his wife to do what she needs done especially washing &c. I wish the [MISSING PAGE]

are about 80 vols. in all, some of them very useful to me, & intrinsically valuable. I judge the whole to [be] worth 20\$ at least & the expressage was but \$4.10.

I am reading Dr Spencers Sermons & Dr Finneys Lectures & some others with great interest & gratitude to the unknown Donor. Alice will come back with Ella. Political feeling is not nearly as excited last year tho. meetings are held & many say they would like to hear you speak.

A man in temple the other day said with regard to your promotion to me & Wm M, "Hooker ought not to get mad, we can't all be Daniel Websters",

Thousands of your admirers in Maine have no doubt as to your competency to command the Armies of the World. With a great deal of love to Charley & gods blessing on you both.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

[Note. Otie, i.e. Oliver Otis Howard, was Rowland and Ella's second son. He was born February 14, 1865. Thus the date must have been 1865 not 1863. This is consistent with "Charles is to come to Washington", since he would have been joining the General OO Howard at the Freedmen's Bureau. Also Rowland toured the south with Gen. OO Howard in Oct-Nov, 1865.]

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3193 12/30/1865 *From:* Mary J.R. Buel

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3137

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[218, 219]

Washington Dec 30th 1865

To Gen. Howard  
My Dear Sir

Permit me to ask of you a special favor.

My highly esteemed friend Capt. Sarbruy, of the firm of Sarbruy & Co. of this city, is about issuing a new business card, and is desirous of adding your name to the list of his references.

I had promised to bring him to see you, that you might know him personally, but my many engagements have <til here> prevented.

I can vouch for his reliability, and I believe him to be not only an honorable gentleman, in all business transactions, but also to be governed by christian principles and therefore one whom we may aid by our influence, without any compromise.

I shall esteem it a special favor to myself should you consent to allow him the influence which your name will afford him.

Wishing you and your family a happy new year, and the richest blessings of our Heavenly Father

I have the  
honor to sign myself  
your humble  
servant  
Mary J.R. Buel

[Written on the back page of the letter, in a different hand.]

Washing, Dec 30 1865

Buell, Mrs. Mary J.

Desires permission for a friend, to place Gen. Howard's name upon a card for reference.

Recd. Jan 2. 1866

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3194 12/30/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-3138

638 Tremont St  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[220]

638 Tremont St  
Boston Dec 30. 65

Dear Genl

The Young Men of the +n [Christian] Association can have the hall on the Wed'y eve'g Jany 31 & on Feb eve'g 1st (Thursday). Cant you arrange so as to lecture for them one of those eve'gs, & so take Jamaica Plain Friday or Saturday eve'g & then go on to Portland &c? Otherwise it brings you & Beecher into the same week, wh is bad for several reasons.

Come to my house, & spend Sunday with us. It is a long time since we have seen you. It will give us pleasure, & of course, we depend upon it. Do arrange so if possible, & I will see that it is all right at Jamaica Plain.

In haste, but fraternally  
E.B. Webb.

I wrote Tilton about those articles in the Independent in wh such injustice was done you. He is more sensible & civil this week.  
E.B.W.

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3195 12/30/1865 *From:* M. Sampson

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3139

Phil'a

Supt. Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[221, 222]

Phil'a Dec 30, '65

Maj Genl. Howard  
Supt. Freedmen's Bureau  
Hon & Dear Genl.

The Freedmen's societies of this city, especially those connected with the Society of Friends, have selected Dr Joseph Parrish of this city as our agent to go South & examine as to destitution &c in order to send their <> where they are most needed.

Dr Parrish is eminently qualified for such a work, and I write to ask if consistent with your views, whether you cd give him a letter to the officers of the Bureau asking for him such facilities as they might be able to give in the prosecution of his mission.

Allow me to congratulate you on the manner in which you are conducting the affairs of the Bureau. So far as I know you have the confidence, approbation, and affections of all the friends of the Freedmen. I know your post is one of anxiety and care, and I know too that you are able, circumstanced as you are, to do but little of what you wd wish to accomplish.

May God sustain and direct you in all your ways.

Yrs truly  
M. Sampson

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3196 1/1/1866

*From:* [O.O. Howard]

*To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1235

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[CHECK ORIGINAL, Missing Opening]

a sleeping car till we arrived at Martinsburg Va. I was up, face washed, hair combed & eyes full open at 5! But the night had covered the grand scenery of the Allegheny Mts, and the wonderful R.R. ties round and over them that I had hoped to see. But Harpers Ferry partially repaid the loss & the last 20 miles near Baltimore, along a winding rocky creek was the most picturesque I ever looked upon. Compared with beds, sleeping cars are nowhere - compared with Steamboat berths, about ditto - compared with straight seats, or plain box cars with no seats, they are grand. We found the family all well, the house in apple pie order, the Bureau full as usual. All the family are now in bed & I must follow. I had a note from Austin A. Inviting me to stop with him on my way back. If I spend a night in N.Y. I will do so. I mean to press Portland on Lyman.

Everybody says the Union Commission is gone up & so I, guess he'll accept. You did right about So. Berwick. I know of no reason why I should candidate there. I hope for a quiet hearing. Sabbath tomorrow as Dr. Boynton is on the ground.

Good night Darling. O that you were

[CHECK ORIGINAL - Missing Pages]

[Note - this has been misfiled in June 1861. Otis is traveling by sleeping car from Martinsburg & Harpers Ferry WV to Baltimore, which places it most probably after the war. The reference to Dr. Boynton might place it during the Freedmen's Bureau era.]

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3197 1/1/1866

*From:* H.F. Gray

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3140

New York City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

New York City  
Jany 1st 1866

Genl Howard,  
Dear Sir

I only write you to call your attention to the letter of the Rev. Wm McGee I enclosed to you, requesting its return, & I have to ask you to return it to me or hand it over to President Johnson as you like.

Who should fill the Govmt positions. Could not Miss Marry Gray of Lynchburg fill some position in your Dpmt.

Yours Respectfully  
H.F. Gray

---

3198 1/1/1866

*From:* T.W. Tomlinson

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3141

Oxford Miss

Washington City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

Oxford Miss January 1st 1866

Gen O.O. Howard  
Washington City  
Dear Sir

I have been waiting for some time to here from you on the Subject of our conversations between Grand Junction and Memphis in relation to some Land I had in Arkansas. The Land lies west from Memphis about Seventy miles and Twenty five miles East of White river. I can let you have from One to Ten Thousand acres hope to rise from now on reception of this. Please give your attention to the inclosed communication as it is important to have it attended to.

Yours Verry Respectfully  
T.W. Tomlinson

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

[unreadable text behind tape]

Oxford, Miss.

Jan'y 1st 1866

Tomlinson, T.W.

States that he has been waiting to hear from Genl. Howard relative to some land he has in Arkansas, & that he has from one to 10000 acres available:- Encloses communication signed by himself and Mr. Y. Wileys recommending J.J. Cook for position as agent of the Bureau.

(1 enclosure) [Not found]

[STAMP] BUREAU RF&AL WASHINGTON RECD JAN 11 1866

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3199 1/1/1866

*From:* Evans Blake

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3142

Office of Post  
Commissary  
Sioux City Iowa

Washington  
D.C.

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[12]

Office of Post Commissary  
Sioux City Iowa Jany 1st 1866

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose my request to be transferred to the Regular Army for your approval if you think it to be for my best interest. You have known me for some time and would know whether I could fill the position I ask for.

I have been on duty at this Post, since my appointment having passed an examination as to my qualifications for Commissary of Subsistence of Vols at St. Louis Mo.

I have another application which has been approved by the Adjt General of Ills. and Genl Sully and you would confer a very great favor if you would approve the enclosed request. This letter will be handed to you by a friend of mine and the request will be given to Hon E.B. Washburn who has kindly said that he will assist me.

Please accept my kindest wishes for your health and prosperity.

I am very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Evans Blake  
Capt. & C.S. Vols

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington  
D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Sioux City Iowa

Jan 1st 1866

Blake, Evans

Capt. & C.S.

Asks Gen. Howard for recommendation for transfer to regular Army

Jan 24th 1866 Recd

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3200 1/1/1866

*From:* Wm Wirt Piper

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3143

426 "N" St., Washington

Sup't Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[4, 5]

426 "N" St., Washington, Jan 1, 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Sup't Freedmen's Bureau,  
General;

I have the honor to state that, some time since, I sent you a communication asking for an appointment in the Freedmen's Bureau. I did not ask for one as an Assistant Surgeon which position I formerly held, but one which would afford me some compensation; a clerkship, or any employment.

I present as recommendations an honorable discharge from service, the loss of my left leg, a letter from Maj. Gen F. Fessenden, which you have seen, and the fact that by loss of over half my pay for the time I served, (through fault of a mustering officer) I am several hundred dollars poorer, than when I entered the service, and now in pressing need of employment.

An appointment of some kind for a few months which will give me funds to successfully complete my medical studies would be to me a favor for which I should ever feel thankful to you and the faithful performance of duty should be my constant aim.

My apology for thus addressing you is my inability to secure an interview with you.

I am, General,  
Most Respectfully  
Your Ob't Serv't,  
Wm Wirt Piper

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington Jan 1st 1866

Piper, Wm Wirt

Desires employment in the Bureau R.F & AL

Recd Jan 3rd 1866.

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3201 1/1/1866

*From:* A.S. Woodworth

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-3144

*Source:* Bowdoin

Boston Young Mens  
Christian Association  
40 Central St  
Boston

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[7, 8]

Boston Young Mens Christian Association  
Boston January 1st 1866

Maj Genl OO Howard  
Dr Sir,

We learn from Rev Dr Webb who kindly corresponded with you in behalf of our association that you have appointed Satdy Feby 10th to lecture for us in Boston. Without wishing to interfere too much with your arrangements we could wish that the date might be altered. Yet if you cannot make it convenient to do so we will gladly accommodate ourselves to your wishes.

Saturday night we have always found a bad night for a lecture. The evenings best adapted for such purposes are Wednesday & Thursday Evenings. On Wednesday Feby 14th Rev Henry Ward Beecher had previously engaged to lecture for us and he finds it impossible to give us any other time. This would bring the two lectures so near together as to involve a great amount of labor on the part of the committee.

For these reasons we would respectfully ask whether you could favor us on your way east instead of your return say Wednesday Jany 31st or Thursday Feby 1st. Friday is generally meeting night in Boston and would not be as good choice as Saturday eve. I understand from Dr Webb that you will probably be here about that time. If you cannot conveniently favor us with either of above dates we would prefer Monday Feby 12th. As it will be necessary to know at once there being, only one hall that can be had for the purpose and of which we have taken the refusal till Wednesday-night. Will you confer a favor on us by telegraphing yr reply to me as early as possible.

Wishing you the compliments of the season I am very truly Yours &c  
A.S. Woodworth  
40 Central St  
Ch. Lec. Com.

Our choice of nights  
1st Wednesday Jany 31  
2nd Thursday Feby 1st  
3rd Monday Feby 12th  
4th Satdy Feby 10th

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3202 1/1/1866

*From:* Edward M. McCook

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3145

Philadelphia

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[9, 10]

Philadelphia Jany 1st 1866

My Dear General:

Since leaving Washington I have been too much afflicted with sickness to write, but I have thought a great deal about the Freedman's matter we talked of, and am still very anxious to be assigned to the duty you then indicated.

I am satisfied the removal of superfluous freedmen to points where their labor may be required, can be accomplished in such manner as will assure their future prosperity and comfort, and also reflect credit upon the officers who originate and execute the plan; but would it not be best to make a preliminary reconnoissance now? After Congress once takes action they may be impatient for results, and it will certainly require both time and industry to select these lands properly.

You spoke of Florida during our conversation; I would suggest the rich alluvial lands of Texas and Arkansas as probably preferable to the thin ones of Florida or North Carolina. In either of the two first states, there is plenty of virgin land, unoccupied now, and that probably will remain unoccupied for years to come, unless settled in the manner you suggest; and the soil is generally from 75 to 100 per cent more productive than the lands of States further East and when a change is made of course it will be your object to send the Emigrants to the locality which will most quickly and profitably absorb their labor.

During the coming year I think that your Bureau can reasonably look forward to an extensive increase both of labor and responsibility; a great many of the freedmen feel reluctant to enter into contracts with their old masters, because they desire a change of location and employment and will not really feel satisfied with their condition, or assured of the fact that they are really free until they exercise the privilege of going where they please. If this spirit prevails to the extent which I suppose, it will require a great deal of labor and caution to prevent it from disorganizing the labor of the whole Country. Negroes are gregarious, and the North is their El Dorado.

I suppose you will desire this exodus to take place as early in the Spring as possible, so that you may have your wards located in time to raise at least part of a crop of provisions for their own support during the coming year. If such are you designs, would it not be well to ask the Secy of War to assign me to this duty at once, and I feel confident that I can render you efficient and intelligent assistance in carrying out your views.

Wishing you a very happy New Year, and hoping you may have the same success in the present year that you have even in the past. I remain General

Very truly  
Your friend  
Edward M. McCook  
Bt Maj Gen Vols

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Washington

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Jan 1st 1866

McCook, E.M.

Brevet Maj. Gen. of Vols.

Writes regarding the settlement of public lands by freedmen. Desires to be placed in charge of such duty.

Recd. Jan 3rd 1866.



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3203 1/2/1866

*From:* Geo. Roos

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3146

Lyons Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

Lyons Jan. 2, '66

Maj Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find Eleven dollars and thirty cts to be applied to the benefit of the Freedmen as you may think best. This is a donation raised at the Thanksgiving meeting here on the 7th Dec.

Please let me know if you receive this.

Direct to Lyons Fulton County Ohio

Yours &c  
Geo. Roos

[written in a different hand.]  
answered Jan 6th  
lmb

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3204 1/2/1866

*From:* W.B. Hazen

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3147

Murfreesboro Tenn.

Commissioner &c  
Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[14, 15]

Murfreesboro Tenn.

Jan 2, 1866

My dear Genl.

I desire to accompany some letters asking of the President my promotion to the Grade of General Officer in the regular army, from a few of the distinguished men of the country in Civil life, letters from yourself and General Sherman as my military commanders.

These letters will have no reference to recommendations made through Gen. Grant and are desired to give character and weight to the pretensions of my civilian friends.

By furnishing me this letter, and also at your convenience, laying the Subject verbally before Gen. Grant, you will confer a great favor on one who served with you honestly, and I trust at times usefully.

I have to congratulate you on the great success and usefulness of your Bureau, created entirely by yourself.

You have in Gen. Fisk, an able sincere and industrious helper, and in Tillson a man of really sterling worth, more than many people have ever given credit for although all speak well of him.

I am at present considering the district of Middle Tenn.

Very Truly  
W.B. Hazen

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Washington  
D.C.

P.S. I do not desire to forestall any action upon the part of proper military authority in the way of promotion, only wishing that the President may not be ignorant of me or my service when he is called upon to confirm the list that may be place before him for appointment.

W.B.H.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Murfreesboro, Tenn. Jan 2nd 1866

Hazen, W.B.

Maj. Gen. U.S. Vols

Desires a letter of recommendation from Gen. Howard

Recd. Jan 7th 1866

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3205 1/2/1866

*From:* D.E. Sickles

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3148

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Department of South  
Carolina,  
Charleston, S.C.

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[11, 12]

Headquarters, Department of South Carolina,  
Charleston, S.C., Jan. 2nd 1866

Dear General,

Yours of the 6th ult was duly received. It will afford me pleasure to comply with your wishes so far as my suggestions may aid Capt. Ketchum, of your staff, in his duties. The number of freed people on the Islands is not as large as has been generally supposed –there are not as many as can be profitably employed in the Cultivation of the plantations. The planters will employ all they can, because it is their interest to do so. The negroes will cling to the hope of <> lands, until they are restored, and meanwhile they are not willing to contract. Their means of subsistence are fast disappearing and they commit many depredations & thefts on the mainland, where they go in their boats –had the impression prevailing that the Island and Coast will be given to the freedmen <indispose> those in the interior to Contract. And now is the time when it is usual and indeed necessary to make arrangements for the fear. It is therefore, in my judgment, desirable that so far as the policy of restoration is determined upon, it be promptly carried out. Capt. Ketchum has gone to <Georgia> & will be absent. I understand for about ten days. Would it not be well, considering the extent of territory his duties entail, to give him some assistance? I believe the effect would be salutary if one or two of the Islands and the rice delta on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, were restored at once –then we could see whether the experiment works well. What terms would be finer & whether the freedmen will contract, - I believe it will be successful. I recommend for <not> to restore parts of Islands or isolated plantations on the Coast, surrounded by lands where numbers of freed people are settled in unrestored lands. The difficulties would be increased. I ought to say to you in frankness that the impression prevailing here –whether just or not I cannot say –that your wishes in regard to restoration, are <tardily> and reluctantly followed. Col Tremaine A.D.C. of my staff was sent by me with Capt. K. & some planters to Edisto. Tremaine's report is commendatory of Capt K. I presume the complaints arise from the impression that restoration depends, in the judgment of the representatives of the Bureau here as a condition on the willingness of the negroes to contract. It should depend rather on the terms offered in good faith by the planters if these are fair & sufficient they will be accepted –but not while restoration is pending. I find pleasure in affording all the Cooperation in thy power to the beneficent objects of your Bureau & am always at your service.

V Tr Yrs  
D.E. Sickles

[CHECK ORIGINAL –check especially all the words/phrases in brackets.]

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3206 1/3/1866

*From:* James G. Holladay

*To:* Major General OO  
Howard

OOH-3149

Portsmouth Va.

Chief B.R.F.&A.L.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[16]

Portsmouth Va. Jany 3rd 1866

Major General OO Howard  
Chief B.R.F.&A.L.  
General

In this days "Virginian" a newspaper published in the City of Norfolk appeared in the news column an editorial in reference to the house of Wm H Peters in this city leased by your Bureau to W.H. Hunt and in relation to which I saw you on last Friday in Washington.

I beg most earnestly to assure you sir that the publication referred to was not only without the knowledge of either Mr. Peters or myself, but also greatly contrary to my wishes and desires.

I deem this explanation and disavowal necessary for my own vindication, since the publication alluded to, would under the circumstances, had it come from me, been violative of every principle of propriety & decorum.

I am sir very respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt  
James G. Holladay

P.S. I may have exaggerated the article and therefore enclose it for upon the subject of propriety I am some what sensitive and do not yield prudence to any one. J.G.H.

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3207 1/4/1866

*From:* Jno D Armour

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-3150

153 N Eutaw St  
Balto

Wash.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[17]

Balto Jany 4, 1866

Genl OO Howard  
Wash.  
Dear Sir

Will you be kind enough to let your clerk drop me a line to this city 153 N Eutaw St. Informing me when I can obtain an interview with you at Washington

& oblige  
Your very Respy  
Jno D Armour  
153 N Eutaw St

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3208 1/4/1866

*From:* Wright Rives

*To:* Gen [OO Howard]

OOH-3151

Executive Mansion  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8]

Executive Mansion  
Washington D.C. Jan 4th 1866

Gen

The President wishes to see you in reference to Gen Bairds paper and several other things. I told him that I thought you would be here to day. I think it best for you to come tomorrow morning as he has seen a great many persons today and is very much fatigued and will not be in condition to attend to your business. I think if you will call tomorrow morning at 10 you will see him.

Your Obt Svt  
Wright Rives [USMA class of 1861]

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Washington Jan 4, 1865

Rives, Wright

Lt. Col.

States that the President would like to see Gen Howard.

Recd. Jan 4th 1865

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3209 1/4/1866

*From:* R. Knowles

*To:* Gen OO Howard

OOH-3152

“Office Young Mens  
Institute”  
New Haven

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[21]

“Office Young Mens Institute”  
New Haven Jan. 4th 1866

Gen OO Howard  
Dear Sir,

In answer to yours of the 2d inst I would say that Friday Evening Feb. 16th the time you mention would please us much. The Terms you name are quite satisfactory. Will you be so kind as to inform me if you receive this note in order that there may not possibly be any misunderstanding.

Very truly your Obdt Servant.  
R. Knowles  
Cor. Secy.

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3210 1/5/1866

*From:* E.B. Washburne

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3153

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[18]

Washington, D.C.  
Jan'y 5th 1866.

Major General O.O. Howard,  
General:

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter from Colonel M. W. Smith of the 66th Regt. U.S. Colored Troops, in order that you may see the account he gives of the state of affairs in that part of Mississippi in which he is stationed. Col. Smith is a resident of my district, an educated soldier, and a man of probity and honor, whose statements are entitled to the fullest confidence. After reading the letter, I will thank you to return it to me.

I have the honor to be,  
very respectfully  
and truly, yours,

E.B. Washburne [Elihu Benjamin Washburne, Member of Congress from Illinois]

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington, Jan 5, 1866

Washburn, M.C., E.B.

Encloses a statement regarding condition of Freedmen in Pike Co., Miss made by Col. M.W. Smith  
Recd. Jan 8th 1866

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3211 1/5/1866

*From:* A.A.E. Taylor

*To:* Maj Gen Howard

OOH-3154

Georgetown D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[20]

Georgetown D.C. Jan 5, 1866

Maj Gen Howard,  
General,

I have sent you by today's mail a copy of "The Presbyterian" of Philadelphia the principal paper of our church. I would direct your attention to an article it contains concerning The Freedmen in which I have taken the liberty of referring to yourself & hope it may not meet your disapproval. As I write every week during this season, for it as a regular Correspondent anything you may see fit to suggest of benefit to the Freedmen's cause will be gladly received, or anything you may desire to have said in justification of your cause before the Christian public.

Yours Very Respectfully  
A.A.E. Taylor

---

3212 1/6/1866

*From:* Adam Badeau

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3155

Head-Quarters Armies  
of the United States,  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

Head-Quarters Armies of the United States,  
Washington Jany 6 1866

Maj Gen Howard  
In charge Bureau  
Refugees, Freedmen &c  
General

Lt Gen. Grant directs me to forward you the enclosed letter referring to Col. Whittlesey, and request you if in your power to furnish the information desired. Direct to Dr Hickock.

I am General  
Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Adam Badeau  
Brvt Col & Mil Secy

[Note. The enclosure is OOH-3165, dated 12/29/1865.]

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3213 1/6/1866

*From:* S P Chase

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3156

Wash'n

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wash'n Jany 6, 1866

Dear General

My friend Mr. <> sends me the enclosed letter, and expresses confidence in the writer Dr. Johnston, though having not much knowledge of him beyond reports of friends, and desires it to be brought to your notice or that of Secretary <Stanton>.

I have no idea what the writer refers to in the marked passages. Perhaps you will understand them and you will know much better than I whether it is best to address to Washington or not.

Yours very truly  
S P Chase

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Washington Jan 6, 1866

Chase, S.P.

Chf. Justice

Enclosed a letter written by Robb, Johnson to <paybank>.

Recd. Jan. 5th 1866.

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3214 1/6/1866

*From:* A.S. Twitchell

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3157

Bethel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[25]

Bethel January 6th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

The "Mutual Educational Society" of this place have in contemplation a course of Lectures for the Winter, provided we can meet with sufficient assurance of success. We have already Gen. Chamberlain among other distinguished men in this State, and thus far success has met our efforts. We understand that you are to Lecture before the course in Portland, and thinking that it might be possible for you to favor us also I write you in accordance with my own wishes seconded by those of the Society and the citizens generally. You have been among us, and know something of us –particulars therefore I deem perhaps unnecessary.

Hoping to hear favorably from you and if so your stated terms, that we may be prepared to meet them.

I am with respect

Your obedient Servant

A.S. Twitchell

Bethel Maine

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3215 1/6/1866

*From:* AK Browne

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O Howard

OOH-3158

Washington D.C.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112]

Washington D.C. January 6, 1866

Dear Sir:-

As you will recollect soon after our efforts last Summer to purchase Fords Theatre for our Association, I was taken ill and obliged to leave my business and go North for my health.

Since my return I find my business reduced, all of my little means gone, and with my little family consisting of my Wife and two children soon to be dependent upon the charity of Friends unless I can find employment.

It has occurred to me that perhaps you could give me a situation of some kind in your Bureau if so, I can assure you it would be duly appreciated at this time and if possible deserved. I have devoted much time during this War as a Delegate of the Christian Commission and otherways endeavoring to serve my country and have never before asked of her any such favor. I have been assisting B. Gen. S.L. Brown of late in his Col'd Mission S. School & am Supt. of Mission S.S. at Camp Fry Barracks.

Hoping soon to hear from you, I am

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

AK Browne

Maj. Gen. O.O Howard

Washington D.C.

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3216 1/7/1866

*From:* [J.R.] Shipherd

*To:* My dear General

OOH-3159

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[106]

New York, Jany 7 66

My dear General:

I find an editorial in this morning's Herald which is funny, & I think you may like to read it. It is rather hard when a decent man must be commended by the Herald & condemned by the Independent!

I shall try to get home to meet you as agreed on Friday night, but I may be detained. God bless you with faith & patience as hitherto.

Yours faithfully,  
Shipherd

[Written sideways on the back of the first page in a different hand.]

New York 7th Jan 1866

Shipherd, J.R.

Encloses slip from N.Y. Herald

Recd Jan 9th 1866

[Clipping]

The United States Sanitary Commission having declined to continue beyond the 1st of January the collection of soldiers' claims for back pay, bounty and pensions, the general Secretary of the American Freedmen's Aid Commission will receive, until further action, the claims of colored soldiers and their heirs. Applications should be addressed to Jacob R. Shepherd, General Secretary, Washington, D.C.

[Second clipping]

... It has been prepared after a great deal of reflection on the subject and it is hoped will meet all the exigencies that may arise in inaugurating our new industrial system.

It has been submitted to the consideration of Major-General Sickles and Saxton, and meets their approval. They both give every assurance that all contracts made on this basis will be approved by officers of the Government, and of their earnest desire to co-operate with the planters in inducing the freedmen to work.

With the high prices of produce as an incentive to exertion, let the planters of the South rouse up their energies and go to work earnestly in giving this new system a fair trial. If they then fail the responsibility will not be upon their shoulders.

This form of contract, with some modification of terms, adapting it to the upland system of culture, has recently been adopted at a large meeting of the citizens of the upper part of Beaufort District:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA –BEAUFORT DISTRICT.

Articles of Agreement Between \_\_\_\_\_ And The Freedmen, Whose Names Are Hereunto Attached.

Article 1. The said freedmen agree to hire themselves as laborers on the plantation of the said \_\_\_\_\_, from the 1st of January, 1866, to the 1st of January, 1867. they agree to conduct themselves honestly and civilly, and to perform any labor on the said plantation or connected therewith, that may be required by the said \_\_\_\_\_ or his agents.

Article 2. The said freedmen agree to perform the following daily task per hand, fractional hands in proportion: Listing, Bedding, Cultivating, Splitting rails, Ditching, Cutting marsh.  
In all cases where task cannot be assigned, they agree to labor diligently ten hours per day.

Article 3. The said freedmen agree to forfeit for every day's absence from labor 50 cents per day. If absent voluntarily and without leave, two dollars per day. If absent more than one day without leave, to be dismissed from the plantation and forfeit their share of the crop.

Article 4. The said freedmen agree to take good care of all utensils with which they may be entrusted, and to pay for the same if lost or destroyed. They agree to be kind and gentle with animals under their charge, and to pay for any injury they may sustain while in their hands. Damages to be assessed by arbitrators, to be selected by each contracting party.

Article 6. They agree to furnish from their number a foreman, a nurse and a stock minder –to be selected by their employer.

Article 7. They agree to bear all their own expenses, and to return any advance that may be made during the year from their respective shares in the crop, and to protect their employer's property.

Article 8. The said \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to treat his employees with kindness and respect, to do all in his power to elevate and improve their condition. He agrees to furnish each family with a comfortable house, and the fourth part of an acre of land for a garden; to allow them to raise poultry and one hog to each laborer, to be kept within their own enclosures. He agrees to divide the crop with them at the end of the year in the following proportions per hand, fractional hands in proportion: One-third of the net proceeds of all the cotton, and one-third of all other crops raised on the plantation, except long forage.

Article 9. The said \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to be attentive to his employees in sickness; to see that they are supplied with medical attendance and medicines if required, to be paid for out of their respective shares. He further agrees to supply them with their bread rations, if required, to be paid for in the same manner.

Article 10. The said \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to furnish work animals at the rate of one animal to every eight full hand to furnish wagons, carts and plantation utensils, as may be required, such as cannot be made on the plantation.

Article 11. It is agreed that the crop to be cultivated shall be in the following proportion per hand, fractional hands in proportion:  
Cotton, Corn Rice, Potatoes, Peas, Slips, Turnips

Article 12. It is agreed that the fines for absences be appropriated to the hiring of other labor to cultivate the absentees' share of the crop, and that the fines for untidiness be appropriated as a premium to the family who keep their premises and garden in the best order.

Article 13. It is agreed that no liquor or firearms brought on the plantation, except by consent and permission of the employer.

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3217 1/7/1866

*From:* R. Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Asst Com.  
Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina  
Charleston, S.C.

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3160

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[26]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina  
Charleston, S.C. Jan 7th 1866

General -

I have the honor to enclose for your information a paper which contains an account of a meeting of some five or six thousand freedmen & planters which I held at Columbia Sc. Ca. on the 3d inst. It is the type of several other meetings I have held which I hope may result in good. The freedmen promised to go on & contract and seemingly all parties separated with an improved state of feeling.

I am General  
With great respect  
Your obt servant  
R. Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Asst Com.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commisioner

---

3218 1/8/1866

*From:* W.S. Mitchell  
Br. Brig Genl Vols

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3161

Head Quarters M.M.  
Dept.  
Baltimore

Freedmans Bureau  
Washington DC.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[32, 33]

Head Quarters M.M. Dept.  
Baltimore, Jany 8th 1866

General,

In view of a probable increase in the regular Army I have determined to apply for a commission as a "Field Officer" in one of the new Regiments in case any such are authorized to be raised. Almost all of my service has been on the staff of Maj General Hancock and I am advised by him to request a letter from you (if it is not objectionable to you to give me one), which I can use when I make my application for an appointment. If you can give me such a letter General, it would greatly assist me and I will appreciate your kindness highly.

I entered the service in 1861 as a private soldier & served as such for some months and was constantly in the field from the commencement of the War until its termination. I had the honor to carry an order for you during the assault made by the 2nd Corps at Fredericksburg 13 Dec. 62, while I was on the Staff of Genl Hancock as A.D.C. The order was for Capt Hazzard to retire his Battery. I only speak of this to recall myself to your memory.

I am General  
Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
W.S. Mitchell  
Br. Brig Genl Vols & Asst I. General  
M. M. Dept.

Major General Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
Washington DC.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Hd Qrs. M.M. Dept.  
Baltimore Jan 8th 1866  
Mitchell, W.S.

Brev. Brig. Gen. & A.I.G.

Desires a letter of recommendation for a field officers position in the Regular Army  
Recd. Jan. 9th 1865. [should be 1866]

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3219 1/8/1866

*From:* J.H. Chapin

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3162

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Freedmen's  
Aid Commission  
New-England Section  
8, Studio Building,  
Boston

Washington D.C.

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[27, 28]

[Letterhead]

American Freedmen's Aid Commission  
New-England Section  
Hon. John. Andrew, President.  
John Parkman, Chairman Ex. Comm.  
J.J. Chapin, Secretary  
Wm. Endicott, Jr., Treasurer.  
8, Studio Building, Boston

Jan 8th 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir -

It is the purpose of the above-named Commission to have a grand mass meeting at the Fremont Temple in this city on or about Monday Evening January 29th for the purpose of advancing the interests of the Freedman's cause. Every means will be employed to make the occasion a success, both as to numbers and influence; and it is particularly desired, that you, as the head of the Bureau, and one whose name is more extensively known than any other, in connection with the Freedmen, should be present and address the meeting.

Gov. Andrews and other distinguished speakers are expected to be present.

It is hoped not only to obtain a large amount of funds for the prosecution of our work; but that the meeting may inaugurate a movement which will have some influence upon congress, as we have no doubt any measures you may propose tending to the amelioration of the condition of the freed people will be heartily endorsed by the meeting, and going thence will gather strength throughout New England, and perhaps other parts of our country.

If you cannot be here on the 29th could you be here within two or three days before or after?

As you are advertised to lecture before a Literary Society in this city on Feb. 1st it is deemed advisable to have our meeting before that date.

We should be glad also to secure Gen Fiske for the same occasion. Can you tell us if his duties in connection with the Bureau would permit him to be here at that time?

An early answer will oblige

Yours Very Respectfully  
J.H. Chapin  
Secy

By order of Executive Committee

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.

Boston, Jan 8th 1866

Chapin, J.H.

Secy

Desires Gen. Howard to address a meeting in Boston on the 29th inst.

Recd. Jan 10th 1866



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3220 1/8/1866

*From:* Roscoe Conkling

*To:* Genl Howard

OOH-3163

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

Freedman Bureau

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[29]

[Letterhead]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

Jany 8 1866

Sir:

The Rev J.. Crawford a man of vigor and decided talent living at Sauquoit, Oneida Co, N.Y. wants to be engaged somewhere in the South in your Bureau.

May I enquire whether there is need or place for him, & if so what sort of position he can have.

I have the honor to be  
Your obt sert  
Roscoe Conkling

Genl Howard  
Freedman Bureau

---

3221 1/8/1866

*From:* Wm. P. Hubbard

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3164

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

Bangor Jany 8th 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

Yours of the 3d instant was duly received. I have no copy of letter sent you so that I am not sure, that I have not neglected to reply to yours of the 14th of Dec. We had made our arrangements for the lecture on the 7th and engaged the Hall for that evening instead of the 6th which is our regular time. The cars arrive so late in the evening that it is not practicable to have the lecture on the 6th, if you are to be in Portland the 5th.

Yours very truly  
Wm. P. Hubbard  
Secy  
B.F.A.A.

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3222 1/8/1866

*From:* E.P. Hill

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3165

Haverhill Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[31]

Post Office  
Haverhill Mass.  
Jan 8 1866

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard  
Sir -

Noticing that you are to lecture in Boston before the Young Men's Chr Association, I address you in behalf of the Union Lecture Association of this place for an engagement to lecture here.

What Wednesday or Friday eveng in February can you be with us if at all? What are your terms?

We most earnestly hope you will be able to address us.

Hoping for an early answer, I am

Truly yours  
E.P. Hill

---

3223 1/8/1866

*From:* WHM [William H  
Merrick]

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3166

Southwark Foundry  
Merrick & Sons  
Philad'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[183]

[Letterhead]

Southwark Foundry  
Merrick & Sons  
J. Vaughan Merrick  
W.H. Merrick  
John E. Cope  
Philad'a  
Jan 8 1866

My dear Otis

You may remember that while you were with us last you mentioned having heard of or seen a knife intended for persons only having the use of one hand. I have been trying to find one for you ever since & only succeeded a few days since when happening to glance into a store window I saw a horrible looking weapon which I at once identified as the article you wanted.

I send it to you today by mail & hope that if the P.O. Officials should have occasion to pry into the package they will not suspect any "repentant rebel" of mailing a murderous weapon.

All well at home & with love to Lizzie & the children.

I am

Very Truly yr friend  
WHM [William H Merrick]

---

3224 1/9/1866

*From:* G. Clay Smith

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3167

Washington City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33?]

Washington City  
Jan 9 1866

Maj. Genl. Howard -  
Genl.

I have the Honor to lay before you the enclosed letter in regard to Capt. Geo. P Webster of whom I have written & spoken to you before. Now that the Amendment has been proclaimed officially as a part of the Constitution, & the Freedmens Bureau has been established in Kentucky, I take the liberty of calling your attention to the appointment of Capt. Webster in that Dept. as chief Q.M. of your Dept. I am satisfied such an appointment will receive the cordial approval of the Scty of War, and the Q.M. Genl. besides being entirely satisfactory and gratifying to the loyal men of Ky. & all who would advance the interest of the poor negro in that state.

I can with great pleasure assure you that Capt. Webster is a man of fine ability, honesty, and such exceptionable morals –and has of late because of efficient & faithful service been Breveted Lt. Col in the Q.M. Dept. He is at present in St. Louis Mo.

I am Genl. with great Respect.

Your humble & obt. Srvt.  
G. Clay Smith

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3225 1/9/1866

*From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3168

638 Tremont St  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[35]

638 Tremont St  
Boston Jany 9 1866

Dear Genl,

The Young Men take the 1st eve'g named in yr letter. You know as I see you are advised.

Come to my House for Hd. Qtrs.

I have made another arrangement for you on the eve'g of the first Sabth of Feb'y.

In great haste, but fraternally  
E.B. Webb

Genl. O.O. Howard

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3226 1/9/1866

*From:* Charles Marsh

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3169

*Source:* Bowdoin

United States Christian  
Commission  
229 Main Street  
Springfield, Mass.

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[36, 37]

[Letterhead]

Springfield Branch  
of the  
United States Christian Commission  
F.A. Brewer, President  
Geo. P. Geer, Vice President,  
Charles Marsh, Secretary  
Henry S. Lee, Treasurer  
Rev. Henry Powers, General Agent.  
Rooms of Young Men's Christian Association, 229 Main Street  
Springfield, Mass.,

Jan 9 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

I have noticed that you are to speak before the Y.M. Christian Association in Boston early in February, and I am directed by a similar organization here to invite you to address the people of Springfield; if, consistent with your public duties, you can give one night on your way to or from Boston.

Our people, and especially the young men, many of whom have served in the army & those who have been deeply interested in the "Christian Commission" would rejoice to see you in Sp'd and sincerely hope for a favorable response to their invitation.

I am very truly  
Your Obt Servant  
Charles Marsh  
Pres't

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3227 1/9/1866

*From:* J. M. McKim

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3171

69 Nassau St  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45]

69 Nassau St  
New York  
Jan 9th / 66

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
My dear sir

You and your work, - and your trials – have been much on my mind during the last few weeks, and I have several times been on the point of writing to you, to express my sympathy; but as, personally, we are almost strangers to each other, and as officially we are not brought very close together, I have not felt quite at liberty to obey the impulse. But, now that the Herald has come in to reinforce <> opportunity, by clinching with its praise the nail driven in by the Independents' censure I yield to my first feeling and write to say that.

That nail – nail though it be – is not fastened in a pure place. It is neither one nor the other. That is it is neither purely driven nor tightly fastened. It was skilfully done; and it was done I doubt not with good intentions, but it missed its place & will not hold.

As a criticism the article was too severe; it was one-sided. It over-stated defects and understated virtues. It did not meter out justice with an even hand. Nor was it fair in its statements of facts.

As I understand it, and, so far as I know – those who act with me understand it:

1. The Bureau was not a heavy-helpless - immovable barge swept from the reefs by the current of public sentiment – created by the fall elections. On the contrary, it had proved itself a craft of such good sailing qualities that on the 28th of September, - before the elections – the Am F. Aid Com, a body of representative men from all parts of the country, put on record by an unanimous vote the following resolution:

[Clipping]

Resolved. That this Commission desires to express the pleasure it has in the appointment of Major General O.O. Howard, as the Head of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands; its implicit confidence in his fitness for the position, and its earnest hope that he will have such support from the Government and people as may be necessary to give the fullest effect to his labors.

If you will allow me to report - I had the pleasure of offering that resolution, and nothing has transpired since then to change my opinion of its correctness, and as it is with me so, I believe, it is with those who, with me, voted for its adoption.

To a man of your intelligence in such matters I need enter no caveat against being misunderstood. We meant no unqualified approbation. We meant of course - all things considered & with due regard to human infirmity ! But to return to the criticism.

2. It was not "impossible to attach credit to those of its active fidelity." "Rumor was not wholly in its disfavor.

3. "The enemies flanders – if flanders they were - says the Independent, went contradicted. So does this impeachment of the Independent. Does that prove its correctness?

4. Notwithstanding the seeming indifference to a connivance at the atrocities committed in Louisiana & elsewhere and the others, seeming delinquencies of the Bureau in those states, it is possible that this seeming may have done it injustice; may have admitted of an explanation of a justifying character; and due allowance should have been made for this fact by men who edit a paper which by its religious profession, teaches; Judge not according to the appearance but Judge <obvious> judgment".

5. Mr Conway's displacement – wise or unwise – is not accepted by the best friends of the Freedmen here as a strong argument against the Bureau.
6. "on the suffrage question" the Bureau has expressed no opinion because as here admitted it "perhaps has no business to do so. But well informed people understand that the Commissioner of the Bureau & his subordinates are generally in favor of impartial suffrage, and not "adverse to the Freedman's claim".
7. "The Northern associations" have either obtained all the aid they asked of the Bureau, or such an answer to their requests as prevented the "disappointment" which the Independent says "was general" & which I assert was not general.
8. "Gen. Howard is neither statesman, politician nor organizer." Part of this is true. He is not a "politician." As for the rest it is not yet true for so sweeping & dogmatic a judgment. Mr Lincoln was not a statesman, nor Mr Stanton an organizer – judging by the first 6 months of their respective administrations. It took the Independent 5 years to get either a paying subscription list or the reputation of an able newspaper.
9. "A late convert to anti-slavery" he may be, but not so late as some men where, & whose public acts, the Independent treats with high praise.
10. If there be a "rumor" that Gen Howard "advised Gen. Saxton to resign on the ground of his radicalism" that rumor finds no credit with the best, & best informed, men that I am acquainted with.
11. "The zeal of General Howard to defuse among the Freedmen a knowledge of Evangelical religion & bring them into the church is conspicuous; we are sorry to add that he seems less inclined to do full justice to their civil, social & political needs," so says the Independent. This is a frame charge, and considering the vehicle through which it <emitted> one not to be treated lightly & is a charge at one & the same time of religious narrowness, official delinquency, not to say malfeasance.
12. "But now for the moment, the Bureau seems likely receive a serviceable piece of furniture. It feels the turn in the tide." &c &c to the end of the article. In the first two thirds of this criticism the writer condemns with strong censure; in the last third he "damns with faint praise."

The writer thus concludes his diatribe: "Two months ago we were of the opinion that the Freedmen's Aid Assocns would soon be obliged to suspend. We predicted that in six months there would not be a black school in a southern state."

Now I submit that a man so short-sighted, so crooked-sighted so incapable of feeling in a matter of this kind is not the man to pass sweeping censures & dogmatic judgements upon a fellow laborer whom he at the same time admits to be: "most worthy, with a very high sense of duty, a man of pure purposes, unspotted integrity, and undoubted singleness of aim."

But I am making my letter quite too long, & - perhaps from habit - making it more of a newspaper rejoinder than a letter to a friend.

You will note that on the subject of evangelicism I make no comment. I can only say that I dont believe the charge, - albeit I am quite ignorant of the facts in the case. I dont belong to the class known as, and often self-styled "evangelical"; but I have a deep & tender sympathy with those who do if they be good. I "love the bretheren". I prize the Gospel as I understand it; and I dont disdain it even as other people understand it.

I hate narrowness. I hate the narrowness of self-assumed evangelicism; and I hate just as much, the narrowness of self assumed liberalism. I have lived long enough to know that among the paradoxes of the world there is an illiberal liberality – a sectarian anti-sectarianism, as well as an un-gospel-like evangelicism and a radically heretical orthodoxy.

My dear sir, your position is a responsible one. It imposes upon you difficult & delicate duties. It is not for me to tell you where to look for grace & strength to enable you to perform these duties. "If any man – any man – lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth unto all men liberally & upbraideth not."

A line from you, to signify that you do not take amiss my freedom with you, will oblige

Yours most

sincerely

J. M. McKim [James Miller McKim, Cor. Sec., American Freedmen's and Union Commission]

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3228 1/10/1866

*From:* J N Sypbee

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3172

Lancaster Penn.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[46]

Lancaster Penn.

Jan 10 1866

General:

I have just returned from the Gulf states where I have been traveling since May. I have seen much, heard much, and thought much.

Do all you can to maintain the Freedman's Bureau, and extend rather than contract its powers, influence, and stations.

Genl Schurz's report contains much truth; perhaps the danger to northern men is magnified; otherwise the report is not an exaggeration of the state of things & people <with>

Respectfully

J N <Sypbee>

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Washington D.C.

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3229 1/10/1866 *From:* G.F. Granger

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3173

Rocky Mount N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[47]

Rocky Mount N.C.  
Jan. 10th 1866

To  
Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Gen,

I am anxious to obtain a position as Assistant Com'r in the Freedman's Bureau either in and for the counties of Edgecombe and Nash –or the counties of Mecklenburg & Cabarrus in this state. Or if in your power, any position in the Bureau that would enable me to be stationed in Edgecombe or Nash Country, or at Charlotte. If this request is not compatible with your arrangements, and you are not unwilling to confer upon me a position under you, I would be pleased to have a position in the state of Florida and if possible upon the Atlantic Coast.

I came South to spend the winter, with my wife, for pleasure, and with a view of selecting some locality for a future home. I have become tired of spending money and doing nothing and should you deem me worthy of your patronage and a position in the Freedmans Bureau I would endeavor to merit your approbation, by a strict and careful attention to my business, and a fair and just administration of any affairs that might be entrusted to me.

Your Very Resp.  
G.F. Granger  
Late Col. 9th Me. Vols.

[Written on the back of the first page.]

Rocky Mt. N.C.  
Jan. 10th 1866  
Granger, G.F.  
Desires to obtain a situation in the Bureau.

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3230 1/10/1866      *From:* James P. Holcombe      *To:* Hon N.H. Swayne

OOH-3178

Pierceville P.O.  
Bedford Cty, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[57, 58, 59, 60]

Pierceville P.O. Bedford Cty, Va.  
Jany 10th 1866.

My Dear Sir,

I write from no apprehension that you will fail to lay my case before the President at the earliest moment you may deem expedient, but for fear of a letter from you, (owing to the irregularity of our mails) may have mis-carried I have no reason to desire the period of suspense on my application to be shortened, except from a wish to reorder more public service than my equivocal position now permits. I beg you to believe that my confidence in your discretion as your friendship are alike unlimited, and I can patiently bide my time.

There is a subject upon which I want you to do me the kindness to have some conversation with Gen Howard communicating my name however to that gentleman, at least for the present in confidence. He is no doubt familiar with it, as I learned from Capt Lacy of Lynchburg. That an unexpected summons to Washington alone deprived me of the pleasure of a visit from the General whilst on his tour of inspection. I have the strongest conviction that the peace and prosperity of the South are dependent on the existence of kindly feelings and just and equal laws between the two races. I look upon all schemes of deportation as idle and mischievous and build my hopes of the future upon the conversion of the freedman into a moral, industrious and intelligent citizen. The most important measure in that direction at this time has seemed to me, some active and systematic effort for his education. I do not believe that this great work of practical philanthropy, and patriotism can be successfully accomplished without the cordial co-operation of benevolent men alike in the North and the South. I have uniformly and in all companies, expressed these opinions since Gen Lee's surrender, and have been waiting and watching for some favorable opportunity (and I have the strongest persuasion that sooner or later Providence will open it to me) of throwing into this great cause whatever I have of personal or public influence.

I have lately employed some leisure hours in collecting materials for a series of elementary readers especially adapted to the use of freedmen. My attention was called to the want of any suitable books of this character, by an examination of those used by a freedman's school on my plantation. I have extended my investigation into nearly all that have been published, and find them more or less abounding in material of little value to the black boy, and very destitute of that he most needs. A single consideration will show the necessity of some special provision for the wants of this race. As a general rule, the instruction which the white child receives at school, is not much impaired –in many instances it is promoted by what he hears and sees at home. It is far otherwise, at least in the South with the black boy. When he returns home, he is at once immersed in an atmosphere of ignorance, superstition and too often vice. Far more deeply than ever before is it necessary to imbue the instruction imparted at school with the spirit and lessons of christianity. In every form of precepts and illustrative narrative –in prose and verse, must the cardinal virtues of Piety, Purity, Truth, Justice, Honesty, Temperance, Industry, as well the minor ones of economy, order, neatness & be inculcated. But the peculiar condition of the black race requires more. The dignity of human nature, the honor which lies in the discharge of duty however humble its sphere, the blessings and the obligations of freedom, the value of labor, the history of their race, and the efforts of philanthropy to improve their condition, the simpler principles of law and government, - there subjects, and whatever else tends to stimulate the thirst of knowledge, to train to habits of observation and reflection, and to awaken noble and healthy aspirations, should fill a prominent place in the elementary books for the freedmen. The history of their emancipation can not be ignored. It should be told, with the utmost delicacy, with all charity and consideration for their former owners, but will all truth. This will be a task of peculiar difficulty, but I think I could tell it and satisfy reasonable and good men of both sections.

The suggestions I have thrown out will show you, it is no routine work I contemplate. To eliminate from the whole range of literature, the material best adapted for the moral and intellectual elevation of a race just delivered from the degradation of slavery, is a work for which no intellect or culture can bee too large.

I do not think it can be well done by any other than one who was a slaveholder. I am sure it would never be

received with favor in the South unless from a southern author. Whilst in New York, my attention was called by the Rev Dr Beecher to two readers prepared for Freedmen by the Boston Tract Society. They contained nothing to which I would object, but not a tenth of what I wanted –I did not explain fully my plans, to him, but he fully appreciated the desirableness of disavowing the prejudices of our own people by engaging southern writers –where practicable.

Confer with Gen Howard about this for me. The extent of the impression I could make in favor of this great work, I do not know. My own testimony would at least be given in emphatic form. My profound sense of the importance and difficulty of educating this unfortunate race, and my earnest desire to make the largest contribution in my power towards it, may have led me to magnify my capacity to be useful in that direction. Although a Professor of Law whilst at the University, the number of public addresses I have delivered on subject more or less connected with education, have made my name widely known as an enthusiast in that cause. My old pupils are to be found in almost every town and county of the south, and four years of political life have gotten me the friendship of acquaintance of most of its prominent citizens. If I can turn the facilities which there antecedents naturally give me to good account in the education of the black race, I shall be more than thankful.

Excuse the imperfections of this letter, as I have not the time to revise it. Hoping to hear from you at your convenience.

I am most sincerely  
with great respect & regard  
James P. Holcombe

Hon N.H. Swayne  
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

[Written at the top of the first page, in a different hand.]  
JH Holcomb  
Jany 10 1866

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3231 1/11/1866 *From:* E. W Clinch

*To:* Mr [William] King

OOH-3188

Savannah

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[71]

Copy

Savannah Jany 11th 1866

Mr King  
Dear Sir

My father is now upon his plantation in S.W. Georgia and feeling anxious that you should know the condition of matters upon St. Catherines Island and if convenient represent it to Gen Howard. I take the liberty of addressing you upon the subject. Your letter with enclosure has been received for which accept our thanks.

St Catherine Island continues under the control of the Bureau, quantities of wood are being cut and sold & in reply to expostulation made by Mr Clinch at my Fathers request, he was informed by Col Sickles it was done either by the order or permission of Gen Saxton and that there was no <> <[CHECK ORIGINAL fold in paper of page 1 obscures entire line]>. my Father landed upon the Island on his way to Lowndes county saw quantities of wood corded & remonstrated with some negro man in authority there. He asked my Father if he had authority from Gen Saxton, upon his saying he had not replied he should continue to cut it. The freedmen once my fathers and now upon the plantation numbering between two and three hundred (I think) all intend returning to St Catherines. You will perceive how materially the property upon the Island is being injured and the good season for anxiety that it should be restored. If you will represent these facts to Gen Howard you will much oblige yours

Respectfully  
(signed) E. W Clinch.

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3232 1/12/1866    *From:* E.M. Seabrook

*To:* Major General OO  
Howard

OOH-3174

Charleston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[51]

Charleston Jany. 12th 1866

Major General OO Howard,  
General,

You were kind enough to say in the interview, which I had with you in Washington, that you would be pleased to hear from me in relation to matters in this State, connected with you your Bureau, and I therefore take the liberty of writing you touching a matter of vital importance to the agricultural interest of this State, and to the welfare of both races.

The whole seaboard of So. Ca. is in a deplorable condition from the scarcity of food. I am satisfied that there are not provisions enough in this section of the state to last more than 3 months longer from this date. The planters are very desirous of returning to their plantations, and resuming planting operations, but the difficulty of procuring subsistence for their employees is a great obstacle. You expressed yourself as favouring the plan of advancing rations to the planters for their laborers for one year, to be returned in value to the govt. at the end of the year when the crops made should be harvested, and that you had recommended an appropriation by congress for that purpose. I beg leave to urge the early establishment of such an arrangement. The time has arrived when the planters should make contracts for the ensuing year, and such contracts must be based upon the supply of provisions, which they can command. To have any success at all, agricultural operations should be commenced forthwith. The speedy arrangement of this matter will render a great benefit to both races and to the country.

I regret to say that the freedmen have up to this time declined making contracts in the whole low country of So. Ca. - the idea of having land given them by the govt. is not yet dispelled. In the upper portion of the state, I am informed that contracts are being made - some are being made in the middle portion of the state also, but not generally. The freedmen on the Islands are still unwilling to contract, entertaining the idea that they are to be given these lands. I am satisfied, however, that as soon as it is announced to them positively that the lands are to be restored, and that they must contract or leave, that the great majority of the freedmen on the Islands will contract, and the same result will take place throughout the state. The prompt settlement of the question of the restoration of the Island lands is of vital importance to the whole state - the success of the free labor system in this state depends upon it. A few plantations have been restored on Edisto Island, but the work does not progress as Capt. Ketchum has been absent on a visit to Georgia for the last two weeks.

I have the honor, General,  
to be, Very Respectfully,  
Your obdt servt,  
E.M. Seabrook

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Charleston S.C. Jan 12, 1866

Seabrook, E.M.

Gives statement of conditions of affairs in S.C.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 18 1866

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3233 1/12/1866 *From:* Wm P. Craighill

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3175

Box 341 Balto. Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52, 53]

Private

Balto Jan'y 12th 1866

My dear General,

Although we have not met for several and your path has been public & conspicuous, while mine has been humble & <slow>, I believe you have not forgotten me nor lost your feeling of friendship for me. I have watched your career with great interest, because I wished our country to have in yourself a proof of the fact that a Christian gentleman can at the same moment be a thorough soldier. In fact no man is so fit to be a soldier as a Christian.

Since the war has close, I have sympathised very heartily with you in the difficulties surrounding your duties as Chief of the Bureau of Freedmen. I know a good deal of the character of the negro and something of the temper of the white towards him. I think the two colors will never live comfortably together, but I am desirous to see the experiment tried.

My object in writing now is to ask, first, whether a certain officer is in your gift; and secondly that it may be conferred on my brother, should a vacancy occur. I refer to the office of physician to the Freedmen at Lynchburg, Virg'a. I have a brother who has lately settled himself there as a physician. He informs me that it is currently reported that the gentleman who now fills the place, being a volunteer surgeon, will shortly be mustered out & that one of the <rendit [CHECK ORIGINAL - Taped right edge]> physicians may be appointed in his stead. He may be mistaken as to the facts, but I have encourage him to make application to you.

Now a word with reference to him. My brother had just graduated with credit at the University of Pennsylvania when the war began. He was at his home in Virg'a when the secession fever was at its height. If he had been out of the community, he would have taken no part in their folly. He was called upon to assist in attendance upon the sick in the army assembled under the orders of Johnston near Winchester & Harpers ferry. Thence he passed into the "Confederate" service as a surgeon. He was generally on duty at a hospital, being called on very little for service in the field. The close of the war found him at Lynchburg. He at once took the amnesty oath. He informs me that he is now truly loyal & determined to be so always in the future. He is a young man of very good sense, has studied his profession thoroughly and is a good physician & surgeon. He will, I am certain, prove a careful & attentive officer, should he obtain the place he desires. He is a sincere Christian.

Excuse this long note. I tribute my anxiety in matter to the desire of one brother to help forward another who is just beginning the world. I would be gratified, if your engagements allow, to have a lin or two in reply to this.  
Very truly yrs

Wm P. Craighill [USMA Class of 1853]  
Box 341 Balto. Md.

[Written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore Jan. 12, 1866  
Craighill, Wm  
Friendly letter  
Recd. Jan. 15th 1866

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3234 1/13/1866 *From:* M la Predastauve

*To:* Monsieur le General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3176

*Source:* Bowdoin

Histoire Generale des  
Maisons Souveraines,  
Des Maison Princieres,  
et des Principales  
Familles de Chaque  
Pays.  
Geneve (27a. 181,  
Terrassiere)

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[55]

Histoire Generale des Maisons Souveraines, Des Maison Princieres, et des Principales Familles de Chaque Pays.

L'Adresse est à M. Goneet, à la Direction de l'Histoire générale, à Genève. (L'affranchissement est indispensable.)

Geneve (27 a. 181, Terrassiere), le 13 Janv'r 1866

Monsieur le General,

L'Histoire Générale, que fait suite au grand ouvrage de Molèri dans sept éditions ont été publiés en Suisse pour toute l'Europe, devant contenir actuellement un article ou une mention a notre nom, je desirais que cet article ou cette mention put nous donner toute satisfaction; a cette fin, je vous prie desire faire <> les <renseiguemait> que vous jugerez utiles.

Je suis, Monsieur Le General,  
avec des sentiments de respect,  
Votre dévoué serviteur  
M la Predastauve

[Translation]

General History Of Sovereign Houses, Princely Houses And The Main Families Of Each Country  
The address is Mr. Goneet at the Department of General History in Geneva. (Shipping is essential.)  
Geneva (27a. 181, Terrassiere), Jan 13 1866

Monsieur le General,

The General History, which follows the great work of Moleri in seven editions were published in Switzerland for all of Europe before now contain an article or a reference to our name, I wished that this article or this mention could give us any satisfaction; to this end, I desire that you make <> the <> that you consider useful.

I am, Monsieur Le General ,  
with feelings of respect,  
Your devoted servant  
M la Predastauve

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3235 1/14/1866 *From:* Ann S Munson

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3193

Farmington Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[79]

Farmington Me.  
Jany 14th 1866

To. Gen. Howard -  
My dear Sir,

Last nights mail brought the enclosed line and envelope from my Son, which I immediately re-mail begging to add this little note.

I pray you to aid his recall home. He is my son, husband, my only relative.

In a few months it will be five years since he left me at the call of war, and is now more than four years since we met!

I trust, dear Sir, you will find it in your heart and Providence open the way to have this son of mine homeward come.

With the best of wishes for you and yours, I am dear Sir,

Sincerely yours,  
Ann S Munson

3236 1/15/1866

*From:* Geo. H Stuart

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3179

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office  
No. 13 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia

Washington, D.C.

[61]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office  
No. 13 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 13 Bank Street  
Jos. Patterson, Treasurer, Western Bank  
Rev. E.P. Smith, Secretary, 13 Bank Street  
January 15 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
My Dear General

The U.S. Christian Commission has finished its work, but we are unwilling to close the record without a grateful acknowledgment of our great indebtedness to you. At home, and in the platform, and in the field your services in behalf of the cause have been most gratifying and valuable. Your welcome to our Delegates, your suggestions to our Army Agents, and your personal assistance and attention to our Army work, have accomplished much for the Commission – far more probably than you can have known. We desire you to carry into your future work and places of trust, the consciousness of having borne, during these four bloody years, no considerable part of whatever of good the Christian Commission has accomplished.

Second only to the consciousness of Service for the Master, and of having been permitted to bring relief and cheer to suffering and dying men, do we value the approbation by their Commanders of the method and spirit in which our work has been prosecuted. The history of the commission now preparing would be incomplete without providing a permanent record of such approval and cooperation. We desire also to secure testimony as to results – how far the working of the Commission has justified this endorsement and patronage. If you can give us such a statement on this point as your observation and impressions of the Commission will lead you to make, we shall esteem it a favor additional to the many already received.

Very Respectfully and Truly Yours  
/s/ Geo. H Stuart  
Chairman U.S.C.C.

[Written sideways on the back side, in a different hand.]

Philadelphia, Jan 15, 1866

Stuart, Geo. H.

In behalf of the Christian Commission, whose labors are about ended, he thanks Gen. Howard for the assistance he has at all times rendered the Assn.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 17 1866

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3237 1/15/1866 *From:* AK Browne

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3180

Washington D.C.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62]

Private  
Washington D.C. Jan'y 15, 1866

Dear Sir:-

I am very grateful for the compliment paid me the other evening and shall strive to merit the confidence you repose in me.

I trust you will recollect, amid your numerous and far more important duties, <poor> me, when you have a situation of any kind to bestow on one so unworthy. I shall be pleased to go anywhere at your bidding and in hope remain,

Very respectfully  
Yours at Command  
AK Browne

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Washington, Jan. 13th 1866  
Brown [sic], A.K.  
Desires situation in the Bureau or elsewhere.  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 18 1866

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3238 1/15/1866

*From:* Wm Geo Hawkins

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3181

*Source:* Bowdoin

N.Y. National  
Freedman's Relief  
Association,  
Rooms, 76 John Street,  
New York

Commissioner  
Freedmen Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[63]

[Letterhead]

N.Y. National Freedman's Relief Association,  
Rooms, 76 John Street, New York.

New York

January 15th 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner  
Freedmen Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to you the Rev'd Samuel A. Clark Rector of St. John's Church Elizabeth N.J. who goes to Washington in the interests of the freedmen. He would be thankful for any opportunities to witness the progress, in education, being made by the them in the district, & to acquaint himself with your work generally.

Respectfully yours  
Wm Geo Hawkins  
Cor. Sec.

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3239 1/15/1866

*From:* E.E. Williamson

*To:* Maj General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3183

*Source:* Bowdoin

Third Collection District,  
Massachusetts.  
Cor. Bedford and  
Chauncy Streets,  
Boston

Comr. Of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[64]

[Letterhead]

Third Collection District, Massachusetts.  
Cor. Bedford and Chauncy Streets,  
Boston

Jany 15 1866

Maj General O.O. Howard  
Comr. Of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
My Dear Sir

I wish to thank you for a copy of your Report, just received.

As I take great interest in the freedmen, I am extremely happy to receive any documents which appertain to these persons which have been liberated by the war.

Most truly yours,  
E.E. Williamson  
Dg Coll

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3240 1/15/1866    *From:* W. H. Pillsbury

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3218

Bucksport Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[111, 112]

Bucksport Me. Janry 15 '66

Maj. Genl. Howard  
Dear Gen.

During my absence, Rev. Mr. Hutchinson wrote you a few days since, requesting a Lecture by you while on your approaching eastern tour. He did not know that you are to be in Boston the week before your Lecture in Bangor. I therefore take this liberty to address you again, and urgently to request you to come to our place at any time and for any eve most convenient for you during your visit to Maine. Our Lectures in the course are on Wednesday eve; but I assure you we are all so anxious to see you to do you honor as one of our Country's Savior's under the Supreme Savior –through whom the Nation –its constitution, liberty, justice & righteousness triumph –and to hear you –that we will give you an audience equal to our utmost capacity for accommodation; and it shall be an appreciating audience.

Now - Dear Sir - I hope you will feel & appreciate the force of our wishes; and will wait your decision.

Yours with much much respect  
W. H. Pillsbury

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Bucksport, Me. Jan. 25/66

Pillsbury, W.H.

Desires Gen H. to lecture in Bucksport Maine

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 29 1866

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3241 1/16/1866 *From:* J. A. Garfield

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3170

Ho[use] Reps.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[38, 39]

[Letterhead]

Springfield Branch  
of the  
United States Christian Commission  
F.A. Brewer, President  
Geo. P. Geer, Vice President,  
Charles Marsh, Secretary  
Henry S. Lee, Treasurer  
Rev. Henry Powers, General Agent.  
Rooms of Young Men's Christian Association, 229 Main Street  
Springfield, Mass.,

Jan 9 1866

Maj Gen Garfield  
My Dear Sir

May I ask a favor of you, if your public duties leave you any leisure for such a service.

Our YM Christian Asso'n are anxious to get Maj. Gen. Howard to speak in Springfield next month. He passes thro' our place to fulfil an engagement in Boston.

May we avail ourselves of your acquaintance with the General to secure us a favorable response to our invitation, which we have forwarded herewith.

I am pleased to see, that amid the all engrossing topics of public policy which engage the attention of Congress, you do not forget so practical a matter as the New York Rail Road.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servant  
Charles Marsh

P.S.

If you are unable to give this your personal attention please send the note to Gen Howard with a line from your self to gain his attention.

CM

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Ho. Reps. Jan 16 1866

Respectfully referred to Maj Gen Howard with the hope that he may be able to accept the invitation of my friend Marsh.

J. A. Garfield [James A. Garfield, Member of Congress, 1861-1880. Elected President in 1880.]

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3242 1/16/1866

*From:* C. Van Santvoord

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3184

Schenectady

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65, 66]

Schenectady Jan 16 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I thank you very sincerely for the interesting notices you did me the favor to send touching the late Gen. McPherron. Though I find the evidence of his religious character less positive than I had hoped, I have embodied your account in the sketch I have prepared of his life, for publication in the "<Heroes> at Home." it will appear in the March number, followed in the April number, by Gen. Sherman's "Reminiscences" given to me personally on a recent visit to St Louis. I will take pleasure in forwarding the numbers to you, on their appearance, as you may like to peruse the tribute paid to the, to the lamented dead.

Will you excuse the liberty I take in asking a question. When on duty in July last at the Crittenden Hospital, Louisville, Ky. a friend had suggested my name to Gen. Fiske in connection with service in the Freedman's Bureau, and the General notified me at once to make formal application to him for detail. It so happened that just two days before receiving this notification, my muster out came from the department at Washington, our hospital being about to close. I did not regret this as I wished to pass a few months with my family, having been a few months with my family, having been abroad from them excepting at short intervals, between three and four years that I had been in the army. Now however, if a place should open in the 'Bureau' that would afford a chance to render some service to the freedmen, I might be inclined to take it, - and the question I would ask is whether, in case, I would like to enter upon this work, a civilian as I am now, could find work to do under the Freedmen's bureau? Gen. Fiske informed me that his Department had plenty of room for workmen, but his authority to appoint did not extend beyond those then in the army.

Not having been able to get to Washington this winter, I have ventured to trouble you with this not of inquiry, thinking moreover that if Providence had any work for me to do in connection with the freedmen, it would be indicated as certainly by addressing you directly, as if I should come in person, or seek some intermediate channel to solicit the information mentioned.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
C. Van Santvoord

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 18 1866

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3243 1/16/1866 *From:* E. Sands

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3185

Lewiston Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

[STAMP]

Eastern Express  
E. Sands, Act.  
Lewiston, Maine

Lewiston Me. Jan'y 16 1866

My Dear Sir

When you are East on your Lecturing tour will you not deliver a Lecture in our course.

You are well aware you have very many warm friends who would delight in honoring you with a crowd.

We shall be much disappointed if you do not favor us.

Please reply at your earliest convenience, & much oblige

Very truly & sincerely Yours  
E. Sands  
Chairman Course

Refer you to Hon Schuyler Colfax

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3244 1/16/1866    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3186

Spotswood Hotel  
Richmond, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68, 69]

[Letterhead]

Spotswood Hotel,  
Corkery & Willward, Proprietors  
Richmond, Va.  
Jan. 16 1866

My dear brother:

Arriving too late to connect for Petersburg I remain here until 6 tomorrow morning. <Lanes> probably told you that I met Gen. Scott at Willards.

I hope you saw the extracts from Judge Kelly's speech in this morning's Chronicle. James Madison seems to have settled for us the question as to the Constitutionality of interfering with suffrage in the States. The only thing remaining is as to the expediency at the present time, which I will not discuss here.

Gen. Joe Johnson came down from Washington with us. I was glad to satisfy my curiosity in seeing the man perplexed us so much from Chattanooga to Atlanta. His whiskers are quite grey. He seemed mild and very quiet-spoken but has an expression eye. His nose is like Sherman's and sometimes his looks reminded me of his great opponent. I did not care to make his acquaintance but was rather favorably impressed by his gentlemanly demeanor.

I hope you will revise the last part of my report in every way you think it may be improved. I think a "respectfully suggest" or something of the kind had better introduce the last proposition relative to the Regular Army being recruited in the South. Your taste & judgment will fix it, if you see that it needs change. I wish Terry to complete his copy unless you are anxious for a copy to go to the Sec. of War immediately. Terry's copying is very legible.

Would it not be well either for Sladen to send a copy of it to the Nation or to prepare copious extracts. If so, Mr. Alvord would assist him in arranging & revising - & I would be willing.

I have some other letters to write & feeling tired will not probably see Col Brown. I do not know him. I think Gen Scott is the right man and that Providence sent him.

If I had returned South on duty via New York, I had had some hopes of going further East. If you leave everything in so satisfactory a condition in Washington as to feel that there is no need of my hastening back & send me word to this effect at Howard Hotel, New York, I can, if I choose make a flying visit to Boston or Maine. But I shall not feel disappointed if you still wish me to return to W. without delay, as I shall do if I get no further word.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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3245 1/16/1866

*From:* Wm King

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3187

Marietta Cobb Cnty Ga

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70]

Marietta Cobb Cnty Ga  
16 Jany 1866

Maj Genl Howard  
Washington  
My dear Sir

I wrote you two weeks ago, and regret the necessity of troubling you so soon with another of my Letters; but these are troublous times to us, at the affected South; and as so much of our destiny for happiness or misery is entrusted to your care; you, I know, will consider me excusable in so often presenting for your consideration, the evils and wrongs, both the Whites and Blacks, are subject to at the south. I now <know> you enclosed a copy of a Letter I have just received from Mrs Clinch, the daughter of my friend Jacob Waldburg Esq, representing the condition of his St. Catherine's Island property and the conduct of the Freedmen on that Island; they state that they are acting under the authority of Genl Saxton –if those poor creatures are left much longer under the training of that officer, they will soon become a race of lawless robbers, having no knowledge of nor regard to the rights of others. Revd. H. W. Beecher entertains the same opinion of him that I do, & has so expressed it to me. That Genl Saxton is one of the worse enemies the Freedmen have had. Does Genl Saxton authority still extend to the Island of Georgia? I had hoped that the whole control of this State was entrusted to Genl. Tillson, whose administration gives great satisfaction to both Whites & Blacks.

Very Resp. General  
Your Obt Serv.  
Wm King

Mr Waldburg desires to get possession of his St. Catherine Island property as early as possible to plant a crop in the present year, and it is important that he should <plant> his former people (who are all anxious to return) on the Island, which is now occupied by strange negroes mostly. Without their removal he cannot do <La>. Be pleased to afford him what assistance you can properly extend –nearly all the Negroes now on that Island are strangers & murderers from other plantations. Such has been Mr Waldburg's position during the War, that I presume there would be no difficulty in obtaining his passes from the Prest when applied for; the application was sent to Washington last July.  
W.K.

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3246 1/16/1866 *From:* Sam L Taggart

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3189

Ogdensburgh N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72, 73]

Ogdensburgh N.Y.  
January 16th 1866

Dear General

Presuming upon my acquaintance I venture to write you a few lines in behalf of Mr Littlewood a clerk in your bureau. By letters from Washington I am given to understand that a vacancy in the grade next higher to that now occupied by Mr L. is likely to be created by the resignation or discharge of Mr Johnson who I am very sorry to hear is not conducting himself in such a manner as to warrant confidence and trust.

I have feared this and have several times warned and cautioned him against the vice with which he appears to be possessed and which is as I believe the only thing that prevents him from being a very useful man. Mr Littlewood I believe to be entirely free from intemperance with habits regular and worthy of imitation by most of the clerks in Washington and from the fact that he has others dependent upon him and paying for as he at one time informed me the expenses of a sister at school. I deem him worthy of any increase in pay that may be in your power to obtain for him through promotion to such vacancy as may exist or occur, and I am quite sure his capability and integrity, his freeness from bad habits and readiness to do whatever may be required of him will repay confidence. My opinion is that he is more deserving of advancement than any other (unless it be Mr Bemis) of the clerks who were under me.

I very often wish I was back with you and sometimes regret that I resigned but I could not at the time well do otherwise.

Opportunities for me to get a position in Govt Employ at Washington or further south now or in the spring are or would be I suppose rather poor. For reasons that I may hereafter give you, such a thing may become desirable to me.

Respectfully and truly  
Your Obt Servt  
Sam L Taggart

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Ogdensburg N.Y. Jan. 16, 1866

Taggart, Saml. L.

Recommends Mr Littlewood for advancement one grade. Would like to secure a govt position.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 18 1866

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3247 1/17/1866

*From:* Edwd A. Craighill  
M.D.

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3190

Lynchburg Va.

Supt Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[81]

Lynchburg Va. Jany. 17. 1866

Sir,

I have understood, and it is currently reported, that the gentleman occupying the position of "Physician to the Freedmen's Bureau", for this Post, being in the Volunteer service of the U.S. is shortly to be mustered out; and it is farther understood that one of the resident physicians here may succeed to the place. Being a resident physician, under these circumstances I have the honor to apply for the position. I would respectfully state that I graduated at the University of Penn. in the year 1861. For farther information in reference to myself I beg leave to refer you to my brother, Maj. Wm. P. Craighill U.S. Engineers.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Yr. Ob. Servt.

Edwd A. Craighill M.D.

Genl. O.O. Howard U.S. Army

Supt Freedmen's Bureau

Washington D.C.

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3248 1/17/1866 *From:* S. Peck

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3191

22 Glen St.  
Roxbury, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

22 Glen St.  
Roxbury, Mass. Jan 17/66

Major Genl Howard  
My dear Sir

We have noted with much pleasure your engagement to Lecture in Boston the first of next month in regard to the freedmen.

Hoping that it will be possible for you while in this neighborhood to escape a brief space from public attentions & official duties, my family unite with me to request a renewal of the favor enjoyed by us so greatly at tea just before your departure from Beaufort. We are a quiet people, as Mr. Alvord testified, & should plan to have only our family circle.

I will be happy to wait on you from your lodgings at any hour of an evening which you may designate.

Very respectfully  
& cordially Yours  
S. Peck

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3249 1/17/1866

*From:* Ch. de Gaalon

*To:* Maj. Genl. A.A. Howard

OOH-3192

Room 9  
St Denis Hotel, Bd'way  
New York

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[77, 78]

Room 9  
St Denis Hotel, Bd'way  
New York 17th Jan'y 1866

Maj. Genl. A.A. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
Sir,

Being unable at the present time to proceed to Washington, permit me to transmit you a letter of introduction which was given to me by Brig Genl Baird.

The vital question for the Southern States is to obtain hands in order to reestablish the culture of cotton & sugar, & place it in the same position that it was before the war, and the only way in which that can be arrived at, is to encourage large immigration. The number of Freedmen has enormously diminished, and their good will to work required to be stimulated.

Heretofore, I was myself planter in Louisiana, and having employed in Guadeloupe (west-Indies) on my plantation a large number of Hindooes emigrant of East India, I was enabled to appreciate them. It is them, who after the freedom was granted to the Blacks in 1848 by the French Government, who were the means by their labor of bringing back prosperity into the Colonies; for instance the Island of Bourbon which produced during slavery only 45 to 50 thousand hogsheads of sugar produced in 1862 198 thousand hogsheads and that increase was due entirely to the Hindooe immigration. They are docile workmen, attentive, submissive –they came under a contract of 5 years and were true in their engagement, at the same time exacting what was due them.

My object is to import for Louisiana of adjoining states a certain number of those men, and I may say that most of the planters approved much of the plan. Therefore I now take the liberty of addressing you to request that you will pleased use your influence in order to obtain for me the official sanction of the immigration Department in Washington whereof Mr Congar is Commissioner, and I will feel very grateful, if you will favor me with your moral assent to my project, begging at the same time that you will oblige me with an early answer.

Believe me Sir,  
Yours very respectfully  
Ch. de Gaalon

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York Jan. 17th 1866

Gaalon, Ch. de

Recommends immigration of Hindoos to this country. Desires Gen. Howard to use his influence to that end.

One enclosure from Gen. Baird

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 18 1866

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3250 1/18/1866

*From:* William E. Matthews

*To:* Major Gen O O Howard

OOH-3194

Davis Hotel  
212 K St  
Washington

Ch Freedmens Bureau

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[54]

Davis Hotel  
212 K St  
Washington Jany 18 1866

To Major Gen O O Howard  
Ch Freedmens Bureau  
Respected Sir,

It has come to our knowledge that you are desirous to have an interview with the several persons who have been delegated to come to Washington in the interest of the Colored people. We are pleased to learn the fact. The desire for such an interview is most heartily reciprocated on the part of such of the delegation as are at present in Washington, but we would prefer if it shall meet your pleasure, and if no interest is likely to suffer by the delay, that said conference be postponed for a few days until some others of the delegation, who are expected shall come. We would however be most happy, we assure you, to receive for consideration any thoughts or suggestions you may be pleased to preset us with, for which we will be most thankful,

Very respectfully  
Your <> servts

William E. Matthews	Maryland
Lewis H. Douglass	Maryland
A.J Ransin	So. Carolina
A. W. Ross	Tewksbury Mass
John Pones	Ills
Geo L Downing	New England States
Henry Highland	Garnet Col Mens National Loyal League N.Y.

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3251 1/18/1866 *From:* Wm S. Craighill

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
U.S. Army

OOH-3195

Balto.  
U.S. Engr. Office

Chf of Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[80]

Private

Balto. Jany 18 1866  
U.S. Engr. Office

My dear General

I am much obliged for your kind letter of 15th.

I have today recd my brother's application, which I enclose.

I am going to ask of you the favor to retain it from the files of your office until you decide whether you can give him the place he desires. If it turns out that you cannot do so, please return it to me.

Very truly yours  
Wm S. Craighill

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
U.S. Army  
Chf of Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore, Jan 18th 1866

Craighill, W. P.

Thanks Gen. Howard for kind letter –encloses his brother's application –if not granted he would like the application returned.

Recd. Jan. 19, 1866

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3252 1/18/1866 *From:* Francis M Bache

*To:* Major Genl Howard USA

OOH-3196

Philad'a

Chief of Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82]

Philad'a Jan 18 1866

Major Genl Howard USA  
Chief of Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington, D.C.  
General

My Father, Colonel Bache, of the Corps of Engineers will hand you this note & introduce himself to you. I do not presume to do so, as my acquaintance with you is so limited that you will probably hardly recollect me.

He will explain the object of his visit to you on my behalf, so I need not do so here.

In my undertaking I desire all the strength I can get.

Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Francis M Bache  
late Capt 16th Infty USA  
Bt Col. & A.D.C.  
To Maj Genl Meade

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3253 1/18/1866

*From:* W.H. Hunt

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3197

Fort Monroe Va

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[83, 84]

Fort Monroe Va  
January 18th 1866

Maj Genl. Howard  
Comr &c  
Washington D.C.  
General:

I regret that your letter under date of Decr 18th 1865 did not come to hand until to day, owing to a mistake made in the initials of my name. No action has been taken, that would have been had your views been known. I wish to ask a question, to guide in future efforts to establish the freedmen under the homestead law. Allow me to say, that I am not a candidate for any position within the gift of our Government. I would not even now enter into the agreement proposed to you, some time since, if the object could be attained as well by other means. I see no benefit to be derived, nor desire any, for myself beyond what accrues to all in common, except, the satisfaction of having made an effort to do something to benefit the freedmen. I would now respectfully ask, if you would consent to appoint competent persons, or those now acting as Supts to Supts colony's (subject to the Asst Comr of State) provided they can take with them a number that would warrant such special appointments. I am assured, by Supt Geo H. Ponneman at Halifax N.C. that he can take ten thousand freedmen from his District, between this and July next, upon receiving the assurance that free transportation, and the protection of the Bureau would be extended. A few thousand from each District or state, will have a good effect, by correcting the errors of the land holders, who are now flooding every avenue, to create capital to operate against the freedmen, and who are exacting stringent contracts, not in rentals, but as hirelings, and who complain, because they will not all so contract. They talk with so much indifference, about allowing their lands to grow up to bushes and briars, that, there should be a quick and earnest movement in the direction indicated, which may insure an immediate change. The lands, will at once be placed at a fair rental, and the negroes will be suddenly represented as willing to contract for one, or any number of years. Be assured, that no negro who has cropped one season for himself will willingly consent to become a day laborer, and contract as such. In speaking of Colonizing, I do not mean to set them out on one side, as a mark, to be like some Free Love or other obnoxious society, a disgrace and a failure. They must not be set apart in a body, by themselves. Fearing this, causes me to strain every effort to operate under the homestead law, and not have lands reserved where none but freedmen can locate, but where lands are free to all, and bring daily taken up by northern & western men and thous avoid crowding the Negroes together. There are vital reasons why this should be so. Our man will return about 1st Feby & I will with pleasure report results of observations.

I am respy yours &c  
W.H. Hunt

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Fort Monroe, Va. Jan 18 '66

Hunt, W. H.

Concerning colonization and the Homestead law.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 24 1866

Ans'd Jan 30/66 Rec Pres Letter Book

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3254 1/18/1866

*From:* L. M. Dayton

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3198

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
St Louis

Washington D.C.

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[85, 86]

Head Quarters Military Division of the Mississippi,  
St Louis Jany 18th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear General

I have been noticing events, calculating what would be my chances for a position in the Regular Army & as best I can judge, there is little likelihood of my accomplishing it – all legislation seems to tend against increasing my Dep't – where there is an increase, persons of any position are debarred and all future acts being repealed, closes the game. It may be I am in error though, and therefore look in this to you as one likely to know and knowing me, I feel you will be kind enough to give me information. In case I act of course I would not wish to call upon the junior commanders of our Army should Genl Sherman not do something for me – there certainly can be no doubt but that he will if I deserve it.

Major Genl's Schofield and Slocum have sent me very fine letters which I prize very much and I wish the favor of Genl Howard that he will give me (if he thinks worth trying for) a letter that will assist me into a position in the army – if the prospects will not warrant the effort I will feel very proud of and grateful for a letter of general recommendation as regards your knowledge of my business ability &c.

Of course you have numbers of these requests and are taxed largely but I hope you will grant me a little time. My views of the Army as we were talking once you may remember, are about the same – now as then I do not specially like the children of the Army but have always had a high degree of regard for those who conduct themselves many and are men – your appreciation I am sure is the same. I remember when we talked and soon after your making the remark to Genl S – that I must be “Worked into the Regulars”. I would be glad to get your advice General and need not assure you it will be fully appreciated. If there be an opportunity I desire to connect myself with the Army and do really think my services during the war, with my education, should give it to me, not considering my ability to cope with what may come in future, of which there ought to be no doubt.

All are well here & seem to be moving quietly.

Let me hear from you General soon as convenient & oblige,

With great respect  
Your Obt servt  
L. M. Dayton [Lewis M. Dayton]  
Bvt Lt Col & A.A.G.

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
St. Louis No. Jan 18th 1866  
Dayton, L.M.  
Bvt. Lt. Col. & A.A.G.  
Would like letter of recommendation from Genl. Howard  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 24 1866

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3255 1/19/1866 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3199

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C.

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[87]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C., Jan. 19 1866

Dear brother

We arrived at about 2 P.M. today (Friday) after a very tiresome journey. Gen. Scott & staff were more exhausted than I who am accustomed to travelling on Southern roads. That had a smash-up between here & Florence yesterday which caused us two or three hours delay & a ride all the way from Santee river in a box car.

I have been with Gen. Saxton this evening. He feels that he has been disgraced and unjustly treated –in being mustered out before being relieved –and the only Asst. Comr mustered out and he wished to return to his old position as Quarter Master –says that the expenses would be too great for him as an Inspector with merely a Captains pay. He feels that you intended it as a kindness but that he would like much to be relieved from the duty –if you will do him the favor. He really feels it exceedingly disagreeable to see these ex-Rebels in this State who believe that they have triumphed over him.

I shall call for Gen. Scott in the morning when he is rested and go to Gen. Saxton's office & introduce him. Gen. Saxton intends to leave Sunday night or Monday morning for Beaufort, bag & baggage.

Gen. Sickles is disposed to interfere with Bureau matters. Capt. Ketchum thinks that either the Dept. Comdr. & Asst. Comr. should be identical or else that the latter should be still more independent than now –that last requirement that the Dept Comdr. Should approve the orders is troublesome. Gen. Sickles has restored Gov. Aiken's property & proposes to interfere with the Sea Islands. Capt. K. has telegraphed you on my suggestion before ignoring the settlers (Freedmen) who have gone upon a plantation since you were here. At first he thought he would not reckon them at all except to require the owner them suitable terms for contract & would restore if there were but “ew”old settlers.

As you failed to get Capt. K the appt. he expected, could you not secure for him a brevet. He has been long in service & always distinguished for ability & fidelity bravery trust. He would like much to have the brevet now that the other appointment has failed.

I may get off by Monday or Tuesday.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Charleston S.C. Jan 19, 1866  
Howard, C.H.  
Brevt Brig. Gen.

Friendly letter  
Recd Jan 23d 1866

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3256 1/19/1866 *From:* D.L. Eaton

*To:* My Dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3200

Wash'n

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[88, 89]

Friday Morning  
Jany 19 / 66

My Dear Genl

I send you by my orderly, a letter which the Com'sr appointed by our Society to visit New York –consisting of Col Goodrich & myself –desire to have mailed to day. That letter please read & from it you will gather what I desire you should insert –viz the date when it will suit your convenience to go. I thought you might probably take advantage of your anticipated lecturing tour northward.

You will please if it suits you to insert the date in the blank, return the letter by the bearer.

I would have called on your to consummate this matter, but official duties call me imperatively out of town this morning.

I remain as ever,  
Yrs fraternally  
D.L. Eaton

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Wash'n Jany. 19th 1866

Eaton, D.L.

Asks when it will be convenient for Gen. Howard to visit N.Y.

[Recd] Jan. 19th 1866

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3257 1/19/1866 *From:* A. H. Markland

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3201

Met. Hotel NY

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49]

The American Telegraph Co.

Dated: NY Jan'y 19th 1866

Received at Washington, January 19th 1866

To Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Are you living at the same house as when I left?

A. H. Markland

Met. Hotel

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

New York, Jany 19 / 66

Col A. H. Markland

Telegram from New York

Markland, A.H.

Inquires if Genl Howard resides at same place, as when he left.

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3258 1/19/1866

*From:* J.J. DeLamate

*To:* Dr. Craighill

OOH-3208

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees F. &  
A. Lands  
Office Chf. Med. Off.  
Bureau State Va  
Richmond Va

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[97]

“Copy”

Bureau Refugees F. & A. Lands  
Office Chf. Med. Off. Bureau State Va  
Richmond Va Jany 19th 1866

To. Dr. Craighill [Edward A. Craighill]  
Doctor,

Having been informed that you desire a place as Med. Officer of Bureau R.F. & A. Lands in charge of Freedmen at Lynchburg Va, I would request the following information viz:

1st Do you desire to devote yourself entirely to the duties of this position if you receive it, or do you intend to do private practice as additional?

2d If you desire the place to do duty, and at the same time engage in private practice state the terms you will require for doing the duties required by the Bureau.

3d Can you take the oath required of Officers entering the U.S. Service?

Please reply promptly  
I am with much respect  
Your ob. Svt  
J.J. DeLamate <Sugham>  
Chf Med Off State Va

Box 826 P.O.  
Richm Va.

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3259 1/20/1866 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Colonel [HM  
Stinson]

OOH-3202

Charleston S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[103, 104]

Charleston S.C.  
Jan. 20 1866

Dear Colonel [Probably Col. Harry M. Stinson]

I find that W. H. Trescott & Wm Whaley are to start for Washington tomorrow and I desire to communicate with the General if possible before they reach him.

Trescott goes avowedly to defeat the Bureau Bill if he can. He also desires to complain of Capt Ketchum for not restoring his property. He attempted a lawyer's quibble & dodge upon Capt K. today by reading all of Gen. Howard's letter except the last sentence which provided that a satisfactory agreement should be made with resident freedmen as in other cases. He said (when the Captain insisted he had not read the whole & he was compelled to read it) that Gen. Howard did not intend that that condition should apply in his case.

Capt. K. has restored a great deal - some by agreements being made satisfactory to the Freedmen & some where there were but "few" (residents) as Gen. H. gave him authority to do.

I have just read an astonishing order of Gen. Sickles - the proof. If it had been published I would enclose a copy. It would do first rate if issued by the Assistant Commissioner & General Scott & I had talked over the matter & he had determined to issue an order covering some of the ground. But General Sickles has taken Freedmen's affairs entirely into his own hands. It is, I think, a bid for the position of Sec. Of War for which he is aiming or as next best thing to be Commissioner of the Bureau. He is working very adroitly.

This order must be attended to & I hope the General will not neglect it a moment. One paragraph makes Post & District Commanders the Agents of the Bureau, ignoring completely the existence of any direct Agents that may be there on duty in any district. I will quote this paragraph

"Par. XX. Commanding officers of Districts & Sub-Districts & Posts within their commands respectively will perform any duty appertaining to the ordinary Agents of the Bureau of Refugees F. & A. L. carefully observing for their guidance all orders published by the Commissioner or Asst. Commissioner or other competent authority."

This takes the appointment of his agents out of the hands of the Asst. Comm'r & makes the Military Officers without exception the Agents & responsible for their conducts & for reports to the Commanding General. Gen. Sickles has taken hold of this matter in the interim just as Gen Saxton was leaving & undertakes to crowd Gen. Scott out entirely. I think that Gen. Scott should be allowed to regulate all of these matters <expressed> in the 21 paragraphs of this order or else Gen. Sickles should be made Asst. Comm'r which I do not think would answer at all. He had managed to curry favor with all the ex-Rebels & this is a strike for favor with Congress and the North. After studying it well I trust Gen. Howard will meet the case squarely and boldly and with emphasis. Gen. Sickles thinks (as I have certain grounds of knowing) that the General is weak, that he means well & all that, but is not able to cope with difficulties and is easily influenced and drawn one way & another.

I wish you would read this letter to the General as soon as you can - not lose time - & I write to you because you can lay it before him without its being seen by any one else & without delay. I will send Sickle's long order, regulating the Freedmen's Bureau &c. as soon as it is published. The proof I have is promised to be returned to Gen. Sickles.

Gen. Scott is almost overwhelmed by the am't. of business here of which he had no idea.

Truly Yours with brotherly regards  
C.H. Howard

Bvt. Brig. Gen.

P.S. I really hope the Bureau Bill will be passed soon.

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3260 1/20/1866 *From:* Joseph Parrish

*To:* My dear Genl [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3203

*Source:* Bowdoin

Pennsylvania  
Freedmen's Relief  
Association  
Canvassing and Supply  
Department,  
Office, No. 418 Walnut  
street.  
Philadelphia

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[55]

[Letterhead]

Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association  
Canvassing and Supply Department,  
Office, No. 418 Walnut street.  
Philadelphia,  
Jan 20 1866.

My dear Genl Howard

You were kind enough to send for me to Bishop Simpson a letter recommending me to the favorable consideration of your Commissioners in the various districts of the South, for which I thank you cordially. I write now to know if you will give the Same Sort of recommendation to Mr John P Crozer, a wealthy philanthropist of this City, who desires to visit the South purely for the purpose of examining into the condition of the freed people.

I trust you may feel free to give him such credentials as will aid him, I shall be pleased to receive them from you & will place them in his hands. You may remember Mr C. as a member of the Christian Commission Board.

Yours faithfully  
Joseph Parrish

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Jan 21st 1866

Parrish, Joseph

Asks for a recognition of John P. Crozier as an agent of their association.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 22 1866

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3261 1/20/1866

*From:* C.G. Dahlgren

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3204

Willards Hotel  
Sykes, Chadwick & Co.  
Washington, D.C.

Commr Bureau Freedmen &c  
Washington City

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[90]

[Letterhead]

Willards Hotel  
Sykes, Chadwick & Co.  
Washington, D.C.  
Jany 20th 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commr Bureau Freedmen &c  
Washington City  
General,

On my return of this city, my brother R. Admiral Dahlgren handed me your communication of 26 Dec last responding to my communication in regard to the order of Maj. Reynolds at Natchez: in regard to anticipated difficulty among Freedmen: and the endorsement of Col. Thomas Huron: for your preemptory in regard to which, I take this opportunity to tender you my thanks.

I make no doubt, but by the display of energy and activity on the part of the authorities much distress and crime was prevented: for it was fair to presume that some would be badly inclined: as if so large a number of people: all could hardly be good: and altho no extensive nor long continued violence would exist: yet in <humility>: it might be severe a few individualy: and it is far better by proper disposition to prevent disturbance: than to punish or to put them down.

On my return home I shall take pains to state your views as I understand them viz: that the object of the Bureau is to render justice to the Freedmen and to the Planters: that the latter shall pay fair wages periodically: and that the former shall perform his labor equally fairly – and enjoy full protection in all his rights.

I am General

With much regard

Your Serv't

C.G. Dahlgren [Charles Gustav Dahlgren was a Brig. Genl. in the Confederate Army, and the brother of Union Rear Admiral John A. Dhlgren.]

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3262 1/20/1866

*From:* E.A.C. MD [Edward  
A. Craighill]  
Lynchburg Va

*To:* Mr J.J. De Lamate

OOH-3209

Chf Md. Off.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96]

"Copy"

Lynchburg Va Jany 20 1866

Sir,

Your communication of 17th inst. rec'd this morning, and I hasten to reply. In answer to your inquiries I could respectfully state as follows:

I I would prefer to pursue my private practice in connection with the duties of the position in question, but if impracticable or inexpedient, I would be willing to devote myself exclusively to the said office.

II If allowed to do both, I would be willing to discharge the duties required by the Bureau for one Hundred Dollars (\$100) pr. month.

III I would respy. state that I have taken the oath of allegiance to the U.S. in good faith, but cannot conscientiously take the test oath.

Very Respy &c  
E.A.C. MD &c [Edward A. Craighill]

Mr J.J. De Lamate  
Chf Md. Off. &c

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3263 1/22/1866 *From:* W.F. Spalding

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3205

Excelsior Literary  
Association  
Nashua N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[92]

Nashua N.H. Jan 22 1866

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
General

I have the honor to inquire whether it will be convenient for you to lecture before the Excelsior Literary Association in this place, and if so your terms, the subject upon which you would prefer to speak, and at what time.

Soliciting an early answer,

I remain General  
Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
W.F. Spalding  
For Excelsior Literary Association

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3264 1/22/1866

*From:* Edwin Johnson

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3206

Baltimore

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[93, 94]

Baltimore Jan. 22, 1866

My dear General,

If I did not know your readiness for every good word and work I should hardly venture to ask that you will do us the great favor to come over and spend a Sabbath soon for the purpose, especially, of giving an address at the Anniversary of our Sunday School.

You will remember that I am here to help build up a church of the Pilgrim Fathers, true to loyalty and liberty and to Christ the Friend of Man and Savior of Sinners. The Master is owning the work both by increasing our numbers and by the gift of His Spirit. Quite a number of youth have lately found hope.

Now, my dear Sir & brother, if you can consistently come and speak out of your warm heart to these youth and to all the people I feel sure that by so doing you will not only encourage us but accomplish the most rewarding work—that of leading some souls to Christ. Is not that the strongest motive I can employ? To you I am confident it is.

Mr. Noyes, one of our members, will deliver this to you and answer any inquiries. We should be glad to have you here next Sabbath but if that is not convenient please name the earliest date at your command.

Of course we will pay all your expenses and afterward remain greatly your debtors.

Unless you prefer the Hotel we desire that you will come right to the parsonage 214 Garden St. where we will make you comfortable, and my wife particularly desires that Mrs. Howard will come and bring any of the children, the more the better.

Now will you at least excuse this liberty and believe me with great respect & affection

Yours,

Edwin Johnson

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Washington

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand,]

Baltimore Jan 22 1866

Johnson, Edwin

Desires Gen Howard to visit Balt. & address the S.S.

Recd. Jan 24, 1866

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3265 1/23/1866 *From:* Wm. P. Craighill

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3207

Balto.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95]

Private

Balto. Jany 23d 1866

My dear General

I hope you will excuse me for troubling you, but I enclose for your perusal two letters [OOH-3208, OOH-3209] relating to my brother's case.

With reference to the text oath he says in a letter to me "While I believe I am as loyal a citizen now as there is in the U.S., still I cannot swear that I have never aided or sympathized with the South" Mercy to a true penitent after sincere efforts at reform is one of the most adorable attributes of deity. It is to be regretted, I think, if the test oath is to be inflexibly & universally required of all persons in the south. To be sure, the deity sees the hearts of men & knows whether their protestations are sincere. The case is different with men, who can not infer honesty from external things such as words or acts. I am entirely in favor of requiring guarantees, not promises alone, from the states of the south. But I will not take up your time. I know you will do what you conscientiously can in this case & I would not have you do more.

My brother farther says, "If Genl Howard can dispense with the test oath and give me the situation, I would be very glad, but if he cannot, I shall still be very grateful to him for his disposition to do so."

With sincere respect & regard,

Yours

Wm. P. Craighill

Box 341

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3266 1/23/1866

*From:* Rev E. W.  
Hutchinson  
Bucksport

*To:* Maj G. O.O. Howard

OOH-3210

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[98]

Bucksport Jan 23d / 66

Maj G. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

We are having a course of Lyceum Lectures for the benefit of the M.E. Church in this place which is in debt for recent extensive repairs upon the Meeting House and learning you were to be in Bangor the 7th of next month I write to know if it would not be consistent with other engagements to give us a lecture immediately after. Our lectures are Wednesday eve of each week but could arrange if most convenient to you to have yours on Thursday eve after being at B. Would send a team to B for you and take you back at such time as would best accomodate you. Our people would <[torn page]> very much and though the place is not large would give you a good home. Please drop me a line immediately on receipt of this Stating whether you can serve us or not and what ever would be most convenient for you.

Yours Truly

Please direct to Rev E. W. Hutchinson

[Written at the bottom of the last page in a different hand.]

Bucksport, Me.

Jany 23d / 66

Hutchinson, Rev. E.W.

Invites Gen. Howard to lecture in that place.

Recd Jan. 26th 1866

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3267 1/23/1866     *From:* W.S. Forbes

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3212

New York City

Com'r Bureau of R. F & A. L.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[101, 102]

New York City  
Jan'y 23 / 66

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Com'r Bureau of R. F & A. L.  
Washington D.C.  
General,

I take the liberty of addressing you to inquire if a situation in your Bureau can be obtained for my Father. I beg that you will give my application your most favorable consideration, as I know you will feel that his is a most deserving case.

My Father is a Presbyterian clergyman having been a Missionary for over 30 years, 18 of which he spent in the Sandwich Islands. Until last summer, after his return to this Country he was engaged in building up Churches, in the West. He is now in Philadelphia without a charge and without monies. I have for a number of years contributed largely to his support but find myself unable at present to do so.

He had four sons –one is now a Missionary in the Sandwich Islds, one, a Lieut. in the 15 U.S. Infy was killed at New Hope Chh during our Atlanta Campaign, another was severely wounded at Cedar Mt. and is now a 2d Lieut. in the Vet. Res. Corps, and on duty in your Bureau at Atlanta Ga. the fourth myself served through the entire war in the field. You may remember me as A.A. Gen'l to Gen Geary. During our campaigns with Sherman I enjoyed the honor of your acquaintance. Few families have given more or more freely for our Countrys Cause during the past war, than has our own. Through it all my Father has been a most earnest, devoted patriot. His past labors and his personal characteristics qualify him well for working in the good cause over which you preside on behalf of our Country, and I feel sure that he would entire heart and soul into the work, whether in the Capacity of a Clergyman or in secular duty. He does not know that I have addressed you on this subject. His address is 4052 Lancaster Ave. West Philada Pa.

With sentiments of  
the highest esteem  
Your ob't serv't  
W.S. Forbes  
late Lt. Col. & A.A.G.

Address Box 1313 P.O.  
N.Y. City

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3268 1/24/1866

*From:* O Brown

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3213

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands  
Head Quarters, Asst.  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia.  
Richmond, Va.

Commissioner, Bureau R F  
and A.L.

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[106, 107]

Confidential

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands  
Head Quarters, Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia.  
Richmond, Va.,  
January 24th 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner, Bureau R F and A.L.  
General,

I have the honor to report that the officers of the Bureau, in this state, are much embarrassed for want of men being themselves obliged in most instances to perform the duties of orderlies. They are without Guards, and I fear, without sufficient military force to command respect and obedience to their orders. The men of the Regular Army are not fit for service in the Bureau, but I suppose I must not ask for volunteers. Acts of injustice towards the Freedmen are increasing in frequency. Some relief from these embarrassments is hoped for from an order which Genl Terry will issue to day, making superintendents and Asst Superintendents of the Bureau, Provost Marshals.

I beg leave to call your attention to another matter. Orders from the Commissioner require that the same vagrant laws which apply to whites, shall be applied to blacks. You will see that the enclosed act which passed the legislature on the 16th inst, will place the Freedmen entirely in the hands of the whites. They can make such rates of wages "usual" as they please. The venom is covered by not using the word "black" but it is well understood that it that it is meant to apply especially to the Freedmen. General Terry will issue an order prohibiting civil officers from applying its provisions to the Freedmen. I will forward a copy of the order as soon as issued. Please inform me whether I shall carry out the provisions of the former state law in regard to vagrants.

I am losing confidence in the present Legislature, it cannot be depended on to do what the Bureau will regard as necessary, it cannot be depended on to do what the Bureau will regard as necessary to secure justice to the Freedmen.

I am, General  
very respecty, your obt Servt  
O Brown  
Col and Asst Comr

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Richmond, Va. Jan 24th 1866

Brown, O.

Col. & Asst. Comr.

States that the officers of the Bureau need men for guards and orderlies, that the present vagrant laws place the blacks at the mercy of the whites, that Gen. Terry will counteract the law by an order.

Recd. Jan 25th 1866



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3269 1/24/1866 *From:* C. M. Strickland

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3214

Richmond Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[103]

Richmond Ind.  
Jan 24th 1866.

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard,  
Sir,

Enclosed I send you a communication from the War Dept. I need not say to you, that I do not wish to go down there, if it can be avoided. Will you see Gen Townsend, & see if I can avoid it! My health just at present will not permit me to leave home, or I would come to Washington. If I am compelled to go, how are the expences to be paid? Please arrange this for me if possible.

I am truly yrs  
C. M. Strickland

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Richmond Ind.

Jan 24th / 66

C.M. Strickland

Wants to know if he must attend the Court Martial at Charleston as requested by Maj Gen Sickles, and if so how the expenses are to be defrayed.

Rec'd Bureau RF & AL Jan 30th /66

Ans'd Jan 30th / 66 –See Press Letter Book

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3270 1/24/1866

*From:* O Brown

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3215

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters, Asst  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Va.

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[104, 105]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters, Asst Commissioner, State of Virginia  
Richmond, Va.  
January 24 1866

Maj Genl Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General -

I enclose herewith "Times" of yesterday. You will see how determined the legislature is to contrive "how not to do it".

The Com. appointed to confer with me (consisting of five from the Senate and ten from the House) after many "Pow wows" became unanimous for the support of the "Bill" abolishing the whole Negro code" but the newspapers began to warn them "against being influenced from Washington or by the Freedmen's Bureau" and succeeded in frightening the legislature to such an extent, that the bill that will finally pass will be materially different from the first proposed.

In regard to the "Republic" (newspaper) I will give this item in its history.

About two weeks ago Mr Lewellen (the Editor and proprietor) came to me and stated that he should close the Office in five days and wished me to find a purchaser. I urged him to remain and promised to aid him in procuring funds to continue its publication, before the expiration of the time I secured for him the necessary means, and he will continue on. I have communicated with Northern friends and believe their assistance will not only keep up the paper, but if plans now on foot can be perfected, its tone, will be greatly improved and its usefulness increased.

I am General with much <>  
Your Obt Servt  
O Brown

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Richmond, Va. Jan 24 1866

Brown, O.

Col. & Asst. Comr.

States that the Legislature will not do justice to the Freedmen. Also that the "Republic" will probably be sustained.

Rec'd Jan 25th 1866

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3271 1/24/1866

*From:* H W Gray

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3216

29 Mount Vernon Street  
Boston

Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[108]

29 Mount Vernon Street  
Boston January 24, 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

It will give me great pleasure if you will dine with me on Friday February 2d at six o'clock, to meet Governor Bullock and a small party. Hoping a favorable reply,

I remain very resp yours  
H W Gray

---

3272 1/24/1866      *From:* Richard M. Nelson      *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3217                      Goldsboro, North  
   Carolina

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110, 109]

Goldsboro, North Carolina  
Wednesday Jan. 24th 1866

General,

Doubtless you are surprised upon opening this, and looking at the bottom, to see who penned it, and it is with the extremest diffidence, I take the liberty of intruding upon your valuable time. Did I think you would regard what is to follow as an application merely from an unpardoned "ebel" to one high in authority among the "oyal" for a favor which his position could grant, I had not commenced. All that has been told me of you by friend and foe, your distinguished career in the field and bureau, as set forth in the public prints, unite to convince me, that Oliver O. Howard, though changed in rank, is unchanged as a man—that the same qualities of mind and heart, which in the balmy days of yore won my admiration and regard, still remain unimpaired by time and circumstances. Believing thus, I, who have experienced at your hands many kindnesses, and shall ever be grateful to you and your lady for the hospitalities you so generously extended to me as a cadet, venture to ask at your hands what I cannot and would not ask from another's.

The 23 August 1865, under the belief that I came under the exception of the President's Amnesty Proclamation, regarding those educated at West Point, I wrote and forwarded through the Provisional Governor of Alabama, an application for Pardon. This set forth that I was a citizen of Dallas County Ala, a student at San, who, having at divers and sundry places, as an officer of the Confederate Army, opposed the constituted authority of the U.S. Government; and, having submitted to said authority, and taken the prescribed oath of amnesty, respectfully prayed to be restored to my rights of person and property as though I had never offended &c. The point I made was my extreme youth at the time hostilities commenced, being as you recollect but eighteen years of age. The principles involved concerned me little, as I did not understand them. I fought for home and kindred. Had I been a Northern man, I had fought with you. All I have done since the surrender has been in good faith. We fought for a large stake, and lost. You for the same, and won. It would no more become us to be sullen and revengeful, than for you to be exultant and tyrannical. I had thought our "ebels" would be hanged, banished, or imprisoned for life. Your Government, - our Government—I should say—has been generous far beyond my anticipations—for the infliction of such punishment as I have enumerated for the simple crime of "ebellion" yet remains for the future.

Since the application left my hands I have heard nothing of it. As I left Alabama on the 27th November, it is possible something concerning it may have been received there.

If it be not too much trouble, will you enquire at the Dept of State if such an application has ever been received, and if so what disposition has been made of it?

If none, may I further ask your influence with the Executive in procuring it favorable consideration? I have some doubts as to my coming under the exception, as I was not educated fully at the Academy, but only in part. What do you think of it? If not included will you withdraw my application, and return it to me, if this be possible?

Am I unconscionable in my requests? Should you think so, merely acknowledge the receipt of this, and I will annoy you no more. Unless you do so, I shall not believe it has ever reached you and may intrude again.

It may not be amiss to recall the fact that I owe you a letter, your two last having come duly to hand after I reached home in 1861. Your introduction of myself to C.C. Lee procured me an acquaintance of which I shall ever feel favored. He was an excellent officer and gallant who "obly, fighting fell" at Malvern. I was there and must confess your folks gave us a terrible drubbing.

I must not forget to thank you for forwarding the letters which arrived at the Academy after I had left.

How are Mrs. Howard, and little Guy and Grace? Big Guy and Grace I expect they are now. I should like very

much to see you all, and were I not so abominably poor would drop in to see you some fine morning in Washington. My last recollection of West Point, is of Mrs. Howard and Mrs Wayne waving their handcherkiefs in tokens of good bye, from the Wharf, after I had crossed the river. Pleasant times those of '59 and '60 –pleasanter than any of us may see again. I am now at home on a visit. Shall remain in Goldsboro until the first of March probably, after that my address will be Cahaba Ala.

I know you will be glad to know I still hold on to the Faith we both professed, when we used to gather in that dear old Prayer meeting room. Is the prayer-meeting still kept up, or did it cease with your departure?

I have written naturally and consequently more at length than I intended.

An old pupil, do you still regard as an old friend.

Yours Very Truly

Richard M. Nelson [USMA class of 1863, entered Sept, 1859 from North Carolina, but left at the start of the war.]

Genl. Oliver O. Howard  
Washington City  
D.C.

[Written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
ansd by C.H.H.

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3273 1/26/1866      *From:* Thomas W. Conway      *To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3219

792 Broadway  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[113, 114]

New York Jan. 26th 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner &c,  
Genl:

I beg leave to enclose herewith my letter published yesterday in the "Evening Post" in this city. The subject on which it treats is one in which you feel deep interest.

I am very glad to see that the Bureau bids fair to be sustained by Congress. I presume I have written a hundred letters intending to show the necessity for its continuance. God holds the Helm of this ship, and her safe arrival in the Port of perfect justice becomes more and more certain.

That the President will sustain the Bureau is more certain in my mind than formerly. Perhaps in the light of his experience up to this time, he sees how indispensable it is to the peace and welfare of the country. Mr. Chase writes me that the President will throw the weight of his influence on the side of justice. Under the new law I see how enormous will be your work. I suppose I ought to engage to assist you. Have written to Gen. Fisk and received a reply which expresses a desire for my services.

I have my regrets that I did not proceed to Nashville when you gave me an order so to do, but the prospect of going to Europe under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, led me to feel that in no way could I do greater good, and so wrote you the letter on the subject which resulted in my receiving your order of acceptance of my resignation.

I see that several states not included in the first bill (act March 3d 1865) are not to be embraced. This will give room for the appointment of additional Assistant Commissioners. Several of the best men in this city (and of those most cordially in sympathy with you and your work) urge my reappointment by the President. Although I feel that such an appointment would be no more than justice to me at the President's hands, yet I am so fully satisfied you would assign me to such duty as you deemed me adapted to, that I should deprecate any effort to reach the President by any process which did not originate with you, or at least, have your consent and recommendation.

You see now that I am inclined to reenter the service of the Bureau. In announcing this readiness I feel fully inclined to accept such duty as you may designate. Should you feel desirous of appointing me with Gen. Fisk as was intended in the previous order, I will proceed thence, should you consider it proper to recommend my reappointment by the President as Assistant Commissioner, I can procure the most cordial approval of Mr. Chase, Mr. Beecher, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Raymond, Gen. Banks and others, any of whom will go and see the President on the subject. I propose going to Washington very soon, and I will see you on this subject. I hope I do not annoy you.

Very truly yours,  
Thomas W. Conway  
792 Broadway

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York City

Jan 26th / 66

T. W. Conway Esq

Encloses his letter published January 25, in the N.Y. Evening Post; is glad to find the Bureau will be continued, and feels more certain that the President will now sustain it; has written to General Fisk, whose reply expressed a desire for his services; sees that several States not included in first bill are now to be embraced, and feels that an appointment to one of them would be no more than justice to him at the hands of the President; feels fully

inclined to accept any duty to which the Commissioner might assign him.  
Recd. Jan. 27th 1866

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3274 1/26/1866

*From:* L.D. Bowker

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3220

Lincoln College  
Topeka, Kansas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[115]

Topeka Ks  
Jan 26th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I did not go through Washington D.C. as I thought I might when I saw you. Lincoln College has opened with thirty students. Three professors have been elected. Two of them - Mr Butterfield and myself are from Maine. I think they would like to get a man who hails from Maine and who has been a Maj Gen. in the Army to become its President - this is "inter nos". Everything looks well.

Whenever you wish to remit your kind subscription of \$100, you can send it in a draft on New York payable to L.D. Bowker, or order.

Yours Very Truly  
L.D. Bowker  
Lincoln College  
Topeka, Kansas

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3275 1/27/1866 *From:* Hiram A Tenney

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3221

Newburyport

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[116]

Newburyport Jan. 27th 1866

Maj Gen Howard,  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

Learning that you were expected to lecture in Boston on Thursday evening of next week, I have taken the liberty of addressing you for the purpose of requesting you to come to this city on the coming succeeding (Friday Feb'y 2nd) to lecture before the N-Port Lyceum.

Many of our citizens have expressed a desire to hear you and I hope that you may find it convenient to come. Please inform me of your terms.

Very truly yours  
Hiram A Tenney Manager &c

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3276 1/27/1866 *From:* E. F. Duren

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3222

Bangor

Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[117, 118]

Bangor, Jany 27, 1866

General,

The Bangor Young Men's Bible Society, will have its 22d Anniversary next month.

If it were possible for you to be here on Sabbath evening the 11th of Feby & or on any other Sabbath evening in that month - we should be very glad to depend on you to deliver the address.

We learn you are to be here on the 7th of Feby –and we thot an arrangement might be made by which we should have the pleasure of hearing you at our Anniversary.

Could you deliver the address at any other evening, or take part in the exercises, if we should decide to take some other than the Sabbath, for our anniversary.

It is important to write again to you, before you leave Washington for the East, where shall we direct the letter.

Very Respectfully

E. F. Duren

for Com.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

Washington

D.C.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Bangor, Maine,

January 27 / 66

E.F. Duren

Invites General Howard to lecture before the "Young Men's bible Society" on the 11th prox.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F. & A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 31 1866

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3277 1/28/1866

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3223

Howard Hotel, New  
York

36 Pa Ave  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[50]

The American Telegraph Co.  
Dated N Y Jany 28 1866  
Received at Washington, Jany 28th  
To Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
36 Pa Ave

Just arrived no train for Washington tonight when will you be here  
C.H. Howard  
Brevet Bg Genl  
Howard Hotel  
12, 87

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]  
New York Jany 28/66  
Howard, C.H.  
Bvt. Brig. Genl.  
Inquires when Genl. O.O. Howard will be in N.Y.

[Written in a third hand]  
Telegram  
from  
C.H. Howard  
Brevt Brig. Gen.  
N.Y. City  
Jan. 28th 1866

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3278 1/28/1866 *From:* L.C. Doty

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3224  
*Source:* Bowdoin

State of New York  
Bureau of Military  
Statistics,  
Albany

Commissioner of Bureau of  
Freedmen

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[119]

[Letterhead]

State of New York  
Bureau of Military Statistics,  
Albany,  
Jan 28 1866 [See Note.]

General:

I have the honor to request copies of your reports, for the library of this Bureau.

With great respect  
L.C. Doty  
Chief of Bureau

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Bureau of Freedmen

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Albany N.Y.  
Jan. 28th 66  
Military Statistics  
Bureau of  
Request copies of Genl. Howard's Reports for the Library of that office  
Recd July 1, 1866

[Note. The received date of July 1, would be more consistent with the letter date of June 28, not Jan 28.]

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3279 1/29/1866

*From:* Miss Edith Healy

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3225

*Source:* Bowdoin

Mount de Chantal  
near Wheeling  
West Va.

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[120, 121]

Mount de Chantal  
Jan 29th 1866

Dear General

Among all your serious occupations, can you spare a few moments, to listen to a set of school girls, who want your name to add luster to a list already distinguished. We have a splendid portrait of Genl Sherman to raffle at one dollar a chance. Having a benevolent object in view we confided our project to M. Healy of Chicago, who entered most namely into our plans, & immediately presented us with the picture above mentioned. Genl Sherman himself wrote to us most kindly on the subject, enclosing a handsome donation but remarking that he feared the time had passed for any one to set much value on his head. This touched us, & in <our reply [CHECK ORIGINAL -tape right side of page 2> we boasted, that we would <send> him such a list of names as would prove to him a nations <> gratitude can outlive a year.

Now among all who can approach true bravery, where shall we <> seek? Surely in the Army, where his brother officers must feel so proud of his achievements? Which without eclipsing their own, cast such a splendor upon all connected with the great struggle, from which thank God, our Country has come forth victorious. Please take as many chances as you possible can, & speak of this matter to other officers for us. Dear old Genl Scott has taken a good many, & as the book is to be kept at a large hotel it is a sort of public testimony to the estimation in which such a man is held.

Yours with sentiments of  
great admiration & respect,  
The many ladies of Mount de Chantal

N.B. Please direct to our Treasurer  
Miss Edith Healy  
Mount de Chantal  
near Wheeling  
West Va.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 31 1866

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3280 1/29/1866 *From:* S. Bartlett Kenney

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-3226

Portsmouth Va

Chief Freedman's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[121]

Portsmouth Va Jan 29th 1866

Sir

Having been recently honorably discharged from the US Navy owing to the reduction of the volunteer forces. And having served as Asst Surgeon in the Volunteer Navy over two years and one term of enlistment in the Army – under Col W W Virgin, as private steward, and Asst Surgeon, I can not think you will consider me obtrusive if I ask you for some appointment under the Freedman's Bureau. I would like to remain in this place or Norfolk, if I could obtain some situation that would help support me until a Yankee Physician can live at his profession in the place. I take pleasure in refering you to my late Commander, A G Clary Comdr U.S.N. Commanding US Ship Constellation. All the officers of the Norfolk Navy Yard and all the Union citizens of Portsmouth. Also to Col W W Virgin President of Maine State Senate, Lt Col Enos T Luce of Auburn Me, Ex Gov Washburn and any of the citizens of Dixford Me. where perhaps you will remember of meeting me and to recommend me to Col Sewall of Bath, who commanded the 19th Me. Trusting you may receive this application with favor.

I remain your obt Servt

S. Bartlett Kenney <Lt Col [CHECK ORIGINAL-tape page 2]>

Portsmouth

Va

Maj Gen OO Howard  
Chief Freedman's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

3281 1/29/1866

*From:* Geo C Round

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3227

Wesleyan University  
Middletown Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[122, 123]

Wesleyan University  
Middletown Conn.  
Jan 29th 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir:-

Your reply to our invitation to address our "United Literary Societies" at our next General Commencement in July was received some weeks since.

We were very sorry that your 'official engagements were such that you could not promise so far ahead.' But having written unsuccessfully to our second choice, we have thought that it was barely possible that the future might at this time be more at your disposal.

Please to excuse any seeming importunity, and if you cannot give us a favorable reply, please to avoid all remaining trouble by throwing this in the fire.

We would not wish to take up time, which may be of importance to the nation.

Permit me to renew assurances of general and individual esteem.

I am, Sir,  
Very Respectfully &c  
Geo C Round

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Middletown, Conn.

Jan 29th /66

Geo. C. Round

Invites Gen Howard to address Unites Literary Societies of Wesleyan University in July inst.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 31 1866

Ansd Feb 23d

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3282 1/29/1866 *From:* H. G. Stewart

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3228

Providence R.I.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124]

Providence R.I. Jan 29th 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dr Sir,

Having heard that you was about to visit New England, allow us to inquire, if your duties will allow us the pleasure of hearing you address the people in Providence in behalf the Freedmen?

If you can do so, and will name an evening when we may expect you, it will give us pleasure to welcome you to our city.

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the R.I. Asso for Freedmen,

H. G. Stewart  
General Agent

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 31 1866

[The above was written on the backside of the minutes of the Association held on 20th of March 1866.]

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3283 1/30/1866 *From:* E. Sands

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-3229

Lewiston Me

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[125]

Office U.S. Military Telegraph,  
War Department.

The following Telegram received at Washington, 5 PM. Jany 30 1866  
From Lewiston Me Jany 30

Maj Gen O O Howard

Shall expect you February eighth 8th as per letter. Can you go to Saco?

E. Sands

DH

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Lewiston Maine

Jan 30th / 66

E Sands

Shall expect you Feb 8 as per letter. Can you go to Saco?

Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 16 /66

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3284 1/30/1866 *From:* T.P. Atticus Bibb

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3230

Richmond Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[128]

Richmond Va Jany 30th 1866

Genl Howard  
Comdr &c  
Sir

I think I could be of Service as Comr of the Freedmens Bureau for Kentucky. I was born and raised in the State and am generally known there. There is scarcely a County in the State in which I have not personal friends and acquaintances. My Grandfather Scott was one of Kentuckys pioneers and was Governor of the State. My father Geo M Bibb was twice Chief Justice of the State and twice a Senator in Congress 1812 & 1829 to 35 and afterwards Chancellor. These facts, without conferring actual merit on me, would give me an influence in the State.

I am at present acting as Judge of the Freedmens Court here. I am anxious to return to Kentucky and I think I can be more useful there than here. I think Kentucky ought to be a separate District and I am confident that circumstances would give me an influence that no other man has.

I refer you to Hon. Jas. Speed Atty Genl, Senators Guthrie & Davis and to the Ky delegation in Congress to nearly all of whom I am well known.

I am Sir Resply  
Yr. Obt. Svt  
T.P. Atticus Bibb

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Richmond Va.

Jan 30th /66

T. P. A. Bibb

Judge Freedmen's Court

Applies for the position of Asst Commr Freedmen's Bureau for Kentucky

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 1 1866

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3285 1/30/1866 *From:* E. Szabad

*To:* Hon. H. Wilson

OOH-3231A

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126, 127]

Washington, Jan. 30 / 66

Dear Sir,

Having experienced your kindness on more than one occasion, I beg now to ask you one more favor.

Would you take the opportunity to speak to Gen. Howard whether he could not employ me somehow here in the Freedman's Bureau? This would enable me to go on with my history of the War for Europe on which I am engaged & which I am anxious to work through. The General will perhaps remember my name from my "Modern War".

Having served through the war & still suffering from the effect of a wound, I think I have some claim to such like employment.

I remain respectfully

Your obdt Servt

E. Szabad

(Brevet Col.)

Hon. H. Wilson [Henry Wilson, Senator from Massachusetts]

[A forwarding comment from H. Wilson was written on the back page.]

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3286 1/30/1866 *From:* H. Wilson

*To:* Maj. Gen [OO Howard]

OOH-3231B

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126, 127]

[Washington, Jan. 30 / 66]

[This forwarding comment was written on the back page of OOH-3231 in a different hand.]

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen Howard. I should be pleased if you could serve Col S. who is a man of ability & vast knowledge.

Truly yrs  
H. Wilson

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3287 1/31/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vol  
A.A.Cr

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3233

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia  
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bureau R.F&AL  
Washington D.C.

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[182]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia  
Augusta, Ga., Jan'y 31 1866

Dear General

I enclose a slip cut from the Nashville Daily Gazette of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst, so am neither surprised, disappointed nor discouraged that the correspondent of the Press should make false statements, as to my acts and opinions and I am not foolish enough to regard them either as at all important.

I only wish to say that I had nothing whatever to do directly or indirectly with suggesting resolutions to the convention. Neither was I present when the Resolutions were discussed and passed. Lastly no such resolutions as are referred to in the enclosed slip, were offered to the convention or adopted by it—as the record shows. So far from managing the Convention, when before then by invitation I urged the members to manfully express their own opinions regardless of my opinions presence or action, and I can abundantly prove by black & white men that I did this. Further I am not opposed to negro suffrage, but to universal negro suffrage, and in this my opinion coincides with that of every intelligent colored man I have met in the South. I would make no distinction on account of race or color, only in intelligence and fitness to exercise this high prerogative.

I am Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vol  
A.A.Cr

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau R.F&AL  
Washington D.C.

P.S. If you think it will do any good you may show this hastily written note to Mr Stevens & others.  
D.T.

[Clipping]

The author of the former of these reports may possibly not be a wilful liar. It may be that he really thinks the radicals at the Capitol, and his negro associates are "All the prominent Union men of Tennessee."

The same number of the Gazette has a communication from the Atlanta special, which, among other things, says:

At the Colored Convention at Augusta, there were about one hundred delegates, from various parts of the State. General Tillson, of the Freedmen's Bureau, was present. Resolutions were adopted opposing universal suffrage, but favoring the voting of such colored men as can read and write well, with the addition of the proper qualifications, that all vices and crimes among freedmen should be discountenanced; that the Freedmen's Bureau should compell negroes to work, and make contracts, if they refused to do so voluntarily; that Southern property should not be confiscated; and condemning Thaddeus Stevens' dogma that the Southern States are practically territories.

The correspondent thinks that these rather extraordinary resolutions were adopted at the suggestion, and under the influence of Gen. Tillson, who, the dispatch says, is opposed to negro suffrage. These rascals, do not believe that a negro can have an opinion of his own, though they are determined he shall have a vote.

[Written sideways on the last page of the letter, in a different hand.]

Augusta Georgia

January 31st / 66

Davis Tillson

Brig Genl and AA Comr

Sends General Howard a slip from the Nashville Daily Gazette with his comments thereon.

Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 7 / 66

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3288 1/31/1866 *From:* E.E. Waite

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3234

Navy Yard N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[43, 44]

Navy Yard N.Y. Jan'y 31st 1866

Maj Gen. Howard

My Dear Sir:

You will pardon a line from me, will you not? As there is considerable feeling with true Loyal people within my knowledge, in regard to President Johnson's reconstructions: Policy, and wishing to know the feeling generally with Loyal people within your observations, and yourself, in relation to the Same; I impose these lines upon you, for which I beg your pardon. But would like a word from you as to your opinion in relation to it. Do you think Congress will permit Rebels to resume the reins of power in those states that have been in Rebellion, and the true Loyal people to be still subjected to their Diabolical schemes & insults, after all they have done to help <> our Government? I learn, and I have it from good authority too, that the southern rebels still show a very great hatred towards true Loyal people in every instance they dare do it. I fear they have not been thrashed enough yet. I would not trust them so far as I would, or could, throw a meeting house by the steeple. I happen to be near the big City that is largely made up of Traitors, and copperheads. I left a boarding house since I have been here for the reason of a copperhead Landlord. I could not stand the Poison talk which I heard there. When I hear a person advocate the assassination of one of the best men that ever lived, my nerves will not stand it at all. And such a person, is, and I presume he is not the only one, still employed in the Navy Yard. O if I could have my way about it, such fellows would have to seek employment somewhere else beside under our Government, to say the least of it. It may seem curious to you how it happens that I am here, well if you knew the whole thing, perhaps it would seem still more curious. But suffice it to say there was a strike here among the caulkers of N.Y. at the Navy yard, & I happened here, I will not say how but happened here and was sent out to hire Loyal men to fill the caulker's Department, and I just went back into the good Loyal state of Maine & got them. I have a gang of good Loyal men under my charge in this Navy Yard, and the Providential circumstances which brought things about as they are I feel to thank the Power above for.

I am aware that you have business enough to attend to without being bothered by me, but I, and my men, feel anxious to know the feeling that exists out in your locality, in relation to the matter that I have above wished to inquire about. The people here are not all Copperheads, or Traitors, (the same) for the people with whom I am now boarding are true blue Loyalists as this country affords, and they are not afraid to avow it either.

Most Respectfully

E.E. Waite [Probably Lizzie's Uncle Ebenezer E. Waite]

If it should be that you come to N.Y. you perhaps will but little think what honor you would do me by calling at the Navy Yard to see me. Where your family is I never have known since I was at your house in Augusta Maine. But I hope they are all well wherever they are. And I would here say, they, with yourself, please to except still, my most humble, but highest regards. My heart is full to say more, but feeling that I already have exhausted your patience with me, I will stop.

E.E. Waite

[STAMP BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB <> 1866

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3289 2/1/1866

*From:* Frank Moore

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3235

*Source:* Bowdoin

Historical Rooms  
No 45 Bible House  
New York City

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[45, 46]

Historical Rooms  
No 45 Bible House  
New York City

General:

For the completion of the Rebellion Record I find that I need a considerable number of the reports of operations during the last year of the war. Will you have the goodness to forward to me any reports of yours which have not yet been published in the Rebellion Record, or which you have not already forwarded to me for publication. Besides the completion of the Record according to the plan upon which it was started, and with which I presume you are familiar, I propose to publish in a large volume and in style very similar to that of the Record, a series of condensed military narratives, to be written in person by the Generals on both sides. The objects of such a work are to give to the world an authentic and thoroughly impartial history of the war, written by those who are in fact the only persons that can speak of the various operations with absolute fidelity to truth.

It is, of course, not to be expected that such reports will embrace the full details of all the operations, and of every battle in which your command was engaged. This would swell my volume to a size quite beyond the popular reach. Another design of this work is to give to the world in a shape, that is accessible, the true military record of every General prominently engaged on either side, at least, all those who survive to write their own reports. I am aware that there is a 'General Order' requesting all Generals who have had important commands to forward to the War Department a resume of their operations during the war. Many such reports have been made and forwarded. But it is very well known that many of the Generals will not comply with this order, at least in a manner to make their report of any special value, and nothing of the sort is expected by the Government from the Southern Generals. If printed as they will probably be by Congress, the printing will be in the ordinary style of public documents, in a large type, and with very imperfect indexes, so that practically your report to the Department will be preserved indeed and will be accessible to historians and public men, but utterly beyond all popular knowledge or access. Embracing also as my design does, the reports of Southern as well as Northern Generals, it will be the only volume in existence, in which the results of the various general engagements are placed in such a form that comparison can readily be made.

On this account, as well as for other reasons, it is desirable that your report should be complete, and as accurate as you may have the means of making it, in respect to dates, numbers and losses. I would thank you to give the size, or about the size of the particular corps or command which you took into battle, and also to state to the best of your knowledge, the name of the commanding officer who was opposed to you, and whose troops you met. You see it is my object to produce a work that shall be perfectly authentic, and afford the means of settling decisively the question as to whether a particular command was outnumbered by the enemy, in this or that engagement.

I would also state that it is my design that the volume shall be embellished, with very handsome steel engravings of a large number of the commanding officers, and that in typography and execution, it shall leave nothing to be desired, and yet be sold at such a price, as to put it within the reach of the masses.

With regard to the length of these condensed military narratives, I may say that the recent report of Lieutenant-General Grant, covering all the operations of the United States forces, from the time that he assumed command of all the armies down to the surrenders of April and May 1865, is a very good model for a narrative of general operations.

It is very desirable in writing of battles, that some condensed yet clear account should be given of the topography of the whole field, or of that part of it where you commanded.

It may be proper to add, that each narrative, will be prefaced by a biographical sketch, which taken in connexion with your narrative, will give all the leading events of each General's life up to the end of the war.

Yours truly  
Frank Moore

[Note: The body of the letter was written in a different hand than the last two lines.]

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York City  
"Historical Rooms" 45 Bible House  
Frank Moore  
Requests Report of the General's Campaigns &c  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 1 1866

[Written in pencil] Acknowledge

[Note: A date of the letter was not written, so the date it was received at the Bureau has been used.]

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3290 2/1/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3236

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia.  
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bureau R.F.A L  
Washington D.C.

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[129, 130]

Personal

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia.  
Augusta, Ga., Feb 1st 1866.

Dear General

I learned through a friend from Savannah that Col H. F. Sickles who was recently mustered out with his Regiment, entertained some unkind feelings towards me and that he proposed to go on to Washington and if possible do me some mischief. If this should prove true I should be very much surprised, I certainly am unconscious of having acted in a way to excite Col Sickles animosity and have not done any thing I would not be perfectly willing he should make known. As you will recollect he was a dull slow man, and that it cost a great deal of labor to make him understand what ought to be done –but I always thought he was honest and in earnest and I cannot find it in my heart to believe that he ever be guilty of such a piece of treachery. Still I thought I would write you on the subject. I should like very much to know what possible cause of complaint he can have.

I am Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vols  
A.A.C.

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau R.F.A L  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Augusta Georgia  
February 1st / 66  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl and  
A Asst Commr

Has learned that Col. H.F. Sickles recently mustered out, is proposing to go to Washington and endeavor to do him some mischief, and makes some comments upon the Colonel's characteristics etc.

Rec'd Bureau R F & A L Feb 6th / 66

[Written in pencil to the right of the summary.] Brief Rec'd Feb 7th

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3291 2/1/1866

*From:* John M. Oliver

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3237

St Louis Mo

Freedmans Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131, 132]

St Louis Mo  
Feby 1st 1866

Dear Sir,

On reaching this place I was much disappointed to find that General Sherman had gone to Washington.

You may remember the conversation we had, on the subject of the increase of the Army & of my getting a field position in it, one evening walking from your house to 3d Street. If you can help me, I earnestly beg you to do so. Be sure that I will be truly grateful to you for your friendship & kindness to me whether you succeed in this matter or not. I am very anxious about it for my childrens sake more than mine own. They must be educated now, but I won't bother you with my reasons & fancies. Give my best wishes & respects to your wife & family.

Truly your  
Friend & Servant  
John M. Oliver

To Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

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3292 2/1/1866

*From:* T.W. Osborn

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3238

Tallahassee Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133]

Tallahassee Florida  
Feb. 1st 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
My Dear General

This strange slip of paper which I inclose came to me to day from Chaplain Moore Supt Ed. For the State who has remained at Jacksonville & there performed his duties. I am entirely unable to conjecture what it means. The Chaplain is not a man to get up a stampede for a stampede sake & so I surmise there is something behind this which I do not know. I am not aware of having given occasion for any serious attacks from any reliable persons & so send you this. I would prefer to meet anything square & if a defense or an acknowledgement of a wrong act or missmanagement is necessary to make it.

Pardon me if I am taking too much for granted on so slight a rumor. I have attempted to deal justly & honorably in every capacity to treat all men like men no matter who or what they were & to maintain myself in all respects as an officer & a gentleman. I trust General you will treat this matter kindly & give me any information that may be proper.

I am General  
Very Truly Your Obt Servt  
T.W. Osborn  
&c

[Attachment –small piece of paper]

A very private suggestion

Then I A.C.B.F.R.&A.L. for Florida, I would write to Gen'l Howard and ask him to give me the full particulars of a representation made there by an outsider not long since, and by whom.

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3293 2/2/1866

*From:* B. Heckert

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3239

Allegheny, Alleg City  
Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[134]

Allegheny, Alleg City Pa.

Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

The undersigned would most respectfully adress you in behalf of the National Temperance League of Allegheny City to know at what time and on what terms you could give one or two lectures in this place (if at all) in behalf of the temperance cause. The friends of the cause have need the aid and asistance of great and good men both at home & abroad to enable them to sucessfully stem the tide of intemperance in our midst. Feeling that you will have a desire to visit Pittsburgh and as we have only the River between us. Therefore hoping to receive an early & favourable response

I remain yours respectfully

B. Heckert

Alleg, Feb. 2nd / 66

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Allegheny City Pa.

February 2d / 66

B. Heckert

Invites Major General Howard to lecture in that city.

Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb <> / 66

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3294 2/4/1866

*From:* W.H. Greenwood

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3240

Superintendents Office  
S.A. & M.G. R.R.  
Victoria Texas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[136, 137, 138]

Superintendents Office S.A. & M.G. R.R.  
Victoria Texas Feb 4th 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,

I have the honor to call your attention to the following statements. When Maj. Gen. Stanley came to this department he placed me in charge of the rebuilding of the rail-road from this place to Lavaca, (on Matagorda Bay) a distance of thirty miles. The road is now open, and though not fully finished yet, it answers the purpose, to bring Govt freight to this place and will soon be in good condition. The road passes through what is called the Hog-wollen prairie which in wet weather is almost impassable. I look upon the building of the road on from here to San Antonio a distance of one hundred and ten miles, as one of the most important works in the State and my object in calling your attention to this road is to try and enlist your influence to procure an appropriation by Congress to help build the road at once. I think the building of the road would be of benefit to the Government in two ways.

1st It will insure the Government a much cheaper line of transportation from the Gulf to the borders of Texas. San Antonio has always been the Depot for troops on the border, and the Supplies have passed through this place. It has cost the Government the past season three (3) dollars a hundred pounds to get the supplies from the Gulf to San Antonio, and if the rail-road was done it could be done for less than one dollar. I presume the Government will keep at least ten thousand troops on the border of Texas, as that must be supplied from San Antonio, (That is if they wish to keep things quiet) and they will save some two hundred thousand dollars a year by the building of the rail-road. The rail-road Company have a grant of Sixteen Sections of land (or 10240 acres) for each mile of road built, which will nearly pay for the building of the road when it can be brought into market. The trouble now is to get the ready money, and I think if the Government would show that they have confidence in the road by a loan of a million of dollars, it would insure the building of the road at once and the Government would save money in the end.

2d The building of the road would give employment to the Freedmen of this state, and bring in a large number of men from the north and in that way, the country would improve very fast, and that would tend to turn the minds of the people, from that sore subject (the liberation of their slaves) to the more active pursuits of business, and in that way, trouble would be prevented.

I am ready to say with a full conviction of the fact, that if the Government intends to uphold the Freedman in his new position thereby must support him in this state by the presence of troops. The building of a rail-road will in a few years do away with this necessity for it will bring enough northern men here to rule the country by the Ballot Box.

Capt. Scott is the agent for the Bureau here and I think he will agree with me in saying that the Government cannot make a better investment than to loan this Company, which is called San Antonio & Mexican Gulf R.R., money enough to help build the road. John C. French the President of the road will visit Washington soon and I will give him a letter of introduction to you and if you can do any thing for him, which will eventually be of benefit to the Government you will confer a favor upon me. I have written this letter thinking that if any facts in regard to this subject, and believe me to be

Your Obt Servant  
W.H. Greenwood  
Supt. U.S.M.R.R.  
Victoria Texas

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Victoria, Feb. 4th 1866  
Greenwood, W.H.

Desires Gen. Howard to use his influence to introduce a bill into Congress to load a million dollars to the San Antonio and M.G. R.R. Co. to help them finish their road.  
[Written in pencil, in another hand.] Committee

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3295 2/8/1866

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Hon. L. Trumbull

OOH-3241

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Washington

Ch. Judiciary Com.  
U.S.S.

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[139, 140]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Washington, Feb 8 1866

Hon. L. Trumbull [Lyman Trumbull, Senator from Illinois, 1855-1872]  
Ch. Judiciary Com.  
U.S.S.  
Sir

Understanding that the House Amendment to the Freedmen's Bureau Bill by which the operation of the Bureau are confined to Notes where the Habeas Corpus was suspended Feb 1st inst. excludes the State of Maryland.

I beg leave to submit certain papers which have recently accumulated at this office, showing the need of the Bureau Agency in that State. Evils like those described in these papers have increased in number and enormity for want of sufficient & proper U.S. Officers there, the number of Bureau Agents having been hitherto limited, owing to the questionable jurisdiction in Maryland under the original Bill establishing the Bureau.

Lt. Clarke whose report of a special tour thro' three co's of Md. is enclosed, was sent from these Hd. Qrs. & is a candid and reliable officer. The papers accompanying this are only specimens of many which can be produced if necessary.

Many of the loyal men of Md. have expressed an earnest desire to have the jurisdiction of the Bureau extend to that State and in view of such expressions as well as from his own knowledge of the need Maj. Gen. Howard was very desirous that the new Bill should be so drawn as to apply to that State.

I am, Sir,  
Very Respectfully  
Yr. obdt. Servt.  
C.H. Howard  
Bvt. Brig. Gen.  
Asst. Comr. D.C.

P.S.

As we have no copies of these papers I must request that you return them to be kept among the records of this office.  
C.H.H.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

C.H. Howard  
Bvt. Brig. Gen.  
Letter to Sen. Trumbull  
8th

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3296 2/8/1866

*From:* Dr. Shakspeare  
Allen

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3242

Centreville – Parish of  
St. Mary – Louisiana

Superintend. Freedmens  
Bureau – Abandoned Lands  
&c

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[143, 144, 145]

Centreville – Parish of St. Mary – Louisiana  
February 8th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Superintend. Freedmens Bureau – Abandoned Lands &c  
Dear Sir;

I have been frequently solicited by my friends Gov. Wells and the Hon. Charles Smith, to write you as to the condition, as well as the general working, of the Freedmens Bureau in my section of the country. I have finally concluded to do so, because I see such wanton and gross misrepresentation of facts in nearly every newspaper that has come under my notice. One word, by way of introducing myself. At the out-break of the war I was a slave-owner in a small way, bring a physician with an extensive country practice. My wifes father, as well as nearly all of our immediate relatives, was a large planter owning great numbers of slaves. Every pecuniary interest together with my affections, was bound up in the South and her institutions; yet through it all, I never wavered one moment in my devotion to the Union, and what I deemed the cause of the Right and <best>. I have suffered much of course, but the secessionists never failed to respect my evident sincerity of principle; and it is a melancholy boast of mine, that I am the only man in my parish who did not take the oath of allegiance to Jeff. Davis. So much for myself.

As to the condition of the freedman and the working of the Bureau, I will here remark, that it is too frequently the case, that mismanagement and faults committed by the agents of the Bureau are invariably credited to the poor negro. Men dislike to have their good judgement impugned, and the old slave-holder and overseer have prophesied so often – in all times and all places – that the negro would not work as a free man, and that we could not live in community with him at any rate – that they can not bear to see their predictions fail. The consequence is, that every little peccadillo is magnified into a crime; facts are distorted, while not unfrequently the exact opposite of the truth is published. Now Sir, I am no fanatic, but I am a lover of justice and truth, and I now say to you, what I stated the other day in our discussion on the street. Take the parish of St. Mary; here were two classes of people; the one, the predominant, owning the other, and realizing all the temporal benefits resulting from such a condition – education, personal ease – everything that money could procure: the other class degraded by generations of slavery. Both professed to believe in the teachings of Christ and his Apostles. A great, sudden and violent change came. The slave was free. Which class, so far, has exhibited the most christian virtues? One would naturally suppose, that the more refined and cultivated white, would have showed himself superior in all things. I say nothing about the white, but I do say that no single outrage – not one – come to my ears, perpetrated by a black man anywhere within the parish of St. Mary since the surrender. A great deal has been said about the negro refusing to work save for exorbitant wages. I deny the fact; but suppose that it is the case. The price of labour will regulate itself if let alone.

As far as my experience goes the land-owners have combined to give the negro too little, and thus far, have succeeded. In my own parish, where there is great scarcity of labour, the freedmen have willingly contracted with their old owners at the rate of ten (10) dollars per month for first class hands. This, perhaps, is a fair rate for St. Mary, where very few will be able to make much for two years at least. Had the planters seed come, and were they, generally in the condition they were before the war, they could well afford to pay twenty (20) and twenty five (25) dollars per month.

Now Sir, I know how well you have fulfilled the arduous duties that have devolved upon you. I know how conscientiously you have laboured – how true, honest and earnest you have been. Believe me then, Sir, when I, a stranger and a Louisianian, tell you that you are most fully appreciated by the real Union men – men who have, as I, sacrificed their all for the Union; and by all I mean family and dear friends as well as money. I know the Herculean (really Aegean) task you are trying to accomplish. This is not compliment, Sir, but a simple preliminary, that I might say what I deem to be the truth, viz; your agents, as far as my limited observation has

gone, have either been more desirous of making money utterly regardless of the true interests of either black or white; or well-meaning but fanatical enthusiasts, entirely and totally wrapped up on the negro and ignoring the white altogether. This is not what the negro wants. Give him simple equality before the law, and I will guarantee him an honest, industrious, worthy labourer – a labourer that will be sought above any other labourer by those who are, to day, crying him down. The adult, family-man (negro) does not expect to be anything else in his generation, but a hewer of wood and drawer of water. This condition he accepts most cheerfully and willingly for himself. But for his children, he hopes for wonderful things. Education, that great philosophers stone, is to develop them into gentlemen equal to their old models – their masters. They see them, in their imagination, reading the Bible and writing letters – a consummation which they think to be the height of human bliss.

One word more, Sir, regarding schools. There should be a thoroughly qualified superintendent appointed for each State. At present there seems to be no fixed system. I have seen in our parish a state of general sorrow prevalent among the elder negroes, resulting entirely from a drunken school-master. The negro has erected education into almost a divine institution, and anything or anybody, that detracts from its dignity, lessens materially the influence it should rightfully exert over the negro. It would be well, I think, to choose the superintendents as far as possible (other things being equal) from southern influential men. They, not only understand the negro character, but would have great weight in securing necessary appropriations of lands and money from the state. We must not only have good teachers, but they must be well paid. Under proper management, I am sure that a system of free, common schools for children could, in three months, be put in successful operation throughout the state. I regard education as the great and one thing needful. I have expended what little means and influence I possessed in establishing private schools on plantations, and it is pleasant to see the almost holy regard the adult negro has for it. Scarcely a day passes that I am not sought by freed-men from a distance who offer to work for me at very small wages, "because", they say, "you will have our children taught right". Already they know the difference between a good teacher and a bad one.

There is such a bitter prejudice existing against "nigger schools", that very few really good teachers are to be met with in the country; and one can scarcely blame a refined and sensitive man or woman, from hesitating or refusing such a load of odium - no matter what the pay.

Let Southern born Union men be appointed as far as possible and a great change will soon be apparent.

I feel very deeply on this subject. If we fail in our duty on this point towards the freedman, we fail in all. If we but educate him properly, the freedman will give us no further trouble. No need to trouble ourselves about the labour or suffrage questions, if we but give the negro what he has the right to expect of us in the way of education.

Pardon me, my dear Sir, for this crude and lengthy letter. My only excuse for thus troubling you is, the conviction, that if but a few Union men in each southern state, would inform you of the actual condition of affairs in their section, you would be enabled to act much more efficiently and satisfactorily.

May a kind Providence preserve your life and health, giving you at the same time of His wisdom that you may finally and gloriously complete the great work you have devoted yourself to, is the sincere prayer of

Your obedient servant  
Dr. Shakspeare Allen

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Centreville, Parish of St. Mary's Louisiana

Feb. 8th 1866

Allen, Dr. Shakspeare

Gives his views concerning the condition and hopes & prospects of the freedmen.

Recd, Feb, 19th, 1866

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3297 2/8/1866

*From:* W.E. Dodge Jr

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3243

234 Madison Ave  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[141]

234 Madison Ave  
New York Feby 8th 1866

My dear Sir

I hear with great pleasure that you have accepted the invitation of the Lecture Committee of our Young Men's Christian Assn to lecture in Saturday evening the 17 inst. I write to beg that you will advise me by mail at what hour you will reach here, so that I may take you with your family to my own home where you will pass a quiet Monday and enable me to repay a little of the kind Courtesy and hospitality which I experienced at your hands in Camp in the Early part of the war, when visiting your Brigade as a member of the Allotment Commission.

I am living quite near the New Haven Station and have a great abundance of room and feel sure I can make you more comfortable than at an Hotel.

Mrs Dodge will be most happy to care for Mrs Howard and your little ones.

As president of our association here, I was greatly disappointed to be detained from the general Convention, to Philada last Summer, and so fail to renew my acquaintance with you. Pray do not disappoint me on this anticipated pleasure.

With great respect  
and the most Cordial  
Christian regards  
I am very truly yours  
W[illiam].E. Dodge Jr

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York Feb. 8th 1866

Dodge, Wm. E. (Jr.)

Invites gen. Howard to make his (Mr. D's) house his home during his stay in N.Y.

Invitation accepted from Boston.

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3298 2/9/1866

*From:* Mrs. D. M. Snyder

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3244

Norristown Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[146, 147]

Norristown Feb 9 / 66

Genl Howard

A few Ladies of Norristown have formed an Association for the purpose of raising funds to erect a Monument in Norristown in memory of the Soldiers of the County who lost their lives in the late rebellion.

Having had the pleasure of meeting you in Gettysburg, and knowing your obliging disposition, therefore, with less reluctance I ask, if it would not trespass too much on your valuable time. We would be exceedingly obliged if you would come to Norristown and deliver a lecture for that purpose.

The Society would not only be gratified, but the community also, as Genl Howard has a great many friends here who would be delighted to hear him.

If it will be convenient for you to come, will you be good enough to let us know at your earliest convenience also your terms.

Yours respectfully  
Mrs. D. M. Snyder

Genl Howard

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Norristown Pa. Feb 9th 66

Snyder Mrs. D.M.

Invites Gen Howard to lecture.

Recd Feb. 21st 1866

Any time

3299 2/9/1866

*From:* Henry W. Bellows

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3245

*Source:* Bowdoin

United States Sanitary  
Commission,  
Historical Bureau, 21  
West 12th Street,  
New York

[148, 149]

[Letterhead]

United States Sanitary Commission,  
Historical Bureau, 21 West 12th Street,  
New York

Feb 9 1866

To Major General Howard  
General,

A committee of gentlemen (whose names you will find within) have just awarded \$750 in prizes to the fourteen best writers with the left hand, among our brave soldiers who have lost the arm, in whose right hand, "cunning" is scripturally placed.

The writing was excellent, & the committee would have gladly given a prize to two hundred out of the 250 candidates!

So admirable too was the substance of the original compositions, that the Committee recommends Mr Bourne, who projected the plan, to collect & publish a volume of these contributions in illustration of the temper & ability of our discharged invalids.

I was requested to ask of you, as one 'touched with a feeling of these infirmities' to make some brief communication, addressed perhaps to the left-armed men - which the Committee could use in furthering the interest & sale of the proposed volume, - which will be made to Secure the cause of charity to the Soldier's, I suppose.

If your duties will permit you to do us this service, it will be highly appreciated by my fellow committee-men & by yours very

Respectfully & truly  
Henry W. Bellows  
59 E. 20th  
New York

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

New York City  
February 9th / 66  
Henry W. Bellows L.D.  
Pres't Sanitary Comm'n

Invites a contribution from Maj Gen Howard to a volume of literary compositions written by discharged soldiers who have lost their right arms in the Service.

Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 12th / 66

[Written in pencil] To be ans'd by the Genl.

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3300 2/10/1866

*From:* Godlove Orth

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3246

*Source:* Bowdoin

NINTH CONGRESS,  
U.S.  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES.  
Washington, D.C.

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[150]

[Letterhead]

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS, U.S.  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
Washington, D.C.  
Feb 10, 1866

Will the officers of the Freedmens Bureau, forward the enclosed letter to Genl Howard, so that it sill reach him without unnecessary delay, & oblige

Godlove Orth [Congressman from Illinois, 1863-1874, 1879-1882]

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3301 2/10/1866 *From:* T.W. Osborn

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3247

Tallahassee Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[151]

Tallahassee Florida  
Feb. 10th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comr. B.R.F&A.L.  
General,

This letter will introduce to you L.M. Hobbs Supt. Com. Schools Florida –late Chaplain 3d U.S.C.T.

Supt. Hobbs goes north in the interest of the schools for Freed-people in this state under the new law. He is a zealous man & deeply interested in the great work placed under his control. I hope you may be able to assist him in forwarding his work to a final success.

Very Resply Yours  
T.W. Osborn  
Col & A.C.

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3302 2/10/1866

*From:* Lyman Trumbull

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3263

United States Senate  
Chamber  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169]

[Letterhead]

United States Senate Chamber  
Washington  
Feb. 10 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dr. Sir,

The Presidents veto message has just come in. Have not read it.

Yours

Lyman Trumbull [Senator from Illinois, Chair of the Judiciary Committee]

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3303 2/11/1866     *From:* John Dessauer

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3248

Memphis, Tenn.

Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[155]

Memphis, Tenn. February 11th 1866

General,

Allow me to beg pardon for the liberty I take in addressing myself to you while at the same time I come to you with a request for a favor.

Major Th. Gaines, Judge Advocate of the Dept. of Washington, procured for me a position in the Post-Office at this City in October last and I have up to this time performed my duties faithfully and to the entire satisfaction of the Postmaster; but, General, I want some mental work in a sphere, in which I can use and make useful my good education I received; I tried very hard to receive a position in a Bank of other commercial house, but always failed on account of my 4 ½ years service in the U.S. Army and so cut off from this resources, I must look again to the Government, in whose defence my noble brother fell and for which I fought 4 ½ years and left with 4 wounds.

As however I am without friends to help me to better my situation, to whom should I look up for that assistance as to you, General, who was so kind and generous to my brother; and I feel sure that for his memory, you will not forsaken his brother and give him the kind assistance.

Major Gaines will have the honor, General, to call on you and certify, as to my good behavior and ability, so as to assure, General, that in whatever capacity you may occupy my services, that it will be my utmost endeavor to fulfill the duties assigned to me with faithfulness and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Hoping that you may have the kindness to consider my request and favor me with an answer, believe me to be, General,

Most Respectfully  
Your Devoted and True  
John Dessauer  
late Captain 39th N.Y. Vols.

To  
Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington  
D.C.

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3304 2/12/1866

*From:* Edwin T. Newton

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-3249

Box 342  
Portsmouth  
Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152, 153]

Portsmouth Ohio  
Feb 12th /66

Maj Genl OO Howard  
Dear Sir,

I hope you will regard this application as an importunity. I am exceedingly sorry that I am compelled to make an application accompanied by statements of my private affairs.

All that I could save while in the Army as well as what I have earned since coming out has been expended for the family, and I now find myself without money, and with no visable prospect of getting any. By entering the Army of my Country I have lost my opportunities for obtaining either a trade or a profession; and as I have been very ill since I was discharged I am unfited for manuel labour. My Father is getting old, and has nothing to depend upon for the support of a large family but his daily labour; and he does not have steady employment although he is a first class Machinist & Engineer. My Mother and eldest sister are invalids; and the remainder of the family are too young to aid the family, hence the great necessity that I should do all I can for them. I have been under medical treatment for about five months, from Typhoid pneumonia and its effects.

I have made the foregoing statements in confidence; and with the hope that in candidly stateing my circumstances I might the more readily gain your assistance. Under no other circumstances could I have thus exposed our affairs, I am certain that if you cannot aid me you will at least respect my confidence and allow this to be perused by no other person, unless it be absolutely necessary.

If you have no situation at your disposal, perhaps you could obtain something for me in one of the other Departments. I care not what it is. I do not expect either a very lucrative, or, responsible situation to begin with, all I ask is something as a start, let me have the opportunity, and I will take care of future chances.

I know that I have but few quallifications to reccommend me; but think I could do anything that I should attempt, and if a close application to business, and an earnest desire to perform my duty, will aid me, I am certain of success.

Do not think from this that I rely altogether upon my own strength; for I have recently learned, that there is one mightier than man; and to whom we must look for aid in all our undertakings.

I wold not wish to be so far from home as Washington could I get any employment here; but I am poor and have no friends among the rich and influential citizens of this place.

I hope general that you will give this application your attention, and as a special favour give a reply at the earliest convenient date.

Hoping that my conduct while serving you as Caterer may recommend me for honesty and faithfulness in the position I now solicit.

I have the honor to be  
Yours Most Respectfully  
Edwin T. Newton

Box 342  
Portsmouth  
Ohio

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Portsmouth Ohio

February 12th /66

Edwin T. Newton

Writes confidentially exposing family matters, and asks General Howard to assist him by giving him a position in the Bureau.

Rec'd Bureau RF and AL. Feb 16th /66

Ans'd Feb 23d /66

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3305 2/12/1866

*From:* Mrs. H.W. Cobb

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3250

Office, Union Com'n.  
90 Wash. St.  
Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156, 157]

Chicago Feb. 12th / 66  
Office, U. Com'n. 90, Wash. St.

Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

Last Fall this Branch of the Union Commission took up the work of providing for the destitute Loyal Families as best we could, the West side of the Miss. River. We found by investigation the greatest suffering prevailing in the Western part of Arkansas and are laboring for that almost exclusively. It is a little less than four months since we took hold of the matter, already supplies of clothing have been shipped to the amount of \$10,000.00, and several Hundred Bus. of corn, wheat, rye &c. There is in process of being raised several Thousand Bus. of corn, to ship to that State. I cannot give you a deffinite report at this stage of affairs, but when our Com'r winds up her work, which we expect to do in May, then I will report as fully as possible.

We see by the Papers, the Freedmens Bureau is to be continued. We hope also that Gen. Howard is to be continued as Head of that Bureau. May the Lord gird you with his strength and give you wisdom for every emergency and sustain you under all your responsibilities, is our prayer.

If you have any suggestions in reference to the work of the N.W.B. Union Com'n we shall be very happy to hear them.

Yours Respectfully  
Mrs. H.W. Cobb Sec'y

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Chicago Ill  
February 12th / 66  
Mrs H.W. Cobb  
Sec'y NWB Union Com'n  
Gives General Howard an account of the doings of the Commission.  
Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 16th / 66

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3306 2/12/1866    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-3251

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

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[633]

[Letterhead]

War Department,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington  
Feb 12 1866 10 P.M.

Dear Sister Lizzie

Gracie kissed me "good night" a little while ago & I am left alone. Mr Alvord leaves for New York early in the morning & so has retired early. We listened to the great oration today at the Capitol in honor of Pres't Lincoln. I had a seat on the floor in place of Otis. Thousands could not get tickets who desired them – only five being given out by each Representative.

Last night was the last grand jubilee of the Christian Commission – also in the Representative Hall – Such a packed house I never saw. I stood up for over three hours – but the exercises were intensely interesting & I felt fully repaid. The singing by Mr. Phillips of Cincinnati & by the Hutchinsons was very fine & elicited much applause. Mr. Ames gave me a ticket for today (oration) which I gave to Mr Alvord as I did not need it.

I had a ticket from Gen. H. & went last night. He was much disappointed that he could not be present. I was much pleased to hear from Otis today - letter written at Lewiston. As Gen. Fullerton goes in a few day – Gen Strong & Harry, you know, are gone & Mr. Alvord goes tomorrow. I am left entirely alone & there is no need of Hannah. So with the permission of Otis' letter I paid her off tonight & gave her a letter to help her get a new place.

I believe I will address this to Leeds tho' Otis wrote you had gone to Augusta – leaving the children at Leeds. They will be a great comfort to Mother. I was very glad to hear from Rowland that she is to return with you. I wish we were settled in the new home. Aunt Martha writes that Lizzie has relinquished her intention of visiting Washington.

So you went to Bangor. I would like to have been one of the party. Otis only said a word. I did not gather whether you met my friend & long time correspondent Miss Foster or not. Please enlighten me. Write if only a few words – for Grace's as well as my sake. Chancy is hearty.

Affectionately yours  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Love to Mother & the children & kindest messages to "Wash".  
C.H.H.

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3307 2/13/1866 *From:* P.S. Perley

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3252

Henry, Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Henry, Illinois, February 13, 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Under the new Bill can you make me Commissioner of some state or help me to some position in your Bureau I would like. You told me last Summer there was nothing under the rank or grade of Com. of a State that would pay and that only army officers could serve there as things then were. I dont want bore you chum with applications for I know you must be bored enough without such, but if you can help me to the Commissionership of a State you try me, wont you, and see if I wont make a good one?

Yours Truly,  
and ever  
P.S. Perley

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Henry Illinois

February 13th /66

P.S. Perley

Desires an appointment as Asst. Comm'r of some State.

Rec'd Bureau RF and AL Feb 16th / 66

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3308 2/13/1866     *From:* Horace James

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3253

New Berne N.C.

Com'r Bur. Refs. Fr. & A.L.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

New Berne N.C.  
Feb. 13th 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bur. Refs. Fr. & A.L.  
Dear Sir,

This will introduce to you Dr Isaac W. Sittler, late Surgeon of the 14th U.S.C.T. now mustered out of service. He is a man of great energy and activity, and during the yellow-fever season in New Berne won golden opinions for his fearlessness and fidelity.

I can cordially recommend him for any situation where energetic service is required for the Bureau in his profession.

I am very respectfully yours  
Horace James.  
Ag't Bur Res Fr &c  
Pitt Co. N.C.

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3309 2/13/1866

*From:* William J.R. Taylor

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3254

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Bible Society.  
Bible House, Astor  
Place,  
New York

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[160, 161]

[Letterhead]

American Bible Society.  
Bible House, Astor Place,  
New York  
Feb 13 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
My dear Sir

In behalf of our Jubilee Committee I have the pleasure of inviting you to deliver one of the addresses at the approaching Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the American Bible Society, which is to be held in this city in the Academy of Music on the Second Thursday of May (10th).

The arrangements made for our Jubilee celebration will make it an occasion of unusual interest. The great distribution of the Holy Scriptures which we made in the Army during the War, through the Christian Commission & other channels of supply –and the efforts which we are now making for the Freedmen in the South, together with your own representative relation to these great interests, induce us to press the acceptance of this invitation upon you.

Permit me to add my own personal urgency to that of the Committee, that you will consent to aid us in these Jubilee exercises, as the representative of our noble Army & of the four millions of Freed people whom the government has committed to your official care & also as a witness for the Bible work of that noble organization the Christian Commission – which has just closed its work & dissolved its formal existence as a body, in the great meeting held in Washington in the Hall of the house of Representatives on last Sabbath Evening.

Hoping for an early affirmative reply and with great regard, I am, General,

Yours very sincerely  
William J.R. Taylor  
Cor. Sec. A.B.S.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York City  
Feb 13th / 66  
Wm J.R. Taylor

Invites Maj Gen Howard to deliver one of the addresses at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the American Bible Society, at the Academy of Music on the 2nd Thursday in May.  
Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 14, /66

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3310 2/14/1866    *From:* Frederic Wellcomb    *To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3255                      Ipswich Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[154]

Ipswich Mass Feb 14th / 66

Genl Howard

Dear Sir

I write to see if you can come to Ipswich and Lecture any time within a month or any time in March. We want to hear you Lecture here very much. What is your price for a Lecture. It is for a benevolent purpose – for the benefit of the Methodist Society in this place, and would like to have you come as low as possible. Please answer by mail

and oblige

Frederic Wellcomb

---

3311 2/14/1866

*From:* Wager Swayne  
Bv't Maj. Gen'l.  
  
Office Assistant  
Commissioner, State of  
Alabama,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Montgomery, Ala.

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard  
  
Commissioner &c.  
Washington D.C.

OOH-3256

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[162, 163]

(Unofficial)

[Letterhead]

Office Assistant Commissioner, State of Alabama,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Montgomery, Ala.

14th February 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c.  
Washington D.C.  
General

My private correspondence advises me that the desire of my parents that I should visit them in Washington, has been in some way brought to your notice. They have been bringing it to my notice for some time past.

I had not designed that such application should be made at all. I only refer to it now because of its connection with the expressed design of Governor Patton, as soon as the Legislature adjourns, to go to Washington to try to arrange a gradual or deferred payment of the direct taxes assumed by the State. It occurs to me, that what would be personally gratifying is now perhaps in the direct path of usefulness. Governor Patton has always sustained kindly and serviceable relations with the Bureau, and it seems as though if I were with him I might render such service in return, or at least show such a willingness to serve him, as is perhaps justly his due, and would in any case be valuable to us in the future. In fact we have talked the matter over, though I have of course not said to him that I should go.

The Legislature will probably adjourn on Friday, 23d inst, and on Tuesday morning following, the Governor hopes to get away. Should I in the meantime be advised that it is for the good of the service, in your judgment, that I go with him, the affairs of this office will probably be such that they can be safely left, at that time.

Should you think differently I beg you will not be governed in any degree by personal considerations.

I am General  
Very respectfully, your obedient servant  
Wager Swayne  
Bv't Maj. Gen'l.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Montgomery Ala. Feb. 14, 1866

Swayne, Wager

Brevet Maj. Gen. & A.C.

Desires to visit Washington

Rec'd Feb. 20th 1866

<> I would be pleased to have you visit <BF> as you suggest.



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3312 2/14/1866 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-3257

Boston Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[333]

Boston Mass  
Feb 14th 1866

Dearest

I have just returned from Somerville and though pretty tired I could not think of resting, till I told you I remembered that this is the eleventh birth-night of our married life. I do wish I could see you tonight.

I have now lectured at Cambridge, Jamaica-plains, Lowell & Somerville and start for Springfield tomorrow –next day New Haven & Saturday New York and then home probably Monday night.

Give much love to Guy & Jamie & Mother and to husbands. Love to yourself.

Lovingly,  
Otis

Come as soon as you can.

Lucia & Aunt Lucretia [(Howard) Leadbetter] send much love to you. Frank Gilman & his sister Mrs Emery hear hear urge you & mother &c to spend a night with them.

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3313 2/15/1866 *From:* Israel Kimball

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3258

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165]

Washington Feby 15 1866

Gen O.O. Howard

Sir,

At an adjourned meeting of the First Congregational Society, of this city held July 10 1866, you were elected a member of the standing "uilding Committee."

this committee consists of the following named gentlemen

Gen O.O. Howard

Col D.L. Eaton

Col E.A. Goodrich

J.B. Hutchinson

C.S. Mattoon

R.H. Stivins

L.Watson

Very Respectfully

Israel Kimball,

Chairman Protem

S.H. Goodman

Clerk

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3314 2/15/1866    *From:* Geo. A. Perkins

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3259

Farmington, Maine

Chief of the Freedmen's  
Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[164]

Farmington, Maine, Feb. 15, 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Form the brief conversation which I had with you here, I received encouragement to expect from you an appointment as Superintendent of Schools in one of the states –or something of the kind, - but no positive assurance was given. Yesterday I received a proposal to which a definite answer must be given within a few days. This makes it very desirable that I should know whether I can, with a good degree of certainty, expect an appointment from you. The Bill enlarging the Freedmen's Bureau having passed, you may be prepared to tell me thus, though not ready to make the appointment. If so, will you please to inform me by letter? If it is probably that you will not have a place for me, will you be so kind as to send a telegraph –ie dispatch –to that effect?

I much prefer to the work proposed to me yesterday such a situation as you suggested. An active life, and a climate less severe than that of Maine, may be better for me. The necessity of giving an answer to the proposal, is my apology for addressing you at this time.

With high regards,  
I remain, dear Sir,  
Very truly yours,  
Geo. A. Perkins

---

3315 2/17/1866

*From:* Benj Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3260

Paymasters Office  
63 Bleecker St

U.S. Army  
Cooper Institute  
N. York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[163]

Paymasters Office  
63 Bleecker St  
17 Feb. 1866

My dear general

I have been invited to be present on the platform this evening at the Cooper Institute on the occasion of your Address. I regret that I shall not be able to go. But I write this note to say how deeply I feel interested in all that may be done to guard the interest of the "Freedman" to whom the honor of their Government is pledged. I have a warm personal interest in your success.

Faithfully & respectfully

Yout ob Sv

Benj Alvord [Brig. General, USMA Class of 1833.]

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

U.S. Army

Cooper Institute

N. York

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3316 2/17/1866      *From:* (Rev.) J. Edwards  
Bell

*To:* Rev. Dr. [Charles B.]  
Boynton

OOH-3261

35 State  
Rochester N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[166]

Rochester, Feb 17th 1866.

Rev. Dr. [Charles B.] Boynton  
Dear Sir:

I see by the papers that Genl Howard is lecturing on "The Freedmen", the proceeds, or at least \$100.00 from each lecture, to be devoted to the 1st Cong. Ch. Washington. Not knowing his address I send to you to learn whether he could be induced to visit Western N.Y. & enlighten us a little on this all important subj. There is a great deal of misconception, in this section, regarding the Freedmen's Bureau & we would like to have the matter made clear & plain.

Now if Genl Howard will come to Rochester, I will guarantee him \$100.00 & his expenses - & if desired will make arrangements for him to lecture in Syracuse & Buffalo -adjacent cities, on the same terms.

From a well wisher of the Congl cause in W - & an ardent friend of the Negro.

Yours in the Gospel  
(Rev.) J. Edwards Bell  
Address - 35 State  
Rochester N.Y.

I should much like to have the Genl come within a month if possible.

---

3317 2/17/1866 *From:* R. Johnston

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3262

Talladega Ala

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167]

Talladega Ala 17th Feby 1866

General,

The matter I requested leave to see you about in person was the abducting of Freedmen & selling them as Slaves in Cuba. But the mention of names can only be in connection with conditions. Letters do not go there in lock mail bags. A sailing vessel can make a voyage across the Gulf & back sooner than a letter passes to & from Washington. (Of late the time from Philadelphia here is twenty six days.) It is right to spend money freely for the Belief of the hopelessly infirm – those who can make no return for the aid given them. It did not occur to me the government would mind the expense of effectually protecting the young able bodied working men, the class that is by odds, the most useful of the inhabitants of the Country.

Very respectfully your obt Servt  
R. Johnston

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3318 2/19/1866 *From:* F.W Gilbreth

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3264

Tallahasse, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[172, 173]

Tallahasse, Fla.  
Feb 19, 1866.

Dear General.

We arrived here Monday, the 12th. Harry stood the Journey remarkably well, and for the first two days after his arrival he seemed to rally and was quite like his former self.

But now he really does not seem any stronger: still there is no visible change for the worse.

He has the room formerly occupied by Col Aston and is as comfortably and pleasantly situated as he can possibly be.

Col Aston is having a carriage fixed up for his especial benefit. Dr Applegate says he may rally and gain strength if he takes no serious cold and no relapse.

I am now getting the information you desired as <definitely> as possible and will have time to <> report the same to you by letter.

The climate is generally all that could be desired.

I remain <Genl.>  
Very respy  
Your obt servt  
F.W Gilbreth

[Written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]  
Tallahassee Fla.  
July 19, 1866,  
Gilbreth, F.W. Major  
Relating to various matters  
Recd March 3rd 1866

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3319 2/19/1866    *From:* E. B. Webb

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3265

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[174]

Boston  
Feb. 19th '66

Dear General,

I enclose \$25. which Mr Pitman brought to you from the Cambridge people for your lecture, the day you left us. Seeing your Somerville Lecture advertised for Thursday eve. He suppose you would be here on that day, & was quite disappointed & mortified, that you had gone. He said the Cambridge people were greatly interested & delighted with your Lecture & visit. Upon the whole, you have quite won the hearts of the community here, & will always be warmly greeted when you come to Boston. Mr Tobey came again to see you Wednesday eve. & book us all down in his carriage to hear Mr Beecher. Excuse me for telling you what you knew before.

You will be glad to hear that one little girl of our S. School was very much impressed by your little speech the sunday you were with us, & told her Mother that she had been trying to give her heart to the Savior.

(I enclose the Harristown letter.)

Love from us all to Mrs H. & Charles. We are hoping for a visit from him when he can come & with kindest remembrances from us all to yourself believe me

Very Sincerely Yours  
E. B. Webb

---

3320 2/19/1866 *From:* C.D. Merrill

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3266

Farmington Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[175]

Farmington Me Feb. 19, 1866

Gen. Howard

Dear Sir

Through the politeness of your brother and Mrs. Howard, I have the pleasure of forwarding, herewith, a plain proof, and a vignette, from the first negative you were so kind as to sit for in my Gallery. I am sorry to say that the second sitting was a chemical failure.

The vignette has received a few touches with Ink, the other, none at all.

Please accept them, if satisfactory, which I trust they may be.

Very Respectfully,  
C.D. Merrill

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3321 2/19/1866 *From:* Dwight Morris

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3267

Bridgeport Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[176, 177]

Bridgeport Conn. Feb 19th 1866

Major Genl Howard  
Dear Sir

The United Service Club of Bridgeport, an association of men who have been honorably discharged from our Army, and who have united for the purpose of assisting disabled Soldiers and their families and orphans, have requested me to address you.

The funds of our Society amount to upward of \$400 and we desire to increase this Sum, to meet pressing demands upon our Treasury.

We therefore propose to have delivered to our citizens, two or more addresses from distinguished Army officers, the receipts to be added to our fund. We greatly desire (and our loyal citizens all join with us) to hear you on the subject of the Freedmen.

I trust you will not consider it improper to make an address, with a charge for admission, under these circumstances.

I hope you will be able to visit us, for it would be a great pleasure to meet at my residence the gentleman whose acquaintance I made at Harpers Ferry, at the religious services of my Brigade in French's Division.

I remain on behalf of the U.S. Club, very respectfully  
Dwight Morris  
formerly <Col> 14th Conn Vols.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Bridgeport, Conn. Feb. 19th 1866  
Morris, Dwight  
Invites Gen. Howard to lecture before the U.S. Service Assn.  
Recd. Feb 21, 1866

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3322 2/19/1866     *From:* Nelson A. Miles

*To:* Major General O O  
Howard

OOH-3268

Fortress Munroe Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[178, 179]

Fortress Munroe Va  
February 19 1866

Dear General

Allow me again to call your attention to our friend Doct Vogel. He would be pleased with a position in your Bureau. I think his past services entitle him to favorable consideration and believe he would do justice to both parties, and give satisfaction in any community. I would recommend him for this District and believe there would be less trouble with his administration then under the present Superintendent.

Wishing you every success in your great work and again thanking you for past favors to myself.

I remain

With the highest respect  
Your obt. Servt  
Nelson A. Miles  
Major Genl. U.S. Vos.

Major General O O Howard  
&c

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]  
Miles, Nelson A  
Recommends Dr. Vogel for the position in the Bureau.  
Recd Feb. 20th 1866

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3323 2/19/1866 *From:* James G Smith

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3269

Providence

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170]

Providence Feb. 19th 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dr Sir,

We the undersigned earnestly desire that you will visit and address us. It will give us and our citizens generally sincere pleasure to welcome you to our State and City. We hope your duties will allow you to accept the invitation of the R.I. Asso. for Freedmen, and name an early day when we may see and hear you here.

Yours Most Truly  
James G Smith  
Duncan C Pall  
Geo. L. Clarke, Speaker of House of Rep. R.I.  
Thos A Doyle Mayor of Providence  
B. Sears. Pres't Brown University

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3324 2/19/1866 *From:* AK Browne

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3271

Washington D.C.

Com. Freedmen, Refugees  
&c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[180]

Washington D.C. Feb 19 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com. Freedmen, Refugees &c

General:

At a regular meeting of The Young Men's Christian Association of this city held at their rooms last evening, it was unanimously resolved that you be requested to deliver a Public Lecture upon such subject as you may Select at your earliest convenience, the proceeds of said lecture to be appropriated by the Association in its Missionary work in this city.

It was suggested at said meeting that any topic connected with your present great work upon which you might speak would be of great public interest at the present time.

Hoping you will find it convenient to comply at an early date. I have the honor to be, on behalf of the Association,

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt.  
AK Browne  
Cor. Sec'y Y.M.C. Association Washington D.C.

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3325 2/20/1866 *From:* H. G. Stewart

*To:* Maj General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3270

Providence

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[171]

Providence Feb. 20th 1866.

Maj General O.O. Howard  
Dr. Sir,

I forward to you the enclosed [probably OOH-3269], earnestly hoping you may find it possible to comply with the wishes therein expressed.

H. G. Stewart  
Agt. R.I. Assoc. Freedmen

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 22 1866

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3326 2/20/1866

*From:* W.E. Dodge Jnr.

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3272

Phelps, Dodge & Co.  
Nos. 19 & 21 Cliff St.  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181, 182]

Phelps, Dodge & Co.  
Nos. 19 & 21 Cliff St.  
New York Feby 20 1866

My dear General

I send by mail two papers left at my house which you may want.

I trust you arrived safely and found your family well.

I am sadly pained to hear of the President's Course on the Freedmen's Bill. If there is any thing I can do in New York in the matter please command me very freely.

With sincere regard  
Very truly yours  
W.E. Dodge Jnr.

Major Genl O.O. Howard

[Written on the back of the first page, in a different hand.]

New York

Feby 20, 1866

Dodge, W.E. Jr.

Incloses papers

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 23 1866

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3327 2/20/1866 *From:* Anna M. Lee

*To:* Major Genl. OO Howard

OOH-3314

Baltimore

Commissioner Bureau of  
Refugees Freedmen &c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95]

Baltimore Febry 20th 1866

Major Genl. OO Howard -  
Commissioner Bureau of Refugees Freedmen &c  
General -

I have the honor to make application for the restoration of the piece of land lying in Fairfax Co. Virginia, known as "Fairfax Station" - and now in the possession of your agents, as "abandoned property". Previous to, and in the incipient stages of the late war, the place was tenanted out, but the burning of all buildings upon it, made it impossible for the tenant longer to remain in charge, nor, for the same reason, could his place be supplied by another, and hence at the termination of the war, the land was found unoccupied, and fell under the control of your Bureau. I would also state, the U.S. "Direct tax" upon it, has been paid, that the property has been in the possession of the family for a very long period and of course there is no dispute as to their original title.

Very respectfully yours, &c  
Anna M. Lee

My address is (over)  
At Mrs Jamisons -73 Mount Vernon Place  
Baltimore

[Note. The author is Anna Mason Lee, the mother of Fitzhugh Lee. See OOH-3313.]

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3328 2/21/1866

*From:* Lyman Trumbull

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3273

United States Senate  
Chamber  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[183]

[Letterhead]

United States Senate Chamber  
Washington  
Feb. 21. 1866

My Dear Sir,

I return the papers you were kind enough to send me herewith. Some of them I think you desired to have returned & I shall not have any further use for any of them at present.

Think something will yet be done for the Bureau. If nothing more presume the present Bureau can be extended.

Yours very truly  
Lyman Trumbull

[The letter summary had been written on the back of the first sheet, but the left half of the page had been torn off.]

Feby 21, / 66

<> Hon. L.

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3329 2/21/1866     *From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3274

Savannah

Com'r Bureau R.F. & AL  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[184, 185]

Private

Savannah Feb 21st 1866

Dear General

Since writing you yesterday explaining my action with reference to the Sea Island and enclosing a copy of my order, I have learned through the public press that the President has vetoed the Bill to enlarge the powers of the Freedman's Bureau, and returned it to Congress. This leaves the final result still in doubt and uncertainty, and as neither the freed people nor the former owners are confident of maintaining their claims. It gives me still further opportunity to compromise and adjust their differences to as to satisfy all parties, and settle matters in a secure and safe basis for this year without reference to any action of Congress. This is very desirable as the season is fast passing, and it will soon be too late to begin planting. The veto of the Presidents will, I fear, do harm by encouraging the former owners to try to take advantage of the freed people which in many instances have already prepared their lands for planing in full expectation of keeping them and will render the owners more unwilling to compromise as they hope to obtain every thing they now demand. Further it will discourage the freed people who have in good faith prepared to plant on the land granted them, and make them doubtful as to whether or not any promises made to them will be kept by the Government. But I will do the best I can under the circumstances to adjust the matter on some safe just basis. But for the Presidents veto, I am confident I should have succeeded in settling this vexed question in a few weeks to the satisfaction of all parties, and giving them an opportunity to raise crops this year. I had no difficulty in managing the freed people who are very reasonable, but I fear the white people may be more stubborn with the influence of the veto.

I am Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vol  
A A C

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau R.F. & AL  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Savannah Ga.

Feb 21st 1866

Tillson, Davis

Brig. Genl.

States the effect of the veto of the Freedmens Bureau bill upon the whites & blacks in Ga.

Recd. Feb 28th, 1866

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3330 2/21/1866

*From:* A B Dyer

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3275

*Source:* Bowdoin

Ordnance Office,  
War Department  
Washington

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[133]

[Letterhead]

Ordnance Office,  
War Department  
Washington  
Feb 21 1866

My dear General

Let me introduce to your acquaintance my friend Genl Love of Indianapolis Ind who desires to have an interview with you. The General is an old officer of the Army and I have known him intimately for many years.

I commend him to you as a most reliable gentleman.

Yrs truly  
A B Dyer  
B M G

Genl. O.O. Howard  
USA

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3331 2/21/1866    *From:* W.A. Nichols  
AAG  
Washington

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3276

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[191]

Private

Washington  
Feb. 21, 1866

General,

I promised Mrs. S. to see you on the part of her husband Maj. H.W. Smith AAG of Vols. - now on duty in the Freedman's Bureau at Charleston. She is very anxious for his return to this station -for many reasons. Please inform me what chance there is for him, and oblige

Very truly yours  
<W.A. Nichols>  
AAG

Genl. O.O. Howard  
&c &c

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3332 2/21/1866

*From:* B. F. Morris

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3277

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington,

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[192]

[Letterhead]

War Department  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington,  
Feb. 21, 1866

Dear General:

I called at your office to say to you that the Church, and the Society also meet at the Columbian Sem. College Buildings, this evening at 7 O'clock. It is deemed very desirable and important to have your presence, and to hear from you, at this meeting—as business of vital interest and moment is to come before the Society and Church. If possible we hope you will attend and thereby gratify all.

Yours Very Truly

B. F. Morris [Rev. Benjamin F. Morris

Gen. Howard.

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3333 2/21/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk.  
Bt Maj Genl

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3278

217 Chouteau Avenue  
Saint Louis MO

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[189]

Private & Confidential

217 Chouteau Avenue  
Saint Louis MO Feb 21 / 66

Dear General,

I am watching by the side of my sick wife –she was confined on the 16th inst. and a new girl is added to our household. Mother and child are comfortable and I hope to be able to leave them safely in a very few days. My mail comes to me twice each day from Nashville, and the Bureau affairs receive all necessary attention promptly.

The Kentucky Legislature has adjourned –that is a blessing. The President has vetoed the Bureau bill, and that is not a blessing. I am fearful that every slave-driver in the South will interpret the message as an espousal of the cause of barbarism. I wish the President's views could have been harmonized with the wishes of a majority of Congress. God reigns and all will be well - "estruction shall be to the workers of iniquity" It was well with him who "udged the cause of the poor and needy" "eep ye judgements and do justice with the Lord"

I am not disheartened. I am sure there is enough of Christian Statesmanship in this Country to save it yet –and to secure impartial liberty and <[CHECK ORIGINAL –tape on edge]>.

I was pleased to see notices of your lecture. It will do good. The temper of it was moderate –yet the tone was sufficiently <formed> to arrest the attention of reasonable men of all parties.

I have had thoughts of suggesting to you the removal of my Head Qrs to Louisville. There will be much more to do in Kentucky than in Tennessee –and the Bureau to be effective in Ky must be run with a strong but steady hand. Please give the suggestion though and advise me of your opinion or wish in the premises. Genls Thomas and Palmer both think the removal to Louisville would be productive of good. Genl Palmer is quite anxious that the Department Command should be given to me in connection with the Bureau. There is but little else to do in Ky but to administer the Bureau.

Please remember us with love to "izzie"& the children.

Yours Very Faithfully  
Clinton B. Fisk.  
Bt Maj Genl

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]  
St Louis, Mo. Feb 21, 1866  
Fisk, Clinton B.  
Brevt Maj. Gen.  
Friendly letter  
Recd Feb 24th 1866

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3334 2/21/1866

*From:* J.G. Blaine

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3279

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

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[186]

[Letterhead]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.  
Feb 21 1866

My Dear Genl -

Please examine the enclosed papers carefully. I am anxious that Duncan should get possession of his wife's house –if consistent with law & justice.

In regard to negotiating a loan of money, which you spoke to me about, let me recommend the name of Mr. Huntington Cash'r of 1st Na'tl Bank –a member of the firm of Guy Cooke & Co. I spoke to him in regard to it and he will be glad to accommodate you.

Yours most truly  
J.G. Blaine

Maj Genl Howard

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

House of Representatives Feb 21st 1866.

Blaine, J. G.

M.C.

Encloses and endorses the application of Mrs. Duncan of Columbia S.C. for restoration of her property. Also states that Mr. Huntington Cash'r 1st Nat. Bank will be glad to accommodate Gen. Howard

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. REC'D FEB 20 1866 ]

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3335 2/22/1866

*From:* R.K. Scott  
Brig Genl  
Asst Comr

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3280

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant Commisioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina,  
Charleston, S.C.

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[193]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters, Assistant Commisioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina,  
Charleston, S.C.  
Feb 22 1866

Maj Genl Howard,

Genl

On my return this evening from George Town I find Capt Ketchum ready to start from Washington City. The Capt. will be able to place before you such matters as one of immediate interest to the Freedman of this State. My main object however in requesting permission for him to visit Washington was in relation to the Islands; which for the present has been disposed of by the President's veto I suppose. The next item of greatest importance to these people is that of Rations at least one hundred and fifty thousand per day will be required to supply the demand, and all will claim to be special cases, hence I beg leave to ask further instructions on the Subject. Capt Ketchum is sufficiently well posted in this matter to fully represent to you the magnitude of the undertaking.

With the highest regard I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt  
R.K. Scott  
Brig Genl  
Asst Comr

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Charleston S.C. Feb 22 66

Scott, R.K.

Brig. Gen. & Asst. Comr.

States that it will take 150,000 rations to carry out the instructions in regard to issuing to planters. Asks further instructions.

Feb. 27th 1866 Recd.

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3336 2/22/1866

*From:* E C Branch

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-3281

Med. Col. Mobile Ala

Com. R F. A. Lands &c  
Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[196]

Med. Col. Mobile Ala  
Feb. 22d 1866

Maj Genl OO Howard  
Com. R F. A. Lands &c  
Washington DC  
Sir,

Much obliged for your kindness in sending Miss Anderson as teacher. She reached me Sunday last. I trust she will prove a valuable helper in our good work. The Colle is fast being <repaired>. We shall hold on to the list <of clerks>. is there any prospect for us now? What is to be done when ordered from here?

I see the Sec of Treas. recommends selling of certain Marine Hospitals. The one in this city I am informed is to be sold. This would make a magnificent place for Asylum & School. Give us this and we will ask no more Genl. Please give your influence for our Papa The Nationalist.

In Haste Respectfully Yours  
E C Branch  
Box 812

[Written sideways on the back page in a different hand.]  
Medical College Mobile, Ala.  
Feb 22nd, 1866  
Branch, E.C.

Thanks Gen. Howard for sending Miss Anderson. States that the Secy. of Treasury has recommended the sale of Marine Hospitals. If the Bureau could get the one in Mobile it would be of great service. Asks Gen. Howard to use his influence to procure it.  
Recd. March 1st 1866

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3337 2/22/1866 *From:* O. Brown

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3282

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters  
Assistant  
Commissioner State of  
Virginia,  
Richmond, Va.

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[195]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters Assistant Commissioner State of Virginia,  
Richmond, Va.  
Feby 22 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard,  
General,

I learn that many members of your staff have or are about to resign. Can't I be of use to you in Washington. I am getting nervous down here. And the prospect ahead look so dark for the freedmen that I am almost discouraged.

Yours Truly  
O Brown

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]  
Richmond Feb 22 / 66  
Brown, O.  
Col &c  
Would like to be on Gen Howards staff

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3338 2/22/1866 *From:* J. G. North

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3283

New Haven, Ct.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[197]

[Letterhead]

All business Letters concerning Miss Anna E. Dickinson's Lectures, and applications for the same, to be addressed to John G. North, New Haven, Conn.

Subjects - "Home Thrusts", "Earnestness", "Flood Tide," and "Woman's Work and Wages."

New Haven, Ct., Feby 22 1866

Genl O.O. Howard

My dear Sir

You may remember I call'd on you in regard to a lecture at Harrisburg Pa while you was at New Haven Ct. Col McFarland Supt Common Schools has a very fine course, & wants you previous to the adjournment of the Legislature. I have just appointed Rev H.W. Beecher to lecture there March 21st. Now if you can fix a date say about a week before, or any time before 29th it will suit 1st Rate. Please write me soon, & I will arrange all for you, without any care or trouble to you.

Yours truly,  
J. G. North

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

New Haven, Coll. Feb. 22nd 1866

North, J.G.

Asks Gen. Howard to lecture in Harrisburg.

[Written upside down on the back page in a third hand.]

Where is Andy Johnson going to, when he dies. He must very sick and most dead with veto on the Brain. Oh! Political Death. He wont never have to ask, where is thy sting.

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3339 2/23/1866 *From:* Samfa L.S. Smith

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3284

265 Broad Street  
Newark N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[198, 199]

Newark N.J. Feby 23rd 1866

Dear Sir -

Can I make an engagement with you, for the delivery of a Lecture in this city during next December, for the benefit of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Our Association is doing a good work among the young men but requires funds to prosecute its work.

If reference is required I would refer you with pleasure to any minister of the city and if necessary to many of our prominent men.

Hoping to receive a favorable reply –I remain

Very Respectfully

<Samfa> L.S. Smith ch. com.

265 Broad Street

Newark N.J.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard U.S. Army

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Newark N.J. Feb 23, /66

Smith, S.S.I.

Chairman of Committee

Invites Gen. Howard to lecture next Decem.

Feb. 26th 1866

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3340 2/23/1866 *From:* D.H. Eaton

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-3285

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[200]

[ca. Feb. 23, 1866] [The date was written in pencil.]

Dear Genl.

I leave \$25 for you. It was deemed no more than just by our Sab. School that you should have this am't refunded of the over-generous amount you loaned.

I have had the money ever since the day after you left for the North.

Can you be at the Church meeting in Wednesday evening, in Columbian Law Building 5th St. If so do come.

Yrs ever  
D.H. Eaton

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Eaton, D.L.

Private letter

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 23 1865

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3341 2/23/1866 *From:* G.W. Walker

*To:* Major General OO  
Howard

OOH-3286

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[201]

Washington Feb 23d 1866

Major General OO Howard  
Dear Sir

The Prayer Meeting and Lecture will be held in The fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church on the 25th inst at 3 o'clock for the benefit of The Sabbath School Union. We will be pleased to have you favor us with your presence and give us a word of encouragement.

Your with Much Respect  
G.W. Walker  
President of the Sabbath School Union.

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]

Washington, Feb 23rd 1866

Walker, G. W.

Sunday School Union meeting at Dr. Gurley's Church at 3 o'clock Sunday 25 inst.

Feb. 24th 1866

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3342 2/24/1866

*From:* A. E. Chamberlain

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-3287

*Source:* Bowdoin

Cincinnati Branch,  
United States Christian  
Commission,  
51 Vine Street,  
Cincinnati

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[204]

[Letterhead]

Cincinnati Branch,  
United States Christian Commission,  
51 Vine Street,  
Cincinnati  
A.E. Chamberlain, President  
H. Thane Miller, Vice President  
Rev. J.W. Marlay, Secretary  
Rev. B.W. Chidlaw, Gen'l Agent.

Feb 24 / 66

Maj Gen OO Howard  
My Dear Bro

I have thought very much of you since our pleasant breakfast at the Continental last Sabbath <> particularly since the veto of the Freedmans Bureau bill by the President. We are living in a strange time my Dear Bro, but if this sure storm of excitement produced by the veto intensifies by the recent speech of the President, let us trust in God to <deliver> us safely. It looks dark just now, but God is able to bring the sun shine. I sometimes fear we as a nation have not been sufficiently thankful to Almighty God for the deliverance granted to us a nation and that now he is chastising us in his wrath for our ingratitude. Our only hope is in him. Thus let us abide in safety. You have my earnest prayers that you may be sustained by the Master in the work to which he has called you. When can you make us a visit. A western trip I think would do you good, and I believe you could do good by coming for your cause besides making a family and personal friends very happy by spending a few days at my home. I will very gladly arrange a Meeting for you at any time after say two weeks, as I expect to be absent for about that time. Let me hear from you. Our little party will long remember our pleasant breakfast, & wish to be kindly remembered with the hope of an early repetition in our own homes in the Queen City. God bless you.

A. E. Chamberlain

[Written sideways on the backside, in a different hand.]

Cincinnati, Feb 24, 1866  
Chamberlain, AE.  
Prest. Cin. Branch US C.C.  
Friendly letter

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3343 2/24/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vols  
A.A.C.

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3288

Savannah Geo

Comr Bur R. F. & AL  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[202, 203]

Private

Savannah Geo Feb 24th, 1866

Dear General

I have been stopping here for a day or two and visiting the Sea Island near the City in pursuance of my plan to arrange matters on the basis of a mutual compromise between the freed people and the owners of these Islands. I have been so far very successful in several instances & the adjustment has already been completed to the satisfaction of all parties. The freed people are industriously at work –are happy and contented. I expect to leave to day for Cumberland Island on a similar mission. I have great pleasure in reporting that notwithstanding the veto of the President and the failure of the Senate to pass the Bill to enlarge the powers of this Bureau by a 2/3 vote, the owners of the Sea Island & Rice fields are quite willing to settle the questions between themselves and the freed people on the basis of the S.F. A No 3 which I have already sent you. This renders my action safe no matter what action Congress and the President may finally take. I am glad to be able to say that the owners of the Sea Islands & Rice fields are generally making very kind and liberal offers to the freed people and are willing to conciliate labor which as I wrote you some time since is fast getting to be “King” If you can form an opinion, please write me what the probable result of the President's veto will be. Will the Bureau be discontinued and if so how soon! The President evidently does not like the Bureau, but will he disregard the will of Congress and remove or cripple its operations! I am confident I can manage the Bureau in this State under the present law and with the machinery I now have if the Government will only continue it and sustain me. My agents have jurisdiction in all minor matters involving the right of freed people and by order of the Dept Commander all criminal cases <excluding> the jurisdiction of Agents of the Bureau are tried before Military Commissions. I have feared that (the President) would interfere with this arrangement which is working very well indeed. If he does our hope of justice to the freed people for the present, will be lost. I shall decline to act in my present position when no longer able to protect the freed people –it would be too mortifying to be ordered.

Please let me hear from you on this subject and Oblige Yours Very Truly

Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vols  
A.A.C.

Major General O.O. Howard  
Comr Bur R. F. & AL  
Washington D.C.

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3344 2/24/1866 *From:* F.W. Gilbreth

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3289

Tallahassee Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[205, 206]

Tallahassee Fla.  
Feb 24, 1866

My dear General,

Harry was buried to-day at half past ten in the Presbyterian Church.

The funeral was attended by all the officers on duty here and by quite a number of the citizens. The service consisted of the reading of the Scriptures and a hymn and a prayer at the grave. I selected a beautiful spot in the cemetery for his grave and have procured a fine ten foot square and shall have it properly fenced and marked. Col Aston wrote you the particulars of his death and who sent you a telegram.

We had not a suspicion that a <> would take place for weeks yet.

He appeared much better & stronger the days after his arrival here than I had seen him for a long time and his doctor seemed to be quite hopeful. He was at the office the day before his death I believe and the day of his decease was at his breakfast. The Dr has written Dr Horner about it I believe.

I have also apprised Mrs Stinson thro' my mother. I will bring his effects with me and with your permission deliver them to his mother.

The surgeon general thinks it will take me from four to six weeks yet to get up a complete report of the lands in the parts of this state you requested. I will make all haste possible.

I remain  
very respectfully  
Your obt servt  
F.W. Gilbreth

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Tallahassee, Fla. Feb. 24/66

Gilbreth, Fred W.

Major & A.D.C.

Writes concerning Lt. Col. H.M. Stinson's death – also concerning the lands &c.  
Recd. March 9th 1866

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3345 2/24/1866

*From:* G. Whipple

*To:* Rev. J.W. Alvord

OOH-3293

American Missionary  
Association  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York

Washington D.C.

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[209]

[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York  
Rev. Geo. Whipple, Sec'y  
Rev. M.E. Stieby, Sec'y  
W.E. Whiting, Asst. Treas.  
Feb 24, 1866

Rev. J.W. Alvord,  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 22nd, was received Saturday. I take the first opportunity to reply.

Without endorsing your logic exactly, we will have the matter arranged with the Am. Bible Society, as Genl Howard suggests, it being understood that the "ew minutes talk" he gives to us, shall not be cut down below fifteen or twenty.

I will notify D. Taylor. I hope to be at Washington this week.

Yours truly  
G. Whipple  
Sec.

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3346 2/25/1866      *From:* A Toomer Porter      *To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3290                      Charleston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Charleston Feb 25 1866

Genl O.O. Howard  
Genl

At the close of the labours of this Lords day, just after returning tonight from preaching to a large congregation of whites & colored it has occurred to me to send you on a portion of the proceedings of the Protestant Episcopal Diocesan Convention of South Carolina. You may not have seen it. It is part of the history of these times. Do any understand the present situation better. Can any do more. This church represents the influence of this state, & that she is to convert the Committee to whom the whole matter has been referred as guaranty. Rev CC Pinckney Jr Rev CP Gadsden, Rev A.T. Porter Mr George A Trenholm Mr Wm C Bea Mr EL Kemsue, though one of the I say those gentlemen never take hold lightly or <decentfully> of anything.

We intend to open at once two schools under the auspices of the Church we have established two congregations of colored people in this city & will more, & purpose to send out from this City by Gods help an influence in this matter that will befall to the end of the land.

I have thought it would be pleasant for you to receive this. Have you heard anything of my friend McQueen. I have not heard from him for months.

If not objectionable to you may I beg of you a letter addressed to me & stating what you know of my connection with McQueen. I have been sent out by the Bp & a Board of trustees in a Mission for the Church & a letter from you merely stating facts which are known to you may be of much good to me in some quarters. As a Christian man I feel assured you are willing to further the work of Christ by every means in your power I am Respectfully  
yrs

A Toomer Porter, Rector of the Ch of the Holy Communion Charleston <>

[Written sideways in red, on the last page overwriting the letter, in a different hand.]

Charleston, S.C. <Feb. 26, 1866 [Tape]>

Porter, Rev. A.T.

Friendly letter

Recd. March 3 1866

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3347 2/26/1866

*From:* D.W. Layton

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3291

Head Quarters Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
St Louis.

Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[208]

[Letterhead]

Head Quarters Military Division of the Mississippi,  
St Louis. Feby 26th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
My Dear Genl

Less than a week since your addressed to the Secy of War, enclosed to me, came to hand after being a month on its way. I should have answered on receipt but at the time was sick - now I can assure you it is a pleasure to thank you - though I fully appreciate the kindness & its value, so seldom have I asked for such I am at a loss to know how to properly acknowledge, but whatever true feeling is required you are the recipient - should I in the end be unsuccessful, remembering this, I shall still feel my service has not been without value & appreciation.

All our people are usually well I believe but no news. Again thanking you

I remain with respect  
Your obt servt  
D.W. Layton  
A.A.G.

3348 2/26/1866

*From:* O Brown  
Col Asst Comr

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-3292

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &c.,  
Head Qr's Ass't Com'r  
State of Virginia,  
Richmond, Va.

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[212, 213]

Confidential

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c.,  
Head Qr's Ass't Com'r State of Virginia,  
Richmond, Va.,  
Feb 26 1866

Maj Gen O O Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the order relieving Capt C.B. Wilder and beg leave to state that I have not an officer of sufficient ability to take his place except Lieut Col Mallory and he (Col M) says he would resign before he would accept this position – as he (Capt W) is relieved on his report.

I do not know of another man that could take the place and hold it with Capt W – living at Fort Monroe (as he will resign and make his home there).

Bt Lieut Col W. N. H. Beadle who is now on duty with Col Whittlesey is represented as being a suitable man for the place.

Please send him to me or some other man strong enough to fill the position and confer a lasting obligation on

Your Obt Servt  
O Brown  
Col Asst Comr

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Bu. Ref. Freedmen, &c.  
Richmond Va.  
Feby. 26, 1866  
Brown, O.  
Col. & Asst. Comr.

Acknowledges receipt of order for relief of Capt. C. B. Wilder.  
[STAMP] BUREAU R F & A L WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 27 1866

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3349 2/27/1866      *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3294

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[216, 217]

Raleigh Feb. 27, 1866

Dear General

Being alone and at leisure this evening, I propose to trouble you with a private letter. Like all the rest of the world, I presume you have been stirred up a little by the Veto. The people here are exultant. They seem to think our occupation is gone. But I have not so regard it. The new bill, as I told you, would not have changed my mode of operations (except for the worse in discontinuing my four general districts & making all the subdistricts directly subject to my orders). It contemplated furnishing large means; but that can be done under the present law when the appropriation bill comes up. On the whole we have not lost much except the morale of having the President's approval. That indeed is something, but we can do very well yet, if Congress will insist on keeping a sufficient military force here. The chief immediate danger is in a new Proclamation of Peace restoring the privilege of habeas Corpus. Without martial law we can do nothing. It will be impossible to try any criminal by Military Commission. If you have any influence with the President I hope you will use it just here; for without Martial law, I do not see how one of your own officers can be protected in the discharge of his duties.

Our N.C. Legislature has discussed the Negro testimony bill, & one house has passed it, with the proviso that it shall not go into effect until jurisdiction over freedmen is full committed to Civil Courts. The proviso swallows the whole bill. I am having a new Circular printed on that and other topics, which I have talked over with General Ruger.

I have matured & begun to put in practice a plan for getting all the dependents out of towns and upon farms, where they can partly at least earn their support. If I had means I would buy the farms, & sell off lots from time to time. As it is, I can only rent. My great difficulty will be to get mules & horses, and forage.

I shall send you an official paper requesting you to get authority from the Sec. of War to give or sell to certain Societies some of the Govt buildings, to be fitted up for School houses. The freedmen of Enfield for instance apply for a building in Weldon, which they will more and rebuild at their own expense. They have the money raised, and are impatient to begin the work. The Friends of Phil'a are willing to buy lots in several places, and put the buildings upon them, if we can give them a title to the property; but they are not willing to repair Govt buildings which may at any time be sold as <debts [CHECK ORIGINAL –Tape]> property.

I intended to write only a personal & friendly letter, but I am running <full> into business. I do not wish you to think that I am disheartened in the least by the unfavorable aspect of the times. We have already done more than we hoped for, & the good work will go on.

I see that your Lecture was everywhere well received, & I think it has done good.

My regards to Mrs. H., Chas. & all the rest.

Most Sincerely Yours

E. Whittlesey

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

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3350 2/27/1866    *From:* Shipherd

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3295

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Freedmen's  
Aid Commission,  
General Office  
444, Fourteenth Street,  
above, G.  
Washington

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[210]

[Letterhead]

American Freedmen's Aid Commission,  
General Office  
444, Fourteenth Street, above, G.  
Washington  
Matthew Simpson, President  
Jacob R. Shipherd, Secretary  
Feb 27 1866

My dear General:

This will be given you by Mr C L Tambling, the pioneer teacher of Texas, who was a college acquaintance & afterward a fellow work with me in the West. I think he will be able to tell you something of Texas affairs. Try him for ten minutes, at any rate. I go West tomorrow for 3 or 4 weeks.

Yours -  
Shipherd

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

American Freedmen's Aid Asso'n  
Washington D.C. Feb 27 / 66  
Shipherd  
Introduces Mr. C. L. Tambling  
Recd Feb 27, 1866

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3351 2/27/1866    *From:* William Silvey

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3296  
*Source:* Bowdoin

Office Special Agent  
Treasury Department  
Alexandria Va.

Commissioner of Freedmen  
Refugees & Abandoned  
Lands  
Washington D.C.

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[211]

Office Special Agent Treasury Department  
Alexandria Va. February 27th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedmen Refugees & Abandoned Lands  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

A few days since my friend Judge Underwood of the United States Court presented to you a petition from Francis H. Weymouth of this City for a position in your Department. I have been acquainted with Mr Weymouth some time and believe him to be a true loyal man. I know also that the colored people of this City look upon him very favorably. If you can give him a position in your Department I think you will confer a favor on the loyal men of this City and advance the interest and welfare of the colored race. Mr Weymouth has a very amiable Christian wife, a Lady from Maine, who from all I can learn would be a very efficient and valuable assistant to him in his labors among this class of people.

I am General  
Yours Very Respectfully  
William Silvey

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3352 2/27/1866 *From:* Deane

*To:* Dear Gen'l [OO Howard]

OOH-3297

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[214, 215]

Wash'n

Feb 27 [1866] [The year was written in pencil and agrees with the summary on the last page.]

Dear Gen'l

Our Prayer meeting for Colleges will be held at the Columbian Col Law Buildings on 5th St. on Thursday eve, and I trust you will be able to add to the interest of the meeting by your presence and words. I am not sure we have shall have a large meeting so far as numbers, but trust it will be a good and profitable one.

Your friend

Deane

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington Feb. 27 / 66

Deane

Prayer meeting Thursday evening at Col. College Law building for Colleges.

Recd. Feb. 28th 1866

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3353 2/27/1866 *From:* Anonymous

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3298

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[140]

[ca. February 27, 1866] [Written in pencil. No date was given. It was received Mar 14, 1866.]

Genl O.O. Howard  
Dr Sir

By reports in papers I noticed that you were present at a Lecture so called by the Negro Douglass, during which lecture he took occasion to speak very disrespectfully &c of the President & you sat still & approved. Now I am astonished at you remaining quiet. A military officer of the government you know that so much could not have been said against Mr Lincoln by a white man without being arrested & thrown into the old Capitol, while a negro be allowed to do what a white man would be punished for. I dont mind it in such men as Jnon Chase, WD Kelley & Mr Tawney & that ilk but I am astonished at your being present & concur at it.

[No signature]

[Written on the back side, in a different hand.]

Anonymous letter

Anonymous.

Complaining that Genl Howard listened in silence to language of Fred. Douglass.

Recd Mar 14th 1866

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3354 2/28/1866

*From:* H.L. Duguid

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3299

*Source:* Bowdoin

Young Mens' Christian  
Association  
Rooms, Pike Block,  
South Salina Street,  
Syracuse, N.Y.

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[219]

[Letterhead]

Young Mens' Christian Association  
Rooms, Pike Block, South Salina Street,  
Syracuse, N.Y.  
Feby 28 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

The Young Mens Christian Association of this City desires to secure a Lecture from you on the Freedmen of the South.

Can you make an appointment for us & what are your terms?

Awaiting an early reply, I remain

Yours Respy  
H.L. Duguid  
Ch'm Lect Com.

---

3355 2/28/1866 *From:* Lyman Bridges

*To:* Major Genl OO Howard

OOH-3300

Chicago Ills.

Comr. Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[218]

Chicago Ills. Feb 28. 1866

Major Genl OO Howard  
Comr. Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

I see by the papers that the Govmt is contracting to furnish freedmens dwellings in some portions of the country.

Will you do me the favor to inform me if such is the case and if so what number, cost etc.

I can furnish them cheaper than any one else for the <inst>.

Hoping that your health is good and to be remember to Brig Genl Howard.

I am Very Respy  
Your Obt. Svt.  
Lyman Bridges

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3356 2/28/1866 *From:* G.J. Ferriss

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3301

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[220, 221]

Washington D.C.  
February 28th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
General:

I have the honor to respectfully submit the following for your considerations.

The President of the Soldiers and Sailors National Union League, appointed Major Doughty, Mr Bates and myself a committee to wait upon the Mutual Homestead Protection Company, to ascertain what inducements they offered settlers going South. We called at your office several times but found you engaged and would not press an interview.

If not detrimental to you interests can you inform us by letter, what are your opinions of the company, and can you recommend the Company to the soldiers that are desirous of emigrating South? If not what other course would you advise us to take.

I am, General, Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
G.J. Ferriss

P.S. Address G.J Ferriss 395, 18th St. Head Quarters Vet. Res. Corps.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington D.C. Feb. 28th 1866

Ferriss, G.J.

Desires to know if Gen. Howard could recommend the Mutual Homestead Protection Company.

[written in pencil] Have not the means to knowing as to its reliability but will take every means

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3357 2/28/1866    *From:* E.W. [E. Whittlesey]    *To:* Dear Col. [Max] Woodhull

OOH-3302

New Berne, N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[222]

[ca - Feb. 28, 1866] [The date was written in pencil and is the date received in Washington.]

Dear Col. [Max] Woodhull

I write this at New Bern. The Veto is hailed by our enemies, & makes them more defiant and troublesome. Disorders & outrages increase. I must have officers; citizens are worthless.

Yours E.W.

[Written on the backside, in a different hand.]

New Berne, N.C.

Whittlesey, E.

Col & A.C.

States that the enemies of the Govt. hail the veto with delight.

Rec'd. Feb 28th 1866

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3358 2/28/1866

*From:* JM McKim

*To:* Gen Howard

OOH-3303

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Freedmen's  
and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.  
New York

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[223, 224]

[Letterhead]

American Freedmen's and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.

President - Bishop Matthew Simpson, Philadelphia.

Treasurer - George C. Ward, 76 John Street, New York.

Gen. Sec. - Lyman Abbott.

Cor. Sec. - J. Miller McKim.

Washington Sec. - J.R. Shipherd.

Western Sec. - J.M. Walden.

New York

Feb 28th 1866

Gen Howard

My dear Sir:

As I have written to our friends in England that I had the promise from you of about 50 copies of your report, I trust that the documents will soon be forthcoming. Doubtless they are soon on their way. If they come by express let us be at the expense.

I congratulate you on the honorable position you occupy before the loyal public in the matter now pending between the President & Congress.

Above the suspicion of partizanship, with an evident leaning toward the Executive - charged by some with undue deference & even submissiveness in that direction, - you stand vindicated before all classes as honestly & far the fully devoted to the great work officially confided to you.

With my respects to Col Woodhull on whom I am relying for trustworthy information in regard to the Bureau

I am dear sir

Yours Truly

JM McKim

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York, Feb. 28th 1866

McKim, J.M.

Asks for 50 copies of Genl. Howards report. States that the people are satisfied with the stand Gen. Howard has taken.

Rec'd March 1st 1866

Col. W to read & return

I have sent <three or these> reports, & need Mr McKims <receipt> for the <> shipt came in this message.

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3359 3/1/1866      *From:* JG Blaine

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3304

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96]

[Mar, 1866] [The date was written in pencil. See Note.]

My Dear General

I am much obliged for the circulars in regard to poor Harry - Could you send me half a dozen copies more - through the Post office & oblige

Yours truly  
JG Blaine

[Note. The reference to "poor Harry" is probably referring to the death of Capt. Harry M. Stinson, who died in Florida on 22 Feb 1866.]

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3360 3/1/1866

*From:* A. v. Steinwehr

*To:* Major Gen'l. O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3305

Wallingford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[83]

Wallingford, March 1st 1866

Major Gen'l. O.O. Howard  
My dear General,

I received lately your report & that of your brother, together with those of several Assistant Commissioners of your Bureau. They are to me of much interest for they contain the best information on the present state of the southern states. If I had not before been a radical, they would have been strongly effective to make me such. And yet President Johnson has seen fit to veto the Freedman's Bureau Bill! He is a demagogue & looks out for his reelection, & to judge from the present state of feeling in the country, it would not be surprising, if he should be successful. I fear that the southern voters together with the disloyal, half loyal & wavering elements in the north constitute at this moment the majority of the people. Unless a reaction takes place in the public mind, & that can only be brought about by the very best ability of congress, the South will come out of the great struggle victorious. The dualism of the North & South is a fact. One of the two sections must <prescribe> the basis of reconstruction to the other. Either we of the north must force the south to accept northern principles; - or the south will force us to accept southern principles. No other alternative, no middle ground is possible.

Your lecture in N. Haven was a complete success. The best men speak of it in the highest terms. I regret that you could not stay here a day or two longer. You would then have met those who do not like to push themselves. It is the light material, the mayor & the ward politicians, who always assume on such occasions to represent their city.

Mr. Bachelder sent me his beautiful plan or rather panorama of Gettysburg. I wrote to thank him for it; but he replied by informing me, that I was indebted to you for it. Please accept my best thanks for this fine present.

Have you heard anything in regard to the organization of the Army. I trust you will not forget the subject of our conversation in N. Haven in this connection and obtain an appointment for me.

Whenever the proper time comes for me to send an application, please let Mr. Aaden inform me of it, if you yourself are too busy.

With best regards to your brother & Mr Sladen I remain as ever

Very Truly Yours  
A. v. Steinwehr

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3361 3/1/1866

*From:* Mrs. J.F. Sprague

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3306

Milan O.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[85]

Milan O. March 1st /66

Genl Howard,  
My Dear Sir,

Agreeable to request, I am able, after some unavoidable delay, to forward to you, a Photograph likeness of Genl Sprague, which please accept with my best wishes, and if it is not asking too much, I should be very glad to receive a picture of yourself in return.

Yours very truly

Mrs. J.F. Sprague [Julia Frances (Choate) Sprague, wife of General John Wilson Sprague, Asst Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for the District of Arkansas.]

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3362 3/1/1866

*From:* T. P. Stevenson

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3308

1504 Brandywine St  
Philad'a

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[88]

1504 Brandywine St  
Philad'a, March 1st / 66

Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir.

I send you herewith copies of an appeal to the citizens of the United States, asking for such amendments to the National Constitution, as shall give to our government a distinctly Christian Character. The movement has thus far been approved and aided by Christians of denominations and by eminent men in all the walks of public life. Among those who have co-operated with the movement or given it their public sanction, I may refer to the Hon. Wm. Strong of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the Hon. B. Gratz Brown U.S. Senator from Missouri; to the entire faculties of Princeton Theological Seminary, and of the College, of New Jersey; to the Revd Francis Vinton D.D. Of Trinity Church New York, the Revd Benj'n Kurtz D.D. Of Baltimore, & the Revd Henry Smith, D.D. Of Lane Theological Seminary, Cincinnati.

We desire to secure from you such expression of approval as you may feel disposed to give. Please address as above.

Yours Respectfully  
T. P. Stevenson [Rev. Thomas Patton Stevenson]  
Chm'n Com. of Correspondence.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Phila. March 1st 1866  
Stevenson, T. P.

States that he has forward copies of an appeal to Congress for an amendment to give the Govt a Christian Character. Asks Gen Howard to give his support.

Recd March 3d, 1866

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3363 3/1/1866

*From:* Richard Wallach

*To:* Maj O.O. Howard

OOH-3309

*Source:* Bowdoin

Mayor's Office  
City Hall,  
Washington D.C.

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[90]

Mayor's Office  
City Hall,  
Washington D.C., Mar 1st 1866

My Dr. Sir,

I take pleasure in commending to you as a person whose statement may be relied on Mr Wm I <Inmon> who bears this

Respectfully  
Richard Wallach

Maj O.O. Howard

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3364 3/1/1866

*From:* Wm M Rapley

*To:* Maj. Wm Fowler

OOH-3334

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[130 ½]

Washington Mar 1st 1866

Maj. Wm Fowler

Sir

The deed of release for the "Dove" House has not yet reached me. The parties to the deed of release live out of the City, and I presume have neglected to sign and forward the same.

I have instructed my councillor to visit them. He will return on Monday, when I will execute the deed in fee, and call or send to you.

Very Respectfully

Wm M Rapley

Br M H James

---

3365 3/2/1866

*From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3307

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office,  
13 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia

Bureau of Freedmen &c.  
Washington, D.C.

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[86]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office,  
No. 13 Bank Street  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 13 Bank Street  
Jos. Patterson, Treasurer, Western Bank  
Rev. E.P. Smith, Secretary, 13 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia,  
March 2st 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard:  
Bureau of Freedmen &c.  
Washington, D.C.  
My Dear General -

The bearer of this, Mr J.B. Watkins of Richmond, Va. was long and well known to me before the war as a gentleman of high standing and estimable character; since the war closed he is one of the few who have shown their integrity by voluntarily coming forward and offering to discharge in full all monetary obligations incurred before the rebellion.

He now calls on you in regard to some matter of business in your department, and I would ask for him your most favorable consideration any statements made by Mr Watkins may be relied to their fullest extent, and any kindness which you can show him I will regard as shown to myself.

With renewed assurance of my high regard for yourself, I remain

Yours Very Truly  
Geo. H Stuart

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Philadelphia March 1, /66

Stuart, Geo. H.

Introduces Mr. J. B. Watkins of Richmond, Va.

Recd March 3d, 66

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3366 3/2/1866

*From:* Wm. Taylor

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3310

Cornwall [England]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[91]

Mar 2nd 1866

Dear Sir

I am happy to have the pleasure of remitting this little trifle as a proof of my sincere interests of your laudable enterprize to restore a part of the human race to the liberty which God bestows on all his creation. You will give me credit for this part of my hundred Dollars which I hope my Heavenly Father will enable me to pay.

I hope the good Lord will greatly bless you and smile with prosperity on the honor and well being of your once peaceful and prosperous Country and double your former glory as Job's was after his trials. Amen.

I have the honor to be,  
Your Friend and Servant  
Wm. Taylor near Cornwall [England]

3367 3/2/1866

*From:* Geo. Shepard

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3311

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[92, 93]

Bangor March 2, 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard  
My dear Sir,

I received your favor of Feb. 24th enclosing a check for one hundred dollars \$100, as a donation to Theol. Sem'y of this city. I thank you in behalf of the Sem'y for the generous gift. I remember, I had some compunctions that I had asked you for any thing, knowing that you were called to make so great sacrifices for the Country. But God has blessed the country; and has blessed us. The winter I met you in Augusta, I was endeavoring to collect \$7000, wh. was necessary to hold a donation by a gentleman in New York of \$13,000 constituting an endowment for another Professorship. This gentleman made his gift on condition the balance \$7000 be made out by friends in Maine. This balance was made out that winter. The foundations for the four Professors were all made out.

A little more than a year ago I called on my friend, the Hon. Ichabod Washburn of Worcester who married Elizabeth Cheever formerly of Hallowell. Mr Washburn two years before had given us \$10,000, the income of it to go to the support of indigent students. At this interview a year ago, he subscribed another \$10,000 to be added to the poor students fund & also subscribed \$10,000 for the increase of the Library.

Mr Washburn will not pay this other \$10,000 on the poor students fund till the last of the present year, and the forepart of the next. This fund is deficient till he makes his payment. We have not enough the present year by a little over \$1,000. We give to each student who needs it, \$80 for the year from our fund.

I propose to turn your gift into this channel – no where else can it do so much good or give so much relief.

With your consent we will so appropriate it.

I am with great respect  
Most truly yours  
Geo. Shepard

[Written on the last page in different hand.]

Bangor, March 2nd 1866

Shepard, Geo.

Acknowledges receipt of check for \$100.00.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 5 1866

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3368 3/2/1866

*From:* M Blair

*To:* Maj Gnl [OO] Howard

OOH-3312

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87]

My dear Genl.

The bearer Mr Watkins of Richmond visits you on business. He is a connexion of the "Blair" family, & that I know will secure him such conditions in his business as your sense of duty will allow.

Yrs truly

M Blair [This was probably Montgomery Blair, former Postmaster General in the Lincoln Administration]

Washington Mch 2, 66

Maj Gnl Howard

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3369 3/2/1866

*From:* Fitzhugh Lee

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-3313

Richland Stafford Co Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Richland Stafford Co Va  
March 2 1866

My dear Howard,

You will find enclosed an application [OOH-3314] from my mother for the restoration of a few hundred acres of land we have in Fairfax Co. You may recall that in your letter to me of Sept 15 1865 you counseled the above course to be pursued, and I now avail myself of your kind advice.

I believe the last time I saw you, we were Asst Instructors at West Point together – you of Ethics & I of Cavalry for I recollect that I promised you to go to Church for three Sundays in succession. What manifold changes since! Now you are a Maj. Gen. Commissioner &c and I am a reconstructed harmonized “Insurgent” writing to you about earthly possessions.

If it is proper that the application should be addressed to some Asst Commissioner you must excuse the omission for I am so far out of the way of such things that I am ignorant as to who he is or where stationed.

I am now quietly farming down on Potomac River just above the mouth of Acquia Creek, having Cincinnatus like made the exchange of sword and ploughshare. My address is Garrisonville Post Office Stafford Co Va and I shall be very glad to hear what action has been taken in the matter, causing, a letter from a real live kicking double dyed rebel to a loyal officer for I am yrs very truly

Fitzhugh Lee [USMA Class of 1856. Son of Sydney Smith and Anna Maria (Mason) Lee and nephew of General Robert E. Lee.]

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3370 3/2/1866

*From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

*To:* My very dear Friend  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-3315

Phil'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[637]

Phil'a March 2nd 1866

My very dear Friend

I was very glad to receive your letter, it came just as I was leaving for the Arsenal where I spent the day very agreeably with the Bench's who enquired most kindly for you. My conscience has been reproaching me for not replying to your letter this morning –but I was busy reading “Winifred Bertram” by the author of the “Schonberg Cotta Family”. I want you to read it, for I am sure you would enjoy it. To days mail brought me a letter from Clara from California I think she is becoming more satisfied, but she complains of want of strength for her ordinary duties. I have just finished a letter to John enclosing her letters. John has just been made Adjutant of the 8th he is still in Baltimore. Emma Willard is very soon to be married to a Mr <Scustator> whose first wife was Louisa Davies, daughter of the Prof. and her intimate friend Katie Willard is also to be married soon. Were you not sorry and shocked to hear of poor Seth Williams –they fear he has lost his mind hopelessly. I can hardly make you realize how fully we all enjoyed and appreciated Dear General Howard's visit, and regretted that we did not ask you to rest here on your way through from Maine, and now about Louisa (whose name you remembered rightly) I have not seen her or heard of her, but once in five years –then Brother John saw her in Washington. I think he said she was married – her name was Louisa Adams – she is very light colored & lived with Dr Edwards of the Army at Judge Crawfords the corner of 7th & G I think. She nursed me when Edwin was born & Mrs Dodge, Mrs Schofield &c. I think perhaps that Matilda Madison a colored woman living on the N.W. corner of 14th & I streets might know of some good efficient servants –but my friend, it is ten years since I left the District, and I may be sending you on a wild goose chase. I will write to Mother & ask her. Do you not know Mrs Maynadieri? She could help you out of any domestic troubles I think. She always has good servants. I hope you may succeed in obtaining good servants for without them housekeeping is up-hill work. You must enjoy having your Mother with you. I hope to know her some day. My love to her – and your brother Charles.

Tell dear Jamie that Edwin and Clara often speak of him. I hope some time the children may have the pleasure of being together. I do hope at some future time to come to Washington for a few days. I should feel a child again. I daresay I should miss many loved faces, and find many hearts changed. Kiss the children for me – love to your noble Husband – and reserve as much as you wish for your own dear self. All the family join me in warmest love to you – believe me ever to be lovingly your friend

Sarah B. F. Greble

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3371 3/2/1866

*From:* William C. Child

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3316

American Tract Society  
Tract House, 28 Cornhill  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[352]

[Letterhead]

American Tract Society  
Charitable Department  
Committee of Charities  
Rev. E.B. Webb, D.D.  
S.G. Bowdlear, Esq.  
Rev. William Hague, D.D.  
Rev. William C. Child, Secretary  
Tract House, 28 Cornhill  
Boston  
Mar. 2d 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I have the honor, as the Clerk of the Executive Committee of the American Tract Society at Boston, to transmit you a copy of a vote passed by the Com. at its last meeting, as follows,

“That the thanks of this Committee be tendered to Major General Howard, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, for the warm interest which he has taken in the Society's work among the Freedmen, & for the facilities which he has furnished the Society for distributing its publications among them by the agency of the Bureau.”

This vote was unanimously passed, and but feebly expresses the appreciation of your efforts, dear Sir, on behalf of the Freedmen, & the work of the Society among them.

Sincerely Yours  
William C. <Child [Torn page]>

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3372 3/3/1866

*From:* H A Risley

*To:* Gen'l OO Howard

OOH-3317

*Source:* Bowdoin

Commercial Intercourse  
with and in States  
declared in insurrection  
Seventh Agency  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D.C.

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[97, 98]

[Letterhead]

Commercial Intercourse  
with and in States declared in insurrection  
Seventh Agency  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D.C.  
March 3d 1866

Gen'l OO Howard  
Commissioner &c

Will allow me to introduce R.B. Cunningham Esq formerly of Va. now of Miss. who has some business with your department and desires to know you and be known by you. He is commended to my confidence without qualification & in warm terms by A.S. Buford Esq. Of Dansville Va. <Presdnt> of the Richmond & Danville & also of the Piedmont Railroad Va & N.C. a christian gentleman entirely reliable and worthy of consideration, who requests me to procure a personal interview with you for Mr Cunningham and to certify to his worth.

Veryt Respectfully  
Your obt Sevt  
H A Risley [Harrison A. Risley]  
Sup Spl Agt

[Written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]  
7th Agency Treas. Dept.  
Washington, D.C.  
March 3d, 1866.  
Risley, H. A.  
Sup Spl Agent  
Introduces R.B. Cunningham Esqr. Of Miss.  
Recd March 3rd 1866

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3373 3/3/1866

*From:* Yardley Warner

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3318

Germantown  
Philad'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Germantown 3/3 66  
Philad'a

Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

We have difficulty in finding suitable teachers for the Freedmen; and more difficulty in harmonizing them with the people of the South; and some difficulty in harmonizing them with each other. Now do us the favor to say how the government School at Hampton Va answers\*. We will be satisfied with a yea or nay without reasons. But our reason for the inquiry is that we are thinking of extending the monitorial plan still more, instead of having so many teachers.

Respectfully  
Yardley Warner,  
on Behalf of Friends Assn of Philada for Relief of Col'd Freed'n

\* Does it meet expectations?

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Germantown, March 3rd 1866

Warner, Yardley

States that there is difficulty in finding suitable teachers –difficulty in harmonizing them with the Southern people –and amongst themselves. Asks if the school at Hampton answers the expectations. Is thinking of extending the monitorial system.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 5 1866

Monitorial good. <Genl more <> &c>

[Address]

Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington

[Postmark] PHILA PA. MAR 3

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3374 3/3/1866

*From:* Harper & Brothers

*To:* Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-3319

*Source:* Bowdoin

Harper & Brothers,  
Publishers  
Franklin Square, New  
York

Chief of the "Freedmen's  
Bureau" &c.  
Washington

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[100]

[Letterhead]

Harper & Brothers, Publishers  
Franklin Square, New York  
March 3d 1866

Gen'l O.O. Howard  
Chief of the "Freedmen's Bureau" &c.  
Washington,

We are desirous of sending one of our best artists, (Mr. A.R. Wand) through Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, &c for the purpose of making careful sketches for "Harper's Weekly" illustrative of the social condition, the agricultural, manufacturing interests, &c of the Southern people, &c.

If you think that you can facilitate him in his journeyings, &c. by giving him a Letter, we shall feel greatly obliged by your doing so. And we trust you are sufficiently well acquainted with the character of our paper, to be assured than any confidence reposed in us will not be abused.

Hoping for the pleasure of hearing from you, at your early convenience, we remain with high respect,

Yr. Obd't. Servants,  
Harper & Brothers.

[Written sideways on the bottom third of the back page, in a different hand.]

New York, March 3d, 1866  
Harper Brothers Publishers

Are about to send Mr A.R. Wand thro the south for the purpose of making sketches. Asks a letter – introductory to the officers of the Bureau in the South

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F. & A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 5 1866

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3375 3/5/1866

*From:* Jean Goncet

*To:* Monsieur le General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3320

Geneve (27, a. 181,  
Terrassiere)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[101]

[Letterhead]

HISTORIE GENERALE

Biographique et Genealogique du Dix-Neuvieme Siecle

En Course de Publication a Geneve – Le 3e et le 4e Tome, Grand in-folio, Sosnt Sous Presse.

L'Adresse est a M. Jean Goncet, a la Direction de l'Histoire generale, a Geneve

Geneve (27, a. 181, Terrassiere), le

5 Mars 1866

Monsieur le General,

N'ayant pas en l'honneur de recevoir une reponses de votre part, sur la demande de renseignements j'ai cru devoir vous adresser pour etablis a votre nom un article <assey> complet, on seulement une mention, je vious vous tomovigner le desir de comsaitre, an moins ce que vous

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3376 3/6/1866

*From:* H. Wilson

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3321

Senate Chamber

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[102]

Senate Chamber  
March, 6th, 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

If in your power I wish you would give some employment to Col E. Leabod. He is in full sympathy with our cause and a gentleman of intelligence and character.

Yours truly  
H. Wilson [Henry Wilson, Senator from Massachusetts]

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3377 3/6/1866

*From:* Clara H. Harris

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3322

15th St. Cor of H.  
Washington March 6th

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Washington March 6th [1866]

Genl Howard,

A friend, whom I should like to oblige has written me, asking me to procure your autograph. If you will so very kind as to write your name twice upon a sheet of paper, & send it to me, I should be very greatly obliged.

Very truly yours,  
Clara H. Harris  
15th St. Cor of H.

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3378 3/8/1866

*From:* Nelson A. Miles  
Major Genl US Vols  
Hd. Qrs. Military District  
of  
Fortress Munroe Va

*To:* Major Genl OO Howard

OOH-3323

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[107, 108]

Hd. Qrs. Military District of  
Fortress Munroe Va  
March 8 1866

Dear General

There was a large meeting of colored people at Hampton today, with a view of going to Florida and taking up Government lands under the Homestead act. But as they have been deceived so many times, it is hard to make them believe it is for their interest to go. There is to be another meeting next Tuesday and I desire a word from you simply stating that they will receive Lands, transportation, and the protection of the Bureau. They have every confidence in what you say, and if you will write me a line giving your encouragement, so that I can present it, I believe it will be of great service. There are thousands here, who are destitute and without labor. Hoping I may receive an answer before Tuesday next.

I have the honor to remain  
With the highest respect  
Your obt Servt  
Nelson A. Miles  
Major Genl US Vols

Major Genl OO Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Dist. of Fortress Monroe, March 8, 1866

Miles, Nelson A.  
Brevet Maj. Genl.

States that the freed people are contemplating going to Florida, to take up lands under the provisions of the Homestead law – and asks Gen. Howard for a letter to be read to them, showing what the Gov't will do for them.  
Recd. March 12th 1866

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3379 3/8/1866

*From:* Wait Talcott  
R. Emerson Jr  
Collector's Office,  
United States Internal  
Revenue,  
Second District of  
Illinois  
Rockford

*To:* Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-3324

*Source:* Bowdoin

Commissioner Freedmen  
Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[109]

[Letterhead]

Collector's Office,  
United States Internal Revenue,  
Second District of Illinois  
Rockford  
March 8 1866

Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard Commissioner Freedmen Bureau  
Washington D.C.

Dr Sir:

You may recollect the writer as calling on you a few weeks since with a letter of introduction from Senator Trumbull, to confer with you in regard to establishing a High or Normal School in some southern city by a benevolent association. We are progressing favorably & are helping one school of the kind now.

We wish to send one of our number Prof. J. Emerson of Beloit College, Wis. south in the month of April to explore and decide where we shall make our main effort. May we be so bold as request a letter of general introduction for him signed by you to the Officers of the Bureau at the South, particularly, Alabama, Mississippi, & Louisiana, so as to enable him to obtain from them such information as he may need both for the purpose of deciding where to locate the school, and also that can be used before the public in such articles as the enclosed (that is from his pen as one of the "Staff" of our leading Chicago Paper). Also any printed matter that may be of use to him, and convenient to you to send will be thankfully received. The letter may if you please be enclosed to us.

May God bless you in your work and continue you long in it.

Very Respectfully

Wait Talcott

Collector 2nd Dist. Illinois

R. Emerson Jr

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 12 1866

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3380 3/8/1866

*From:* James F Gyles

*To:* General [OO] Howard  
U.S.A.

OOH-3325

Saint Joseph Missouri

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110]

Saint Joseph Missouri  
8th March 1866

General Howard  
U.S.A.  
Washington D.C.  
General,

There is in this Section of our country a movement whereby it is hoped to secure a Home for the Orphan & Widows of our fallen Heroes. You will therefore I trust excuse my trespassing upon your time, in order to obtain the name & address of the Sec'y or Chairman of the association in Birmingham England whose benevolence have been so marked in their contributions on several occasions.

I had the address of one of the members of the association furnished by a Gentleman who assured us that a very liberal contribution would be made by the association for our Orphans if applied for, but unfortunately the address has been lost or mislaid.

With sentiments of the highest respect  
I beg to subscribe myself  
General  
Your mo Obt Sv  
James F Gyles  
Trustee S.A. & W. Home

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3381 3/8/1866

*From:* J.W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3326

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters Asst.  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Va.

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[111]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia  
Richmond, Va.,  
March 8th 1866

To Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com. Bureau Ref. &c  
General

I have the honor of reporting in part – as the case in Parkersburg W.Va. calls for dispatch – that all the facts there as presented to me by Genl Jackson – Rev Mr Colburn & others, with a full hearing given to the Freedmen – seem to require that the latter have liberty to remove the building in which they now occupy for school purposes, to land which they now occupy for school purposes, to land which they will procure. If this liberty is granted it will be satisfactory to all parties. The case is one which seems to require this course, as the school is prosperous, & should not be broken up, and Genl Jackson has so thoroughly stirred up the people that they will not permit the school to remain peaceably where it is, can you permit the Freedmen to remain where they are through the present term, while in the mean time their land will be prepared for the removal?

Very Respectfully Yours &c  
J.W. Alvord  
Insp &c

[Written sideways on the back page in a different hand.]  
Richmond Va May 8th 1866  
Alvord, J.W.  
Concerning the schools at Parkersburg  
Recd March 10th 1866

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3382 3/8/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson  
Brig Gen Vol  
Savannah

*To:* Major Genl OO Howard

OOH-3327

Comr Bureau R. F. A L  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112, 113]

Savannah Mar 8th 1866

Dear General

Enclosed I send you a slip cut from the New York Times of the 25th ult. I need only tell you that "Quondam's" last communication is quite as untruthful as the one refuted by "Aliquis". The agents of whom "Quondam" speaks so contemptuously are citizens of this state selected by the citizens of their committee themselves and endorsed in nearly all instance by the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention in accordance with an arrangement made with them. Their <imschictia instia [CHECK ORIGINAL]> of being so immense higher than that of the Governor & Judiciary &c is simply that allowed a justice of the peace by the laws of this state. Not even charges against any one of them like those refered by "Quondam" have been preferred at my office much less <purraen [CHECK ORIGINAL]>.

You can easily understand that they are much more likely to sin against the negro than for the white man in behalf of the negro.

Yours in haste  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Gen Vol  
A E

Major Genl OO Howard  
Comr Bureau R. F. A L  
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the back of the second page, in a different hand.]

Savannah, Ga.  
March 8th 1866  
Davis Tillson  
Brig. Genl. Vols.

Encloses a slip from the New York Times of 25th Feby. 66. [Not transcribed]

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3383 3/9/1866

*From:* Thos. W. Stringer

*To:* Genl O O Howard

OOH-3328

Vicksburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[130]

Vicksburg, March 9th 1866

Genl O O Howard

Sir

As the paster of the African Methodist Episcople Church of this City you will please permit me to ask a favor of you, after stating a few facts. We have perchesed a house of worship for the sum of \$6000. and paid four \$4000. dollars and have only three month more to pay the balance which we could very esely do if the Trustees of Methodist church south would give us the Lot that we bough and paid for out of our own money we paid them one thousand dollars for the Lot before the war & then deposited between four & five hunnderd dollars in their hands for safe keeping but they will not give us nether the money nore the Lot without we will come under their church south which we will not as if we have to go in the old fields and worship god as we have had to do a many time now the favor that we wish to ask is the Lone of two thousand dollars for one year we will give the propety for security and if there is any way that you can assist us in giting our Lot out of the hands of the Trustees of the Methodist church south you will confer a great Blessing on a poor people by doing so.

Yours in Christ

Thos. W. Stringer

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3384 3/9/1866

*From:* Samuel McKee

*To:* Major General O O  
Howard

OOH-3329

House Representatives  
Washington D.C.

Commissioner Freedmen &c  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[114]

House Representatives  
Washington D.C. March 9th 1866

Major General O O Howard  
Commissioner Freedmen &c  
Washington D.C.  
Dr Sir

I take great pleasure in recommending to your favorable consideration Colonel E Szbad who served with distinction in our Army during the Rebellion although not a Native of our Land. He desires a place in your Bureau in this City, if such can be given him. Having served with the Colonel & known him personally during & since the war I recommend him as well worthy your attention

Vy Respectfully  
Samuel McKee

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3385 3/10/1866

*From:* Wright Rives

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3330

Executive Mansion  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[118]

[Letterhead]

Executive Mansion  
Washington D.C.  
March 10th 1866

General

I read your letter to Gen Fiske to the President and told him what you said. After having read it he said hold on to it for a little while. You had better speak to him about it when you see him next.

Truly your friend  
Wright Rives [USMA, Class of 1861]

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3386 3/10/1866     *From:* H. L. Shields

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard  
U.S. Army

OOH-3331

Troy, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[116, 117]

Private

Troy, N.Y. March 10 1866

Maj. Genl. Howard  
U.S. Army  
General

On Jan'y 20, '66 I did myself the pleasure to call on you at your office. I was sent by the Govt. to make a report on the Agricultural Condition of So. Carolina - (thro the Agr. Depart).

At your suggestion I saw Genls. Scott & Tillson - the former in So Ca the latter at Savannah. I talked frankly with both - & stated what I had seen of mismanagement & suffering. I had no authority to make an official report on these matters - & consequently have not done so.

I have however just received from the Comr of Agriculture a letter from which I make the following extracts.

"I have received these reports made by you on the agricultural Condition of South Carolina - while in the main were satisfactory I regret, however, to say that your action while there was not as satisfactory to some as I could have desired."

To this I replied today "I understood the object of the department to be to get at the truth and therefore sought information from every source regardless of recent political positions - from those highest in rank in our military service to those who had lately been in arms against us. In so doing I may have offended some who desired to control my action & if so I have no regrets to offer. My reports will show if I have been fair & honest in my views. If the President and Genl. Grant are severely criticized, surely I can scarcely expect to escape."

Having full faith, General, in your honesty of purpose & knowing my own heart I beg that if you have time you will peruse my report on the subject of "labor & freed men" & see if I merit any condemnation from secret service men.

I am most Resp'y  
Yr. Mos. Ob. St.  
H. L. Shields

As I am comparatively unknown to you, I refer you to Genls. Schriver & Nichols - Adjts. Genls. Dept.

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3387 3/10/1866 *From:* Giles A Smith

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3332

Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[119, 120]

Washington DC Mar 10th 1866

Dear General

On arriving at my Hotel last evening I found your note referring to my call at your Head Quarters. I was very sorry such an impression had reached you that I was offended.

I asked General Hoge who accompanied me if I did or said anything that the orderly could construe into displeasure and he fully exculpated me from any such rudeness. When I enquired for you he asked me if I wished to see you on business and I replied in the negative. He then told me you were engaged with General Swain and could not probably be seen for some little time. I then asked him to give you my card by that I could not wait to see you and left without waiting for any reply from you feeling particular about disturbing you while engaged on business. I assure you I had no other feeling and deeply regret that such a misconception should have been placed upon my actions.

Very Truly Yours  
Giles A Smith [Maj. Gen. Vols.]

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]  
Washington Mar. 10th 1866  
Smith, Giles A.

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3388 3/10/1866 *From:* B.H. Cadbury

*To:* Esteemed Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3333

*Source:* Bowdoin

Birmingham and  
Midland  
Freedmen's-Aid  
Association  
29, George Street,  
Edgbaston.

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[121, 122] [CHECK ORIGINAL –taped/glued edges are difficult to read]

[Letterhead]

Birmingham and Midland  
Freedmen's-Aid Association  
Lord Calthorpe, President  
Chairman and Treasurer, Edward Gem, Esq., J.P., Charlotte Street.  
Honorary Secretaries  
B.H. Cadbury, 29, George Street, Edgbaston.  
Arthur Albright, 30, George Street, Edgbaston.  
William Morgan, Waterloo Street

3rd Mo. 10th 1866

Esteemed Friend

Thou may have seen my name mixed up with others in this Assn's work of mercy for whom there hast so manfully evinced so much determination & benevolence, & it has afforded me great pleasure to be a humble worker in the same direction. At different times since we commenced the work we have put forth papers stimulating the public mind in a direction to do good. The establishing of sewing circles has produced thousands of garments which your government have admitted duty free. Tools & working implements were the object of orther appeals.

<What> for Blankes last winter enabled us to forward many thousand pairs.

Within the last two weeks we see a tempting offer of <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> on easy terms & have put forth the enclosed paper No 19 which seems likely to produce some money though it may not be to the extent we could wish.

The object of my writing is to ask of thee what security we shall have, that after the people have taken possession, cleared the land, built huts & settled their families on it, that they will not be disturbed.

A letter from thee on these points I have no doubt would induce many of our Assns to contribute, & those who have expended their funds we should endeavour to induce to make a fresh effort for this especial object.

I read in the Star of today thy assuring letter to the Comrs to do their duty & report neglect. I do not quite <understand [CHECK ORIGINAL]> Johnsons speech, but I hope for the best & that he does understand the constitution of the People he has to govern but there is one part of your constitution that I do understand, that the People do govern whatever the veto of a President may be.

Wishing thee success in thy work I am thine truly  
B.H. Cadbury

May we ask for an immediate reply.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 23 1866

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3389 3/10/1866 *From:* O.F. Wallace

*To:* Maj Gen. O.H. Howard

OOH-3348

Box 843  
Monmouth Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Monmouth Illinois, Mch 10th 66.

Maj Gen. O.H. Howard,  
Dr Sir -

At the last meeting of the Philadelphian Literary Society of Monmouth College it was agreed upon to have a course of Lectures in our City for benefit of said Soc. And accordingly I have the pleasure of addressing you a note to know if you will do us the honor of delivering for us a Lecture. We design to have Gen Butler, Hon. Colfax, Gough, Wendall Phillips & others. Please inform us at your earliest convenience whether or not you will come, and if so, at what time and upon what terms.

Respectfully &c  
O.F. Wallace  
Cor. Sec. Phila. Soc

Box 843 Monmouth Illinois

---

3390 3/12/1866 *From:* Smith Pratt

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-3335

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[123]

Washington, D.C.  
March 12, 1866

O.O. Howard  
Maj. Genl Comdg.  
Bureau F. & A. L'ds  
Genl

The Baptist Society <reading> in the vicinity of 9th St. East and C. St. North are desirous of obtaining your influence with the Hon. Sec'y of War, for the purpose of buying some gov't Buildings on good terms, that we may erect it as a house of worship.

I have the honor Genl of  
Remaining respectfully  
Your obdt. Serv't  
Smith Pratt,  
for the Society,

---

3391 3/12/1866 *From:* Sam. M. Sprole

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
USA

OOH-3336

Newburgh, N.Y.

Washington DC

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124, 125]

Newburgh, N.Y.  
Mch. 12, 1866

General,

I take the liberty of addressing you in relation to the possibility of my obtaining a position in the Freedmen's Bureau, either in an Executive or Educational capacity.

As, probably you are aware, shortly after the Gettysburgh Campaign I resigned my Army commission, believing there was little probability if not being of any further use in the Service (or out of it). However the fears of my friends were happily disappointed, and the quiet and nursing of home in a comparatively short time recuscitated & restored me mentally & physically. On my entire recovery I accepted the position of Mathematical & Mil. Instructor in the Mt. Pleasant Mil. Academy, Sing Sing N.Y. where my engagement expired the first of the year, when I had anticipated going to the Pacific coast in a mercantile capacity, but subsequent advices compelled me to relinquish my design, and I now find myself without employment, and at a season of the year when mutations either in educational or business establishments are of rare occurrence.

Knowing that in the wide field occupied by your Bureau there are many positions of labor and responsibility to be filled, and prompted by the recollection of a great kindness done me in my misfortune, I am induced to ask your <interest [CHECK ORIGINAL –glue/tape on edge of page 2]> in submitting my name as a candidate for employment in the South.

I can, if <advisable>, furnish endorsements of such a character respecting my ability as an Instructor, or capacity & energy as an Executive officer as must tend to a favorable consideration of my application.

Begging pardon for my freedom and feeling deeply grateful for service rendered me in the past,

I am  
Your ob't. Serv't.  
Sam. M. Sprole

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard USA  
Washington DC

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Newburg, N.Y. Mar. 12th 1866  
Sprole, Saml. M.  
Would like a position in the Bureau  
Recd March 14th 1866

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3392 3/12/1866 *From:* J H Hodges

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3337

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[126]

Washington 12 March 1866

Dear Sir:

A reply came from Mr. Barnes this morning. He says he can say nothing officially. But, after consulting two other members of the Finance Committee, he has "no doubt the Trustees will assure the purchase and see the money paid"; i.e. \$13,550. for the four lots; and that we had better secure them. Still he thinks it would be "proper" meaning "better" perhaps, if we could obtain the refusal of them till after the meeting of their Committee on the 14th.

We have made an appointment with Towles, the Agent of the owners, to meet him at 7 o'clock this evening at his office, on the north side of H St. east of Ninth, the building west the corner house. It is a low office, with Towles' name thereon.

It seems to us better to close the contract at once, if you can lend your personal guaranty.

Mr. Barnes suggests that the promise of the money down on the I St. may induce Towles to take \$1300. for the lot.

We are to have the refusal also of the two next lots north until 1 July.

May we hope you can meet us?

Very Truly &c  
J H Hodges

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

---

3393 3/12/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Gen Asst  
Com.

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3338

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
States of Kentucky and  
Tennessee.  
Assistant  
Commissioner's Office  
Nashville, Tenn.

Comr &c  
Washington D.C.

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[129]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
States of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Assistant Commissioner's Office

Nashville, Tenn.,

Mar 12th 1866

General

I have the honor to introduce herewith Peter Bonesteel Esq of New York; the gentleman who at the instance of <Gen.> "W.C" Ketchum came to this District for duty for a short time. I commend him to your confidence, and esteem.

I have directed that he make his Report on Kentucky direct to you – as this special work is all he has done – and I would like it to appear to the public, if it does, appear as a vindication of my own reports.

Very Respectfully  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Gen Asst Com.

Maj Genl. Howard  
Comr &c  
Washington D.C.

[Note: The letter summary had been cut off.]

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3394 3/12/1866 *From:* J.A. Hawley

*To:* Dear Bro - [J. W. Alvord]

OOH-3339

Vicksburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131]

Vicksburg Mar 12 1866

Dear Bro - [possibly J. W. Alvord]

The Afr. Meth. Ch. here are in serious trouble. They have bot a house (ch) for \$6000. worth about 8000. & have paid about 4000. They are in danger of losing it for the want of the 2000. until they can raise it which they can certainly do in a reasonable time –if they can only get time. They raised the 4000. in little over a year & it has been the col'd peoples only place for some time – it is of vast consequence to the whole col'd people here - & must be saved some how. The cit'ns are determined to drive them out if possible - & divisions are springing up among them in consequence of their difficulties –if they can save the house as a rallying point it makes a permanent institution, but many fear to give, lest they lose it after all. Nothing is so important to the people of this whole region just now as this.

Now I suggest a remedy. Col. T. has \$85,000. of Bureau money locked in his safe, & it will not be used for a year at least. Let 2000. of this idle money be loaned to the church, with or without interest – taking a mortgage on the whole property (unencumbered worth 4 times the amount) for one year. It costs nothing, & saves the people from persecution, & division, & defeat, & great loss.

Do try & get the Gen. to order it. Mr Stringer the Pastor is Chairman of our Con. Bank Com. a strong & good man. With the house he can do more for the col'd people here than any other agency. If he loses that, he is a failure, & so are the people religiously.

I have some good reason to think that Col T. is in fault about these Division among the Col'd people. Allow me to say that I think it is just like him to carry his point about the Bank by breaking down the Chm of the Con. Com. whose leading men are HP Scott, C.P. Head, Davis Fort, J. Fields, CH Fishback & I dont know how many more.

Dont delay the consideration of this matter - as time is all important, & strain a point with the Gen. to save the Ch.

Yours very truly  
J.A. Hawley

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Bureau of R.F. and A.L.

Mch. 21st 1866

Respectfully referred to Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard by request of J.W. Alvord  
S.A. Terry, Clerk

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3395 3/12/1866    *From:* Darius H. Ingraham    *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3340                      Portland, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133]

Portland, Maine,  
March 12 1866

General:

By reference to the enclosed programme, you will see that the citizens of Portland are to hold a Fair in April, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of deceased soldiers.

The Committee are very desirous of receiving an autograph letter from you, in a full-sized letter sheet.

I am, general,

Very respectfully yours  
Darius H. Ingraham  
Chairman Executive Com.

To  
Maj Gen O.O. Howard

[Clipping announcing the fair to aid the Widows and Orphans of the Deceased Soldiers.]

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3396 3/12/1866 *From:* Wm E Spalding

*To:* Majr Wm Fowler

OOH-3341

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133 ½]

Washington March 12th 1866

Majr Wm Fowler

Dear Sir

The papers necessary to transfer the Dove house would have been executed three days since if your counsel had been instructed to draw the Deed. I have just seen him and directed him to have them done by twelve o'clock this M. The parties are now in the city and will execute them to day and you can have them to morrow.

Yours &c

Wm E Spalding

---

3397 3/13/1866

*From:* William C. Child

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3342

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Tract Society  
Charitable Department  
Committee of Charities  
Tract House, 28 Cornhill  
Boston

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[134]

[Letterhead]

American Tract Society  
Charitable Department  
Committee of Charities  
Rev. E.B. Webb, D.D.  
S.G. Bowdlear, Esq.  
Rev. William Hague, D.D.  
Rev. William C. Child, Secretary  
Tract House, 28 Cornhill  
Boston  
Mar. 13th 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I write for the purpose of inquiring if you would be so kind as to make an address before our Society at its next Anniversary in may, either in New York, or Boston, or if convenient & agreeable to you, in both places. I am certain, if you could make in consistent with your pleasure & your other duties, great good would result from the address you might deliver, especially as our work is so largely among that class which is your especial care.

Hoping soon to hear from you, & that favorably, I remain

Sincerely Yours  
William C. Child  
Aec. Am. Tr. Soc.  
Boston

P.S. Our meeting in N.Y. will be May 9th, & in Boston, May 30th.

3398 3/13/1866

*From:* Charles Nordhoff

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3343

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of The Evening  
Post,  
41 Nassau Street, Cor.  
Liberty  
New York

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[135, 136]

[Letterhead]

Office of The Evening Post,  
41 Nassau Street, Cor. Liberty  
New York,  
March 13 1866

To Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
&c &c &c  
Dr Sir

The recent report <append>. I <propose> <commisioner> of th Freedman's Bureau for Arkansas leads me to ask you for some acct. of th number of white persons supported or cared for in all th South by th Freedman's Bureau. When th Bureau is discussed it is always as a negro institution. It will be well I think to call attention to th fact that it benefits whites also – and how many.

If you think with me I will be obliged to you for the information – and if th No. in each state could be given so much th better.

Yours Resp.  
Charles Nordhoff  
(one of the Editors of th Evg Post.)

[Written in a different hand.]

Leave to furnish the information so far as consistent with service  
E W Slaven

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Office N.Y. Evening Post  
March 13th 1866  
Nordhoff, C.  
Asst. Editor

Asks for figures showing number of whites and blacks drawing rations in the South.  
Recd. March 14th 1866

[Attached is a clipping from the N.Y. Evening Post of March 13, 1866, entitled "White Men and the Freedmen's Bureau."]

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3399 3/13/1866

*From:* S.J. Bowen

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3344

P.O. Washington D.C.

Com'r Bureau of Freedmen  
&c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[137, 138]

P.O. Washington D.C.  
March 13th 1866

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau of Freedmen &c  
Dear Sir:

Our Association is about to send out Mrs. Griffin to collect funds in aid of the object we have in view, and at our meeting last evening I was requested to ask from you a note similar to the memorandum enclosed, which she will use in case any doubt is ever raised as to Mrs. G's real character and purpose.

If you can furnish such a paper and will send it under cover to me you will confer a favor on our Association and aid us in procuring such aid as we are now in need of.

Truly your friend &c  
S.J. Bowen  
Pres't. N.F.R. Association

The National Freedmen's Relief Association for this District, Cooperating with this Bureau in this District, having, from long continuance in the work, a thorough knowledge of the wants and manifest desire for the elevation of the Freed people, receives through their general collecting Agent, Mrs. Josephine S. Griffin, who is well acquainted with the general details of this field, my hearty commendation and sympathy in their appeal to the Benevolent Public.

(Of course the above can be varied to suit your views and wishes. S.J.B.)

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3400 3/13/1866 *From:* W H Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3499

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[32]

Mar 13 / 66

My dear Otis

Can you spare Charles about the 25th of next month. I want him to look after me & take care of my sister Laura during the wedding festivities which approach.

The time is fixed for the 26 April in New York but if you can spare him a day or two before that it will be better. I shall also want him here for a day sometime in June when other intends to introduce her new daughter in law.

How about your financial arrangements. I have not heard from you.

Very Truly  
W H Merrick

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3401 3/14/1866 *From:* Wright Rives

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3345

Executive Mansion,  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

[Letterhead]

Executive Mansion,  
Washington D.C.  
March 14 1866

General

The President designates to day at one (1) oclock as the time for seeing you.

Your obt Sv  
Wright Rives

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3402 3/14/1866    *From:* William E. Matthews    *To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3346

24 Pierce Street  
Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[141]

24 Pierce Street  
Baltimore March 14th 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I have seen the Hons Judge Bond, William J. Albert and other influential gentlemen and they rejoice to know that you have consented to speak to the people of this State. They will do all in their power to make your meeting a success. I regret to say that the hall in which you are to speak is engaged for Monday March 26th and I would like to know if Tuesday 27th will suit you as well. I have anticipated your affirmative reply and engaged the hall for that evening. Please write me your subject, as I wish to advertise at the earliest possible moment.

Awaiting a speedy reply  
I am Very Truly  
Your Obedt Servt  
William E. Matthews

3403 3/14/1866

*From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3347

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office,  
No. 13 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Washington, D.C.

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[142]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office,  
No. 13 Bank Street  
Philadelphia,  
March 14, 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
My Dear General,

It is my intention to start for England early next month (April 4th) and as it is highly probably that I shall be called upon for information concerning the Freedmen, I would thank you to have some one give me some statistics bearing on that subject. There are quite a number of Societies cooperating in the work of the Freedmen, and I would thank you to give me such general statistics as will meet my wishes.

You doubtless have such facts as these in your possession, such for instance, as No. of Schools, No. attending them, No. of teachers &c. I want to show the friends of the Freedmen on the other side what is being done in their behalf, and hope it will be not trouble for you to obtain this information for me.

I was sorry that I was unable to see you when you were last in the city. I called at your hotel, but you, unfortunately had gone. If I am well enough I hope to see you in Washington, before I start.

I do not wish to give you any personal trouble by these requests, but you can perhaps put them in the hand of some one who is Connected with the Bureau.

Mr. Stephenson, to whom I introduced you some weeks ago has been investing largely in lands in the South, on behalf of his English friends. I have paid his Dfts. this day for \$60,000. Many thanks for yr. kind attention to my friend Mr. Watkins of Richmond, who speaks of you very highly.

Yours Truly  
Geo. H. Stuart

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

March 14th, 1866, Phila.

Stuart, Geo. H.

Is going to Europe about April 14th 1866. would like some statistics concerning the Freed people.

Recd March 15th 1866

[Written in another hand.]

Mr Bearn-

Genl Howard desires the data collected such as is desired in the letter. The <> cannot be gotten from the printed matter.

<[Very faint]>

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3404 3/14/1866 *From:* <Norton Sapson>

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3349

Lynchburg Va.

Chief Negro Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143]

Lynchburg Va.  
Mar 14 1866

Genl Howard  
Chief Negro Bureau  
DSr

I enclose the within hoping you will take time to read it. You are the proposer and I presume the <affiser> of it. Can you answer the Presidents objection. You New England fanatics & scoundrels do not evidently want a restoration of the Union except upon the terms that Garrison Phillips & Fred Douglass the Nigger shall deem satisfactory. What will you think when Andrew Johnson shall proclaim peace and matters shall be settled, we of the South shall prove that you and most of you Subs. are Swindlers & Scoundrels. Take a hint when I say that abundant & danning proof is being acumulating against you, but we cannot now speak out.

<Norton Sapson>

A Rebel but a Union Man & friend of the Constitution of the US

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

A vengeance letter

Anonymous

Incloses slips from newspapers & denounces the Freedmen's Bureau

Recd Mar. 16th 1866

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**3405 3/15/1866**     *From:* Yardley Warner     *To:* Genl. O.O. Howard  
OOH-3350                      Philad'a                      Washington D.C.  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[144]

Genl O.O. Howard

Will please to receive George Dixon, an agent of ours and a Friend from England who has in view the promotion of our efforts in N Carolina for the elevation of the Freedmen.

He wd wish to find some opening or suggest some methods for the establishment of industrial schools extensively. In this business he has had much experience.

Thy Friend  
Yardley Warner

Philad'a  
3/15 66

[145]

Philad'a 3/15 66

Dear Friend

Our Friend Geo. Dixon from England will call on thee. He has by mistake a draft of our purchased lots at Greensboro N.C. We are scotched without it. Look at it & mail it to Germantown Philad'a

& oblige Thy Friend  
Yardley Warner

[Envelope]  
Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
[Postmark] PHILADA PA. MAR 15

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Phila 3/15 1866  
Warner, Yardley  
Introducing Gen. Dixon  
Recd Mar 16, 1866

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3406 3/16/1866

*From:* Schuyler Colfax

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3351

H.R. [House of  
Representatives] Wash.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[149]

H.R. [House of Representatives] Wash. Mch 16, 1866

General,

I enclose you a letter from the very excellent Methodist Minister of my town. I shall write him that I doubt whether you have places for all the applicants of this kind who are presented, or means sufficient to pay the salaries of these of those you would like to appoint. But if you cannot find a place for this lady, please drop me a few lines that I can send her. There has been so much misrepresentation about the Freedman's Bureau that many suppose you have millions at your command for its uses.

Yrs very truly

Schuyler Colfax [U.S. Representative from Indiana and Speaker of the House]

Gen O.O. Howard

If you answer, please refer to the letter enclosed, not to mine, & I will forward yours to the Minister.

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3407 3/16/1866     *From:* J.M. McKim

*To:* Col [Max] Woodhull

OOH-3352

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Freedmen's  
and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.  
New York

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[88]

[Letterhead]

American Freedmen's and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.  
President –Bishop Matthew Simpson, Philadelphia.  
Treasurer –George C. Ward, 76 John Street, New York.  
Gen. Sec. -Lyman Abbott.  
Cor. Sec. - J. Miller McKim.  
Washington Sec. - J.R. Shipherd.  
Western Sec. J.M. Walden.  
New York

March 16 1866

Col [Max] Woodhull  
My dear Sir:

If you will take the trouble to read the accompanying copy of my last report it will show you exactly how I am chiefly engaged and what use I make of the intelligence I pick up in my correspondence. When this report was written I had not seen – as indeed I have not yet seen – the “Extracts” sent me from your office, else of course they would have been noticed.

I am now writing to:  
Hon. Otto Wessendonck  
Freedmen's Relief Committee  
Zurich, Switzerland;  
Mrs. J.P. Nichol  
President Ladies Emancipation Society  
Huntly Lodge  
Edinburgh, Scotland;  
Rev Titus Coan  
Hilo, Hawaii  
Sandwich Islands

I am particular in giving the names and address as I would ask you to have a copy or copies of the General Report, Carl Schurz' report and Trumbulls & Fessendens speeches sent – through the State Department – to each.

Mr Baker, Treasurer of the State Department has forwarded documents for me of this kind and has assured me that he did so with pleasure.

I infer therefore that in this, or some other way, you can & will forward to the parties named the documents indicated. My letters to the parties will of course speak of the Bureau & its doings.

Yours truly  
J.M. McKim  
Cor. Sec.  
A.F. & U.C.

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3408 3/16/1866 *From:* Hugh L Bond

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3353

Balt'o

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[146, 147]

Balt'o Mch 16 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard

My dear General

I take great pleasure in introducing to you, Geo Dixon of England a devoted friend of the colored people and Anthony M Kimber of Phila whose connection with the Freedmens cause is well known to you.

The errand of these Gentlemen will commend them to your attention more than any words of min, & I readily trust them to your kindest attention.

Hoping to see you on Saturday at Baltimore, I am

Yours truly  
Hugh L Bond

[Written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]

Balt'o March 16th 1866

Bond, Hugh S.

Judge

Introduces Geo. Dixon, Esq or England.

Recd. Mar. 17th 1866

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3409 3/17/1866 *From:* Thurlow Weed

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3354

New York

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150]

New York, March 17, '66

Dear General,

My Friend, Mr Richard B. Hill, of Iowa, goes forth with a large <Posse> of Emigrant Laborers, for whom he desires such facilities as consists with the duties of your Department.

May I ask of you such a Letter to you Chief of Bureau in New Orleans as will enable Mr Hill to avail himself of the <attentions> of that Office when his Laborers arrive there.

The more men like Mr Hill plant themselves upon Southern Soil the better for the Country in all respects.

Truly Yours  
Thurlow Weed

Maj Gen Howard  
U.S. Army

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York Mar 17./66

Weed, Thurlow

Introducing R.B. Hill

Recd Mar 19th 1866

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3410 3/17/1866

*From:* J.B. Grinnell

*To:* Dear Genl [OO] Howard

M.C.

OOH-3355

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152]

Washington D.C. March 17/66

Dear Genl Howard

My esteemed friend Rich'd B Hill Esq of Davenport Iowa desires to see you. But for an engagement on Monday I should call with him.

I trust you will be pleased to grant his request, <agreeing> with Mr Thurlow Weed.

Mr Hill controls large interest south and can aid us in many ways.

With high regard

Your Obt Servt & friend

J.B. Grinnell [Josiah Bushnell Grinnell]

M.C. [U.S. Representative from Iowa 1863-1866]

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Washington Mar 17 / 66

Grinnell, J.B.

Introducing Rich'd B. Hill.

Recd Mar 19th 1866

3411 3/17/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl  
Asst. Comm'r  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
States of Kentucky and  
Tennessee  
Assistant  
Commissioner's Office,  
Louisville Ky

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3356

*Source:* Bowdoin

Com'r &c Washington D.C.

[153]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
States of Kentucky and Tennessee  
Assistant Commissioner's Office,  
<Nashville, Tenn.[Crossed Out]>  
Louisville Ky Mar 17th 1866

My Dear General

I am in receipt of your telegram of the 16th inst. And wait receipt of your letter as directed (except that I will run over to St Louis and spend Sunday with my family)

I was very desirous that our good President should hear from my own mouth just how necessary it is, that he speak a good loud distinct word in behalf of our Bureau - for we are almost prostrate under the interpretation the masses give to his veto message, and utterances to the public. It is believed that the Bureau is now continued against the Presidents wishes. The Kentucky press without an exception (there may be one) are daily publishing the most infamous lies about our sub-ordinates & the Bureau generally. I clip from this morning's paper a Washington letter in which the readers of the Courier are educated to believe that the President & your are at loggerheads.

In the meantime I am doing the best I can - and have faith that I am getting the upper hand of the combined influences at work against us.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servant  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl  
Asst. Comm'r  
Maj Genl Howard  
Com'r &c Washington D.C.

[Attached Clipping]

From Washington  
The Radical Party and its Unhappy Condition - Fred. Douglass as a Leader - His abuse of the President - The President must be Sustained - County Meetings - A Suggestion - Kentucky Affairs - An Incident, &c., &c.  
(Correspondence of the Louisville Courier.)

Washington, D.C., March 12, 1866.

Editors Louisville Courier: "To be or not to be, that is the question" now with the Radical party. And it is one which they find it very difficult indeed to answer - in fact it seems unanswerable. How cruel it was of President Johnson, just at the point when the very acme of success was being reached, to dash the golden chalice of triumph from their lips. And how craven and cowardly was it in the "black sheep" to cringe before executive

power and patronage, and "bow the suppliant hinges of the knee, that thrift might follow fawning."

By the defection of the President and the cowardice of Senators who quailed before his wand, the whole fruits of the war are blasted. The soldiers, having performed their part of the work with complete success, have been mustered out, and Congress was mustered in, to complete and effectuate the victory. Instead of doing so, however, they are permitting rebellion at last to triumph; are about offering a premium for treason, making loyalty odious, and writing "failure," as an epitaph upon the tomb of every hero who gave up his life, as he vainly supposed, to secure freedom to every man, who imagined that he was dealing with his life-blood the truths of the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal."

Such are the opinions of Fred Douglass, Charles Sumner, Stevens, Kelly, Yates, Pomeroy, Wade, Wilson, and the smaller fry of the "loyalty" in this city and throughout the North.

They came up to the meeting of the present Congress flushed with the confidence that the little knot of Democrats in that body could only serve as objects of their satire and denunciation; and gloated over the prospect of tantalizing them by all manner of contrivances. That they were omnipotent they had not the slightest doubt. That there should not be left a vestige of the Government of the fathers save the name, and perhaps not that, they were resolved.

The treasonable song that "this is the white man's Government," they intended should be sung no more. They intended to make it honorable to be a negro. (Whether it was in anticipation of the result that the ladies adopted the style of criping and frizzing their hair, I know not; but I should think so, for certainly they make themselves as nearly like the negro as crisps and frizzies can approach.) All these glorious anticipations have been knocked into "pi" by the "Tylerized" Executive. The feelings of the party over this action of the President are fittingly, forcibly, and correctly expressed by Fred. Douglass, who is the great leader and acknowledged exponent of the doctrines of the party. In his lecture at the City Assembly Rooms in this city on Saturday night, on "The Issue of the Day," he spoke of the President as follows: "But what shall be said of Andrew Johnson" Perhaps it would be improper to speak evil of dignitaries; perhaps it would be better to leave Mr. Johnson to speak for himself, as being the most damaging thing he can do for himself." "But what," he asked, "shall be said of him who told us that traitors must take a back seat in the work of restoration, if he now invests, these same traitors with the supreme control of the States in which they live? What shall be said of him who promised to be the Moses of the colored race, if he becomes their Pharaoh instead? Why, this must be said of him - that he had better 'never have been born.' "

This is a simple reflex of the feelings of the Radical party concerning Mr. Johnson. Most devoutly do they wish that he had never been born. This harangue of that Massachusetts mulatto was not delivered to a crowd of woolly headed "freedmen," but to an immense assembly of appreciative and applauding white men, including numerous members of both houses of the Congress of the United States, one of whom (Kelly, of Pa.), resided over the meeting.

It is impossible for the people, the loyal people, who appreciate the liberties of the people as guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States, to overestimate the value to the country, of the determination of the President to throw himself into the breach, and prevent the utter subversion of the Government. In the language of Gov. Saulsbury, in a letter to a mass meeting recently held in Wilmington, "He ought to be, and I have no doubt will be, sustained by the honest masses of the people everywhere, in his efforts to restore the Union, be securing to the States and the people the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution. It is fit and proper in this hour of our country's peril, that the people throughout the length and breadth of the whole land should meet in popular assemblage, and hold up the hands of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, by assurances of their support in all of his constitutional efforts to sustain popular government, secure the permanency of our free institutions, re-establish justice and tranquility, and perpetuate the blessings of civil liberty and personal security to the citizen.

I am gratified to see that all over the State of Kentucky meetings are being held to indorse the course of the President, and give assurance of an earnest and cordial support of his administration, if carried out upon the principles lately enunciated by him, and trust that it will be kept up until every county in the State shall have so spoken. I know that they are highly appreciated by the President, and would suggest that the proceedings be not simply published in the newspapers, but that in every instance copies be forwarded either to him direct, or to one of the members of Congress, with directions to lay them before him.

I am not insensible to the fact that the people of Kentucky feel, deeply and justly, that they have not been treated by the authorities of the Government with that consideration which is due them. That the continued suspension of the habeas corpus, the erection of the Freedmen's Bureau, and the toleration of the numerous outrages upon them by the military since the close of the war, are grievances which it is impossible but that they

should reel, pungently, and which it would be difficult indeed to form apologies for. I have this and only this to say in extenuation of the President touching the treatment of Kentucky - that the masses of the people, the Conservative men of the State, have held themselves aloof from the President, have not troubled him with representations of the real state of affairs in the State; while a few bastard sons of the Commonwealth, so well known that it is unnecessary to name them, have been constantly distilling into the Executive ear the rankest slanders and vilifications of the people of the State. Let the people speak out now, undeceive the President and ask justice at his hands. He will not, cannot long withhold it.

I have learned an incident which tends to illustrate the hollowness of the pretensions of sympathy and regard which the loyalty of the country professed for the negro. It is said that a short time since Major General Howard, the chief of the bureau and guardian of the negroes, discovered that a good thing could be made by shipping from here to the heart of Georgia, negro laborers, and that he called on the President for his sanction to the plan and an order for transportation, at the expense of the Government, for the first Installment of some three hundred. The President is said to have raised his hands in mock horror, and exclaimed, substantially: "What! You, the guardian and protector of the race, selected on account of your devotion to their interest and advocacy of their rights. Can it be that you have consented to transfer from this Eden - where all the fruits of the garden are free to them, save of the fruit of one tree, (suffrage,) which is about to be conferred by Congress - hundreds of these freedmen to the very center of the land of Nod, where the simple fact of the color of their skin stamps them with scarcely less odium than the mark upon the brow of Cain!! Impossible!" Bureau wilted.

OCCASIONAL (not "D.D")

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3412 3/19/1866 *From:* Oakes Ames

*To:* Genl O O Howard

OOH-3357

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[115]

Washington March 19th 1866

Genl O O Howard

Dear Sir

Mr. Richard B Hill an old acquaintance of mine, is interested in some large plantations in Louisiana, & is sending a large number of Germans there from N York to cultivate them.

If you through your agents can aid him by information or otherwise you will confer a favour on him & oblige  
Yours Truly

Oakes Ames [U.S. Representative from Massachusetts, 1863-1872]

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3413 3/19/1866

*From:* Thomas J. Wilson

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3358

Senate Chamber  
State of Iowa  
Des Moines

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[154]

[Letterhead]

Senate Chamber  
State of Iowa  
Des Moines,  
March 19 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

Enclose you will find photographs of your old friend & classmate.

Please send my yours and oblige.

Most Respt yours  
Thomas J. Wilson [Bowdoin College, Class of 1848]  
Member House of Representatives  
Des Moines  
Iowa

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3414 3/19/1866    *From:* Fannie Steele

*To:* Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-3359

Washington  
174 G Street

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[155]

Washington March 19<sup>th</sup>66  
174 G Street

General:

Your note of the 15th Inst was received.

In reply I will state, that, it will be much to my disadvantage, to give up possession of the house in April, on the terms you suggest. I will therefor retain the premises, 'til the expiration of my lease.

Very Respectfully  
Fannie Steele

Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard

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3415 3/19/1866 *From:* Joseph Tracy

*To:* Hon. H. Maynard

OOH-3360

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156]

Boston, March 19, 1866

Hon. H. Maynard [See Note]

I write again just now, because I am again unable to hold still.

Gen. Howard has always been one of my favorite Generals, on several accounts, and I have hoped that his "Bureau", so far as he should be able to direct its action, would do good, and not evil. But I hear concerning his subordinates, that the "Boston sheet called "The Right Way," is distributed broadcast by them in their official capacity all over the South."

That paper is the most able, persistent and thorough-going advocate that I have seen of the doctrine of Senator Sumner on "State Suicide". In its first number, I think, it labored to prove that certain States did actually take themselves out of the Union by Acts of Secession. <True> it admitted, they had no moral right to do it; but they had the power, and they did it. It wholly overlooked the principle, that a legal act cannot be performed, so as to have legal validity, by those who have no legal power to perform it.

On this assumption, it has opposed the President's policy with all its force of logic and of feeling, - which is not small. It handles his veto message, his 22 Feb. speech, and all that comes from him, without mercy. It generally avoids indecorous language, but does all it can to make his views and his policy odious. If the blacks could be made to read it and adopt its views, it would destroy their confidence in the President entirely and make them his bitter opponents, suspicious of everything which they suppose him to favor.

I cannot suppose that Gen. Howard aims at any such result. Even if he dissents from some of the President's views, I cannot assume that he would take such measures to oppose them. I must suppose, therefore, that he does not know what his subordinates are doing, or that he has not power to control them, or remove them at his pleasure. Perhaps the this has not been going on long enough to give him time to understand it and act upon it. But it seems to me plain that he ought to know it, and to require his subordinates if they must circulate that paper, to do it their private capacity, and on their own personal responsibility. It is not proper that the subordinates of the Bureau, without the knowledge of its head, should place the Bureau itself, in all its branches, head and members, in opposition to the President, without the knowledge of its head.

And its seems to me evidently proper, that the President should know it. Even if the best thing he can do is to bear it silently he should be aware of the kind of efforts that are made to thwart his policy, and should know who are making them, that he may not, for want of that knowledge, put himself needlessly in their power.

This State of affairs ought not to surprise us. Northern disunionists, as the President calls them, would naturally crowd themselves into the employment of the Bureau as early and as sily as possible. It is their nature ,and they hold their allegiance to Sumner's notions about the Negro as paramount to all their other obligations. I have some reason to think that a thorough-going one might be found in North Carolina as a Boston man.

Where I got my information, is no matter. I did not receive it from the Colonization office at Washington; nor do I know that our folks there know every thing about it; and if they do, they will not wish to mix themselves up with political parties. Yet, if Gen. Howard wants help in ferreting out the fats, and they can be persuaded to help him, I do not know where he could find better assistants.

If any good use can be made of these suggestions, you will know what to do with them.

We are all well. No news. Yours, as ever,  
Joseph Tracy

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

<Respectfully forward [CHECK ORIGINAL, under tape]> Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard with the remark that the writer is a clergyman of pious & standing & his statements of facts are entitle to the highest credit.

Horace Maynard  
Washington,  
March 20, 1866

[Written in a third hand on the last page.]

Boston Mass.

March 19, 1866

Tracy, Rev. Joseph

In relation to the circulation of the Boston paper among the blacks, called "The Right Way."

Referred by Hon. H. Maynard

B.R.F. & AL.

Recd Mar 22 1866

[Note: Horace Maynard was a U.S. Representative from Tennessee, from 1857-1862 and 1865-1874.]

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3416 3/19/1866

*From:* Nelson A. Miles  
Major Gen U.S.A.  
Hd. Qrs. Military District  
of  
Fortress Munroe Va

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3361

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Hd. Qrs. Military District of  
Fortress Munroe Va  
March 19 1866

General,

I understand that a paper which I forwarded to Department Hd. Qrs. in regards to Culom Pepper has been referred to you and I hope it will receive prompt action for I consider him an Imposter and his scheme a perfect swindle. He opposes every movement for the benefit of the Negros and is a great hindrance to the successful operations of the Freedmans Bureau in this vicinity.

There are thousands of able bodied men about here who will neither go out into the country and look for work or go to Florida because Pepper tells them they will have staid here for nothing and that it belongs to them.

Dr Vogell is with me yet and is very anxious to to obtain a position in your Bureau or under the State Department. It would have been very agreeable to him & myself if he could have had the position which Gen'l Armstrong has, but I trust you will not forget to give him a helping hand the first opportunity as he is a true & reliable friend.

I have the honor to remain  
With the highest respect  
Your obt sevt  
Nelson A. Miles  
Major Gen U.S.A.

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3417 3/19/1866 *From:* Edwin Greble

*To:* My dear General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3362

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

Philadelphia March 19, 1866

My dear General Howard

This will be handed you by Benson J. Lossing Esq. the Historian, one of my most valued and intimate friends. I am happy to make him acquainted with you personally. You know each other by reputation.

Mr Lossing is writing a history of the rebellion and will make an extended travel through the South and West, to collect material for his work, the first volume of which is now complete. I was to have accompanied Mr Lossing, but circumstances have prevented me. Whatever aid I should have asked of you for myself, if rendered to my friend Lossing, will be considered as conferred on me.

Very Sincerely Your Friend  
Edwin Greble

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3418 3/20/1866

*From:* Wm. H. Sinclair

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3363

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas  
Galveston

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[160, 161]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas  
Galveston,  
March 20th, 1866

Major Genl Howard

Com'r

Dear General:

We have received your circular announcing the death of our friend Stinson and I write you to express to you the sorrow I feel for you in the loss of one so long a member of your military family and so dear to you. I had hoped that when he recovered from the wound received at New Hope and passed safely through the Atlanta Campaign and to the end of the war that he might live on for years in his life of piety and goodness but it seems the Almighty ordained otherwise and the wounds from which I supposed he had fully recovered finally caused his death.

I have been on duty 2 weeks as A.A.G. of the Bureau for this State.

The old 4th Corps is all out of Service, but 2 Regiments –it only lives now in the record it has made for itself. (over)

General Gregory I like very much. Rebels are not his friends but I do not think any man can say that he ever done them injustice. The trouble is General these people have not yet brought their ideas up to the standard which will allow them to see that a negro has rights or that justice is to be done him.

We will work it out though all over the land. It only requires time and perseverance. Excuse me General for speaking of things other than I originally intended when I commenced writing.

Mrs. Sinclair sends regards and express sympathy for the loss of our friend.

Please remember me kindly to your Brother Chas., to Fullerton and any others whom I may know of your military family.

I remain Genl,  
Your Obt. Servt,  
Wm. H. Sinclair  
A.A.Genl.

[Written sideways, on the last page, in a different hand.]

Galveston Texas  
March 20, 1866  
Sinclair, W.H., A.A.G.  
Friendly letter  
Recd April 2nd 1866



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3419 3/20/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
States of Kentucky and  
Tennessee.  
Assistant  
Commissioner's Office  
Louisville Ky

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

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[162, 163]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
States of Kentucky and Tennessee.  
Assistant Commissioner's Office  
Louisville Ky March 20th 1866

General

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your valued communication of 10th inst. and to thank you for the leave of absence granted by telegraph.

I have some very important business affairs that demand my immediate attention in New York city where my brother now waits my arrival. I propose leaving here for New York to night & hope to reach there thursday Evening and remain there friday and Saturday. A telegram would find me at Metropolitan Hotel should you desire to communicate with me in New York. I hope not to be gone from here more than one week. I have written Col Woodhull recommending that he delay at Nashville until my return when I can post him thoroughly touching Kentucky affairs and send my Asst Adjt Genl with him.

I am having a session with the civil authorities in Louisville to day – and trust that good will come out of it. One word from the President would do us much good, but I fear he will not speak it. If he does not we must push to the front without him – God and the Country will stand by us.

Generals Thomas and Palmer are in the most perfect accord with myself – and afford me most cheerfully any aid within their power to grant. It is very fortunate that two such spirits have authority over this unhappy hunting ground just now.

Mr Johnson has caused a good deal of bad blood to boil over of late. I send you herein the leading <Anti> paper (Commercial) in which is published a letter from their Texas correspondent. It is evidently written and published with the idea that the President desires the Bureau to be whacked about in this rough manner. We undoubtedly have some bad men among our subordinates. It would be strange were it otherwise – but how shamefully this correspondent does lie. This article will be copied in nearly all the Southern papers with an immense flourish. Let the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing if they want to.

I spent Sunday with my little family who are now quite well. The “death in my family” noticed in the press telegrams not long since was of my brothers wife.

With sincere regard  
Yours Truly  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl

Maj Genl Howard  
Commissioner &c.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Louisville Mar 20 1866  
Fisk, Clinton B.  
Brev. Maj. Genl.  
Friendly letter  
Recd Mar 24 1866

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3420 3/20/1866

*From:* J.W. Sprague  
Brig Genl

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3365

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of  
Missouri and Arkansas,  
Little Rock, Ark.

Commissioner  
Washington D.C.

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[164]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of Missouri and Arkansas,  
Little Rock, Ark.,  
March 20, 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner  
Washington D.C.  
General

Your very kind note of the 8th inst is received. I beg leave to return my sincere and grateful thanks for your expressions of confidence in me – and shall try to deserve your confidence to the end. I shall carefully preserve your note as the most precious memento I have received during my time of service.

Very Respy your Obt Svt  
J.W. Sprague  
Brig Genl

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3421 3/20/1866    *From:* FW Gilbreth

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3366

Augusta, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167, 168]

Augusta, Maine  
March 20. 1866

Dear General.

I left Tallahassee on Monday, 12th inst. and reached home on the 19th with the remains.

I telegraphed you from New York last Saturday.

The funeral took place at 10 am this morning from his mothers residence, Rev Mr McKenzie officiating.

The body was deposited in a tomb at Hallowell.

At Fathers request I would ask if I might not be allowed to delay reporting for ten days or two weeks.

Of course if there is business to attend to I will return at once. I saw Gen Strong in Savannah.

Very Respy  
Your Obt Servant  
FW Gilbreth

P.S. Mother & Father desire to be remembered to Mrs Howard and yourself.

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Augusta, Me Mar. 20, 1866

Gilbreth, Fred. W.

Writes concerning Harry's funeral

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&AL WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 23 1866

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3422 3/20/1866

*From:* Maxwood Snell  
A.A.G.

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3367

Cincinnati Ohio

Com'r F.B.  
War Dept

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169]

Cincinnati Ohio  
Tuesday March 20th 66

My Dear General

Will you please send me a copy of the "Bill of Rights" as it finally passed Congress, and Copies of Genl Swayne's Bill, or any other Bureau Bill that is likely to become a law.

Reached this city this morning, leave on afternoon boat for Louisville.

Very Respy & Tru Yours  
Maxwood Snell  
A.A.G.

Maj Genl Howard  
Com'r F.B.  
War Dept

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&AL WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 22 1866

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3423 3/20/1866

*From:* Jos. Segar

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3368

Ebbitt House [Perhaps  
Washington, D.C.]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170]

Ebbitt House [Perhaps Washington, D.C.], Mar 20 '66

Gen. Howard,  
My Dear Sir,

The enclosed have been transmitted to me from home, and I deem it proper to turn them over to you, as the Head of the Freedmen's Bureau.

And it is my duty to apprise you, further, that Mr. Pepper is in every portion of the State, a most mischievous man. I am informed he is a man of very bad Character, and I learn from undoubted authority that he is under indictment in one of the Courts of Alexandria. If there is any authority in the Freedmen's Bureau to keep him out of mischief, it ought to be done.

And there can be no more conclusive argument in favor of immigration or colonization than the fact that whenever there is a large aggregation of freedmen bad white men follow in the wake to make money out of blacks, and to <tender> the latter discontented <> their condition.

With great Respect  
Yr Friend & Servant  
Jos. Segar

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Ebbitt House  
Mar 20th 1866  
Segar, Jos.  
U.S.S.

Encloses reports of the Emmigration meeting at Hampton. Believes Mr. Pepper to be a mischievous unprincipled man.

[Transcriptions of 3 newspaper attachments.]

Immigration to Florida – Speeches of J.W. Dungy, a Freedman; Maj. Gen. Miles, Gen. Asrmstrong, Col. Curry, Dr. Vogel, Calvin Pepper – Freedman Bayne on the Evil of the Freedmen's Bureau – Failure of the Immigration Scheme to Florida, &c.

(Special Correspondence of the Norfolk Virginian.)  
Fort Monroe, March 14th, 1866.

Another meeting, having for its object the furtherance of the Florida Immigrations Scheme, took place yesterday afternoon at Hampton, Va. The meeting was organized at 3 o'clock, and quite a large audience was in attendance. Freedman Wm. Thornton was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Calhoun (white) Secretary. After the usual preliminaries, freedman J.W. Dungy arose and addressed the audience, and in a few sensible remarks, demonstrated to the colored people that they were living too thickly on the Peninsula, and subject to all the evil influences of idleness and other vices, occasioned by the inability largest proportion of them to secure employment or work of any kind. He entreated the colored people present to seize hold of the movement, which was intended only for their good, without delay, and represent in the proper light, to their brethren, its importance and perfect practicability. He then read extracts of letters from residents of Florida, both colored and white, showing that land could be bought there for three dollars an acre, which they were paying annually on the Peninsula for rent alone, and concluded by remarking that the Homestead Bill of 1862, guarantees black or white one hundred and sixty acres of Government lands.

He was followed by Major General Miles, commanding the post, Brig. Gen. Armstrong, lately appointed

superintendent of the Ninth District of the Freedman's Bureau, Colonel James Curry, Post Commissary and Dr. Vogel, of Illinois, on a temporary visit to the Fortress. The burden of their speeches was essentially the same. The benefits to be reaped by immigration to Florida, where were thousands of acres of Government lands, rich, fertile and productive, and abounding in all kinds of tropical fruits, were dilated upon by the speakers.

The audience present began to manifest the utmost enthusiasm, and the speakers became almost carried away with the warmth and zeal with which they advocated the grand scheme – the exodus of the negro population from the Peninsula to the inviting lands of tropical Florida – when, in an unlucky moment, up jumped a Mr. Calvin Pepper, of Norfolk. Just after Gen. Miles and the other orators had taken their seats and were enjoying a short respite, preparatory to a fresh onslaught on the rather dull comprehension of the able audience present. To the astonishment of all, and the bewilderment of some, Mr. Pepper took his stand on the platform erected for the occasion, and surveying complacently the colored people in front, and bowing to those on the platform, (Gen. Miles and the others) in a very few seconds he not only completely succeeded in upsetting the arguments set forth by the previous speakers, but enlisted the entire sympathy on his side. He repudiated the idea of immigration to Florida as impracticable, and said it was fraught with evil consequences to those who should undertake it. In a little while the whole Peninsula, said he, will belong to the present inhabitants, and comfortable little farms and homesteads will spring up on every side. Why, then, should we desire to immigrate to Florida? – a land hundreds of miles away – when everything looks so promising for the future in the State where we were born and raised. He continued in this strain for half an hour, and evidently succeeded in diverting the minds of the audience from the original object of the meeting.

He was followed by a colored Dr. Bayne, also of Norfolk. His speech was even more bitter than his predecessor's. He not only seconded the arguments and opinions advanced by Mr. Pepper, but descanted for some length upon the evils of the Freedman's Bureau, as injurious to the true interests of the black man, and called upon the whole audience to treat with the utmost disgust and contempt the idea of their immigrating to Florida.

Matters at this crisis of the meeting began to assume rather a serious aspect, and mutterings from the sable brethren present soon were heard in the shape of hisses for Florida, and repeated cheers and hurrahs for Messrs. Pepper and Bayne.

General Miles and his party, headed by freedman J.W. Dungy, the first speaker, departed, deeming it was of no use to remain longer. Mr. Calvin Pepper and Dr. Bayne, then proceeded to organize a meeting of their own, and the speeches delivered by other colored brethren, were rapturously applauded. After the meeting was over a collection of fifty cents was levied on the audience, which was responded to by quite an extensive flourish of postage currency.

Thus ends the Florida Immigration Scheme here, so far as the military authorities are concerned. That the motive was a good one, and intended for the real interest of the twenty-five thousand negroes scattered in every direction, no one can doubt. That it has failed for the present, cannot be attributed to any lack of interest or provision made for its success by the Freedmen's Bureau, or its other friends, who, seeing the serious condition of affairs, have been desirous of securing this emigration of the freedmen.

S.G.W.

[Second article]

FORTRESS MONROE.

Great Meeting of Freedmen,

The Florida Emigration Scheme.

Its Denunciation by the Assemblage.

General Miles Retires from the Meeting.

The Object of the Authorities Defeated.

Fortress Monroe, March 14. - A large mass meeting of negroes, having for its object the furtherance of the Florida emigration movement, took place in Hampton yesterday evening. The meeting was regularly organized, and after the usual preliminaries, Mr. William Thornton (colored) was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Calhoun (white) as Secretary. Mr. J.W. Dungy, a runaway slave from Hampton, some years ago, rose and address the audience, and in a few sensible remarks, demonstrated that they were living too thickly on the Peninsula between Hampton and Yorktown, and, as the immediate result of which they were being subjected to all the evil influences of idleness and vice, and that instances of theft, depredations and other crimes against each other and the white residents of the country were becoming daily more numerous. He entreated the colored people present to lose no time in reflecting upon the subject, which was destined to be evidently one of the greatest importance to themselves and their families. He read extracts from residents of Florida, showing that land could

be purchased there for three dollars an acre, which they were paying for rent alone on the land which they now cultivate; and concluded by remarking that the Homestead bill of 1862 guaranteed them 160 acres of Government land.

He was followed by Major-General Miles, commanding the post; Brigadier-General Armstrong, formerly Colonel of the Eighth United States Colored Troops, lately appointed Superintendent of the Ninth District of the Freedmen's Bureau; Colonel James Curry, post-commissary, and Dr. Joice, of Illinois. The burden of their speeches was essentially the same. The immense benefits to be reaped by the population of the peninsula emigrating to Florida, where there were thousands of acres of Government lands, well watered, fertile, highly productive, and abounding in all kinds of tropical fruits, and where even the most indolent could obtain an existence, were respectfully dilated upon by the several speakers.

The colored audience, under the influence of the glowing speeches just made, in which happy homes, surrounded by every comfort and blessing, were graphically pictured, in their feverish imaginations, began to exhibit the utmost enthusiasm, and the most perfect harmony would have prevailed had not a disturbing element made its appearance in the person of a Mr. Calvin Pepper, a lawyer of Norfolk, who, in opposition to the purposes and objects of the Florida emigration movement, has been working hard to counteract, in connection with a few other dissenting adherents, the progress already made in enlisting the sympathies of the poor, crowded population of the peninsula in its behalf.

He took the platform erected for the occasion, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of the organizers of the meeting, proceeded at some length in refuting the arguments and assertions made by the previous speakers, and succeeded towards the end of his discourse in enlisting the entire sympathy of the colored people present in his behalf. He advocated the expediency of the colored residents of the peninsula remaining where they were, as in a little while the whole country of the peninsula would be theirs by Congressional legislation, and ridiculing the idea of emigration to Florida as being practicable, and that it was fraught with a great deal of evil consequences, and an uncertainty of protection and assistance being rendered them after their reaching there.

He was followed by a colored Dr. Bane, of Norfolk, whose speech was even more bitter and vituperous than the previous speaker. He denounced in strong terms the officers who were engaged in the project, and not only seconded the assertions and opinions advanced by Mr. Pepper, but descanted quite at length upon the evils of the Freedmen's Bureau, as injurious to the true interest of the black man, and called upon the whole audience there assembled to treat with the utmost contempt and disgust the idea of an emigration to Florida as bettering their condition.

The meeting just at this juncture of affairs assumed a rather turbulent appearance.

Loud cheers were given for Messrs. Band and Pepper, and long and continued hisses for Florida. Deeming it useless to remain longer, and as all efforts to quiet the two colored orators of the day were of no avail, Major-General Miles suggest to the delegation which accompanied him the propriety of departing, which was forthwith undertaken, followed by Mr. Dungy, the first speaker at the meeting. Thus terminated the efforts of the military authorities and others interested in the movement, for the present, to induce the immense population scattered all over the peninsula, between Old Point and Yorktown, to seek some other more favorable and less thickly settled clime.

It is estimated that about twenty-five thousand negroes are inhabiting the country mentioned, and to whom are monthly distributed nearly sixty thousand rations by the Commissary Department at this post. They are principally in charge of the Freedmen's Bureau, but a good proportion of them have small lots, on which they raise enough vegetables, &c., to provide subsistence for themselves and families. The largest portion of them, however, roam at will over the country, almost entirely destitute of employment, and dependent on Government rations issued them for the means wherewith to sustain life.

The alarming phase which their condition has of late assumed has been the principal reason which has stirred up the Freedmen's Bureau and other Government officers of starting the Florida emigration movement among the negroes of this section of the State. But so far all the efforts have proven well near useless to induce them to emigrate from the lands they now occupy, as the results of the Haytien emigration from this place several years ago has done much evil in prejudicing the blacks against the very idea of emigration to another country of which they are entirely ignorant.

Immediately after General Miles, and the deputation of gentlemen who had accompanied him, had left the meeting in disgust at the subsequent opposite turn which affairs had taken, the two before mentioned colored gentlemen from Norfolk organized a meeting of their own, and detailed to their interested colored brethren, their

own peculiar views in regard to establishing colonies on the lands near the city of Norfolk, on the peninsula, and in other portions of the State. Their remarks were warmly applauded, and just before the meeting finally broke up, a collection of fifty cents in support of their colonization scheme was levied upon each member of the audience, which was heartily responded to. Another meeting, in furtherance of their project, is it proposed to hold next Saturday.

The United States naval steamer *Don*, Lieutenant Commander Chandler, which arrived here last evening from New York, sailed this morning from Annapolis, Md.

The schooner *Native*, belonging in Norfolk, was recently totally wrecked on a bar near the Eastern Shore, Va. The crew, five in number, lashed themselves to the rigging during the prevalence of the storm, and were rescued by the schooners *Mary* and *Rio Grande*. One of the crew, a colored man, subsequently died from exposure to the weather. The *Native* belonged to Captain Roderick McInnis, of Norfolk, who lost all his papers and books with the vessel.

[Third clipping.]

The Florida Immigration Scheme. - The so-called Florida immigration scheme, is the absorbing topic among the negroes of Camp Hamilton, Hampton, and the surrounding country. Major General Miles has addressed a public meeting in Hampton on the subject. Col. Curry opened the meeting and gave a glowing account of the fertility of the land. We publish below the letter from our special correspondent:

Fortress Monroe, Va., March 13, 1866 -

The Florida Immigration Scheme is the all-absorbing topic of conversation and interest, just at present, among the negroes of Camp Hamilton, Hampton, and the surrounding country. This scheme, which was set in motion several months ago by the officers, and others interested in the freedmen, or rather more particularly, the workings of the Freedmen's Bureau, is nothing more nor less than an attempt to induce the negroes, now thickly inhabiting the Peninsula without employment, and, in the majority of cases, wholly destitute of any visible means of support, to leave this region and emigrate to the far more genial climate and fertile soil of Florida. It is an astonishing fact, that at this moment there are about twenty-five thousand of these negroes scattered in all directions, and domiciled on the various farms, worked under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau, or on small unproductive, or, at least, non-sustaining lots of ground of their own, between Old Point and Yorktown. To these wards of the nation are monthly distributed nearly sixty thousand rations by the Commissary Department, at this Post, and to this provision made by the Government must alone be attributed the wonderful harmony that has prevailed among them, and the almost total absence of pillage and other depredations among the white farmers and residents of the Peninsula. Of these twenty-five thousand negroes it is estimated that seventy-five per cent of them are composed of old, decrepid men and women - children of an age too young to take care of themselves, a goodly proportion of those too lazy to work, and a large number who are utterly unable to obtain any employment whatever. All these are dependent on the rations issued by the Government for the means wherewith to sustain life and keep body and soul together. To the inquiring mind the suggestion naturally presents itself, What will become of these negroes when the issuing of rations ceases? Eventually it must come to this. The large amount of commissary stores on hand here at Old Point when hostilities terminated has been so rapidly depleted by the demands of the United States forces stationed in the State and by the increasing necessities of the Freedmen's Bureau, that the stock is becoming sadly in need of replenishing, to meet the wants of the latter institution alone.

The alarming phase with which this subject is being viewed by the military authorities, and even officers of the Freedmen's Bureau, stationed here, and who are supposed to be perfectly conversant with the condition of affairs, has lately given an additional impetus to the Florida emigration scheme. Several afternoons ago quite a respectable sized meeting was held in Hampton for the furtherance of this object. The meeting was addressed by Major General Miles, commanding the post, Colonel James Curry, post commissary, Dr. Joyce, several gentlemen of color, and others. A great deal of enthusiasm was manifested by the audience, which was altogether of a sable hue.

Col. Curry opened the meeting in quite a lengthy and interesting speech, giving a description of the lands of Florida, in which country he had an experience of some five years; their remarkable fertility and productiveness, and the congeniality of the climate, are said to be adapted to the nature and condition of the black man.

General Miles made a few remarks, replete with excellent advice, to the promising youth of the audience, which he saw before him. Under the Homestead Bill, said the General, you are entitled to one hundred and sixty acres of government land, wherever you may choose it; and as all your expenses will be defrayed by the government in traveling to Florida, and 90 days' rations furnished to your families, the inducements thus held out ought certainly to stir you up, to do something for yourselves, and relieve the government of a steadily

increasing burden.

The meeting lasted several hours, and may be productive of good results.

Another meeting will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and still greater efforts are expected to be made to enlist the interest of the darkies in the project.

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3424 3/21/1866

*From:* G. Whipple

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3369

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Missionary  
Association,  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York

Com. B.R.F. & A.L.  
Washington D.C.

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[132]

[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association,  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York  
Rev. Geo. Whipple, Sec.  
Rev. M.E. Strikey, Sec.  
W.E. Whiting, Asst. Treas.  
Mch 21, 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com. B.R.F. & A.L.  
Washington D.C.  
Dear General,

I learn that Capt. Townsend, now at Campbell Hospital, D.C. is about to be mustered out of service.

Unsolicited by him, I wish to say a word in his behalf, and to express my conviction that if you have a place for a man in the Bureau, you will find in him an honest, faithful and christian servant of the good cause.

Your truly  
G. Whipple

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3425 3/21/1866

*From:* O. Brown

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-3371

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters  
Assistant  
Commissioner State of  
Virginia,  
Richmond, Va.

Commissioner &c

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[118]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters Assistant Commissioner State of Virginia,  
Richmond, Va.,  
March 21 1866

To Maj Gen OO Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General

We have the honor of again calling your attention to the fact that the indignation of the entire press of the State will be around against the Bureau if the evidence of the Asst Commissioner before the Reconstruction Com of Congress is published.

And might at this time add to our embarrassments.

I am General Ver Resp  
Your Obt Servt  
O. Brown  
<[Last line cut off]>

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Richmond Mar. 21st/66.

Brown, O

Col & Asst. Comr.

Thinks it better that the testimony of the Assistant Comr of Va. before the Reconstruction Committee had better not be published.

Recd. Mar. 22nd 1866

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3426 3/21/1866 *From:* H. L. Shields

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3372

Troy, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165, 166]

Troy, N.Y.  
March 21, 1866

Maj. Genl. Howard  
General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from your Secretary expressing your desire to peruse the report on S. Carolina recently made by me to the govt.

It is in the hands of the "Com'r of Agriculture" and I have written to him requesting that he will transmit it to you for examination. It is too long on other points to expect one so busy as you must bet to read it thro' – but the article on Freedmen & labor near the close of the 3d and final report, may interest you.

I shall feel gratified to hear how it corresponds with your own views and with other information you have obtained from various sources.

I am General  
With much respect  
Yr. hu. Ob. St.  
H. L. Shields

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Troy N.Y. Mar 21, 1866

Shields, H.L.

Concerning his report on condition of affairs in S.C.

Lt. Sladen

[STAMP] BUREAU RF&AL WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 23 1866

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3427 3/21/1866 *From:* M. Roberts

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3373

Madison O.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[172]

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

It has occurred to me that a good thing might be accomplished for the freedmen, the south, and the country, by the formation of stock companies for purchasing large tracts of land, furnishing the facilities of cultivation, and then letting out through our agent to freedmen and others the land in small parcels to be worked on shares or otherwise. This would afford conveniences for mutual thrift, education and protection. Will you please inform me of your opinion of the feasibility of the project, the safety, protection, and encouragement that such an enterprize might hope to receive at the hands of the bureau, and also of the general or state governments, what the most favorable locations to commence such an experiment.

Will you have the kindness to write and give me any information that may be of value in the matter and oblige

Most Respectfully Yours &c  
M. Roberts  
Madison O. March 21/66

P.S. Any reports or other items of information will be thankfully received. M.R.

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3428 3/21/1866 *From:* D.C. Linscott

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3374

10 Court Street  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[173]

10 Court Street  
Boston March 21 / 66

My dear General,

I have the honor to tender you an invitation to deliver the oration before the Literary Societies of Bowdoin College at the next Commencement. Allow me to add also that your acceptance of the same would be highly gratifying to the numerous friends of our "Alma Mater."

Fraternally yours,

D.C. Linscott [Daniel Clark Linscott, Bowdoin College Class of 1854.]  
Chairman of Com of Ath. Soc.

To Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

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3429 3/21/1866 *From:* [Jean] Goncet

*To:* Monsieur le Major-  
General [OO Howard]

OOH-3375

*Source:* Bowdoin

L'HISTOIRE  
GÉNÉRALE DES  
MAISONS  
SOURVERAINES,  
DES MAISONS  
PRINCIÈRES, ET DES  
PRINCIPALES  
FAMILLES DE  
CHAQUE PAYS,  
Genève (27, a. 181,  
Terrassière)

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[127, 128]

[Letterhead]

L'HISTOIRE GÉNÉRALE DES MAISONS SOURVERAINES, DES MAISONS  
PRINCIÈRES, ET DES PRINCIPALES FAMILLES DE CHAQUE PAYS,  
L'Adresse est à M. Goncet, à la Direction de l'Histoire générale, à Genève  
Genève (27, a. 181, Terrassière),  
21 mars 1866

Monsieur le Major-General

J'ai en l'honneur de recevoir la communication que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser. L'ayant examinée, j'éprouve un véritable plaisir à pouvoir faire établir avec cette communication un article assez complet qui sera plus satisfaisant qu'une simple mention.

Je crois qu'ayant bien voulu m'adresser ces renseignements en considérant l'utilité de l'oeuvre, vous voudrez, dans cette même considération, avoir la bonté de vous prononcer sur la souscription.

L'Histoire Générale s'établissant comme les grandes oeuvres historiques des siècles précédents, et chaque article s'imprimant en article séparé, de manière qu'il puisse se compléter chaque fois que cela est nécessaire, il a été expliqué en tête de ma première lettre, que ces travaux occasionnent des dépenses que chaque personne veut bien couvrir.

Je crois, Monsieur, que vous ne trouverez pas trop <élece [CHECK ORIGINAL tape on right edge of page 2> le prix de la 3e classe de souscription indiqué au paragraphe du programme; ce que vous aurez à recevoir est expliqué au paragraphe 5.

Si vous desirez que j'aie l'honneur de vous soumettre l'article avant d'en faire le classement dans l'ouvrage, vous n'aurez qu'à me le faire savoir, en m'adressant le montant de la souscription indiquée à Fr. 200.

En attendant l'honneur de votre envoi, je vous prie,  
Monsieur le Major-general,  
d'agréer de nouvelles expressions de mes  
sentiments de respect

P'r la Direction,  
Goncet

[Printed material that was included in the hand-written letter.]

5. Chaque Souscripteur, pour le prix d'une de ces Classes de Souscription, reçoit le Tome, grand in-folio, dans lequel le Précis ou le Mémoire qui le concerne est inséré, et il reçoit aussi de ce Précis ou de ce Mémoire 20 Exemplaires séparés, sous couvertures indiquant que ce sont de Extraits de l'HISTOIRE GÉNÉRALE; ils sont

imprimés sur le format des anciens et des grands Mémoires historiques.

6. Les trois Classes de Souscription sont de 200, de 500, et de 1,000 francs. Le prix de chaque Classe comprend non seulement les Exemplaires que l'on reçoit suivant l'indication donnée cidessus, mais il comprend aussi les dépenses de Articles, les quelles se couvrent ainsi qu'il suit:

LA 1re CLASSE, de 1,000 fr., couvre les dépenses d'un Mémoire historique et généalogique de six a dix grandes pages in-folio.

LA 2e CLASSE, de 500 fr., couvre les dépenses d'un Précis ou d'un Mémoire de trois a cinq grandes pages.

LA 3e CLASSE, de 200 fr., couvre les dépenses d'un Précis d'une a deux grandes pages.

Lorsqu'un Article doit contenir plus de dix grandes pages in-folio, les dépenses de chaque grande page en plus sont de 50 francs. On compte comme page entière toute page commencée.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Geneva Switzerland

March 21st 1866

<M> Jean Goncet

Redacteur de L Histoire Generale &c

Asked for biographical facts upon which to have an article (in his work) on Gen. Howard, and having received them makes his acknowledgements and solicits the General's subscription to his work.

Recd BRF & AL <[date unreadable]>

[Translation]

I have the honor of receiving the communication that you kindly sent me. Having examined, I feel a real pleasure to be able to establish with this communication a complete article which will be more satisfying than a mere mention .

I believe that having addressed to me this information considering the usefulness of the work, you will, in this same consideration, have the goodness to vote on subscription.

The General Historie is establishing itself as the great historical works of previous centuries , and every article is being printed as a separate article, so that it can complete whenever necessary. It has been explained in my first letter head, that these works involve expenditures that everyone wants to cover well.

I believe, sir, that you will not find too <élece [CHECK ORIGINAL]> the price of third class subscription indicated in paragr. 6 of the program; what you will receive is explained in paragr. 5.

If you would like I have the honor to submit the article before making the rankings in the book, you will only have to let me know by sending me the amount of the specified subscription, 200 Fr.

Awaiting the honor of your shipment, please,

Mr. Major-General,

Accept the new expressions of my feelings of respect

By the direction,

Goncet

5. Each Subscriber, for the price of one of these subscription classes, receives the large folio Tome, in which the specific Article or Memoir is inserted, and it also receives in addition to this particular Article or Memoir, 20 separate examples under covers indicating that these are the GENERAL HISTORY extracts; they are printed on the format of the old and great historical memoirs.

6. The three Classes of subscription are 200 , 500 and 1,000 francs. The price of each Class includes not only copies that one receives following the indication given above, but it also includes the cost of items, described in the following:

The 1st class, 1,000 fr., covers expenses of historical and genealogical memoirs of six to ten large folio pages.

The 2nd CLASS, 500 fr., covers expenses of an Article or Memoir, of three to five large pages.

The 3rd Class, 200 fr., covers the costs of an Article of two large pages.

When an Article shall contain more than ten large folio pages, the cost of each large page are more than 50 francs. One counts as an entire page, when a page is started.

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3430 3/21/1866 *From:* G.L. Eberhart

*To:* Mr. [C.H.] Perham

OOH-3414

Augusta Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[233]

Augusta Ga. Mar 21, 1866.

Mr. [C.H.] Perham:

To one who so fully realizes the influence and importance of a public journal as you do in carrying forward any great reform - in begetting a healthy public sentiment - it would be presumption to say more than to add that the claims of the "appeal" hereto attached, upon your generosity is well worthy your most favorable consideration.

To allow the Loyal Georgian to fail now would be a triumph for the foes of equal rights here which we can contemplate only with feelings of most painful character.

Anything you can do to sustain this enterprize will be given only in behalf of the freedmen and will do much to sustain the broad principles of human freedom for which we are all now battling.

Hoping most earnestly that you can find it in your power to lend immediately to the cause.

I am very truly yours

G.L. Eberhart

State Supt. Of Freedmen's Schools

[Note. This letter was attached to OOH-3412, from Congressman Perham to O.O. Howard dated March 30, 1866.]

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3431 3/22/1866

*From:* John Parkman

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3376

*Source:* Bowdoin

Executive Committee of  
the New England  
Branch of the  
Freedmen's & Union  
Commission.  
Boston, Mass.

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[103, 104]

Extract from a letter from

Miss Lucy Chase, a lady of mature age, nice culture & most respectable family in Worcester, Mass, who, with her sister, left their refined home, 3 years ago, to toil in the service of the Freed People, under the N.E. Freedmen's Aid Soc.

"... tell me whether Govt, Societies, or those who are always with them should help the starving many on Columbus? The number of the aged, childless, friendless colored people here is Legion. Turned loose by their former owners in this City, or brought in from the country & left in the streets, they are wholly dependent on chance charity, & they go hungry many a day. Hardly a day passes that <S.> & myself do not fill meal-bags for many of them. We assure ourselves by visiting, or very careful inquiry of persons we know, that they are in immediate need before we comfort them. At Savannah & Augusta the poor draw rations, but we can get nothing for them here. I have taken in many for a night, who had nowhere to lay their heads, hiring lodging for them in a cellar beneath us, laying planks & spreading beds for them.

I sometimes pay car-fare for one who has friends near.

Th Head of the Bureau says he is not allowed to make any use of the funds that come into his hand, but is forced to send them at once to Genl Tillson. I should write to the Genl to beg at least a roof for the homeless but I know that my letter would come back here again, & I am sure it would avail nothing.

Will you help us through Genl Howard, & will you urge Genl Howard ot put a feeling man at the head of the Bureau in Ala? Every day we meet the victims of the terrible injustice in that State."

Columbus Ga.  
March 22, '66

Respectfully referred to the consideration of Maj. Gen. Howard  
by the Executive Committee of  
the New England Branch  
of the Freedmen's & Union Commission.  
John Parkman  
Francis J. Child

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston, Mass.

Parkman, John

Child, Frances J.

In behalf of the Ex. Com. of the N.E. Branch of the Fr. & Union Com. forward an extract of letter from Miss Lucy Chase, a teacher at Columbus, Ga. concerning the condition of the freed people.

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3432 3/22/1866    *From:* Anthony Smalley

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3377

South Harwich Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[174]

South Harwich Mass.  
Thursday Mar. 22d 1866.

Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I feel that you will pardon the liberty I take in placing this before you, but I will try and be brief as possible. Mr. Jones, Pastor of the mariners church, Staten Island, has so often spoken of you, to me, and I happened to be on the steamer from New York to Fall River at the time you was going home, with the loss of your arm, together with your brother, wounded, and I have watched your course all through the ward, that perhaps I feel more free in stating to you my difficulties. My parents are poor, with a large family of children, my father being quite feeble. I have had to work very hard for their support. At the commencement of the war, I enlisted in the Navy, serving my country faithfully until the end. I reached the position of an acting master, and with that increased pay, for the first time during my life, I managed to get a little ahead with my earnings, so that I have now laid up about \$2500. I have received my "honorable discharge" from the service, and am very anxious to invest my savings in something that will bring me some returns. But I am a little timid, fearing I might lose it, and then my family might suffer. The thought occurred to my mind that I would ask you advice, respecting purchasing, and cultivating some land at the South, for with your extensive knowledge of the South, and its future. What you would say, I could rely on, and know it would be strictly correct. Perhaps you would know of some good locality, and would point out to me. I would not trespass upon your time, but if you only knew how I am situated, and I know your noble christian character. If you can assist me or otherwise –either way, I shall always pray that you may go on, being governed by the great principle of truth and righteousness. I should be pleased to forward letters of recommendation from any of the prominent men of this place.

I am very respectfully,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
Anthony Smalley

Major General O.O. Howard

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3433 3/22/1866      *From:* W. C. Whittemore      *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3378                      Box 396  
    N. Haven, Ct.  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[175]

New Haven, Ct. March 22d, 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard &c  
Dear Sir:

Enclosed I place a letter of introduction which my old friend Chauncey Depew [See Note] was kind enough to give me months ago, at a time when I expected to present it in person at Washington. You will see it has grown quite grey in my hands, but not too much so I hope to serve as a passport for what I wish to say now.

Last year (as you will see from the enclosed circular) I had something to do in raising supplies for the Freedmen.

The "National Freedmens Relief Ass." (of New York) are not at present doing anything much in the way of furnishing material supplies as last year. But having heard through various channels, that there is at present great need of Seeds in the southern country, (I mean those seeds required in raising vegetables &c) I write to ask if in your opinion a large quantity of seeds suited to southern soil and climate would be of any service in assisting the Freedmen or others to provide food for the next winter, and whether if I should obtain 3,000 in assorted seeds (cabbage, onion &c &c), they could be placed in any of proper distribution through the agents of your bureau.

Gen Swayne is an old classmate and friend and I had thought of writing him in the matter but concluded to ask at headquarters. An early reply will gratify <and> oblige

Yours most Respectfully  
W. C. Whittemore [Williams Clark Whittemore, Yale University Class of 1855]  
Box 396  
N. Haven, Ct.

[Note. A letter of introduction from Chauncey Depew, OOH-3379, was dated 12 Sep 1865 and will be found with that date.]

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3434 3/22/1866 *From:* Wm. N. Tyler

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3380

Melrose Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[177]

Melrose March 22nd 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

God bless you for your christian endeavours to place the freedmen where they by right belong. Man is man whatever the color be. I have long hoped for equality, and pray God continually that right and justice may rule in the councils of the nation. You have been successful in your duties, and you know why. It is because you have trusted in God. I hope you may ever be successful not only in your own labors, but in obtaining laborers who shall be earnest in the work, and efficient in their duties to those under their charge. I would be glad to do something myself, but am a poor man, but if I was able, would willingly assist in maintaining their right, and teaching them the way.

With sincere regards I am &c

Wm. N. Tyler

Melrose Mass.

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3435 3/22/1866 *From:* D.H. Ingraham

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3381

Portland, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[178]

Portland, Me.  
March 22 1866

General,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipts of your kind favor of 20th inst in furtherance of our Fair in aid of widows & orphans of deceased soldiers.

We would express our thanks to you, General, if we did not know that the satisfaction would be greater on your part in view of the good effect your letter will have to aid our cause.

Believe me to remain, General,  
Very respectfully yours  
D.H. Ingraham  
Chairman Ex Com.

Gen. Chamberlain will give the opening address.

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3436 3/22/1866 *From:* C.C. Andrews

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3382

Washington D.C.

Comr. Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[179, 180]

Washington D.C.  
March 22 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comr. Freedmen's Bureau  
General:

I have the honor to state that the Medical College building in Mobile was assigned by my order for the use of schools for children of freemen, on or about the 8th of June last, and that the order was recorded in the records of the District Commander of Mobile. That previous to making that order I had the approval and consent of Dr. Nott one of the trustees of the College, who had, as he informed me, consulted the other trustees, or some of them. That previous to making the order I visited the building with Dr Nott; and that proper precautions were taken to secure the apparatus and museum of preparations, specimens &c from interference or damage. I would also state that the building was considerably out of repair especially on the roof and that the quartermasters department was instructed to make some repairs to prevent damage to the building and museum.

Very respectfully  
Your obt servt  
C.C. Andrews [Christopher Columbus Andrews]  
Late Major General of Vols (by brevet)

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington Mar 22nd, 1866.

C.C. Andrews

late Brvt. Maj. Gen. of Vols.

States that he issued the order for the use of the College building at Mobile, as a freedmens school, that he previously consulted Dr. Nott who gave his consent. That the Quartermaster's dept. was instructed to make some repairs which were needed on the building.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 23 1866

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3437 3/22/1866

*From:* WHM [William H  
Merrick]

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3383

Southwark Foundry  
Merrick & Sons,  
Philad'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[184]

[Letterhead]

Southwark Foundry  
Merrick & Sons,  
Philad'a  
J. Vaughan Merrick  
W.H. Merrick  
John E. Cope  
Mar 22 1866

My dear Otis

Your note is just at hand as I was on the eve of writing again. I gather that C will be able to be with us on the 26th on his way home –at any rate I have written to him on the subject –and sincerely hope he will accept.

Will the enclosed document answer your purpose.

Very affectionately,  
WHM [William H Merrick]

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila. Mar 23, 1866  
Merrick W.H.  
Friendly letter  
Mar. 23rd 1866

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3438 3/23/1866

*From:* D.S. Keller

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3384

Howard Division No. 21,  
Sons of Temperance,  
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181]

Howard Division No. 21,  
Sons of Temperance,  
Washington, D.C. Mar. 23d, 1866

General:

In compliance with a resolution passed by this Division in its session of Mch. 22d, I have the honor to inform you that you have been elected to membership in Howard Division, No. 21. S. of T.

If consistent with your engagements we respectfully ask that you formally unite with us some Thursday evening, and inform us when it will be possible for you to do so.

This Division was named in your honor, and it is well deserving the favorable consideration of its honored patronymic. It is second to no organization of the kind in the country. I has already proved a powerful instrumentality for good, and your connection with it would greatly increase its usefulness.

Hoping to receive a favorable response,

I remain, Very Respectfully

Your obdt. Servant,

D.S. Keller "P.S."

"Q.M. Genl's Office"

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
U.S. Army

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3439 3/23/1866 *From:* E A Duncan

*To:* My Dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3385

Dubuque Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[182]

Dubuque March 23d [1866] [The year was written in pencil.]

My Dear Genl

I am out of the service and a pauper and have not means to establish my self in my profession at present. Have you a clerkship or anything else in your department you can give me for the present so I can earn my daily bread until I can turn round. If so I will be ever grateful.

I have just hear with sorrow of Harry Stinson's death. I deeply sympathise with his bereaved mother.

Yours Respectfully  
as ever my Dear Genl  
E A Duncan  
Dubuque Iowa

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3440 3/23/1866

*From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3386

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office,  
No. 11 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia

Washington DC

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[183]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office,  
No. 11 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia,  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 11 Bank Street,  
Jos. Patterson, Treasurer, Western Bank.  
Rev. Lemuel Moss, Home Secretary, 11 Bank Street.  
Rev. E.P. Smith, Field Secretary, 11 Bank Street.  
March 23 1866

My Dear General -

Shall you be kind enough to append your autograph to the accompanying "cartes de visite" of yourself, and return them to me in the enclosed stamped envelope. I wish to have them to present to some friends in Europe.

I do not want to give you any trouble but if you would be kind enough to furnish me with the information concerning the work now being prosecuted among the Freedmen, for which I wrote you a short time since, you would place me under a very great obligation. I hope it will not put you to inconvenience to let me have this at an early date, as I wish to put it in my book of Statistics which I take with me to Europe.

If I can be of any service to you in Europe, please let me know, and I shall gladly execute any commission with which you may entrust me.

Yours Very Truly  
Geo. H. Stuart

Maj Gen. Howard  
Washington DC

Please put your name at the bottom of the photograph.

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3441 3/23/1866 *From:* Unknown

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3387

Washington D.C.

Commissioner of R.F. & A.L.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[185]

Washington D.C.  
March 23d 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of R.F. & A.L.  
General:

I take the liberty to introduce to you Gen. Kent, recently Provost Marshal General of Dept of Texas, now Collector of Customs for Texas.

Gen Kents duties as Provost Marshal brought him in contact with many of the leading citizens of Texas and he may be able to give you information that will be of some value.

I remain, General,  
With much respect  
(over)

[Note. A second page with the addressee's name was missing.]

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3442 3/23/1866

*From:* Harriet M.  
Hogeboom  
New Haven, Ct.

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3388

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[186, 187, 188]

New Haven March 23rd 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

When you were in New Haven in Feb'y I had the pleasure of calling on you at your Hotel the morning afer you lectured, and conversing with you with especial reference to the future work best to be done by the Freedmen's Aid Soc'y of which I am the Secretary. I hope it will not be impossible for you to recall these facts nor that you were so kind at that time as to propose that I should write to you at any time for such information and assistance in the work as I might desire. My addressing you at this time is grounded on the permission.

I am contemplating a tour early in April, along the Atlantic coast as far South as Savannah for the especial purpose of visiting the mission schools among the colored people and seeing generally as much as I can of the work of benevolence which is being done among those recently in slavery. If I go it will be under the protection of the Am'cn Missionary Ass'tn, as it is by their request that the trip is undertaken, in order that I may have more definite information with which to work in the formation of Freedmen's Aid Societies in this State during the coming year. I presume my connection with that Ass'tn will be a sufficient introduction to most persons and places interesting for me to visit, yet it may not be to all, and as I should be glad to have every opportunity I can, I should greatly value a letter from you which I might use as a passport wherever the good work is going on.

I was so much interested in your account of the Quaker Industrial Schools that immediately after you were here I wrote to my only Quaker friend for more information about them. The result is I have a most cordial letter of introduction to all Quaker workers in the field with an invitation to visit their schools and asylums, but from what I can learn these are located in the Mississippi valley, and if so I can not see them. I shall be glad to know if there is anything of the kind on the Atlantic border, and if so where.

Perhaps you will be interested to know that you F.A. Soc'y has sent South since the first of Dec. Over 5000 garments and has raised and expended in material for clothing nearly \$2000.

When you visited our city you had little evidence of the deep earnest sympathy for you and your work which prevails among our very best citizens. The College and the Congregational churches are heartily looking and praying for your success. When you were here these persons were deeply afflicted in the death of one of our oldest and most prominent clergymen. The news of this had fallen most suddenly and overwhelmingly that morning uon the religious part of the community, and that being the evening for the church prayer meeting, they collected sympathetically there. I hope there will be another opportunity for them and for us all, and that you will not delay the publication of whatever may put your friends at the North into as full sympathy as possible with your plans and your views. I am sure something of this kind from you for general popular reading would greatly forward the work.

With the hope that I have not been trespassing too much upon your kindness.

I am,  
Very respectfully  
Yours  
Harriet M. Hogeboom

My address is  
"Miss H.M. Hogeboom  
New Haven, Ct."

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New Haven Conn.

Mar. 23rd 66

Hogeboom, Harriet M.

Writes friendly letter concerning the work in Conn for the aid of the freedmen.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 24 1866

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3443 3/23/1866

*From:* C. H. Prince

*To:* Hon S. Perham

OOH-3413

Loyal Georgian Office  
Augusta Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[231, 232]

Augusta Ga. March 23, 1866

Hon S. Perham  
My Dear Sir,

You will see by this letter that I am in Augusta Ga. Through your kind assistance, with other friends, I succeeded in obtaining the Cashiership of the Freedmans Savings Bank located in this City. I feel very grateful to you for the interest which you took in my behalf. I was in Washington the 3rd of this month and desired to see you but had not time to look you up. I went into the gallery of the House of Rep. But you was not in. You are well aware that the friends here are trying to sustain a paper for the Colored people of Ga. On my arrival here - the friends both white and colored - desired me to take the business management of their paper for a short time. I have consented to do so. I find the paper very poor and the business part of it in a very loose manner. I have succeeded in straightening out the books, turning of necessary help &c &c. I have come to the conclusion that the paper can't live unless it gets help from Northern friends. We have had a circular drawn up - a copy of which I enclose to you. This Circular is now in a cheap form and what we desire is to get letters from a few leading men North that we can publish in connection with this circular and have it got up in good style for circulation. The Freedmen are at work and are doing well and I think it is not in the direction of money or clothing which they need help but it is in the way of paper, schools &c. Papers printed North and distributed among them do not meet their wants. They must have a paper of their own, with little items in it in regard to themselves. They like to see their own names in print, reports of their meetings, what their ministers are doing &c. Now I believe that the people of the North can't give their money in any way to assist the Freedmen of Ga. More than to support his paper. Another thing which tends to rouse the Colored people is, to see that they have a paper that dares to clash with nasty Southern Sheets and defend their rights. I send attached to this circular a letter from the State Supt. of Freedmens Schools. I should have sent a letter from Gen. Tilson but he is in another part of the State. Now after reading this Circular and letter attached, I would like to have you give us a letter which we can publish urging the good people to support our Cause. I will send you copies of the "Transcript" so you can see what we have got to contend with. If you think favorable of our cause, I would like to have you see Gen. Howard, Senator Sumner, and any others who you would think best, and State the case to them and get them to give us a letter to publish favoring our cause. Mr. Eccles of Boston is our Editor and should you like to know any thing about his character I would respectfully refer you to Mr. Foster, Pres. Of the U.S. Senate, who is one of his personal and intimate friends. I have written to Mr. Fessenden for a letter and should you have an opportunity you might think it best to mention the matter to him. I am very desirous of getting a letter from Gen. Howard and Mr. Sumner. You are aware that it is utterly useless for us to make an appeal North, unless we are encouraged by leading names. Men want to know where their money is going, and unless I can work effectually, I don't propose to work at all. The people here are very disloyal and should the Bureau & Military be withdrawn, every northern man would have to leave immediately. I trust Congress will stand firm against the policy of Pres. Johnson and traitors both North and South who unite with him. I trust that the true men who have stood through the thickest of the fight will be kept in Congress until the South is fit to be reconstructed. Let Northern people who think the South is loyal come among them and they will find that the loyalty which they saw when they were North has vanished away. Pardon me for being so lengthy.

Hoping to hear from you  
I remain Very Resp. Yours  
C. H. Prince  
Loyal Georgian Office  
Augusta Ga.

P.S.

We are in great need of funds and we trust you can assist us by your immediate influence.  
C.H.P.

[Note. This letter was attached to OOH-3412, from Congressman Perham to O.O. Howard dated March 30,

1866. Also attached to this letter is the letter, OOH-3414, from G.L. Eberhart, the State Superintendent of Freedmen's Schools to Mr Prince.]

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3444 3/24/1866

*From:* Rev. S.E. Colburn

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3389

Parkersburg West Va.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[190]

Parkersburg West Va.  
March 24 1866

Major Genl Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Sir,

Yours of 22 ult at hand. Will you permit us to remove the school ward. Do you think it advisable to remove it, that is, can they have the use of it long enough to pay expense. I expect to solicit aid abroad. They need a house very much, their children are in the streets. It will cost about \$500.00 to build a common house. If convient please answer by return mail.

Very respectfully Your Obt. Servant  
Rev. S.E. Colburn

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Parkersburg, W. Va.

Mar 24, 1866

Colburn, S.E.

Desires permission to have the school house for cold. children.

Recd Mar 29, 1866

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3445 3/26/1866      *From:* Thomas M Brewer      *To:* Hon. Geo. N. Boutwell

OOH-3390                      Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[191]

Boston March 26th '66

Hon. Geo. N. Boutwell  
My dear Sir

May I venture to intrude upon your good nature a matter not belonging strictly to public business? My excuse, perhaps inadequate, may be found in your past connection with, and interest in, matters of public instruction.

My story, as briefly as I can tell it, is this. The New England Freedmens Association, after a careful examination of all the books in the market adopted for use in the freedmens schools, etc etc, to make use of our publications as the best for their purpose, namely, Hillard Readers and Worcester's spelling books. These they furnished, where they established schools, paid the teachers and supplied the books. At their suggestion and request, we sent to a bookseller in Raleigh, N.C. a supply of our publications, such as they were using. They were received and highly approved by teachers and agents. In a short time their sale was forbidden by the officers of the Freedmens Bureau, and the Association here received letters to the effect that no donations would be received unless they were Parker and Watson's books published by Barnes & Co. of New York. At the same time we were notified that the sale of our books would not be permitted, we were requested to pay storage and other expenses and recall our books.

To this the Association objected, insisting upon <being [CHECK ORIGINAL - under the tape right side of page 2.]> the judges of whom they should send as teachers and of what they should send as books. They advised us also, to allow our books to remain in N.C. subject to their order, which we did. We wrote to the officers of the Bureau in Raleigh, and sent them our books for examination and asked him to compare them with those thus <arbitrarily> adopted. We received no answer, and the only one, so far as I know, that has ever come, was from New York, from the publishers of Parker and Watson's, offering to the Association to take off their hands, in even exchange, all of our publications they might have on hand and wishing them hereafter to buy their publications instead of ours. This they declined to do and so the matter rested, until Mrs Jotham Lane, who conducted the business of the Freedmens Association was taken ill.

Another case, where the tyranny of those who profess to act for the Bureau is even more gross. In Jacksonville Fla. a friend of mine is in the lumber business. His partner wrote that they were entirely destitute of school books and he accordingly bought a small lot as a sample. They were all sold as soon as received and were very acceptable. A second and much larger lot was ordered, but soon after their arrival the military authorities forbid their sale, as if Worcester's dictionaries, spelling books, and our readers were either seditious or poisonous to the public morals and the books ordered home!

Now surely all this high-handed usurpation must be illegal and without the sanction of the Bureau! It cannot be that it was ever intended thus, as in North Carolina, to forbid a large and respectable association from giving their charity in the manner they believe most serviceable? Nor as in Florida, to forbid the selling under penalties of martial law the only really patriotic series of readers that has ever been published. The question with me is to whom can I state my case and seek for redress? All I ask is fair play and a chance to have our books judged upon their merits. I do know that where we can do this in our free white schools, Parker & Watson stand no chance as compared with ours.

Will you be so very kind, if you can suggest any thing, to advise me what steps to take to have justice?

Your friend and servt.  
Thomas M Brewer

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Respectfully referred to the Comr of Freedman's Bureau.  
/s/ Geo. L. Boutwell

[Written sideways on the last page, in a third hand.]

Boston, Mar. 26, 1866

Brewer, Thos. M.

Endorsed to Genl. Howard by Representative Boutwell of Mass. Complains of action of School Supt. Fiske of N.C. in prescribing the books to be used by the teachers of the N.E. F. Assn.

[Written in a fourth hand.] Investigation

Recd. April 9th 1866

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3446 3/26/1866    *From:* William E. Matthews    *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3391

24 Pierce Street  
Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[193]

24 Pierce Street  
Baltimore March 26th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard,  
My dear Sir,

I write to inform you that every arrangement has been made for your lecture of tomorrow (Tuesday) evening. I hope there will be no disappointment on your part. I believe you are expected to stop with the Rev Mr Johnson. You in company with Mr Johnson will meet Judge Bond, Mr Albert and other gentleman at the Rooms of the Association for the Moral and Intellectual Improvement of the Colored People, when you will all proceed to the Hall in Company.

Please do not dissappoint us under any consideration.

I am with Profound Regard  
Yours Very Truly  
William E. Matthews

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Matthews Wm. E.  
Concerning Gen. Howards lecture in Baltimore  
Recd Mar 27, 1866

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3447 3/26/1866

*From:* Geo N. Reynolds

*To:* Maj Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-3392

*Source:* Bowdoin

Union Mutual Life  
Insurance Company,  
No. 33 Reynolds'  
Arcade,  
Rochester, N.Y.

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[194]

[Letterhead]

Union Mutual Life Insurance Company,  
No. 33 Reynolds' Arcade,  
Rochester, N.Y.

Mar. 26 1866

Maj Gen'l Howard

Dear General,

Will you be so kind as to give to me the exact date and place of the decease of my late dearly beloved friend Harry Stinson.

I have been unable to learn anything definite in regard to it, and, I assure you, that you will confer upon me a great favor by giving the above items and any other facts which you may have the time to write.

Trusting that I shall not infringe to much upon your already greatly preoccupied time,

I remain with Kindest regards,

Very Resp'y Your obt Serv

Geo N. Reynolds

[Written in red ink across the letter.]

P.O. Box 525

Rochester N.Y.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Rochester N.Y. Mar. 26 1866

Reynolds, Geo. N.

Desires information concerning Col. Harry Stinson death

Recd. Mar. 29th 1866

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3448 3/26/1866

*From:* Saml Thomas

*To:* Major Genl. T.J. Wood

OOH-3394

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Office of Assistant  
Commissioner,  
For the State of  
Mississippi  
Vicksburg, Miss.

Commanding Dept. of  
Mississippi

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[199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204]

COPY

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Office of Assistant Commissioner,  
For the State of Mississippi  
Vicksburg, Miss.,  
March 26th, 1866.

Major Genl. T.J. Wood,  
Commanding Dept. of Mississippi,  
General,

I beg leave to lay before you a letter published in the Cincinnati Commercial, on the 17th inst; such attacks as this are easily met and refuted when opportunity is afforded; but if unnoticed my superior officers and the public may get the impression that I cannot deny the charges, and people at a distance may take up opinions damaging not only to my character, but also to the Freedmen's Bureau at large, which is of far greater consequence than my personal reputation. I therefore take the liberty to offer the explanations and denials which I beg you will use as you may think most conducive to the public interest.

You will see that the correspondent of the Commercial says that he has personal knowledge of the character and operations of the Bureau officers of whom he speaks.

This cannot be true. I never saw him so far as I know. No one about my office has ever known such a man to come about here. We are certain that he has had no other opportunity to examine my operations than can be got by picking up rumors and inventions among the Southern people whose animosity to the Bureau leads them to receive eagerly, exaggerate freely and communicate joyfully anything that may be said against the Bureau or its individual officers.

He accuses me of keeping "sleek span of horses and a carriage to correspond" His mention of the span and his speaking of an officer at Jackson, lead me to guess that probably he was at that place last year, about the time that the former Surgeon in chief on my staff and myself put each his horse to a buggy and drove to Jackson on business.

This is the only time when for a few weeks, I drove occasionally a span. I mention this minute circumstance that it may be seen on what a very narrow foundation the charge against me is built. Sometimes the best way to meet a grave charge is to expose its trivial source.

As to my driving with the "ay ladies of Vicksburg," I may to your own knowledge of my habits, and to the universal testimony of the town, whether this charge has any foundation at all. I have driven very seldom with any ladies, and it is a cruel slander of them to utter the innuendo contained in the term "ay ladies."

The officer whom he mentions as a popinjay at Jackson, and whose conduct he professes to have seen, was dismissed from the Bureau the moment his misconduct was made known, by an order dated Sept 29, 1865. His reference to this officer last summer induces me to believe that his letter was written from impressions received while in the State about that time, without inquiry as to changes, progress, &c. This is certainly very

unjust, and indicates any thing but fairness of mind in the correspondent.

I am charged with having made 60,000 dollars out of my office. I can oppose to this nothing but a simple denial and a call for investigation before a military tribunal, if there is probable cause for suspicion.

The correspondent attempts to account for the possibility of my making so much money, by saying that the Bureau has approved 75,000 contracts at a dollar fee for each since last Christmas. Now you, General, and every one at all conversant with the affairs of my office, know that we have approved comparatively few contracts, since the Civil officers of the State began operations; - they taking nearly all this work under the State law. The Bureau has not ratified one Contract since Christmas. Whatever fee the magistrates may charge, does not pass through the hands of any Bureau officer. All the fees ever collected for registering contracts, that this correspondent so sneeringly alludes to, would not amount to \$5,000.

Next the correspondent does not hesitate to say that the fines collected in this State during the past year amounted to 200,000 dollars. Since the establishment of Civil tribunals and the abolition of Freedmen's Courts last October, there have been absolutely no fines inflicted; and before that time all that were ever collected would not amount to 5,000 dollars. So the "nug little income of \$275,000" which he mentions fades away "like the baseless fabric of a vision."

The condition of both classes of the people has steadily improved since last November. I do not believe there are 300,000 laborers working any where with less friction than in this State.

This correspondent may hear of individual cases of abuse, and I do not deny that they occur; but he loses sight of the great change of the feeling of the white people towards the Freedmen.

We hear citizens make such remarks, as - "if we had been told one year ago, that a Judge in the State of Mississippi would ever have rendered such a decision, we would not have believed it."

I am working with you, General, to obtain from the Executive and Judiciary the admission of principles, and of the rights of the Freedman that will be his safeguard.

He charges the Bureau Officers with inefficiency; this is the gist of his talk about not securing the negroes justice and the like. In answer to this, I may appeal to the facts concerning our influence in getting proper contracts made between employer and employed; to the influence we have exerted in securing to the colored people the right to buy and lease lands, which the new laws of the State had forbidden; to the regulations of the matter of apprenticeship, by which we have secured to colored parents their right of a guardianship; to our care of orphan children; to our hospitals for the infirm, especially to the growing asylums at Lauderdale; to the schools steadily extending to all parts of the State, and still growing, - not one tenth of which could stand without our presence, or would have been granted the Freedmen without our assistance.

General, I do not wish to weary you with a long statement, but to submit my defence briefly. I court investigation. Such letters as this are doing injury to the Freedmen, and the Citizens of the State, and are slanders upon the officers of the Army. I am laboring to bring about a feeling of harmony between all classes, and secure such a recognition of the Freedmen's rights before the Civil tribunals of the State as will be most conducive to such harmony. In furtherance of these objects, I take care not to harass the white citizens with Bureau officers, when I obtain pledges that the Freedmen will receive justice. I am succeeding in doing this. We are making progress. In many portions of the State the best feeling exists between the Officers of the Bureau and the Civil officers, and in some cases the best and most influential of the white citizens have expressed regret at the withdrawal of my officers.

Sub Commissioners on duty in this State have made reports that have been published over the Country as evidence that the Freedmen are much abused. These reports are exaggerated accounts of outrages that do occur; nothing is said of the thousands of contented laborers who are at work on plantations.

Capt I.M. Matthews has made such a report, that has done the State great injustice. This Captain was on duty at Magnolia for four months before he was relieved in December last; yet he failed to report a single outrage till he was relieved from duty, when he wrote the celebrated report that caused an order to be issued, call him to Washington.

He either failed to discharge his duty as a Bureau Officer, or his report and statements, made since being relieved, are untrue.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Saml Thomas  
Colonel and Asst Commissioner  
State of Miss.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Recd. April 5, 1866

[Note. This letter was appended to OOH-3393, from Col. Thomas to Gen. OO Howard.]

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3449 3/27/1866

*From:* Sam'l Thomas

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3393

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
Office of Assistant  
Commissioner  
for the State of  
Mississippi  
Vicksburg Miss

Commissioner Bureau R.F.  
and A.L.

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[195, 196, 197, 198]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Office of Assistant Commissioner  
for the State of Mississippi  
Vicksburg Miss March 27th 1866.

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner Bureau R.F. and A.L.  
General,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter, addressed by me to Major Genl Wood, at the request of Genls Thomas and Wood, that they might have some facts as to the misrepresentations of a correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, with reference to the character of the Freedmen's Bureau.

I am sure I have the entire confidence of both Generals, and have been assured by them, that they will take steps to vindicate the character of the Bureau and its officers.

I forward you a copy of the letter, as it contains statements with reference to the condition of the Freedmen and the results of the labors of the Bureau.

Perfect harmony and cordiality exist between the Bureau and the regular military organization. General T.J. Wood takes great interest in all that is done, supervises, approves, and in fact makes himself completely responsible for all my acts. Copies of all my reports, orders &c. are forwarded to Division Head Quarters, at the same time they are forwarded to you.

I have reorganized the State, assigned new Officers to the positions of Sub Commissioners, and issued a Digest of orders and instructions for the government of Sub Commissioners. This pamphlet has been forward for your examination and approval. It has been approved by the Dept. Commander.

General Sewall is here and will be given every opportunity to make a rigid examination of the Bureau in this State.

The General has spoken to me about the charges made by Mr Hawley, and the colored men whom he has induced to write letters to you or Mr Alvord, about the Freedmen's Savings Bank of this place.

I could retort, by charging Mr Hawley with many things of which I know him to be guilty, that make him unfit for the position of Cashier of the Freedmen's Savings Bank. It would look too much like childish spite, for me to take any such course at this time.

I have informed Mr Alvord, and the President of the Bank of my feelings, and have told them, if he is not removed, I cannot assist the Bank.

When he was appointed Cashier, he made an undue use of my name and character, for the purpose of furthering his own financial operations, which he is conducting in connection with the bank. This I would not allow. As soon as he found he could not use the Bureau, he devoted himself to its abuse.

I wold not risk a dollar myself in the Bank, and, as it is now managed of course would not advise the Freedmen

to deposit their money there.

General T.J. Wood told Genl Sewall that he held the same opinion of Mr Hawley and his conduct of business.

If the Committee that has charge of the Freedmen's Savings Bank do no think it proper to make a change, I can say no more.

The objects of the enterprise are good; properly managed the Band would do well.

My object in addressing you personally is to place the matters treated in these letters, directly before you for consideration.

I have the honor to be, General,  
Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
Sam'l Thomas  
Colonel and Asst Commissioner  
State of Miss.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Vicksburg, Miss.

March 27th, 1866

Thomas, Sam. Col & A.C.

Concerning article in Cincinnati Commercial reflecting upon the Bureau.

Enclosed copy of letter to Gen. T.J. Woods [See OOH-3394]

Recd. April 5th, 1866

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3450 3/27/1866    *From:* Charles Barrett

*To:* Hon. J.S. Morrill

OOH-3395

Grafton Vt.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[205]

Grafton Vt.  
March 27th 1866

Hon. J.S. Morrill [See Note]  
Dear Sir -

The bearer of this Lieut. George M. Kingsbury, has told me that he was about going to Washington to look after his interests as a member of V.R.C. - now being mustered out or disbanded as an organization.

My personal acquaintance with Mr. K. has been limited and of comparatively recent date. But I have long known friends of his and more or less about him by common report.

Mr. K. has an excellent name – without, so far as I know, any tract of blemish on it.

I have known him particularly only since he began to rally from a wound he rec'd in battle.

A ball paved through his lungs. His recovery, if indeed he is well & strong again – is one of the rare exception cases that we occasionally hear of.

If in any way – in your intervals of leisure – you could be of service to him, I think you could aid one who “deserves well of the Republic”.

Mr. K. is, I believe, a Lieut. in the 23d Regmt V.R.C. - credited to (Chester) Windsor Co.

Yours Very Truly  
Charles Barrett

[Note. Justin Smith Morrill was a U.S. Representative from Vermont, 1856-1866 and then its Senator, 1867-1898.]

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3451 3/27/1866     *From:* L. Deane

*To:* Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-3396

Wash'n D.C.

Wash'n, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[206, 207]

Wash'n D.C.  
Mch 27, '66

Dear General,

In compliance with your request I send herewith a list of members of Congress interested in our enterprise: those whose names are marked thus \* worship at home with churches of our order, though not known to be otherwise especially interested with us:

* Lot W. Morrill	Maine
James G Blaine	"
J.W. Patterson	N.H.
Solomon Foot	Vt
Portus Baxter	"
Fred E. Woodbridge	"
Justin S. Morrill	"
Wm B. Washburn	Mass
* L.F.S. Foster	Conn
J.H. Hubbard	"
Burton C. Cook	Ills
Josiah B. Grinnell	Iowa
S.C. Pomeroy	Kansas
Wm. Windom	Minn
Sidney Clark (perhaps)	Kansas

Possibly there may be others but the above comprises all who have given any evidence to my knowledge of interest.

Very Truly yours

L. Deane [Llewellyn Deane, Bowdoin Class of 1849, and a leader in the formation of the 1st Congregational Church of Washington.]

Maj Gen OO Howard  
Wash'n, D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington, Mar 27, /66

Dean, L.

Concerning the Congregational Church

Recd. Mar 28th 1866

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3452 3/27/1866 *From:* J. Marshall

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-3397

Balt.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[203]

Balt. March 27/66

Dear Genl

I would take it very kind if you can make it convenient to accompany Hon. Judge Bond and States Atty Geo. L. <Maimd> to the Pho. Gallery of Hewitt I Foux No 9. Gay St before leaving the City – to sit for your Pho. Many of your friends (especially Colored) desire a copy.

I succeeded in obtaining a very good Pho. Of Gen. Fisk & Col. Whittlesey in Philad'a in June last. I thought to have obtained yours at the same time – but Gen Fisk informed me you were obliged to leave the City on pressing business. I was therefore deprived of the Privilege at that time.

I was at the Convention of the Young Mens Chris. Assn. last year the closing scenes of which were most interesting indeed to me and no doubt to all there. I saw & heard you there for the first time and since then I have not had the privilege of seeing or hearing you until on the anniversary of the Sunday School of the first Cong'l Church in this City.

I honour you Genl. for your Works sake – God bless you in all your laboring in behalf of the poor despised Freedmen.

P.S. Mr Foux the Photographer on Gay St has been a long time with the army taking views &c and has hundreds of very interesting scenes of the army & navy and is considered one of the best operators. If you could make it convenient to call at No 9 Gay St. before leaving the City you would confer a favour on many friends as well as myself.

Very respectfully  
J. Marshall  
In haste

[Written on the back page in a different hand.]

Baltimore Md

Mar 27.

Marshal, J

Desires that Gen. Howard call at his establishment & sit for pictures.

Recd Mar 29, 1866

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3453 3/27/1866 *From:* William Elliott

*To:* Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-3398

Piqua [Ohio]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[209]

Piqua [Ohio] March 27th 1866.

Genl.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th inst, in the midst of my sore affliction and distress, on account of the death of my dear wife, with home I had lived over forty years in the old Homestead. The idea of being dismissed from the position I occupied without knowing the cause, adds greatly to my distress at this particular time. If you will permit me to retain my place during the month of April I will resign the 1st of May –this will give me an opportunity of settling up my business, and of ascertaining what is the cause of my removal. If you should grant my request I will be there at the expiration of any furlough. Please inform me by return mail.

Very respectfully &c  
William Elliott

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Piqua Ohio

March 27th / 66

Wm. Elliott

Acknowledges receipt of the Commissioner's communication of the 24th inst and requests to be retained until 1st of May.

Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Mar 30th / 66

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3454 3/27/1866 *From:* P. Bonesteel

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3399

No 244. Willards Hotel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[210, 211]

[ca. March 27, 1866] [The date was written in pencil.]

No 244. Willards Hotel

General

Having a business appointment here with a gentleman & while waiting his appearance it perhaps would facilitate Kentucky business by making the following suggestions for your consideration.

1st. Read my report proper as soon as you have time. There is no haste about the abstract as it is a true compilation of the proof it can be examined when necessary.

2nd. In regard to the President I would suggest that a copy of Report, proper, be made for & handed to him at once. After that if he wishes to see me I will answer any inquiries.

3rd. Genl. Fisk wanted me to have several copies of my report, proper, handed to leading papers N.York, Cincinnati & St. Louis for publication viz. Tribune & Times N.Y Commercial & Gazette Cin. & one or two leading papers at St. Louis – a mere telegram giving extracts I think would not give the public the true situation of Eastern Kentucky – unless followed up by report.

I will have a further interview with you anytime after 7 P.M. or tomorrow morning. Would like to leave for N.Y. tomorrow night but will remain longer if necessary. You will see that Genl Ely has certified to my report, but that need not be published unless assailed.

I am Yours Very Truly  
P. Bonesteel

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different.]

Willards Hotel

Bonesteel, P.

Concerning his report on Kentucky affairs.

Recd. Mar 28th 1866

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3455 3/28/1866

*From:* E H Rollins

*To:* Maj. Genl. OO Howard

OOH-3400

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

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[212, 213]

[Letterhead]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.  
March 28 1866

Maj. Genl. OO Howard  
My dear Sir:

Permit me to introduce to you the learned Rev D P Leavitt, Missionary of the Methodist Ep Church of New Hampshire, to organize societies among the colored people of Florida. Will you please give him such information as may be useful to him, and also a letter to the officers of your Bureau in that Department, and oblige

yours with much respect

E H Rollins [Edward Henry Rollins, U.S. Representative from New Hampshire, 1861-1866, Senator, 1877-1882.]

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

House of Reps.  
Washington D.C.  
Mch. 28 / 66

Rollins, Hon. E.H. M.C.

Introduces Rev. D.P. Leavitt, Missionary of M.E. Church, N.H. & asks a letter to the officers of the Bureau in Fla.

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3456 3/28/1866 *From:* Y. Warner

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3401

Germantown Pa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[214]

Germantown 3/28 66

To Genl Howard

Dear Sir -

Further information put doubt on the account given by some of the party called "quakers" as given to Dr C Evans & myself. We find Jonathan Cox & family, so far, the only Friends, known to have removed. And even some doubt exists whether he is the identical man who was known among friends of N.C. by that name. We shall sift the matter to the bottom, & write the result to thee.

I am humiliated at writing the word "give" instead of "sell", in my former letter which went to Col Whittlesey & gave him the trouble of answering what I knew before. We only wanted to know whether Col. W. could do at other places, as he could at Greensboro. P.S. This we know.

Respectfully

Y. Warner

Our business is very heavy and a few of us are workers.

[Written on the back page as an address.]

Gen O.O. Howard

P.S. Dispatch from Col E Whittlesey new recd & satisfactory. Y.M.

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Germantown Pa

Mar. 28th 1866

Warner, Yardley

Writes concerning the quakers from N.C.

Recd. Mar. 30th 1866

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3457 3/28/1866 *From:* M. L. Stoever

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3402

Penna College  
Gettysburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[215, 216]

Penna College  
Gettysburg, Mch. 28th /66

My dear General,

I cherished the hope, that you would have made me that expected visit before this. I know your time is very much occupied, yet I supposed a day or two of rest, in our quiet town would be of service to you. Can you not run away from your office this coming Saturday and spend Sabbath with us? It is our communion season, and I am confident you would enjoy it with us.

I was in Washington last month at the meeting of the Christian Commission, and was sorry that you were absent from the city. My recollections of you are so pleasant, tht I would like to know you more intimately. I met you for the first time on the Sabbath after the great battle, which is now regarded as the turning point in the history of the Rebellion and with which your name will always be so closely identified. You selected the position, and under God we owe every thing to that fact. I regretted that on the 4th of July you could spend so little of your time with me. Do repeat your visit under more favorable circumstances. Would you not like to spend a Sabbath with us and unite with God's people in this place in commemorating the dying love of our risen Saviour? If you find that you can make your arrangements to come, send me a telegram and I will meet you at the Depot.

I occasionally hear from your brother who spent a couple of weeks in Gettysburg after the Battle. We then became very good friends. I wrote to him the other day, and proposed that if you would <communion> us, I would be glad to spend my Spring vacation in visiting some parts of the South and looking after the interests of the Freedmen in whose cause I feel deeply interested. I used to spend my exertions in efforts connected with the Christian Commission.

I am always disposed to make myself useful. Is there any service I could render your Bureau? I would be willing to go to the South-West, or Charleston, Savannah, on some special errand. My object would be to do good, and to gather information. I want to prepare an article on the Freedmen for a Quarterly of which I am Editor and many of the facts I would want to gather from personal observation. Such an article I prepared on the Christian Commission, designed for reference. If your brother could accompany me on such a tour, I would enjoy it very much. I have not yet had a reply from him to my communication. Perhaps he has written to you on the subject.

With my best wishes and deep sympathy in the important work which has been committed to your charge,

I remain with sincere regard  
Your friend & brother  
M. L. Stoever [Martin Luther Stoever]

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3458 3/28/1866 *From:* Mrs. L. H. Kennedy

*To:* Dear General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3403

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[265]

New York Mar. 28 / 66

Dear General Howard:

I am making a bouquet of flowers from the hair of prominent Generals and Statesmen. Will you please be kind enough to send me a little lock of your and wife's for it?

With much respect -  
Your Humble Friend  
Mrs. L. H. Kennedy

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3459 3/29/1866

*From:* Geo H Gordon  
Late Bvt Major Genl  
USV

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3404

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of  
Geo. H. Gordon,  
Counsellor at Law,  
No. 7 Court Square,  
Boston

Washington DC

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[217, 218]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Office of  
Geo. H. Gordon,  
Counsellor at Law,  
No. 7 Court Square,  
Boston

March 29 1866

General

I am counsel for one, Cutting (James Ambrose Cutting) the inventor of a process in Photography by which all the military maps used in the late rebellion were multiplied with such rapidity and accuracy. Military sites, fortifications and material were also taken for use a presentations. This process was patented –the Govt in using this art infringed the patent it had granted to Cutting. It is proposed to seek remuneration from Congress, and to that effect a bill is being prepared.

You would confer upon me a great favor if you would send me a word of your opinion of the value to Gvt of this process in its operations over Military theaters of action, as well as in any other manner in which its beneficial use may have been brought to your notice.

Of what value this art was to Govt is what I would ask you to speak.

The invention is one of great merit and is in constant use by every photographer in the land.

I am very <> yours  
Geo H Gordon  
Late Bvt Major Genl USV

Major Genl Howard  
Washington DC

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston Mar 29 / 66

Gordon, Geo. H.

Asks the value of photography as applied to engineering.

War Dept

Washington

April 2, 1866

Respy referred to L. Dean, Esp. Patent Office fpr his opinion in the matter. By order Maj. Gen. Howard2003J.A. Sladen.

Priv. Secy.

Recd. Mar. 31st 1866.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D APR 7 1866



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3460 3/29/1866

*From:* Robt J. Parvin

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3405

*Source:* Bowdoin

National Committee of  
Ladies Christian  
Commissions  
Chelton Hills, Pa.

Washington, D.C.

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[219, 220]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission,  
Central Office, 11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia  
Geo H. Stuart, Chairman.  
Jos. Patterson, Treasurer.  
National Committee of Ladies Christian Commissions.  
Rev. Robt. J. Parvin, Chairman, No. 11 Bank Street  
Mrs. A.R. Crowell, Secretary, No. 510 Walnut Street.  
Chelton Hills, Pa.  
March 29th 1866

My Dear Sir,

I have accepted an appointment from the American Freedmen's Commission to represent, in their behalf, the interests of the Freedmen, before the British National Committee, & Local Organizations in England &c having these interests in view. The high position you occupy as related to the welfare of our Freed people, & the worthy course you have taken in their behalf, & the welfare of our whole country, will give much power for good to a letter from you on the needs of the Freedmen, & the work of the F's Commission.

Will you not take time enough to furnish me with such a letter as might, if occasions call for it, be read to the Nat'l Committee at their annual meeting in London in May next? A very few lines from you on the points indicated would be acceptable. And whatever in the way of Reports or Information you may be pleased to send, will be thankfully rec'd - & used in the good cause.

Mr. Stuart goes to Europe, for a general visit, in Steamer of April 4th. My passage seured for the 18th April.

A response at y'r early convenience, is respectfully solicited by

Truly, Yr Friend &c.  
Robt J. Parvin  
care of Jay Cooke & Co.  
Philada, Pa.

To/  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Washington, D.C.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Chelton Hills, Pa  
Mar. 29th 1866  
Parvin, Robt. J.

Is going to Europe to represent the interests of the Am. F. Com. Asks for a letter of endorsement.  
Recd. Mar 31st 1866



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3462 3/30/1866 *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3407

Vicksburg, Miss

Commissioner Bureau  
Refugees, Freedmen and  
A.L.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[221, 222]

Vicksburg, Miss March 30th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and A.L.  
General,

I have the honor to report to you that I returned from Natchez yesterday.

I found the office there well conducted, the officers properly instructed and attentive to their duties.

I had an interview with the Mayor and two of the prominent citizens. While in common with the general sentiment prevailing here they expressed a decided objection to the Bureau, but failed in any specific well grounded allegation against it. I am, from my observations so far in this State more strongly convinced of the necessity of protection to the freed people, by a continuance of the Bureau in some form.

I hear of outrages against the colored people said to have been perpetrated in the interior, but they are general.

Major Genl. Wood promptly causes an investigation of all such reports: both he and Col Thomas are striving to correct abuses which may exist.

I shall go to Jackson tomorrow, thence to Lauderdale, Meridian, Columbus and Grenada, returning here as soon as practicable.

I am, General,  
Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant,  
F.D. Sewall [Signature in a different hand than the rest of the letter.]  
Col. 3rd Regt. V.R.C. and  
Brev't Brig Genl Vols.

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Vicksburg Miss

March 30 / 1866

Sewall, F.D.

Brevt. Brig. Genl. N.J. Vols.

Forwards report of his inspection in Natchez and other points in Mississippi.

ER

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. REC'D APR 9 1866

O.O.H. [Initials in OO Howard's hand.]

S 177 Vol. R.F.A.L. 1866 [Written in red ink at the top of this last page, overwriting the date.]

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3463 3/30/1866

*From:* E.A. Kozlay  
Col. 54th Regt.  
N.Y.V.I.

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3408

Mount Pleasant C.  
Harbor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[171]

Private

Mount Pleasant C. Harbor  
March 30th 1866

My dear General,

The 54th arrived from Orangeburg to this place to be mustered out. I think about the 20th of next month we will depart for New York. From Maj. Smith Asst. Adj. General I understood, that you were kind to have me retained, and that you succeeded first, but afterward, it was revoked. I am very much obliged for your kindness. I knew, that I have enemies in the War Department. But I beg to assure you, that I am not guilty of any act, for which (it seems) I ought to be persecuted. I am glad, that Colonel Totten Inspector General of the War Dept. came here, to investigate some charges brought against me. it may be, that these charges prompted somebody to work against my promotion.

I beg you, just to ask the Department for the report of Colonel Totten, and you will find out how unjustly I was always persecuted, and the promotion denied to me.

I know, that Mr. Stanton has always stood by me; because he know me from the past, as incapable to do any wrong act intentionally.

As of course, I desired to be retained to gratify others. But if it can not be granted, well I cant help it. However I am sure, that as soon as the Dept has perused Col. Tottens report, they wil think otherwise –and do otherwise.

I beg you to accept my Sincere thanks for your kindness, and believe me  
to be respectfully  
Your obt. Servt  
E.A. Kozlay  
Col. 54th Regt. N.Y.V.I.  
Comdg.

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3464 3/30/1866 *From:* Jno. T. Croxton

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3409

Macon Ga.

Com'r. Bureau F.R. & A.L.  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[224, 225]

Macon Ga. March 30th, 1866

Genl:

This will introduce to you Judge Cole of the Superior Court of Georgia who visits Washington to confer with the President & yourself on the limits of the Jurisdiction of the Court now which he presides & that of the Bureau & to reach some definite understanding relative thereto, that will insure against conflicts at any contingency.

Judge C. is a gentleman of the highest character private & professional, and, I know he is exceedingly anxious to do what a just & loyal Judge should. He was appointed by the Provisional Governor in August last & at the first Court he held, directed the Juries to receive the testimony of Freedmen, & ever since that time, remains instrumental in pursuing the passage of the statute to that affect.

I commend him to you as a citizen thoroughly anxious to do the right as he sees it and bespeak for him your kind attention.

I have the honor General to be,  
with great respect,  
Your obt. svt.  
Jno. T. Croxton

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com'r. Bureau F.R. & A.L.  
Washington, D.C.

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Macon, Ga. Mar 30, 1866

Croxton, John T.

Introduces Judge Cole, Ga.

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3465 3/30/1866 *From:* J.N. Coombs

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3410

Washington City, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[228]

Washington City, D.C.  
March 30th 1866

To  
Maj Gen Howard -  
Dear Sir -

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, the Rev S.J. Lamar of East Tennessee. He is a minister in good and regular standing in the Presbyterian Church. He is thoroughly loyal, and has been so from the very beginning of our national troubles.

He wishes to see, and consult with you in reference to an institution of learning in his part of the State, which if again placed upon its feet cannot fail to exert great good in that portion of our country.

Yours very respectfully  
J.N. Coombs  
Pastor of Western Pres. Church

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3466 3/30/1866 *From:* Alfred H Love

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-3411

Philad'a

Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[229]

Philad'a March 30, 1866

O.O. Howard  
of Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Esteemed friend,

On the 14th April the Old "Penna Society for promoting the abolition of Slavery aiding free negroes unlawfully held in bondage & elevating the African race" will celebrate their 91st Anniversary. It will be the anniversary of Fort Sumpter & the assassination of our revered President.

We want thee to speak at that meeting. We have taken the largest hall here we could obtain & expect it will be a grand occasion for our cause.

Do try to come – all want to see & hear thee & this is a favorable time. We need light on the matter at issue.

We will see that proper remuneration is made & feel thee will not regret coming.

Please advise me soon & my house will be open to thee.

Thy friend  
Cordially  
Alfred H Love  
212 Chestnut St  
House 620 N. 6th St

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Philad. Mar. 30th 1866

Love, Alfred H

States that the old Penna. Society for the Abolition of Slavery is to have an anniversary celebration on the 14 of April. Invite Gen. Howard to be present.

Recd. Mar. 31st 1866

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3467 3/30/1866    *From:* Sidney Perham

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3412

House of Reps.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[230]

House of Reps.  
March 30/66.

Maj. Genl. Howard  
My Dear Sir,

I send you herewith a letter and circular in regard to the support of the Loyal Georgian.

I know Capt C.H. Prince who writes the letter and who is the Financial Agent of the paper. He is a man of great worth and entitled to <ontin> confidence. I have written the letter he asks, and hope you will be able to aid them by your letter.

Very Respectfully  
Your obt. Servt.  
Sidney Perham [U.S. Representative from Maine, 1863-1868)

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Washington  
March 30, /66  
Perham, Sydney, M.C.  
Encloses letters concerning the loyal Georgian.

[Note. Two letters were attached to this one. The first is OOH-3413, written from C.H. Prince to Rep. Sydney Perham on March 23, 1866. The second is OOH-3414, written from G.L. Eberhart to Mr. Prince on March 21, 1866.]

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3468 3/31/1866 *From:* D.L. Huntington

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.

OOH-3415

Post Hospital Christian  
St. Philadelphia Penna

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[223]

Philadelphia Penna  
March 31st 1866

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard U.S.A.  
Sir,

In order to set forth my claims for Brevet appointment before the board now in session for deciding such cases, I would respectfully ask if you are willing to give me a brief endorsement of efficient service as Asst. Med Dir, and Med Dir. of the Army of the Tenn, for the time during which it was under your command?

I am, very respectfully  
Yr obt. servant  
D.L. Huntington  
Asst. Surg USA  
Post Hospital Christian St. Phil. Pa.

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Phila. Penna. March 31 1866  
Huntington, D.L.  
Asks for recommendation for Brevet appointment  
Recd. April 1st 1866

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3469 3/31/1866

*From:* J Murray Hoag

*To:* Maj Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-3416

Fort Carroll B.C.  
[Baltimore County,  
Maryland]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[227]

Fort Carroll B.C. [Baltimore County, Maryland]  
March 31st 1866

Maj Gen'l Howard  
Gen'l

The undersigned begs leave to present his compliments with a request that you accept the few odd gloves herewith inclosed they being of no service to him he like yuorslef having been so unfortunate as to loose an arm while in the discharge of duty.

I am Gen'l  
Very Respy Your Obt. Servt.  
J Murray Hoag  
Capt. 4th U.S. Colored Inf'y

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3470 3/31/1866 *From:* Geo. H Stuart

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3417

Philad.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[234]

Philad. March 31. 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard

Washington D.C.

My dear General -

Your kind note of yesterday is at hand with the valued enclosure for which I thank you most heartily, as also for your very thoughtful kindness in making the "substitution" referred to.

If I can be of any use to your while abroad I trust that you will command me. My address while abroad will be in care of my own house - Messr Davis Stuart & Co., Liverpool, England - through whom I shall feel honored to receive any commission from you.

Yrs Very Truly

Geo. H Stuart

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3471 4/3/1866

*From:* John A. Waterman  
Frederick Robie  
Gorham Maine

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
  
Washington D.C.

OOH-3418

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

Gorham Maine April 3d 1866

To  
Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Sir:

The citizens of the town of Gorham contemplate dedicating a "soldiers monument" with a suitable programme, and demonstration on the 4th of July 1866, and we are directed by the committee of arrangements to extend to you an invitation to be present, and deliver an oration on the occasion, and allow me to say that your acceptance of the invitation would be very gratifying to the committee and our entire community.

We are very respectfully  
Your obt. Servant  
John A. Waterman  
Frederick Robie

---

3472 4/4/1866

*From:* O Brown

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3419

Richmond, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[2, 3]

Personal

Richmond, Va. April 4th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Commissioner &c

Dear General

Your uniform kindness is my only excuse for addressing you as a friend in relation to my personal affairs.

The proclamation of the President received to day has involved us in difficulties that seem almost insurmountable. I suppose the next order will be to muster out volunteers. From a remark made when I last saw you I infer that you thought my being retained in the service was an unauthorized proceeding. I beg leave in this connection to state that my appointment to the Colonelcy of the 24th Regiment recites "This appointment to continue in force during the pleasure of the President for the time being" and that the bill creating the Bureau, provides that "any military officer may be detailed or assigned to duty under this act without increase of pay or allowance."

My only wish in the matter is that I may have the time while in that service to settle my accounts with the government. I do not ask this as a charity, but simply as an act of justice. I have given my whole time and thoughts to my duty while in the service, and am too poor to "settle up" at my own expense.

I have noticed that some officers have had their resignations accepted "to take effect" on some future day.

If it is desirable for me to do so I will forward my resignation to take effect June 30th remaining of course on such duty as the Commissioner may direct but with the understanding that during the time I be allowed to settle any accounts with the Government.

Hoping General that you will not suppose that I am asking that which is unreasonable and that you will excuse my troubling you in this matter.

I am with much respect

Your ovt Servt

O Brown

P.S. Please answer me at your earliest convenience. O.B.

---

3473 4/4/1866

*From:* J.W. Parker

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3420

Boston

Comsr of F.A.L. &

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[4]

Boston, April 4, 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comsr of F.A.L. &

During the religious anniversaries of the benevolent organizations, the National Association for the Education of Colored Preachers and Teachers will hold a meeting in Tremont Temple on Sat. Eve. May.

We are anxious to have you speak on that occasion. There will be five or six hundred clergymen for all parts of the country, and on no occasion, unless at New York could you reach so many men who form and direct public opinion. It seems to me you can in no way for the time serve the great cause so well. I need not assure you that personally I am very anxious to have you in Boston and with us at that time. I am Genl. most

Sincerely & Truly &c  
J.W. Parker  
Cor. Secy.

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Boston, April 24, 1866

Parker, J.W. Cor. Secy.

Invites Gen. Howard to be present at the Anniversary of the Nat. Assn. for the Education of Colored Preachers in Boston, during May.

[written in pencil] Cannot decide.

Recd April 9th 1866

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3474 4/4/1866

*From:* Edw'd P. Pearson  
Jr.

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3421

Hart Island N.Y. Harbor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[5]

Hart Island N.Y. Harbor  
April 4th 1866

Dear General

The Board to report on the Brevets conferred on Infantry Officers, now in session in Washington has called upon me to furnish a Record of my service. The Board recommends that the endorsement of my immediate commander during the war be obtained.

I enclose my statement, may I ask you to endorse and forward it as addressed?

Please remember me to the Officers of your Staff.

The country lost in Stinson a brave and good man. My first intimation of his death was the telegram from Col. Osborne in the newspapers.

I sail with my Regiment in a few days for Texas.

With great respect your Obedt. Servant  
Edw'd P. Pearson Jr.

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3475 4/4/1866

*From:* Geo. H. Allan

*To:* Major Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3422

Jacksonville, Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[6, 7]

Jacksonville, Fla.

April 4 / 66

Major Genl. Howard,

Dear Sir,

I deem it my duty to inform you of the following facts in accordance with your request that I should advise you of any mater of which you ought to know.

A few days ago a colored man who name I have not yet ascertained, was tried & convicted of theft. He was fined \$58.00 which being unable to pay he was advertised to be sold for hire by the Sheriff which was accordingly done. The sale came off at Gainesville in the central part of the State, & my informant was present. The time was ten days or two weeks ago. At the sale, the Sheriff announced that the man would be sold to whomever would take him for the short time pay the debt, \$58.00

" Five years" was bid, then "four years", & so on, down to "one year", when the bidding became spirited. The negro man begged that he might be allowed to go & earn the money to pay the fine, on the railroad where he could earn \$30.00 pr month. This was refused, & he was finally sold to a planter for five months. Since hearing the above, I have heard of another similar case at the same town or in that vicinity, where a col'd woman, unable to pay a fine of \$400.00 had been sold for four years.

Now is not this, practically, a recommencement of traffic in slaves? Suppose these purchasers trump up some charge against these people when their time is nearly out, can they not keep them in virtual slavery as long as they please. Capt. Cullen the Military Agent at that town is supposed to sympathize with Southern Sentiment.

I write merely to call your attention to the facts, which may have been brought to your notice through other channels. Should prefer not to have my name made public relative to this affair but will gladly aid you in this case or in any other in obtaining additional information if necessary.

Respy, Yours,  
Geo. H. Allan  
Gen'l Agnt  
Freedmens & Union Com.

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3476 4/5/1866

*From:* H. M. Hogeboom

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3423

Norfolk

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8, 9]

Norfolk April 5th 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir:

I intended to have taken an earlier opportunity of thanking you for your very kind note and letter of introduction, but had not a spare moment before I left New haven, which was only two days ago.

I am delighted with what I have already seen in one school. If this is at all a fair specimen of what the schools generally are it ought to be sufficient to convince the most prejudiced that it is most inhuman as well as unchristian not to assist such a race to educate and develop the mind.

My plan is leisurely and pretty thoroughly to visit the schools and see the wants of the people in Virginia and North Carolina, and more rapidly probably those of the District of Columbia.

If by this means I shall gain facts and inspiration which I can use to influence the women of our state to a broader sympathy and more enlarged benevolence toward these poor people, my life will be a thousand fold enriched..

The painful memories which localities in this vicinity arouse with peculiar freshness, only intensify the feeling that the <cost > sacrifices which were given in the war must not be utterly lost if private influence could add anything to the work of moving sympathy in the right direction.

I have suffered deeply myself. I gave the richest treasure I had, in my dear brother, at the outset and three years and a half ago after the second battle of Bull Run, I saw his hearts blood leaving his life away from me, and cheered him as he passed calmly and trustingly through the dark valley. He was one of the 5th N.Y. "Duryea's Zouaves," who suffered so severely and, we must believe, as far as man was concerned, to a great extent, needlessly.

May God bless you and keep the nation from falling.

Very respectfully & truly Yours  
H. M. Hogeboom

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Norfolk April 5 1866  
Hogeboom, Miss H.M.  
Friendly letter  
Recd. April 7, 1866

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3477 4/5/1866

*From:* Wm Ives Budington

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3424

Clinton Ave. Ch.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[10]

Brooklyn, N.Y.  
April 5, 1866.

Genl Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I have the honor, in behalf of the Trustees of the Am. Congl. Union, to ask you to be present & make an address at their Annual Re-union to be held in Plymouth Church, in this city, on Thursday Evening May 10th.

Gov. Buckingham of Conn. has been invited to preside, & it is the intention of the Trustees to devote the proceeds of the gathering to the Building Fund of the Congl. Chch. In Washington. By consenting to serve the Union in that occasion, the Trustees are persuaded that you will not only help the particular Church in Washington, but all other enterprises similarly situated.

Hoping that your engagements will allow you to accede to this request,  
I am most respectfully Yours  
Wm Ives Budington  
Pastor Clinton Ave. Ch.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

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3478 4/5/1866

*From:* M. L. Stoever

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3425

Penn'a College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[11]

Penn'a College  
April 5th 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
My dear Sir:

I am much obliged to you for your kind note. As you cannot visit me at the present time, perhaps you can come next summer, and bring Mrs Howard with you. I have not yet received a letter in reply to my inquiry from your brother.

As vacation is approaching, I shall have to decide whether I will spend it in the South. Have you authority to send any one on a special agency to examine the condition of the Freedmen? If so, would you be willing to commission me? All that I would ask for the service, would be the payment of expenses. I presume passes could be secured on the different Rail-Roads. If you are not authorized to appoint any one on such an errand, which of the Freedmen's Associations, do you suppose, would be glad to avail itself of my services?

My friend Rev R. J. <Darrin>, whom you very well know, has written to me that he was just about starting on an explorative tour South, prior to his departure for Europe where he intends to represent the interests of the Freedmen. Please let me hear from you as soon as convenient.

Faithfully yours  
M. L. Stoever

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3479 4/6/1866

*From:* Hugh S. Bond

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3426

Baltimore, Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12, 13]

(Baltimore?)

(ca –Apr. 6, 1866) [This line and the above were written in pencil, and agree with the summary below.]

My dear General

A “talk” is all we want, I abominate set speeches.

I have “oated” Genl Stannard around.

Yesterday the Ladies of the industrial school had him. He made a speech – I am told. His style is exactly like Lieut Genl Grant's <Verl Sap>

Yours truly  
Hugh S. Bond

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore, Md. April 6 / 66

Bond, Hugh S.

Friendly letter

Recd. April 7th 1866

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3480 4/6/1866

*From:* Max Woodhull

*To:* My dear General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3427

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
St Louis

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[14, 15]

[Letterhead]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Washington [This was crossed out.]  
St Louis April 6th 1866

My Dear General,

I received this morning your note of the 30th of March. I think I have learned all I can about the condition of affairs in Ky. and have now turned my face homeward.

As I had not been in St Louis for 10 years, and did not know when I should have an other opportunity of visiting the city, I ran down from Paducah Tuesday, & leave tomorrow morning. I will not go to Chicago, but shall strike through for New York, where I want to spend a day, and probably will be in Washington next Wednesday.

I find St Louis greatly changed, and improved, with an enormous amount of parts of the country.

Enclosed I send you a slip clipping from the "Cincinnati Commercial". You will enjoy it very much.

I had intended writing you something about the organization of the Bureau in Ky. and on Educational subjects, but on the whole think I might as well reserve such subjects till I return.

<I am truly & Divinely yours>

Max Woodhull  
AAG

Maj Gen Howard  
MG

[Summary written sideways on the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

St Louis Mo.  
Apl. 6th 1866  
Woodhull, Max  
Friendly letter

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3481 4/7/1866

*From:* Lyman Abbott

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3428

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Freedmen's  
and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.  
New York

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[18]

[Letterhead]

American Freedmen's and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.

New York

President –Bishop Matthew Simpson

Treasurer –George C. Ward, 76 John Street.

Gen. Sec. - Lyman Abbott

Cor. Sec. - J. Miller McKim.

Washington Sec. - J.R. Shipherd.

Western Sec. - J.M. Walden, Chicago.

April 7 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard -

Dear Sir -

We are making arrangements to hold a public meeting on behalf of the Com'n during anniversary week in this city the second week in May. I write to ask you to deliver an address upon that occasion. I know that your engagements are pressing & numerous, but as this will be the first public meeting out of N.E. Since the union, & as we know that the union & the principles upon which it is founded, meets with your hearty approval, we should be very glad, - we are indeed very anxious –to secure your public endorsement & approval.

We have just commenced the publication of a Central organ a copy of which will be sent you next week I hope. It is under my editorial charge. I shall be glad to have you use its columns as a medium of communication between yourself & the public whenever so disposed. I conceive that there are times when you would be glad to avail yourself of such an organ for fuller communications than are afforded by your more official orders.

Very Truly Yours

Lyman Abbott

Gen. Sec.

P.S. Tuesday evening the 8th of May has been agreed upon.

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3482 4/7/1866

*From:* T.O. Howe

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3429

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[16, 17]

Wash'n Apl. 7; 1866

Dear General

Major Robert Chandler now A.A.G. on the staff of Genl. Dent has learned that your Adjt Genl is about to resign & he w'd like to succeed him. It gives me pleasure to say that Maj. Chandler is a gentlemen of much intelligence of correct habits & I believe of strict integrity. He has been in the service since 1861, and I believe, if you have no other officer in view he w'd suit you.

I know the relations that sh'd exist between you & your Adjt Genl. & so do not venture to ask you for so great a favor as to accept an officer to accommodate my partialities. But if you have no individual in view I have great confidence in recommending my friend Major C.

Accept my thanks for a copy of the papers in the Florida case.

I arranged the business of Col. Freudenberg without calling upon the Secy of War.

Very truly Yours,  
T.O. Howe

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

[Summary written on the last page in a different hand.]

Washington April 7, 1866

Howe, T.O.

Recommends Maj. Chandler A.A.G. for that position on the Genls. Staff

Answer –another officer applied for

Recd April 9th 1866

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3483 4/9/1866

*From:* J.W. Alvord

*To:* Brev. Brig. Gen. CH  
Howard

OOH-3430

Jersey City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[638]

Jersey City April 9, 1866

Brev. Brig. Gen. CH Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Permit me to congratulate you all on the passage of the Civil Rights Bill. It is the breaking in of light and indicates that Congress and the people will take the right direction. I hope now some Bureau File can be passed.

I reached here in safety and have been at work with the trustees at the Bank; my health gradually improving.

The deposits from all the Branches look encouraging. Have you had any report yet from Col. Sewall as to matters at Vicksburg. We are anxious to know the facts of that case, and will you please inform us the moment of their arrival.

Mrs A. and my family are all pleased with the idea of our going to Washington and think they can make themselves comfortable in the Barracks. The idea of the Industrial School pleases Mrs Alvord. How does the fitting up of the buildings progress and where will the water be in and the rooms dry so that we can come?

Mr Whipple with their Association will become patron of the concern. He enters into our plans of making it a model thing. If a teacher should come with us, we should need four sleeping apartments. I should be sorry to crowd Capt. Vanderberg. Can you arrange things to his satisfaction.

I wish also to ask if, in one of the Barracks, there will be a room for Sabbath and other meetings.

My mind runs continually upon the plans which we may accomplish there.

In Baltimore I succeeded in forming another branch of our Bank and, on my return hope to do so in Philadelphia. This may necessitate my returning that way, instead of by steamer by Fortress Monroe, as the muster out of some regiments at Baltimore within a few days may also need my presence.

If any of my queries above can be answered may I have the pleasure of hearing from you by an early mail. My compliments to the General and kind regards to all the family. Mrs Alvord and the children send to you their respectful remembrance. Please give me all the news, especially how your "cleaning up" progresses.

Your &c very respectfully  
J.W. Alvord

P.S. There is much religious interest in many of the churches of this city. Mr. Foote's death was the theme of the preachers yesterday. Please address me at 86 Cedar St. Care Savings & Trust Company.

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3484 4/9/1866

*From:* Elijah W. Barstow

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3431

Newport R.I.

Commissioner Bureau of  
R.F. & A.L.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[19]

Newport R.I.  
April 9th / 66.

Major General O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner Bureau of R.F. & A.L.  
General,

I called to see you Thursday afternoon, but you being absent I was obliged to leave the city without having the pleasure of seeing you. I presume that you know by this time whether you can give me temporary employment or not. If you have nothing for me to do, would you feel willing to give me a letter of recommendation for a Lieutenancy in the Army. I am aware that you personally know but little about me, but I can show you my papers from officers of the Army, with whom I have association during the past two years or more. They are endorsed by Mr Eliot, Gen Banks and Mr Windom M.C. from Minnesota, and I can secure the influence of several others. Perhaps on the strength of these papers you might be willing to give me a letter, I should feel very grateful for such a favor. I think if I had temporary employment in Washington, I could do more towards getting the appointment than I can here. The "Army Bill" with its numerous amendments will I understand, be reported back from the Committee on the 12th of this month. I intend to forward my application as soon as I have read the "Bill". If you feel that you can conscientiously recommend me, I shall be truly grateful for such kindness, and shall endeavor to prove myself worthy of your confidence. Hoping that you will excuse the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you.

I remain General  
Very Respectfully  
Your obt. servt.  
Elijah W. Barstow

Address:  
75 State Street  
Boston  
Mass

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3485 4/9/1866

*From:* B. Ellis Martin

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3432

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office Of The  
United States Service  
Magazine,  
540 Broadway, New  
York.

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[21, 22]

[Letterhead]

Office Of The  
United States Service Magazine,  
540 Broadway, New York.  
Apl 9 1866

Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

The Publisher has handed me your esteemed favor of the 29th ultimo, which I have read with care and interest, and shall make the subject of an explanatory note.

In the hasty perusal of the Slocum sketch, received just in time to go to press, it was not observed that a remark which we regarded as referring to your reputation early in 1864 was liable to be construed as implying your present inferiority (in that, or any other, respect) to General Hooker.

The article in question was written by a distinguished officer, for whose responsibility the Magazine vouches while disclaiming its own responsibility for his opinions or allegations, as well as for those of any contributor.

If an officer knows whereof he speaks, and be the proper man to say it, and the subject be of sufficient interest to any considerable class, we open our pages to his contributions.

How else can we do Justice?

With sincere regard, and apologizing for this intrusion,

Very respectfully yours,  
B. Ellis Martin  
Associate Ed

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York City April 9th /66  
Martin, B. Ellis  
Ass. Editor U.S. Service Mag.  
Concerning the "locum Article"  
Recd. April 10th 1866.

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3486 4/9/1866

*From:* Wager Swayne

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3433

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office Assistant  
Commissioner, State of  
Alabama,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
Montgomery, Ala.

Washington D.C.

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[20]

Unofficial

[Letterhead]

Office Assistant Commissioner, State of Alabama,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Montgomery, Ala.  
9th April 1866

General,

Allow me to ask that in regard of the within application to ask that you will deviate from your accustomed rule and present it directly to the Secretary. It was one of those I had in mind when I spoke to the Secretary and obtained his leave to present such requests in person. I have this one very much at heart but could not find out certainly that it had not been made until too late to present it myself. It is eminently due for faithful services in and out of the Bureau and your attention to it will renew a sense of obligation which cannot well be increased.

Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
Wager Swayne  
Bv't. Maj. Genl.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Montgomery, Apr 8, 1866

Swayne, Wager

Maj. Gen.

Desires promotion for his Med. Officer.

Recd April 17th, 1866

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3487 4/10/1866

*From:* Rev. J.A.R. Rogers

*To:* Gen. O. Howard

OOH-3434

Literary Institution  
Berea, Madison Co, Ky.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

[Letterhead]

Literary Institution  
Rev. J.G. Fee, Pastor,  
Rev. J.A.R. Rogers, Sup't  
Rev. W.W. Wheeler, Principal.  
Miss Eliza Snedaker, Assistant Teacher  
Berea, Madison Co., Ky.  
Ap. 10th 1866.

Gen. O. Howard, Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find a brief plan of the Inst. here which by admitting persons to its privileges without distinction of race is aiming a blow at <Cost> the very virus of Slavery and which is now as Prof. Tayles Lewis has so clearly shown threatening our Christianity. If the ends of the Inst. meet your hearty approval we should be very happy to have you give a brief statement to that effect at your earliest convenience.

Yours in behalf of the Inst.  
J.A.R. Rogers

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3488 4/10/1866

*From:* O.D. Case & Co.

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3437

Office of O.D. Case &  
Co., Publishers.  
Hartford, Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[26]

[Letterhead]

Office of O.D. Case & Co., Publishers.  
Hartford, Conn.,  
April 10 1866

General,

We have been looking for a brief note from you relative to Mr Greeley's "History of the American Conflict."

As we are about publishing a new edition of the accompanying circular we would be very greatly obliged to you if you could send us your opinion very soon. We are perfectly confident you have a good opinion of Mr Greeley's historical labors.

We remain, General,  
Very respectfully yours  
O.D. Case & Co.

Gen. O.O. Howard,

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3489 4/11/1866 *From:* Alfred Higer

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3435

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24]

Washington April the 11 / 66

Gen Howard,

Sir the "Colored Citizens" of Washington intend celebrating the anniversary of the Emancipation of the District on the 16th of April, at Franklin Square. It was unanimously agreed that we should invite you Sir, with some others, to address us on that occasion. By complying with this Sir you will afford us great satisfaction and pleasure.

By Order of the Committee  
Alfred Higer  
Marshall of the day  
No 556 H St

Gen. Howard

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3490 4/12/1866

*From:* Peter Carter

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3436

*Source:* Bowdoin

Robert Carter &  
Brothers  
Publishers &  
Booksellers  
530 Broadway  
New York

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[25]

[Letterhead]

Robert Carter & Brothers  
Publishers & Booksellers  
530 Broadway New York  
530 Broadway  
New York April 12, 1866,

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

The National Temperance Society of Publication House holds its anniversary at the Cooper Institute on Wednesday Evening May 9th.

Rev Henry Ward Beecher will probably be one of the Speakers (he has promised to do so, if nothing unforeseen occurs) and we would like you be another. Can you favour us in this?

I had the pleasure of hearing you at the Cooper Institute on the "Freedman" not long since & was intensely delighted with the Lecture.

Our Society has only recently been organized but it is in energetic hands & we trust under Gods blessing it may be the means of accomplishing much for the good of our fellow men. Hon. Wm. E. Dodge is our president & he will be here we expect at the anniversary.

An early reply will greatly oblige,  
Yours Very Respy

Peter Carter  
Chr Committee on the anniversary

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Carter, Peter  
Chairman

Invites Gen. Howard to be present May 9th at Cooper Institute N.Y. At the meeting of the National Temperance Society.

Cant tell [written in a third hand.]  
Recd April 14th 1866.

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3491 4/14/1866 *From:* Thomas Russell

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3438

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27]

Boston, April 14, 1866

To Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear General,

The New England Branch of The Freedmen's & Union Commission propose to have a public meeting at Music Hall in Boston on the last Thursday in May (Anniversary Week). Gen. Hawley has promised to speak, and we hope to secure the attendance of all the New England Governors.

It will aid us greatly in our demonstration, if you can be with us, and address the meeting. We think it very important to have a great time, and hope for a favorable answer from you.

For the Committee

Yours Very Truly  
Thomas Russell

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3492 4/14/1866     *From:* Lyman Abbot

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard:

OOH-3439

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Freedmen's  
and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.  
New York

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[28]

[Letterhead]

American Freedmen's and Union Commission,  
No. 76 John Street.

New York

President –Bishop Matthew Simpson, Philadelphia.

Treasurer –George C. Ward, 76 John Street, New York.

Gen. Sec. - Lyman Abbot

Cor. Sec. - J. Miller McKim

Washington Sec. - J.R. Shipherd.

Western Sec. - J.M. Walden.

April 14th 186[6]

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard:

My dear Sir:

We are pleased to learn –as we do by inference from your letter to Mr Abbott on the subject –that you will address a Freedmens meeting in this city on the 8th of May. In case you can do so in consistency with your prior engagement with the Bible Society.

Enclosed I send acknowledgement of receipt of circulars.

This circular as I understand it will put an end to the project of our very good but not very efficient friend –the Rev. Mr St John –to establish a self-sustaining depot here for the reception & distribution of Freedmen. His idea was that with our sanction as a quasi agent he could do this work, and, by charging employers \$5 as a procuring fee, live & be useful to the blacks. He fears disposed now to give up the project. He frets a little under the ascription to him of a “speculative” intention. We dont think that any imputation was meant by the use of that word & so tell him.

Yours truly

J.M. McKim

Cor. Sec.

[Summary written on the back page, in a different hand.]

New York, April 14th 1866

McKim, J.M.

Friendly letter concerning Gen'ls visit to New York next May

Recd April 16th 1866

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3493 4/14/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3440

Metropolitan Hotels  
New York

Comr &c. Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30]

Personal & Confidential

Metropolitan Hotels  
New York April 14th 1866  
Dear General

Col Woodhull has doubtless advised you of the business interests and prospects that called me to New York and of my wishes – as expressed to him – of an early release from duty in the Bureau, and continuance in the public service.

I have given the subject careful and prayerful attention and am now inclined to withhold my resignation until after the inauguration of regulations you may prescribe for our government under the enforcement of the National Civil Rights Measure. Our best friends here think I ought to remain with you during the year or at least until after a fair trial of equality before the law for all men. The interests I had in view in New York I will place in the hands of my brother and return to Nashville direct on Monday next.

I have the honor to be  
Yours Faithfully  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bvt Maj Genl

Maj Genl Howard  
Comr &c. Washington, D.C.

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York April 14 1866

Fisk, Clinton B.

Confidential letter.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D APR 17 1866

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3494 4/15/1866    *From:* J D B DeBow

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3441

Office DeBow's Review,  
Nashville Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[32]

[Letterhead]

Office DeBow's Review,  
Nashville Tenn.

Apl 15 1866

Dear Sir:

I enclose a copy of some document which came to my address the other day and which belongs to your office. I must have rec'd it by mistake.

I take the same opportunity to send you a copy of my Review & would beg you to send me all of your orders after No 18.

As the Review has a large circulation in every part of the South it occurs to me that the publication of all the orders from your Bureau would answer a valuable purpose. If you have a contingent fund for advertising & will give the order I will publish at whatever is usually paid by you for such service.

With high regards

Yr obt svt

J D B DeBow [James Dunwoody Brownson Debow]

Genl Howard

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3495 4/16/1866

*From:* Geo. Whipple

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3442

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Missionary  
Association  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York

Commissioner &c.  
Washington, D.C.

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[37]

[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York  
Rev. Geo. Whipple Sec.  
Rev. M.E. Striest, Sec.  
W.E. Whiting, Asst. Treas.  
April 16, 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner &c.  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear General,

Your favor was duly rec'd and the inquiry sent at once to the Bible House. I copy the reply.

" Rev. Geo. Whipple,  
My Dear Sir,

Your note of yesterday is at hand. Our anniversary is to be on the 10th of May, Second Thursday. In my letter of invitation to Gen. Howard I specified the time and the theme (the Bible in the War and among the Freedmen). As he has never replied to me directly, but only through your favor some time ago, as now again, I supposed that he was well informed about the matter. I will write him again giving him some fresh facts & our place of meeting &c. His onerous duties doubtless prevented his personal reply, and I do not complain but merely state the fact.

Yours very truly  
W.J.R.Taylor  
Cor. Sec"

Our own meeting is on the forenoon of Tuesday, the 8th, at 10 o'clock, in the Cooper Institute. I trust you will bear in mind that you are to give us a talk of 15 or 20 minutes.

Yours truly  
Geo. Whipple  
Cor. Sec.

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3496 4/16/1866    *From:* D.H. Buel

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3443

Frankford Arsenal,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

[Letterhead]

Frankford Arsenal,  
Philadelphia, Pa.,  
April 16 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com. of Freedmen &c.  
General

I sent the other day to Col. Morgan, Recorder of Brevet Board &c, a brief synopsis of my military history during the war. If you should feel that you can consistently recommend me for promotion on account of official services rendered while serving under your command, I should feel obliged by your forwarding such recommendation direct to Col. Morgan, Recorder of the Board. I know that in this matter, you will be actuated by a simple sense of duty, in granting or refusing the request, and I have therefore thought that in case of either result, you would be left most free by sending directly to Col. Morgan, rather than by communicating directly with me.

Very Respectfully &c  
D.H. Buel [David Hillhouse Buel, U.S.M.A. Class of 1861]  
Bv't Lt. Col. U.S.A.

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3497 4/16/1866

*From:* Theo. S. Cuyler

*To:* Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3444

136 Oxford St.  
Brooklyn N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[34]

136 Oxford St. Brooklyn N.Y.  
Apr 16, 1866

My Dear General

On the 9th of May (Wednesday) our new National Temperance Society – which is doing a glorious work – will hold their first anniversary.

We are very anxious that you should speak for us on Wednesday eve'g in Cooper Institute. There will be other speakers. I hope that Gen. Fisk can be present too. Pray, come my dear General, if possible.

As Ever,  
Yours ms. cordially  
Theo. S. Cuyler  
of Lafayette Ave. Church

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard  
&c &c &c

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3498 4/16/1866

*From:* Lemuel Moss

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3446

University at Lewisburg  
Lewisburg, Pa.

Commissioner for Freedmen

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[35]

[Letterhead]

University at Lewisburg  
Lewisburg, Pa.,  
Apr. 16 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner for Freedmen  
My Dear Sir: -

I have been requested to address my fellow citizens here on the condition of the Freedmen. Will you be kind enough to send me such data & documents as will give the present condition of the work among them, - its needs & prospects? I shall wish to make the statement as thorough & pertinent as possible.

While Home Sec'y of the U.S. Chr. Commission it was my privilege to meet you, although you will probably not remember a fact so unimportant to you; but you will allow me to express my high regard for your Christian heroism & philanthropy. God will sustain & guide you in your arduous, perplexing & responsible duties. How differently they will show in a half century from now, when the confusion & angry debate of the present hour have passed away.

An early attention to my request will greatly oblige.

Yours Very Truly  
Lemuel Moss  
Prof. of Theology

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3499 4/16/1866 *From:* AK Browne

*To:* Maj General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3447

Washington D.C.

Chief Bureau of Refugees  
and Freedmen

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[92]

Washington D.C.

April 16th 1865 (5) [1866] [The year 1866 was written in pencil and is consistent with the contents.]

Maj General O.O. Howard  
Chief Bureau of Refugees and Freedmen  
General

At a meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association on Saturday Evening March 24th 1866 the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas: Our worthy brother, Maj General O O Howard having evinced such deep interest in the objects and success of our Association of which he is an honoured Life Member, and having on the 13th of March 1866 delivered a most interesting and patriotic lecture on the condition and wants of the Freedmen for the benefit of our Association:

Therefore be it resolved:

That our sincere and heartfelt thanks are eminently due and are hereby tendered him for his gratuitous and disinterested service in delivering said Lecture and it will be our pleasure to elect such a person as he may designate a Life Member of this Association.

Very respectfully  
Your obedient servants  
AK Browne  
Rev Y.M.C. Association

C.H. Hartley  
Rec. Secy.

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3500 4/16/1866

*From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3448

Boston  
638 Tremont St.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[36]

Boston Apl 16 1866  
638 Tremont St.

Dear Genl.

Enclosed I send check for 300\$.

Many thanks for the documents with Secy Stantons frank.

We are having some religious interest wh is exceedingly grateful.

The Prest. has proclaimed peace. We are so far away from the center of things here that we do not see it. It looks rather like an effort to transfer the strife from the field of Battle to the floor of Congress. But I believe in the people.

We shall be glad to see Charlie.

Shall be glad to see you & yours on your way Northward, & shall depend upon your coming –all hands –no fail.

I intended to have been in Washington this spring, but to get away from home was impracticable.

In great haste, but sincerely & fraternally. With love to Mrs H. & the children I am as ever yrs

E.B. Webb

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

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3501 4/17/1866

*From:* H.W. Richardson

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3449

*Source:* Bowdoin

The Portland Daily  
Press,  
Cottage Street  
Portland

Sup't Freedmen's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.

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[40]

[Letterhead]

The Portland Daily Press,  
Cottage Street  
Portland  
April 17, 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Sup't Freedmen's Bureau,  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir,

Inclosed find a slip cut from this morning's Argus. The Press has published the statements of three New York & Western newspaper correspondents, to the effect that you supposed the President to favor the Freedmen's Bureau bill before its passage by Congress. Except in the Argus, I have seen no contradiction of the report, & the Argus gives no authority. Please inform me of the truth, indicating how far, if at all, I may use your name.

Respectfully yours,  
H.W. Richardson

[Clipping]

The D.D. organs, including the Press of this city, gave currency to the slander that President Johnson was shown the freedmen's bureau bill by General Howard before its passage, and that he then approved of its provisions; whereupon it was asserted that copperheads and rebels (with a suspicion of strong drink intermingled) induced him to change his opinion, and veto the bill he had three weeks before deliberately approved.

Gen Howard has at last contradicted this malicious slander –says he had no interview of the sort with the President, and that he never to his knowledge express approval of the bill.

We shall see if the Press will inform its readers that this slander of the disunion leaders has been nailed to the counter as falsehood made out of whole cloth.

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3502 4/17/1866 *From:* JA Dahlgren

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3450

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[41]

Washington April 17 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
General

I have been requested by Mr Cluss to introduce him to you, which I can best do by saying that for several years Mr Cluss acted as Draftsman of the Ordnance Department under my Charge. During which his work and conduct were unexceptionable: he is a good Mathematician, and as a Draftsman I have never seen his equal, in skill or accuracy.

I always found him to be perfectly reliable, and can commend him to you as deserving of all consideration.

Very Respect. & Yr Ob. Serv.  
JA Dahlgren [John Adolphus Dahlgren]  
R. Admiral

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3503 4/17/1866     *From:* J. W. Alvord

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3451

American Tract Society,  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[42, 43]

[Letterhead]

American Tract Society,  
(Instituted at Boston, in 1814,)  
New-York Depository, No. 13 Bible House, Astor Place, N.Y.  
William A. Booth, Esq., of New-York, President.  
Rev. John W. Alvord, Secretary.  
John G. Broughton, Depository.

New York, April, 17, 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard:  
Dear Sir,

I received today a note from Gen. Sewall reporting adversely as to our cashier at Vicksburg, Mr Hawley, recommending that we sen an agent there to investigate, &c.

You will perceive that in a communication from me a few days since we had anticipated all this. One of our best men will be in Vicksburg within a few days, when I hope this damaging affair will be set right.

I have to report progress in regard to our Banks in Philadelphia and Baltimore, and readjustment of things here at the principal office detain me longer than I had anticipated.

Please say to Gen. Charles H that if things were comfortable for the time being at the Barracks; I would pack up my folks and bring them directly on next week.

Mrs Alvord is not strong and needs my help and this would save one journey. I could then finish at Baltimore and the other places to which I am going immediately after. I may say this is Mrs A.'s plan, who would like to be at the Barracks while some things are fixing.

If all this is not best, will Charles say so by return mail?

I am desired by Mr William A Booth, our president, to invite you to the hospitalities of his house on Anniversary week, 19 West 14th St. I hope you will accept, as you will find there a very delightful Christian family.

We are all glad to see that things at Washington, and as to the Bureau, are in the right direction. You may be sure the veto of the Civil Rights Bill stirred up even the old conservatives of this city. My Raymond had letters from many, stopping the Times, whom he had not anticipated would turn against him. Will you get a new Bureau Bill? I hope so, and think it can be done. There is no mistake as to the reaction among the people, and the President must yield. I fear he will do it very ungracefully.

Enclosed, please find statements of our Bank for February and March. Does it not look encouraging? If needed in Washington especially, summon me back at once.

With kind regards to the family and many good wishes for your continued official success,

I am yours &c  
Very Respectfully,  
J.W. Alvord

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

P.S. My family send their high regards, and remembrances to Mrs Howard. Our little boy suffers much this raw

weather, and we think it well to bring him to a more Southern climate as soon as possible. Yrs. &c.

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3504 4/17/1866     *From:* D De Haerne

*To:* Mr. [H.S.] Sanford

OOH-3453

*Source:* Bowdoin

Chambre des  
Representants  
Bibliotheque  
Bruxelles

Minister resident of the  
United States, Brussels.

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[39]

[Letterhead]

Chambre des Representants  
Bibliotheque  
Bruxelles, le  
17 avril 1866

Excellency,

I read in some american papers that the honorable General Howard, Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau, has organised a plan of labour for the freed Negros, and that agricultural work constituted a large part of his system. I think this means of proceeding the best to make of those so long miserable people worthy citizens of the United States, to which, as your Excellency perfectly knows, I am more attached by heart than I was able to express it in my writings. But I believe that some industrial labour ought to be joined to Agriculture. Such a combination was prosecuted in Flanders during the crisis, which afflicted these provinces of Belgium from 1846 to 1852. We erected what we called charitable farms (fermes de bienfaisance) or model farms, in which the poor of all age and sex were received at a very low price. I expounded the System in my work: 'Tableau de la Charite', which I have the honour to hand to your Excellency.

To his Excellency, Mr. Sanford, Minister resident of the United States, Brussels.

Perhaps General Howard could find therein some useful facts, to which the experience made in our country gives so much the more value that those farms are still existing in a very flourishing state. As I have not the honour to know General Howard, I should feel much obliged to your Excellency if you would be so kind to send him my book, by opportunity, attracting his attention on the villages of Rumbeke (west Flanders) and of Waerschote (East Flanders). Moreover the index shows the indications belonging to the matter.

I have the honour to be,  
Excellency,  
Wholly yours  
D De Haerne

[Note. This letter was the enclosure to OOH-3452 from H.S. Sanford to OO Howard, dated 20 April 1866.]

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3505 4/17/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3465

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees.  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Assist.  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia  
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bureau R.F. & AL  
Washington D.C.

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[59, 60]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees. Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Assist. Commissioner, State of Georgia  
Augusta, Ga.,  
April 17th 1866

Dear General,

The law of Congress creating the Bureau requires a quarterly report from the Asst Commissioners but evidently refers to and contemplates returns from Citizen Asst Commrs from whom such returns would be a necessity otherwise the Comr would have no data for his financial report.

The reports from this office have already been made monthly and a quarterly report would be but a consolidation of those already made, for which there would seem to be no necessity. I have kept you very fully posted as to the affairs of the Bureau in this State. In fact I have doubted sometimes whether or not, you would find time to read my numerous letters, but have written them in compliance with your request, when we parted, to write you fully and frequently. A quarterly report would therefore give you no new information.

Still however if it is desired I will make one with pleasure. Be kind enough to let your Adjt Genl inform me of your wishes on this subject.

With many thanks for your very kind letter I remain

Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vols  
A A C

Major Genl Howard  
Comr Bureau R.F. & AL  
Washington D.C.

[Summary written sideways on the last page in a different hand.]

April 27, 1866 Augusta, Ga.

Tillson, Davis

Concerning affairs in Ga.

Recd. April 30th 1866

[Response written in OO Howard's hand] So long as monthly reports are made, they will answer instead of quarterly

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3506 4/20/1866 *From:* H.S. Sanford

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3452

U.S. Legation  
Brussel

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

U.S. Legation  
Brussel 20 April 1866

Genl O.O. Howard  
&c &c &c  
General,

The enclosed letter from Canon de Haerne a Representative in Parliament here, a distinguished divine & one who has been an ardent partisan of the cause of the union which he has ably upheld with his pen during the war, will explain it self, & I send it to you with the book to which it refers, with the hope that it may be found to contain some useful data in connection with the important work you direct.

Very Resp'y Yours  
H.S. Sanford [Henry Shelton Sanford]

P.S. I would be very glad to receive any documents printed by your Bureau going to show the system present & results obtained. HSS.

[Note. The enclosed letter is OOH-3453.]

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3507 4/21/1866

*From:* C.H. Strickland

*To:* Gen O O Howard

OOH-3455

Astor House  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[44]

[Letterhead]

Astor House  
New York  
April 21 1866

Gen O O Howard  
Dr Sir,

I find there is a little trouble about a lot of cotton that I took when I was South. I came here to get all the proof and the papers, but find I cannot do it here, consequently I must go back. Will you say to Mr. Chandler of the Treasury Dept. that I am making every effort to get my papers & proof ready, and that as soon as I can do so I will be in Washington? I wish him to know I am doing as fast as I can.

I may be Washington in a week or two. Perhaps Mrs Strickland may come with me.

Very Respectfully yrs  
C.H. Strickland

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3508 4/21/1866     *From:* Th. J. Wood

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3456

*Source:* Bowdoin

Department of  
Mississippi  
Vicksburg, Miss.

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[45, 46]

[Letterhead]

Department of Mississippi  
Vicksburg, Miss.  
April 21st 1866.

My dear General

Your note inclosing the order relieving Col Thomas as Asst Comr of Freedmen's affairs in this state, and devolving the duties of the office on me, did not take me by surprise, as I had heard of the proposed change through the press dispatches.

I will regret to lose Col Thomas. He is an able officer, has administered his duties well, and has at all times most cordially cooperated with me. In addition to his usefulness as an officer I have found him an agreeable companion. Were it not that it seems to be the intention of the War Department to concentrate, in all the Depts, the duties of Dept Comds and Asst Comr of Freedmen's affairs in the former, I would be tempted to ask to have Col Thomas sent back to this state.

The proposed change I think is sound in theory, and I can not see why it should not work well in practice. I will do all I can to make it a success in this Dept. As a soldier, I never permit myself to object to any duty assigned to me, whether agreeable or disagreeable to me. But in this case I have no objection to the duty given to me. thinking I could be useful, I offered last summer as you will doubtless remember, to take the position of Asst Comr for the state of Texas; and I would prefer to perform the duties of Asst Comr in conjunction with those of Dept Comd than to do them alone.

Col Thomas will be entirely relieved in a few days, and proceed to Washington.

As far as possible I will keep you informed of the condition of the freed people in this state. I would be glad to hear from you frequently.

Mrs Wood unites with me in remembrances to you.

Very truly your friend,  
Th. J. Wood [Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Wood, USMA Class of 1845]

[Summary written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Vicksburg, Miss. April 21st 1866

Wood, T.J.

Maj. Gen.

Concerning his appt. as Asst. Comr. &c.

Recd May 3d 1866

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3509 4/21/1866

*From:* E H Powers

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3457

East Saginaw Mich.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[47, 48]

East Saginaw Mich.  
April 21 / 66

Maj Genl O.O. Howard,  
My Dear Gen'l,

Pardon me for assuming to the privilege of taking a few moments of your time. My reasons for doing so will appear. It has pleased Congress of late to confirm many of my old companions in Arms as Brev't Brig Gen'l's. Amongst them are our mutual friends Lt. Col Hurst of the 75th Ohio, and Lt Col Winkler of the 26th Wisconsin. I am more than pleased that so good fortune has befallen them. They were worthy the consideration. But there is another <idea> which attaches here. From the commencement of the war, we have fought and wrought side by side. I know not that there exists any good reason why there should be discrimination in granting rewards for services rendered.

I think I ever did my duty fully as a soldier. Did others more? In doing what follows I did only my duty, yet it was something to me at least when I sacrificed the earning of many years to leave the land of Treason for the sole purpose of fighting against it.

That my name was not numbered amongst those which were forwarded by immediate commanders, ere being mustered out the service, may be found. I believe in the fact that while there I became unpopular with them by adhering to the principles which I learned from your precept and example. The course which you will recollect I pursued at Savannah relative to gambling in connection with Col Ross – my immediate commander – and who himself was breveted, - may be pointed to as a reason why my name was left out.

I have reason to believe that if my claims were presented as they exist, I too might have the pleasure of receiving complimentary consideration.

I wish you to ask if I may look to you for assistance in the premises?

I have the honor to be  
very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
E H Powers

[Summary written on the last page in a different hand.]  
East Saginaw Mich.  
April 21st 1866  
Powers, E.H.  
Thinks he should be brevetted Brig. Genl.  
Recd. April 25, 1866

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3510 4/23/1866 *From:* Wm P. Craighill

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3458

Baltimore, Md.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[49, 50]

Balto. Apl. 23d 1866

My dear General,

This letter you will find upon another subject from the last. I was on duty at West Pt a long time, as were you, and was there struck painfully at the want of proper religious influence among the Cadets & families of the Pnt. I know well what you did to fill this gap. I dont wish to disparage Mr French. His labors as a Professor are very arduous & cannot be neglected. This fact & his delicate health leave him no time for <partial> duties, except of the most formal & routine character. Even had he the health, it is inexpedient that a Professor should be the pastor of such a flock. We understand something of the barriers which present at a mil'y school especially, free intercourses between Professor & pupils such as should exist between Pastor & flock. The field at West Point is a most enticing one for an active, energetic, godly young man, who could visit the Cadets socially & "et at them" in a way impossible for an older man especially if he is a dignitary of the school. Good seed some at West P are in the way to produce a thousand fold. I mean who in the army stands up boldly for God & right, is a shining light. I need not elaborate this subject to you. What I think desirable is to have the offices of Chaplain & Professor separated. Let Mr French retain the latter. The appointee to the former place should be a truly Catholic spirit. Let me suggest that his influence would be greater if he were an Episcopalian. I suggest this matter to you, because I know you will appreciate it & your influence in the proper quarter might accomplish the desired result. I tried to get Bishop [Charles Pettit] McIlvaine to do something in the matter two years ago, but, although approving my idea, he did nothing. I think it a most important thing. I have no influence but Providence has assigned you a different role.

I know how busy you are & have written a brief letter, but I should like to know whether you receive this note & what you think about its subject.

Truly yours

Wm P. Craighill [Brig. General William Price Craighill, USMA Class of 1853]  
Box 341

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore, Md. April 23 66

Craighill, W.P.

Friendly letter

Recd April 24th 1866

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3511 4/23/1866 *From:* A. Merrell

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3459

Geneva, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[51, 52]

Geneva, April 23rd 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Friend,

I have never acknowledged your kind letter, in reply to mine, wishing information about the character of the position of Surgeon in a colored regiment, offered me by Adj. Gen. Thomas.

Owing to your absence from Washington, so much time elapsed before I received the reply, that I had perfected other plans for the future, which would enable me, if successful, to remain at home with my dear family. Still, had your statement been received before the expiration of my service at Elmira, I should have asked Adj. Gen. Thomas for the position, for you removed from my mind some very strong objections.

Although I knew & felt that there was an overruling Providence shaping my plan to remain at home, I did not realize the kind hand of my Heavenly Father, till taught it by the prolonged sickness & final death of my precious wife. To have been separated from her during the last months & not to have been with her when her sweet spirit so gently & trustfully went to sleep on the bosom of her blessed Saviour, would have been deprivations which nothing on Earth could compensate.

I wish you could have known my now sainted Anna. No one ever knew her but to love her. Of uncommon natural talents, highly educate, of mild & gentle manners & attractive person, she seemed never to think of herself, but rather of what she might do for others. Though, for a long time, suffering from a disease, - chronic gastritis - which tends to depress the spirits & render its possessor a burden to himself and friends, she was cheerful to the hour of her death, the constant light & joy of our home. And she died as she had lived, full of peace & joy & trust in Christ. "How could I doubt" she said "when Jesus has gone before & made it all so smooth? He has 'prepared the way'". After blessing the two little ones, she said, "It was hard at first, to leave you, but now I can trust my children & you all with Christ. He can care for you better than I." When our little Lizzie (8 yrs old) replied to her mother's words of sweet counsel, - to "Love Jesus" - "I do mama," she said, "That is joy to dear mama, but don't be mistaken." When a cousin - a recent convert - asked, "Anna are you happy? Is God present with you?" she replied earnestly "Yes - Yes, - not a doubt of it - not a doubt" & kissed him "Good bye". She would rest a little & then break forth "Happy - happy - Jesus is with me - not a pain - nor fear - all gone." And again "Going home - almost home."

For her, death had no sting & she gave over her no victory, for they seemed to her but the "Pearly gates" of heaven. And so, by God's grace, I am enabled to view her departure almost as a literal translation from Earth to heaven.

Very Respectfully Yours  
A. Merrell

Little Howard is well. He is now four years old. You sent Howard your photograph. How I would like one of your lady. They ought to be together. I enclose photographs of Anna & self, taken while I was in Elmira, & some lines, expressive of our view of the dear ones departure.

[Clipping 1]

N. York Evangelist

Merrell - At Geneva, N.Y., Feb. 24th, 1866. in the 36th year of her age, Mrs. Anna E. Merrell, wife of Dr. Andrew Merrell, and eldest daughter of Rev. F.E. Cannon, D.D.

She was a darling child, a devoted wife, and a model Christian mother, always self-sacrificing in her spirit to promote the comfort and happiness of others. For years she had been a patient and uncomplaining sufferer, but her end was perfect peace - more than that, it was a signal Christian triumph. She assured us that all doubt

and fear were gone, and that her Savior was with her. And even after he feet had entered the cold river, she broke the silence and sang with her sweet full voice,

Other refuge have I none,  
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.

Without a struggle or a groan she passed away from us to be "Over with the Lord."

[Clipping 2]

" Just Entered Heaven"

The dark valley is passed and the river of death  
With its cold turbid waters now rolls far behind,  
My dear Saviour was with me, He bore me across,  
And the floods had no terrors, His love was so kind.

I have safely arrived in my beautiful "home,"  
My Saviour conducting me all the way through;  
The Father has robed me, all dazzling and bright,  
And the crown of the victor now rests on my brow.

The saints are around me with welcoming song,  
Singing praises to God that another has come,  
As the purchase of blood, through the faith of the cross  
To be numbered with them in the heavenly home.

With them I am shouting and praising the Lamb  
Who redeemed me and brought me in triumph to God  
And the harps of the angels are swelling the son,  
Which fills all the arches of this bless'd abode!

And this is my "home," far more blissful and bright  
Than the mind can conceive in the home whence I came,  
I've no shadows nor clouds, nor the stain of old sin,  
For I'm washed and made pure in the blood of the Lamb.

Oh weep not for me, but give thanks and rejoice  
That the kind hand of Jesus has thus led me home,  
And when the brief struggle of life shall be past.  
Oh! dear ones, through Jesus, you also shall come.

Geneva Feb. 27th, 1866. F.E.C.

Written by her father the day after her death.

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3512 4/24/1866

*From:* W P Richardson

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3460

Washington City D C

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[53]

Washington City D C

Apl 24, 1866

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

General

Since our conversation to day I have concluded to put in writing what I said in regard to remaining in the service.

I will not make such an application myself, but if you desire that I should be retained I am willing to remain as long as my services may be needed.

I, perhaps, would have as strong claims upon the government as the majority of the officers of the V.R.C. But do not desire to put my retention upon such grounds.

I am General

very respectfully

Your obt Servt

W P Richardson [William Pitt Richardson]

Bvt Brig Genl

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3513 4/25/1866

*From:* J J Dana

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-3461

Quartermaster  
General's Office,  
Washington, D.C.

Commiss. Freedmans Bureau

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[54]

[Letterhead]

Quartermaster General's Office,  
Washington, D.C.,  
April 25 1865 [1866, written in pencil]

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Commiss. Freedmans Bureau  
General

Allow me to present to you my friend Genl [Edmund] Schriver of Frederick Md.

The Genl desires to learn the fate of an application made by him in behalf of the Fredk Co. Agricultural Society for sundry buildings which had been ordered turned over to the Society but action was suspended under the general suspension of all sales &c of Hospital buildings.

On the 6th inst you were advised of the state of the case.

Genl I will be glad to learn whether or not it is proposed to apply any of these buildings to the purposes of your Bureau.

Very resp & truly yours  
J J Dana [Brig. Gen. James Jackson Dana]

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3514 4/25/1866     *From:* Lemuel Moss

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3462

University at Lewisburg  
Lewisburg, Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[55]

[Letterhead]

University at Lewisburg  
Lewisburg, Pa.,  
Apr. 25 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Commissioner, &c  
My Dear Sir,

Your very courteous note of the 19th inst. is at hand. If it were practicable I should be glad to avail myself of your kind invitation, & examine the Records of your Bureau. But I cannot now. Perhaps it will not be impertinent for me to ask, nor too much trouble for you to answer, - How long, to what extent, & for what purposes will the Freedmen continue to need the special assistance of voluntary benevolence from the North? Of course I know that to a certain extent this depends upon the policy of the Government towards them, & the disposition of the South.

Hence an exact answer is perhaps impossible. But I shall feel greatly obliged & helped for your judgment upon the question as formed by your intimate experience & large information.

If the question is not improper & I am not too much intruding upon crowded time, I should esteem an early answer to this a peculiar favor.

Yours Very Truly  
Lemuel Moss

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3515 4/26/1866

*From:* Th. J. Wood

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3463

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters  
Department of  
Mississippi,  
Vicksburg, Miss.

Comr Bureau R.F & A.L.  
Washington, D. C.

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[56, 57]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters  
Department of Mississippi,  
Vicksburg, Miss.,  
April 26, 1866

To Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Comr Bureau R.F & A.L.  
Washington, D. C.  
General:

Though well and favorably known to you officially, I understand from Col Saml Thomas he has never met you personally. I write this letter to make you know to each other in propria persona. Not that Col Thomas requires any endorsement from me, though he deserves every good word I could say in his favor; but I think the occasion most propitious to express to you directly and personally the approbation, which I have hitherto done officially, of Col Thomas' administration of the affairs of the Bureau in this state. It has been most will, just, humane, and enlightened, and has been eminently successful.

I have found Col Thomas a most valuable assistant. Much of whatever success I have achieved in this Department is due to the cordial and intelligent assistance I have received from him.

It is therefore with much regret that I contemplate bring deprived of his cooperation.

As it seems to be in contemplation to concentrate generally in the the Southern states the officer of Dept Commanders and Asst Comr in the hands of one person, I ought not and do not complain of Col Thomas' removal. Furthermore, as I have already written you, I will do all in my power to make the new arrangement successful; and I cant see why it should not be.

But should, and any future time, a separate Asst Comr be appointed for this state, and I am in command of the Dept, I now put in my claim to have Col Thomas reappointed and sent back to me.

He has strong claims to be reappointed for the great good he has already accomplished.

I will inclose with this letter a copy of my order announcing Col Thomas' being relieved.

With pleasant memories of our service together in the field and kind wishes for you personally and officially,

I am, General, very truly, your friend,  
Th. J. Wood,  
Maj Genl Vols.

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3516 4/27/1866 *From:* Peter Carter

*To:* Maj. General OO Howard

OOH-3464

530 Broadway  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[58]

[STAMP] CARTER & BROS. NEW YORK APR 27 1866

530 Broadway  
New York April 27, 1866

Maj. General OO Howard  
Dear Sir

I thank you for you letter –indicating your intention to be with us - Should circumstances permit - at the meeting of the National Temperance Society on Wednesday Evg May 9th at the Cooper Institute.

We have the prospect of a large & interesting meeting.

Thanking you for your kind acceptance of our invitation I am Dear Sir  
Yours Very Truly  
Peter Carter

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3517 4/27/1866      *From:* Thos. D. Robertson      *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3466

Winnebago National  
Bank  
Rockford, Ill.

Washington

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[61]

[Letterhead]

Winnebago National Bank  
Rockford, Ill.,  
T.D. Robertson, President,  
M. Starr, Vice-President,  
S. Rising, Cashier.  
April 27, 1866

Gen O.O. Howard  
Washington  
Dr Sir,

Sometime last winter I was introduced to you, by my cousin Rev AAE Taylor in the street cars at Washington and promised that our church would help the enterprise you were then interested in, & founding a Congregational Ch building at the Seat of Government. I forwarded to day to Rev'd J.P. Langworthy of Congregational Union, a contribution from the Second Congregational Church Rockford, and designated fifty dollars of the same in aid of the Congr Ch at Washington.

Trusting you may be able to succeed in the enterprise.

I am  
Yur ot Svt  
Thos. D. Robertson

[Summary written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Rockford Ill.

April 27, 1866

Robertson, T.D.

States that he has forwarded 50 dollars to the Cong. Union for the benefit of the 1st Church in Wash'n.  
Recd. May 2, 1866.

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3518 4/27/1866     *From:* W. Kienzle

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3467

Richmond Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62, 63]

Richmond Va. April the 27 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

Thanking you for all you have done in former times, for my good and my prosperity, I wish to be excused for the liberty I am taking in asking you to do for me another favor, wick I think is in your power to do so. I hear that all Soldiers wick drew no Bounty when enlisting in to the U.S. Army are going to be allowed a certain sum, wick will be paid to theme, when showing there proper Discharges. I have had the misfortune to loose this document with other papers and Artickles on the movement of yours resp. Head Quarters (if wick I was the Cooke) from Virginia to Bridgeport Tenn. I used to belong to the 8th New York Vol. Regt Comp. D. Col. Salm Salm and my last Capt's name was Schneider. I was mustered out of service by Capt Pearson of your Head Quarter at Brookes Station, April 23d 1863. I am here in Richmond a broken man without a Cents in my pocket and no work at my trade as Confectioner, nor any possibility to get some an early day. After I had left the Situation as Cook at your resp. Head Quarters I setteld in Business in Savannah in Co. with a Capt Kirlin the Capital I had earned through the Priveliges you was so kind to allowe me, during my stay in your Employment accumulated for a while in prosperity, then as often happens Bussinus commeced to slide we lost money, and my Partner concluded to carry it on by himself. I with <[CHECK ORIGINAL TAPE RIGHT EDGE]> was left of my small fortune started a Confectionery but misfortune still haunted me and I was at last obliged to sell all I possessed to satisfy some of my Creditors and left with my wife wick I married in Savannah for this City. I could with a little amount of money easely beginn a small bussinuss on my own account and get on the right track again. Therefore I once more beg you Sire to do your Best to procure an other Discharge for my last one. If there is any truth in the Rumor about this Bounty it would be my lucky star and give me the means a power to stand up once more. Thank you Sir before hand for every thing you will do for me and beg again to be excused for the troubel I am causing you. I am verry respectfully

Yours

W. Kienzle

If you should honor me with a few lines please direct  
P.O. Box Nro 466 Richmond Va.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Richmond, Va April 27 /66

Kienzle, W.

Friendly letter

Recd April 28th 1866

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3519 4/27/1866 *From:* Samuel Osment

*To:* Maj. Gen'l. O.O. Howard

OOH-3468

Athens Tennessee

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

Athens Tennessee,  
April 27th 1866

Maj. Gen'l. O.O. Howard,  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

I arrived here safely about ten days ago, since then have been sick with small pox (varioid), am now getting much better, and expect to be entirely recovered in a short time.

I am Sir, with the highest respect  
Your obedient servant,  
Samuel Osment

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3520 4/28/1866    *From:* Seth Padelford

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3469

Providence [R.I.]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65]

Providence [R.I.] April 28th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Rev Mr Stewart, Sec'y of the R.I. Freedman's Association, has informed the Board of this Association that you have expressed a willingness to address our citizens during your absence from Washington, while in a contemplated visit to New York in the month of May.

It would be highly gratifying to our community who have taken a deep interest in the objects of the Bureau, of which you are the honored head, if they could have this great pleasure.

It may also be the means of adding largely to the funds of the R.I. Association, & aid them in carrying forward this great Christian work. I shall be glad to have you as my guest during your stay in Providence, & assure you that your visit here shall not be a pecuniary tax on your purse.

Will you please inform me of the day we may expect you here, in order that we may make the necessary arrangements for a meeting, & give it due publicity?

Very respectfully, Your ob'd't servant  
Seth Padelford, President R.I. Freedman's Association

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3521 4/29/1866 *From:* L.M. Dayton

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3454

Potsdam N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[66]

Potsdam N.Y.

April 29th 66

Dear General

Yours 11th inst came to me here, forwarded, this morning. Permit me to thank you for your generous interest in my behalf. As before, I wish you to feel assured I fully appreciate your kindness.

I have made formal application to be counted in the new organization but have little expectation of success as that seems to be beyond my fortune and it seems for political or other reasons Congress is on the right direction to legislate the Army to death.

With great respect

Your obt servt

L.M. Dayton

AAG Vols

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

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3522 4/29/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3470

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bur R.FAL  
Washington DC

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[67, 68]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.,  
April 29th 1866.

Dear General

I enclose a slip cut from a city paper giving, on the whole a very fair and trustful account of an occurrence that I have no doubt from the feeling exhibited, is destined to create considerable discussion. My chief Surgeon, Dr Lawton, boards with the teachers referred to and from him I learn that there is every reason to believe that the feeling of the citizens with reference to this attempted display, following but at the interval of a single day, the decking of the confederate soldier's graves in the same cemetery, in which the whole community took part – was really intended as a taunt and an act of defiance.

But whether this opinion on the part of the citizens was well founded or not, it was plainly so regarded and therefore I advised against the movement as inexpedient and likely to engender unpleasant feelings. The result proved that my expectations were well founded. I suggested that the decoration of the graves of our soldiers be put off for a week or fortnight and the Major very readily and kindly accepted the proposition offering at that time to have the graves all cleared of leaves or grass and to give every possible facility for their decoration but his did not suit the purposes of the movers of the undertaking who evidently had some other intention beside paying a tribute of affection and love for our dead soldiers and promoting harmony and good will between the two races, now more than ever necessary to secure justice to the weaker as the troops have been withdrawn.. The spirit of the movement was made manifest by the application to me by Capt Bryant for an armed force to compel the admission of the freed people into the cemetery, when it was plain that in all probability such a course would have caused bloodshed.

I have since had a very plain and severe talk with Mr Eberhart and have informed him that hereafter he must attend strictly to his own business and strive to promote harmony , otherwise I should remove him from the office he now holds as State Supt Freedmens School. He is extravagantly fond of making speeches and has been mixing himself up recently with parters claiming to be great friends to the negro but who are compelled to live by the latters necessities. The female school teachers, who were the prime movers in the matter, have been repeatedly insulted by citizens and have not been able to bear it with equanimity, and having sharp sarcastic tongues they have indulged in saying things that had better have remained unsaid. I begin to fear that Capt Bryant, who lives by what he receives for services rendered the freed people is not exercising a very good influence among them. I am informed that he and the teachers propose to ventilate this unfortunate occurrence in the <Nershem> papers. I fear they may do it with that disregard of truth which will make them ever more distasteful to the citizen than they now are.

Really General – when I witness the want of charity, the hypocrisy, the intense and vulgar desire to obtain a meretricious reputation in the newspapers exhibited by some of these friends of the negro, I dont wonder at the disgust with which they are regarded by the Southern people.

With the highest and kindest regards I am yours truly  
Davis Tillson  
B. G. Vols

Major Genl Howard  
Comr Bur R.FAL  
Washington DC

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3523 4/29/1866 *From:* S. Towle

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3471

Lowell Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69]

Lowell Mass April 29th / 66

Genl Howard, Sir,

I now enclose a few photographs from the negatives taken of you while in Lowell last winter, and would have sent them to you long ago but as I had a great many calls for them soon after you were here, and could not get enough on hand to send to you until lately. Hoping that you will receive them in safety.

Truly Yours,  
S. Towle

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3524 4/30/1866 *From:* John N. Dickey

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3472

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70, 71]

[Letterhead, including an engraving of four buildings of the University]

Lincoln University  
Oxford, Chester Co., Penna.  
Phila April 30th 1866

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

The enclosed papers give notice of your election by the Presbytery of Newcastle as a Trustee of the Lincoln University and explain the object of the Institution. Hon. Wm E. Dodge who is also a Trustee and has long been interested in the education of colored me at this institution, will kindly represent to you further the purpose in view. You have been elected with Dr. E.N. Kirk of Boston as representatives of the Congregational branch of our American Evangelical Church – and such is the confidence in your Christian integrity, and just interest in the colored people of our country, as well as admiration of your military service, that by consenting to act as a Trustee of the Lincoln University you may by Gods blessing be able to do much good.

Nothing will so beat down prejudice against the colored people North as well as South as to see the hand of such men as yourself raised in their favor, and while we cannot trespass upon you for much time, we will venture to ask for one day to attend our exercises on the 21 of June and a few words of encouragement. Should you grant us this, we will get such a meeting as we have seldom had in even our times of war excitement & you will give impulse to a great branch of the work you are now engaged in. We will communicate further with you in a short time.

Very respectfully  
John N. Dickey  
Pres't former Trustees

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Phila. April 30, 1866  
Dickey, J.M.  
Prest. Former board of Trustees  
States Gen. Howard has been elected a trustee of the Lincoln University (Colored).  
Recd. May 2nd 1866,

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3525 4/30/1866

*From:* D. D. Beebe

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3473

Hudson Summit Co.  
Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

[Embossing Stamp]

D. D. Beebe  
Dry Goods  
Groceries  
Hardware, Crockery  
Clothing &c.  
Hudson, O.

Hudson Summit Co. O.  
Apl 30, 1866

Maj Gen Howard  
Dr Sir

A few days since I rec'd a letter from my son W M Beebe Jr who is now on duty in Charleston Harbor, requesting me to aid him, in procuring a position in the regular Army.

Thinking that perhaps your suggestion to the proper authority, would be all sufficient, if any endorsement, would, avail, I take the liberty of making the request, that if you think him in experience, national qualifications &c, fit for the service & if there are no objections personal to yourself, you will lay me under this additional obligation on his behalf.

I am induced to make this request, from the impression derived from your uniform kindness to my son that you feel some interest in him & would willingly do him a favor.

If I were aware of any other mode of subserving his interests & wishes, as well I would not trespass on your attention.

With many thanks for your previous kindnesses,

I am as ever  
Your obt servant  
W M Bee

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3526 4/30/1866

*From:* H Nichols  
Wadsworth, D.D.S.  
366 C St Near 4 ½ St  
Washington

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3474

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[76]

366 C St Near 4 ½ St  
Washington April 30, 1866

Genl O.O. Howard USA  
General

I have learned from Miss Washington that you are in search of a furnished house for a few months; it is possible if you will call at your leisure at my residence that an arrangement might be made which would be mutually agreeable, as I am intending to send my family into the country for the summer, & would let you occupy my house for a few months if we can agree upon terms

I am General  
Respectfully  
Yours  
H Nichols Wadsworth, D.D.S.

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3527 4/30/1866 *From:* E. Turney

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3475

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73, 74, 75, 76]

Washington, D.C.  
April 30, 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir -

The forgoing is from the published Minutes of what was probably the largest religious Convention of colored people ever held in this country, the Missionary convention or the Baptist churches of the North and South, meeting in Alex'a in Aug. last.

I was with them during most of their sessions which were continued through ten days.

The Secretary of the convention has represented me as using an expression which I did not employ. After referring to yourself and your views and feelings toward the freedmen, I remarked that Col. Eaton had very well reflected the spirit and purpose which governed the Bureau, or something to that effect. This remark in the substance of it he has expressed in his own way.

I was happy in improving the occasion, as I have improved other occasions, in seeking to inspire in their minds confidence in those whom I knew to be their friends, and there probably could have been no occasion more favorable for extending this influence into different sections of the country, than the one one there presented.

You doubtless on your return from your tour at the North in August, received my report of facts learned and impressions received during my trip through Virginia and North Carolina. The accuracy and justness of the views expressed in that paper, have been more than confirmed by subsequent developments.

Allow me to express the hope that you will aid us in every way possible in the work in which we are engaged. I can not but regard it as second in importance to none in it direct bearings on the intellectual, moral and religious, as well as social and political interests of the colored people of this country. As Dr. Hague of Boston expresses it, "it lies right at the centre." "And that success here is ultimate success every where."

I have now under my supervision twenty four distinct schools which are in successful operations – besides several others which have been organized and for which provisions will soon be made.

Connected with these 24 schools are some 27 principal teachers, besides assistants. Most of these schools are, of course, night schools.

Our plan admits of the extension of the work to almost any extent desirable.

It would give me pleasure to apprise you of some of the rich fruits of this labor of love.

Your most respectfully  
E. Turney [Rev. Edward Turney]

P.S. One encouraging feature of our work is that it has the fullest sympathy and cooperation of the colored brethren themselves.

[Clipping #1]

After singing the 856th hymn, Col. Eaton, aid to Gen. Howard, of the Freedmen's Bureau, at Washington D.C., being introduced, addressed the Convention in a very happy manner, encouraging us to expect all things that God had promised us, knowing that "He that promises will assuredly fulfill." From his experience with the colored race, he was well satisfied, that "if let alone," they would succeed against every opposition, for they show that the same social and moral qualities abound with them as with the white race.

He entreated the colored race to continue to pray for this government, and rely upon the promises of an unchanging God.

On motion, Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be, and are hereby tendered to Col. Eaton for his encouraging address, and that said thanks be expressed by standing, to which the entire audiences unanimously responded.

Rev. E. Turney, D.D., of Washington, D.C., next addressed the Convention, expressing his entire confidence in the administration of Gen. Howard, and likewise all connected with him, Col. Eaton being his "express image."

He heartily indorsed all the Col. Eaton had said, and hoped the colored race would act accordingly.

[Clipping #2]

From the Missionary Convention of Colored Churches

The American Baptist Missionary Convention of the colored Baptist churches of this country, recently assembling at Alexandria, Va., say that they "Heartily rejoice in the establishment of the National Theological Institute, under the presidency of Rev. E. Turney, D.D., for the education of the Colored Ministry." They also say: "Its plan of operation meets our cordial approbation; and we hope it may furnish a common ground on which the white and the colored churches may harmoniously co-operate for the promotion of education, and that our brethren may seek to extend its advantages as widely as possible."

Referring to the Services which the President of the Institute had been able in various ways to render for promoting the welfare of their people, in connection with an expression of "thanks" for his "hearty assistance," they say: "and we do recommend him to the co-operation, sympathy, and prayers of all our churches."

[Clipping #3]

The following is from the Rev. Dr. Hague, of Boston, as published in the Christian Watchman and Reflector:

"Among the special services which the times demand, the instruction of colored preachers is one of urgent necessity. Scattered abroad over the Southern country there are preachers whom the people are glad to hear. They are ever moving; they do not let the grass grow under their feet." But they do need instruction to fit them for the kind of leadership that is thus thrust upon them. For this purpose an Association has been formed, having in charge the National Theological Institute for colored Ministers, at Washington, D.C.\* They have requested their Corresponding Secretary, the President of the Institute, Rev. E. Turney, D.D., to visit the North to state facts, and as far as possible, secure co-operation. Dr. Turney is a man of unquenchable zeal as well as of excellent scholarship. He is thoroughly devoted to his work, and every fibre of his being is alive to its appeals. His work is of the highest importance, and no one can listen to his conversation ten minute without being touched by his earnestness and moved to sympathy.

"The immense mass of things to be done for the Freedmen precipitated upon the churches of the North may seem, for a time, somewhat confusing. But gradually the different departments of the field will be accurately mapped out, and every sympathetic spirit can be working 'where it listeth.' but in view of the exigences of the present day and the passing hour, no one can doubt, we think that the cause which Dr. Turney has undertaken, lies 'right and the contre;' and that success here is ultimate success everywhere."

\* [Handwritten footnote, written sideways in the left margin.] The centre of whose operations is Washington.

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington D.C. April 30th /66

Turney, John [This is wrong. It is Edward Turney.]

Writes concerning convention of colored men in Boston.

Recd. May 1st 1866

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3528 4/30/1866 *From:* R. Williams

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3476

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[77]

General -

I take the liberty of introducing to you the Reverend Father Wiget of the Catholic Church ,who will explain to you his wishes, if you can see him. Father Wiget has charge of several of the Catholic Churches in this city, and by his energy and assiduity has done more than any one I know to alleviate the condition of the poor. Any thing you may be able to do for him will be regarded as a personal favor by me.

Yours Truly  
R. Williams

Maj Gen Howard

Washington  
April 30 / 66

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington, D.C. April 30 / 66

R. Williams

Introducing Father Wiget

[Note. This was probably referring to Reverend Father Bernardin F. Wiget, president of Gonzaga College, Washington, D.C. from 1861 to 1868.]

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3529 4/30/1866     *From:* Lyman Abbott

*To:* Fred W. Owen.  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

OOH-3477

Am. Fr. & Union Com.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[79, 80, 81, 82]

April 30th 1866

Fred W. Owen.  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 17th inst. requesting information concerning the number of schools for white children in the South, conducted under the auspices of Northern Benevolent Associations, has been transmitted by Mr Shipherd to me. I find it difficult to afford any full or satisfactory answer. I have not yet been able to obtain any statistics of the work carried on by societies not in co-operation with the Freedmen's Union Commission. And by the fundamental clause of our Cons. all schools sustained by this Commission or either of its Branches are open to all the ignorant & needy, irrespective of caste or color. I have made out however as well as my limited information enables me to do a statement concerning those schools which are in fact used chiefly by the poor whites & enclose it, together with a published report of the late Am. Union Com., which gives some account of the origin of most of these schools.

Very Respectfully Yours  
Lyman Abbott  
Gen Sec.  
Am. Fr. & Union Com.

Statement of Schools in the South, sustained or commenced by the late A.U.C. & exclusively or chiefly occupied by whites.

Knoxville. Two teachers. About a hundred scholars. This school is under the charge of a Board of Trustees in Knoxville, & is mainly supported by the citizens there. The salaries of the teachers are however guaranteed by the late A.U.C. & will partly be paid out of a fund reserved for that purpose. (See page 10 of pamphlet)

Richmond. Five teachers. About three hundred to three hundred & fifty scholars. This school is sustained by the N.E. Branch of the Fr. & Union Com. It is open to colored children. But being already full, & ample provision being made in other schools under this Commission for colored children, it is believed that none have applied for admission to this school: (see page 7 of pamphlet.)

Fredericksburg. Two teachers. One hundred & fifty scholars. Sustained by the N.E. Branch. Open to colored children. In fact occupied mainly, if not exclusively, by white children.

Raleigh. Two teachers. Seventy five to a hundred children. Sustained by the N.E. Branch. Open to colored children. Occupied chiefly if not solely by poor whites; the same Branch having other schools at the same point, occupied chiefly if not solely by the Freedmen. (See page 14 of pamphlet.)

Wilmington. One teacher. Number of scholars not known. Sustained by the Soldier's Memorial Society of Boston. Occupied only by white children. (See page 15 of pamphlet.)

Georgia, Atlanta. Five schools –five teachers –four hundred & fifty children –occupied exclusively by the poor whites –sustained by the Penn. Union Commission.

Macon. Two teachers –A hundred pupils

Athens. One teacher. Fifty pupils

These schools are all sustained by the Penn. Union Com. & all exclusively devoted to white children.

Fernandina –Florida. Two teachers. One hundred & fifty scholars. Partly sustained by the citizens of the place, partly by funds reserved in the treasury of the late A.U.C.

These are the schools with which I am acquainted which are occupied exclusively, or nearly so, by white children. But this statement would be very imperfect did I not add that by the recent union of the Freedmen & the Union Commission, and the adoption of the present broad & catholic Constitution nearly all the undenominational schools originally opened for Freedmen are not thrown open to the poor of all classes, who are already beginning to avail themselves of the privileges thus proffered them, & to enter the free schools sustained by the commission & its respective Branches. Tables No 3 & 4 given in the May number of the American Freedman, advanced sheets of which I forward you herewith, give an account of these schools & their location, nearly all of which are henceforth Free schools, for the education of the Southern masses, without distinction of race or color.

Very Respectfully  
Lyman Abbott  
Gen. Sec.  
Am. Fr. & Union Com.

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3530 5/1/1866

*From:* T.D. Eliot

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3478

H. of R. Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[9]

H. of R. [Washington, added in pencil] May 1, 66

Dear Sir

The appropriation bill has passed the House, but it was objected to by a good many, because the statements of Mr Stevens were not quite definite. I was called on to say something & was glad I had seen you today.

I think it will be well for you to see Mr Fessenden at some length before you go away, and perhaps I can give you some suggestions that may be serviceable.

Truly & Sin

Yr frd

T.D. Eliot [Thomas Dawes Eliot, Republican Congressman from Massachusetts and Chairman of the Committee on the Freedmen's Bureau for the 39th and 40th Congresses.]

3531 5/1/1866

*From:* John Bigelow

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3479

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1]

[ca May 1, 1866] [The date was added in pencil.]

My dear Sir

Permit me to invoke your friendly attentions in behalf of M. Ferdinand Lasteyrie the grandson of Lafayette, whom this note is intended to present to your acquaintance.

Hon N. P. Banks

Mr. de Lasterie has many claims to the consideration of men independently of his great inheritance of gratitude from the American people. He now visits the U.S. to regulate some interests compromised to some extent by the late war and I beg you will assist him with your advice.

I remain as ever  
Your firm friend  
John Bigelow

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.

Bigelow John

U.S. Minister to France

Introducing Count DeLasteyrie, grandson of Marquis De Lafayette

[Calling Card] Count de Lasteyrie

[Note. Count Ferdinand de Lasteyrie had married Martha Washington Seabrook of Rockville, South Carolina in 1846, and had to recover their lands after the civil war. Ref. Mabel L. Webber, Early Generations of the Seabrook Family (Continued), The South Carolina Historial and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Apr., 1916), pp 58-72. Alicia Anderson Thompson, Images of America: Rockville, 2006, publ Arcadia Publishing, Charleston S.C., ISBN 0-7385-4234-2, p 84.]

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3532 5/1/1866

*From:* George Myers

*To:* Major Genl. O.O.  
Howard, U.S.A.

OOH-3480

No. 145 Dallas Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Commissioner of Freedmen's  
Bureau

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[3]

Baltimore, Maryland  
May 1st 1866

Major Genl. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.  
Commissioner of Freedmen's Bureau  
General,

Your sympathetic letter of the 16th ult'o, was received by the Directors of the Maryland Mutual joint Stock Company, with inexpressible gratitude. Your willingness to lecture for us, if the opportunity afforded, is highly appreciated, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted, indicative of our indebtedness for your influence and good wishes.

"Resolved, that we recognize in General O.O. Howard, a brave and christian like soldier, a true friend of the colored man, and the oppressed of every race, and an able advocate of equal justice to all men.

Accept our thanks for your endorsement of the letter forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy."

All favors in that direction will be thankfully received, as we are prepared to do any thing in the line of ship building.

With the best wishes for your future, I remain,

Very respectfully,  
Your Obd't Servant,  
George Myers,  
Director,  
No. 145 Dallas Street

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Baltimore, Md. May 1st 1866  
Myers, George  
Thanks Gen. H. for kind letter of 16th April, 1866  
Recd May 7th 1866.

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3533 5/1/1866

*From:* Wm Ives Budington

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3481

Brooklyn, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[5, 6]

Brooklyn, N.Y.  
May 1, 1866

Genl. O.O. Howard,  
My dear Sir,

Accept my acknowledgments for your favor of the 11th ult. & the thanks of the Committee for consenting to speak for us at our Congregational Re-Union to be held in Plymouth Chh. on Wednesday Eve'g the tenth of May.

The Anniversary of the Bible Society takes place in the forenoon of Thursday, I believe, in which case you will find it convenient to attend both.

I should have acknowledged your favor sooner, but for some uncertainty which arose about our place of meeting. We hoped to secure the Academy of Music, but were too late in making our application; we have secured Mr. Beecher's Church, but as they are putting up a new organ, we shall not have the use of that in this <ment>.

Very truly yours  
Wm Ives Budington

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
May 1st, 1866  
Budington Rev W.I.  
Writes concerning the Congregational meeting in Brooklyn  
Recd, May 3rd 1866  
[Written in a third hand.] No answer

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3534 5/1/1866

*From:* W E Dodge

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-3482

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

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[7, 8]

[Letterhead]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

[An engraving of the U.S. Capitol was part of the letterhead.]

1 May 1866

Dear Genl,

Having just voted for your Bill I am reminded of my duty to urge you to be sure & be present at our Tem Assn on Wednesday 9 th. You are advertised with H.W. Beecher for the Evg at Cooper Institute. I hope you will not fail – try & call & see me Room No 42 Willard.

Truly Yours

W E Dodge [William Earle Dodge, U.S. Rep. 1865-1866]

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

House of Rep. May 1, 1866

Dodge, W.E.

Asks Gen. Howard to call and see him.

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3535 5/2/1866

*From:* M French

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3483

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
South Carolina  
Charleston, S.C.

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[10, 11]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
South Carolina  
Charleston, S.C.,  
May 2, 1866

Major Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

The signs of the political skies seem to indicate, that some changes may be made in the military affairs of So. Carolina, & in view of such event, I beg leave to say to you, that the Bureau branch of the service, has now become more important than the military, which has been reduced to a small compass. The duties of the Bureau are more complicated, and, in many respects, more important than those of the military. The military is not dependent on the Bureau, while, the latter is very dependent on the former. The work of the military has been done, and well done, so that it can retire, with honor, from the field, at an early day, but the all important work of the Bureau is, as yet, in an unfinished state. Vital & far searching interest, material, educational & moral, as well as, political, depend, in no small degree, upon the proper & full completion of the mission of the Bureau.

Genl. Scott seems to have a peculiar fitness to manage this latter work. He has addressed himself to it with unceasing assiduity. While the work has been increasing, he seems to have grown with its growth, so that, as is often the case. The work has not grown beyond either his comprehension, or, ability, to manage it.

I am of the opinion that the time has arrived, when the consolidation of the two branches, the military & Bureau, would be a wise & economical measure. One brain can work both, and the military, now the lesser in importance, should be hand-maid (or rather to be a little more military,) Aid de Camp, to the Bureau.

Such a measure would reduce the expense, secure a greater degree of harmony, and, enable the Ass. Commissioner of the Bureau to work it with far more efficiency – as well as more profitably & satisfactorily, to both citizens & freedmen.

It cannot be concealed that the policy of the military & Bureau, has been somewhat divergent. Henceforth there should be one policy – one work & one head.

I have made the above suggestions for what I believe to be for the good of the cause, not doubting that you will kindly receive them in that light. Light is breaking through the darkness.

Very Respectfully,  
M French [Rev. Mansfield French]

[Clipping]

Charleston Courier  
May 2

... On Sunday night last, Private Andrew J. Hawkins, a member of Company A, 25th Regiment Ohio Veteran Volunteers, was attacked by George Windsor and James Windsor, citizens, and severely cut and wounded in

this abdomen, hands and face. He is lying in a precarious condition. James Windsor and his wife charged with aiding and abetting the assault, the provocation for which has not transpired, have been arrested. The other Windsor is still at large.

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3536 5/2/1866

*From:* AS Mason

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3484

Raleigh, N.C.

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

Raleigh, May 2nd 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Washington  
General,

According to what I understood to be your agreement, I herewith forward to you the application Genl. [William Ruffin] Cox for pardon, recommended by Col. Whittlesey, Gov's Worth and Holden.

You will please put such favorable endorsement as you can and forward it to Col. Wright Rieves, Military Secretary of the President, who I am led to believe will present it to the President for his action.

Genl. Cox both from his personal character as a gentleman and his honorable conduct since the close of the war is justly entitled to the most favorable consideration.

With the kindest remembrance for your many personal courtesies to myself.

I am,  
Your ob't servant  
AS Mason

[Summary written on the back of the first page, in a different hand.]

Raleigh, N.C.

May 2nd 1866.

Mason, A.S.

Forwards application of Gen. Cox for pardon.

Recd. May 4th 1866

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3537 5/5/1866

*From:* A. Baird

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3485

*Source:* Bowdoin

HEADQUARTERS,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Louisiana.  
New Orleans

Commissioner of Freedmen  
Washington D.C.

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[13, 14]

[Letterhead]

HEADQUARTERS,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Louisiana.  
New Orleans,  
May 5th 1866

My dear General

You may remember that when the matter of my coming to Louisiana was under consideration, you told me that there were some important changes which you desired to make in the administration of affairs here and that you wished me to carry them into effect. You thought it would be a work of only a short time and that afterwards you would have me recalled to Washington to assist you somewhat in the charge of things at your Hd. Qrs.

You may remember also that one of my objections to going South was the advice given me by Genl Fry and other friends in the War Dept. not to go far from Washington until after Congress had acted in the matter of reorganizing the Army. As each individual about Washington would then be striving to advance his own interests perhaps to the prejudice of those of others - you thought however that it would be in your power to look after my interests as well while I was absent on duty under you as I could myself. From recent letters which I receive I find that I made a mistake in not doing as I was advised to. The Bills for reorganization are all so contrived as to give more or less promotion to the officers on duty near the Dept'mt, whilst all of those leave me after the close of the war without the least prospect of Advancement. These same officers have all likewise secured themselves brevets and I who have seen more service than any of them have been overlooked because I happened to be outside of the ring.

I would like for these and many other reasons to return to the north. I wish to send my wife away from here by the end of this month and I wish to go with her.

Everything connected with the Bureau is now satisfactorily arranged and all is working better than could have been anticipated. I am assured by Genl Sherridan by Genl Canby and by numerous other gentlemen of all the various political creeds that during my administration the status of the Bureau in this community has been greatly improved. I have not made it popular but it and its officers are respected -and I have do as much as could be done to harmonize the conflicting parties and to bring about good order. The job which you gave me to do is I think about finished, and hereafter the machine can run itself without me as well as with me.

Besides, I have here an officer who has not in the Army a superior in fitness to take my place. Capt I. Irvin Gregg 6th Cavalry Bvt. Colonel in the Army and late Bvt. Maj Genl. Vols, has been with me long enough to know every thing connected with the administration of the Bureau in this State. He is a man of the best habits and character of strict moral integrity and proper feeling towards the freed people. He is quiet but very sagacious, judicious and discreet -in one word exactly the man for such a position as that which I now occupy.

What I would like is that you would have me ordered to Washington, and if you have employment for me there I wold then ask to be relieved altogether. Col Gregg could act here temporarily by my order until I had seen you. I do not wish to be relieved from duty before I get back to the north but if you find it out of your power to comply with these requests, please hold yourself in readiness to relieve me immediately on my making the request letter by telegraph or other wise.

Most Respectfully

Your Obed. Svt  
A. Baird [Absalom Baird, USMA Class of 1849]  
Bvt. Maj Genl  
Asst. Com. La

P.S. Should you after seeing me think it important for me return here for any purpose I would of course be ready to do so.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedmen  
Washington D.C.

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3538 5/6/1866

*From:* Mary Phelps

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3486

Springfield Mo.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[15, 16]

Springfield Mo. May 6th 1866.

Maj Genl Howard  
Dear Sir,

I reached home on last saturday. I have the pleasure of informing you, that I found my orphan refugee children in good health, and making rapid progress in learning.

The colored school had an exhibition, on last wednesday the pupils done credit to themselves, and their teachers, Miss Howard, and Miss Townsend. These ladies when I left home in March, had twenty orphan children under their care, and support. On my return I find they have given up that part of their labor. I am now taken care of the children, and several women who are unable to work, I find among the colored people a number of women, in a delicate condition, destitute, unable to work and no friends, to care for them. With these exceptions, the colored people are doing well. Those who can obtain work, work willingly and without any trouble.

I remained at Washington some days after I was at your office, making an effort, to have congress make me a donation for my services, and money expressed, to enable me, to place my orphans home on a firm basis. I did not perfect the object, as I wished, but have not given it up, and I may return to Washington in a few weeks. I can not think of giving up, a permanent orphans home here, it is so much needed for both classes. Fifteen children left the home in my absence.

Ten were placed in good homes, five was claimed by their mothers, seven full orphans have come in since.

Yours very truly  
Mary Phelps

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Springfield, Mo. May 6, 1866

Phelps, Mary

Concerning "orphan's home" at Springfield Mo.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAY 15 1866

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3539 5/7/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3487

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.

Com'r Bureau R.F A L  
Washington D.C.

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[20, 21, 22, 23]

Private

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.,  
May 7th 1866

Dear General

I enclose a copy of the Loyal Georgian (Capt Bryants paper) and ask your attention to the portions I have marked. You will readily perceive that it is in the highest degree sensational and that it directly conveys the idea that Genl Brannan and myself went out of our way to do honor to the Confederate dead and that we were opposed to having the graves of our own soldiers strewn with flowers by the colored people. He states twice that the Government offices were closed when the graves of confederate soldiers were decorated. This is simply false as can be established by the most overwhelming proof. Neither Genl Brannans nor my office or any other U.S. Government office was closed, and Capt Bryant knew it or might easily have found out by asking.

Again it is equally false that we (Genl B & myself) were opposed to decorating the graves of our soldiers, but simply to the time and manner of doing it. As we had been officially notified by the Mayor that it was considered by the citizens as an attempt to annoy and insult them, and that he feared a disturbances of the peace by the more violent and lower classes of the citizens. At the same time as I wrote you on 29th ult the Mayor offered if the contemplated movement could be postponed for a week or fortnight, to have the graves cleaned off – the gates of the cemetary, which by the way is mostly private property, thrown open and the police force placed at the disposal of those who wished to decorate the graves of our soldiers, and to give them every possible facility. This offer Genl Brannan and myself urged Mr Eberhart to accept in order to promote harmony and kindly feeling between the races and prevent possible difficulty.

This the movers in the undertaking declined to do and on being refused admission into the cemetary they came to me for assistance. I referred them to Genl Brannan. They said they came to me as chief of the Bureau and charged with securing the rights of the freed people. I asked them what they wanted me to do, and the Rev Mr Russell said, we want you to recommend that Genl Brannan give us a force to compete the admission of the colored people to the cemetary. "What said I to use force for such a purpose and bring about possible blood shed over the graves of our soldiers when it can all be avoided without injury to any one!" I answered that I would do no such thing but on the contrary would if necessary recommend Genl B not to send a force for such a purpose. Bryant was present and heard and took part in the conversation – and yet he states that my reply was that "I was opposed to having the company enter." I told him I was opposed to the whole movement as likely to produce a collision as ill timed and certain to create bitterness.

My anticipations were fully realized. Capt Bryant was attacked in the street in a most cowardly manner. As soon as I heard of the occurrences I went to the Mayor and had the assailant arrested and he has since been bound over for trial on the charge of an assault with attempt to kill. All the respectable citizens denounced the act, steps were at once taken to remove the assailant from his office as constable and a great deal of sympathy was expressed for Capt Bryant. All this he has since lost and thrown away by his sensational published account of the affair in which he makes no mention of the prompt and just action of the civil authorities.

You will at once see that the enclosed newspaper is entirely devoted to producing an impression in the North very likely for political purpose. I have no doubt it will succeed. I anticipate seeing Genl Brannan and myself very thoroughly denounced. But this I care very little about. I have seen the Bureau and myself represented in the newspapers as guilty of all sorts of mean and dishonest conduct and it has become so common as to no longer attract my attention.

All the stories so industriously published in the New York Herald recently about negroes being taken to Miss and Ark by force, agents of the Bureau using soldiers to collect them together and being paid for their service &c are simple unmitigated falsehoods. I challenge the authors of these statements to give one single fact in their support, or give the name of an agent of the Bureau who has been guilty of such conduct. If the Herald knew the facts in the cases referred to, it would be somewhat cautious in calling public attention to them. If the facts which can be substantiated beyond a doubt were spread before the country they would not benefit the cause that paper advocates.

I only notice the Enclosed Loyal Georgia as it claims to be friendly and can therefore do the greater mischief. Its statements are designed, and I believe intentionally to produce excited and unjust comment, in Northern papers, on the action of Genl B & myself and I therefore desire to inform you of the facts. In proof of the fact stated in my letter of the 29th ult. that Capt Bryant lives by the necessities of the freed people, I enclose a letter from Lt Col Devereux which will explain itself. Other instances of such conduct on the part of Capt Bryant has recently come to my knowledge.

I am Yours Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl  
A Com

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau R.F A L  
Washington D.C.

[Note. The Loyal Georgian that was referred to was not enclosed with the letter. The letter from Lt Col Devereux is OOH-3488.]

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3540 5/7/1866

*From:* John Devereux

*To:* Brig. Genl. D. Tilson

OOH-3488

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office A.A.  
Commissioner Bur R&F  
for Edgefield, Abbeville  
& Anderson <Cnts>  
Hamburg S.C.

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[18, 19]

Office A.A. Commissioner Bur R&F  
for Edgefield, Abbeville & Anderson <Cnts>  
Hamburg S.C. May 7, 1866

Brig. Genl. D. Tilson  
A. Com. For Georgia  
General:

I deem it my duty to invite your attention to the conduct and proceedings of one Capt. Bryant, who resides in Augusta and operates on both sides of the river. I firmly believe this man is exercising a most pernicious influence on the colored people of Carolina & Georgia.

I know he is obtaining large sums of money for imaginary services, and for which no fair equivalent is rendered. A few days since my attention was called to a case, where he charged a poor woman (named Fanny Smart) ten dollars for merely showing her where my office was. He is encouraging a spirit of litigation among the colored people, which causes loss and disadvantage to all parties except perhaps himself. But more important from all the rest is the fact that this man is doing all in his power to create and foster a bad and unchristian feeling between the negroes and their white neighbors which will be the cause of serious trouble in the future. It seems to me too bad that our efforts to promote harmony between the races should be set at nought by one whom I firmly believe to be actuated solely by the basest and most sordid motives.

I am, General very respectfully  
Your obt Servt  
John Devereux  
Lt. Col. & A.A.Com.

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Hamburgh S.C.

May 7th 1866

Devereux, John

Lt Col & A A Comr.

States that a man named Capt Bryant is exercising a most pernicious influence among the freed people & which will be productive of trouble in the future.

Recd <audc> May 7th 1866

[Note. This letter was enclosed in OOH-3487 from Davis Tillson to OO Howard, dated May 7, 1866.]

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3541 5/7/1866

*From:* Sidney Perham

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3489

House of Reps  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[23]

House of Reps  
Washington, D.C.  
May 7, 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Sir,

I have today forwarded a letter, signed by myself & other Members of Congress, to Rev. L. Abbott Secy. of the American Union Commission, in regard to aid for the Loyal Georgian.

I hope you will not fail to see Mr. Abbott on the subject.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Sidney Perham [U.S. Representative from Maine, 1863-1868.]

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3542 5/7/1866

*From:* W.H. Greenwood

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3491

Dummerston Vermont

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[17]

Dummerston Vermont

May 7th 1866

General

I have this day mailed a map of Texas for you as I promised you I would when I was in Washington. I also inclose in this one of your photographs, which I would like your autograph on. If the Northern Pacific Railroad bill passes I think I shall try to get a position on that road as an engineer, and if you willing I would like to get a recommend from you as to my qualifications for such a position. I think of going west soon but my address for the present will be Dummerston. Vt.

Respectfully Your Obt Servant

W.H. Greenwood

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3543 5/8/1866

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-3492

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[632]

New York – Mr <Bother>

5.10 P.M.

8th May 1866

Dearest,

I met Gen Augur & Col Wm Henry Owen at the cars – procured an upper “Berth” - the latter helped me to get up my coat. I was so tired that I slept till next dailight before waking. I hope you did the same. I took a short <nap> after reaching Mr Bother and then breakfasted. He has 7 children two boys married & one girl, tho not at home – the youngest sixteen. We had a home-like welcome and a good breakfast. Mr O & I read over the poor lecture together, and at ten a.m. we were taken in the carriage by the married daughter, Mrs Peters to the Cooper Institute. After reading, a prayer & an introductory report, I delivered my lecture. It was very well received. Mr Beecher followed me by one of his best extempore addresses. There were present some seven or eight hundred people, said to be a pretty good audience for a morning week day.

I hope you are all nicely at home with much love,

Yr husband

Otis

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3544 5/8/1866

*From:* Campbell Graham

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3493

Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[25]

Baltimore,  
May 8th 1866

Major General Howard  
Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 5th Inst. and much obliged to you for the kind interest you have taken in my sister Mrs Philips's claims. She was rendered quite destitute during the war, by destruction of her property, and although I gave her all the aid in my power, she cannot well put her farm into a profitable state without further relief.

I hope Congress will pass the proposed resolution for relief for damages.

Very respectfully  
Yrs &c.  
Campbell Graham  
Major U.S. Army

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3545 5/8/1866

*From:* C.M. Mather

*To:* Wm. E. Whitingly

OOH-3494

*Source:* Bowdoin

Metropolitan National  
Bank  
(No. 108 Broadway)  
New York

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[26]

[Letterhead]

Metropolitan National Bank  
(No. 108 Broadway)  
New York  
J.E. Williams, Pres't  
G.I. Seney, Cash'r  
May 8 1866

Wm. E. Whitingly

Dear Sir,

I believe that the Rev. Horace James, referred to in the inclosed article from the Herald is connected with the Am. Missy Association. If so, please inform me what foundation there is for the story of this correspondent.

Yours truly  
C.M. Mather

wrote May 9/66

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3546 5/10/1866     *From:* Daniel Hall

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3495

Dover N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[27, 28]

Dover N.H.  
May 10 1866

Dear General,

I fear that you have lost memory as you have lost sight of me. I, however, do not forget that I enjoyed the honor & pleasure of a brief membership of your military family. It has been my hope to meet you again on some of your visits to the North, but circumstances have not as yet favored me. let me take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your safe escape from the perils of the great war, as well as upon the ample harvest of honors you have gathered before & since its close. It has been a great satisfaction to me to see your name brightening and your fame broadening year by year, for no one knew better than I how well you deserved it all.

But, my dear General, I fear you would scarcely find time or inclination for a letter of mere friendship or reminiscence from me – were I to presume to write you one. My present purpose is quite different.

We are making arrangements for a Course of Lyceum Lectures in this city. Our people would like very much to see and hear you – and I am commissioned to convey to you an invitation to address them at some time during the ensuing Fall or Winter.

As you will probably lecture in other places in New England, I apprehend you would find it convenient enough to visit us. You know that we are about midway between Boston & Portland on the B. & M R.R. - and I will tell you further that we have some 8 or 10 thousand inhabitants – that we have suffered deeply in all ways from the war – and consequently have had no regular course of Lectures for several years. Our present enterprise is an experiment whose success will depend upon our presenting to the public the best lecturers for moderate prices.

While, therefore, we propose to engage only first-class lecturers, and expect to pay with reasonable liberality, still we are not able & presume we should not be expected to pay as much as larger places. Will you be good enough to inform me whether you can favor us – if so, at what time in the season probably – and please name the sum we shall be expected to pay for the service.

I need not add that I should desire great personal gratification from seeing you here & presenting you to the loyal people to whom your name is already so familiar. I earnestly hope therefore you may find it consistent with your duty to gratify our wish.

I would like much to know when you propose to come to Maine, with a view to looking you in the face once more. I am doing a quiet business in this little city, and although I have not done so well as Griffith & Stinson & died bravely for the cause, nor so well as others who are still at your side, yet on a less stormy and conspicuous scene I am still devoted to the great principles for which we have fought the great fight through.

I am, General,  
Most faithfully yours  
Daniel Hall

Gen O.O. Howard

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3547 5/12/1866 *From:* T. W. Osborn

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3497

Tallahassee Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[30, 31]

Tallahassee Fla.  
May 12th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
My Dear General,

I write you this letter as a private communication though it may be in part of an official nature.

The course which the Genl. has adopted in regard to the Bureau & military Dept. so far as withdrawing the military force makes its in my opinion of little benefit to train two nearly distinct organizations here of a military character under two heads. Either Genl. Foster or myself could easily control or conduct each of them. At present the civil & military condition of the State is good & the freed people are universally quiet & working well.

I am not anxious to be withdrawn from the State unless the best interests of the Government & the whole people could be advanced by it, & I do not think it would be retarded. I had however thought seriously of requesting you to place me on other Duty which would be eminently gratifying to me. So is this. To place in my hands for the remainder of the year the labor of gathering together & placing in form the material for a complete report onr history of the Bureau from its organization & also the causes which led to its organization. I would love to undertake this labor & it is one too which would be of great benefit to me. I said the close of the year as you would know before or at that time whether it should be continued.

It is not necessary for me to say more as you will determine at a glance whether you wish me to undertake so onerous a work, & whether you feel at liberty to place officers upon such duty.

Should you consider this matter favorably & conclude to place me on such duty, I should be greatly gratified to retain the services of Bvt Maj. S.L. McHenry my Ast. Adj. General who possesses all the requisites to make him a most valuable assistant. General Foster has a full staff.

Please act upon the matter as would be most gratifying to yourself & without official correspondence in the case.

I assure you General, that I do not ask this for the purpose of avoiding any duty here but I am convinced that by uniting the duties of the Ast. Comr. With those of Dept Comdr the end of the Govt. would be quite as well accomplished.

I am General  
Very truly Yours  
T. W. Osborn

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Tallahassee, Fla.

May 12th 1866

Osborne, T.W.

Col. & Asst. Comr.

States that the Mil. Dept. Comdr. & Assts Comr. Should be one and the same person. And that he would like to engage in writing a history of the Bureau.

Recd May 23rd 1866

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3548 5/12/1866

*From:* A.C. Sommers

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3525

Washington City D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

Washington City D.C.

May 12d /66

Gen Howard

Sir

I am compelled to trouble you with this note, as I did not catch the name this morning, of the gentleman you have selected to view the farm in Va.

Col Randolph I am sorry to say cannot go, as he could not leave the Office for so long a time. Mr Samuel Cutts will go. You will please say to the parties who are going over, that Mr Cutts will or ca go tomorrow (24th) at any hour after 12 o'clock. He belongs to Sec. Office treasury Dept. & says, if they will call at his office when they are ready, he will go. If tomorrow does not suit the other gentleman, Mr Cutts will go he says, any day this <week> except Saturday, but cannot leave <any> day earlier than 12 oclock. If convenient I would like to hear by the bearer whether they will go tomorrow.

Very Respectfully

A.C. Sommers

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3549 5/13/1866 *From:* Learor M. Peer

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3498

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[33]

New York May 13th 1866

Dear Brother

I have seen the Editor of the Tribune as you requested. He says – the manuscript of Gen Howard has not been found yet. The reporter Bryan – was not of the regular corps – but an extra hand – and furnished only an abstract of Generals speech – probably retains the original manuscript. When said Bryan comes for his pay – he will be required to deliver it – and it will be forwarded in a roll to your office Washington.

I think likely – Bryan may have forwarded the paper himself – and that you will find it in the Wash. B.

Respt.

<Learor M. Peer (over)>

P.S. I could not hear of Mr Natines address at the Astor. Undoubtedly he is at Rochester.  
L. M. P.

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3550 5/14/1866      *From:* Saml W. Bailey

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3500

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[34, 35]

New York May 14 / 66

To Major Genl. O.O. Howard;  
Dear Sir:

Certain utterances of yours before the Bible Society, relative to the education of the Freedmen have led me to question whether, with a little additional labor, in the same line that I have chiefly wrought in during our great national crisis, would not furnish a desideratum in the great work of mental & moral culture which comes under your direction, and forms a part of your official charge.

Several years ago an educated German expressed the wish that I would prepare a book in the English language like one which he had been wont to read in as a schoolboy in his native country; and he expressed his wonder – that no more prominence is given to the Bible as a school-book by a people so religious as we are.

Quite a period elapsed before I found time to devote to that work, which was suggested to me by the aforesaid gentleman, whom I met at a watering-place; but about five years ago I sought and found, in a German book-store the very work which he mentioned and two others constructed on the same plan & for the same purpose. It was a small book, about the size of a common spelling-book, and when I thought of the reasons for making a book on that plan – which was a compilation of some of the more important and attractive parts of the Bible interspersed with appropriate selections from the religious poets – it seemed to be altogether too meagre an affair; and I resolved to compile a duodecimo of from 250 to 350 pages with the hope that it might become at some time a reading-book in schools. When my original plan had been carried out, we were in the heat & commotion of our great struggle, and it was no time to publish. And as I was physically unable to endure the exposures incident to the work of a chaplain in the army, the question arose whether I could not expand my work so as, by a thorough research of all the poets, I might not make a book that would serve to make all the great facts and features of the Bible attractive to the <young> men of our country in that grand & glorious future which I was ever-confident was in store for us as a nation.

The work was subsequently undertaken and the result will be a large octavo volume of about 600 pages, entitled “Nahbiou; or the Bible in Epitome – Illustrated by the Poets of Christendom”. More than 250 poets, from Shakespeare down, have been made tributary, by their choicest gems, to the work.

After that compilation was completed, I again set about preparing a book according to my original plan but with more simple illustrations, which is also in an equal state of advancement. The thought occurred to me when this last work was nearly done whether it would not be well to make a small book about as large as the German model, which has been originally suggested to me. but I forbore, because I was in doubt whether it is well to bring children first into contact with the Bible, by the toil & difficulties of learning to read. But on hearing your speech the other day, and calling to mind the peculiar traits of negro character – with which I had become familiar – by several years residence among them, I resolved to consult you as to the expediency of compiling the small book to complete the series.

I am now preparing for a final revision of the two compilations, and it will not cost me very much extra labor to prepare the third, with a view to blending weighty & attractive truths with simple poetry, should you deem such a volume to be desirable in this new department of education.

I would thank you to favor me with your views on this point at your earliest convenience.

Faithfully & Respectfully yrs  
Saml W. Bailey  
No. 128. East 16th Street.



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3551 5/14/1866 *From:* N. W. Dwight

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3501

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[36]

Brooklyn, May 14th / 66

Gen Howard

Dear Sir

I made great efforts to obtain an interview with you while you were in this region, & when you kindly consented to see me in Fourteenth St. the time was too short to allow me to get to you in season – a conversation would have been very satisfactory & less troublesome to you, as I doubt not you are flooded with troublesome letters.

You will perhaps recollect that I spoke to you in Washington of a brother of mine, William Fiske, who was at that time laboring among the Freedmen in Louisiana, where it was very unhealthy, he was obliged to come North to recruit & when he returned he found his wife very very ill so that for weeks her life was despaired of, & he was so long detained from his post that he lost it. It was about the time when they reduced the number of teachers, superintendents &c. now that the Freedman's Bureau has assumed a more tangible form than it has had since the veto I am anxious to know if there is not some department that he could fill better known to you than to him. He <loves> the <work> & upon truly christian principles, he is a man of strict integrity. His wife also, who is much younger than he, is an excellent teacher had the advantage of some of the best teaching of New England. My brother was at Pensacola when I last hear from him, but not doing enough for the support of his family. I feel great sympathy for him & a great desire to have him where he can accomplish the most good. At the same time be enabled to support his family without being continually distressed – he has two children.

I understand that our mutual friend & cousin Perry Lee is much pleased with his situation & doing well. I am rejoiced to hear it. I was not able to attend your lecture here on account of a recent indisposition but a daughter of min grasped your hand for a moment intending to speak to you but you were in such demand that she found that quite impossible – she saw you <circled> by a party of gentlemen & borne away to speak on the other side of the water.

Should you have time to communicate with me please direct to Mrs. Wm R Dwight care of George L Dwight 49 Murray St. New York. It would rejoice my heart greatly to be instrumental in benefitting my brother. Still I know it may not be in your power to help me. my regards if you please to Mrs Howard & believe me very sincerely

Your friend

N. W. Dwight

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Brooklyn, May 14, 1866.

Dwight, N. W.

Friendly letter

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAY 16 1866

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3552 5/14/1866 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3502

St Nicholas Hotel  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37, 38]

St Nicholas Hotel  
New York  
May 14 1866

Dear brother

My leave expires today but I wish to stay over to see the Paymaster tomorrow to try and get Dexter Howard's pay. The Paymaster in Boston told me I could, he thought, get at least a month's pay for him here. Dexter has not had any pay for seven months and cannot get it himself. Is not expected to live. I wish also to stop in Philadelphia as I have some packages from Leeds. I would have telegraphed but found it cost a good deal and believing that there is no pressing need for me I will take this time unless I hear to the contrary from you at William Merrick's. Probably will reach Washington Thursday. Left all well at home; and at Mr. Webbs this morning. Was too late to see the Paymaster here tonight and did not find John Weir at home.

Saw your letter to Mrs. Whipple in the Tribune today.

The President's revelation of himself to the Loudon Times Correspondent are the worst I have yet seen.

Would like a word from you or Maj. Ketchum at Philadelphia. Is there any errand I can do for you there? I intend to see Rice Rutter & Co.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

[Summary written on the back page, in a different hand.]

New York  
May 14 / 66  
Howard CH  
Bvt. Brig. General  
Requesting to have his leave extended a short time.

[Note. Dexter Waterman Howard, their second cousin, died 20 June 1866 from wounds he received during the war. He was Captain in the 128th Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troops, of which CH Howard was the commanding officer.]

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3553 5/14/1866      *From:* Thomas W Conway      *To:* Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-3503

242 Broadway  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[39, 40]

[CHECK ORIGINAL. The tape on the right side of page 2 is difficult to read.]

242 Broadway  
New York  
May 14th 1866

Genl:

It is clear now (as it has been to me for months) that the President is determined to strangle the Bureau. In his assault via Fullerton and Steedman, you suffer unjustly and meanly.

The man who could do what Fullerton did in New Orleans is just the man for Johnson's wicked work. He will fill the Herald with "highly-colored stuff" tempered so as to suit the President and serve the President's policy. Your best friends (though you acted as if you did not know them as such) Saxton, Thomas, Gregory and myself, were the natural enemies of the cruel policy of the President. We were true to liberty but could not stand. We had to fail and give way to "conservatives" that is, to men who will cower at the policy of Mr. Johnson. Fullerton and Steedman will do you all the harm possible; and the Herald and kindred sheets will join in the attack.

A policy that would sweep from the Bureau the truest friends the Freedmen <have> will soon seek your disgrace, and, though I am far from forgetfulness of your treatment of General Saxton and myself and from the conviction that you were not without blame, I do contend that you deserve well at the hands of the friends of liberty, and that all good and true men should shield you from unjust and wicked assaults.

I have two chapters in my work "The Great Exodus" on you and your course, and I am sure you will give me credit for a faithful exposition. They are written as one friend of justice would write of another.

I am yet confident that before the expiration of the present Bureau Congress will find it necessary to provide for its continuance notwithstanding the civil rights law or the prospect of equal suffrage. Don't you think so?

Yours most truly  
Thomas W Conway  
742 B'way

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York May 14th 1866

Conway, Thos. W.

Concerning the Stedman - Fullerton reports.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAY 15 1866

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3554 5/15/1866 *From:* R.D. Burrell

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-3496

Oberlin College Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[42, 43]

Oberlin College Ohio -  
May 15th 1866 [12th had been written in pencil]

General Howard,  
Dear Sir:-

The College Societies desire me to address you in the hope of obtaining you to lecture before us at our coming commencement. Your connection for the past few years with the Freedmen has made you particularly well know at this College, which has always been noted for its strong "abolition principles". And the young men have expressed an earnest desire to have you address them at so favorable a time as College Anniversary.

The evening given to the Societies for a lecture is August 21st –the evening previous to the Collect exercises.

Hoping to hear favorably from you as soon as convenient.

I remain  
Respectfully yours  
R.D. Burrell  
Oberlin, Ohio

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Oberlin College Ohio  
May 15, 1866  
Burrill, R.D.  
Desires Gen Howard to lecture  
Recd May 30th 1866  
[Written in another hand.] Could not. EV

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3555 5/16/1866 *From:* J.H. Willard

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3504

Troy, NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[41]

Troy May 16, 1866

Maj Gen Howard  
Dear Sir

I have just been informed that it not improbable that you may attend a meeting of the national convention of Y.M.C. Association to be held in Albany about the first of next month.

If you should do so it would give the greatest pleasure to myself and family to have you come to the Seminary and remain with us during the sessions of the Convention.

It will be very easy for you to go from here to Albany to be present at the meetings as all our own delegates will <go> and return after they are completed.

Mrs Willard and the children join me in very sincere thanks to you for your services for the country in the field and in the bureau during the past five years, and in congratulations for your eminent success.

Very truly yours  
J.H. Willard

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Troy, May 14, 1866

Willard, J.H.

Invites Gen. Howard to visit him, when he comes to Albany.

Recd. May 18th 1866

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3556 5/16/1866

*From:* William J. R. Taylor

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3534

American Bible Society  
Bible House, Astor  
Place  
New York

Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[79, 80]

[Letterhead]

American Bible Society  
Bible House, Astor Place  
New York

Executive Officers    James Lenox, President  
Joseph Holdich, D.D., Cor. Sec.  
Wm. J.R. Taylor, D.D., Cor. Sec.  
William Whitlock, Jr., Treas.  
Henry Fisher, Asst. Treas.  
Caleb T. Rowe, General Ag't

May 16 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
My dear Sir

We send you to day by mail the manuscript of your address delivered at our Jubilee. Be pleased to accept our thanks for your kindness in presenting the claims of the Freedmen to the audience on that memorable occasion. The noble building in which we met is in ashes but the spirit and power of that meeting will live for many a year to bless our country and the world. Our limited space and the specific object of the Institution oblige us to abridge some of the longer addresses in our publication of them. We have therefore selected from your address those portions which relate most intimately to our immediate work, especially the important statements respecting Education.

We trust that this will be agreeable to yourself and will send you copies when issued, which will be within a week or ten days.

With sincere respect, I remain, General, in Christian bonds

Yours very truly  
William J. R. Taylor  
Cor. Sec.

[Summary written on the last page in a different hand.]

New York City  
May 26th, 1866  
Taylor, W.J.R.  
Cor Secy, A.M.S.  
Sends manuscript of Generals address.  
Recd May 29th 1866

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3557 5/17/1866

*From:* Geo. Whipple

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3505

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Missionary  
Association,  
No. 62 John Street,  
New York

Commissioner Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[44, 45]

[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association,  
No. 62 John Street,  
New York  
Rev. Geo. Whipple, Sec.  
Rev. M.E. Strieby, Sec.  
W.E. Whiting, Asst. Treas.  
May 17 1866

(Confidential)

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Commissioner Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir:

A gentleman has just called on me who says he thinks the Chaplain G.O. Glavis mentioned in the report of Generals Fullerton and Steedman, was from Newark, N.J. and if so, is entirely unworthy of your confidence. If you wish to make farther inquiry, you can do so of Gov Marcus L. Ward, Trenton N.J. or of Rev Dr. Poor, (pastor of a Presbyterian church) Newark NJ.

Hoping that you will not regard this as an interference with your official duties, I remain

Your Most Obt Sert  
Geo. Whipple  
Cor. Sec.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York May 17, 1866  
Whipple, Geo  
Cor. Secy  
Concerning Chap. G.O. Glavis.  
Recd May 18th 1866

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3558 5/17/1866

*From:* J.W. Chickering

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3506

No. 1 Bulfinch Place  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[46, 47]

No. 1 Bulfinch Place  
Boston, May 17 [1866 [Written in pencil.]]

Dear General,

Is it not possible, "comfortably with the public interest" for you to be with our "Suffolk (Christian) Temperance Union" at Park St. Church on Tuesday Ev'g 29th inst.

You can hardly imagine how much good the mere announcement of y'r name would do – or what an influence even a few of your earnest words would <excite>.

The connection between temperance & Revivals, and the hindrance to conversion resulting from various uses of strong drink, has been strikingly illustrated of late.

Can you not "come over and help us".

Even the secular press is beginning to ask "Will not Gen'l Howard come to the Anniversaries".

Y'r expenses would be most cheerfully paid; & our Committee, our Society, & the whole community would be greatly your debtors.

Please reply by next mail, if possible, & oblige

Yours truly & fraternally  
J.W. Chickering

[Summary written on the last page in a different hand.]  
Boston May 17th 1866  
Chickering J.W.  
Invites Gen. Howard to be present in Boston 29th inst.  
Recd May 19th 1866

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3559 5/18/1866 *From:* H.L. Wayland

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3507

Kalamazoo College  
Kalamazoo Mich

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[50, 51]

Kalamazoo College  
Kalamazoo Mich  
May 18, 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
General

"The Soldiers Memorial Society of Kalamazoo College" is composed of students & graduates of the College who served in the war, & is <desirous> to secure the erection of a Memorial Building in honor of the graduates & students of the College who fell in the service. At their request I write to invite you to lecture in this town, at any time that may suit your pleasure. We will gladly pay whatever sum you are accustomed to receive for lecturing, say \$150, & any avails over & above w'd go to erecting a monument as above referred to.

We should also be glad to arrange with you for six lectures (say) to be given in different parts of this state. May I beg that you will give your favorable consideration to both these proposals. For such a course of six lectures, we w'd gladly pay a suitable sum, say \$1000.

Permit me to add that I should be most happy to hear your sentiments of Christian patriotism listened to by the people of this state. I w'd gladly add more, but thru' fear of obstructiveness, I forbear to express the reverence which in common with all the patriotic & good, I cherish for you.

As I have not the honor of being known by you, I venture to add that I served for twenty eight months under Gen A H Terry & Gen. (now Gov.) Hawley, with both of whom, I have the honor of a somewhat intimate friendship. I have also the honor of knowing Messrs Foster, Anthony & Harris, of the Senate of the United States.

I have the honor to remain, General,

most truly yours  
with great respect  
H.L. Wayland  
Late Chaplain 7th Conn. &  
Pres. of S.M. Soc'y of Kalamazoo College

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3560 5/18/1866 *From:* S V Merrick

*To:* My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3508

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[43]

My Dear Sir

I send you editorial from todays North American.

I am pained to see the attempts being made to get rid of your bureau. I suppose these generals are "<> policy men". The Army officers have to have a great <house burning> after the charge of the negroes.

The association that the N Carolina - superintendents are using the government property to feed & cloth the negroes working for themselves is very damaging to yourself as well as the bureau and I send these papers lest you may not have seen it. Hoping that you may in some way give an official contradiction to the charge.

From accounts I have heard of Col Whittlesey I put no faith in the assertion of those gentlemen.

Very truly

S V Merrick [Samuel Vaughan Merrick]

Tue 18 May [1866] [Note. The year was written in pencil. It is certainly 1866. However the 18 May 1866 was on a Friday.]

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3561 5/18/1866

*From:* J. L. Chamberlain

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3509

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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49]

Brunswick May 18 1866

Dear General,

Your favor of the 5th inst enclosing circular of the "National Fair" is received, and in accordance with your suggestion submitted to the faculty of the College.

The object is certainly most worthy, and will have the cooperation of all who cherish the memory of our fallen defenders, or the cause in which they offered their lives.

I am glad to hear of your health & prosperity.

Truly yours

J. L. Chamberlain [General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and President Bowdoin College.]

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

&c &c

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3562 5/19/1866      *From:* E S Tobey

*To:* Maj Genl O.O Howard

OOH-3510

Boston

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Boston May 19 1866

Dear General

I trust that my omission to reply to your letter of 9th March in reference to the funds required to build a new Cong. Church in <Hark's> has not lead you to infer that I am indifferent to the importance of the enterprize. I did confer with the Secretary <[CHECK ORIGINAL –tape on top of page 2]> in this city & found that they would not feel justified in adding anything to the appropriation already made to this object by the Cong'l Union of New York. The full strength of the influence of the Amr Congl Assocn here is now required to complete the fund (\$100,000) needed to build a "Congregational House in this city as a "quasi" home of Congregationalism, or a rallying point <afit's> friends.

The speeches at the approaching anniversary will doubtless lean largely on this point while it seems to be an especial necessity at the present time, that the principles & peculiarities of Congregationalism and the church policy of our denomination should be more distinctly & prominently presented to the public, than has been done for many years past. The late National Council endorsed this sentiment, & the strong friends of the orthodox faith are becoming more alive to the importance of <[CHECK ORIGINAL –tape at top of page 4]> to extend their peculiar doctrines as well as their form of church government or organization. We need all the influence of our best men in these efforts & in proportion as we can be successful in presenting general principles of action and it favorably effect local enterprizes like the one in Washington which you have so much at heart.

I rejoice at your success in Brooklyn, & I cannot doubt that your personal presence here would do much to warm the hearts of the New England brethren who you know are surrounded by a very cool atmosphere & need now & then, to be mercurialized.

Now my dear friend, I am requested by Rev Mr Langworthy & Rev Dr Dexter (who with the writer are a committee to arrange the anniversary meeting of the "American Congregational Association" to invite you to favor the cause, & the public, with a speech on their public anniversary on Wednesday <[CHECK ORIGINAL –tape at top of page 6]> Mt Vernon Church. I need scarcely add my own personal desire that you will if possible accept this invitation & spend the anniversary week with us which I am sure you will greatly enjoy.

It would give me & my family sincere pleasure if you will freely accept the hospitality of my house accompanied of course by Mrs. Howard. I am gratified to notice by the papers that Genl Fisk is advertised to speak before the American Missionary Association. I shall also invite him to be our guest, & you will thereby have an additional inducement to accept my invitation and now I will add one more inducement. Viz if you will come I will give \$300. towards starting a subscription for the Washington church, & may add to the amount if <proved> best. I am authorized to say that although no contribution will be taken up at the meeting, there will be no objection to your presenting as strongly as you may think proper the church enterprize in Washington & propose that donations be sent to you for that object.

I sincerely trust that your arduous official engagements will allow you to comply with the Committee's invitation & I am sure that we represent thousands of the Church in this matter. Will you have the kindness to give me the earliest notice possible of your decision that I may give seasonable publicity to it.

With kindest regards & esteem in which my family unite most cordially  
believe me as ever  
yours in Christian bond

E S Tobey

Maj Genl O.O Howard  
Washington D.C.

P.S. Do not hesitate freely to accept the proffer of our hospitality.

E.S.T.

You may have heard that there has recently been a very marked "revival" here for the last month. A special meeting of the converts & others engaged in the work is to be held on Tuesday 29 <and> I trust that you may reach here in season to attend it for it will be an occasion of rare interest. Our friend Dr Kirk has been prominent and ardently engaged in the meeting held daily for several weeks past.

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3563 5/19/1866 *From:* Marblehead

*To:* A.P. Barnes

OOH-3511

Marblehead Mas.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Marblehead Mas. May 19. 1866

A.P. Barnes Esq  
Dr Sir,

Please give the enclosed \$500 to the building fund of the Cong Church in Washington.

The full presentation of the subject as given in the Independent, picks my pocket of this much.

Yrs &c  
Marblehead

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3564 5/19/1866 *From:* Thomas Russell

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3512

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[52]

Boston

May 19 [1866] [Year was written in pencil.]

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear General,

You did not leave the Freedmen's Aid Commission wholly without hope, that you might take part in their Anniversary on May 31. Gen. Hawley will be one of our guests. Ex Gov. Andrew will preside. We only need your presence to insure a perfect success.

Please let us know, if you can come. You will find rooms at The Tremont House, and we should like to know the train if possible, that we may meet you at the depot.

With daily increasing respect

I am Yours Very Truly  
Thomas Russell

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3565 5/19/1866

*From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3513

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Headquarters Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
North Carolina,  
Raleigh, N.C.

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[53]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, State of North Carolina,  
Raleigh, N.C.,  
May 19th 1866

Personal

Dear General

I received your telegram Thursday evening, informing me that Gen Ruger has been appointed Asst. Commr. & called on him yesterday morning to turn over my books &. but he not having received orders to assume the duties, requested me to go on without change for the present. This statement explains the fact that I am still signing official papers.

Evidence is accumulating against S. & F. [Steedman and Fullerton] I am sorry F is associated in such a scheme, for I did respect him. After living nearly twenty years as a public man without reproach, I shall not go down now without a desperate fight. Your noble stand for us we shall not forget.

Yours Truly  
E. Whittlesey

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Summary written sideways at the bottom of the back page, in a different hand.]

Raleigh N.C.  
May 19 1866  
Whittlesey E  
Asst. Comr.  
Friendly Letter  
Recd May 21, 1866

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3566 5/20/1866

*From:* C.B. Boynton

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3514

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

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[54]

[Letterhead, with a graphic of the U.S. Capitol)

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

Sabbath [May 20? [written in pencil]] 1866

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

Dr Sir

I regret that I am not able to see you this morning. I have however thus far, escaped the expected chill.

It seems to me very important that the Committee sh'd hold a consultatives as soon as possible in regard to a visit to N.Y. & Bost'n.

Very Truly Yrs

C.B. Boynton [Rev. Charles Brandon Boynton, Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives]

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3567 5/21/1866

*From:* Geo. Whipple

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3515

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Missionary  
Association,  
No. 61 John Street,  
New York

Commissioner &c.  
Washington D.C.

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[57, 58]

[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association,  
No. 61 John Street,  
Rev. E.N. Kirk, D.D., Prest.  
Rev. Geo. Whipple, Sec.  
Rev. M.K. Strieby,  
W.K. Whiting, Asst. Treas.  
New York,  
May 21st 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c.  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir & Bro.

Your favor of the 18th is just rec'd. It was not necessary that you should reply in relation to Mr. Glavis. I had no personal interest in the matter; but having entire confidence that your only object and purpose, are to do right, I thought I might aid you, to be put in possession of the information I sought to convey. I shall regret it much, if you at any time are troubled by my letters. I assure you, I write concerning any man in your service, as I would wish you to write me. the success of our work, depends under God, much on the success of yours. If you know of a bad man in our employ, you know also it is only from ignorance, and I w'd have you inform me. So I wish to do with you, changing terms.

The extracts on the next page, are from a reliable source, and if I can do anything to retain Gen. A. I should be glad.

Yours truly,  
Geo. Whipple

over

Efforts are being made to displace Gen. Armstrong, as Supt of this District by one whose sympathies are opposed to the Freedmen, and who if successful, will be a bar and a hindrance to your operations here and the accomplishment of your plans.

Gen. Armstrong is a true and tried friend of the Freedmen, and all his efforts are put forth to promote their interests. Every cause tending to their elevation and education receives his earnest attention. He has endeavored to surround himself with men who are fully interested in this work, and men of principle and integrity.

(Concerning the efforts to remove him the writer says) What can be expected from one who looks upon the Freedmen as a menial, fit only to draw water, black his boots, and perform the most menial of labors; inferior in every respect to the whites, and with no regard for their religious cultivation, or interest in their education? And this is the man who is trying by underhand means to have him removed (Gen. A.) that he may step into the position of Supt.

Frequent changes in officials, cannot but result in injury to the cause of the Freedmen, and for that reason, to retain Gen. Armstrong in his present position, is of great importance. You are about making a most important move, in regard to the educational interests of the people and this step has enlisted the fullest sympathy, and cooperation on his part. As Supt. he can, and is disposed to render you all the assistance in his power. If he is removed he will go out of the Dept, and abandon this cause wholly, by entering into another business, which will

engross his time and thoughts.

Gen. A. is a young man, but strong in friends and influence, thoroughly education and practical; full of expedients, and continually seeking to do good. Such a man is needed here, and (with his cooperation) you could count on the accomplishment of much good.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York, May 21st 1866

Whipple Rev. Geo,

Cor Secy

States that an effort is being made to displace Gen. Armstrong at Fort Monroe. Gives extracts from letters &c.

Recd. May 22nd 1866

War Dept Washington

Washington D.C. May 23, 1866

Respy referred to Maj Gen A H Libby Comdg Dept of Va.

Please read and return to this office

Respectfully

O.O. Howard

Maj. Gen.

Head Quarters Dept of Va

Richmond May 28 1866

Resp. returned to Major General Howard. I have very very favorable impressions of Gen Armstrong and should be adverse to relieving him from duty

Alfred <> Terry

M Genl & Asst Com.

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3568 5/21/1866 *From:* Bradford R Wood

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3516

Albany

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[56]

Albany 21 May 1866

Maj. Genl. Howard  
Dr Sir

Should you attend the International Christian Convention to assemble in this city on the 1st June preservice we should be happy to have you as our guest. I have invited my friend Chief Justice Chase and should be happy to receive you. I was present at the Plymouth Church the evening you spoke there, and tho' at present we are without a pastor, I think our Congregational Church here, will sooner or later cooperate in help building a Congregational Church at Washington – a city I am pretty well acquitted with from having served as a member of Congress.

I remain very truly  
Your Obt Svt  
Bradford R Wood

Majr. Genl. Howard  
<RFAL>

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3569 5/21/1866

*From:* James B Dunn

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3517

*Source:* Bowdoin

The National  
Temperance Advocate,  
and the Youth's  
Temperance Banner,  
Office, 172 William  
Street.  
New York

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[61]

[Letterhead]

The National Temperance Advocate, and the Youth's Temperance Banner,  
J.N. Stearns, Publishing Agent  
Office, 172 William Street.  
New York,  
May 21 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

At a regular meeting of the Board of Managers of the National Temperance Society & Publication House, held  
May 19th at the above place, the following resolution, was unanimously adopted, which it gives me great  
pleasure to communicate

Yours very truly  
James B Dunn  
Rec. Sec.

“ Resolved, That the thanks of this Board be tendered to Bishop Janes, Rev Henry Ward Beecher, & Major  
General Howard for their services at our anniversary meeting held at the Cooper Institute, May 9th and that the  
Secretary of this meeting convey to these gentlemen a copy of this resolution.”

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3570 5/22/1866     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3518

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[639]

Farmington May 22, 1866

Dear Brother

I see rumors in the papers, knowing nothing of their foundation, that you talk of resigning. Some good friend has sent me the N.Y. papers containing the worse portions of the Fullerton Report & your letter to Whipple &c. I have been thinking pretty hard about the whole matter, and I want you to stay in the Bureau till you are ordered to do a thing against your conscience, or are removed. Resignation would be construed like suicide in a criminal, into a confession of the truth of the slanders against the Bureau. Removal would throw the whole responsibility on to the President, and leave you free, popular with good men & happy, I trust, in the sense of duty done.

My family are at Bath & were well yesterday. Mrs Lincoln Patten is very near her end. Mother seems very happy in her "old home at work, with Maria in the Garden." There is still a pleasant state of religious interest among us and awakenings every few days. I enjoyed your speech (in the Independent) at the Cong. Union very much & am glad you got so much money. I will see the one before the Miss. Asso. & Bible Soc when their publications come.

I go to Worcester Friday & attend the Boston Anniversaries next week. My address will be care of F.B. Gilman 107 State Street.

Give my love to Lizzie & the children & please hand them Charles. Be sure of a <buttress> sympathy and prayers in every trial that has come or awaits you.

As to Va. & N.C. the responsibility rests with Brown & Whittlesey to clear themselves and their subordinates from all imputations of wrong.

God bless & help you

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

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3571 5/22/1866    *From:* Loren Kent

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3519

Galveston Texas

Commissioner &c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[59, 60]

Galveston Texas  
May 22 –1866

General

In my interview with you while I was at Washington you may remember that I represented the difference of opinion that had before existed between General Gregory and myself relative to the administration of the "Freedmans Bureau" in this state and that I spoke quite warmly in defense of my opinions and equally as warmly in opposing the course pursued by the General with whom I had been on intimate terms and for whom I always entertained the highest respect for the integrity and zeal displayed. I have now been here about one month and have observed the results of the plan he had inaugurated when I was about leaving the service and my position as Provost Marshal General of the Department.

From motives of justice towards General Gregory I deem it proper and right for me to say to you that the course of the General in his Official matters has been much more successful than I anticipated, that he has exhibited marked ability and steadfastness of purpose, most untiring industry and the most praiseworthy zeal and integrity in all his transactions.

I voluntarily and without his knowledge make this explanation which I regard as due a worthy officer, but at the same time do not admit that the course I advised would not have been better and more productive of good. I do claim that his administration has been eminently successful, that it would have been difficult for you to have found a man who would have done better and few who would have done as well and who that any accusation of fraud speculation or wrong motive such as his enemies have charged him with are in my opinion entirely without foundation.

I sincerely hope his successor will accomplish as much for the colored race.

For the reasons before mentioned I write this which please regard as strictly private in its character.

I have the honor to be sir very respy  
Your Obt Svt  
Loren Kent [Brig. General, Provost Marshal]

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Galveston Texas  
May 22 1866

Kent, L-

Gives an account of affairs in Texas

Recd May 31st 1866

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3572 5/22/1866    *From:* A.E. Barstow

*To:* A.L Barnes & Co.

OOH-3520

Office of the Barstow  
Stove Company,  
Providence

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Letterhead]

Office of the Barstow Stove Company,  
Providence,  
May 22d 1866

Mess. A.L Barnes & Co.  
Gent.

I have your note of 21st Inst. and note contents.

I have not remitted the Amt. of my subscription for church in Washington, because I supposed there was to be a special appeal here; and if so I preferred to wait –and secondly because I supposed there was no haste for the money.

If I am mistaken in either of these matters, you will advise me. I gave \$500. to the general church building fund, and will give this \$250. - when really needed.

Yours &c  
A.E. Barstow

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3573 5/22/1866

*From:* John H. Aughey

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3521

Livonia, Washington  
Co., Indiana

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[62, 63]

Livonia, Washington Co., Ind.  
22nd May / 66

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

I am engaged in writing the life and services of Gen. Nathan Kimball. Would you be so kind as to give me your views of Gen. Kimball for the forthcoming volume. Gen K. is a candidate for State treasurer on the republican ticket. The friends of the Gen think 50,000 copies of the work may be sold before the close of the present campaign in this state alone.

Gen. Kimball is a member of my church, The Livonia O.S. Presbyterian Church. With your permission I shall dedicate this work to you.

Be so kind as to reply at your earliest convenience and oblige  
Yours truly

John H. Aughey  
Livonia  
Washington Co.  
Ind.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Livonia Wash. Co. Ind,  
May 22nd 1866  
Aughey, John H.

Is writing a life of Gen Nathan Kimball – asks Gen Howard for contribution to the work.  
Recd May 25th 1866

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3574 5/23/1866

*From:* Andrew J Graham

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3522

544 Broadway, New  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

544 Broadway, New York  
May 23d 1866

Maj Gen. Howard

I have a plan of teaching reading which I believe would save years in the education of the Freedmen.

If you have time to read a short communication presenting the plan, I will write one, and send you books exhibiting the method.

Please give me the address of Gen. C.B. Fisk (my classmate in College), in order that the plan may be brought to his attention.

You will perhaps remember my brother, Rev. Dr. Graham, a graduate of Oberlin.

Earnestly hoping that the real Moses of the Freedmen may be successful in bringing them from Egypt to the Promised Land.

I am very Resp'y Yours  
Andrew J Graham

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3575 5/23/1866    *From:* S.S. Carroll

*To:* My dear Gen. [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3523

Cor F. & 18th St.  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65, 66]

My dear Gen

I have a young friend (Bvt Maj F. C. Von Shirach) who is very desirous of getting a position on your staff. I can recommend him to you as a good religious young gentleman, and believe he will give you much comfort if you will take him. He lost a leg at the second Bull Run, and has suffered a great deal since. He has the highest recommendation from Hon Simon Cowen, who takes the greatest interest in him. Excuse me if I trouble you Gen., but believing you to be a true friend, I appeal to you without hesitation.

I hope your family are all well. If I ever went to see a living being, I should have gone to see your wife when she was here. Give her my love when you write, and do not let my little pet forget me.

Very truly your friend

S.S. Carroll [Sally Sprigg Carroll, Wife of Hon. William T. Carroll, Clerk of Supreme Court]

Cor F. & 18th St.

My 23rd 1866

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington D.C.

May 23 / 66

Carroll, Mrs S.S.

Introducing Maj. F.C. Von Shirach

Recd. May 23, 1866

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3576 5/23/1866    *From:* Albert D. Richardson    *To:* Dear General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3524

'Tribune' Office  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

'Tribune' Office  
New York May 23, 1866.

Dear General Howard:

I dont believe it was a Tribune reporter to whom your MS. was given. I am unable to find any traces of it in the office. I was vexed & mortified that you were treated so shabbily about your speech. But it was after I heard the proper orders given by the Managing Editor; so it was neither my fault nor his.

Faithfully yours  
Albert D. Richardson

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3577 5/23/1866

*From:* A.N. Rankin

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3526

76 John Street  
P.O. Box 5, 733  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69]

76 John Street  
P.O. Box 5, 733  
New York, May 23 / 66

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir:

At the request of the Rev. Lyman Abbott, who is still very sick, I write to ask you to please answer to him the points in the enclosed printed matter which he has marked.

The document was issued at Boston and the meeting is to transpire next week.

Since writing the foregoing, I have received a letter from Jonathan A. Lane, 43 Franklin Street, Boston, saying, among other things, that you are expected to address the good people of that city to-morrow night; so I will send a duplicate of this letter –or at least its substance –to you there in his care.

Respectfully  
A.N. Rankin

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3578 5/24/1866      *From:* Thomas W. Conway      *To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3527

Harlem N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70, 71]

Harlem N.Y.

May 24th 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner &c.  
Genl,

It pains me to listen (as I do fifty times each day) to the assaults of bad men upon you and upon the work which you have in hand. And not only are you now set upon (especially by all the readers of the Copperhead Press and by those of Conservative republican papers like the "Times", but every officer serving under you, as if you and they had suddenly become guilty of swindling both the Government, and the Freedmen all over the south; and guilty not only of swindling, but of persecution of the blacks in the service of your own aims and desires for gain.

It is part of my daily pleasure to shield you from these assaults. Your failure to do just what I would like, has nothing whatever to do with my appreciation of your character as a faithful Christian, an ardent patriot, and a true friend of the oppressed black man.

It appears to me that the President, in sending Steedman and Fullerton south, with a corps of reporters favorable to his policy, has gained an advantage with men, though not by righteousness. He may accomplish his wicked purpose of rendering the Bureau so obnoxious in the eyes of many as to feel justified in strangling it entirely. He probably will do so, except you and your friends, and the friends of justice all over the land, and especially in Congress, will be equally bold for the right.

Can you not have the congressional Committee on Freedmen so thoroughly informed on all the important facts as to save the day? It appears to me that this is possible, though you are the best judge.

I have already called the attention of Congress to the instructions given by the President to Genl Fullerton when he sent him to New Orleans – the "private instructions of the President" as the General styled them. These were enough to bring condemnation not only upon Gen. Fullerton but upon the President, and you may have been deceived as to those instructions, as I believe you were. But you may rest assured that the Government (Congress) is not, nor will the people long be. Let things of this sort be made known through the investigations of this Committee, and you will be strengthened by the exposure. The President's cloven foot is already manifest and men need not be in ignorance of it.

I am well aware that you have suffered most in consequence of the Presidents course in regard to the bureau. I know that you have been hampered and tied by him, and you have never been without my prayers and sympathies.

Will it do any good to publish a vindication of the Bureau by the "Radical Commissioners" who have been relieved from duty in it – say Saxton, Gregory, Thomas and myself?

With much regard and sympathy

I am very truly yours

Thomas W. Conway [Former Asst. Commissioner, State of Louisiana, Freedmen's Bureau]  
Harlem N.Y.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Harlem, May 24 1866

Conway Thos W.

Friendly (?) letter

Recd May 25th 1866



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3579 5/24/1866

*From:* H.E. Simmons

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3528

No 715 Tremont St.  
Boston Mass

Com'r Bureau Refugees  
Freedmen &c  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

No 715 Tremont St.  
Boston Mass May 24th 1866

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c  
Washington D.C.  
Sir

The following from the "New York Tribune" report of speeches made at the meeting in N.Y. of the "American Tract Society of Boston", and copied into a good many of the papers here, is causing considerable enquiry. Will you inform me if the statements in the extract are true.

"Among the freedmen the Society had 90,000 pupils in their organized school, of which there were 700. They had 1,300 teachers, and he believed that from their labors great good must result."

I am General  
Your most Obt Servt  
H.E. Simmons

[Handwritten in pencil below the above letter on the first page in a different hand.]

Must be some mistake – not from my speech – means the whole number of organ schools under the different soc.

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3580 5/25/1866    *From:* A.O. Morgan

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3529

Lewiston Me

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[51]

[Letterhead]

The American Telegraph Co.

Dated: Lewiston Me May 25 1866

Received at: Washn May 25

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

Our city tenders you an invitation to deliver an oration 4th of July. Will you Accept?

A.O. Morgan

Ans. By telgh

[Summary written on the reverse side, in a different hand.]

Lewiston, Maine

May 25 1866

Morgan A.O.

Desires Gen O.O. Howard to deliver 4th of July oration

Recd May 25, 1866

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3581 5/25/1866 *From:* A. Baird

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3530

New Orleans La

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73, 74, 75, 76]

New Orleans La  
May 25 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
My dear General

I have rec'd your letter in relation to brevets and other matters. I was anxious to have been in Washington before the end of the session of Congress to look out for my Army interests. You know that as Major in the Inspect Genl's Dept there is no promotion for me, & I wished this fixed but my friend Blaine from your Stte has been most kindly attentive to this matter and assures me that he will do every thing in his power to have me made a Lieut Col, as Asst. Inspector and to have promotion go on in the Corps. I do not wish to quit the staff but I want a grade of promotion in it. If you have an opportunity ot give me a lift in this will be obliged.

As to the brevet I have certainly been unfortunate. Sherman, Thomas, & Meade each looked out for his own men – and I fell between Thomas and Sherman. I know that Thomas rated me higher than several of his officers who are put a month ahead of me in the list. He told me that he would have given me the 14th Corps in preference to Davis if he could and yet Davis who has ne er behaved well in a single fight gets five brevets to make him a Maj Genl – and I only three whereas in the battles wehre we commanded divisions together I was always recommended for promotion and he was not.

The subject of brevets is a sore one just now and if I can not get the brevet of Maj Genl, I want my others dated at proper times.

I wrote Blaine quite fully about this the other day and explained how I wanted it done. I want to get the President to, without its going through the War Dept., to send in my name again to the senate for Lt. Col. to date from Williamsburg May 5th 1862 – for Colonel to date from Chicamauga Sept 1863 – and for Brig Genl to date from Mission Ridge Nov. 1863. This will leave the Atlanta Campaign open and if I do not get the fourth brevet now I may hereafter it all events I will have my proper grade among the brigadiers. Blaine has a little synopses of my services and I told him I thought Rousseau would ask the President to do this for me. If you can please give me a lift.

I enclose you a copy of an order from Sherridan putting me in command of the Dept. and I will relieve Canby on Monday next. I will keep the Offices entirely separate and spend a part of the day on each - Genl Gregg watching over the Bureau when I am at the other place. It will give me some considerable advantage to have the command of troops when we want them for the purposes of the Bureau. This additional duty will preclude the possibility of my going north as I expect to have done or at least hoped.

I presume now that I must remain until I am mustered out of the volunteer service. Until that time therefore you need give yourself no concern about finding a successor for me.

I shall be glad to see Steadman and Fullerton for my acts are open at all times to scrutiny and I know that I have done the best according to my judgement that the circumstances would permit. I have at times found our Agents doing wrong but the evils have been promptly correct as soon as discovered. I know of but one officer who was interested in a plantation and I relieved him and sent him to his regiment. Col Reno has discovered that one or two in collecting the tax under my predecessor have been guilty of fraud, but one of them had gone to the north before we made the discovery and escaped us. The other is also out of the Bureau, but I at once asked the Dept. commander to have him arrested and tried.

I think our skirts are quite clean. And the only persons who complain of us are the N.Y. Tribune people who are angry that I will not let the bureau become involved by mixing it up in those political manoeuvres. They are really not pleased to have an honest man in my place. They complain frequently that freedmen are wronged and that we will not do them justice but in nearly every instance the case has been fully examined and

dismissed either for want of evidence or because the offenders could not be reached, or that the whole matter is frivolous. This party then goes to the Tribune and they are glad to take his one sided statement on which by inuendo to attack the Bureau. Of course our machine is weak in many particulars, but if Steadman can find anything wrong I shall be glad to see him. I presume he will be here within a month and I will keep you informed as to the course which he will take.

This reminds me that I sent you some time ago a long report of my first quarter's administration. Please have your Adjutant acknowledge its receipt.

Most Truly Yours &c

A. Baird [Absalom Baird, USMA Class of 1849]

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New Orleans, <[CHECK ORIGINAL –underneath tape]

May 25, 1866

Baird, A

Bvt. Maj. Genl.

Asst. Comr.

Friendly letter

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. REC'D MAY 31 1866

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3582 5/26/1866 *From:* A. Hyde

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3531

Wash'n

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[77]

Wash'n 26 May '66

Dear Sir

I feel that an explanation is due to you, as well as for my own credit, in view of the remarks yesterday, that I had dismissed my carriage, and yet had it there at the close of the exercises.

Mrs Hyde's sister, formerly the Principal of the Female Grammar School, returned in it without my knowledge, and I found it there after you had left.

Your presence with us, on friday next, will be very gratifying, and we trust you will not fail to come.

I had not the pleasure of meeting your brother, on my recent visit to his Sab. School, but would glad to see him also.

Very respectfully yours  
A. Hyde

Gen Howard

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3583 5/26/1866      *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother Morris

OOH-3532

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[5]

[Washington May 26, 1866]

Dear Brother Morris;

The christian spirit and zeal with which you have entered upon your labors have been highly gratifying to the Committee. They have cherished the hope that your further proceedings would have been equally satisfactory. It is only after much hesitation, and with sincere regret, that they find themselves compelled to withhold their approbation from some part of them.

You mention in one of your letters that you had spread our wants at the close of a lecture upon Lincoln, before a congregation assembled to hear it. Had we known that you contemplated such a measure we should have deprecated it earnestly. We do not question the merits of the lecture in the slightest degree. But the inevitable effect of making it precede the presentation of our claim is to preoccupy the minds of the hearer, and, enlist their feelings in an entirely different subject, so that they are not in a fit frame to give our case a favorable consideration. And, if the lecture runs beyond the usual length, most of them will become weary and averse to listening to a new topic. They will be prejudiced, in fact, against what they have been compelled to hear contrary to their expectations. We are assured from more than one source that such has been the result in this instance, and that our prospects have been seriously injured in consequence. We must request therefore that you make the presentation of our wants your sole mission where ever you present it at all, without connecting it with any such exercises.

We are compelled, also, to express our regret at the publication of the circular prepared by you. You cannot be ignorant that we refused to print the one prepared here on account of its length, deeming it injudicious to <issue [CHECK ORIGINAL - tape> one of more than two pages at the extreme. It seems to us indiscreet, moreover, to put in press the paragraphs which imply a reflection upon the churches in this city. They cannot but give unnecessary umbrage. You may perceive this from the strictures contained in the Presbyterian of last week upon General Howard's address before the Congregational Union in Brooklyn. The promulgation of your circular at this juncture is the more unfortunate, especially as you have appended General Howard's name to it. It may not be best to withdraw the paper, though that step has been urged upon us, and is under consideration. But we are decidedly of opinion that not another copy should be sent out for the present.

We are sorry we cannot concur in your hopes of success in your mission. Your report awakens great misgivings on that point. The promises and assurances which afford you so much encouragement are what some of us are familiar with, and, according to our experience, forbade anything but an abundant <kerorst [CHECK ORIGINAL]>. In the usual course you would have been gathering the cream of the collections. You have not realized the expenses, although much of what you have collected we were sure of before you went. We have been waiting for your second report. Should it shew us better results, the continuance of the agency must become a serious question for consideration. There would be reason to fear that the favor manifested for us in the west is in danger of being irretrievably diminished.

Be assured that it gives us the deepest pain to be compelled to hold this language. But unless our affairs are managed differently, we apprehend the most disastrous affect upon the enterprise we all cherish.

Wishing you many blessings, and praying that you may be greatly prospered in your good work, we are with sincere esteem,

Your fellow servants in the Lord  
The Business Committee of the First  
Cong'l Society of Washington, by

[Summary written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Washington

May 26 1866  
O.O. Howard  
Maj Gen.  
Concerning the Cong. Church  
Retained Copy

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3584 5/26/1866

*From:* Jhs. Dickinson

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3533

Aetna Life Insurance  
Co.

Comm'r &c, Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

Philadelphia Branch  
400 Chestnut St.

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[78]

[Letterhead]

Aetna Life Insurance Co.  
Philadelphia Branch  
400 Chestnut St.  
General Agent, Joseph Dickinson  
May 26th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comm'r &c, Washington, D.C.  
Dear General

Generals Hooker & Meade have forward to Washington (last week) recommendations for Brevets for my services during the war. As these compliments will be esteemed by my family as some slight acknowledgement of the part I took in the late rebellion, and as you were cognizant of some of my actions I would esteem it a favor if you could forward the reccommendations to consumation.

My only reasons for desiring these Brevets are that so many officers who were my juniors in the Army have received such promotions that my friends think I could not have deserved, if not receiving any.

With respect I remain, in hast  
Your Obt. Servant  
Jhs. Dickinson  
late Lt. Col. & A.A. Genl. A. of P.

[Summary written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Philadelphia  
May 26, 1866  
Dickenson, Jos.  
Late A.A.G.  
Desires recommendations for brevet.  
Recd May 29th 1866

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3585 5/26/1866 *From:* Hammie Bittinger

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3535

Shadeland, Virginia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[81, 82]

Shadeland, Virginia  
May 26th 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

In my rural home I have often read of your deeds of benevolence and Christian zeal, and I wondered if a letter would not meet your kind consideration.

I am begging to-day, not for myself but for Christ, and knowing the link that bings you to Him, I imagined I should not plead in vain.

A little band of Presbyterians at Falls Church Virginia are very desirous to build a small but plain house of worship, and as most of our pleasant things were laid waste by war we find it necessary to go abroad for assistance. This church is connected with the Presbytery of Potomac (O.S.) and Northern Assembly & is under the charge of Rev. Howard P. Decherl –a member of the Presbytery of New York.

To build we require \$2000, thus far another lady member and myself have collected \$500, Gens. Grant & Carrington being among our contributors.

Will you not aid this struggling people? Any contribution you may feel disposed to make, sent to me or Rev. Dr. Gurley, Pastor of the New York Avenue church Washington D.C. Will be most thankfully received and I hope profitably invested.

Yours respectfully  
Hammie Bittinger  
P.O. Address Falls Church, Fairfax Co, Virginia

[Summary written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Shadeland Va.

May 26, 1866

Bittinger, Hammie

Desires aid for building a church

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAY 30 1866

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3586 5/28/1866 *From:* JG Blaine

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3536

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[85]

Washington, May 28 1866

Dear General,

I enclose a letter which seems to me to deserve attention and a reply. I have advised the writer that I have referred the letter to you. What can be done to arrest the systematic robbery of the colored people under the force of law should be done. But this you understand & feel as much as any one.

Do you go to Albany to the Young Men's Christian Convention? If so on what Day? I think of going & should like to have the pleasure of your company.

Sincerely yours  
<JG Blaine>

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

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3587 5/28/1866     *From:* J.W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3537                      Headquarters  
   Department of North  
*Source:* Bowdoin              Carolina  
   Raleigh, N.C.

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[83, 84]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Department of North Carolina  
Raleigh, N.C.  
28th May 1866  
Monday morning

Dear Genl.

Your telegram of Friday was rec'd same night, and the instructions therein contained immediately obeyed. All officers and agents of the Bureau in this state, <accused>, and named in my order have been relieved from duty and others assigned to take their places. Genl. Ruger seems well pleased with his new position and is taking hold of freedmen's affairs with great earnestness and vigor. He proposes making a few changes in the manner of conducting affairs in the state, all of which changes will, in my judgment, be improvements. He intends to cause a rigid and thorough inspection to be made each month of every officer and agent in the state and a searching and sweeping examination will be made as to official conduct of subordinate officer and all who are worthless and inefficient will be dispensed of and replaced by others. The Genl. will consolidate some of the subdistricts and desires me to say that he will not need any more officers at present.

I like the way Genl. Ruger takes hold, and I am well convinced you will be well satisfied with his administration. He will see justice done. The freedmen in every instance if it lies in his power.

Genl. R- speaks in the highest terms of Genl Whittlesey and says his honesty and integrity is beyond reproach.

How matters stand now with regard to Genl. W. and others? And is it the intention to prefer charges against them? And will it be necessary for me to remain here for some time yet? Genl. Whittlesey feels a little uneasy and would like to know what is to be done with him and if there is no objection to him knowing please inform me.

Genl. W is very well and in good spirits and wishes to be remembered to you and yours. I am stopping with him. I presume you have recd ere this the Genls report. I wish you would cause the entire report to be published. I think it clears him completely from all the accusations, dont you?

I am well, regards to all

Your Respectfully

<J.W. Alvord <?> [CHECK ORIGINAL -tape page 4]>

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau

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3588 5/29/1866 *From:* Chloe Merrick

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3538

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[38]

Washington D.C.

May 29th 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Believing a written expression of your instructions would be much more effective with the Association, and others than my simple statement, I write to ask you to favor me with such as you deem best, forwarding them to me as soon as convenient, at the rooms of the Freedman's Aid Commission, 76 John St.

In behalf of those whose interests I serve, I thank you for the kind attention you have given. Hoping your efforts for the good of the Freedmen will be crowned with success, and the reward of the righteous be yours.

I remain  
Truly & Respectfully Yours  
Chloe Merrick

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3589 5/29/1866

*From:* J.W. Sprague

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3539

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of  
Missouri, Arkansas and  
Indian Territory,  
Office of Assistant  
Commissioner  
Little Rock, Ark.

Commissioner  
Washington  
D.C.

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[87, 88]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory,  
Office of Assistant Commissioner  
Little Rock, Ark.,  
May 29, 1866

Dear General

I infer from reading the report of Genls Steedman & Fullerton that a systematic effort is being made to make up a case against the "Bureau". If that Committee were to traverse the Country and notice only the defects of our Judiciary they might conclude that the whole system was an outrage on Community and ought to be abolished –this would be true even of our Churches. Many foolish and some bad things have been done doubtless by Officers of the Bureau. This perhaps has been the case in this District but no honest intelligent man can deny that a vast amount of good has been done.

Through this Agency thousands of white "refugees" have been saved from starvation and many more thousands of the same class have been prevented from becoming permanent Paupers by timely aid which has enabled them to again establish themselves in homes of their own –and more than this has been done by bringing into harmony and confidence the two races so that both can live in peace and follow the peaceful pursuits of civil live. To say nothing of what has been done to encourage the Freedmen to look forward to a higher and better life.

The only Officers of the Army on duty in this District who are interested in Cotton planting that I am aware of are Capt Williams and Capt S <Kinear [CHECK ORIGINAL –tape page 2]>. They invested some money in cotton planting with my full consent and approbation. Upon this subject I have a full and free conversation with Maj Genl Reynolds Com'g the Department and it met his hearty approval. I cannot see that it does or has in any way interfered with their official duties.

Genl Steedmen furnishes the Capital for a large cotton Plantation below Pine Bluff (the Johnson Place) & the Freedmen employed there were brot. on Government Transportation from Atlanta Ga as I am informed and believe. But no wrong was done the Government by the transactions that I am aware of.

I have just recd your Circular No. 4 by which I see it is contemplated to transfer the duties of Asst Commissioners to Dept. Commanders. I believe it will work well in this Dept. - and hoping it will in some small degree at least lessen the embarassments and difficulties that I apprehend are annoying you. I respectfully ask to be relieved from duty in this Bureau and ordered to Milan Ohio to be mustered out of service whenever it will best suit your convenience to grant this request.

Thirteen Officers of the V.R. Corps have just reported for assignment to duty. I shall wait until Genl Reynolds returns from Indiana before assigning them so as to consult with him about it. This I regard as proper in view of his soon taking charge of duties now entrusted to me.

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
and Truly Yours  
J.W. Sprague  
Bt Maj Genl  
Asst Comr

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner  
Washington  
D.C.

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3590 5/29/1866

*From:* D. Remick

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3540

Ottumwa Iowa

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89, 90]

Ottumwa Iowa  
May 29th 1866

Dear Genl

I heard the honour and take the liberty to drop a few lines to you in regard to Brvt promotions which I see they are bestowing on Several of the officers of my dept. I have send a letter recd from Genl Sherman to our Iowa Senator Honbl J. W. Grimes and he will I think try and procure the Brvt Brig for me and I would be under many and renewed obligations to you if you will drop him a few lines as to my worthyness &c. I know it will be no pecuniary advantage to me but I have a pride in such matters and a desire to let my friends know that my services were appreciated. A line from you to Mr. Grimes would fortify him for the occasion. I dislike to trouble you so much but I hope I may be able at some future time repay you for all of this.

I have crossed the plains twice this winter but we have now sold out our <fret> & express line and I shall probably settle down at my home in Burlington this state.

My Dear Genl I would like so much to see you. I see manny, manny of the old campaigning veterans & heroes that have served under you and all inquire so warmly and earnestly for you and take so much interest in your progress and welfare. Do write me Genl at Burlington Iowa.

May God bless you in all of your undertakings and believe me as ever.

Your sincere frien  
& Humble Servt  
D. Remick [David Russell Remick]

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

May 19, 1866

Ottumwa Iowa

Remick D.

Brevet Col. & C.S.

Desires a brevet of Brig. Genl.

Recd. June 4th 1866

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3591 5/29/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3541

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.

Com'r Bureau R.F A L  
Washington D.C.

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[91]

Private & Confidential

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.,  
May 29th 1866

Dear General

On Saturday, the 19th inst, I received a telegram from Genl Steedman at Savannah inviting me to join his party and accompany them on their tour through the Sea Islands of this State. I accepted the invitation and with them visited the Sea Islands thence proceeding to Jacksonville Fla by Boat where we took the cars to Tallahassee coming back via Thomasville & Savannah to this city. I feel quite safe in assuring you that the Commission will make a favorable report of the operations of the Bureau in Florida and this State. They will also speak well of Genl Scott but will censure some few of his subordinates. The Commission seemed much pleased with the condition of things on the Sea Island of this State. Genl Steedman said to me that they were at least 100 per center better off than any of the Sea Islands north of this State.

The statements in the Savannah papers about the interview between Gnl S & F and the citizens are mostly false. I secured their correction to some extent – see the enclosed clip from the Savannah News & Herald. Genl Steedman told me that he knew things were in better shape in this state than in any other and that if he simply stated the truth, he expected to be accused of whitewashing his own Dept. I am impressed with the belief that Genls S, F mean to tell the truth without fear or malice and as a whole I don't think it will do any harm to the Bureau or to you personally.

I take it for granted the reports in the newspapers about you asking to be relieved or meditating a resignation of your position as Comr are false. Don't think of such a step – stand by the cause, I know you will come out all right. It has been intimated of me that Fisk wants your place. He don't know enough to fill the position and besides, entre nous, I fear he is insincere and hypocritical. Pray do not subject your ass'ts to the mortification of serving under such a man by resigning your place. The misconduct of the Agents of the Bureau here and there cannot, and will not, be charged to you.

I am gratified with having the military command of the State. It will enable me more fully and completely to carry your orders into effect. Please excuse my penmanship, I have a lame hand. The papers say Congress will call upon the President for information as to whether or not any officers have been engaged in showing honor to the Confederate dead, &c intending to hit Genl Brannan & myself. I hope it may be done. I would like an opportunity to reply.

Please excuse me for calling attention to my request for authority to purchase a Newport Sail Boat for the use of an office of the Bureau to be started at Brunswick. I have not received your answer. Genls S & F agree with me as to the necessity for such a boat and the services it could render.

I am Yours Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brvt Maj Gen Vol

Major Genl Howard  
Com'r Bureau R.F A L  
Washington D.C.

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3592 5/29/1866

*From:* James L Orr  
Gov of SC  
Executive Dept S.C.  
Anderson

*To:* Rev A Toomer Porter

OOH-3588

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170]

Executive Dept S.C.  
Anderson 29th May 1866

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th Inst brings me the first intelligence which I have rec'd of any interference with the Freedmens School at Lexington in charge of Mr Simons. I have very recently returned from Columbia where I remained for upwards of a month (I left on the 25th Inst) and no information or report of any violence has ever reached me officially or unofficially and you will remember that Lexington CH the alleged scene of the outrage is but fourteen miles from Columbia. The whole affair is either fabricated or exaggerated in my judgment.

I wrote today to Hon Lem Boozer the State Senator from Lexington making inquiries of him concerning the affair.

I have given every assurance in various localities that the freed people should not be molested in their schools and churches and I am glad to be able to say they have flourishing schools in most of the towns & villages in the state.

As soon as I get a reply from Col. Boozer I will communicate further with you and if any violence or outrage has been committed the offenders shall be brought to punishment.

Very respectfully yours  
James L Orr  
Gov of SC

Rev A Toomer Porter  
New York

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3593 5/30/1866    *From:* Geo. W. Julian

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3542

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[93]

Washington,  
May 30, 1866

Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I called to see you the other day about a matter which demanded prompt attention. You were reported "not in" when my name was sent up, but I learned from another you were in at the time. I then left my papers, with a special request to have you look at them & return them with your answer as soon as possible. I have heard nothing from you since. I have never yet been able to find you, & though I have written you on other occasions I have never had the favor of an answer save in one instance. I have had no difficulty in transacting business in other Bureaus of the War Department & have always been treated respectfully, & am sorry that owing to some cause or other my experience is not peculiar with you. I wonder whose fault it is?

Very respectfully  
Geo. W. Julian

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3594 5/30/1866    *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3543

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Raleigh May 30, 1866

Dear General

We are at a great loss to know what is going on in relation to our case. Having been relieved by order of the Sec'y of War, & assigned to no duty, & it have been published throughout the land that we are under arrest by order of the President, our situation is by now means a pleasant one. I do not doubt that you are doing all in your power to set the matter right, & I suppose we must wait in patience. Meantime I am doing a little good, I hope, by visiting the schools and helping the teachers.

I see the N.Y. Herald is very anxious that you should resign. I trust you will not do it. The Bureau will live & be useful. Though my official connection with it is probably closed I shall cease to feel an interest in its prosperity. I trust you will hold on, and weather this storm, whatever may be done with some of your subordinates for their "misconduct"

Yours Very Truly  
E. Whittlesey

[Summary written sideways at the bottom of the back page, in a different hand.]

Raleigh N.C.

May 30, 1866

Whittlesey, E.

Brig. Genl.

Concerning the "situation"

Recd. June 2nd 1866.

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3595 5/30/1866     *From:* Deane

*To:* My dear Gen [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3544

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95, 96]

Boston May 30, '66

My dear Gen -

I have a few moments to say briefly something of our journey <thither> and of our doings on this first day of our work.

As we left W. without any plan of operation Thompson and I spent a good part of Tuesday in constructing a scheme of labor, so that we might be ready at once on reaching B. to unfold our large designs. After a very delightful journey we arrived here this morning in excellent time.

Commencing with the 8 o'clk prayer meeting at Dr. Kirk's Church we kept steadily at work til 5 ½ o'clk, or dinner time this eve, and had then the result of fair progress to encourage us, as you will see by what I say hereafter.

We met one old friend Dea. Palmer at this prayer meeting who greeting us cordially & kindly introduced us to several good brethren. Then we found Alvord at the Tract Rooms who entered with animation into our work, introduced us to several persons, and gave us valuable & timely counsel.

Then our friend Langworthy gave us a cheerful welcome, and, though very busy in preparing for his meeting in behalf of the Cong. Library Building, gave us a half hour of his valuable time for consultations. We found Messrs Tobey and Hardy, after vain searches elsewhere, at the Cong. Lib. Meeting in the P.M. After the AM Miss'y at noon we found Webb, your Brother Roland, James &al.

At the Cong Lib. meeting in the P.M. the chairman Mr Tobey after speaking in most pleasant terms of the regret entertained by reason of your absence, said that two brethren were present from the Church Gen H. had so deep an interest in, and then announced that Thompson would address the meeting!! Notwithstanding this sudden & unexpected move T. took the stand, made a good speech and did our cause justice and himself credit.

To-morrow we have a meeting of some of the friends & well wishes of our cause to discuss plans and arrange plans for the summer campaign. The demand for you, the unceasing remark, "send Gen H if you want to raise money", has led me to give some encouragement that you might come on for one day before the middle of June.

We shall accomplish practically all our work so soon as we have this meeting well ended, but instead visiting Andover Theo. Seminary, Portland, Hartford &c before our return.

It may be best to make no further talk with Mr Coan at present as we have another man in view, of which more on our return.

Truly your friend  
Deane

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3596 5/30/1866 *From:* E.W. Jackson

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3545

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[97]

Washington May 30 / 66

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

You will I have no doubt read carefully the record in my case & if you are satisfied of the injustice done me you will place me in a position so I can meet any where any report which may go out on this subject. If you cannot do this I shall be compelled to have the matter thoroughly investigated before an ecclesiastical tribunal as a last resort. Both myself and family here suffered greatly for the last year, and I have no doubt after the examination of the case you will come to the conclusion unjustly if not wickedly. I go to Maine tomorrow. My P.O. will be Gorham Me.

Respectfully  
E.W. Jackson

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3597 5/31/1866 *From:* L. Deane

*To:* My dear Gen [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3546

Boston, Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[98, 99]

Boston, Mass  
May 31, 1866

My dear Gen.

I add this line to yesterday's to advise you of the success that seems to attend us in our good mission.

At the prayer meeting this morning I had an opportunity to say a word, and Dr Chickering catching up the strain told who I was. At the close of the meeting Dr. Kirk made further remarks in like spirit with Dr C. and concluded by inviting those interested in our cause to remain after the meeting to hear from the Washington brethren. This opportunity was more than we had expected. We had hoped to meet as few business men for consultation, but no larger assemblage.

Of what was done at this meeting your will learn by the account in the paper & sent you by this day's mail. Thompson and Alvord made good speeches.

Our audience was not large, and yet we learned we have struck a note that wont cease sounding.

The day has been spent in going about hither and thither upon general consultations.

Our efforts to find a good and capable agent have been wholly unsuccessful thus far. I very much doubt if we shall find Mr Coan the man for our work, and would suggest that no further negotiations with him be had until our return. Our friends here say our cause demands a man of known position & capacity who can go before the public with a recognized resolution. We have had no promise of such a man, but the suggestion has weight in my mind.

We have about arranged a possible meeting for you on Sunday night June 10th.

Our friends her all say "send Gen Howard, send him, he is the man if you want money" - and I am about convinced that they think so, for I have heard the remark every where and so often that I have about come to think you and you alone are to do this work or start it, so that others can keep it in motion. I repeat again after what I said in my last, that we find warm & generous greeting on every hand.

Truly your friend  
L. Deane

[Written sideways in the margin on the first page.] We expect to be in W. by Tuesday next.

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3598 6/1/1866

*From:* L. Deane

*To:* My dear Gen [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3547

Boston Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100, 101]

Private

Boston Mass

June 1, 1866

My dear Gen.

In continuing my reports of the doings of our Church Com. here I regret very much to say that we have to-day been met in several places by very anxious inquiry about the denominational character of our enterprises, particularly as to the status of Dr B. in this respect.

We were much surprised by these inquiries as we had supposed matters so well settled in that respect that no doubt or shade of doubt could be cast on our Church. But the inquiries have been pushed from so many sources and so much feeling seems manifested that we think it may be necessary to answer all such questions at the beginning before a general meeting is held here or our plan for the summer campaign arranged.

We are now pushing our investigation as to the exact nature of these doubts, and the sources whence they come, and trust when we return to be able to give a full & satisfactory history thereof. We have not abandoned the idea of an early meeting here for you, but it may not be possible to arrange for it before the 17th June now.

I must add that we continue to hear words of kind cheer and encouragement from those whose force & favor will help us in our efforts.

Since the first intimation as above stated we have had a conference with Mr Alvord, and made such arrangements to complete our work as seems desirable by the unforeseen emergency.

Very truly your friend,  
L. Deane

P.S. It may be best not to give much publicity to this matter till our full statement when we return.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

June 1st 1866

Deane, L.

Friendly letter.

Recd. June 4th 1866

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3599 6/2/1866

*From:* J.M. Duncan

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3548

Howard Div. No 21 S of  
I.  
Wash D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[102]

Howard Div. No 21 S of I.  
Wash D.C. June 2d 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Commissioner etc  
General:

I am instructed by this Division to communicate to you the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, at a regular meeting held May 31st 1866.

“ Resolved: That the thanks of this Division are due, and are hereby tendered to Hon Wm E Dodge, Maj. Gen. Howard, and Rev. John <Pierssonly>, for their able and instructive addresses, delivered on the occasion of our Public meeting, on the evening of May 23d 1866.”

Respectfully and Fraternaly  
J.M. Duncan  
Recording Scribe

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3600 6/2/1866

*From:* William C. Child

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3549

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Tract Society  
Tract House, 28  
Cornhill,  
Boston

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[103]

[Letterhead]

American Tract Society  
Instituted in Boston in 1814.  
Charitable Department  
Committee of Charities  
Rev. E.B. Webb, D.D.  
S.G Bowdear, Esq.  
Rev. William Hague, D.D.  
Rev. William C. Child, Secretary  
Tract House, 28 Cornhill,  
Boston,  
June 2d 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I have the honor to inform you that, at the last meeting of the American Tract Society of this city, held on the 30th ult., you were unanimously chosen as one of the Vice Presidents of the Society.

Sincerely Yours  
William C. Child,  
Sec. Am. Tr. Soc. Boston

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3601 6/3/1866

*From:* W.H. Catlin

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3550

Erie Pa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Erie Pa June 3d 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
General

Enclosed please find Five dollars to buy a Hymn Book for the new Cong'l Church in Washington. I read your speech, in its behalf, in Brooklyn with much interest. Please accept this as a mite towards the present of Fifty thousand dollars you wish your friends to make you. I am a stranger to you, but ever since I saw you standing on the steps of the Q.M. Office in New Berne N.C. one pleasant morning a little over a year ago I have felt that you were not a stranger to me. As the church is not built yet perhaps it would be better to "buy a brick" with this than a hymn book. Do as you think best.

I have two young lady cousins who are great admirers of Gen. Howard. They have his picture & would like his autograph. If not too much trouble when you acknowledge this please enable me to present it to them & also have one myself.

Begging pardon for thus occupying your time. I remain General

Your Obt. Servt.  
W.H. Catlin

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Erie Pa. June 3 1866

Catlin, W.H.

Sends 5 dollars to purchase a hymn book for the 1st Cong. ch. at Washington.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JUN 6 1866

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3602 6/4/1866

*From:* Thos H. Ruger

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3551

Raleigh N.C.

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[108]

Raleigh N.C. June 4th 1866

Dear Howard

Please accept my thanks for the kindly expression of your letter of the 30th May. I received the order mustering me out of service by the same mail that your letter was received. Had it not been for your letter which stated that Gen J.C. Robinson had been ordered to relieve me I should have thought, in view of my recent assignment anew to duty in this state, that possibly the order for my muster out was a mistake. Such mistakes have occurred, I believe, as the muster out of Officers when not intended by the Sec. of War or General Grant. As I have endeavored to do my duty I take my muster out as my turn in the general reduction. As I desire to remain in service I would have liked it if I could have retained my present position until the matter of the reorganization of the Army should have been disposed of. If you see no objection personally or otherwise I would be glad if, when you may have occasion to see the Sec. of War, you will ask him if my muster out was with his knowledge. Please answer this.

Very truly yours

Thos H. Ruger

Bvt Maj. Genl. Vols.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

U.S. Army

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3603 6/5/1866

*From:* Horace James

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3552

Avon Pitt Co. N.C.

Com'r Bur. Refs. &c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[109, 110]

Avon Pitt Co. N.C.  
June 5, 1866

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bur. Refs. &c  
Dear Sir

On my return from Boston last Saturday I struck Mr Fitz' trail at Weldon. He told me he had just seen you, and informed me that you had a new trouble or fear about me arising from a letter rec'd from Genl Fullerton impugning my private character. The report went, so he said, that I "had kept a mistress for three weeks." I guess Mr F. was wrong in thinking you felt troubled by such a report. Let the attacks against your officers take forms so utterly aside from truth or from the shadow of truth as this is, and they will refute themselves as fast as they can be made.

But as good men who enjoyed fully the confidences of the public have fallen in just this way of ungoverned passions, I proceed to say that there is not truth whatever in the statements just alluded to, or any others of that kind. They are simply laughable, or would be were they not so malicious. Dare them to the proof. Reject with scorn the imputation. Criminal connexion cannot occur without at least two persons knowing it. Let the knowing ones disgorge.

If Mr Fitz did not mistake the story, and gave me a right version of it, I can account for it in only one way. There has lived in New Berne a Rev Mr James (J.B.) Methodist, whose reputation has been shaky, who has been under arrest, of whom stories are told, whether truly or not I do not know, and it may be that this report arose from something connected with him.

As to Mr. Fitz I want to say to you that my view and opinion of his character is this. He is a conscientious but rather narrow minded man. He would have made as good a father confessor and even inquisitor, in a dark age, as any man. This practical judgment is not reliable, but he must be closely looked after. This I used to do when in charge of the E. Dist containing the Trent river settlement. I fancy that Capt Seely left him too much to himself, and that his indiscretions and misjudgments grew more numerous.

I had hoped that Capt Seely would take the opportunity when I left to relieve him, and put in if not a better yet a safer man.

The plantation looks well. The cotton is doing nicely, and so far from feeling like a culprit because I am engaged in agriculture, I rejoice in the occupation.

Yours very faithfully  
Horace James

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Avon, Pitt Co. N.C.  
June 5, 1866  
James, Horace  
Friendly letter  
Recd. June 11, 1866.

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3604 6/5/1866

*From:* Chas O'Neill

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
U.S.A.

OOH-3553

Wash'n D.C.

Chief of Bureau of Refugees  
&c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[111]

Wash'n D.C.  
June 5, 1866

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard U.S.A.  
Chief of Bureau of Refugees &c  
Dear Sir,

My friend of whom I was speaking to you the other day in the House of Representatives is 1st Lieut Lovett of the Veteran Reserve Corps. I think his name is Alexander Lovett.

He filed an application in your office some 2 or 3 days ago in which he stated his present rank &c. I am sorry I cannot give you the particulars. I understood him to say he was reporting either to the Surgeon General or to Major Genl [Christopher C.] Augur.

I may see him to morrow and will send him up to your office. I certainly thought he said he was still in the service.

Very Respt. Yours  
Chas O'Neill [U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania]

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3605 6/5/1866

*From:* J.E. Bryant

*To:* Bvt Major Genl Davis  
Tillson

OOH-3554a

Augusta Ga

Asst Com'r Bureau R Fr A L

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[119, 120]

Augusta Ga June 5th 1866

Bvt Major Genl Davis Tillson  
Asst Com'r Bureau R Fr A L  
Sir

I am informed that you have publicly asserted that I have deceived the Colored people of this city, and vicinity, and that I have charged them exorbitant fees for assisting them before the court; I pronounce these charges false.

I am also informed that you have publicly made the assertion that I have been guilty of illicit connection with colored women this is also a base falsehood.

I ask that you will select a Northern man, or a colored man, and I will do the same, and they shall select a Northern man or colored man and I will go before this committee and meet any charge you may make against my private character, with the understanding that the finding of this committee may be made public if either you or myself desire it.

If you do not do this, I call upon you to publicly take back all the charges you have made against my character, and if you do not do this I shall publicly brand you as a liar.

I am &c  
(Sd) J.E. Bryant

Official [written in red ink]  
WW Deane  
Capt & A.A.G. [written in red ink]

[Response written on the last page, OOH\_3554b.]

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3606 6/5/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-3554b

Augusta, Ga.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Response to previous letter, OOH\_3554a, written on the last page.]

[ 5 June 1866, Augusta, Ga.; To: O.O. Howard]

I sent Capt. Watson to Bryant to make the following reply to the within letter. "The first Paragraph is true, I am prepared to prove it before any properly constituted tribunal and will waive all questions of rank or Military authority. I did not make the Statement contained in the second paragraph, but stated that Officers on duty here, had so informed me. Third – I will not submit to any arbitration proposed by you, or any intercourse with you in any way or manner"

He replied to Capt Watson that he would publish me as a liar. Knowing that in the present excited condition of the community, and the hatred felt for this man Bryant alike by Citizens and Soldiers, the publication of this letter would probably lead to violence. I forbade his carrying his threat into execution. He continued to defy my authority and as he had already published a gross falsehood upon Genl Brennan and myself, which had created great excitement, I place a guard over the office with instructions to bring me proof of the paper as soon as taken, this was done and upon finding that he had not executed his threat, I at once removed the guard. Bryant evidently intended to compel me to arrest him or suppress his paper, and make capital thereby.

Davis Tillson  
Bvt Majr Genl  
Comdg & Asst Com'r

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3607 6/5/1866

*From:* Francis Geo. Shaw

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3555

National Freedman's  
Relief Association  
New York

Commissioner  
Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[156, 157]

[Letterhead]

National Freedman's Relief Association  
New York  
5 June 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor of yesterday & anxiously await your further communications.

I now beg to present to your favorable notice the bearer, Rev'd C. Pascal, Minister of the French Protestant Church of Brighton, England, and Delegate from the Bible Society of France to the Jubilee Meeting of the American Bible Society.

Mr Pascal is much interested in the all-important work of your Bureau, & will be greatly obliged by such facilities for information as will enable him to carry home an adequate idea of its operations, while I shall esteem as a favor any aid which it may be in your power to extend to him.

I remain, Dear Sir, with great esteem and respect,

Yours sincerely  
Fran's Geo. Shaw  
Pres.

[Summary written sideways on the back of the last page, in a different hand.]

New York, June 18 1866

Shaw, Francis Geo.

Secr. [Note. Francis G. Shaw had been secretary of the Association, but in 1863 became its President, "The National Freedman's Relief Association Monthly Report", June 1863.]

Introducing Rev'd Mr. Pascal from France

Recd June 23, 1866

[Attachment]

CENTRAL PROTESTANT EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY  
FOR

THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FRANCE

Paris, 12th April, 1866

The Board of the Central Protestant Evangelization Society to the Christians of America

The Board, deeply desirous of strengthening the bonds that already bind it to Christians in American, and to form new ones has delegated the Rev. Mr. Pascal to the Pastors and the faithful of the different Churches who will be disposed to receive him in the name of the Lord.

This Brother, who is the author of a remarkable book upon the great and lamented Lincoln, and who has given many proofs of sympathy to the American people, has been employed in the beginning of his ministry by our society as Pastor of the Church in Moulins, the chief-town of the department of Allier. He is well qualified to give to any desiring it all necessary details concerning the work undertaken by our association in more than 190

localities of our country.

Being dependent exclusively upon voluntary gifts, and without fixed and certain resources, our board needs constant help from the faith and charity of all who are zealous for the advancement of the kingdom of God. France furnishes almost all our resources, but the Protestants of France are neither numerous nor rich enough to supply us with all we need. Moreover the task of evangelizing our country is of too much interest for the American Nation not to be invited to co-operate with us.

We rejoice in the hope that the pastors and the people of the Protestant churches of America will welcome our delegate, facilitate his hard task and render his mission as productive as possible.

The Lord, for whose glory we all desire to labor, according to our strength, cause to fall upon you as a dew of blessing all the good you will have done.

We remain, in the bonds of Christian fellowship, your devoted,  
GrandPierre, D.D., pastor of the Reformed Church in Paris, Secretary.  
Louis Vernes, pastor of the Reformed Church in Paris, Secretary.  
Thierry, Treasurer.  
Guillaume Monod, pastor of the Reformed Church in Paris.  
Ch. L. Frossard, pastor, general agent.  
Le Conte Ph. De Montrison.  
Le Baron A. De Neuflyze.  
Felix Vernes.  
Valdermar Monod.  
Le Conte Robert De Pourtales  
Baron De Triqueti.  
Dhombres, pastor of the Reformed Church in Paris.  
Le General De Chabaud La Tour.  
L. Rognon, pastor.  
Dr. A. Moricand.  
Thomas Waddington.  
J. De Witt.  
Fr. Monnier, auditeur au Conseil l'Etat.

The Central Protestant Evangelization Society was founded <[CHECK ORIGINAL – top page 2]> the great doctrine of Evangelical Orthodoxy.

It undertakes and maintains two kinds of operation. With the view of <?ing [CHECK ORIGINAL – top page 2]> at the internal development of the churches already existing; it endeavors to provide for the spiritual wants of Protestants, so numerous scattered over the numerous points of the soil of France. It sends among them pastors and evangelists, and establishes the exercise of evangelical worship wherever circumstances will permit.

In order to forward the extension of these same churches, it promotes and strengthens religious movements, which manifest themselves among the Roman Catholic population; it endeavors to found among them new congregations, and, as far as its means will allow, provide them with pastors, Bible readers, school-masters and school-mistresses.

The labors of the Society have already attracted the attention of the Christian public and have called forth many expressions of sympathy both in France and also in other Christian countries. The Annual reports of the Society have given details respecting the greater number of its operations, which proved, that in spite of the weakness of its resources, its labors have not been in vain. With more powerful means of action, everything tends to promote the belief that far more considerable results might be obtained.

The following figures will give some idea of the remarkable and continued progress which has followed the labors of the Society.

The Society, which, at its commencement was only composed of 5 sections, at present comprises 12. its action is now extended over 50 departments. Divine worship is celebrated by means of its assistance in more than 50 considerable towns, of which 20 are the chief towns of departments. It employs 100 agents, of whom 93 are pastors. 151 places of worship have been already opened under the auspices of the Society. 31 churches have been founded, of which 12 support themselves entirely, and 10 are only composed of converts from

Romanism. 24 schools are supported by the Society and 70 churches have been built within the field of its labors by the subscriptions of its members and friends. In 1847, the Society with difficulty collected 19,000 francs, whilst last year the amount of its collections has been more than 160,000 francs. Our friends will be interested in learning that by far the greater part of this sum has been raised among the French Protestants themselves, and will therefore feel encouraged in assisting them in a field of labor to which their strength is so disproportioned.

The great results obtained in 18 years are truly encouraging. But the task becomes every day greater, the demands more numerous, the appeals more pressing, and the resources of the Society are not increasing in proportion to its wants. Even this year a deficiency of 40,000 francs (\$3,000) weighs upon the Society and threatens to fetter its progress. In the impossibility to narrow the field of its labors, the Society has diminished the amount of its allocations; but that sad expedient has not been sufficient to fill up the want. Then the Society has applied to the Rev. C. Pascal, which the Bible Society of France has sent of the United States, as a representative to the Jubilee Meeting of the American Bible Society, and it has charged him to solicit the generous help of every Christian in America who is interested in the propagation of the Gospel in the World generally and in France particularly.

The Rev. C. Pascal will receive the smallest sums with deep gratitude.

Letters and remittances of money can be directed to the following address,

Rev. C. Pascal,  
62 East 22d Street, N.Y.

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3608 6/7/1866

*From:* Wm Oland Bourne

*To:* Major Gen O O Howard

OOH-3556

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of the Soldiers  
Friends,  
No 12 Center St.  
New York

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[113, 114]

Office of the Soldiers Friends,  
No 12 Center St.  
New York, June 7, 1866.

Major Gen O O Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I thank you for your favor received enclosing subscription. The paper is sent as directed.

I relied upon the Washington reporters for a report of your speech at the Left Hand Exhibition, and being occupied myself at the time with duties did not address myself to the work of reporting. As the proceedings will make one of the features in the forth coming Memorial Volume, it would be high treason to the Left-Armed Corps to omit your speech. But I do not know how to supply the default unless you will kindly step in, and furnish me with a train of thought which you can reproduce, to be published as "substantially" the remarks you made on the occasion. I would be glad to have it by the 20th of this month at the latest, for the July number of the Soldier's Friend.

I want to send my paper to the regiments, garrisons, and detachments of colored troops on duty, as well as to "white men." If one of your clerks could prepare me a list of officers or agents to whom I could forward packages of 10 or 20 copies monthly it would be a great favor.

I am in a diminutive sense, the successor of the Christian Commission, but I am compelled to work my way, without the splendid contributions of the public. Some of our liberal men would willingly contribute to supply say 5000 copies per month, to the Army -if the recommendation were made by responsible friends of the "boys in blue" - no matter whether they be white or colored. I am doing what I can, and am grateful to you for your kind and generous sympathy and countenance.

In the hope that you will be able to spare a little time to the reproduction of your speech, I am very respectfully

Your Obt Svt  
Wm Oland Bourne

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York, June 7, 1866

Bourne, Orland H.

Desires a copy of Gen. Howard's speech before the S. & S. Left-handed fair.

Recd June 8th 1866

[The following newspaper article was attached.]

LIBERTY NOT BOUNDED BY RACE OR COLOR

Speech by General Howard.

(From the Washington correspondence of the Boston Daily Advertiser, May 1. [1866])

An interesting exhibition was opened here this evening. It consists of nearly three hundred manuscripts written by soldiers and sailors who lost their right arms during the late war. About one-tenth of the manuscripts were contributed by Massachusetts men. All of them were quite legible, and many were exceedingly creditable specimens of penmanship. One of them was executed by a soldier who, having lost both arms, held his pen in his mouth. Prizes amounting to one thousand dollars have been awarded to twenty-eight of the contributors. General Banks presided this evening, and after making an introductory address, introduced successively Speaker Colfax, Major-General Howard, Brigadier-General Gates, and Governor Fairchild of Wisconsin, each of

whom made short and pertinent addresses. General Howard's remarks in regard to the present duties of the veterans of the war were rapturously applauded:

“As we stood steadfast in the field,” said he, “so will we firmly adhere to our demand for a right settlement. Now is not the time for us to put our necks upon the ground and allow our enemies to put their heels upon them, and this conviction of ours comes from no political trick. It is the solemn conviction that we got upon the skirmish line. It was dinned into our ears by the cannon and the musket, and now that we have achieved the victory, we want the fruits of the victory. That man is a child who thinks we fought only for the Union. We fought for a homogeneous government, and we got it. We fought for American Liberty, not bounded by race or color.”

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3609 6/7/1866

*From:* Jacob R. Davis

*To:* General Davis Tillson

OOH-3557

Augusta Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[121, 122]

Augusta Ga June 7th 1866

General

Since the unfortunate occurrence which took place at our Cemetery, I have conversed with many of the old and respected colored citizens, and I have not found the first one, but what regrets the whole affair, and further, they approve the course taken by General Brannan and yourself on that occasion. No one at that time believed that such great importance could have been given to so trifling an affair.

I am Respectfully  
Your Obt Servant  
(Sd) Jacob R. Davis

General Davis Tillson  
Augusta

Official [written in red ink]  
W.W. Deane  
Capt & A.A.G. [written in red ink]

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

State of Georgia  
Richmond County

Personally appeared Jacob R Davis who after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that the within statement is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(Sd) Jacob R. Davis.

Subscribed and  
Sworn to before me  
this 9th June 1866  
(Sd) David L Roath

Not. Pub. R.C. Ga  
Official [written in red ink]  
W W. Deane  
Capt & A.A.G. [Written in red ink]

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3610 6/7/1866

*From:* James Thurston

*To:* Hon. J.G. Eliot

OOH-3558

Wilmington, N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[125, 126]

Wilmington, N.C.  
June 7, 1866.

Hon. J.G. Eliot,  
Dear Sir,

I wish to write a few words to you about the Freedman's Bureau here, as you are ab initio so interested in the subject. With all the good it has done, & is doing, it is nevertheless woefully crippled by defects in the working of the machine. One trouble here has been want of system in the office, things are at loose ends. Another is fickleness: orders one day, countermanded the next. Another trouble has been, change of officers: we have expected a change somehow once in two weeks. Again, too often the incumbents have been unsuited to their position & work. But enough of this -

The Freedmen, wisely as I think, do earnestly uphold the bureau, & the officers, even if they see imperfect justice done by them, and many things that are blamable. Imperfect as it is, it is nevertheless the shields & defences of the weak, who otherwise would suffer a fearful oppression.

Now let me say a word of a more precise & definite kind. I sat by Col. Rutherford in his office, & listened to the complaints of the poor persecuted Freedmen. There were two yesterday from Duplin Co. Their horses had been stolen, their hogs killed, then trunks & houses robbed. Their persecutions declared that no nigger should have a horse, or a hog, or any stock. They told me it was thought that not less than 15000 dollars had been stolen from the Freedmen in Duplin & Wayne Co. They were themselves beaten with cruelty and compelled to flee for their lives, and told that if they returned it would be to forfeit their lives. They implored aid & protection from the civil officers, but this was utterly refused. They came 70 miles to get redress of the Bureau. Col. Rutherford told me this was but a repetition of the same story morning, noon, night, day after day, till he was sick & disheartened, & weary of a poor miserable sham of power with no means to carry out any decision he might make. For another of these wise orders has come from Head quarters to retrench, to reduce, to narrow the action of the Bureau. With nine counties to look after he is reduced to one clerk & one Lieutenant to act as Quartermaster & everything else. And the rebels boast that soon they are to get rid of these damned yankees, and then woe to the niggers, who shall fare as they themselves choose. If the Bureau is to be continued by a new organization, do if possible let it be clearly defined what are its powers, and let a system be introduced, that its rules need not be changes with every rising Sun. The present Superintendent, Col. R. told me not to hesitate to use his name in regard to the unsatisfactory state of things. Things are getting worse, much worse since the work of those inspectors sent out by the President to curse the Bureau officers. And now the mail is closing and I must close.

With high respect  
Yours  
James Thurston

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen OO Howard  
T.D. Eliot

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3611 6/7/1866

*From:* Chloe Merrick

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3559

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[127, 128]

New York June 7th / 66

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

On my return to this city from Washington, I stated to the Association your views in regard to Fernandina matters, and your instructions to rent a building till a suitable one could be erected at your expense, for an Asylum. The Association to purchase a site.

To this proposition they were entirely favorable, as they are also to the intended educational interest at Chattahoochee.

They desired a written statement, or order from you to secure them.

On my return from Syracuse to day Mr. Shaw handed me your letter in which you say " think you had better rent a building until you can put up one." This seems to place the whole expense with the Association, which I judge to be a mistake from my recent interview with you, the result of which I have stated.

The Association think with you, that the influence would not be good in Florida, after having yielded their claim on the Finegan estate for the sake of peace, to leave the State entirely, but think they cannot assume the additional expense of renting and building though they will gladly do what they have hitherto done in sustaining the work there.

The schools have been removed from all the Churches at Fernandina and provision is to be made for them also.

If you can give the Association the assurance of paying the rent and expense of building for the Asylum they will continue their patronage there, otherwise I think they will advise immediate removal of the inmates of the Fernandina Asylum to Charleston.

We have to remove from the Finegan place by the first of July, and I must return within a few days.

I shall await your answer with deep interest, and hope you will favor with an immediate reply, that the action of the Association in which I serve may be in harmony with yours.

Truly and Respectfully  
Chloe Merrick

76 John St.  
New York

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

New York June 7, 1866

Merrick, Miss Chloe

Concerning the Orphan Asylum at Fernandina

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3612 6/7/1866

*From:* H C Ingersoll

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3560

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[129, 130]

June 7 / 66

Maj Genl Howard -  
Dear Sir -

The experience I have had in this Fair makes me regret that I ever accepted the office of superintendent of decorations of the Maine table, for I found that I had not half enough combativeness in me for the occasion! Not only am I not like Gene Jackson "born to command", but I cannot fight like a good soldier for the point that I really ought to carry, and so my resource has been like Falstaff to consider "discretion the better part of valor", and abandon the field! Not one of the distinctive features that I marked for Maine, was I able to carry out. The bower, and Undine's Fountain, tended by Undines represented by young ladies of firm temperance faith, who would have dispensed ice water and Maine Law eloquence at the same time –the emblematic pine trees – the motto - and several other matters were yielded by me, one by one, to preserve harmony – (or to let other people have their way) until I considered it expedient to withdraw, and cease to work, when every thing I did was undone as soon as I left –or before I returned. The result as it now stands, of the Maine table, is one for which I have not the slightest responsibility, except that the gifts sent for my sake are still there. I am exceedingly sorry to make this report to you for I accepted the office hoping to make some result that would please you, and it was mainly because you asked it, that I tried hard to accomplish something, but when I was told by others that my pleas were "not acceptable to the majority and that the majority ought to rule". I did not feel like asserting my authority. I preferred to go out, with the mental reflection that even in the decorations of a Fair table, there might possibly be visited in military law!!

The motto which I had chosen and spent a day in making was quite taken down, and the last time destroyed! By whom, no one seems to know. The lines were from Mrs [Anna Laetitia] Barbauld

"Man is the nobler growth our soil supplies,  
"And souls are ripened 'neath these Northern skies.

When I showed it to Mr Baker M.C. From Illinois, he said very deliberately - "that is good, very good –it embodies both the aspiration, and the conceit, of New England"! Perhaps some one thought it was too conceited!

To conclude this long note let me say again that I am very, very sorry that I have troubled you so much, in vain, and that I cannot offer you one thing that reflects my taste about the Maine table, which as you appointed me, I ought to be able to do, whether my taste would have been good or bad. But I will say, that if you ever have any thing for me to do, that it is in my power to accomplish, then please to command me, and let me hope to make amends for my short comings now.

I have felt unpleasantly to endure the whole thing, as I have been obliged too, but most I regret it as having failed the trust you put in me. Still I believe you would not have wished that in the matter I should have forced my will to the extent of discord and discomfort.

Let me add, that if Capt Grant, who has worked like a Trojan hero, and suffered like a Christian martyr! for the Fair, I have no complaint to make, and had I chosen, he would have forced others to yield several points to me – rather than have me withdrawn.

It is well that my paper leaves me only room to say that I am, very truly and respectfully yours.

H C Ingersoll

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3613 6/8/1866      *From:* Thomas W. Conway      *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3561

Harlem N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131]

Harlem N.Y.  
June 8th 1866

General:

I enclosed yesterday a copy of my report to the Chamber of Commerce, state of New York. Ten thousand copies will be circulated among business men, Commercial bodies &c. I hope the report will at last contribute to your strength and to the conviction that the Bureau, of which you are the principal, is simply the greatest necessity in the land, and as such, should be sustained by the good people of our country.

Respectfully &c  
Thomas W. Conway

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3614 6/8/1866

*From:* B.C. Ritter

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3562

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives  
Washington D.C.

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[132]

[Letterhead, including an engraving of the U.S. Capitol]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.  
House of Representatives  
Washington D.C.  
8th June 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Dr Sir

I herewith inclose to you a report made by a Committee appointed by the Legislature of Kentucky, to ascertain the truth or falsity of the statements alleged to have been made by Major Gnl. Clinton B. Fisk in an address to the people in Cincinnati, Ohio in regard to the improper, and inhuman treatment of colored people, by white citizens of Kentucky.

Allow me to ask your impartial attention to this report, and if it is worthy of confidence. Should not Genl. Fisk be dismissed from Office, and some gentleman be put in his place who will do justice to the people, without regard to race or color.

Please answer this inquiry at your earliest convenience.

Your Obt Srvt

B.C. Ritter [Burwell Clark Ritter, U.S. Representative from Kentucky, 1865-66.]

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3615 6/8/1866

*From:* A Mordecai

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-3563

West Point NY  
June 8th 1866

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

West Point NY  
June 8th 1866

My dear Genl

If you possess the knowledge will you be kind enough to inform me of the direction of Maj Sampson who was a Capt in your Regiment when I served with you in the Summer of /61.

With kind regards to Mrs Howard & yourself

Yours very truly  
A Mordecai [Alfred Mordecai, USMA Class of 1861]

Genl OO Howard  
Washington D.C.

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3616 6/8/1866

*From:* Thos. J. Lamax

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3564

Maryville, E. Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133]

Maryville, E. Tenn.  
June 8, 1866

Maj. Gen. Howard:  
Dear Sir:

You will perhaps remember me, as having called on you, in Washington. Last winter, to ask your advice in presenting a claim in behalf of Maryville College for damages done by the Federal Army. For that nothing could be obtained & I did not press it. We expect to open the College for Instruction in Sept. next, hoping by that time to have our buildings so repaired that we can use them. The college is under the control of the Synod of Tenn. which is in ecclesiastical connection with the New School Presbyterian Ch in U.S. of America. As a body we are loyal, patriotic & radical, with Congress & against Johnson, not negro-hating, but organizing them into churches & sabbath schools, preaching to & teaching them & doing all we can to elevate them. We meet with opposition and reproach from some, but public sentiment here is sustaining us. Antihuman, negro-hating ideas are on the wane. I rejoice that this is so & trust it may soon be the case throughout the South. But much yet remains to be done. Education & circulation of the right kind of reading matter are great instruments of regeneration in the South. Let our young men be bro't under the right kind of Instructors, and they will get right sooner or later.

But I must not write a long letter.

I wish to get your name to one of these circulars. You told me last winter I might have the use of your name in case I had it reprinted. I wish you to give me a recommendation to the object as you see fit and in your own language. I think your name will be of great service to me in presenting the claims of the Institution to the Christian public. The General Assembly that recently met in St. Louis commands our cause to sympathy & aid of the Churches. The object, I know, meets your approbation. The circular is a candid and truthful statement of facts. You will please return the one on which you give me your name & recommendation.

Most Respectfully yrs  
Thos. J. Lamax

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3617 6/8/1866

*From:* Wm Lawrence

*To:* Major Gen O O Howard

OOH-3565

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

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[134]

[Letterhead, including a graphic of the U.S. Capitol]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

8 June 1866

Major Gen O O Howard

Your letter of this date relation to Capt Wm Baldwin of Urbana Ohio is rec'd. I can & do recommend him fully, General. I believe he is one of the best & most reliable of young men & I hope you can comply with his request sent you yesterday by me to give him orders & in a good position near here. Please refer to a former letter I sent you of his.

Respectfy

Wm Lawrence [U.S. Representative from Ohio, 1865-1870, 1872-1876]

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3618 6/9/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3566

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bureau R.F. & A L  
Washington D.C.

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[115, 116, 117, 118]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.  
June 9th 1866

Dear General

Your valued letter of the 5th inst has just been received. I did not of course know that Steadman and Fullerton started out with any such intentions as you mention. I joined them at Savannah, by their invitation, after they had had their interview with the citizens and went at once with them without an hours delay to the Sea Islands. I may be mistaken but from what I heard I got the idea that they had modified their views about the makings of the Bureau. S&F both told me that the leading citizens of the State, and I know the citizen of Fla spoke kindly of Osborne, as I heard their remarks. I never doubted for a moment that you would do what you thought to be right. You have proved that to the satisfaction of the world –nobody dare speak ill of you personally in this respect. I only feared you might think it right to resign.

For the same reason I cannot shrink from defending Genl Brannan in relation to the course pursued by him in the matter to which you refer. Genl B did right, did his duty in my opinion well and wisely –and in a manner to prevent bloodshed. It would be an act of mere cowardice for me to fail to <[Torn Edge]> Genl B. The statement of Bryant upon which public opinion and the action of Congress is based, is false. Bryant knew it was false. It is intensely mortifying after nearly five years of service to be compelled to defend myself from such venom from an individual who when a paid agent of the Bureau hired many of negroes and now neglects or refuses to pay the note –a cold blooded hypocrite who came here to take advantage of the influence he had gained, while an officer of the Bureau, to live off the ignorant freed people. I should not stoop to defend myself against this lying sneak but for the importance given him by Congress, and with which he is so delighted that it has turned his head.

In proof of this I enclose you a copy of his paper of this week and of a letter of his which he threatened to publish unless I would submit to his impudent demands. Knowing that his conduct was being opposed and that his power to get money from the negroes was passing away he has with desperate recklessness tried to force a collision with the military authorities and bolster up his failing cause by becoming a martyr. His paper of this week is full of lies. The colored speakers at the meeting held last Sunday called my name of their own accord and in the strongest manner endorsed and approved of my <action> and that of my subordinate. This Bryant supposes and says the colored people did not endorse my action with reference to decorating the graves of our soldiers. This is also false, for although I knew Bryant had packed the mutiny against me still I relied on the good sense of the colored people to endorse what they knew to be right, and they did as I anticipated. I can prove by Gens Steadman & Fullerton by officers and citizens present that so far as the responses and the voting went it was largely in my favor. W.J. White a leading Colored man, chairman of the Financial committee of the loyal Georgia and who voted against me under the influence of Bryant has since told me that upon learning all the facts he approves of my course and this is done all all the leading intelligent & wealthy colored men in the city. I enclose a copy of Jacob R Davis' affidavit in proof of this assertion. Bryant published statement that I represented the matter before the meeting differently form what I had previously stated to him is a deliberate gross falshood. As also is his statement that the Teachers and others intended were not informed of the proposition made by the Mayor. I can state under oath that I called upon Mr Eberland Sup of F schools and in a very emphatic manner told him of the offer made by the Mayor and directed him to go and inform the teachers and earnestly advise them to accept the kind offer of the Mayor, as the very best way to promote and

cultivate kindly relations between the races. I enclose his statement. This Bryant is a thoroughly bad man who will stoop to any means to accomplish his purposes. Some of the more ignorant and violent freed people have already been so wrought upon by his influence as to make threats of violence.

Every white citizen without exception –and the officers of the Army and of the Bureau on duty here and the leading colored men almost without exception condemn this man Bryant as dangerous to the safety of the community. I am told that the civil authorities are about to present him before the Grand Jury. I am ready to say that I personally know of good reason for this action.

I am Yours Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Bt Maj Genl Vols

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau R.F. & A L  
Washington D.C.

P.S. Another fact has just come to light showing to what mean tricks and subterfuges this man Bryant will resort. The first part of the issue of his paper of the ninth (9th) inst contained remarks about me which were taken out of the paper in the latter portion of the same issue intended for Northern circulation –see Capt Dean's certificate enclosed. His statement that I was waited upon by christian colored men and asked not to bring this matter up in the meeting is also false. They came to me to regret that Genl Steadman had appointed the meeting for that time. They did not mention any objection to my bringing up the affair at the Cemetery. D.T.

[Note: There were no enclosures.]

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3619 6/9/1866

*From:* RK Scott

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3567

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina.  
Charleston, S.C.

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[135, 136]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina.  
Charleston, S.C.  
June 9th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner  
Dear General

I have the honor to write you this unofficial letter to let you know of some of the perplexing questions which are daily arising in my path.

In the first place reports of distillation and threatened starvation are coming in daily to an alarming extent and I have no power to relieve them and Genl Sickles is as much as ever opposed to the issue of rations to either whites or blacks, and I am merely a District Commander and have no more power than I had before, in fact my power is more limited and circumscribed than it was before I was made military Commander, as General Sickles assumes that under the order consolidates the two States, he has charge of the Bureau also, and directs me to forward all my reports through him, and to make him the medium of all official communications to Washington, in Bureau as well as Military affairs. Also Dr AK Smith his Medical Director orders Dr DeWitt Surg in Chief of the Bureau for this State to report to him.

I have therefore respectfully to ask for official instructions that cannot be misunderstood, as to the extent of Genl Sickles jurisdiction in regard to Bureau Matters, and whether he is to be made the channell of my communications to you.

While I do not wish to be understood to complain of difficulties that appear to present themselves. I must say that I fear the result of too many officers wishing to take part in the affairs of the Bureau. And feel confident that the Asst Comm'r of a State should not be controled in its immediate management, or in carrying out its details, and if found incompetent should be replaced by one who could discharge the duties to your satisfaction.

I am General  
Very Respy Your Obt Servt  
RK Scott [Robert Kingston Scott]

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Charleston S.C.

June 9th 1866

Scott R.K.

Bvt, Maj. Genl.

Writes unofficial letter concerning difficulties &c in S.C.



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3620 6/10/1866      *From:* James L. Hoole      *To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3569      Mobile Ala

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[140. 141]

Mobile Ala  
June 10 1866

Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Dr Sir,

Immediately preceding the war I was engaged in investigating the Laws in reference to Revolutionary Pensioners, to ascertain if my Mother was entitled to a pension. I had not concluded the same, but remember that some doubt arose in my mind as to whether she was entitled to one. I lost every thing during the war, and since, owing to the indigent condition of the South, it is quite difficult to recuperate, and if my Mother has any claims of this nature, I should be grateful to prosecute them to success. She is growing old, as you will know, & the advantage of sufficient means to make comfortable her declining years would be a source of great pleasure.

Can you assist me? There is no difficulty in establishing the claim provided that the law covers the case.

First, is there any law which makes provision for the children of revolutionary Soldiers?

Second, if so, does it have any reference to the date of the decease of the party? My Grandfatehr died in 1802 I think.

I do not expect you to give your personal attention to this matter, but merely afford me direction how to proceed. Perhaps you could send me a copy of the Laws in reference to pensions. Is there any of our old friends about Washington?

I did not wish to employ a Lawyer as my experience in past years in these matters assured me that it is unnecessary. If the Law exists and the facts can be produced, a fair representation to the proper Department always insures a just decision. I think that there must be some ground upon which to base her claim, as Lawyers here proferred to undertake the case for one half provided they recovered.

Formerly I had some correspondence with a gentleman by the name of Whiting who was in one of the Departments. Is he there now? And is he any relation to Jasper [Strong] Whiting [Bowdoin College Class of 1847], who was in the class above us.

Will you be kind enough to snatch a few brief moments from your arduous labors to afford mme such information in this matter as you may think will be of advantage?

Wishing you success always and a long and pleasant life.

I remain  
Yours truly  
James L. Hoole [Bowdoin College Class of 1849]

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Mobile, Ala. June 10th 1866

Hoole, James L.

Requests information and assistance to enable him to obtain a pension for his mother.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.& A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JUL 14 1866

[Written in pencil] Answer

[Written in the next column on the back page, in another hand. The signature is O.O. Howard's,]

Washington July 20, 66

Resp. referred to L. Dean Esq. [Possibly Llewellyn Dean, Bowdoin Class of 1849] Dept of the Interior. Can you not do something in this case

O.O. Howard [Signature]  
Maj. Gen.

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3621 6/10/1866    *From:* Thomas Boardman    *To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-3570

128 Summer St  
East Boston Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[7]

East Boston Jun 10th 1866

General Howard

Dear Sir

While reading my weekly paper the Independent, I learn from the Speeches made by several ministers and yourself, that there is an effort being made, to try to raise by Contributions a sum of money for the purpose of Building a Church in the City of Washington. Would you please accept 5 dollars from a Soldier who lost one of his legs at the battle of Gaines Mills, only a few miles from where you lost your Arm. I thought I would like to give this as a thank offering to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has been a friend to me all my lifetime, particularly when I was a prisoner in Richmond. I cheerfully contribute this small amount.

In kindest regards and Christian  
fellowship I am very respectfully  
yours, Thomas Boardman  
128 Summer St East Boston Mass

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3622 6/11/1866     *From:* H. W. Smith

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3571

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters, State of  
South Carolina,  
Charleston, S.C.

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[144, 145]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters, State of South Carolina,  
Charleston, S.C.,  
June 11th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General

Your telegram in regard to Dr DeWitt was received this A.M. and rather surprised us, as Genl Scott never had an idea of removing him, but on the contrary thinks most highly of his abilities, and efficiency. Dr DeWitt was not announced as Chief Medical Officer of the Military Command of S.C. because Dr Smith the Medical Director of the Department claimed the right to appoint an officer of his own choosing, and was upheld in his claim by Genl Sickles. So Dr Dewitt remains still as Surg in Chief for the Bureau in this State.

Gen Scott was obliged to relieve Major Saxton on account of an order from Genl Sickles to report the names of all general Staff officers who were performing such duty as could be performed by Officers of the Vet Res Corps, and to set a date for dispensing with their Services. Before making his report Gen Scott relieved Major Saxton and ordered him to report to you in order to save his name from being sent in by Gen Sickles for muster-out. The new change is slowly taking place and my fear is that the Bureau will become too much incorporated with the Military. The Bureau should never be made subservient to the Military, as tis a much greater and more important command. The duties of the two commands make my labors very arduous, but I am never so happy as when busily employed, and the interest I feel in the Bureau makes me more anxious to see things done as you would desire them, and all that I can do shall be done to make things go on smoothly. To a certain extent Genl Scotts being the Military Commander helps us some but then General Sickles assuming that he is responsible for the carrying on of Bureau Affairs and ordering us to report through him, neutralizes the benefits that would otherwise accrue to us by the change, as we are not nearly as independent as we were before. As yet Gen Sickles has given nothing but verbal orders in regard to Bureau affairs, so we are first ballancing on the fence. I do not think that there is much kind feeling down here as yet.

I must now close. Please make my kind regards to and you staff and with feelings of the kindest regards

I remain General  
Very Sincerely Yours  
H. W. Smith  
Bvt Lieut Col & A. A. G.

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3623 6/11/1866

*From:* Eben. E. Waite

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3572

Navy-yard Brooklyn  
N.Y.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

(Caulker's Department)

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[146]

Brooklyn N.Y. - June 11th 1866

Office my Dear Sir:

Will you be so very kind as to call yourself personally: or if it is inconsistent for you to do so: will you do me the very great favor to get some one that will be likely to have a good influence to call on the Secretary of the Navy. (He it is, I believe, that has the appointing of the "Bosses" in the Navy-yards.) and ascertain whether there is to be a "Boss" caulker appointed for the N.Y. Navy-yard? I have heard it rumored that there is to be one appointed, and if there is I wish to have my just claims considered, and taken into the account, which I consider to be sufficient for the appointment of myself to that position. I am now acting as Quartermaster in the Caulker's Department, under the Naval Constructor, Mr Delano and am content to remain so unless there is to be a change, and a "boss" appointed and if there is, I calculate the position belongs to me: - for the following reasons viz: Mr Delano 1st I hazarded my life by coming here to work for Government on the instant of my finding out that a combination of caulkers in N.Y. and Boston, was making a desperate effort by a strike on the Navy-yard to bring our National Government to their notions, whims, and blind schemes, and driving every body away that attempted to come to work on the Navy-yard by their desperate threats, and minises, and succeeded in doing so in every such attempt for more than two months before I found it out and came here myself. And being myself so very much unaccustomed to know when I am in danger, have succeeded in staying. And have received no particular personal injury, as I am aware, except from foul mouthed tongues. I have been threatened with assassination, but somehow, I can't seem to make it worry me much; I can't tell why! But I have somewhat drifted from what I was saying were the reasons why I think I ought to have the position as "Boss" caulker, if one is appointed for the N.Y. Navy-yard. My next reason is that after I came here, and learned the whole facts in relation to the affair from the Commander and Capt. of the yard, I told them I would engage to go out and get any number of caulkers which they would authorize me to get, on the condition that I should have the full charge of them when I got them here, subject to their orders. (The Capt & commandants) I was authorized, and employed by them, and went out and hired a crew of most excellent workmen from the State of Maine, being very particular not to get any but 1st class workmen. And I feel proud to say that I have, I think, the best crew of men, take them in any sense of the word, that can be got up in the United States, according to numbers. And the Assistant Naval Constructor says himself that the work has been done since I have been here with my gang of men fifty per cent less than the same amount used to be done when the old strikers were here. I say old strikers, because it seems by what I have learned since I have been here that they, (the caulkers that used to be here, I will not say worked) were in the habit of knocking off on very slight pretences, if every thing did not go just to rule their whims, and notions. Now I do not wish to be understood as suggesting a change here in relations to a "Boss" caulker being appointed, but merely say if there is to be one, I most respectfully ask for the position myself. If it is required that I give any references as to qualifications, or any thing else, I would be highly pleased to know what, and will be happy to supply any requirements in relations to the matter.

If any petition should be required from my men, or any body else, I will obtain that also. Since a rumor has been afloat that a "Boss" caulker is to be appointed, it has been suggested to me that I apply for the position. Hence this humble request. I can give other reasons if necessary, but I will say no more at present. Now Office, you will pardon my simple manner of addressing you, will you not? And, believe me your most sincere and humble

Friend if no more  
Eben. E. Waite

Will you be so kind as return me an answer? My address is Navy-yard N.Y.  
(Caulker's Department)

To Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, Washington D.C.

[Summary written sideways, on the last page in a different hand.]  
Brooklyn N.Y.

June 11, 1866

Waite E.E.

Wants assistance in procuring a position at N.Y. Navy yard.

Recd, June 12 1866

[Note: Ebenezer E. Waite was the uncle of OO Howard's wife, Elizabeth Ann (Waite) Howard.]

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3624 6/11/1866    *From:* Augustine Rout    *To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3573                      Whitesboro, Oneida  
County, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[147]

Whitesboro, Oneida County, N.Y. 11th June 66

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
My Deere Sir,

Could you lecture twelve times to Ladies Freedmen's Aid Societies, in Central New York during the month of February next? This question is of course, with the understanding, that you are able to make the proposed tour. The ladies of Central New York will delight to hear you.

Your obedient servant  
Augustine Rout

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3625 6/12/1866      *From:* S.V Merrick

*To:* Rev'd A. T. Porter

OOH-3587

Philad

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[168, 169]

Rev'd A. T. Porter  
Dear Sir

I have been in the city yesterday & today, relative to your proposition . I find the best disposition towards it, and nothing <laconting>, but the <machinery> to reap the crop. After consulting Mr Walsh I applied to the Freedmens Aid to take the matter in hand as it requires some organization. Yesterday I had the matter before them and while the members generally proposed aid it was thought improper or impolitic on them, as a general association to prominently step forward in aid of a sectarian movement. I urged that on the contrary that every sectarian movement ought to be helped because while forwarding the purpose they had in view education of the black . They would be relieved of so much permanent work. I think that this view fairly set before them would prevail as I know them to be gentlemen of intelligence and of expanded <[CHECK ORIGINAL tape on page 2]>.

Their declination was not to be wondered at as the subject was now with only Gen Howards letter before them and no one to explain your views & proposal and only a <> explanation in general terms from me to their Secretary. They meet on Monday ad their office 424 Walnut at 3 P.M. and I think if you can spare time on that day & <come> to see them & give such explanation as may be proper they will take the matter up seriously.

I enclose a note to the Sec'y Freedmens aid & <[CHECK ORIGINAL - TAPE]> of New York, whom you had better see before you come on & show Gen Howards letter which I enclose. If you obtain an introduction to Dr Tyng he can aid you.

One point made by the Secy F. Aid was, said they employ southern teachers or solely southern. To this I replied that you were indifferent where the teachers came from if they <> an often more serious. You should be prepared to answer.

Are the blacks to be educated with or according to southern ideas.

This means - is the doctrine to be inculcated that the blacks are an inferior race to be kept under servility or do you mean to gain them a good plain education and let their status be fixed or settled by the measure of intellect which the almighty has vouchsafed to each individual. The first condition of this idea will not meet much sympathy here as we think it is the province of God and not of man to assign the social, moral & intellectual position of all his creatures. Tho' I did not put the question directly I hedged from the general liberation of you conversation that we agreed on this point. But you must be prepared to meet it. You can not expect us to furnish all you want & therefore it would be well to lay your terms in N York & Boston.

Our people have been <heavily> <drawn> <upon> to meet southern <success> for whom there is much sympathy – but purses are gradually closing under the feeling of hostility, indicated by the press of the South cited the anti-american sentiments which so generally prevails in the lately rebellious states.

I wish you would return General Howards letter after providing yourself with a copy which may be <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> by some known name (as enc)

Respy  
S.V Merrick  
Philad 12 June 66

It would be wise and publicly to announce your view of purchasing the Maine Hospital as some antagonist interest may bid it up - but say some large building.

Office of Freedmen's Aid Society, Back room 424 Walnut, Ground floor. Send card in to the Secretary on <1st> Parrish, who will be there soon after 3 o'clock PM, Monday.



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3626 6/13/1866 *From:* Wm T. Wofford

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3575

Washington D.C.

Comr. Bu F. R & A Lands

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[148]

Washington D.C.  
June 13th 1866

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr. Bu F. R & A Lands  
Sir

Enclosed I send you a slip taken from the Rome Courier, a paper published in the city of Rome Ga. for two purposes; first as an evidence of a gratifying change of public sentiments, and secondly to ask your assistance in obtaining for the colored people in the District I am from, some forty or fifty sunday school libraries to be distributed in the Counties of DeKalb, Fealtre, Cobb, Cass, Cherokee, Gordon, Roth, Floyd, Chattooga, Walker, Dade, Catoosa, Whitfield and Henry. It the Bureau over which you preside do not furnish such Books, will you aid me in obtaining them from Christian Publication societies? The colored people have not the means to pay for Libraries, neither have their white friends in the Counties named, this being the section of Georgia so completely devastated by the armies of Sharman and Johnson in the many and bloody Battles for the possession of Atlanta.

Very respectfully your  
obedient servant  
Wm T. Wofford

[Attached newspaper clipping]

Sunday School for Freedmen. On last Sabbath a Sunday school for the Freedmen was organized at the Baptist church in this place, with over eighty scholars. Some of our best citizens and first ladies of the place are teachers in it. We understand that similar movements are contemplated by the other churches of the city.

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3627 6/13/1866

*From:* Benj. C. Cook

*To:* Major Gen O O Howard

OOH-3576

Bureau R F and A  
Lands  
Richmond VA

Commissioner BRF and AL  
Washington D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[149]

Bureau R F and A Lands  
Richmond VA  
13th June 1866

Major Gen O O Howard  
Commissioner BRF and AL  
Washington D.C.  
General

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your communication of the 21st ult., and in compliance with your instructions I respectfully forward you the papers pertaining to my Brevet appointment with the Endorsement of Bvt Brig Gen O Brown, which I trust will meet with your favorable consideration

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servant  
Benj. C. Cook  
1nd Lt 24th V.R.C.  
And Asst Supt 5 Dist Va  
Bureau R.F. and A.L.

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Richmond, June 13th 1866  
Cook, Benj, C.  
2nd Lieut & Asst. Supt. 70  
Transmits papers relative to his Brevet appointment.  
Lt. Sr.  
(1 enclosure)  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.& A.L. REC'D JUN 14 1866]

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3628 6/13/1866 *From:* MC Meigs

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3577

Washington

Commissioner of the Bureau  
of  
Refugees, Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[150]

Washington, 13th June, 1866.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner of the Bureau of  
Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands

Dear Sir:

I enclose a petition for the establishment of a Public Park near the cities of Washington and Georgetown.

If you approve the object, please cause it to be placed where it may be signed by those whom you know, and cause it to be presented to Congress by some member of the House or Senate; or return it to me to be transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia.

I am, very respectfully

Your obt. servant,

/s/ MC Meigs [Bvt Major General Montgomery C. Meigs, USMA Class of 1836.]

Unofficial

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Washington D.C.

June 13th 1866.

Meigs, M.C.

<QrMrGenl

Encloses petition for a public Park

Recd June 13th 1866

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3629 6/13/1866 *From:* Nathan Kimball

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-3578

Livonia Ind

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Livonia Ind June 13 1866

Maj Genl O O Howard  
General

Rev John H Aughey Pastor of our church (OS Presbyterian) was at the beginning of the late rebellion a citizen of Mississippi a Minister & Teacher – for his devoted loyalty to our government he was arrested imprisoned & otherwise persecuted by the <masked> Traitors of that State until he escaped & came into our lines at Rienzi.

Mr Aughey is a gentleman and Christian, entirely worthy of a ll confidence and any favor you may be able to do for him. He will write you on business pertaining to himself and General presuming upon my acquaintance with you, formed while under your command I write to you in his behalf & bespeak for him in favorable considerations & action.

I am Dear General with the highest regard  
Truly Your Friend and  
Most Obt Servant  
Nathan Kimball  
Late brvt Maj Genl Vol  
& Comdg 1st Divis 4 A.C.

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3630 6/13/1866

*From:* I. P. Warren

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3579

American Tract Society  
Tract House, 28 Cornhill  
Boston

Com. Freedmen & Bureau

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[151]

[Letterhead]

American Tract Society  
Tract House, 28 Cornhill  
Boston,  
Instituted in Boston in 1814  
Publication Department  
Rev. E.N. Kirk, D.D.  
Edward S. Rand, Esq.  
Rev. Israel P. Warren, Secretary and Editor  
June 13, 1866

Rev. S.T. Spear, D.D.  
Rev. Wm. Hague, D.D.

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Com. Freedmen & Bureau  
My dear Sir,

Have you seen the little book published by us from the pen of Gen Fisk, entitled "Plain Counsels for Freedmen" I think it admirably adapted to their use.

It has occurred to me that if you have the needed time you might also prepare something which would be of great value to those people. Your intimate knowledge of their circumstances and want would enable you to speak intelligently, and your name will carry with it more weight than probably any other living man's. We should be exceedingly pleased to publish any such work that you might prepare in such style as you would prefer, and furnish large quantities for distribution by you.

You have seen our school books I believe. We have heard intimations in a few cases that we have not done well in calling them "Freedman's Readers", that they do not like the idea of having any thing made for them as a class, but want just the Same sort of books as the white people. Now, dear Sir, please inform me how much there is in this. We can change the title if necessary. What would you think of one calling them the "Lincoln Readers", the Lincoln Spelling Book, in honor of the great & good friend of the colored people? Or can you make any other suggestions which will help us make our books more acceptable & useful?

Pardon me for troubling you in this matter & believe me

Most respectfully & cordially yours,  
I. P. Warren, <[CHECK ORIGINAL –hidden by tape]

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3631 6/13/1866 *From:* T.J. Furgerson

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3580

Parkersburg W.Va

Chief of Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152]

Parkersburg W.Va June 13th /66

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Chief of Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
My dear Sir

I am preparing a pamphlet, - subject Negro Education, and any information as to the number of schools for freedmen, pupils in attendance, provision in the late rebellious state for the instruction of colored children and any remarks you would be pleased to make in furtherance of the subject will be thankfully received.

Hon T A. Plants of the House from Ohio is well acquainted with me.

Hoping sir to hear from you soon I am truly your ob't Serv't  
T.J. Furgerson

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3632 6/13/1866    *From:* Wm Edsall

*To:* Maj. Genl O.O. Howard,  
U.S.A.

OOH-3581

*Source:* Bowdoin

Lathrop, Ludington &  
Co.  
325,328 & 330  
Broadway  
New York

Washington D.C.

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[153, 154]

[Letterhead]

Lathrop, Ludington & Co.  
325,328 & 330 Broadway  
New York  
June 13th 1866

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard, U.S.A.  
Washington D.C.  
My dear Sir

You will probably remember a few days ago when going up the river to attend the funeral of Genl [Winfield] Scott [died 29 May 1866], being spoke to by delegates of the "Brooklyn Young Men's Christian Association" en route for the Albany convention & on whose behalf I have now the honour to address you. Our association is very desirous of having a Lecture from you during the fall say in Oct. or later if more convenient for you, at the Academy of Music, as this building promises to be much in demand & we are about arranging for a course of Lectures I will esteem it a favour if you will write me as early as convenient advising me if you will find it agreeable to comply with our wishes. Be kind enough should you able to favour us with a lecture, to designate more than one date so that should our Academy be engaged fo the first Evening we may get it on some other one.

With much respectf  
Yours Very Truly  
Wm Edsall  
Cor. Secty.

Please address me New York  
R.D. Box 1444.

[Summary written sideways on the back page in a different hand.]  
New York June 13 1866  
Edsall Wm  
Desires Gen. Howard to lecture in Brooklyn in Oct.  
Recd June 14th 1866

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3633 6/14/1866    *From:* T.E. Stone

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3582

*Source:* Bowdoin

Middlesex Mechanics  
Association  
Incorporated 1825  
Lowell, Mass.

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[155]

[Letterhead]

Middlesex Mechanics Association  
Incorporated 1825  
Lowell, Mass.  
June 14, 1866.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir:

It affords me pleasure to inform you that the Lecture Committee of the Middlesex Mechanics Association have unanimously voted to instruct the Corresponding Secretary to invite you to speak in a course of Lectures to be given under the auspices of the Association, commencing about the first of November next. The Committee sincerely hope you will find it desirable and convenient to accept this invitation; and my I ask your early attention to the matter, as it is quite necessary to complete the list of speakers at an early day in the season? In communicating with me, be good enough to name terms, subject of lecture (if possible), and also in what month you will be most likely to come North, if remaining in Washington, next season.

Very respectfully yours,  
T.E. Stone, Sect.

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3634 6/15/1866 *From:* S.V. Merrick

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3574

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150 ½]

My dear Sir

I received your letter 11th June by Mr Porter. There will be no difficulty in raising a fair share of the money he requires here if we can get the proper <machinery to work>.

I have applied to the Freedmens aid to <evaluate> it, but while they individually favor it, they hesitate as to the propriety of a General association as theirs, sending special aid to a sectarian work. I have sent for Mr Porter to have a face talk with them on Wednesday after noon at their office and if you can write to any of your friends in that Soc. so as to reach Monday morning it will help <him ?>. I shall do what I can to aid <him>.

I shall be pleased to hear that Mrs H. is well thru' her trouble. [Lizzie gave birth to their fifth child John Howard on June 15 1866.]

Yours truly  
S.V. Merrick

15 June [1866]

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3635 6/15/1866     *From:* James C Bucher

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3583a

Hartford Conn.

Com'r B.R.& F.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158, 159]

Hartford Conn.  
June 15th 1866.

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Com'r B.R.& F.  
General

I respectfully forward herewith copy of communication and endorsements to which I referred in conversation with yourself on Wednesday last. I am obliged to believe that the Officials in the Bureau at Charleston were quite aware of the facts in the case.

I am preparing a communication to yourself respecting Bureau Affairs in So. Carolina, and the present news of the freed people. I prefer this course for the present, to published articles, since it is possible that any suggestion tending to increase the efficiency of the Bureau, may be taken as an attack upon it. I make no claim to extra sagacity but could not work for a year & more, without gaining some practical knowledge. The Commissioner at Charleston is welcome to the credit of my work, but since he hindered it all he could and upon the islands actually prevented its full accomplishment I cannot be supposed to favor a policy even more damaging to the freed people than to the whites.

With sincere regard for yourself and heart interest in all that tends to make independent men and women of the freed people

I am yours very truly  
James C Bucher  
Bt Brig Gen Late Col 35th U.S.C.T.

[See OOH-3583b, dated 31 Aug 1865, for the copy of communications and endorsements.]

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3636 6/15/1866 *From:* C.C. Coffin

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3584

Boston 749 Tremont St

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161, 162]

Boston 749 Tremont St  
June 15th 1866

Maj Gen Howard  
Dear Sir

Please accept this accompanying volume entitled Four years of fighting - not a history but a volume mainly of personal observations. I have endeavored to place Chancellorsville in its true light, also Gettysburg.

I shall esteem it a great favor if you will inform me of an errors, that I may correct them in future editions.

I have given many incidents which have neevr been in print, & have endeavored to make it a volume which will keep alive the fires of patriotism in the hearts of the people.

If, after turning it over you can conscientiously commend it as worthy of a place in the <foes?> houses & work shops of the land, I shall be happy to receive a line to that effect as it will be of much pecuniary benefit.

Allow me to express my thanks for the many courtesys I have received at your hands.

With many regards  
yours truly  
C.C. Coffin

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Boston Mass  
June 15th 1866  
Coffin C.C.  
Transmitting a Book entitled Four Years of Fighting

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3637 6/15/1866

*From:* John Fuller  
Chmn Lect Com  
Oswego

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Wash'n D.C.

OOH-3585

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165]

Oswego June 15 / 66

Dear Sir

Can you lecture before the Young Mens Library Association of Oswego the coming season. If so will you please write me that you will come and your terms. If convenient you can name subject and a day you will positively be here or we will leave the date and subject for further settlement. Our society and citizens generally would be very much pleased to hear you.

Respectfully Yours  
John Fuller  
Chmn Lect Com

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Wash'n D.C.

[Enclosure]

1866 1867

Young Men's Library Association  
Oswego, N.Y.

Wm. M McNall, - President,  
C.P. Meads, - Vice President  
J. Irving Weed, - Secretary  
R.S. Myrick, - Treasurer  
A. Leonard, - Librarian

Standing Committees

Lectures.

J. Fuller, C.B. Sloan, H.F. Willis, A.S. Smith, S.B. Burchard.

Rules & Regulations.

J.C. Churchill, J. Owen, Omer Leyns.

Ways and Means.

S.M. Allen, N.M. Rowe, L.E. Goulding.

Rooms & Library.

J.R. Pierce, W.W. Rope, Wm. Cartwright.

Literary Exercises.

B.E. Wells, J.H. Coe, W.H. Gardinier.

Music.

G.I. North, B.E. Wells, C.H. Gaylord.

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3638 6/15/1866

*From:* John H. Aughey

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3589

Livonia Washington Co  
Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[171, 172]

Livonia Washington Co Ind.  
June 15th 66

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I am very thankful to you for the kind letter in regard to Gen. Kimball which you were pleased to send me. The life and services of Gen Kim will soon appear.

Please accept a copy of my work the Iron Furnace &c which I send you by this mail. I enclose a testimonial from Gen Kimball which vouches for my loyalty &c. In consequence of my adherence to the Government I was compelled to escape from Central Miss. My goods I boxed up and sent to Goodman Depot on the Miss. Central R.R. in Holmes Co. Miss. After my departure and as soon as it became known that my goods were at Goodman two elders of my church went to convict me and seize my goods and sold them at auction. What they did with the money I know not. I suppose that they paid a part to the Rebel Government and retained the remainder. My library was worth 1500\$. They sold my wife's clothing as well as mine. My churches owed my 6 or 7 hundred dollars besides. My house I sold since the war but they are determined that I shall lose it. I had the deed recorded but upon examination the record does not appear. It is doubtless cut out or erased and the deed was with my papers which my elders seized and is perhaps destroyed. My life would be in jeopardy were I to go down to Miss to attend to the matter and the expense would be great. From affluence I am reduced to poverty, while my elders here create money by their course.

Would you be so kind as to inform me whether I can obtain redress through you as Com. of Refugees &c. I would not trouble you but I know not whom else to secure a part of the property of which the secessionists have robbed me.

Yours truly  
John H. Aughey  
Livonia  
Washington Co.  
Ind.

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3639 6/16/1866

*From:* A Toomer Porter

*To:* Gen OO Howard

OOH-3586

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[166, 167]

Copy  
Treasury Department  
June 15 1866

Sir

You are hereby instructed to sell the US Maine Hospital building and lot in Charleston SC at public auction to the highest bidder, subject to the acceptance of the bid by the Secretary of the Treasury upon the following terms viz one thousand dollars cash the balance in equal payments of 30, 60 and 90 days. A certificate of sale will be given at the time to the purchaser and a deed upon the completion of the terms of sale and the final payment. You will please insert the enclosed advertisement in such Charleston papers as you may deem desirable for 30 days. Immediately upon the sale you will please inform the Department in relative to it, giving your opinion as to the price and competition & making any suggestion you may deem proper. The object of the Department in reserving the right to accept or reject any bid is to prevent any combination by which the property may be sacrificed, & will not be exercised if the sale is a fair one. In deciding which the Dept must of course rely upon you report.

Should you be of the opinion, that this provision will have a tendency to injure the sale you will advise me without delay.

Very Respectfully  
(signed) H McCulloch  
Sec of the Treas.

AG Mackey Esq  
Collector of Customs  
Charleston SC

New York June 16 1866

Gen OO Howard  
My dear Genl,

Above I send you a copy of the instructions which the Dept has kindly furnished me with. A friend here has authorised me to <lay> to the building while we make efforts to raise the money. I am sorry the Sec has put in the restriction as I fear it will give the impression of not a Bona fide sale & cause a want of interest in the matter. He does not know me, & I see does not fully trust me. I can pledge the truth of my Christian character that we will form no combination with any one. We will go to the sale & take our chances. We expect it to sell for little or nothing & could not buy it if it does not. I mean compared with its cost. I concealed nothing from the Sec. I am persuaded it will not go high & the Collector will advise it is a bad time to sell & not to take the bid. He is not of the mould of men who can rise to the occasion. I thought both the Sec & Pres felt the moral gain made the material a mere question. If there is any hitch wont you help us to unloose it. I send you Mr Merricks reply. As you know I could give a favorable reply but cannot as agent of the Episcopal Ch myself make application officially to a Genl board as it would be bad taste. I have written him if Episcopalians individually can use their influence to get an appropriation that is all well. If you would take so much trouble - a line from you to Dr Mackey might put him on the right track. I assure you Genl there is no speculative or selfish end in this but for the Glory of God, the good of the Freedmen & the peace of the Country.

I am yours very truly  
A Toomer Porter  
My address is, 132 Pearl St Care Mr H M LeCount

[Newspaper clipping attached.]

(Communicated)

#### THE PEOPLE OF BUTLER COUNTY.

Respect for the advice of those whom I know to be my sincere friends, alone induce me to make this explanation; for in the discharge of what I believe my duty, and I assume no duty that I have not well considered, I ask no popularity, and fear no influences. I respect that popularity which is based upon truth, and a scrupulous love of justice; but I hold it in contempt, when it is founded upon the arts of the demagogue, who never takes a stand till he finds out how it will do in public opinions; who twists, and turns, and doubts and hesitates, and consults his grandfather and first cousins to know whether it will affect his prospective elevation, and his official hopes.

I was honored some time since with the request, to ascertain and report upon the cases of proper subjects for the benevolence of Government, in the way of rations. The duty has been an unpopular one; and required great trouble and firmness. It is impossible for any human being to attain a standard of excellence in anything in this life; but I have as faithfully traced the path of impartiality, as was possible. My principle has been to keep the charities of the United States in a proper channel. I have always thought that this dispensation tended to nourish a spirit of indolence and licentiousness; and believe that the very best boon, that could have been conferred upon the people, would have been, never to have dispensed rations at all. Self-reliance is better than port and beans, and begging, begun in the case of temporary destitution, degenerates into a habit of perpetual bondage and degradation. Still, I have tried, diligently, to do what was strictly just, and recommend the really destitute, without regard to sex, character, age, or color. Yet, with all my care, the officers of the Bureau, and myself, are frequently deceived. But I deny that, in any case, except deceived, rations have been recommended, where a person was able to work or had employment. Notwithstanding all this, I am beset, on every hand, with all the misrepresentations, that stupidity and perverseness can engender. One furious patriot assails me in my office, for daring to give rations, out of his taxes, to a crippled negro, eighty years of age; a strong minded woman tells me the officers of the Bureau and I, have pilfered, as she "s creditably informed," two thousand gold dollars, out of the commissary meal barrels!

What interest is it to me? Does any one with a scruple of reflection, suppose that anything but public-spirit could induce me to hold a position, that brings me no pay; that gives me no opportunity to steal; that takes half my time, that requires the patience of Job, and that keeps me constantly struggling against a strong current of unpopularity and abuse? If I am asked why I retain the position, I answer, because I have a stubborn determination to perform what I believe my duty the more men revile and vituperate.

I now desire to inform the people of the consequences of drawing rations. The Legislature of Alabama, by act of last session, makes it the duty of every public officer, to report to the Probate Judges, the cases of all children, under eighteen, who either are orphans, without visible means of support, or the children of parents who cannot, or will not support them; and it is made the imperative duty of the Probate Judges, to bind them out. Now when a person draws rations, it is an admission, that the parties are not able to support their children; and they must expect those facts to be reported as evidence against them.

I admit the calamity which has fallen upon the people; but the destitution of the country has been grossly exaggerated by those who love to suck at the public teats, and who go about fomenting discontents, and who find that running to and fro, and inflating their checks to puff out pretty things about charity and the hungry poor, are good easy stepping stones to public office.

I pray the people to cease crawling to the Freedmen's Bureau for charity. The stream of private benevolence will never run dry. No one will be allowed to starve in this country, and contempt, with independence, than to fatten upon the bounty which brings humiliation and shame.

Benj. F. Porter.  
Greenville, Ala., June 19, 1866.

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3640 6/16/1866      *From:* J.E. Bryant

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3590

Office of the Loyal  
Georgian  
Augusta, GA.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[177]

[Letterhead]

Office of the Loyal Georgian  
Augusta, GA.,  
June 16 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Sir -

I have the honor to send you a Loyal Georgian of this week. I am sorry that it is my duty to expose Genl Tillson. We are from the same State but he has not done his duty. He is and has been trying to ruin my character but I shall not stoop to assail him in that way. I have been a soldier. I feel that Genl Tillson to cater to Southern prejudice and make himself popular & opposed the teachers who desired to honor the memory of the Union Dead in our city cemetery. I was incensed at his course and if I had yielded to my feelings should have denounced him but the account I gave was very mild as you will see by referring to the Loyal Georgian of May 5th. I shall be true to freedom but I am and have been conservative in my course since I came to this city as I can prove by reference to my printed speeches and letters.

The following communication [see below] was in the first issue of this weeks paper. It was put in without my knowledge and taken out after I discovered it as the paper I send you will show. I mention this thinking that perhaps it may be sent to you to injure me.

I am  
With much Esteem  
J E Bryant  
Late Capt 8th Me Vol Infy

[Attachment of a Newspaper Clipping]

Communicated

LET US RALLY AROUND THE FLAG

Captain Bryant (our good and faithful friend,) is attacked by a lion, and the threat is made that he shall be driven from this city, because of his kindness to us. Boys! The Captain befriended us in our hour of great need. Now is the chance to return our gratitude. Let us do it. A general desire is manifested to make up a purse for him. To put the ball in motion, it is proposed that all who wish to make him a present in cash, will call at Wm Hale's store, and leave their one, five or ten dollars. Come up boys! The time for talk is over. Let us prove to the world that we are a grateful people. Go to William Hale's store.  
William Tell.

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3641 6/16/1866 *From:* Wm. A. Booker

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3591

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[8]

New York June 16, 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
My dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive your esteemed fam of 9th inst.

Since the few days we spent so pleasantly together I have been to St Louis to attend the Meeting of the Genl Assembly of the N.S. Presbyterian Church and in returning, went to Boston to attend the anniversary of the Am Tract Society. My family are now preparing to return to our Summer home at Stratford during the next week. When I get there, I hope to take some rest, which I begin to feel that I need.

I should have been pleased if you put into execution your thoughts of coming up to see us in your last visit to the City. You would be interested to have spent a Sabbath here, & going among the Mission Schools & seeing what is being done for our destitute population in the way of religious instruction.

Have have no doubt you have done wisely in adding to your ground, so as to have enough for your wants. I wish I could raise for you the amt. you desire, to pay for it, but I cannot.

If Dr Boynton or Mr Alvord come here to make an effort for the sum, I will consul them as far as I can. The pressure on my time is too great for me to offer to do more. It is a good wish & should succeed. I enclose a check, in your favor, for \$200, which please appropriate to the object.

My family are well, & remember your brief visit with them with much satisfaction.

Yours very truly  
Wm. A. Booker

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3642 6/16/1866     *From:* S.D. Bowker

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-3592

Biddeford Me.

Superintendent of  
Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181, 182]

Biddeford Me.  
June 16th 1866

Superintendent of Freedmen's Bureau  
Dear Sir

I write not knowing whether this will find Gen Howard in Washington. I simply wish to learn if Gen Howard will be in Washington during the next ten or fifteen days. I have been <> to see him on matters of some importance. If he will not be in Washington at the time mentioned when will he or when can he be seen in any place in the North? An answer to this directed to me at 56 Court St. Boston, Mass will be a special favor.

Very Truly Yours  
S.D. Bowker

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Biddeford Me  
June 16th 66  
Bowker S.D.

Inquires whether Genl Howard will be in Washington during the next ten or 15 days.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JUN 18 1866

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3643 6/16/1866 *From:* EWoodman

*To:* Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3593

Vernon Madison Co  
Miss

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[178, 179]

Vernon Madison Co Miss  
June 16 1866

Dear Cousin

Please find papers enclosed relative to pay due me as CO 28 Me. And I have to request that you, will put them into suitable hands for collection.

I would not ask this of you if I was acquainted with any reliable Agent in W.

I have never done any more than to get Mr Morrell to present a letter of enquiry touching the matter. The reason that it was not attended was owing to delay in getting receipts of Ordnance turned over by my Quartermaster.

I have now notice of receipt of Returns &c. I think there will be no delay in procuring the pay.

If you can receive its collection I wish you to retain one hundred dollars for Lizzie. I have always felt indebted to her and had I not expected to return to Maine & had the pleasure of seeing her I would send her the money before.

Hope you & your family are well. Sarah joins me in sending much love to Cousin Lizzie & the children.

We are on a Plantation & in an orderly neighborhood. Our little boy is now 2 yrs old & in good health except teeth trouble. I cannot say we like this Plantation life, but time may reconcile us to it. I work 14 hands. Crops not looking very well owing to too much rain.

Hope you will put these papers in prompt hands & very much oblige me.

Very truly your Cos  
EWoodman

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Madison Co. Vernon Miss

June 16th 1866

Woodman E.W.

Late Col. Maine Vols.

Friendly letter

Recd. June 27 1866

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3644 6/16/1866 *From:* William Bowen

*To:* Maj Genl. O O Howard

OOH-3594

Wash city D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[175, 176]

Wash city D.C.

Jun 16 1866

Maj Genl. O O Howard

Dear Sir

I address these few lines to you to inform you that I have had an interview with the Secretary Mr Albert, and he has with much patience and <compliments> given me information yet I am still not satisfyde. He referred to 5 & 6th section of the constitution of the <Bandrijg> company saying to me that in those sections a Prohibition was entered against all battery or exchange of the funds, other than what the provision of this <Act> or sections called for. I wish to no and would like to have decided on a question of interest to thousands of the Representative men of my race who have just such proposition to decide, is there section so sympathetic expressed as to not be interpreted in any other sense. Now I hope Genl, you will give me an opportunity to have a talk with you and when I do I think each will be Benefited by it. I am under Great obligations to you Genl, for your kind consideration so far.

My address is

William Bowen

618 G St. < > 5th & 6th Sts. Washington city D.C.

P.S.

I'll be pleased to receive an answer and I would like to no when I can see you. I wish to no if this matter cant be done with the company or some one of the officer take the industrial Responsibility. I hope this can in some way be effected.

Genl Please answer, to address

& truly

Wm Bowen

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3645 6/17/1866    *From:* A Walker

*To:* Messrs. Howard,  
Pomeroy & Brewster

OOH-3595

Wallingford, VT.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wallingford, VT. June 17/66

Messrs. Howard, Pomeroy & Brewster,  
Dear Sirs,

Your circular requesting aid for the erection of a congregational meeting house in Washington is received. The object commends itself to us as eminently worthy.

Hon. Silas H. Hodges - well known & honored in this region –has expressed a willingness to visit some of our congregations in the vicinity of Rutland during his summer vacation to make collections for this object, & probably more will be secured by him than in any other way. In this town those who love Christ & Congregationalism are not numerous, nor rich, but we will do something for you.

Yours truly  
A Walker

[Summary written upside down at the bottom of the back page, in a different hand.]  
Wallingford, Vt.  
June 17, 1866  
Walker, A.  
Concerning Cong. Church

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3646 6/17/1866

*From:* Allan Rutherford

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3596

Bu R F and A.L  
Hd Qr's Southern Dis't  
NC

Com'r Bu R F & A.L  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[183, 184, 185, 186, 187]

Unofficial

Bu R F and A.L  
Hd Qr's Southern Dis't NC  
June 17th 1866

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bu R F & A.L  
Washington, D.C.  
General

In reply to your letter of the 11th calling my attention to a letter written by the Rev James Thurston to a Member of Congress, complaining of irregular action on the part of the Bureau in this District: I have to say, that I have seen Mr Thurston in accordance with the suggestion contained in your letter, and he informs me that in his letter, he made no reference to my acts as Superintendent of this District, except as such acts had been changed, or overruled, by the Assistant Com'r of the State (Gen'l Ruger). He stated that he believed from the course they had already pursued that the officers at Raleigh, now at the head of the Bureau in this State, were seeking to render it powerless for good.

I avail myself of the opportunity of replying to your unofficial letter to call your attention to some facts in regard to Bureau Affairs in this State, which I could not have brought to your attention in any other way or under other circumstances, without exposing myself to charges of disrespect towards my superior officers; and I would say, unofficially, that the opinion also expressed by Mr Thurston is also my opinion.

On the relief of Genl. Whittlesey as Asst Comr, Bvt Col Clinton A Cilley A.A.G. US Vols was placed on duty as A.A.G. of the Bureau and Col McGarber AQM was placed on duty as Bureau Quartermaster. The Report of Genl. Sewell of your Staff in regard to Colonel Cilleys method of conduction the Bureau while he was on duty as Superintendent of the Western District of this State, may explain why the action of the Bureau should be a subject of complaint from those friends who do not wish to see it made "n instrument for the oppression of the Freedmen."

In the District of which I am Superintendent Majors Mann and Wiskersham have until lately been on duty, one as Quartermaster and Financial Agent, and the other as Ass't Sup't of this Sub. Dist, and they were each authorized to employ one Clerk. I also had two Clerks employed in my office. Since the two officers named have been relieved from duty, I am only allowed one officer to fill both positions, and have been compelled to discharge all except one clerk in my own office. The result of this is, that my time is now so completely taken up in performing a clerks duty, that I cannot devote that attention to other business which it requires.

Colonel Gabers hostility to the Bureau is well known, and he apparently avails himself of his official position to place every obstacle in the way of its officers, both in regard to the transaction of public business and in regard to any personal business that may necessarily pass through his office.

Lieut Means, 8th U.S. Infantry –Post Quartermaster here –stated to one of my employees that Colonel Garber had said to him "ot to take any trouble to accommodate the Officers of the Bureau" Col Garber refused to pay my accounts for mileage, on your order assigning me to duty in this State, until ordered to do so by the Quartermaster General.

On the 9th Inst, I was ordered to turn over all Government Transportation used by the Bureau in this District, to the Post Quartermaster here altho it had been issued for the use of the Bureau by order of the Secretary of War, and is very necessary for the proper transaction of its business. Immediately on Col Garbers assuming the duties of Bureau Quartermaster –relieving Bvt Maj Johnston –he refused to issue Forage to supply the Public Animals used by me –declaring that there was no authority for its issue –and from the 1st to the 10th of

this month (when the Transportation was turned over) the Public Animals were only kept from starving by my borrowing the Forage necessary for their use. In regard to Col Garber's previous efforts to embarrass the operations of the Bureau while he was Chief Quartermaster of the Department of North Carolina. I can only refer you to Genl Whittlesey and other officers who were on duty in the Bureau at the time.

Since the visit of Generals Steadman and Fullerton the Rebel element has become perfectly rampant and instances of injustice to the Freedmen more frequent than before. I have had considerable difficulty with the Mayor of this City A H Vanbokelson –who boasted in my office, in the presence of Genl Sewell of your Staff, that he was “n original secessionist”- in consequence of him many gross acts of tyranny and injustice towards the colored people. On reporting of these cases to the Ass't Com'r at Raleigh, I was directed not to interfere.

A number of cases have been reported to me where union men had been indicted for acts committed during the war, on trumped up charges of “ssault & Battery” Larceny”&c with the expressed intention of convicting and whipping them, so as to drive them out of the County. Among such cases I will mention the following case of Stephen Elkins (white) indicted by the County Court of Columbus County for assault and Battery, committed during the war. This case was reported to me by Lieut EH McQuigg, Ass't Sup't of Columbus County, and showed that Elkins had been a Union man, and had lived in the swamp during several years of the war to save himself from serving in the Rebel Army, that he acted in concert with other Union men and with escaped Union prisoners & colored men and had a sort of a Rendezvous for escaped Union prisoners. I made a statement of the case, and endorsed the opinion of Lieut McQuigg that if the man Elkins was tried by a Civil Court he would certainly be convicted, and recommended that he be tried by a Military Commission, if tried at all. The papers were returned to me with an endorsement, that there was no cause to interfere with the action of the Civil Courts. Another case is that of a man named John Thompson also of Columbus County, who was tried here last week on a charge of Larceny committed during the war, and was convicted and publicly whipped.

I have endeavored to act consistently and to carry out the orders I have from time to time received, and have followed, as far as they were applicable, the precedents of cases previously decided. I trust General that you will excuse my troubling you with so long a letter, and that you will regard it as an unofficial communication, as I am well aware that if it were brought to the attention of the officers of the Head of the Bureau in this State, it is in their power to make my position very unpleasant. I availed myself of your unofficial letter to reply and state the forgoing facts, believing that you would desire to be informed of them.

I am General  
With Great Respect  
Your Obedt. Servant,  
Allan Rutherford  
Lieut Colonel VRC  
(Bvt Colonel U.S.V.)  
Sup't So. Dist N.C.

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3647 6/17/1866 *From:* John D Myrick

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-3604

Norfolk Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[104]

Norfolk Va  
June 17th 1866

Dear Genl -

Several months have elapsed since I have had the pleasure of hearing from you. I <> has been for many months in the South Florida organizing my <negroes> & getting them in a contented <condition>. None of my negroes left me. All remain and I have settled them on a land upon the English system. Gave the yr & I take 2/12 – as I pay all expenses of cultivation.

Your agent Capt Hambleton, who is a nice gentleman, when I <left> <gave> him the privilege of my House, wrote me if any change should take place on your <bureau> - I am <likewise> <collonizing> my negroes <up here> in the same manner.

My book will be out in a month or less. I had <from> you some <complaints> as you will see.

Hoping to hear from you soon I  
Am Genl  
Your friend  
John D Myrick

[Summary written sideways on the second page, in a different hand below the ending of the letter.]

Norfolk Va  
June 27th 1866  
DeMyrick John  
Friendly letter  
Recd June 30th 1866

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3648 6/18/1866 *From:* P. Jackson

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3597

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[188]

Washington June 18th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

By your permission, we would be happy to Serenade you at your residence on Wednesday evening between the Hour of 10 to 11 O Clk P.M.

You will please excuse the abrupt manner of asking so much of your time which we know is precious. We earnestly hope that you will accept this as one of our expressions of appreciation of yourself as our Good Friend.

We are your Obt Servants

P. Jackson

Leader of the 1st District Col Brass Band

Washington D.C.

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3649 6/18/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk

*To:* Maj Genl Howard

OOH-3598

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Tennessee  
Assistant  
Commissioner's Office  
Nashville, Tenn.

Washington D.C.

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[189]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Tennessee  
Assistant Commissioner's Office  
Nashville, Tenn.,  
June 18th 1866

Dear General -

I have the honor to introduce herewith Rev. A.L. P. Green D.D. Of Nashville who desires to confer with you touching the refunding the rents received from his property formerly held as abandoned.

I have not hesitancy in commending Dr. Green to your confidence –or in saying that he is entitled to the most liberal consideration in adjusting the claim he presents –which is for rents rec'd subsequent to the libel of his property. My correspondence on this subject heretofore gives a full history of the case, and shows the action of the Federal Court in the <process>.

I am Genl  
With Great Respect  
Your Obt. Servt  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt. Maj Genl  
Asst Comr

Maj Genl Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Washington D.C.

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3650 6/19/1866     *From:* Jacob R. Shipherd

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3568

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Missionary  
Association  
29 Lombard Block  
Chicago

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[6]

[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association  
29 Lombard Block  
Chicago  
Secretaries:  
    George Whipple, New York  
    Michael E. Strieby, New York  
    Jacob R. Shipherd, Chicago  
June 19 66

My dear Brother:

Dropping titles, and with them all official indirection, I answer your note as frankly as its openness invites.

I wish you had told me what is the "blight" on your "grain" at Boston, & whether you couple it with our talk at Willard's because you think I have been preparing some "blight" for your "grain" at Boston or elsewhere. For if you think so, you were never more mistaken in all your life. There is not, inside or outside the Congregational Church of the United States, a man, woman or child more thoroughly appreciative of the merit, or more profoundly in earnest for the process of the Washington enterprise than a certain outspoken man who talked with you at Willard's of his fears.

It is because I am so solemnly in earnest that my opinions are definite, positive, and active.

I told you what I feared. I have since compared notes with three men, all of them like yourself, profoundly anxious for your large and complete success. I had previously conferred with three others, perhaps with four or even five, every one of them grave, prudent, large minded Christian ministers who seek only the success of your enterprise. I have always spoken hopefully – as hopefully as I dared. I have insisted upon the opportunity and the possibility. I have not withheld expression of my abundant faith in a noble soldier whom it was my memorable privilege to introduce to the Christian people of this city. I have repeated all the good things I ever heard of Dr Boynton, without abatement or drawback – & you will agree with me that no man ever achieved a brilliant reputation upon a smaller capital. And while I was in Washington I did all in my power – within conscientious limitations of silence – to strengthen his hands with his people, to give the best results to his labors. I broached my objections only after I learned with surprise that it was proposed to install him as the permanent pastor of the church, I broached them first to Mr Thompson, & then to yourself, & beyond these two conversations I maintained absolute reserve.

Mr Thompson assured me with promptness & spirit, that if the truth had been known the call would never have been agreed to, & lamented only the lateness of my frankness. You thought the ecclesiastical structure of the church of no primary importance. And your reply at least double my fears. For if you are indifferent when your pastor is not merely zealous but imperative – can there be a doubt of the result?

Now, the whole thing is in a nutshell. You want a Congregational Church at Washington. You cannot possibly want one more than I do. And if I were but at liberty I would offer today to join you in a covenant to make a tour which should not end until the last penny of the \$50,000 was raised. I should challenge you afresh upon every platform to make the strongest appeal your heart would sanction, & I would outdo it! For I do want a Congregational Church at Washington. And by Congregational I do not mean such a church as the Vine Street Church of Cincinnati, with a despot for a pastor & a regular Presbyterian session for church business.

Now I am but one of three thousand ministers, & but one of 200,000 Congregationalists, not one of whom would

give one penny toward a church at Washington which proposed to install Dr Boynton as its pastor, after they should know what I know of the man & his record.

And do you think, my dear brother, that we hold back because we do but trifle when we say that our heart is as your heart toward the success of the enterprise? Nay, you must find charity enough to believe the unqualified assertion that it is the depth of our zeal which works in us this wholesome jealousy and reasonable caution.

You say: "He will stand firm, if he doesn't."

Why, my dear brother, when you have the choice of the best Congregationalist pastors in the country, is it necessary to take a Presbyterian pervert, whom you confess may attempt your perversion? Is there not enough at stake to justify entire insurance and then, dear brother, who are you that promise to stand firm? Are you not men every one of whom may, & a large proportion of whom certainly will be citizens of some other place within a few years? Do you not see that a zealous, active, persistent settled pastor at Washington has the entire enterprise in his own hands? Your membership, more than that of any other church of equal rank in the country, is constantly changing: the minister only remains.

Finally, you must observe that we who upon just occasion frankly express our views in the premises, are no meddlers in other men's matters. To begin with the regnant idea of the church as first recognized by the church itself, and afterward by the denomination at large, is the idea of an essentially impersonal representative church, precisely analogous to the elective government in its various branches. Expressly on this ground, & almost on no other the church appeals to the denomination to build for the denomination a house of worship in which members of the denomination tarrying at the capital for longer or shorter periods may worship God after the manner of their fathers. We listen to your request, & reply: "We are ready to plant a Congregational Church as you ask; to build it with our own hands." Those of us who know Dr Boynton are bound before God to add, "provided always, & upon this condition only; that you do not install your present preacher, but secure an able representative Congregationalist whose record is above question."

I have not lifted my arm, be it stronger or weaker, against your enterprise; nor shall I ever do it, so long as I remain sane: but against the installation of Dr Boynton, I shall protest to the end: and so long as he continues the approved pastor of the church, I cannot so far violate the clearest conviction of christian duty as to give or advise others to give any considerable aid toward your building.

This has been no pleasant letter to write. Until recently I should have preferred not to write it, even to you, whose friendship I esteem more highly than you probably know: - and I say even to you because, as you know, it is easiest to be frank with those in whom we most freely confide. I could not have written this to any one else without severe pain. As all other duties none is so distasteful to me as opposition to a pastor. Pastors are already like hunted partridges, & all my instincts are on their side. But his case is altogether exceptional: the minister has no shadow of a claim to this place, & has already been suffered long. It is only necessary that his record should get abroad to make you infinite trouble, at any time. You walk over a mine, which any chance spark may spring. Why not build upon a solid foundation - upon a rock - from the first?

Answer me this, my dear brother; give me your "strong reasons" for running so great a risk, & if I am wrong I will not stay wrong a single day.

Do not let us be parted, in this or in any other good work. Either, set me right or let me set you right: let us come shoulder to shoulder & work with both hands & with one heart until the walls are all builded.

Fraternally & affectionately,  
Jacob R Shipherd

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3651 6/19/1866

*From:* H. Sweeney  
Capt. Co. H.  
U.S.C.I.  
Genl. Supt. R.F.A.L.

*To:* Hon S.C. Pomeroy

OOH-3618

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office of General  
Superintendent for  
Eastern Arkansas  
Helena, Arkansas

U.S. Senator  
Washington, D.C.

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[137, 138]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office of General Superintendent for Eastern Arkansas  
Helena, Arkansas  
June 19th 1866

Hon S.C. Pomeroy  
U.S. Senator  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry to trouble you with my private affairs, knowing the many and arduous duties of your high station, but some base and malicious false reports have been sent to Major Genl. O.O. Howard regarding my conduct both morally and officially by some person to me unknown, but with the evident intention of getting me out of office, and placing some friend of theirs in it.

Maj Genl. J.W. Sprague has been here during the past few days having a full and public investigation and has taken the Depositions of nearly twenty persons both leading Union men, ex Federal Officers, and Colored men. All of who testified in the same spirit and to the same effect as expressed in the enclosed letter of the Hon. Jack Hanks, Judge of the 1st Judicial District of Arkansas.

I ask you dear Sir, as the powerful friend of the oppressed, and as a matter of the very greatest personal favor, if you could conveniently and without giving yourself too much trouble, to let Major General see the testimonials which I have forwarded you, at various times, from our old Army Officers and Others.

I feel very sensitive my dear Sir, about the matter, as I value my reputation as any old Soldier should, having served our Government and Country faithfully and honestly for twelve long years, without being censured once, and doing the past eighteen months labored hard in the cause of humanity and justice.

I presume Major Genl Sprague will make a report of his investigation to Genl. Howard giving the testimony adduced, which will prove that the confidence of my Superiors has not been misplaced.

As you promised to be friend me I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject.

Respectfully asking you to return me Judge Hank's letter after you have read it as I prize such testimonials a desire to keep them.

I remain Dear Sir  
Your Respectful & Obt. Sert.  
H. Sweeney  
Capt. Co. H. U.S.C.I. -  
Genl. Supt. R.F.A.L.

[Summary written sideways in the left third of the back page, in a different hand.]

Helena Ark

June 19th 66

Sweeny H

Capt & Genl. Supt.

Bureau R.F.&A.L.

Concerning malicious charges against him by some person unknown.

[Response written in the middle third of the last page.]

Referred to Maj. Genl. Howard

The writer so far as I know –or have ever heard - is all right. I cannot believe any well grounded charges can be made against him. I am

S. C. Pomeroy

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3652 6/19/1866

*From:* Alex. M. Davis

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3619

Office of The Tribune  
Raleigh N.C.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[190, 191]

[Letterhead]

Office of The Tribune  
Raleigh N.C. June 19 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

We anxiously await the forming of the Court Martial; and, the rumors that Genl Turner will not come reach us with doleful moment.

Perhaps it is not inopportune that I suggest that Genl Ruger is rather a bad selection for Pres. or even a member of the court as I'm inclined to believe Genl W. will wreak his testimony on his defence, and besides I know him to have a decided personal dislike and prejudice toward Chaplin <Glaois> from his remarks to me last summer while here relative to a Tribune letter from Goldsborough. No doubt the Administration propose to crowd the evidence for prosecution and take every means of conviction even by sophistry. <Hence> a fair and unprejudiced court is all that's wanted, hence the propriety of perhaps suggesting the change.

I don't desire you to infer I wish to garble the fact to a "radical view". I intend as my employers desire to give impartial, clear definite facts. Hence as one of the means through whom the public will form its opinions. I trust to start in the work riping up Bureau affairs with correct auspices.

I make the suggestion in all candor.

The union men are taking fresh impetus and life anew since Senator Fessenden's report, and are now happy in the expectation Congress will relieve the pressure that the over lenient policy of the President has placed them under. If only true union men on every hand could get the government patronage what a blessing it would be to promote the healthy belief our country cares for its adherents. But unfortunately special agents & else pander and hob nob with mild & water influence until at last drawn into the vortex of rebellious associations who clean them of all influence. Why should we find men nominated who cannot take the oath.

Respectfully offered by  
Your obdt Servt  
Alex. M. Davis

[Summary written on the last page in a different hand.]

Raleigh N.C. June 18th 1866

Davis, Alex. M.

Gives his views of affairs in North Carolina.

Recd June 21, 1866

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3653 6/19/1866     *From:* John Chester

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3620

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[192, 193]

Washington June 19th 1866

Major General Howard  
Sir,

Permit me to state, that I have ascertained from Rev Mr Fey, who has been over the road, that Oxford is but fourteen miles from a station on the Baltimore & Phil'da RR. called "North-East". Leaving here on Thursday morning at 7 ½ you would reach North East about 11 oclk & Lincoln University at one. Mr Fey says he has often made the trip in an hour & a half.

If time permit, the Secretary of the Board of Education will try to make arrangements for a carriage from Oxford to be at the North East Depot, on Thursday morning. If he succeeds, will telegraph you to that effect. If he fails, they still hope, you may find it convenient to be present, as he states it has been announced in all the religious papers that you would be there, and your presence would be a great help to this noble cause.

Very respectfully  
John Chester

The Excursion train from Phil'da leaves at 7.20 A.M., from Westchester depot corner of 31st & Market Sts, - returning leaves Oxford 5.45 P.M. arriving in Phil'da at 9. P.M.

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington DC

June 19 '66

Chester Mr. John

Facilities for travel –train time &c from Phila to Oxford & Lincoln University.

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3654 6/19/1866

*From:* J.B. Kiddoo  
Bvt Maj Gen Vols  
Asst Com

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3621

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas  
Galveston

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[194, 195]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas  
Galveston  
June 19th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Commissioner  
&c &c &c  
General:

I have the honor to report that I have taken the proper steps to procure the information required in your communication of the 4th ult, but Gov Hamilton as well as Gen Gregory with whom I send this Communication will inform you as to the almost impracticability of getting the report you want in the form prescribed in this State. As to the matter of "destitution" referred to, I have to report that there is comparatively none except the small amount indicated on my ration return to which I respectfully refer you. I have some apprehensions that some destitution will result from the extensive overflows in certain portions of the State, but against which proper precautions have been taken. The reports required as to the number of rations necessary to prevent destitution will be promptly furnished.

I will immediately make an extended report of affairs in this state. Have not done so sooner because I had not been here sufficiently long to learn the exact state of affairs.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
J.B. Kiddoo  
Bvt Maj Gen Vols  
Asst Com &c &c

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Galveston Texas  
June 19th 1866  
Kiddoo J.B.

Bvt Maj. Genl. & A.C.

Concerning reports on the matter of destitution, referred to in Genl Howard's letter. There is comparatively little destitution in Texas.

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3655 6/20/1866

*From:* Clinton B Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl, A.C.

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3622

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Tennessee  
Assistant  
Commissioner's Office,  
Nashville, Tenn.

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[199]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Tennessee  
Assistant Commissioner's Office,  
Nashville, Tenn.,  
June 20th 1866

Dear General,

I am in receipt of your favor 16th inst touching the application of Dr. A.L. P. Greene to rent monies ordered restored to him by the Federal Court. I have refused to obey the order of the Court, and shall of course continue to do so, unless authorized by yourself or the Secy of War to make payment. Dr Greene will visit you in person with the next few days to favor his claim. I gave him a letter of introduction in which I commend him to your confidence & liberal consideration. I esteem him personally –but do not ask for him any special consideration over other sinners.

Very Respectfully  
Your Ob't Sert  
Clinton B Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl, A.C.

Maj Genl Howard  
Comr &c  
Washington, D.C.

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Nashville Tenn. June 20, 1866  
Fisk, Clinton B.  
Maj. Gen.  
Friendly note  
June 24th 1866

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3656 6/20/1866 *From:* W.E. Harris

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3623

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[196]

Washington June 20th / 66

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Sir

I have the honor to make the following statements in regard to the Priders trial school under my charge - which were organized about three months since. We have furnished employment & instruction to one hundred (100) monies, & six hundred <gurnies> to have been completed. We have felt very much energized in the improvement made & really feel as though we were seeing the fruits of our instruction. The only draw-back to our work is the wants of material, for it takes a large quantity to keep twenty five women employed even four or five hours per day. Beside they are all poor & many of them very destitute, so I have thought it best to pay them very literally from their work in clothing &c. & have also distributed about fifteen hundred garments among the sick & needy.

In consideration with our school we have a Sunday which we are trying to make useful both in the way of instruction & pecuniary aid to those <> are here to benefit.

Hoping that this brief sketch of our work may meet with favor, I remain

Very Respectfully Yours

W.E. Harris

Agt. Rvd Free <>

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3657 6/20/1866     *From:* A.N. Rankin

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3624

P.O. Box 5, 733  
76 John Street  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[197, 198]

P.O. Box 5, 733  
76 John Street  
New York, June 20 / 66

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir:

The circular, referring to the "Congregational Church" at the Capital of the Nation, addressed to Rev. Lyman Abbott came duly to hand.

Mr. Abbott, for the purpose of recuperating his health, which has been seriously impaired latterly, has gone to the State of Maine – to be absent a few weeks.

As soon as he returns your paper shall be placed in his hands.

You will perhaps remember that I informed you at Mr. Beecher's church, the night of the "Congregational re-union," that Mr. Abbott was sick – he has never been well since.

God bless and prosper the Washington Church enterprize is the prayer of Yours Truly  
A.N. Rankin

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York, June 20, 1866  
Rankin, A.N.  
Friendly letter  
Recd June 21st 1866

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3658 6/21/1866 *From:* A J Barnet

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3625

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York June 21 1866

Genl O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

You will remember at the meeting of the Trustees for the Freedmens Savings Bank in our city last month, I took upon myself to introduce to your acquaintance Mr L.B. Chittenden of Brooklyn (merchant of this city) and alluded to the effort being made here in behalf of the new Cong'l Church in Washington and expressed my regret to Mr Chittenden, that he did not listen to your earnest appeal the Evening before in Mr Beechers Church.

Will you pardon me if I suggest to you, that you write Mr Chittenden a few lines putting forth thoughts of your worthy enterprize & the want of such help as he can give, and make an engagement to meet him at his office, (or his house which would be preferable) at a time suited to your convenience. I feel quite confident, that a personal interview of Genl Howard with Mr Chittenden, will secure a handsome subscription for the Church. Knowing your deep interest in this enterprize, and having a deep sympathy my self in its progress & success, I have taken this liberty of addressing you, & remain with great respect

Yours Very Truly,  
A J Barnet

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3659 6/21/1866

*From:* H. Van Aernam

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3626

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

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[200, 201]

[Letterhead & engraving of the U.S. Capitol]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

June 21st 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

General

You will allow me the pleasure of introducing to you the bearer of this Lieut F.J. Foster, and I cheerfully invite your most favorable consideration of his application. This is the young gentleman I commended to you personally a short time since; and as the appropriation for the "Freedmen's Bureau" has now passed the Senate, I should have taken the liberty of again pressing this case upon you personally, but am prevented from doing so, by being called home on account of alarming sickness in my family.

I am the more earnest in this matter, because I know the Lieutenant would suit you.

I am General

Very respectfully Yours.

H.[Henry] Van Aernam [U.S. Representative from New York]

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington D.C. June 21, 1866

Aernam, H. Van.

Recommends Lt. F.J. Foster for position as clerk in the Bureau

Recd. June 23, 1866

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3660 6/22/1866

*From:* W.L. Coan

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3627

New Haven Conn

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[10]

New Haven Conn  
June 22d /66

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
My dear Genl

I have written to Mr Mattoon by this mail, but would submit for your consideration, the main question proposed, that you may consider it even before meeting other members of your Committee.

Mr Eustis asks why not let the entire property be owned by the Cong'l Union?

It would have all funds raised given to said Union, specifying of course for Washington Chh.

Dr. Bacon favoring the idea suggest that I learn from the Committee the objections, if any, to this suggestion.

They feel that a large amount must be raised out of W. The present Trustees are fully satisfactory but changes liable to occur lead them to these suggestions.

If you can, I wish you would address a note to Dr Bacon, immediately on the subject.

Yours truly  
W.L. Coan

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3661 6/23/1866

*From:* JE Bryant

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3628

Office of the Loyal  
Georgian,  
Augusta, Ga.,

Com. Bureau R.F & A.L

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[206, 207]

[Letterhead]

Office of the Loyal Georgian,  
Augusta, Ga.,  
June 23 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Com. Bureau R.F & A.L  
Dear Sir

Your favor of the 19th has been received. I was more than pleased to receive these few words from you. If I know my own heart General I am governed by pure motives. Genl Tillson being from our State I wanted to like him and approve of his course. I strengthened his hands as much as I could. But I knew long before the "cemetery affair" that the freedmens affairs were not properly managed in his office. I was censured by a friend of mine, a christian man because I did not expose the officers of the Bureau here. I gave my reasons for not doing so, reasons satisfactory to me. After the unsuccessful attempt of the teachers to decorate the graves of the Union Dead mans city cemetery I gave a mild account of the course pursued by Genls Browman and Tillson. But General I was incensed by their course.

After witnessing the parade attending the ceremony of decorating the graves of the Confederate Dead to think that the friends of our brave boys who died in defending their country could not in a quite way strew flowers on their graves and to think that Union Generals should yield to rebel clamor incensed me and yet I did not wish to increase the excitement although I considered it my duty to give the facts. I intended to publish nothing but the truth.

Gen'l Tillson sent for me immediately after the paper of the 5th of May was issued and cursed and swore at me in a brutal manner accusing me of being a liar &c &c. On account of his position in the Army, I could do nothing but leave his office.

I did not again allude to the cemetery affair for several weeks. But General Tillson commenced a system of persecution against me which was unexpected by me.

Previous to the "cemetery affair" Mrs Bryant and myself were upon friendly terms with the family of Genl Tillson. Mrs Tillson and Mrs Bryant frequently called upon each other. The General forbid his wife to call at my house after this. I was upon intimate terms with several gentlemen connected with the General Staff and they were ordered not only not to call upon me but not even to speak to me. Mr Eberhard Superintendent of Schools who had frequently used the Loyal Georgian as a medium through which he could reach the colored people in different parts of the State was instructed not to write for the paper under any circumstances. I had been practising before the freedmens courts by permission of General Tillson and by his permission charged the colored men a fee. But immediately after the account of the "cemetery affair" was published he gave orders not to allow me to practise longer. Not satisfied he charged me with deceiving the freedmen; with having illicit connection with colored women and indeed with almost every crime known among men. And he even repeated lies that had been told about my father.

I wrote a letter to him asking that he would appoint a committee; he choosing a Northern man or a colored man, for I was charged with committing crimes against colored people, and I proposed to do the same and they should choose a third and I would go before this committee and meet any charge he should bring against my character with the understanding that the report of the committee should be made public if he or myself desire it. This he refused to do. But nevertheless he continues to repeat the charges.

The result of his course is that I am in constant danger of being insulted and perhaps killed.

During all of this time I have never assailed his private character. When Generals Steadman and Fullerton

were here General Tillson on the Sabbath discussed the "cemetery affair" at one of the colored churches and attempted to have the colored people endorse his course. I thought that the time had come when it was my duty to discuss his policy in the Loyal Georgian. I have attempted to do so in a dignified manner and in a proper spirit, and of your brother Charles or any officer as upright as he should come here I think that I can satisfy him that I am doing my duty. I shall not assail General Tillson's character. There are many things that I like in him but I fear that he has no sympathy with those who are laboring to improve the condition of the freedmen. Without cause he called the teachers damned old maids and damned whores. Mr Russell a Congregational clergyman sent her by the American Missionary Association he called old Russell. These things may seem small but when you remember that they are said in the presence of men hostile to those who are laboring for the freedmen you can understand why it is that the Southern people here will more readily insult them.

I am not a christian man but I believe that my course has met the approbation of even christian man and woman here who have been laboring for the freedmen or are their true friends. But I believe in God and in prayer and if I know my heart I have done nothing and shall do nothing which I think will be displeasing to Him. This I say feeling that perhaps I may at any time be killed. I shall remain and try to do my duty. With Great Esteem  
JE Bryant

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3662 6/23/1866

*From:* Wm L. DeBeck  
Chief Secy Soldiers  
& Sailors Unions  
Head Quarters Soldiers  
& Sailors Unions  
Cincinnati

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3629

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[205]

Head Quarters Soldiers & Sailors Unions  
Cincinnati June 23, 66

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

The Soldiers & Sailors of The Great West give a grand demonstration on the 4th of July, and you are most cordially invited to be present, many of the leading generals of the Army have promised to be present, and we dont want you to fail us. Please notify us at once so we can make due preparation for you.

Truly Yours  
Wm L. DeBeck  
Chief Secy Soldiers & Sailors Unions  
Cinn. O.

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3663 6/23/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson  
Brvt Maj Gen Vol  
Asst Com  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia  
Augusta, Ga.

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3630

*Source:* Bowdoin

Com'r Bureau R.F.AL  
Washington D.C.

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[209, 210]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia  
Augusta, Ga.,  
June 23d 1866

Dear General

Your kind letter received last night. It seems to me that in advising me to pursue a course of "masterly inactivity" you forget that so far as the public is concerned I have done this. Up to the time you wrote me last probably no word of justification of my course had appeared in the Newspaper. I have written one short note for publication and sent it to the Tribune. It was my duty to keep you well informed. The result of my silence is, that the abuse and falsehood heaped upon me has daily increased until my friends from all parts of the country are calling upon me to defend myself. I enclose a copy of the Loyal Georgian of this week - no comment is necessary. The agent at Griffin whose conduct Bryant attacks is one of the most bitter and determined union men in the State. Bryants last move is to get up a celebration on the 4th of July next of which he is to be the head & front. Already so I am informed threats are made by prominent citizens that if he does this he will be shot. His object is to create such an excitement as to compell me to interfere and stop his proceedings in order to prevent <or> not - and so make capital out of it against me. The colored people have the undoubted right to celebrate the 4th of July and I shall defend them in the exercise of that right. If Bryant chooses to provoke the white people he must be responsible for the consequences so far as they may affect himself. So long as this fellow is allowed to remain in the state and publish whole sale lies about the Bureau and its officers and stir up strife between the races no improvement can be witnessed in the condition of the freed people. It seems that nothing will suit the purposes of this unscrupulous villain but that we must have bloodshed in the streets. Excuse me if I tire you on this subject, justice to myself and family makes it necessary for me to keep the record. I may need to use it.

I am Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brvt Maj Gen Vol  
Asst Com

Maj Genl Howard  
Com'r Bureau R.F.AL  
Washington D.C.

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3664 6/23/1866     *From:* T.G. Field

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3631

Home News Office,  
Marietta Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[211]

Home News Office,  
Marietta O, June 23, 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard,  
General,

I am requested by the Chairman of our Committee on Speakers to invite you to be present and address the soldiers of the 15th Ohio Cong. District on the 4th of July ult. As a member of the Committee, and one of your veterans, I took the liberty of presenting your name hereto with the above result. Aside from the historic interest attached to the first born City of the "Territory North West of the Ohio River", we have to extend as an inducement for you to accept our invitation, the information that you will meet many of your old troops among which I enumerate the 25th and 73d O.V.I., Batteries K (DeBeck) and H (Huntington) of the O.V.A. and Peirpoint (C, 1st W.VA Lt. Arty –Hill) and many other veterans who had the honor to serve under you at Gettysburg and who will be glad to meet and greet you once again.

It has been determined to make this the celebration of the West. We do not propose to permit any of the large Western Cities compare with us in our demonstrations of joy over the return of peace. Generals Cox, Hayes and others will be present.

Should you be pleased to accept this invitation it will afford me much gratification to have you make my house your home during what, I trust, may be your protracted stay among us.

Hoping to receive a favorable reply I have the honor to remain, General,  
Most Respectfully  
Your Obed't Serv't  
T.G. Field  
Late Lieut Batt'y C, 1st W.VA Lt Art'y  
("Peirpoint Battery")

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3665 6/24/1866      *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-3632

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds June 24 1866

My dear son,

Your favor of 15th inst, I received in due time. I am very glad to hear that the general health of the family are as good as could be expected. Lizzie I hope is still doing well, the little boy is healthy I trust and will be equal to any of his older brothers.

I think of you all daily, and at this time the anniversary of Grace's birth, and the many attendant circumstances connected with it are now living over again. Your fathers silent kindnesses, and Mrs Waite's quietly suffering out her life here with us, seem but a day in thought, but it has been an eventful nine years to me. My rooms are empty of all now. I have some fear of the hot weather on Lizzie's strength, I am much gratified to hear you, or read it, speak of each one of your family, individually they are dear to me at heart. I regret to be so far from my children.

I am a little lonely, uncomfortably so sometimes, but not unreasonably so. Twenty years this house has been my home and everything seems very natural. Every thing seems blooming, for two or three weeks. After I reached my home vegetation almost stood still, but since then everything is beautiful. The orchards were one mass of blossoms, then came flowering, trees and shrubs one species after another, and have continued. The snow balls have no insects to retard their beauty this year, and the syringas are now just in their sweetest time I have a great number of common flowers in my front yard. There are my pots. I have worked more than common in the front yard this year.

Yesterday I prepared a large wreath of flowers and sweet scented shrubs and placed on the coffin that contained the body of Dexter Howard. He died Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock after being a great sufferer he filled with water. I called to see him a few days before his death. So Deacon Howard has laid away his last son. He died in his full reason in true belief in his Savior. He said to his father a few days before his death he needs more grace to suffer and die thus, than to face death on the battlefield. He had no rest from great bodily suffering for a long while. Two or three nights before his death, his mother at parting with him for the night, said Dexter do you feel that you can rest tonight. No mother but a few more such nights and I shall rest forever.

Yesterday I attended the funeral. He was carried into the Church and from thence over the ridge to the family place of burial. He was dressed in his uniform and placed in a handsome coffin. The services were conducted very quietly and solemnly, but affecting to me. I have been spared so far seeing my sons borne away to the silent grave, all who have come to manhood.

We are generally health in town. Capt Turner is very feeble and I would not be surprised if he did not live much longer - he keeps his bed most of the time. I had our state female prayer meeting at my house Thursday. Laura came had her little boy with her and brother Ensign came to tea. He seems in good health. I saw them at the funeral yesterday.

I hoped to see R.B.H. This week but he wrote instead. He has not been here since Charles was here. Farmington seemed vacant enough without Ella and the children. Rowland has written you of Mrs Capt Lincoln Pattens death i suppose. Ella is now stoping with her Uncle for a few weeks.

Since I commenced this letter I was interrupted by a short call from Mary Frances Lothrop whom I have not seen for a long time before. Last evening I received a letter from Louisa Mower urging me to visit her before haying. She writes in good spirits says Warren hs recovered his health. Roland is farming regularly. His wife sells abundance of nice butter and eggs. The children go to school. Wash sends his, and they go along very well with the white children. To day is our conference and some are to be baptized tomorrow. I was out yesterday in the heat, and concluded to humor my strength by staying at home. I received Charles letter by last nights mail which still speaks of Lizzie's being in a good way. Charles ask me to suggest a name for boy No. 4, but as I have always stood aloof in such things I may as well this time. Edward is a good name and so are many others. Remember me very affectionately to all your family individually

Affectionately yours  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

Maria is out hoing with Wash, helped him plant his corn, and hoe his potatoes. Yesterday is hoing corn. He says she hoes faster than him.

I shall write Charles very soon. Am rather glad the horse dont come as it brings another <negro silulate>. Dont let Charles forget my picture. I will have it framed.

Your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

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3666 6/25/1866      *From:* Susan W Jackson

*To:* My Dear friend Mrs  
[Lizzie] Howard

OOH-3633

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[640]

Portland June 25 1866

My Dear friend Mrs Howard

How do you do today? I expect the weather with you is very warm with you now. It is pretty warm here now. We had a cold spring.

I think of you every day; especially when I put on the pretty Gingham dress which you bought for me in Augusta. I often think of last summer with pleasure and shall ever feel glad that I was with you at that time. How is it with your house there now. I have made for you a very pretty braided mat from those pieces you gave me, and if you ever live where I can get it to you shall be happy so to do.

Susie Thwing with her children made us a visit in April, since that time she was moved into another house. Mr Thwing will visit us again in about a month, if nothing prevents.

When you were here last, I think I told you I received my last letter from Charles last October, and that was dated Fort Pickens. I have receive letters frequently for several months past, from his half Brother Marcus J Jackson. He heard that he was in New Orleans, and has written to him, asking him to come to Lynchburg Virginia, where he is settled, and printing a paper. He has at last received a letter from Charles, and knowing how anxious I felt on his account, sent me the letter, enclosed in his about the former desertion you already know. His letter to his Brother is dated June 8th, and he writes as follows – I was on a Boat running to Vicksburg about a month, when I left her in this place New Orleans. And after some time, enlisted in the 1st New Orleans Volls, where I have been ever since. The Regiment is now mustered out, but I, for being absent without leave for about a week in the City, was arrested, tried, and sentenced to six months confinement at Ship Island, to which place I am waiting to be sent. My time will be up the 28 of next November, when I will gladly come on see you if you remain there. He writes, there are about \$100 when my time is out, and \$2.75 more if I get pardoned. This is sad news of him is it not, but it might be worse. He still lives, and I was thankful for that. I little thought when he passed the summer of 1862 there, that at the close of the war he would be sent there a prisoner. He and his Brother both think that if Mr Howard know of it he could in some way get him out of it, and this is why I trouble you with the sad tale. My heart aches for the poor child. O how hard the way of transgressors is. I hope his life will be spared to repent of all wrong doing, and become good.

Sister Waite and myself have intended to call on your friend Mr. Jewett. I hope we shall soon be able to. This spring time has been very busy with us. Sister has now a heavy cold, and cough, but I hope it will soon yield to this good warm weather. The remainder of us are well as usual. Alberts wife has taken three of her little girls, and gone to Freeport for a short time. Pleas give my love to your Mother, and the dear Children. I think of them often.

A line from you, or your Husband as soon as convenient will be very gratefully received,  
by your friend

Susan W Jackson

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3667 6/25/1866 *From:* C.H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3634

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[194]

Augusta June 25th 1866

Dear General,

I notice the appropriations of Congress a large amount to the Freedman's Bureau and among the articles specified was that of Clothing. If you are not too much occupied will you write me how the Bureau of Freedmen is supplied with clothing? Who gives the contract? And if it is done by advertising? I supposed you would know all about it and have taken the liberty to write you. If you can consistently with your position aid me in getting a contract for this clothing, any part or all of it you will confer a favor. I am in a position that I can make an arrangement of this nature with the strongest assurances that every thing shall be perfectly satisfactory as to quality, time, &c.

Trusting I may hear from you soon fully explaining this matter. I am very truly your friend.

I paid a Gas Bill which I enclose, say \$4.12 and as I think there will no more Bills be presented I forward this to close it up. We are all very well this summer and living quietly as we have been the past few years. Nothing especially new except we are to have our church dedicated one week from next thursday evening and it will then be all completed with Organ, Carpets &c and a most beautiful church inside and out. Our Sabbath School is in good flourishing condition and will be very much larger when we have a new Library and get into the new church.

With kindest regards to Mrs H & the children I am Truly  
C.H. Mulliken

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Augusta Maine June 25 1866

Mulliken, C.H.

Desires information concerning the Bureau.

[Recd] June 27 1866

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3668 6/25/1866

*From:* Chas. H. Hart

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3635

1819 Chestnut Street  
Phila.

Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[212]

1819 Chestnut Street  
Phila. June 25th 1866

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmens Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
My dear Sir

Some time since I took the liberty of addressing you a letter of inquiry relative to obtaining a copy of your "Gettysburg address July 4th 1865" which you kindly had answered stating that it had not yet been published. A few weeks since I saw a copy and since then I have been endeavoring to procure one, but without success so I now dare to write you again to ask if you can direct me where it may be found.

Trusting you will pardon this second intrusion

I am with much respect  
Your obd. Servt  
Chas. H. Hart

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3669 6/25/1866

*From:* Jno. S. Blatchford  
General Secretary  
United States Sanitary  
Commission  
Central Office 244 F  
Street  
Washington D.C.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3636

*Source:* Bowdoin

Comdg. Bureau Refugees  
Freedmen & c &c

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[213]

[Letterhead]

United States Sanitary Commission  
Central Office 244 F Street  
Washington D.C.  
June 25 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg. Bureau Refugees Freedmen & c &c  
Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge recpt. of your note by the hand of Mrs. Wilson, of Savannah Ga., commending her case to the attention & aid of the Sanitary Commission.

I will give me pleasure to present her claim to the Standing Committee of the Commission at their next meeting – on the 29th inst – if she will favor me with copies of the several papers in he possession, endorsing here claims, and I have reason to believe that her case will be favorably regarded.

Can you give me Mrs Wilson's address in this city, or inform me how I may communicate with her.

I am, Very Truly Yours  
Jno. S. Blatchford  
General Secretary

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Washington D.C.  
June 25 / 66  
Blatchford J.S.  
General Secretary  
U.S. Sanitary Com.  
Relative to the case of Mrs Wilson of Savannah Ga.

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3670 6/25/1866

*From:* Jno Trimble  
Horace H Harrison  
R Hellebey  
Nashville Tennessee

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-3637

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[214]

Nashville Tennessee  
June 25th 1866

Genl OO Howard

We respectfully invite you to be present on the 4th July prox. and join with us in celebrating the anniversary of our National independence.

We have the honor to be  
Very Respy. Your Friends  
Jno Trimble  
Horace H Harrison  
R Hellebey  
Committee

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3671 6/26/1866 *From:* Alvern Bond

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3599

Norwich, Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[12]

Norwich, Conn. June 26, 1866

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard,  
and others -  
Gentlemen -

Your circular respecting the "Congregational Church" at the Capital has been received. I approve of the enterprise contemplated in the permanent establishment of a Congregational Church in Washington. I regret that in my present circumstances as an ex-pastor, I am unable to become personally responsible for any pecuniary aid. But I will call the attention of my successor, Rev. Mr. Dana, to the subject. Perhaps he may have been addressed, as he should be, as the organ of communication with the church of my late pastoral charge. It is not long since he made of forcible appeal in behalf of the "Am. Congl. Union", and the response was unanimously liberal. This effort being of recent date, and it being understood, that it was for church-building, and that a generous appropriation was to be made in favor of the church at Washington, it will not, I think, be judged advisable at present to make a special appeal in behalf of the object proposed in your circular. Mr Dana, however, may be relied upon to act in the premises as the claims of this cause shall indicate.

With sentiments of Christian fellowship,  
Yours Very Truly,  
Alvern Bond

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3672 6/26/1866     *From:* J.P. Warren

*To:* My dear gen [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3600  
*Source:* Bowdoin

American Tract Society  
Tract House, 29  
Cornhill,  
Boston

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[11]

[Letterhead]

American Tract Society  
Tract House, 29 Cornhill,  
Boston

Publication Department  
Publication Committee

Rev. E.N. Kirk, D.D.            Rev. S.T. Spear, D.D.  
Edward S. Rand, Esq.        Rev. Wm. Hague, D.D.  
Rev. Israel P. Warren, Secretary and Editor

June 26 1866

My dear gen Howard

At the congregational reunion in Brooklyn in May I subscribed \$10 in aid of your Church enterprise which I enclose herewith. I wish I could make it a thousand times greater but the Salary of a poor Secretary is not very large and a Son in college and other home Expenses take what little I have. I send with it my best wishes & prayers. My Subscription was "28 Cornhill Boston", which Mr Beecher, you remember, thought a funny name for a mother to christen her son by.

I am most truly yrs  
J.P. Warren

[Summary written on the back page in a different hand.]

Boston June 26 1866

Warren J.P.

Sending contribution for Cong. Church.

Recd June 28th 1866

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3673 6/26/1866 *From:* Wm. T. Wofford

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3601

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[215, 216]

Washington D.C.  
June 26th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

Permit me to ask your aid and influence in obtaining from the Christian publication societies of the north, one hundred small assorted Sunday school Libraries for the uneducated poor of Cherokee Georgia, to be distributed equally to the Colord and white. This section of the state is on and near the Rail Road running from Atlanta Ga, to Chattanooga Tenn. and which was the scene of all the desperate and bloody Battles of Genl Sherman for the possession of Atlanta, as also the Battle of Chickamauga; from this fact the people were deprived of all their property and are unable to provide for the necessary or purchase school and Religious Books for the education of the ignorant. If any Society will send to my address, Cartersville Ga the small libraries requested, I pledge myself to see them placed in the care of good and proper persons in each village, and District where they are most needed and will be properly applied. The reception of such Libraries will stimulate the desire for Education (which is already very great and increasing rapidly) as well as afford the means to try the foundation. I respectfully refer the Societies to Maj. Genl. Thomas, Hon W.D. Kelly; and to Gov Jenkins of Ga, for any information they may desire as to my honesty and sincerity.

Very Respectfully  
your obedient Servant  
Wm. T. Wofford

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Washington June 26 1866  
Wofford, W. T.

Asks Genl. Howards aid in obtaining Sunday school libraries for the destitute people of Northern Ga.  
Recd. June 27, 1866

[Written next to the summary.]

[Letterhead]

War Department  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
Washington

June 27th 1866

Respectfully referred to

Rev'd J.W. Alvord

School Inspector B.R.F&A.L. for reply

By order of Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard,

Commissioner

/s/ J. Alton Sladen

Lieut. and Aid-de-Camp,

Private Secretary

[Reply]

June 27, 1866

Referred to the Am. T. Soc. Boston, with request that they furnish the libraries herein asked for

/s/ J.W. Alvord

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3674 6/26/1866     *From:* J. B. Kiddoo

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3602

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas,  
Galveston

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[217, 218]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas,  
Galveston,  
June 26 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Gen:

In reply to your personal communication with regard to Lt McClermot, I would state that he had been assigned to duty by Gen Gregory at Millican, a very important point. He immediately began "overhalling things" and, in candor, acted more like an insane than sane man. He went on a lecturing tour, and all of his actions were in the exclusive interest of the planter, and former master. He in several instances tied freedmen up by the thumbs for violating contracts, took all their fire arms from them –told them that they were not allowed to a horse, cow, pig, or any kind of property without written permission of their employers –entirely overlooked and failed to arrest parties who committed flagrant outrages, against freedmen, and in one instance took no official notice of a brutal murder of a freedman which was reported to him by the friends of the murdered negro. In a word he completely sold himself to the bad people of the community who used him to continue a form of slavery more revolting than that which formerly had the sanction of the government.

I further have to state that he represented himself to several officers on duty with me, and also some of the regular Army on duty under the Dep't Commander, that he had been sent here by Gen Grant who was a "personal friend" of his to look quietly around, and see "what was the matter" and write him (Gen Grant) private letters on the inside workings of the Bureau. I relieved him and ordered him to report to me in person and in a ten minutes conversation with him I saw that it was rather the fault of his head than his heart that he was not adapted to such duty as I required of him.

I regret to be obliged to state that I could not trust him again in any portion of the State. I am working pretty hard just now, and my health is good much better than when I arrived here. I am preparing a detailed report –could not report sooner for the reason that I had to leave the workings of things. I am becoming very much interested in the work, get along finely with the military, and am I fear too popular with the citizens for my own good worth. I have no serious apprehensions of its lasting very long. Two orders, Circulars nos 14 & 17 appear to have given the rebel papers and citizens such general satisfaction as to have made me the subject of an immense amount of news paper commendation. The orders I deem just & proper and would be glad to have your sanction or approval of them. Again Gen Gregory was so thoroughly odious to the people as to make any change popular. I must say, however, that Gen Gregory's course, with a few slight exceptions meets my most hearty approval. Will you be kind enough to say to Col Gratar & Mr Dram that you have heard from me. Be pleased to give me full information as to my whole duty, and I will endeavor to perform it.

Respectfully

J. B. Kiddoo &c &c [Joseph B. Kiddoo, Col. 22d U.S.C.T., Brvt Brig. Genl.]

Col. Sinclair Asst Adj Gen sends his kind regards – he is a good officer.

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3675 6/26/1866 *From:* Gid. J. Pillow

*To:* Majr. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3603

Helena Ark.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[219, 220]

Helena Ark. June 26th 1866.

Majr. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com.

I have been shown an anonymous letter to you, written from this place, making grave charges & reflecting upon Capt Sweeney, Supt of Freedmen's Bureau at this place. I am persuaded that you know I can have no earthly motive to address you in his vindication –other than a regard for the truth & justice.

If there is any officer of the Bureau, whose administration of its affairs, has been just –kind to the Freedman - <procting> him in all his rights. Scrupulous and exacting from the white race to the very verge of justice, but yet not passing that point –in my judgement Capt Sweeney is that officer. No one, as far as I have knowledge, has ever questioned his integrity of character.

In this District the Freedmen are working better – are more orderly and are, in all things doing better, and there is a better feeling existing between the White & Black Races, than in any other part of the whole South, and this I am satisfied is owing to the wise and just administration of Capt Sweeney. If there was nothing else to be said in his favour, this important result –known to the whole country – is in itself an unanswerable vindication of his character. I have, as you are well aware & still pass the management of 5 Large Plantations in this neighbourhood. I have had a good deal of official intercourse with Capt Sweeney –have never asked or received from him personal favour – originally entertained prejudices against him, but have long been satisfied that he is inaccessible to corrupt motives of action –that his discharge of the difficult and embarrassing duties of his position, has given as general satisfaction to the Freedmen & the white race, as it was possible for any man to have done & as long as it is deemed necessary by the Government to retain the Bureau. I should regret exceedingly his displacement, - not on my own account, but on account of the interest I feel in the success of the great experiment of Freed Labour proving a success. To aid you and the Government, in bringing about this great result, I have been, as you are well aware, an earnest believer & co-maker. My own success is placed beyond all doubt so far as I am personally concerned & it gives me pleasure to acknowledge the personal obligations I shall ever feel to you, for your kindness to me in my first efforts to restore my shattered fortunes.

With assurances of great Respect  
& personal regard  
I am General  
Your obt Servt  
Gid. J. Pillow

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Helena Ark

June 26 / 66

Pillow Gideon J

Commending the administration of Capt. Sweeney Agent of the Bureau at Helena.  
Recd. July 5, 1866.

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3676 6/27/1866 *From:* Helena Dorsey

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3605

Atlanta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[221, 222]

Atlanta June 27th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard,  
Dear General,

I received the official reply of your officers, and in justice to Capt <Bendbridge> and myself allow me to say that I did not call upon him for rations, from the fact, that I learned, then was home here to give until lately. My last effort to get my supplies was in the spring. I obtained from Capt Beckwith, who was then in command of the District, some food for some Colored people, who at that time, was in great distress. The Officers of the Government have always responded promptly to any call I had made for the suffering.

Gen <Winslow>, and lady, boarded with me this summer, and he was very kind to all the poor people for whom I solicited aid.

I have now in one family five little orphans - and an aged grandmother, that I have been aiding out of my own little store. But the demand is too great upon my limited supplies. I saw Maj Leonard this morning. He is now in command of this District, and kindly promised assistance to to these helpless little ones.

I am aware, that there has been very many calls upon the Government, that should not have been both by the blacks, and the whites, and that it is difficult many times to do justice in all cases. I am very grateful to you, for forwarding the testimony of the officers, thus giving me an opportunity of explaining the true position and preventing the cause, for which I feel a deep interest in from suffering.

The Society here from Pennsylvania, are doing both for our poor whites, and blacks, and I understand will continue their labors of love amongst us. I am very anxious, that a Home should be built for the orphans of our state, where the children would not only be educated, but be taught to labor. One great cause of much of the suffering with the people is indolence, that with their ignorance, done much in the rebellion. The poorer class have thought for themselves, but allowed the leading men to think for them.

I cannot close without expressing my gratitude for your prompt reply to my appeal, for the orphans and I still urge your influence in their behalf.

With many wishes that you may be spared to a long life of usefulness.  
I remain very respectfully  
Helena Dorsey

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Atlanta Ga

27th June 1866

Dorsey, Helena

Detailing suffering in Atlanta

Recd July 2, 1866

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3677 6/28/1866

*From:* J Bowles

*To:* General Davis Tillson

OOH-3606

*Source:* Bowdoin

Assessor's Office  
United States Internal  
Revenue  
Third District of Georgia  
Augusta

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[10, 11]

(copy)

Assessor's Office  
United States Internal Revenue  
Third District of Georgia  
Augusta June 28th 1866

General Davis Tillson  
Dear Sir

I am constrained to write you this because of the malicious misrepresentations of you by the Royal Georgian and its editor in public and private.

A respectable col'd man in whose integrity and varacity I have great confidence told me that "the proposition of the mayor of the city of Augusta (on the occasion of the colored people seeking an entrance to the grave yard) to allow as many of the col'r'd people to enter as the white leaders thought necessary to carry in the flowers &c" would have been accepted willingly only for the interference of Bryant who advocated that all should go in peacibly, if they could, forcibly if they must. He stated to me further that "Bryant had repeatedly said that" he (Bryant) was strictly the Colored man's friend and consequently made no pretensions to be the white man's friend, as he could not be friendly to both races". (I was not aware that there was such bitter hostility existing between the two races here as that <[Torn paper]> gauge would indicate.) "Bryant had also <said [CHECK ORIGINAL Tape on edge.]> that a sum of money be raised among the colored people to defray the expense of his bail when arrested by the city authorities for swindling the Colored people" and that he (the colored man) had been urged to give for that purpose". I know of my own personal knowledge (said he) that Capt Bryant has swindled two colored men very recently out of large sums of money" and in answer to my question why he did not inform on him or give you the benefit of what he knew he said, I should be killed if I did, for I know the black people are organized and would do any thing Bryant said "with any colored person who turned against him". No Col I know too much of his power with the Colored people to say anything about this matter." It seems that the Inferior Court have determined to establish free schools for the blacks and the Mayor had accordingly notified the leading colored men to meet him at a certain time in order to get at the number of Col'd Children &c and before the time appointed to meet the Mayor, Bryant has a meeting of the Col'd people and sends a man from his office to advise the Colored People "not to accept the offer of free schools for the Col'd Children". "We prefer to select our own teachers and pay them ourselves". He further states that Bryant has circulated a report (which is strictly believed by the Col'd people) that you had informed parties in the Country (who were getting up large subscription lists for the Loyal Georgian) that you had suppressed the paper and that the money had better be returned to the subscribers" and on that account the paper must be supported by private subscription and that now the Col'd men were required to pay 25¢ per week and those who could not do that must work it out.

I certify on honor the above is a correct statement of what was told me and that I believe it to be a statement of facts.

Very Respectfully  
(Sd) J Bowles  
U.S. Assessor

P.S.

I do not feel at liberty to give the name of the Colored man because if by an accident it should be made public, I verily believe his life would be endangered.

J.B.

[Written in another hand at the bottom of the letter.]

Respectfully forwarded for the information of Genl Howard Com'r. I scarcely need say that the statement about my ordering word to parties getting subscriptions to Loyal Georgia &c is simply false. Bryants interference about the schools will prove a misfortune to the colored people of the state unless it can be overcome.

Davis Tillson  
Bvt Maj General

Col Bowles served throughout the war in our Army.  
D.T.

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3678 6/28/1866 *From:* C.H. Rundle

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3607

Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[223]

Peekskill June 28th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Genl

I suppose you will be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from me, but I trust you have not altogether forgotten me. As you are aware I was in the Southern Army during the war, though in no very prominent position, my service being mostly west of the Miss. And in a Staff Department. The close of the war left me, as many others, penniless: what little my wife brought me was used up during the struggle. During the past year I have been at home with my mother, and in very poor health. My health being now somewhat established, I take the liberty of writing to you, to ask you, if you have not among the employees of your Bureau, some position vacant, that you can give me by which I may be able to make an honest respectable living. Allow me to congratulate you upon your promotion; it afforded me great satisfaction to hear of it. My mother desires me to present to you her kind regards, and hopes should you ever come this way, she may have the pleasure of seeing you.

Very sincerely yours  
C.H. Rundle [see note]

Direct Peekskill  
New York

[Note. Charles H Rundell was graduated from the USMA in the Class of 1852. He and Otis knew each other quite well. Otis' uncle, Ward Bailey Howard, lived in Peekskill, so the families were acquainted and his mother knew Otis' father. Otis and Rundell would go to Peekskill together on occasion and Otis had tea with the Rundell's. I presume that he changed his name to Rundle.]

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3679 6/28/1866 *From:* J. T. Jenifer

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3609

Wilberforce University

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[224]

Wilberforce University June 28th 1866

Major Gen O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir

I beg leave to inform you that you were elected a Trustee of Wilberforce University by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees June 28th, which we hope you will accept.

In behalf of the Board of Trustees of WU, I am yours very respectfully  
J. T. Jenifer

P.S. My Dear General.

I hope you will accept our election of yourself to a Trusteeship of Wilberforce University. We are conscious of our poverty, obscurity and want of prestige, but we are nobly struggling to build up a great Institution of Learning, which we hope under God will become a great power in the land to bless all the races dwelling beneath the broad aegis of the Republic. With the best wishes for your future,

I am dear General  
Yours fraternally  
Daniel A. Payne

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3680 6/29/1866 *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Rev. Geo. Whipple

OOH-3610

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[5]

Raleigh June 29 '66

Dear Sir

If you have retained the letter written to you about the 2d of May by Gen. Howard & publish'd in the N.Y. Tribune, will you have the kindness to send me the original or a certified copy. I may need to use it as evidence for my defence. It having been made public, Gen H will not object to my making such use of it.

Yours truly,  
E. Whittlesey

Rev. Geo. Whipple

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3681 6/29/1866 *From:* A.L. Whitman

*To:* Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3611

Westerly, R.I.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Westerly June 29, 1866

Gen Howard

Dear Sir,

My heart is in full sympathy with the object presented in your circular, but I am now without a pastoral charge, or a pastor's salary, and of consequence can do for benevolent objects very little, but what I can do, I do most cheerfully.

Within please find five dollars, for your chh building fund & may the blessing of the great Head of the chh, rest upon the enterprise.

Yours in Christian love

A.L. Whitman

P.S. I shall try to get your cause before the members of the chh in this place.

[Summary written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Westerly R.I.

<June 29th 1866 [Tape at top of page]>

Whitman, AL

Sends contribution of 5 dollars.

Acknowledged

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3682 6/29/1866 *From:* Amy H. White

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3612

Coventry, Vermont

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13]

Coventry, Vermont  
29 June 1866

Dear Sir,

Herewith I have \$5 as my contribution towards building a Congregational house of Worship in Washington.

Yours truly,

Amy H. White

[Summary written on the backside, in a different hand.]

Coventry Vt

29 Jun 1866

White, Amy H.

Sends contribution of 5 dollars

Recd July 3rd 1866

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3683 6/29/1866      *From:* A. [Absolom] Baird      *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3613                      New Orleans La

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[225]

New Orleans La  
June 29 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
General

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Capt W.I. Miner an extensive planter both in this State and in Miss who is about to visit Washington for the purpose of pressing a claim which he has against the Govt. This Bureau has nothing to do with the business involved but from what I know of the claim I consider it an eminently just one. Capt Miner was thoroughly conversant with the system of labor formerly prevailing and no one takes hold of the new system with greater energy & practical good sense. I have had much intercourse with him both personal and official which has been highly satisfactory and pleasant, and I feel assured that you will be gratified to talk to him upon the condition of things in this state.

Most Respectfully  
&c &c  
A. [Absolom] Baird

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New Orleans La  
June 29th 1866  
Baird Maj Genl A.  
Introduces Cap W.J. Miner

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3684 6/30/1866     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-3614

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Washington

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[642]

[Letterhead]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.  
Washington  
June 30th 1866

My dear Mother,

We are all quite well, glad to get your letter. Lizzie & baby [See note 1] are doing nicely. I am very sorry to hear of poor Dexter's death [see note 2]. He was a most promising young man, and I am particularly glad for his parents that he gave them abundant evidence of being a christian. I think some of the family will visit you this summer. My own time is beyond my control, but I may run on by & by.

Love to all. Dont be lonely. With such beautiful summer days, flowers & a Saviour you will not be much lonely.

Aff. Yr son  
Otis [OO Howard]

Chs. is very well. Wash must be very kind to you. Tell him <I> will not forget it.

[Note 1. Lizzie gave birth to their fourth child on June 15, 1866.]

[Note 2. Dexter Howard, the son of Deacon Warren Howard and Rhoda Mitchell, died on 20 June 1866. He was Otis' second cousin.]

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3685 6/30/1866

*From:* RK Scott  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Asst Com'r

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3615

Headquarters, State of  
South Carolina  
Charleston, S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters, State of South Carolina  
Charleston, S.C.  
June 30th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Genl

I have thought it best in the present mixed condition of affairs in the medical department between Military and Bureau to order Dr DeWitt to Washington to lay before you in person the whole matter, that you might understand and settle the question as to who Dr DeWitt is to report to, viz Dr Horner Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau or Dr Page Chief Medical Officer of this Department or whither to both. If to both, Dr Horner & Page should have an understanding to prevent a conflict of orders and an unnecessary number of Reports. I have thus far felt that it was for the interest of the Bureau to keep it distinct from the Military, but have made wherever consistent Post Commanders the acting Asst Com'r of the Bureau; tho a more perfect co-operation of both might be secured for the protection of the Freedmen. I have thus far given no Rations to people employed on Plantations – notwithstanding many are in grate want. My Reasons for not forwarding a Ration Return for your approval is that both Genl Sickles and Governor Orr are opposed to it on the ground that it will encourage idleness. My own oppinion is that some Freedmen could be assisted with grate advantage as it would enable them to place themselves beand the chances of want for the next year.

Hoping my action in sending Dr DeWitt to Washington in this matter will meet your approval. I have the honor to be Very Respectfully

Your Obdt Servt  
RK Scott [Robert Kingston Scott]  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Asst Com'r

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]

Charleston S.C.

June 30 1866

Scott R.K.

Bvt Maj. Genl

Asst. Comr.

Concerning Dr DeWitt & asking to whom he shall report. <Reform> to the destitute &c  
Recd July 3rd 1866

[Written in pencil in the middle column of the last page.]

To Dr Haden

The Genl has seen this letter.

A. P. II

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3686 6/30/1866 *From:* S.C. Pomeroy

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3616

Senate

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[227]

Senate

June 30 (1866?) [The year was written in pencil.]

Genl Howard

I have rec'd another package of circulars. I am sure we have now enough! Dont send any more .

I am Truly

S.C. Pomeroy [Samuel Clarke Pomeroy, U.S. Senator from Kansas, 1861-1872]

3687 6/30/1866

*From:* J.W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3617

*Source:* Bowdoin

National Freedman's  
Savings and Trust  
Company,  
American Exchange  
Bank Building  
No. 87 Cedar Street,  
New York

[228, 229]

[Letterhead]

National Freedman's Savings and Trust Company,  
American Exchange Bank Building  
No. 87 Cedar Street,  
New York,  
June 30 186[6]

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard -  
General:

I have the honor to say – that I have been about this City and Brooklyn these two days, finding as I feared that most of our friends were out of town. Mr Dodge did not come to N. York as I was told at <Williams>.

His Son gives me \$100 & sends your note to his father advising him to make you a subscription. You better see him if possible as the subject will now be brought fully before him.

Other men whom I succeeded in finding are very friendly to the Church. Mr Chittenden will give – invites me to his County room after the 4th. Mr Hatch (Fish & Hatch) <promised [CHECK ORIGINAL – tape]> & asked me to call after he consults with his partner. Mr R.R. Gene gave \$300 – Brooklyn , and says perhaps he will do more.

But such men as E.A. <Lunch>, Hunt, Abernathy, Holmes, Roper, Woodruff &c &c are all out of town. I am told that after the 4th they will be apt to come on to see to their businesses, & as there is a <grand> stampede to day to the country for over the Sabbath & the country holyday I will also make a little excursion into the Country where I know some men who may give.

Please address Mr Chittenden (C.B.) a personal note on the back of the Circular.

Kind regards to Mrs Howard – with congratulations – and all the family. I remain

Yours &c

Very Respectfully

J.W. Alvord

Insp. &c.

[Summary written on the back page, in a different hand.]

New York City

June 30 '66

Alvord J.W.

Insp &c.

Concerning subscriptions &c

Recd. June 30, 1866

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3688 7/1/1866

*From:* R. Sumner

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3608

Sanot Gate

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[3]

Sanot Gate

July 1 1866

[written in pencil] Jun 28

Major General O.O. Howard

Sir

Mr Holman Pay Master has this morning paid me the Sum of eighty dollars being due two months twenty days. I suppose agreeable to all concerned notwithstanding my appeals to Dept <investheters> it is possible my pay has been raised to fifty dollars. Nevertheless you will please to pardon me for saying any thing at this time. I hoped to continue in your favor for many years & should be nice to see you much but it will be impossible at this time.

I am or consider myself

Yours with the highest

Respect & esteem

R. Sumner

[Note: I don't see any reason to change the date to June 28 from July 1.]

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3689 7/23/1866 *From:* W.B. Holt

*To:* Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-3211

Rochester N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99, 100]

Rochester N.Y.  
July 23d 1866.

Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard,  
Dr. Sir:

I am pastor of the Corn Hill M.E.C. Rochester N.Y. & write to ascertain if I could prevail upon you to lecture three or four evenings for the benefit of the church above named.

The church is doing a good work, in the part of the city, in which it is located - has a good S. School, but at present is in need of funds to carry forward her enterprises. The church has been a mission station until within a few years, it has been able to feebly sustain itself.

We would like to have you lecture three or four successive evenings, one at Syracuse - at Rochester, at Buffalo, &c.

We would like to listen to your lecture on the Freedmen. I believe you have not been in this section since the war, & very many would like to see & hear you.

If you desired it, you could return to Washington by Saturday evening, lecturing Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evenings. I hope you will consent to come. If you can not come at present, can't you appoint some time in the future when you will lecture for us?

I am aware you are a member of another branch of Christs Church, yet I presume that would not be a barrier to your lecturing for us.

I do hope you will consent to come. Please state time & terms, &

Oblige yours Truly  
W.B. Holt  
Pastor of Corn Hill M.E.C.  
Rochester, N.Y.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]

Rochester N.Y.

July 23d, 1866

Holt W. B.

Pastor M.E. Church

Requests Genl. Howard to lecture three or four times for the benefit of Corn Hill M.E. Church

[written by OOH] overworked try to build <ch> <but> will see

Answered

Received July 26th 1866

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3690 4/16/1873

*From:* John J. Keane

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3445

St. Patrick's Church  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[192]

St. Patrick's Church  
Washington, Apr. 16th [1873. See Note.]

Dear General:

I take the liberty of sending you the Catholic World for April, asking your attention to the first article: Public Charities . From where I have marked it, on page 18, it states & discusses so well the question of religious instruction in undenominational institutions, the principal subject of our conversation on the occasion of my visit to the University a few weeks ago, that I thought you would read it with interest.

I hope to visit your admirable institution again before long.

Very respectfully yours  
John J. Keane.

Gen. O.O. Howard

[Note. This letter was filed with April, 1866. The year had not been written by the author, but it appears to be referring to Howard University, which was established in March 1867. Gen. Howard was the third president of the University from 1869 to 1874. Bishop John Joseph Keane was curate of St. Patrick's Church in Washington from 1866 to 1878. The first article in the April, 1873 issue of Catholic World was the article Public Charities (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moajrnl/bac8387.0017.097/5>) that was referred to in this letter. Therefore the year must have been 1873.]

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3691 5/7/1886

*From:* John Sherman

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3490

United States Senate  
Chamber  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[24]

[Letterhead]

United States Senate Chamber  
Washington  
May 7 1886

Dear General

The appropriations for your Bureau have been referred to me with your letter to Mr Stevens & memoranda. Will you have the kindness to refer me to such printed information as will show the comparative cost of Freedmen & White refugees.

We propose to attach those appropriations to the Army bill. Is there objection to this? Will it not avoid all danger of its defeat? If you wish to express your views to the Com. of Finance on the subject you can do so tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11 a.m.

Very truly yours

John Sherman [U.S. Senator from Ohio; brother of General William T. Sherman]

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Senate Chamber U.S.

May 7th 1866

Sherman, John

U.S.S.

Concerning appropriation bill for F. Bureau.

May 8th 1866

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3692 8/9/1886

*From:* Frederick W.  
Tompkins

*To:* Major-General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-1671

320 California St [San  
Francisco]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[808]

File

320 California St [San Francisco]  
August 9th, 1886

General and Dear Sir,

I send you by the same mail, a copy of the Grand Army Edition of the CALL. I take the liberty of asking your attention to the History of the Campaigns and battles, on land and sea, and the sketches of Generals and Statesmen, for the reason only, that they represent the results of much patient study in various Departments of American History.

Have the goodness to make allowance for the fact, that the writer is not a journalist, but a young lawyer, who turned his July Vacation to account in this way.

Very Truly Yours  
/s/ Frederick W. Tompkins.

Major-General O.O. Howard,

[Written in ink on the back of the page, in a different hand.]  
Ans. Aug 17. 1886

[Written in pencil on the back page.]  
Conrad Brown  
88 Lookout Mountain

